

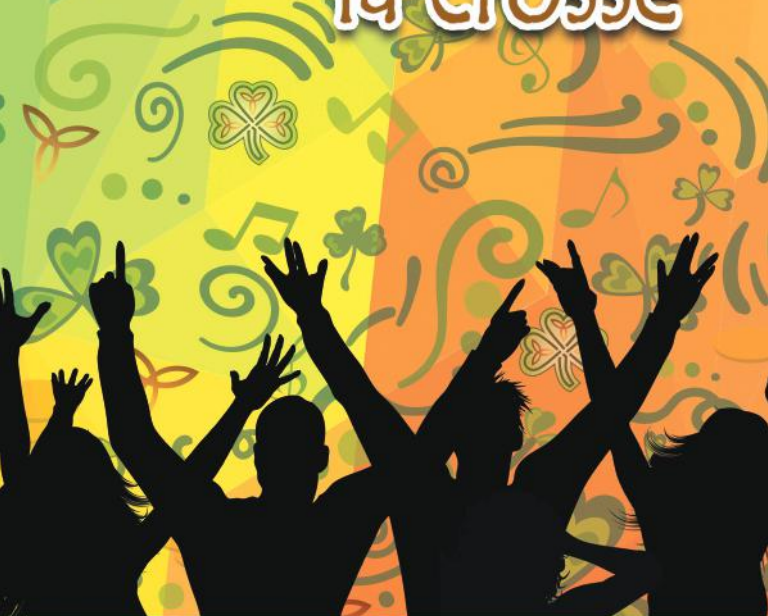


Celebrating Ireland in the Heart of La Crosse



Irishfest

la crosse



Aug. 7-9, 2026

Southside Fest Grounds
La Crosse, WI

Get more information at
irishfestlacrosse.org





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Dear Dad,

I am not sure if this will get to you in heaven or not, but I am sure it is no surprise to you how much everyone is missing you down here. There is an emptiness...a void...sadness. Yet, many of us continue to try and figure out, "How do we live like Pat?"

Last year we spent many breakfasts together, and each time you said, "Kel, I think you would be the best person to take over as President of Irishfest as I plan to step down after 20 years." I looked at you each time with a smile on my face and said, "Let me think about it." Finally, in



November I agreed, with the caveat you would promise to be by my side and guide me through the first few years. You broke your promise. You are not here.

While I can be angry about your absence, you would not want that. You taught me to pick myself up when knocked down, figure it out, get involved, never ask for anything in return, and make this community a better place. I have surrounded myself with an amazing Irishfest Board and we are all figuring this out together. We know "the show must go on", because that is exactly what you would want. And our amazing sponsors are making sure of that also!

Dad, you would not believe this but while you and Bill Heinz and Ed Sullivan are likely sharing a Jameson together at Pat's Heavenly Pub, we are able to have Jameson at Irishfest this year! We are going to have the largest toast to you one could ever imagine because we all know it is our way to thank you for creating the absolute best summer festival! And behind the scenes I am going to do my best to keep this going and make you proud. Yep, I will fight through some tears, but seeing the pure joy on everyone's faces enjoying an event that YOU created and made happen will make the tears go away.

We love you and miss you, Dad.

Irish Hugs Right Back To You,
Kel

Irishfest Hours

Friday, August 73 pm - 11 pm

Saturday, August 8..... 10 am - 11 pm

**Sunday, August 9..... 11 am until end of scattering
(Mass at 10 am)**

Admission

Ticketing prices online before August 7th

\$15 one day pass

\$30 weekend pass

At La Crosse Hy-Vee starting July 1st - August 7th

\$15 one day pass

\$30 weekend pass

At the gate - \$20 one day pass only

** Weekend passes will only be sold prior to fest online and
at La Crosse Hy-Vee*

**Ticket \$10 ea.
or 3/\$25**

*Sold in the main tent and at the
Irishfest Merchandise booth*



1st Prize -Trip for two to Ireland \$2,500 value (or \$1,250 cash)

Sponsored by Irishfest La Crosse, The Shamrock Club of
La Crosse & Aloha Vibes Travel.

2nd Prize - 2027 Irishfest La Crosse VIP Weekend Package for

2 including one night hotel stay at the Charmant with restaurant
voucher, fest admission, beverage tickets, meal tokens, t-shirts, VIP
Seating & VIP Parking. \$800 Value. Sponsored by The Charmant
and Irishfest La Crosse

3rd Prize - Handmade Queen Size Irish Quilt made and donated
by Diane O'Brien. \$500 Value.

