

Reading and writing

By John Toth
 Editor and Publisher

One side effect of putting out a paper each week is that I read a lot. Before I can write something, I have to read something.

And, I tend to drift toward the silly side of the news. I like stories that are not earth-shattering, but tell a tale off the beaten path.

Like the story about 300 animals being removed from the house of an Ohio man, including pigeons, chickens and rabbits. The house had a distinct odor to it, which is what probably tipped off whoever called authorities.



I can just see this guy trying to eat breakfast in a dining room with wall-to-wall pigeons. He is probably a quick eater. And, he probably has a sinus condition that prevents him from smelling anything.

And check this out. We're not the only country where many people have no clue how to read a map.

In Belgium, of all places, a study revealed that secondary school teachers are clueless when it comes to world geography. One in three could not identify the U.S. on a map, and half did not know the location of the Pacific Ocean.

Apparently, we don't hold a monopoly on ignorance.

Have no fear, the education ministry is going to revamp the training of future teachers. They might start by buying all of them maps.

It's good to read dumb things happening somewhere else in the world. I often feel that Europeans act like they are "holier than thou" and can do no wrong. I notice that each time I travel to that part of the world.

They have all these old castles, and one Euro is worth about \$1.50. In my opinion, you see one old castle, you've seen them all. Sure, they have nice old stuff (whatever remains after all those wars). But they've had a lot longer to get it than us.

The Euro is not "all that" and a bag of chips. Everything costs too many

(Continued on Page 10)

Sources of carbon monoxide

Most exposures happen at home and create relatively minor symptoms. The leading source of poisoning is the home's heating system, followed by engine-driven tools and charcoal grills.

How long do alarms last?

Detectors should be replaced roughly every five years, since the alarms deteriorate with time, becoming less reliable and sensitive

SOURCE

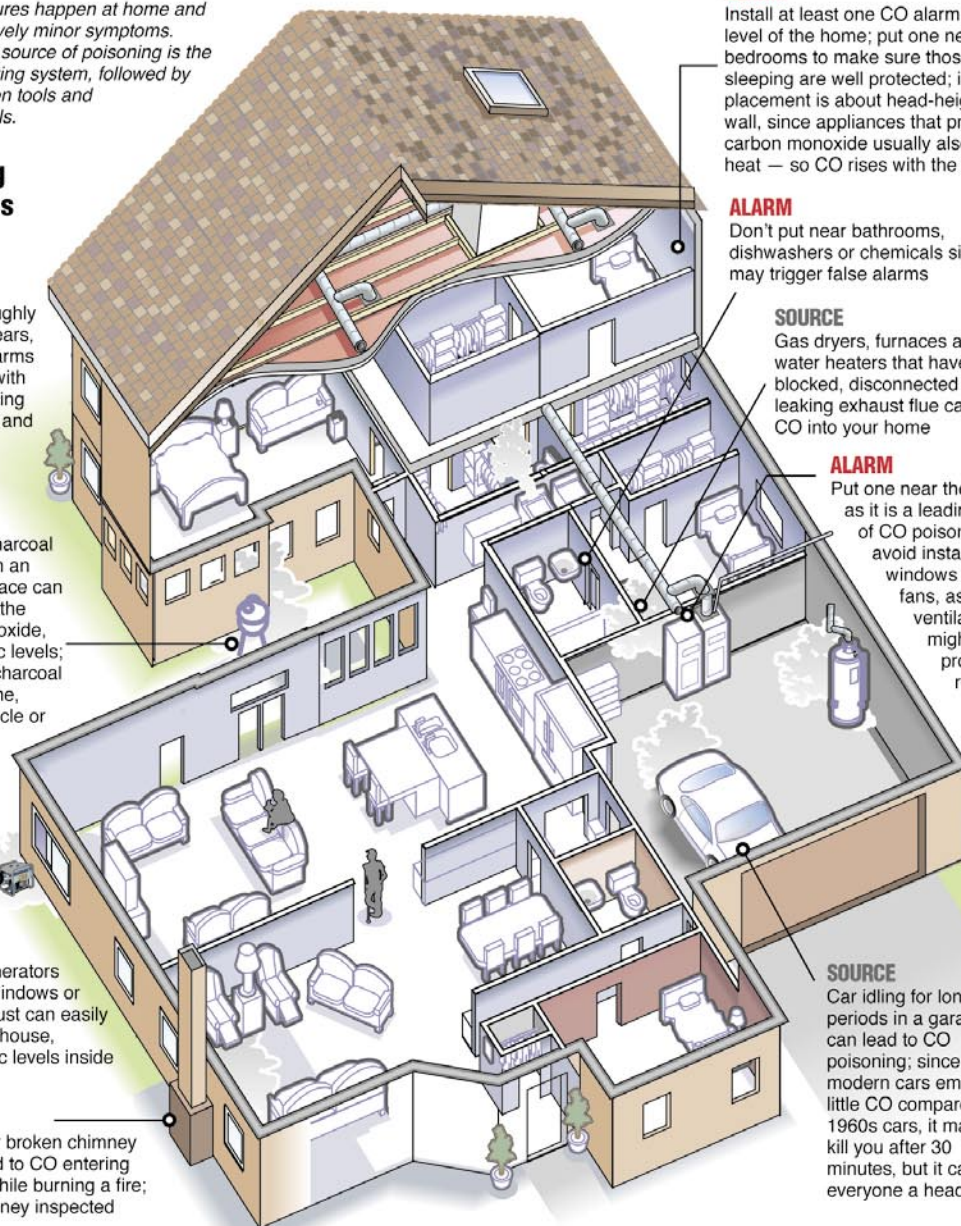
Burning a charcoal or gas grill in an enclosed space can concentrate the carbon monoxide, causing toxic levels; never burn charcoal inside a home, garage, vehicle or tent

SOURCE

Don't run portable generators near open windows or doors; exhaust can easily move into a house, creating toxic levels inside

SOURCE

A blocked or broken chimney flue can lead to CO entering the house while burning a fire; get the chimney inspected



ALARM

Install at least one CO alarm for each level of the home; put one near bedrooms to make sure those sleeping are well protected; ideal placement is about head-height on a wall, since appliances that produce carbon monoxide usually also produce heat — so CO rises with the warm air

ALARM

Don't put near bathrooms, dishwashers or chemicals since they may trigger false alarms

SOURCE

Gas dryers, furnaces and water heaters that have a blocked, disconnected or leaking exhaust flue can emit CO into your home

ALARM

Put one near the furnace, as it is a leading cause of CO poisoning; avoid installing near windows or ceiling fans, as the ventilation might prevent proper readings

SOURCE

Car idling for long periods in a garage can lead to CO poisoning; since modern cars emit very little CO compared to 1960s cars, it may not kill you after 30 minutes, but it can give everyone a headache

Carbon monoxide facts



Danger on the water

Boating poses several ways to get CO poisoning — such as high levels near diving platforms on a boat's stern; houseboats are a particular hazard — the prolonged use of generators is a leading cause of poisonings



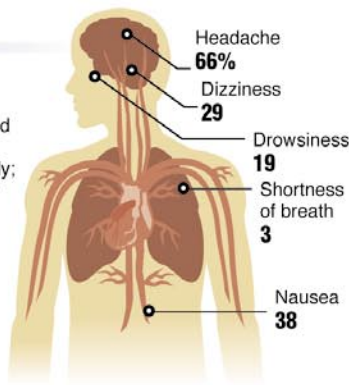
Meat that's pink

Fresh meat products such as beef and pork are exposed to carbon monoxide to make them look fresh; CO keeps products pink much longer than other packaged meat

Effects on the body

CO poisoning causes significant damage to the nervous system and the heart; CO blocks the blood's ability to deliver oxygen to the body; about half the people poisoned by CO have a delayed neurological reaction, sometimes weeks after exposure, including depression or Parkinson's-like symptoms

In about 70 percent of CO poisoning incidents, the victim reported some symptoms — here is the frequency of each one:



Lowe's to hire 45,000 workers

By Ely Portillo

The Charlotte Observer (MCT)

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Mooresville, N.C.-based Lowe's Inc. is hiring 45,000 temporary workers, almost 13 percent more than last year, to help staff its stores for the spring rush, the company said this week.

Lowe's said that it plans to hire about 9,000 permanent part-time employees, as the company looks to beef up staffing around peak shopping times. Last year, Lowe's hired 40,000 seasonal employees. The company said seasonal employees work about 20 to 25 hours a week at Lowe's stores, usually between February and September.

