

The Trumpeter

April 2024

Celebrating

March

Birthdays

Residents

- 12 Jim Hayes
- 15 Margaret Singer
- 16 Ronnie Allee
- 16 James Flater
- 19 Lois Boswell



Staff

- 6 Angela Dusing
- 12 Stacy Pilkin
- 19 Brittany Mefford
- 23 Lakaelyn Hagan
- 27 Danny Reik

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Tartan Tales

Scottish American Heritage Month is a time to don kilts, hum to the tunes of bagpipes, and celebrate the rich tapestry woven by Scottish immigrants in the fabric of American history. Rewind to the 17th and 18th centuries, and picture the adventurous Scots sailing across the Atlantic to the promising landscapes of Canada and the United States. They sought refuge from religious persecution, economic hardships, and land scarcity. Political unrest, coupled with the promise of religious freedom and better prospects, were incentives for many Scots to pursue a fresh start in the New World.

The spirited settlers didn't just plant their flags; they wove their culture into the fabric of their new homes. From Nova Scotia to North Carolina, they created communities that echoed the hills of Scotland. They didn't leave behind their love for haggis or the skirl of bagpipes; they infused these traditions into the heartbeat of American culture. Fast-forward to today, and you'll find echoes of Scottish influence in the very fiber of America. From the lilt of folk tunes to the thunder of athletes at Highland Games, their legacy lives on. The haunting, soulful whine of the bagpipes and the swirl of the tartans evoke a sense of kinship (*cont. on pg. 8*)

Honesty and Deception

You may find that April 4 goes against your moral code, for it's Tell a Lie Day. Many ethical people live by the credo "Always tell the truth." But do we? Researchers have discovered that most people tell occasional lies for several reasons. Sometimes we lie to gain other people's respect or to cover up for making mistakes. The good news is that most people lie to spare someone else's feelings

from being hurt. Compassion may sometimes override honesty. Luckily, April 30 is Honesty Day. Honesty can certainly hurt sometimes, but it also takes courage and maturity to be honest in difficult situations. Furthermore, staying honest attracts other honest people to you. When you are surrounded by the truth, you are free to be yourself. That's worth celebrating!

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Watching the Eclipse!





ECLIPSE 2024





Robinson was only 53 when he died.

Major League Debut

On April 15, 1947, Jackie Robinson played his first major league baseball game with the Brooklyn Dodgers against the Boston Braves in front of a crowd of 25,000 spectators at Ebbets Field in Brooklyn. This marked the first moment that an African American athlete played a sport in any of the major leagues. Robinson did not get a hit that day, but he was awarded the first ever Rookie of the Year title

that year. In 1949, he was named the National League's Most Valuable Player. The next year, he became the Dodgers' highest paid player with a salary of \$35,000. In 1955, Robinson led the Dodgers to a World Series victory over the New York Yankees. A perennial All-Star and Hall of Famer, Robinson's number 42 was retired by all of baseball on April 15, 1997.

The Rise of Robots



The first industrial robot was used by General Motors in 1962.

From April 6–14, science and technology geeks will gather for RoboWeek 2024 to explore the future of robots and their place in society. Robots have long fascinated humans. Leonardo da Vinci may have been the first to envision a humanlike robot. The original Renaissance man, da Vinci was a painter, sculptor, inventor, and engineer. He sketched his idea of a "mechanical knight" and engineered a suit of armor that could be moved by a system of pulleys and levers.

When does a simple machine become a robot? Robots often possess computers that enable them to sense the environment and react accordingly. Also, they are able to move, either by themselves or via remote control. In these ways, robots are truly intelligent machines. From R2-D2 of *Star Wars* to Rosie the robot maid in *The Jetsons*, robots have become a part of our vision of the future.

The word *robot* first appeared in 1920, when the Czech writer Karel Čapek wrote a play about a factory that makes humanlike android workers. The word *robot* in Czech means "serf labor," "drudgery," and "hard work."

Today, companies are beginning to manufacture intelligent machines that perform many household tasks. The Roomba is a floor-cleaning robot about the size of a round cake that moves around independently. Sure, it may miss some dirt in the corner, but it could make vacuums obsolete. A similar lawn-mowing robot, the Automower, cuts lawns by itself. Sensors keep it from running into lawn furniture, flowers, or pets. There are even robots with arms that can feed people with disabilities, and soft pillows with robot arms inside that can hug whoever is holding the pillow.



Eclipse Watch Party!



Celebrating April

Humor Month

**Laugh at Work
Week**
April 1-7

**National
Volunteer Week**
April 21-27

**Peanut Butter
and Jelly Day**
April 2

World Rat Day
April 4

**Take a Wild
Guess Day**
April 15

Earth Day
April 22

**Talk Like
Shakespeare
Day**
April 23

**International
Jazz Day**
April 30

For the Love of Birds



The primary medium Audubon used for his paintings was watercolors

John James Audubon, namesake of the bird conservation organization the Audubon Society and French American painter of birds, was born on April 26, 1785, a date now celebrated as Audubon Day.