The raffle is used to support Irishfest La Crosse, cultural activities
of the fest and donations to Hunger Task Force.

Sold by Irishfest Board Members, as well as in the Main Tent at
the Shamrock Club Membership Table, Cultural Tent and at the
Irishfest Merchandise booth.

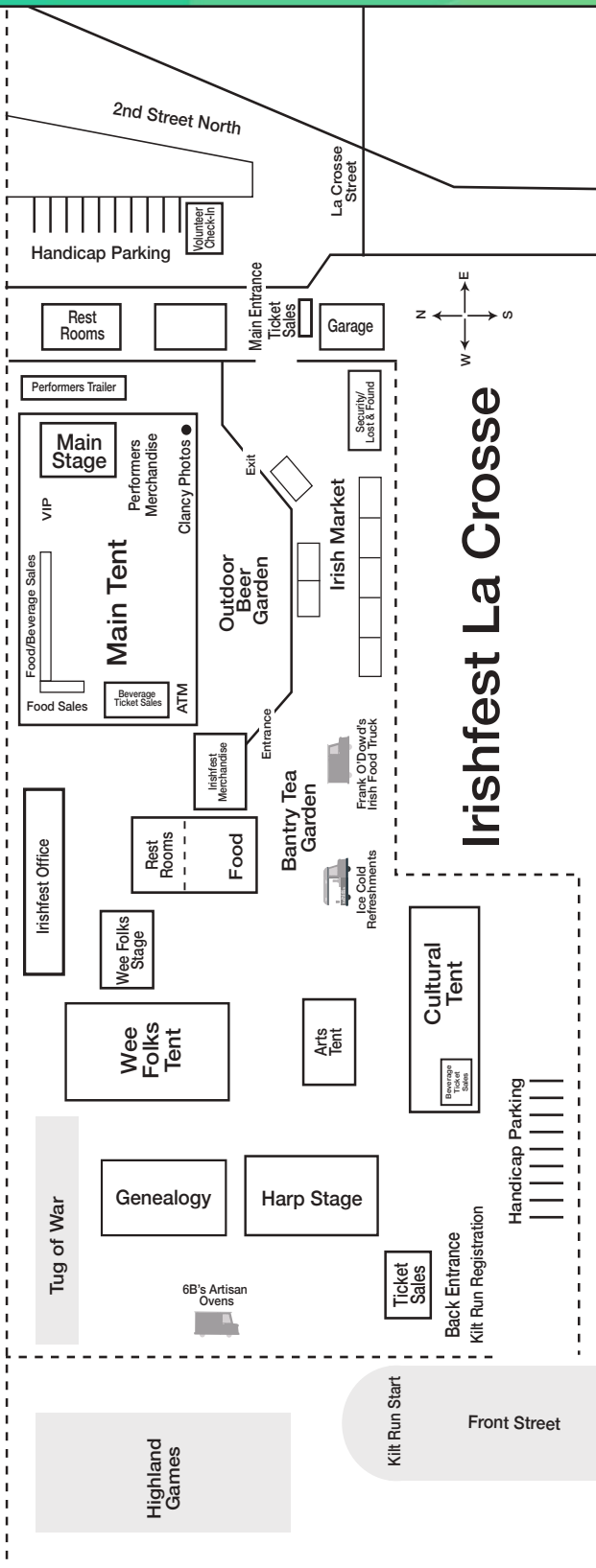
*Prize drawing will take place as part of the traditional "Scattering"
on Sunday afternoon on the main stage. Need not be present to win.*



Charmant



VIP Parking



Irishfest La Crosse

Tug of War

Genealogy

Harp Stage

Highland Games

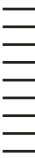
Kilt Run Start

Front Street

Cultural Tent

Beverage Ticket Sales

Handicap Parking



Back Entrance
Kilt Run Registration

Ticket Sales

Ice Cold Refreshments

Frank O'Dowd's Irish Food Truck

Bantry Tea Garden

Irishfest Merchandise

Entrance

Outdoor Beer Garden

Exit

Irish Market

Security/Lost & Found

Garage

Main Entrance
Ticket Sales

Rest Rooms

Rest Rooms

Performers Trailer

Main Stage

Performers Merchandise

Clancy Photos

Food/Beverage Sales
Food Sales
Beverage Ticket Sales
ATM

Irishfest Office

Wee Folks Stage

Wee Folks Tent

Rest Rooms

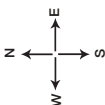
Food

Handicap Parking

Volunteer Check-In

2nd Street North

La Crosse Street



Friday

Entertainment Schedule

Main Stage *Sponsored by La Crosse Beverage*

- 3:00... Opening Ceremony (Front Gate)
- 4:00... Screaming Orphans
- 5:45... Murphy & Mancuso
- 7:30... BIIRD
- 9:15... Gaelic Storm



