



## upcoming events

**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

EVERY FRIDAY IN JAN. & FEB. / 4-6 P.M.  
HAPPY HOUR LIVE MUSIC  
@ JAMESON'S PUBLIC HOUSE  
310 E. 4TH, WATERLOO

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:

Monthly Meeting  
Jan. 14

Menu:  
Orlondo's Cavatelli  
w/ Salad & Bread

Next Meeting  
Feb. 11, 6:30 p.m.

Annual First Tee  
Skywalk Golf Classic  
Capital Square  
Feb. 23, 9-2 p.m.

january (canair) 2019

## OUR COMING FSOSP ST. PATRICK'S RACE IS AT RISK

The Annual St. Pat's 5K/10K Run is always an event to look forward to each year. Son **John Leonhart** sponsors the outing, held on the streets of West Des Moines, and works hard with his cohorts to make it better each time out.

In addition, the FSOSP uses the date to award a college scholarship to one male and one female senior high school running athlete. We reach out to area athletic directors for nominees and usually the awarded students participate in the run with us.

But currently, we have a hiccup in the 2019 competition plans.

**Officer Jeff Hartshorn** of the West Des Moines police department sent Leonhart a September note:

"Giving you an early heads up regarding runs on public roadways. The police department is in the process of attempting to eliminate runs on public roadways. With the overall growth of the city and the lack of resources, we will not be approving special event applications involving those types of runs in the future. The PD can be over-ridden by city council, but we will be recommending these types of runs (be moved) to our trail system or Raccoon River Park type areas."

Leonhart recently contacted Hartshorn to see if there were any developments or changes to this proposed change and received bad news.

Hartshorn again said "the PD intends to deny those applications which impact the quantity of streets affected by runs on public roadways." He was sorry, he said, but "we have to look at the overall safety of participants and the motoring public."

Leonhart and his support crew are nonplussed.

"We need to know if anyone has an idea for what we can do regarding relocating our running event," he said.

Treasurer **Josh Soliday** says we have not paid for any 2019 permit, so there is no contractual issue to pursue, but we want to be welcome wherever we go, anyway.

On the positive side, there is still a lot of time to regroup and find a solution, though. However, the yearly increase in participation means we need a big scheme.

Ideas anyone? 



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Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick  
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## PROPHETIC WEATHER FORECASTING FOR FOLKLORE FANS

So far, our usual Iowa winter has not arrived. The frosty, snowy “hunch weather” we are so accustomed to is mysteriously giving us a break as we creep through week after week of usually the coldest season of the year.

Here’s some folklore connected to our uncharacteristic weather luck that might be interesting.

Dating back to the 18th Century, Scottish Highlanders form a sort of almanack of the coming year’s weather based on observation of twelve days, beginning at the last of December. Old people still pay attention to this prophesying.

They hold as an infallible rule that whatever weather happens on each of those days means the same will prove to agree in the correspondent months.

This means January is to answer to the weather of December 31, February to that of January 1, and so on with the rest of the months.

The direction of the wind on New Year’s Eve was also used as an indicator of what to expect in the following year. *“If New Year’s Eve night wind blow south, it betokeneth warmth and growth.”*

So how are we doing?

December 31 gave us light snow and rain, a “wintry mix” with a high of 36 and a low of 8 degrees. That foretold a chilly January and it looks like the temps are heading that way this weekend. Will the month remaining get messy, too?

New Year’s Day gave us a high/low of 19/7 with winds and overcast skies. This was 10-15 degrees below average and means that February might not be looking so good for us.

January 2 was about normal with a high of 31, sunny but windy. Could that mean a crisp, chilly St. Patrick’s Day parade is on tap? That would be about normal, but the sun is a positive note.

The high/low temps on Jan. 3 (46/26), Jan. 4 (50/29) and Jan. 5 (54/31) were all about 15-20 degrees below average and each day was sunny, giving us hope for a delightful spring run in April, May & June.

This past Sunday’s breezy, rainy, drizzly forecast of 44 degrees was still well above average. But will July be prove to be wetter and windier than normal? If so, someone better tell the Ragbrai riders.

The good news is that Monday’s mild, sunny, above-average 51/32 foretells a great Iowa State Fair run in August. 🍀

## WEARIN’ OF THE GRIN



Every day, a male employee walks up very close to a female co-worker at the coffee machine.

