

Local & State

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Shamrock Run signals end of winter for runners

By **LAURA TODE**
Of The Gazette Staff

In Billings, the runnin' o the green happens before the wearin' o the green with the Shamrock Run, which is always held the Sunday before St. Patrick's Day.

Winter-weary runners, many of them dressed in green, were met with warm but blustery weather as they gathered at Pioneer Park where the race started and ended. The 5K run kicks off the race season for many local runners and the entry fee includes

membership dues for the Yellowstone Rim Runners, the race sponsor.

"It gets everybody out and they have something to look forward to in January when things are looking tough," said Dave Coppock, president of Yellowstone Rim Runners.

Columbus runner Bud Jones, 61, said he's an "occasional" runner who hit the pavement Sunday for only the second time this year after a winter of running on a treadmill. He took third in his age class, posting a time of 24:10. Although he's competed in marathons in recent years, Jones said he is more



See page 6C for 2009 Shamrock Run results.

interested this year in local fun and charity runs.

"I love coming to this race with the people and the kids. It's just a good, fun time," said Jones.

The Shamrock Run has been a tradition for 27 years, starting with a club run around the South Side neighborhood. At that time, the Yellowstone Rim Runners had just started, said

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Participants of the annual Shamrock Run are seen on Parkhill Drive on Sunday in Billings.

PAUL RUHTER/
Gazette Staff

Shamrock

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Coppock, and the race ended with a potluck supper at the home of one of the members.

"It wasn't really open to the public then, but it gradually went bigger when the club grew," he said, adding that the Yellowstone Rim Runners now has more than 600 members.

A one-mile fun run for

children was later added to the Shamrock Run.

This year, about 235 people ran in the Shamrock Run, which is about average, organizers said, and 32 children participated in the kids run.