

Lanzorate in the Canary Islands

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With a Climate Worth the Visit

The Spinnaker

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Get to Know the Family That Settled for Work and Fun and are Never Far From Home!

(l to r) Garrett, Siran, Raymond and Nicola Brown

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Tin Castle is a new Irish observational documentary that opened at the Cannes Film Festival in May. The film follows the lives of the O'Reilly Traveller family in County Tipperary. The title refers to a Travellers' trailer or caravan as their 'castle made of tin'. (Travellers were known as tinsmiths for their flair for metal repair work). Going back further, they lived in wooden trailers that were traditionally burned with the body of a deceased family member as part of a funerary rite.

Lisa O'Reilly is the mother and the organisational heart of the family. Sean, their eldest son, an impressive young man, features prominently among the ten children who live in the caravan. Paddy ('Pa')

View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick



Fuel shortage worries compel Aer Lingus to cut over 500 Flights for maintenance



O'Reilly, the father, is a key figure in the film. He is non-communicative, slow to move and even slower to speak. He avoids emotion and seems quietly assured of his position in the family - when he is teaching his sons how to box, he declares 'I'm the boss'. Such scenes sit alongside several summary vignettes in this documentary of picnics, blown up swimming pools, horse-tending and rabbit-hunting - which together build a portrait of a resourceful, self-contained family life outside settled norms.

Midway through the film, this equilibrium is disrupted when Pa is imprisoned for reasons that remain unspecified. The absence of explanation is characteristic of the film's observational approach, but it introduces a palpable instability into the family dynamic. A recurring motif in the family's experience - and this is subtly captured throughout this film - is fragility: the failure of the electricity generator that powers their caravan underscores how precarious their infrastructure remains and how quickly autonomy can tip into vulnerability.

There are several horse and trap scenes on Irish roads in which we see cars overtake the horses. (A worthwhile enquiry, from the perspective of the ethics of directorial intervention in documentaries, is whether the aggressive beeps from cars were added in the edit or happened every time during the shoot - they do consistently recur in the film).

The State offers the O'Reillys a house - a fine house it is - which provides this film with a pivotal scene when they visit it. The O'Reilly's way of life hinges upon mobility and non-conformity to the patterns of the settled community. The advantages of a solid roof and a modern kitchen are obvious to the family. Less obvious to some viewers is the degree of loss that would attend living in an enclosed space, a housing estate. The pull of the caravan is too strong. They stay with it.

That decision may be incomprehensible to some viewers, but the Travelling community's commitment to mobility may be as strong as the settled community's need for a fixed abode and a patch of one's own. Tolstoy's story 'How Much Land Does a Man Need?', a withering indictment of the futility of chasing material wealth and land acquisition comes to mind. Tolstoy's great story culminates in a man literally killing himself in pursuit of land and finding out the

hard way how much he needed. As the narrative concludes: 'Six feet from his head to his heels was all he needed'. This film in its own way gives a vision of another such rebuke.

Tin Castle is a portrait of a nuclear family. The family is wholly reliant on itself for its present and future: the O'Reilly girls write in their copybooks that their parents will help them to find a man to marry. Wider family connections (apart from the woman Sean marries) are absent, as are friends. In a melancholy reflection, Sean recalls that his father has told him that settled people will not become his friends.

It is hard to exaggerate the degree of social disconnection shown here. That is fully reflected in Irish society: in bourgeois parts of Dublin, the first item on the agenda in neighbourhood community meetings is often how to keep the Travellers out. *Tin Castle's* tenor is informed by the absence of contact with settled people.

That backdrop gives resonance to a menacing incident in the film. One night, an object is thrown at the caravan, presumably from a passing car. Pa goes out to survey an empty road. That incident alone reveals the anxiety the mother feels at the prospect of the father being away (as for example in his period in prison).

This is also a very affecting portrait of a declining community, whose ways, like their language, seem certain to become history. Director Alexander Murphy should be rightly proud to have captured this tender portrait of a loving family for posterity.

Tin Castle screened to an appreciative audience in the Critics' Week section of the 2026 Cannes Film Festival. Emerging from a depiction of a Traveller's lifestyle onto the glamorous Croisette in Cannes, with its dazzle of boutiques selling designer brands, is a reminder that at a genuine film festival there is, as Charlie Chaplin said about the world, 'room for everyone'.

*The old ways are changing, you cannot deny
The day of the Traveller is over
There's nowhere to go and there's nowhere to bide
So farewell to the life of the rover*

*Farewell to the cant and the Romany tongue
Farewell to the Romany talking
The buying and selling, the old fortune-telling
The knock on the door and the hawking*

- 'The Thirty-foot Trailer', a folk song



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Clock Strikes 12 on Political Rivals

In the midst of the compromises, idealism, and

furious back-and-forth over the future of the nascent United States, a decision by the Founding Fathers aimed at bringing disparate rivals together for the betterment of the country found support at the Constitutional Convention. While many other aspects of the Constitution were contentious and spurred robust debate during the Convention, this idea was quickly adopted without much time given to the potential for the drama that was to occur



almost immediately after the Founding.

Compared to some of the other Amendments we've discussed, the Twelfth Amendment is long, technical, and a bit boring. For that reason, I will refrain from pasting the exact text of the Amendment here. The crux of the Amendment addresses a confusing aspect of the Constitution that resulted in something of a debacle during the 1800 presidential election. To provide some context, the Framers of the original Constitution set up a mechanism called the Electoral College to elect the President of the United States every four years. While the Electoral College still exists today, the way that we conduct elections under the system is very different from what occurred in the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

In those days, each member of the Electoral College cast not one, but two votes for President. If a candidate received an outright majority of the Electoral College votes cast, they would be elected President. The individual who received the second-most votes would be elected Vice President.

This procedure presented few problems for the universally-beloved George Washington, who easily won election and re-election in 1788 and 1792, respectively. John Adams, who was a well-liked northerner (balancing out Washington's southern sympathies), received the second-most votes on both occasions and thus served as the nation's first Vice President. However, when Washington declined to run for a third term, political factions began to emerge in the new republic.

In 1796, Adams ran for President under the Federalist

banner while his frenemy Thomas Jefferson ran on the Democratic-Republican platform. It was a close election; John Adams won an outright majority by just one vote. Jefferson was the runner-up, meaning that he was elected as Vice President.

For context, this situation was akin to having a President Trump and a Vice President Obama today. The two men had an intense disdain for one another, and so Jefferson's role was largely confined to President of the Senate. However, on more than one occasion, Jefferson actively worked against the administration from within. For example, he publicly criticized Adams' actions in the XYZ affair, which undermined the good-faith efforts of the federal government to resolve the issue.

This leads us to the election of 1800. Electors in the Electoral College were keen to avoid a Presidency/Vice Presidency of opposing factions, so both major parties drummed up the first party tickets. On the Democratic-Republican side, Aaron Burr ran for Vice President on the Jefferson ticket. On the Federalist side, Charles Cotesworth Pinckney ran for Vice President on the Adams ticket.

Hilariously, while the Democratic-Republican side won handily, both Burr and Jefferson tied in their electoral votes. This is because all Democratic-Republican electors unanimously cast their two indistinguishable ballots for the whole ticket. Under the terms of the Constitution, this caused the outcome of the election to be decided in the Federalist-controlled House of Representatives. 36 votes were taken in the House before the deadlock broke, and Jefferson

was duly elected President and Burr Vice President.

This was the final straw. The Twelfth Amendment was passed by Congress in December 1803 and ratified by the requisite number of states in June 1804-just in time for the next presidential election. The Twelfth Amendment allowed for two concurrent elections to occur within the Electoral College: one for President and one for Vice President. We still operate under this system today, which allows for a unified ticket to be elected to the highest office in the land... and keeps our political system at least a little less chaotic.

Our columnists voice their own opinions. If you would like to voice yours, send your response to cliff@irishamericannews.com and most likely we will print it, and/or put it on our online site.



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The Spinnaker Restaurant in Lanzarote: Where the Irish Get Away to the Warmth of the Canary Islands

"The Spinnaker:" One of many Irish establishments in Lanzarote where you can get that warm 'Céad míle fáilte' they are famous for!

Along a rocky shoreline, on an island off the western coast of Morocco, you might be surprised to find a not-so-hidden gem: an Irish-run Lanzarote usually has brilliant blue skies and bright sunshine, surrounded by the most stunning coastal views. The island offers a chance of these attractions would have been a huge draw for Irish native Hazel Brown, when she traveled to the island on holiday with her



One of the panoramic views from the bar

bar and restaurant offering ocean views over whitewashed buildings, while you enjoy dining on delicious Irish dishes and a cold beverage or two. Famous for its surreal volcanic landscapes and stunning golden beaches, the Spanish island of Lanzarote is a huge tourist draw for holiday travelers from all over the world, but especially from Ireland as this island is their getaway from the damp and cold of a typical Irish Winter. One can imagine that any



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were wowed by the views and also a fleet of local fishing boats that were returning from a days fishing, a similar view we were used to in Donegal. Then our father and my brother Garrett came to have a look, and we moved over the following month. [We] opened the bar a month after that." They chose a spot in Puerto Del Carmen, Lanzarote's most popular resort. They realized

many of the businesses were Irish-owned and operated and doing well, so they took a chance and opened their own family business in May of 2001.

Serving full Irish breakfasts, Sunday roasts, and daily grill specials, the location also features live musicians, drag shows, and famous panoramic views. The effect that Lanzarote has on tourists is one of Nicola's favorite parts about living and running a business on the island.



Edel O'Connor of Limerick & Nicola Brown

sea views. Parents Hazel and Gilbert, ran the Spinnaker with their children for seventeen years, then passed the baton to their children. The Brown children, Nicola, her brothers Garrett, and Raymond now run the bar and restaurant together. Raymond's wife, Siran, originally from Co. Kerry is the head chef



Gerald's fishing business on Inch Island



Phillipa and Garrett Brown



Surfing lessons are available in Lanzarote with plenty of instructors



Plenty of places near the beach to kick back!

"I was in the UK for the time that I was training. The structure and hustle and bustle there, and how the pace of everything is. We're conditioned to go into the shops, to buy things, and watch TV at night, and work in the day. And it's cold and wet in the UK as well," said Nicola.

"And then to get over here [to Lanzarote], and it's like somebody's turned on the brightness. Because in England and Ireland, it's really gray and dark alot. Over here, it's quite bright. The difference of that vitamin D. . . I notice a difference in people when they're visiting here."

If you're in Lanzarote and you're looking for a delicious meal, cold beverage, or a fantastic place to watch the sun set, you should stop in! The Spinnaker celebrated its 25th anniversary in May of this year.

You can find information about the bar and restaurant, including daily specials and entertainment information, on their facebook page: The Spinnaker Bar & Restaurant, Lanzarote.

Go on over, take a break from the usual, and tell them you read about them in Irish American News.

Spinnaker Information
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NEW IAHC EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS ANNOUNCEMENT

We are pleased to announce the 2026 IAHC Board of Directors electees: **Tom Herion (Re-Elected), Bill McTighe, John C. Hanley, and Bill O'Hara.**

In accordance with the Irish American Heritage Center's election procedures, an election will not be necessary for the 2026 Board of Directors cycle. With four Board positions available and four qualified candidates nominated, all four nominees have been elected by acclamation.

While no formal election will be held, members were invited to attend a special Meet & Greet on June 25, where they had the opportunity to meet the 2026/27 IAHC Board members. If you were not able to attend, visit the Team Page on our website to learn more about their backgrounds, and their goals and aspirations for the future of the Irish American Heritage Center. We look forward to welcoming our new and returning Board members and to continuing our work together to preserve, promote, and celebrate Irish culture for generations to come.



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MONTHLY MASS & BRUNCH AT THE IAHC

Featuring Our New Partners at the Driehaus Museum

SUNDAY, JULY 19 | MASS AT 10:00 AM - FOLLOWED BY A FULL IRISH BREAKFAST

Looking ahead, we hope you'll join us for our next Mass & Full Irish Breakfast where we are excited to welcome special guests from the Driehaus Museum, another outstanding Chicago nonprofit organization with whom we have recently begun a new partnership. The Driehaus Museum is known for hosting and curating exceptional Irish and Irish American exhibitions, including their current exhibition, Ink & Outrage

TICKETS (Breakfast): \$30 Adults | \$25 Seniors (65 & over) | \$15 Children (12 & under)



FREE GENEALOGY MONTHLY MEETING

SATURDAY, JULY 25 | 2:00 PM

Whether you're just beginning your family history journey or looking to break through a genealogical brick wall, join IAHC genealogist Teri O'Connell for engaging monthly genealogy sessions designed to help you discover more about your Irish roots.

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THE IAHC SATURDAY MORNING TEA SERIES RETURNS!

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15 | 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Join us for the return of one of the Irish American Heritage Center's most beloved traditions—our Saturday Morning Tea Series. Enjoy an elegant afternoon featuring a delicious assortment of tea sandwiches, freshly baked scones, cookies, desserts, seasonal fruit, coffee, tea, and wonderful company in the warm and welcoming atmosphere of the IAHC.

This special gathering will celebrate acclaimed Chicago author, poet, educator, and longtime IAHC artist John S. O'Connor, who will join us in person to share stories and insights from his remarkable career. A Northwest Side native with roots in County Galway and Tralee, John is the author of numerous works of poetry, essays, and nonfiction. His latest collection, Streets & San, was named 2025 Book of the Year by the Illinois State Poetry Society. Spend an afternoon celebrating literature, community, conversation, and Irish culture over a proper cup of tea.

TICKETS \$35 per person



IAHC FUNDRAISER AT CHICAGO FIRE FC

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16 | 5:30 PM

The Irish American Heritage Center is proud to partner with Chicago Fire FC for a special fundraiser as the Fire take on the Portland Timbers at Soldier Field. We're excited to invite all IAHC families, friends, donors, members, and community supporters to join us for a great day of soccer while supporting the Center. Through this special partnership, 20% of every ticket purchased through our exclusive link will be donated back to the Irish American Heritage Center to help support our mission of preserving and celebrating Irish and Irish American culture. Come cheer on Chicago Fire FC and support the IAHC at the same time!

More ticket information on our website.





Laura Clancy Steps into Role of Ireland Network Chicago President

When Laura Clancy was formally announced as the newest President of Ireland Network Chicago, she could not help but think about her grandmother. After all, like Laura, her grandmother had emigrated to the United States from Ireland, in her case settling in New York and raising a family, including Laura's mother who was born stateside, before returning to the Emerald Isle.

"I knew from a young age about my grandmother's emigration story. It was a natural fit for me to want to live in America for at least a portion of my life," Laura reflects, noting that while her grandmother emigrated largely out of necessity - "wanting to find a better life" - Laura moved out of opportunity to grow personally and professionally. And grow she has since moving to Chicago, culminating in her recent honor as the Ireland Network's president, filling the big shoes of her immediate predecessor Craig O'Halloran and numerous icons

of Irish Chicago, including Ferdia Doherty, Helen Garraghy, Seamus Byrne, Imelda Gallagher, James Sheehan, and others who had served in the role.

So how did Laura rise to such great personal and professional heights? Her story begins in County Clare, specifically in the rural village of Kildysart, where she had what she describes as a "great upbringing" with her parents and older brother Sean. She maintains close with her lifelong friends and returns home several times per year to spend time with them and her extended family, including one of her grandfathers.

Laura matriculated at the University of Limerick, studying Business and French, then moved to Dublin to work in accounting at KPMG, where she

worked for three years before seeking opportunities to live and work abroad.

"The stars aligned for me when I started looking for a job in the US. I visited Chicago for a cousin's wedding, and a good friend organized a perfect summer weekend in the city for me," Laura remembers. "I fell in love with the city, and six weeks later, she called me about a job opportunity here."

That job opportunity came at Glanbia, the global nutrition

and took on a number of roles, including financial controller for one line of business. Looking to expand her career horizons, she moved into a commercial role for another line of business within the company, where she now works in product strategy.

By all accounts, Laura found a professional home at Glanbia; as she puts it, "I feel very fortunate to be given the opportunity to work for the company in Chicago, to try new things, and take on different roles that challenge me."

Outside of her professional transition, Laura's move stateside was not without challenges. After all, she made her move in late 2019, and by March 2020, the world was gripped in the COVID-19 pandemic, shuttering restaurants, offices, and businesses, and dramatically reducing international travel.

"I picked up a great group of friends in Chicago, and we were all going through a difficult time together," Laura shares, noting that she would not return home to Ireland until August of 2021. By then, Laura was fully immersed in all things Chicago and has not slowed down. She has embraced the excitement

and vibrancy of the city, particularly its lakefront, and even completed the Chicago triathlon. Beyond Chicago's physical beauty, she recognized the humor and welcoming nature of Midwesterners as similar to the people of her homeland. As she admits, "I pinch myself that I get to live here."

In March of 2024, looking to get more involved in the local Irish community, Laura attended the Irish American Partnership's Breakfast, the signature event held annually at the Union League Club. There, sitting with a table of strangers, or, as the saying goes, friends she had not met yet, she shared that she was feeling a bit disconnected from her Irish heritage, and, as she recalls, "within an hour I was introduced to the Ireland Network, and started volunteering with the Women in Business Forum (held later that month). They welcomed me with open arms."

In two short years, Laura made a lasting impact with her service to the Ireland Network, serving as Treasurer on its Executive Committee and participating in many of the organization's social and professional events. In the process, she gained exactly what she was seeking - a stronger connection to home thousands of miles away.

In her new role as President, she sees her mission as protecting what is already



Laura Clancy

company based in Ireland with a regional headquarters in Chicago. Laura joined the company as a financial analyst

great about the Ireland Network and evolving it in new ways. She describes the "Clancy Doctrine" this way:

"It's important that we remain relevant to all Irish in Chicago, whether they are immigrants just arriving or have been here for 20 years. We should understand our value proposition to each of those people. We have a strong foundation in social events, and we're proud of that. My personal goal is to expand our offerings on the professional side, as we have a strong heritage of Irish and Irish American connection, which

is such an asset, and we should be connecting our members with professional opportunities. I want the Network to be known not just for great events, but for building networks and friendships, and also for helping people build their careers in an ambitious way."

Reflecting on her role as President, service with the Ireland Network, and immigrant journey, Laura shares that her pride in Ireland - and being Irish - has only grown.

"Being Irish means connecting



(L to R): Attending the popular Ireland Network Gala recently were Margaret Rose Keating, Laura Clancy, Brendan McNulty, Kristen Field, Craig O'Halloran, Ellen Convery, Jackie Theodore, and Meghan Lee

people, bringing people together through ambition, humor, and common thread. The people of Ireland have had such a disproportionate impact on the world, culturally, socially, and economically, and I enjoy continuing that story in a global way."

On a more personal level, Laura's thoughts about her grandmother's immigrant story from the last century are never far away. As she says, "I've had a positive experience in the United States as an immigrant. I hope that my grandmother had that same experience, but I don't know. We're in a fortunate position to be able to offer so much to the world, as professionals and people."

Laura has already contributed to the tapestry of the Irish immigrant experience in Chicago, and by all

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Information Watchdog Investigates MOD for Withholding Army Agent's Secret Files Following Victim's Complaint

The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) is investigating why Britain's Ministry of Defence (MOD) is withholding a secret file retained by the government department relating to Brian Nelson, the British Army's most notorious agent it embedded within a Loyalist death squad.

Belfast charity, Paper Trail Legacy Archive Research, acting on behalf of Elaine McNally whose father, Gerald Higgins, was kidnapped and tortured near to death by Nelson and an Ulster Defence Association (UDA) gang, lodged a formal complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office. The ICO has told the Higgins family it is now investigating.

The complaint centres on National Archives file DEFE 24/3537: <https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C17710198>

This is a MOD file regarding British intelligence, the aftercare of its agents, and Nelson, dating from 1992 to 1994. Paper Trail submitted a Freedom of Information request in July 2025 on behalf of a daughter of Gerald Higgins, a partially-sighted (medically blind) man who was kidnapped, tortured, and nearly murdered by Brian Nelson in March 1973.

