

March 2024

# Parkhaven Press

Parkhaven Retirement | 100 Hamilton Ct. Manhattan, MT 59741 | 406-282-7488



## Celebrating March

### Irish American Heritage Month

#### Iditarod Race

*March 2*

#### Namesake Day

*March 3*

#### Wellderly Week

*March 18–23*

#### Napping Day

*March 11*

#### Quilting Day

*March 16*

#### St. Patrick's Day

*March 17*

#### Tea for Two Tuesday

*March 19*

#### Easter

*March 31*

## WELCOME NEW RESIDENTS

*Carolina*

*Harold*

*Lora*

*Sam*

*Rich*

## A Mathematical Celebration

March 14 marks a unique celebration—Pi Day! It honors the mathematical constant pi ( $\pi$ ) because the first three digits, 3.14, match the date. It is also recognized as the International Day of Mathematics, a celebration of the universal language of numbers. In addition, this busy day also pays homage to the genius behind the theory of relativity, Albert Einstein, who was born on March 14, 1879. Ironically, the fact that Einstein's birthday is widely celebrated might not have pleased the esteemed scientist, who once said, "It is a known fact that I was born, and that is all that is necessary."

Pi, that infinite number we encounter in circles, has an inseparable bond with Einstein's groundbreaking work. The beauty of pi lies not just in its numerical significance but in its appearance across mathematical landscapes, including the formulas that are the basis of Einstein's theories. The theory of relativity, famously distilled into  $E=mc^2$ , unveils the intricate dance between energy, mass, and the speed of light—a mathematical waltz through the cosmos.

This trio of celebrations is a chance to marvel at how math permeates our world. From the spirals of galaxies to the curves of flower petals, mathematical principles govern the very fabric of nature. March 14 is a day to appreciate the sheer delight of numbers, which transcend cultural and language barriers. It's a reminder that math isn't just about calculus or algebra, endless equations to mind-bending theories; it's about the joy of patterns, puzzles, and the universal language that connects us all. It is the basis of the wonders of the universe—the rhythm of the stars, the shapes of nature, and the logic that powers innovation.

As you munch on a piece of banana cream or homemade blueberry pie to celebrate Pi Day, raise a glass and toast to Einstein's legacy. Take a moment to reflect on how equations, formulas, and theories intertwine to unlock the secrets of the universe.

## Jeopardy's Journey



Television quiz shows came under fire in the 1950s when it was discovered that contestants were given help and sometimes even answers by quiz show producers. The incredibly popular shows *Quiz Show*, *Twenty-One*, *Dotto*, and *The \$64,000 Question* were all revealed to have been rigged,

with contestants playing along to increase the dramatic tension and make the show more enjoyable for viewers. In 1960, Congress finally passed a law banning all fixing of quiz shows.

It's not surprising that many television networks were hesitant to produce any new quiz shows. But audiences craved them. In 1964, television producer Merv Griffin wanted to come up with a new game show. His wife, Julann, pitched him this idea: a show where the contestants were given the answer and challenged to come up with the question. For example, if the answer is 5,280, the question is, "What is, 'How many feet are in a mile?'" From that simple idea, the hit show *Jeopardy!* was born.

On March 30, 1964, *Jeopardy!* debuted, hosted by actor Art Fleming. It was a successful show, but after 11 years it folded. It was revived in 1984, this time hosted by Alex Trebek. For over three decades, Trebek reigned as the quintessential host of *Jeopardy!* With his poised demeanor and unmistakable voice, Trebek guided contestants through the challenging questions with wit and charm. He personified knowledge, embodying the essence of the beloved quiz show.

After Trebek's death in 2020, the show embraced a rotating roster of hosts, including notable figures like former contestant Ken Jennings and actress Mayim Bialik. Each host brought their unique flair while honoring Trebek's legacy. Beginning with Season 40, Jennings took the reins as full-time host. As the winner of 74 games of the show, there is no doubt that he's qualified for the job!