Spring, that magical time when people get motivated to rehab their yards and finally start some of those projects they've been putting off during the frigid winter months, is the equivalent of the Christmas season for home improvement retailers.

The temporary hiring this year will be variable and will follow the weather, Lowe's officials said. Lowe's will hire employees regionally as temperatures rise.

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It's never too late to quit smoking, study shows

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Union members decline nationwide, survey finds

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GOT A TRAFFIC TICKET? Take it off your driving record at Stand-Up Defensive Driving in Lake Jackson at Brazos Mall. Need a car insurance discount? Take the Stand-Up course and save 10%. Sign up at (979) 299-1000. Classes: Sat. 9 a.m.-3p.m.; Tues./Wed. 6-9 p.m. Sign up today!

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**I'M GOING TO LIVE!? UH,
FORGET WHAT I SAID BEFORE:** A man doing time in a Nashville prison had a heart attack and thought he was going to die, so he made a deathbed confession to a guard that he committed an unsolved murder in 1995. Unfortunately for him, he lived. He has been charged with the killing.

SOMEHOW, IT DOESN'T REMIND US OF WORK: Firefighters rushed to an apartment in Jonkoping, Sweden, after someone looked through a window and reported that the place was on fire. It turned out to be a DVD of a fire burning in a fireplace, which the emergency responders found quite relaxing. One officer said, "We even stayed and watched the fire for a while afterward."

HEY, DUDE, HOME SO SOON? A man returned to his Clarksville, Tenn., home to find that the place had been broken into. He found the burglar out in the back yard drinking his beer.

A PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS, SIR: A man, practicing a type of black magic called "mubobobo," has been accused of using the practice to have relations with a woman using only his mind. Marshals became suspicious of the man when they saw him staring intently at a woman at a bus stop in Zvishavane, Zimbabwe and sweating profusely and making "movements" with his body.

NOTE TO CARJACKERS: DON'T GET OUT OF THE CAR: An armed man carjacked a vehicle at a gas station in Boynton, Beach, Fla., then forced the owner to drive north to Ormond Beach, where he made the mistake of getting out with the driver and ordering him to open the trunk. They moved the contents into the back seat, but the driver saw his chance, pushed the guy into a ditch, and took off.

HAVE I MADE MY POINT!? Police were called to a home in Jacksonville, Fla., where a man complained that his boyfriend became frustrated with him for constantly listening to Alanis Morissette records and hit him in the face with a plate.

AND NOW FOR SOME PEACE AND QUIET: Tired from a long bus trip, a man went into a cornfield near Billings, Mont., and took a nap. He awoke to find that he was being run over by a combine harvester that the farmer was using to bring in the crop. Paramedics were amazed that the guy suffered only cuts.

AND WE'RE SO HAPPY THAT HE'S PART OF THE FAMILY: A man got very angry at his wife during a house party in Aiken, Ga., because she had made a sandwich for another man. When her father stepped in to calm him down, he bit off the father-in-law's ear lobe. He was arrested. The ear lobe was reattached.

YOU KNOW, MOM, I JUST HAD THE STRANGEST DREAM: A drunk driver crashed his car into the bedroom of a home in Strumpshaw, England, where a 15-year-old boy was sleeping. Astonishingly, the kid did not wake up until his mother came in and yelled at him.

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STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Bill Sones and Rich Sones, Ph.D.

Bad choice of dog toys

Q. When people go out to buy their dog a toy, what mistake do they commonly make?

A. They purchase popular toy colors like red or safety orange (the bright orange red of traffic cones or safety vests) that are difficult for dogs to see, says psychologist Stanley Coren in "Do Dogs Dream? Nearly Everything Your Dog Wants You to Know." Tests show dogs have trouble seeing red, which can appear to them as dark brownish gray or even black. Not that dogs are color-blind, as many people believe, but they are "color-challenged." We humans have three different kinds of light-catching cones affording us our full range of color vision; dogs have only two.

University of California, Santa Barbara, researcher Jay Neitz tested dogs by showing them a set of three light panels - two of the same color, the third different. Only if the canines picked out the lone color did they get a treat.

Thus Neitz confirmed that dogs do see colors but many fewer than normal humans do. Instead of seeing a rainbow of colors, "dogs see the world as basically yellow, blue and gray."

So, Coren says, that bright red toy so visible to you may not be what your dog sees. "If your own pet version of Lassie runs right past the toy you tossed, she may not be stubborn or stupid. It may be your fault for choosing a toy with a

color that is hard to discriminate from the green grass of your lawn."

Stronger than one horse

Q. "Not only has the horse been outgunned by the car, but it faces the further indignity of not being able to keep up with itself," says one "Discover" magazine writer. What might he be driving at here?

A. First, let's talk horsepower. In 1760 outside London, King George III housed about 30 horses, or only about one-fifth the horsepower of the typical 150-horsepower-engine in today's compact car, says "Discover" magazine's Corey S. Powell in "20 Things You Didn't Know About Cars." "By the formal definition of horsepower, which is the power needed to lift 33,000 pounds by 1 foot in 1 minute, a real horse musters only 0.7 horsepower." Wow! It really can't keep up with itself.

And some other surprising car facts: In a mishap that didn't live up to the victim's name, H. H. Bliss of New York City became the first documented U.S. auto fatality, on September 13, 1899, after exiting a trolley car.

Fortunately, the average fatality rate per mile of driving has dropped by 80% over the past 50 years, largely due to seat belt use. Yet all the accelerating, cornering, braking and more that your four wheels do happen on a tire area of only about 100 square inches for a typical sedan, barely bigger than your

own two feet.

Island vs. continent

Q. From a Parma, Ohio reader: "Why is Greenland considered an island while Australia is a continent?"

A. Greenland's surface area is roughly 836,000 square miles, while Australia at 2,941,000 square miles is 3.5 times larger, answers Dr. Matthew Edney, director of the History of Cartography Project. Moreover, Greenland is part of the North American tectonic plate, whereas Australia has its own plate, plus distinctive flora and fauna.

The real question, poses Edney, is why so many people think Greenland is of sufficient size that it should be considered a continent. The answer is that most world maps since the late 19th century have been made on the Mercator projection, but when used to map large areas on a single sheet, "it distorts areas exponentially." On the basic form used for the world map, the equator is the central axis of projection, where the scale is correct; moving away from the equator, distortion increases so rapidly that the poles cannot be shown. Therefore, Australia, near the equator, is shown relatively close to its proper scale, but Greenland, near the North Pole, appears greatly enlarged.

(Send STRANGE questions to brothers Bill and Rich at strangetrue@cs.com)

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School district arms officers with semi-automatic rifles

By Stephen Ceasar

Los Angeles Times (MCT)

LOS ANGELES — Police officers in the Fontana Unified School District in San Bernardino County were armed recently with semi-automatic rifles, drawing sharp criticism and sparking an effort to ban such weapons on school campuses.

The Colt rifles, which cost about \$1,000 each, are kept in safes when officers are on campus and will be used only in "extreme emergency cases" like the massacre in Newtown, Conn.,

Superintendent Cali Olsen-Binks said.

The district purchased the rifles in October and received them in December, before the tragedy in Newtown, where a gunman killed 26 people — 20 of them children — at an elementary school. The shooting sparked debate on whether armed school guards could prevent these types of tragedies.

The purchase was not spurred by a specific event, Fontana Unified School District Police Chief Billy Green said. The rifles are designed to increase shooting accuracy and provide the 14 officers with more effective power against assailants wearing body armor, Green said, adding that those capabilities are necessary for officers to stop a well-armed gunman.

"If you know of a better way to stop someone on campus that's killing children or staff members with a rifle, I'd like to hear it," he said. "I don't think it's best to send my people in to stop them with

just handguns.

"I hope we would never have to use it," Green said. "But if we do, I'd like them to be prepared."

Several other school districts have similar weapons, but policies differ on whether they are brought on campus or left in patrol car trunks or administration buildings.

Fontana school police bought the guns for about \$14,000, which fell below the threshold that requires school board approval. School board members were not informed until after the purchase.

Board member Leticia Garcia said the police chief and superintendent should have alerted the five-member board and held a public hearing on the issue. She said arming officers with such weapons is a policy matter and should have been decided by the entire school district community, especially in light of the ongoing debate around the country.

Social Security

McClatchy-Tribune News Service (MCT)

If an infant's card is late

Question: I applied for my child's Social Security card in the hospital but have not received it. How long must I wait?

