



It's Time for the St. Patrick's Day Parade Again

Well folks, it's that time of the year again, a time when all of the Irish, those who wish they were Irish, or anyone that knows someone who is Irish, can come together and celebrate St. Patrick's Day. The parade is scheduled for Friday March 15th, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Due to the enormous crowds that we are expecting, we will begin the parade at the turn by the American Legion. (an extra block longer) and proceed to the viaduct (or the tavern) which ever ends first.

As before, we will paint a green stripe to mark the parade route. The stripe will be as long as the paint holds up.

Also, we will have the Gazette decorated for the parade, and Irish music will be playing. We will have St. Patrick's cookies available, so stop in anytime during Friday. And remember, Rumors and Excuses will be serving Corned Beef and Cabbage on Friday.

And remember, it is traditional for the Non-Irish to give gifts to the Irish on St. Patrick's Day, so I'll be on hand to receive any gifts that you would like to bring. Cash always makes a great gift.

So, get ready, it should be a great day for the Irish.

And now for some great St. Patrick's Day stories.

Irish Mothers Chat Two Irish mothers, Kate and Lorna were talking about their sons. Kate says, 'My Patrick is such a saint. He works hard, doesn't smoke, and he hasn't so much as looked at a woman in over two years.' Lorna responds, 'Well, my Francis is a saint himself.

Not only hasn't he not looked at a woman in over three years, but he hasn't touched a drop of liquor in all that time.' 'My word,' says Kate, 'You must be so proud.' 'I am,' announces Lorna, 'And when he's paroled next month, I'm going to throw him a big party

Funniest Irish One-liners

'What's wrong with Murphy?' asked Father Green. 'I don't know, Father. Yesterday he swallowed a spoon and he hasn't stirred since,' said Mrs Murphy.

'How far is it to the next village?' asked the American tourist. 'It's about seven miles,' guessed the farmer. 'But it's only five if you run!'

'I'm the unluckiest person in the whole world,' moaned Betty McGrath. 'I bought a non-stick pan and can't get the label off.'

'I'd like some nails,' Mick requested of the travelling tinker. 'How long would you like them?' asked the man. 'Forever, if that's all right with you,' said Mick.

1. An American lawyer inquired, 'Paddy, why is it that whenever you ask an Irishman a question, he answers with another question?' 'Who told you that?' asked Paddy.

2. An Irish lass, a customer: 'Could I be trying on that dress in the window?' Shopkeeper: 'I'd prefer that you use the dressing room.'

3. Mrs. Feeney shouted from the kitchen, 'Is that you I hear spittin' in the vase on the mantel piece?' 'No,' said himself, 'but I'm gettin' closer all the time.'

4. 'O'Halloran,' asked the pharmacist, 'did that mudpack I gave you improve your wife's appearance?'

Happy St. Patrick's Day



'It did surely,' replied O'Halloran, 'but it keeps fallin' off.'

*Reilly is walking through a graveyard when he comes across a headstone with the inscription "Here lies a politician and an honest man." 'Faith now,' exclaims Reilly, 'I wonder how they got the two of them in one grave.'

How To Identify A Real Irishman
'A true Irishman considers a bore to be someone who keeps constantly interrupting.'

'A true Irishman considers anyone who won't come around to his point of view to be hopelessly stubborn.'

'A true Irishman has so much respect for the truth that he uses it only in emergencies.'

Strange St Patrick's Day Custom

'I had an accident opening a can of alphabet spaghetti this morning,' said Murphy. 'Were you injured?' inquired Seamus. 'No, but it could have spelled disaster,' concluded Murphy.

A pregnant Irish woman from Dublin gets in a car accident and falls into a deep coma. Asleep for nearly 6 months, when she wakes up she sees that she is no longer pregnant and frantically asks the doctor about her baby. The doctor replies, 'Ma'am you had twins! a boy and a girl. Your brother from Cork came in and named them.' The woman thinks to herself, 'Oh No, not my brother... he's an

idiot!' She asks the doctor, 'Well, what's the girl's name?' Denise. 'Wow, that's not a bad name, I like it! What's the boy's name?' 'Denephew.'

In a court in Killarney, deep in Munster, Ireland, this conversation is reported to have taken place: Lawyer: 'At the scene of the accident, Mr O'Shea, did you tell the Garda officer that you had never felt better in your life?' O'Shea the farmer: 'That's right, sir.' Lawyer: 'Well then, Mr O'Shea, how is it that you are now claiming you were seriously injured when my client's car hit your cart?' O'Shea the farmer: 'When the Garda arrived, he went over to my horse, who had a broken leg, and shot him. Then he went over to Darcy, my dog, who was badly hurt, and shot him. Then the policeman came across the road, gun still in hand, looked at me, and said, 'How are you feeling?' I just thought under the circumstances, it was a wise choice of words to say: 'I've never felt better in my life.'

This is my Carpenter's Corner this week, so hopefully everyone has a great St. Patrick's Day and remember the parade.

