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## Let's have a round of applause for pi and pie

Linda Cook lcook@qctimes.com Mar 14, 2015



Jeff Cook, QUAD-CITY TIMES

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Jacob Border of Davenport is an artisan baker who sells baked goods at the Freight House Farmers Market in Davenport. He will be one of three bakers expected to make pies today to celebrate national Pi Day.

What the heck does today have to do with pie?

Well ... nothing, really, except that "Pi Day" sounds like "Pie Day." And March 14 has become popular because of both those meanings.

Pi, also represented by the Greek letter  $\pi$ , is the name for the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter. This might make your head spin at first glance, but it's relatively simple: You can divide the circumference, or distance around any circle, by its diameter and always get exactly the same number, which is pi.

Pi is an irrational number, with decimal representations that stretch into infinity.

This year, National Pi Day has a special significance: At 9:26:53 a.m. and p.m., the date and time will represent the first 10 digits of  $\pi$ : 3.141592653.

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Visitors to the Freight House Farmers Market can enjoy special pies baked just for today. Dianna Blake of Davenport, coordinator of the Freight House Farmers Market in Davenport, said three vendors will bake pie for "Pi Day."

A customer, she said, sent an email asking whether the Farmers Market was doing anything special for "Pi Day."

At first, she said, she didn't understand the reference. "I didn't do very well in those classes. That's why it took me a little while to figure it out," Blake said.

Among the bakers will be Jacob Border of Davenport, who has been part of the Farmers Market since 2007. Border bakes mostly bread, with a limited number of scones and "other little baked goods," he said.

"I usually don't know what I'm going to make until the day before," he said. "I usually get a little bit creative with whatever it is — there might be some kind of cheese in there, or an herb." He said he plans to make small pies instead of the regular-size ones.

Vendors Steve Sink and Eastern Iowa Baking Company also will have pies available Saturday, Blake said.

Farmers Market hours are 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday.

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According to the American Pie Council, about \$700 million in pies is sold annually in grocery stores. If you lined up the number of pies sold at U.S. grocery stores in one year, the pies would circle the globe and then some, the group says.

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The handwritten lyrics to Don McLean's 1971 classic "American Pie" will be auctioned by Christie's in April, according to Rolling Stone. Christie's estimates that the 16-page document might bring up to \$1.5 million.

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Village Inn is celebrating Pi Day by sharing educational pi materials and activities with more than 500 middle schools and high schools nationwide — including many in the Quad-Cities — to help students learn about the history and mathematical significance of the number pi.

A Village Inn representative dropped off materials at school offices, where each individual school could decide whether to distribute them.

At schools that did distribute the materials, students received a coupon for a free slice of pie with purchase of an adult entree at Village Inn, and teachers received a coupon for \$2 off a whole fruit pie.

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Want to join other "Pi Day" celebrants on social media? Visit [www.facebook.com/pidaymarch14](http://www.facebook.com/pidaymarch14). Or visit the official Pi Day website at [www.piday.org](http://www.piday.org).

### Linda Cook

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