

June 2024

# Parkhaven Press

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



## Celebrating June

### Adopt-a-Cat Month

### International Men's Health Month

### Go Barefoot Day

*June 1*

### National Doughnut Day

*June 7*

### Nature Photography Day

*June 15*

### International Day of Yoga

*June 21*

### National Bingo Day

*June 27*

### Welcome New Staff

*Russell- Kitchen/Dining*

### Welcome New Residents

*Bud*

*Janet & Larry*

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## High and Mighty

Tallness takes various forms in our world, from the graceful necks of giraffes to the towering structures of modern cities. Giraffes, the world's tallest land animals, can reach up to 18 feet in height. Their long necks aren't just for show; they help these gentle giants browse leaves high in the trees. Surprisingly, despite their towering stature, giraffes have the same number of neck vertebrae as humans.

On the urban front, structures like the Burj Khalifa in Dubai stand as engineering marvels. Soaring 2,717 feet in the air, it's the tallest building globally, boasting an observation deck that provides panoramic views. Nearly as tall, the Shanghai Tower in China spirals up 2,073 feet, with the twist serving a dual purpose of reducing wind loads and providing a distinctive aesthetic.

Human height, a subject of fascination, varies across the globe. The Netherlands claims the title for the tallest nation, with an average height of around six feet for Dutch men and five feet, six inches for women. In contrast, the shortest height is found in Southeast Asian countries like Indonesia, where five foot, two inches is the national average.

Giraffes may be the tallest animals, but they aren't the only giants found in nature. Coastal redwoods hold the title for the tallest trees. Hyperion, the record-breaking redwood at 380 feet tall, is no longer accessible to the public, to protect it and the forest that surrounds it. These ancient sentinels, standing for thousands of years, have bark that can be up to a foot thick and protects them from wildfires.

Impressive height, whether in living organisms or structures, fascinates us, each exemplifying unique adaptations or human endeavors that push the limits of what seems possible. These tall things remind us of the diversity and achievements that span the natural and human-made worlds.

## In the Company of Fairies



In his 1904 play *Peter Pan*, playwright Sir James Matthew Barrie wrote that when the first baby laughed, the laugh broke into a thousand pieces, and each piece became a fairy. Whether you find fairies nothing but foolish folklore or believe that fairies actually flutter about the woods and glens, International Fairy Day is June 24.

Indeed, many cultures believe that fairies do exist. In January 2014, residents of Iceland protested the building of a new road for fear that it might disturb the fairies and elves living among the rocks. A survey showed that 54 percent of Icelanders believe in fairies. The Icelandic Road Administration is so familiar with protestations regarding construction and fairies that they provide locals with a five-page document detailing precautions they take so as not to disturb these miniature mythical folk.

Perhaps Iceland's only rival in its belief of fairies is Ireland. Most people are familiar with Ireland's leprechauns guarding pots of gold at the end of rainbows, but fairies are just as common. Fairies, say the Irish, are fallen angels who were not as evil as Satan and so were not banished to hell but to Earth. Fairy culture is so pervasive in Ireland that a certain mushroom is called a fairy mushroom, a type of grass is called fairy flax, and the bells of the foxglove plant are called fairy bells. Fairy mounds, called raths, are believed to be magical fairy dwellings. Visitors to Ireland today can even take guided tours of these mysterious places.

Fairies have also become part of legend in Italy, Japan, and America, where children summon the tooth fairy by placing a lost tooth under their pillows. On average, a tooth in America is worth \$5.84, which is actually down from last year's average of \$6.23—still far less than a pot of gold.

What do you think about fairies? Are they just the stuff of legends, or is there something more to the stories than we know?



**Madison, Parkhaven's Dietary Lead, wins the "Outstanding Crisp Strips" Award, for being the best bacon maker around!**





## **Those That Matter**

(Intro written by Terry E., Life Story written by Pete K.)

