MARCH NEWSLETTER

 

March, the month of change.  We have all heard the familiar saying- March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb.  Winter slowly fades off, the days become noticeably longer, and spring is on the horizon.  Here are a few fun facts about the month of March you may not have known.

1. According to the oldest Roman calendars, one year was ten months long, beginning in March and ending in December.
2. March was actually named for the Latin *Martius*—aka Mars, the Roman god of war.
3. The “Ides of March” was a day in the Roman calendar equivalent to March 15th. It was considered a deadline for settling debts. It was also the day Julius Caesar was assassinated.
4. Daylight savings time begins in March.
5. Saint Patrick’s Day occurs every March 17th, celebrated in many western countries to commemorate the day Saint Patrick died.  Patrick’s Day turns the Chicago River green, among other festivities.
6. March is known for one thing above all others: March Madness. According to *USA Today,* unproductive workers cost their employers $4 billion in 2019, paid to employees spending company time on betting pool priorities.
7. The March equinox occurs on Thursday, March 20, 2025. In the Northern Hemisphere, this is known as the vernal, or spring, equinox and marks the start of the spring season. In the Southern Hemisphere, autumn begins. The sun shines on the equator for the Vernal Equinox, giving us a near 50-50 split of day and night.
8. March’s Zodiac signs are Pisces (February 20 to March 20) and Aries (March 21 to April 20).
9. March’s birthstones are aquamarine and bloodstone. These stones symbolize courage.
10. March is the time of year when animals start waking up from hibernation.
11. The popular social media outlet Twitter was launched on March 21, 2006, with the first tweet going out the same day.
12. On March 10, 1876, Alexander Graham Bell made the first-ever phone call.
13. Slightly less groundbreaking than the telephone, perhaps, but the 7th of March 1933 marked the invention of the family board game Monopoly.
14. Coca-Cola was invented by John Pemberton in March of 1886.
15. The Girl Scouts was officially founded on the 12th of March, 1912.
16. On March 1, 1961, President John F. Kennedy founded the successful nonprofit volunteer organization known as the Peace Corps.
17. Chuck Norris, Jon Bon Jovi, Shaquille O’Neal, Bruce Willis, Elton John, and Denny Howell are some of the people who celebrate birthdays in March
18. Daffodils have been designated as March’s birth flower
19. March 14th is celebrated as ‘International Pi Day’ as March 14th is known as 3/14, which is also in honor of Albert Einstein’s birthday
20. On March 31, 1889, the Eiffel Towner was ascended for the first time.  The journey had to be made by foot as the elevators were not in operation yet, and took over an hour to reach the top.

 Ash Wednesday As spring moves into sight, the Christian Easter season is getting closer, and that starts with Ash Wednesday.

However, this year's Easter season starts much later than usual. While Ash Wednesday frequently falls in February, it can take place anywhere from Feb. 4 through March 10, and this year, it falls closer to the latter. But why exactly does the religious holiday change dates, and why is the date later this year specifically?

Here's what to know about Ash Wednesday 2025.

**When is Ash Wednesday 2025?**

This year, Ash Wednesday falls on March 5. The Roman Catholic day of fasting marks the first day of the season of Lent, a 40-day period of prayer and repentance leading up to Easter Sunday.

According to Christian tradition, Ash Wednesday takes place 46 days, or 40 days excluding Sundays, before Easter Sunday. Easter is a moveable holiday, meaning Ash Wednesday moves with it.

[The Old Farmer's Almanac](https://www.almanac.com/content/when-is-easter) explains that Easter Sunday changes dates each year because it depends on the lunar cycles of the Jewish calendar. While Easter Sunday can happen anywhere between March 22 and April 25, the holiday always falls on the first Sunday after the Paschal full moon, meaning a [full moon](https://www.providencejournal.com/story/lifestyle/things-to-do/2024/12/27/full-moon-2025-calendar/77231315007/) that happens on or after the spring equinox.

This year, the spring equinox is March 20, and the first full moon following it is on April 12, making Easter April 20. 46 days before April 20 is March 5, making that date Ash Wednesday for 2025.



Daylight Saving Time begins in early March. At this time, we “spring forward” one hour! See details about when the time changes, why we observe DST, and the short history of this practice.

### What Is Daylight Saving Time?

**Daylight Saving Time** (“DST”) is the practice of moving the clocks forward one hour from Standard Time during the summer months and changing them back again in the fall. The general idea is that this allows us all to use natural daylight better: moving the clocks forward one hour in the [spring](https://www.almanac.com/content/first-day-seasons) grants us more daylight during summer evenings, while moving clocks back one hour in the fall grants us more daylight during winter mornings. However, DST has many detractors—and rightfully so!

