

Issue No.4

March 2024

WEARIN' *ab the* GREEN

Official Parade Publication



March 16

2024 SHAMROCK RUN 8 AM

2024 PARADE 10 AM

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FROM THE FOUNDER

I am looking forward to the The Wearin' of the Green Parade on Saturday, March 18, 2051. It will be the 65th year of the Parade and I will be 100 years young. (I'm not telling how old Mabyn, my wife, will be.) I will once again be at the intersection of Hundred Oaks Drive and South Acadian Thruway. The skies will be clear with an average temperature of 54 degrees, winds out of the northwest at 15 mph: a perfect Parade Day! On the following pages are 38 memories I have of the parade over the past 38 years.

Blessings bestowed upon me hopefully were advanced to others in different ways and in various times of need. Quite often the flight of the wild duck leads the flock to fly and follow. They know who they are. People who have helped me and my family in this endeavor and, of course, enjoy this day and every day.



John S. Mabyn

Founder,
*Wearin' of the Green,
St. Patrick's Day Parade*



1 While in Pittsburgh in 1984 with my wife, we officially became owners of Zee Zee Gardens.

2 Standing at the "Middle of the Bar" in Zee Zee's with Kevin, my brother. It's where it all began.

3 Starting The Baton Rouge Irish Club in 1986.



4 My wife started the Mabyne Kean Agency in 1974.

5 The parade marched down one lane while traffic drove up the other.

6 Stapling parade signs onto the telephone poles.



7 The Zee Zee Gardens Gazette, a flyer for our patrons.



8 Up until 1993 we closed the 2900 block of Perkins Road for a parade after party.

9 Spray painting Shamrocks on the street with Al Lorio, an old friend.

10 Maj. Jeff Christman set the stage for future pipe bands.



11 Kansas City Southern had to stop their trains when we lined parade floats up on East Lakeshore Drive.



12 I've never thrown a bead, never rode in the parade, **always walk.**

13 The Parade Group, LLC, changing the parade route in 1992.



14 The '47 Mack, a firetruck I acquired from Ponchatoula Fire Department in 1990. It's been a staple in the parade ever since.

15 Our son, Michael Stephen Shingleton, seven months old and "On the Route."

16 Our daughter, Katie Kean Shingleton, two years old and in my arms.



17 My wife **Mabyne**, on my right arm.

18 The "Sir," "Councilwoman," "Mayor," who tried forcing the parade to relocate Downtown. It didn't happen.



19 Donna Esnard of the Hundred Oaks Civic Association made sure the parade stayed where it was.

20 The **Catholic Life Center**, the start and end of the parade.

21 T.J. Moran and Gary Mockler who helped support the parade in the beginning.



22 The Slattery Room, a special place.

23 The Shingletons and all of their help.

24 My mom, known as **Grandma Shirley**, our 2011 Grand Marshal.

25 Ivar, Rena and Paddy Quigley were instrumental in helping bring Grand Marshals over from Ireland.





26 The Boys from Killarney, friends who I have affectionately come to know on my trips "across the pond."

27 Beverage Trailer, Grand Marshal Float, and Founder's Float.

28 All of the people who walk with us at the end of the route.

29 The United States Marine Corps Band from New Orleans.



30 The Bishops and their blessings.



31 Parade Day weather.

32 We rented barricades from New Orleans because Baton Rouge didn't have any. It was an ordeal getting them here, set up, and back.

33 The "Cry-Room" in Ivar's after a tough day.

34 WBRZ

35 Guinness, Jameson, Irish Coffee - some necessities to fuel the fire.

36 Nora, Ava, Parker, Walker – my grandchildren who are always with me.

37 A smashed trumpet in 2013 and new uniforms for Istrouma High School.

38 The Blessings of Saint Patrick.



WBRZ 2^{abc} THE KREWE OF 2

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ABOUT THE COVER

It is such a treat when the world-famous Budweiser Clydesdales come to Baton Rouge to lead the parade! Thank you, 2023 Grand Marshal Tim Mockler for arranging to bring them for the third time to our route.



ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE



WEARIN' OF THE GREEN

SHAMROCK RUN
2024
WEARIN' *of the* GREEN

4th Edition 2024

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Published By

The Parade Group, LLC

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pages!

FROM THE GOVERNOR

Happy St. Patrick's Day and congratulations to the Parade Group LLC on the 39th Wearin' of the Green Parade! Also, a big congratulations to basketball legend Seimone Augustus on being this year's Grand Marshal.

Louisiana is known for its rich traditions, and the Wearin' of the Green Parade certainly embodies everything Louisiana has to offer: culture, history, food, and a fun time. This is a great Baton Rouge event that brings together family and friends every year and creates memories that last a lifetime. On behalf of the great state of Louisiana, have a fun and safe day, and make sure to wear your green!

**Governor Jeff Landry and
First Lady Sharon Landry**



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FROM THE LT. GOVERNOR

Nobody throws a parade like we do in Louisiana!

That includes the Wearing of the Green St. Patrick's Day Parade in Baton Rouge, which draws visitors from all over.

As Lieutenant Governor, my job is to promote the great state of Louisiana. I am so passionate about our culture, history, great food, music and fun. This award-winning parade is an annual tradition for thousands who come to create memories that last a lifetime.

In its 39th year, The Parade Group, LLC has organized one of the most well-attended parades in this region. Along the parade route from Hundred Oaks and Acadian, to South Eugene, Terrace and Perkins Road, a fantastic line-up of floats and marching bands entertain parade-goers.

This year we recognize Louisiana basketball legend Seimone Augustus as the 2024 Grand Marshal.



LOUISIANA
Feed Your Soul.

Thank you to The Parade Group, LLC, and the Shingleton family for continuing this wonderful parade and tradition. So wear your green and come Feed Your Soul here in Louisiana as we celebrate St. Patrick's Day and the Wearing of the Green Parade!

Billy Nungesser

Lieutenant Governor



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FROM THE MAYOR- PRESIDENT

It is a fact in Baton Rouge that we have a love for parades and festivals. These lively events are a vital part of our community and culture, forming a colorful collection of shared experiences and traditions.

Among these cherished festivities, the "Wearin' of the Green" parade stands out in our history. Year after year, this beloved event has grown to become one of Baton Rouge's most distinguished celebrations that unites friends, families, and even strangers in a joyous celebration.

The "Wearin' of the Green" parade pays homage to the enduring history of Irish Americans in Baton Rouge. It commemorates their contributions to our community, showcasing the resilience and strength of the diverse threads that make up the vibrant tapestry of our city.



We extend our warmest regards and gratitude to all who partake in these celebrations, and we invite both friends and visitors to join us in the joyous "Wearin' of the Green" parade. Together, let us continue to embrace the diverse culture and heritage that makes Baton Rouge a truly exceptional place to call home.

Sincerely,
Sharon Weston Broome
Mayor-President



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FROM THE BISHOP

It's time again for the Wearing of the Green, St. Patrick's Day Parade! In this busy world, we often forget to make time to enjoy the blessings of our lives. Maybe in Louisiana this is not as big a deal as in other places but even here the demands of life can cause us to worry more than to celebrate. To celebrate is to take time to enjoy the good things that are already ours and the Wearing of the Green St. Patrick's Day Parade is a time to CELEBRATE. I love this parade because it brings our city together in one of the best family parades of the year. So, put on some green and join us this year at the St. Patrick's Day Parade and join our Irish celebration of the best of Baton Rouge.

Michael G. Duca

Bishop of Baton Rouge



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ST. PATRICK'S DAY



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2024 GRAND MARSHAL SEIMONE AUGUSTUS

The Wearin' of the Green St. Patrick's Day Parade welcomes Seimone Augustus as the 39th Grand Marshal. With a group of family members and friends, she'll lead the parade on March 16, 2024.

Seimone really needs no introduction to Baton Rouge. She is the greatest and most accomplished athlete to ever call the Capital City home.

A graduate of Capitol High School, Seimone led the Lions to back-to-back state titles. Upon graduation, she was on the cover of Sports Illustrated, and many questioned: "is she the next Michael Jordan?"

To LSU and women's basketball, she is. Skip Bertman describes Seimone as the most influential recruit in the history of LSU Athletics.

Seimone and the Lady Tigers advanced to three appearances in the Final Four during her time with the team earning her the Naismith Player of the Year and the Wooden Award twice respectively.

Seimone went on to the WNBA and was drafted number one overall by the Minnesota Lynx where she spent 14 seasons winning four titles.

She also won three gold medals with the United States Olympic Teams in 2008, 2012 and 2016.

LSU retired Seimone's jersey number and dedicated a statue of her outside of the PMAC in 2023.

Aside from her vast basketball accomplishments, Seimone recently helped to publish a book called Hoop Muses which illustrates and tells stories of the history of women's basketball.

Currently, she is an assistant coach for the Los Angeles Sparks and commutes between LA and Louisiana.

