

# The Green Gazette



JOSEPH SCHELLER/THE MONTANA STANDARD

Members of the Butte Ancient Order of the Hibernians stand for a portrait in front of the Robert Emmet Literary Association monument on Thursday, March 6, 2025, at St. Patrick's Cemetery. The men are, from left, Jeff O'Brien, Dan Doherty, Phil Telling, John Doran, Jim Moyle, Joe Dennehy, John Mulcahy, Maurice Mulcahy, Jim Keane, Con Sullivan, Larry Driscoll, and Al O'Brien.

## Butte's Hibernians restoring cemetery one project at a time

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Take a walk around St. Patrick's Cemetery, gaze at the headstones and you will find familiar Irish surnames — Sullivan, Murphy, Harrington, Mahoney, Daly, Lynch, Shea, Doherty, and dozens more. Lesser-known names, also Irish in origin, can be found, including Quilty, Coughlin, Fleming and Matthews. True pioneers, these men and women, long since gone, decided more than 100 years ago that it was time to forge new paths. Leaving family and friends behind, they boarded ships destined for America, eventually settling in the mining town of Butte, nestled below the Continental Divide. Today, the men's division of Butte's Ancient Order of Hibernians has nearly 125 members. All are committed to honoring these adventurers by restoring and maintaining the cemetery, which is nearly 145 years old. The restoration project is important because it is not just Butte's history, but

Ireland's history, and the history of those of other nationalities that made their way to Butte, Hibernian Jim Keane said. Butte was also home to immigrants hailing from Italy, Poland, France, England, Canada, Mexico, Germany, Switzerland, Greece and a host of other countries. So much so, the ethnic diversity of the cemetery stands out, with such family names as Jachowski, Caglione, Vautour, Baldrice, Mabrito, Calvetti and many others. "Someone had to take responsibility to take care of those who came before us or shame on us," said Keane. It's an arduous task, but for the past 20 years, project by project, the Butte AOH organization has been getting it done, with help from the Diocese of Helena, fundraisers and local donations. The Irish government has stepped in as well, providing grants every other year to help with the ongoing project. The money comes via Traolach O'Riordan, director of Irish studies at the University of Montana. Proof positive that the ties that bind Butte to Ireland remain steadfast. Efforts to clean up and improve the cem-

etry have been ongoing since 2005, with credit given to Pat Kearney and Jim Sullivan, both now deceased, in spearheading the campaign, Jerry Sullivan said. "The momentum has picked up since then," said Sullivan. The Hibernians' commitment has not gone unnoticed. Aubrey Jaap, director of the Butte-Silver Bow Archives, said the AOH members have been dedicated to improving St. Patrick's Cemetery. "Through their hard work, they're creating a space where families can visit their loved ones with pride, knowing their graves are being treated with respect," said Jaap. "I truly commend the passion they've put into the St. Patrick's Restoration Project." The Archives director pointed out that Butte's first Catholic cemetery is historically significant primarily because it's the final resting place for many people who played substantial roles in the town's history.

See Cemetery, PAGE 3

**"Someone had to take responsibility to take care of those who came before us or shame on us."**  
— Hibernian Jim Keane

## Weekday may hamper holiday activities

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The last time St. Patrick's Day fell on a Monday was in 2014. It was cold and wet, with blowing snow and a daytime high of 39. The less-than-balmy temperatures might have kept many people indoors and for the most part, those out celebrating behaving themselves. "We haven't had any real issues at all," said Butte-Silver Bow County Sheriff Ed Lester in an interview 11 years ago. The long-time sheriff hopes that statement holds true once again. "With the big day being on a Monday this year, I would expect to see a little bit less of a crowd than we had



