

the scoop

EDITOR JULIE IMEL DISHES THE NEWS YOU NEED TO KNOW

A little wit & wisdom

This week, we're gearing up for Parade Day and a host of St. Patrick's Day celebrations by paying homage to Irish culture. In keeping with this theme, I'd like to share a few of my favorite Irish sayings that really capture the essence of Irish wit and wisdom:

1. *May the enemies of Ireland never eat bread nor drink whiskey, but be afflicted with itching without the benefit of scratching.* Ah, yes. This one exemplifies both wit and wisdom. It speaks to me because it is just biting enough to make the point, but it's not evil. If I were to revise it, I might add chocolate to that list of things the enemies may never have, but that's just me.

2. *May you never forget what is worth remembering, or remember what is best forgotten.* Here's that wisdom I was talking about.

3. *St. Patrick was a gentleman, who through strategy and stealth, drove all the snakes from Ireland. Here's a toasting his health, but not too many lest you lose yourself and then you forget the good St. Patrick and see those snakes again.* A good message here that we should all remember on Parade Day — enjoy yourself but don't overdo it. Yep. Very wise indeed.

4. *May you be in heaven half an hour before the devil knows you're dead.* Wit? Wisdom? Either way, that's good strategy right there.

5. And, perhaps my all-time favorite: *As you slide down the banisters of life, may the splinters never point the wrong way.* Descriptive and poignant, I can think of no better way to spread goodwill among my friends than to tell them I hope they don't get splinters in their privates as they slide down the banister of life. Pure poetry.

Feeling lucky

Now, onto some serious business. In addition to the upcoming parades in Scranton and Wilkes-Barre, we're lucky to enjoy a wide range of events celebrating the spirit of St. Patrick's Day this month. Take a look at some of what's coming your way:

St. Patrick's Parade in Carbon County
— The 16th annual Carbon County St. Patrick's

Day Parade, sponsored by the Ancient Order of Hibernians Alec Campbell Division 1 of Carbon County and the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Mollie Maguire Division 1 of Carbon County, will take place along Broadway in Jim Thorpe starting at 1 p.m. on Sunday, March 10. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/carbonstpat-parade.

The Irish Tenors at the F.M. Kirby Center for the Performing Arts — On Friday, March 8, the Irish Tenors will perform at the Kirby Center in Wilkes-Barre. The performance will feature the group's original lineup with Finbar Wright, Anthony Kearns and Ronan Tynan. Doors open at 7 p.m. with the show starting at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$39.50 to \$59.50. For tickets and information, visit www.kirbycenter.org.

Concerts at Mauch Chunk Opera House in Jim Thorpe — On Friday, March 8, **Enter the Haggis** kicks off Parade Weekend. The quintet offers a combination of rock, fusion, bluegrass, traditional Celtic fare, agitpop, folk and even Latin flavors. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. with the show starting at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25.

The Tartan Terrors will perform on Friday, March 15. The Terrors are known for their ability to combine Celtic music, dance and comedy into a night of fun. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. with the show starting at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$32.

On Sunday, March 17, enjoy **Irish and Broadway Classics: From Danny Boy to Phantom**. The American actor and singer Nat Chandler joins soprano Anne Tommela and the Manhattan Lyric Opera in a foray through Broadway and Irish classics. Doors open at 4 p.m. with the show starting at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$20; \$15 for senior citizens; and \$10 for children under 12.

For tickets and information on all of these shows, visit www.mauchchunkoperahouse.com.

That's the scoop! Thanks for reading and I'll meet you here again next week.

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