

APRIL 2017

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The Tattler

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Celebrating April

Licorice Month

International Guitar Month

Stress Awareness Month

Read a Road Map Day

April 5

Robotics Week

April 8–16

Cherish an Antique Day

April 9

Easter

April 16

National Volunteer Week

April 23–29

Poem in Your Pocket Day

April 27

International Jazz Day

April 30

Easy Being Green

For 47 years, April 22 has been celebrated as Earth Day around the globe. Today, Earth Day organizers are asking citizens around the world to do a “billion acts of green.” Unsure what constitutes an act of green? Earth Day organizers offer some easy suggestions.

A step that will relieve both the earth and your mailbox is to end junk mail. Over 100 million trees are cut down every year to produce junk mail, producing four million tons of advertisements, catalogs, and solicitations thrown into the trash. Often, a telephone call to those sending junk mail can take you off their mailing list.

Many appreciate the value of recycling paper, plastic, and cans, but few understand the value of recycling old computer parts and obsolete technology. Technology develops so fast that it is no wonder many people toss their cell phones and laptops into the garbage, accounting for 50 million tons of electronic waste each year. Many of these electronic parts contain lead, mercury, cadmium, and other harmful chemicals that leach into our soil and water. Luckily, most local governments have electronic recycling stations ready to accept old and obsolete electronics.

One of the biggest threats to the planet is plastic: bags, bottles, and packaging take 500 to 1,000 years to decompose. Using less plastic, especially plastic grocery bags, is a great way to act green.

Changing old habits is hard, but current innovations are helping clean up some wasteful habits. “Green” buildings are being built that produce as much energy as they consume. New batteries can store energy for homes and businesses in a way that reduces pollution. Energy is being harnessed from solar panels, wind turbines, and even ocean waves. But if you’d still like to help Mother Earth the old-fashioned way, a great and enduring act of green is to simply plant a tree on April 28, Arbor Day.

A Lot to Juggle

If you think you're busy, consider International Jugglers' Day on April 18. There's a reason we call organizing many things at once "juggling." Take one look at a professional juggler, and it's plain to see how challenging it is to keep so many different things from falling flat.



While the art of juggling is one of the oldest circus disciplines, its origins go back at least as far as ancient Egypt, where hieroglyphs depicted people tossing balls into the air. The entertainment continued through ancient Greece and Rome into the Middle Ages, where jugglers were considered dangerous outcasts, scoundrels, magicians, or witches. During the Renaissance, juggling regained popularity as entertainment in the courts of royalty as well as in street performances for common folk. This perhaps led to the word *juggle*, which comes from the Middle English word *jogelen*, meaning "to perform or entertain."

For anyone wishing to learn the art of juggling, scarves are the easiest prop to begin with because they are light, fall slowly, and are easy to catch. How you throw your props—whether they are scarves, balls, rings, pins, flaming torches, or chainsaws—is called the pattern. Patterns can be easy, such as the Cascade, or they can be very complicated (and interestingly named), such as the Arrow of Asai, Romeo's Revenge, or the 531 Mills Mess. While most patterns require three balls, some people choose to juggle more. The world record for the most balls juggled is 11, while the record for rings is 13.

Many consider juggling to be a funny circus act, but during its heyday, it was performed by gentlemen. The gentleman juggler wore formal evening attire and juggled items found at a formal dinner: china plates, wine bottles, loaves of bread, his hat and cane, even dining room chairs. Today, gentlemen and gentlewomen practice this fabulous art, often juggling it with raising a family and working full time.

