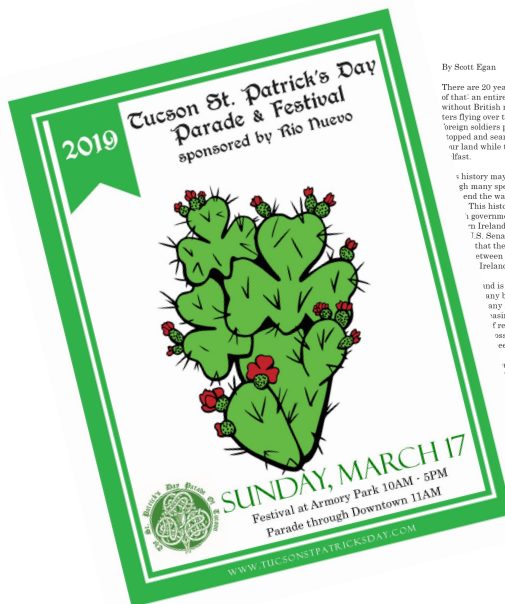




TUCSON ST. PATRICK'S DAY ADVERTISING RATES

Each year over 10,000 Tucson St. Patrick's Day Festival programs are distributed throughout Southern Arizona. Be part of the fun!



IRELAND & BREXIT

By Scott Egan

There are 20 year olds in Ireland today who have never lived under military occupation. Think of that: an entire generation of young Irish people who have lived without British military posts overlooking their homes, helicopters flying over their funerals, being stopped by heavily armed foreign soldiers patrolling their neighborhood streets, or being stopped and searched at armed checkpoints by strangers in our land while trying to drive a few miles from Dublin to, say, Belfast.

History may be a bit hard to appreciate by Irish Americans, given many spent decades playing an active role in helping all end the war of occupation, which finally culminated with the Good Friday Peace Agreement. This historic agreement, reached by carefully balancing the interests of the Irish and the British governments as well as the adversarial parties representing different constituencies in Ireland. It has maintained a peaceful status quo since it was signed on April 10, 1998. Senator George Mitchell, who led the negotiations for the Good Friday Agreement, that the agreement may now be in jeopardy if Brexit leads to the recreation of a border between the Republic of Ireland. The latter remaining in the European Union, and Ireland being forced to leave because of the British vote.

And is fighting to preserve an "open" (and unsecured) border, we American's are fighting any billions of taxpayer dollars need to be allocated for concrete barriers and razor wire National Guard troops need to be deployed, how much construction is needed using militarized border stations, or how many children are still lost due to forced refugee parents and children. As tourists, we accept the hours of waiting in delay settings that used to only take minutes to cross. The contrast between our country and border controls could not be more different.

And contend that the Mexican, Central American, and other refugee's trying to



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2019 GRAND MARSHAL

RYAN BEAMISH

By John Murphy

The St. Patrick's Day Parade and Festival of Tucson is proud and excited to present Mr. Ryan Beamish as our Grand Marshal for 2019. Ryan grew up in Tucson, a local Irishman who made good. He initially gained local and national fame for his business Duke's Bar, a business he began to help pay for a necessary operation for his therapy dog and best buddy, Duke. Ryan makes and sells signature sculptures made from bicycle chains. At first, he made a few and displayed them in the bicycle shop where he worked. They sold quickly with requests for more, quickly becoming a "must have" item in Tucson's as well as the country's bicycling communities. It grew into a viable business for Ryan and Duke got his operation, making a full recovery.

Ryan is an avid mountain biker. The book on him is that he totally shreds. It's an activity he uses to cope with the mental and emotional aftermath of his Marine deployment in the Iraq War - Duke helped with that, too. Ryan is also the head of the Tucson chapter of the Scamper Fi Fund, a non-profit charitable organization that provides a variety of programs to assist wounded veterans in all branches of the United States Armed Forces. The organization describes its mission as "providing urgently needed resources and support for post-9/11 combat wounded, critically ill and catastrophically injured members of the U.S. Armed Forces and their families." The Fund has issued more than 158,000 grants totaling in excess of \$145 million in assistance.

The Scamper Fi Fund began in early 2003 as a gathering of military spouses around a kitchen table discussing ways to help Marines who had been injured during deployment in Iraq. Early efforts included the distribution of snacks and toiletries at hospitals and a specialized van for a catastrophically injured Marine.

With his mountain biking background, one of Ryan's main focuses at Scamper Fi Fund is the Recovery Through Sport Program. He conducts mountain bike skills camps and organizes rides for critically injured veterans. "Really the biggest thing with these amazing veterans is they use no excuses," Ryan says. "They walk on uprights. They are missing limbs. We're here to help. These guys are digging deep and not quitting. It doesn't matter if you have buddies who are missing both legs. Nothing is going to stop them now. We are working with each other and looking out for each other. I try to provide mentorship."

With his military service, Duke's Signatures and his leadership of the Tucson Chapter of the Scamper Fi Fund, Ryan is an artist, athlete, business man and a fixture on the Tucson community service scene. He epitomizes the spirit of this year's theme "Community in Action." On behalf of the Tucson St. Patrick's Day Parade and Festival Committee, thank you Ryan for your service to the country and community. Slainte, Bro.



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