last year," said Sheriff Lester. "A lot of it will depend on the weather. If it's sunny and warm, Irish eyes will be smiling for sure." The sheriff does think the days leading up to St. Patrick's Day will be somewhat busy. The annual St. Urho's Day celebration will be Sunday and the opening ceremonies for St. Patrick's Day commence on Sunday, too. "Most people are happy and celebrate responsibly and are just enjoying the people they meet along the way," he said. Sheriff Lester said he has always liked the parade and its aftermath. From his many years in law enforcement, he also knows the drill and said prior planning is essential. "I just want to remind people to make sure they have a plan to get home with a sober driver and treat

their fellow revelers with respect," he said. "It never hurts to pump the brakes a little if you feel yourself getting a little tipsy." In 2014, nine people were arrested for driving under the influence and Lester acknowledged there will probably be some people taken into custody during this year's celebration. "I know from working 34 St. Patrick's Days that the vast majority will be out there having fun and doing it the right way," he said. "But I also know there will be a few who end up in jail because of a silly decision they never would have made if they weren't operating on a belly full of green beer." Ultimately, the sheriff said he just wants everybody to have a great time but to do it the right way. "So they can keep coming back year after year," he said.



DEREK PRUITT, THE MONTANA STANDARD

Anaconda AOH Pipe and Drum Corps members Rob Seccomb, Eric Fendler and Terry Dunfee regroup after playing at the M&M Cigar Store on St. Patrick's Day in Uptown Butte. The pipers are crowd favorites as they wade through throngs of celebrants making their traditional rounds of Uptown bars.





Christopher Sanchez, 3, danced to some Irish tunes with his aunt, Jessica Dill, during the 2007 St. Patrick's Day parade in Uptown Butte.



All decked out for the 2024 St. Patrick's Day parade in Butte were four members of the AOH, family members Matt Kujawa (second generation), Sean Komora (third generation), Mike Kujawa (first generation), and Michael Kujawa (second generation). Standing in front is Kobin Kujawa (third generation).



Cait Francisco, left, marches with other AOH Washer Women in the 2006 Anaconda parade on St. Patrick's Day.

# GET READY FOR ST. PATRICK'S DAY FESTIVITIES



St. Patrick's Day revelers were enjoying the warm weather 40 years ago, with a high of 53 degrees. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BUTTE-SILVER BOW ARCHIVES

As always, the main event for Butte's St. Patrick's Day festivities is its annual parade which begins at noon Monday in historic Uptown Butte.

The Butte America Foundation will once again play host. All parade entries must be assembled by 11:30 a.m. at Lexington Gardens (off Arizona on East Granite) and will be staged east on Granite, south on Covert and east on Broadway.

Butte Watchdogs for Social & Environmental Justice have been named this year's grand marshals. The group includes Sister Mary Jo McDonald, Mick Ringsak, Evan Barrett, Erik Nylund, and Don "Moose" Petritz.

Once all entries are lined up, the parade route will again start at the corner of Arizona and Granite, proceeding west on Granite to Montana, south on Montana to Park, east on Park to Arizona where disassembly can begin.

Yes, the parade may be "the icing on the cake," with several food vendors selling a variety of dishes throughout Uptown Butte, but there's even more fun planned that day, including Anaconda's parade, which starts at 2 p.m. from the AOH at 107 Cherry St.

Prior to the official St. Patrick's Day, there are even more Butte and Anaconda events to help usher in the Irish holiday. See below:

## Anaconda St. Paddy's race runs Saturday

The annual Anaconda AOH St. Patrick's race starts at 11 a.m. Saturday, at the AOH building, 106 Cherry St. Entry fee is \$40. The annual event includes a 3-mile race and a 6-mile race, along with 3-mile and 6-mile wheelchair races. Walkers are welcome to join in the 3-mile event. Preregistration packet and t-shirt pickup are from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the AOH Hall. Race runs regardless of weather conditions. For details, race application, and online registration, visit [www.anacondaah.com/race-info](http://www.anacondaah.com/race-info).