Plans in making for Lawrence Herrick Presentation

By Mary Masonholder Wilson

In 2012, the *Columbus Gazette* published eleven chapters on the story of an American pilot killed over France during World War II named Lawrence Herrick. Major Herrick was originally from Letts, Iowa, and was married to Jeannette Helmick of Columbus Junction, Iowa.

Herrick was killed in the war in 1944 near Reugny, France. Herrick's

son, Richard J. Herrick of Columbus Junction and other family members traveled last year to France to this village of Reugny. There a ceremony was held honoring military people of their country and also a special homage was paid that day to Lawrence Herrick.

The man from France who compiled almost all of the information on Lawrence Herrick is Daniel Sellier.

In April, Sellier is coming to the United States and to Iowa.

Sellier has a presentation on Lawrence Herrick that will be given to the public at the Letts Community Center in Letts, Iowa on Saturday, April 13, 2013. This presentation of slides, details of Herrick's final days, information on military aviation and World War II will take about an hour. A visit to

the Letts Cemetery to Major Herrick's grave will take place at 1:00 P.M. that day and the Sellier presentation at the Letts Community Center will be following the cemetery visit.

More details as the events unfold and plans are solidified. For now, save this date on your calendar and plan to attend. It is truly a remarkable story!

Area Water Levels

By Mary Masonholder Wilson

Each year as winter winds down and spring brings in the thaw, area officials start watching the water levels of local rivers and streams. Flooding is always a concern. However, last December when there had been no snow and the Iowa River was just about down to rock bottom, who would have thought that anyone would need to consider water levels this spring?

However, Mother Nature has once again proved that She is in charge. January, February, and now March have brought a steady flow of snow and rain. Water levels are indeed now rising to upper levels.

Here is the Louisa report as of 2:00 P.M., Monday, March 11, 2013. The Iowa River is at 19.86 feet. Mi-

nor flooding will occur at 19 feet, but it usually takes 23 feet to flood. The Iowa is expected to crest on Wednesday morning at 21.2 feet, which will cause water to be out of its banks, but hopefully not too much.

According to Police Chief Donnie Orr, "We're lucky the Iowa River was as low as it was when the snowmelt started. Now it should not be a major concern here."

The Cedar River at Edgewater near Conesville is at 13.85 feet today. Crest is scheduled for Wednesday morning at 14.5 feet. Flood stage there is 13 feet. The Edgewater Road, east of Conesville may be covered with water by Wednesday afternoon. Other areas near there may also take on a little water.



Water flowing through Monkey Run Creek

As far as the creeks go, Long Creek is already out of its banks. Smaller streams are swelling also. Time will tell how the water

levels fluctuate after this week. It is hoped that the moisture sinks in and moves peacefully on its way. No one wants another 2008.

Don't Press Your Luck Buckle Up Day and Night

The Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau is announcing that the next Special Traffic Enforcement Program (sTEP) wave will be March 14 - 17, 2013. The Columbus Junction Police Department, Louisa County Sheriff's Office, and Wapello Police Department will be out in force during those dates looking for motorists who are violating traffic laws during the Saint Patrick's Day weekend.

The sTEP program consists of

five high visibility enforcement waves throughout the year meant to get motorists to change their driving behavior by buckling up, slowing down, driving sober and obeying all traffic laws in order to reduce the number of traffic crashes and to save lives.

During the sTEP wave conducted over Saint Patrick's weekend last year, there were 16,279 traffic violations reported by 234 law enforcement agencies that had more than 1,600 officers working the enforcement event.

The next sTEP wave will be conducted May 20 - June 2nd during

Tiling and Drainage Class set

Subsurface drainage, commonly known as ag tile systems, is an important part of farming systems in Iowa.

An upcoming March 13th class will cover drainage basics, benefits of drainage and subsurface irrigation; planning a project including tile sizing, drainage design and installation methods and the economics of tiling and rental agreements including a presentation on how to get tiling done when the landlord won't pay.

"While drainage systems are important and many times essential for crop production, we need to understand the water quality effects of subsurface drainage and methods to minimize potential consequences on downstream water bodies" said Matt Helmers, Iowa State University Extension & Outreach agricultural engineer

This program will be offered on March 13th at the Oakville Community Center located at the corner of 2nd and Cedar in Oakville in the same building as City Hall. The class beings at 1 pm and is expected to adjourn by 3:30 pm.

While the class is free, pre-registration is requested to assure we have the correct number of materials.

Call the Louisa County Extension Office to register at 319.523.2371 x200 or email Kathy Vance at vancek@iastate.edu.

Briefly -

4-H Shooting Stars to host soup supper

The Shooting Stars 4-H Club will be hosting a FREE soup supper for the congregation of the Pleasant Grove Community Church on Sunday, April 14, 2013 at 6 p.m. The group will serve chili and potato soups, relish, crackers and desserts with drinks as part of their service project. Congregation members and family members of the Shooting Stars are invited to attend.

