

Parkhaven Press

Parkhaven Retirement | 100 Hamilton Ct. | 406-282-7488



Celebrating February

Black History Month

Groundhog Day

February 2

Super Bowl LVII

February 12

Valentine's Day

February 14

Presidents' Day (U.S.)

February 20

Mardi Gras

February 21

WELCOME NEW RESIDENTS

Chuck and Roberta

Walter

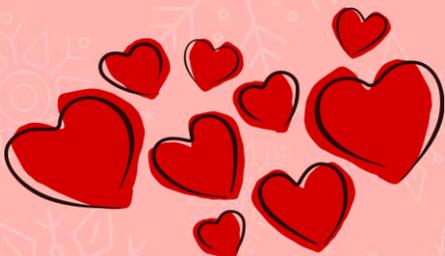
Marlene

Esther

Carolyn

WELCOME NEW STAFF

Lorene



Finding a Lost Art

You may not realize it, but if you send a valentine through the mail on February 7, you are celebrating Send a Card to a Friend Day. Despite the ubiquity of electronic communications like text messages and social media posts, the art of sending mail by post has not been lost entirely. Sending a thoughtful letter to a friend or loved one is a surefire way to show that special someone exactly how dear they are to you.

While a greeting card purchased from a store is a nice gesture, the best card-sender does more than just sign their name. Demonstrate thoughtfulness by personalizing your message. Reflect on a memory or moment you shared with your loved one that really meant something to you. List the qualities you most admire about your friend or what you most miss about them, or thank them for a valuable lesson they taught you. Finally, sign off with a thoughtful question and encourage them to write back. Handwriting a letter won't just make their day, but the act of writing is a powerful one for you, too. Writing has been proven to reduce stress, strengthen memory, and sharpen your wit, all at the same time. If you feel particularly inspired, you could compose an original poem. After all, it is believed that poetry is what gave us the Valentine's Day we know and celebrate today.

While Valentine's Day has been celebrated as the religious feast day of St. Valentine since the fifth century, it wasn't until 1382 that Valentine's Day became a secular holiday for romantics. That was when Geoffrey Chaucer, the writer from the High Middle Ages best known for *The Canterbury Tales*, penned his poem *Parlement of Foules*. In this poem, he declares Valentine's Day as the date when mating season begins for both birds and humans. Over the following centuries, young lovers seized on February 14 as the day to express their adorations with the sending of flowers, chocolates, jewelry, and of course, valentines. If you plan on sending one of this year's 190 million Valentine's Day cards, make sure to personalize it for the one you love.

Heart vs. Head

When it comes to making decisions, must we always choose between listening to our heads and following our hearts? In 2007, inspirational speaker Deb Kulkula decided that she no longer wanted to choose one over the other, so she declared February Renaissance of the Heart Month, an entire month dedicated to making decisions with the heart as well as the intellect.



Many people insist that the best decision-making is data-driven and entirely logical, emphasizing the importance of keeping a “cool head.” Emotions (sometimes called *intuition* or *instinct*) are often seen to cloud or muddy the decision-making process. Society also tends to influence our decision-making. When it comes to finding a job, people will often follow their heads rather than their hearts. Attractive incentives like higher pay, more prestige, and better benefits take precedence over a low-paying dream job that might satisfy a lifelong passion. And yet when it comes to finding a life partner or choosing a pet, we let our hearts guide us. Culture has told us that when it comes to jobs, we follow our heads, but when it comes to relationships, it’s okay to follow our hearts. The scientific truth is that decision-making almost always requires both cognitive and emotional thinking.

Studies show that almost every decision is really a struggle between our emotions and intellect. Studies of individuals with damage to the emotional centers of their brains show that these people struggle mightily with decision-making. This is because we use both our intellect and emotions to calculate risk and reward, the primary drivers of decision-making.

Relying solely on emotion or intellect to make decisions often drives us to make poor choices. As brains develop from childhood and people amass both good and bad life experiences, we fine-tune our abilities to calculate risk and reward. The wisdom that comes with old age develops from the hard-won lessons taught to both our heads and our hearts.

Poetry Corner

“Standing There” by Terry Erixon

If you could stand alongside yourself for just a single day.

Would you like the way you handle things?
Would you like what you hear yourself say?

Would you find you are understanding
or find you are sometimes wrong?
Would you like yourself, think you’re alright
or know you just don’t belong?