Cultural Tent *Sponsored by J.F. Brennan*

- 4:00....Amadans
- 5:15....Ian Gould & Lucas Jaeger
- 6:30....Podcast Máirtín de Cógáin & Rory Makem
with Pat Murphy
- 8:00....Billow Wood



Harp Stage *Sponsored by Alvarado Clan*

- 4:30...Kim Robertson
& Brett Lipshutz
- 5:30...Harp Twins
plus Wolfgang Twins
- 6:30...Andrea Stern
- 7:30...Kim Robertson
& Brett Lipshutz
- 8:30...Harp Twins plus Wolfgang Twins



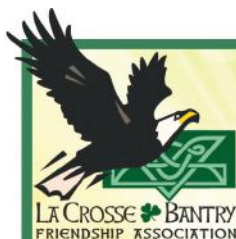
Arts Tent

- 4:30...History of U2 with Prof. Ken Shonk
- 5:45 ..Billow Wood

Clancy Schedule

Date..... Time..... Event

Fri.....	3 pm		Opening Ceremony (Front Gate)
Fri.....	6:15 pm		Walk around
Fri.....	6:30 pm		Clancy Photo Stage
Sat.	10 am		Kilt run (Back Gate)
Sat.	2 pm		Walk around (Harp Stage, Tug of War, Highland Games, Cultural Tent, Arts Stage)
Sat.	7:30 pm		Toast to Pat Stephens Main Stage
Sun. ..	12:00 pm		Main Tent
Sun. ..	12:15 pm		Clancy Photo Stage
Sun.	4:45 pm		Scattering



La Crosse's Link to Ireland

Celebrating 21 years of Diplomacy & Cultural Exchange

- Visit our members in the Cultural Tent
- Ask about our "All Things Irish" giveaway basket
- Enjoy Bantry Bay Mussels in the Tea Garden
- Join us for the Coulee Hoolie Ceili in 2027



Join us to become
part of the
twinning
experience

lacrossebantry.org | facebook.com/LaCrosseBantry

Saturday

Entertainment Schedule

Main Stage *Sponsored by La Crosse Beverage*

- 11:00...Amanda's Academy of Dance
- 12:30...Ian Gould & Lucas Jaeger
- 2:15...Billow Wood
- 4:00...Screaming Orphans
- 5:45...Murphy & Mancuso
- 7:30...Toast to Pat Stephens
High Kings
- 9:15...Scythian



Cultural Tent *Sponsored by J.F. Brennan*

- 11:45 ...Amanda's Academy of Dance
- 12:45 ..Rory Makem
- 2:00 ...Irish Rock Karaoke Finals
- 3:30 ...Máirtín de Cógáin & Rory Makem
- 4:45 ...Ian Gould & Lucas Jaeger
- 6:30 ...Caravan of Friends

Harp Stage *Sponsored by Alvarado Clan*

- 12:30 ..Andrea Stern
- 1:30 ..Harp Twins
(Children's Program)
- 3:00 ..Kim Robertson & Brett Lipshutz
- 4:00 ..Shari Sarazin & Leah Rachuj
- 5:00 ..Harp Twins plus Wolfgang Twins
- 6:00 ..Andrea Stern
- 7:00 ..Kim Robertson & Brett Lipshutz
- 8:00 ..Harp Twins plus Wolfgang Twins



Arts Tent

- 12:15 ..History of U2 with Prof. Ken Shonk
- 1:15 ..Mythical Irish Stones with Máirtín de Cógáin
- 2:30 ..Mashed Potato Eating Contest
- 3:30 ..Bodhran Workshop with Ian Gould
- 4:45 ..Irish Language with Máirtín de Cógáin
- 5:30 ..Band Travel Options

Saturday

Entertainment Schedule

Wee Folks Stage *Sponsored by Amanda's Academy of Dance*

11:00....Dave Johnson's sheep shearing

11:45....Jonathan Lamb's Kid Show

12:30 ...Amanda's Dance performance
with mini-lesson for kids

3:00Irish dogs

4:00Elizabeth Gould craft time

5:00Dave Johnson's sheep shearing



Vendors Irish Market

Angela Aspeslet - Angel Wings

All natural red henna, face painting, body art and
glitter tattoos

Jerry Chat - Dead on Target

Jewelry, leather sporrans, cloth shoulder bags,
leather messenger bags

Michael Siegert - Shamrock Imports

Irish gifts, clothing, Coat of Arms items, jewelry

Kathleen Murray Devitt - Murray's Irish Outfitters

Custom made Irish sportswear, jewelry,
sweaters made in Ireland

David & Gloria Yaeger - The World of Faeries

Fairy & dragon figurines, pendants, bracelets,
fairy soft dolls with kilts

Jona Chat - Sweet Treats etc.