Answer: On average, it takes about four to five weeks from the time you apply in the hospital until you receive your child's Social Security card in the mail. However, it can vary depending on the state where you live. If you have not received your child's card within six weeks, please visit your local Social Security office. Be sure to take with you proof of your child's citizenship, age and identity as well as proof of your own identity. And remember, we cannot divulge your child's Social Security number over the phone.

Q: Is it illegal to laminate your Social Security card?

A: No, it is not illegal, but it's best not to laminate your card. Laminated cards make it difficult, if not impossible, to detect important security features. Also, your employer may refuse to accept it. The Social Security Act requires Social Security to issue cards that cannot be counterfeited. We incorporate many features to protect the card's integrity. That includes highly specialized paper and printing techniques — some visible to the naked eye and some not. Further, we continue to explore and adopt new technologies that hamper duplication. Keep your Social Security card in a safe place with your other important papers. Do not carry it with you. Learn more at www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber.

(This column was prepared by the Social Security Administration. For fast answers to specific Social Security questions, contact Social Security toll-free at 800-772-1213.)

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Sky-high bacteria could affect climate, scientists say

By Amina Khan

Los Angeles Times (MCT)

LOS ANGELES — A team of storm-chasing scientists sampling rarefied air has found a world of bacteria and fungi floating about 30,000 feet above Earth. The findings, detailed Monday in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, suggest that microbes have the potential to affect the weather.

Scientists have long studied airborne bacteria, but they typically do so from the ground, often trekking to mountain peaks to examine microbes in fresh snow. Beyond that, they don't know much about the number and diversity of floating microbes, said study co-author Athanasios Nenes, an atmospheric scientist at Georgia Tech.

To get a glimpse of this hovering world, Nenes and his colleagues hitched several rides on a NASA aircraft

as onboard instruments sampled the air before, during and after hurricanes Earl and Karl in 2010. The plane flew into the upper troposphere, about 6 miles above the surface.

During nine flights — most over the Caribbean and the midwest Atlantic — the researchers ran the outside air over a series of filters, each time capturing material from an average of 212 cubic feet of ambient air. They sampled a variety of environments, from the cloudy masses that preceded Hurricane Earl to the cloud-free air after Hurricane Karl passed.

The researchers focused on a ribosomal RNA gene called SSU rRNA, which can reliably identify bacterial species. They calculated that there were about 144 bacterial cells per cubic foot of air.

The bacteria accounted for 20 percent of the particles in their size range

— stuff that scientists had assumed was just sea salt and dust.

"We were surprised," Nenes said.

The filters picked up fungi too, though in concentrations that were at most only 10 percent as high as for the bacteria.

The microbial populations were very different before and after a storm, Nenes said; that makes sense, given that hurricanes have the potential to kick a fresh batch of bugs into the air.

Among other types, the scientists found *Escherichia* and *Streptococcus* bacteria in their samples — microbes typically associated with human and animal feces that could have been thrown into the air as the storms swept through populated areas.

The researchers identified 17 types of bacteria that were found in all the samples, leading the team to suspect that those organisms constituted a core microbiome for the lower atmosphere.



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Walk-In's Welcome!

Study: Dry, dusty Mars could have held watery underground oases for life

By Amina Khan

Los Angeles Times (MCT)

LOS ANGELES—If Mars once contained life, it might have existed in watery oases far beneath the surface, according to a new study analyzing a deep Martian crater holding signs of an ancient lake.

The research, published online in the journal Nature Geoscience, examined the 57-mile-wide McLaughlin Crater, which at 1.4 miles deep may have been low enough to allow underground water to well up into its bowl.

Although Mars looks like a dry, dusty planet, scientists believe the planet once held enough water that it left signs of streambeds on the surface. If Mars also held organic molecules like carbon, nitrogen, hydrogen and oxygen, it could have held locations suitable for life.

NASA's Curiosity rover, which landed Aug. 5, is on a mission to search Mount Sharp in Gale Crater for just such habitable environments.

But perhaps a better place to look for microbial life would be beneath the surface, said study leader Joseph Michalski, a planetary scientist at the National History Museum in London.

"There are a lot of people who think up to half of life on Earth exists as microbes in the subsurface of the planet," Michalski pointed out.

Michalski's team analyzed data from the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter, which revealed layers of rock at the crater's bottom rich in clays and carbonate — materials that form in the presence of water. The lake likely filled from the bottom, given that there doesn't appear to be channels funneling down into

the crater. However, smaller channels within the crater end about 500 meters from the bottom, a sign of a past water line, a geological bathtub ring. Many scientists think that the sulfates detected on the surface could be a sign of water welling up from beneath the ground. But Michalski's team argued that the sulfates could actually be indicative of a water-poor, highly acidic environment

— hardly friendly to life as we know it.

Spots like McLaughlin Crater, on the other hand, are rich in clays and low in acidity — signs of a much more bio-friendly environment, he said. Such are the pockets where water (and perhaps life) could have existed, welling up from the beneath the dirt and leaving their mark on the surface, he said.

If there was a biosphere underneath

the Martian terrain, the authors surmise, it would be in these rare spots of just-right conditions, rather than spread throughout the Red Planet's crust. Deep craters rich in clays, he added, would be the right places to start looking. "It's perfectly reasonable," said Norman Pace, a biochemist at the University of Colorado who was not involved in the study. "The next step is getting samples."

TECH Q&A

How to solve PC problems from afar

By Steve Alexander

Star Tribune (Minneapolis) (MCT)

QUESTION: I have a 79-year-old sister in Los Angeles who is technologically challenged, and it would be beneficial to have remote access to her PC so I could help her out. I'm wondering if you can repeat some information from one of your earlier columns, in which you recommended a remote-access program to a woman who wanted to help her mother with her computer.

In addition to finding the program you recommended, I also want to know if I need to load the remote-access program on both my PC and my sister's. —Margo Tech, Fridley, Minn.

ANSWER: Here's a link to a column I wrote in February about remote access between two PCs via the Internet: <http://tinyurl.com/bf64h7y>.

The free software I listed can be downloaded from the CNET website. CNET's most widely used remote-access program is TeamViewer, found at <http://tinyurl.com/83rxhya>. But at the bottom of the CNET page you'll find a list of other popular remote-access programs.

Both you and your sister will need to download copies of the same program in order for you to remotely access her PC.


Q: Do you know of a way to import old emails into the Thunderbird email program? I recently reformatted my PC's hard drive and need to reload it with the things I had before. While I've copied the old emails back onto the hard drive, I can't access or view them with Thunderbird. —Terry Moses, St. Paul, Minn.

A: You need some additional software to help you import your old email files into Thunderbird, which is a free email program from the Mozilla organization that created the Firefox browser. You'll need to download a free add-on program for Thunderbird called the "ImportExportTool extension." You'll find a link to download it at the bottom of the website at <http://tinyurl.com/4d59osh>.

For instructions on how to use the download, see "Install the ImportExportTool extension" at <http://tinyurl.com/b2banr>.

Q: I have an HP PhotoSmart 5510 printer that I'm using with Windows 7. The print driver software for it came with Windows 7, but I'm disappointed with the driver's functionality. Other HP printers that I've had all came with their own driver software that offered many more features, such as the ability to print mirror images or both sides of the paper. Is there other driver software that would give my printer more functions? —Bob Heston, Atascadero, Calif.

A: Try the free software at <http://tinyurl.com/bydxvw5>, which HP made available in late October. HP says it's designed "for users who want more than just a basic (printer software) driver."



Science Matters

She has legs for all uses

Today's prosthetic limbs sometimes contain electronics and graphite composite materials; this 32-year-old triathlon runner has different ones for different purposes.

Melissa Stockwell works with clients at a Chicago area prosthetics clinic

Everyday




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Knee bends during pedaling, locks straight for standing, triathlon running

Foot cleat
clips into pedal



Source: Dave Rotter of Scheck & Siress Prosthetics, Orthotics and Pedorthics, MCT Photo Service
Graphic: Jemal R. Brinson and Katie Nieland, Chicago Tribune
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Under the Hood

Antitheft system causes trouble

By Brad Bergholdt

McClatchy-Tribune News Service (MCT)

QUESTION: I own a 1998 Pontiac Grand Am SE. She has 242,000 miles on her. Recently the theft light comes on, blinks and then stays on. Sometimes the car will die starting up, then it may start up and run fine. Sometimes the light will stay on, and other times the light will go out. —Tom Houdeshell

ANSWER: Your Grand Am employs GM's Passlock antitheft system, which is known for causing intermittent starting headaches and big repair bills to fix it. A sensor in the steering column determines the ignition lock cylinder has successfully rotated, which requires the correct key.

This creates an electrical output to the antitheft brains in the instrument panel cluster, which then sends an "OK" handshake to the powertrain control module.