As a child, Audubon spent hours roaming the countryside, collecting birds' nests and eggs, and drawing them once he returned home. When the Napoleonic Wars broke out in France in 1803, Audubon's father obtained a fake passport and sent his son to America. It was at his family's farm in Pennsylvania that Audubon devoted himself full-time to the outdoors: hunting, fishing, and drawing birds.

Audubon was obsessed with birds. He studied their habits. He learned the art of taxidermy and worked in natural museums. But his greatest contribution to ornithology was his brilliant book *Birds of America*. His style was new and different: a highly detailed drawing of each bird, more accurate than ever before. His drawings were life-sized, with pages over three feet tall and two feet wide.

After 14 years of traveling the entire country, Audubon drew over 700 species of birds. *Birds of America* is often considered the greatest picture book ever made, and original copies have sold for over \$10 million. How's that for a nest egg?



The first National Marbles Tournament was held in 1922

Let the Good Times Roll

All April long, opponents will be throwing their knuckles down. This isn't anything sinister. "Knuckles down" is the position you assume before shooting in a classic game of marbles. So this April, Knuckles Down Month, you too can play for keeps.

The classic game of marbles is called ringer. Two parallel lines, lag lines, are drawn 10 feet away from each other. A 10-foot circle is drawn between the lag lines. In the middle of the circle is a cross made of 13 target marbles, or mibs. To determine who plays first, each player lags from one lag line to the other; that is, they toss their shooter marble to the opposite line.

The player whose shooter lands closest to the lag line goes first.

Play starts by knuckling down along the edge of the ring and using your thumb to cast your shooter at the mibs inside. The object is to knock a mib outside the circle while keeping your shooter inside. You next knuckle down inside the ring where your shooter landed. If you fail to knock out a mib, then it is your opponent's turn. The first player to knock out a majority of marbles wins, and it's up to you to determine whether to play for fair (return all marbles to their original owners) or play for keeps (the winner keeps all the marbles).



Kelly Clarkson

Notable Quotable

“A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives.”

~ Jackie Robinson
(made his major league debut on April 15, 1947)



April Horoscopes and Birthdays

If you were born between April 1–19, you are Aries, the Ram. These independent adventurers like to strike out on their own and are natural leaders. Their enthusiasm and confidence give them big, outgoing personalities. Those born between April 20–30 are Bulls of Taurus. Bulls show a steady persistence in endeavors both professional and personal, and after working hard, they like to reward themselves for a job well done.

Emmylou Harris – April 2, 1947
Marlon Brando – April 3, 1924
David Blaine – April 4, 1973
James D. Watson – April 6, 1928
Jackie Chan – April 7, 1954
Betty Ford – April 8, 1918
Beverly Cleary – April 12, 1916
Kareem Abdul-Jabbar – April 16, 1947
Victoria Beckham – April 17, 1974
Queen Elizabeth II – April 21, 1926
Barbra Streisand – April 24, 1942
Kelly Clarkson – April 24, 1982
Jay Leno – April 28, 1950
Duke Ellington – April 29, 1899

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reminding us of the indelible mark left by these pioneers.

Scottish American Heritage Month isn't just a nod to history; it's a celebration of resilience, tradition, and the merging of cultures. From their stories of fortitude to their rich cultural contributions, their legacy transcends time, resonating in the essence of the American spirit.

This April, don your tartan, strike up the bagpipes, and celebrate the remarkable journey and enduring impact of the Scottish Americans who made this land their own. Raise a dram of whisky (or your favorite beverage) to salute the spirited Scots who helped shape America. Cheers to a heritage as rich and diverse as the Scottish landscape itself!

Unraveling the Art of Tatting

While a handkerchief, table runner, doily, or collar made of intricate knotted lace appears nearly impossible to construct, the art of tatting is easy to learn. All you need to start is thread, a shuttle (a small device that helps guide a silk thread through loops into knots), and your two hands. Give it a try on April 1, International Tatting Day.

The German word for tatting is *Schiffchenarbeit*, meaning “the work of the little boat,” a reference to the shuttle. In Italian, it's *chiacchierino*, meaning “chatty,” which is an integral part of tatting.

This decorative art form may have grown from the netting and ropework handmade by sailors and fishermen of olden times.

These seamen put their endless hours out on the sea to good use, fashioning decorative pieces for their wives back on land. Tatting became fashionable in the 1800s and enjoyed a surge in popularity during the 1950s and '60s. Technology has usurped the handiwork required to make tatted lace, which means that handmade tatting is more precious than ever.