

NEWSLETTER



PIPE BAND PRACTICE AND LESSONS

The Kalamazoo Pipe Band is having practices and offers lesson this winter on Tuesday evenings at Trinity Lutheran Church in downtown Kalamazoo. We're looking forward to a fun 2024 season and working on several new tunes including Caber Feidh which means a Stag's Antlers in Gaelic. The band is also working on a Strathspey which is a style of dance tunes named after the Strathspey region of Scotland.

Our summer performance season schedule hasn't been finalized but we're looking forward to participating in multiple events including the Dowagiac Memorial Day Parade and the Kalamazoo Scottish Festival. We offer lessons for anyone that wants to learn to play the pipes or drums. Interested in learning more? Check us out on Facebook or on our webpage, kalamazoopipeband.org.

Contributed by Greg Huff



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CRAFTING ATHLETIC IMPLEMENTS

Michigan is becoming known for craft beers. KSFA is going to try developing "craft" athletic implements! Several Highland Athletes got together to sponsor purchasing hops poles from a local farmer - used to support the upright growth of the hops plants - and the Caber Crew will work on turning them into "craft" cabers! We'll see how they work when practices start!

WHISKY TASTING FUNDRAISER

We will be hosting a Whisky Tasting Fundraiser on Saturday, March 23rd from 6:30-9:00 pm. The evening will include:

- **Education and History**
- **Palate cleansing snacks**
- **Scottish fare for all!**

Location: VFW 3030

124 N Farmer St.

Otsego, MI 49078

Visit our website to RSVP!



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TARTAN DAY - APRIL 6TH

‘Tartan Day is a North American celebration of Scottish heritage on April 6, the date on which the Declaration of Arbroath was signed in 1320. It originated in Canada in the mid-1980s. It spread to other communities of the Scottish diaspora in the 1990s. In Australia the similar International Tartan Day is held on July 1, the anniversary of the repeal of the 1747 Act of Proscription that banned the wearing of tartan.

In 1998, the Scottish Coalition USA and other Scottish American organizations with the support of Senator Trent Lott (R-MS) successfully lobbied the Senate for the designation of April 6 as National Tartan Day “to recognize the outstanding achievements and contributions made by Scottish Americans to the United States”. Senate Resolution 155, passed on March 20, 1998, referred to the predominance of Scots among the Founding Fathers and claimed that the American Declaration of Independence was “modeled on” the Declaration of Arbroath.



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TARTAN DAY...CONTINUED

In 1998 the first Tartan Day Parade in New York City, consisting of two pipe bands and a small but spirited group of Scottish Americans, including Grand Marshal, Cliff Robertson, walking on a sidewalk from the British Consulate to the United Nations.

Where can you go with a pipe bands and a spirited group celebrating Scotland??!! To the Kalamazoo Scottish Festival and Highland Games, September 7, 2024!”

(Taken from an article in The Scottish Coalition, USA, a publication of the American-Scottish Foundation.)