Mr. Higgins never fully recovered and died seven years later. His family believes he died prematurely as a result of his torture at the hands of Nelson.

The MOD refused the request in September 2025, citing exemptions relating to personal data, National Security, defence capability, and the safety of individuals. An Internal Review, requested by Paper Trail on the same day as the refusal, was not concluded for seven months – until April 2026 – leaving the victim's family waiting still longer for answers. Paper Trail then escalated a complaint to the ICO, and the ICO has informed them this month that the complaint is eligible for investigation..

A Pattern of State Concealment

The British Army embedded Brian Nelson in the Ulster Defence Association (UDA). His activities – including his role in directing Loyalist death squads – were the subject of the De Silva Review, commissioned in 2011, into the murder of solicitor Patrick Finucane.

Despite being presented to the public as a comprehensive account of Nelson's activities, the Review failed to examine Nelson's earliest paramilitary career, including his arrest in 1973, his debriefing by British military intelligence following the kidnap and torture of Gerald Higgins, and his employment by the British Security Forces.

This means that Gerald Higgins' family and the many other families impacted by the British Army agent's violence have never received a full account of how the British state employed, protected, and shielded Nelson from proper justice.

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metropolis that was erased in the ashes in the Great Fire of 1871. A city that could give space to young Frank Lloyd Wright and Al Capone and see the first sustained splitting of the atom that was almost as powerful as Mayor Richard J. Daley and the evolving dramas of Chicago City Hall.

Chicago is a city reinvented with first rate architecture like Skidmore Merrill and Owing's John Hancock Center in the 1960s. And Chicago was always the cherished home of urban sailing along 30 miles of lakefront beauty. Sails against the sunset. Clean. Modern. Inventive. "Forever open, free and clear." A



The Aunties Were Warriors

IS AN ENDEMIC PART OF THE LIFE OF CHICAGO'S ELITE GOLD COAST. I bring it up because one of the church's founders was Edward Jenner Martyn, CEO of the Armour Meat Packing Company (Empire) back in the 1890s...he and his Astor Street chums established one of Chicago's most beautiful Churches very near the leafy shores of Lake Michigan...after Martyn's death, his daughter, Hazel, was married there after Christmas in 1903 to the famed Dr. Edward Livingstone Trudeau (yes, from the political Canadian Trudeaus who were in earlier generations America's most revered medical professionals).

Hazel's wedding was a Gold Coast society wedding of the highest order, overflowing with Palmers and Armours and Swifts and Fields. A natural for St. Chrysostom's elite, the talk of the town. Sadly, Dr. Trudeau died of Tuberculosis just months later.... after six years of widowhood Hazel Martyn Trudeau would marry Sir John Lavery the Irish painter some 30 years her senior...Lavery would also use her as his model when he agreed to create the image to be used for Ireland's first paper currency following....Hazel walking slowly up the aisle thinking she was going to lead the life of a New York doctor's wife....and all the while Irish revolution and the work of securing independent nationhood for Ireland lurked unseen in the background...little could she have envisioned a life populated by Winston Churchill, David Lloyd George, Michael Collins, the Marquis of Londonderry and the rich assortment of painters, politicians, diplomats, royals and IRA heroes who would all connect to her...she became Ireland's greatest friend in London when the Treaty Talks were on in 1921... Hazel was the face of all Irish paper currency for almost 70 years. Then she became the watermark.

As Baby Boom Catholics we were like Irish ISIS... my parents and sister, Mary Regina, together with our O'Gorman grandparents...yes...I am over-dressed in powder blue satin and ostrich feathers...even on Mother's Day...but I was part of the panoply of thousands...20,000...for a huge May Crowning on Garfield Boulevard...it was a gigantic display of religious faith and devotion...and an expression of Irish American civic muscle...Richard J. Daley would have been in his first or second year as

Chicago mayor....my memory is that everything is very spring leafy and green.... breezy and warm....abundant food and my life was filled with my grandmother's most excellent soda bread and apple tarts and endless cups of strong tea...as I look back now I see that such devotion and public celebrations were all big contributors to a sense of bold confidence...that was cultural... religious...political...and more personal than I understood...it was a great era of stability for families and cities and neighborhoods...

it was as cheery as a "Kiddy Cocktail" and as dependable as a Chicago cop...we made our own fun wherever we went....filled with Irish imagination and great ideas from the classics we read...my grandparents were as religiously observant as Ayatollahs in Teheran...but it was character building and entertaining with lots of fellow boomers to play with....and no one tried to bully me...even in the powder blue satin outfit I wore on that day!!



Cousins were the glue of family

**Time drops in decay
Like a candle burnt out;
The mountains and woods
Have their day, have their day;
But, kindly old rout
Of the fire-born woods
You pass not away.**

"The Moods," by William Butler Yeats
Our FAMILY MEMORIES ARE ALWAYS IRISH MEMORIES especially in the Summer months. A lifetime of lenses reminding us life is what unfolds layering us between potatoes and the heroics of the Bronze Age.

One of my favorite family photos is of MY FATHER AND I IN AN OLD SNAP IN A SUMMER IN THE PAST. Maybe 1953. I still feel that warmth today. No Blarney. It's the sunshine of Pop's presence. His dactyl to my spondee, as ancient Roman poets might say using the nomenclature of their times three millennium ago. Time with my dad was lyrical. Harmonious. Laughter-filled. An impish Irish father through the telescope of time, that now I see was a boy with me. An Irish lad of mirth and melody who never changed. No wonder he was the song and life of every party, rescuing the dull and the solemn, magically transforming the unendurable into the time of our lives. There are lessons there beyond the shared boundaries of boyhood that reach beyond snowball fights, Irish jigs and White Sox games at Comiskey.

Our City, Vintage CHICAGO backdrop photos from its early days were always the perfect focus especially on the town's March 4th birthday founded late in 1833. Boston and New York were already two-hundred years old. Pioneers created an urban footprint of unusual glamour and refinement and spot on lakeside geography right in the middle of the nation. On the Prairie. God's greatest gift to those who settled here. Folk like Franco-African Jean Baptiste Point du Sable, his farm became Chicago's first residence 60 years before incorporation and the subsequent slaughter in the massacre at Old Fort Dearborn during the War of 1812.

THE Town first was really a primitive stockade fort built by a Dubliner, Captain John Whistler, who became the first commander of the fort when the it was completed. A taciturn Irishman, he would become the grandfather of the famed ex-patriot American painter James McNeill Whistler, of "Whistler's Mother's" Fame. Captain Whistler, and his family, with the luck of the Irish, was transferred from the fort, known as "Fort Dearborn" just before the battle that would slaughter soldiers and settlers on the strand of ocean-like Lake Michigan. The Fort would remain active into the 1840s.

This was Chicago's primitive military wooden

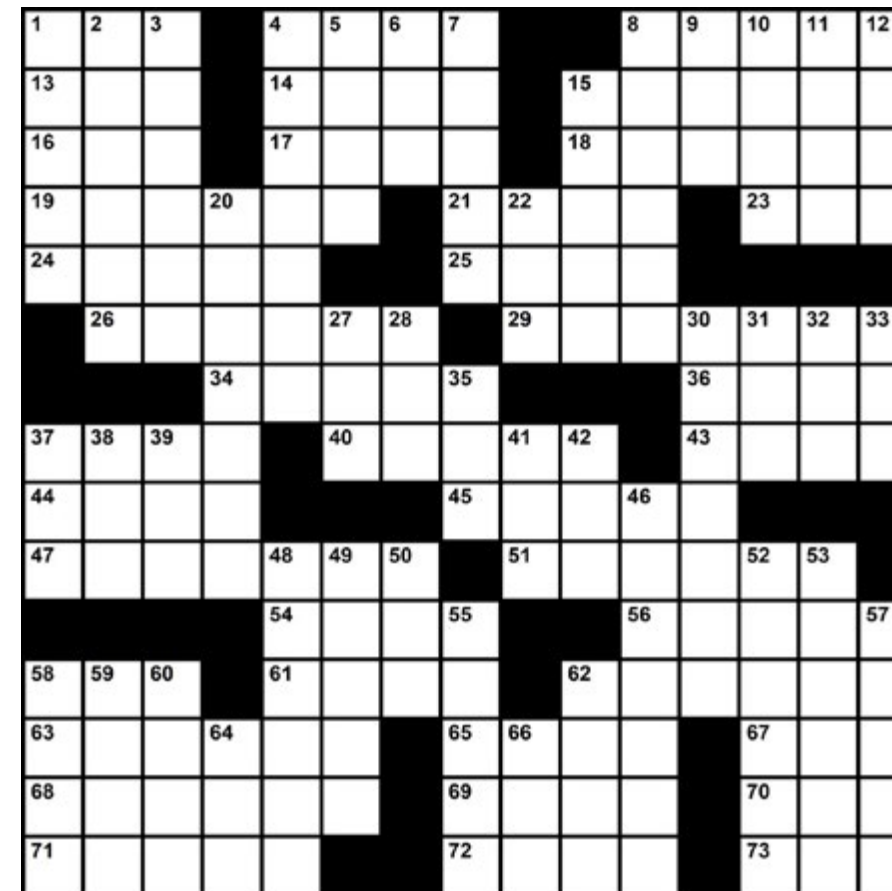
O'Gorman Family at the Parish May Crowning

fresh new kind of American city open to become the home of America's vast Irish population of immigrants. You can't flash a camera without photoing and "Irish mug."

Chicago also offered its new Irish citizens the political potential and challenge to grow into the hub of fresh urban American political life. Helping the Irish to understand how their Irish cultural experience gave them a leg up to become Chicago's ruling political elite.

COUSINS...WHERE WOULD WE BE? AND WHAT WOULD WE BE? WITHOUT THEM? We really did play together all the time in that tunnel that is childhood... many more were to be added....and we all lived on the same street...it was our "Irish village".... it was a freer...more sensible world....without much danger... filled with imagination and hands on experience....you made it work for yourself....we were always tan and happy...wandering in and out of each others houses....I 'm snapped on the lower front right and my sister Mary Regina on the back left...with cousins on both sides of our family...O'Connors and O'Gormans....I sit next to Eileen and Kathleen Curran....and David O'Gorman is middle back next to Michael O'Connor...I think David is in "Tyrollean leather shorts" and Michael's Hawaiian shirt is just as much a costume....this will amuse the Army of family all day. I actually like my haircut...and my sister was always in a fashionable frock!

ST. CHRYSOSTOM CHURCH AT SCHILLER AND DEARBORN....A BEAUTIFUL EPISCOPAL CHURCH THAT



(ANSWERS PAGE 17)

ACROSS

1. Trademarks, abbr.
 4. U2 lead singer
 8. Put forward
 13. "Color Purple" actress ___ Dawn Chong
 14. Wicked
 15. Slender and elegant
 16. One, in Spanish
 17. Celebrities, briefly
 18. Woodcutters
 19. Gazed fixedly
 21. Midwest chief
 23. Damp
 24. One who perseveres
 25. Paris' Gard du ___
 26. Ornamental arm band
 29. Young genius
 34. Jewish exclamation of dismay, 2 words
 36. Cream-filled sandwich cookie
 37. Portable music player
 40. Eagle's nest
 43. Glass that focuses light
 44. Quote as evidence
 45. Prefix with logical
 47. Ambiguous
 51. Reddish-brown
 54. Coordinate
 56. Grilled meat on skewers
 58. Holy ones, abbr
 61. Mexican currency unit
 62. Italian town associated with St. Francis
 63. Fun facts
 65. Infamous Roman emperor
 67. Poetic form of "although"
 68. More slippery
 69. Female egg cell
 70. Rep's opponent
 71. Ancient Greek city-state
 72. Russo of "The Thomas Crown Affair"
 73. Enzyme ending
- DOWN
1. Have faith in
 2. Repeated sacred phrase
 3. Coastal breeze, 2 words
 4. "___ Hills Cop"- Eddie Murphy comedy
 5. Roman poet of the Metamorphoses
 6. Small sharp bite
 7. Twin actresses' surname
 8. Carry too far
 9. Not many
 10. Took to the air
 11. French for "to be"
 12. Relax
 15. Bake, as eggs
 20. Renovate
 22. Floor-cleaning tool
 27. Miss Longoria from Desperate Housewives
 28. Golf peg
 30. The Cranberries singer, ___ O'Riordan
 31. Anger
 32. Col.'s superior
 33. Friendly greetings in slang
 35. Time periods, abbr
 37. Hospital ward for critical patients, briefly
 38. ATM access code
 39. Available without prescription, abbr
 41. Apple's mobile operating system
 42. Environment-friendly prefix
 46. Annoying
 48. Catches sight of
 49. Per annum, 2 years
 50. Hospital staff members, abbr
 52. Earnings measure, in finance jargon
 53. Mascara holders
 55. One of the top MMA fighters in the world, ___ McGregor
 57. Distinct ecological community
 58. Cease
 59. Group of three
 60. Window ledge
 62. Make ___ for it, (try to escape) 2 words
 64. Seven, to Romans
 66. Night before

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This article is written to give you



and mobile office. The slow pace of life on the road demanded a lot of patience as we waited for meetings to align, but it was an incredible way to live. Being right in the communities allowed us to truly understand and appreciate local perspectives.

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THE VAN

As mentioned, our test outreach to network affiliates took us from Miami to Milwaukee over several grueling but rewarding months. Since traditional travel and accommodation would have been prohibitively expensive, we converted a van into our home

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Game On!

By Chris Wheaton



I resisted writing about the World Cup last month for varying reasons. One, Ireland failed to qualify and this is a publication geared towards the Irish and Irish Americans. Second, I was hellbent on letting the tournament play out without my less than expert advice, and third, because the action hardly began when the June edition hit mailboxes. After watching a fair share of the matches so far, I have completely changed my tune and feel that the largest sporting event in the world, which only comes around every four years is worthy of my column. I read that 16 million viewers watched the USA v. Paraguay game on English speaking television; that is one of the largest audiences in the history of sport. Consider that the final in 2022 between Argentina and France drew 26 million on UK TV, it is astonishing to see that level of interest for a lowly first round match.

I, like many of you tuned in to watch what I expected to be a close fought opening match between the USA and Paraguay. I learned that Paraguay was known for their stifling defense, and I even told my non-soccer fans who were watching the game with me that the Paraguay defense is like an impenetrable fortress. After the game, my friends advised me to not quit my day job as the result was anything but a defensive slugfest. I'm not sure that the US squad was better than a lot of people thought they were, or if Paraguay was just overwhelmed from the opening whistle and lost a lot of air in their balloon after the "own goal". Whatever the case may be, time will determine if the Americans are for real or if that one opening match was a fluke.

The "experts" (odds makers) seem to think that Spain is the class of the field with France close behind. I have no reason to dispute that but going into the tournament I had my eye on a few other sides. I'm always partial to Germany, but I don't think they have the firepower to get far. As I write this, I am wearing my Germany kit as they are set to kick off. I may be racing back to my computer this afternoon asking to edit this article! Argentina, as the defending champions should go deep especially if it is in fact Messi's final World Cup. The same can be said about Portugal, who is not on anyone's radar

but could catch lightning in a bottle if it is the last go for Cristiano Ronaldo. England too is a capable group, but I know so many of my Irish friends would be devastated if they made some waves deep in the tournament.

As in every World Cup a lot of the world's eyes will be on Brazil. They are not considered a favorite on anyone's sheet, but they have the "Brazil factor" and can beat any country on any given day. "Futbal" is in every Brazilian kid's blood, and they are a joy to watch. The way they move the ball around the pitch, sometimes playing with reckless abandon, creating scoring chances at every turn is something to see and it was on full display yesterday in their opening match against a formidable Moroccan team. The game ended in a draw, but it was pure fun to watch and leads me to believe that Brazil will be playing well into July as they have so many offensive weapons.

The final is slated for July 19, and this publication will be in your hands long beforehand, so I am preparing myself for the onslaught of comments regarding my prognostication. I never claimed to be a soccer savant, I'm just a guy, like many of you who thoroughly enjoys watching the "beautiful game" and looks forward to this incredible contest every four years.

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Naperville Irish Fest Marks Halfway to St. Patrick's Day with Music, Culture, Community

Festival kicks off one day after the halfway point to St. Patrick's Day, bringing the spirit of Ireland to downtown Naperville

The luck of the Irish returns to downtown Naperville this fall as Naperville Irish Fest celebrates its sixth year on Friday and Saturday, September 18-19, 2026, at Central Park. Hosted by West Suburban Irish, the two-day festival brings together authentic Irish music, dance, food, culture, and family fun while supporting the organization's mission to preserve and promote Irish heritage throughout the community.

The festival begins just one day after the halfway point to St. Patrick's Day, making it the perfect opportunity to celebrate all things Irish before March arrives again.

This year's Naperville Irish Fest is proudly presented by Woody Buick GMC of Naperville as the Emerald Isle Sponsor, with Spennare Americas serving as the Shamrock Sponsor. The festival is also made possible through the generous support of the Naperville Special Events & Community Arts (SECA) Commission.

Festival guests can enjoy live Irish music throughout the weekend, performances by award-winning Irish dance schools, cultural exhibits from the Irish American Heritage Center, the Irish Culture Tent, unique shopping in the Irish Village, and a variety of food and beverage offerings. Returning favorites include the Irish Food Truck, Home Run Inn Pizza, and The Creamery.

Families will find plenty to enjoy with crafts, face painting, games, the popular Kids' Parade, interactive storytelling, playground activities, and photo opportunities with St. Patrick and leprechauns.

"There's something special about bringing the community together to celebrate Irish culture in the heart of downtown Naperville," said Chris O'Hara, Co-Chair of Naperville Irish Fest. "Whether you're Irish by heritage or simply Irish for the weekend, Naperville Irish Fest offers incredible entertainment, authentic traditions, and fun for every generation. We're also incredibly grateful to the Naperville SECA Commission for their generous support, which helps make this celebration possible."

Beyond celebrating Irish culture, Naperville Irish Fest continues its tradition of giving back to the community. In keeping with the

philanthropic mission of West Suburban Irish, the festival will once again donate \$25 for every volunteer who works the event. Each volunteer selects one of the festival's partner nonprofits to receive the donation in their name.

"Naperville Irish Fest is about more than music and entertainment," said Linda Dimitropoulos, Co-Chair of Naperville Irish Fest. "It's about strengthening our community, supporting outstanding local nonprofits, and creating an event where families and friends can come together to



experience Irish hospitality and culture. Every volunteer helps make a meaningful impact, and we're proud to continue giving back through our volunteer donation program."

Volunteers may designate one of the following nonprofit organizations to receive a \$25 donation in their name:

- ALIVE Center
- Irish Community Services
- Loaves & Fishes Community Services
- Naperville Area Humane Society
- St. Patrick's Residence
- Institute of Traditional Irish Music TICKETS

Festival attendees are encouraged to purchase tickets in advance. Discounted

advance tickets are available for \$10 each or two for \$15 through September 11, 2026. Beginning September 12, tickets are \$15 each or two for \$25. wsirish.org/IrishFest.

EVENT DETAILS
•Dates: Friday and Saturday, September 18-19, 2026

•Location: Central Park, downtown Naperville (104 East Benton St., Naperville)

- Activities: Live music, Irish dance performances, bagpipers, Irish cultural exhibits, children's activities, sporting demos, whiskey tastings, food and beverage vendors, and more, including:

- Irish Culture
- Irish genealogy
- History of the Mother Jones Project display
- Irish book authors
- Irish hurling & Gaelic football demos with a "batting" cage
- Kids' Activities
- St. Patrick & leprechaun photo opportunities

- Kids' parade, interactive storytelling & playground
- Face painting
- Home Depot wood crafts
- Guinness & Whiskey Tastings
- Guinness Tasting: Enjoy a guided Guinness experience hosted by WSI at **Quigley's Irish Pub**.

- Whiskey Tasting: Savor premium Irish whiskeys in a curated tasting session hosted by the West Suburban Irish at Quigley's Irish Pub.
- Both tastings require a separate ticket, which includes one general admission ticket to our Irish Fest.