* **Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 09, 2025, at 2:00 A.M.** On Saturday night, clocks *are set forward 1 hour*(i.e., losing one hour) to “spring forward.” Sunrise and sunset will be about 1 hour later on March 10, 2024, than the day before. There will be more light in the evening.
* **Daylight Saving Time ends** on **Sunday, November 2, 2025, at 2:00 A.M.** On Saturday night, clocks *are set back 1 hour* (i.e., gaining one hour) to “fall back.” Sunrise and sunset will be about 1 hour earlier on November 2, 2025, than the day before. There will be more light in the morning.



## St. Patrick's Day 2024: When Is St. Patrick's Day? Who Was St. Patrick? | The Old Farmer's Almanac

**History of St. Patrick’s Day**

**St. Patrick’s Day has its roots in the early days of Christianity in Ireland, and it is named after St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. St. Patrick was a Christian missionary who lived in the 5th century and is credited with bringing Christianity to Ireland. He is also associated with driving the snakes out of Ireland, although this is likely a metaphor for his work in converting the Irish people to Christianity.**

**St. Patrick’s Day was originally a religious holiday that was celebrated in Ireland as a day of feast and remembrance for St. Patrick. It was first made an official public holiday in Ireland in 1903, and the day was marked by religious services and family gatherings.**

**Over time, St. Patrick’s Day became a more secular holiday, and it spread beyond Ireland to become a global celebration of Irish culture and heritage. In the United States, the first St. Patrick’s Day parade was held in New York City in 1762, and today, the holiday is celebrated with parades, green-themed events, and festivities in cities around the world.**

**In Ireland, St. Patrick’s Day is still celebrated as a public holiday, with parades and other events taking place in cities and towns across the country. The holiday has also become a major tourist attraction, with visitors flocking to Ireland to experience the celebrations and learn about Irish culture and history.**

**Today, St. Patrick’s Day is a day to celebrate all things Irish, from traditional music and dance to food and drink. It is a day to honor the contributions of Irish immigrants to communities around the world and to showcase the unique and vibrant culture of Ireland.**





**When Is the First Day of Spring 2025?**

In 2025, the March equinox happens on March 20 at 5:01 A.M. EDT. This falls on a Thursday and is the astronomical beginning of the spring season in the Northern Hemisphere and the autumn season in the Southern Hemisphere.

In the Northern Hemisphere, the spring equinox (also called the **March equinox**or**vernal equinox** across the globe) occurs when the Sun crossesthe celestial equator going south to north. It’s called the “celestial” equator because it’s an imaginary line in the sky above Earth’s equator.

Imagine standing on the equator; the Sun would pass directly overhead on its way north.

On the March equinox, the Northern Hemisphere and Southern Hemisphere receive roughly equal amounts of sunlight; neither hemisphere is tilted more toward or away from the Sun than the other.

Although in most locations (the North Pole and the equator being exceptions), the amount of daylight had been increasing each day after the [winter solstice](https://www.almanac.com/content/first-day-winter-winter-solstice)—and after the spring equinox, many places will experience more daylight than darkness in each 24-hour day. The amount of daylight each day will continue to increase until the summer solstice (in June), when the longest period of daylight occurs.



## LOCAL NEWS

* Are you in need of grocery delivery service? Call 620-228-5570 for more information on this new service.
* La Harpe Days T-Shirts available at City Hall.
* Health & Wellness activities are free to all!
* Don’t forget, we have a community food box in front of City Hall…. Take what you need, leave what you can.

**If you need assistance after-hours please call the Iola Dispatch Center at (620) 365-1437, they will notify the proper personnel.**

 *HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL LAHARPE CITIZENS CELEBRATING A BIRTHDAY THIS MONTH!!!! MAY YOUR DAY BE AS SPECIAL AS YOU ARE TO US!*





*Note from the animal control officer:*

To whom it may concern

It’s a new year and time to get your dog(s) tagged with the city. There is an ordinance that tells you what you need to register your dog(s) and the ordinance that clearly states that you can’t have more than (3) three dogs per household.

If your dog(s) are not tagged and registered by May 1, 2025 you will be given a NTA (Notice to Appear in court)

If you have any questions, please contact us by phone (620) 365-5956 here at city hall.

Respectfully,

City of La Harpe

City dog tag fees:

Neutered/Spayed = $5.00 a dog

Unneutered/Unspayed = $7.50 a dog

Must have proof of current rabies vaccination to purchase city dog tags.

