

ISSUE NO. 6 | MARCH 2026

OFFICIAL PARADE PUBLICATION

# WEARIN' <sup>OF THE</sup> GREEN



hundred Oaks Av

2026

Happy St. Patrick's Day

KREWE OF

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# FROM THE PARADE ROUTE AND ANOTHER ROUTE...

As we age, we remember. Events, experiences, anniversaries, locations — and especially friends and family. The 41st year of The Wearin' of the Green gives me the perfect moment to reflect on previous parades: the days before, the days after, and the lessons learned as we prepare for the next.

When parade day began at Zee-Zee Gardens — with a traditional breakfast, a 'muster,' the official gather-and-get-organized moments at City Park Golf Course, and a 'walking return' to the pub — the memories come rushing back. Frank McLavy was there, along with his business partner, Ed Easterly. Our former Grand Marshals — Eddie Narozniak, Pat O'Reilly, Larry Clanton, and Bob Kirkley, known as the oldest Irish Club members — helped shape the spirit of those early years. Judge Joe Keogh would drape himself in an original Irish flag for the parade and then raise it proudly in the plaza downtown.

Leading up to the parade, Pat Quigley managed the pre-parade gatherings at Ivar's, and my brother Kevin did the same at Zee-Zee Gardens. Kevin would serve the drinks and keep the spirits high. Those were the days of Danny McConnell, Brandon Showers, Shannon Blaine Duggan, Jimmy Taylor, Pat Flannigan, Paul West, John Mahaffey, and of course "Old Reg" Goldsby. When Reg served as Mayor of Amite, his Oyster Festival always landed on the same weekend as ours.

Beginning our parade across from the Catholic Life Center with Bishop Stanley Ott set the stage for other bishops to "lead the parade." I also remember Sister Margaret Hennessy, Sister Linda Constantine, Brother Aquin Gauthier, and the community of nuns who lived on Hundred Oaks at the head of the parade route.

Those who are no longer with us were very much with me in those early years. I remember Bob Bogon, who every parade morning joined me at Acadian and Hundred Oaks for



McLavy



Perrotin



Young



Narozniak



Flannigan



Bogon



our traditional morning toast; our former Grand Marshals from the "Old Country," Denis Coffey and Ivar Quigley; and the Grand Marshals from Ellwood City, Pennsylvania — Hab and Shirley Shingleton — accompanied by Gene Hammett and her son.

Two mayors offered unwavering support: Pat Screen and Kip Holden. My friends from the television days — Jay Young, Paul Gates, and Chuck "Chuckles" Perrodin — walked with me on and off the route. Bob Headlee passed away just two days before one parade but requested a piper at his graveside immediately afterward. Major Jeff Christman rode with me to the site and then returned to Zee-Zee's to continue the day.

Other Grand Marshals, such as Rick Nevils and Sgt. Major Hillar Moore, brought their own special presence to those Saturday mornings. Gary Mockler placed the Clydesdales on the route and hosted a memorable evening at the Slattery Room at Mockler Beverage that continues to this day — as does the memory of our mutual friend, T.J. Moran. I remember the Pittsburgh St. Patrick's Day parades and the influence of Bea Mooney Gallagher. I remember the '47 Mack firetruck rolling down the route with Chaney Joseph providing security and support. And of course, those gallons of Brandy Milk Punch crafted by Raymond McKee.

There were the embraces along the route with Faie Headlee and her family. Maby and I enjoyed the day as Lucy Fowler helped with our kids. Kim Manship, who had a special talent for finding patches of four-leaf clovers. And our friend and reliable helper, Ben Melanson.

After the parade, at the bar, you'd find Boots Garland, Ross Stephens, Larry Allen, Tom Keibach, Don Weiman, Rita Mockler, Ruffin Rodrigue, Kyle Rodriguez, Snow Foster, Rena Quigley, Mike and Kit Sause, Reynolds Bromley, Reid Bateman, Bobby Gaston, Cary Saurage, and Lawrence Marino. And I think often of the "boys" whose eyes have since closed too soon: Adam Barksdale, Bo Miller, Max Preis, and John Spain Jr.

As the old Irish toast goes:

*"My friends are the best friends — Loyal, willing, and able. Now let's get to drinking... All glasses off the table!"*

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

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# DIGNITARIES

## MAYOR EMILE "SID" EDWARDS

We were honored to welcome our new Mayor-President, Sid Edwards, who rode atop a fire engine alongside his wife and son. Additional family members and friends followed on a custom float, celebrating this special moment together.



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We were very happy to have our Metropolitan Council join us in 2025. (Left to right)

- District 5 - Darryl Hurst**
- District 4 - Aaron Moak**
- District 3 - Rowdy Gaudet**
- District 10 - Carolyn Coleman**
- District 9 - Dwight Hudson**
- District 6 - Cleve Dunn, Jr.**
- District 1 - Mayor-Pro Tempore Brandon Noel**
- District 12 - Jennifer Racca**

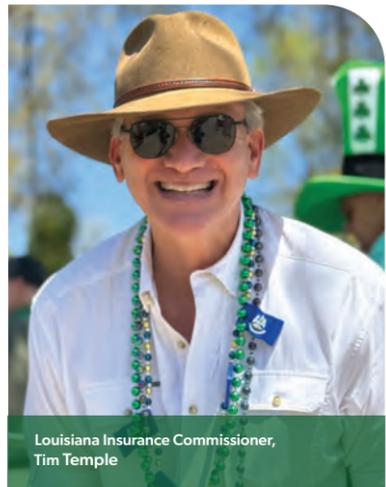
\*A few of our council members could not attend but were represented by staff members. They were District 2 - Anthony Kenney, Jr.; District 7 - Twahna P. Harris; and District 8 - Denise Amoroso.



Senator Beth Mizell and grandchildren, John & Linda Spain, Pat Shingleton, John & April Kirwan



LEFT TO RIGHT: DA Hillar Moore, Sheriff Sid J. Gautreaux, III, Mayor-President Emile "Sid" Edwards, Chief of Police Thomas S. "TJ" Morse, Jr.