- Entertainment Lineup
- Pre-Fest on Thursday, September 17 - Celebrate the halfway point to St. Patrick's Day at Quigley's Irish Pub and hear the sounds of Character Fleadh the evening before Naperville Irish Fest.

- Friday, September 18 - Fest Kicks Off
- McNulty Irish Dancers
- Mulligan Stew
- On the Lash
- Classical Blast
- Saturday, September 19 - Day Two of the Fest
- Firefighters Highland Guard of

the western suburbs of Chicago. Our motto, "Friendship, Fun, Service," embodies both Irish culture and our approach to achieving our mission.

For 30+ years, WSI has cultivated a genuine appreciation and understanding of Irish heritage by fostering a robust social network of members, volunteers, artists, and enthusiasts across our local communities. Guided by our WSI Board, we've brought joy to thousands of people in the western suburbs of Chicago through our charitable giving efforts, parades and festivals, cultural events, and more. wsirish.org.

Colleen Doyle, CoDo Marketing, Inc
Marketing Chair, West Suburban Irish & Naperville Irish Fest
colleen@codomarketing.com 630-222-8176



Naperville (bagpipers)

- Bailey Murray Academy of Irish Dancing
- McNulty School of Irish Dance
- Joyce Boys
- Bentley Academy of Irish Dance
- Celtic Roots
- The Chancers
- Reilly

For additional information, the complete entertainment schedule, ticket information, volunteer opportunities, and vendor details, visit wsirish.org/IrishFest.

About Naperville Irish Fest
Hosted by the West Suburban Irish, Naperville Irish Fest celebrates and promotes Irish culture and heritage through a vibrant community event that brings people together. The Fest aims to foster a sense of unity, cultural exchange, and tradition while supporting local non-profits and enriching the lives of those in our community. In the philanthropic spirit of the West Suburban Irish, Naperville Irish Fest has a commitment to both cultural celebration and community support. wsirish.org/irishfest

About West Suburban Irish
West Suburban Irish (WSI), Inc. is a registered 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization based in Naperville, IL whose mission is to cultivate a genuine appreciation and understanding of Irish heritage, culture, language, music, art, literature, and sports across



Half an Hour in Heaven an All-American Irish Hit

The acclaimed transatlantic comedy-drama Half an Hour in Heaven by award-winning playwright Cinzi Lavin adds new chapters to its successful U.S. production history this August. The piece will be featured at Chicago's Gaelic Park Irish Festival on August 21-23, with a separate engagement the following week at the Peoria Irish Festival.

Irish-American dramatist Cinzi Lavin was honored when her play, Half an Hour in Heaven, premiered in Ireland in March of 2025 at the Charlestown Arts Centre in County Mayo. The play is set in the early 1960s and revolves around four Irish immigrants who have established themselves in New York while fiercely retaining the traditions of their beloved homeland.

The show made its American debut in Chicago five months later at the Gaelic Park Irish Festival, where it takes the spotlight again this year. Directed by Betty Kort, Half an Hour in Heaven will come to life on the Tara Stage during the festival's August 21-23 run.

The play will next be featured at the Peoria Irish Festival during the weekend of August 28-30. Under the direction of Denise Beattie, a fresh ensemble of actors will bring Lavin's characters from page to stage during Peoria's famous riverfront celebration.

A celebrated creator of historically based theatrical works produced nationwide and internationally who is recognized for her outstanding contributions to the arts, Lavin's influence on American culture has earned her multiple state and national awards. Her distinguished career includes a 2010 performance by invitation at The White House and the honor of having her work archived by the U.S. Library of Congress.

"Seeing American theater groups and festivals embrace this script is a joy," says Lavin. "Talented actors from various ensembles are illuminating, through the characters, what it means to be an American. The immigrant experience helps us remember who we are, so ultimately, it's connecting with our common history that has the power to unite us."

To purchase tickets to Gaelic Park Irish Festival 2026, visit: <https://tickets.chicagogaelpark.com/events/chicagogaelpark/2104491>

To purchase tickets to Peoria Irish Festival 2026, visit: <https://www.etix.com/ticket/c/2F53F9759EC23F9AEA62D08EE592183A/peoria-irish-fest>

For information about Cinzi Lavin, visit: <https://www.cinzilavin.com>



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CHICAGO GAELIC PARK

Serving the social and cultural needs of the Irish community throughout Chicagoland

A Cháirde,

We offer hearty congratulations to our new Queen, Maggie O'Shea, and to her court, Gwen Byrne. Thanks to all the incredible contestants, to our judges, to all involved in organizing and facilitating, and, of course, to our lovely and talented Master of Ceremonies all the way from Roscommon.

Many of you were able to join us in June for the dueling pianos, the comedy, the boat party and the fireworks. You enjoyed the craic in the Beer Garden and were entertained there by multiple bands, open mic night, trad music sessions and rock 'n' blues jam sessions. There'll be more great GAA Sunday action and more great music this month. Meanwhile, we're finalizing preparations for three major events in August: Irish Cultural Camp starting on August 4th; Chicago GAA Championship matches on August 2nd and 9th; and, Irish Fest - August 21st to 23rd. Tickets for the Camp and the Fest are available now on our website.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Bill O'Sullivan - President of the Board of Directors at Chicago Gaelic Park



Court Gwen Byrne and Queen Maggie O'Shea



Sláinte

IT MEANS "CHEERS"
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CHICAGO GAELIC PARK

August 21-23

Get ready for a euphoric journey to the Emerald Isle where the air will be filled with enchanting tunes and the rhythm of dancing feet. This weekend-long extravaganza is lined up with an unprecedented ensemble of Irish bands, dance schools, artists, and experts who will bring the true essence of Irish culture to the forefront. We have 3 stages of live music, a Cultúr agus Céilí tent, children's activities, and more!



Save the weekend of August 21st for Irish Fest at Chicago Gaelic Park featuring Billow Wood, Socks in the Frying Pan, Cailíní Lua, JigJam and many more.

We're excited to welcome back several fan favorites alongside a selection of new artists from Ireland and North America. There'll be great Irish music on all three stages, including: Billow Wood (West of Ireland); Socks in the Frying Pan (Clare), Cailíní Lua (Killaloe); George Murphy (Dublin); Jinty (Cork); Drowsy Lads (Ohio); and the fusion of trad and electronic instrumentation of SuperCéilí (Dublin).

Fans will enjoy the traditional ballads of Derek Warfield and the Young Wolfe Tones and the high-energy Irish rock of Kilmaine Saints (Pennsylvania), Waxie Dargles (Oklahoma) and One for the Ditch (Chicago). JigJam (Offaly/Tipperary), Chicago's favorite Irish bluegrass band and Grand Ole Opry regular, made their USA debut at Irish Fest in 2015, and are back for 2026.

Dennis Doyle will bring his harp, songs and stories, and many local favorites will be on hand, including: Declan McShane; Evin O'Riordan; Gerry Haughey; Going West; Jack Kinsella; Katie Sullivan; Kieran Byrne; Liam Durkin; the Larkin & Moran Brothers; and, the rousing Bagpipes and Drums of the Emerald Society and the Shannon Rovers.

Our Cultúr agus Céilí tent will feature cultural and dance events throughout the weekend. This includes a Celtic Knotwork Workshop with Michael Carroll, Céilí and Set Dance Lessons, and Irish Language with Sean Kelly.



CHICAGO GAELIC PARK

6119 W. 147th St. Oak Forest, IL 60452 - (708)687-9323 - ChicagoGaelicPark.com

CGP Event Calendar

Visit chicagogaelicpark.com for more information.

- July 11 - SUPERTRAMP TRIBUTE BAND
- August 4-6 - KIDS' CULTURAL CAMP
- August 21-23 - IRISH FEST
- September 18 - FOUR C NOTES DINNER & SHOW
- September 26 - BILLY JOEL TRIBUTE

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- July 2 - TRAD THURSDAY
- July 5 - RAY GAVIN
- July 7 - JAM SESSION & CAR CRUISE
- July 9 - GOLD COAST
- July 10 - BERNIE GLIM
- July 11 - FABTONES
- July 12 - GERRY HAUGHEY
- July 14 - JAM SESSION & CAR CRUISE
- July 16 - TRAD THURSDAY
- July 17 - FLIPSIDE
- July 18 - CELTIC ROVERS
- July 19 - EVIN O'RIORDAN
- July 21 - JAM SESSION & CAR CRUISE
- July 23 - 51 LINCOLN
- July 24 - ELROY ACOUSTIC
- July 25 - BRIAN CORBETT
- July 26 - LIAM DURKIN
- July 30 - COCO & FANCY
- July 31 - COLIN & SAMMY
- August 1 - 4CAST
- August 2 - O'LEARY'S LANTERN



Sponsorship Opportunities!

Questions?

Joe Wholley, Gaelic Park Board Member
630-607-9010 | joewholley@gmail.com

Chicago Gaelic Park Office
708.687.9323 | irishfest@ChicagoGaelicPark.org



Level	Recognition and Benefits	One-Day Entry Tickets
Presenting Sponsor \$25,000	Support the heart of the Fest and showcase your love for Irish culture. Includes naming rights as "Chicago Gaelic Park Irish Fest sponsored by (your company or family)," name and logo on banners at all stages throughout the 3-day event, VIP tent, VIP seating at each music tent, and Festival Sponsor Media Package with website, brochure, and social media recognition.	150
Platinum Sponsor \$5,000	Support music, dance, comedy, or another high-visibility festival area or choose the Premium Parking Lot sponsorship which includes sponsor-provided brochures distributed by parking attendants to arriving guests and a product display area near the festival entrance. Platinum sponsors receive name and logo on a 12' x 3' banner at the stage or location of your choice, recognition at festival stages and select high-traffic areas, and Platinum Media Package with website, brochure, and social media recognition.	50
Gold Sponsor \$2,500	Includes name or business logo on a 10' x 3' banner at your sponsored space, plus Gold Media Package with website, brochure, and social media recognition.	25
Silver Sponsor \$1,500	Includes business name and logo on 8' x 4' banners at your sponsored area, including the Tea Room, Performing Arts Stage, Pop/Water Tent, or Patio Bear Gathering Area, plus Silver Media Package with brochure and social media recognition.	15
Bronze Sponsor \$1,000	Be featured throughout the Fest. Includes signage at the entrance and throughout the festival, business name and logo on 8' x 4' banners, 10 festival tickets, and Bronze Media Package with brochure and social media recognition.	10
Friends of Gaelic Park \$100 Individual or Family \$250 Business Friend	Name on our Thank You banners and social media.	--

GAELIC PARK PLANNED GIVING ENDOWMENT

How do we maintain the accomplishments of the Gaelic Park Community and ensure that it will thrive in the future?

Give the gift of Irish Heritage to succeeding generations by contributing today!



Chicago Gaelic Park celebrates, preserves and promotes Irish culture and heritage through artistic, athletic, cultural, educational, and social activities. We provide a welcoming place for all to share in our great Irish American experience.

- Examples of ways to give:
- Cash Donations
 - Living Will and Trust
 - Investment Securities
 - IRAs
 - Life Insurance Proceeds

For more information or to discuss your plans, please contact Michael Bennett - General Manager by phone 708-687-9323

or email endowment@chicagogaelicpark.org. Planned gifts are made after careful consideration of one's financial situation and charitable goals. It is recommended to consult financial, tax, and/or legal advisors regarding these types of donations.

Preserving and Promoting our Irish Mission:

- Chicago Irish Feis
- Irish Fest
- Official Home of the Chicago GAA
- Our Lady of Knock Rosary Procession
- Monthly Mass and Irish Breakfast
- Mother's Day Buffet/High Tea
- Gaelic Park Players
- Children's Irish Cultural Camp
- The Carraig Pub & Beer Garden
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Saturday, July 11



Tues-Thurs, August 4-6



Fri-Sat, August 21-25



Friday, September 4



Saturday, September 26

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Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady



Myths of the Near Future

"What most people don't seem to realize is that there is just as much money to be made out of the wreckage of a civilization as from the upbuilding of one."

Margaret Mitchell

Well, someone - quite a few someone's - is certainly making money and a lot of it. And all it is taking is the systematic dismantling of our Western culture and civilization, through the judicious use of over-immigration. I have my own

ideas as to why, but I no more know for sure than anyone else.

Of late, I've been thinking back to the very different world of my teens and twenties. In the summer of 1978, I stepped down from the Stranraer, Scotland ferry, which had just docked in Larne, Northern Ireland. I had spent several months hitchhiking and working in Europe and North Africa, back in those days when we just seemed able to breeze into a country and pick up work. I was always fascinated by other places and how the people there lived, their folk tales and their stories; their myth-pools. It was a happy time for me.

Unable to settle when I got back to Scotland, I was now intent on exploring the myths and legends of a country that my father had so idealized for me over the years. Nor was I disappointed. This is a land of storytellers, and it seemed that no matter how small the town I stopped in, there were people of interest with tales to tell. Yes, good times.

Back then all the people I cared for were still alive, be it my father and mother (who, since I was a teenager, I knew so much more than); or even the artists who were an influence on me. The likes of the film directors Ken Russell and Sam Peckinpah, or the writer J. G. Ballard. We, all of us, seemed to be living in a wonderfully creative period.

And I didn't know it at the time, but when I got on the road out of Larne, preparing to hitch my first lift, I had just become an immigrant, because Ireland was where I was to live thereafter.

I'm in an upbeat mood and of a mind to do something close to an upbeat article; but there is something that there is no avoiding at the moment. However, if you're a regular reader then you know my views on our problem here with over-immigration. And I'm beginning to sound like a broken record. So, very briefly:

In the first week of June, social media began posting photographs taken at Kinnaird Avenue, Belfast. They were images of a man crouching over the sprawled form of another man, seemingly attempting to behead him. The life of the man on the ground was likely saved (although he has subsequently lost an eye) by the incredibly brave actions of a bystander who leapt in and brained the attacker with a hurley stick. Even in a city as hardened to violence over the decades as Belfast, it was a grim and barbaric sight.

However, if you didn't catch those images early on, chances were that what you saw in most mainstream papers was purely rioting in the streets and

burning vehicles (a pointless and just plain stupid reaction, by the way) as the thrust of the story changed. But let's keep it on the arrested man, you and I, shall we? Just because our masters want us to be sidetracked, it doesn't mean that we have to be.

The attacker's name is Hadi Alodid of Sudan, who was fast-tracked through his acceptance for UK asylum. He filled in a questionnaire. No need for a man from somewhere as friendly and violence-free as



Sudan to go through any serious vetting, God forbid.

Now the British are voicing concern about these characters getting into the UK by way of Ireland. In fact, Alodid had seemingly passed through Dublin on his way North, meaning that we down here dodged a bullet, if you'll pardon the expression. Well, that border crossing works both ways, but I suppose the UK has to say something. And I'm conflicted here. I don't have a lot of time for social media and haven't even been on Facebook for over a decade. In short, I don't trust it; but I don't trust our habitually-lying governments even less; and there are cases where, if we weren't alerted to certain murky goings-on by way of online users then we would never hear about them at all.

Immigration has gone on since Time immemorial and countries all over the world have benefited and been enriched by it. But only when the immigrants have embraced the culture into which they have been welcomed.

Yet governments everywhere - for their own reasons - demand that we bring in people who simply do not want to shed beliefs that more properly belong to the Middle Ages; and this should NEVER be accepted as the norm in Western society.

I'm certainly not anti-immigrant. After all, I am one.***** Those first months here, I soaked up the culture and folk tales of this fascinating land; and I began to look differently on the music and stories that my dad loved. I was thrilled by these old tales of the Tua De Dannan and of fairy forts and

Fionn mac Cumhaill and the like, which seemed to me to come from a deep and satisfying wellspring of myth and fable. But as I got on with the messy business of earning a living, these things went on the back burner for a while, without ever leaving completely.

Then the Christmas before last I was staying in the highly recommended Lough Rynn Castle Hotel in County Leitrim. There I got into conversation with the concierge Martin Brannigan; and I found myself enraptured by this man's love for the beating heart of the land; and of a history that he seemed to feel as a living presence all around him. I don't have space to go into how tangible he made his enthusiasm.

I've not been there since nor have I any contact with Mr. Brannigan; but I often think of his vivid descriptions that brought to life the folk beliefs of a pagan past.

It's close enough to my own feeling that these old stories finally gain their own reality if revisited often enough. Indeed, I would go so far as to say that the likes of the characters in films such as 'The Quiet Man' are now as much a part of the collective folk consciousness of Ireland as are the Children of Lir. They have joined our collective myth pool.

The country that I set foot in back in 1978 has to a large extent passed away now. As have my parents and those great artists that I mentioned. Nearly as gone with the wind as that period of which Margaret Mitchell wrote.

And yes, the new cultures that we are welcoming here will add to and even enrich our own. But not all of them are benign. I'm thinking also of something that J. G. Ballard said following the 7/7 bombings in London, 2005:

"The idea that large immigrant communities with ways of life unchanged since the Middle Ages should be encouraged to isolate themselves and make no attempt to join the host society has enormous dangers."

The Ireland I fell in love with half a century ago may be gone, and in a lot of cases that's no bad thing. Those good old days weren't ALL good. The enchanting small towns I passed through and have such wonderful memories of may be swallowed up and lost to 'progress'; but I'd like to think that that enough of it remains that when I'm also gone, others will still be falling under the spell that I fell under - only a lifetime ago, only a heartbeat ago.

If I were to wish something for Ireland in gratitude for the wonderful life it has given me... it would be that.

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CONNECTIONS

BY ELYSE LYONS PFANDLER



Summer is upon us and I always imagine myself in the song "Will Ye Go Lassie Go" just picking wild mountain thyme and enjoying the blooming heather. Instead I am usually driving car pools, sitting at crowded pools and walking the Chicago sidewalks in the hot sun. I actually do enjoy all of these things. But this summer, we are planning a family trip out East, and I think the beauty of the Vermont mountains may be the version of summer I have always been looking for. I also feel that I will finally be fulfilling a dream I have had for many years, one that has less to do with heather, wildflowers, or thyme and more to do with family.

For about seven years, my cousin Sinead, who lives in Ireland, and I have been writing letters, sharing pictures and chatting on Facebook Messenger. We have talked about being moms, Chicago life and life in her town in Ireland. Through these conversations, she has become an important connection to a place that has always felt meaningful to me. It has really been so important to me to learn more about my ancestors through Sinead. I feel lucky to have



someone who not only writes back, but is so willing to share her life and her perspective on Ireland. I have met Sinead's mom and sister when I was in Ireland, but never Sinead. On our trip East, we will be stopping in Boston to finally meet Sinead and her family who are also traveling! I am thrilled to meet her in person, but this really feels like something bigger. It is really about making sure that our children

meet and continue this relationship. It is important to me that my kids have an understanding of where parts of our story began and that

family members are still there. Making this important connection early in their lives will hopefully allow them to value and foster it for many years.

In graduate school, I wrote a paper about heritage-seeking through study abroad experiences. Students choose a particular country not because it is unfamiliar and new, but because it feels familiar. It gives students a chance to learn more about a culture that they may already have some understanding of. This idea was so interesting to me and soon after, I spent a summer in Dublin becoming a heritage-seeker myself. Recently, I realized that I am still heritage-seeking in many ways. By meeting Sinead and her family, I hope to fill in a few gaps in my understanding of where I come from. I do not need all the answers about our family history. I just want to meet people who share it and people whose grandparents lived alongside my great-grandmother. I would love to hear any stories they have to tell. As a younger person, I never thought to ask my grandmother enough questions about her Mom and what it was like for her Mom to come to America, and now I wish that I had.

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On the Law
 Matthew Gannon, John Scanlon,
 Martin Healy, Jr. and Kevin Veugeler
**HEALY SCANLON
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This is the next of a series of columns on how the law can impact your life. The articles will focus on various aspects of the law relating to personal injuries, those that happen both on-the-job and otherwise, including mishaps which occur in driving vehicles, using products, and receiving medical care. The column will also respond to legal questions relating to personal injury that are sent to us. We are located downtown at 161 N. Clark Street, Suite 2200, Chicago, Illinois 60601 and our telephone number is (312) 977-0100

involves social media platforms designed to maximize user engagement, and the other involves AI systems capable of generating human-like conversations. Together, these cases are pushing product liability law into new territory.

