

# 'Everyone wants to be Irish'

## St. Patrick's Day brings out the pride of area's Hibernians

By **BILL DUHART**  
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John Schillig, the owner of Schilleens Pub in Westville, sheepishly admits his heritage is Swiss.

But that doesn't keep him from celebrating St. Patrick's Day.

"Everyone wants to be Irish on St. Patrick's Day," he said.

Indeed.

With an abundance of good cheer, green beer, tasty food and delightful treats, who wouldn't want to wear green or do a jig?

In the United States, the number of people who claim Irish ancestry is seven times the population of Ireland, according to census data. In

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New Jersey, nearly 16 percent of the state's residents claim Irish heritage.

In South Jersey, St. Patrick's Day, which honors the patron saint of Ireland, is observed with church services, parades and special foods.

"It's a day to celebrate what the Irish brought to America," said Carole Moore, co-owner with her husband, William, of the Whitebriar Bed and Breakfast in Edgewater Park. "Irish immigrants

helped build the railroads, worked in coal mines and pulled themselves up by their bootstraps and made themselves honest citizens."

William Moore says he is a direct descendant of Irish King Malachy O'Moore. He is proud of his royal ancestry and how Irish immigrants overcame discrimination in America, poverty and lack of political power.

"The Civil War legitimized the Irish," Moore said. "Before that, there were signs that the Irish need not apply. After the Civil War, they stayed in their ethnic communities in the cities and became the policemen and the firemen, and there's still a large number of police and



**Ellen Anderson, 17, of Haddon Township performs an Irish jig at the Lynn Academy of Irish Dance.**

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See **IRISH**, Page 7A