## Flower Power



## Easter Sunday



The story behind Easter lies in the New Testament of the Bible which narrates how Jesus was arrested by the Roman authorities

because he claimed to be the "Son of God". He was then sentenced to death by Pontius Pilate, the Roman emperor by crucifixion. His resurrection three days later marks the occasion of Easter. This day is also closely associated with the Jewish festival of Passover. Easter is celebrated as a joyous occasion and the Sunday prior is called Palm Sunday which marks the arrival of Jesus in Jerusalem. Various churches begin the celebration in the late hours of Saturday through a religious service called Easter Vigil. Non-religious celebrations include the tradition of Easter eggs, which represent fertility and birth and Easter bunny which delivers chocolates and sweets to kids on Sunday morning.

## In Praise of Weeds



Gardeners get giddy in March as the ground begins to thaw and green buds burst forth showing signs of spring. However, not all of those buds are welcome, and gardeners will begin their assault on unwanted weeds. But wait! Before you break your back pulling out garden

invaders, take some time to understand these pests. March 28 is Weed Appreciation Day.

Many weeds are native species of flowers that provide important pollen and nectar for bees and butterflies as well as seeds for a variety of birds. They may not be always be pretty, but they are important. For example, the humble clover may be undesirable, but it has tremendous benefits. It grows easily and in abundance, is a tasty and nutritious crop for grazing animals, fixes its own nitrogen (which means less need for fertilizer), and grows in a wide variety of climates and soils. It is also one of the honeybee's main sources of nectar.

Many other weeds are edible and healthy. The roots of the burdock plant are regularly eaten in Japan and Korea. They taste similar to artichokes and are high in fiber and potassium. Dandelion and burdock are combined to make a tasty drink that is popular in England and tastes similar to root beer.

The leaves of lamb's quarters, also known as goosefoot or pigweed, are a good substitute for spinach. The seeds, known as quinoa, are a popular alternative to rice and other grains and are high in protein and vitamin A.

Purslane is eaten all over the world in salads, stir-fry dishes, and soups. It contains more of the all-important omega-3 fatty acids than any other leafy green. So this March, before you yank, consider whether that weed may actually be a boon for you and your woodland friends.



**REST IN PEACE**  
Maudena Smith 1938-2024



## Paws and Purrs

It doesn't get any cuter than March 23, when it is both Cuddly Kitten Day and National Puppy Day.



The debate between cat people and dog people rages on. At the

Westminster Dog Show, dog authorities argue that they are outgoing while cat people are more aloof. Cat owners over at the Black Diamond Cat Show say they are more intelligent and independent than their dog-owning counterparts. According to researchers, dog people are more extroverted, agreeable, and conscientious.

Cat lovers are a bit less traditional and more artistic. Both parties, however, love to cuddle.

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## St. Patrick's Day in the U.S.



It was emigrants, particularly to the United States, who transformed St. Patrick's Day into a largely secular holiday of revelry and celebration of things Irish. Cities with large numbers of Irish immigrants, who often wielded political power, staged the most extensive celebrations, which included elaborate parades. Boston held its first St. Patrick's Day parade in 1737, followed by New York City in 1762. Since 1962 Chicago has colored its river green to mark the holiday. (Although blue was the color traditionally associated with St. Patrick, green is now commonly connected with the day.) Irish and non-Irish alike commonly participate in the "wearing of the green"—sporting an item of green clothing or a shamrock, the Irish national plant, in the lapel. Corned beef and cabbage are associated with the holiday, and even beer is sometimes dyed green to celebrate the day. Although some of these practices eventually were adopted by the Irish themselves, they did so largely for the benefit of tourists.

## March Birthdays

Those born from March 1–20 are Pisces, the Fish. Like fish, Pisces like to go with the flow in an easygoing manner, but on the inside, they are intuitive, intensely spiritual, and deeply emotional. If you were born between March 21–31, you are Aries, the Ram. These independent adventurers like to strike out on their own and are natural leaders. Their enthusiasm and confidence mean they have big and outgoing personalities.

**Angie-3/11**  
**Breanna-3/11**  
**Sue L.-3/12**  
**Dar-3/14**  
**Jennifer L.-3/14**  
**Margaret-3/17**  
**Pete S.-3/17**  
**Clark-3/24**  
**Pete K.-3/25**  
**Brittany-3/30**