Snacks, candy, chips, & so much more

Amber Leverich - Highland Kilt Co.

Kilts, Highland wear and accessories
HighlandKilt.com

Saturday

Special Events

Killian's 5K Kilt Run/Walk

Lace up your sneakers & grab your kilt!

Sat., August 8, 10:00 am

Starts at the back gate.

Sponsored by: **Earl's
Grocery & Saloon**



Mashed Potato Eating Contest

In the Arts Tent, Saturday, 2:30 pm

Register at Irishfest Merchandise booth

This is a timed event. The winner is the one that can consume the portion of potatoes supplied in the shortest time.

Only spoons provided can be used.

There are 5 classes of competitors:

5-7 year olds, 8-11 year olds, 12-15 year olds,
16-18 year olds, and over 18 years of age.

There is one official judge and two spotters monitoring the contestants.

First place winners get an Official Irishfest T-shirt.



Show your love for our founder, Pat Stephens, by buying a green "Final Final" shirt from our Irishfest Merchandise Booth and wear it at 7:30 pm on Saturday in the Main Tent for the largest, greenest, toast to Positive Pat!



Saturday/Sunday

HIGHLAND GAMES

Saturday
Only

Terry Smith Memorial Pro-Am Highland Games

Competition begins at 12:00 pm

Order of Events:

Terry Smith Memorial

Stone of Strength

Open Stone

Heavy Weight for Distance

Light Weight for Distance

Caber will be contested at 3pm

Sheaf

Weight Over Bar



USATOWA Tug of War

Saturday and Sunday

starting at 11:00 am

Kids Pull 1:30 pm

Local Teams Pull 2:30 pm

Competition Ends 4:00 pm

2026 - Tug of War Teams

- Bluewater Tug of War,
Dashwood, Ontario, Canada
- USA Youth Tug of War Team
- Bluewater Youth Tug of War Team,
Dashwood, Ontario, Canada
- Mt Vernon Tug of War,
Mt Vernon, WI
- Oregon Tuggers, Oregon, WI
- DJ's Tug of War, Lakeville, MN
- Power Train Tug of War,
Greeley, IA
- LeClair Tug of War, LeClair, IA



Sunday

Entertainment Schedule

Main Stage *Sponsored by La Crosse Beverage*

11:30...Glencastle Irish Dancers

1:00...Billow Wood

3:00...Scythian

4:45...The Scattering



Cultural Tent *Sponsored by J.F. Brennan*

10:00...Mass - please bring non-perishable food items for admission to Irishfest

11:30...Fiddle Contest

2:00...Amadans



Harp Stage *Sponsored by Alvarado Clan*

1:00 Shari Sarazin and Leah Rachuj

2:00 Harp Twins plus Wolfgang Twins

Arts Tent

12:15 .. Bodhran Workshop with Ian Gould

Wee Folks Stage *Sponsored by Amanda's Academy of Dance*

11:00...Dave Johnson's sheep shearing

12:00 .. Donut Eating Contest

1:00...Jonathan Lamb's Kid Show

2:00...Shiver & Timbers, Calling All Pirates

2:45...Heads & Tails

3:00...Grand Prize drawing for bikes

Tent closes after drawing

Information and up-to-date schedule found on our website.



Genealogy

How Irish Are You?

This will be the 19th year of genealogy at Irishfest, and Karen Hoel and Bill O'Driscoll have masterminded this area the entire time. The genealogy area features an Irishfest family each year, and also has informational displays from previous Irishfest families. This year long time volunteers Rod, Pam, and their daughter Kelly Smith will have their family tree researched, and the results featured in the genealogy area along with stories of their forebears. While the genealogy area also includes general genealogical interests and displays specific to Celtic heritage, the strength of the genealogy area features researchers answering our visitors questions in person and on the fly. With thanks to Ancestry® for providing access to their databases during this weekend, our researchers investigate and hopefully resolve our visitors' questions regarding their ancestors. One common question, "Where in Ireland are my ancestors from?" is often answered successfully! Got Genealogy?