Louisiana Insurance Commissioner, Tim Temple



Representative Dixon McMakin and wife, Bess Casserleigh



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THE WEARIN' OF THE GREEN  
**ASSISTANT BISHOP  
MICHAEL ALELLO**

THE ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE  
THE WEARIN' OF THE GREEN  
**BISHOP  
MICHAEL DUCA**

Mother Nature moved us one day in 2025— but the spirit never changed. Huge thanks to the Diocese for arranging **Father Michael Alello** (St. Aloysius) to lead in place of **Bishop Duca**, who had prior commitments that Sunday morning, and for keeping our clergy tradition strong. Bishop Michael Duca has led and blessed the parade since 2019.

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# HALFWAY DAY AT THE STATION

## CARDBOARD CANTORE & BAGPIPES



**Krewe captains gathered for thanks, umbrellas, surprise music — and a photo-ready Grand Marshal.**

On Sept. 12, Krewe captains and friends filled The Station on Bennington for Halfway Day, a heartfelt thank-you from the Wearin' of the Green parade organizers, The Parade Group. We were delighted Emily Graham and the Graham boys could join us. Each captain received a green-and-white branded golf umbrella as a token of appreciation, and organizers announced Jim Cantore — the Weather Channel's famed storm chaser — as the 2026 Grand Marshal. Cantore couldn't attend in person, so life-size cardboard cutouts and festive balloons from Bleaux Up Balloons provided plenty of photo ops, while surprise bagpipers Thomas Malone and Byrne Kennedy marched through both rooms, lifting spirits and adding pageantry. Between laughs, food and parade planning, everyone left energized and eager to see the real Cantore on Parade Day.

\* Spence Maxcy, Pat Shingleton, Patrick Quigley, Michael Shingleton, Spencer Shingleton, (Missing Sean Quigley)



# WHEN CANTORE COMES TO TOWN

## Weather star Jim Cantore swaps storm chases for parade cheers as Grand Marshal of the 41st Wearin' of the Green

**Lightning couldn't** possibly strike twice, right? Well, we certainly hope not. After severe weather postponed the 40th Wearin' of the Green Parade by about 24 hours, we decided to fight fire with fire. We're testing fate and facing Mother Nature head on with the selection of the 41st Grand Marshal: Jim Cantore.

Jim is notorious for heading right into the heart of the most intense and dangerous storms, and the unwritten adage goes something like this, "When Jim Cantore comes to town, it might be time to get out of town."

That won't be the case on March 14, 2026, when Jim will lead the 41st parade as Grand Marshal.

So why Jim Cantore? And how did we land him as the GM?

We typically have an idea of who to ask to serve as the grand marshal more than a year in advance. Given the unprecedented severe weather event on parade day in 2025, we made an audible.

A couple of days after the parade, we were all reminiscing about what went right, what went wrong and what to correct in the subsequent years. The weather was a big topic of discussion. As much as we'd like to, we cannot control it.

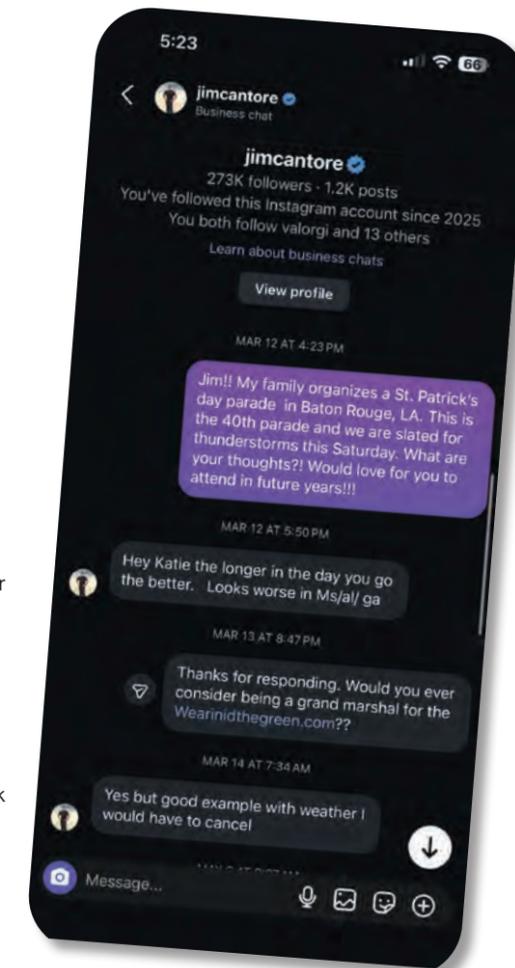
Katie brought up a tongue-in-cheek plan for the grand marshal and said, "it would be great if we could get Jim Cantore," and without hesitation she sent him a message on Instagram.

Before the end of the day Jim graciously responded, and we are delighted to have him in Baton Rouge for the 41st parade.

A little bit about Jim...

The Weather Channel went on the air in May 1982. Around that time Jim enrolled in Lyndon State College which is about an hour north of his hometown. Four years later in 1986 The Weather Channel hired him right out of college, and he's been there ever since.

Jim is best known for his field reporting during hurricanes, floods, and snowstorms. What might not be as well known: Jim's work with various charities including the Make-a-Wish Foundation, FRAXA (the Fragile X Research Foundation) and the Parkinson's United Way.