Outside of the WNBA season, Seimone spends time in the Baton Rouge area when not traveling the country either promoting a book or attending a speaking engagement.



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2023 GRAND MARSHAL TIM MOCKLER

On a morning full of meteorological surprises, the 38th Grand Marshal of the Wearin' of the Green St. Patrick's Day Parade certainly did not disappoint.

Over the span 12 hours, Timothy "Tim-O" Mockler took off his beer distribution hat as president of Mockler Beverage Company and instead donned a Kelly-green Derby and matching sport coat for what many consider to be the best day in Baton Rouge.

Tim needed that coat as mother nature kicked out a blanket of sleet about an hour before the parade rolled.

But by the start of the parade, the moisture cleared, and it shaped up to be a fantastic day.

"It's a parade that we feel very close to," Tim said during the opening ceremony at the corner of Hundred Oaks and S. Acadian Thruway.

In 2018, his brother Patrick served as Grand Marshal, and his dad - the late Gary Mockler - did so in 2003.

For nearly four decades, The Mockler Family has been instrumental in the growth of the Wearin' of the Green Parade by thinking of creative ways to shower parade goers with throws.

Early on, the Mocklers brought the Bud Man, the Bud Girls, tiny go-carts and Spud Mackenzie and more recently dune buggies armed with t-shirt cannons and the Budweiser Clydesdales.

The Clydesdales visited Baton Rouge once again in 2023. Tim's float followed the Clydesdales and featured two massive bottles of Bud and Bud Light. On the sides of the float: the Bud Man with the caption, "THIS BUD'S FOR YOU, BATON ROUGE."

And that was important since if you happen to catch a doubloon from the Mockler krewe, you better have looked closely. The gold ones could have been exchanged for one beer at participating establishments for those over the age of 21.



It's that creativity which generates excitement and intrigue every year.

We always look forward to what the Mocklers come up with for the next parade, and we also look forward to selecting the next Mockler as Grand Marshal in the years to come.



2023 PARADE PHOTOS



Irish Slang
Crack on
Continue on, get going







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HAPPY St. Patrick's Day

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CHECK YOUR THROWING ARM

It's great to hear that Brian Stevens & Rebekah Summerville are such big fans of St. Patrick's Day and the Wearin' of the Green parade!

The Stevens family and friends stand atop their treehouse that was rebuilt in time for the 2022 parade to watch the parade and catch throws. If you're part of a Krewe riding in 2024, look for the AIM HIGH sign and bullseye target on Perkins Road. Throw them something good to show your appreciation for their enthusiasm.

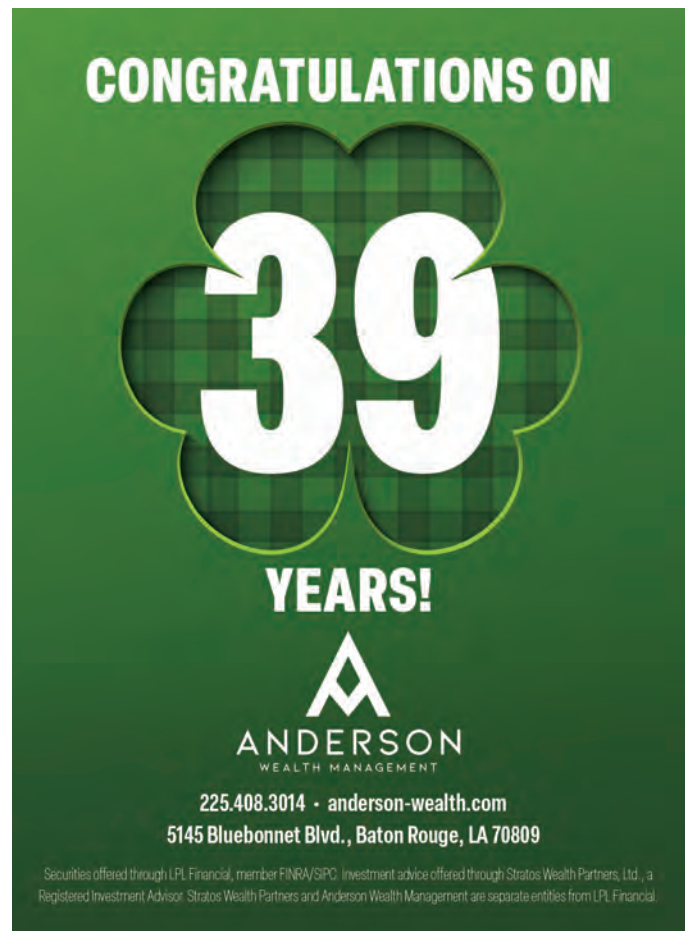




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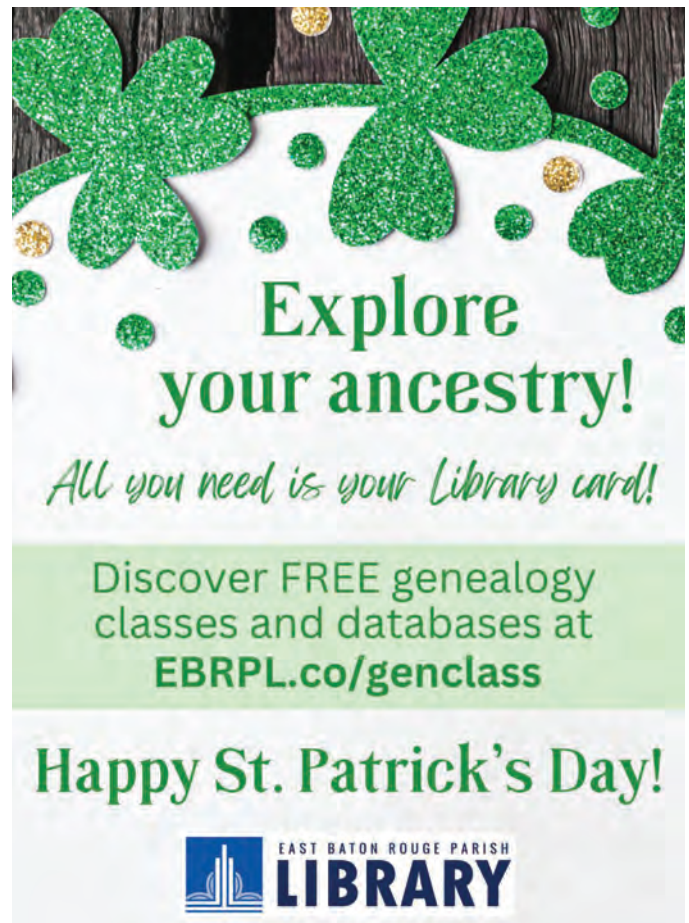


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2023 SHAMROCK RUN

By Brittany Weiss Shingleton

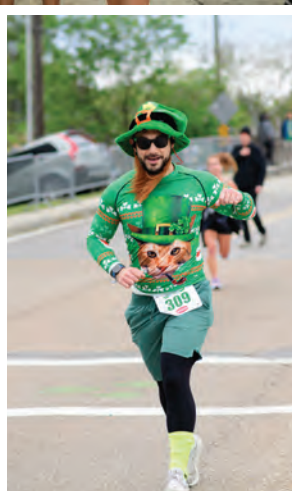
Brrr! What a chilly morning for a race. That didn't stop 414 runners from crossing the finish line. Adam Wise of Abita Springs and Courtney Haser of Walker were the top male and female finishers. Following the run, participants enjoyed a warm meal compliments of Cooking in Central, and cold beverages from Coca-Cola, Parish Brewing, and Mockler Beverage at Moreau Physical Therapy on Perkins Road. Our 2023 finishers received a lucky charm medal and cool shamrock running hat. The top 10 male and female finishers received a neat running backpack from Brooks Running.



Here are the 2023 sponsors:

- ♣ Varsity Sports
- ♣ Parish Brewing
- ♣ Moreau Physical Therapy
- ♣ Mockler Beverage
- ♣ Community Coffee
- ♣ Fresh Pickins
- ♣ Lucky Law Firm
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- ♣ Brooks Running
- ♣ Coca-Cola









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Our 2023 race was proud to support Baton Rouge Green, a non-profit organization inspiring the planting and sustaining of the community's trees and green spaces. With the help of our runners and generous sponsors we were able to provide Baton Rouge Green

with a \$7,000 check to help continue their efforts within the community. We are looking forward to giving to Baton Rouge Green again in 2024!

