



upcoming events

DEC. 21

THE ELDERS

@ KNUCKLEHEADS SALOON
KANSAS CITY, MO
8:30-11:30 P.M. / \$20 GEN. ADMISSION
KNUCKLEHEADSKC.COM

JAN. 12

CONNLA - CMA CONCERT

@ HOLY TRINITY HALL
8-10 P.M. / \$25 GEN. ADMISSION
THECMA.ORG

FEB. 8

EILEEN IVERS - CMA CONCERT

@ HOYT SHERMAN
8-10 P.M. / \$25 GEN. ADMISSION
THECMA.ORG

MAR. 9

JIGJAM - CMA CONCERT

@ HOLY TRINITY HALL
8-10 P.M. / \$25 GEN. ADMISSION
THECMA.ORG

MONTHLY IRISH "SESSION" OPEN JAMS / 7ISH-9:30 P.M.

1ST TUESDAY @ FIDDLE & WHISTLE, MARSHALLTOWN
2ND TUESDAY @ JAVA JOE'S, DES MOINES
3RD TUESDAY @ COONEY'S, DES MOINES
4TH TUESDAY @ DUBLIN BAY, AMES



The Blarney

upcoming:

Christmas Dinner
"Top of the Tower"
Holiday Inn Downtown
Dec. 10, 6 p.m.

Next Meeting
Jan. 14, 6:30 p.m.

december (nollaig) 2018

wishing you all good fellowship and 365 days of good luck

Seems to have come again much too quickly, but soon we'll make merry at our annual **FSOSP Christmas Dinner** and only a fortnight later celebrate **New Year's Eve**, and the advent of a new trip around the sun. 'Tis a time to take stock of the past twelve months and make plans for a restart, don't you think?

People across the world that night will be linking arms at the stroke of midnight and singing "We'll take a cup o' kindness yet, for auld lang syne," from the Scottish folk song popularized by Robert Burns.

In Scotland, New Year's Eve marks the first day of Hogmanay, a name derived from an Old French word for a gift given at the New Year. There's a tradition at Hogmanay known as "first-footing": If the first person to cross your threshold after midnight is a dark-haired man, you will have good luck in the coming year. Other customs vary by region within Scotland, but most involve singing and whiskey.

English poet Alfred, Lord Tennyson wrote: "Ring out the old, ring in the new / Ring, happy bells, across the snow / The year is going, let him go / Ring out the false, ring in the true."

Here in the United States, the custom of raising and dropping a giant ball arose out of the time when signals were given to ships at harbor. Starting in 1859, a large ball was dropped at noon every day so sailors could check their ship chronometers.

The Times Square celebration dates back to 1904, when The New York Times opened its headquarters on Longacre Square. The newspaper convinced the city to rename the area "Times Square," and they hosted a big party, complete with fireworks, on New Year's Eve.

Some 200,000 people attended, but the paper's owner, Adolph Ochs, wanted the next celebration to be even splashier. In 1907, the paper's head electrician constructed a giant lighted ball that was lowered from the building's flagpole. The first Times Square Ball was made of wood and iron, weighed 700 pounds, and was lit by a hundred 25-watt bulbs. Now, it's made of Waterford crystal, weighs almost six tons, and is lit by more than 32,000 LED lights. The party in Times Square is attended by up to a million people every year.

Other cities have developed their own ball-dropping traditions. Atlanta, Georgia, drops a giant peach. Eastport, Maine, drops a sardine. Ocean City, Maryland, drops a beach ball, and Mobile, Alabama, drops a 600-pound electric Moon Pie. In Tempe, Arizona, a giant tortilla chip descends into a massive bowl of salsa. Brasstown, North Carolina, drops a Plexiglas pyramid containing a live possum, and Key West, Florida, drops an enormous ruby slipper with a drag queen inside it.

Wherever you may be this coming Dec. 31 evening, "May you continue to be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let the new year find you a better man!"



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TRYING TO AVOID OFFENDING EVERYONE CAN BE LIKE NAILING JELLO TO THE WALL

No matter which side you are on about political correctness arguments and matters like the renaming of teams with “offensive” names, all sports fans should see the futility of it all expressed in this e-mail sent to Clarence Page of the *Chicago Tribune* after an article he published concerning a name change for the Washington Redskins:

Dear Mr. Page: I agree with our Native American population. I am highly insulted by the racially charged name of the Washington Redskins. One might argue that to name a professional football team after Native Americans would exalt them as fine warriors, but nay, nay. We must be careful not to offend, and in the spirit of political correctness and courtesy, we must move forward.

Let's ditch the Kansas City Chiefs, the Atlanta Braves and the Cleveland Indians. If your shorts are in a wad because of the reference the name Redskins makes to skin color, then we need to get rid of the Cleveland Browns.

The Carolina Panthers obviously were named to keep the memory of militant Blacks from the 60's alive. Gone. It's offensive to white folk.

The New York Yankees offend the Southern population. Do you see a team named for the Confederacy? No! There is no room for any reference to that tragic war that cost this country so many young men's lives.

I am also offended by the blatant references to the Catholic religion among our sports team names. Totally inappropriate to have the New Orleans Saints, the Los Angeles Angels or the San Diego Padres.

Then there are the team names that glorify criminals who raped and pillaged. We are talking about the horrible Oakland Raiders, the Minnesota Vikings, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and the Pittsburgh Pirates!

Now, let us address those teams that clearly send the wrong message to our children. The San Diego Chargers promote irresponsible fighting or even spending habits. Wrong message to our children.