## PREVIOUS GRAND MARSHALS



2008 Matt Flynn



2011 Grandmas Shirley Shingleton & Gene Hammett



2014 Colonel Mike Edmonson



2016 Rick Nevils



2017 Wives & Mothers of Officers

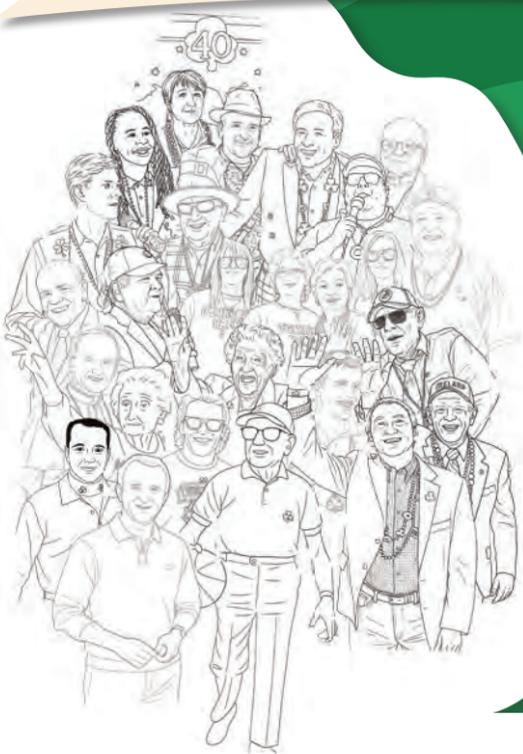


2018 Patrick Mockler



2019 Father Mike Maroney

# PREVIOUS GRAND MARSHALS



2022 Todd Graves



2023 Tim Mockler



2024 Seimone Augustus



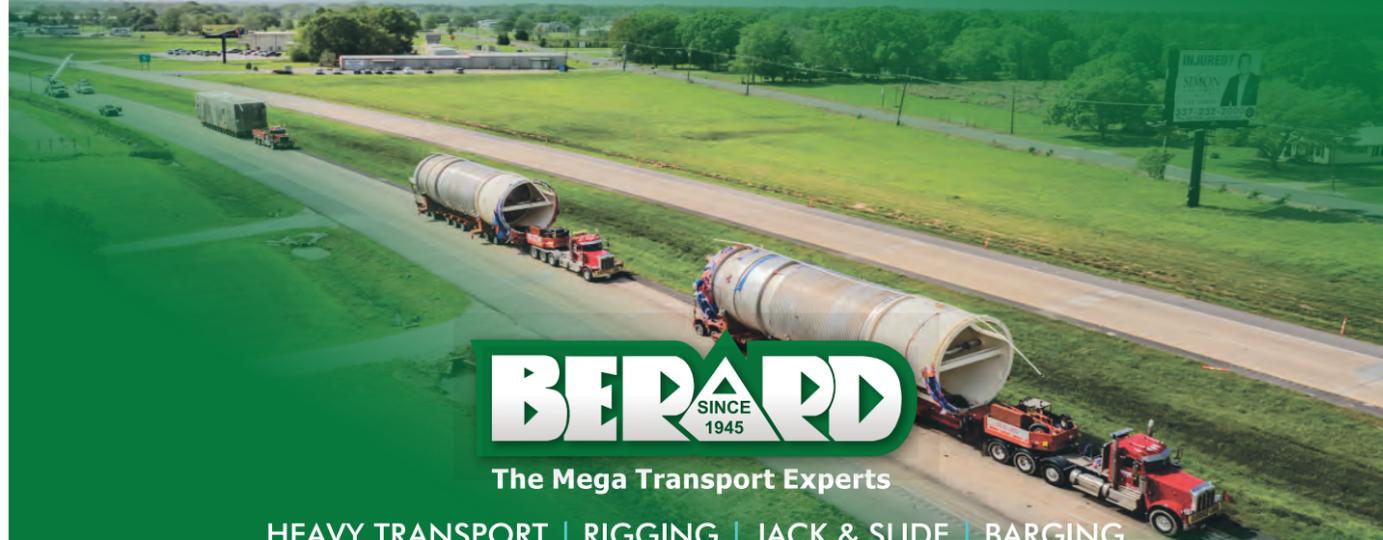
2025 Noreen Coffey

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**ST. PATRICK'S DAY**



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# AN EXTRA DAY OF IRISH LUCK

## 2025 GRAND MARSHAL NOREEN COFFEY

**“May the roof above us never fall in, and may the friends beneath it never fall out.”**

This year marked a milestone for Wearin’ of the Green as we welcomed Noreen Coffey as our 40th Grand Marshal, an honor made even more meaningful by the memory of her brother, Denis Coffey, who served as Grand Marshal in 2004.

Noreen and her sister Mary O’Rourke arrived from Killarney to a warm New Orleans welcome—greeted before they even reached the hotel by trusted friend and unofficial “consigliere,” Pat Quigley. Beignets came first, then a little French Quarter fun (including one tall drink they later questioned), and even a round of golf—because some traditions follow you anywhere.



Once in Baton Rouge, the sisters settled into the Marriott and quickly fell into the rhythm of Louisiana hospitality: more golf, great meals, and a memorable dinner at Stab’s as excitement built for the parade’s 40th anniversary.

Behind the scenes, though, serious conversations were underway. With tornadic weather forecast for Saturday afternoon, advisors—including state climatologist Jay Grymes—warned conditions could be dangerous. For the first time in our four-decade history, we had to ask: Was it safe to roll?



So we did what The Parade Group has always done—we adjusted. The parade moved to Sunday and rolled back an hour, giving everyone the safest chance to celebrate, and giving Noreen and Mary one more day of Southern food, fellowship, and fun.

That extra day became a gift—not just for them, but for everyone they met. Their warmth, humor, and unmistakable Irish spirit reminded us what the role of Grand Marshal truly means. When Sunday arrived, sunlight broke through, the route came alive in green, and the tradition held strong. Noreen and Mary rode proudly, waving and tossing to a crowd that waited with patience and pride.

Through it all, Noreen was Noreen—Irish, a character in the best sense of the word, and proof that the finest Grand Marshals don’t just wave.

They leave a mark.



