



**Executive Director**  
**Tedra Richardson Godfrey**

**Business Office  
Manager**  
**Lindsay Donaldson**

**Resident Care Director**  
**Latesha Sanders**

**Memory Care Director**  
**Fredrick Hermon**

**Community Relations  
Director**  
**Tonya Dretzka**

**Dietary Services Director**  
**Anthony Godfrey**

**Maintenance Director**  
**Jose Herrera**

**Activities Director**  
**Sherri Adams**

## Lights in the Darkness

The romantic allure of lighthouses has endured for centuries. Our love of lighthouses runs so deep that we have preserved and protected 700 in the United States, and even designated August 7 as Lighthouse Day. Our affinity for lighthouses amounts to more than nostalgia for a simpler, bygone era or our attraction to picturesque rocky coastlines. As beacons of light in the treacherous darkness, lighthouses are steadfast symbols of safety and reliability, characteristics that we crave and value above all else.

One cannot appreciate the lighthouse without appreciating the solitary lighthouse keeper. Indeed, the lighthouse and its keeper are so interconnected that we cannot help but imbue the tower itself with human characteristics. Virginia Woolf, the author of *To the Lighthouse*, may have put it best when she said, "Lighthouses are endlessly suggestive signifiers of both human isolations and our ultimate connectedness to each other." For Woolf, lighthouses are monuments to the human condition: the sea of collective humanity consists of drops, individual and unique. We, like lighthouses, exist to shine our light upon others.

Throughout history, no light has shone brighter than the lighthouse known as Pharos of Alexandria. Egypt's lighthouse was both the first and largest of its kind ever built. Rising 330 feet tall, a massive mirror reflected the blazing sun by day, while raging bonfires lit its apex by night. Sailors could spy its light from 30 miles away. Modern lighthouses act as warnings of rocky coastlines or hidden reefs, but Pharos acted as a grand entrance marker to Alexandria's port, a hub of commerce, technological innovation, and free thought. Built in 280 BC, Pharos stood for 1,600 years, earning renown as a Wonder of the World and surviving three earthquakes before toppling into the sea. In a sense, all the world's lighthouses are descendants of that world wonder, and those who study lighthouses and their signal lights are proudly called *pharologists*, in memory of great Pharos.

## A Macabre Month

During the seventh lunar month, from August 8 to September 6, Taiwan celebrates Ghost Month. Taoists and Buddhists believe that the gates of the underworld are thrown open, allowing “hungry ghosts” to roam the land. These lost souls, commonly called “Good Brothers” and “Good Sisters,” demand tribute from ancestors who have forgotten to honor them. August 22 is especially important, for it is on this day that families perform rituals and make offerings to appease the restless ghosts.

In order to satisfy the cravings of the ghosts, families leave offerings of food and hold large feasts with empty seats to appease the Good Brothers and Sisters. It is also traditional to use joss paper, a fragrant incense-like paper, to create papier-mâché offerings that look like clothing, gold, cars, televisions, and other goods. Even money known as “hell bank notes” is printed on joss paper. All the offerings are then burned, so that the gifts can be transported to the underworld and enjoyed by the hungry ghosts.

The goal of the month is to appease the ghosts, not attract them. For this reason, there are certain taboos every family should avoid. While lanterns are hung in temples to light the way for the lost souls, one should never hang lanterns or wind chimes in the home lest the ghosts find a way into



your house. Since the ghosts are believed to enjoy cold, damp, and dark spaces, it is important to let a lot of light into the house. Families open windows, install bright lamps, prune trees or shrubs that block the sun, and

refrain from painting rooms in dark hues to repel the Good Brothers and Sisters. It is commonly believed that the toes of one’s shoes point to where you are located. For this reason, people always point the toes of their shoes away from the bed while sleeping, so that the hungry ghosts cannot find them. At last, to lead the hungry ghosts back to the underworld, lanterns are lit and set on water. When the lights go out, families know that the ghosts have found their way back home.

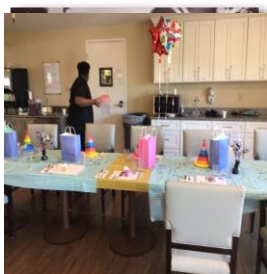
## That’s Preposterous!

