## **MAY 2019**

# **OPENING**

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# STATEMENTS

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### FROM THE DESKS OF

RAZUMICH + DELAMATER

## EVERY DAY IS A CELEBRATION WITH THESE ODD MAY HOLIDAYS

- Save the Rhino Day
- 16. Love a Tree Day
- 2. Brothers and Sisters Day
- National Bike to Work Day
- Í
- 18. Dirty Dishes Day
- 3. Lumpy Rug Day
- 19. Boy's Club Day
- Free Comic Book Day
- 20. Be a Millionaire Day

Waitresses Day

- 5. Cinco de Mayo
- 21. Waiters and
- 6. No Diet Day
- 22. World Goth Day
- National Teacher's Day
- 23. Lucky Penny Day
- 8. No Socks Day
- 24. Don't Fry Friday
- Lost Sock Memorial Day
- 25. International Jazz Day
- 10. Clean up Your
- 26. Sally Ride Day
- Room Day
- 27. Sun Screen Day
- Eat What You Want Day
- 28. National Hamburger Day
- 12. Limerick Day
- 29. Learn About
- 13. Frog Jumping Day
- Composting Day
- Dance Like a Chicken Day
- 30. Water a Flower Day
- 15. Chocolate Chip Day
- 31. Save Your Hearing
  Day



The first weekend of May is the perfect weekend for nerds everywhere. If you know comics aren't just for kids, rant and rave about "Star Wars" every chance you get, or have a passion for physics that goes beyond the classroom, congratulations! There's a whole weekend just for you. The stars have aligned, and you can let your inner nerd shine on May 3–4 while you celebrate International Space Day, Free Comic Book Day, and Star Wars Day. There are plenty of ways to enjoy these holidays, so take part in the festivities and ensure the weekend is as action packed as a starship battle in a galaxy far, far away.

#### **CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL SPACE DAY**

Space Day is exactly what it sounds like: a day to commemorate the science and exploration of space and appreciate the final frontier in all its wonder and mystery. Although Lockheed Martin Corporation is credited with starting Space Day in 1997, the holiday really lifted off in 2001 when Sen. (and former astronaut) John Glenn declared the first Friday in May to be International Space Day. The holiday's immense popularity continues to this day, with many scientific organizations celebrating space with demonstrations, gatherings, and educational programs.

There's no set protocol for the celebration, so you can observe Space Day however you see fit. Check out popular space podcasts like "Interplanetary Podcast," "Main Engine Cutoff," or "Planetary Radio," all of which go over the latest news in space and space exploration. You can read up on asteroids, colonizing Mars, or the newest extrasolar discoveries to build your knowledge of all things extraterrestrial. Or, if you have a telescope, you can see some of those things for yourself. Like space, the possibilities are endless.

Continued on page 2 ...

#### **CELEBRATING FREE COMIC BOOK DAY**

With the release of so many superhero movies and other films based on comic book adventures, comics and graphic novels have flown, punched, and clawed their way into our mainstream culture. Free Comic Book Day started in 2002, a day after the release of the first "Spider-Man" film, as a way to reignite popularity for the medium after a massive bust in the comic book industry in the 1990s. The idea was received positively by the public, and ever since then, it has been accompanied by the release of a comic book movie on the same weekend.

Celebrating the day is simple; go to the Free Comic Book Day website and find out if there are stores participating near you. Then, get a comic (or two or three) free of charge. Browse the rest of the store while you're there. Find a new series to enjoy and maybe watch your favorite superhero movie later that night with friends (or by yourself, no judgment here). It's a great way to celebrate the hobby of millions of

Americans and introduce new readers to some truly heroic stories.

