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BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

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Four to receive Boston Irish Honors this month

BY BILL FORRY
BIR EDITOR

A couple who have spent decades helping Boston kids stay safe and achieve their dreams; a Catholic priest who ministers to the city's most vulnerable; and a pioneering physician with roots in Dublin will be the honorees at this month's Boston Irish Honors luncheon, the season's premier celebration of Irish-American achievement in Massachusetts.

The ninth annual luncheon, which serves as an anniversary celebration for the *Boston Irish Reporter*, will be held at the

Seaport Boston Hotel on Thurs, Oct. 18. Some 400 top Boston business, civic, and political leaders will be on hand for the event, which begins at 11:30 a.m.

Bob Scannell and Mary (Kinsella) Scannell have spent their adult lives in service to the families and children of Boston's largest neighborhood. They are the heart and soul of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Dorchester, where they serve as president and vice-president, respectively. While raising a beautiful family of their own, the Scannells have essentially become surrogate parents to thou-



From left, Rev. Richard "Doc" Conway, Bob and Mary Scannell, and Dr. Trevor McGill

sands of kids and teens in the city. Together, they have created a safe haven for city kids to learn, play, stay healthy, and prepare for higher education and

careers—all while having the time of their lives. The Scannells exemplify the best qualities of our Irish-American ideals: selflessness, humility, and

a resolve to stay the course through adversity.

Rev. Richard "Doc" Conway will be honored for his remarkable ministry in Boston's neighbor-

hoods, including his ongoing efforts in Dorchester's St. Peter's parish. An indefatigable advocate for immigrants, the poor and marginalized youths in high-risk neighborhoods of the city, Conway "walks the walk." He is regularly called upon by law enforcement to help connect with neighbors in his community, where he is a known and trusted confidante and spiritual advisor.

Trevor McGill, MD, is a remarkable immigrant success story, a living connection to our collective legacy as people with roots
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She's in a place where her 'voice is just as versatile as the fiddle'

BY SEAN SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

Gloucester native Emerald Rae has been singing for about as long as she has been fiddling, which is since childhood. But it's only just now, she feels, that she has found her voice.

A mainstay of the Greater Boston area's Celtic folk music scene for nearly two decades, Rae recently released her third album, "Emerald Rae," consisting of 10 original songs and accompanied entirely by her own fiddle, along with foot and hand percussion (plus a cameo appearance on electric bass by Garrett Sawyer on one track).

She will formally mark the album's release with a concert on Oct. 11 at Club Passim in Harvard Square.

Although Rae's songwriting goes back pretty far, she didn't share it widely until five years ago,

when she made her second album, "If Only I Could Fly," which also included traditional material and her own instrumental compositions; in addition, she expanded her instrumentation to guitar and crwth (an ancient Welsh fiddle).

But "Emerald Rae" is a different album for a different time in Rae's life. These past five years have seen her uproot and move to New York City for a brief period, then return home; launch the website TradLife, a portal for folk/traditional music teachers and prospective students to connect; and, not so incidentally, turn 30—that familiar milestone for reflection and stock-taking.

Rae certainly has had a lot to look back on: a music career that started in her teens and included a US Scottish Fiddle Championship at 18; studies at the
(Continued on page 10)



While her traditional music background is strong, Emerald Rae feels she's hit her stride as a songwriter: "It's a personal journey to get to songwriting, because saying or singing words is a very open, vulnerable act." Anna Colliton photo

Hurling tourney on tap again at Fenway; Clare, Limerick, Cork, Wexford to compete

BY MADELEINE
D'ANGELO

REPORTER CORRESPONDENT

On Sun., Nov. 18, Fenway Park will once again feature the Irish sport of hurling when four top teams from the Emerald Isle will engage in a day-

long tournament featuring Clare, the reigning champion and current holder of the Players Champions Cup; Limerick, the 2018 All-Ireland Champion; Cork; and Wexford.

This will be the third go-around for Irish hurlers on

Red Sox turf in this decade after a 61-year hiatus ended in 2015 with the introduction of the AIG Fenway Hurling Classic.

Hurling advocates generally consider the sport to be the world's oldest field game and the "fastest game on grass" and

the initial match in the Fens three years ago was a success as some 30,000 were in attendance for an impressive match that saw the team from Galway hold off a Dublin squad.

In the aftermath, another tournament was
(Continued on page 3)

Northern Secretary says 'no hard border' in Boston visit

BY BILL FORRY
EDITOR

The United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union will not result in a "hard border" between the Republic and Northern Ireland, either on land or sea. That was a key part of the message from Karen Bradley, the Northern Ireland Secretary of State during her two-day visit to Boston in late September. Bradley, a member of Parliament was appointed to the Secretary position last January by British Prime Minister Theresa May's Conservative government.

Bradley was ostensibly in town to promote business and tourism in the North on a swing through Boston, New York and Washington, D.C. But the trip doubled as a "reassurance" campaign that sought to underline May's pledge that the UK will not cave to European Union pressure to eliminate any "back door" trade into the North once Brexit goes into full effect.

"We are absolutely committed to no new physical infrastructure at the border and no related checks and controls," Bradley, 48, said during a sit-down interview with the Reporter at the British consul's residence on Beacon Hill on Sept. 26. "People in Northern Ireland will still enjoy the benefits of the common travel area."

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Boston Police Commissioner William Gross and Cardinal Sean O'Malley met up at last month's commemorative service at St. Augustine's Cemetery and Chapel in South Boston. See Page 7.

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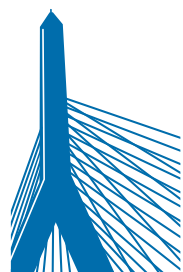
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Three honored with Tip O'Neill Awards

Some 220 guests attended the gala Tip O'Neill Irish Diaspora Award ceremony on Sept. 14 in the Inishowen Gateway Hotel to celebrate this year's recipients: the Boston based Homes of Donegal fundraising committee, former Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley, and the professional golfer and sports commentator Paul McGinley.

This award, which was first established in 2012 to mark the centenary of the birth of the great American politician Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill, whose maternal grandparents hailed from Inishowen in Donegal, is presented annually by the Donegal County Council to members of the Irish diaspora who have made a remarkable contribution in their chosen field and for their interest in, and support, for Ireland and its diaspora.

In an emotional address, Oran McGonagle and Declan Houton accepted the award on behalf of the 20 members of the Homes of Donegal Fundraising Committee and dedicated the award

to every Irish immigrant throughout the world.

The committee raised \$120,000 in Boston to help the people in Inishowen affected by the devastating floods of August 2017.

They spoke of their pride in being the first Inishowen people to receive this award and of what Tip O'Neill meant to the people of Boston and, indeed, to the Irish community in Boston.

"We are fortunate in that we were able to come back and accept this award" said the Boston-based McGonagle, "but we are only two of twenty and the other committee members deserve our gratitude. We have a great community in Boston, we stick together and look out for each other, and that's what it is like being Irish and living in Boston."

Dunfanaghy native Mick McGinley accepted the award on behalf of his son Paul and thanked the Council, the organizing committee, and the O'Neill family for bestowing this award on Paul, saying "I am very proud of Paul and of all he has



Seated at the Tip O'Neill Irish Diaspora Award ceremonies last month were the recipients: Martin O'Malley; Mick McGinley and Julia McGinley, accepting on behalf of Paul McGinley; and Oran McGonagle and Declan Houton, accepting for Homes of Donegal Fundraising Committee. Thomas P. O'Neill III stands at center back with Donegal County officials.

achieved and I would like to thank you for honoring him in this way."

Martin O'Malley also spoke of his pride in receiving this award and recounted his own memories of the great Tip O'Neill and of the values and principles he brought to bear in his position as one of the most powerful people in the US. He concluded

his address by telling the people of Donegal that "it is true what they say about you – 'Your hearts are like your mountains in the homes of Donegal.'"

Tom O'Neill, on behalf of the O'Neill family congratulated each of the award recipients and spoke of their achievements and outstanding contributions to each of their respective

communities. O'Neill said he believes they epitomize all that is great about our diaspora saying that it is not just about leaving and coming back, it is about giving back and each of these recipients 'give back' every day.

By way of conclusion Councillor Nicholas Crossan formally launched the new booklet produced by

Leonard Roarty outlining three of Tip O'Neills many achievements saying, "this work illustrates Tip's love and service to America and its people and in particular the Irish Diaspora and his unrelenting efforts and success in bringing peace to Ireland." Each guest received a copy of the booklet.

Hurling tourney on tap again at Fenway next month

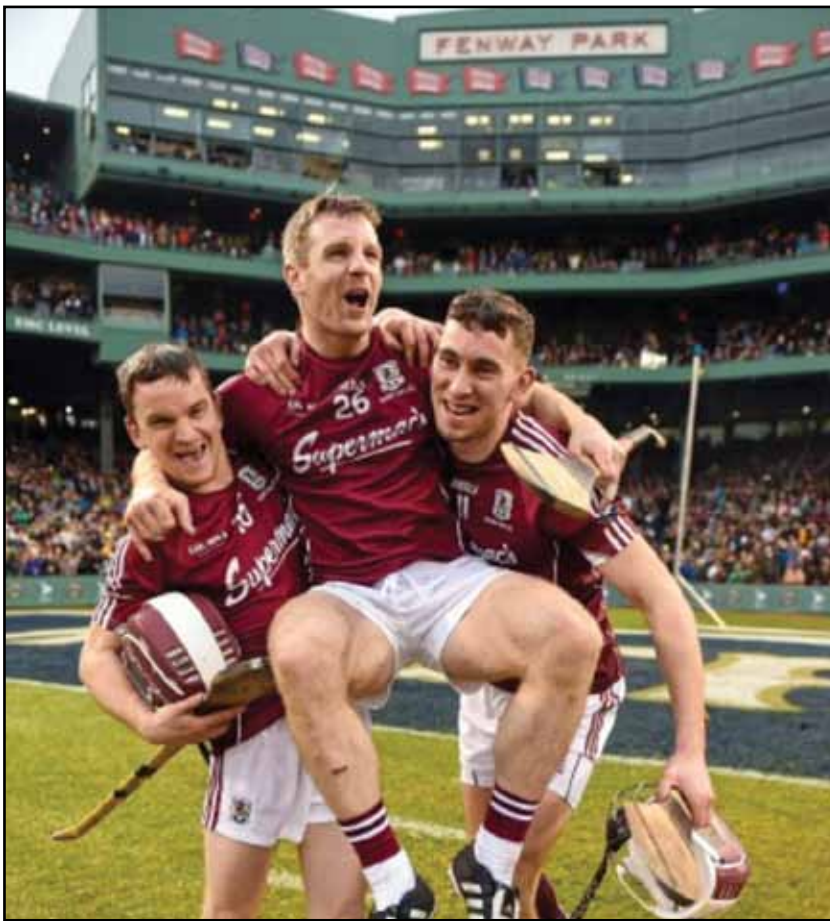
(Continued from page 1)

hotly anticipated. In 2017, the city of Boston held a gala to welcome the members of the Gaelic Players association (GPA) back to the city for that year's AIG Fenway Hurling Classic, which featured two matches between four of Ireland's top teams.

The organizers of this year's event organizers— the GPA, the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA), and Fenway Sports Management (FSM) – say they expect another memorable day with a three-game tournament planned.

"Hurling has been one of the most popular offseason events that Fenway Park has hosted in recent years and the tournament format introduced last year added to the excitement," FSM Managing Director Mark Lev said last week.

City officials are eager to see the quick-paced game with its passionate followers return to the city. "I'm thrilled that hurling is coming back to Fenway Park and I am excited to welcome the teams, their fans, the Gaelic Players Association and the Gaelic Athletic Association to Boston," said Mayor Martin Walsh. "Hurling is the one of the greatest



Smiling faces and rugged play dominated the scene at Fenway Park on Nov. 22, 2015 as Galway beat Dublin in an exhibition hurling match. A double-header is planned for Nov. 18.

games in the world and whether it's American football in Dublin, college hockey in Belfast, or hurling right here in Fenway, it's uniquely Irish and uniquely Boston."

This year's tournament, with Aer Lingus as its official airline, will

begin at 12:30 p.m. on Nov. 18 and also feature an Irish festival including Irish food, music, and dancing. Tickets went on sale on Sept. 20. See redsox.com/hurling for more information.

