

Inspired Creations

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productive. It was around eight years ago that he began making birdhouses as a hobby when he was homeless and it's since blossomed into a fruitful enterprise, supplementing his retirement income.

"As I was out being homeless, I was working on helping other homeless people get housing. And as I was waiting on mine to come in, I was like, what could I do that's positive while I'm out here homeless, instead of just saying 'oh man this is not good?'" Mayes explained. "My thing was I could help other individuals, give them some type of guidance, a positive tip and encouragement."

Through that mutual support, and proactively looking for solutions, he has since pulled himself out of homelessness.

The gout that Mayes has been battling most of his life still brings

aching pain in his hands and feet that presents mobility challenges, especially in winter when his joints swell. It's also responsible for his resignation from the full-scale carpentry trade. He used to help build customized houses all across the West Coast for homes in the \$300,000 to multi-million dollar range.

Despite hospitalizations and some challenging cold snaps that recently prevented him from building and selling the birdhouses, Mayes said he's now gathering his strength to start production back up again.

"I'm looking forward to getting back out there again 'cause I have fun. You might see me just rolling down the street," he said.

Mayes was born and raised in Portland and said getting around by bike or on foot is one of the best ways to experience the city.

"I've seen a lot of skyline changes by walking," he said. "If



George Mayes uses recycled and found material as well as environmentally friendly, organic cedar to craft bird feeders that look like miniature mountain lodges.

you're driving a lot, you pass by a lot of stuff and you don't see it. And the walking is just a little more cautious that you can see your surroundings. You can see what's being built up around you."

Mayes said he leaves his bird-

houses unpainted to encourage buyers to engage their kids to paint them so that they can learn what it's like to work with their hands and provide them an alternative to a world dominated by high tech.

"They need to know some of the thinking back in the old days. Cause a lot of them don't;

they go straight to the computer. The thing that scares me is when the computer breaks down, they break down. That's scary (laughs)."

To inquire about George's birdhouses, email him at theoeeasy@outlook.com or check the local street corner near you.



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March

2018
CALENDAR

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY

12 <i>Anniversary of the Death of Anne Frank (1945)</i>	13 <i>Good Samaritan Day Uranus Discovered (1781)</i>	14 <i>Pi Day (3.14) Scientist Albert Einstein born, 1879</i>	15 <i>Absolutely Incredible Kid Day Funk music legend Sly Stone born, 1943</i>	16 <i>James Madison born, 1751 (4th President)</i>	17 ● <i>St. Patrick's Day Nat King Cole born, 1919; Legendary jazz musician and singer</i>	18 <i>First Walk in Space (1965) Grover Cleveland born, 1837 (22nd & 24th President)</i>
19 <i>Swallows Return to San Juan Capistrano</i>	20 <i>1st Day of Spring Spike Lee born, 1957; Emmy Award winning filmmaker</i>	21 <i>Children's Poetry Day National Teen-Agers Day Single Parents' Day</i>	22 United Nations World Water Day	23 <i>Toast Day Political Leader Patrick Henry declared, "Give me liberty..." 1775</i>	24 ◐ <i>Harry Houdini born, 1874 Exxon Valdez runs aground (1989)</i>	25 <i>Palm Sunday Aretha Franklin born, 1942; undisputed "Queen Of Soul"</i>
26 <i>Make up Your own Holiday Day Diana Ross born, 1944; singer & Oscar-nom. actress</i>	27 <i>Alaska hit by 8.4 Earthquake (1964)</i>	28 <i>"Greatest Show on Earth" formed 1881</i>	29 <i>Armed Forces left Vietnam (1973) Pearl Bailey born, 1918; award-Winning singer & actress</i>	30 <i>Passover Begins at Sundown Doctor's Day Artist Vincent van Gogh born, 1853</i>	31 ○ <i>First Map of the US Published (1784)</i>	