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GREG NORMAN'S
FLORIDA COTTAGE
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**TASTY
TEQUILAS
FOR CINCO
DE MAYO**

**99
DAYS OF
SUMMER FUN**

**ANNUAL
BEACH
BEAUTY
AWARDS**

99 DAYS of SUMMER

Time to celebrate our favorite season! Here, fabulously fun daily to-dos, from Memorial Day through Labor Day

BY MELISSA BIGNER



* MAY 27-31 *

DAY 1 Celebrate Memorial Day. Journey to the nation's capital to enjoy the biggest parade in the country for veterans today; nationalmemorialdayparade.com.

DAY 2 Play in a sprinkler. You'll cool off, water the lawn, and kick up your heels at the same time.

DAY 3 Make a simple summer dessert: minted kiwi and melon. Combine 2 cups sugar, 1½ cups chopped mint, and 2 cups water in a saucepan. Cook, stirring constantly, until sugar dissolves. Cool, strain mint, and discard. Serve syrup over peeled and sliced kiwi and melon.

DAY 4 Row, row, row your boat ... and work every major muscle group (and maybe even some you didn't know you had). Find a club near you at usrowing.org.

DAY 5 Set them free! Attend a sea turtle hatchling release on the Padre Island National Seashore in Texas. Starting in late May, call the Hatchling Hotline at 361/949-7163 to learn when and where; nps.gov/pais/nature/science/releases.htm.

* JUNE 1-30 *

DAY 6 ATTEND A SUMMER CONCERT. Hear Kenny Chesney on June 1 at CenturyLink Field in Seattle, Washington, plus ...

- **Fleetwood Mac:** June 7, Tampa Bay Times Forum, Tampa, Florida
- **Andrea Bocelli:** June 8, Hollywood Bowl, Hollywood, California
- **Bon Jovi:** July 12, Soldier Field, Chicago, Illinois
- **Taylor Swift:** August 15, Valley View Casino Center, San Diego, California, and August 30, Rose Garden Arena, Portland, Oregon

DAY 7 Race rough and ready. Tough Mudder competitions are a dirtier, team-oriented take on obstacle courses. Catch the race in Virginia Beach, Virginia, June 1-2; toughmudder.com.

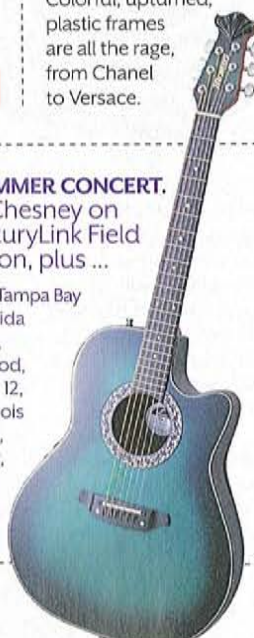
DAY 8 Make fab s'mores. Get gourmet marshmallows in flavors like lemony meringue and caramel swirl at plushpuffs.com.



DAY 9 Water- and sand-proof your cell phone. OtterBox's Armor Series phone cases debuted this year, joining great options from LifeProof, The Joy Factory, and Liquepel.

DAY 10 Name your beach cottage. Make a sign to proclaim the moniker; try ncbeachhousesigns.com, signshoppe.org, or nicecarvings.com.

DAY 11 Shield your eyes with new shades. Colorful, upturned, plastic frames are all the rage, from Chanel to Versace.



DAY 12

STOP TO SMELL THE ... LILACS? The Mackinac Island Lilac Festival on Lake Huron is a weeklong party June 7-16 with parades, artisan beer tastings, and more; mackinacislandlilacfestival.org.

DAY 13 Freeze your fruit. Make kebabs of bananas, washed strawberries, mango slices, or papaya pieces, then place them in a single layer on a pan, and freeze. Load frozen skewers into zip-top plastic bags and you have a cool, sweet beach snack.

DAY 14 Pile on the patterns with a trip to the fabric store. Fashion simple toss pillow slipcovers (seamed with Velcro or no-sew Stitch Witchery) to pep up neutral sofas and chairs.

DAY 15 Make a sundial. Choose a sandy spot the tide can't reach. Plant a stick in the sand and draw a circle around it, and then place a shell at the spot where the stick's shadow falls on the circle every hour from sunup to sundown. Use it to tell time all summer long!

DAY 16 Customize beachcombing buckets. Use paint pens to decorate a pail for each member of the family.

DAY 17 Go kayaking at night for cooler temps and moonlit views. Try Kayak Chicago (kayakchicago.com) or San Francisco's City Kayak (citykayak.com).

DAY 18 Tie one on. Wear a silk scarf head-band style over an up-do, like Dolce & Gabbana spring/summer catwalk models.

DAY 19 Celebrate Flag Day June 14 with a pennant you can use all summer. Plant the flag in the sand near your posse's beach chairs.

DAY 20 Build a popcorn bar. We like olive oil, parmesan, and cracked pepper for salty cravings, and cinnamon, mini chocolate chips, and dried cranberries for sweet indulgences.

DAY 21 Give a killer grill gadget to Dad for Father's Day. Brushtech's drill-operated barbecue grill brush (\$5) allows him to power his way to a like-new grate with minimal mess and effort; brushtechbrushes.com.

DAY 22 Plant a shell garden. Cleaned shells make great vessels for

succulent gardens. Fill with damp potting soil and press in a plant, then layer on a little more soil.

DAY 23 Start a sand collection. Use airtight glass jars to collect samples from your favorite beaches and label them by location.

DAY 24 Cook in the sun. "Tin kitchens" and solar cookers let you bake bread, cakes, and more using radiant heat from a bonfire or reflected sunlight, respectively. Find a kit online; try scoutmastercrg.com or campfirecookware.com.

DAY 25

CHECK IN TO A LUXURY BOUTIQUE HOTEL FOR SOME R&R. Try Charleston, South Carolina's charming Zero George Street, which opened last year; zerogeorge.com. ➔

