



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 28, 2013

## SHOWCASING CELTIC HERITAGE THROUGH MUSIC AND DANCE

**Newport, OR** - The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Newport Celtic Festival & Highland Games will kick off with “Fringe Friday” events on June 7<sup>th</sup>, at various Newport locations with the festival and games taking place at the Lincoln County Fairgrounds on June 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>.

The Celtic Heritage Alliance’s mission is to promote and preserve Celtic culture on the Oregon coast and they do that through year-round outreach projects such as céilí dances, Robert Burns Suppers, heritage concerts and community suppers and, of course, the annual Celtic festival and others are starting to take notice.

“We received applications from performers in the western United States and even Scotland this year,” said Susan Spencer, Entertainment Director of the festival. “Our festival is made possible, in large part, by the generosity of our sponsors, whose contributions allow our budget to stretch to bring more variety to our performance stages,” said Spencer.

Headlining this year’s music stage is Texas-based *Murder the Stout*; a Celtic rock band that has been likened to “The Pogues” with upbeat tempos. The festival also includes the music of Brittany with performances by two Breton-style bands, *Mistral* from Portland, and Seattle based *Sonerion*. Fan favorite, *Brother*, returns with their Celtic tribal originals for a special performance on Saturday.

The dance stage will include demonstrations of Scottish country dance, French Breton dance, and Irish dance in the form of step, céilí, and old style sean-nós dance, performed by Maldon Meehan-one of only seven instructors of this form of dance in the U.S.-and her group; *Stomptown Collective*.

The *Celtic Heritage Alliance’s* mission is to promote and preserve Celtic culture on the Oregon coast, through year-round outreach projects such as Irish céilí dances, Robert Burns Suppers, and heritage concerts, in addition to the annual Newport Celtic Festival and Highland Games the second weekend in June.

They are proud to organize this event for its third year, and for the sponsors who make it all possible; Oregon Coast Magazine, Newport Signs, Chinook Winds Casino, Hallmark, CelticLife.com, Oregon Coast TODAY, Ultrasonic Events, NewsLincolnCount.com, Best Western Plus, Nana’s Irish Pub, Bridie’s Irish Faire, Bayview Construction, Jeffery Shirley.com, OregonCoastProductions.com and many more.

For tickets and additional information about the 2013 Newport Celtic Festival & Highland Games, please visit [www.newportcelticfestival.com](http://www.newportcelticfestival.com) or call 541-574-9366.

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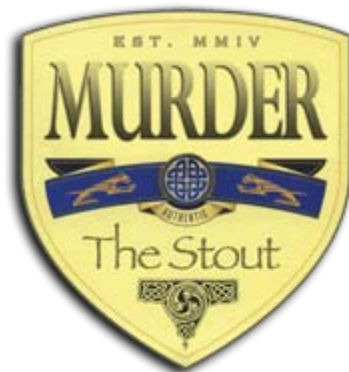
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PHOTOS (below):

Courtesy: Murder the Stout



*Murder the Stout* takes the stage at "The House of Blues"

Courtesy: Sheryl Eldridge



Caption: *Brother* brings their tribal Celtic vibe to the music stage at the 2012 Newport Celtic Festival & Highland Games.

Courtesy: Mistral



Caption: *Mistral* returns to Newport including a pre-festival Fest Noz at Sam Case Elementary on Friday night.

Courtesy: Sheryl Eldridge



Caption: The *High Desert Scottish Celtic Dancers* demonstrate Scottish Country Dancing at the 2012 Newport Celtic Festival & Highland Games.

Courtesy: Sheryl Eldridge



Caption: The *Céilí of the Valley Society* (Salem, OR) demonstrates Traditional Céilí Dance moves at the 2012 Newport Celtic Festival & Highland Games.

Courtesy: Murray Irish Dance School



Caption: Colorful dancers from the *Murray School of Irish Dancing* demonstrate traditional Irish Step Dancing.