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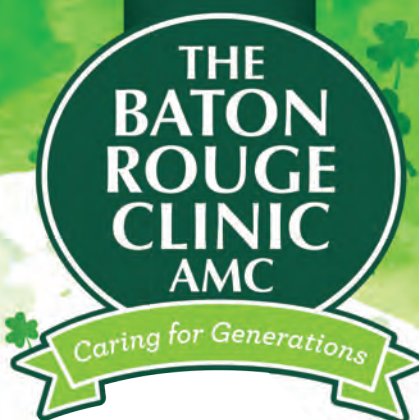
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JENNI PETERS & RUN ROUTE MAP

Through the doors of Varsity Sports among the things you'll find include the latest running gear, a vast variety of shoes, and friendly faces. Many of whom have been a part of the store for years. Varsity Sports is not just a destination, but a community. The glue connecting them might just boil down to one person: Jenni Peters.

During her tenure at LSU, spending 25 years teaching in the college of business, Peters was a competitive runner. After spending a year professionally running, she realized it wasn't for her and channeled her energy into opening up a running store.

“

It sounded fun to have a groovy little running store,” said Peters.

Peters owned the house on Perkins Road housing Dream Silk Screens, a T-shirt print shop on Perkins Road. The print press was located in the heart of Varsity Sports' retail space. In 2000, she bought into the business and decided to open up a running retail store.

Peters formed an LLC and garnered support from 20 of her friends and community leaders. They helped her raise \$100,000, which was the seed money for the store. Soon after, Varsity Sports got up and running, pun intended. During the first month, the plan was to give a T-shirt with every shoe sale. Now 23 years later, that sales tactic is still alive and well and used at all four Varsity Sports stores.

Those shirts have become a fixture around Baton Rouge and even overseas. People wear them on vacation or in the airport making a point to stop and chat when they see someone wearing one.

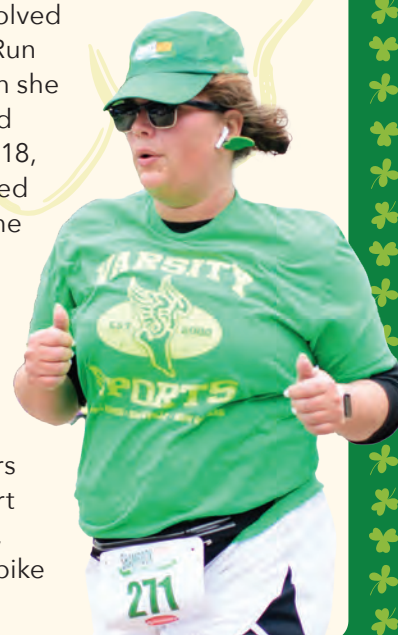


"I hear stories all the time of someone rounding the corner in Italy and seeing somebody in a Varsity Sports T-shirt. People stop other people, which to me is hugely rewarding, they stop people in a Varsity Sports T-shirt and have conversations with them," said Peters.

When Peters sees someone wearing one of those shirts, she feels humbled.

“I'm super proud when I go all over the United States and see it, it makes me feel really proud for how far we've come,” she said.

Peters has been involved with the Shamrock Run from the start. When she was first approached about the race in 2018, Peters came prepared with a route map. She had brought up the idea to Wearin' of the Green Parade organizers before, but the timing wasn't right. Now in its fifth year, Peters plays an integral part in the morning race, leading runners by bike on the route.



HAPPY ST. PATTY'S

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PERKINS ROAD UNDERPASS

Peters has also played a huge role in the Perkins Road Underpass revitalization project.

It's something people living and working in the area have talked about for years.

The Underpass project will feature a linear park, improved parking, an ADA accessible path between Reymond Avenue and Christian Street, and public art. The project has been in the works since 2016 and

includes the involvement of several business owners in the area, including two of the Shamrock Run's founding sponsors: Moreau Physical Therapy and Varsity Sports.

Those business owners paid for a professional survey and hired a developer to show the city what could be done. Peters applied for funding through MOVEBR and learned in the fall that \$2.2 million has been approved for the project.

“
Right now people are using
it but they're crawling up
muddy hills. It could be a
really nice area,”
said Peters.



THEN & NOW

2012



2023



"Big Wil" and his team of men have handled crowd control for many years. Thank you Will for setting up and maintaining the barricades down the parade route. "You da man!"
Wilbert Lewis

1987



2022



The Catholic Life Center has proven to be a great spot to catch beads then and now!
Jennifer Brignac

2014



2023



A huge shoutout goes to this walker couple who has helped make our parade route safe!
Lizz and John Busquet

2003



2023



This brother-sister duo have been watching the parade for many years. Spencer is now part of the team who directs the Marines in the Band Lot. Kelsey and Spencer Shingleton

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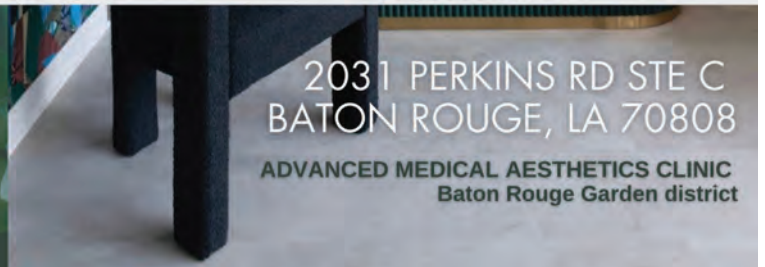
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FIGHTING IRISH of BATON ROUGE

By Pat Shingleton

The great state of Louisiana has advanced many high school seniors to the campus of the University of Notre Dame since 1934.

Hometowns on the list are: Alexandria, Abita Springs, Bogalusa, Bunkie, Church Point, Donaldsonville, Franklin, Gretna, Houma, Lafayette, Lake Charles, Lake Providence, Mandeville, Marksville, Metairie, Monroe, New Orleans, Norco, Omega, Opelousas, Plaquemine, Ponchatoula, Prairieville, River Ridge, Saint Amant, Shreveport, Slidell, Ville Platte, Vinton, Zachary and, of course, the Capital city.

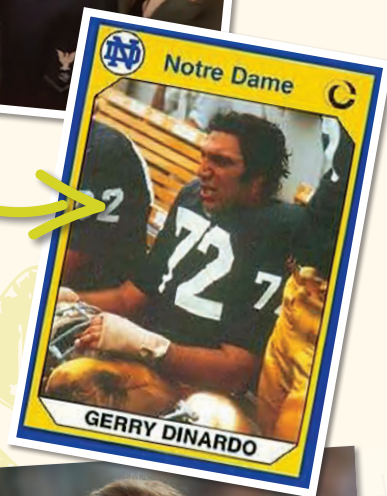
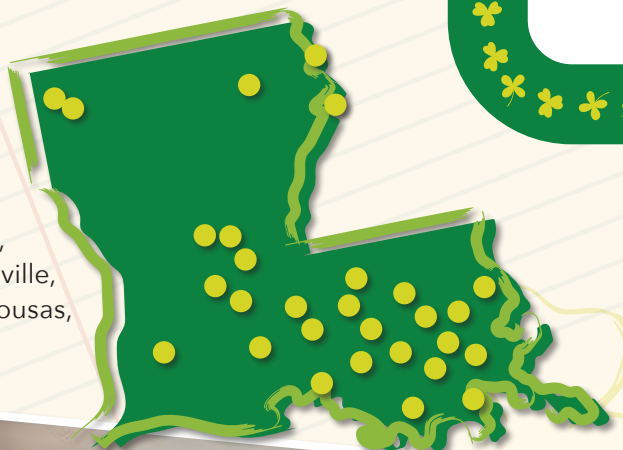
From their respective hometowns to South Bend, Indiana this number represents nearly 600 graduates. Members of the Catholic Church represented by the sisters of St. Joseph and the brothers of the Sacred Heart offer additional examples of Masters and Doctorate Programs achieved at Notre Dame from Baton Rouge, such as Brothers of the Sacred Heart's Eldon Crifasi in 1961, Sister Alice Marie Macmurdo, Sisters of St. Joseph and Father Tom Ranzino. It is often referenced that Louisiana State University, per enrolled students, has more Catholics than the University of Notre Dame!

The Fighting Irish of Baton Rouge offer another example within this unique connection. Gerry DiNardo played for Notre Dame from 1972 to 1974. He was selected as the Head Coach at LSU from 1995 to 1999.

Coach Paul Mainieri was the head baseball coach at Notre Dame from 1995 through 2006, winning the Big East Conference for five straight seasons and the NCAA Tournament nine out of 12 times with one College World Series appearance in 2002. Coach Mainieri connected to Baton Rouge from 2010 through 2021 with three appearances in the College World Series, winning the BCS in 2009.

No football coach in the history of the University of Notre Dame has coached or achieved more wins than Brian Kelly. With a record of 92 wins and 39 losses, his tenure surpassed all of the "Domer" greats from Knute Rockne to Ara Parseghian and Lou Holtz. His team defeated LSU at the Music City Bowl in 2014. LSU played Notre Dame 12 times in football with seven wins to LSU's five. As the "Happy Birthday Song" is recognized as the most popular song in history, The Notre Dame Victory March has been recognized as one the most popular college fight tunes.