At the center of this pending litigation are recommendation algorithms. Plaintiffs argue that these systems were deliberately designed to maximize engagement by exploiting adolescent psychology. This includes encouraging users to scroll longer, to return more frequently to the platform, and to become increasingly more dependent on platform feedback loops. According to the complaints, the result is not just compulsive use, but measurable psychological harm, including depression, anxiety, disordered eating, and more.

Recent litigation against Meta illustrates this shift. In 2026, juries in California and New Mexico found Meta liable in cases alleging that its platform was defectively designed and contributed to harm suffered by young users. The California case focused on claims that Meta and YouTube intentionally incorporated addictive design features that encouraged compulsive use, while the New Mexico case involved allegations that Meta's products facilitated child exploitation. Although both companies have appealed the verdicts, the decisions suggest that juries are increasingly willing to view platform design itself as a source of legally cognizable harm. At the same time, the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear Meta's jurisdictional challenge in a Vermont lawsuit alleging that Facebook and Instagram were designed with

addictive features harmful to minors, allowing that litigation to continue. Together, these cases demonstrate growing judicial and public scrutiny of whether social media platforms can be treated as defective products rather than merely neutral communication services.

Social media and AI companies reject this framing. In their view, their platforms are communication services and not defective products. They claim to be protected from liability for harms tied to third-party content. However courts have begun to allow certain negligent design claims to proceed. This signals a willingness to evaluate platform architecture itself, and not just the content it describes.

If social media litigation stretches existing doctrine, AI litigation threatens to redraw its boundaries entirely. A new wave of wrongful death and personal injury claims against AI developers alleges that chatbot systems contributed to severe psychological harm. The theories advanced in these cases focus on design defects and failure to warn. Plaintiffs argue that the emotionally responsive conversation design, continuous reinforcement loops, and insufficient safeguards created foreseeable risks for vulnerable users.

Unlike social media platforms that amplify user generated content, AI chatbots independently generate novel responses in real time. That distinction has become legally important. Courts are now asking: is a dynamically generating language model a "product" at all, or is it more properly treated as a service? In Garcia v. Character

Technologies, the federal court in Florida addressed this issue directly, concluding that the chatbot system could be treated as a product for purposes of design defect analysis. That farming opens the door to strict liability theories that would otherwise be unavailable in service based contexts. The case ultimately settled, but the doctrinal uncertainty it exposed remains unresolved.

What emerges from these cases is not just a new category of litigation, but a shift in how courts define the idea of a "product" itself. Social media platforms and AI systems are testing whether tort law can extend its core principle, liability for unreasonable risk, into environments defined by constant adaptation and invisible design choices. If the trend continues, the next generation of product liability may not be about defective things at all, but about defective systems that shape how people think, behave, and make decisions in the first place.



By Stela S. Stanimirova
 Stela S. Stanimirova is a law clerk at Healy Scanlon Veugeler Gannon and an incoming Second-year law student at DePaul University College of Law. She is on the Dean's List.

Defective by Design: Social Media, AI, and the Future of Product Liability

Historically, product liability law developed primarily around tangible items that

failed and caused injury. Classic examples include a defective brake system, a mislabeled medication, or a machine that fails under pressure. The legal framework was designed for physical objects with physical consequences. However, now that framework is under strain.

In the age of social media and artificial intelligence ("AI"), today's courts are being asked to decide whether products that don't exist in the traditional sense can even be defective at all. Two fast-developing lines of litigation are forcing courts to answer that question in real time. One

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Riverfest Limerick: From Humble Beginnings to a Premier National Festival

Riverfest Limerick began in the early 2000s as a celebration of the River Shannon - a festival designed to reflect the spirit, vitality and strong community life that flows through Limerick City. Created as a May Bank Holiday centrepiece, it quickly became a highlight of the Irish festival calendar, attracting tens of thousands of visitors annually and generating significant economic benefit for the region.

Today, Riverfest offers visitors the opportunity to experience Limerick at its most vibrant, with the city's streets, riverbanks and public spaces coming alive with music, food, sport and entertainment throughout the May Bank Holiday weekend.

From the outset, Riverfest quite literally put the "River" at its heart. Early editions centred on the city's quays along the Shannon and Abbey River, where families gathered for powerboat displays, kayaking competitions, on-water demonstrations, spectacular fireworks over the river, outdoor food markets and live entertainment. The festival built a reputation for being accessible, family-friendly and proudly rooted in Limerick's maritime heritage.

A key pillar of the weekend became the Great Limerick Run, which takes place on the Sunday of the May Bank Holiday and now attracts over 15,000 participants across its marathon, half-marathon and 6-mile events. The Run brings elite athletes, club runners and recreational participants into the heart of the city, adding energy, colour and significant footfall to the Riverfest programme. Collectively, Riverfest weekend now regularly welcomes in excess of 150,000 visitors across its events, making it one of Ireland's largest regional festivals.

For many visitors, Riverfest also provides a perfect introduction to Limerick itself - a city rich in history, culture and hospitality, where medieval

celebration risked becoming a series of disconnected city events.

Although attendance remained strong due in part to the Great Limerick Run and established traditions such as the International BBQ Competition, the festival's connection to the River Shannon - its defining feature - had weakened. By 2015, Riverfest was at a crossroads. It still held enormous goodwill locally but required renewed direction to realise its full potential.

A New Chapter
 In 2015, a new event management team was appointed to manage Riverfest. It was clear that the festival required more than operational management. It needed a strategic reset and a renewed vision for the future.

Having delivered the event under its existing structure, a renewed vision emerged: "put the river back into Riverfest." Arthur's Quay Park was identified as the ideal central nucleus, combining accessibility, green space and immediate proximity to the water. The strategy was to create a strong anchor point and expand the footprint organically along the riverfront year on year, restoring the River Shannon as the natural stage and spine of the festival.

Innovation and Adaptation
 A hallmark of Riverfest's evolution has been practical innovation. Events were adapted and reimagined to improve audience experience, strengthen programming and ensure the festival could continue to grow regardless of changing conditions.

For example, "Fashion Friday," previously held outdoors on Bedford Row and frequently impacted by poor weather, was relocated indoors to Arthur's Quay Shopping Centre. This move transformed the event into a reliable and vibrant opening-night attraction, increasing audience engagement and ensuring programme stability regardless of weather conditions.

This adaptive approach extended across logistics, programming and site design, helping Riverfest evolve into a cohesive, weather-resilient and professionally produced large-scale event. Popular attractions were repositioned and expanded, public spaces were reimagined, and greater emphasis was placed on creating welcoming, accessible experiences for families, visitors and local communities alike.

The result is a festival that feels both energetic and relaxed - one where visitors can move easily between riverside events, food markets, live music, cultural activities and sporting

attractions while experiencing the unique atmosphere of Limerick City during the May Bank Holiday weekend.

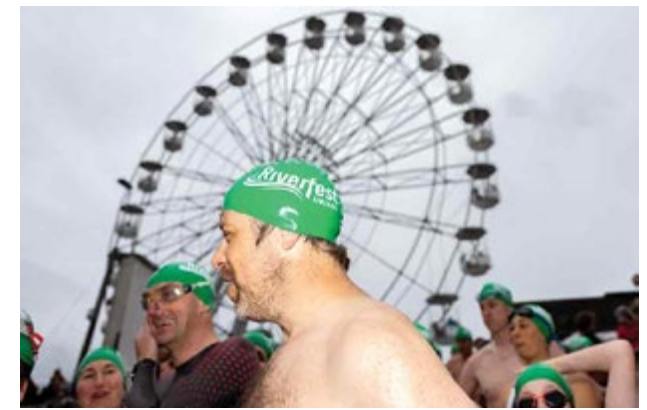
Reclaiming the Waterfront
 Within three years, Riverfest's footprint had expanded dramatically, stretching as far as the docklands. A major milestone was the inclusion of Irish Naval Service vessels, bringing thousands of visitors to the waterfront and reconnecting audiences with Limerick's proud maritime heritage.

Since Covid, Riverfest has continued to grow its water-based programming with the introduction of rowing regattas and organised river swims, extending activity to the North Bank of the Shannon and further strengthening the festival's community and sporting dimensions.

Visitors travelling to Limerick during Riverfest can expect a city full of atmosphere and energy, where locals and visitors gather together along the river to celebrate the very best of community, culture and hospitality.

A Multiple Award-Winning Festival
 Today, Riverfest is a multiple award-winning national festival, firmly established as one of Ireland's premier regional events. It delivers:
 • Over 150,000 attendees across the May Bank Holiday weekend

- More than 15,000 Great Limerick Run participants
- Significant tourism and economic impact for Limerick city and county
- Extensive free family-friendly programming
- Major river-based sporting and



maritime attractions
 The guiding vision remains simple yet powerful:

Bring the community back to the river and the river back to the community. Looking ahead, plans are in place to further expand activities on both banks of the Shannon, between and beyond the bridges, continuing to grow the festival's footprint while staying true to its founding identity.

From humble beginnings to a nationally recognised celebration of sport, culture, food and community, Riverfest Limerick once again stands as a dynamic, unifying tribute to the River Shannon and to the city that flows around it.

For those planning a visit to Ireland's Wild Atlantic Way, Riverfest offers a unique opportunity to experience Limerick at its most welcoming and alive, where history, music, food, sport and community come together on the banks of one of Ireland's greatest rivers.



ATLANTIC EDGE LIMERICK EUROPEAN EMBRACE

Limerick is a unique destination for tourists, offering a perfect blend of friendly locals, captivating folklore, and hidden gems.

Limerick Greenway invites cyclists and walkers to explore scenic landscapes, while the medieval town of Kilmallock immerses visitors in history.

Thrill-seekers can enjoy the buzz of the Ballyhoura Mountains, while Lough Gur Lakeshore Park and its ancient Stone Circle offer a deeper connection to Ireland's past.

Treaty City Brewery Tours provide a taste of locally crafted beer, rounding out a memorable experience.

Limerick is a must-visit destination for tourists in 2025, where vibrant culture, rich history, stunning landscapes, and a warm, welcoming atmosphere await around every corner.

Limerick.ie #LimerickEdgeEmbrace

The Cuckoo Bird

The last time I was home in Ireland with my daughter, we visited our old house, which backed onto hundreds of acres of the Gortin Glens Forest Park. Our house was way up on a hill, and our school bus didn't go up there, so we had a long walk home every day.

I parked my rental car at the bottom of our lane and took that nostalgic walk with my daughter. She couldn't believe how long it was. Suddenly she said, "Mum, what's that noise?"

I looked around at the fields. It was May, and the purple May flowers were in abundance, so I excitedly said, "Listen again—it's the cuckoo bird! It only



comes in May."

Here's the story of Ireland's cuckoo bird. Every Irish person has heard its distinctive call at some stage of their lives.

The cuckoo bird is one of nature's most fascinating con artists, and its presence in Ireland during the spring and summer months is a spectacular wildlife phenomenon. Known for its distinct two-note call that echoes across the Irish countryside, this unique bird

creating the perfect opportunity for the cuckoo to carry out its unconventional reproductive strategy.

The cuckoo's refusal to build a nest is not a matter of laziness but a highly evolved adaptation. Over millions of years, cuckoos have completely shed the biological and behavioural instincts required for nest-building, egg incubation, and chick-rearing. This strategy allows the adult cuckoo to conserve an immense amount of energy.

Building a secure nest, incubating eggs for weeks, and flying back and forth thousands of times to feed hungry chicks is exhausting work. A single female cuckoo can lay up to 25 eggs in one season, distributing them among various host nests. If she had to raise all those chicks herself, it would be biologically impossible.

holds a secret: it never builds its own nest. Instead, it relies on a brilliant evolutionary survival strategy.

Every April, cuckoos arrive in Ireland after an incredible 10,000-kilometre migration from the tropical rainforests of Central and West Africa. They travel across the Sahara Desert and Western Europe, specifically seeking out the rich, insect-abundant habitats of the Irish landscape. Ireland offers ideal conditions for cuckoos during their breeding season, particularly in areas such as bogs, sand dunes, fens, and heather-clad hillsides.

The primary reason cuckoos migrate to Ireland is to take advantage of the seasonal abundance of food and the high concentration of specific host bird species. In Ireland, the cuckoo's preferred targets are the meadow pipit, the reed warbler, and the duncock. These smaller birds thrive in the Irish countryside, unknowingly

Once a female cuckoo arrives in Ireland, she spends hours perched silently in trees or bushes, watching the local bird population. She is looking for host birds that are actively building nests and beginning to lay their own eggs.

When the host bird leaves its nest momentarily to forage for food, the cuckoo moves with

lightning speed. She flies down to the target nest, removes one of the host's eggs, and lays her own egg in its place. This entire process takes less than ten seconds.

To ensure the trick works, the cuckoo has evolved the ability to mimic the colour, size, and pattern of the host bird's eggs, making it incredibly difficult for the foster parents to notice the switch.

Wow. Unbelievable! The cuckoo egg is biologically engineered to hatch slightly earlier than the host bird's own eggs, usually after just 11 to 12 days of incubation.

Even though it is born blind, naked, and incredibly weak, the newly hatched cuckoo chick possesses an instinctive drive for survival. Using a unique scoop-like depression on its back, the tiny chick manoeuvres underneath the unhatched host eggs—or even newly hatched host chicks—and pushes them completely out of the nest. Within a few weeks, the cuckoo chick grows at an astonishing rate. It is a comical yet tragic sight in the Irish countryside to see a tiny meadow pipit perched beside a massive, ravenous cuckoo chick, frantically stuffing caterpillars into its gaping orange beak.

Supposedly, they fly here for our hairy orange caterpillars because of their high protein content!

By the time August arrives, the adult cuckoos have already left Ireland to head back to Africa, leaving their offspring behind. A few weeks later, guided purely by genetic memory, the young cuckoos also fly south to Africa, having never met their real parents or seen a cuckoo nest.

I love this. Isn't it just fascinating?

While this process seems cruel, it is a vital part of the ecological balance. Cuckoos do not decimate host populations because they are relatively rare. In Ireland, the cuckoo remains a cherished symbol of spring—a testament to the wild, complex, and astonishing ways that nature finds to survive.

Brilliant. I hope you enjoyed this little piece of Ireland's natural history. Our children love hearing our stories, and better yet, going home with us to witness them for themselves. These are stories that, no matter where we live in the world, we never forget. They are the memories we pass down to our children and grandchildren.

A special shout-out to my niece Lisa and to Dad, Keith, whose father, Regie, is going to be 100 years young in August.

Happy 100th, Regie! You're a legend. Remember, it's only a number.

Till next time... Happy 4th of July, and happy barbecuing!

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REMEMBER: The Irish Fellowship Club Christmas Luncheon will be held a week later in 2026.
 SAVE THE DATE for December 11, 2026 at the Hilton Chicago.

Rose Doherty and Guests

RESERVE YOUR FOURSOME FOR THE IRISH OPEN GOLF OUTING 2026

The always popular Irish Fellowship Club Golf Outing will be on Monday, July 20 at Ridgemoor Country Club (6601 W Gunnison St, Harwood Heights, IL 60706) with a shotgun start at 1pm. A foursome is \$3000 and includes golf for the four, lunch and drinks on the course, cocktail reception after golf along with a hole sponsorship. All golfers are welcome to participate in an evening reception and awards ceremony beginning at 5pm. And, non-golfers are invited to join the cocktail reception. Reservations for golf and the cocktail reception available on the Irish Fellowship Club website: www.irishfellowship.com. All proceeds from the Golf Outing benefit the Irish Fellowship Club Education and Cultural Foundation.

Pat McCarthy and team, UA Plumbers Local 130

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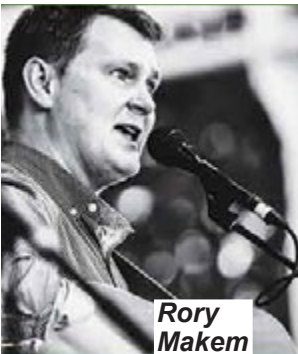
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21st Irish Fest La Crosse August 7-9

www.irishfestlacrosse.org
Join the celebration as Irishfest La Crosse marks its 21st year in 2026! From August 7-9, downtown La Crosse will come alive with the sights, sounds, and spirit of Ireland. This beloved non-profit, family-friendly festival is powered by a dedicated volunteer board and hundreds of enthusiastic community volunteers who bring Irish culture to life each year.

Festival-goers can look forward to a stellar lineup of Irish and Celtic music spanning traditional tunes, lively harp melodies, Celtic rock, and everything in between. Beyond the music, Irishfest offers a



Rory Makem

full weekend of dance performances, cultural displays, hands-on workshops, storytelling, genealogy research, Highland games, two days of Tug of War, the lively Kilt Run, an Irish Market, and plenty more. A wide variety of food and beverages will be available to satisfy every appetite.

The popular Harp Stage returns with the crowd-favorite Harp Twins, known for their unique and eclectic sound. Families will love the Wee Folks Area, filled with games, activities, contests, puppets, music, sheep shearing, and even Irish dogs. Older kids (and kids at heart) can enjoy the arcade and additional activities throughout the grounds.



High Kings



Screaming Orphans

The Cultural Tent's theme this year is "Irish Rock" featuring displays, photo ops, Irish karaoke and more. In the adjacent, Arts Tent a presentation of

the "History of U2" will be offered.

All musical performances take place under tents, rain or shine. The 2026 entertainment lineup includes The High Kings, Gaelic Storm, Scythian, Screaming Orphans, BIIRD, Mairtin de Cógáin, Rory Makem, who will record a live episode of their podcast "The Ballad Lounge," along with Murphy & Mancuso, Billow Wood, The Harp Twins, Ian Gould & Lukas Jaeger, and more. Dance performances throughout the weekend will feature Glencastle Irish Dancers and Amanda's Academy of Dance. Sunday highlights include Irish



Gaelic Storm

Mass and a lively fiddle competition. There is something for everyone at Irishfest La Crosse—whether you come for the music, the culture, the food, or the fun.

Advance tickets are available online for \$30 for a 3-day pass or \$15 for a single day at www.irishfestlacrosse.org. One-day tickets will also be available at the gate for \$20. Youth 17 and under are admitted free. Visit the website or Facebook page for the latest updates and full schedule details.

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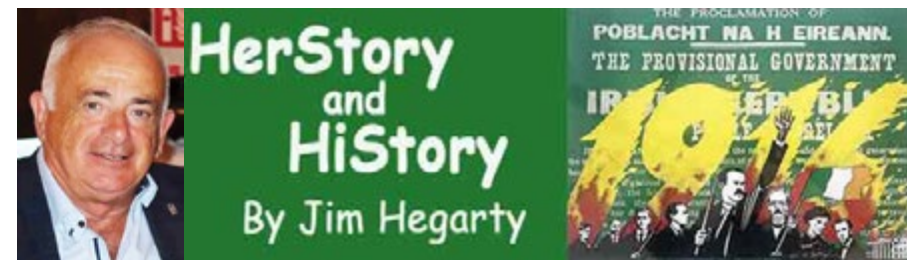
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Irish and British Naval Conflict

(“Act of Piracy” - Winston Churchill)
For Centuries Cork Harbour (Queenstown) one of the worlds largest natural harbours is steeped in military and commercial history.Under British rule it became a vital naval base especially during the Napoleonic Wars. It was also the harbour from which many ‘coffin ships’ set sail during the



Winston Churchill

Irish Famine, or to be more accurate the years of ethnic cleansing.

In1892 a young seventeen year old Annie Moore and her brothers boarded the S.S.Nevada from Cork Harbour bound for New York. Annie became the first person to pass through Ellis Island immigrant station. There is a statue now to her memory in both New York and Cobh (Queenstown).

It was from there In1912 that the Titanic made its final port of call before sailing on its fateful voyage. When the RMS Lusitania was sunk off the Cork coast by a German submarine in1915,with the loss of many American lives, the casualties were brought to Queenstown (Cobh) where there is a memorial to the memory of its victims.

