

graduation, Pavek found a job as a telecommunications consultant for a Stillwater firm. However, their passion for making music never abated.

Erickson, who cites Mark Knopfler of the British band Dire Straits as an influence, is essentially a balladeer. Pavek's arrangements are impressive, and so is his guitar and

said. "Lightning strikes for me only when I apply myself. I spend around two hours a night trying to put together words and music. I don't sit down with any idea of the subject

Tickets to A Piano in Every Home's "North American Review" release, an event for those age 21 and older, are \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door. Call 612-276-6523.

Local events are sure to have plenty of Irish eyes smiling

The lilt of Irish laughter will be in the air this week when folks hereabouts tip their hats to St. Pat. Following are just a few of the local activities that have been scheduled for the annual wearin' o' the green:

The Irish Music and Dance Association will host its 35th annual Irish Celebration from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday, March 17, and its 13th annual Day of Irish Dance from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, March 20, both at Landmark Center. The events will feature Irish music and dance by a host of traditional bands and troupes, Irish-themed workshops and seminars, Irish refreshments and children's activities. Admission is \$4-\$6. Call 612-990-3122 for information.

The St. Patrick's Day Association has teamed up with Minnesota FoodShare to help March Out Hunger. The public is invited to pick up green grocery bags, fill them and bring them to the Finnegan's Reverse food truck during St. Paul's St. Patrick's Day Parade

on March 17. Bags are available at Korte's, Claddagh Coffee, Hot City Pizza, O'Gara's, Bennett's, the Dubliner, Cork's, Groveland Tap and Shamrocks. For information, visit marchouthungerstpaulmnp parade on Facebook.

"Kickin' It Irish," a *River-dance*-style stage show with traditional music and dance, will be presented at 10 a.m., noon and 7 p.m. Thursday, March 17, at SteppingStone Theatre, 55 N. Victoria St. Tickets are \$16, \$12 for students and seniors.

The Center for Irish Studies at the University of St. Thomas will host its annual St. Patrick's Day open house from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Thursday, March 17, in the Special Collections Room of the O'Shaughnessy-Frey Library. New and rare books from St. Thomas' 9,200-volume Celtic Collection will be

displayed. A brief program will begin at 12:15 p.m. Call 651-962-5467 or 651-962-5662.

The Minneapolis St. Patrick's Day Parade will take place for the 48th year at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 17. Marchers will travel on Marquette Avenue from 11th to Fifth streets. Fox News anchor Kelly O'Connell will be the celebrity grand marshal. Visit mplsstpats.org or call 763-234-0669.

St. Paul's St. Patrick's Day Parade will step out for the 50th consecutive year at noon Thursday, March 17, on Fifth Street from the Farmers' Market to Rice Park. Visit stpatsmn.org or call 651-256-2155 for more information.

A traditional Irish folk dance with live music by the Twin Cities Ceili Band will be held from 7-10 p.m. Thursday, March 17, at Celtic Junction, 836 N. Prior Ave. Admission

is \$10, \$5 for seniors and children age 12 and younger.

The band Barra will perform for a traditional Irish folk dance from 7-10 p.m. Thursday, March 17, at the CSPA Hall, 383 Michigan St. Admission is \$10, \$5 for children ages 15 and under.

O'Gara's Irish Run will be held on Saturday, March 19, at O'Gara's Bar & Grill, 164 N. Snelling Ave. The 8K and 5K runs will begin at 10 a.m. The cost is \$35-\$40 by March 17 and \$45-\$50 on race day. There will also be a quarter-mile Kids Fun Run at 9:45 a.m. (\$5-\$10) and a Beer Dash at 11:15 a.m. (\$10-\$20). Visit ogarasirishrun.com for information.

Keystone Highland Park, 750 S. Mississippi River Blvd., will hold an open house with a St. Patrick's Day theme from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, March 19. There will be Irish food, green beer, live music and tours of the assisted living and memory care facility. For reservations, call 651-698-1111.