Monetary Motto

On April 22, 1864, the U.S. Congress authorized the phrase "In God We Trust" to appear on currency. Before this phrase, the country's motto was the Latin *E pluribus unum*, meaning "Out of many, one," a reference to the original 13 colonies that became one new nation. However, in 1864, in the midst of the American Civil War, this unifying phrase did not seem very accurate. During this fractured time, and with uncertainty over the United States' future, many turned to a higher power for guidance and peace. Then-Secretary of Treasury Salmon P. Chase received a letter from a Pennsylvania minister begging him to recognize "the Almighty God in some form on our coins." Chase instructed the director of the Mint to come up with a short motto, and it was decided that "In God We Trust" would appear on the two-cent coin. Use of the phrase was not mandatory, however, and it wasn't until 1956 that Congress made "In God We Trust" the national motto of the United States. It has appeared on all classes and denominations of U.S. currency ever since.

Garlic Breath

Don't hold your nose on April 19, Garlic Day. This pungent vegetable, a bulb related to the lily family, has been long thought to possess almost supernatural powers. Egyptian slaves were given rations of garlic, as it was thought to increase strength and ward off illness. In ancient Korea, people would eat garlic before traversing the mountains because it was believed to scare away tigers. The Greeks believed that garlic warded off evil spirits. Heads of garlic were placed at crossroads to confound evil pursuers, and cloves were hung from doorways during childbirth to protect newborns. The myth that garlic frightens away vampires stems from the use of garlic as an effective repellent of blood-sucking mosquitos. No wonder this legendary food enjoys its own holiday.



That's News to Me

Sixty-two percent of all Americans now get their daily news not from a newspaper or the radio but from online social media outlets like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, and Snapchat. If you've never heard of these things, then chances are you're in the minority who still get their news the old-fashioned way. Lest we forget the importance of these traditional news outlets, let's celebrate Snailpapers Day (that's the home-delivered news) on April 7 and Newspaper Columnists Day on April 18.



While technology certainly has its upside, when it comes to online news, there is some cause for concern. People who gather news via social media have been compared to packrats, gathering small bits of information here and there, without remembering to verify sources, and without getting the whole story. Social media has also made it easier to spread false information and ignore stories that do not reinforce our own opinions.

So are printed "snailpapers" essential to a well-informed society? They certainly bring in-depth news stories to the public, focusing on facts rather than fanaticism. But perhaps the most important role of a true snailpaper is, in the words of Richmond, Virginia's newspaper editor, "the relationship between a newspaper and the community it covers." This relationship, on the local level, provides a community with invaluable investigative resources into local stories and a platform to sing the praises of local heroes.

The importance of the journalists who bring us the news is no less important. It has been said that the purpose of journalism is to bring citizens the information they need to be free and self-governing. In this way, newspaper columnists are an integral part of free societies and healthy democracies. All the more reason on April 18 to celebrate the journalists who bring us news that is accurate, unbiased, whole, and unfiltered.

Good Hair Day

Things are going to get a bit hairy on April 30, which is both Hairstyle and Hairstylist Appreciation Day. After all, what is one without the other? The best hairstyles endure different eras and trends, never going out of style. So many hairstyles are popularized by television and film. Take Farrah Fawcett's famous soft and feathered look from the 1970s show *Charlie's Angels*. Another television show, the 1990s sitcom *Friends*, introduced the world to actress Jennifer Aniston as well as her layered bob haircut, which came to be known simply by her character's name, "The Rachel." From Meg Ryan's short and shaggy look to Mia Farrow's tomboy pixie cut, most any style can be requested by name at the beauty salon. As far as men's hair is concerned, there is only one style that is generally considered a cut above the rest. According to the men's magazine *GQ*, the most popular look is a clean, professional, and versatile cut that's longer at the crown and faded into a short clipper cut at the sides and back. This cut is so universal amongst male actors that it does not go by any name.

Aww, Nuts

While everyone agrees that April 14 is Pecan Day, many still debate this word's proper pronunciation. Is it *PEE-can*? Or *puh-KAHN*? In Georgia, pecans are as dear as peaches, and according to the Georgian Pecan Growers Association, it's pronounced *puh-KAHN*. Southerners may indeed enjoy a small majority when it comes to pronunciation: A survey conducted by the National Pecan Shellers Association revealed that 45% of Americans pronounce it *PEE-can*, especially in the northeastern United States. Is the pecan pronunciation divide just a matter of North vs. South? Apparently even single individuals can be divided. Pecan farmer Duke Lane III says *PEE-can trees* but eats *puh-KAHN pie*. And let's not even mention those sophisticated few who say *puh-CAN*.