That allows normal function of the fuel injectors. Should an ignition switch input occur without the accompanying sensor signal — perhaps if a hammer, pliers, and screwdriver are used to rotate the lock cylinder — no IPC/PCM handshake occurs. The fuel injectors are cut off, causing the engine to start, then stall, and the theft deterrent light is illuminated.

In many cases, it seems the system forgets the lock cylinder sensor's code, and a relearn procedure restores operation. This is performed by leaving the ignition switch in the run position with the engine stationary for ten minutes or until the indicator light then shuts off.

Try multiple times as needed. In the event of a starts-stalls episode, this offers the best chance of driving again.

Diagnosis of a repetitive problem such as yours is best done by a pro, using a Tech-2 scan tool. Rather cryptic information gleaned from the body control module's data list, along with any diagnostic trouble codes — these won't illuminate the check engine light — can narrow the search to the lock sensor, instrument panel cluster, PCM or wiring between.

Freeport Harbor Channel improvement project gets initial nod from Corps

After 11 years of working with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on a Freeport Harbor Channel Improvement Project (FHCIP), Port Freeport received a positive report from the Chief of Engineers to deepen and widen the Freeport channel.

The report will be transmitted to Congress and recommends the project because it will contribute to the economic efficiency of commercial navigation in the region. "This channel will help encourage additional investment in southern Brazoria County, help us attract even larger vessels to this area, retaining and creating more jobs and opportunity for local communities," said Port Freeport Executive Port Director/CEO Glenn Carlson. "This positive Chief's report will now open the door to federal funding for the project. Now it is up to Congress to allocate the funds."

From environmental to economic, the FHCIP offers numerous advantages. At its current depth of 45 feet, the Port and local industry's operational partnerships raised the economic impact of the Ports current channel from \$10.2 billion per year to \$17.9 billion within a three-year period.

The new channel could do more by attracting even larger ships and this additional vessel capacity is reflected in the USACE's estimates, which place the returns on the channel investment at almost two to one. The channel will also offer many benefits to Port Freeport, including improved navigation and safety.

"The new deeper, wider channel is just a few years away. Once completed, it will offer a safer, faster transit to ships with even larger payloads — saving both time and money," Port Commission Chairman Bill Terry said. "The economic impact and long-term benefits of this project to regional liner shipping companies, along with our local chemical and energy partners, can't be overstated."



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ACC in good fiscal shape, audit finds

Alvin Community College has been properly managing its fiscal affairs over the past year, according to an audit released to regents on Jan. 24.

"This is the highest level of assurance we can provide as the independent auditor that the financial statements themselves are materially correct," said Stephanie Harris, with Belt, Harris and Pechacek LLP accounting firm.

ACC has a value of \$43.7 million in total assets, according to the audit report.

The total amount of assets increased \$1.2 million over the past year. Operating costs also dropped to \$38.5 million in 2012 from \$40 million in 2011.

Regents heard about changes in developmental education by Dean of Academic Programs Dr. Drew Nelson. Some of the changes will begin this summer.

The adjustments that affect ACC will include a college entrance exam students must take to gain entry into college which also requires mandatory pre-test and post-test counseling. The college also will have to track performance of developmental students.

Some students may have to take adult education courses before enrolling in remedial classes. Reading and writing courses will be merged into one course. Colleges also must offer alternatives to Algebra.

"We're going to have to demonstrate the effectiveness to the state," Nelson said.

These changes will require additional resources, but the college will attempt to get through the first year with existing staff, services and facilities.

"Some of these requirements amount to unfunded mandates," Nelson said. "Our implementation year will provide a clearer picture of what we might need for 2014-15."

Also during the meeting regents approved staff members for a groundskeeper, diagnostic cardiovascular sonography instructor and a network manager. Regents voted to reclassify the college's compliance officer position.

The board's next meeting will be Feb. 28. For more information call (281) 756-3500.

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TDECU helps raise money for SPCA-BC



On Jan. 22, TDECU presented a financial gift of \$6,478 to the SPCA of Brazoria County. The funds were raised through a holiday gift card promotion in which \$1 for each TDECU gift card purchased was earmarked for donation to the local animal shelter. TDECU then matched the donation dollar-for-dollar. The SPCA's mission is to encourage responsible pet ownership, provide low-cost spay and neuter services and find loving homes for the shelter animals. From left: Stacey Suazo, (SPCA of Brazoria County) and Belinda Fisher, Scott Slattery, and Anne Allstott (TDECU).

Adult non-flu vaccination levels 'unacceptably low,' CDC says

Los Angeles Times (MCT)

LOS ANGELES—Researchers at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said that vaccination coverage levels in U.S. adults were "unacceptably low," and that public health workers need to do more to make sure adults got immunizations to protect them from diseases including whooping cough, shingles and pneumonia.

The team, writing in the CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, updated statistics on vaccine coverage for those diseases as well as cervical cancer, hepatitis A and B and other preventable illnesses.

There were "modest gains" in coverage for the Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis) and HPV (human papilloma virus) vaccines, said CDC researcher and study co-author Dr.

Carolyn Bridges during a phone call with reporters. Nearly 13 percent of people 19 to 64 years old reported receiving a Tdap vaccine in 2011, which was an increase of almost four percentage points from the previous year, she said; the number of adults living with an infant under a year old who received the vaccine was up around 11 points to 22 percent. Pertussis is particularly dangerous in infants.



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Reading and writing are fun(ner) when looking for column ideas

(Continued from Page 1)

Euros, anyway. I like hanging out in Europe, but I really like coming back to the USA and to the dollar.

Here is another reason to stay right here and just visit elsewhere every now and then.

We don't have cheese burning in our road tunnels.

Some 27 metric tons of flaming brown cheese, a Norwegian delicacy, caught on fire in a tunnel near the coastal town of Narvik and burned for seven days.

The burning cheese may have saved some lives, though. It contains

30 percent fat. Eat a bunch of it and get ready for a plumbing job on the good old arteries.

And, if you think our press is sloppy, check out this report from Sweden.

Reuters reported that a cleaning lady stole a train, drove it to the end of the tracks and smashed it into a house.

The train vaulted over the street, separating the house from the depot, crashing through a balcony and into a downstairs room.

I can just imagine what the occupants of the house might have said.

"What's that noise? It sounds like a

freight train."

It's a passenger train. Get your trains straight. It's not enough that you can't read maps, now you can't even tell what type of train is in your living room.

Reuters reported the following day that the cleaning lady did not steal the train, and the crash was an accident. At least we're not the only ones who screw up news stories.

Reading is fun. And rewriting other peoples' problems is even funner, right, editor? Don't you dare take out funner. If you do, I'll sneak it back in right before the press run. Hands off.

It's never too late to quit smoking

By Amina Khan

Los Angeles Times (MCT)

LOS ANGELES — It's never too late to quit smoking, and researchers have new data to prove it. Even at the age of 64, kicking the habit can add four years to a person's life, while quitting by age 34 can increase life expectancy by a decade, according to a study published online Wednesday by the New England Journal of Medicine.

After analyzing health data from more than 200,000 Americans, researchers calculated that current smokers were three times more likely to die during the course of the study compared with people who had never smoked. For the most part, their deaths were caused by smoking-related ailments, including heart and lung disease. Overall, their odds of surviving to age 80 were half as good as for never-smokers.

But the study, one of two large-scale surveys in the journal providing updated information on smoking and mortality, saw significant benefits for those who quit. Giving up smoking between the ages of 35 and 44 was associated with a gain of nine years of life, and those who quit between 45 and 54 lived an extra six years.

"The good news is, because the risks are so big, the benefits of quitting are quite substantial," said study leader Prabhat Jha, an epidemiologist and director of the Center for Global Health Research, based in Toronto.

While the U.S. smoking rate has declined to 19.3 percent among adults, there are still an estimated 45.3 million smokers in the country, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Cigarette use is responsible for about 443,000 U.S. deaths each year, the CDC says.

Using the National Health Interview Survey, the researchers followed 113,752 women and 88,496 men in the U.S. between 1997 and 2004, categorizing them as smokers (at least 100 cigarettes within their lifetime), former smokers (no smoking within the last five years) and never-smokers. Former smokers were held to the five-year rule in order to weed out those who were already in declining health because of potentially fatal smoking-related diseases.

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Ordained minister in Texas doesn't let cerebral palsy get in her way of preaching the Bible

By Terry Evans

Fort Worth Star-Telegram (MCT)

HURST, Texas — Susan Slade is certain that she's on earth to help people find what they need.

