



...keeping you informed May 2024

Hello Everyone—

Welcoming May today. A very beautiful time of year with flowers blooming, sunshine days, plans made for some fun activities. Planting a garden. Lazy days.

The month of May starts with May Day and ends on Memorial Day with a lot of special days in between. You may need two cups of coffee and a donut or two.



May Day is celebrated on May 1st. The halfway point between the Spring equinox and the summer solstice. A holiday rich in history and folklore celebrating the return of Spring.



A few facts from the Farmer's Almanac: •Clothes washed for the first time in the Full Moon will not last long. •The Full Moon is an ideal time to accept a proposal of marriage. •Neighbors may leave baskets of flowers on each other's doorsteps or doorknobs. •On May Day morning, if a maiden gathers dew before sunup and sprinkles her face with it, she will enjoy luck and youthful beauty for the rest of the year.

To learn about the origins of May Day and fun traditions, from May Day baskets to the Maypole. Go to: [May Day 2024: What Is May Day? Traditions and Lore of May 1st | The Old Farmer's Almanac](#)

The Kentucky Derby, the 150th renewal, and the greatest two minutes in sports is always the first Saturday in May. The "Running of the Roses" as the Kentucky Derby is called is America's premier horse racing event. The first step in the Triple Crown of horse racing. It is held at Churchill Downs in Louisville, Kentucky.

A little Derby Trivia: The Kentucky Derby was started by Lewis Clark Jr.—grandson of William Clark, half of the famous explorer duo Lewis and Clark—after he saw England's Epsom Derby. About 155,000 people attend this all day event, which ends in a two minute race.

Those attending are dressed in their Sunday best. Ladies wear those gorgeous, frilly hats.

Mint Juleps are the traditional drink and as many as 120,000 may be consumed during this two day event.

Nineteen past winners have had names beginning with the letter "S," including Secretariat.

Only three horses ran in the 1892 and 1905 Kentucky Derby races.

All thoroughbred race horses have the same birthday—January 1. No matter what day a horse was born on during the year, race horse age is marked from New Year's Day in order to make it easier to keep track of bloodlines.

As the horses enter the track for the post derby parade, the band plays "My Old Kentucky Home". A tradition which began in 1921.

For the 150th anniversary of the race, the purse for the Derby was raised to \$5 million (up from \$3 million in 2023) with the winner taking home \$3.1 million, \$1 million for the runner up, \$500,000 for third place, \$250,000 for fourth place, and \$150,000 for fifth.

For more info go to: www.kentuckyderby.com



May is the Month of the Blessed Virgin Mary. A Catholic tradition to honor Mary, our Heavenly Mother. Most churches and schools try to hold the crowning on or near Mother's Day (May 12th this year) During this month, a statue of the Virgin, is crowned with a wreath of flower

, signifying her honor as Queen of Heaven and Earth.. The ceremony has been held in countless parishes, schools and homes throughout the world.



There have been a countless number of times girls in white dresses and veils and boys in white shirts and ties have taken part in those processions –most often in church-during May crowning. A girl was chosen –not sure how- to place the flowers at the statue of the Blessed Mother. As she made her way to the altar the choir would sing *-Bring flow'rs of the fairest. Bring flowers of the rarest. ... We crown thee with blossoms today, Queen of the Angels, Queen of the May.* For

many decades, the lovely words and melody of the hymn *Bring Flowers of the Rarest* have been gracing the beautiful traditional crowning of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

How many of you remember being chosen to place flowers at the statue of the Blessed Mother during Sunday Mass in May? Didn't you feel very special walking down the church aisle with all eyes on you.

For a video of the crowing of the Blessed Mother at Our Lady of Grace 2023 go to:

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=Our+lady+of+Grace%2c+maricopa%2caz+May+crowning&qpv=Our>
Visiting the World's Tallest statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and [#MonteMaria!](#)

Mother's Day is May 12th, 2024

The first Mother's Day was celebrated in 1908. Anna Jarvis honored her mother Ann Jarvis with a memorial. Ann Jarvis had started a committee in 1868 to establish 'Mother's Friendship Day'.

Her motivation had been to reunite families after the Civil War. She died in 1905, before Mother's Day became a holiday. In 1912, Anna Jarvis trademarked both 'Mother's Day' and 'the second Sunday in May'. She also created Mother's Day International Association

Interesting–Anna Jarvis who founded Mother’s Day fought to have it abolished in 1920 believing it became too commercialized.

And, mother of John and Clarence Anglin, 2 of the 3 men who ever escaped from Alcatraz, received flowers anonymously every Mother’s Day until her death in 1978. Interesting because her sons were officially reported to have drowned in San Francisco Bay while escaping in 1962.



Armed Forces Day is May 18th, 2024. In 1999 to ensure the nation be given the chance to publicly show their appreciation for troops past and present Congress designated May as **National Military Appreciation** month. to remember the sacrifice and service of those who gave all, but the month also holds several other military anniversaries and events, including Military Spouse Appreciation Day and Armed Forces day. A special month for both those in and out of the military.

