

FEBRUARY 2020

OPENING



STATEMENTS

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FROM THE DESKS OF RAZUMICH + DELAMATER

EVERY DAY IS A CELEBRATION WITH THESE ODD FEBRUARY HOLIDAYS!

- | | |
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| 1. No Politics Day | 14. Singles Awareness Day |
| 2. Feed the Birds Day | 15. Do a Grouch a Favor Day |
| 3. Thank a Mailman Day | 16. Random Acts of Kindness Day |
| 4. National Weatherman's Day | 17. National Drink Wine Day |
| 5. National Chopsticks Day | 18. National Chocolate Mint Day |
| 6. Wave All you Fingers at Your Neighbor Day | 19. Hoodie Hoo Day |
| 7. Kite Flying Day | 20. Card Reading Day |
| 8. National Pizza Day | 21. Be Humble Day |
| 9. Clean out Your Computer Day | 22. Walking the Dog Day |
| 10. Don't Cry over Spilled Milk Day | 23. International Dog Biscuit Appreciation Day |
| 11. Abraham Lincoln's Birthday | 24. National Tortilla Chip Day |
| 12. Get a Different Name Day | 25. Mardi Gras |
| 13. National Organ Donor Day | 26. Tell a Fairy Tale Day |
| | 27. Polar Bear Day |
| | 28. Public Sleeping Day |
| | 29. Leap Day |



What would you do with one extra day? Every four years, we are confronted with that very question.

The first leap day originated in 46 B.C. when Julius Caesar learned from the astronomer Sosigenes of Alexandria that the 355-day Roman calendar was about 10 and 1/4 days shorter than the solar calendar. He introduced the 365-day Julian calendar and added an intercalary day — leap day — every four years to cover the extra 1/4 day. It wouldn't be for another 200 years that astronomers would discover that the calendar system was still about 5 hours, 48 minutes, and 46 seconds short. It would last this way until 1582, when Pope Gregory XIII introduced a better method for calculating leap year. This method has become the

system we use today, and it led to Feb. 29 being the standard leap day.

Since then, we make up for lost time with one "free" day every four years. Folklore and superstitions surrounding leap day have continued to be passed down throughout history. Here are just a few of the quirkiest and most interesting stories about this phenomenon.

FEBRUARY'S OTHER ROMANTIC HOLIDAY

Legend claims that in 1288, St. Bridget approached St. Patrick with a unique problem. It was customary for men to propose to women, leaving many women waiting impatiently for their men to make

Continued on Page 2 ...

a commitment. St. Patrick, ever the generous man, agreed to allow women one day every four years when they could propose to their beaux. Thus, leap day became known as “Bachelor’s Day” for many Europeans. Some legends claim that if the man refused, he would have to buy the woman silk or furs, which might have been reason enough for women to pop the question in the first place. Historians believe this leap day tradition inspired Sadie Hawkins dances in the U.S., during which girls are encouraged to ask boys to accompany them to the dance.

THE DARK SIDE OF LEAP DAY

Many people view leap day and leap years as bad omens. For example, many Greeks believe marrying during a leap year is bad luck, so much so that USA Today predicts as many as 1 in 5 Greek couples avoid marrying during those years. But the dark history of leap day may have more weight than old superstitions. The first arrest warrant during the dramatic and deadly saga of the Salem Witch Trials was issued on Feb. 29, 1692. The trials would end in

May 1693, but by then, more than 200 people had been accused of witchcraft, 30 of those were tried in court, and 19 people were killed.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, LEAPLINGS! ... UNLESS IT'S THE YEAR 3000

The odds of being born on a leap day are relatively good, at 1 in 1,461 chances. Every four years, “leaplings,” as they are affectionately called, enjoy a “real” birthday along with the more than 4 million people who share a birthday with them. In Norway, one family celebrates *three* siblings who were all born on leap day. The Henriksen siblings, Heidi, born in 1960; Olav, born in 1964; and Leif-Martin, born 1968, share this birthday every four years. They were joined by the Utah-based Estes family in 2012, who are raising leaplings born in 2004, 2008, and 2012. And, despite how few birthdays leaplings get, some have even fewer. Leap day may appear to happen every four years, but that isn’t always the case. In general, leap year does not happen during years that are divisible by 100. The only exception is if the year is also divisible by 400. So, the years 1600



and 2000 had leap days, but the years 1700, 1800, and 1900 did not. Likewise, in the year 3000, for example, we won’t celebrate an extra day in February.

