

October 2024

Parkhaven Press

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



Celebrating October

Balloons Around the World Day

October 1

Blessings of the Fishing Fleet Day

October 6

Handbag Day

October 10

World Origami Days

October 24–November 11

National Mule Day

October 26

Halloween

October 31

NEW STAFF

*Devin-Dining
Reese-Activities*

NEW RESIDENTS

*Ellie
Jack
Gene
Judy*

Night Flyers

As Halloween approaches, images of bats often flutter into our minds, adding a spooky touch to the season. However, there's much more to these fascinating creatures than their eerie reputation suggests. Let's explore some interesting facts, common myths, and the many benefits bats provide.

Bats are the only mammals capable of sustained flight, with over 1,400 species worldwide. They range in size from the tiny bumblebee bat, weighing less than a penny, to the large flying foxes with wingspans of up to six feet. Despite their diversity, bats share some common traits, such as echolocation, which allows them to navigate and hunt in the dark by emitting high-frequency sounds.

One common myth is that bats are blind. In reality, all bats can see, and many have excellent night vision. Another misperception is that bats are aggressive bloodsuckers. While vampire bats do exist, they are just three species out of more than a thousand, and they mainly feed on livestock, not humans.

Bats play crucial roles in ecosystems. They are natural pest controllers, consuming vast amounts of insects, including mosquitoes. A single bat can eat up to 1,000 mosquitoes in an hour! Additionally, fruit bats are vital pollinators and seed dispersers for many plants, including those that produce bananas, mangoes, and avocados.

Despite their benefits, bats face numerous threats, including habitat loss and diseases like white-nose syndrome. Conservation efforts are essential to protect these misunderstood animals.

As Halloween casts its spooky spell, remember that bats are more than just a symbol of the season. They are remarkable, beneficial creatures deserving our respect and protection. By dispelling myths and understanding their importance, we can better appreciate the incredible world of bats.

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“Those That Matter” written by Terry Erixon

Our October issue of Parkhaven Press features Bill Gillespie and his wife Harla. Bill has been at Parkhaven for 5 years, living in one of the cottages. Harla was here with him until her death in 2021.

Bill retired from Trident Cement Plant after 40 years with the company. He had left home at age 13 and washed cars and windows at Beck Motors. His mother signed for him to join the Navy at 15 years old and he served during the Korean conflict. Then he worked for Lockheed in Palmdale and Burbank.

A friend introduced Bill to Harla and together they became interested in black powder rifles. Harla became adept at making moccasins, tanning and sewing outfits. She and Bill made a teepee with peeled posts for braces while being members of the Rocky Mountain Fur Company.

Harla was a nurse at Fort Harrison in Helena. She brought 2 children to the marriage and Bill also brought 2 children. They were married for 56 years after their ceremony in 1965. Their children are Debra, Greg, Sherry and Diana.

The hobby that keeps him busy these days is horseshoe art. Currently he has orders for 30 pieces. He makes flowers, mail holders and crosses. He uses the shop at his daughter's home, and she makes sure he has supplies. He usually spends 2 days a week plying his trade.

Another achievement of Bill's is being selected for the “Serve Montana” Award. He was chosen from 72 nominees. (See picture with the governor and his wife.)

Bill also plays the spoons, wooden or tableware. He played with Charlie Pride in an East Helena bar and learned to play from Warren Livander. Bill is always willing to volunteer, including arranging chairs for Parkhaven's guest entertainers. We are very fortunate to have him with us!



One of Bill's handmade crosses hangs in our Montana Room.



Bill and his wife Harla



With governor Steve Bullock and his wife in 2019, accepting the Serve Montana Award.

REST IN PEACE

June Droge 1929-2024
Sam McCormick 1930-2024



Miniature
horse visit

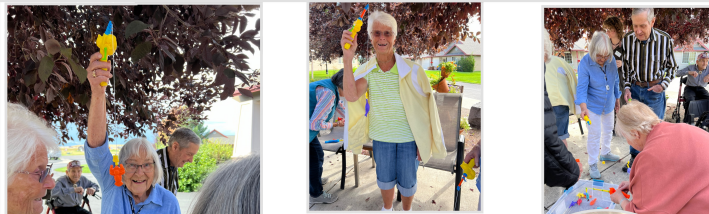
Loving Lucy

On October 15, 1951, Lucille Ball brought her sitcom *I Love Lucy* to television audiences. The show's plot was relatively simple: the naïve and ambitious wife of a popular bandleader strives for attention despite her obvious lack of talent. Luckily, the actor who played this character, the inimitable Lucille Ball, had plenty of talent. Her comedic genius propelled the show to the top of the charts. *I Love Lucy* was America's most-watched show for four of its six seasons. It won five Emmy Awards and a George Foster Peabody Award for excellence.

I Love Lucy was the first television show to be filmed using multiple cameras in front of a live studio audience, though many said such a production could not be done. This live audience proved vital, as it provided a real-life laugh track for the sitcom. Most episodes were filmed in just 30 minutes. Production didn't stop for actors' mistakes. If an actor forgot a line, it was up to the other actors to bail them out. Just about the only time production did slow down was for Lucy's big costume changes. But the comedy kept on coming, and *I Love Lucy* became a sensation.



Flower arranging with
Rocky Blossom Floral



Gone
Fishin'



All Things Avocado



Avocados have a long and storied history in the Americas. When the Spanish explorer Hernán Cortés met Montezuma in 1519, the Aztec ruler presented Cortés with a mountain of treasure,

including gold, silver, gems, and “alligator pears,” a fruit otherwise known as avocado. From October 4–6, California holds the avocado in similarly high esteem during the Avocado Festival.

Avocados are high in fat, but the fat is good for you! These fats act as anti-inflammatories and even fight heart disease. That’s something to celebrate! Each year, the Avocado Festival smashes 25,000 avocados to create a giant bowl of guacamole to feed the 100,000 visitors in attendance. After the chips and dip, participants join in the Best Dressed Avocado competition, where avocados are displayed like Mr. Potato Heads.

October Birthdays

If you were born between October 1–22, you balance the scales of Libra. Libras are very social, seek harmony through compromise, and have strong powers of critical thinking. Those born between October 23–31 are passionate Scorpios, considered the most intense sign in the zodiac. While on the outside Scorpios are calm and composed, inside they are forceful, emotional, determined, and ambitious.

Della 10/1
Donna 10/3
Samantha 10/11
Emily 10/14
Doreen 10/15
Millie 10/17
Judy 10/18
Juanita 10/22
Skip 10/23
Janet 10/28