"My purpose is to encourage people to find their purpose in God and to express it," she said.

But Slade's done so much more than that since she earned bachelor's and master's degrees at Oral Robert's University in Tulsa, Okla., then became an ordained minister. She has performed

weddings, made inspirational videos, appeared on television, preached from pulpits to hundreds at a time and used a prophet-like insight to find meaning in Scripture.

Born with cerebral palsy, the 46-year-old woman did all that from a reclining wheelchair or a hospital bed. The only parts of her body that she can control are the thumb and forefinger of her right hand.

"I call it the fiery finger," she said. "When I start getting into Scripture, that

finger really starts going."

People who visit Slade in her grandmother's home, where she has been confined to a bed since May, have watched that fiery finger fly as she emphasizes points she is making.

Illnesses and conditions that include neuropathy, scoliosis, osteoporosis and the loss of a kidney have complicated Slade's life, but they haven't impeded her ministry, said John Tyler, senior

pastor at North Pointe Baptist Church in Hurst, Texas.

He called Slade "a prayer warrior and encourager in our church family."

One who has benefited from those talents, Dennis Bass, said Slade has talked him through some desperate times.

"She's helped me through depression," he said. "My mom passed away, and everyone said I couldn't make it without her. Susan helped me get

through that and through the anniversary of her death."

Slade's ability to intervene with God on others' behalf may be her strongest ability, Bass said.

"You can call on her anytime you have health problems, family problems, problems with finances, and she'll pray for you," Bass said. "It's like a miracle happens, and you just get through whatever it is."

My Answer

In heaven, there is complete healing and peace

By Billy Graham

Tribune Media Services

Q: I prayed and prayed that my mother would be healed, but she got steadily worse and finally died last month. Why did God turn a deaf ear to me? My mother's faith never wavered, but I can't say the same for me. - Mrs. V.K.

A: God doesn't always answer our prayers the way we wish He would - but He does answer them. He is never deaf to the prayers of His people! The Bible urges us to pray "on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests" (Ephesians 6: 18).

Hard as it may be for you to accept right now, God did answer your prayer for your mother's healing - because now she is in heaven, completely free from every pain and weakness she experienced in this life. One of the Bible's greatest promises is that some day we'll leave behind all the troubles and sorrows of this life. In heaven, the Bible says, "There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away" (Revelation 21:4).

This is true for your mother right now - and some day it will be true for you if you know Christ. I know you miss her very much, and you wish she hadn't been taken from you. But in the midst of your sorrow, may you turn to Christ and find comfort in Him. God's promise is true: "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints" (Psalm 116:15).

Remember: God knows what it is to experience sorrow - for He endured the greatest sorrow the universe would ever know: the death of His Son. But by His death, Christ won our salvation, and now we have hope - hope for this life, and hope for eternity. Make Him the center of your life - beginning today.

(Send your queries to "My Answer," c/o Billy Graham, Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, 1 Billy Graham Parkway, Charlotte, N.C., 28201; call 1-(877) 2-GRAHAM, or visit the Web site for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association: www.billygraham.org.)

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History of the World

By Mark Andrews

Tribune Media Services

Feb. 4: ON THIS DATE in 1858, a group met in Ripon, Wis., to discuss forming a new political party opposed to the extension of slavery. It became known as the Republican Party. In 1861, the Confederate States of America was formed.

Feb. 5: ON THIS DATE in 1937, President Roosevelt proposed increasing the number of Supreme Court justices; critics accused him of trying to "pack" the court with his allies. In 1962, French President Charles De Gaulle called for Algeria's independence.

Feb. 6: ON THIS DATE in 1778, France recognized the United States and signed a treaty of military aid; England declared war on France the same day. In 1952, Britain's King George VI died; he was succeeded by his daughter, Elizabeth, who still reigns.

Feb. 7: ON THIS DATE in 1812, author Charles Dickens was born in Portsmouth, England. In 1964, The Beatles began their first American tour as they arrived at New York's Kennedy International Airport.

Feb. 8: ON THIS DATE in 1904, the Russo-Japanese War began. In 1910, the Boy Scouts of America was incorporated.

Feb. 9: ON THIS DATE in 1861, the Provisional Congress of the Confederate States of America elected Jefferson Davis president and Alexander H. Stephens vice president. In 1943, the World War II battle of Guadalcanal ended with an American victory over Japanese forces in the Pacific.

Feb. 10: ON THIS DATE in 1763, France ceded Canada to England under the Treaty of Paris, which ended the French and Indian War. In 1962, the Soviet Union exchanged captured American U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers for Rudolph Abel, a Soviet spy held by the United States.

Answer to last week's question: This week in 1997, "The Simpsons" became the longest-running animated series in TV history with the airing of its 167th episode on Fox.

This week's question: In 1984, who succeeded Yuri Andropov as leader of the Soviet Union?

(mlandrews@embarqmail.com.)

Digital projection has drive-in movie theaters reeling

By Laura J. Nelson

Los Angeles Times (MCT)

As the night grew darker, a cold wind whipped across the asphalt expanse of the vintage Rubidoux Drive-In Theatre in Riverside, Calif. A howling gust banged open the door to the snack bar, where hot dogs glistened on metal spits and the black-and-white linoleum floor gleamed.

Quentin Tarantino's "Django Unchained" flickered to life on the colossal screen — for an audience of eight cars.

This time of year is always slow at drive-in theaters, which have been struggling with declining attendance for decades. But it's not just cold weather that has made this a winter of discontent. The digital revolution is here, and that could mean lights out for many of the nation's 368 surviving drive-ins.

Hollywood is expected to stop distributing 35-millimeter film prints to all U.S. theaters later this year. The vast majority of indoor theaters — hardtops, in drive-in lingo — have already converted to digital projectors, but 90 percent of drive-ins have not, according to an industry trade group. Conversion costs of \$70,000 or more per screen could be too expensive for many drive-ins.

The Rubidoux plans to convert to digital projection, but its owner says the switch will be a struggle for many others.

"There's been panic, definitely," Frank Huttering said. "Ma-and-pop outfits, second- or third-generation places, are hesitant to put up all that money."

The drive-in market today is a shell of what it was in the late 1950s, when teens and big families in big cars found drive-ins a fun alternative to indoor theaters. At their peak, there were more than 4,000 drive-ins, accounting for 25 percent of the nation's movie screens. Today, that's down to 1.5 percent.

By the late 1980s, more than three-quarters of American drive-ins had closed as multiplexes proliferated. Urban sprawl and soaring land values led many to be bulldozed to make way for malls and other commercial developments.

The drive-ins that survived have been doing better in the past decade, spurred partly by cost-conscious families who can see double features or first-run movies at half the price of the hardtops, said National Association of Theatre Owners spokesman Patrick Corcoran.

For younger audiences, there's the

chance to travel back in time.

"My car's pretty roomy, and it's chill to sit there together," said Casey Welch, 19, who was at the Rubidoux Drive-In with girlfriend Jonnie Byrd.

In most of the country, drive-ins close for the winter. Some may not reopen this spring because of the high cost of digital conversion, said John Vincent Jr., the president of the United Drive-In Theatre Owners Association. He declined to speculate on the number that may close.

"It's a tough pill to swallow," Vincent said. He plans to spend \$75,000 to convert the drive-in he owns on Mas-

But there is no such plan for drive-ins. Cinedigm and officials from the National Association of Theatre Owners said they are negotiating with the studios for a virtual print fee for drive-ins, but neither they nor studio officials could give details of the plan or say when it would be introduced.

The Rubidoux is owned by Los Angeles-based DeAnza Land & Leisure Corp. Huttering, De Anza's chief executive, said converting 21 screens at all six of his company's drive-ins would cost nearly \$2 million.

Drive-ins have unique projection needs. The booth typically sits more



Jeff Cunningham, 22, of Riverside, works in the projection room at the Rubidoux Drive-In Theater, in Riverside, California. Hollywood will stop producing 35-mm prints sometime this year, and drive-in theaters must switch to digital projection systems or risk going dark. The Rubidoux is one of eight drive-in theaters left in Southern California. (Francine Orr/Los Angeles Times/MCT)

sachusetts' Cape Cod.

More than a decade ago, Hollywood created a financing plan to help traditional indoor theaters with the digital transition. Each time a cinema shows a digital movie, the studios give them a "digital print fee" funded by the nearly \$1,300 that the studios save on making and shipping a 35-mm print, said Chris McGurk, the chairman and chief executive of Cinedigm, a digital equipment provider for theaters.

than a football field away from the screen, so the projector needs a much more powerful bulb to carry the image. Booths with a digital projector also need to be retrofitted with special glass, more vents, stronger air-conditioning and an Internet connection. Projectionists who used to put film onto reels will instead insert a jump-drive into a server the size of a refrigerator.