How Holocaust memories trigger nightmares on the continent of Europe today – a discussion at Stonehill College

The Holocaust survivor Tomi Reichental and the award-winning Irish director Gerry Gregg will discuss their new documentary, "Condemned to Remember," as part of the annual James J. Kenneally Lecture at Stonehill College in Easton on Thurs., Oct. 11, at the Martin Institute at 7 p.m. "Condemned to Remember" has been called an engrossing cinematic journey across a Europe in

the throes of political, economic, and social turmoil in which Reichental, 83, discovers that the forces of xenophobia and extreme nationalism, which destroyed the world of his childhood, are on the rise again in Europe today.

In his worst nightmares the Dublin-based Reichental never dreamt he'd see the uniform of the Slovak fascist paramilitaries who delivered his family into the arms of the Nazis on

parade again today in his native Slovakia. All told, 35 members of his extended family never returned from captivity.

Now an Irish citizen, Reichental has spent the last decade visiting schools and colleges throughout Ireland telling his story and sharing his cautionary message of history repeating itself. At the Stonehill event Reichental and Gregg will address the question: How



Tomi Reichental Holocaust survivor

have the hard lessons of the past faded so fast?

The event is open to the public. For information, email mmcgovern@stonehill.edu or visit stonehill.edu/condemned.

BC's Burns Library event launches 'The Cambridge History of Ireland'

BY DAN SHEEHAN
BIR STAFF

Amidst a collection of texts and artifacts from past Irish generations, historians and fans of history gathered at Boston College's Burns Library on September 20 to celebrate the launch of "The Cambridge History of Ireland," the first volumes on the subject of Irish history by the renowned university.

Thomas Bartlett, the general editor of the collection, spoke to just how necessary it was to provide the world with a new abridged history of the island of Ireland.

"I agreed to act as general editor in this series because I had become concerned that the explosion of publications in Irish history over the past 40 years had rendered the subject, in many respects, all but inaccessible," he said. "A new synthesis drawing on the most recent scholarship was badly needed, one that would pull together the most significant writings on Irish history and provide stimulus to further research."

He added, "There have been multivolume histories of Ireland before, in the 17th century, 18th century, 19th century, and in the 20th century. This is a history for the 21st century."

Liz O'Donnell, a Progressive Democrat now retired as an Irish politician, asserted in her keynote speech that history, in addition to keeping a record of events, is about informing a "national psyche. I think every nation needs to have a narrative, and a story that we embrace about ourselves," she said.

O'Donnell, who played a significant role in the Good Friday Agreement process, spoke about the delicate process of forming a historical record from a variety of different political and social lenses. "The truth is," she said, "is that there may never be a shared version of what actually happened...so it's important that historians show us the fullest accounts of the past."

The event concluded with a panel discussion in which O'Donnell and editors of the series discussed, among other topics, the historical implications of Brexit in Ireland. The prospect of a reinstated hard border, which they thought improbable, would have disastrous economic and social implications and would amount to "a breach of the Good Friday Agreement," said O'Donnell.

"The Cambridge History of Ireland" is available for purchase online at the Cambridge University Press website, as well as at barnesandnoble.com and amazon.com.



Liz O'Donnell delivers the keynote speech.

Dan Sheehan photo

Editor's Notebook

McAleese focuses on Vatican accountability

By Ed Forry

Former President of Ireland Mary McAleese will be the honored guest at a first-ever Boston breakfast in January hosted by the Irish American Partnership. “Nollaig na mBan (Women’s Christmas) is held each year in January throughout Ireland to celebrate women’s leadership within the family and community,” the IAP’s Mary Sugrue said announcing the event. “Join us as we commemorate this tradition with a breakfast highlighting Irish-American women leaders and the positive impact they have worldwide.”

This inaugural Boston breakfast is set for Jan. 10 at 8 a.m. at the Boston Harbor Hotel. The “Women’s Christmas” breakfast has long been a staple of the Partnership’s outreach in Washington DC, where it has been held for years in the first days of each new year.



The eighth president of Ireland, McAleese served for 14 years, from 1997 to 2011. The 67-year-old attorney is a native of Ardoyne, Northern Ireland, where she was the first born of nine children (Mary Patricia Leneghan) and a graduate of Queen’s University, Belfast.

Born and raised Roman Catholic, McAleese has carved out a high-profile role across the island of Ireland for challenging the church’s hierarchy.

She criticized the recent papal visit to Ireland in late August, describing the World Meeting of Families as a “right wing rally.” I listened to a podcast of her interview when she spoke just prior to the Meeting of Families and told RTE’s Brendan O’Connor, “It’s always been essentially a right wing rally... and it was designed for that purpose, to rally people to get them motivated to fight against the tide of same sex marriage, rights for gays, abortion rights, contraceptive rights.”

McAleese, the mother of three grown children, including a gay son, said she would attend an event at Dublin Castle in her role as a former president, but would not attend any other events welcoming Pope Francis.

McAleese has often spoken out against the exclusion of the LGBT community from the Catholic Church as well as on the historic clerical abuse scandals. She said the abuse cover-up “is not only systemic, it was directed from central command and control, which is the Vatican.

“It strikes me as impossible to believe that all bishops acted equally negligent by coincidence. That’s the problem.”

She added, “I read the report from Pennsylvania and it is just so distressing and depressing. When I think of all the thousands of children now who are carrying the burden of that and will carry it through their lives because an institution that they trusted failed them yet again. Reading it was a horror story. I didn’t sleep very well the other night.”

“One has to assume” the pope was aware of the abuse outlined in the report, which said that leaders in the church had “largely gone without accountability,” said McAleese. “These would have been well known, certainly in the latter days when all of these cases had to be sent to Rome. ... You would like to think that he would have been briefed on them. These are so significant when you are talking about 300 abusing priests in six dioceses in the United States.”

The podcast of the RTE interview is available at tinyurl.com/y7vjwdpc. Some material published in the Irish Independent on August 20 also was used as a source for this report.

It looks like a ‘Brexit’ is on the way; for the British, an awful lot is at risk

By Joe Leary
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

For better or worse, Britain’s divorce from Europe and Ireland seems to be an unstoppable force. It remains to be seen if the separation will be a tragedy or a success. We may not know for many years, or until another European war breaks out. Of course it also may be that the British will reverse themselves in future years.

The people of Britain narrowly (51.9 percent in favor) voted to leave the European Union and its 27 nations on June 23, 2016. It was a shocking result that few expected. The anti-Europe vote was led by nationalistic conservatives who did not like abiding by Europe’s rules. It was mostly a “no one tells us what to do” vote. Two of the most extreme leaders were the bombastic former mayor of London, Boris Johnson, and radical conservative Jacob Rees-Mogg. Bloomberg news reports that the opposition to Europe in Britain is led by people who want a nuclear shield over the island of England and a permanent occupying force in the Falkland Islands.



Joe Leary

There is a slight but, to some, a growing chance that there will be a second vote to reverse the 2016 decision, but as time goes on those chances become more remote. There is some new resistance from the British Labor unions and a group in the Parliament called the “People’s Party.”

Due to contractual agreements Britain made when joining the EU, it will owe Europe a very large sum, variously estimated at up to 40 billion pounds (\$59 billion in US currency). This is mostly because the EU operates on a seven-year budget that members must contribute to. There will be 2-3 years of back payments owed when Britain leaves. In addition to the monetary issues, there are many other matters that must be agreed on.

This is a very complex process, and hundreds of people on both sides are working on what has to be done.

Perhaps the most troublesome issue is the existing land border between Northern Ireland and Ireland that was set up by the partitioning of Ireland in 1922. We know of the tragedies caused by that decision by the British. The hardline Unionists in the North who own the ten votes in Parliament keeping the prime minister in power want an in-force border complete with soldiers, passport controls, and large gate houses on both sides of the line. This will, of course, conflict with the Good Friday agreement and cause significant interruption



Theresa May

in north-south business and tourist travel.

But there are many other impediments to a smooth agreement. Take the magnificent Euro Tunnel, which carries trains, food, and merchandise to Europe and back. English lamb butchered in Cornwall can be in Milan in the afternoon. British fish caught in the morning can be in Paris restaurants for lunch. German brakes can be shipped to BMW in Oxford not in days, but in hours, and without customs duties or paperwork.

Negotiations for all of this are scheduled to be completed this month.

British companies are so cautious that pharmaceutical firms are stockpiling medicine for fear of running out. The chocolate company Cadbury is loading up on chocolate.

Whether it’s fear or just good corporate planning, British companies are now evaluating decisions about moving parts of their businesses into the European Union countries. Jaguar’s CEO Ralf Speth said in a speech (with Prime Minister May in attendance) that a bad Brexit divorce deal could jeopardize tens of thousands of jobs. Jaguar employs 40,000 people in the UK. And Rolls Royce has already moved its design section for large jet engines to Germany “to ensure it can continue operating whatever the Brexit outcome.” Barclays Bank has already moved 150 jobs to Dublin.

The burden and much of the pressure over the Brexit separation planning is on Britain’s current government and Theresa May. It is not an exaggeration to say that the short-term future of Britain is, at the least, at risk. And there is no doubt that Ireland will be feel the impact if things go wrong.

Off the Bench

First things first for an effective DA: Job is about deterrence and public safety

By James W. Dolan
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

In the rush to reform the criminal justice system by converting what some might view as petty offenses to civil infractions and dismissing cases to avoid the imposition of a criminal record, one must not overlook the role of a district attorney as chief law enforcement officer of a county. In that office, prosecutorial discretion allows some latitude, but within limits.



James W. Dolan

For good reason, Massachusetts is quite lenient when it comes to processing minor offenses. Several are now civil infractions, punishable by fines, court costs, or community service. More serious non-violent offenses usually result in probation, a key but often overlooked component of the system. An offender avoids incarceration by complying with terms set by the court that normally involve restrictions on behavior, participating in rehabilitative programs and, most importantly, staying out of trouble. Probation is only as good as its enforcement.

As a district court judge, I sent far more people to jail for violating terms of probation than directly after conviction. Probation is a court mandate and, as such, terms need to be enforced. To be effective there must be an “or else.” Without consequences, it can become a farce and actually undermine the court’s authority. If, after a hearing, a defendant is found to have violated probation, the court may modify terms, extend probation, or if the violation is serious, send him to jail. Vigorous probation violation enforcement is a community corrections tool, often underutilized or ignored.

Massachusetts is already a leader among states that avoid incarcerating juveniles and minor offenders. However, with more serious and multiple offenders, the emphasis shifts to deterrence and public safety, even when one sees the offender as a victim of circumstances beyond his control. That does not make him any less dangerous. Rehabilitation, if it’s to occur, will begin in confinement.

As a judge in Dorchester, I often attended community meetings dealing with courts and law enforcement. The concerns were always the same. They dealt with quality of life issues, ranging from abandoned buildings, broken windows, noisy parties, public drinking and drugs to thefts, assaults, and shootings. While the emphasis was on public safety, in my opinion, it would be a mistake to overlook the importance of the lesser quality of life issues. They are a reflection of how much we care about a neighborhood. Neglect breeds disrespect.

My years at Dorchester District Court were spent in the old courthouse, which was built in the 1920s. It was woefully inadequate when I arrived in the early 1970s and conditions deteriorated, leading to the addition of five trailers in the side yard to house court staff. The facility became a symbol of disrespect for those who were served by it. That viewpoint was confirmed when a new courthouse was built on the site. Court morale improved and personnel commented on the improved attitude of those entering the building.

Minority communities are more at risk, and thus even more concerned about public safety and increased police protection. Community leaders frequently criticized the courts for being too lenient and demanded more police. While obviously worried about police overreaction and concerned about fairness in the criminal justice system, they wanted the same level of security and protection as was available in the suburbs.

The primary role of the incoming Suffolk County district attorney is law enforcement (deterrence and public safety). That is not to say concern for the safety and rehabilitation of an offender is misplaced. Only that there are other departments such as probation, parole, and outside service providers focusing on those issues. They should be strengthened. Legislation expanding a court’s power to expunge (clear) criminal records would serve to reduce that impediment to employment.

I believe that you should not assume a new role until you master the one you have. Since that rarely happens, time is more productively spent in improving performance rather than assuming new responsibilities. In my experience, “reform” too often becomes an excuse for not doing existing tasks better. It can create the illusion of progress without substantive change.

James W. Dolan is a retired Dorchester District Court judge who now practices law.



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Point of View

A Supreme Court donnybrook and an unlikely buddy story

By PETER F. STEVENS
BIR STAFF

So not one of the 11 GOP senators on the Judiciary Committee is “man” enough to question Professor Christine Blasey Ford, who has alleged that federal Judge Brett Kavanaugh sexually assaulted her some 36 years ago. As of this writing, Senators Charles Grassley, Lindsay Graham, Orrin Hatch, John Cornyn and their committee cronies plan to bring an “outside female prosecutor” to interrogate Ford about her allegations.

