

Destin is brewing up St. Paddy's Day options

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The tents, portable toilets and hops in mass delivery this week could only mean one thing — it's almost St. Patrick's Day in Destin.

From HarborWalk Village as far as The Village of Baytowne Wharf, the Emerald Coast is about to look more like the Emerald Isle.

Preparation for the day that promises the best in "feasting, imbibery and debauchery" does not happen overnight.

"On St. Paddy's Day, we go through as much (beer) in one day as we sell in an extremely busy week," said Tom Anderson, McGuire's Irish Pub brewmaster of 12 years.

It's been Groundhog Day for Anderson and fellow brewer Gary Essex for the last month as they "keg, filter, brew, keg, filter, brew" to make sure they have enough grogg on tap

for the indulging crowd that floods McGuire's each year for the holiday.

The guys got a bulk of 2,200 pounds of barley on Wednesday to round out their basic recipe of malt, hops, water and yeast that goes into a batch of McGuire's award-winning brew.

"This is to replenish all of the beer that they will drink next week," Essex said.

McGuire's won't be the only scene for St. Paddy's Day madness.

Just across the highway at HarborWalk Village, the Guinness will flow like the Grogg March. On Tuesday, marchers will take the safest mode of transportation through the Village from one venue to another for rounds of live music, drink specials and contests at Pat O'Brien's, Jester's, Water Grill, Harry T's and the Lucky Snapper.

One "hot leprechaun"

See **OPTIONS A5**



FEELING LUCKY?

Here's the skinny on St. Paddy's Day fun around Destin.

- HarborWalk Village: Grogg games today and pub march Tuesday.

- McGuire's Irish Pub: Could be standing room only by 5 p.m.

- The Village of Baytowne Wharf in Sandestin: Music and Irish cooking lessons.

- Johnny O'Quigley's Restaurant and Sports Bar: NCAA and Irish drink specials.




Sat, March 14 · 12-5pm
GROGG GAMES & IRISH STREET FESTIVAL

Come show your Irish spirit and challenge your inner Irishman at the 1st Annual Grogg Games on the Destin Harbor. The ultimate Irish Street Festival, bag pipe band, exciting live music, Irish dancing, feasting and drinking! Wee folks can come and compete too!

Tues, March 17th
Grogg March: 4pm
Lucky Jeans Contest: 8pm

The Grogg March will "Sham-Rock" throughout HarborWalk Village where each venue will entertain thousands with live music and debauchery. Hot leprechauns will compete in the "lucky brand" jeans contest. Get Lucky at HarborWalk Village!



HARBORWALK VILLAGE

www.HarborWalkDestin.com

Located on the Destin Harbor at the foot of the Destin Bridge

3/12/09

OPTIONS from page A1

will win a trip, prizes, New Images modeling and more in the Lucky Brand sexiest jeans contest.

It's been a big year of first annuals for HarborWalk and they won't be straying from the festive formula for St. Paddy's. HarborWalk Village will start early today with their 1st Annual Grogg Games. The games will accompany a street festival with Irish song and dance, bagpipers, and the traditional beer and fare.

The Grogg Games will challenge participants with Irish "Kilt" Boxing, Dublin-style Jousting, Whiskey Barrel Races and fun games for big kids and wee folks alike.

For more information about the St. Patrick's Day celebration at HarborWalk Village, visit [\[walkdestin.com\]\(http://walkdestin.com\).](http://www.harbor-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

The Village of Baytowne Wharf will also be getting a splash of green. Henri's Notions will provide traditional Celtic music in the events plaza from 6 to 9 p.m. and bagpipers will take the streets throughout the evening. The Market Shops at Sandestin has its very own Irish sports pub, Beef 'O' Brady's, that will run happy hour and authentic corn beef and cabbage specials and give green prizes.

Eating Irish is better when Chef O'Danny Pettis teaches how to prepare traditional Irish favorites at Kitchenique from 6 to 8 p.m. He'll show how to whip up Foamy White Bean and Truffle Soup, Loaded Irish Boxies (potatoes) with Sweet Mustard Dipping Sauce, Tradition-

al Lamb Shepherds Pie and a Gone-Green Spotted Grasshopper Dessert Drink.

Getting covered in green without spending a lot of it is not impossible. Many would say that beer has been one of the more recession proof commodities. That's good news for the 15,000 or so bottled varieties on the market and those of us who haven't found that pot of gold yet.

Johnny O'Quigley's restaurant and sports bar will have a corned beef and cabbage special and \$5 Irish car bombs, Irish coffee specials and \$3 shots to wash it all down.

O'Quigley himself said that he will have the parking lot tented off for party goers and DJ Todd from New Orleans spin-

ning. NCAA March Madness will be on the plasma screens and the four 12-foot screens and the new billiards and game room is up and running.

They will also be serving up the St. Patrick's Day staple of green beer, along with McGuire's. For those who have wondered how green beer is made, it's simply green food coloring added to light beer.

"We'll go through about 50 kegs of beer, about 20 are green," Essex said.

The beer production at McGuire's brewery that can be watched from the dining room has been up for a month to keep up with the holiday's demand.

"People walking by think this is a show sometimes, but it's not," Anderson laughed. "We're making beer."