Each year the president makes a proclamation, reminding Americans of the important role the U.S. Armed Forces have played in the history and development of our country. May was chosen because it has many individual days marked to note our military's achievements, including Loyalty Day, established in 1921, Victory in Europe (VE) Day commemorating the end of WWII in Europe in 1945, Children of Fallen Patriots Day and the anniversary of the death of Osama bin Laden

For the complete article go to: [What Is Military Appreciation Month? - May 2024 \(thesoldiersproject.org\)](https://thesoldiersproject.org/what-is-military-appreciation-month-may-2024)

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is offering a 10% discount to verified military members, veterans and their spouse and National Guard every day plus Free My Lowe's Reward Silver Key Status. You can enroll in store or online.

To sign up for Lowe's veterans discounts online, follow these steps:

1. Verify your military status through ID.me.
2. Sign in or create a MyLowe's account.
3. Confirm or provide your primary address.
4. Shop online or in-store to get 10% off eligible items every day. Alternatively, you can visit Lowe's official website, scroll to the bottom of the page, click on the "Military Discount" link, and then verify with ID.me.

[https://themilitarywallet.com/lowes-military-discount/#:~:text=The%20chain%20offers%20a%20Lowe%E2%80%99s%2010%25,%28USPHS%29%20also%20qualify%](https://themilitarywallet.com/lowes-military-discount/#:~:text=The%20chain%20offers%20a%20Lowe%E2%80%99s%2010%25,%28USPHS%29%20also%20qualify%20)

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From an article in **MARICOPA, AZ (AZFamily)**—*A wildfire broke out south of Maricopa Friday April 12th leading to temporary evacuations. Pinal County officials said the fire broke out near Barnes and Ralston roads in the Hidden Valley area, which is about 12 miles southwest of Maricopa. A wildfire is burning in the Hidden Valley area near Ralson and Barnes, south of Thola, and is heading west. Homes in that area have been placed in "Go—Evacuate Status. About a half hour later, officials reported that the fire was fully contained and that area residents were allowed to return home. [Small wildfire burns in Pinal County \(azfamily.com\)](#)*

Pinal County, Arizona is implementing a fire ban effective May 1, 2024, due to concerns over wildfire risk. This ban includes prohibiting the use of campfires, fire pits, charcoal grills, even in developed campgrounds and picnic areas. Gas or propane grills are permitted in designated areas. Smoking is also banned in all areas. Those who violate the fire ban may face legal penalties under Pinal County's fire regulations, which could include a Class 2 misdemeanor.



The ban is scheduled to remain in place until September 30, 2024, but the Parks & Trails Department reserves the right to extend it based on summer weather conditions and vegetation health in the parks. This decision reflects the need to prioritize park and trail safety during peak fire season.

For additional details or to confirm the fire ban, individuals can contact the Pinal County Parks & Trails Department at 520-509-3555 or visit the Pinal County website

https://wp.newsbreak.com/search/front-page?session_id=4d74a798-e0db-44b8-beec-c608e00dd9e7&docid=0sPIh5Nh&s=a3&share_destination_id



Starting Wednesday May 1st, 2024, the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG), along with partner organizations will drop its [Heat Relief Network](#) map. The map will include the locations of hydration stations, water donations sites and indoor respite centers. The goal of the Network is to prevent heat-related illnesses and deaths. Last summer, the Valley experienced record-breaking temperatures, which led to hundreds of heat-related deaths.

Organizations who want to become a Heat Relief Network need to [fill out a form](#) and submit it. The association will provide a map of the various places on the network starting in May.

[Maricopa Association of Governments brings back its Heat Relief Network map | Fronteras \(fronterasdesk.org\)](#)

AARP Foundation Property Tax-Aide has launched a first-of-its-kind online resource to help people like you learn about property tax relief programs in your state.

This free website allows homeowners and renters to search more than 150 property tax relief programs nationally and then access the relevant applications. Please note that filing deadlines have passed for some states.

Property Tax-Aide features three widely available property tax relief programs for older residents. Senior Citizen Property Tax Refund Credit is available to both homeowners and renters. The Senior Property Valuation Protection, also known as Senior Freeze, is available for homeowners. Senior homeowners may also elect to apply for deferring property taxes.

Check your state on the [Property Tax-Aide website](#) to learn about deadlines and eligibility.

I did say a 'little lengthy'. I hope you found the Newsletter of interest. Lots happening in May.

Ray and I want to wish all the mothers, grandmothers, great grandmothers, mother-in-law's and those who are like a mother to you a very special Mother's Day. May your day be filled with sunshine, time shared with family – social distancing or not- and memories of special times.

And, a happy May to everyone. May the coming days be filled with hope, joy and days spent sharing happy times with those who are special in your life. Reach out to someone who could use a kind word or a hug.

I did not forget the jokes. Thought this was lengthy enough. One liners are an attachment.

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Kentucky Derby

