

March 2024

# The Periodical

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



## Celebrating March

### **Umbrella Month**

#### **Iditarod Race**

*March 2*

#### **Namesake Day**

*March 3*

#### **Welllderly Day**

*March 18*

#### **Tea for Two Tuesday**

*March 19*

#### **Pencil Day**

*March 30*

Say what you want, but I am a true believer in Punxsutawney Phil! That little groundhog predicted an early spring and with the weather we saw in February, it's safe to say he sure knew what he was talking about! Here in Omaha, we experienced a record setting 80-degree day immediately followed by an 11-degree day. For anyone living outside of this city who might be reading this, no...that is not a typo! Bizarre as it might be for this time of year, we saw far more good weather days than bad... and I haven't heard any complaints about that!

Beyond the weather, February was full of fun and excitement here at Parsons House. From celebrating Mardi Gras to cheering on our adopted home team (Kansas City Chiefs) to a Super Bowl victory, we sure kept this place anything from quiet! Our talented kitchen staff prepared a fabulous prime rib Valentines Day dinner. After watching everyone burn off calories at the Valentines Day dance, that was a well-deserved and delicious meal! If all of that wasn't enough, our residents also ventured out to a local figure skating competition. And to top it all off, we had 12 four-legged friends (dogs) come to visit all at once! Let me tell you, those dogs sure brought out a lot of smiles and loads of laughs from all those in our community.

We look forward to seeing what next month has to offer, even though February sure set the bar high! From all of us at Parsons House, we wish you marvelous month of March.

## 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!

## Fueling Change

Rudolf Diesel, inventor of the eponymous diesel engine, was born on March 18, 1858. Biodiesel Day celebrates a type of fuel that Diesel himself valued. As he stated in 1912, "The use of vegetable oils for engine fuels may seem insignificant today, but such oils may become, in the course of time, as important as petroleum and the coal-tar products of the present time."

It appears that Diesel was not only a great inventor but also a visionary. In 2012, 100 years after that statement, the U.S. produced over one billion gallons of biodiesel fuel. This fuel is biodegradable and nontoxic, produces less carbon dioxide than fossil fuels, and can be produced from vegetable oils, animal fats, algae, and even recycled restaurant grease.

### Corner Store



The Corner Store will be open March 11<sup>th</sup> and March 25<sup>th</sup>

## Breakfast Kabob's



### Ingredients

- Assorted fruit slices
- mini waffles or mini pancakes
- powdered sugar, if desired

### Directions

**Add waffles on a skewer alternate skewer with cut fruit. Before serving sprinkle with powdered sugar.**

## A Winter Farewell

The first day of spring is a common reason for celebration for people all over the world, but the students at Lake Superior State University in Michigan may have taken it too far. Every March 20 since 1971, the students have bid farewell to winter by burning a snowman. This isn't just some wacky college prank; the bizarre tradition began in Germany as the Rose Sunday Festival, where a parade bearing a snowman (made of straw) passes through town to the village center. There, the mayor asks all the local children if they have been good, diligent in their studies, and mindful of their parents. When all the children publicly shout "Yes!" the snowman is burned.

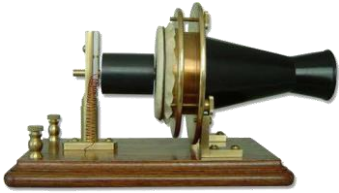
The 10-foot snowman is made of leftover paper and scrap wood and is sometimes dressed in a rival college's colors. As it burns, students, professors, local children, and anyone else who cares to join in recite poetry they have written about the snowman. Only one year has been skipped since the tradition began. A snowman was not burned in 1992, due to environmental concerns by a student environmental awareness group. Locals were furious. Disappointed reporters arrived to find poetry but no snowman, and the tradition was resumed the following year.

## 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.

## Clash of Inventors



Alexander Graham Bell is hailed as the inventor of the telephone. It was Bell who discovered that sound travels over electrical wires and that

these wires can be connected in a way that allows two people to speak to each other over long distances. On March 10, 1876, the telephone was born when Bell spoke to his assistant, Thomas A. Watson, saying, “Mr. Watson. Come here. I want to see you.”

Was Bell the sole inventor of the telephone? Another renowned inventor, Elisha Gray, was working on a similar device. On February 14, 1876, Bell submitted an application to the patent office for his telephone. Just hours later, Gray submitted his own application for a patent. Gray wrote:

“To all whom it may concern: Be it known that I, Elisha Gray, of Chicago, in the County of Cook, and State of Illinois, have invented a new art of transmitting vocal sounds telegraphically, of which the following is a specification: It is the object of my invention to transmit the tones of the human voice through a telegraphic circuit, and reproduce them at the receiving end of the line, so that actual conversations can be carried on by persons at long distances apart.”

When Gray discovered that Bell was awarded the patent, he took Bell to court. Not only did Gray believe that he submitted his paperwork first, he believed that Bell learned of one of his designs and stole it. How did Bell steal Gray’s design? One of the patent examiners at the patent office swore in an affidavit that he had shared Gray’s paperwork and designs with Bell. The legal battle lasted over two years.

The courts eventually ruled that while Gray had invented an important, even vital, component of the telephone, Bell had succeeded in creating the whole telephone. The rest, as they say, is history.

## 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.

David B. 3-12  
Patty H. 3-6  
Verneta F. 3-1  
Dee L. 3-9  
Valda G. 3-8  
Ronald H. 3-20  
Linda V. 3-14  
Andrew H. 3-25  
Georgette C. D. 3-18  
Norma S. 3-7  
Edson B. 3-11  
Marilyn B. 3-9

## Verses and Voices



World Poetry Day, initiated by UNESCO in 1999, arrives on March 21 to honor globally the artistry and diversity of poetry. It pays

homage to poets who craft words into emotion, images, and storytelling, transcending boundaries and enriching human experiences.

You can mark the occasion by sharing favorite poems with friends or family, attending poetry readings or events, or even trying your hand at writing a short poem. Dive into different poetic styles, from traditional sonnets to modern spoken word, exploring the richness of expression they offer. You might also support local poets or poetry organizations, sharing their work on social media or attending their performances. Whether you choose to write, read, or listen to poetry performed, World Poetry Day invites us to immerse ourselves in the beauty and power of words.