This month's resident spotlight is focusing on Pete Kimm. He was born in Holland and went through World War 2 as a teenager. This first segment is about the trials of the war and the next segment will be about coming to the USA! **Netherlands war-time of 1940-1945. As told by Pete Kimm.**

On May 10<sup>th</sup>, 1940, the German armies invaded our country in a one-week Blitzkrieg. Early in the morning we woke to explosions of bridges and roadways, artillery and airplanes. By that afternoon the first German troops arrived in our village. Five days later all of our country was occupied, with much destruction and casualties. (The Netherlands is a small country of 16,033 square miles, which is 9 times smaller than Montana at 147,137 square miles.) About 3 weeks later we had some refugees in our home on the farm, coming from the cities because of the destruction. This was organized through the community of churches. We were a family of 8: our parents and 6 children, Grace, Stanley, Alex, Pete, Alice and Minnie. I was 12 years old at that time. In the next 5 years many events happened and there was much grief for all- especially parents and older people. Forward now to when the Allied armies entered our country in September of 1944; it took 8 months to force the Germans out of our country, after many battles and destruction. Our area was liberated in the middle of April, one week after President Roosevelt passed away on April 12, 1945, and Adolf Hitler took his own life a week later. In September of 1944 a heavy battle was fought in and around the city of Arnhem (population 100,000). After 10 days the city was destroyed, and the battle lost for the Allies. The population became refugees, and a large group came to our area in the first week of November 1944. My father went to the village with horse and wagon; he came home about 2 hours later in a driving rainstorm with a family, a husband, wife and 3 children. They stayed by us on the farm until the end of the war in May 1945. They helped on the farm, the wife in the house with our mother. She was always happy and a really good singer.

The husband helped on the farm even though he was a shoe store clerk; he did well and was willing. At this time everything was getting desperate, especially in the cities; there was no food supply anymore. The German troops were stationed in the schools and other buildings in our village, and they were around us in the fields and on the farmyards. They too, suffered plenty and at times did not have enough to eat and had to scrounge off the farms. It was in the last part of October 1944, that my brother Alex, an older man and I were working together harvesting beets for the cattle feed, all hand work. The soldiers were in the fields too, and soon a Captain and his Sergeant came over to us and asked us to deliver Kartoffels (potatoes) and Kohl (cabbage). My brother Alex told them that we don't have potatoes and cabbage, that we only have a garden for our family. But the Captain persisted, he took his pistol to Alex's chest and ordered us to deliver by 12 noon. Alex answered "No", and there was a silence of 2 seconds, then the German Sergeant spoke to his Captain "Sir Captain, the war for Germany is lost. What are you going to do? You must answer before God and mankind." Again, a silence of 2-3 seconds...and the captain slaps his pistol in his holster and off they went. The older man working with us spoke up, "boys, boys, the Sergeant is an Angel of the Lord." How true. When we went home and told our parents what happened they were very upset. But they told us that the captain had the responsibility for his men, so he thought he had a right to do this; and we all learned right then and there that our enemies are also children of the Lord. Again, about 2 months later I learned this while out working on the farmyard. Three soldiers came to me and asked for some food. I could see they looked hungry. So, I went into the house and told my parents, and they filled 3 bowls of food, and I brought it to them. They were very thankful. They then took off their helmets and sat down, and all 3 folded their hands, bowed their heads and prayed thanks for the food. Again, as I stood there at only 16, I saw that our enemies are God's children too.

**TO BE CONTINUED...**

Parkhaven Retirement  
100 Hamilton Ct.  
Manhattan, MT. 59741

Postage  
Information

## Up and at 'Em!

Open your eyes, leap out of bed, and face another glorious new day! That's the philosophy behind Upsy Daisy Day on June 8.



The first known record of the phrase *upsy daisy* is from an 1862 book by C. Clough Robinson entitled *The Dialect of Leeds and Its Neighbourhood*: "Upsa daisy! A common expression when a child, in play, is assisted

in a spring leap from the ground." While in this expression *daisy* is a cute way of saying *day*, it also gives us the image of a child lying down in a bed of daisies. Funny, then, how the flower name *daisy* also refers to the word *day*, as in *day's eye*. A daisy closes its petals at night and then opens them in sunlight, exposing its yellow center like an eye opening. So, on June 8, leap out of bed, take a trip to the florist, and surround yourself with daisies.

## June Birthdays

If you were born between June 1–21, you are a Twin of Gemini. Geminis make communicative and lively companions. Intellectual and imaginative, they are the ones to sit near at a party. Those born between June 22–30 are Crabs of Cancer. Crabs love family and nurturing others. They may be emotional, kind, and gentle, but they are never soft. Cancers are strong-willed and tenacious in their search for peace and homeyness.

**Chanel- 6/7**

**Mandy- 6/11**

**Tom B.- 6/15**

**Harlee- 6/27**