City Council to meet tonight

The City of Columbus Junction will hold a regular Council meeting on today, Wednesday, March 13, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. in the New Civic Center/City Hall.

Conesville Fire Dept. Fish Fry

The Conesville Fire Department will host their annual Fish and Chicken Fry on Saturday, March 16, 2013 at the Conesville Fire Station. Serving will begin at 5:00 p.m. and will continue until 8:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy a good time with great friends and food!

Cooks Night Out

The next Cooks' Night Out Community Supper will be held today, Wednesday, March 13, 2013 at the Letts United Methodist Church from 5 to 7 p.m. Everyone in the community is invited and there is no charge for the supper. Contact the church office for additional information at 319-726-3541.

Early Childhood Board to meet

The Early Childhood Iowa Area Board Des Moines/Louisa Counties will be meeting on Wednesday, March 20, 2013, at 10:00 a.m. at the First United Presbyterian Church, 801 Middle St., Mediapolis, IA.

Lone Tree Presbyterian Fish Fry

The Presbyterian Church in Lone Tree will serve a fish fry supper on Friday, March 22nd from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. The menu includes: fish filets, baked potato, baked beans, cole slaw, rolls, beverages and bar/cookies. Tickets are \$10.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children ages 10 and under.

Morning Sun Care Easter Egg Hunt

Morning Sun Care Center, an ABCM Corporation home, is sponsoring its annual Easter Egg Hunt on Friday, March 29 at 2:00. Children of all ages will be divided into categories for the hunt and all will have the opportunity for pictures with the Easter Bunny. Refreshments will be served and the community is encouraged to attend. For more information, contact Angie Smith at 868-7751.

Morning Sun Supper and Bingo season

The Morning Sun Lioness and Lions Clubs are reaching the end of the 2012-2013 Supper and Bingo season. The March 14th date will leave April 11 as the only remaining Supper and Bingo night on the current year's calendar. Bingo is held in the Morning Sun School. Consequently, time is running out for local folks to support these service clubs in their respective efforts to raise funds for humanitarian projects in the immediate area. The Lioness will offer food service from 5:00 to 6:30 PM while snacks and beverages will be available during the Lions bingo games beginning at 6:30 PM. While specific plans are not yet final, participants may expect special food items and bingo prizes to be available during the two remaining sessions. The Lions and Lioness express appreciation for the reasonably high turnout during the current season of Supper and Bingo. The two Clubs encourage those who have yet to enjoy the meals and the games to join with the regular participants for the final two sessions of the Supper and Bingo year.

Morning Sun Vendor planned

MORNING SUN - The Morning Sun PTO will be hosting a Vendor Blender on Saturday, March 23. This is a fundraiser for the PTO Playground project. The Blender will be held from 9 am to 2 pm in the Morning Sun School Gym. The Morning Sun Youth League will provide the food throughout the event. Vendors scheduled to be on hand include: Tupperware, Scentsy, Tastefully Simple, Dove Chocolate, Paparazzi Accessories, Premier Jewelry, JamBerry Nails, Gold Canyon Candles, Origami Owl, Norwex, It Works, Thirty-One, Mia Bath and Body, Nerium Skincare, Mary Kay, Glam Glass and Gifts, Bee's Bags, Clever Containers, Wildtree, Pampered Chef, Lia Sophia, Vault Denim, Celebrating Home, Books R Fun, Beauticontrol, Advocare, Avon, Wine Shop at Home, Sunny's Boutique plus many handmade items and more.

School budget workshop

The Board of Education for Columbus Community School District will hold a Special Meeting/Budget Workshop II on Thursday, March 14, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. at Roundy Library.

School board to meet

The Board of Directors for Columbus Community School District will hold a Public Meeting on Monday, March 18, 2013, at 6:30 p.m. at the Roundy Elementary School Library.

Shellbark Club to meet

The Shellbark Club will meet on Thursday, March 21st at 11:30 a.m. at Johnnie B's in Wapello.

Shooting Sports to hold taco dinner

The Louisa County Shooting SPORTS 4-H Club will be serving a taco dinner with a dessert auction and a 50/50 raffle (the raffle sponsored by Grandview Community Club) at the Briggs Center in Wapello on Saturday, March 16th from 5-7 p.m. A free will donation will be accepted. There will also be a labor auction, where three groups of kids will be auctioned off for three hours of labor. For more information or to make a donation, please contact Angie Crumly (563-571-5560), Dianna Bolander (319-212-1353) or Missy Plowman (563-299-1070).

Alumni Banquet scheduled

The Columbus area Alumni Banquet will take place at Roundy Elementary School on June 8, 2013. Social Hour will begin at 5:30 p.m., and Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. Special recognition will be given to the 50-year (1963) class and the 25-year (1988) class. Put the date on your calendar now! Tickets are \$10 and are available at both Columbus Junction Banks.