Jeff Kohlberg, the owner of the Cascade Drive-In in West Chicago,

created a Kickstarter online fundraising campaign to help pay for his \$100,000 conversion. He raised \$1,200. Because getting film this summer seems "wishy-washy at best," he's forging ahead, using extra profits from this year and some money from his landlord.

But some proprietors aren't so fortunate.

The family of Gerry Herring, owner of the Cottage View Drive-In in Cottage Grove, Minn., once owned 21 theaters in the Twin Cities. Converting his only remaining theater would cost Herring about \$75,000. Instead, he's selling the land to Wal-Mart.

"It's really kind of a stab in the heart to lose it," said Herring, pausing to clear his throat. "It's a part of our family."

Box office data isn't tracked separately for drive-ins. Many are small, family-owned operations that don't publicly report financial information.

There are also small chains. West Wind, a seven-theater circuit based in San Rafael, Calif., does plan to convert all its screens in California, with company spokesman Tony Maniscalco saying revenue rose 43 percent over the last three years.

The first U.S. drive-in opened in Camden, N.J., in 1933. A year later, California's first drive-in opened at the corner of Pico and Westwood boulevards in Los Angeles, a city built for the car.

Juan Gonzales took his first drive-in job in 1974. As drive-ins slowly succumbed to changing tastes and became sites for retailers, Gonzales began moving from theater to theater as each shut down. He worked at the Sundown in Whittier, Calif., now a Home Depot; the Rosecrans in Paramount, Calif., now an El Pollo Loco and a Wendy's; and the Sepulveda, the 101 and the Van Nuys, all now gone.

"It was like a culture that began to disappear," Gonzales said. "A piece that is missing in the heart of California."

Some drive-ins remain as sites for concerts and swap meets, but the only drive-in left in Los Angeles and Orange counties that shows movies is the Vineland Drive-In in the City of Industry, Calif., which Gonzales manages. Renovating all four screens would cost more than \$320,000, he said. Management is considering renting digital projectors as a stopgap for the next few years.

"We know it has to be done before the summer," Gonzales said. "We don't get digital, we don't get movies, we don't get business."

Weather Whys

Q: You sometimes hear the expression "diamond dust" in regard to weather. What is it?

A: Diamond dust occurs usually when the air is very cold, says Brent McRoberts of Texas A&M University. "The dust is not dust at all, but tiny ice crystals," he explains. "The dust is so fine that it hangs in the air, and when light is reflected off it, it produces some very strange looking beams that appear to go from the Earth straight up into the atmosphere."

Q: What are these light beams called?

A: The most common name for them is light pillars, McRoberts adds. "When light is bounced off of these ice crystals — light from car headlights, streetlights, outdoor signs or other means — the light forms a pillar of light that is very unusual looking. Diamond dust can also be produced as a halo around the moon or sun on cold days. This dust often occurs in very cold regions and can frequently be observed in Alaska, Canada and Siberia and is most often seen at night."

Weather Whys is a service of the Department of Atmospheric Sciences at Texas A&M University.

Weather Whys is a service of the Department of Atmospheric Sciences at Texas A&M University.

Union membership falls to 11.3%, declines to 1930s level

By Todd Spangler
Detroit Free Press (MCT)

WASHINGTON — Union membership in the U.S. dropped half a percentage point in 2012 to levels not believed to be seen since the 1930s, driven largely by a decline in the number of government employees who are union members.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics has released its estimates of union membership for last year based on the Current Population Survey, a monthly sample of 60,000 households nationwide. It found the percent of wage and salary workers who were members of a union declining from 11.8 percent in 2011 to 11.3 percent last year. It estimated that 14.4 million workers belonged to a union.

California continued to lead the nation in terms of union members with 2.5 million. New York had the highest percentage of workers belonging to a union, at 23.2 percent.

Overall, union membership rates declined in 34 states, rose in 14 others as well as the District of Columbia, and remained unchanged in two.

Union membership is the lowest since the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics began estimating data on wage and salary workers in 1983, when union membership was 20.1 percent and there were 17.7 million union work-

California continues to lead the nation in terms of union members with 2.5 million.

ers. A Congressional Research Service report from 2004 suggests last year's rate is the lowest since sometime in the 1930s.

According to the BLS, the public sector continued to have a much higher union membership rate — at 35.9 percent — than private-sector workers,

at 6.6 percent. Workers in education, training and library services had the highest unionization rates in the private sector, at 35.4 percent.

Public sector, or government, rates of union membership saw the steepest drops, year-to-year, however. The majority of unionized workers remained in local government, with membership rates still above 40 percent of the total.

In manufacturing, 1.3 million workers — 9.6 percent of the industry's total — were union members, down from 1.4 million workers, or 10.5 percent of the total, a year ago.

Lowe's to hire 45,000 seasonal workers in spring

(Continued from Page 1)

"We are focused on providing customers with outstanding service," said Scott Purvis, vice president of human resources, in a statement. "We are looking for candidates who are experienced in any of the home improvement trades, and, most importantly, those who are committed to providing Lowe's customers an exceptional service experience."

Lowe's cut back some of its full-time employees last year in favor of more flexible, part-time workers. The company laid off about 1,700 middle managers in its stores, or about one per location.

The increased number of seasonal hires at Lowe's this year likely reflects an anticipated rise in the housing and home improvement markets. The Joint Center for Housing Studies at Harvard University said this month that spending on home improvement increased 9 percent in 2012. The center found that people were spending more upgrading their homes after years of holding back, and that improvements to the 2.9 million homes in or at risk of foreclosure will likely represent sources of future spending growth.

PET WORLD

Cat's inappropriate urination

By Steve Dale

Tribune Media Services

Q: Chuck Norris has been urinating inappropriately. He and our other male cat have lived together since they were littermates. Chuck Norris tends to go on our dog's little couches. We tried buying new couches, and now we pick the couches when the dogs aren't using them. I must say, Chuck Norris is an easily stressed out cat.

Recently, one of our cats started peeing behind the litter boxes in the basement. It might be our other cat, Spike. I'll try to remove the litter box covers and see if that helps. My husband and I are reaching our limit on this issue. Soon, the only answer may be no more cats. Any advice? - L.M., Cyberspace

A: I'm surprised that a cat named Chuck Norris can't get his act together. Veterinary behaviorist Dr. Ilana Reisner, of Philadelphia, Pa., says, "You're doing a lot, but you didn't say that both cats had a thorough veterinary exam. You also didn't mention the ages of the cats, but certainly if they are older, I'm thinking about hyperthyroid (disease)."

If these cats only have two litter boxes, both located in the basement, this could also explain the problem. For starters, arthritis in cats is under diagnosed, and as cats age, navigating steps in the dark is not so easy, so they just don't bother to find the litter box. Regardless of your cats' ages, add a litter box at the main level of the house since the rule is one more box than the number of cats in the home.

"Basements aren't all bad," adds Reisner. "A basement may offer security and privacy, which some cats prefer."


For a specific response, it's important to determine if the cat with the problem is spraying (which is territorial vertical marking, often dripping down from furniture or walls) or voiding (simply urinating on a flat surface). There's a distinct behavior difference between the two. In any case, using Feliway (a copy of a comforting feline pheromone) is a good idea to reduce stress. Since you point out that Chuck Norris is easily stressed, hang in there with the Feliway.

Send e-mail to PETWORLD@STEVE DALE.TV. Include your name, city and state.)

See who is waiting for you at SPCA-BC



Are you looking to adopt a cat? Calie is an orange, black and white spayed adult Tortoiseshell mix who is declawed. Spottie is a black and white adult male Pointer mix. Come by the SPCA-BC Shelter at 141 Canna Ln., Lake Jackson, or we are at Brazos Mall, Petco and Petsmart every Saturday, to visit with Calie, Spottie and their many friends. Kennel sponsorships are now available for large or small kennels. Why not have your company or family recognized with a plaque to show you care. Call (979) 285-2340, ext. 100, or visit www.spcabc.org for details. Help control the pet population. Have your pet spayed or neutered. Come by the SPCA-BC and fill out an application today.