HOURS

Saturday 11 am - 6 pm • Sunday 11 am - 4 pm

**This year's featured family:
Rod, Pam, and Kelly Smith**



Irish Food

LOCATED IN THE MAIN TENT

Monarch Public House

- Irish Nachos w/ Corned Beef
- Corned Beef & Buttered Irish Champ Potatoes
- Irish Champ Potatoes w/Butter & Cheese
- Shepherd's Pie
- Cheesecake



Bennett O'Riley's

- Reuben Sandwich
- Brisket Sandwich
- Irish Nachos
- Bangers & Mash
- Shepherd's Pie
- Pepperoni Pizza by the Slice
- Ice Cream Sandwiches
- Bag of chips



BIG BOAR



BARBECUE

Main Course

- Pulled Pork Sandwich
- Pulled Pork Slider
- Brisket Sandwich
- Brisket Slider

Sides

- Baked Beans
- Vinaigrette Coleslaw



Pepsi, Diet Pepsi,
Mountain Dew,
Diet Mountain Dew,
Gatorade, Starry,
Lemonade, Water

Irish Food

Frank O'Dowd's Irish Food Truck

- Fish & Chips
- Fish Tacos & Chips
- Reuben Egg-rolls
- Reuben & Chips
- Cheese Curds
- Scotch Egg
- Curry Chips



HOUSE OVERLOADS

- Lukester "Meat Lovers"
- Arlo-Overload "Supreme"
- Cool-Copper "Chicken Bacon Ranch"
- Hot Marble "Buffalo Chicken"
- Oliver "BBQ Chicken & Bacon"

LEGENDS OVERLOADS

- Lombardi "Cheese Lovers"
- Uecker "Pepperoni Lovers"
- Nitschke "Sausage Lovers"
- Bo Ryan "Pepperoni & Sausage"
- Yount "Sausage & Mushroom"

Gluten Free Options

Dipping Sauce Cups - 4oz.

Red Pizza Sauce, Buffalo Sauce, Ranch Sauce

Made with fresh baked 8" Rolls

We accept all major credit cards

Irish Food

Bantry Backyard & Tea Garden

Operated by La Crosse Citizen Advocacy

Sandwiches

Hot Corned Beef Sandwich Plate

Hot Ham Sandwich Plate

(Sandwiches can be purchased alone)

** chips and cookies included with all sandwiches*

Mac & Cheese

Sweet & Savory

Scones - Blueberry or Raspberry

Leprechaun Donuts

Cookie

Blarney Bar

Chips



Beverages

Irish Tea - Black or Green

Iced Tea - Regular, Raspberry, Diet Peach

Coffee - Regular

Iced Coffee, Irish Flavored Coffee

Leprechaun Punch

Water



Mussel Samples

All donations raised will go to cultural exchanges and charitable causes. Available Saturday & Sunday or until they run out.

*Bantry
Tea Garden Area*



ICE COLD REFRESHMENTS

- Shaved Ice
- Boba Tea
- Fresh Squeezed Lemonade

*Between the Market
& Cultural Areas*



memories

WHEREVER A
beautiful soul
HAS BEEN,
there is a trail of
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LOVE, JO



Ellie McLoone



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May your troubles be less
and your blessings be more
and nothing but happiness
come through your door.

-Irish Blessing



BRENNAN



Tim & Marjorie
Gillespie



CONGRATULATIONS
Kevin & Kaitlyn O'Driscoll
on your recent marriage



CELEBRATING 21 YEARS



Irishfest

Celebrating Ireland in the Heart of La Crosse

la Crosse

**Jim & Sue
Crothers
Family**

J.F. Brennan Cultural Tent

Come explore 'Irish Rock the World', showcasing music legends that have changed the face of our world with their unique styling and poetic lyrics. Learn interesting facts about these legends.

The 'Rock Star Roadies' are available to answer questions and show you the highlights of display. Walk the red (nope green) carpet and take a picture with your favorite musician, or go "On Tour" with the band and earn some swag.

Offered this year is a special opportunity to sit in on a podcast -The Ballad Lounge hosted by Rory Makem and Máirtín de Cógáin interviewing Rock Star Legend Pat Murphy from Gaelic Storm. Check the Friday schedule for times.