These 11 angry “men” cravenly plan to hide behind the well-tailored skirt of hired-gun prosecutor Rachel Mitchell to avoid having to face the “little woman” facing them at a committee hearing. Anything to avoid a replay, or worse, of the Clarence Thomas-Anita Hill debacle in 1991. Way to man up, Senators! You lost your big-boy pants somewhere between the Capitol and 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

While most of the Democratic senators have hardly proven profiles in courage as Mitch McConnell, like it or not, is playing a hardball numbers game that they decry but have been powerless to stop, the spectacle of President Trump labeling the Dems as “really con artists” is priceless. In this instance, the saying that “people who live in glass house [or White Houses?] shouldn’t throw stones” is more than apt. Perhaps the president doesn’t remember a venture called Trump University.

Political prognostications are on treacherous turf, but I suspect that if Maine Senator Susan Collins votes to send Judge Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme bench, she will be broomed out of office in her re-election effort. For her entire career on Capitol Hill, she has been a staunch supporter of women’s rights, from choice to healthcare. Last year, she courageously stood up to Trump and her party to join with John McCain and Alaska Senator Lisa Murkowski to prevent throwing millions of Americans out of the healthcare system. Now, under immense pressure to rush through a judicial nominee with a long record against choice and contraception

and with allegations of sexual assault—unproven at this juncture but uninvestigated, courtesy of the Trump and Grassley—Collins risks alienating the very voters whose right to choice and healthcare she has guarded for years.

As I file this piece, a third allegation of sexual misconduct by Kavanaugh is breaking. There are any number of qualified conservative judges who would sail through the Republican-controlled Senate. Interestingly, Supreme Court justice Neil Gorsuch, who attended the same elite prep school as Kavanaugh, had not a whiff of the taint surrounding his fellow alum. Why is the president so hell bent in getting Kavanaugh through? Could it be that Kavanaugh has written and said that a sitting president should not have to answer a subpoena?

A Buddy Story and Feud

Terry Golway has belted it out of the biographical park again with his latest offering, “Frank and Al: FDR, Al Smith, and the Unlikely Alliance That Created the Modern Democratic Party.” Golway’s splendid “Irish Rebel: John Devoy and America’s Fight for Ireland’s Freedom” set a high bar, and with “Frank and Al,” Golway, a gifted historian, senior Politico editor, and former member of The New York Times editorial board, has met or even exceeded that bar.

The book’s title sounds like a buddy movie, and in many ways it is exactly that. FDR and Al Smith hailed from two vastly different worlds in New York state. Roosevelt came from the rarefied old-line Protestant world of money, the right schools, and the right connections. Such comfort and affluence were alien to Irish-American Catholic Al Smith, who grew up on the mean immigrant streets of New York’s Lower East Side. On the surface, both men appeared polar opposites.

Despite that, politics thrust them into a political partnership that defied social and cultural convention while spawning the modern Democratic Party and the New Deal.

As both men clawed and climbed their way up the

political ladder of the party in the opening decades of the 20th century, Smith stood, as the book notes, with one part of the Democratic “urban machine” representing Catholics and Jews, ironworkers and seamstresses, from the tenements of the Northeast and Midwest.” Roosevelt, conversely, aligned himself with the party’s “populists and patricians, rooted in the soil and the Scriptures, enforcers of cultural, political, and religious norms.”

Smith, a product of the Tammany Hall machine, seemed the unlikeliest pol to forge an alliance with Roosevelt, but Smith’s Progressive policies as New York’s governor in the Roaring ‘20s caught the attention of FDR, the party’s other rising star. When Roosevelt balked at the prospect of running for the same post, Smith proved instrumental in persuading Roosevelt to do so.

In 1928, Smith won the Democratic nomination for president. He lost to Herbert Hoover in arguably the most religiously and ethnically charged elections in America’s annals, pilloried for his Irish Catholicism by “real Americans.” Despite the defeat, Smith remained a force in the party.

As the 1932 presidential election loomed, the Great Depression dominated everything. By now friends as well as political allies, Smith and Roosevelt faced off against each other for the Democratic nomination and set off on one of the nation’s greatest political in their bare-knuckled brawl for the post. Roosevelt came out in top, and the rest, as the adage goes, is history.

Terry Golway has crafted a meticulously researched, fast-flowing examination of two political giants. For the scholar and history buff alike, “Frank and Al” delivers all the literary and historical goods. Golway presents a crucial piece of Irish-American and American history in this outstanding work, which belongs on everyone’s reading list.

(Frank and Al: FDR, Al Smith, and the Unlikely Alliance that Created the Modern Democratic Party, Terry Golway. St. Martin’s, \$29.99 (304p) ISBN 978-1-250-08964-9)

‘BRIDGET SUCH A ONE ...’

October brings the anniversary of a tragic immigrant saga

By PETER F. STEVENS
BIR STAFF

The tragic wrecking at sea of the Brig St. John 169 years ago is an event that resonates especially in 2018 with America tearing along its political, racial, ethnic, and religious seams.

The catastrophe engulfed desperate Boston-bound immigrants off the shore of Cohasset on October 7, 1849. As disaster hit, common humanity trumped Nativist prejudice for an all-too-brief moment.

As the ship broke in two on the rocks, immigrants and crewmen thrashed in the foaming surf. An eyewitness, Elizabeth Lothrop, later wrote that “no human power could stay the waves,” which pulled the brig “deep into the depths of Hell.”

On the shore, the boatmen of Cohasset – Yankees with little affinity for the Irish – left prejudice on the beach as they tried again and again to launch the town’s lifesaving boats into the crashing surf. Led by Captain Daniel T. Lothrop, a Cohasset “salt,” Elizabeth Lothrop wrote, the rescuers “struggled through the enormous waves for nearly forty-five minutes before reaching the area of the St. John. It was then that they noticed a longboat rowing to shore, with Captain Oliver and the crew of the ship. The captain made no mention to the lifesavers that passengers had been left behind on the wreck to fend for themselves.

Accordingly, the lifeboat proceeded to the Kathleen, the rowers unaware that numbers of people may yet have been desperately clinging to the remains of the St. John. The magnitude of this tragedy only became apparent after the lifesavers had returned to shore and learned that the emigrants had been left stranded on the wreck.”

The rescuers managed to aid only the Kathleen in the end. Most of the St. John’s passengers perished in the towering waves. Over the next few days, 45 bodies washed ashore, and the townspeople buried them in a common grave. An exact total was never ascertained. At least 99 people drowned; 11 survived. In all, up to 145 may have been lost.

Among the most heart-rending stories of the disaster was that of Galwayman Patrick Sweeney and his family. Sweeney, his wife, and their nine children had boarded the vessel in hopes of a new and better life in Boston. As the brig broke apart on the rocks, Patrick could do nothing to help them as his wife and eight of their children vanished in the frothing waves. Clutching his three-year-old daughter, Agnes, he jumped into the water and swam frantically towards the longboat. A massive wave broke across father and daughter. They, too disappeared, their bodies never found.

Adding additional agony to the fate of the Sweeneys and so many of their fellow immigrants, pointing a finger at Captain Oliver, Captain Lothrop later testified that



if he had only been told that there were passengers clinging to the brig’s pieces, he might well have been able to rescue some of them.

The tragedy claimed one last victim on the Cohasset shore. An Irishwoman who had rushed to the scene from Boston in hopes that her infant daughter and her sister had survived the shipwreck found their corpses beneath a sheet on the sand. “The infant [was] tightly folded in the sister’s arms,” Elizabeth Lothrop remembered. “The mother died of heartbreak.”

The infant and at least 44 other victims were buried in a “great common grave” near the Cohasset shore, and the matter of a proper ceremony for the Catholic dead was raised. As the Ancient Order of Hibernians notes: “It was then that the nearest priest, Father John T. Roddan, of Quincy, was asked to come to [Cohasset]. It was within a day or two after the storm that Father Roddan blessed the great common grave that held the remains for forty-five emigrants. This, in turn, served

as a catalyst for Cohasset Catholics to begin petitioning Boston for a church of their own.”

In 1914, the Massachusetts Loyal Order of Hibernians raised a 19-foot Celtic cross near the victims’ grave. Today, on display at the Cohasset Maritime Museum is all that is left of the ill-fated brig: a trunk, a small writing desk, and a piece of one of the ship’s pulleys.

Many of the locals who had witnessed the tragedy and its aftermath could not shake the images. Elizabeth Lothrop wrote that “such a set of half-drowned, half-naked...frightened creatures [survivors] my eyes never beheld. . . . This horrible shipwreck and the continual picking up of dead bodies on our beach has so excited my mind that I . . . shall never get over it.”

Another coastal traveler, Henry David Thoreau, had never seen anything like it. Two days after the shipwreck, he surveyed the scene, pouring into a notebook a torrent of words that captured the gut-wrenching scene:

“I saw many marble feet and matted heads as the cloths were raised, and one livid, swollen and mangled body of a drowned girl—who probably had intended to go out to service in some American family. . . . Sometimes there were two or more children, or a parent and child, in the same box, and on the lid would perhaps be written with red chalk, ‘Bridget such-a-one, and sister’s child.’”

Today, all too many Irish Americans have forgotten or simply do not care about their families’ immigrant ancestors. They were once “the other,” the targets of Nativist rage. Still, perhaps there is some historical hope in that long-ago tragedy when Yankee Protestants, who loathed the “ragged Irish” locals forgot all that, and rowed into the gale, risking their lives to aid desperate, terrified immigrants floundering within sight of America’s “Golden Door.”

Four to receive Boston Irish Honors

(Continued from page 1)

in Ireland who are now firmly planted in Boston.

Dr. McGill is a world-renowned pediatrician at Boston Children’s Hospital with a specialty in Otolaryngology. For four decades, he has treated young patients with head and neck tumors, throat disorders, and vascular anomalies. He also teaches at Harvard Medical School and is widely recognized to

have “altered clinical care regionally, nationally and internationally.”

He is a sought-after lecturer in universities across the globe and has co-authored 130 peer-reviewed papers, chapters and edited 3 textbooks in Pediatric Otolaryngology.

The 35-member luncheon committee is led by US Sen. Edward Markey and Boston Mayor Marty Walsh. The program mod-

erator will be Boston Red Sox “poet laureate” Dick Flavin.

“This inspiring luncheon allows us to recognize and celebrate exemplary Irish individuals and their families who share our heritage in Boston and Ireland,” explained Ed Forry, the founder and publisher of the *Boston Irish Reporter*, a family-owned and-operated media enterprise.

“In keeping with our own heritage,” Forry added, “the newspaper tells the stories of Boston-Irish individuals and families of special achievements in public service and business who share our common roots in Boston and Ireland.”

For reservations, call 617-436-1222 or send an email to honors@bostonirish.com.



IRISH INTERNATIONAL IMMIGRANT CENTER

An agency accredited by US Department of Justice

One State Street, 8th Floor, Boston, MA 02109 (617) 542-7654 Fax (617) 542-7655

Website: iiicenter.org Email: immigration@iiicenter.org

Gaining experience, independence in Boston

Meghan O’Loughlin, a business management student from Queen’s University recently returned home after finishing her year on the Exchange Visitor program in Boston. After completing her second year at university, Meghan knew she wanted to experience life in the United States. After meeting with the IIIC’s Learning Exchange Program Director Jude Clarke at a Careers day in Queen’s University Belfast, Meghan applied for the program.

Following her successful application and job interview, aided by IIIC’s Paul Pelan, Meghan made her way to Boston to work for Arbella Insurance as a human resources assistant. The IIIC supported Meghan as she searched for accommodations and made Boston her home away from home. Over the course of 12 months, she created a strong network of friends, particularly including other J-1s that she met through the program.

Throughout the year at Arbella Insurance, Meghan gained valuable skills that she knows will aid her in the job search as soon as she graduates from Queen’s. At Arbella, Meghan provided strong event-planning and business administration support, saying, “I love having control of an event and love seeing it come together!”

When Meghan isn’t running Arbella’s front desk, she found time to explore Boston’s culture through exploring the Freedom Trail and going to Red Sox games. She also joined Boston’s local ladies Gaelic team, the Boston Shamrocks, where she has not only Irish living



Meghan O’Loughlin (middle) alongside Gareth Leahy and Eve Russell at IIIC’s 2018 Business Breakfast.

in Boston, but Americans who have fell in love with the Irish game. She is a keen traveler, and has visited New York, Los Angeles as well as Cancun, Mexico.

