



Notable Quotable

"I am a big believer that eventually everything comes back to you. You get back what you give out."

~ Nancy Reagan
(born July 6, 1921)



July Horoscopes and Birthdays

In astrology, those born between July 1–22 are the Crabs of Cancer. Crabs are emotional nurturers, dedicated to their home and family. Gentle and kind, they love telling stories and upholding traditions. Those born between July 23–31 are the Lion star sign, Leo. Leos are dignified, strong, and powerful, making good leaders and honorable friends. They are also ambitious, reaching

for the stars and working hard. Celebrities born in July include:

OUR BIRTHDAYS:

Don White – July 5, 1929
Marg Cronkwright-July 14, 1937
Sharon Dunlop – July 18, 1946
Tom Hamilton – July 19, 1948
Garth Tibbits: July 23, 1954
Maxine Booker = July 25, 1932

Kiwi Christmas Magic *(cont. from pg. 1)*

"Fire and Ice" theme, creating a captivating contrast that adds to the event's charm. Attendees are encouraged to don Christmas sweaters and gather around braziers (portable outdoor firepits), fostering a cozy atmosphere despite the chill.

But the festival isn't just about entertainment; it's a community effort that brings together families, school children, and local groups. This collaborative spirit is evident in the diverse range of events, from art classes and

author talks to "Books at the Bar" reading parties.

While the festival primarily takes place in Greytown, it has put the region of Wairarapa on the map as a winter destination. The event has grown to attract people from all around New Zealand, boosting local tourism and showcasing the region's hospitality. With its unique blend of traditional Christmas elements and distinctly Kiwi touches, this midwinter celebration proves that the Christmas spirit thrives in New Zealand, summer or winter.

Eye-Catching Diversity

While only one out of every 100 people experience this rare genetic trait, everyone is invited to celebrate Different Colored Eyes Day on July 12.

This genetic phenomenon is most common in cats, dogs, and horses. But humans, too, can experience heterochromia, or two different colored eyes. Our eye color develops shortly after birth due to the pigment melanin. More

melanin means darker eyes. Less melanin means lighter eyes.

It just so happens that sometimes two eyes develop differently. Sometimes one eye can even have two different colors, such as a blue iris with a brown ring around the pupil, or a completely brown eye with a splash of green in the corner. This may be another way that nature makes us each a unique work of art.

Edgewater Echo

July 2025

Celebrating July

Canada Day
July 1

Piano Concert
July 2

WC Hippo's Lunch
July 7

Squires Outing
July 8

ML Outing
July 15

WC Selkirk Picnic
July 16

ML Selkirk Picnic
July 17

**Entertainment:
The Dopplegangers**
July 23

**Christmas in July
Synchronicity Ent.**
July 25
WEAR RED & GREEN

ML Hippos Lunch
July 28

**Elvis
Entertainment:
Brad Boland**
July 30

RESPECT: Edgewater has had recent incidents reported whereby some family members/volunteers/members of the public have exhibited aggressive & disrespectful behaviours. Please be respectful within the home.



Kiwi Christmas Magic

New Zealand's Festival of Christmas brings a unique twist to holiday celebrations, transforming the small town of Greytown into a winter wonderland each July. This monthlong spectacle, aptly nicknamed the "happiest festival in New Zealand," offers a blend of festive cheer and Kiwi ingenuity.

Although it began only five years ago as a pandemic initiative, the Festival of Christmas has quickly become a beloved tradition, drawing visitors from across the country. The event's timing in July, which is winter in the southern hemisphere, allows New Zealanders to experience a

more traditional chilly Christmas atmosphere, complete with the (unlikely) promise of snow. The festival boasts an array of activities and attractions. Visitors can marvel at light displays, participate in workshops, and celebrate the Māori New Year. The program also includes night markets, lively parties, and plenty of festive food and drinks.

One of the festival's unique features is how it embraces a
(cont. on pg. 4)



Weather or Not

July 15 is St. Swithun's Day in Britain. According to an old rhyme, this day also predicts the rain:

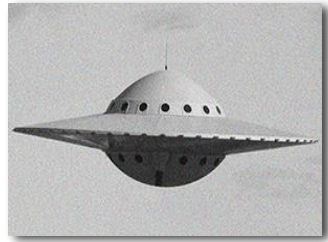
*St. Swithun's Day if thou dost rain,
for 40 days it will remain.
St. Swithun's Day if thou be fair,
for 40 days 'twill rain [no more].*

Saint Swithun was the Bishop of Winchester. At either his or other clergy's request, he was buried outdoors where he could be among the people and where the rain could fall on his grave.