Commencement records from 1847 identify the first Baton Rougean to graduate from the University of Notre Dame as William Leonard Wolf in 1934. Plaquemine and Ponchatoula residents, Victor Jerome Kurzweg, Irwin Vincent Davis also matriculated that year. William Howard Bradshaw of Vinton graduated in 1929. In 1948, Roy Frank Cangelosi graduated as did Gerald Edmund Daigle from Houma and Donald Winfred Ohlmeyer of Franklin. In 1950 Roland Elloy Ramirez graduated Magna Cum Laude with Henry Aloysius Garon of Donaldsonville.



The sister college to the university, St. Mary's, was a conduit to Notre Dame, offering post graduate degrees for varied religious orders. Originally for men, the university started accepting undergraduate women in 1972. The Fighting Irish of Baton Rouge identify these graduates.

The Baton Rouge male graduates include:

1934 William Leonard Wolfe
1960 Burnette Gregory St. Romain
1961 Douglas Wallace Svendsen, Jr.
1962 Norbert Wayne Roy
1964 Fred William Heroman,
Leon Jastremski Raymond
1967 Daniel Richard Murray
Paul Stephen Staid
1971 Donald Sidney Arbour
1972 Myron Andrew Walker
Phillip David Pattillo
1973 Donald Thomas Heroman
1974 Richard Logan Nauman,
1979 James Stuart Robertson
1985 Gregory Bahlinger Arbour
1986 Donald Charles Antrobus
1987 Timothy Brady Freehill
Kenneth James Thevenet
1988 Robert Eugene Nobles
1993 John Thomas Balhoff II
Eugene Charles Sykes, Jr.
1994 Michael Everett Cash
2001 Manuel Bradley Sanz

2002 William F. Whittington
Timothy Shane Culey
Michael Christopher Vath
2003 Bryan Anthony Moscona
2004 Kevin Christopher Elliott
2005 Kevin Paul Kress
Tomas E. Estrada
Colin Baker Sonnier
Adam William Arceneaux
2008 Michael Lee Rolfson
Michael John Valluzzo
2009 Tomas E. Estrada
2010 Donald Edmund Joseph Cowan
Vincent Victor Tumminello III
2011 Kevin John Vega
Davis Stribling Rhorer, Jr.
2014 Shay Joseph Kleinpeter
Peter Samir Jerjes Twa
Robert William Gates
2017 Thomas Joseph Karam, Jr.
Michael Xavier Hutchinson
2020 Benjamin Joseph Bernhard
2021 Louis Claverie Poche

1974 Anne Frances Arbour
1975 Greer GERALYN Gordon
Janet Nell Cangelosi
1980 Daphne Gale Perkins
1981 Myrtle Olevia Perkins
1982 Marchita Bradford Mauck
1984 Helen Marie Antrobus
Paula Elaine Ruffin
1985 Catherine Elizabeth Landry
1993 Staci Suzanne Alford
Limin Yan
1994 Michelle Marie Baker
1995 Colleen Margaret Baker
Karen Marie Baimbridge
1998 Patricia Louise Bergeron
2002 Colleen Murphy
2004 Tai Ashlyn Romero
2005 Wendy Elizabeth Ogden
2006 Margaret Odilia Morgan
Alexandra Danielle Pennington
2008 Elizabeth Louise Adams
Jennifer Leigh Stenhouse

2009 Kristin Nicole Harper
Samantha Frances Mainieri
Heidi Lynn Hausse
2010 Sarah Frances Pastorek
2014 Elena Marina Tuminello
Emily Rose Adams
2015 Laura Elizabeth Livingston
2016 Susan Leigh Fasano
2017 Erin Marie Carel, Prairieville
2018 Alice Kristine Alexander
2019 Kristine Kathleen Leo
Kathleen A. Peak
Kristin Angelle Sharman
Kelli Noelle Griffin
2020 Caroline Elizabeth Cox
Younkin Han
2021 Jessica Edugie Igiede
Ana Luisa Rodriguez
Destiny Emmanuelle Osagie
Constantine Elena Rodriguez
2022 Jessica Renee Staggs

Graduates from adjoining cities include:

1934 Victor Jerome Kurzweg, Plaquemine
1964 David Emile Souieau, Ville Platte
1934 Irwin Vincent Davis, Ponchatoula
1948 Roy Frank Cangelosi, Houma
Gerald Edmund Daigle, Houma
Donald Winfred Ohlmeyer, Franklin
1950 Roland Elloy Ramirez, Donaldsonville
Henry Aloysius Garon, Donaldsonville
1952 Walter Joseph Landry, Supreme
1954 Charles Helm Masters, Jr., Marksville
1955 Joseph Lawrence Heap, Abita Springs
1956 Jerome Randolph Ryan, Bunkie
1959 Douglas Marion, Gonzales
1960 Gary Richard Steckler, Ville Platte
Robert Phillip Zimmer, Norco
Burnette Gregory St. Romaine, Bunkie
1962 George Stephen Lensing, Lake Providence
1963 Charles Neuville Aprill, Franklinton



The relationship of the The Wearin' of the Green St. Patrick's Day Parade and Zee Zee Gardens Restaurant and Pub also represent some "Fighting Irish of Baton Rouge" connections. The parade originated at Zee Zee's embracing an Irish Pub and Pittsburgh, PA, relationship. Former Notre Dame Coach, Charlie Weis led the team from 2010 to 2014. His relationship with the late, Gus Piazza of Phil's Oyster Bar, brought him to Baton Rouge for recruiting opportunities and other events. During our ownership of Zee Zee's my brother Kevin would alert me about visiting "Domers" - players and coaches. My brother's friend, Joe Wessel, met his wife at Zee Zee's and once he was named Defensive Coordinator for the Irish under Lou Holtz, Kev came "out-of-the-tunnel" at Notre Dame Stadium with the Irish for the LSU-Florida State game in 1993. The Shingleton family was present, including our brother Mike who attended Notre Dame. Another occasion found the Notre Dame leprechaun visiting Zee Zee's. Kev indicated his desire to be in our parade. I invited him and on parade day he was with us at the start. I asked when he would change into his Fighting Irish attire as he indicated the University only permitted wearing the garb for University sanctioned events. He walked with us in street clothes.

We learned of this additional, yet tragic, Baton Rouge to Notre Dame connection from a resident previously identified in last year's parade magazine.

John James Kelly from Queens Village, New York, graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 1956. Upon completing an Air Force ROTC Summer Camp program in Big Spring, Texas, he witnessed the debris wreckage of a B-36 aircraft caught in a violent thunderstorm. Later, he and three buddies were returning to Chicago from Love Field in Dallas, Texas when John noticed that a flight was available to New

York City and decided he could visit his parents. He bid his friends goodbye and secured passage on the New York connection.

The original flight to Chicago departed. During the approach to O'Hare Airport, due to rough weather, the landing gear of the DC-9 clipped a gas station sign sending the aircraft to the ground. All passengers, including his Notre Dame classmates, lost their lives. All three Notre Dame rings were stolen from the fingers of his friends. John's parents informed him of the tragedy upon his arrival at LaGuardia airport. From that day, John's Notre Dame ring has never left his finger. He embraces that his life was spared and, within his Irish-Catholic culture, he was expected and empowered to do something for the betterment of others. This moment solidified his life commitments.



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FLAT JACK THE PUPPET

A towering, red-bearded leprechaun puppet wearing a shamrocked coat with green pants and hat was a fun addition to the Wearin' of the Green Parade in 2023. His giant hands waved and hi-fived people all along the parade route as he and his jester friend danced from side to side on the road greeting onlookers. The creation was made by David Gabel and Michelle Hummel, members of the Acadian Circus (formerly Bayou Cirque).

The leprechaun puppet (we nicknamed Flat Jack) is one of the giant puppets that David and Michelle have built and operated for various events. They started their journey with giant puppets when David met Clay Achee, a puppeteer known for his LPB TV series Ziggy and the Junkyard Band. Clay had previously helped the 10/31 Consortium Halloween Parade build puppets.

David and Michelle continue to build more giant puppets for different occasions. They made a 15-foot long by 15-foot wingspan blue Macaw puppet for the Krewe de Rio parade in Lafayette, which was lit up with LEDs. They also created two Flamingo puppets for Spanish town, which were a lot of fun to have in the parade.

David and Michelle are working on expanding their group with more giant puppets, such as a Day of the Dead Dancer, a giant twisting snake and a giant evil clown puppet. They have a vision of creating something that has only been done in Europe and bringing it to Baton Rouge.

They are grateful to Michelle's family and David's wife, Brandy Gabel, for their support and help with the puppets. We look forward to seeing them at our 2024 parade.