***A copy of the ordinance, in its entirety, can be viewed at*** [***www.cityoflaharpe.org***](http://www.cityoflaharpe.org)

*The city will host a dog clinic at city hall on April 12, 2025, from 1:30pm to 3:30pm*

*Bronson Vet, Lora Holman, will be on site to administer. This will be by appointment only. Contact city hall for more information (620) 365-5956.*



**The City Hall phone number has changed!**

**Please make note of our new numbers:**

**(620)365-5956, (620)365-7974**

**our fax will be (620)365-3944.**

**Dates to remember:**

A group of people sitting around a table

Description automatically generated with low confidence March 12th: Council Meeting at City Hall at 7:00 pm

A picture containing text, lined

Description automatically generated March 17th: PRIDE Meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the City Hall

[](http://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwiI3_mmgoLLAhVW9mMKHe22Ar8QjRwIBw&url=http://www.paymentus.com/industry-utilities.html&psig=AFQjCNF-5ANx5SktbJug46KiWwMehsjzzw&ust=1455908868261283) March 25th: **Past due Utility shut off date.**

**CITY COUNCIL NEWS**

**CITIZENS CALL FOR BUSINESS**

1. La Harpe citizen, Harry Lee, talked about effective city government stating he has interest in La Harpe for the past 75 years. At times the city council has been effective and other times less effective. Back in the mid 50’s a representative from Klien Tool came to the city and wanted to build their plant here, but the mayor at that time was not interested. Then in the mid to late 60’s the US Department of Agriculture presented they would like to build low income/senior apartment living in La Harpe but the city government was not interested. USDA now have those living arrangements in Moran, Iola and Bronson, Harry stated: Not a good decision made. Harry referred to La Harpe as a “Food Desert”, meaning the city doesn’t have groceries. Harry mentioned; at one time, back in the 50’s, La Harpe had two stores, but people did not support them, they drove a few extra miles to save a few cents. Overall, Harry stated; When people don’t support local businesses in La Harpe, they tend to lose them. For La Harpe to prosper, three things need to happen; 1) stable tax base- when rate payers decrease, those here the rate increases. 2) reliable and affordable utilities-the more people you have buying, the smaller the costs will be, the fewer you have, the bigger the costs will be. 3) good reputation- Harry shared a post from the city’s Facebook page regarding the decision to abandon a service with a business in town, shared that a few people were questioning the change and communicating with one another. Harry stated, I can’t see this is helping the city by abandoning a business that has been in town for 125 years.
2. Derrick and Jennifer Foster stated they are going to build a home in La Harpe and requested permission to stay in a camper as they were building. After some discussion, Sharlyn Thompson made the motion to have Fred write up a contract giving the Foster’s 18 months to stay in the camper while building. Ron Knavel seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. Kennel Fees – No action taken

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Employee handbook changes – Michelle update the health insurance changes and stated Fred suggested a motion be made to accept those changes. Cynthia Carr made a motion to approve the updated changes. Sharlyn Thompson seconded. Motion carried 3-0.
2. KRWA Voting Delegates – The council agreed to have Sharlyn Thompson and Angela Barker as the delegates for La Harpe.
3. KMEA Board of Directors – The council agreed to have Sharlyn Thompson and Ron Knavel as the board of directors for La Harpe.
4. AMS Collection Services for court – Michelle shared an agreement with AMS, a collection agency that Fred and the judge wanted me to look into, Humboldt uses this service and is very pleased and it does not cost the city any money. Sharlyn Thompson made the motion to go with AMS and sign the agreement. Ron Knavel seconded. Motion carried 4-0.
5. LACO Proposal – Mayor Crowell stated; the road out front is bubbling up because of the two drain pipes we have coming off of city hall and to stop it from getting any worse we need to re-route our guttering system. Cynthia Carr stated, we normally get 3 bids, why just this one, does anyone else do this. Mayor Crowell stated she couldn’t find anyone else. Angela Barker stated the bid is cheaper than repairing the road and made the motion to accept LACO’s bid in the amount of $1,670.00 and take out of the street fund to pay. Sharlyn Thompson seconded. Motion carried 3-1 with Cynthia Carr opposing.
6. Gym Floors – Vicky Moss with Thrive was present to share a new grant, the Lowes Building Grant is a no match grant and after talking with Michelle and the mayor it seems the gym floor needs some attention. To submit the grant, I will need a cost estimate, which was given to me this evening and the importance of the safety of this project, which I have typed up a narrative stating the number of loose tiles and how the area is used by the public on a daily basis. Vicky mentioned, if awarded, the project would need to be completed by November 14, 2025.

Marcia Davis shared that the Kansas Department of Commerce has a grant available for small communities of 5,000 or less, the grant is for up to $10,000.00 with a 10% match and is due by February 28, 2025. Mayor Crowell stated she would like to see city hall more ADA compliant. We have people in wheelchairs and those that use walkers visiting quite often and I would like to see a push button door opening for the front door and the entrance in the gym. Sharlyn Thompson mentioned a ramp outside by the handicap parking. Cynthia Carr questioned if our restrooms were ADA compliant. Marcia asked if we had pricing on these projects, the mayor said she will make a few phone calls and get back with her.

**REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS**

1. Fred Works, City Attorney – Absent from meeting.
2. Roy Caler, Water Representative – Nothing to report.
3. Penny Miller, Code/Animal Control –Shared her monthly reports with the mayor.
4. Marc Waggoner, Fire Chief- Shared the fire department minutes: The La Harpe Volunteer Fire Department met for the monthly meeting. Present: Josh Sparks, Marc Waggoner Sr., Kiefer Endicott, Matthew Waggoner, Dennis Sidebottom, Trevor Stover, Pamela Waggoner and Meghan Sparks. Absent were Bill Gay, Ronald Splector and Justin Pritchard. Started meeting, had a Humboldt fireman come down and talk to the guys about his experience of fatal fires to help them cope with the fire on January 27th, which we found the body of the homeowner, which has affected all of us. Then ended meeting. Marc requested the city allow the fire department to donate $200.00 to Ramona Jeffers to help her out. Michelle shared the final bill to the Jeffers home and asked the council what they wanted to do with it. Cynthia Carr made the motion to forgive the $479.47 utility bill for Gale Jeffers. Ron Knavel seconded. Motion carried 4-0. Cynthia Carr made the motion to donate $500.00 to Ramona Jeffers. Ron Knavel seconded. Motion carried 4-0. Michelle stated the donation will be made under the city and the fire department.
5. Maintenance Department - The workorders were shared.
6. Michelle Altis, City Clerk – Michelle told the council she is looking for a new computer for the assistant clerk/treasurer and is hoping to have something next month.



***Mayor****: Ella Mae Crowell (620) 496-6219*

***City Attorney****: Fred Works*

***City Municipal Judge****: Patty Miklos*

***Police Chief****:*

***Fire Chief****: Marc Waggoner*

***Assistant Fire Chief****: Dennis Sidebottom*

***City Clerk****: Michelle Altis*

***Assistant Clerk****: Teresa Driskel*

***City Treasurer****: Audra Riggins*

***Maintenance Staff****: Larry Laird & Penny Miller*

***Code & Animal Control****: Penny Miller*

***City Council Members:***

***Angela Barker (224-6209) Ron Knavel (496-2508)***

***Cynthia Carr (496-7500) Sharlyn Thompson (405-0272)***

***Laharpe City Hall Hours: Monday-Friday***

902 S. Washington 8:00-12:00 & 1:00-5:00

P.O. Box 10 Ph. (620) 365-5956

Laharpe, KS. 66751 Fax (620) 365-3944  *CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE; CITYOFLAHARPE.ORG* ** *Follow us on Facebook*



## Pork Chops and Scalloped Potatoes

## Ingredients

* 3 tablespoons butter
* 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
* 1-1/2 teaspoons salt
* 1/4 teaspoon pepper
* 1 can (14-1/2 ounces) chicken broth
* 6 pork rib or loin chops (3/4 inch thick)
* 2 tablespoons canola oil
* Additional salt and pepper, optional
* 6 cups thinly sliced peeled potatoes
* 1 medium onion, sliced
* Paprika and minced fresh parsley, optional

## Directions

1. In a small saucepan, melt butter; stir in the flour, salt and pepper until smooth. Add broth. Bring to a boil; cook and stir for 1 minute or until thickened. Remove from the heat and set aside.
2. In a large skillet, brown the pork chops on both sides in oil; sprinkle with additional salt and pepper if desired.
3. In a greased 13x9-in. baking dish, layer potatoes and onion. Pour broth mixture over layers. Place pork chops on top.
4. Cover and bake at 350° for 1 hour; uncover and bake 30 minutes longer or until meat and potatoes are tender. If desired, sprinkle with paprika and parsley.

# Creamy Coleslaw

# Creamy Coleslaw

## Ingredients

## 1 package (14 ounces) coleslaw mix

## 3/4 cup mayonnaise

## 1/3 cup sour cream

## 1/4 cup sugar

## 3/4 teaspoon seasoned salt

## 1/2 teaspoon ground mustard

## 1/4 teaspoon celery salt

## Directions

## Place coleslaw mix in a large bowl. In a small bowl, combine the remaining ingredients; stir until blended. Pour over coleslaw mix and toss to coat. Refrigerate until serving.

## Grasshopper Pie

## Grasshopper Pie

**Ingredients**

* 6 ounces cream cheese, softened
* 1 can (14 ounces) sweetened condensed milk
* 15 drops green food coloring
* 24 chocolate-covered mint cookies, divided
* 2 cups whipped topping
* 1 chocolate crumb crust (9 inches)

**Directions**

1. In a large bowl, beat the cream cheese until fluffy. Gradually beat in milk until smooth. Beat in the food coloring. Coarsely crush 16 cookies; stir into the cream cheese mixture. Fold in whipped topping. Spoon into the crust. Cover and freeze overnight. Remove from the freezer 15 minutes before serving. Garnish with remaining cookies.