When asked what advice she would give to recent graduates looking into the J-1 Exchange Visitor program, Meghan replied, “Experience everything while you can; the year will fly past you!” Everyone at the IIIC wishes Meghan all the best in her studies and we can’t wait to see her return for her graduate year!

If you are interested in working with a J-1 Irish exchange visitor at your place of business, please contact Paul Pelan (ppelan@iiicenter.org/617-543-7654).

Matters of Substance

Let’s Talk About Recovery Month!

By Rachel Reisman

For the past 29 years, September has been designated National Recovery Month across the US. What began as a time to celebrate those people, families, and providers all working hard to achieve sobriety from drugs and alcohol misuse grew to include and acknowledge those also healing from mental health symptoms and struggles.

Each year, there is a specific theme to the month’s special focus on everyone involved in recovery, and this year we shed light on our cities’ and urban communities’ roles from hospitals and therapists, to schools, libraries, and faiths in supporting those



Rachel Reisman (LISCW) and Siobhan Kelly (Case Manager) are here at the IIIC and ready to chat, problem solve, and support you!

on a recovery journey.

Everyone in our city is impacted by substance use disorders and mental health needs; everyone has a role to play. Last month, those who care and are committed to recovery,

from our mayor to our first responders, emergency rooms and local support groups pitched in to pull out the stops for recovery month.

Wellness Services at the IIIC hears from and helps

many individuals and families with recovery all year long. Whether it is taking calls from worried spouses and parents, helping to locate the best community support, to detoxes, to AA meetings, to designing an early sobriety plan or celebrating a year free from drugs and alcohol, we meet you where you’re at and listen to your needs and wishes for recovery. We always practice according to this year’s recovery month theme, with the firm belief that families, friends and community care, such as ours, makes recovery much more likely and much less lonely. Pain suffered alone is the foundation for most struggles with depression, anxiety, and addiction. Connection is what undoes this.

As always, Wellness is here, see our contact info below. Feel free to ask us for more, or for help finding the best information for you. We send a huge thanks to all those working in the field of recovery in our community, a huge congratulations to those working toward change in their own lives, and a special acknowledgement to the parents, guardians, grandparents, and friends who love and support us along the way!

Mayor’s Office of Recovery Services boston.gov Text 311 or call 617.635.4500; The Massachusetts Substance Use Helpline helpline-ma.org 800.327.5050; MOAR moar-recovery.org 617.423.6627; National Alliance on Mental Illness nami.org; Boston Medical Center Faster Paths : Substance Use Disorder Urgent Care 617.414.4580; MGH Free Narcan Trainings mass-general.org/recovery-month; Rachel Reisman, LICSW Director of Wellness Services at the IIIC- bostonrreisman@iiicenter.org 617.542.7654, Ext. 14. [Facebook.com/Irish OutreachWellnessServices](https://www.facebook.com/Irish-OutreachWellnessServices).

Rachel Reisman is the IIIC’s director of wellness services.



IRISH INTERNATIONAL IMMIGRANT CENTER

IRISH LANGUAGE CLASSES



Celebrate 125 Years of Irish Language: Bliain na Gaeilge 2018 with the IIIC and Cumann na Gaeilge - Boston!

WHAT:
Irish language course for all levels

START DATE:
Wednesday, September 12th- Beginners
Thursday, September 13th- Intermediate & Advanced

WHERE:
Irish International Immigrant Center
One State Street, 8th Floor
Boston, MA 02109

CONTACT:
Siobhan Kelly
617.542.7654, ext. 15
skelly@iiicenter.org

FEE:
\$112 for CnaG members
\$128 for non-members

Become a member of CnaG by visiting their website: cumann-na-gaeilge.org.



CUMANN NA GAELIGE I MBOSTON

Irish Language Society of Boston

Immigration Q&A

Overstaying a visit to US: a bad idea

Q. I came to the US for a visit under the Visa Waiver Program and was given permission to stay here for 90 days. I was thinking of staying on for a while longer and maybe getting a job to support myself here. I heard that staying past the 90-day limit could result in a bar on my reentry to the US in the future. Is this true?

A. Yes. If you entered the US under the Visa Waiver Program, as most visitors from the 38 eligible countries (including Ireland) do today, you normally are given up to 90 days to remain in this country. The Visa Waiver Program is also commonly referred to as “ESTA,” an acronym for the Electronic System for Travel Authorization, which is the online application system that prescreens travelers entering under this program. However, if you enter the US under the Visa Waiver Program, you are not allowed to work during that time. If you overstay this 90-day period by 180 days to one year, you face a three-year bar from reentering the US. Overstaying the 90-day period by more than one year subjects you to a ten-year reentry bar. This is the case irrespective of whether you work in the US without authorization.

Do not misinterpret the 180 days as any kind of “grace” period that allows you to remain in the US beyond the 90 days granted under the Visa Waiver Program. Any period of overstay at all may affect your ability to enter at a later date.

Aside from the problem of the three- and ten-year reentry bars, if you overstay a visit under the Visa Waiver Program even by a few days, you will no longer be allowed to reenter under that program in the future. Instead you would have to make a formal application for a B-2 visitor visa at the nearest US Embassy, which requires a fee and can take time. You can expect close scrutiny of your application, and if you have a compelling reason for a prior brief overstay, you should include evidence of it with your application. Holders of visitor visas usually are admitted for up to six months and may, before the expiration of the visa, apply for an extension if they have a good reason for wanting to stay longer in the US as a visitor.

Employment in the US, either while in status under the Visa Waiver Program, while here on a visitor visa, or during an overstay, is another issue. People temporarily in the US are not allowed work without specific authorization from the US government such as a work visa (such as an H-1B) or an Employment Authorization Document (issued while an application for adjustment of status to permanent residence is pending). If you do work here without authorization, that is considered a violation of your status by the US immigration authorities, and you render yourself inadmissible to the US in the future in almost all circumstances.

Note, finally, that the 90-day Visa Waiver period of admission to the US normally cannot be extended. Only in extreme situations where you can document the need to stay with compelling evidence would you be granted an extension. An example of such a situation would be hospitalization in the US following an accident or serious illness.

If you have questions about this or any other aspect of immigration law, you can have a free, confidential consultation at one of our weekly legal clinics.

Legal Clinics Schedule


Downtown Boston – IIIC offices, One State Street, 8th Floor, Boston, on Tues., Oct. 2, and Tues., Oct. 16, at 4 p.m.; **South Boston** – Labouré Center, 275 West Broadway, South Boston on Tues., Oct. 23, at 6 p.m.

Citizenship Clinics—IIIC offices on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Walk-ins are welcome!

Our Downtown Boston location is fully accessible by public transportation.

Phone: 617.542.7654 | Fax: 617.542.7655 | iiicenter.org.

Prepare for the fall and winter ahead with a free flu shot!



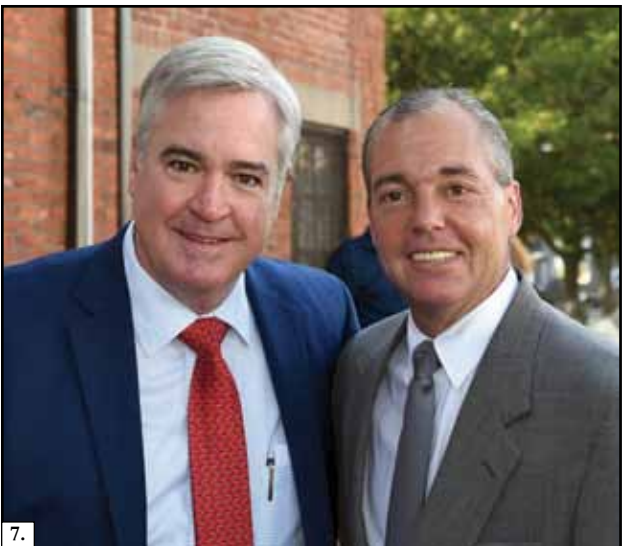
The IIIC is hosting a flu shot clinic and all are welcome! This is a great way to stay healthy and brace yourself for the cold New England seasons ahead. No appointment or health insurance needed. For more information, please contact Siobhan Kelly at skelly@iiicenter.org or 617-542-7654 ext. 15

October 23rd, from 10am-1pm
Belfast Room
One State Street, 8th Floor
Boston, MA 02109
Cost: Free



IRISH INTERNATIONAL IMMIGRANT CENTER





BRETT'S BOSTON

By Harry Brett

Exclusive photos of Boston Irish people & events

St. Augustine Chapel and Cemetery in South Boston began a year-long bicentennial celebration with a ceremony and Mass on Sept. 15. The cemetery, dedicated in December 1818, was the first Catholic burial ground in Boston, and the chapel is the oldest surviving Catholic church in the Boston archdiocese. After the cemetery was opened, many Catholics arranged to re-inter the bodies of relatives on its grounds. About 1,000 people are buried there.

1.) Rev. James Flavin serves communion to the overflow gathering; 2.) Elaine Fallon, Rick Winterson of South Boston; 3.) Mona Casper, Cardinal Sean O'Malley; Christine Boyda, Bobo Connolly; 4.) BPD Commissioner Willie Gross, Rev James Flavin; 5.) Dan Marr, III, Cardinal O'Malley; Sr. Mary Adele; 6.) Paul Christian, Kathy Christian, Dan McCool; 7.) Councillor Michael Flaherty, Dan Lynch; 8.) Msgr Liam Bergin, St. Brigid parish, Cardinal O'Malley, Rev Robert Kickham 9.) Sr. Peggy Youngclaus, director of Simon of Cyrene Society; 10.) Ray Flynn, Cathy Flynn, Dep. Secretary of State John Sullivan, Councillor Ed Flynn.



VOTE EARLY BOSTON 2018

Monday, October 22 – Friday, November 2

Registered Boston voters can vote at any early voting location in the City, including City Hall. Pick a time and place that is best for you.

WEEK 1:

MON. OCT. 22, 9A.M. – 5P.M.
Boston City Hall (Downtown)

TUES. OCT. 23, 12 – 8P.M.

Boston City Hall (Downtown 9a.m. – 8p.m.)
Holy Name Parish Hall (Roxbury)
Dot House Health (Dorchester)
Tobin Community Center (Mission Hill)

WED. OCT. 24, 9A.M. – 5P.M.

Boston City Hall (Downtown)

THUR. OCT. 25, 12 – 8P.M.

Boston City Hall (Downtown 9a.m. – 8p.m.)
All Saints' Church (Dorchester)
Honan-Allston Library (Allston)
Margarita Muniz Academy (Formerly Louis Agassiz Elementary School) (Jamaica Plain)

FRI. OCT. 26, 9A.M. – 5P.M.
Boston City Hall (Downtown)

WEEK 2:

MON. OCT. 29, 9A.M. – 5P.M.
Boston City Hall (Downtown)

TUES. OCT. 30, 12 – 8P.M.

Boston City Hall (Downtown 9a.m. – 8p.m.)
Harvard-Kent School (Charlestown)
Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology (South End)
Wang YMCA of Chinatown (Chinatown)

WED. OCT. 31, 9A.M. – 5P.M.

Boston City Hall (Downtown)

THUR. NOV. 1, 12 – 8P.M.

Boston City Hall (Downtown 9a.m. – 8p.m.)
The Salvation Army Ray & Joan Kroc Community Ctr. (Dorchester)
ABCD Thelma D. Burns Building (Roxbury)
The Blue Hills Collaborative (Hyde Park)

FRI. NOV. 2, 9A.M. – 5P.M.
Boston City Hall (Downtown)

WEEKEND VOTING:

SAT. & SUN. OCT. 27 & 28, 10A.M. - 6P.M.

Paris St. Community Center (East Boston)
James F. Condon Elementary School (South Boston)
Saint John Paul II Catholic Academy Neponset Campus (formerly known as St. Ann's School) (Dorchester)
Perkins Community Center / Joseph Lee School (Dorchester)

Mildred Ave. Community Center. (Mattapan)
Roche Community Center (West Roxbury)
Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building (Roxbury)
Copley Square Library (Back Bay)
Jackson Mann School (Allston)

In order to vote early or on Election Day, you must register to vote by October 17.
If you miss the early voting period, you can still vote on Election Day, Tuesday, November 6.