#### **CELEBRATING STAR WARS DAY**

The scrolling introductions accompanied by John Williams' soaring score; the hums and beeps of droids; the electric clash of lightsabers between Sith and Jedi; the Force — May 4 is the day to celebrate it all with the films, TV spinoffs, books, comics, and toys. The galaxy far, far away has invaded Earth, and its popularity shows no signs of slowing down. It all started with the pun "May the fourth be with you." From then on, just as Luke Skywalker was destined to become a Jedi Master, this day was destined to be all about George Lucas' beloved creation

You could just watch the movies on May 4, but anyone can do that. Really showcase your passion by getting a group together and dress up as your favorite characters. Make some themed drinks, like a "Hoth" toddy or Qui-Gon Jinn and tonic. Jam out



to that catchy Cantina bop. Debate your fan theories with friends and remember that you're there to celebrate, even if the discussion about "The Last Jedi" gets a little heated. Whether you make it up as you go like Han Solo or carefully plan like Emperor Palpatine, there are enough festivities to fill a Star Destroyer.

So, attention all space nerds, "Star Wars" fanatics, and comic book geeks: May 3-4 is your weekend. Get together with your friends and maybe make some new ones as you celebrate the passions that bring you all together.

# BRAVE LITTLE CHER AMI

# The War Pigeon Who Saved the 'Lost Battalion'

Long before the invention of radios and cellphones, homing pigeons were used to send messages as early as the sixth century. During World War I, war pigeons carried lifesaving messages past enemy lines for the American and French armies, often being wounded in the process. In 1918, Cher Ami, a black check hen used by the U.S. Signal Corps, became the most famous of them all.

On Oct. 2, the United States 77th Division was trapped behind enemy lines in the Argonne Forest during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, a threemonth push by the Allies during the final throes of World War I to force the Germans to surrender. It became the bloodiest battle in U.S. history. For six days, the encircled division endured relentless attacks and suffered heavy casualties, but their orders were clear: don't retreat and don't surrender.

The division dispatched two homing pigeons with requests for help, but both birds were shot down. When friendly fire began raining down on the 77th, Major Charles White Whittlesey felt he had no choice but to send the last pigeon, Cher Ami. The pigeon's desperate note read:

"We are along the road parallel to 276.4. Our own artillery is dropping a barrage directly on us. For heaven's sake, stop it."



As Cher Ami rose from the brush, she was shot down, to the despair of the watching soldiers. However, after a few seconds, she fought her way back into the air, flew through a torrent of gunfire, and made it to division headquarters 25 miles away. She had been shot in the breast, the eye, and

Because of Cher Ami's brave flight, 194 of the original 554 men of the 77th Division survived the battle. One month later, World War I came to an end. Cher Ami survived the war as well, thanks to the surgeons who performed emergency surgery on her. One soldier even carved her a little wooden leg. She became a well-known hero to both soldiers and children in the States. For her service in Verdun, the French Army awarded her the Croix de Guerre, and she was inducted into the Racing Pigeon Hall of Fame.

Cher Ami finally succumbed to her wounds in June of 1919 and is now on display in the Smithsonian alongside Sergeant Stubby, a terrier who served 18 months on the Western Front.

### GENEALOGY SITES AND THE WARMING OF COLD CASES

### The Revolution in Forensic Science Continues to Captivate the Masses

We've come a long way in the field of forensic science since 1986, when DNA was first used to convict someone in court. In 2019, criminals who would have gotten away with their crimes in the past are now put behind bars where they belong. The advent of genealogy testing has been thrust into the spotlight with high-profile cases that were solved by sequestering information from sites like 23andMe and Ancestry.com. With this revolution in DNA testing on the rise, there's really no end to the impossible-to-solve cold cases that can finally be put to rest.

Whatever the motivation was behind genealogy sites in the beginning, they're now some of the most sought-after databases in the world and are worth billions for their collection of the most personal consumer data in existence. Using these websites' data, investigators can make DNA matches with potential offenders. The most famous recent case is the successful apprehension of Joseph James DeAngelo, otherwise known as the Golden State Killer. After 13 murders and dozens of assaults, he was finally brought to justice after investigators matched his DNA to the evidence found at the crime scenes. They gained access to his DNA from the personal genomics site GEDmatch.

