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Better Home Living

The Newsletter That's Both Informative and Fun!

Learn How to be 'Lucky' in Life

If it seems like other people get more lucky breaks than you do, it's time to figure out why. Some clues:

- * They have that can-do attitude and feel they can grab onto an opportunity when it comes their way. They expect to be winners.
- * Lucky people enjoy talking to strangers. They smile and say "hello." Other people's stories can be enlightening and may result in friendship or beneficial contacts, says Keith Ferrazzi in his book *Never Eat Alone*.
- * Notice that they keep their options open instead of having a single-minded devotion to one goal. They, and you, have more options than you think.
- * The lucky ones build strong relationships at work that help to bring them success. Their social network outside work is a source of information and of support in difficult times.
- * Getting more luck involves saying "yes" when you'd rather say "no." Say yes to serving on committees, running for office or working for charities.
- * Always do your best work even if you think the task is unimportant. You'll get a reputation as the go-to person.
- * Practice "counter-factual" thinking. The degree to which you think something is fortunate or not is the degree to which you will generate alternatives. The unlucky person is distraught over having a car accident, for example. The lucky person is thankful that he wasn't killed, and makes friends with the other driver and people at the scene of the accident.
- * Taking calculated risks can increase your good luck. Lucky people always want something new. They try new things, go to new places or take on work outside of their comfort zone.
- * Enjoy yourself and have a balanced life. Maintain good relationships, explore a satisfying hobby and make physical fitness a priority. Try to do most of these things and continue to help others. Good luck will come to you.



We hope you enjoy this month's newsletter!

Mari and Staff

Mobile Phones, Tablet Computers Will Soon Change the Ways of the ATM

In Chicago, the huge Wintrust Financial bank has been testing its mobile-cash feature among employees. It plans to release the new ATM to the public later this year. Here's how it works. A customer uses an iPhone app to request \$20 from a nearby ATM. Passing the cash machine, she scans it with her phone and retrieves the bill. The process is faster than finding and opening a wallet then inserting it into a cash machine. About half of financial institutions surveyed by CEB Tower Group plan to replace their ATMs within three years. This demand is unprecedented, experts say. Banks across the country and world are now looking into mobile cash and ATMs that have the same touchscreen experience as an iPad. ATM makers will copy tablet-style operation using drags of a finger across a touchscreen. The new ATMs will allow banks to staff their branches more lightly. About 95 percent of transactions you do in a teller line could be done at an ATM.



September is National Wilderness Month

For the fourth consecutive year, September is National Wilderness Month, decreed by President Barack Obama.

Wilderness is a "made in America" concept that is unique to our country. The United States boasts nearly 110 million acres of wilderness that are owned by every American. Wilderness protects clean drinking water and healthy air for surrounding communities and people near and far enjoy wilderness for its unparalleled recreational experiences.

As President Obama said in his proclamation: "Our wilderness areas reflect an essential part of our national character, and as a people, we are immeasurably richer for their presence... Our open spaces are more precious today than ever before, and it is essential that we come together to protect them for the next generation."

We celebrate National Wilderness Month this year, and gear up for the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act in 2014.

Do You Know ...

Someone that could use our services? Perhaps a friend, family member, co-worker, or someone from church?

When a new client signs up for regular cleaning services at your recommendation; you will receive \$50 off your cleaning after their 3rd cleaning!

If you would think of 3 or 4 people that could use our services, then don't hesitate to call them and give them our name and phone number. Be sure to have them mention your name when they call so we can send your Bonus!

Thanks in advance for your confidence in us!

Thanks a Bunch!

Will Definitely Use Mari's Services Again!!

Read all the wonderful reviews and decided to give Mari a call. She has her work crew come out and clean my Aunt and Uncle's home in Sun City. They did a *FANTASTIC* job and we will definitely use them again!!

-Happy Customer
Arizona

Secure Your Phone Data

Lose your smartphone and someone could have access to everything from your address to your financial data. Not a happy thought. But you can protect your information.

1. Put in a password or pin number. You will have to enter it before you use the phone. Might be inconvenient, but it will have the added benefit of making pocket dialing impossible.

2. Set up tracking. Android users can use the free app Android Lost. The iPhone comes with Find My iPhone, which you must activate on the device through iCloud. Windows phone users can log in to their Microsoft accounts to use the built-in Find My Phone feature.