Visit one of the nearby food vendors and come relax in JD's Pub. We serve cold beverages, and wine too. Our stage allows for a personal connection between the audience and the performers, who will share stories and insights into their songs while playing both traditional and contemporary pieces. Our outstanding line-up will give you a reason to stay. Then dance the night away Saturday evening as you rock your gypsy soul with a tribute to Van Morrison/Pogues performed by Caravan of Friends. Continuing with our theme, and new this year, will be "Irish-Karaoke". Cheer on your favorite contestant Saturday afternoon, as they pick songs only from Irish Rock Stars and battle it out for cash prizes.

On Sunday, join us for a Catholic Mass at 10:00 a.m. (all are welcome). Following Mass, The Greater La Crosse Area Shamrock Club is sponsoring the Fiddle Contest, where we are rewarding and incentivizing tomorrow's musicians.

The Irishfest Cultural Area celebrates Ireland and Irish/Celtic heritage through music, dance, art, literature and history all under one tent.



ARTS TENT

The Arts Tent is an extension of the Cultural Tent with a more informal and intimate setting. This year we will feature workshops on "History of U2" with Professor Ken Shonk, a bodhran (Irish drum) workshop with Ian Gould, Mythical Irish Stone Stories and Beginning Irish Language with Máirtín de Cógáin. Billow Wood will treat you to a traditional Irish music session.





Hours of Operation	
Fri.	3:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Sat.	11:00 am - 6:00 pm
Sun.	11:00 am - 3:00 pm



Join us in our Wee Folks Area, sponsored by **Amanda's Academy of Dance**, dedicated to the youngest Irishfest visitors and packed with activities the whole family will enjoy. Filled with hands-on activities, live

entertainment, interactive games, and Irish-inspired fun designed just for Wee Folks.

Stop by the Leprechaun Village for a magical Irishfest photo opportunity, take a ride on the beloved Leprechaun Express train (\$5 unlimited rides per day), enjoy free crafts and creative activities, and challenge friends to family-friendly games including foosball, basketball, air hockey, and more in the Dublin Deuces 10+ area. New this year, children can participate in free Irish dance lessons, learning traditional steps while experiencing a fun and engaging piece of Irish culture.

Throughout the weekend, families can enjoy a variety of special attractions on the "Wee Folks Live" Stage including Irish dog demonstrations, sheep shearing presentations, Wee Folk contests, audience participation activities, performances from Ian & Elizabeth Gould, Irish dancers from Amanda's Academy of Dance, and many other activities that celebrate Irish heritage and traditions.

Whether you're riding the train, playing games, meeting Irish dogs, watching sheep shearing, learning an Irish jig, or enjoying a stage performance, the Wee Folks Area is the perfect place for children and families to create lasting Irishfest memories together.





Wee Folks Bikes donated 
In honor of Christopher Hankes
Kent Ellickson & Eric Steffes



Celebrating 21 Years of Irishfest

Sally Sullivan



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the 21st Annual**

Celebrating Ireland in the Heart of La Crosse



Irishfest
la crosse

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Schroeder**

**may your blessings
outnumber the
shamrocks
— and —
may trouble avoid
you wherever you go.**

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Sponsor of the Harp Stage



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Shannan Stephens, Michael Linse, Braeden & Moira