Learn more at boston.gov/early-voting
#VoteEarlyBoston • Call 311 • election@boston.gov



City of Boston
Mayor Martin J. Walsh

BOSTON IRISH REPORTER

Celebrating 28 years “Telling the Stories of Boston’s Irish”

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Shane Cahill,
Consul General of Ireland

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Brendan Feeney
Dick Flavin
John Philip Foley
Bill Forry
Sen. Linda Dorceana Forry
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Anne Geraghty
David Greaney
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Bobby White
W. Paul White

You are cordially invited
to the 28th Anniversary Luncheon
Sponsored by the Boston Irish Reporter

Thursday, October 18, 2018

Seaport Hotel, Main Ballroom
One Seaport Lane, Boston MA

BOSTON IRISH HONORS



2018 Honorees

REV. RICHARD “DOC” CONWAY

DR. TREVOR J. MCGILL, M.D.

MARY and BOB SCANNELL

Registration begins 11:15 a.m.

Luncheon 11:45 a.m.

\$150 per guest, Table of 10, \$1500

Reservations: honors@bostonirish.com.
Sponsorship opportunities available - please call 617-436-1222

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2018

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“With Good Will Doing Service”

The Charitable Irish Society

The President and the Board of Directors
of The Charitable Irish Society
cordially invite you to attend the

20th Silver Key Awards Reception
October 4, 2018, 6:00 p.m.

The Fairmont Copley Plaza
138 St. James Street, Boston



Honoring

Paul Doyle

and Linda Dorceana Forry

in recognition of their work helping immigrants to adjust
and assimilate into their new country.
This is consistent with the work of the Charitable Irish Society
since its beginnings in 1737 and continuing to the present.

In Boston visit, NI Secretary insists ‘no hard border’

(Continued from page 1)

Bradley stressed that the UK government “will not accept a deal that sees either the results of the [Brexit] referendum not being respected or a break-up in the economic and constitutional integrity of the UK,” something that she said existing EU proposals for accommodating their withdrawal would do.

“Therefore,” Bradley added, “no deal is preferable to either of those. Even in a no deal situation we are adamant and determined that there will no hard border on the island of Ireland.”

During her time in Boston, Bradley met with business leaders and Irish American “influencers” during a Sept. 25 evening forum sponsored by the Global Leadership Institute at Boston College.

“There are so many influencers here in Boston,” she said. “So, there’s people who have influence over politicians in Northern Ireland. I am determined that we will get devolved government back in Stormont. That is the only way that you can provide any form of governance that works in Northern Ireland. And I’m also determined that we will solve the Brexit conundrums that people keep putting forward and our commitment to everything set out in the Belfast Good Friday agreement and our commitment to delivering on that in the context of



Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Karen Bradley, MP.

Brexit. I’m here to talk to those influencers, make clear that the UK’s government’s position and, [to] get them influencing.”

The question of how the UK can possibly extricate itself from the EU without some form of disruption along the 300-mile border between the North and the Republic is an unresolved question and one that Bradley, a Tory and a full-throated Brexit supporter, insists will not come to pass.

“Change creates uncertainty and people are uncomfortable with uncertainty. But I repeat our absolute commitment to achieving the commitments we’ve made. We are leaving the European Union. We are going to take back control of our laws, our borders, and our money. We, additionally, are going to have the ability to have

an independent trade policy. When I speak to US influencers, they find it extraordinary that the world’s fifth biggest economy has outsourced its trade policy to a bueracrat institution in Brussels for the last 40-odd years. But we have. And we’re not going to do that anymore.”

Bradley said that the May government is “now waiting for the Europeans to tell us what they’re not happy with” in the May government’s plan for preserving the existing border conditions. She described existing relations with the Irish government as “very good on a bilateral basis.”

“We may be leaving the European Union, but we’re not leaving our friends,” she said. “The Irish are one of our closest friends and our economies are inextricably linked because we share land, we share a land border.”

Beyond the Brexit border “conundrum,” Bradley faces perhaps an even more intractable and immediate problem: a Northern Ireland Assembly that has been mired in impasse since Jan. 2017 with the two major parties at loggerheads.

On this issue, Bradley offers no great reassurance and no timetable for a possible breakthrough.

“We need to find a way to get to accommodation,” she said. “There is no alternative to power

sharing, there is no alternative to devolved government.

“It’s not acceptable. The people of Northern Ireland deserve better. To be in a position where you take the record for being the longest time without a functioning government is not something to be proud of. I am determined that we will resolve this situation as soon as we possibly can.”

Still, she acknowledged: “The UK government may be the sovereign government in Northern Ireland....

But we cannot impose a solution. This has to be a solution that comes from the people of NI and the politicians of NI and that’s what we all want to see.”

Gary J. Kerr, a Belfast native who lives and works in Boston, said that Bradley’s public statements— particularly on the border question— have demonstrated a troubling level of ignorance to the history of the Troubles and the political divisions that remain. B

“The biggest risk is:

does she even understand the importance of her position. She is the one person who has the power to call a border poll,” said Kerr, referring to a referendum that could lead to a united Ireland.

“My parents thought they’d never live to see a United Ireland. Now they think it’s possible. And I will absolutely. We’ve never been closer to it. And it’s all to do with Brexit.”

Bill Forry may be reached at bforry@dot-news.com.

CHC

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*Sean N3s Dance for Kids! Old Style Irish dance for ages 4 and up Wednesdays Oct. 3rd -24th at 4:30 – 5:30pm

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Join All- Ireland Sean N3s Champion Ran3g Townsend direct from Ireland. A four week introductory course into the joyful rhythm of Irish Dance.

Kieran Jordan Dance Studio 1310 Hyde Park Ave. Hyde Park, Boston

*Pre-registration of \$60 is required for the four-week session online at: www.kieranjordan.com

APPLY NOW START NOW

FALL QUINCY COLLEGE 2018

ONLINE + ON-CAMPUS

Updating Oscar Wilde and ‘Being Earnest’ in the Swinging Sixties

By R. J. DONOVAN
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

In today’s world of Facebook, dating apps, and rampant catfishing, it’s hardly a surprise when someone creates a fake profile online.

What may be surprising is that the practice isn’t all that new. In Oscar Wilde’s 1895 play “The Importance of Being Earnest,” the Irish playwright detailed the sticky Victorian situation experienced when a pillar of the community creates a fictional persona as an excuse to live a double life and circumvent tiresome social obligations.

Over the course of the story, gentlemen from the country mix with gentlemen from the city, crossing paths with love interests, a society matron, a young ward, a dutiful governess, a priest, a manservant, and more.

Greater Boston Stage Company explores all of this in the East Coast premiere of “Being Earnest,” a musical adaptation of Wilde’s witty comedy of mistaken identities, now re-set during London’s Swinging Sixties.

Directed and choreographed by Elliot Norton and IRNE Award-winner Ilyse Robbins, performances run through Oct. 7 in Stoneham. Music and lyrics are by Paul Gordon and Jay Gruska.

The cast includes actor, singer, and pianist Will

McGarrahan, fresh from receiving an Elliot Norton Award as Best Actor in a Musical for “Souvenir” at Lyric Stage Company. In “Earnest,” he takes on the three roles of Reverend Chasuble, Lane, and Merriman.

A new musical can be exhilarating for actors and audiences alike. During a recent interview, McGarrahan mentioned a production of “Being Earnest” had been staged a few years ago on the West Coast, “but I literally hadn’t heard any of (the material) until we started rehearsals. And honestly, the way I, and I think a lot of the company, work, we try to approach even established musicals as if they were new.” The difference, he said, is “you have to figure out the phrasing of a song because you don’t have anything in the back of your head.”

The authors have remained faithful to Wilde’s original text and ideas. As they worked, they found remarkable similarities between Victorian social mores and those of the ‘60s, right before the “Summer of Love” counter-culture emerged.

In projecting a Swinging Sixties authenticity, McGarrahan said, “I think a lot of that plays out in the music, in the musical staging, and in the design. I think it’s actually what will really make the show

pop. It’s sort of the machine running it.”

The designers have also taken on the task of creating visuals that speak to the bright, colorful, Mod, Mod World of Twiggy and London’s Carnaby Street. “The set is very much like that,” McGarrahan said, “Golds and reds and Union Jack sort of images. And costume-wise, it’s all those great looks of the sixties.”

Originally from upstate New York, McGarrahan attended Boston College and got his first union job as an actor in “Biloxi Blues” at a theater in Lake George, New York.

Broadway beckoned, and, he remembered, “I looked like every other 20-year-old going to New York, but I couldn’t dance. I looked like a chorus boy, but I didn’t have particularly the skills of a chorus boy.”

He soon grew disillusioned with New York and bartending at Broadway theaters. “It was right around New Year’s . . . New York was frustrating in that I wasn’t quite sure . . . I don’t really have a life here.” It was subtleties, he said. And this is after having had a good summer doing ‘Biloxi Blues.’ But I was like, I need to have some sort of life.”

So he picked up and moved to Seattle, lived at the Y for a couple of weeks, began auditioning, and slowly started building a successful career.



Will McGarrahan takes on three roles in “Being Earnest.”

His return to New England came via his friendship with Paul Daigneault, the soon-to-be-founder of SpeakEasy Stage, whom he had known at BC. While McGarrahan was in Seattle, Daigneault invited him to come to Boston and appear in William Finn’s “A New Brain.” He later asked him to return to direct Sondheim’s “Saturday Night.” During tech rehearsals, McGarrahan said, “You know what, I’m moving here . . . I was mid-30s. I just packed everything up in a U-Haul and moved to Boston.”

Over the last 20 years, he has become an audience favorite from Lyric to SpeakEasy, the Huntington and beyond. With exceptional diversity, he shifts between musicals, comedy, and drama.

A short list of his impressive credits include “Next Fall,” “The Drowsy Chaperone,” “Grey Gar-

dens,” “Mame,” “Moon For The Misbegotten,” “Putnam County Spelling Bee,” “Company,” and “Five By Tenn.”

Playing three roles in a tight farce like “Being Earnest” presents a challenge, but McGarrahan enjoys the rehearsal process of creating three unique characters.

“With all these small parts, my feeling is you need to make one big choice and play it out because there’s not a lot of time for subtlety . . . I usually start out with either the energy of the character or just sort of how they carry themselves, where their center of gravity is . . . That’s all experimentation in the rehearsal room . . . And that’s fun.”

A new musical is also a work in progress. When McGarrahan and I spoke, the composers were due to attend rehearsals. Prior to that, Gordon and Gruska had been very open to

ideas from Ilyse Robbins and musical director Steve Bass.

Said McGarrahan: “There’s been a lot of ‘Can we add this in? Can we add background singers to this? Can we move around some incidental music?’ That sort of thing.”

He also noted that his audition song – originally the Act Two opener – doesn’t exist anymore. It’s been replaced by a new piece, although the theme from the cut song is now used as incidental music else where in the production.

Knowingly, McGarrahan said, “And that’s the way musicals get made.”

R. J. Donovan is editor and publisher of onstage-boston.com.

“Being Earnest,” through Oct. 7, Greater Boston Stage Company, 395 Main St., Stoneham. Info: 781-279-2200 or greaterbostonstage.org.

She’s in a place where her ‘voice is just as versatile as the fiddle’

(Continued from page 1) University of Glasgow and Berklee College of Music; expanding her interests from the Scottish and Cape Breton traditions to Irish and Appalachian/old-timey; stints with the Cathie Ryan Band and Celtic-Americana group Annalivia (now Low Lily).

Two revelations arose out of her contemplation, Rae says. One, she felt she was onto something with her songwriting. “I’ve been writing songs

for a long time, but when I started out as a performer, I leaned on my fiddling and my tune composition, and the songs I sung were from tradition or other writers. I felt like I didn’t have anything to say. It’s a personal journey to get to songwriting, because saying or singing words is a very open, vulnerable act. You can put a lot of pure, non-descriptive emotion into music, but with songs, you’re a lot more specific.

“For ‘If Only I Could

Fly,’ I went through this night-owl stage where I was practicing the art of saying things; when you’re in the trad world, you get used to relying on the words of others. And I felt like I had found my voice, at least for that time and headspace. But for this album, I really wanted to be as minimalist as I could get: put the spotlight on songwriting, get away from guitar and crwth and pare things down to fiddle and vocals.”

Which led to the second revelation. “My idea was to push the boundaries of the fiddle, develop some new kinds of accompaniment, and also to push my voice in different directions. I wanted to create a sound where my voice is just as versatile as the fiddle.”