## Friendly Sons and Daughters dinner Sunday

The oldest St. Patrick's Day event in Butte, the Friendly Sons and Daughters of St. Patrick, will hold its annual banquet on Sunday at the Front Street Station, 800 E. Front St. Cocktails are at 6 p.m. and dinner is served at 7. This year's speakers are Tim Dick and Pat Ryan. The annual event is open to the public and features a night of humorous tales, memorial tributes, and scholarship awards. The banquet remains the longest-standing event celebrating the Patron Saint of Ireland. The organization was founded locally in 1908 by Judge



From left, Wade Bush, Michael Bush, 6, Natalie Bush, 14, and Dory Shea posed for this 2018 picture on St. Patrick's Day in Uptown Butte with 13-year-old Eleanora Gillia, dressed as a dinosaur.

J.J. Lynch, Maurice English, and John H. O'Meara to promote the Irish culture, the bonds of family and friendship, and Butte's pride for all things Irish. Tickets are \$30 and are available by calling Brendan McDonough at 406-498-3983 or stop by Shawn O'Donnell's, 125 N. Main St.

## Shillelagh Shindig planned

The annual Shillelagh Shindig begins at 6 p.m. Sunday, March 16, at the Butte Depot, 818 S. Arizona St. The event benefits the Butte-Silver Bow Democratic Central Committee.

## Dublin Gulch at Covellite

Shawn O'Donnell's Irish Pub and the Covellite Theatre present Butte's own "Dublin Gulch" on Sunday, St. Urho's Day, at the Covellite, 215 W. Broadway St. Doors open at 6 p.m., with the show starting at 7. Advance tickets are \$13 and the day of the concert, \$20.

## Free carousel rides courtesy of AOH

The men and women's divisions of Butte's Ancient Order of Hibernians are again giving back to the community with free carousel rides for children from noon to 6 p.m. Sunday and Monday at the Spirit of Columbia Gardens Carousel in Stodden Park. There will be free "green" popcorn.

## Festivities at the Elks

The Butte Elks Lodge at 206 W. Galena St., will host a Boot Loose County Music

Night at 6:30 p.m. Saturday. The evening includes line dance lessons with the Klobucars, along with the Copper City Divas & Dudes. Patrons can also take a chance on the "Buck'n Huffs" mechanical bull. On St. Patrick's Day, doors open at 10 a.m. Rueben sandwiches for \$12 will be served, along with corned beef and cabbage for \$15. Mechanical bull riding starts at 11 a.m. A fun-filled afternoon of music is on tap with Andy Larson, who will be performing from 1 to 4 p.m., with the Pipe and Drum Corps of the Edmonton Police Service making an appearance at 2:30 p.m.

## At the Knights of Columbus

A traditional St. Patrick's Day meal of corned beef and cabbage is featured Monday at the Knights of Columbus, 224 W. Park St. Not in the mood for corned beef? If that's the case, pasties will be available as well, along with kielbasa and Reuben sandwiches. Food will be served starting at noon and orders to go are available.

## Color Run starts at Stodden Park

The Butte St. Patrick's Day Color Run will be at 3 p.m. Monday at Stodden Park. The event will consist of a short 1-mile course (fun run), and a separate

5K course within the park. Participants can run, walk or skip along the course laps as you are adorned with brilliantly colored powder from "color stations" along the way. In addition, there will be food, music, and activities. This venue is a substance free event. Tickets for adults are \$25 and students ages 18 and under pay \$15. For more details, call 406-498-9584 or 406-565-5660.

## Butte Depot events

Following the parade, Dublin Gulch will be performing at the Butte Depot, 818 S. Arizona St. Stick around and witness a rivalry reborn between Anaconda and Butte. "Slap Fights" starts at 5 p.m. The event is free.

## Handing Down the Heritage

Butte's Irish band, Dublin Gulch, along with the Tiernan Irish Dancers, will be on stage at the annual "Handing Down the Heritage" show Monday at the Butte Civic Center, 1340 Harrison Ave. Special guests will be the Pipes and Drums Band of the Edmonton Police Service. The event is from 6 to 9:30 p.m. and is a celebration for all ages. Concessions will be open. Admission fees are \$15 for adults and \$5 for students. Tickets are available at the Butte Civic Center and Tiernan Irish Dance families.