3. Beware of unknown apps. Anyone can build an app for a phone; make sure you aren't getting one built by a thief. Use reputable app websites.

For online activity, using your cellular data plan helps keep your information safe. Install updates as soon as you receive them, and log out of banking and other sensitive apps after you use them.



"I think, 'Sometimes misses the litter box' is too much information."

Dentists Offer Nine Ways to Improve Your Smile

If you're considering a dental makeover, Johns Hopkins Medicine gives this rundown of products and options. Costs will vary depending on the amount of work to be done and your location.

1. Tooth Whitening. Professional bleaching costs about \$600 and takes from 45 minutes to two hours. Laser whitening costs about \$1,000.

2. Veneers. The custom-made plastic or porcelain moldings cover teeth and last up to 15 years. They cost \$700 to \$2,500 per tooth. Synthetic veneers cost about \$250 but last only five to seven years.

3. Bonding. The least expensive way to fill cracks or chips, the material is matched to the shade of teeth then applied, smoothed and hardened. It costs \$300 to \$600 per tooth.

4. Crowns. Made of porcelain, they are attached after a root canal to protect what's left of the original tooth. The cost is \$600 to \$3,100 each, depending on the amount of work to be done.

5. Dental implants. One of the most expensive option, a surgeon implants a metal post into the jaw where the tooth will be placed and cements a crown to the post. A basic implant costs \$1,250 to \$3,000, but additional work may be required, which can escalate costs to \$15,000 or more.

6. Gum surgery. To remove tissue scarred by periodontal disease, the surgeon reshapes the gums using tissue taken from the palate.

7. Braces. Invisible ceramic braces cost \$3,000 to \$7,000. If you have veneers, you'll need old fashioned braces because ceramic won't attach to them.

8. Permanent bridges. They include one or more false teeth implanted between two porcelain crowns. It costs \$500 to \$900 per tooth.

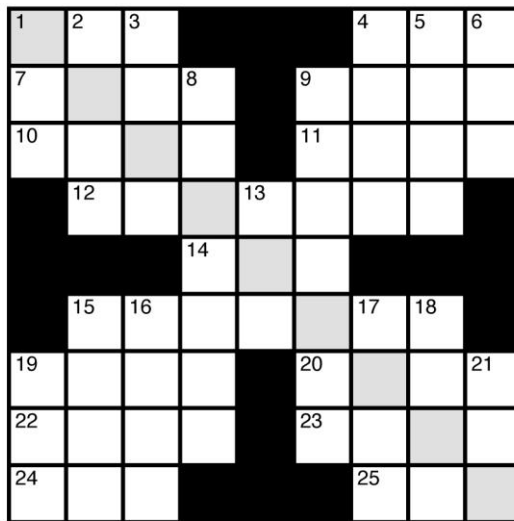
9. Dentures. Removable dentures are typically made of acrylic resin, metal or porcelain. They can be partial or complete, depending on how many teeth you're missing. The removables cost \$500 and up. A full set costs \$2,500 or more.



Football Game Crossword

Across

1. Maidenform product
4. Gun, as an engine
7. Brewer's equipment
9. Bigger than big
10. 12-point type
11. Alternative to Windows
12. Preferences
14. Lizard, old-style
15. Renting
19. Checker, perhaps
20. Not on the rocks
22. Muslim holy man
23. Big bash
24. Tartan cap
25. Part of ROYGBIV



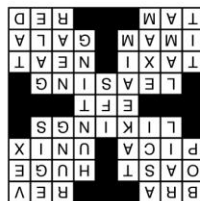
Down

1. Bonk
2. Commuter line
3. Fungal spore sacs
4. Ladder crosspiece
5. Auspices
6. Bedevil
8. Draw a bead on
9. Tracking down
13. Uncertainties

15. Tibetan monk
16. Midterm, for one
17. Within reach
18. Big wind
19. Small songbird
21. Tiny bit

Note: the title is a clue to the word in the

shaded diagonal.



Trivia Teaser - Cat-echism

1. Who played the hapless police detective, Inspector Clouseau, in the "Pink Panther" movies? a-Leslie Nielsen, b-Peter Sellers, c-Peter Falk, d-George C. Scott.