At the time of the 1916 Easter Rising, Sir Rodger Casement (Irish Patriot) arranged a shipment of arms to be sent from Germany to arm the Volunteers. Casement was captured by the British as soon as he landed on Banna strand in Co.Kerry. He was later executed by the British having been tried for treason. The Aud ship carrying the arms etc was captured off the Cork coast and directed to Queenstown. Rather than surrender its cargo, Captain Karl Spindler decided to scuttle the ship just outside the harbour. He opened the sea valves and ordered his crew to abandon ship.

The following year saw America enter WW1 using Queenstown as a Naval base, coming under the command of



Souvenir of American WW1

the British Admiralty.Thus causing a lot of tension. Not only was there tension of a military nature, but also between servicemen as the Americans became more popular with the local population. The US Navy also established its airbase in nearby Aghada. With so many Irish American servicemen it provided the



Queenstown (Cobh) (Cork Co Council)

IRA with the opportunity to secure arms and military intelligence’

The American casualties of war from Europe were returned to Queenstown for embalming before being returned to their home states for burial.This work was carried out by John Forde, who together with his fiancée, my aunt Mamie, (Mary Francis) Hegarty secured their side arms and brought them to her family arms dump at The Hegartys of The Laurels.

Fortifications

The Harbour consists of extensive defences originally designed to avoid threats of invasion by France and Germany. On the mainland the colorfull garrison town of Cobh was also well fortified.

Spike Island - Fort Westmoreland (Fort Mitchell)

Spike is an island of 104 Acres, historically a notorious prison,often referred to as “Ireland’s Alcatraz”.

It was fortified by the British during the American War of Independence when they built a 2 Acre, star-shaped fortress capable of catering for 2,000 men. Work continued over the decades and was expanded to a 3,000 man capacity.

During the Irish War of Independence and Civil War thousands of freedom fighters were imprisoned there, with some daring escapes.

Fort Carlisle (Fort Davis)

Fort Davis is a 74Acre defence built in 1860’s at a strategic position to further guard the mouth of the Harbour.Located near the village of Whitegate, it is today an active Irish Defence Forces training site.

Fort Camden (Camden Fort Meagher)

Situated in the town of Crosshaven it is unique in that over 60% of the fortification is underground. It also guards the mouth of the Harbour.It consists of a complex network of tunnels making it impossible for the enemy to penetrate. It is situated opposite Fort Davis. After the launch of

‘The Hegarty of The Laurels’ we were approached and asked if we would lend some family artefacts for their summer season. We were privileged to participate in their showcase.

Haulbowling Island

For centuries Haulbowling was a very busy British Navy dockyard as it was situated in one of the Empire’s most strategic ports. Today its the location of the Irish Naval Services headquarters. After the Irish Free State was formally established on the 6th of December 1922 following the Anglo-Irish Treaty, Haulbowling became the center of what the *New York Times* described as one of the most audacious events of that period

Treaty Ports

When the Treaty was ratified and the Irish Free State(FS) established one of its main objections was the issue of the Treaty Port. The agreement stated that three strategically deep water ports were to remain under British control. In Donegal, Lough Swilly, and in Cork

Hegarty, in his meticulous planning, had local volunteers on standby with officers Willie and John O’Riordan (experienced fishermen) available to pilot the Upnor through the dangerous waters if all went to plan.

He also ordered men of the Cork Brigade, such as Conn Neenan to arrange transport by ‘borrowing’ trucks and lorries from city businesses and travel to Ballycotton. Nan and Mamie Hegarty had helped to establish the

Capture of the Upnor - March 1922



Cork Harbor (1920’s)

The Treaty led to a split within the IRA. In Cork the anti-treaty group was led by Sean O’Hegarty who had become the CO. of the Cork No.1. Brigade after the death of patriot Lord Mayor Terence McSwiney during October1920. The Hegartys of The Laurels and the Mitchells of Kerry Pike all took the anti-treaty side and vowed to fight on for a full 32 County Republic.

Hegarty was meticulous in his planning of raids during the War of Independence and relied on his intelligence officers for vital and detailed information. As undertakers in Cobh, Mamie and her husband John Forde had unfettered access to the town and port. The local IRA CO. Michael Burke (Anti-Treaty) also became aware that the British vessel, the Upnor, was docked at Haulbowling and been loaded with guns,ammunition and other ordnance to be transported back to Britain.

When word came from Burke to Hegarty that the ship was ready to sail, a plan was set in motion. He ordered Brigade officers Tom Crofts (who later replaced him as CO.at the time of the Civil War), Mike

Murphy and Sando Donovan to travel to Queenstown and link up with Burke who was privy to the plan. The plan was to seize a tugboat, ‘The Warrior,’ holding its Captain prisoner. They pursued the Upnor after it left the harbour and reached it roughly 35 miles off the coast, despite the fact it was escorted by two naval battleships (HMS.Heather and Strenuous). The battleships were sailing about three miles in front as was normal navy practice. When the Warrior was in line with the Upnor its captain accepted the story that it was delivering a message from the Admiralty. Under the command of Michael Murphy the ship was boarded, Murphy ordered its Captain to hand control to a civilian Captain Collins that Hegarty had persuaded to travel with Crofts and company. Collins instructed to change course and head for the fishing village of Ballycotton.The warships acting as escorts,were unaware of its change of course.

both Berehaven and Queenstown. The main reason put forward by the British for their retention was how vital they were during the U-boat campaign of WW1.

Cumann na mBan branch in the area and had delivered arms from their brother John Joe’s dump at the Laurels to the local officers. They were to help the local cumann women as backup for the Volunteers and also act as scouts. Numbering over a hundred vehicles they travelled to Ballycotton undetected by the authorities. When the Upnor docked at the Harbour pier the anti-treaty volunteers which included Martin Corry’s men of East Cork Brigade, began unloading its valuable cargo and loading it onto the waiting lorries etc. Some were delivered to the Hegartys dump at the Laurels under my fathers command, some to the Mitchells in Kerry Pike, with the majority finding it way to West Cork to arm the anti-treaty men of the



Sean O’Hegarty

‘MunsterRepublic’.
The British Government (BG) accused Michael Collins of a breach of trust and an act of piracy, while he blamed Winston Churchill for attempting to undermine the Provisional Government (PG). Either way this daring operation supplied the Cork IRA with plenty of arms and ammunition for the

Ballycotton (Cork Co Council)



imminent Civil War.

Churchill as The Secretary of State for the Colonies in his report to the House Of Commons stated, “The incident is a very serious one. It constitutes a gross and dishonourable breach of the treaty. I must remind the house that the Truce was entered into, not only the PG alone, but the duly elected representatives of the Irish people, who were and are parties to it. The fact that such an elaborate conspiracy could be set on foot in Cork without the PG obtaining any previous or even early information of it shows that their control over Cork and this district is practically non-existent. This is all the more remarkable in a city, in which opinion has overwhelmingly declared itself on the side of the treaty.”

“I am communicating with the PG in this sense. At the same time,I am bound to admit that an inalienable responsibility rests upon the BG to safeguard in all circumstances arms and ammunition of war that are in their hands. The Admiralty are instituting an inquiry into the circumstances, with a view to ascertaining whether any neglect of reasonable precautions has occurred, and I need scarcely

say that Naval Escorts will be employed in future in regard to all movements of munitions from Ireland by sea.”

As the above illustrates,the BG were not impressed by this, (as the *New York Times* reported) daring raid. It once again highlights how effective the IRA’s intelligence network was in its planning and attention to detail.

Both the ‘official’ crews from the tug boat Warrior and the Upnor were immediately arrested after the event and taken into custody in Queenstown. They were all questioned and found not guilty of any involvement and released without charge.

Back in Ballycotton,Willie O’Riordan was threatened by Free State soldiers and also released. His son Don told me there were still some ammunition (bullets) in their home when he was growing up, now apart from an ammunition box nothing else remains.

The following morning, Burke was summoned to the Admiralty and asked if he knew anything about the previous day’s event. He told them he had no knowledge of it and returned home content and aware of the British inferior intelligence network.

Once again vital intelligence gathering proved its worth in the Irish struggle for freedom.

Civil War - The bitter Civil War began in June when the FS army bombed (with the use of British Arms) the Four Courts in Dublin. The arms from the Upnor were used in many raids in Munster, particularly in Cork, Kerry, Limerick and Tipperary. The Hegarty’s home at the



The Upnor

(which they buried in north Cork and was not discovered for the next 57 years).It was the only Spike Island garrison attack under British rule during its 159 year of occupation.

The Treaty Ports remained under British control until 1938 when they were returned to Irish control as part of the Anglo - Irish trade

Laurels continued to be raided not now by the RIC or Black and Tans but by FS soldiers. They never found anything but did confiscate a motorcycle and sidecar (which was never returned). When the Mitchell house in Kerry Pike was raided all that was ever discovered were some British army nurses uniforms taken from the Upnor. The arms from the Upnor and others were ordered to be layed down on the orders of Frank Aiken after the death of Liam Lynch,thus ending the Civil War.

Post Civil War
In 1924, a year after the formation of the FS, anti - treaty members of the Cork Brigade dressed in FS uniforms drove to Cobh and opened fire on approximately 50 British servicemen going between Spike Island and the town, killing one and wounding several others. Before leaving they fired at a British Warship (HMS Scythe) in the harbour. Their motive was to stir up Anti-British sentiment in the town.They quickly sped away unharmed in their yellow Rolls-Royce

war resolution. The reason being they were a financial burden on the British exchure. A year later Churchill on the outbreak of WW2 tried to bully/bribe the Irish Government into returning them to British ownership without success. Eamonn deValera the then Taoiseach did not trust his offer.

Today the Town of Cobh and the restored fortifications all along the Cork coast are a major tourist attraction.

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Film now available on - YouTube - The Hegartys of The Laurels



Hegarty of the Laurels Cabinet at Fort Camden



Tourism Ireland roundtable meeting at the Dawson in Chicago 6-23-26 (l-to-r) Caitlan Ward, Colleen Kennedy, Sonja Tanzian, Paul McDonagh, Katie Keogh, and Mary Pat Flanagan.



6-26-26Tom Finnigan, Jim Murphy, Mike Roach, & Tom McKenna celebrating his first day as a member of the Shannon Rovers!

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Meet Each Day With Hope, Confident in God's Power

By Sally Blount
 At Catholic Charities, we are called "to witness a message of mercy and hope to a world in need."
 This task seems even harder now as we receive each day's news. The world seems so askew – there is so much fear, so much anger. All the patterns of how things used to operate no longer seem to apply.
 Yet, as Pope Leo XIV reminds us, we are called to meet each day not with fear, but with hope, confident in God's power, might, and transcendence.
 At a recent silent retreat, I offered up all of the uncertainty, the exhaustion, and bewilderment that I have been feeling. And I committed to simply be present to God for six days.



As I sat, two prayers from our faith's great mystics kept coming to mind:
 "Let nothing disturb you, let nothing frighten you, All things are passing away. God never changes. Patience obtains all things. Whoever has God lacks nothing; God alone suffices."
 – St. Teresa of Avila (1515-1582)

Secure in this knowledge – let us witness with joy!
Sally Blount is the CEO of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

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Skinny & Houli Return to Ireland 2026

By Izzy Cusack
 It could be the most anticipated journey since Magellan embarked for the East Indies, without any booze in his kit bag.
 Long time friends and legendary radio hosts Skinny Sheahan and Mike "Houli" Houlihan have agreed to once again travel to Ireland, "one more time before we croak!"
 The lads have traveled to the Old Sod many times over the last decade, with large groups of friends, many of whom have now gone on ahead to heaven, including old pal Dick Haggerty, CFD retired Chief Mike Miller, and total whack job Greg "Walking Eagle" Peckham, who almost got them thrown out of a hotel in Killiney after asking a waitress "would you like to pet my weasel?"
 Skinny was interrogated by Guarda in Donegal after being accused of stealing a pillow from the hotel. While visiting a castle in Ireland, a tour guide inquired of the group how long they were going to be in Ireland and Chief Miller famously quipped, "Until we run out of underwear!"
 Houli sez, "Ireland is a preview of heaven, but we're not in a hurry to get there... just yet."
 This band of rogues have aged gracefully and promise to behave themselves in the Emerald Isle this October. It's a pilgrimage in every sense of the word and past trips have featured a miracle at Our Lady of Knock shrine in Mayo, musical epiphanies and plenty of laughs along the way.
 Houli sez, "We've brought many gorgeous Irish musicians with us over the years including Kathleen Keane, Katie Grennan, and the "darlin' girl from Clare" Eimear Arkins, but this year we're luckiest to have the "Celtic Nightingale" herself, joining us, the one and only Catherine O'Connell, Chicago's own 1976 Queen of the Paddy's Day parade, and a fixture on the windy city's Irish scene ever since."
 Catherine recently celebrated



her 50th anniversary of being crowned Queen with a bevy of former queens out at Gaelic Park in March and they are all invited to join the trip as well!
 Also joining Skinny & Houli, and the Celtic Nightingale is legendary publican Brendan O'Brien from Reilly's Daughter pub on the south side, where they just celebrated their 50th Anniversary in June. Brendan has joined Skinny & Houli thrice in the old country himself. No doubt Brendan's dad, the late, legendary Boz O'Brien, will be joining in spirit as well.
 In the past Boz had demurred on joining Skinny & Houli trips for fear of falling off the wagon. But now that's he's in heaven the tour will be doubly blessed. All Reilly's customers are encouraged to join this tour to celebrate fifty years of Irish joy. This year's trip starts just outside Dublin at Fitzpatrick Castle for first and last night in Killiney, as we have celebrated

almost every journey. Houli sez, "My first trip to Ireland, Eithne and John Fitzpatrick hosted my family and it's now a tradition to return where the shenanigans first started."
 Then it's on to Galway at the Ardilaun Hotel for the next four nights as we roost about Galway, Kylemore Abbey, Connemara day trips to the Spanish Arch, and Latin Quarter Galway, all culminating in the magnificent MACNAS festival in the streets of Galway on Sunday. The Irish invented Halloween and MACNAS will not disappoint with their legendary parade and internationally acclaimed spectacle of Halloween 2026!
 One more night then at Fitzpatrick Castle before returning home with huge grins on all faces.
 Join Skinny & Houli, Catherine O'Connell, Reilly's Daughter's Brendan O'Brien for the most unforgettable journey of your lives!
 Info and itinerary available when you call 1-800-664-7474 or contact Eimear Tuffy at Specialized Travel at eimar.tuffy@special-ireland.com
 Bring someone you love with you to the Skinny & Houli Return to Ireland 2026. You will never forget it!

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The Water's Edge: Landscapes That Really Work



July heat has a way of drawing our attention to places where land meets water. July 26 is the International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem. A mangrove is a salt-tolerant tree or shrub that grows where land and sea meet in warm coastal regions, including parts of Florida and the Gulf Coast. Mangrove roots look almost architectural, rising and twisting through salty water. They slow waves, hold soil in place, shelter young fish,

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filter water, and store carbon in their wood and deep wet soils. Mangroves, marshes, and bogs are working landscapes, protecting shorelines, holding water, cooling the air, and sheltering life.

Like mangroves in warmer coastal regions, Ireland's bogs offer similar protection for the landscape. Bogs are not simply scenic backdrops, they are working landscapes with ecological and climate significance. Formed over thousands of years from layers of waterlogged plant material, healthy bogs store carbon, regulate water, and support specialized plants and wildlife. Their importance is especially clear in a warming climate, intact bogs can hold rainwater, release it slowly, and help reduce downstream flooding.

When bogs are drained or damaged, they lose much of their ability to store carbon and regulate water. This can affect surrounding areas by increasing runoff and contributing to flooding. Restoration efforts, especially rewetting and habitat protection, help peatlands recover their natural function as carbon stores, water filters, and buffers against extreme

weather. Ireland is now working to repair damaged bogs through rewetting, drain-blocking, and encouraging peat-forming plants such as Sphagnum moss to return. Bord na Móna's large-scale rehabilitation scheme covers about 33,000 hectares of former industrial peatlands and is intended to reduce emissions and improve water quality. These efforts help raise water levels so dried peat can begin functioning again as a living wetland. Over time, restored

bogs can regain their natural role as climate and biodiversity assets.

Chicago may not have peat bogs, but we do have marshes and wetlands that deserve more attention. On the Southeast Side, Big Marsh Park in the Calumet region offers one of the city's best examples. The 300-acre site was once industrial land used for waste and slag dumping. In 2011, the City acquired the land and restored the area as a wetland and recreation area.

The Calumet region was once among the most biologically rich wetland areas in North America. Much of it was lost or degraded through industrial development, but remnants remain, and restoration is bringing back birds, plants, water storage, and public access. Big Marsh is also a place for biking, walking, birding, learning, and gathering. That combination matters because people protect what they come to know.

In the Chicago summer heat, Wetlands are particularly useful in cooling the landscape by holding water and supporting vegetation. They absorb stormwater when heavy summer

is not that these plants and trees look alike. They do not. The connection is that each sits at the intersection of land and water, past and future, damage and repair. Mangroves coastal development and shoreline protection. Irish bogs stand between a history of fuel extraction and a future of restoration. Chicago's wetlands stand between industrial destruction and ecological renewal. A small action is simple. Visit a mangrove forest in Florida. Walk Big Marsh. Learn about Irish peatland restoration. Support organizations that

Bound for Belfast Concert Features Some of Chicago's Finest Young Irish Singing Talent

On Saturday July 18th 2026, Chicago Irish Singers Club will present "Bound for Belfast" a benefit concert, raffle and sing-along, featuring Chicago's finest young Irish singing talent. The singers recently competed



during Mother's Day weekend in St. Louis MO at the Midwest Fleadh Cheoil and earned the right to represent the Midwest United States in August in Belfast Northern Ireland at the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann Competition (All-Ireland). The All-Ireland is in its 75th year, having begun in 1951 in Mullingar by the Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann (Gathering of Musicians of Ireland). Their objective was to keep Irish unique cultural traditions, in all forms, alive and return them to a prominent position in Irish life. Today, Comhaltas has branches in every county of Ireland, and on 5 continents in 22 countries throughout the world.

It's the first time the All-Ireland will be held in Belfast; over 700,000 people are expected to attend. And although the All-Ireland Fleadh Cheoil is a week-long festival celebrating Traditional Irish Music, Song, Language, and Dance, the heart of the festival is its competitions. Over 4500 competitors will compete in over 230 categories of competition, from individual instruments and song, to group

and to go to Belfast to learn and network with other Irish singers in her age bracket. North Central College music alum, Jan Bauers 24, of Villa Park, had to defeat 9 other fine singers in the Ladies English Language Singing in St. Louis. This was by far the largest group of female singers competing in the past 10 years at the Midwest Fleadh. She came out on top, while Fiona Madsen of Las Vegas captured 2nd place. Tara, Jan, and Fiona are all mentored by Irish singer Christine Lawless. Jan said, "I love traditional Irish singing because of the story telling, and hearing the voice in its raw form. I'm so excited to go to Belfast to engage with other musicians, keep learning,

restore land and water. And the next time someone describes mangroves, a marsh, or a bog as useless, remember that the wettest places may be among the strongest tools we have for a hotter future.

Global Mangrove Alliance UNESCO – International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem Bord na Móna Peatlands Climate Action Scheme The Wetlands Initiative – Calumet Region Irish Peatland Conservation Council Friends of the Chicago River – Wetlands/Big Marsh

and discover more songs to bring back to Chicago."

Teaching Support Manager in the Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics at University of Chicago, Heather Preston of Hyde Park qualified 2nd in Newly Composed Songs with a song based on a story she heard told by the famed Joe Heaney at the University of Washington in the early 80's. She did not start out to be a songwriter, but recently became one, adding "I just loved the way my favorite Irish songs all told stories and touched real emotion." She is joined by singer-songwriter-musician Brian Harms of Orland Park, who took 1st place in this category with his original song "Just Irish Enough."