It’s fair to say that Rae accomplished both objectives. “Emerald Rae” may be spare in terms of instrumentation, but Rae fills the space admirably. Her

fiddle surges and swirls in edgy, sometimes jagged rhythmic patterns on “Deep Salt Sea,” “Worlds Away” and “When the Silvery Moon Comes Out to Play”; on “Sadie Dear,” the fiddle breaks into a waltz that seems like it’s almost about to go off kilter (much like the song’s titular subject), and lays down a haunting, almost mournful harmonic theme – suggestive of a passage from medieval music – in “Who Will Lie Beside You

Now?” Rae also plucks and strums the strings, even slaps at them with bow or fingers, such as on “Magic Mirror,” producing a muted, terse undercurrent.

“I’ve always explored fiddle effects – you hear what other fiddlers are doing, and you try to see what works for you,” she says. “But I’ve picked up lots of ideas from listening to different kinds of music, even flamenco guitar. For ‘Magic Mirror,’ I use ‘Latin slapping,’ where I slap the fingerboard with one finger then pull back on the other strings one at a time, which gives you a triplet. It took me about a year to get that where I wanted it to be.”

Rae’s voice is similarly transformative on the album. She invests “Deep Salt Sea,” a kind of gothic sea shanty, with subtle ornamentations and inflections that hint at Canadian maritime or British Isles settings. “Worlds Away” and “Sadie Dear” suggest modern incarnations of old-timey or other pastoral roots music, and “Given Half the Time” – which features her multi-tracked vocals, accompanied only by hand claps, foot stomps and a kick drum – has a spiritual feel to it. On “Who Will Lie Beside You Now?” she eschews her “comfortable alto” to sing in a higher register, punctuating the solemnity of the verses with an exotic vocal af-

(Continued on next page)



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Dana Lyn and Kyle Sanna have a goal in common: Finding, or creating, a narrative amidst the notes

BY SEAN SMITH
SPECIAL TO THE BIR
Early on, New York City-based fiddler-composer-arranger Dana Lyn got the message that playing music was about more than, well, just playing music.

“My classical violin teacher was all about interpretation and expression,” recalls Lyn, who will appear at Boston College this month with guitarist Kyle Sanna. “She’d say, ‘What do you want the listener to feel? What story do you want to tell the audience?’ It’s much the same as acting: Classical music is seen as overly technical, but to me it’s passionate, full of overwhelming emotion. And I always tried to get that across in my playing.”

Even as Lyn went on to explore Irish traditional music (playing with such luminaries as Mick Moloney, Kevin Burke, and Martin Hayes), along with other genres, she retained that imperative of seeking, or creating, a narrative amidst the notes. She found a kindred spirit in Sanna, whose background and interests were as wide-ranging as hers. First playing as the accompanists for Irish singer and flutist Nuala Kennedy, Lyn and Sanna began their own collaboration, and in 2011 they released their first album, “The Hare Said a Prayer to the Rainbow and Followed the Fox Down the Hole,” mixing traditional tunes, original compositions and improvised passages.

While their second release, “The Great Arc” (2015), followed much the same template, the album had a unifying theme: portraits of extinct or endangered animal species, like the trilobite, stegosaurus, the Sumatran orangutan, and the blue-tailed skink. Lyn and Sanna will present their latest project, “The Coral Suite”—an imagining of a coral reef and the diversity of life in its ecosystem—on Oct. 18 as part of BC’s Gaelic



Dana Lyn and Kyle Sanna performing their “Coral Suite,” which depicts the ecosystem of a coral reef through traditional Irish music and original compositions. *Iain Toft photo*

Roots series. The free event takes place at 6:30 p.m. in the Theology and Ministry Library on BC’s Brighton campus.

While not exactly a companion piece, “The Coral Suite” has some common threads with “The Great Arc”—in fact, the latter album’s final track was a tribute to the world’s largest coral reef system, the Great Barrier Reef in Australia—not least of which is the focus on wildlife and natural habitats (and a reminder of the fragility of each). But where “Arc” comprised separate, self-contained pieces, “Coral Suite” is a continuous 50-minute set; in live performances, the music is complemented by light boxes and projections featuring illustrations by Lyn.

“The Coral Suite” depicts a procession of various sea creatures in a coral reef, their interactions with one another, and their responses to changes in the environment, all evoked through Lyn’s fiddles and Sanna’s acoustic and electric guitars (in some cases, the instruments are multiply tracked or filtered through special effects).

Lyn talks of using “the

vocabulary of Irish melody” for works such as “The Great Arc” and “The Coral Suite.” It all makes for a fascinating repurposing of Irish traditional music. Instead of thinking of the tunes in the context of dance, you’re prompted by Lyn and Sanna to hear them as representations of movement, anatomy, and other characteristics of marine life. In this setting, the tunes change tempo, sometimes abruptly, sometimes little by little, or they are deconstructed into components that take on a life of their own.

The suite begins by portraying the arrival of fertilized coral eggs on the seabed, as Lyn plays the traditional air “Dear Irish Boy,” Sanna gradually joining in and then taking the lead on an improvised passage until Lyn re-enters. The corals’ growth and competition with one another for space on the reef comes as Sanna ratchets up the rhythm, as Lyn launches into “The Strawberry Blossom Reel.”

Scenes and tempos change. A tranquil “Aqualude” (a Lyn-Sanna original) summons up scenes of sea snakes’ pursuit of smaller fish, and in a

later reprise, the byplay among a group of cuttlefish. A storm arrives to the strains of the reel “Toss the Feathers” and its departure, along with the appearance of full moon, is heralded by “The Mooncoin Jig.” Sanna’s slide guitar revisits “Dear Irish Boy” as the coral spawn. Other characters appear: an octopus out on a hunt; mantarays feeding on plankton, one of them suddenly pursued by a shark; finally, a sea turtle, off in search of a new reef.

The inspiration for “Great Arc” and “Coral Suite” stem from Lyn’s interests in the natural

world. A self-described “nature geek,” Lyn liked swimming and drawing as a kid, and part of her studies at Oberlin included environmental science.

“Nature and the environment are more than stories; they’re something important that binds us as people,” she says. “I sometimes feel guilty for not having been a scientist, so ‘The Great Arc’ and ‘The Coral Suite’ are an effort to draw that side of me into my musical side.”

But Lyn—whose resume as a composer includes commission for a project on the 1916 Easter Rising by Boston College faculty

members Richard Kearney and Sheila Gallagher—is quick to note that “Arc” and “Coral” were joint efforts between her and Sanna: “We built it together, we know all of it in our heads,” she says.

For Sanna, who’s written music to accompany silent films, theater pieces, spoken or sung poetry, and works inspired by short stories and images, these collaborations with Lyn are aligned with his overall style and approach.

“It’s much easier for me to move forward with a creative project if it’s grounded in a narrative. Music itself is an abstract language, but because it is time-based and carries emotion, it lends itself to stories and dramas, even if they’re only in the imagination of the listener. I think Dana and I are both drawn to these types of narrative projects and collaborations. It seems natural for us to connect our music to something broader. We both feel a sense of urgency around environmental issues so we’ve found ways of tying themes of environmental fragility into our musical arrangements and artwork.”

For information about Gaelic Roots events, see the Boston College Irish Studies home page at bc.edu/irish.html.

Dana Lyn and Kyle Sanna’s website is danalynkylesanna.com.

Her ‘voice is just as versatile as the fiddle’

fectionation, inspired by the Portuguese music Rae listened to while growing up.

There’s a kind of epistolary quality to “Emerald Rae,” the songs all taking on the form and content of messages awaiting delivery somewhere, with lessons to impart or requests to be honored. The various narrators, in first person, recount or ruminate with bitterness and disillusionment (“Moving On”) a sense of triumph (“Given Half the Time”) or from close to the grave, in the case of “Deep Salt Sea.” But in other instances, the songs admonish, sometimes with fondness (“Sadie Dear”) or scorn (“Worlds Away”); or offer encouragement (“Lonely Road”), confession (“Inkwell”) or a didactic sympathy (“Who Will Lie Beside You Now?”).

“These songs came out

of a very introspective period in my life, and I think that shows,” says Rae. “I felt very focused on my inner thoughts, my inner worlds, and it felt good to be able to have time and space to do that. I collect lots of little pieces, and I don’t write a huge quantity of songs all at once. It’s more like a slow drip. I pack in all of my ideas into a small space.”

As Rae has looked back on the different projects and interests she’s pursued, she’s both matter-of-fact and upbeat about those things that didn’t work out, like the now-defunct TradLife. “It was a good learning experience. I’ve definitely tried a lot of different things, and in some cases failed, but I’m just a risk-taker; it’s a way of being creative. TradLife was useful in that I learned

how interested I am in technology and business, and so I’m now channeling that into my music. Being an artist is like being an entrepreneur: You have to find out what works for you and then push to make it happen. I just feel like, with songwriting and this fiddle-and-voice groove, I’ve hit my stride and that’s the train I’m on.”

But Rae hasn’t forgotten where she came from. “I love traditional music still, and I always try to get out and play tunes with people. It’s always my hometown, my home base, and I keep coming back to it.”

For tickets and details about Emerald Rae’s Oct. 11 show at Club Passim, go to passim.org.

Emerald Rae’s website is emeraldrae.com.

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CD Reviews

By Sean Smith

The High Seas, “The High Seas” • One of the more captivating albums of recent years, not just for its content but also its context: Young performers hitting that sweet spot in presenting Irish music with skill, and respect for the tradition, and showing some imagination in the process. The musicians in question are Caitlín Nic Gabhann (concertina, step dance), her husband Ciarán Ó Maonaigh (fiddle) and Cathal Ó Curráin



(vocals, bouzouki, fiddle). Nic Gabhann and Ó Maonaigh released their highly praised debut album in 2015, and have played locally at The Burren Backroom and the “St. Patrick’s Day Celtic Sojourn” event; Ó Curráin, a University of Limerick student, has been a frequent accompanist of theirs. (Astute

readers will note their first names all begin with “C,” hence the inspiration for their band name.)

All three have solid roots in the Irish tradition – Nic Gabhann, from Meath, is a three-time All-Ireland champion; Donegal native Ó Maonaigh grew up immersed in that area’s storied fiddle style; Ó Curráin, from the gaeltacht of Donegal’s Gaoth Dobhair, connected to the singing tradition through his aunts – and they demonstrate this to great effect throughout the album. It’s nigh impossible, for instance, not to relish Nic Gabhann’s snap and drive on reels, like in the “Tomás Clancy’s No. 2” and “Drunken Landlady” medleys. Ó

Maonaigh’s classic Donegal treatment of the strathspey “Stirling Castle” – followed by equally crisp renditions of “The Lowlands of Scotland” and “Mooney’s Reel” – is similarly joyful, as is Ó Curráin’s bouzouki backing, which ranges seamlessly between straight chordal and more nuanced rhythm. And then there’s Ó Curráin’s singing – relaxed, tender and well-phrased, most of it in Gaelic. Of special note is “Níl Cailín Óg Níos Deise,” a family heirloom of sorts: The words are from a song written for his grandmother by a long-ago lover; the lyrics were found after her death in a box filled with letters under her bed.

All pleasing enough, to be sure, but then there are those bits of inspiration and inventiveness that make a good album even better. Some are subtle and understated, like Ó Curráin’s double-tracked vocals on “The Road to Donegal”; Ó Maonaigh’s cello-like accompaniment of Ó Curráin on “Máire Ní Eidhin” (another song with ties to Ó Curráin’s family); or the little prelude Nic Gabhann, Ó Maonaigh and Ó Curráin (playing fiddle) tack onto the start of Nic Gabhann’s composition “Eigse an Spidéil,” which transitions into the venerable reel, “Come West Along the Road” that includes stepping from Nic Gabhann (who, it bears mentioning, appeared in “Riverdance” at one time). Their creativity is arguably at its peak on the track that begins with Ó Curráin singing “Mo Ghloine Uisce Beatha” – a composition by his grandfather with one of those melodies that sounds delightfully full of brass and bravado – and segues into a Swedish traditional tune, “Edklunda Polska,” with Nic Gabhann’s foot percussion lending a sort of Quebecois feel to the proceedings. One of the most delicately sublime tracks is “The Speaking Waltz” (also known in Donegal tradition as “The Exhibition Waltz”), with Ó Maonaigh playing the melody to an intricate but unobtrusive counter-melody by Ó Curráin, while Nic Gabhann chimes in with a series of held notes high up in the register, her concertina sounding more like a little table organ.

