

Celebrating St. Patrick in the South Bay

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"If the cold rain continues," says Chris Benson of C.B. Hannegan's Restaurant and Pub in Los Gatos on a recent wet day, "we'll just turn the hail into green gold nuggets for St. Patrick's Day."

Such theatrics might well go unnoticed given the other festivities Benson and his colleagues have planned for Friday. In addition to the full oyster bar, spit-roasted pig, corned beef and cabbage, and shepherd's pie, locals will enjoy entertainment by the drum and bagpipe corps Hannegan's Home Boys as well as the CruiseTones, who've been playing the party for 25 years.

There will even be a kilt fashion show for those with runway aspirations. For the third year in a row, the city of Los Gatos will shut down Bachman Avenue to accommodate revelers, but Benson warns that those seeking green beer won't find it here.

"People like to come and embrace the day with friends and family," he says. "We're all about good clean fun."

While festivities across the South Bay abound on St. Patrick's Day, those not of Irish lin-

eage might be surprised to learn that the often raucous holiday has religious roots. In fact, according to Liz Linehan, who moved from Dublin to Los Gatos in 1998, Irish children wear fresh shamrocks throughout the day as a symbol of the Holy Trinity, not simply because they're green. Unlike here, Irish schoolchildren aren't preoccupied with leprechauns, and most families will spend March 17 feasting on something other than corned beef and cabbage. One thing that's the same in both countries: an extended visit to a local pub.

Those who find themselves in the South Bay on Friday can check out the action at the following venues:

■ C.B. Hannegan's, 208 Bachman Ave., Los Gatos; (408) 395-1223

All-you-can-eat feast from 11 a.m. until midnight, with Irish music, dancing, and kilt fashion show. More than 1,500 people expected over the course of the day. Tickets \$40 adults. Kids 7-12 cost half price, and kids under 6 eat free. For more info, see www.cbhannegans.com.

■ Fibbar MaGees Irish Pub, 156 South Murphy Ave., Sunnyvale; (408) 749-8373

Open from 11 a.m. until 1:30

a.m. Irish dancers will perform at lunchtime and bagpipers play at noon. Expect lines out the door for corned beef and cabbage, fish and chips, Irish stew, and drink promotions. Local band Floyd's Ordeal will play Irish songs at 8 p.m. www.fibbars.com

■ Katie Bloom's Irish Pub & Restaurant, 369 E. Campbell Ave., Campbell; (408) 379-9687.

Corned beef and cabbage throughout the week, and Irish bagpipers and dancers on the 17th. Open from 11 a.m. until 2 a.m. with festivities getting progressively rowdier throughout the day. Expecting 1,000 to 1,500 people. www.katieblooms.com

For the kids:

■ Friends of Guadalupe River Park & Gardens, 438 Coleman Ave., San Jose; (408)298-7657.

St. Patrick's Day in the Garden. Children ages 5-10 can make leprechaun traps, explore rainbows, and enjoy a treasure hunt through the gardens. According to education coordinator Kary Houle-Wilson, space is limited and filling fast. E-mail education@grpg.org to reserve your child's spot. www.grpg.org/Education.html.

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