Dear Treemonters:

HAPPY SPRING, Happy Easter, Happy Passover. Lots to celebrate this month. Be sure to read your calendar and mark the things you want to attend.

We have reinstated the Men's Breakfast and we're glad to say many men attended the last one. The food was great and the attendance was even better.

Our Gardening Angels group is meeting again and our garden is planted. Let's watch our plants grow and enjoy the "magic of something growing from nothing" when the plants produce fruits/vegetables. There's something about a vegetable garden that makes the heart joyful.

Our very own Libby Davis is having a book published through Simon & Schuster. Congratulations, Libby on a job well done.

I have been in touch with our Rabbi Goldstein regarding a Passover Celebration – the date of which will be announced soon. Also, Friday, April 14th (Good Friday) St. Cyril's Catholic Church will be here to hold the Stations of the Cross in the Green Room. Stay tuned for further announcements.

Happy Spring, Ya'll. Let's make it a great one.

April Birthdays

2nd	Jane Free Patricia Steele
3rd	Mark Higgason Albert Gradziel Henry Williams
4th	Joyce Burrows
6th	Susanna Lombard
7th	Dennis Thompson
8th	Maxine Vitaro
10th	Bernice Whiteside
13th	Jackie Kolter
14th	Roger Brooks
15th	Pat Middleton Loretta Herman
16th	Karen Atkins William Unkart
18th	Marion Giovia
19th	Julie McNamara Bobbie Fellers
20th	Donna McCarty
21th	Frank Ragusa
24th	Isabel Diego
25th	Joan Nering
26th	Raymond Jageman Marjorie Horn Patricia Canonica
30th	Carolyn James

Your birthday dinner is Thursday, April 27th at 5pm in the Green Room. Be sure to RSVP to Myra or James.

Gimme Five

Say "Gimme five!" on April 20, High Five Day. This timeless show of enthusiasm is a relatively recent phenomenon. One rumor suggests that the high five was invented in 1979 by a Murray State University basketball player whose dad served in the 5th Infantry during the Vietnam War. But it turns out this was merely a myth. The true originator of the high five was Los Angeles Dodgers baseball player Glenn Burke. On October 2, 1977, in front of a crowd of 46,000 fans, Burke held up his hand for teammate Dusty Baker, who had just hit a home run. Spontaneously, the men slapped palms. Burke, in the very next at-bat, also hit a home run, and this time it was Dusty Baker who greeted him with a congratulatory high hand slap. The "high-five" as it came to be known, as opposed to the "low five," quickly gained popularity in sports and beyond.



April Birthdays

In astrology, those born between April 1–19 are Rams of Aries. As the first sign of the zodiac, Aries are energetic and assertive initiators. With bravery, zeal, and speed, they jump headfirst into life, confident that they can navigate any challenges. Those born between April 20–30 are Bulls of Taurus. Bulls are stable, reliable, and committed in both work and family. Bulls also appreciate love, beauty, and creativity, making them true romantics and lovers of the good life.

Marlon Brando (actor) – April 3, 1924
Bette Davis (actress) – April 5, 1908
Billie Holiday (singer) – April 7, 1915
Beverly Cleary (author) – April 12, 1916
Tom Clancy (author) – April 12, 1947
Wilbur Wright (aviator) – April 16, 1867
Harry Reasoner (journalist) – April 17, 1923
Charles Grodin (actor) – April 21, 1935
Roy Orbison (musician) – April 23, 1936
Al Pacino (actor) – April 25, 1940
Duke Ellington (bandleader) – April 29, 1899