That kind of judiciously employed creativity – going just a little beyond the familiar here, taking a less-is-more approach there – helps to energize the tradition, and The High Seas have gallons of it. [caitlin.ie/the-high-seas]

House of Hamill, “March Through Storms” • The duo of Rose Baldino and Brian Buchanan has quite the pedigree, being former members of two high-profile folk-Celtic-rock bands: Baldino of the now-defunct Burning Bridget Cleary, Buchanan of Enter the Haggis. And the name they go by has an impressive bloodline, too: It’s the title of a tune composed by the great fiddler Ed Reavy (Philadelphia by way of Co. Cavan), a relentless reel with a third part a musician once described, somewhat jokingly, as “pure, twisted evil.” Besides being experienced in trad-style fiddling, Baldino and Buchanan also have backgrounds in classical violin to go with the various rock/pop influences they’ve picked up over the years.



“March Through Storms,” their first release, is heavy on that aforementioned rock/pop dimension. Buchanan’s electric guitar and keyboards, along with Chico Huff’s bass guitar and Bruce McCarthy’s drums, are as much a presence as his and Baldino’s fiddles (he also plays acoustic guitar, banjo and mandolin; she,

guitar and banjo), and there are plenty of rock hooks, licks, and stylings. This makes for some viscerally exciting moments, most often when Baldino and Buchanan trade off or duet on the three instrumental medleys, “Cedars House,” “Delay Set” and “Rainy Day Set,” all of which are originals.

Similarly, it is their combined vocals that are the strongest feature of the album’s songs, like “Advancing Army,” the allegorical “Snake Oil,” and the mellow but vivid “You Are My Home”; elsewhere, Baldino has a good time leading their cover of the 1976 Heart classic “Magic Man,” in which they interpolate their namesake tune, while Buchanan does a fine job on Ed Pickford’s rousing labor ballad, “Pound a Week Rise.”

Not everything works – “Pandora’s Box” comes off lyrically listless, and seems like it belongs on a different album – but the overall energy level, craft, and theatricality in Baldino and Buchanan’s music make it easy to appreciate. Their house is clearly in order. [houseofhamill.com]

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THE BIR’S OCTOBER CALENDAR OF IRISH/CELTIC MUSIC EVENTS

A sampling of Irish/Celtic and related events in Greater Boston for October:

• Another busy month for The Burren Backroom series, beginning on Oct. 3 with a CD release concert by local sextet **Night Tree**. Its uniquely original material is centered on Irish/Celtic and Scandinavian music while also incorporating classical, classical, jazz, klezmer and Afro-Cuban influences, and features individual improvisation as well as ensemble playing from Lily Honigberg, violin; Chris Overholser, violin, viola and mandolin; Zach Mayer, saxophones, vocals; Sunniva Brynnel, accordion, vocals; McKinley James, cello; and Julian Loida, percussion. The band’s new CD, its second, was produced by Seamus Egan of Solas.

The harp/guitar duo of spouses **Máire Ní Chathasaigh** and **Chris Newman** comes to the Backroom on Oct. 10. Ní Chathasaigh, from a celebrated Irish music family, is widely hailed as an innovator of the Irish harp technique; English native Newman has performed throughout the UK and beyond both as a soloist, as a member of The Boys of the Lough, and with a lengthy list of collaborators ranging from jazz violin legend Stéphane Grappelli to Northumbrian pipes virtuoso Kathryn Tickell to Argentine singer Mercedes Sosa. Since teaming up in 1987, Ní Chathasaigh and Newman have taken their blend of traditional Irish, jazz, baroque and bluegrass, along with original compositions, far and wide while recording seven albums – and a pair with Ní Chathasaigh’s sister Nollaig Casey and Casey’s husband Arty McGlynn as the Heartstring Quartet.

Opening for Ní Chathasaigh and Newman will be Boston-area trio **Ceol Corvus**, whose members (Emily Peterson, concertina, whistle; Steve Levy, vocals, bouzouki, mandolin, tenor banjo; Sean Smith, vocals, guitar, bouzouki, bodhran) have long been active in the local music scene. Their free-reed/fretted-string dynamic combines the spontaneity and spirit of the Irish session with latter-day influences and arrangements inspired by the modern Irish folk revival.

Two inimitable, and very Galway, singer-songwriters, Pdraig Stevens and Leo Moran, team up for an Oct. 12 show. Moran is well known as a co-founder of the much-loved band The Saw Doctors, of which Stevens was also a member; The Saw Doctors have had three number one singles in the Irish charts. Stevens and Moran’s previous collaborations have included “The First Fifteen,” a collection of songs that celebrated the Galway football team in the wake of its success in the 1998 All-Ireland Senior Football Championship. Their most recent endeavor is the album, “News from the Old Country,” which reviewers have praised for its wit, charm, and nostalgia, as well as its realistic views of Galway life.

On Oct. 17, the Backroom will feature Andrew Finn Magill, a two-time All-Ireland fiddler who has branched out to explore old-timey and bluegrass, as well as music from Brazil and Malawi. He’ll be joined by multi-instrumentalist Alan Murray, a native Glaswegian who has played with Niall and Cillian Vallely, Eileen Ivers, Colin Farrell, and the Battlefield Band.

Guitarist-mandolinist-vocalist **Flynn Cohen** and fiddler **Duncan Wickel** will appear on Oct. 24. Cohen has continually explored the connections between Appalachian and other American traditional music with that of Ireland, Scotland and English, as a soloist and in his bands The Deadstring Ensemble and Low Lily (formerly Annalivia), as well as with performers like Aoife Clancy, Cathie Ryan and John Whelan. Wickel has been similarly versatile, hailed for his mastery in jazz, bluegrass and old-timey while also playing with eminent Irish/Celtic musicians such as Liz Carroll, John Doyle and Cara Dillon. Also appearing is guitarist **Scott Nygaard**, who has been equally adventurous and wide-ranging in his choice of music, including bluegrass, jazz, Cajun, old-time, western swing and rock and roll, and in recent years traditional Swedish and Irish music.

Rounding out this month at the Backroom on Oct. 31 will be fiddler **Liam O’Connor** and multi-instrumentalist **John Blake**. O’Connor, in addition to winning five All-Ireland fiddle titles and junior and senior Oireachtas fiddle competitions, is an accomplished classical violinist. The 2002 TG4 Young Musician of the Year, O’Connor earned another honor in 2017 when his solo album “The Loom” was voted Trad Album of the Year by the *Irish Times*; critics praised “The Loom” – which includes a duet with his father, noted flute player Mick O’Connor – for its showcasing of O’Connor’s technical ability as well as his imagination and expressiveness. Blake, who appears on “The Loom,” is not only a much-in-demand accompanist on guitar and piano but an accomplished flute player, and was a member of the band Téada.

All above events begin at 7:30 p.m. For other details and links to tickets, go to burren.com/EventsCalendar.html.

• Club Passim in Harvard Square will present a pair of highly distinguished singer-songwriters, **Archie Fisher** and **Garnet Rogers**, who are touring together for the last time, on Oct. 4, with shows at 7 and 9:30 p.m. Fisher, from one of Scotland’s foremost folk families, has been a mainstay at festivals, clubs and coffeehouses for decades – many of his original songs, such as “Witch of the Westmorland,” have entered the popular folk repertoire; he also served as host of BBC Radio Scotland’s “Travelling Folk” for more than 25 years and at one time performed with the duo Makem and Clancy. Born in Ontario, Rogers began his musical career accompanying his well-known brother, the late

singer-songwriter Stan Rogers, playing fiddle, flute, guitar and mandolin. Following Stan’s death in 1983, he became a performer in his own right, penning songs such as “The Outside Track” and “All That Is.” Fisher and Rogers started their collaboration in the mid-1980s and recorded an album, “Off the Map,” in 1986.

A more recently formed duo, **Maeve Gilchrist and Keith Murphy**, will be at Passim on Oct. 7 at 8 p.m. Gilchrist (harp, vocals) and Murphy (guitar, mandolin, vocals) play music from Scotland, New England, Ireland, Quebec, Acadia, Newfoundland and Cape Breton, among other places, and are both highly praised for their skills in composing and arranging – Murphy with Childsplay and as music director for “St. Patrick’s Day Celtic Sojourn,” Gilchrist as assistant music director for “A Christmas Celtic Sojourn.” The pair also are teaching a workshop on group singing and arranging from 2-4 p.m.

The **Katie McNally Trio** performs on Oct. 17 at 8 p.m. McNally, a Westford native whose fiddle-playing is grounded in the Scottish and Cape Breton traditions, has been on the concert stage since her early teens, performing and touring on her own and as a member of Childsplay and Long Time Courting, and in collaboration with Galician bagpiper Carlos Nunez. Her more recent musical project is a trio with genre-crossing keyboardist Neil Pearlman and violist Shauncey Ali. Their 2016 album, “The Boston States,” is a collection of tunes that draw inspiration from mid-century recordings of Cape Breton fiddlers both in Nova Scotia and Massachusetts.

For tickets and other information on Passim events, go to passim.org.

• Only two days after the Archie Fisher-Garnet Rogers concert at Club Passim [see above], another pair of venerable singer-songwriters will be in town, as **Jez Lowe and James Keelaghan** play at the Somerville Museum on Oct. 6 at 7 p.m. Lowe’s songs – by turns sensitive and somber, light-hearted and downright funny – are centered on the history, lore and most of all, the people of his native northeastern England: miners, farmers, sailors, heroes, ne’er-do-wells, and anyone else trying to make a life and perhaps find love along the way. His work has been covered by the likes of The Dubliners, Fairport Convention and The Duhks, among others. This year has seen him publish his first novel, *The Dillen Doll*, with an accompanying CD featuring a “suite” of traditional songs inspired by the story within it. Keelaghan, from Calgary, bridges traditional folk with roots revival and Celtic music, and in his songwriting has frequently turned to historical events for inspiration, notably “Cold Missouri Waters,” about a tragic Montana wildfire; other subjects include the Dunkirk evacuation (“Fires of Calais”) and the World War II interment of Japanese Canadians (“Kiri’s Piano”). He also has begun leading “musical tours” of Ireland. The pair first began playing together some two decades ago, and have often meshed their songwriting talents.

The event is organized by Music for Billie; for information, see musicforbillie.org.

• Co. Armagh-born **Jarlath Henderson**, who’s drawn raves for both his singing and uilleann piping and whistle playing, brings his band to The Rockwell in Davis Square on Oct. 18 at 7:30 p.m. Henderson is a three-time All-Ireland champion who has played with Paddy Keenan, LAU, Michael McGoldrick and Salsa Celtica, among others, and was even featured on the soundtrack for the Disney/Pixar film “Brave.” His singing is rooted in tradition while also showing an awareness of pop/contemporary inflections, as demonstrated on his debut solo album from 2016, “Hearts Broken, Heads Turned,” which features electronica and jazz elements alongside pipes, fiddle and other acoustic instruments.

Henderson’s concert is organized by World Music/CRASHarts – for tickets, see worldmusic.org/content/event_page/7201/jarlath-henderson-band.

• Gore Place in Waltham will be the setting for an autumnal feast of fiddling, when “Fiddlers on the Farm” takes place from 2-5 p.m. on Oct. 21. Featured will be **The Boston Scottish Fiddle Orchestra**, led by Neil Pearlman, the performance group of the Boston Scottish Fiddle Club, consisting of some two dozen musicians who along with fiddle also play cello, guitar, mandolin, flute, keyboards and other instruments, their repertoire focused on traditional and contemporary Scottish and Cape Breton tunes. Also performing will be the traditional Irish fiddle duo of **Nathan Gourley and Laura Feddersen**, native Mid-Westerners who have become fixtures of Boston’s Irish music scene. Gourley has been a member of Chulrua, the Doon Ceili Band, the Two Tap Trio, and the Máirtín de Cógáin Project, was a finalist in the Sean O Riada fiddle competition in 2014 and won Boston’s Fiddler of Dooney competition in 2013. Feddersen began her musical odyssey by playing for square and set dances in her hometown of Bloomington, Ind., before taking a strong interest in Irish and Irish-American music; since then, she’s traveled extensively throughout the US as a performer and teacher. Gourley and Feddersen have fashioned a distinctive approach to twin fiddling that encompasses chordal harmonies and rhythmic and melodic variations as well as strict unison. In 2016, the two released a well-received album, “Life Is All Checked.”

See goreplace.org/event/fiddlers-farm.

— SEAN SMITH

Succession planning for your business

Presented by Brian W. O’Sullivan, CFP, ChFC, CLU

It may be hard to imagine right now, but odds are the business you’ve worked so hard to create will be owned by someone else in the future. Eventually, you will either give up the helm voluntarily when you retire, or involuntarily as the result of an unexpected event.