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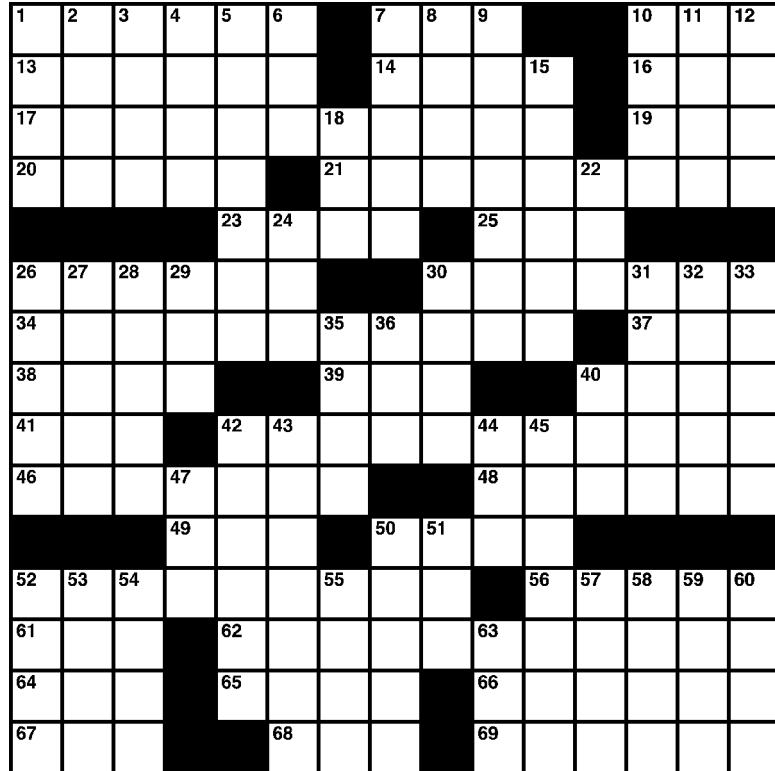
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Bulletin Crossword Puzzle of the Week

Across
 1 Wasn't renewed
 7 Fiend's tail?
 10 Biographical datum
 13 World Cup chant
 14 They're "high" but not dry
 16 Little shaver
 17 *The Music Man" number
 19 Ginormous
 20 Early computer
 21 *Sweet stocking stuffer
 23 Not quite a compulsion

25 W-2 info: Abbr.
 26 Perceptive
 30 Predecessor of 33-Down
 34 *Lead singer in No Doubt's hit "Don't Speak"
 37 Bee fore?
 38 Plate in a park
 39 Took by the hand
 40 Aptly named movie channel
 41 Ernst contemporary
 42 *Instrument using rolls
 46 Grab ahold of, as an idea



Solutions on the right side of this page

VocabPower!

"Bilious jeremiads" works like a one-two punch in an article by a *New Republic* editor (M.Crowley). While the former in that duet stems from a liver secretion (bile), the latter harks back to an OT prophet (Jeremiah). More from Crowley below.

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. bilious
A. peevish
B. drunken | C. squeamish
D. wild-eyed | 6. disenchanted
A. ostracized
B. out of luck | C. disconnected
D. disillusioned |
| 2. jeremiad
A. dilemma
B. doom cry | C. prophecy
D. rally call | 7. tepid
A. fearful
B. pale | C. halfhearted
D. temporary |
| 3. doldrums
A. handouts
B. supplies | C. slump time
D. drum beat | 8. idiosyncratic
A. simplistic
B. peculiar | C. outlandish
D. interrelated |
| 4. dotage
A. senility
B. balance | C. indulgence
D. time period | 9. prurient
A. pure
B. preserved | C. sex-crazed
D. expedient |
| 5. looming
A. peering
B. weaving | C. impending
D. overpowering | 10. Gomorrah
A. war god
B. battle site | C. wicked place
D. stone altar |

answers: 1a 2b 3c 4a 5c 6d 7c 8b 9c 10c — Greg Wilkinson

In memory of Greg Wilkinson

48 Cross to bear
 49 Trivial amount
 50 Sandbox sight
 52 *Seven-time Grammy-winning jazz singer
 56 Tibetan capital
 61 Showy wrap
 62 Words in a classic game show that can be followed by the ends of the answers to starred clues
 64 Lumber tree
 65 Geological time division
 66 Fare-minded one?
 67 Family pooch
 68 Command to a 67-Across
 69 WWII fleet

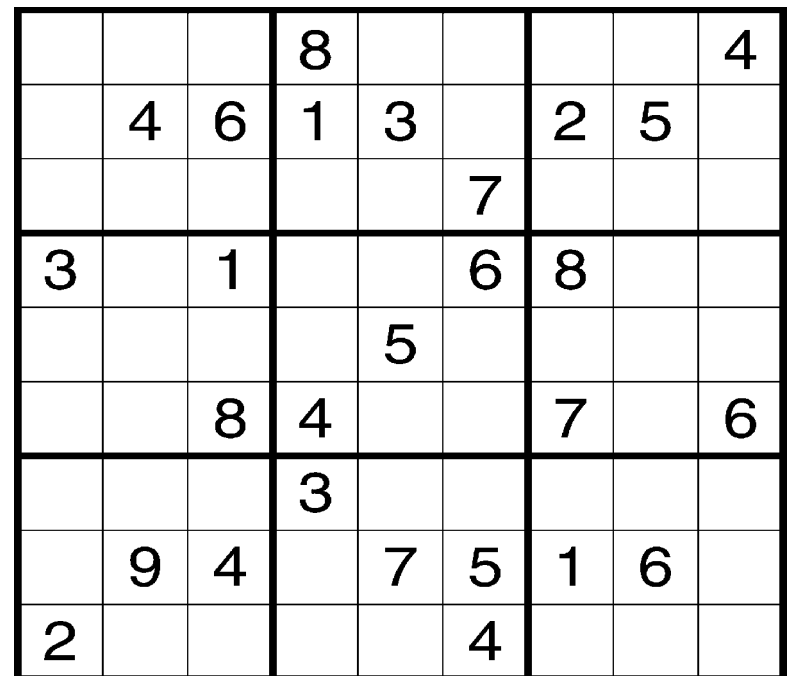
Down
 1 Prime seating
 2 Rickman of Harry Potter films
 3 Prefix with meter
 4 Miso bean
 5 Extracts
 6 Place to relax
 7 Hoops legend Thomas
 8 Penn of "Milk"
 9 Like computer lab learning
 10 Goya's "Duchess of ___"
 11 Put on a spare tire?
 12 Upper hand
 15 Greets someone with more than a nod
 18 LXX x X
 22 MSNBC rival
 24 Vietnamese holiday marking the arrival of spring
 26 Ottoman big shots
 27 Talked a blue streak?
 28 Musical speeds
 29 French article
 30 Shade of green
 31 Leaves for lunch?
 32 Speak one's mind
 33 Successor to 30-Across
 35 Pizazz
 36 Tina of "30 Rock"
 40 Tree often brought into the house
 42 Illinois River port
 43 French pilgrimage site
 44 DH's stat
 45 Can opener
 47 When doubled, sister of Eva
 50 A stripper takes it off
 51 Arctic diver
 52 Genesis shepherd
 53 1970 Kinks classic
 54 It's perpendicular to a threshold
 55 "The Time Machine" race
 57 Vagabond
 58 "Take a Chance on Me" quartet
 59 Dressy duds
 60 Thumbs-up votes
 63 Former French coin

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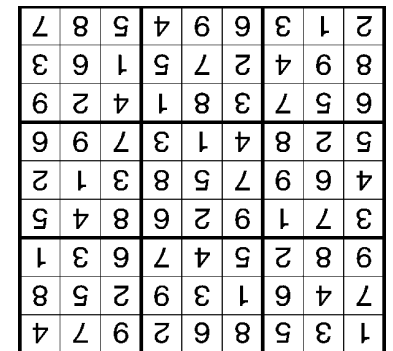
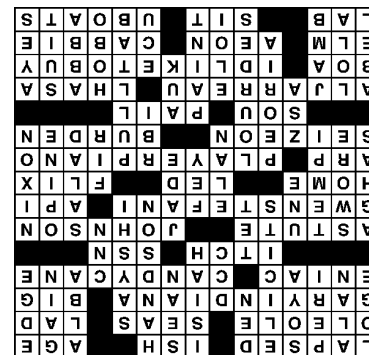
SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.

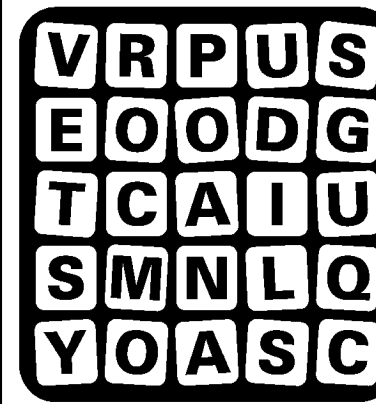


Solutions



Boggle BrainBusters!