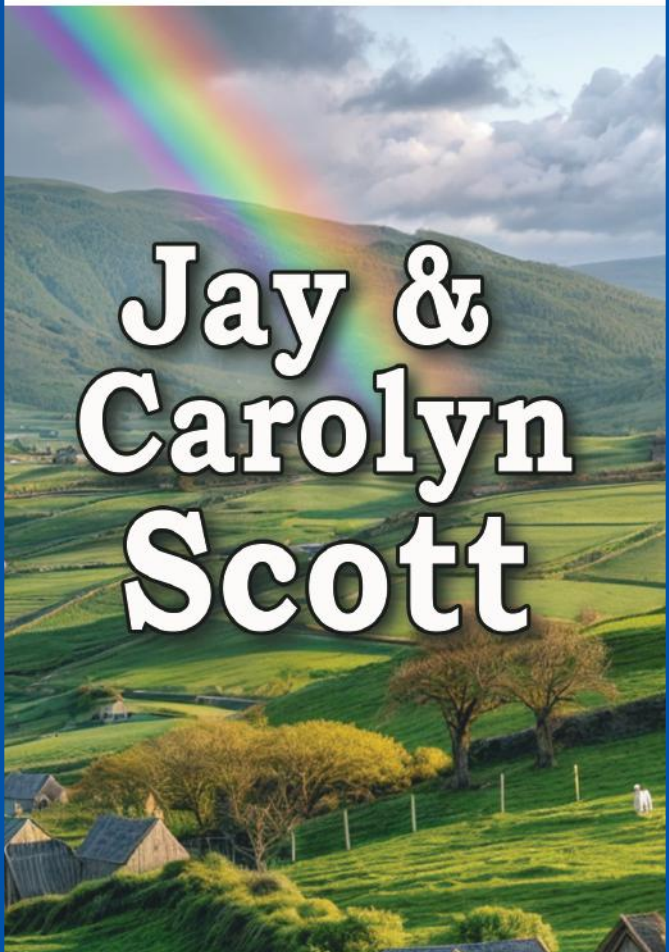


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Irishfest
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Celebrating 21 years of



Irishfest la crosse

Celebrating Ireland in the Heart of La Crosse

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hopes
you
enjoy
the weather at
Irishfest

“Is fearr bheith réidh ná
bheith buartha.”

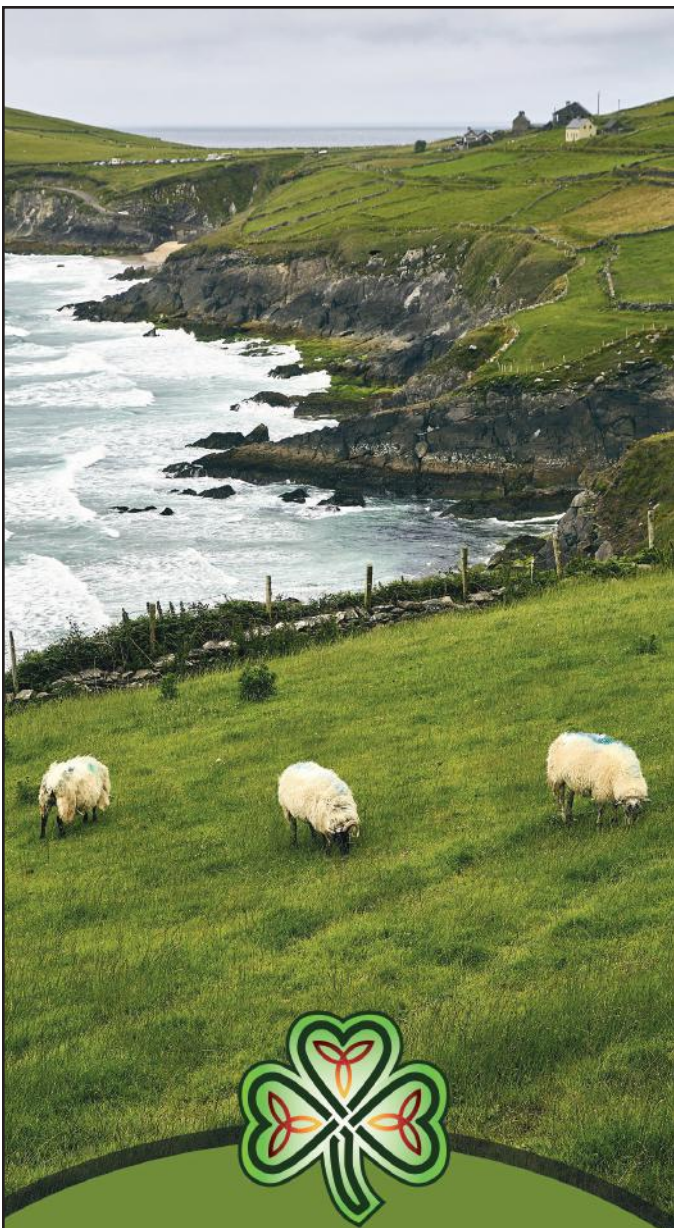
(It is better to be ready than to be worried.)

Download today
and be ready!



bheith ag
súil le tuilleadh

“Expect More”
but you already guessed that.



