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HAPPENINGS AT THE HILLS

PRAIRIE HILLS ASSISTED LIVING AND MEMORY CARE 1701 13th Ave N. Clinton Iowa 52732 P: 563-243-6870

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Religious Roots to Raucous Parties

As March arrives, many look forward to the holidays of St. Patrick's Day and Mardi Gras. Yet both of these holidays are more modern American inventions than age-old religious traditions.

St. Patrick's Day, as a religious celebration, has a lengthy history. It dates back to the mid-17th century and was initiated to honor Saint Patrick and his work to bring Christianity to Ireland. The Feast of St. Patrick was held each year on the date of his supposed death, on March 17, 461 AD. The observance of the date was a solemn occasion, mostly involving quiet prayer. As recently as the 1970s, pubs were closed in Ireland on St. Patrick's Day. The rollicking revelry typically associated with the day was decidedly un-Irish and an American invention. During the Irish Famine of 1845–1850, many Irish immigrated to America, where they were not welcome. As the Irish community in America grew and prospered, they began to celebrate both their Irish-ness and their newfound American-ness. Corned beef, shamrocks, and leprechauns were never part of true Irish St. Paddy's Day celebrations, but they were integrated into Irish-American identity and so became celebrated symbols of St. Patrick's Day. The American version of St. Patrick's Day is so strong that many Irish-American traditions have even returned to Ireland.

Mardi Gras, like St. Paddy's Day, originated as a solemn religious holiday. As the day before the start of the ritual fasting of Lent, it was an opportunity to indulge in sweet, fatty foods, giving rise to the name "Fat Tuesday." Over the centuries, these small indulgences led to greater hedonism, practices that were heavily discouraged by the Church. The elaborate Mardi Gras celebrations held in New Orleans emerged in 1857 when a group of men created a secret society called the Miskick Krewe of Comus. They held a lavish ball and parade, setting the secular foundations for many wild Mardi Gras to come.

Celebrating March

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

**MARCH 14TH MODENA
FLESNER**

MARCH 22ND

BARB KROYMAN

Mardi Gras
March 5

International Women's Day
March 8

Pi Day
March 14

St. Patrick's Day
March 17

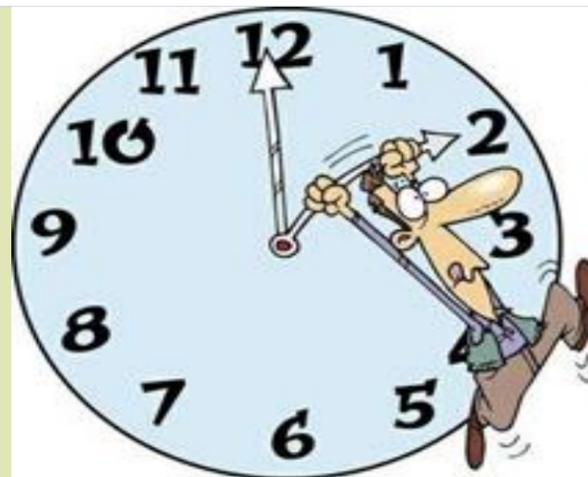
**Make Up Your Own Holiday
Day**
March 26

The March of Women's History



The month of March is Women's History Month, in recognition of women and their impact on culture and society all around the world. The movement to establish recognition of women's history

began in Sonoma, California, in the 1970s. A group of women formed the Education Task Force of the Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women. Their goal was to include women's history in the local school curriculum. For too long, men had dominated the study while women's contributions had nary a mention. The movement in Sonoma was such a success that it gained traction nationwide. In 1980, President Jimmy Carter established the first Women's History Week, and then in 1987, Congress declared the entire month of March as Women's History Month. Politicians, writers, freedom fighters, scientists, soldiers, athletes—women have made contributions in virtually every field. Honor them this March.



**DON'T FORGET TO SPRING
YOUR CLOCKS FORWARD MARCH 10TH!**

YAY ITS IT'S GETTING CLOSER TO SPRING

March 6th prince of peace here @2:00 for Ash Wednesday

March 7th- THREE DOVES DESIGN MEGAN PRAY IS GOING TO SHOW US HOW TO MAKE A BUNNY DOOR HANGER. COST IS 25\$ EVERYTHING INCLUDED RSVP WITH ALICIA @563-243-6870 BY MARCH 1ST WITH PAYMENT AS WELL. HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL THERE 😊

MARCH 15TH-ST. PATRICKS DAY PARTY OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, RESIDENTS FAMILIES AS WELL, WE WILL HAVE A DRAWING TO WIN A BRAND NEW IPAF MUST BE 55 OR OLDER AND PRESENT TO WIN. ALSO, FOR DINNER WE WILL BE HAVING CORN BEEF AND CABBAGE.

MARCH 27TH- SPRING FLING FOR RESIDENTS AND FAMILIES- WE WILL HAVE A BUFFET STYLE DINNER WITH COLD REFRESHMENTS. MUSIC WITH RON COOK STARTING @4:00 DINNER WILL BE SERVED AT 5:00PM WITH MUSIC CONTINUING UNTIL 6:30.

Grammar Rules

The Society for the Promotion of Good Grammar has declared March 4 as Grammar Day. English is often said to be the hardest language to learn, and English grammar is even difficult for native speakers. Why is it so difficult? The order of words, pronunciations, homophones, synonyms, idioms—all of these are confusing! As language evolves, more and more grammar rules are being ignored. It is considered okay to begin a sentence with *And* or *But*, just as it is acceptable to end a sentence with a preposition. You can also split as many infinitives as you want! There are some rules, however, that are not as flexible. Double negatives are still a no-no. Also, *alot* is still not a word. You can write *a lot* when you mean “many,” or *alot* when you’re assigning a share or portion. With well over a million words in the English language, you are likely to find something to celebrate today.

Night Owls



The International Festival of Owls, a celebration of these mysterious nighttime creatures, will occur during the first three days of March. Is it the owl’s nocturnal nature, their swift silence, their chilling calls of “who,” or their bizarre rotating necks that make them so fascinating? These birds have figured prominently in our imaginations for millennia. In ancient Greece, the owl was the symbol of Athena, goddess of wisdom. It was believed that an “inner light” gave the owl its superb night vision, and it was considered a good omen if an owl was spied overhead watching you. Because an owl is a bird of darkness, it has often been associated with death. During the Middle Ages, owls were thought to be witches or witches’ helpers. American Indians, too, held many beliefs about owls and death. To some, owls were the spirits of the dead. To others, owls were guides of the recently deceased to the underworld. During the Festival of Owls, take the time to encounter one of these magnificent animals up close and you, too, may begin to think they are more than just birds.

Five Green Shamrocks

One green shamrock, in the morning dew,
Another one sprouted, and then there were two.

Two green shamrocks, growing beneath a tree;
Another one sprouted and then there were three.

Three green shamrocks, by the cottage door;
Another one sprouted, and then there were four.

Four green shamrocks, near a beehive
Another one sprouted, and then there were five.

Five little shamrocks, bright and emerald green,
Think of all the luck these shamrocks will bring.



THANK YOU EVERYONE THAT PATICIPATED IN WAERING RED, DONATINING, AND DIANE AND BECKY FOR THE BEAUTIFUL LATNTERN THAT GOT DONATED TO THE CLINTON FIREDEPARTMENT1!