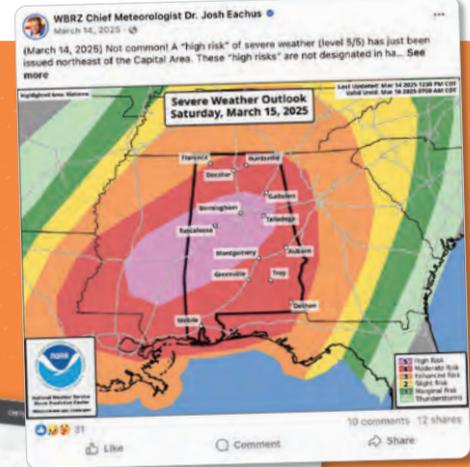
# WEATHERING THE STORM

**March 15, 2025**—Two inches of rain, wind gusts topping 35+ mph, a tornado watch across the greater Baton Rouge area, several tornadoes touching down north and east of the city, and trees toppled with limbs scattered across the parade route—this was an unprecedented year of severe weather.

In hindsight, postponing the parade from Saturday to Sunday was clearly the right call. But in the moment—48 hours out—it wasn’t an easy decision.

For more than 40 years, the Wearin’ of the Green Parade has rolled rain or shine. Fortunately, once the storm moved through, Sunday’s weather could not have been better: clear, bright, and comfortably cool, giving the city and the crowd the chance to show up with fresh energy and keep a four-decade tradition moving forward.

**“In the moment, 48 hours out, postponing didn’t feel easy — but when safety was the choice, the parade came back brighter.”**  
**Michael Shingleton**





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## HAPPY BIRTHDAY, LIZ WALKER!

A past president (several times over) of the Baton Rouge Irish Club, Liz has long been a steady, generous supporter of our community. Most days you'll find her — often alongside her daughter, Heidi

— at their Jefferson Highway art business, the Elizabethan Gallery.

On this momentous birthday, we salute a fearless, hard-working businesswoman and community champion. **Sláinte, Liz!**

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- ♣ Sorrento Lumber & Concrete
- ♣ Baton Rouge General Hospital
- ♣ Frog's Wholesale
- ♣ The Queen Casino
- ♣ Benny's Car Wash
- ♣ GSRC
- ♣ The Spine Center
- ♣ Big River Glass
- ♣ Lipsey's
- ♣ Turner Industries
- ♣ Bonaventure Dental Care
- ♣ Mockler Beverage
- ♣ WBRZ
- ♣ Broken Tractor
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- ♣ Williamson Eye Center
- ♣ District Attorney Hillar Moore
- ♣ Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers

♣ 2025 & 2026 krewes

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# FROM THE ARCHIVES 1988

This photo is from the 1988 Wearin' of the Green Parade—and it's one of the most unique looks in our collection. We recognize many faces in our archive, but this one remains unidentified.

Do you recognize the person, the costume, or the group represented? If so, please reach out and help us put a name and story with the image.



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## BATON ROUGE'S "ALMOST IRISH" PARADE TRADITION

**Kilts & Kisses** is a Baton Rouge social club known for kilts, questionable dance moves, and leading off the Wearin' of the Green St. Patrick's Day Parade every year. Founded by LSU engineering students, the club proudly calls itself "Almost Irish," welcoming anyone who loves tradition, friendship, and a good time.

One of Kilts & Kisses' most meaningful traditions is the annual medallion. A new design is created each year, giving members something special to wear and collect. Most medallions draw inspiration from Irish and Celtic symbolism, especially Celtic knotwork, which represents eternity, unity, and connection.

Over the years, several designs have stood out. The shamrock medallion features one of the oldest and most recognizable symbols of Irish heritage. The Celtic harp medallion honors Ireland's national symbol—the only country in the world represented by a musical instrument. The 2018 medallion was inspired by the walking paths of Dublin Castle, referencing *Dubh Linn*, the Viking settlement that gave Dublin its name.

Other designs include the Tree of Life, symbolizing balance and renewal; the triskelion, representing motion and life's natural cycles; and the Claddagh, a beloved symbol of friendship, love, and loyalty. More recent medallions blend traditional Celtic knotwork with modern designs, symbolizing new beginnings, unity, and continuity.

In addition to the member medallions, Kilts & Kisses also creates smaller doubloons each year that are handed out to the crowd along the parade route—spreading a little extra luck and a lot of smiles.

Medallions are awarded annually to dues-paying members and worn on green cloth lanyards during the parade—no medallion, no marching. In 2026, a special medallion will be presented to Mel Cormier in honor of her late husband, Terry "T-Pop" Cormier, a longtime member and board member whose dedication and spirit left a lasting impact on the club.

Together, the medallions and doubloons tell the story of Kilts & Kisses—rooted in tradition, open to all, and built on friendship, fun, and giving back to the Baton Rouge community.



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# WEARIN' OF THE GREEN

## BATON ROUGE STYLE 40th Anniversary Song Lyrics

Oh in the year of Eighty Six was when it all began,  
A trio full of divilment, they started out to plan  
A celebration of the green for St. Patrick's Day  
And Pat the Lid he surly did a great deed on that day!

Twas in the Zee Zee Gardens a vision it was seen  
that for one day the Baton Rouge would change its hue to green  
The plan the trio hatched it must have been sent down from heaven  
The Trinity of the Lid, Maby'n, Brother Kevin

*For the Wearin' of the Green, for the Wearin' of the Green* 🎵  
*We're forty years o'marching for the Wearin' of the Green!*

So for the first few early years the parade began to grow  
Spray painting shamrocks, closing streets and pipe bands to the fore  
And as the route got bigger, so did Pat and Maby'n's team,  
With Michael, Brittany, Spencer and their darling girl Katie,

Twud not be long before the throng would come across the pond  
To share in this festivity, they came from Killarney  
When Ivar, Rena, Paddy called, they had no problem flying  
With Denis Coffey singing Irish eyes are smiling

*For the Wearin' of the Green, for the Wearin' of the Green* 🎵  
*We're forty years o'marching for the Wearin' of the Green!*



The Irish did come in droves to see this mighty sight  
From Finnegan and Rosney, Timmo, Mikey Train Tracks  
They came from near, from far and wide to taste the local boozee  
Cause no one throws a party like them folks in Baton Rouge!