Preposterous packaging is so commonplace that it enjoys its own day of recognition, Particularly Preposterous Packaging Day, on August 7. We’ve all been there: You order some small batteries to be delivered, and they arrive in a ridiculously oversized box filled with a thousand Styrofoam peanuts. Or you go to the grocery store and find that each banana is individually wrapped in plastic. Or perhaps the packaging misidentifies the contents. These are examples of wasteful or inane packaging practices. Another common packaging mistake is to encase a product in an impenetrable cocoon of plastic. There is even a condition known as “wrap rage” that describes the aggravated feelings that overwhelm people when they cannot open a package. Each year, thousands of people suffer cuts on their hands or sprained wrists due to their struggles to open packaging, injuries that require visits to an emergency room. The best solution to this modern problem may be to avoid preposterous packaging altogether and buy local.

## Smooth Sale-ing



Highway 127 runs from Addison, Michigan, to Gadsden, Alabama, and, at almost 700 miles long, it hosts the World’s Longest Yard Sale from August 5–8. The 127 Yard Sale, as it is known by locals, was invented in 1987 by a Tennessee city official named Mike Walker. In an effort to encourage drivers to avoid interstate travel, take local scenic routes, and thereby support local businesses, Walker suggested that local residents line their front yards with goods for sale. Each year, thousands of motorists drive the route, perusing the wares for sale and catching the unique attractions found in the six participating states. Route 127 doesn’t just offer the world’s longest yard sale but it also provides the backdrop of what may be America’s strangest (and most profitable) road trip.



## Decoding History

August 14 is Code Talkers Day, a day to recognize the invaluable contributions of the World War II Navajo code talkers. Using a complex Navajo-based code, these

cryptographers encoded and transmitted messages to American forces working in the Pacific theater. The encoded language was so unique that it was never cracked by the Japanese.

While tremendous gratitude is owed to the famed Navajo code talkers of World War II, they were not the first Native American code talkers to be employed by the U.S. military. During World War I, a small group of Cherokee soldiers from western North Carolina were attached to British troops fighting the Germans off the west coast of France. When it was discovered that the Germans were intercepting communications, the Cherokee cleverly volunteered to transmit messages in their native language. The soldiers had guessed correctly. The Germans could not translate the communications. This tactic proved so effective that it was reused during World War II.

It was Philip Johnston, a non-native speaker of Navajo and a World War I veteran, who suggested the use of the Navajo language as code to the Marine Corps. Johnston knew enough of the language to know that it would be indecipherable to the Japanese. The Marines quickly recruited Navajo and helped them develop a code that could be rapidly transmitted and decoded. Throughout the entirety of the war, the Navajo code talkers would gain a stellar reputation for the skill, speed, and accuracy of their code-making. The Navajo may be the most famous of the code talkers, but they were in no way alone. Native speakers of Comanche, Assiniboine, Cree, Meskwaki, Mohawk, Muscogee, and Tlingit also provided unbreakable code for U.S. forces. The Code Talkers Recognition Act of 2008 finally recognized every Native American code talker with a Congressional Gold Medal.



## Feeling left out



It may be fitting that International Lefthanders Day falls on Friday, August 13. Like many superstitions associated with Friday the 13th, left-handedness was once believed to be a source of evil. The Devil himself is thought to be left-handed, and in the Middle Ages, lefthanded people were thought to practice witchcraft. Luckily, modern science has put such unsettling notions to rest. There are really no great differences between right- and left-handers in personality, health, or thinking. For the 10% of the population that is left-handed, things might be more inconvenient—after all, the majority of the world is right-handed, so many products and designs cater to right-handed people.

Your Mailing Address  
Street Number and Name  
City, State ZIP Code

## My First Rodeo



“Arizona Charlie” Meadows owned a ranch in Payson, Arizona, during the Wild West era and was a big fan of Buffalo Bill’s Wild West Show. Some sources suggest that Arizona Charlie was such an

accomplished showman and sharpshooter that he performed with Buffalo Bill. It was likely this spirit of showmanship that inspired Arizona Charlie, in August of 1884, to corral the cowboys of the surrounding ranches for the first Payson Rodeo, a rodeo that has taken place every year since, making it the longest continuous rodeo in the world. That first rodeo was little more than a few ranchers and cowboys gathered together to show off their roping and riding skills, but it was an honest-to-goodness rodeo with fees charged to the spectators. The Payson Rodeo may have evolved with the times over the years, but Arizona Charlie’s creation has influenced every rodeo to come after it.

## August Birthdays

In astrology, those born August 1–22 are Leo’s Lions. These “kings of the jungle” are natural-born leaders, full of creativity, confidence, and charisma. Leos use their generosity and sense of humor to unite different groups into a common cause. Those born August 23–31 are Virgo’s Virgins. Virgos pay attention to details and like to keep things organized. Their deep sense of humanity and love of others makes them defenders of justice, goodness, and purity.

Rose Fox.....August 29

Victoria Johnston.....August 14

Flora Solovskoy.....August 10