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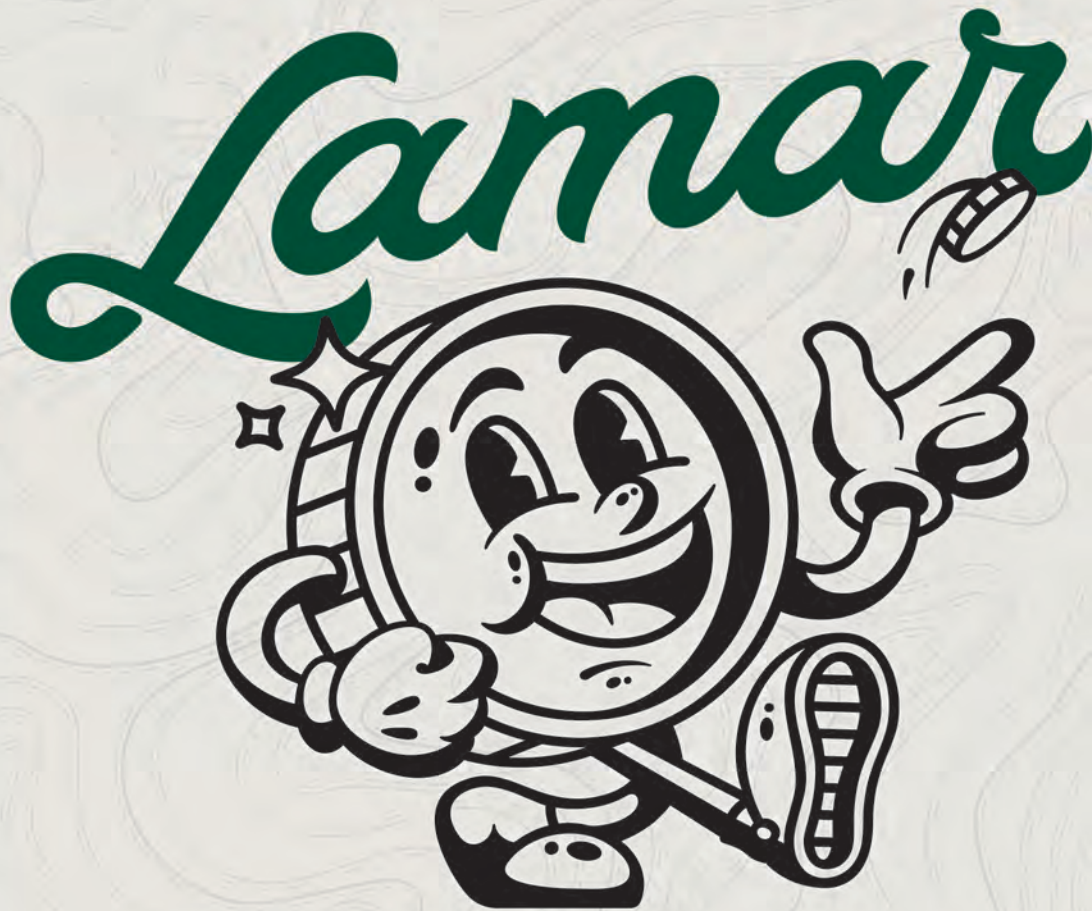
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In 1908, when Mr. Lamar and his business partner decided to dissolve their three-year partnership, a coin toss was used to divide their assets: the Pensacola Opera House and the Pensacola Advertising Company, the small poster company created to promote the Opera House. As luck would have it, Mr. Lamar got the poster company, which he renamed "Lamar Outdoor Advertising Company," while the Opera House was closed within the next ten years.

Since then, Mr. Lamar and his descendants built Lamar Advertising from a small sign company into the largest provider of out of home advertising in the nation.

LAMAR



Real Estate Transfers
 Sylvance Anthony, Jr. to Bruno Michele, Mary P. Michele, portion of lot 5. Zee eZe Gardens, said fractional lot fronting 70 feet on Perkins road by a depth of 100 feet. \$900.
FEBRUARY 7, 1931

JUNE 13, 1937



WHERE IT ALL STARTED

By Michael Shingleton

You're likely familiar with The Overpass Merchant. Most of you remember Zee Zee Gardens Bar and Restaurant. Some may recall the Overpass Old & New Shop or perhaps Cavalier's Seafood Market. You might not know the story of a guy from Italy who went by two different names and how his grocery store transformed over the past 93 years to become the anchor of the Perkins Overpass area.

Over the past century, about a dozen businesses have called 2904 Perkins Road home, and someone even called it home.

Long before Interstate 10, long before homes sprung up in Southdowns and even a couple of years before the Works Progress Administration - a federal program created during the Great Depression - hired about 900 men to complete the big dig of University Lake, Sylvance Anthony, Jr. sold a 70x100 foot plot of land to Bruno Michelli and his wife Mary for \$900 at the corner of Perkins Road and what was once called "Oak Avenue" (now Christian Street).

There appears to be some confusion within the historical archives of The Advocate newspaper as to exactly when the building was constructed; either 1931 or 1933. Nonetheless, it was built as a combined "residence and grocery store," as the late George Williams told an Advocate reporter in 1994.

In the early part of the 20th century, Perkins Road was on the outskirts of town. After all, the total population in East Baton Rouge Parish hovered around 31,000 in 1900. But with a booming oil industry and the economic transition slowly shifting away from agriculture, the Capital City was growing at a steady clip of about 7,000 people a year.

Many people still referred to Perkins Road as "Middle Highland Road" even though it had been named after John and Henry Perkins decades prior. The Perkins brothers bought the Richland Plantation in 1855.

Maybe the Michelli family had a sense of what was to come. At that time, Perkins Road was considered "prime" for leisure driving, but with the urban sprawl came more homes, more businesses, more people and especially more cars.

About 800 feet north of Michelli's home and their grocery store, the intersection of Perkins Road and the L&A railroad tracks became one of the more dangerous crossings.

The Louisiana Highway Commission planned to build a bridge over the railroad to prevent further danger and damage.

That was a novel idea and undertaking in the 1930s since it was only one of a handful built statewide. By January 1938, LHC crews completed the Overpass construction at a cost of \$102,000, and the bridge opened to traffic.



MORNING ADVOCATE

New Overpass Here Eliminates Danger at Crossing



Completed at a cost of approximately \$102,000, the new span over the L. & A. railroad on the Perkins road at Hundred Oaks is now being used by traffic. The overpass, one of nearly two score already erected or under construction over the state, was paid for by the federal government. The state provided the right-of-way and engineering personnel and assumed liabilities for property damage. At the old crossing several lives had been lost in automobile-train crashes.

Come get lucky at Zee Zee's!



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OVERPASS GROCERY AND MARKET OPENS

New Grocery and Market Opens Friday

Designed to give the housewives and shoppers of Baton Rouge the finest in grocery facilities the Overpass food market opens its doors at 3:30 a. m., Friday, June 14. In its new location to the discriminate purchaser. The food market is located at the south end of the Perkins Rd., overpass for the special convenience of the suburban housewife who wishes to avoid the traffic congestion of downtown Baton Rouge.

The 3,000 square feet of shopping space within the super market is designed to give the food shopper convenience in the selection of purchases with island type center displays throughout the store.

Among the fine features of shopping service offered by the Overpass food market is its meat department managed by Rennie Lioux. This department offers the shopper a complete selection of the finest meats and poultry products available.

The building which is air cooled throughout provides the latest ideas in fluorescent lighting. This combined with two sides of the building being glass enclosed gives maximum light within the building.

The store which is owned by Sam Scurria, Jr., has ample parking space for its shoppers and offers an unusual feature in a refreshment alcove designed to permit members of the family to enjoy soft drinks while the shopper of the family secures the daily food.

The grocery is associated with the International Red and White organization and will feature this line of foods.

Prior to its present location the Overpass grocery was located in a smaller building just across Perkins Rd., from its new building.

The owner has stated that he will maintain a rapid delivery service for the shopper who cannot make a trip to the store for the family's food needs.



Newest of the City's suburban food markets is the Overpass grocery located at the foot of the Perkins Road Overpass just outside of the city limits.

The new store is owned and operated by Sam Scurria, Jr., who has been associated with the grocery business for the past few years.

The Overpass grocery is housed in a modern concrete block building especially designed to incorporate the latest features in shopping service.

According to The Advocate historical archives, there isn't much information about Michelli's grocery store or his business dealings through the rest of the 1930s and early 1940s. But by June of 1946, Overpass Grocery was changing locations to a new, state-of-the-art facility catty corner to the existing store. Those 1940s high-tech improvements included air conditioning and

In December of 1947, Joseph L. Marino of M&M Liquor applied for a permit to begin selling alcoholic beverages inside the store on Perkins Road. Aside from that permit, Marino was locked in a back-and-forth legal battle with the City of Baton Rouge and the Louisiana Board of Alcoholic Control over liquor permits at another potential M&M Liquor location near Winbourne Baptist Church. That dragged on for months and ultimately ended up at the State Supreme Court.