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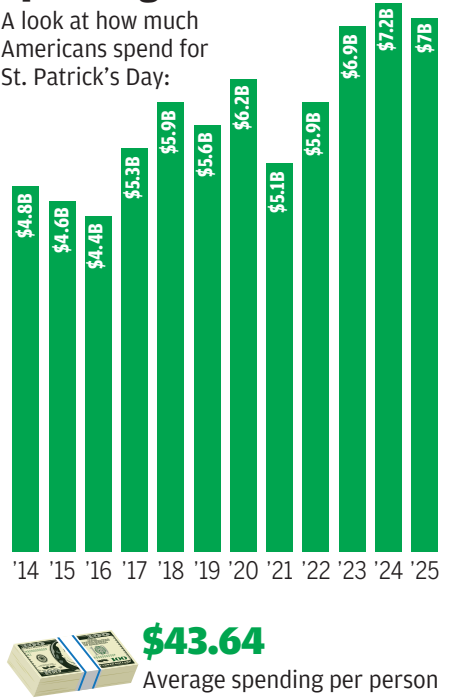


ST. PATRICK’S DAY | BY THE NUMBERS



Spending

A look at how much Americans spend for St. Patrick’s Day:

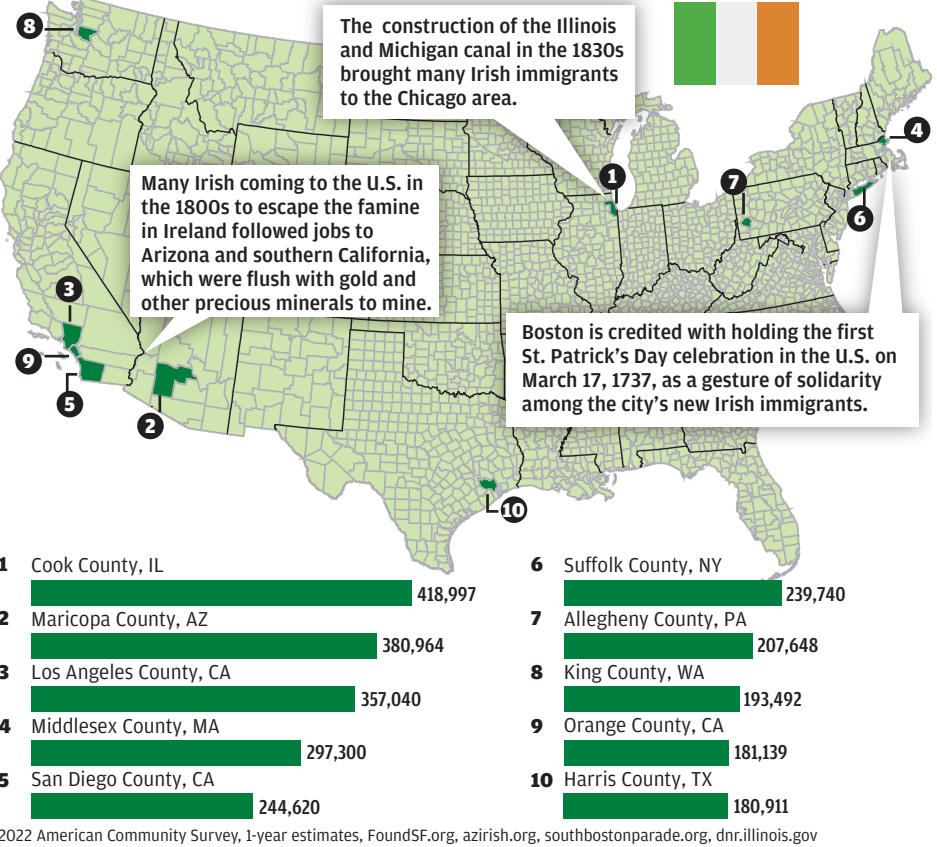


About St. Patrick’s Day

- St. Patrick’s Day honors Ireland’s legendary patron saint, who introduced Christianity to Ireland in the 5th century and died on March 17 in 461.
- The world’s first St. Patrick’s Day parade occurred on March 17, 1762, in New York.
- In 1991, Congress proclaimed March as Irish-American Heritage Month.
- The holiday has evolved to a celebration of all things Irish.



