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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. Those born between April 20–30 are Bulls of Taurus. Bulls are stable, reliable, and committed in both work and family. Bulls also appreciate beauty and are lovers of the good life.

Karen Mader	April 4 th
Wanda Morrell	April 4 th
William Webb	April 11 th
Imogene O'Neal	April 29 th

Easy Being Green cont. from pg. 1

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 to clean up some wasteful habits. "Green" buildings that produce as much energy as they consume are being built. 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 ocean waves. And if you'd like to help Mother Earth the old-fashioned way, you can always plant a tree on April 28, Arbor Day.



**International
Guitar 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

Renaissance Terrace

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Easy Being Green

For 47 years, April 22 has been celebrated as Earth Day across 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 remove you from their mailing lists.

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.

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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. The men spontaneously 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 already-known "low five," quickly gained popularity in sports and elsewhere.

Space Vacation

On April 28, 2001, outer space went beyond the realm of exploration and became a tourist destination. American millionaire businessman Dennis Tito paid \$20 million to become the first space tourist.

Dennis Tito was no stranger to space. He once worked with NASA's jet propulsion laboratory in aerospace engineering. But his vacation aboard the International Space Station (ISS) was not easy to book. NASA, worried about Tito's lack of professional astronaut experience, did not want to train him. NASA believed that there were just too many safety concerns. Tito was undeterred and found a ride to space with the Russians. Perhaps the Russian Space Agency agreed to blast Tito into space courtesy

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

of the \$20 million Tito was willing to pay for the ride. Russia was already planning a voyage to the ISS with one of its Soyuz space capsules. These Soyuz capsules act as the station's "life rafts" in the event of an emergency and must be replaced every six months. Tito's trip coincided perfectly with the replacement of the Soyuz capsule.

After eight months of training in Russia, Tito and two Russian cosmonauts, Talgat Musabayev and Yuri Baturin, blasted off for the ISS. His eight days in space was a childhood dream fully realized. Tito said that the trip brought "a sense of completeness for my life." It also heralded the beginning of a fantastic and fanciful new space tourism industry.

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*.

Monetary Motto

On April 22, 1864, in the midst of the Civil War, the U.S. Congress authorized the phrase "In God We Trust" to appear on currency. 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. Using 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.



Notable Quotable

"Space travel for everyone is the next frontier in the human experience."

~ Buzz Aldrin, astronaut



That's News to Me

Sixty-two percent of Americans now get their daily news not from a newspaper or the radio but from online social media outlets like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. If you've never heard of these things, then chances are you still get your news the old-fashioned way. 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.

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 and a platform to sing the praises of local heroes.

It has been said that the purpose of journalism is to bring citizens the information they need to be free and self-governing. All the more reason on April 18 to celebrate the columnists who bring us news that is accurate and whole.



Jim Griscom,
Anne Murphy,
Katie Kinney
Enjoy a
portrait
class with
local Artist
Jessica
Gregory of
Broadway
Studios and
Gallery