No organizing all these marches ain't no picnic  
Ther' challenges aplenty so you need that little kick  
And at the end of a tough day you'd look for some succour  
So off you zoom to the Cry-Room at the back or Ivars'

*For the Wearin' of the Green, for the Wearin' of the Green* 🎵  
*We're forty years o'marching for the Wearin' of the Green!*

Our story now it travels far, way back to the old sod  
When Katie married Spencer in Killarney's house of God  
Poor Paddy was the wedding planner, twas his time to shine  
He turned to the Coffey sisters to get him o'er the line!

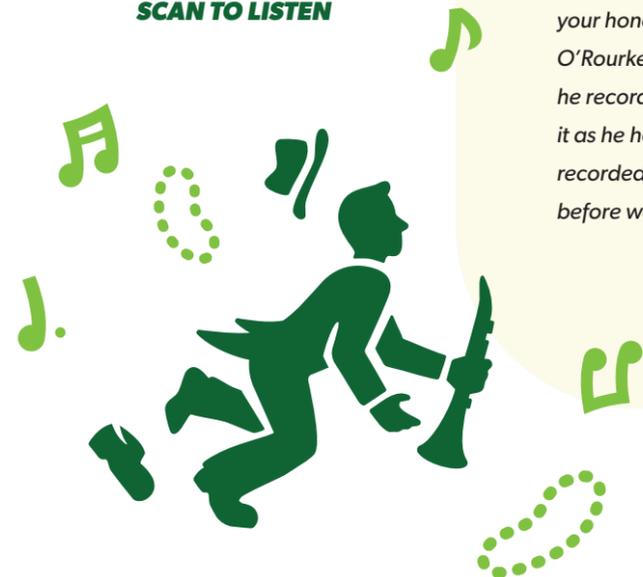
Twat at these fateful nuptials a bond was forged for all  
So this year Noreen takes the helm as this year's Grand Marshal!  
Though some have left us from this joury, Denis, Grandma Shirley  
We'll raise a toast and proudly boast the Wearin' of the Green!

*For the Wearin' of the Green, for the Wearin' of the Green* 🎵  
*We're forty years o'marching for the Wearin' of the Green!*

For the Wearin' of the Green, for the Wearin' of the Green  
We're forty years o'marching for the Wearin' of the Green!  
*We're forty years o'marching for the Wearin' of the Green!* 🎵



SCAN TO LISTEN



## We're forty years o'marching for the Wearin of the Green!

*In honour of your 40th anniversary of the Wearin' of the Green I asked a colleague of mine from school (he is a brilliant musician) to pen a song in your honour. Last night Noel O'Sullivan (my friend) had us – sister Mary O'Rourke, Train Tracks a very good friend of Mikie and I – in his house and he recorded it. He made the backing track last week. Junior couldn't make it as he had a tummy bug (maybe just as well as it would never have been recorded). I'm forwarding it now so you both can have plenty of practice before we arrive.*

**Noreen Coffey,**  
40th Grand Marshal



Scott and Jaime Courtright have lived in the Baton Rouge area for over 45 years and have deep roots in the community. It is this connection that made them want to create a business right here where they have grown up and raised their children. You can count on Louisiana Tree Service because they have highly trained and educated tree professionals with attention to safety and details. The LATSC team is fully insured and ready to tackle your next tree concern or project, from tree planting to tree removal, we can help.

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# SHAMROCK RUN 2025



**TOP FEMALE FINISHER**  
**CORTNEY HASER**

Of the 361 runners who crossed the Shamrock Run finish line in 2025, the crowd saw it all—green skirts, orange beards, bright hats, sparkles, shamrocks, and a whole lot of smiles. Participants sprinted under a vibrant purple arch before gathering for hot wings and cold beer to celebrate their efforts.

This year's run started a little later than usual due to the previous day's weather, giving runners a few extra minutes of sleep before their parade warm-up. And with just an hour separating the start of the run from the start of the parade, runners were welcomed by hundreds of parade-goers cheering them on. The energy was like no other!



**TOP MALE FINISHER**  
**WILLIAM FELL**

Proud Supporters of the *Wearin' of the Green* Parade



VALLUZZO COMPANIES



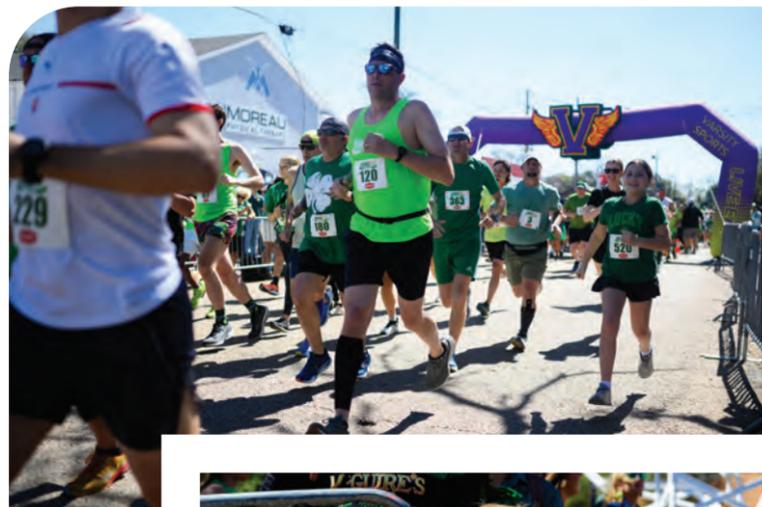

## TOP 10 MALE

- |               |                           |
|---------------|---------------------------|
| Josef Horacek | Mark Burton               |
| Shawn Hill    | William Fell              |
| Thomas Holden | Christopher Stephens      |
| Mason Dukes   | Ryan Williamson           |
| Robbie Tanner | Gregg Fell (Not pictured) |

## TOP 10 FEMALE

- |                  |                              |
|------------------|------------------------------|
| Courtney Haser   | Corrie Kiesel                |
| Meghan Bruening  | Corie Hebert                 |
| Elizabeth Heintz | Hannah Fitch                 |
| Krystal Frank    | Julie Neumann                |
| Kathryn Wroten   | Juliet Brophy (Not pictured) |





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Thanks to our generous donors and sponsors, the Shamrock Run was able to make a sizable donation to **Baton Rouge Green**. The non-profit helps to educate and inspire planting, and sustaining the community's trees.



