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## Local band hopes to draw luck of the Irish

BY MCCARTON ACKERMAN

*The South County Spotlight, Nov 30, 2011, Updated 15.6 hours ago*

Irish-influenced music has had a resurgence recently with bands like Flogging Molly and Dropkick Murphys, and now one local act is hoping they too will be able to draw fans with their unique sound.

Sons of Malarkey, an Irish folk/rock band with two members from Scappoose, has morphed over the years from an acoustic duo playing traditional Irish music into a six-piece band that includes an accordion and fiddle player. Last month, the band released their self-titled debut album.



COURTESY PHOTO / SONS OF MALARKEY  
IRISH JAM – Sons of Malarkey Last released their self-titled debut album last month.

“I had an idea and a passion to do something a little different,” said lead singer and Scappoose resident Jason Hohl.

Several of the members had known each other previously — Hohl and drummer David Battrick played in a grunge band together in the early '90s — but a marriage and three kids put Hohl's performing career on the side for 15 years. It wasn't until a few trips to Ireland that Hohl began to get the itch to perform again.

“After going to Ireland, I got a real bug for playing Celtic music,” Hohl said. “There was an open mic at Romig's and I got to know the owners there. It was a duet at first (with bass player and fellow Scappoose resident Jereb Scott), but I began adding more Irish and Scottish tunes to the set and then eventually I just wanted it to be a full-on Irish rock band.”

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Battrick and guitar/banjo player Josh Curll were next to be added to the band. Fiddler Tatijanna Bourke came on board in the summer of 2010 and then accordion player Dan Edgar became the final member earlier this fall.


Sons of Malarkey played their first shows as a six-piece band primarily throughout the Portland area. But perhaps the band's most notable show occurred last month at the Galway Bay Irish Music Festival in Ocean Shores, Wash.

"What surprised me is just how popular this kind of music is," Hohl said. "I didn't realize just how many Irish pubs there were in the Portland and Vancouver area, but there aren't many Celtic musicians who are able to play at them."

The 13 songs on the album are comprised of four original tracks, four fiddle songs and five traditional folk songs.

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