The New York Giants and the San Francisco Giants promote obesity, a growing childhood epidemic. Wrong message to our children.

The Cincinnati Reds promote downers/barbiturates. Wrong message to our children.

The Milwaukee Brewers. Well that goes without saying. Wrong message to our children.

So, there you go. We need to support any legislation that comes out to rectify this travesty because the government will likely become involved with this issue, as they should. Just the kind of thing our do-nothing Congress loves.

As a diehard Oregon State fan, my wife and I, with all of this in mind, suggest it might also make some sense to change the name of the Oregon State women's athletic teams to something other than "the Beavers," especially when they play Southern California. Do we really want the Trojans sticking it to the Beavers??? 

WEARIN' OF THE GRIN

Reality Check:

■ I find it ironic that the colors red, white, and blue stand for freedom...until they are flashing behind you.



■ I always wondered what the job application is like at Hooters. Do they just give you a bra and say, "Here, fill this out?"

■ When wearing a bikini, women reveal 90% of their body. Men are so polite they only look at the covered parts.

■ The location of your mailbox shows you how far away from your house you can go in a robe before you start looking like a mental patient.

■ Relationships are a lot like algebra. Have you ever looked at your X and wondered Y?

■ I think it's pretty cool how Chinese people made a language entirely out of tattoos.

■ America is a country which produces citizens who will cross the ocean to fight for democracy but won't cross the street to vote.

■ The reason Mayberry was so peaceful and quiet was because nobody was married. Andy, Aunt Bea, Barney, Floyd, Howard, Goober, Gomer, Sam, Earnest T Bass, Helen, Thelma Lou, Clara and, of course, Opie were all single. The only married person was Otis...and he stayed drunk.

■ You know that tingly little feeling you get when you think you love someone? That's your common sense leaving your body.

■ I read that 4,153,237 people got married last year. Not to cause any trouble but shouldn't that be an even number?

■ My therapist says I have a preoccupation with vengeance. We'll see about that.

■ Today a man knocked on my door and asked for a small donation towards the local swimming pool. I gave him a glass of water.

■ I think my neighbor is stalking me as she's been Googling my name on her computer. I saw it through my telescope last night.

■ My therapist said that my narcissism causes me to misread social situations. I'm pretty sure she was hitting on me.

■ Money talks ... but all mine ever says is good-bye.

■ You're not fat, you're just easier to see.

■ My 60 year kindergarten reunion is coming up soon and I'm worried about the 175 pounds I've gained since then.

BOARD NEWS

Board member **Bill McCarthy** tells us the Christmas dinner gifts for the ladies, porcelain dainties from the village of Beleek on the banks of the River Erne in Co. Fermanagh, are in hand.

A festive evening is planned for next Monday evening at the Holiday Inn Downtown. We'll convene at the Top of the Tower towards 6 p.m. and share in a celebration of our Irish heritage and the past year's successes.

Hope to see you there!



In the past five years, parade expenses have increased about 60%. (*Yes, you read that right.*)

Treasurer **Josh Soliday** is leading the continuing efforts to obtain cash grants to defray costs; currently Polk County is being approached. Kudos to him and his expertise!

But even more funds will be needed and so President **Tim Schuck** created a **GoFundMe account** to bolster our finances.

Be a part of it by registering and then sharing the fund drive on your Facebook account. Go to gofundme.com and at the top left under "search" enter "friendly sons of St. Patrick."

Starting with a click on the center item in the first row, you can follow the prompts to help spread info on this fundraiser. Can we reach our goal of 10G? Go for it!



Once again, we want you to know the **board needs new members**, so speak up & join up, won't you? Also, January elections will be held to establish a new president and vice-president.

president's
pint of view



Hello everyone! 'Tis the season once again. I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends. I look forward to seeing you at our annual December dinner at the Top of the Tower. I know you will all miss the treasurer's report at this meeting, but at least we will have the Foy Dancers to cheer you up(!)

As the year comes to a close, our schedule will start to pick-up once again as we begin preparations for the parade. Meetings will commence with the city's Street Use Committee starting this month.

One of the main discussions we are going to have with them will be about their billing process and why we are getting invoices several months after our event and not sooner. We will also discuss what actions other parades are taking in the way of safety precautions.

I am also looking forward to getting back in touch with the event planner we met with a couple of months ago. I think we can grow our event and make it something to rival the other street and bar parties throughout the city and help us to return the parade back into a money making event. As always, if you have any ideas please let us know.

If I do not see you at the dinner, have a wonderful Christmas and a great New Year!

Stay classy, Sons.

President Tim Schuck

BARNEYBITS

New Year's Traditions from Ireland:

CLEAN, CLEAN, CLEAN!

A few centuries ago, there was an Irish tradition that encouraged people to have a spotless clean house before their New Year's eve party or celebration. That's why most Irish people will clean their house thoroughly before passing into the new year!

IRISH NEW YEAR'S SUPERSTITIONS

Other Irish New Year's traditions involved chasing the bad luck from our lives and honoring those who passed away but still have a place in our hearts. To chase away the bad luck, people would make some "Christmas bread" and used portions of it to knock on the house walls and doors.

Honoring the dead is an Irish New Year's tradition that's kept to the word. Irish people will often add an extra plate and place at the dinner table on New Year's eve or they will unlatch the house door.

DOOR SYMBOLISM

A really interesting Irish New Year's tradition would involve people opening the back door of their house just before midnight to "let the Old Year out" and opening the front door to "let the New Year in." While opening the front door at midnight, people would also greet their neighbours and wish them a Happy New Year! 