

May 2026

Prairie Rose Recovery Center

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Celebrating May

Family Month

**Arthritis Awareness
Month**

**Personal History
Awareness Month**

Global Love Day
May 1

Star Wars Day
May 4

Mother's Day
May 10

International Nurses Day
May 12

**New Friends,
Old Friends Week**
May 17–23

Rescue Dog Day
May 20

Memorial Day
May 25

Life at Turtle Speed

Turtles have been moving through Earth's waters and landscapes for more than 200 million years, quietly outlasting dinosaurs, ice ages, and continents in motion. Each May, World Turtle Day (May 23) invites us to pause and consider what these remarkable animals can teach us about conservation, resilience, and how to live well in a fast-paced world.

Today, turtles need our attention more than ever. Of the world's roughly 360 turtle and tortoise species, more than half are threatened or endangered. Habitat loss, plastic pollution, climate change, and road traffic all take a toll. Sea turtles often mistake floating plastic for food, while freshwater turtles lose nesting areas to development. Even small actions matter: Slowing down in known crossing areas, reducing plastic use, and supporting conservation organizations can help ensure turtles remain part of our shared future.

Beyond their ecological importance, turtles have long held symbolic meaning across cultures. They are often associated with wisdom, patience, and protection. In many traditions, the turtle carries the world on its back or represents the steady foundation of life itself. Their shells symbolize shelter and perseverance—moving forward while carrying one's home, history, and strength along the way.

Perhaps the most enduring lesson turtles offer is the familiar phrase "slow and steady." Turtles remind us that progress doesn't have to be rushed to be meaningful. In a world that often prizes speed, multitasking, and constant productivity, turtles model a different approach—one rooted in persistence, awareness, and balance. They move at a pace that suits them, conserving energy and paying attention to their surroundings.

As World Turtle Day approaches, it's a good moment to reflect on both action and attitude. Protecting turtles means caring for the environments we all depend on. Learning from turtles means remembering that steady effort, patience, and respect for natural rhythms can carry us far. Sometimes, slowing down isn't falling behind—it's choosing a wiser way forward.

Aid Without Borders



World Red Cross Day, observed each year on May 8, honors one of the world's largest and most enduring humanitarian networks—and the people

who keep it running when it matters most. The date marks the birthday of Henry Dunant, founder of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the first recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize.

Today, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement operate in nearly every country, responding to crises that range from armed conflict and natural disasters to public health emergencies and everyday community needs. In a world shaped by climate extremes, migration, and ongoing conflict, the organization's role is more relevant than ever.

In recent years, Red Cross workers and volunteers have been on the front lines of wildfires, floods, earthquakes, and hurricanes, often arriving within hours to provide shelter, food, medical care, and family reunification services. Beyond disaster response, the Red Cross plays a critical role in blood donation services, emergency preparedness training, and support for military families.

World Red Cross Day is also a reminder that humanitarian work is guided by core principles, like humanity, neutrality, and voluntary service. These principles allow Red Cross teams to work across borders and political divisions, focusing solely on human need.

This year's observance highlights the importance of local volunteers, who make up the majority of the movement's workforce. Trained community members often serve as first responders, using local knowledge to deliver aid quickly and effectively. Their efforts show that humanitarian action doesn't always start with large operations—it often begins with neighbors helping neighbors. World Red Cross Day is not just a celebration of an organization but of the shared belief that helping others, quickly and humanely, can change lives.

This or That

1. Sweet or salty
2. Mountain or Beach
3. Save or spend
4. Morning or night
5. Bath or shower
6. Camping or hotel
7. Coffee or tea
8. Text or call
9. Chocolate or vanilla
10. Summer or winter

Savor the Snail

Some recoil at the thought of eating snails, or *escargot*, as they are called in French. Others consider snails sautéed in garlic, butter, and herbs to be a delicacy. If you haven't yet tried them, perhaps May 24,



Escargot Day, is your chance.

Humans have been eating snails for over 30,000 years. Snail shells discovered in Stone Age-era settlements in Spain even showed how they were cooked: roasted in their shells over charcoal made of pine and juniper. These days, the best snails for eating are wild Burgundy snails, renowned for their grassy, buttery flavor and exceptional nutritional value. Toss them with pasta, skewer them on kebabs, or sweeten them for dessert, and join the ranks of those who have eaten escargot.

Sound Sense



Many of us might not like to admit that we are constantly turning up the TV volume. However, over a lifetime of listening, our hearing begins to deteriorate. As we age,

the tiny hairs in our inner ears that pick up sound vibrations begin to break down. The louder the noise, the more violent the assault on these hair cells and the more severe the degradation. On May 31, turn down the television, radio, or headphones playing music from your smartphone—it is Save Your Hearing Day.

How loud is too loud? The World Health Organization says that listening to sounds around 80 decibels can be safe if your total exposure stays below about 40 hours a week, but as levels go above that, safe listening time drops quickly. For example, at 90 decibels, the recommended weekly listening time falls to roughly four hours, and at 100 decibels, it's only about 20 minutes per week. So you can still enjoy loud music or TV, but the louder it is, the shorter the safe listening time to protect your hearing.

