

LEBENSRAUM

118 INGALLS ST. GRAND ISLAND, NE 68803



Meet our Staff
Get to know our
staff

Owner~ Deb Halm

Owner~ Megan

Corona

Manager~ Lasha

Hudson

Activity Director~

Giann Callahan



Roll into Spring

April 3 marks World Marbles Day, a lighthearted celebration of one of the world's oldest and most satisfying games. Long before screens and controllers, a small pouch of marbles and a patch of dirt were enough to fill an afternoon.

Marbles have been played in some form for thousands of years. Archaeologists have uncovered stone and clay marbles at ancient sites, and by the 1800s, glass marbles—often handmade—became popular in Europe and the United States. Each one had its own personality: cat's-eyes, swirls, shooters, and cloudy "alley agates." Some were meant for play, while others were carefully traded or saved as prized collectibles.

The game itself was simple but never dull. Players crouched low, flicking a shooter marble with a practiced thumb, aiming to knock opponents' marbles out of a circle or hole. It required strategy, steady hands, and just enough daring to risk losing your best marble on a bold shot. Skill mattered, but luck always had a say, which kept things exciting.

World Marbles Day is a good excuse to revisit that sense of play. Even if you never played by official rules, you might remember the feel of cool glass in your palm or the clink marbles made when they collided. Today, marbles are still collected for their craftsmanship, with modern artists creating intricate designs that are as much art as toy.

The word *marble* even rolls into the kitchen. Think of marbled rye bread, marbled pound cake, or a perfectly marbled steak—proof that swirling patterns are just as appealing on the plate as they are in a game.

As spring arrives and days grow longer, World Marbles Day offers a reminder that fun doesn't have to be complicated. Sometimes it's as simple as a small glass sphere, good aim, and the pleasure of watching something roll exactly where you hoped it would.

Inside the Human Blueprint



Over two decades ago, scientists completed a \$3 billion effort to understand and map human DNA—long strands of genetic material that influence traits such as biological sex, eye and hair color, ancestry, and susceptibility to certain diseases. That map of the human genome has opened new opportunities for doctors and researchers to better understand, prevent, and treat a wide range of illnesses. Since National DNA Day falls on the 25th, the month of April is a fitting time to learn about ongoing advances in genetic science.

Gene therapy requires scientists to find faulty strings of DNA that cause disease and replace them with normal ones. In this way, the body can stop itself from producing genetic ailments. The ultimate goal of researchers is for scientists to develop gene therapies that fight all kinds of DNA-based diseases, including some forms of blindness, muscular dystrophy, and even cancer.

Our DNA can reveal not only why we may become sick but also how our bodies respond to certain medicines. Francis Collins, former director of the National Institutes of Health, has suggested that genetic testing may one day become a routine part of medical care. By studying DNA, drug companies and doctors are already working to develop treatments tailored to groups of patients—and in some cases individuals—based on their genetic makeup.

Some promising advances also come from stem cells, which act as a body's internal repair system and can develop into many different types of cells. Researchers continue to explore how stem cells might be used to repair or replace damaged tissues, such as heart tissue affected by disease, vision loss from macular degeneration, joint damage from arthritis, or brain injury caused by stroke. Today, these DNA-based treatments are often complex and costly, but they remain an important and growing area of medical research.

April, May, June Birthday's

April

July 29th

May

8th ~ Bob

22nd Shirley

June

6th ~ Janet

A Perfect Pairing

Is there a more perfect sandwich than peanut butter and jelly? In celebration of one of the best food combinations of all time, April 2 is Peanut Butter and Jelly Day. When it comes to PB&J, many think, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." However, if you're looking to expand your



PB&J horizons, do what Elvis did and swap the jelly for fresh fruit. Bananas, strawberries, or even pomegranates fit the bill. More adventurous types opt for grilling their sandwiches in a frying pan, while others ditch the bread and slather their pancakes with PB&J.

When it comes to food combinations, PB&J certainly tops the list. But is this humble sandwich tastier than bacon and eggs? Macaroni and cheese? Spaghetti and meatballs? A burger and fries? Cookies and milk? Dietician Katherine Brooking offers some insight into PB&J's allure. "Humans have an innate predilection for salt, sweet, and fat," she says. Add the creamy texture of peanut butter, and this sandwich becomes "one of the hardest foods to eat in moderation."

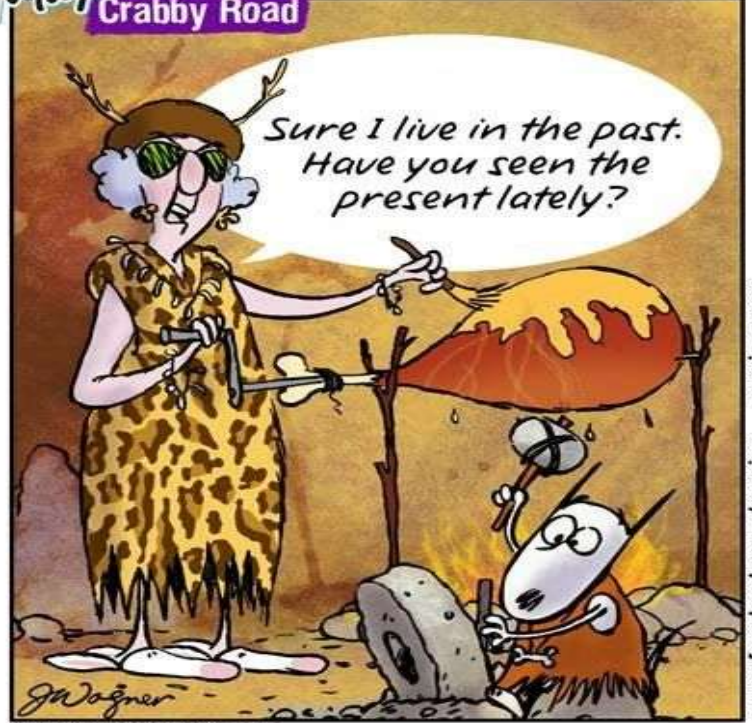
THE FUNNIES



Instead of the John I call my bathroom the Jim!
That way it sounds better when I say I go to the Jim first thing every morning!!!

Maxine
Crabby Road

8-5-13



Sure I live in the past. Have you seen the present lately?

J. Wagner
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I'd like to help you out... which way did you come in?



Some days are like toilet paper. You think you're on a roll, then the crap starts.

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