



June is upon us, so it's time to grab your balls, bags and swingin' sticks (ahem) and head out to the links for the annual Leprechaun Open Golf Tournament next week.

This is one of my favorite events of the year. We get great club participation and it gets us "out of the office" as a group to share some fun and a great meal. If you haven't yet signed up, give it some serious thought. I'm not much of a golfer, but I find driving a golf cart and searching for a tiny ball in tall grass, woods and ponds while having a few beverages oddly relaxing and enjoyable.

Although Memorial Day has come and passed, this month let's raise a pint to our fellow Irishmen that have served this country. Please take a few moments to thank those among us, and remember those no longer with us, who served this country.

Let's also raise a pint in remembrance of our past president Bob O'Hern. Gone too soon. Until we meet again, may God hold him in the palm of His hand. He will be missed.

Stay classy, Sons.

President Tim Schuck

Wearin' of the Grin

Friendship among Women:

A woman didn't come home one night. The next morning she told her husband that she had slept over at a friend's house.

The man called his wife's 10 best friends.

None of them knew anything about it.

Friendship among Men:

A man didn't come home one night. The next morning he told his wife that he had slept over at a friend's house.

The woman called her husband's 10 best friends.

Eight confirmed that he had slept over...

and two said he was still there.



Teach your grandkids about taxes.
Eat 30% of their ice cream.



After my fourth Jameson, I swear I heard it whisper,
"Now is the time to tell people what you really think."



The Blarney

Upcoming:

Monthly Meeting

June 12, 6:30 p.m.

"Best Hawaiian Outfit Prize"

"Luau" Menu:

Pork Chops
Potato Salad / Baked Beans
Bread & Pineapple

24th Annual O'Donnell

& Friends Open

June 23

Next Meeting

July 10



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JUNE [MEITHEAMH] 2017

Craving golf? Leprechaun Open is nigh

A wag once called golf "a good walk spoiled." How cold! But if you, on other hand, can't get enough of the humiliating, excruciating torture of it, sign up for our annual **Leprechaun Open** at the Copper Creek course in Pleasant Hill, coming Saturday, June 17.



By the time you read this, the entry fee will have risen to \$75 for the 18-hole outing followed by a steak dinner. But it will be a grand afternoon of clubbing comraderie

for almost 75 hopeful players.

The event will again include the one-arm putting contest and a beyond-your-dreams raffle.

Our FSOSP golf impresario **Brian Kreps** has a few words:

"**LAST CHANCE!!** Monday's members meeting will be the last chance for you to register for the event. This two person scramble event is open to all and fun for everyone. Now \$75 per person, you get 18 holes of fabulous golf, a cart, a steak dinner & all the sand you can fit in your shoes. Trophies will be awarded, pin prizes earned, many raffle prizes given away, lies told and legends made. Don't later be teed off that you didn't tee off and were not a part of this annual Friendly Sons event." 🍀



Annual Irish Open disc golf event thrives

Just under 40 players registered this year to make the Open a success at Grand View Park. Kudos to organizers **Mike & Pat O'Connell, Jerry & Adam Grady** and **John Pollak**.

Almost \$300 in prize money was awarded. Some outright donations were made by a few players and even 15 souvenir discs were sold to non-players.

One plan under consideration was to eventually move the event to the new Prospect Park course being developed but co-sponsor Mike O'Connell feels it wouldn't be wise.

"We would have to deal with the closeness of the Des Moines river over there and it might be too hard and too risky for average players. Losing disks in the water would be no fun. We don't want to scare people away," he said.

A thought is that next year registration may raise to \$30. 🍀

IRISH OPEN DISC GOLF RESULTS

TOURNAMENT MONEY WINNERS:

3RD - DAVE BEERY - \$25

2ND - JAKE POPIANO - \$50

1ST - JOSH KING - \$200

LADIES CHAMP: MORGAN BEERY

YOUTH CHAMP: CHRISTOPHER CALEB

LONGEST PUTT: ANDY BUI

CLOSEST TO PIN: MORGAN BEERY

LONGEST DRIVE: ADAM GRADY

PUTTING CONTEST: JOSH KING

Another Iowa Irish Fest to consider...in humble Lawler!