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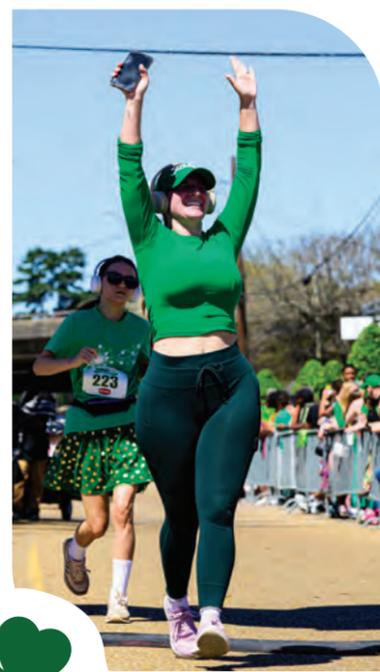
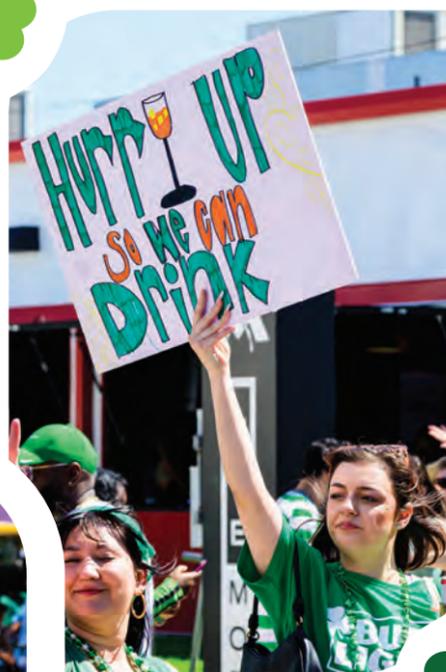
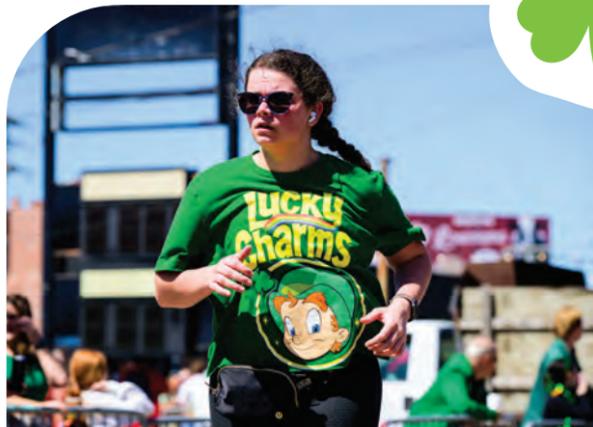
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# SLAANG!



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O'BRIEN

The Irish certainly have a unique command of the King's English. Maybe it's centuries of Gaelic influence that helped shape those unmistakable accents. This little publication highlights Irish slang—some words you may already know, like "blarney" and "plastered." You may be surprised how many of these sayings have already worked their way into how we talk.

The author wrote this description of the newest edition.

*"Can you tell your bowsies from your gougers from your gurriers? No? Well, it's time to stop acting the maggot and find out, courtesy of this invaluable reference book that's been donkey's years in the making, (only coddin'). It's absolutely jammers with nouns, verbs and sayings that didn't quite make the Oxford Dictionary, including a few manky ones that are guaranteed to leave some oul' wans and Holy Joes completely morto. On the other hand, slappers and sleeveens will be dying for a gawk. So, feck it, you just know this is one book any self-respecting cute hoor just can't do without ..."*

*\*Just in case you are a gobshite, blarney means nonsense talk to charm foreigners and plastered means very drunk.*

Feckin Book of Irish Slang by Colin Murphy

### BUCKETING DOWN

Raining cats and dogs. 'Sure it's bucketing down outside. Might as well have another six pints.'

### MURDER

Almost impossible. 'Getting a Dublin man to buy his round is murder!'

### DOSS

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TEAM MEMBER WINSTON HORTON WORKING WITH KIDS AT THE LINK SCHOOL



# SIGNS OF CARE

**How Baton Rouge Green—and community partners like the Shamrock Run—are restoring the city’s tree canopy.**

**Have you ever** noticed those white signs at the I-10 on-ramps around Baton Rouge? Those signs signify a commitment to care from Baton Rouge Green, a non-profit organization working to protect the community’s trees.

The organization is led by Sage Roberts Foley, who has served as the Executive Director of Baton Rouge Green since 2016 and says she works with some of the “best, most enthusiastic, passionate tree lovers.”

Back to those signs. Sponsors provide an annual gift to Baton Rouge Green, providing a commitment to caring for the trees in a particular area.

“We have contractors visit each tree once a quarter to tend to weeds and pests,” said Foley. “Making sure everything’s growing in the right direction.”

The intention of Baton Rouge Green is to raise awareness and educate people about the importance of trees. Trees do a lot more than provide shade on a hot, summer day. They produce oxygen and absorb carbon dioxide, prevent soil erosion, and provide a home for wildlife.



AMELIA GILMORE, OUTREACH COORDINATOR AND BRITANY SHINGLETON, SHAMROCK RUN COORDINATOR | BR GREEN DONATION



CHRISTOPHER COOPER WATERING TREES WITH A YOUNG RESIDENT OF AN EBR HOUSING AUTHORITY COMMUNITY

A group of concerned citizens got together after noticing the tree canopy was disappearing, and in 1987, Baton Rouge Green was formed. Ever since, BRG has been working to maintain thousands of trees in green spaces and along major roadways.

Foley says one of the best events each year is Louisiana Arbor Day, celebrated on the third Friday in January during Louisiana’s planting season.

“That whole month we are out in schools planting with kids,” said Foley.

