

November 2023

The Periodical

Parsons House on Eagle Run | 14325 Eagle Run Dr. Omaha NE. 68164 | 402-498-9554



Celebrating November

International Games Month

Adopt-a-Turkey Month

Nachos Day
November 6

World Freedom Day
November 9

Veterans Day (U.S.)
November 11

Rock Your Mocs Day
November 15

Thanksgiving (U.S.)
November 23

Square Dancing Day
November 29

So long October! In true Midwest form, we've gone from warm and sunny to cold and windy in the blink of an eye. The beauty of fall never disappoints here in Omaha! Can you believe that it's already November? We are heading into the beginning of another busy holiday season. I assume everyone is prepped and ready to roll with this year's festivities?! Personally, the Holidays sneak up on me every year and seem to catch me completely off guard. It seems as though retail stores start their holiday cheer earlier and earlier every year. The Holiday ads, the Christmas music, and the overwhelming displays of decorations have been creeping in over the last month.

This October we enjoyed some trips to the pumpkin patch. There is something about sitting on a hayrack and being pulled behind a tractor that brings out the youth in all of us! We closed the month with a visit from our friends at St. Vincent de Paul. Their kindergarten, first and second grade classes came in to trick-or-treat throughout our building. This event brought so much joy to the residents, as well as the children. It was truly a beautiful experience to be a part of. We look forward to many more meaningful events in the coming months!

From all of us at Parsons House, we wish you our best this holiday season. If possible, take a little extra time to cherish each and every moment you spend with your friends and loved ones these upcoming months.

The Finest Hour



November 12 might be National Happy Hour Day, but on most any day of the week, you can find restaurants offering half-priced drinks and appetizers. The first “happy hours” actually had nothing

to do with cheap drinks and apps but were instead a practice initiated by the U.S. Navy to alleviate the boredom of sailors out at sea.

In 1913, a group of navy wives and homemakers who called themselves the “Happy Hour Social” organized weekly parties known as “smokers” aboard the USS *Arkansas*. These social events provided entertainment, such as boxing and wrestling matches, music, dancing, movies, ice cream, cake, and plenty of cigarettes and cigars, yet had nothing to do with alcohol. By the end of World War I, these parties were widely called “happy hours,” and the practice had spread beyond the *Arkansas* throughout the U.S. Navy.

When the 18th Amendment establishing Prohibition was passed in 1920, people were driven to drink in secret, either in their homes or in speakeasies. Before heading out to dinner or a show, people would drop into a speakeasy for an illegal late-afternoon drink. The banning of alcohol during Prohibition led to the invention of the first cocktail hours, and these cocktail hours were eventually called “happy hours,” a coded euphemism used by those wanting to skirt the law and find a place to drink.

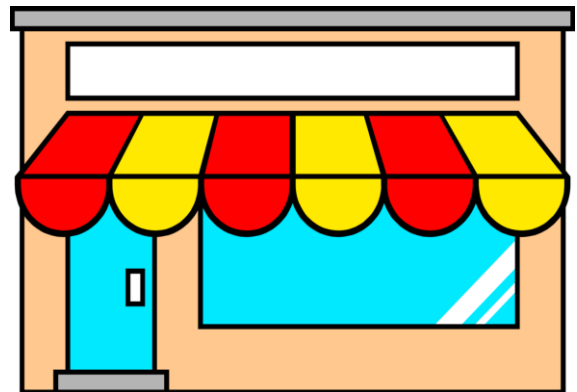
By the end of Prohibition, the notion of a “happy hour” was cemented in the public’s imagination. By the 1960s, restaurants recognized that they could cash in on the practice and began to offer discounted cocktails and bar food as a means to lure customers. Over the decades, businesses have offered all kinds of deals: two-for-one, half-price, kids eat free, early afternoon discounts, and late-night discounts. States like Massachusetts, Indiana, and North Carolina, in an effort to rein in customers who might get too “happy,” banned happy hours altogether. But just as during Prohibition, even bans have not dimmed the happiness of a determined public.

Life Support

November 18 is Married to a Scorpio Support Day, but what is it about Scorpios, those born between October 23 and November 21, that makes marriage to them so difficult?

Every astrological sign has personality traits and characteristics associated with it, but Scorpios have gotten a bad rap for their intensity. Not only is Scorpio’s astrological sign a dangerous scorpion, representing the scorpion that stung Orion to death, but the sign is ruled by both Mars and Pluto, the two most powerful planets of the zodiac. Astrologers believe that under these ruling planets, Scorpios’ life experiences are more intense.

No wonder Scorpio spouses might need a little extra help! Blake Lively is married to Scorpio Ryan Reynolds. Kurt Russell is the partner of Scorpio Goldie Hawn. Bill Clinton is married to Scorpio Hillary Clinton. It takes a lot of energy to match these Scorpio personality powerhouses!



The Corner Store will be open November 6th and November 27th.