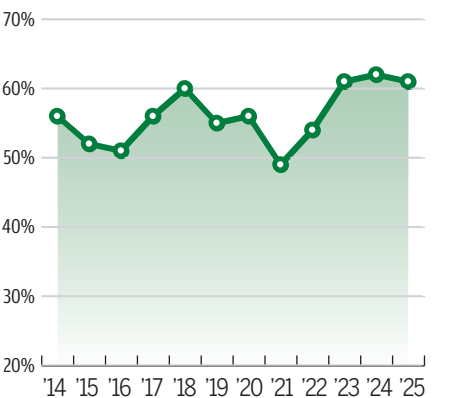
US counties with highest populations of Irish ancestry



Celebrations



Percent celebrating



Sources: Tribune News Service, National Retail Federation, U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Agriculture

Lee Enterprises graphics

Cemetery

Continued from Page 1

They include Daniel J. Hennessy, founder of Hennessy’s Department Store, who was laid to rest in the Hennessy mausoleum. Many members of the Robert Emmet Literary Association, an organization devoted to Irish independence, are buried in the association’s plot. County Cork native Sister Mary Emerita Downing, both a nun and nurse, was beloved by the many miners she cared for and is buried in a plot set aside for the Sisters of Charity. Con O’Neill, hero of the 1917 Granite Mountain-Speculator disaster, is buried at St. Patrick’s, as well.

“Cemeteries are important places where we can honor our ancestors and community members,” said Jaap.

John Mulcahy, who has family members buried at St. Patrick’s, said the group has worked on several projects, including replacing the backside fence, installing curbing, removing fallen trees, replacing 1,300 feet of irrigation pipe, and taking down trees that have long since withered.

“It makes you feel good,” said Mulcahy. “We are doing the right thing.

Maintaining the graves and doing restoration work on the headstones is also on their list of chores.

Joe Dennehy, who is the group’s “tombstone doctor,” said more than 100 headstones, some tipped, others damaged, have now been repaired.

With nearly 11,000 people buried at St. Patrick’s, that task seems never ending.

“If I see a tombstone falling over or leaning, I want to fix it,” said Dennehy.

Phil Telling said the cemetery was in tough shape 20 years ago and their involvement became a necessity.

“It had to happen,” said Telling. “It was quickly deteriorating.”

Telling is proud of what the Butte AOH has been able to accomplish.

“It’s been well worth the time and ef-



JOSEPH SCHELLER, THE MONTANA STANDARD

Pins are seen on John Mulcahy’s sash on Thursday, March 6, 2025 at St. Patrick’s Cemetery.

fort,” he said.

Jerry Sullivan said working to improve the cemetery has given the Hibernians a sense of purpose.

“We are all trying to reconnect with our roots and the cemetery represents a heritage of the Irish people for sure,” said Sullivan, “but it is also the history of Butte.”

Con Sullivan, who like Mulcahy has family members buried at St. Patrick’s, said that’s just one of the reasons he works to restore the cemetery.

He feels fortunate to help with a project that many would not experience.

“It feels like you are doing something right and meaningful,” he said, “and if we didn’t do it, who would do it?”

Oddly enough, the cemetery has become a summer tourist attraction, with some of those tourists coming from Ireland to visit their ancestors’ graves. Local descendants come to St. Patrick’s as well.

“It makes you feel good,” said Mulcahy. “It’s not just because of our Irish heritage, we do this for the Butte community, too.”