He stops, inhales quite deeply and says that her hair smells nice.

After a week of putting up with this, the woman can’t stand it anymore.

She takes her issue to a supervisor in Human Resources and asks to file a sexual harassment grievance against the guy.

The supervisor is puzzled and asks, “What’s threatening about a co-worker telling you your hair smells nice?”  
“It’s Frank, the dwarf.”

### NEW YEAR’S WISDOM

If a woman says “first of all” during an argument, run away...because she has prepared research, data & charts and will destroy you.

Some things are just better left unsaid. And I usually realize it right after I say them.

Been there, done that. Then...been there several more times because apparently I never learn.

## BOARD NEWS

We are booked Dec. 9 at the Holiday Inn for our **2019 Christmas dinner.**

Secretary **Ed Kelly** reports that the bar total was \$925 last month. It was over the contracted minimum and not only saved us a \$150 bartender fee, but put us back at the level of our 2015 high. Stay thirsty, Sons!

□□□

We told you in the last issue that President **Tim Schuck** created a **GoFundMe account** to bolster our finances.

He reports that a whopping \$50 has been raised (!)... Begorrah, we need to get the word out! 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 your Facebook and other social media outlets. Get crackin’!

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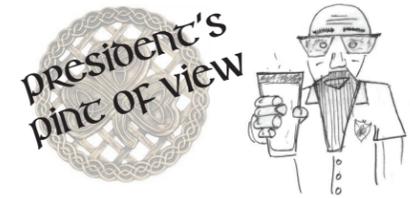
We need **two new board members** for 2019. Let us know if you are interested; elections will be held next week at the meeting. **T-Bone** has been nominated for president and **Schuck** for the VP spot.

□□□

The **Annual First Tee Skywalk Golf Classic** will again be sporting an Irish hole in our name due to the awesome efforts of the **O’Donnell Clan.**

Volunteers for that Saturday, Feb. 23 event can sign up at the head table next Monday. It’s a fun thing to be a part of and a 1-2 hour help slot will fly by for you.

It’s a grand opportunity to sell raffle tickets, too, so bring your books.



Happy New Year to all! I know you will get this after the New Year, however, did you know that the world-famous Times Square New Year’s Eve ball is actually Irish?

That’s right, the small crystal triangles that make up that geodesic sphere are made by the Irish company Waterford.

Waterford Crystal has been in business since 1783 and is located in ...Waterford, Ireland which also happens to be Ireland’s oldest city, founded in 914 by the Vikings.

They originally named it Vadrarfjodr, which either means Fjord of the Rams (in reference to the export of sheep from the area), or Windy Fjord (since it acted as a safe harbor from the rough Irish seas). The debate is not over on that.

I encourage you to take a bit of time to look this up and learn more; it is rather interesting.

So take pride in knowing that one of the most-viewed and enjoyed traditions on the planet on New Year’s Eve is indeed Irish. And I suppose it is fitting; after all, we do enjoy a good celebration!

I hope your New Year’s was safe & memorable.

And here’s a toast to you all:

*“May your pockets be heavy and your heart be light.  
May good luck pursue you each morning and night.”*

Stay classy, Sons.

President Tim Schuck

## BLARNEYBITS

One day a young monk arrives at the monastery, assigned to help the other monks in copying the old canons and laws of the church, by hand.

He notices, however, that all of them are copying from copies, not from the original manuscripts.

So the new monk goes to the Old Abbott to question this, pointing out that if someone made even a small error in the first copy, it would be continued in all of the subsequent copies.

The abbott says, “We have been copying from the copies for centuries, but you make a good point, my son.”

He goes down into the dark caves underneath the monastery where the original documents are held as archives, in a locked vault that hasn’t been opened for hundreds of years. Hours go by and nobody sees the Old Abbott.

So, the young monk gets worried and goes down to look for him.

He finds the abbott banging his head against the wall and wailing,

*“We missed the R! We missed the R! We missed the bloody R!”*

His forehead is all bloody and bruised and he is crying uncontrollably.

The young monk asks the Old Abbott, “What’s wrong, Father?”

With a choking voice, he replies tearfully, “The word was...

CELEBRATE! 🍀