Pumpkin Parfaits



Ingredients

- 1 (7 ounce) jar marshmallow creme
- 1 (8 ounce) package cream cheese, softened
- 1 tablespoon orange juice concentrate, thawed
- 1 (14 ounce) can pumpkin puree
- ¼ cup maple syrup
- 1 ½ teaspoons ground cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1 tablespoon orange juice concentrate, thawed
- ¼ cup chopped toasted pecans
- ¼ cup crushed gingersnaps

Directions

1. Combine the marshmallow creme, cream cheese, and 1 tablespoon orange juice concentrate in a large bowl; beat with an electric hand mixer until smooth. Stir together the pumpkin, syrup, cinnamon, nutmeg, and 1 tablespoon orange juice in a separate bowl. Fold 1/4 cup of the marshmallow creme mixture into the pumpkin mixture.
2. Beginning with the cream cheese mixture, layer 3 tablespoons of each mixture in each of four dessert cups. Chill in refrigerator for 2 hours. Top with pecans and gingersnaps before serving.

Ladies' Choice

Sadie Hawkins Day on November 13 gets its origins from Al Capp's comic strip *L'il Abner*. In the comic strip, Sadie Hawkins was the daughter of Hekzebiah Hawkins, one of the founders of Dogpatch, the comic's fictional setting. Sadie was unlucky in love and was destined to become a spinster. On November 15, 1937, the comic depicted Hekzebiah declaring a "Sadie Hawkins Day," a day when all the eligible bachelors of Dogpatch would participate in a footrace against Sadie. Whichever man Sadie caught would have to marry her.

In November of 1938, Capp revived the storyline. Soon, college campuses across the country began celebrating Sadie Hawkins Days of their own, with young women chasing men across campuses. Over the years, Sadie Hawkins Day has become a day of role reversals, where women ask men on dates, or at Sadie Hawkins Dances, girls ask boys to dance. While the unofficial holiday often falls on November 13, Capp himself used his last *L'il Abner* comic on November 5, 1977, to set November 26 as the "official" holiday.

Offering an Olive Branch



In 2019, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) declared November 26 World Olive Tree Day. Why does the

olive tree deserve such special treatment? The olive tree's symbolism dates back to ancient Greece. Poseidon, the god of the sea, and Athena, goddess of wisdom, both vied for possession of Athens. Poseidon struck the Acropolis and water ran out. Athena planted an olive tree. The gods granted Athens to Athena due to her superior gift, one that would sustain the people. Ever since, the olive tree—and especially its branches and leaves—have been considered dignified symbols of peace, fidelity, and strength.

Lighting the Darkness

Diwali, India's fabulous "festival of lights," occurs on the night of the new moon during the Hindu month of Kartik, and this year falls on November 12. Diwali is the most important holiday of the Indian calendar. It is primarily a religious celebration for Hindus, Jains, and Sikhs, but it has become so popular that many other South Asian countries treat it as a national holiday.



Across India, Diwali is celebrated over five days, but the darkest night, the night of the new moon, is the main day of the festival. Families light small, clay lamps known as *diyas* to ward away evils

associated with the darkness. Diyas, candles, and lanterns are arranged throughout the home, in the streets, in places of worship, and even floated on lakes and rivers. Some places set off bright explosions of fireworks in the night sky. Once the lamps are lit, families gather for fabulous feasts and prayers to Lakshmi, the Mother Goddess of good fortune and prosperity. To celebrate Diwali is to celebrate the triumph of light over darkness and good over evil.

Throughout India, there are many legends associated with Diwali. In the north, Diwali commemorates the return of King Rama to his kingdom of Ayodhya after 14 years of exile. To celebrate the king's return, his subjects lit lamps and decorated Ayodhya with rows of diyas, a practice reflected in modern Diwali celebrations.

In southern India, the story is told of Lord Krishna vanquishing the demon Narakasura with the help of his wife, Satyabhama. The demon had been granted immortality and could be slain only by his mother. Krishna knew this and asked his wife to accompany him to battle. It was Satyabhama, as an incarnation of Narakasura's mother, who felled the demon with an arrow. In western India, as in the south, Diwali is celebrated as the triumph of good over evil. Here, the festival marks the day that Lord Vishnu sent the selfish and vain King Bali to the netherworld. Despite these differences, no matter where you go, Diwali is marked with light and family.

November Birthdays

In astrology, those born from November 1–21 are Scorpio's intense scorpions. Scorpions seek deep connections and nurture deep empathy and commitment. Those born from November 22–30 are Archers of Sagittarius. The Archers have a unique blend of passion, curiosity, and adaptability. Bold travelers, they are unafraid to explore and conquer new terrain.

11-23 Barbra S.	11-28 Eleanor M.
11-11 LaVelle D.	11-14 Barbra T.
11-4 Judy M.	
11-7 Loretta M.	
11-15 Paul J.	
11-12 Roxie B.	
11-2 Sue S.	
11-11 Leonard H.	
11-30 Marjorie J.	
11-28 Sheila W.	
11-1 Loretta T.	
11-22 Frances R.	
11-6 Irene H.	
11-25 Mary D.	

Monster Success



On November 3, 1954, the film *Godzilla* premiered across Japan. *Godzilla* remains one of Japan's most enduring pieces of popular culture and has been identified by *Guinness World Records* as the longest-running film

franchise in history. The film and its gargantuan monster symbolize something more sinister, however—a nation's collective terror over nuclear war. In early March of 1954, a Japanese fishing ship was contaminated with radioactive fallout from a nuclear test conducted by the Americans at Bikini Atoll. Soon, fears of nuclear contamination spread across Japan. The film's producer and director deliberately seized on that anxiety when they created a monster that embodied nuclear destruction. Skeptical critics thought the film would be a flop, but time has shown that *Godzilla* has conquered even those critics.