# EDMONTON BAGPIPERS RETURN FOR ST. PATRICK’S DAY

MONTANA STANDARD

Back by popular demand are the Pipes and Drums Band of the Edmonton Police Service. The band is returning to Butte March 15-17 for performances around the city as part of the St. Patrick’s Day celebrations. According to George Everett, director of Mainstreet Uptown Butte, the band has helped to celebrate Butte’s Celtic heritage since 1984, a milestone for the group and for Butte. Listed below is their three-day schedule of appearances:

Saturday, March 15

- 9 a.m. Crest Nursing Home, 3131 Amherst Ave.
- 10 a.m. Copper Ridge Health & Rehab, 3251 Nettie St.
- 11:30 a.m. The Springs at Butte, 300 Mt. Highland Dr.
- 2 p.m. Butte-Silver Bow Courthouse, 155 W. Granite St.
- 3:30 p.m. Vu Villa, 521 W. Park St.
- 4:30 p.m. Pair-A-Dice Bar, 1653 Harrison Ave.
- 6 p.m. Butte Brewery, 464 E. Galena St.
- 8 p.m. Fifty-One Below, 51 W. Park St.
- 9:30 p.m. Cavalier Lounge in the Hotel Finlen, 100 E. Broadway St.

To help defray the pipers’ travel expenses, which include lodging and meals, contributions are gratefully accepted. Donations can be sent directly to Mainstreet Uptown Butte, P.O. Box 696, Butte, Montana 59703, with a note that the donation is for the Friends of the Pipers Fund. For more details, call or text Mainstreet

Sunday, March 16

- 11 a.m. Big Sky Senior Living, 3701 Elizabeth Warren Ave.
- 1 p.m. Headframe Spirits, 21 S. Montana St.
- 3 p.m. Opening Ceremonies Park & Main Streets
- 5 p.m. Shenanigan’s Bar and Casino, 100 S. Excelsior St.
- 6:30 p.m. Crazee Carol’s Casino, 2702 Walnut St.
- 8 p.m. Helsinki Bar, 402 E. Broadway St.

Monday, March 17

- 9:30 a.m. Hillcrest Elementary School, 3000 Continental Dr.
- Noon Parade, Uptown Butte
- 1 p.m. Metal’s Sports Bar & Grill, 8 W. Park St.
- 2:30 p.m. Elks Lodge, 206 W. Galena St.
- 3:30 p.m. Sam’s Place, 905 N. Excelsior Ave.
- 5 p.m. Shawn O’Donnell’s Irish Pub, 123 N. Main St.
- 6:30 p.m. Handing Down the Heritage, Butte Civic Center, 1340 Harrison Ave.
- 8 p.m. M&M Bar and Grill, 17 N. Main St.



Men and women of the Butte Ancient Order of Hibernians posed for this picture on March 16, 2024, during the official start of the St. Patrick’s Day festivities.

## Butte to hold opening ceremonies on Sunday

MONTANA STANDARD

St. Patrick’s Parish is again partnering with the Butte-Silver Bow Chamber of Commerce at the intersection of Park and Main to officially start the St. Patrick’s Day celebration. The event begins at 3 p.m. Sunday with B-SB Chief Executive J.P. Gallagher welcoming attendees, followed by a speech by Gov. Greg Gi-



Beretta

anforte and Sheriff Ed Lester. Father Patrick Beretta will give the opening declaration and blessing. The Pipes and Drums Band of the Edmonton Police Service will also be on hand. Other dignitaries in attendance include Bishop Austin Vetter of the Diocese of Helena, along with Gov. Gianforte and his wife, Susan. At 3:30, there will be a blessing of Shawn O’Donnell’s, 125 N. Main

St., with a brief performance by the Tiernan Irish Dancers. At 4:10, there will be a blessing of the old M&M sign at 17 N. Main St., along with a speech by Stephanie Sorini, Chamber director. Following Sorini’s talk, there will be a blessing at Sláinte Butte America Pub, 8 S. Montana St., where the annual gathering for members of St. Patrick’s Parish will be held.