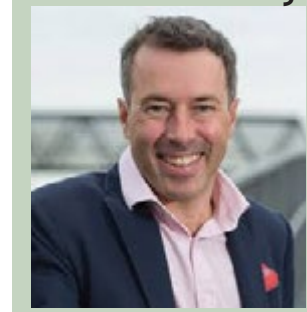
Irish speaker Zaic Holbrook Ó Néil, 32, of Oak Park is the first gentleman in years to represent the Midwest USA in Irish Language Singing. He will be joined by Savannah Rae, and Tricia Lynch, who both qualified in the Ladies Irish Singing, and are also beautiful Irish speakers. Rounding out the Belfast team is Dr Christine Lawless, founder of Chicago Irish Singers, and mentor to many singers, who will compete in the lilted.

Chicago Irish Singers mission is to preserve and promote Traditional Irish Singing in Chicago.

By sending these 9 singers and song-writers to Belfast Fleadh, we will most certainly serve our mission and Chicago's Irish Community. Readers, if you want to support Traditional Irish culture, specifically Irish Singing in Chicago, plan to attend our benefit concert July 18th 530pm-830pm at Chief O'Neill's in Chicago on Elston. We think you will be delighted not only by these promising young singers, but also our veteran singers. Please scan QR code in ad on this page to secure your tickets.

We look forward to seeing you at Chief's! Contact me at christine.lawless@yahoo.com

Turtle Bunbury



is an Irish historian with a penchant for digging deep into Irish history and presenting it to readers in a factual, thoughtful and very interesting way.

Check out his Irish in Chicago section at the link below, and if you like it I recommend you subscribe to receive it for \$12 a year!

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Lots of news about upcoming movies, including from the recent Cannes Film Festival in France.

To start off, it was announced that 16 year old Dubliner Alisha Weir will star in Fabia Martin's debut feature, a coming-of-age story called Underdogs, which is described as an "adventure comedy following two teenage girls, Nel (Weir) and Zadie (Amber Grappy), as they run away from foster care only to eventually find themselves competing at Crufts (the British equivalent of the Westminster dog show).

Weir is known for her lead roles in Matilda - The Musical, horror movie Abigail, and starred opposite Jessie Buckley in Wicked Little Letters. Underdogs will shoot in the UK in 2027.

Next up there's Blender, a movie described as "Superbad meets Derry Girls". It's set in a late 1970s post-punk Dublin, and centers on the coming-of-age experiences of Adrian Cunningham, who penned the script alongside Ciaran Bartlett. It will star Chris O'Dowd and comedian Bill Burr in a comedy set against the frenzy surrounding the impending visit by the Pope, and how a Dublin family navigates the country's recession.

Dublin-born Ruth Bradley stars too - you may know her from Apple TV+'s Slow Horses - as the wife of Tom, played by O'Dowd, while Burr will play "a gruff American record-store owner who convinces a ragtag gang of teenage misfits that their best, and possibly only, chance to lose their virginity is at the Pope's open-air mass." It will be directed by Adam Bernstein (Pluribus).

Then there's the next project from the busiest actor in showbiz, Ballymena-born Liam Neeson, who is set to star in Matthew Modine's upcoming feature The Splendid Thing alongside John Cleese and Modine himself.

A mixture of romantic comedy, drama and fantasy, The Splendid Thing will see Modine playing Declan King, a celebrated novelist struggling to



In the year 2022 I was a long respected journalist in Boston at the Lowell Massachusetts Sun and I write now about how well I remember the Sun's publisher literally throwing a yellow lined paper on my desk written by a man named Paddy Short, a well-known barman and publisher in Ireland.

I had already written about him, but here he was denying that he never saw me, never talked to me, never heard of me, and never even new me! I was beyond shattered. I knew of course he was lying, but I could have been sacked on the spot.

Thankfully I possessed enough clout in the newsroom and was one of the leading writers on the newspaper. In fact the article I wrote about this man had already been published.

The publisher read what he wrote

complete his latest novel since his wife left him. He's sent by his exasperated literary agent on a book-signing tour to Europe, but things take a surreal turn as characters from his previous books start coming to life all around him.

As for the Cannes festival, acquired at the huge sales market there was Academy Award winner Terry George's political thriller Ceasefire, a story he has written and will direct; shooting will take place shoot in Ireland later this year. O'Dowd is set to star in this too, alongside legendary actress Jane



Fonda, Belfast-born Ciarán Hinds, John C. Reilly, and Tom Hollander.

Ceasefire is the true story of a courageous Irish-American journalist (played by O'Dowd) who gambles everything to broker a secret backchannel between the IRA and a very wary Clinton administration. But as bombings, political betrayal and mistrust close in, he has to risk his life to secure a lasting ceasefire between the deadliest enemies.

About coming out of Cannes was news about the first Irishwoman to win the best actress Oscar, Jessie Buckley, who will reunite with her Hamnet co-star Paul Mescal (and fellow Irish native) for Hold on to Your Angels, which is written and directed by Benh Zeitlin. Taking place on the fringes of South Louisiana, the story centers on a hell-bound outlaw (Mescal) and a fierce shepherd of lost souls (whatever that means; played by Buckley) who enter into a catastrophic romance.

There's news that Netflix has acquired

and smiled stating "that fellow has big balls, no one could have made up the story you wrote and we published on the back page of the newspaper."

I heard later from Ireland and my dear cousin Vincent Kirk, who took me to the pub in Ireland, roared laughing when he learned that Paddy denied he ever saw me, never heard of me in the back side of the pub, or talked at length about the IRA.

I also learned that Paddy Short had the ability to keep tabs on how the young fellows in prison were doing, and passed on information to their parents.

My cousin told me Paddy Short was likely pushed by the IRA to write the letter in order to maintain his own safety in the North of Ireland.

My dearest friend Vincent Kirk died a while ago, and I write this article to thank him for all he did for people during his life.

worldwide rights to Bad Bridgets, the upcoming historical thriller from the award-winning director of Kneecap, Rich Peppiatt. It will star Emilia Jones, best known for CODA, alongside Alison Oliver, whose recent credits include Saltburn and Wuthering Heights.

Shooting is scheduled to begin later this year across the island of Ireland, and the story is set during the 19th century against the devastating backdrop of famine. It follows two sisters who attempt to escape poverty, hunger and an abusive father by travelling to America: on arrival in n New York, they become part of the chaotic world of newly-arrived women like them that were known as the "Bridgets."

The movie is inspired by the book Bad Bridget: Crime, Mayhem, and the Lives of Irish Emigrant Women by historians Elaine Farrell and Leanne McCormick, and will be produced by Peppiatt and his Kneecap producer Trevor Birney, as well as Margot Robbie's LuckyChap Entertainment.

Finally, news that Cork-born Éanna Hardwicke has landed a role alongside Channing Tatum and Eve Hewson in Isle of Man, Amazon MGM Studios' film based on the motorsports event of the same name. Character details and the story are under wraps for now, but Reid Carolin will be directing from a script written with Jason Keller (Ford v Ferrari) and Bryan Johnson.

Fasten your seatbelts for that one!

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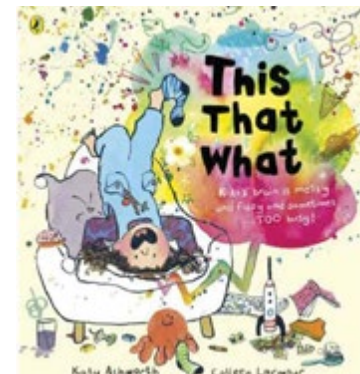
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THE IRISH BOOK CLUB.COM

Much More Than Leprechauns
By Sheryl O'Sullivan

Exciting news this month from the enchanting land of Tir na N'Og for books! Children's Books Ireland has recently announced its award winners for 2026. This month in this column we will look at the Honor Award for Illustrations and the Eilis Dillon Award for an author's first book. You'll need to wait until next month to find out about overall award-winner.

THIS THAT WHAT



Little Kiki Dime has a very busy brain, and we learn about that through both the words and the illustrations of the lively picture book, This That What, which is this year's Children's Books Ireland honor award-winner for illustrations. Even the title gives us an inkling of what goes on in Kiki's brain every minute.

Writing in rhymes, author Katy Ashworth, tells us how Kiki's brain moves endlessly from subject to subject, follows countless rabbit trails down interesting byways and operates full blast from morning to night. We see Kiki trying hard to deal on a daily basis with the onslaught of her busy brain. Kiki's mother and teacher are very calm and helpful presences, but ultimately Kiki must find her own way.

Illustrator, Colleen Larmour, has done a beautiful job of integrating her pictures into the sparse descriptions of Kiki's life. This is no small task, since we find Kiki and her brain in so many places and situations. The full-color pages where we are fully inhabiting Kiki's brain really show how busy it is in there. And the difference she feels from her classmates is visually clear when Larmour paints Kiki in hot pink color while her friends and teacher sit calmly at their desks in black and white. No wonder this book won an honor for illustrations!

For children who have the same sort of busy brains as Kiki, this book will serve as a reminder that they are not alone. It also gives some very

good coping techniques (yoga, drawing) for dealing with a busy brain. The book is aimed at about 4-7-year-olds, but many of us adults with distractible brains we find difficult to turn off will identify just as well with Kiki and her busy (but wonderful!) brain!

THE DOOMSDAY CLUB

Primary school teacher, Kevin Moran, is the winner of this year's Eilis Dillon Award from Children's Books Ireland for his book The Doomsday Club. The Eilis Dillon Award is given to a first-time author, and what a debut this book is for Moran.

In The Doomsday Club, four boys in their last year of Irish primary school (which Americans would call sixth grade) form a very unlikely alliance and end up working



together to save the known world from the evil, Dealra

Dubh. Two of the boys used to be friends, but are now mostly enemies. One boy is an immigrant who lives with his grandmother and has never enjoyed real acceptance. And the fourth boy is extremely smart and can't help showing this off. All-in-all, it's not the most promising club.

The plot is fantasy, and it has lots of references to Irish mythology and mythological creatures, such as the shape-shifting Rucht who turns out to be extremely helpful in saving the world. The shape-shifting is really valuable, but the fact that he only speaks Irish makes communication difficult. The inclusion of many lines in Irish, which are seamlessly translated by the author, give the book an added dimension, though. In addition, the plot takes place in Dublin on Halloween, so there are lots of actual Dublin places and traditional activities.

You can see Moran's teaching experience coming through all

over this book. He has great understanding of the needs and worries of twelve-year-old boys and creates such believable dialog and complex characters from this understanding. He also has great respect for the place responsible and caring adults have in guiding young people. Out of this respect, he includes a resourceful teacher whose periodic appearances move the plot along. He also includes a knowledgeable librarian who helps the boys find resources to unravel their mystery in time to save the universe.

The adventure belongs to the boys alone, though, and other 9-12-year-olds are certain to love this book. They had better read it quick, however, because a sequel is already in the works. It looks like Moran's first book may be the first of many.

That's it for this month. Next month I'll bring you the overall award-winner for 2026. Ah, the suspense! Keep enjoying those Irish children's books.

Books in Review
By Terrance J Kenneally

The Coast Road

Alan Murrin, Author ISBN 978-0-06-333652-0 2024
A fictional Irish town in County Donegal provides the backdrop for Alan Murrin's debut novel. Set in 1994, The Coast Road tells the story of three women navigating troubled marriages in an era before divorce was legalized in Ireland.

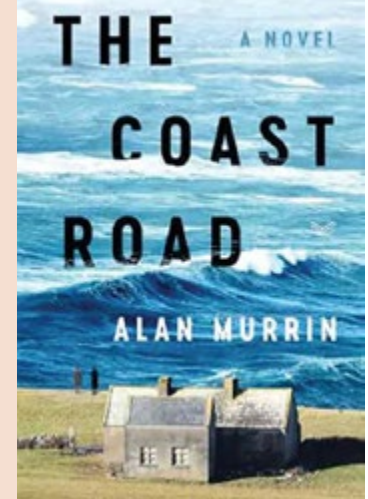
The book looks empathetically on the women's cramped lives and options. Izzy Keaveney has been fighting, off and on, with her husband James for more than 20 years and suffers periods of depression. Frustrated that James gave away the lease to her florist business and now refuses to buy it back, she's recently found a more sympathetic male presence in the form of parish priest, Father Brian Dempsey.

Dolores Mullan, mother of three and pregnant again, has long endured the cruelty and promiscuity of her husband, Donal, who constantly demeans and criticizes her. Poet Colette Crowley took the unreal step of leaving her husband, Shaun, and their three sons to have an affair in Dublin. But now she's back, regretful, short of cash, and keen to make amends with the children.

The friendship that forms between Izzy and Colette becomes a vehicle for Colette to spend time secretly with the youngest child. But when Shaun finds out he strikes back.

Meanwhile, Donal is sleeping with Colette, and James,

threatened by the intimacy between Izzy and Brian, uses his clout as a politician to have the priest removed from the parish. The wives are the fuller characters in Murrin's gloomy debut novel. Set in 1994, the Coast Road tells the story of three women navigating troubled marriages in an era before divorce was legalized in Ireland.



with Donal's child, and Izzy, taking a stand, personify the extremes of their options, one ultimately tragic, the other more accommodating.

The Coast Road is a story about the limits placed on women's lives in Ireland only a generation ago, and the consequences women have suffered trying to gain independence. This novel is set in the run-up to the Irish referendum on legalizing divorce.

Terry Kenneally is a (mostly) retired attorney in Rocky River, Ohio. He obtained his Masters in Irish Studies from John Carroll.



An Irish afternoon for golfers and families

FRIDAY, JULY 24

1PM SHOTGUN START

5PM FAMILY RECEPTION

DEERPETH GOLF COURSE, LAKE FOREST

Featuring entertainment, prize, raffle and more!

<https://www.fitzpatrickschoolofirishdance.com/golf>

Fore! Your Guide to local Irish Golf Outings

Warmer weather is now upon us, which means that Irish organizations across the area are planning to host golf outings throughout the summer and early fall. Safe to say, golfers (and their non-golfer friends) interested in supporting Irish causes will have many opportunities to spend time on the links this season. See below for sampling of the many outings and how to get involved.

Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago Monday, July 20 Ridgemoor Country Club
What we're hearing: One of the country's finest Irish golf outings will be played at Ridgemoor Country Club when the Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago sponsors its 53rd annual "Irish Open." Proceeds from the outing will benefit the Irish Fellowship Educational and Cultural Foundation. A shotgun start at 1pm and feature a raffle, dinner, and awards reception. www.irishfellowshipclub.org

Fitzpatrick School of Irish Dance Friday, July 24 at Deerpath Golf Club
What we're hearing: "We are so excited for the fourth annual golf outing in support of this dance school on the North Shore," said Tim Lynch, who chairs the golf outing. "Last year, we had over 150 people come out, and this year we're hoping for even more. It's quickly becoming an annual rite of summer, with live Irish music in a beautiful setting in Lake Forest and a special performance from the Fitzpatrick School dancers. The event is open to golfers to play eighteen holes and anyone else who wants to join for dinner and refreshments." Sign up: at www.fitzpatrickschoolofirishdance.com

Maryville Academy Monday, August 10 - Location: Merit Club
This signature event brings together golfers, sponsors and supporters for a meaningful day on the course while helping create brighter futures for the children and families we serve. Through the Maryville Golf Academy, young people across Chicago are introduced to golf while gaining life-changing opportunities that extend far beyond the course. This year, more than 100 students from Providence St. Mel School, St. Catherine of Siena School and St. Lucy School participated in our golf and caddy-in-school programs, gaining access to clubs, mentorship and the neighborhood Columbus Park golf course.

Tina Hock at restivo-hockt@maryvilleacademy.org or 847-294-1982.
Ancient Order of Hibernians Div. 32 Friday, August 23 Edgebrook Golf Course
Division 32, Chicago of the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) is hosting its annual charity golf outing to fund the bulk of the donations of the Charity Committee throughout the year. The AOH supports groups, individuals and families throughout Chicagoland with donations and member participation. A few organizations that benefit from the AOH's philanthropy include Misericordia, St. Mary of the Lake Soup Kitchen and The Well of Mercy. The AOH is the oldest and largest Irish-American Catholic fraternal organization in the United States with members in 49 of the 50 States and Canada.

How to sign up: Visit <https://aoh.org>
Young Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago annual golf outing is August 15 10am at Old Orchard CC. 700 W Rand Rd Mt Prospect, IL 60056,
Tickets go live June 26. Early bird pricing is \$760 a foursome and then raising it to \$800 a foursome. Early bird for a single golfer is \$190, regular pricing is \$200. Early bird pricing runs from 6/26 until 7/10.

Golf tickets includes bus from Emerald Loop to Old Orchard CC. Then, from Old Orchard CC to the Pony Inn 638 W Belmont Ave, Chicago, 60657 following the outing. There will be a raffle also!
Reception only six \$75 dollars. Sign up: Visit www.youngirish.com
Gaelic Park/Carraig Pub Golf Outing at Odyssey CC Sept 3
19110 S Ridgeland Ave, Tinley Park IL \$140 per Golfer 18 holes Registration at 11am - Shotgun start at Noon! www.chicagogaelicpark.com

Irish American Heritage Center Date: September 19 at Billy Caldwell Golf Course, (see story this page) What we're hearing: This annual tradition includes nine holes of golf, carts, lunch, prizes, awards, raffles and more in the Hospitality Room at the Irish American Heritage Center following the outing, and admission to the Halfway to St. Patrick's Day celebration at the Center. There will be prizes for most green worn on the course!
How to sign up: Visit www.irish-american.org

Golfing Fore Green Sept-19 at Billy Caldwell

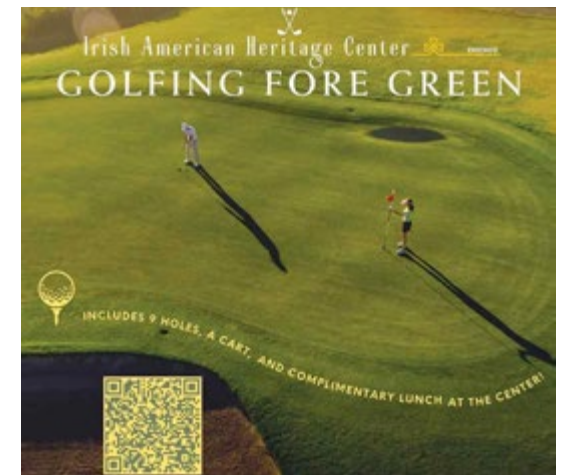
The Irish American Heritage Center (IAHC), located in a beautifully renovated 86,000 square ft. school on the Northwest side of Chicago, nurtures and strengthens Irish culture and heritage through a wide variety of programming and resources.

Our membership represents large numbers of people from both the city and suburbs who recognize the need to preserve and share vibrant cultural experiences across all groups.

"Golfing Fore Green" is an annual event that helps us maintain our building and continue to develop and present more programming for our membership and community. Again this year, it coincides with the Halfway to St. Patrick's Day celebration at the IAHC, providing additional opportunities for golfers to enjoy the day beyond the 10th hole hospitality room!

Join us as a sponsor and golfer on Saturday September 19th for a wonderful fall day of golf at the Billy Caldwell Golf Course in Chicago to support the Irish American Heritage Center. What's better than a round of golf in the lovely autumn weather! An information table will be available for sponsors' use on our return to the IAHC for the 10th hole hospitality.

"Golfing Fore Green," Saturday, September 19, 2025 at 8am Tee Off Billy Caldwell Golf Course - (9 Holes and then party at iahc) 6150 N. Caldwell Ave., Chicago Illinois 60646
Golf is \$85 per golfer or \$300 for a foursome
Please consider one of the following Sponsorship Opportunities:
\$1000 - High King - Refreshment Cart Sponsor on the Course
10th Hole Hospitality Sponsorship at IAHC - Table Top awards/ Gift bags
\$500 - Lord - Thank you with logo on IAHC Facebook page Recognition on the Irish Hour - Sign at hole
\$300 - Chieftain Recognition on the Irish Hour - Sign at hole
\$250 - Challenge Contest Sponsors - Sign at Hole - \$150 - Bard - Sign at hole
Submit artwork for your signage to Dominick Mulcrone at: iahc.golfing@gmail.com no later than August 31st. Please make checks payable to the Irish American Heritage Center. Questions? call 773-282-7035



CHECK IT OUT!
the Irish Book Club
www.theirishbookclub.com

The Original Rules of the Card Game '25'!