Baton Rouge Green also holds a tree giveaway at the Burden Center that month.

“We’re out in the community all year long, but in January, we make a concentrated effort to plant lots of trees with lots of different schools in public places,” said Foley.

Foley says some students will meet Baton Rouge Green in schools and remember the message decades later.

“It’s still hard for people to understand who we are and what we do; trees give us oxygen, and they scrub air pollution. They’re learning that, so when we’re on site

with them, it’s a tactile experience for them to put their hands in the dirt or dig a hole with a shovel. That helps them make the full connection. It’s not a theory anymore, it’s this tree in my backyard, and now I understand it’s doing all this work for me and making my life better,” said Foley.

Baton Rouge Green is four years into a 10-year project to plant 1,000 trees on major roadways, including Bluebonnet Boulevard and Sherwood Forest Boulevard. It will include the planting of 500 trees at the I-10 and I-12 split. Other major thoroughfares on BRG’s list include Airline Highway, Burbank Drive, and College Drive.

For the past several years, the Shamrock Run has proudly raised funds to support Baton Rouge Green and will continue to do so in 2026.

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# PARADE HISTORY

## GRAND MARSHALLS

- 2026 Jim Cantore
- 2025 Noreen Coffey 🇮🇪
- 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 Grandmas Shirley Shingleton  
& 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 Margaret Hennessy
- 1991 Veterans
- 1990 Hab Shingleton
- 1989 Vietnam Veterans
- 1988 Don Yesso
- 1987 TJ Moran
- 1986 Judge Joseph Keogh

The night before the 1993 parade, we left Giamanco's Restaurant on Government Street to find snow flurries dancing across our windshield. Parade day proved just as wintry, with temperatures so cold everyone showed up in heavy coats.

Our first Halfway Day honored Hillar Moore Sr. at Ivar's. A retired Marine Corps sergeant major, he was looking forward to serving as the 2013 grand marshal with the USMC Band leading the parade. He passed away a month later, and his family rode in his honor.

One of our past Grand Marshals, Ivar Quigley, once noted, "If you are in Ireland and you can see the mountains, it's about to rain — but if you can't see the mountains, it's raining." For 39 years we proudly promoted that we were a RAIN OR SHINE parade. But 2025 changed that. This was the only year we ever moved the parade a full day due to a tornadic weather forecast. And because the rescheduled parade fell on a Sunday, we also adjusted the start time to 11 a.m. out of respect for our faith community.

## 2025



## 1993



**METRO/STATE**  
Late winter storm blasts into BR area

Advocate staff and staff report: A heavy winter storm brought a blizzard of snow to the Baton Rouge area on Sunday, March 15, 2013. The storm brought a heavy snowfall to the area, with some areas receiving up to 10 inches of snow. The snow was accompanied by strong winds, which caused some damage to trees and power lines. The storm also caused some flooding in low-lying areas. The snow was expected to last through the day, with temperatures in the single digits. The storm was a surprise, as it was not expected to bring so much snow to the area. The snow was a beautiful sight for many people, but it also caused some problems. The snow was difficult to drive through, and many schools and businesses were closed. The snow was also a problem for some people who were not prepared for it. The snow was a reminder that winter weather can be unpredictable. The snow was a beautiful sight, but it was also a reminder that we need to be prepared for winter weather. The snow was a beautiful sight, but it was also a reminder that we need to be prepared for winter weather.



## 2013

### 'Wearin' of the Green' rolls

St. Patrick's Day procession revs up the Irish pageantry  
By ROBERT STEWART  
Advocate staff writer  
On a warm, sunny St. Patrick's Day, the parade in the green shades of the Emerald City was a sight to behold. The parade was a celebration of Irish heritage and culture, with participants in traditional Irish attire. The parade was a sight to behold, with participants in traditional Irish attire. The parade was a celebration of Irish heritage and culture, with participants in traditional Irish attire. The parade was a sight to behold, with participants in traditional Irish attire. The parade was a celebration of Irish heritage and culture, with participants in traditional Irish attire.



Advocate staff photos by TRAVIS SPEAKMAN  
Don Kelly yells in hopes of getting some beads thrown his way while he carries his daughter on his shoulders on Eugene Street at Baton Rouge's 'Wearin' of the Green' St. Patrick's Day parade Saturday. Georges Sanders, of Armita, is behind the parade float on St. Patrick's Day.

Visit Baton Rouge surprised us with wonderful news: they had submitted our event to the Southeast Tourism Society, and we were selected as one of the Top 20 Events in the Southeast.



Few years were as iconic as the one led by Grand Marshal Todd Graves, who brought Snoop Dogg to the Emerald Ball and had Nelly riding in the parade.

## 2022



## 1998

In the parade's early years, barricades had to be rented from New Orleans and trucked to Baton Rouge, since the city did not yet own its own and safety was a top priority. Thanks to Jerry Daly for handling this so long.



## 2012

Over the years, our parade has rolled on St. Patrick's Day itself—1990, 2001, 2007, 2012, and 2018. The next time will be in 2029. Featured here is a newspaper article that appeared during the 2012 St. Patrick's Day parade, offering a snapshot of that memorable year.



# PARADE FAQs

START TIME  
11 AM

## PARADE ROUTE

- The parade begins just after the **Hundred Oaks Blvd / S. Acadian Thruway intersection**.
- To see the **bands**, be sure you are positioned past the **Catholic Life Center (CLC) driveway**.
- The route continues to **S. Eugene Street**, where it **turns right**.
- It then proceeds to **Terrace Avenue**, where it **turns left**.
- The parade travels down **Terrace Avenue to Perkins Road**.
- It continues along **Perkins Road, going over the overpass**.
- The parade ends at Perkins Road and Stanford Avenue.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Start times have changed. Plan to arrive very early. The Shamrock Run will tie up Perkins Road from Stanford to City Park beginning around 8:30 AM, which will impact traffic and access.

## PARKING

Parking availability within the parade footprint is extremely limited. Please do not park on private or commercial property without written permission. Road closures will be posted on our website several days prior to parade day. Some local high schools offer paid parking during the week leading up to the parade.