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Bagpipers with the Anaconda AOH Pipes & Drums make their way through the Butte St. Patrick's Day Parade in 2023.  
MONTANA STANDARD

# AOH BAGPIPERS TO PLAY IN BUTTE AND ANACONDA

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“The Legacy Lives On” remains the motto for the Anaconda AOH Pipes & Drums Corp.

The band has been part of Butte and Anaconda’s St. Patrick’s Day festivities since 1987, and their legacy continues this year, as their busy schedule begins at 5 p.m. Sunday and ends Monday evening, with several stops along the road.

<b>Schedule for Sunday:</b>	
<b>5 p.m.</b>	Uno’s Lounge, 3235 Harrison Ave.
<b>5:40 p.m.</b>	Pair-a-Dice Bar, 1653 Harrison Ave.
<b>6:15 p.m.</b>	Friendly Sons of St. Patrick dinner, Front Street Station, 800 E. Front St.
<b>8 p.m.</b>	Shillelagh Shindig at the Butte Depot, 818 S. Arizona St.
<b>8:30 p.m.</b>	Shawn O’Donnell’s, 125 N. Main St.
<b>9 p.m.</b>	Various Uptown Butte drinking establishments including the M&M, Maloney’s, Helsinki, Metals Bank and the Cavalier Lounge in the Finlen Hotel

<b>Schedule for Monday:</b>	
<b>Midnight</b>	The group will be at the corner of Main and Broadway for another Butte tradition since 1983, the annual “Painting of the Shamrock.”
<b>9 a.m.</b>	Some bagpipers will be at Mass at St. Patrick’s Church, 329 W Mercury St., Butte, and others will be at Mass at Anaconda’s Holy Family Church, 217 W. Pennsylvania St.
<b>11:15 a.m.</b>	Finlen Hotel’s Cavalier Lounge, 100 E. Broadway St.
<b>Noon</b>	Butte parade
<b>2 p.m.</b>	Anaconda parade
<b>3 p.m.</b>	various Anaconda drinking establishments, including the AOH hall, the Haufbrau, Northern Hall Tap Room, Anaconda Brewery, Thompson’s Bar, The Revolver and Club Moderne

## St. Urho’s Day celebrated at Helsinki, Sláinte

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Be sure to wear purple and green on Sunday as another beloved Butte tradition is St. Urho’s Day, which, without fail, falls one day prior to St. Patrick’s Day.

The legendary St. Urho, who “bravely” rid Finland of its grasshoppers and saved all those tasty grapes, was a fictional character believed to have been conjured up sometime in the 1950s, just not in Finland, but in Minnesota.

The fabled Finnish saint’s status continued to grow, and March 16 is now celebrated in parts of the United States and Canada.

Here in Butte, the traditional St. Urho’s Day celebration is at the Helsinki Bar, 402 E. Broadway St., Satur-



MONTANA STANDARD  
Colton Kingston was the newly crowned king in 2023.

day-Sunday. Butte’s Finlanders will host its initial celebration on Saturday with an 8 p.m. selection of this year’s St. Urho. The crowning of St. Urho will take place at 6 p.m. Sunday.

Sláinte Butte America Pub is also planning a special celebration for St. Urho’s Day with a blessing from Father Patrick Beretta at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, and live music from Beat Deaf from 6 to 9 p.m.



MONTANA STANDARD

The Thomas Meagher Hurling Club out of Missoula will be taking on Butte’s hometown Wolfe Tone Hurling Club at 2 p.m. on St. Patrick’s Day at Montana Tech’s Bob Green Field. The 7th annual spirited battle is an ongoing rivalry, but family friendly. It is also an alcohol and tobacco-free event.

## Hurling teams take to the field

The Thomas Meagher Hurling Club of Missoula will be taking on Butte’s hometown Wolfe Tone Hurling Club at 2 p.m. on St. Patrick’s Day at Montana Tech’s Bob Green Field.

The 7th annual spirited battle is an ongoing rivalry, but family friendly. It is also an alcohol and tobacco-free event.



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AND YOUR  
TOMORROW**



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