After more than a century outdoors—on July 15, 971—the monks brought his remains to a shrine inside a newly built cathedral. And, as legend has it, torrential rains followed for weeks on end.

Ever since, people have believed that the weather on St. Swithun's Day will foretell the weather for the next 40 days. Those who have looked into the weather records from 971 say there's no proof of 40 days of rain, but the legend lives on.

Flying Saucer Frenzy



Any flying object is a UFO until the point when it's identified.

In early July 1947, something strange happened on a ranch near Roswell, New Mexico. The morning following some storms, rancher Mack Brazel rode his horse to check on the sheep. What he found has inspired curiosity, conspiracy, and hysteria ever since. Metal debris was scattered all over the ground. A shallow trench ran for hundreds of feet. When Brazel showed some of the metal to his neighbors, they offered one explanation: a UFO.

Excited citizens making UFO sightings had become a fad during early 1947. This incident only stoked the fever. Many insist that not only did a flying saucer crash near Roswell but aliens had been recovered by the military. Conspiracy theorists contend that the military then scrambled to cover the entire incident, chalking it up as the recovery of a fallen top-secret surveillance

balloon complete with life-sized test dummies.

Fifty years later, the Air Force was still trying to put rumors to rest. It released a 231-page report titled “Case Closed: The Final Report on the Roswell Crash.” Each July, however, believers and skeptics alike gather in Roswell to celebrate the UFO Festival. Attendees are encouraged to parade while dressed as their favorite ET and listen to evidence presented by scientists and authors.

UFO sightings aren't limited to Roswell. Records from the Roman Republic around 200 BC describe ships descending from the sky. Japanese fishermen swore to an at-sea encounter with an alien in the year 1803. Since a worldwide phenomenon deserves a worldwide holiday, July 2 is now celebrated by many as World UFO Day.

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!



Medieval town criers informed citizens of the news because most people were illiterate.

July 14 is International Town Criers Day. In olden times, it was the job of the town crier to stand in the middle of town, ring his bell, and shout the important news of the day. Town criers also shouted “Oyez! Oyez!”—the Anglo-Norman form of “Hear ye! Hear ye!”

Today, the sight of someone wearing a tricorne hat, a powdered wig, and a ruffled collar while ringing a brass bell and shouting the day's news

might be strange. But some towns still carry on the tradition. The American Guild of Town Criers was founded on July 5, 1997, in Philadelphia. The North American Town Crier Championships, first held in Canada in 1983 and in the United States in 1991, promote “the ancient art of town crying.” While the position may be merely ceremonial, town crying is a source of pride and joy for many communities... so spread the word!



This Elvis Presley publicity photo shows off one of his now-famous moves.

The Birth of a King

On July 18, 1953, a young man named Elvis Presley walked into the Sun Records studio in Memphis, Tennessee, to make his first record. The resulting acetate disc, with just two songs—“My Happiness” and “That’s When Your Heartaches Begin”—was supposed to be a gift from Elvis to his mother. Rumor has it, though, that the Presleys did not even own a record player.

Many speculate that the recording was an attempt to get the attention of Sun Records owner Sam Phillips. Apparently, Elvis made an impression, because he was invited back to the studio a year later. At first, the session was uninspiring, but then Elvis began goofing off and singing. That sound was just what Phillips was looking for, and the “King of Rock ‘n’ Roll” was born.

A Day for Kings and Queens

Every year on July 20, chess enthusiasts around the world come together to celebrate International Chess Day. This special day commemorates the founding of the International Chess Federation (FIDE) in 1924, which marked a significant milestone in the organization and standardization of chess as a competitive sport.



The longest official chess game lasted 269 moves and ended in a draw.

Chess itself has a rich history, originating in ancient India over a millennium ago. It evolved from a game called *chaturanga* and spread across the globe, influencing cultures and fostering intellectual development. Today, chess is played by millions worldwide, transcending language and cultural barriers.

International Chess Day was first celebrated in 1966, inspired by UNESCO, to highlight chess's role in promoting cultural exchange and mutual understanding. The day is now

recognized by the United Nations, which officially acknowledged it in 2019. On this day, chess clubs, schools, and communities organize tournaments, workshops, and events to celebrate the game's enduring appeal.

What makes chess so special? It's not just about moving pieces on a board; it's about strategy, patience, and sportsmanship. Chess teaches valuable life skills and values, making it a beloved pastime and educational tool. Whether you're a seasoned grand master or a beginner, International Chess Day is a chance to connect with fellow chess lovers and enjoy the game's unique blend of challenge and camaraderie.

So, on July 20, grab a chessboard, gather some friends, and join the global chess party. It's a day to celebrate the game that unites us all.