At issue was the proximity of a potential M&M Liquor Store on Winbourne to a church and a school. Back then, state law prevented establishments from serving or selling beer within 300 feet or serving or selling liquor within 500 feet of a school, playground, church, etc.

As the liquor store permits remained in limbo - according to the archives - the plans for the Perkins store were on hold. Michelli's property became Campbell's Real Estate in August of 1951. It was even a sewing shop for a brief period.

By the end of 1952, the State Supreme Court sided with the City of Baton Rouge denying some - but not all - of Marino's claims - much to the dismay of the acting Parish Attorney Gordon Kean.

Marino might've lost the location on Winbourne, but he gained the location in the growing area of the Perkins Road Overpass and focused his attention there.

even fluorescent lighting. The new business owner described it as a "special convenience of the suburban housewife who wishes to avoid the traffic congestion of downtown Baton Rouge." (Eventually Overpass Grocery moved again onto Kalurah Street and changed names to Bet-R).

Across the street, Michelli was in need of a tenant, and by December of 1947, the wheels of change were spinning, albeit slowly. Nationwide prohibition had ended just 14 years earlier, and over that time, liquor stores were popping up across Baton Rouge.

In January 1941, M&M Liquor opened its first store at the corner of Government Street and 16th Street (right across from the present-day Electric Depot), and four years later two more locations opened on N. 21st Street and Lafayette Street.



BR Resident Plans Extended Trip to Italy

Sam Scimeca of 2904 Frankline St., will depart on the SS Italia for an extended visit to his native Italy. He will be the guest of his brother, Joseph Scimeca and family when he has not seen since of Cimino in Sicily at the age of 21.



SAM SCIMECA
Upon arrival in the United States he came directly to Louisiana where he made his home in Plaquemine for the past 47 years. He has retired from active work and only recently has moved to Baton Rouge. He is the father of seven children, who all live in the immediate vicinity.
While in his native Italy, he will have an audience with Pope Pius XII. This has been a life long ambition.
Mr. Scimeca is an active member of the St. Gerard Majora Catholic Church.
He will return to the United States via TWA Airlines on or about Sept. 1, after having spent a great deal of his time traveling throughout Italy visiting relatives and many of the old familiar spots of his early childhood.

WHO WAS S. SCIMECA?

SAM SCIMECA'S BIRTH NAME WAS BRUNO MICHELLI. HE WAS BORN IN ITALY IN 1887. ONCE MICHELLI TURNED 21 YEARS OLD, HE IMMIGRATED TO PLAQUEMINE, LOUISIANA AND LIVED THERE FOR DECADES BEFORE MOVING TO BATON ROUGE.

"S. SCIMECA" IS INSCRIBED ON THE FACADE OF THE OVERPASS MERCHANT BUILDING

IN 1931, BRUNO MICHELLI BOUGHT THE PROPERTY FOR \$900 AND BUILT THE BUILDING AS A HOME AND GROCERY STORE.

IN A 1971 PROBATE PROCEEDING POSTED IN THE ADVOCATE, "SAM SCIMECA" IS LISTED AS AN ADOPTED NAME FOR BRUNO MICHELLI.

Probate Proceedings
Succession of Bruno Michelli (or Mich-
ele) (also known as Sam Scimeca).
Succession of Marie S. Goux.
Succession of Morgan S. Varnado.
Succession of Fernando J. Freyre.
Emancipation of Terry J. Troxclair.
Succession of George Eames.
Succession of Eugene T. Bahlinger.
Succession of Criag S. Goings.

Business was booming for the Marino's, and in February of 1958, Joseph bought the building and the property from Bruno Michelli - aka Sam Scimeca - for \$20,000; a pretty remarkable profit considering Michelli paid \$900 for the property 27 years earlier.



Three years later, Marino sold off a portion of the property to the Louisiana Department of Highways for \$16,026 to make way for the construction of Interstate 10. As part of the deal, 2904 Perkins Road was spared from demolition.



Throughout the 1960s and 1970s, M&M Liquor became the target of thieves. Six months before I-10 opened to traffic, in May of 1964, two guys slammed a car into the front door in order to steal the cash register. Marino wasn't there at the time and luckily had already cleared the register of cash. They got away with about \$20 in change before dumping the register in Ward Creek near Claycut.

In January of 1970, someone pointed a 22-caliber revolver at Marino, demanded cash and got away with about \$225. That same day, someone held up the nearby Kean's Laundry location, stole \$176 and a store clerk's car.

Six months later, a guy walked in with a knife, stole \$44 from Marino, and took off running down Perkins. Marino grabbed a pistol and darted after him. Luckily, Marino's friends at Bolton's Pharmacy pointed him in the right direction down Hollydale Avenue. Before Baton Rouge Police arrived, Marino squeezed off a round at the robber, didn't hit him but startled him enough to ultimately surrender to officers.



Daily advertisements of M&M Liquor in the newspaper dried up in the mid 1970s and were replaced with a company called Beneficial Insurance Agency. It was around that time, an employee and tenant of Marino's - John E. Patin - was arrested for selling booze to minors. Patin was also facing a slew of lawsuits and eviction notices primarily centered around unpaid bills, according to The Advocate archives.

By August of 1973, the business was up for sheriff's sale which effectively ended the 20-year reign of M&M Package Liquor on Perkins Road.

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The identity of Marino's property took a sharp left turn away from booze and toward - of all ventures - furniture stripping.

Bon Furniture Stripping set up shop in August of 1974. Eight months later Bon's was also selling antiques. (Another advertisement printed in the Advocate suggests Cavalier's Seafood Market briefly took over the building in September of 1975, but those ads ran for a couple of weeks before the address changed to 2919 Perkins - across the street.) By May of 1976, Shades of the Past had moved in and opened as another antique store selling, "usual pieces, armoires, bookcases, trunks, beds, chests, tables, chairs, China and glassware."

If that sounds like the making of a flea market, it was. The property was listed as such in advertisements throughout 1977. The next year the business was called The Community Exchange, and in 1980: The Overpass Bargain Shop - or - The Old & New Shop.

After sitting vacant for years, the property changed hands one last time in October of 1982 when Kevin Reilly - Executive Chairman of Lamar Advertising - bought it and teamed up with George Williams for a new concept. "The whole Perkins Road area was kind of decrepit," Reilly explained. "But there happened to be a Lamar billboard on the property."

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George Williams owned a successful restaurant across Perkins Road called George's.

"And for some reason, he wanted to go white tablecloth in a new restaurant called Zee Zee Gardens, Reilly said." Williams opened the restaurant in August of 1983, but the concept didn't exactly take off. The décor, the ambiance, and even the creole-themed menu was a bit too highbrow for the overpass area.

It wasn't long until a food critic from The Advocate confirmed Reilly's concerns by describing the menu as limited and overpriced. Betty Eppes wrote a two-paragraph review of a "disappointing" shrimp salad and delivered the proverbial nail in the coffin with this: "if being seen at one of Baton Rouge's newest restaurants that is enjoying the swell of popularity common to newly opened places is enough for you, perhaps you'll enjoy Zee Zee Gardens. But if you're looking for a comfortable restaurant that serves food at prices commensurate with quality and does it efficiently, you may be disappointed. While George wants such a place, Zee Zee Gardens simply isn't there yet."

"The food was bad. The service was so-so, and we didn't last very long," Reilly joked.

By July of 1984, George Williams had moved on to other ventures. Reilly explained, "along came [Pat Shingleton], and he had a great idea. He said he wanted an Irish pub, a good neighborhood bar with good food."

Pat and Kevin - the Shingleton Brothers - brought a fresh concept to an area considered to be rather run down, according to Reilly. The overall feel wasn't quite as stuffy. The food was actually good. A couple of menu

ZEE ZEE GARDENS — Area 5, 2904 Perkins Rd.
346-1291. Open 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. and 5-10 p.m.
Mon.-Sat. Closed Sun. Broiled and creole
specialty seafood. DRESS- Casual, but no
jeans or tee-shirts; PRICES - \$6.75-\$11.75;
CREDIT CARDS - MC, VISA.

ZEE ZEE GARDENS
2904 Perkins (under the overpass) 346-1291

Zee Zee Gardens known for food and frivolity

By BETTY EPPES
Restaurant critic

We go to a particular place because our memory of its ambience matches our mood of the moment. If we're feeling happy, we go to a festive place. But if we're feeling wacky, we seek craziness. And that brings Zee Zee Gardens to mind.

Situated at the foot of the Perkins Road overpass, Zee Zee Gardens is a bar where lunch and dinner are also served. Kevin and Pat, the Shingleton brothers, are the source of Zee Zee Gardens' fun-loving atmosphere. Like-minded customers provide plenty of encouragement to keep the wackiness wacky.

Zee Zee Gardens serves lunch and dinner and are limited to a few dozen dishes that are hearty and don't require long, drawn out preparation. And that's good news for diners. The kitchen is small and would not be able to turn out several dozen complex dishes. At noon, check out the daily special. The price, around five bucks, is cheap, and the food is good and ready to be served. The red beans and rice (\$4.95) offered every Monday, is a dish that is done well and is very filling.