Charting a path for your small business

Succession planning helps you specify, in writing, what will happen to the business when you retire, become disabled, die prematurely, or otherwise step down. It is not a one-time event, but instead a continuous process that starts with your goals, and builds and improves over time. Your succession plan is also a roadmap for you, your family and your employees to help ensure that, in the event you are no longer able to run the company, any ill-advised decisions are kept to a minimum. By creating a succession plan today, you can make the decisions now about what will happen to your company in the future.



What goes into a succession plan?

Like any strategy your business may already have in place, a succession plan follows the same principles. It should address the who, what, when, where, why and how you would like to transition your business. Your professional tax advisors will be able to provide you with detailed guidance on setting up a succession plan customized for you and your company. Generally speaking, your succession plan should address the following:

- Your goals - what do you want from the business when you exit?
- Your successor(s) - who will take over and are they prepared?
- Ownership - what will future owner roles be, and what will the ownership percentages look like?
- Management - how will you keep key employees on board through the transition and beyond?
- Transfer plans - what are the steps involved in the transfer, and what is the timeline?
- Triggering events - what events (death, disability, retirement, divorce, bankruptcy) will start the transfer process?
- Purchase price/financing - Where will the funds come from for a buy-out and what are the tax implications?

Other considerations

Your succession plan will also have an impact on both your retirement plan and estate plan. Some additional considerations you will need to keep in mind:

- Value of the business: You need to know the true know the value of the company so you are confident the succession plan is accurate. Keep tabs on company value regularly (every three years) and update your succession plan to account for any changes
- Estate Equalization: If a family member who works in the business is the chosen successor, you should indicate how you plan for equitable distribution of the remainder of your estate for other family members, such as other children, who have no knowledge of the business.
- Sale Proceeds: You’ll also want to include instructions relating to taxes from the proceeds of the sale of your business, and detail what should occur regarding your personal estate plan.

Timing matters

Regardless of what form your succession plan takes, its ultimate success often hinges on timing. The sooner you start planning for the eventual transition, the more flexibility you’ll have in making future adjustments because – let’s face it – the only thing that’s guaranteed is change.

Brian W. O’Sullivan is a registered representative of and offers securities, investment advisory and financial planning services through MML Investors Services, LLC, Member SIPC (www.sipc.org). Supervisory Address: 101 Federal Street, Suite 800, Boston, MA 02110. He may be reached at 617-479-0075 x331 or bosullivan@financialguide.com.

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BIR NOTEBOOK

Nothing set in stone for Trump visit to Ireland in November

ASSOCIATED PRESS
President Donald Trump's planned visit to Ireland next month has been postponed, the Irish government said late last month, although the White House said only that the trip was up in the air.
The government in Dublin confirmed in a statement on Sept. 25 that "the proposed visit of the US president is postponed." It said U.S. officials had "cited scheduling reasons."
Earlier in September,

the White House had announced that Trump would travel to Ireland as part of a trip including a Nov. 11 event in Paris marking the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I, adding that his visit to the island would "renew the deep and historic ties between our two nations."
Trump met with Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar at the White House last in March as part of the Irish leader's annual St. Patrick's Day holiday visit. After Trump's visit to Ireland was announced, Varadkar said that it had come "a little bit out of the blue."
Then, on Sept. 25, White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said that the president would travel to Paris as previously announced, and added that "we are still finalizing whether Ireland will be a stop on that trip."
"The relationship between Ireland and the US is so strong and so important, much more important than any Irish government or any US

administration," Varadkar told Irish broadcaster RTE, "that I think we have to treat his office with the respect it deserves."
Large protests had been expected for a November visit, including the appearance of the "Trump baby" balloon that flew in London during the president's visit to the U.K. in July.
Irish Deputy Prime Minister Simon Coveney said late last week that the visit "will be controversial, because everything Donald Trump does these days is controversial." He added that the Irish government disagreed with Trump administration policies on climate change, migration, trade and other issues.
Trump's family business operates a golf club on Ireland's west coast, the Trump International Golf Links and Hotel in Doonbeg. Late last year, it received permission from a local government to build a wall to protect his course from rising

seas. The permit has been criticized by some local residents and environmentalists who say the structure will damage dunes in the area and a public beach.

British slash salaries of lawmakers in North

ASSOCIATED PRESS
The British government is cutting back the salaries of lawmakers in Northern Ireland because the Belfast legislature has been suspended for almost 600 days.
Northern Ireland Secretary Karen Bradley said late last month that assembly members are not performing "the full range of their legislative functions" so salaries will be cut in two stages from November, taking them from 49,500 pounds (\$64,000) per year to just under 36,000 pounds (\$46,500).
Civil servants have been running Northern Ireland's government since the Catholic-Protestant power-sharing



Karen Bradley cites underperformance by legislators in the Northern assembly.

administration collapsed in January 2017 over a botched green-energy project.
The rift soon widened to broader cultural and political issues separating Northern Ireland's British unionists and Irish nationalists.
Bradley told the House of Commons that she plans new talks with Northern Ireland's political parties about restoring a "stable, fully functioning" government.

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Traveling People

Doing ‘research’ shopping in Ireland’s jewelry stores a delight

Culture rules in so many excellent shops

By JUDY ENRIGHT
SPECIAL TO THE BIR

There is so much to enjoy when visiting Ireland and it's always nice to remember your trip with a souvenir or two. But as seasoned travelers know, there is limited space and weight allowed in home-bound suitcases and that could curb your urge to spend. I've found that handmade cards, jewelry, and small knitwear pieces – like scarves, gloves and hats – are lightweight, pack easily, travel well, and are fun to have at home.

AIDAN BREEN

More than 30 years ago, I visited Dublin with my husband and, while he absorbed culture in the city's museums, I absorbed culture in the many excellent stores, especially along Grafton Street. I always told him that merchandise offered in stores says a lot about a country, its likes and dislikes. So, you see, shopping was actually research.

During my research, I stopped at Gavronski Jewelers – then on Grafton Street – and bought an openwork silver bangle bracelet designed and made by Dublin jeweler, Aidan J. Breen. He incorporated mythological Celtic creatures and symbols into his intricate and elegant design and the result is stunning.

As I traveled around Ireland (doing more research), I remembered his name and work. Many years later, I found peacock and peahen brooches by Breen in a Connemara craft shop. I admire his detailed and beautiful designs, especially the simple but elegant Celtic pieces.

You can see what I mean at Breen's websites, including: aidanjbreen.com, myirishjeweler.com and celticdublin.com, and on his Facebook page: Aidan Breen Gold & Silversmith

It's no doubt true that not every traveler likes jewelry as much as I do, but it's hard not to be enthusiastic when you see the stunning work done by Irish jewelers. There are so many gifted jewelry artists in Ireland today, but space doesn't allow mention of them all so I've chosen my four favorites – Breen, Alan Ardiffe, Niall Bruton and Lynsey de Burca.

ALAN ARDIF

Dubliner Alan Ardiffe's work is fun thanks in part to moving parts in some pieces. My first Ardiffe piece – a pendant with a sheep looking up at a starry sky – came from Kylemore Abbey's excellent gift shop in Connemara. A tiny wheel on the side of the pendant moves the heavens around above the adoring sheep. Such fun. Later on, I found a whimsical dog brooch by Ardiffe at Seoidin on O'Connell Street in Ennis, Co. Clare.

There are many more designs by him at O'Reilly & Turpin in Westport and also at Shannon Airport's duty-free shop (and probably Dublin Airport's shop too although I never travel through that airport.) See his website too – alanardiffe.com – for more.

NIALL BRUTON

From his studio in the Donegal Craft Village, which I've made a point to visit several times, Niall Bruton creates,



Above, left: Lynsey de Burca, Galway jewelry designer, at work in her studio. Right, from top: Beautifully detailed silver brooches and Celtic design bracelet by Dublin jeweler Aidan Breen. Silver dog pin, called Best Friend, by Dublin artist Alan Ardiffe. Silver Celtic design earrings by Niall Bruton whose shop is in the Donegal Craft Village. Necklace by Galway jewelry designer Linsey de Burca.

displays, and sells his work. Bruton set up his workshop in the village in 1987 and works there in a number of art media including metals, etching, print, and painting as well as wearable art pieces.

I've bought several pieces from him over the years, including earrings, meant to be gifts, which I still have. His silver work and designs are different and interesting. See Niallbruton.com for more.

When you visit the Craft Village, be sure to have lunch or a delicious baked snack at Aroma Café and stop at the glass workshop of sisters Elaine and Lyndsey McGonigle to see their designs. See mcgonigleglasstudio.com.

LYNSEY DE BURCA

Swinging over to the West, you'll find Lynsey de Burca, a Galway jewelry designer, who uses ancient processes to create her unique pieces. She pierces, solders, forges, files, and polishes each individual link, which ensures that each piece she produces has its own fingerprint.

Lynsey says she's inspired by the curve formed in the barrel of breaking Atlantic waves, by the chop of those waves, and by the folds and composition of fishing nets strewn over pier walls.

I found Lynsey's work at Whistlestop in Clifden, Co. Galway, and at O'Reilly & Turpin in Westport, Co. Mayo. But her work is also sold in many other craft and jewelry shops across Ireland, including

Designyard in Dublin, Leitrim Design House in Carrick-on-Shannon, Ardmore Pottery and Gallery in Ardmore, Co. Waterford, and a number of shops in Galway. See more at lynseydeburca.com or email to lynseydeburca@gmail.com.

And, speaking of Galway, if you're on the hunt for a Claddagh Ring or other Irish pieces, do stop into Fallers, a fifth generation run store that has been home to the "makers of the Claddagh Ring" for more than 140 years. If you can't get to Ireland, Fallers also sells online and has for 21 years. See fallers.com for details.

ART FORMS

If you aren't mad for jewelry, please be assured that there are many other art forms in Ireland to enjoy. In Westport, Co. Mayo, for instance, Westival will run from Oct. 24-29 with music, theatre, visual arts, literature, family fun and workshops.

'I AM' - one of the events planned - is an open art exhibition in conjunction with Westival. It will take place in McGings Bar in Westport throughout the festival dates. 'I AM' will feature work in all mediums, from painting, drawing, print, photography, sculpture, video, etc. The official opening is Oct. 24 at 9:30 p.m. followed by music by Graham Sweeney at 10:30.

BRAM STOKER

With all the ghouls and ghosties out in force this month, could any of us ever forget that October is Hal-

loween month? Prepare to be very scared if you're in Dublin during the Bram Stoker Festival - billed as "four days of deadly adventures" - from Oct. 26 to Oct. 29. The festival includes a parade and other events you might find in this "gothically inspired" program.

Stoker was born in Dublin in 1847 and wrote 12 novels during his lifetime, with "Dracula" being the most famous.

There are Halloween events planned all over Ireland so be sure to check whatever area you plan to visit and get in on the fun and frights.

BITS AND PIECES

- Kudos to the Irish Eventing Team, which took home a silver from the World Equestrian Games and became the first Irish team ever to win a medal there thus qualifying for the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo.

- Fáilte Ireland has announced approval of 2.1-million euro funding for a 56km cycle track through part of the Ballycroy National Park in Co. Mayo, recently renamed the Wild Nephin Ballycroy National Park. When completed, the project will upgrade the existing Western Way to a grade 3 cycle/walk off road track that will run from the Great Western Greenway through the National Park to Ballycastle in North Mayo.

- During July and August, Ireland's National Monuments Service received 66 reports of newly identified



monuments, several of which were found with drones. Many were identified through crop-marks or scorch-marks, which became visible due to Ireland's dry weather during the summer. Among them was a previously unknown henge (a circle of stone uprights) near Newgrange in the Brú na Boinne Unesco World Heritage Site in Co. Meath, found by a man using a drone.

- Ireland's postal service (An Post), which is struggling in this age of instant communication, recently announced that 159 post offices across the country will close over the next few months. Post offices will be shut down in 25 of the 26 counties will close - Dublin is the exception. Western counties were hit hardest, with at least 45 post offices closing in counties Galway, Mayo and Donegal. This is sad news for smaller communities where the post office is often a lifeline for older residents, the hub of activity, and a meeting place.

In a news report, Debbie Byrne, managing director of An Post Retail, said, "We fully acknowledge that this process will be difficult for some customers and communities but the end result will be a strengthened, viable post office network serving the needs of our country for the future."

Enjoy Ireland whenever you visit – and do be on the lookout for the goblins and the ghouls this month in the Republic and in Northern Ireland.



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