**SCOTT
& MARY
RATHGABER**

Proud supporter of the 21st Annual



Irishfest la crosse

Celebrating Ireland in the Heart of La Crosse

**the Boyle
family**

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Houser**



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Supporting the 21st Annual
 **Irishfest** la crosse
 Celebrating Ireland in the Heart of La Crosse

**Tracy & Pat
 mullaney**



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**Mark Glendenning &
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**St. Patrick's Day
 Parade**

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Celebrating Ireland in the Heart of La Crosse



Irishfest

la crosse



Ken Riley
Jay Lokken



**Proud
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Irishfest La Crosse

the **CONWAY clan**

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Sean, Cait,
Brian, Isabel
& Lyla



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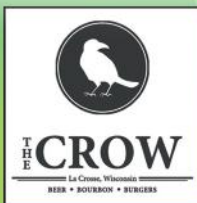
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soflaherty@lacrosselaw.com

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96.1 mix 97.9



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Char & Pat Barton
Jess Bumgarner**



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LA CROSSE AREA
SHAMROCK
CLUB**

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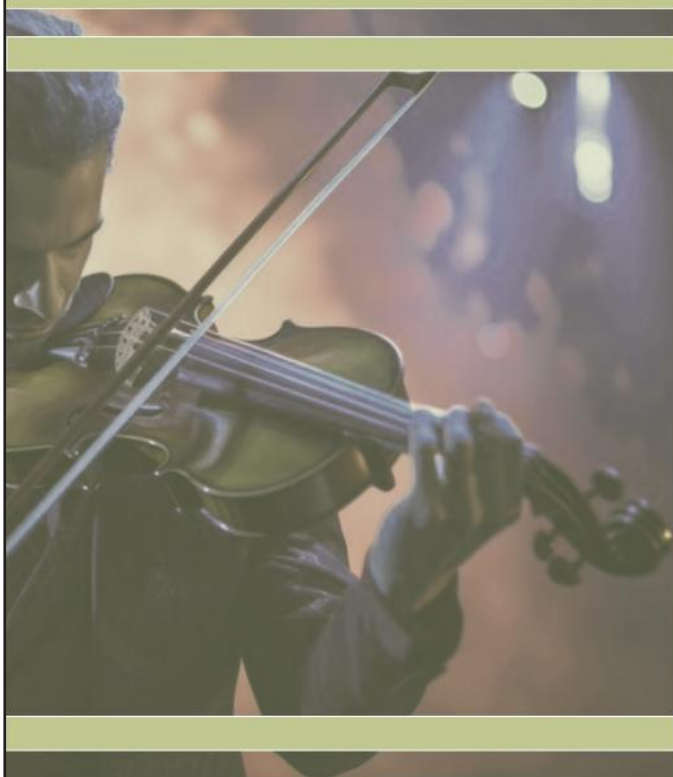
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The John Lyche Family



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Irishfest

Celebrating Ireland in the Heart of La Crosse

la crosse



"An Experience Worth Repeating"



Digger's Sting

122 3rd St N, LaCrosse, WI 54601

Hours:

Mon. - Sat.: 4:00 pm - 9:00pm

Sun.: Closed

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Sun: 11am - 8pm

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2026 Irish Road Bowling
was held on
Sat., June 20th
And the winners are...



Competitive Division:
1st Christina Repa & Lexi Jeffers
2nd Bill & Kathy O'Driscoll
2nd Luke Seielstad & Jason Bohlman



.....
Recreational Division:
1st Jimmy Kies & Garrett Fields
2nd Eric & Marcia Knudtson
2nd Bill & Dorie Beres



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In memory of Bill Heinz, Love Wanda, Amy, & Ben	Schneider Heating & AC
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of JD Oelke
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2025 Raffle Winners



**2025 1st place Trip for two
to Ireland - Mike Aliesch**



**2nd Place 2026 Irishfest VIP Package
at The Charmant - Not Pictured-Mike Siegert**



**Ellie McLoone Irishfest Raffle
3rd place winner of quilt pictured
with creator Diane O'Brien**



**511 Third St., N • La Crosse, WI 54601
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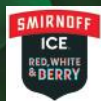
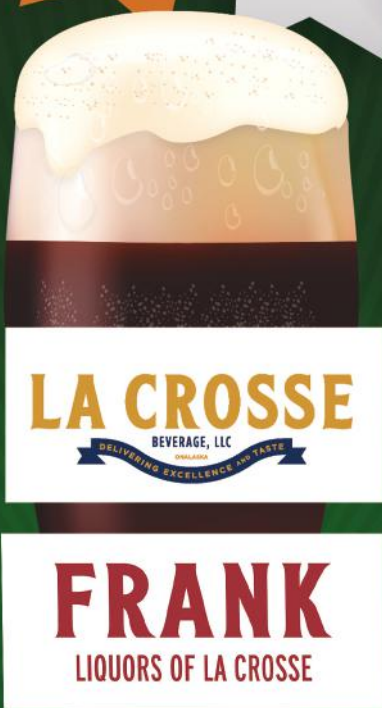
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