Shrimp salad (\$7.95) costs a bit more, but it's a super salad. A large scoop of house-made shrimp salad is served atop a bowlful of crisp, colorful vegetable salad (mushrooms, tomato wedges, shredded lettuce and slices of cucumber, radishes and carrots). If you have the willpower to resist the hot bread and butter that accompanies this salad, you have a satisfying, low-fat, low-calorie lunch.

ZEE ZEE GARDENS

Location: 2904 Perkins Road

Phone: 346-1291

Hours: Open 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Mon.-Fri.; 4:30-10 p.m.

Mon.-Thurs.; 4:30-11 p.m. Fri. and Sat.

Dress: Casual

Credit Cards: MC, VISA, AE

When eating light just won't satisfy, the ZZ burger will (\$1.75). Served open-face on a sesame seed bun and coated to order, this burger is fat, juicy and has a wonderful flavor.

The dinner menu at Zee Zee Gardens says that shrimp fettuccine (\$11.25) is the restaurant's most popular dish. So I tried it. And, to my delight, it was very, very good. The dish of egg and spinach noodles in cream sauce had 11 large, perfectly prepared shrimp. This dish is a winner!

Ask any regular and you'll be told that the restaurant's soup, salad and sandwich bar is the best lunch bargain in the city. And, at \$4.95, that isn't far off the mark. The lettuce and other salad fixings are replenished every few minutes, the soup is puree of vegetable (such as zucchini), and the sandwich makings are set out on a huge platter (cold meats of high quality, lettuce, tomato, onion and pickles, plus mayonnaise and two kinds of mustard). Get your food

one course at a time or all at once. Great food. Great idea.

Finger food is a main focus at Zee Zee Gardens, and it does a nice job with its munchies.

Lolly's sampler is a good choice when friends meet after work at Zee Zee Gardens. This plate has two stuffed mushrooms, a fried chicken finger with a mild dipping sauce, two potato skins (skins of white potatoes covered over with cheddar cheese and sprinkled with crispy chunks of real bacon), sliced hot sausage and monkey bread (a miniature open-faced loaf and pork sandwich with cheese). At \$1.50, this just might be today's best bargain.

The fried catfish fingers (\$4.50) were a big disappointment. There was more batter than fish.

Seasoning was bland, and the fish had a muddy taste. I like the desserts at Zee Zee Gardens. The peanut butter pie (\$3) is rich and creamy with a peanutty taste. The brownie (a bit small, \$1.50) is chewy and chocolaty. And the pecan pie (\$3) is dark and made even richer than this pie usually is by the addition of chocolate.

Zee Zee Gardens is neither a gourmet restaurant nor a neighborhood bar. It is something in between. Just what it is depends a great deal on whether both Shingleton brothers are present. When both are there, things get loud, often rowdy and kinda crazy. Jollity, frivolity are the hallmarks of this small restaurant. Frivolity are the hallmarks of this small restaurant. The regular crowd is a preppy bunch grown into boisterous supplehood. I have never seen tight-lipped, close-minded conservatives in this little Perkins road bar and restaurant.

staples kept the crowd coming back: Maby's Bread, the Shing-Thing, Maria's Bread Pudding.

Betty Eppes even came back with a positive review - not only of the food - but of the overall atmosphere.

"Zee Zee Gardens is neither a gourmet restaurant nor a neighborhood bar. It is something in between. Just what it is depends a great deal - on whether both Shingleton brothers are present. When both are there, things get loud, often rowdy and kinda crazy. Jollity, frivolity are the hallmarks of this small restaurant."

In 1985, Pat told Reilly his plans of rolling a St. Patrick's Day parade down Perkins Road and ending it with a festive party celebrating the Irish at Zee Zee's. It was somewhat of a three-pronged approach: breathe new life into the overpass area, fulfill the wishes of Mayor Pat Screen in kickstarting an Irish parade, and driving business to Zee Zee's.

The first Wearin' of the Green St. Patrick's Day Parade started at the City Park Golf Course, rolled south on Perkins Road, crossed the Overpass and ended at Zee Zee's, just as Pat had planned it.





“The parade was definitely instrumental in helping to revitalize that whole neighborhood”, Reilly recalled. “You had a couple of good operators. Kevin and Pat at Zee Zee’s, Smokie Bourgeois at George’s, and ultimately [Ivar’s] sports bar. And then DiGiulio’s came along, and it sort of rolled from there.”



Zee Zee’s thrived for nearly two decades until the Shingletons got out of the bar business.

Wilson Cox bought the company from Pat and Kevin in 1998 and somewhat changed the overall approach, Reilly explained.

“He didn’t want to serve food and seemed to want to cater to smokers. Smokers loved it, but from my point of view it was kind of a hell hole.”

Cox rented from Reilly throughout the 2000s and into the 2010s as he was battling Parkinson’s Disease. He died in March of 2021.

After Zee Zee’s closed, Reilly described the building as a wreck. The cigarette smoke had turned the ceiling yellow. The kitchen was a disaster, and to make the venue viable again, it was time for a major renovation.

“The building was so old that it qualified for historical tax credits, and along came Lon Marchand and Nick Hufft with a great idea,” Reilly said. He fronted the

money to renovate the building using tax incentives available through the Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation.

“We had to be true to the front of the building, the exterior of the building and the color of the building.”

Marchand and Hufft gave plenty of guidance on the look and functionality of the interior but also wanted to preserve the historic feel inside The Overpass Merchant. And their first day of business? March 12, 2016 – a soft opening on Parade Day.

“I’m proud of the building. I like to go there now. The food is great, and obviously there is no smoking,” Reilly said.

Sam Scimeca's (aka Bruno Michelli's) grocery store turns 93 years old later this year, and the building has never faced its demise quite like it does right now. With the I-10 widening project progressing, there is still a bit of uncertainty whether Reilly's building will survive.

"We're going to have to work with the state. They haven't said they're going to take the building yet." Reilly joked, "If they were to take the building, I'd have to send Pat a check because of how much the parade has done for 2904 Perkins Road."

The word "yet" is concerning. Hopefully the higher ups at DOTD understand you cannot put a price tag on an important parcel of Baton Rouge history.



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PARADE ROUTE MAP

1. Starts at the intersection of **South Acadian Thruway and Hundred Oaks Avenue**. Best to stand after the Catholic Life Center driveway since the bands are staged there.
2. Makes a right turn on **Eugene**.
3. Left turn on **Terrace Avenue**.
4. Left turn on **Perkins Road** and continues over the **Perkins Road Overpass**.
5. Ends at intersection of **Stanford Avenue and Perkins Road**.



UPCOMING PARADES

2024

Saturday, March 16th
39th Annual Parade

2025

Saturday, March 15th
40th Annual Parade

2026

Saturday, March 14th
41st Annual Parade

2027

Saturday, March 13th
42nd Annual Parade

2028

Saturday, March 18th
43rd Annual Parade

2029

Saturday, March 17th
44th Annual Parade

2030

Saturday, March 16th
45th Annual Parade

An advertisement for McLavy Ltd. featuring a man in a green shirt and a graphic of a t-shirt. On the left, a man with white hair and a smile is wearing a bright green short-sleeved button-down shirt with white shamrock patterns on the shoulders and down the front. The background is a dark green wall with a decorative border of green shamrocks. To the right, the text "We have your **GREEN!**" is written in white, with "GREEN!" in a large, bold, sans-serif font and a yellow underline. Below this, the text "Get your McLavy Ltd. Wearin' of the Green Tshirts while we have your size!" is written in white. To the right of the text is a graphic of a dark green t-shirt with a colorful St. Patrick's Day design that includes the text "McLAVY LTD.", "ST. PATRICK'S DAY", "BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA", and the number "225". Below the t-shirt graphic is the McLavy Ltd. logo, which consists of the company name in a serif font and a stylized script logo below it, with the tagline "Men's Clothiers" underneath. At the bottom right, the text "Bocage Village Shopping Center" is written in orange, followed by "7665 Jefferson Hwy • (225) 927-8820" in white. At the bottom left, a green box contains the text "Shirt pictured available sizes Medium-3x" in white.

PARADE HISTORY



They'll be wearin' green
St. Paddy's Day will be observed in style Saturday at the St. Patrick's Day Parade. The parade will begin at the City Park Golf Course, 11 a.m., and proceed down Perkins Road to the overpass bridge, ending in the 2900 block of Perkins Road.
Parade chairman Patrick Shingleton says the parade will go on rain or shine, so if the skies turn cloudy, don't let that keep you away.
Judge Joseph Keogh, a long-time organizer of the St. Patrick's Day event, will be the parade's grand marshal. Also, there will be four bands, musical groups and 37 organizations participating in the parade.
At the parade's end, businesses along Perkins Road will be serving traditional Irish favorites — beef stew, corned beef and cabbage. Also, Nelrose English will lead the singing of traditional Irish ballads.