## VIEWING LOCATIONS

Families may prefer the Catholic Life Center lawn or nearby areas along BREC Park. College-age spectators typically gather farther down the route, past the Perkins Road overpass. Unless you have made prior arrangements, please plan accordingly.

## STREET CLOSURES

Street closure details will be finalized closer to parade day. Please visit our website for updates.

## RESTROOM ACCESS

Ace Enterprises places portable restrooms along the parade route. Visit "The Route" section of our website for restroom locations. You may wish to bring personal supplies.

## VENDORS

Vendors are not permitted on the parade route.

## WHAT SHOULD I WEAR?

**WEAR GREEN!** Dress comfortably and check the weather forecast the night before. Louisiana weather can be unpredictable, and we roll rain or shine.

## IS IT FAMILY-FRIENDLY?

Yes! This is a family-friendly event, suitable for all ages.

## ADMISSION

The event is **FREE** and open to the public.

## FLOAT IDENTIFICATION

Each float will display a float number on all four sides. Please reference this number when offering compliments or submitting a report. Reports should include the float's name and a supporting photo whenever possible.

## LENGTH OF PARADE

Plan for approximately 2-3 hours, depending on where you are standing along the route. For example, if the parade first reaches your location around 11:00 AM, you can generally expect it to wrap up near you by 1:00-2:00 PM. The pace can vary each year due to weather and other factors.

## WILL IT BE TELEVISED?

Our local ABC affiliate, WBRZ, typically airs the opening ceremony and the first couple of hours of the parade, with live-streaming available on their platforms. Once coverage times are confirmed for 2026, we will post broadcast and streaming details on our website and social media as soon as they are available. In past years, WBRZ has also aired replays the following day.

## PURCHASE OFFICIAL PARADE ITEMS!

Yes. Visit our website store to purchase limited-edition parade prints, flags, cups, and official tees: [shop.wearinofthegreen.com](http://shop.wearinofthegreen.com)

# A MOMENT IN TIME

**Every parade** brings its surprises, and one story from 2016 still stands out. After the parade that year, a mother reached out hoping to recover her daughter's treasured Rolex watch — a gift from her late nanny. The daughter had walked alongside a krewe float and never noticed when it slipped off her wrist. With thousands of people and beads blanketing the ground, finding it seemed impossible.

We shared a post about the missing watch on our Facebook page (/irishparade). To everyone's surprise, someone had picked it up during the parade, unable to locate its owner in the crowd. The next day, they saw the post, recognized the watch, and contacted us. We connected them with the family, and the watch was returned.

It was a simple act of honesty that meant the world to someone else — a reminder that parade day has a way of bringing out the best in our community.

Expect the unexpected. Leave your valuables at home. If something does go missing, reach out to us. You never know who might have seen it.



CONGRATULATIONS ON

41

YEARS!

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# REUBEN DIP

## INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup corned beef (chopped)
- 1 eight-ounce block of cream cheese
- 1 ¼ cups shredded Swiss cheese
- ½ cup Russian (or Thousand Island) dressing
- 1 cup sauerkraut (drained)
- Seasonings – Pepper to taste

✦ Something to dip with or spread.  
Bagel chips or party rye Pepperidge Farm.

If you love the flavors of a Reuben sandwich, this dip is for you. The hardest part is chopping the corned beef—everything else is basically dump, stir, and bake. Or make it in a crockpot so it stays warm for guests!



### Corned beef note

You'll need cooked corned beef first. You can buy it already cooked (Jason's Deli, etc.) or cook it yourself—either way, make sure it's nice and tender (homemade usually takes a few hours).



### Oven method

Preheat oven to **350°F**. In a bowl, stir together cream cheese, Swiss cheese, dressing, and sauerkraut until as smooth as you can get it. Fold in the chopped corned beef. Transfer to a baking dish and bake 18–20 minutes, until hot and bubbly.



### Crockpot method

Stir everything together right in the crockpot, then cook 3–4 hours (stir about every 30 minutes) until hot and melty.

# WBRZ 2<sup>abc</sup> THE KREWE OF 2

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# FEATURED ARTIST: TERRI DAKMAK

## 2026 PARADE POSTER ARTIST

**This year's** Wearin' of the Green poster bursts with that energy you feel curbside on parade day: music in the air, beads flying, and a sea of green under a canopy of lucky clovers. Baton Rouge artist Terri Dakmak created the official 2026 parade poster, a lively, detail-rich scene that captures the heart of our celebration.

Dakmak's artwork invites you to linger. From the playful crowd moments to the unmistakable Baton Rouge flavor woven throughout, the poster feels like a snapshot of our community at its happiest—joyful, welcoming, and proudly local. The design even tips its hat to hometown traditions, including a bold nod to LSU spirit and familiar parade-day sights, all wrapped in an imaginative storybook style.

Working primarily in watercolor, Terri is known for bringing warmth and movement to her compositions—layering bright color, expressive linework, and whimsical details that make every viewing feel like a new discovery. Her poster doesn't just announce a date and Grand Marshal Jim Cantore; it celebrates a feeling: neighbors cheering, bands playing, and the unmistakable excitement of the Wearin' of the Green.



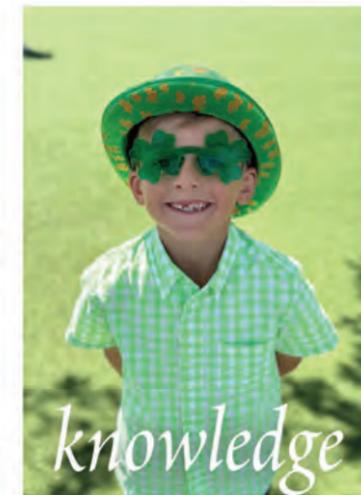
We're honored to feature Terri Dakmak's work as the face of Wearin' of the Green 2026, and we can't wait to see the poster in homes, offices, and parade spaces across Baton Rouge as we count down to March 14, 2026.



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# PARADE MAP



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