Not into golfing with us on June 17? Well, gas up and hit the road and join in an Irish celebration in NE Iowa, in the little burg of Lawler on June 16-17.

It's about 2.5 hours from Des Moines, about an hour north of Waterloo. Population: 417.

Small but mighty...and their Gaelic spirit is alive and well.

This is the 5th annual fest for those folks and the theme is "Get Lucky in Lawler." A parade at 11 a.m. on Saturday travels all of 8 blocks through town to Bucky's Convenience Store. Entertainment is \$5/day for ages 12 and over.

Below, from their **Lawler Irish Fest** website *lawleririshfest.com*, get a load of what is in store for a hardy visitor:



"We welcome you to **Lawler Irish Fest 2017!** Whether you've joined us in the past or this will be your first taste of what the community of Lawler has to present, this year will have the largest lineup of entertainment and events ever!

Friday, June 16: "We are proud to welcome back past friends in Buck Towne & The Guilty Kilts, Nineteen Pints & new for 2017, The Kissers & Super Fly.

"A crowd favorite, Buck Towne & The Guilty Kilts will be entertaining throughout the weekend. With his roots solidly planted in Irish soil,

Buck loves to sing the tunes of his ancestors homeland. But, (of course) that's not all. As a former heavy metal rocker, bodhran player (that's the Irish drum that looks like an oversized tamborine) and a fan of every musical genre, you never quite know what Buck will pull out of his sizeable repertoire!

"Nineteen Pints from Chicago, a truly great Irish band, they mix it up with Celtic rock and rousing traditional jigs/reels/fighting/drinking/sailing songs. Be prepared to sing along and get jiggy!

"New friends, this year, The Kissers with their fresh, original kick to Celtic music. Described by some as Irish-Country-Punkadelic music wizards, this multi-award winning group is not to be missed! Rock musicians who learned Irish music, The Kissers explore the roots of that tradition while retaining their own unique essence and bring a fresh, original kick to Celtic music!

"Also new this year, SuperFly, the ultimate party band! Their high energy and versatility will keep you on your toes and make you dance the night away, delivering non-stop party and dance hits from a variety of musical styles and eras, including classic rock, pop rock, funk, disco, country and southern rock. Don't be surprised if SuperFly's frontman Kid Sparkle brings you on stage to take the famous line 'More cowbell!' to a whole other level.

"Mike McAbee, an area favorite with his quick wit and quirky musical stylings, will be performing as well as bagpiper extraordinaire, Steven Town from Nashville, TN."

Sat., June 17: "Main Stage entertainment immediately follows the 11 a.m. Parade and The Droughty Duck Pipe Band kicks off the day. They entertain and delight with traditional pipes. This group was formed through the bonds of Scottish music and lasting friendships. Back for the second time, after a great response last year, The Shillelagh Lads, a foot-stomping, jig-dancing, mug-pounding good time! This Eau Claire, WI-based band, provides a dynamic, spectacular traditional Irish show. They deliver a delightful atmosphere that feels like they just 'got off the boat.' You're sure to expect perhaps the most enjoyable, fun, and engaging show you will see this year! Then Derek Warfield & The Young Wolfe Tones, presents Irish musical tradition the way it's meant to be. As one of the great ballad singers of our time, Derek brings the history and story telling to present the true meaning and sentiment of the ballads to his audience. Derek and his band will have you clapping your hands and tapping your feet!

"Then, close out the night with Sweet Siren! The band you love to look at, dance to & listen to, they'll have you rockin' till the wee hours. Playing the hottest Top 40 hits along with some classic rock and edgy country, this band puts their own flair to the music with hip arrangements."