March 15

1986

The original St. Patrick's Day parade, founded by the Irish Club of Baton Rouge, traveled down Main Street downtown. A lack of interest caused the event to disband and in 1986 Pat Shingleton started the Wearin' of the Green. Originally, the primarily "walking parade" was announced in the State Times and Morning Advocate.

Rochelle McCann was an active participant in the McCann Krewe. She worked with Mayor President Pat Screen when the parade began.



March 16

2002

Grand Marshal Ivar Quigley, a native of Ireland, led the parade as Grand Marshal. Locals are familiar with the sports bar Ivar's which his son, Patrick Quigley, named after him. (The bar has since sold and has other owners.)



March 12

2005

By our twentieth anniversary we were going strong. Our Grand Marshal was Junior Finnegan from Killarney, Ireland. The Irish folk truly added to the event. Junior was quite the character and known to "break out in song" at any moment.



March 14

2020

The first Emerald Party with Snoop Dogg, compliments of Todd Graves, took place the weekend before Parade Day. However, the parade was cancelled Thursday, just days before it was supposed to roll because of the pandemic.

GRAND MARSHALS

From Ireland 🇮🇪
Given Posthumously 🍀

- 2024 Seimone Augustus
- 2023 Tim Mockler
- 2022 Todd Graves
- 2021 Todd Graves (Didn't roll)
- 2020 Todd Graves (Didn't roll)
- 2019 Father Mike Maroney 🇮🇪
- 2018 Patrick Mockler
- 2017 Deputy Sheriff Brad Garafola 🍀
Officer Matthew Gerald 🍀
Corporal Montrell Jackson 🍀
- 2016 Rick Nevils
- 2015 Robert G. Hammett
- 2014 Colonel Mike Edmonson
- 2013 Hillar Moore Sr. 🍀
- 2012 Timothy O'Brien 🇮🇪
- 2011 Grandma Shirley Shingleton
Grandma Gene Hammett
- 2010 Michael Leahy 🇮🇪
- 2009 Dick Bourke 🇮🇪
- 2008 Matt Flynn
- 2007 Mike Rosney 🇮🇪
- 2006 Harry Morel
- 2005 Junior Finnegan 🇮🇪
- 2004 Denis Coffey 🇮🇪
- 2003 Gary Mockler
- 2002 Ivar Quigley 🇮🇪
- 2001 Mark Kelly 🇮🇪
- 2000 Mayor Tom Ed McHugh
- 1999 Oldest Irish Club Members
- 1998 Richard Condon
- 1997 Judge Joe Keogh
- 1996 Bishop Stanley Ott 🍀
- 1995 Pat Screen 🍀
- 1994 Bishop Alfred Hughes
- 1993 Firefighters
- 1992 Sister Hennessy
- 1991 Veterans
- 1990 Hab Shingleton
- 1989 Vietnam Veterans
- 1988 Don Yesso
- 1987 TJ Moran
- 1986 Judge Joseph Keogh

March 14
1987 The Pipes and Drums of New Orleans was our first bagpipin band to march and play in the parade.



March 12
1994

This was the final year of the annual street party which was held at the foot of the overpass on Perkins Road. Thousands congregated in the area to hear live bands and enjoy liquid libations. Complaints to area councilmen stopped the event from happening again.



March 15
2019 First year of the Shamrock Run 5K. Over 500 runners participated on the historic parade route. Brittany Weiss Shingleton worked with Jenni Peters and her team at Varsity Sports and Al Moreau and his team at Moreau Physical Therapy to structure and organize the 5K.



KREWE & PARTY BITES

Who doesn't love a good charcuterie board? They seem to always contain the perfect snack. Sweet. Salty. Crunchy. Smooth. If you are planning to be riding on a float or partying to catch beads this year, consider choosing handheld charcuterie cups for your Krewe!

We asked Robyn Parker, owner of Bites and Boards, to share how she would imagine fun St Pats cups and hers do not disappoint. Choose your meats - Ham, turkey, salami... then select different cheeses like a cheddar and pepper jack or a goat cheese. What about string cheese? Next, add fruit like grapes, strawberries or even dried fruits like apricots to the cup with a fun skewer. Robyn added cute shamrock spears to set off her meats and olives. Finish the cup with some small crackers, mini breadsticks or cubes of different breads. A mini-meal to go!

Make these a day ahead and refrigerate or curate and order well in advance of parade month!

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KREWE OF REDHORSE

Shayne Green started the Krewe of Redhorse in 2004. This redhead got his nickname since he ate like a horse! Shayne rented his first float and then decided he could build his own. Along with friends, he ended up building two identical floats (the other called Greenheads) which both were in the parade for several years with over 70 riders on each. This year will be Redhorse's 18th year to roll but 20th year to be a part of the parade. Shayne and wife Becky have invited some of the original riders back in town to celebrate. The quilt he is holding was a gift created from the colorful t-shirts made for the Redhorse krewe over the years.

PARADE FAQ's

What time does the Wearin' of the Green St. Pat's Parade start?

It starts sharply at 10 a.m. CST. Watch the full parade anywhere after the Catholic Life Center driveway. Our bands stage in the CLC parking lot. It rolls down Hundred Oaks/across South Acadian Thruway.



How long do you expect the parade to last?

You can expect 2-3 hours from the start of wherever you are standing to watch it. So, if you start seeing it at 11:00, expect it to be finished by 2 p.m. The pace of the parade changes every year due to weather and humans.

Is there restroom access available along our route?

Yes, portable toilets aka port-a-potties are available for free. Their general locations will be posted on this website.

Will anyone televise the parade?

WBRZ TV has carried it live for the last several years and live-streamed it on their platforms. This information will be provided as we get closer to the parade.

We are having a party. Will my friends be able to get to my house?

Yes, but they will need to get there early. The Shamrock Run takes place on Perkins Road starting from 8-9 a.m. Perkins generally closes around 7:30 a.m. There will be a small window of time after the runners leave the route. Police ask that residents create an invitation with their name and address on it so it can be shown to officers in case the streets are closed off. It should have your street address on it.

What time do the streets close? This depends on which streets you are referring to. This decision is made by the local authorities in the days leading up to the parade and race. Please visit our Facebook page (/irishparade) and watch local news reports in the days preceding the parade.

Is there parking available?

Parking is a rarity in the area. Do not park on private property or commercial property unless you have written permission.



What should we wear? WEAR GREEN! We love seeing all the costumes and playful green outfits. You'll fit in with a shade of Irish green. Dress comfortably by checking the weather forecast the night before. In Louisiana, we can experience any and all types of weather on parade day. The parade rolls rain or shine.



How are the Krewes named? Each Krewe chooses its name the first time they join the parade. They may change their float graphics and theme annually, but they will always have the same name.

Why is it important for Krewes to have the same name?

Each float is ranked according to our Shamrock Ratings after the parade rolls. Parade Marshals and cameras staged along the route give us an indication of how they performed in accordance with our safety policies. Naturally, we also consider their float decorations. Krewes are invited back in accordance with tenure and the highest Shamrock Ratings.

How can I identify a float?

Each float will have a float number posted on the back, each side and windshield. Use that number if you want to report or compliment a Krewe. If you report them by name, please send a photo.



How many Grand Marshals have come from Ireland?

There have been nine. Mark Kelly/2001; Ivar Quigley/2002; Denis Coffey/2004; Junior Finnegan/2005; Mike Rosney/2007; Dick Bourke/2009; Michael Leahy/2010; Timothy O'Brien/2012; Father Mike Maroney/2019.

What makes the Wearin' of the Green parade different from other St. Patrick's Day Parades?

It is organized by a family for families and friends. Southern crowds love to be loved by the Krewes and the way this is done is by tossing trinkets (cups/bead necklaces/stuffed animals) from the float riders to the parade watchers.

THE TIGER BAND FANS KREWE

Since 2010, the Tiger Band Fans float has been entertaining parade crowds. The group started as old Tiger Band members wanting to get together to play LSU songs.

They felt they were too old to march so they rented a flatbed truck to sit in rather than marching in the parade. They played Tiger Band music from memory because they say "you never forget the part you played." Eventually they decided they couldn't play as well as they once could, so they converted to a regular float and played recorded LSU music.

The Tiger Band Fans enlisted much of the Daly family (formally O'Daly in a previous generation), and the families of two other Tiger Band members- Charlie Marquette and Neil Giroir. All of them were drummers in the LSU band. It has become a family reunion complete with a jambalaya party after the parade. "We love this parade and its family friendly ideals," shared Dr. Nelson Daly.

Look for them in the 2024 parade!





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FINAL 2023 THOUGHTS & PICS

Thank you for joining us for the 38th parade. See you March 16, 2024 for the 39th Wearin' of the Green Parade in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.



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