Luckily, 2020 will have this unique and special day. The question is, how will you celebrate?

LEAP INTO 2020

FACTS ABOUT THE LEAP YEAR

Like the Olympics and presidential elections, leap years only occur once every four years, which is why many people look forward to Feb. 29. But there’s a lot that you might not know about this quirk on the calendar.

WHY

To keep the calendar in sync with Earth’s orbit around the sun, an extra day is added to it every four years. Earth takes exactly 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes, and 46 seconds to orbit the sun. Those extra hours add up over time,



so another calendar day becomes necessary. But a leap year doesn’t occur every four years. Adding that extra day still doesn’t quite keep Earth on track, so the calendar skips leap years that occur during century years not divisible by 400. For example, 2000 was a leap year, but 2100 won’t be.

WHO

The odds of being born on Feb. 29 are 1 in 1,461. That means that of the roughly seven billion people in the world, only about five million of them are “leaplings.” The number of leaplings currently living in the U.S. is roughly 187,000. Some famous leaplings include motivational speaker Tony Robbins, rapper Ja Rule, and singer Mark Foster of Foster the People. However, the most famous leapling is probably Superman. When you invent a super-being, you might as well give him a super-birthday.

WHERE

Anthony, Texas/New Mexico (a single town that straddles the two states’ borders), claims the title “Leap Year Capital of the World.” The city throws one massive birthday party for all leaplings but invites everyone to join the celebration. Two leapling neighbors from Anthony began the tradition in 1988, and it’s blossomed into a festival with thousands of participants every four years. It includes banquets, hot air balloons, a carnival, concerts, parades, and more. When you have four years to plan in between each shindig, there’s time to go big.

Celebrate this leap year by doing something unusual or new. It’s a special day that doesn’t occur often, so make the most of it by doing something you’ll talk about for another four years.

CREATE YOUR OWN ODYSSEY

MYTHICAL ADVENTURES AWAIT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

One of the oldest stories in Western literature is Homer's "The Odyssey." This epic poem tells the story of Odysseus and his long journey home after the Trojan War. While Odysseus' travels were fraught with mythical monsters and magic, many of the places he visited are said to be inspired by real islands in the Mediterranean. Even today, travelers flock to these islands looking for peace, adventure, and epic stories of their own.

SICILY, ITALY

One of the most popular stories in "The Odyssey" is the tale of Odysseus rescuing his crew from Polyphemus, a man-eating Cyclops. It's said that Polyphemus made his home on what is now modern-day Sicily. Fortunately, there are no Cyclopes in Sicily today; there are only cultural festivals, world-class golf courses, and delicious food.

GOZO, MALTA

While Odysseus' journey was perilous, he did enjoy one peaceful stop. Odysseus spent seven years on the mythical island of Ogygia, home of the nymph Calypso. Historians suspect that Ogygia was Gaudos, now modern-day Gozo, Malta. Gozo is home to the Ġgantija temples, which are older than the Egyptian pyramids. In addition to exploring its archaeological marvels, Gozo's visitors can also enjoy snorkeling, horseback riding, and other memorable adventures.



ITHACA, GREECE

If you want to chart your own odyssey, make your final stop Odysseus' home, the island of Ithaca. Covered in lush greenery and quaint villages, Ithaca is a wonderful place to relax at the end of your trip. Visitors can enjoy their morning coffee by a seaside cafe before lounging on a secluded beach for the rest of the day. It's no wonder why Odysseus fought so hard to get back to Ithaca!