A newly republished 1870 rulebook preserves the earliest written rules of Irish trick-taking games.

THE POCKET GUIDE TO SPOIL-FIVE
TWENTY-FIVE & FORTY-FIVE
BY CAVENDISH,
AUTHOR OF "The Laws & Principles of Whist," etc., etc.
SECOND EDITION.
LONDON: THOS. DE LA RUE & CO.
1872
The right of Translation is reserved.

First published in 1870, *The Pocket Guide to Spoil-Five, Twenty-Five, & Forty-Five* by Henry "Cavendish" Jones is the earliest known book devoted entirely to the rules of Irish trick-taking card games—including the game now commonly known as 25.

Jones (1831–1899) was one of the most influential authorities on games of the 19th century. Writing under the pen name Cavendish, he authored definitive guides to card and lawn games and was instrumental in shaping modern sports culture—most notably helping to establish Wimbledon and serving as its first official referee.

This newly republished edition presents Cavendish's original text in a faithful modern reproduction. Inside, readers will find detailed rules covering setup, dealing, play, robbing, and reneging, along with guidance on misdeals, illegal plays, and dispute resolution. Cavendish also provides historical context for these Irish games and offers strategic advice aimed at improving competitive play.

More than a rulebook, *The Pocket Guide to Spoil-Five, Twenty-Five, & Forty-Five* serves as a snapshot of how these games were played and understood in the 19th century. For longtime players, it offers a definitive reference; for newcomers, a direct link to the game's origins.

available at **amazon**
Scan to view on Amazon

Get it now at: <https://amzn.to/4swmF8N>

Thursday September 3 2026
The Gaelic Park Golf Outing
Odyssey Country Club
19110 S. Ridgeland Ave - Tinley Park
\$140 Per Golfer - 18 Holes
\$30 Dinner Only
(Event limited to 32 Foursomes)
Registration starts at 11am
Shotgun Start Noon

Prizes, Dinner & Drinks at Gaelic Park Immediately following end of play

Call Tom Lally 773-919-8161 or Tom Flannery 312-320-3884 to book your spot

Chicago Gaelic Park
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cliff@irishamericannews.com or call 312-498-1337



As the United States celebrates its 250th Anniversary, we will be looking into the many wonderful contributions that tiny country across the pond has brought to these United States. Ireland, the Emerald Island, about half the size of Illinois has a mighty culture like few others. It has played a vital role in shaping the U.S. in its infant stages.

Today, at least 30 million Americans claim to be of Irish descent. 250 years ago, eight signers of the Declaration of Independence had Irish ancestry, three of which were born in Ireland. Thus starting the American Revolutionary War, detaching themselves from the shackles of British Rule and taxation.

The Irish played a large role in this war. Fifty percent of the Continental Army led by General George Washington were of Irish blood. Ireland produced several American key generals and naval commanders such as John Barry from Wexford who became the "Father of American Navy." Thomas Meaghan was the leader of the "Irish Brigade." A tailor from Ireland named Hercules Mulligan, with his expertise in espionage and knowledge of British strategy, he saved the life of George Washington

twice. The Irish brought a fierce tendency to fight, brought on by centuries of forced oppression by British Rulers. The ability to aim firearms at the Brits added a bonus and made them natural allies of the Patriot cause. It is no wonder that after serving as Major General and the first President of the U. S. that Washington would become the largest purveyor of Whiskey in



the country in his retirement years.

Militarily, the Irish fought as hard in the Civil War and both World Wars. Many immigrants wishing to become U.S. citizens were often handed a uniform, gun and draft card to join their choice of Army, Navy, Air Force or Marines.

The Great Famine in Ireland (1845-1852) brought close to two million immigrants escaping starvation and economic collapse to the U.S. in hopes for employment, land and

survival. This unprecedented wave of Irish into America set the trend for Irish contributions in this country. Many unskilled laborers arrived. Hard, back-breaking work was a common description of the typical worker. They would settle for jobs requiring tough positions for the lowest pay. Digging canals, laying railroads, paving roads and setting an example that hard work pays off in labor, infrastructure and industry in major U.S. cities.

Not all Irish immigrants decided to perform hard work and preferred to use their artful



glib ability to speak Blarney and Mullarkey to get their employment. They became American politicians and were more suited with government jobs that did not require hard work but a tricky tongue. These were definitely less strenuous jobs with unlimited potential payoffs. Half of the U.S. presidents have Irish ancestry. Locally in Chicago, a strong Irish political dynasty consisted of seven mayors who dominated the city for decades.

Other public service jobs

center in all of the U.S. All rebuilt on the dedication and hard work of Irish families and their volunteers.

The Center is visited by many prominent Irish figures, including multiple presidents of Ireland and many musicians and artists. IAHC is home to a 658 theater, a peerless collection of priceless literature in the IAHC library, an art gallery, and several classrooms where you can learn the art of music, dance and Irish language. It also provides a comfortable home to the Irish American Hall of Fame where you can learn about all



the famous Irish Americans who have been inducted. For more go to <http://www.iahof.org/> for profiles on these fascinating Americans.

Also assisting in the existence of The Center are the countless number of donors and benefactors who, behind the scenes, make this place thrive and survive.

Become a donor, join the Center, buy a brick for someone special in your lives. May God bless Ireland and may God bless the U.S.A.



We are now well into summer, and all of those things we dream about during the long cold winter months. Enjoying days when it is still light at 8pm. Visits to the beach and pool, block parties, street fairs and festivals, summer vacations, biking, hiking, doing a bit of gardening, I've realized that I don't mind cutting the grass as much as I do, shoveling snow. Trips to the Farmer's Markets, and Dad grilling outdoors. Or just soaking up the rays, using sunscreen of course.

With that in mind I am going to show you a super easy, no cook dish that screams summer. I'm talking about Gazpacho,



brown bread, and a splash of Worcestershire sauce.

IRISH GAZPACHO
Serves 4-6

- 4 cups quartered green tomatoes
- 3 large tomatoes
- 4 cups seedless cucumber cut into chunks
- 4 cups cubanelle green pepper seeded and cut into 1inch pieces
- 2 large peppers
- 1jalapeno pepper seeded and cut into 1inch pieces

- Juice of 3 limes
- Juice of 1/2 lemon
- 2 day old brown bread or baguette slices soaked in water
- 4 ounces extra virgin olive oil
- 2 ounces sherry vinegar
- 2 tablespoons honey
- Salt and pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon cumin
- Splash of Worcestershire sauce (optional)

GARNISH

- Diced multi color cherry tomatoes
- Frozen peas defrosted and blanched
- 4 tablespoons Greek yogurt
- Dill sprigs
- Basil leaves
- Toasted almond slices
- Roasted pistachios
- Slice of bread
- Extra virgin olive oil

Blend all ingredients except oil, vinegar, honey, and salt and pepper in a blender. Blend on high speed until smooth. You may have to do this in two batches. Add the olive oil, vinegar, and honey. Blend until smooth and season with salt, pepper, and cumin. Taste and adjust seasoning. You may need to add more vinegar. A splash of Worcestershire sauce will give it a touch of umami

with a slice of bread garnished with a dollop of yogurt, diced tomatoes, peas, nuts, dill and basil. Drizzle with extra virgin olive oil.

A first glance this looks like a lot of work but once you assemble all the ingredients it's just a matter of blending everything together and chilling. For best results I



would let this chill overnight to let all the flavors meld.

By adding a protein like grilled shrimp, scallops, or salmon, or even grilled chicken you can easily turn this into an entrée. Perfect meal for a hot summer day. It also makes a great Bloody Mary mix. Use it as a dip by whipping in yogurt and sour cream.

Enjoy this Irish twist on a Spanish classic.

Young Irish Fellowship Club July

By YIFC Culture Committee (Katie, Hannah, Robby, Dani, & Fiona G.)

The Young Irish Fellowship Club is incredibly grateful and thrilled to partner with *Irish American News* to share more of what we do with you each month.

This month, we are proud to share the charitable organizations selected by our committee for support. As the Young Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago, we are a 100% volunteer-run organization with minimal overhead, allowing more than 90% of all proceeds raised to go directly to the charitable causes we support throughout the Chicagoland area.

1) **100 Club of Illinois** provides critical resources, financial assistance, training opportunities, and emotional support to the families of first responders who have been killed in the line of duty, as well as active-duty first responders throughout Illinois. Their support extends to all sworn federal, state, county, and local first responders serving across the state.

2) Since 1887, **Mercy Home for Boys & Girls** has served as a safe haven for at-risk youth throughout Chicago, providing a nurturing environment, emotional support, and essential life skills to help young people overcome adversity and build successful futures. Rooted in the Catholic faith, Mercy Home offers shelter, therapy, education, and mentorship to children facing abuse, neglect, trauma, and instability. Their mission is strengthened through partnerships with families, donors, and community members who share a commitment to transforming young lives.

JUNE IN REVIEW saw us have a great kickoff to the summer! We

held our First Thursday Happy Hour at Gracie O'Malley's in Wicker Park. YIFC hosted our first ever Split the G competition. Thanks to all who participated, and congratulations to Robby! Our summer Rooftop Party was at *Joe's on Weed Street*. It was a gorgeous night and a strong turnout. Thank you to all who participated in Split the Pot. We also want to send a special thank you to the amazing bartenders who brought out their jerseys for us!

Save the Dates!
YIFC has a fun summer lineup ahead and we hope to see you there! Kick off July with another First Thursday Happy Hour on July 2nd at *Cody's Public House in Lakeview*. Dogs are welcome! Our board will be celebrating our annual Awards Night on Thursday, July 16th at *Chief O'Neill's*. The July event will be on Saturday, July 18th. We'll be heading to *Chicago Gaelic Park*. Come relax and watch some Gaelic Football with Chicago GAA! We will be organizing an Irish breakfast and bus transport back and forth. Mark your calendars now for our annual 15th at *Old Orchard Country Club*. Come join the fun!

CULTURAL CORNER - The Shannon Rovers celebrate 100 years!!
Founded in 1926 by Tommie Ryan, the Shannon Rovers was originally composed of Irishmen, predominantly immigrants who settled in Chicago in the 1920s. Their mission was to preserve and share traditional Irish music within the community, and to serve as a vital social institution for the Irish immigrant population. Since its inception, the Shannon Rovers have performed at thousands of local, national,

and international events, proudly counting plumbers, social workers, bankers, lawyers, electricians, doctors, first responders and more as members. The 'Rovers,' as they are colloquially known, have racked up a series of notable accomplishments, including playing at the 1933 World's Fair, for His Holiness Pope John Paul II, for several U.S. Presidents and numerous contemporary artists. Since 1956 the Rovers have led the Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade cementing their status as an essential part of the fabric of the Chicago community. The Rovers also have a long history of supporting philanthropic organizations throughout Chicago. This long-standing tradition of in-kind service reflects the group's deep commitment to the community by using music to honor, uplift and connect people across generations.

Today as the band enters its 100th year, it is composed of more than 80 pipers, drummers, and color guard members. Since its founding hundreds of individuals have played in the band and in many cases, membership has been passed down from generation to generation because of one shared theme: a love of traditional Irish music and heritage. We are so proud to have Rovers in YIFC and many family

connections. The Rovers 100th anniversary Celebration will take place July 9th and we encourage you to join as we celebrate a century of heritage, music, and community!

GET INVOLVED!
Join us at one of our great events! If you are interested in sponsoring YIFC or partnering with us, email youngirishfellowship@gmail.com. To follow along with all YIFC activities, find us on our Instagram @youngirishfc, Facebook, or website (www.youngirish.com).



Help Wanted: Dream Builders
Tamika loves design and wants to be an architect.
But her mom's drug abuse kept her family homeless and hungry. Tamika had no time for dreams - she had to focus on survival.
Then Tamika came to Mercy Home, where she found the stability & encouragement she needed to pursue her personal blueprint for success.

Donate at MerchHome.org/Dreams



• IRISH TOURISM •

Ireland And America: A Shared Story

THIS JULY 4TH AMERICANS will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. This historic milestone will be marked with great fanfare, lavish parades, and the pomp and ceremony which befits the moment. On the island of Ireland, too, there will be great festivities as people remember the deep ties that bind us to America.

The story of Ireland and the United States is one of generations linked by courage, migration, and shared ideals. Across the Atlantic, Irish men and women carried their culture, creativity, and determination, helping to shape the character of a young nation. From the Scots-Irish communities that left their mark on early America to the massive waves of emigration in the mid-nineteenth and early twentieth centuries that brought millions to America's shores to build its railroads and cities, Irish people have left an indelible impression on this country and our culture has become woven into the fabric of American culture.

Writ large, Irish influence can be seen in the fact that 23 US Presidents had Irish ancestry. Our first President George Washington was not one of them, but he was a member of The Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick, in recognition of the fact that more than a third of his successful Revolutionary Army was Irish. No less than eight Irish-born men were among the 56 signatories of the Declaration of Independence. Influential Irish-born figures during America's earliest days included Charles Thomson of Derry/Londonderry who designed the Great Seal, and Cork's Stephen Moylan who gave the new nation its name, the "United States of America."

What makes this relationship so enduring, however, is not only its place in history but the human connections at its heart. The Choctaw Nation's act of generosity during the Great Famine remains a powerful symbol of friendship and solidarity. Today, the legacy of those ties can be seen throughout American life. Tens of millions of people have Irish ancestry, and the influence of Ireland lives on in communities, traditions, music, sport, storytelling, and family histories that continue to connect both nations.

From the very beginning, Ireland and America have been connected by people, ideas, and shared aspirations. From the earliest emigrants who crossed the Atlantic in search of opportunity to the generations who followed, Irish men and women helped shape the American story.

As America celebrates its 250th anniversary, there has never been a better time to explore the places where so many of those journeys began. Across the island of Ireland, visitors can uncover remarkable stories of emigration, innovation, leadership, and cultural exchange—stories that continue to connect our two nations today.

Northern Ireland
Hillsborough Castle & Gardens, County Down

The connections between



Titanic Belfast, County Antrim; Annie Moore Statue, Cobh, County Cork; Jeanie Johnston Tall Ship, Dublin City Docklands; The Kennedy Homestead Visitor Center, New Ross, County Wexford.

Ireland and America reach back to the very foundations of the United States. During the 1770s, Benjamin Franklin visited Hillsborough Castle, linking this historic estate to the formative years of the American Republic. Today, visitors can experience that history first-hand through rare documents associated with America's founding, displayed as part of America 250 commemorations. Nearby, contemporary silversmiths at NI Silver are celebrating the anniversary by inviting visitors to create their own 1776-inspired keepsake, bringing together craftsmanship, creativity, and history.

Gray's Printing Press, Strabane, County Tyrone

Few Irish-American stories are as compelling as that of John Dunlap. Having learned his

trade as a printer in Strabane, he emigrated to Philadelphia, where he became the printer responsible for producing the first copies of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. His remarkable journey from Ulster apprentice to participant in one of the defining moments of American history reflects the ambition and enterprise that characterised so many emigrant experiences.

Titanic Belfast

Titanic Belfast tells a story familiar to millions of families on both sides of the Atlantic—the search for new opportunities and new beginnings. Through immersive exhibitions, visitors can discover the experiences of those who boarded ships bound for North America and reflect on the hopes, sacrifices, and determination that defined the emigrant journey.

Frederick Douglass and Belfast

When Frederick Douglass visited Belfast in the 1840s, he found a community that welcomed and supported him during a pivotal period in his life. The experiences and friendships he formed in Ireland helped strengthen his resolve as an abolitionist and campaigner for justice. His story provides a powerful perspective on the historic links between Ireland, America, and the global struggle for civil rights.

The Mellon Legacy

The story of the Mellon family is one of transformation and opportunity. Originating in County Tyrone, the family emigrated to America, where their entrepreneurial vision helped establish one of the country's most influential banking institutions. Their success reflects the broader contribution Irish immigrants made to America's economic growth and development.

Dublin

EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum
The story of Ireland's relationship with the wider world is, at its heart, a story of people. EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum brings those stories to life, exploring the experiences of the millions who left Ireland and the lasting impact they made in their adopted homes. Through interactive exhibits and genealogy resources, visitors can trace their own connections to the past and discover how Irish emigrants helped shape societies around the globe, particularly in the United States.

The Jeanie Johnston

The Jeanie Johnston offers a moving insight into one of the most significant chapters in Irish and American history. This faithful replica of a famine-era emigrant ship recreates the experience of those who undertook the difficult Atlantic crossing in search of a new beginning.

Ireland's Ancient East

The Architect of the White House

One of the most recognisable buildings in the world owes part of its inspiration to Ireland. James Hoban, born in Callan, County Kilkenny, trained as a craftsman before emigrating to the United States. In 1792, his design was selected for the President's House, known today as the White House. Drawing inspiration from Leinster House in Dublin, Hoban created a building that remains a lasting architectural link between Ireland and America.

Irish Connections to St Patrick's Cathedral, New York

Standing at the heart of Manhattan, St Patrick's Cathed-

ral is one of the most enduring symbols of Irish-American heritage. Its architect, James Renwick Jr., came from a family with roots in County Tyrone, while the commission was championed by Archbishop John Hughes, who was born in the same county before emigrating to America.

The cathedral itself was brought to life through the skill and dedication of Irish craftsmen, stonemasons, and laborers whose work helped shape one of New York's most celebrated landmarks. Today, it stands not only as a masterpiece of Gothic Revival architecture but also as a tribute to the generations of Irish immigrants who helped build the city around it.

Dunbrody Famine Ship, New Ross, County Wexford

The Dunbrody Famine Ship offers visitors an immersive journey into the experiences of those who left Ireland during the Great Famine. Through costumed interpretation and vivid storytelling, it explores the challenges faced by emigrant families and the resilience that enabled so many to establish new lives in North America. It is a powerful reminder of the sacrifices that shaped generations of Irish-American families.

Annie Moore Statue, Cobh, County Cork

In the harbor town of Cobh stands a monument to Annie Moore, remembered as the first immigrant processed through Ellis Island. Her story has come to symbolise the hopes, anxieties, and opportunities experienced by millions who followed similar paths across the Atlantic.

Kindred Spirits, Middleton, County Cork

Among the most moving symbols of the friendship between Ireland and America is the Kindred Spirits sculpture in Middleton. Created in honor of the Choctaw Nation, whose members sent aid to Ireland during the Great Famine despite facing immense hardship themselves, the sculpture commemorates an extraordinary act of generosity and compassion. It remains a powerful expression of the bonds that can emerge between peoples separated by oceans but united by humanity.

America 250 offers an opportunity not only to celebrate our nation's history, but also to reflect on the many journeys, encounters, and shared experiences that helped shape it. Throughout Ireland, visitors can explore the landscapes that inspired emigrants, the communities that nurtured future leaders, and the stories of ordinary men and women whose lives became part of a much larger transatlantic narrative.

