

Excerpt from Wall Street Journal, March 9, 2015

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/st-patricks-portfolio-was-no-pot-of-gold-1425870175>

St. Patrick's Portfolio Was No Pot of Gold

For fun, Zacks picked eight investments with an Irish theme. But this elf was mean.

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A year ago, for St. Patrick's Day, analysts at Zacks Investment Research in Chicago highlighted eight investments to fit the theme. They cited five Irish-tied stocks and exchange-traded funds, and three "green energy" ETFs (wink wink).

The result? Keep this stock-picking elf on the shelf.

Six of the eight investments declined from St. Patrick's Day through the end of last month, four of them by double digits. The two advancers? Midwest grocery chain ... which now trades as ... (It was recommended simply because Michigan State's colors are "Spartan green" and white.) Meanwhile, Irish building-materials supplier ... was up 2%.

....

... three green-energy buys, ... At the time, the sector was hot. But all three picks got walloped for 10%-plus losses.

"Some of these picks are probably better for the longer term anyway," Mr. ... says now, noting that energy prices dropped right when the report came out, and agreeing that such holiday-themed research reports rely on something other than cold facts. A bit o' luck.

Little Luck

Performance of eight St. Patrick's-themed picks from Zacks

Stock or Fund	Ticker	3/17/14 through end of last month
Bank of Ireland	IREBY	-22.8%
Fly Leasing	FLY	-2.0
CRH PLC	CRH	2.0
Spartan Stores*	SPTN	22.4
iShares MSCI Ireland Capped ETF	EIRL	-3.9
PowerShares Global Clean Energy Portfolio	PBD	-12.1
First Trust Nasdaq Clean Edge Green Energy Index Fund	QCLN	-10.9
Guggenheim Solar ETF	TAN	-16.9
Average		-5.5
S&P 500		13.2

*now SpartanNash

Source: FactSet Research Systems, WSJ Market Data Group

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