Experts think that one of the best ways to save our hearing is to protect our ears. Professions that require the use of loud equipment often require the use of earplugs or earmuffs. The same advice applies to those engaging in loud recreational activities, such as riding a motorcycle or hunting. For those who find themselves in loud places, such as an airplane or crowded train, noise-cancelling headphones often help make the loud environment more comfortable and tolerable.

It turns out that the best medicine for our ears is to give them a rest. Hearing experts recommend limiting exposure to very loud sounds, such as a 100-decibel rock concert, and following them with extended periods of quiet to reduce strain on the ears. Perhaps the best way to celebrate Save Your Hearing Day is simply to hit the mute button.

The Art of Order

Henry Martyn Robert was born on May 2, 1837, and went on to build a distinguished military career, earning the rank of brigadier general in the American Army's Corps of Engineers. But where Robert really earned his fame was in the writing of the book *Robert's Rules of Order*. This pocket manual was a guide for running and organizing large meetings, especially when the involved parties didn't see eye to eye. His inspiration for the book came from his personal failure at moderating a church meeting. Robert resolved to never lead another meeting until he worked out a fair set of procedures. To this day, alumni organizations, charities, condo associations, school boards, trade unions, sports leagues, corporations, and even family reunions have relied on Robert's Rules to keep things civil.

Game for Life



While May has earned the nickname Tennis Month, tennis has earned the nickname "the sport for a lifetime." Dr. Jack Groppe, health expert in fitness and nutrition, calls tennis the most healthful sport due to its wide-ranging health benefits for players of all ages.

Tennis not only provides a vigorous physical workout but scientists at the University of Illinois believe that it exercises the brain as well. Tennis requires such a high level of alertness and tactical thinking that, regardless of age, playing the sport prompts our brains to grow new nerve connections. Furthermore, researchers at Southern Connecticut State University have discovered that tennis players score higher in tests measuring vigor, optimism, and self-esteem than athletes playing other sports. There's only one catch: in order to reap these many benefits, you have to start playing tennis now. So this May, grab a racket and a tennis ball, and put your mind and body to work.

Garden to Table



Most people agree that a salad is a healthy meal choice. What better way to get a daily dose of raw and delicious food abundant in vitamins and minerals into your

diet? It may be difficult to believe, but building a healthy salad is harder than it looks. This May, Salad Month, expert nutrition consultant and certified sports dietitian Cynthia Sass helps us mix the perfect salad.

The first salad mistake that Sass often notices is that people use too many veggies and not enough protein. Well-balanced salads require protein, because bodies require protein for tissue maintenance and healing. Lean meats like chicken or fish are good additions, but plant-based proteins like lentils or beans, and dairy proteins like cheeses or hard-boiled eggs are excellent choices.

Yes, even salads need fat. Like protein, fat is an important building block for our bodies, aiding our skin, brains, and cell membranes. Healthy fats include things like nuts, olives, and avocados. Also, including olive oil in salad dressing is an easy way to add a dose of healthy fat.

The most important part of any salad is vegetables. The most important rule of adding veggies to a salad is variety, and the easiest way to create variety is to add many different colors! Field greens, red tomatoes, purple cabbage, orange carrots, yellow peppers... a colorful palette of veggies will boost your intake of essential nutrients.

Those with a green thumb can grow many vegetables right in their home gardens. Leaf lettuce is very easy to grow, and so are cucumbers and radishes. Tomatoes are another garden favorite. Gardens aren't only for veggies, though—for a larger variety of goodies to toss into your salad, grow melons, herbs, and corn, too. This way, you can enjoy a complete, farm-fresh salad from your own backyard.

May Birthdays

In astrology, those born May 1–20 are Bulls of Taurus. Bulls show a steady persistence in endeavors both professional and personal, and after working hard, they are not shy about rewarding themselves for a job well done. Those born May 21–31 are Gemini's Twins. The Twins represent energetic communication and interaction. Curious Geminis love to collect and share information. Witty and intellectual, they attract many friends, mentors, and colleagues.

Frankie Valli (singer) – May 3, 1934
 Willie Mays (ballplayer) – May 6, 1931
 Florence Nightingale (nurse) – May 12, 1820
 Cher (singer and actress) – May 20, 1946
 Bill Robinson (tap dancer) – May 25, 1878
 Sally Ride (astronaut) – May 26, 1951
 Gladys Knight (singer) – May 28, 1944
 Clint Eastwood (actor) – May 31, 1930
 Brooke Shields – May 31, 1965

Holy Rollers



As the weather warms in May, cyclists of both the motor and pedal variety feel the call of the open road. As a response to this urge to cycle, many religious institutions hold

a Blessing of the Bikes ceremony. In massive cathedrals like New York City's St. John the Divine, pews and aisles are packed with bikers and spandex-clad cyclists of all religious denominations while the local priest showers attendees with holy water and prayers for a safe and fun bicycling season. Since 1972, the Blessing of the Bikes has become a ritual each May in Baldwin, Michigan. Over 10,000 motorcyclists and bicyclists congregate at the Baldwin airport for a blessing ceremony. Some churches have added a new twist, inviting wheelchairs, strollers, and skateboards for a Blessing of the Wheels.