With dozens of other islands to explore, the Mediterranean is the perfect place to plan your own odyssey — minus the mythical monsters, of course.

TAKE A BREAK!

Doubt kills
more
dreams
than failure
ever will

REMEMBER
WHY
YOU
STARTED

DATE TRUFFLES

Inspired by The Minimalist Baker

Valentine's Day is all about love ... and chocolate. Enjoy these chocolate peanut butter date truffles with your date this Valentine's Day.

Ingredients

- 1 lb medjool dates, pitted (about 1 1/2 cups)
- 1/2 tsp sea salt
- Warm water
- 1/4 cup peanut butter
- 1 cup bittersweet or dark chocolate, chopped
- 1 tbsp coconut oil, melted

Directions

1. Using a food processor, blend dates and sea salt until dough can be formed into a ball. Slowly add enough warm water to mixture to thicken dough.
2. Roll dough into tablespoon-sized balls. Freeze for 20–30 minutes.
3. In microwave, warm 1/4 cup peanut butter for 30 seconds, then drizzle peanut butter on top of balls. Freeze balls for another 20 minutes.
4. Meanwhile, in microwave, warm chocolate with coconut oil until melted. Stir well.
5. Coat balls in chocolate and place on a parchment-lined baking sheet.
6. Top with additional salt and freeze for 30 minutes. Serve at room temperature.



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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From the Desks of Razumich & Delamater

PAGE 1

How Will You Celebrate Leap Day?

PAGE 1

Learn All About Leap Year

PAGE 2

Your Epic Adventure Awaits

PAGE 3

Take a Break

PAGE 3

Date Truffles

PAGE 3

A Slippery Crime

PAGE 4

SOLUTION

9	7	5	2	6	8	1
8	6	9	7	1	5	4
5	1	8	6	4	9	7
8	2	1	9	5	4	6
1	5	4	6	7	9	8
6	7	9	2	4	8	1
9	5	7	8	6	1	2
7	1	4	5	2	8	6
2	8	3	1	9	7	5

STEALING MISS HELEN 'OCEAN'S 3' ATTEMPT A HIGH-STAKES HEIST

On a hot summer day in late July 2018, three people entered Miss Helen's home, forcibly removed her, put her in a stroller, and ran toward their getaway vehicle. This might sound like a typical kidnapping story, but Miss Helen is no ordinary person. She is a 16-inch horn shark living at the San Antonio Aquarium.

Fortunately, their fishy behavior didn't go unnoticed, and someone alerted the aquarium staff. One perpetrator drove away with Miss Helen in tow, but the other two were stopped by aquarium staff, later confessing to their involvement. Thanks to some observant witnesses and aquarium surveillance, police were able to identify the third thief and obtain a warrant to search his house. As it turned out, he had an extensive aquarium in his home and possibly hoped to add Miss Helen to his collection. After being identified, Miss Helen was returned home safely.

The aquarium staff was grateful to have Miss Helen back unharmed, despite her ordeal. "She's a tough little horn shark, I'll tell you that," affirmed Jamie Shank, the assistant husbandry director at the aquarium.

NO MINOR CRIME

While many animal lovers might disagree, animals are considered personal property, so stealing them is a crime of theft, not kidnapping. The penalties for stealing animals vary depending on each state's laws, and some states have specific laws regarding animal theft.

In Texas, larceny law designates the theft of property valued between \$1,500-\$20,000 as a felony. In the case of Miss Helen, who's valued by the aquarium at \$2,000, the thieves committed a felony. Also, transporting certain animals requires special permits, which led to additional charges against the three thieves.



The Animal Welfare Act, which was adopted in 1966, is the only federal law that regulates the treatment of animals in research, exhibition, transport, and by dealers. Interestingly, it only applies to warm-blooded animals, so if Miss Helen had needed further protection, she would be left out in the cold.