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



INSTRUCTIONS: Find as many words as you can by linking letters up, down, side-to-side and diagonally, writing words on a blank sheet of paper. You may only use each letter box once within a single word. Play with a friend and compare word finds, crossing out common words.

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| BOGGLE POINT SCALE | YOUR BOGGLE RATING |
| 3 letters = 1 point | 151+ = Champ |
| 4 letters = 2 points | 101-150 = Expert |
| 5 letters = 3 points | 61-100 = Pro |
| 6 letters = 4 points | 31-60 = Gamer |
| 7 letters = 6 points | 21-30 = Rookie |
| 8 letters = 10 points | 11-20 = Amateur |
| 9+ letters = 15 points | 0-10 = Try again |

Boggle BrainBusters Bonus
 We put special brain-busting words into the puzzle grid. Can you find them?
 Find SIX MOLLUSKS in the grid of letters. Write your answers below.

Boggle Answers
 CLEAN SLUG SOUND SNAIL SYSTEM OCTOPUS

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

KORJE



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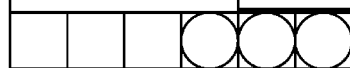
HORTT



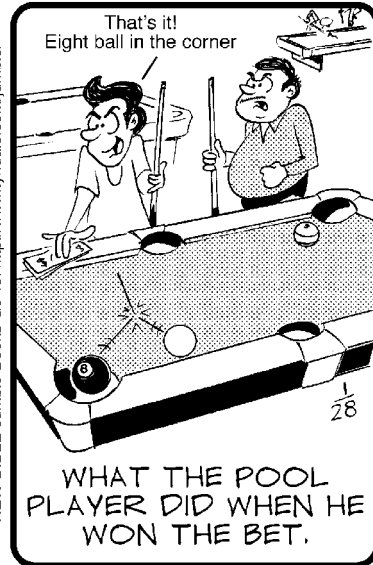
DIMPIL



TEFNIC



THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Mike Argirion and Jeff Knurek



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Ans: " "

Jumble Answers
Jumbles: JOKER TROTH LIMPID INFECT
Answer: What the pool player did when he won the bet -- "POCKETED"

NEW BIBLE Jumble Books Go To: <http://www.lyndale.com/jumble/>

Bulletin Horoscope

Tribune Media Services

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Start your engines. You don't have to be great to get started, but you have to get started to be great. This is a great week to begin any enterprise that depends upon networking or widespread publicity.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Cooperation makes the good times better and the hard times easier. An upfront forgiving nature and sincere approach makes you the go-to person to mend social situations in the upcoming week.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Develop a dialog. Make a point of talking to people directly, rather than talking about people. This is a week in which you will find that your capacity for sympathy and imagination is greater than usual.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Help yourself by helping others. Although you may be focused on your ambitions in the

week to come, you may be called upon to help others achieve theirs, as well. All parties will benefit.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Drive and ambition fuel your workweek. You won't need caffeine-laced power drinks for energy if you concentrate on doing the things that pique your passions. Accept spur-of-the-moment invitations.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): In the coming week, you are often reminded that knowledge shouldn't be mistaken for wisdom. Money may be judiciously spent for what you've already determined to be a good cause.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't settle for being someone's part-time, downtime or sometime love. In the week ahead, you might find that you have mistaken a true friendship for true love - or that someone wants more freedom.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Peace returns when you choose to not allow other people and outside circumstances to control your emotions. In the week ahead, achieve your fondest ambitions

by playing to your strengths.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Generosity begets generosity. Even if you are riveted on moneymaking projects in the week ahead, never forget to share with others. People are willing to support you and help you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): When you are pleased by achievements, you are often rewarded by pleasing others, too. In the upcoming week, you may be immersed in material success, but won't lose sight of spiritual goals.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Treat people well and you'll help them become what they are capable of becoming. When you are the center of attention in the week ahead, remember to be grateful for the admirers who put you there.

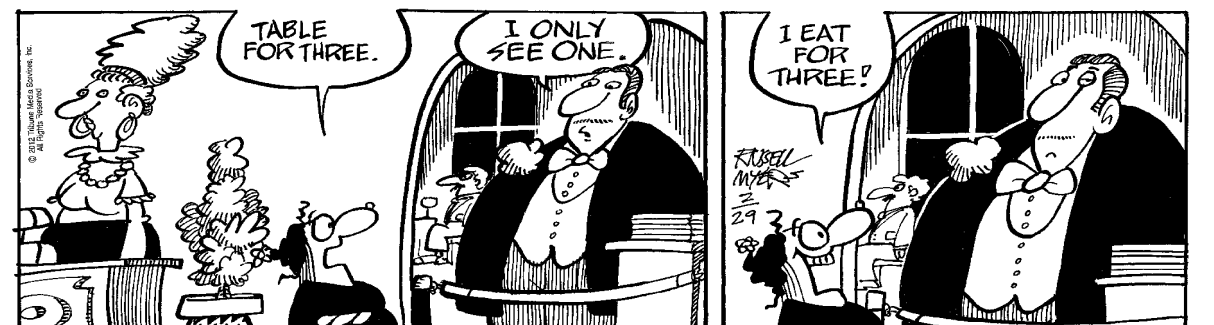
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): What you perceive as things falling apart might actually be things falling in place. Follow through on promises in the week to come. Focus on following wise advice obtained from partners and friends.

THE MIDDLETONS



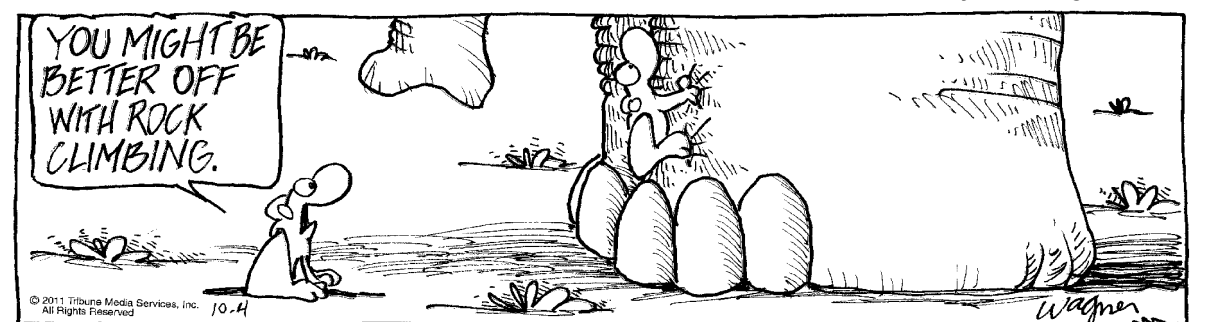
By Ralph Dunagin and Dana Summers

BROOM HILDA



By Russel Myers

ANIMAL CRACKERS



By Fred Wagner

Try This

You'll need

- Two small jars that fit together (baby food jars work well)
- Kitchen sink
- Food coloring
- Waxed paper or index cards
- Scissors
- Large baking pan
- Adult helper

Nervous water

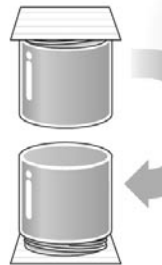
In this experiment, hot water acts like it is in a hurry to go somewhere else.

- 1 Cut card or waxed paper into a 3 in. (8 cm) square
- 2 Fill one jar with very hot water and a drop of red color and put in pan

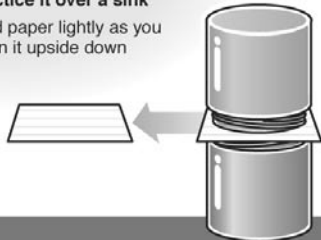


Fill other jar with cold water and blue coloring

- 3 Add a little more cold water to blue jar until water rises just above the edge
Put card or waxed paper on top and press down gently

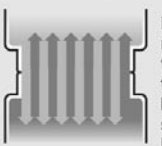


- 4 This part is tricky; practice it over a sink
Pick up blue jar and hold paper lightly as you smoothly and rapidly turn it upside down
No need to hold paper after you flip jar



- 5 Put blue jar on red jar and pull the paper out from between them

What happened?



Hot red water rushes from the bottom to the top, and blue water sinks into the lower jar

That's because hot water is **less dense** (lighter) than cold water

In case you wondered, the card stayed on the blue jar because air pressure pushed upward on it



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Source: Exploratorium

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