Go Green on March 17

St. Patrick's Day on March 17 is a time when many people claim kinship with the Emerald Isle and hope for the luck of the Irish. No matter your ancestry, you may be interested in the following facts and figures.

- The first New York City St. Patrick's Day parade occurred in 1762. The current parade lasts five to six hours and is attended by nearly 2 million spectators every year.
- In addition to a parade, Chicago celebrates St. Paddy's Day by turning the Chicago River green. It takes 45 pounds of powdered dye to accomplish the festive feat.
- About 55 percent of people in the U.S. celebrate St. Patrick's Day in some way, spending a total of \$5 billion on the holiday.
- An estimated 34 million Americans have Irish ancestry. That's more than seven times the population of Ireland.
- Towns that seem especially suited to celebrate the holiday include Shamrock, Texas; St. Patrick, Mo.; Dublin, Ohio; Ireland, W.Va.; Emerald Isle, N.C.; and Irishtown, Ill.
- Over 650,000 babies born in the U.S. in the last century have been named Patrick. The name means "nobleman."
- Your odds of finding a four-leaf clover are about 1 in 10,000.
- According to legend, when they aren't guarding their pots of gold, leprechauns spend their days making and mending shoes.



MARCH 2024

All About Easter

Easter, one of the most important holidays in Christianity, celebrates the central event of the Christian faith: the resurrection of Jesus Christ after his crucifixion. This event is significant to Christians because, through his death and resurrection, Jesus suffered for the sins of the world, yet was able to overcome death.

Easter is observed on the first Sunday after the full moon that occurs on or after the vernal equinox (the first day of spring). According to the Bible, the events of the crucifixion and resurrection occurred during the Jewish Passover, a springtime celebration. Easter is preceded by Lent, a 40-day period of fasting and repentance that begins on Ash Wednesday. The Sunday before Easter is Palm Sunday, the day that Jesus arrived in Jerusalem. The week before Easter is called Holy Week.

During Holy Week, Christians observe Maundy Thursday, when the Last Supper with Jesus and his disciples took place; and Good Friday, the day of the crucifixion. The resurrection is then celebrated on Easter Sunday.

Children often participate in Easter egg hunts and look forward to visits from the Easter Bunny, who is said to deliver candy and eggs during the night.







MEMORY CARE

MARCH 2024

Easter Joy

We want to wish all of our residents a happy Easter! We hope you and your loved ones have a joyous holiday.

Easter Egg Hunt

Come by the office for details on our Easter egg hunt to be held this month on March 23, 2024, at 10am. Our residents have a blast and it's fun to watch, too. Happy hunting!

Easy Easter Treats

Whip up a batch of homemade Easter treats: Melt 3 tablespoons of butter and a 10-ounce bag of marshmallows in a microwave-safe bowl. Pour the mixture over 6 cups of crisped rice cereal, stirring to combine. Grease a muffin tin with cooking spray, then place a spoonful of the cereal mixture into the cups and shape them into bird nests. After cooling, remove the nests from the pan and fill them with jelly beans or chocolate candy eggs.

"Life is a painting, and you are the artist. You have on your palette all the colors in the spectrum." —Paul J. Meyer





Here's to the Irish

Celebrate like a Celt with the popular Gaelic toast *sláinte*, pronounced "slawn-cha." It translates as "health," and is used like the English expression "Cheers!"



'Honey' Is One

How many words can you come up with using the letters in "chocolate bunny"?

Health Perks of Positivity

March is Optimism Month, but those who make a year-round habit of looking on the bright side may reap a number of health benefits.

Better physical health. Optimists tend to have reduced rates of heart attack and stroke, as well as lower blood pressure and better cholesterol levels. Evidence suggests that those who have a positive outlook are more likely to exercise, eat well and get enough sleep. Increased life span. Since optimism and good health often go hand in hand, it follows suit that people who view life through rose-colored glasses are apt to live longer. A study of centenarians found that the majority had positive attitudes. Stronger immune system. Research shows that being optimistic about a stressful situation can raise the body's immune response, increasing its ability to fight infection and disease.

Lower depression rate. Compared to pessimists, optimists are often more social, handle stress better and are more resilient. These qualities can help ward off depression. Better problem-solving. When faced with a dilemma, optimists typically are better at moving quickly to find a solution rather than dwelling on the problem. Faster recovery. Recovery rates show that people with sunny dispositions bounce back from illness and injury faster than those who are less hopeful.