Notwithstanding all the PR hyperbole, the music lineup looks like fine craic. Other activities throughout the weekend will include Golf, Volleyball, Adult Kickball, 35 yrs.-and-up Softball, a 5K Run/Walk, and the Lawler Historic Photo Gallery. Add in Children's Activities with waterball (at Croell Park) bouncy houses, face painting, dig for treasure, Plinko and other kid friendly games! Also, new this year, The Bill Riley Talent Show on Saturday. 🍀

Board News

Our **Halfway to St. Patrick's Day Bike Ride** will be on Sept. 16 and is coasting towards us faster than you think.

The ride will again be from Orlando's on Park out to Cumming and back. Morning registration will be in person with no advanced entries. Most bike riders tend to decide on the day-of to attend, anyway.

The "Best Irish Bike" award will be presented at 12:30 and riders will depart at 1 p.m. Ed Kelly's musical miscreants, Old School, will play at the Cumming Tap that afternoon from 2-5 p.m. and raffle drawings and the Spud & Spoon races will fill out the bill.

T-Bone is putting together a designated ride committee for the event and will be reaching out to many of our regular volunteers to join up.

☐☐☐

A new idea being tossed around for a **Bean Bag Tournament** may be held about that same time of year and our friends at Sully's say they would be glad to host the event at the bar's new location.

Beer may be involved.

☐☐☐

DONATIONS:

The **O'Donnell & Friends Open** was awarded \$1,500, money which will go towards the funds they are raising for On With Life and Courage League Sports this year.

Requiescat in pace

Former Friendly Sons president **Bob O'Hern** passed away on June 3 at Mayo Clinic.

Many of us have followed his two-year struggle with multiple myeloma, hoping for the best, and now we and his family are devastated.

A visitation is 6-8 p.m. this Wednesday with an 11 a.m. Celebration of Life at the Iles Dunn Funeral Home on Thursday.

A talented musician and a good friend to many of us for many years, he will be sorely missed.

Our condolences to wife Lori, son Connor, and to his extended family.

The FSOSP board will make a memorial contribution to his family for the continued care of Connor and you may wish to do so, as well.



BLARNEY BITS

Attention long-time **Sully's** fans: Friday, June 30 is the last day they will be open at the current location, so get in there and pay your respects (and your tabs).

The next day is the big one many have been waiting for. Saturday, July 1 Sully's moves to their new spot on 63rd, the old Blue Tomato location, just a stone's throw over the hardware store behind the current pub.

Co-owner Amy Boggs says to "look for a grand re-opening party to come later in June with lots of stuff going on."

The usual event schedule at Sully's will continue in June with **Stu Ryan O'Brien Irish Pub Sing-along**, 7-9 p.m. on the third Wednesday. 🍀

Jim O'Donnell and his family will again host the annual **O'Donnell & Friends Open** this month and has a word for you:

"Our 24th annual outing will be held at Toad Valley Golf Course on Friday, June 23. This event has benefited from the generosity of the Friendly Sons as well as hundreds of other sponsors. The charities chosen this year are On With Life and Courage League Sports. This is one of the many philanthropic ventures the Sons proudly participate in annually," he said. 🍀

On the third Tuesday each month you can catch a **trad music session at Cooney's**. It's a very casual gathering in the little nook just inside the front door.

Check it out if they show on the 20th. 🍀

Upcoming events

JUNE 16-17
LAWLER IRISH FEST / LAWLER, IOWA

JUNE 17
LEPRECHAUN OPEN / COPPER CREEK GOLF
10 A.M. REGISTRATION

JUNE 23
24TH ANNUAL O'DONNELL & FRIENDS OPEN
FOR CHARITY
(DONATIONS ACCEPTED, CALL 971-0781)

AUG. 4-6
ANNUAL IOWA IRISH FEST / WATERLOO

AUG. 26
IRISH HOOLEY MUSIC FEST / DUBUQUE