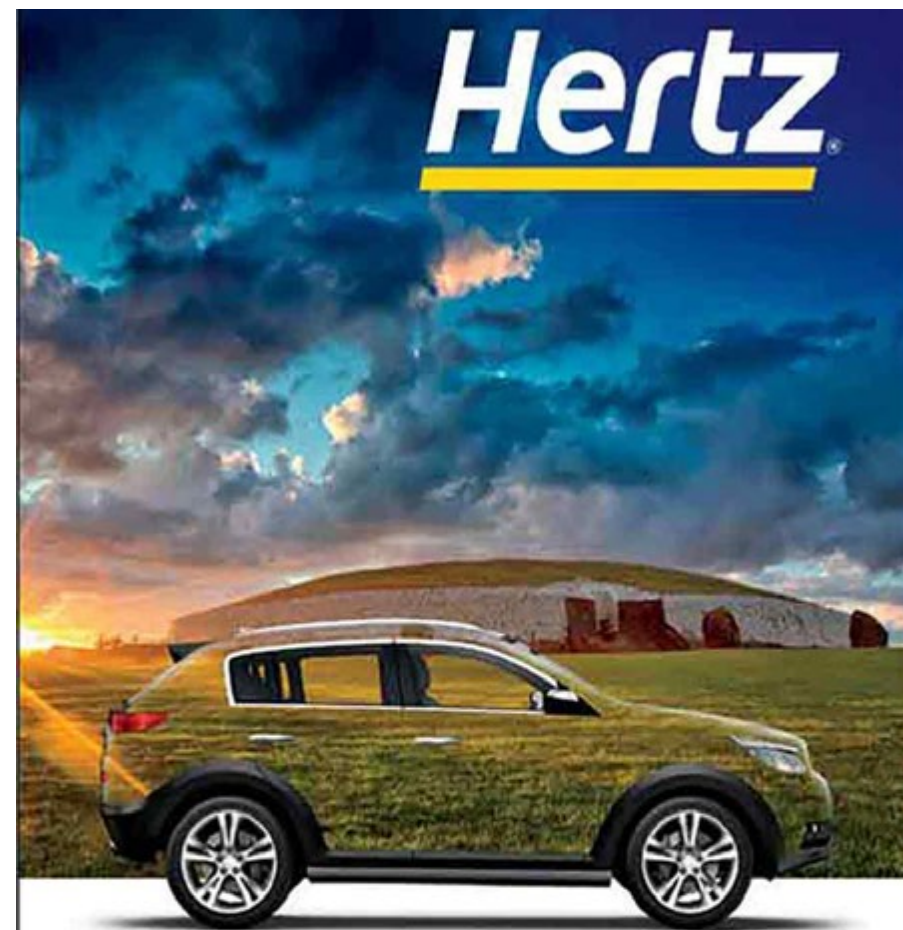
As America marks this historic milestone, Ireland offers visitors to reconnect with their heritage, discover unexpected links to the past, and celebrate a relationship that has endured for more than two and a half centuries. The story of America did not begin on one shore alone—and some of its most remarkable chapters can still be found across the island of Ireland.

Ireland.com



We Get Letters....

Upon watching the Oscars with Conan O'Brien, I decided to advise him to hire a person to sit on his head to flatten his hair.
After suffering a case of the flu, my family wanted to know how I was doing. My response was, "I am RePoooperating!"
Sincerely, Joan McDonough



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Dear Editor,
While keeping up with my issues of IAN, I read and enjoyed Anne Marie McIntyre's article, "Chicago's St. Patrick's Tradition and the Fight for Cleaner Waters," in the March issue. The name of the original dye, "an oil based Fluorescent," somehow struck me. It is such a splendid, classic-sounding term - as rich as the compound itself! And some of the plumbers I used to know might have used it for detecting leaks. All this aroused the old chemistry student in me, alloyed with a few memories I'd like to pass along.
It was 1963, and we were seniors at Fenwick High School in Oak Park, IL. Six years earlier, the Russians had launched 'Sputnik,' the world's first satellite. The U.S. followed soon after with Explorer 1. But as we entered our final year, the rival spacecraft still cast its shadow. And a strong emphasis on math and science was going full steam.
Science and math were not my strong points. But the words of our Coach, Dan O'Brien, were always with us: "You have to learn to extend yourselves!" So sign up for Chemistry I did as a sixth subject.
Our instructor was Father Fisher, who was already a legend when he took us on. We would begin each class with a prayer to St. Albert the Great - with a little rough "encouragement" that was customary in those days. But for all my effort, neither St. Albert, (Albert Schweitzer), nor anyone else could help me get higher than a 'C' for a grade. My struggles on a quiz or over a Bunsen burner merited a quick

evaluation: "You learn hard."
But I still held on to that textbook after all these years. Sometimes I would open it up and look back on those mysterious terms. It even gave me some background for my work. When I recently checked the section on dyes, however, it had more to do with the fashion world than with H2O. There were experiments by William Perkin with coal tar and synthetic mauves, and the use of vat indigo for overalls. When I reluctantly resorted to a website, all I could get was worth a C-minus.
Then Ms McIntyre informed me of a vast improvement: "A more environmentally friendly vegetable-based dye." It turned out to be healthier for the river and for ourselves, naturally.
This benefits me as well, of course. But I'll always savor the more poetic ring of its predecessor.
All this takes me back to St. Patrick's Day in 1976. I was working for the city at the time, and happened to be under one of the bridges. My partner and I weren't there long, when a motorboat glided by to dye the Chicago River green. Two men smiled and waved back at us, as one of them poured the crushed celery and other new stuff into the water every few lengths.
I didn't dip my hand into the river for luck, but some must have rubbed off on me just the same. As I was driving home along the lake, John Garry came on the radio singing "My Wild Irish Rose" in his fine high tenor. Then I reached my Clark street digs. At the rear entrance was a letter addressed to me from a City College in New York State.
Inside was my first short story acceptance. It had taken a good while, but other good things happened to follow. Maybe those two fellows in the boat had given me a sign
Best, James Loverde

GETTING TO KNOW THE IRISH!

By Tina Butler - Leonard



Irish Studies Program-

I believe education must be a mirror and window this idea means education must simultaneously reflect a student's own identity and offer a view into the reality of others.
I recently heard from an old friend of mine named Aoife.
She and I were in the Education program in college, at St. Xavier. However midway through Aoife changed her mind and moved to New York. She enrolled in Fordham University's Irish Studies program followed by earning a Law degree.
She is now a big shot lawyer in New York. Aoife's parents were from Achill Island. (off Co. Mayo) Aoife is fluent in Irish she credits her parents for her drive and success. She used to say my family is from, "as cnamha na lom" (loosely bare bones)
Most Colleges offer different cultural studies programs for example Asian, African, Latin American. It teaches equitable history and it should be widely offered & encouraged.
State law mandated instruction of Black History in 1981 (for the record America declared its independence in 1776). However, they had to address major "omissions", so Illinois updated the mandate in 2021. I think to build a society that values equity and mutual respect we must understand the roots of our communities. Ethnic studies go beyond historical figures, rote memorization, it delves into cultural and social dynamics that shape our modern world. By teaching students to examine history we are not just creating better students but growing informed, engaged and empathetic citizens.
Learning about different cultures has been a life-long hobby of mine. It has added so much to my life learning about different cultures. I have not traveled too extensively yet; however, I have learned through other avenues which included reading, eating all kinds of ethnic food, going to ethnic stores, restaurants, festivals, practicing some languages and especially friendships. I have made lasting friendships with people from around the globe.
I think its valuable because it expands your world view, builds empathy and helps to enrich the community.
Irish Studies programs are offered at various Colleges including University of Notre Dame, DePaul University, Boston College, Fordham University in Ny and Georgetown University

Legendary Wisconsin-Grown Chef Sandra Lee to Visit State Fair 8-11/12

The iconic go-to expert will help usher in the first-ever Old Fashioned-Inspired Decadent Dessert Contest in Grand Champion Hall.
WEST ALLIS, Wis. - June 11, 2026 - In conjunction with the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America and the 261st Anniversary of the First American Fair in Pennsylvania in 1765, Sandra Lee and the International Association of Fairs & Expositions (IAFE) will embark on a "Best in Fair" Tour of America's beloved Fairs, highlighting the economic influence and cultural relevance of this time-honored tradition, from agriculture and amusements, to food and the Fairgoer. Every generation comes together for these beloved annual events.
And the legendary chef will be making a stop at the Wisconsin State Fair, presented by T-Mobile, on Aug. 11 & 12. The Aug. 11 visit promises to be a spirited affair as she will emcee Wisconsin State Fair's first-



invited to visit WiStateFair.com to enter by July 1, 2026, with the contest being limited to the first 26 entries. Fairgoers are then invited to see the fruits of that labor on Tuesday, Aug. 11 in Grand Champion Hall, where Lee will serve as the emcee for the final judging beginning at noon.
In addition to earning multiple Emmy and Gracie awards from her work across multiple broadcast outlets thanks to her approachable style, Lee's philanthropic efforts led to her receive the President's Volunteer Service Award, the Eleanor Roosevelt Medal of honor and many more distinctions. Be on the lookout for Lee at Wisconsin State Fair as she also has plans to march in the commemorative America 250 Parade at 2:50 p.m. on Aug. 11 and take a spin on the America 250 Wheel, presented by Meijer in addition to taking in the many sights and sounds found only during the best 11 days of summer during her two-day visit.
Potential contestants are

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The Grace Hotel Opens its Doors in Westport Co. Mayo
By Irish Correspondent Grainne McCoil

If you're seeking a luxury retreat you will find it nestled within 430 acres of Westport Estate, Co. Mayo. It's described as 'wildly authentic and authentically wild' on the website. And when you visit the newly opened hotel, you understand just why. It is rooted in legacy, inspired by the bold, yet wonderful, pirate queen Grace O'Malley, and Hollywood beauty and icon Grace Kelly; it's a place where history lives and style endures.

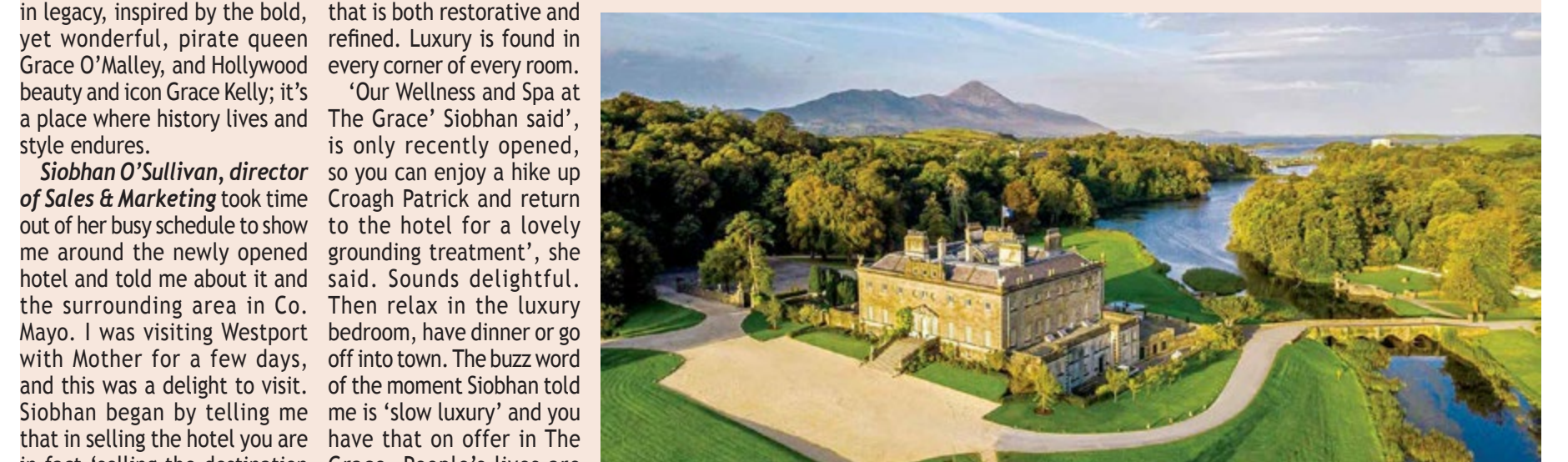
Siobhan O'Sullivan, director of Sales & Marketing took time out of her busy schedule to show me around the newly opened hotel and told me about it and the surrounding area in Co. Mayo. I was visiting Westport with Mother for a few days, and this was a delight to visit. Siobhan began by telling me that in selling the hotel you are in fact 'selling the destination first'. She continued, 'our hotel is a new edition to a market that's already here. The location being on the outskirts of town on this 430-acre estate makes it appealing and accessible.' And that's exactly what The Grace hotel is, it is both appealing and accessible - you can go out one door of the hotel and walk straight into retreat that is Westport Estate (a woodland area leading to Westport house), or you can go out the main entrance and meet the locals and walk into the centre of town. It's divine and both aspects will welcome you. 'The location here' Siobhan says, 'is perfect. People want that idea of being totally remote, but to be able to walk into town.'

Looking out the windows at The Grace you are instantly drawn to this wonderful landscape that is Westport Estate. It's almost like a warm hug from nature surrounding you, as it is so comforting, and green!

Siobhan told me that the hotel has 129 bedrooms. Spacious and serene, each guest room is layered with fine linens and handcrafted toiletries from nearby makers, creating a stay that is both restorative and refined. Luxury is found in every corner of every room. 'Our Wellness and Spa at The Grace' Siobhan said, 'is only recently opened, so you can enjoy a hike up Croagh Patrick and return to the hotel for a lovely grounding treatment', she said. Sounds delightful. Then relax in the luxury bedroom, have dinner or go off into town. The buzz word of the moment Siobhan told me is 'slow luxury' and you have that on offer in The Grace. People's lives are so busy in the modern world, so this is a perfect retreat to switch off and enjoy connecting with nature and/or with family and friends.

'The market' Siobhan explained, 'has changed for what people want and need now. Guests want to enjoy the outdoors more and escape into nature. The pub is still an important part of our culture too. You can go off from here exploring anywhere from Westport to Donegal or enjoy one of the pubs or walking tours here in town. If you do the food tours, you get to meet the 'real people of Wexford,' Siobhan tells me.

The authentic Ireland is here in the Northwest along with Kerry and the Southwest coast. From Mayo right up to Donegal, this part of Ireland has so much



more to see and enjoy. The Grace is a great base where you can then go further along. The Wild Atlantic Way is right here on your doorstep, and you can take it right up to Inishowen in Donegal.

Siobhan was based for a number of years in Belfast and says of the 'beauty of the city there', but she also knows the elegance and sophistication to the hotel.' O'Malley defied all odds leading a clan into battle back in the day. Kelly continues to be known for her beauty and elegance. You find a real amalgamation of these ladies at The Grace.

'It's a really exciting time' says Siobhan. 'We now need to educate the operators and tell them about the cultural feel as you explore the town itself.' It's colourful, energetic, and yet there's something relaxing about the feel of it too.

Wherever you go into Westport you will find a music session, whether it's one of the small bars, or Matt Molloy's, there'll be tunes a'playing for sure. It's places like this where you will meet people to talk to you. You'll find someone to talk to wherever you visit in Westport.

What's makes The Grace different I asked Siobhan before I take my leave. She tells me, 'The history and the heritage. The owners of the Grace are the Huges family from Portwest. The Huges family were former tenants on the estate during the 19th and early 20th century. Siobhan added, 'At the Grace we are delighted to curate bespoke itineraries and personalised experiences for our guests, ensuring every stay is tailored to their interests and desires.' This is an experience as well as a holiday. You will be met with a warm Irish welcome when you arrive until you depart. And a stay at The Grace is one you are not likely to forget once you have experienced it.

immersive experiences here on the Northwest coast, the unique storytelling waiting to be explored.'

Here at The Grace and along the west and northwest coast you will find the authentic, real Ireland. You meet the locals, you taste the produce, and it's all farm-to-fork. You will get your vegetables from the field across the road, the fish from local seas, and meat from local farms. This is the real Ireland.

There's even more reason to come to The Grace as Siobhan told me. 'Golf is something we can optimise from here. The Ryder Cup is being held in Adare next year and there's 3 links courses near us.' There's a huge amount of pride in Westport, having won tidy towns for many years, the tree-lined street in the centre and quaintness you

Pat Mac's Pac Sets Fundraising Record

In the 12th year of the Pat Mac Ride for a cure to pediatric brain cancer 459 riders traversed 68 miles from St. Barnibis Church in Beverly to Notre Dame Church in Michigan City, Indiana.

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Finishers (l to r): Cliff Carlson, Mike Neary and Jim Flanagan



Mike Neary (2nd from left), and a few friends, happy to have finished the ride! If several of you can donate just a few dollars the event will hit a new all time high of over \$600,000! Show them what the Irish can do! <https://fundraise.givesmart.com/vf/PatMacRide>



Visit the Woman Owned, Muff Liquor Company in Beautiful Donegal Ireland

It was a sunny day in Donegal when stars such as Russel Crowe, Ronan Keating, Jimmy Carr, Nathan Carter, and more descended on the small village of Muff in Inishowen. All were there for the official opening of the newly established Muff



to the world, all in a good way, and with a beautifully renovated building at the fore, 'The Muff Liquor Company' had arrived and it was taking pride of place then, and continues to do so today. The building that was once a family auto repair and service centre, now retains some of that working character honed in to accentuate the tasteful design of the new interior.

As I visited the homeplace in March to talk to the manager, Claire Canning, I was met at the door by an American couple departing the premises laden with merchandise they had purchased

Liquor brand Homeplace, and all of these stars had invested in The Muff Liquor Company, the brand from the homeplace. It was early July 2024.

A few famous faces and the village was no more a hidden gem, but a gem now exposed



It's also a place you can enjoy comedy, music, paint and sip events, cocktail making, and much more throughout the year.

Claire is now well settled into her role and is the face visitors meet on their arrival. She says of the liquor, 'it's a fun brand, unique and quirky. The story is inspired by the past and driven by the future. So really it's a bit of both. Although the actual distillery is not on site, visitors can taste the flavour of the products and it's a really fun story.' Those products include gin, vodka and whisky.

With a vast array of cocktails, all made with Muff Liquor, you can spend an hour or an afternoon in comfort. Whether it's the bright gold inspired reception and shop area, or the display of the grand tractor owned by Philip McClenaghan, or the delightful bar that you find yourself in by the end of the tour. It's a perfect opportunity to sit and sip and just watch the world go by in this rural Irish village. Muff Liquor will cast its devilment spell on you, and you won't want to leave.

Although the brand home is here in Donegal, Ireland, you can find the products all around the world, and in almost 40 US states. The devilment of Muff Liquor goes far beyond this centre.

Laura Bonner, founder and brand ambassador of Muff Liquor has toured the world with her brand, introduced it to the elite of the music and acting world. She never forgets the humble origins of her brand, and the place honors her grandfather, Philip McClenaghan, a potato farmer with greater ambitions for his

starchy vegetables, and a deep rooted connection to the land, his family and dreams. The apple doesn't far from the tree, and his ambition and dreams are clearly embedded in his granddaughter, Laura.

Claire Canning believes that the success of this company and the homeplace is that 'it's a story of resilience in that Laura is an award winning (world over) female entrepreneur in a world dominated by men.' The manager here is certainly proud of the CEO and her boss for all that she's achieved.

The very name of the village Muff has fun connotations, but the story of Muff Liquor



has depth, heritage, and the endless ambition of grandad and granddaughter. Visitors will be offered the unique experience of the past to present tour, the opportunity to sip on Donegal's finest potato gin, potato vodka, and peat-smoked whiskey and as you sip, you're sure to discover that there's mischief in every drop. The mischief of Grandad McClenaghan lives on with every sip.

In recent months the homeplace welcomed country the dynamic singer, Cliona Hagan, one of Ireland's finest country singers, where she and husband Simon Sheerin performed to an intimate audience and hopefully will warrant a return gig. The venue has become a hub since opening for many musical visitors (including Ronan Keating and Nathan Carter) alongside comedy events and this May

will see the brand home host events from the second annual 'Wile Craic Comedy' festival.

Claire told me that one of the greatest parts of visiting here is that you 'get up close and personal to the heritage story of Irish poitin, Laura's story, and the all important 'tasting' session. You get to experience the taste of an old-style hot toddy and then a contemporary cocktail.' It's simply a win-win of a visit. Claire went on to tell me that 'no matter what day or month you visit here, there will always be something to experience and there will always be events to enjoy and add to the visiting experience.'

From its humble origins of a mechanic environment Muff Liquor home place boasts a welcome to people from all corners of the world. As they enter the front door, another world awaits them, and it's one of fun, taste, history, and experience. You might pop in for a nose, but you will leave with a rich understanding of craft, a more refined palate, and a desire to return.

As a tourist from the US most will be familiar with the centres such as Bushmills, Jameson, Crolly, Middleton and others, but now there is this delightful space in the Northwest of Ireland, which can be added to any tourist itinerary. The Muff Liquor homeplace is more than just a building, it's a story within a story, and by visiting here, you become part of that story.

Find out more about Muff Liquor and it's homeplace by visiting www.themuffliquorcompany.com and read more about it.



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