Although access to the data of popular sites like 23andMe and Ancestry. com is restricted to its customers, law enforcement agencies successfully subpoenaed the companies to hand over the requested data. With

the ability to theoretically solve any crime with preserved DNA, law enforcement and websleuths alike are foaming at the mouth at the possibilities genealogy testing has to offer. If only we'd preserved some of Jack the Ripper's DNA!



# TAKE A BREAK!



BLOOMING BOUQUET BUMBLEBEE CINCO DE MAYO DAFFODIL EMERALD GEMINI MEMORIAL DAY MOTHERS DAY
REMEMBER
ROSE
TAURUS

### **STRAWBERRY MANGO PALETAS**

#### **Ingredients**

- 1 1/4 cups strawberries, chopped
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 3 tablespoons fresh lime juice

#### **Directions**

- In a saucepan, toss strawberries with 1/4 cup sugar and let stand at room temperature for 15 minutes.
- Add 1/4 cup water and bring to a simmer over moderate heat.
   Cook strawberries until mixture thickens, about 5 minutes.
- Remove from heat and stir in 1 tablespoon of lime juice and 1/4 teaspoon of salt. Let cool completely, about 45 minutes.
- Meanwhile, in a blender, purée mangoes with 1/4 cup sugar, 2 tablespoons lime juice, and 1/4 teaspoon salt until smooth. Scrape into a medium bowl and clean the

- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 2 medium ripe mangoes, peeled, pitted, and chopped

Inspired by Food & Wine Magazine

- blender. Then, purée strawberry mixture until smooth.
- Into 8 3-ounce ice pop molds, spoon 2 tablespoons mango purée. Add 2 tablespoons strawberry purée to each mold, then top with remaining mango purée, leaving 1/2 inch between filling and top of mold.
- 6. Using a small knife, gently swirl layers together.
- 7. Insert ice pop sticks and freeze until solid.
- Dip molds in hot water for a few seconds, then unmold paletas and serve immediately.



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# THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU STEAL A PROTECTED ANIMAL

Animal Theft and Trespassing Don't Go Unnoticed

You wake up slowly, still groggy from a raucous night out with your friends. As you look around, taking stock of your surroundings, you see the other inhabitants: a desk, your shoes, a penguin ... a penguin?!

While footage confirms that two young Welshmen stole Dirk the penguin from his SeaWorld Australia home, the men had little memory of the night's misadventures the next morning — until they saw Dirk waddling around their rented apartment.

The night before, after imbibing a hefty amount during their vacation in Australia, the men got the harebrained idea to break into SeaWorld and swim with the dolphins. After getting inside, video footage captured them stripping down to their skivvies and running around the facility — until they spotted the penguin enclosure. "Look at them!" one said. Distracted from their original plan, they made their way to the penguins,

grabbed one, and left. Dirk, the 7-year-old fairy penguin (the smallest species of penguin), was bred in captivity and had never left his enclosure.

The next morning, realizing what they'd done, the three young men panicked and released Dirk into a nearby canal. But Dirk's misfortunes weren't quite over. He was chased out of the canal by what onlookers believe was a shark, only to be chased back in by a surprised dog. Fortunately, concerned passers-by called authorities, and SeaWorld workers came to rescue Dirk and bring him back to his family.

Dirk returned unharmed to his partner, Peaches, but his kidnappers weren't so lucky. Once a Facebook post recounting their misdeeds made its rounds, police traced the crime back to the two Welshmen. They were charged with trespassing, stealing, and keeping a protected animal, and there was no shortage of public shaming as their crime circulated the



internet. Taking note of their letter of apology and admissions of guilt and regret, the judge enforced a heavy fine for the crime in lieu of jail time.

Charges for kidnapping a protected animal vary from state to state, but the Endangered Species Act ensures perpetrators face harsh penalties, including fines and maximum sentences. The Animal Legal Defense Fund also provides free legal assistance and training to help protect animals from harm.

Be careful on your next night out, and please, enjoy wildlife without stealing it!