Are you a person you try to avoid
and not associate with?
And is the person you think you are just a
pleasant myth?

Would you agree that the person you see,
when looking out from within
Is a better person than the one you find,
when you see how you’ve really been?

The only saving grace in this is,
we’re all the very same.
We like who we are as we know ourselves
and we don’t have to play this game.

We can think what we like, we’ll understand
we have reasons for each thing we do.
Thank God I can’t stand alongside myself,
and thank God that neither can you.



Music Fun

Tall Tales



Residents of Bangor, Maine, celebrate Paul Bunyan Day on February 12, claiming that the lumberjack of American lore was born in the woods outside of the city in 1834. Since 1959, a 31-foot-tall statue of Paul Bunyan has stood over Main Street, a log peavey in one hand and lumberjack's axe in the other. Visit the city clerk's office in city hall and you'll even find Bunyan's birth certificate hanging on the wall.

While the authenticity of the birth certificate and Bunyan's connection to Bangor is certainly dubious, Bangor's claim as the birthplace of the American lumber industry is beyond question. By the mid-19th century, Bangor had gained renown as the "lumber capital of the world," with Maine's old-growth white pine used to build houses, ship masts, and Maine's many lobster traps.

Minnesotans have their own opinions when it comes to the birthplace of Paul Bunyan. Like Bangor, the logging industry brought prosperity to much of northern Minnesota. Most self-respecting Minnesotans will claim that Paul Bunyan was born in their state. After all, it was Paul Bunyan and Babe the Blue Ox who carved out Minnesota's 10,000 lakes. The only question is, where was he born? The state has no less than five Paul Bunyan statues in five different cities, each claiming to be Bunyan's birthplace.

The truth might disappoint Bunyan fans in both Maine and Minnesota. Historians point out that Bunyan was not a real man, but an American legend. This legend may have been based on a real person, a French-Canadian lumberjack named Fabian Fournier. Fournier moved to Michigan after the Civil War and joined a logging crew. At six feet tall, he was a giant. When he wasn't logging, he spent his time drinking and fighting, until he was murdered. Over time, Fournier's legend likely merged with that of another notorious French-Canadian lumberman, Bon Jean. It is believed that the pronunciation of *Bon Jean* is what gave us the name *Bunyan*.

Visits From Furry Friends



Challenge of the North



While the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race might be the most famous sled dog race in the world, February's Yukon Quest Sled Dog Race is undoubtedly more challenging. Run in the depths of winter, the Yukon Quest is colder, darker, lonelier, and runs over more challenging terrain. The course runs 1,000 miles from Whitehorse, Yukon, to Fairbanks, Alaska, and follows the historic route of the Klondike Gold Rush. While the Iditarod has 22 checkpoints along the way, the Yukon Quest has only nine. Musher's cross four mountain ranges, traverse frozen rivers, and deal with temperatures plummeting to minus-60 degrees Fahrenheit. Why would anyone want to compete in such a race? The prize money is minimal. The reward is honor and pride.

Parkhaven Retirement
100 Hamilton Ct.
Manhattan, MT.
59741

Postage
Information

The British Invasion



On February 7, 1964, the Beatles landed in New York to start their first tour of the United States. Just a few days earlier, on February 1, their hit “I Want to Hold Your Hand”

hit No. 1. Two days later, on February 9, the “Fab Four” would perform on *The Ed Sullivan Show* before hysterical fans in the live studio and to record viewership on television sets. The so-called British Invasion had begun. For the next several years, it seemed as if the only sounds coming through the radio were bands from “across the pond.” The Dave Clark Five. Herman’s Hermits. The Rolling Stones. The Kinks. The Animals. The Who. Prior to 1964, only two British singles ever topped the pop 100. From 1964–65, British bands held the No. 1 spot for an astonishing 56 weeks. The American radio waves had been transformed forever.

February Birthdays

In astrology, those born from February 1–18 are the Water Bearers of Aquarius. Although they bear water, Aquarius is an air sign, signaling that they are innovative, progressive, and rebellious. They nurture and support new ideas. Those born from February 19–28 are Pisces’ Fish. Pisces are incredibly sensitive and empathetic. They often tap into their boundless imaginations and dreamy attitudes to become accomplished artists.

Bill G.- 2/7
Betty S.- 2/8
Myrtle K.- 2/9
Betty H.- 2/17
Carole- 2/19
Joan- 2/20
Chuck- 2/27
Joy- 2/27
Erin- 2/28