2. In the Bible, who was put into the lion's den by King Darius? a-Daniel, b-Job, c-Moses, d-Methuselah.

3. What snack food is promoted by Chester Cheetah? a-Snickers, b-Lays Potato Chips, c-Bugles, d-Cheetos.

4. What actress was left with a lifelong fear of cats after she was mauled by a lion while making the 1972 Disney movie "Napoleon and Samantha?" a-Annette Funicello, b-Kim Richards, c-Hayley Mills, d-Jodie Foster.

5. What baseball manager won 863 games in nine years with the Cincinnati Reds and 1,331 games in 17 seasons with the Detroit Tigers? a-Tommy Lasorda, b-Tony La Russa, c-Sparky Anderson, d-Joe Torre.

6. Who played pool hall owner Sam the Lion in "The Last Picture Show?" a-Wilford Brimley, b-James Garner, c-Jack Lemmon, d-Ben Johnson.

7. Who played mob kingpin Tony "The Tiger" Russo in "Married to the Mob?" a-James Caan, b-Dean Stockwell, c-Robert De Niro, d-Alec Baldwin.

8. Which member of the cat family lacks climbing abilities and is placed in its own genus, Acinonyx? a-Mountain lion, b-Ocelot, c-Cheetah, d-Tiger.

9. Who played the title character in the comic film western "Cat Ballou?" a-Jane Fonda, b-Lee Marvin, c-Michael Crawford, d-Terence Hill.

10. What was the name of the talking cat who was a member of the household on "Sabrina the Teenage Witch?" a-Sheila, b-Salem, c-Squeaky, d-Simon.

- 10-b, Salem
9-a, Jane Fonda
8-c, Cheetah
7-b, Dean Stockwell
6-d, Ben Johnson
5-c, Sparky
4-d, Jodie Foster
3-d, Cheetos
2-a, Daniel
1-b, Peter Sellers
Cat-echism

Make a Fan Cleaning Tool with Items You Already Have

Cleaning ceiling fans is an aggravating job. You can get the blades clean, but the dust falls below onto the kitchen table or the living room floor. And you probably have to tackle fans in more rooms than one or two.

Cleaning ceiling fans:

* You can solve these problems by taking a few minutes to make your own cleaning tool. All you need is a new paint roller, an extension pole for the paint roller frame, a couple of dryer sheets, and two rubber bands.

* Put the sheets around the roller, overlapping them, and wrap with a rubber band at each end.

* Slide the roller onto the frame and attach the frame to the extension pole. Now you're ready to clean.

* Carefully roll your tool over the top sides of the blades. Keep rolling over the blades from the center outward. The roller sheet will collect the dust without allowing it to fall.

Getting rid of cobwebs:

* When you're finished with the fans, change the dryer sheets. Then you can use your tool to get rid of cobwebs on the ceiling and in hard-to-reach places like around ceiling mounted lights and where the ceiling meets the wall.

Cleaning wooden blinds:

* Here's a tip for cleaning 2-inch wooden blinds or shutters at the windows.

Advisor Shelly Miller Leer, writing in the Indianapolis Star recommends using wet Magic Eraser cloths from Mr. Clean.

* The cloths need to be rinsed often, but they will pick up all the dirt, dust and nicotine that may have accumulated on the slats over several months.

Seven Layer Taco Dip!

The perfect way to celebrate Labor Day!

Prep: 30 minutes

Ready: 30 minutes



Ingredients:

- 1 ounce package taco seasoning mix
- 1 can refried beans (16 oz)
- 1 package of cream cheese, softened
- 1 container of sour cream (16 oz)
- 1 jar of salsa (16 oz)
- 1 large tomato, chopped
- 1 green bell pepper, chopped
- 1 bunch chopped green onions
- 1 small head iceberg lettuce, shredded
- 1 can sliced black olives, drained
- 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese

Directions:

- In a medium bowl, blend the taco seasoning mix and refried beans. Spread the mixture onto a large serving platter.
- Mix the sour cream and cream cheese in a medium bowl. Spread over the refried beans.
- Top the layers with salsa. Place a layer of tomato, green bell pepper, green onions and lettuce over the salsa, and top with Cheddar cheese. Garnish with black olives.

Don't forget to "like" us on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/MarisCleaning>

Fall Color Tours: Drive, Fly or Take a Train Tour to See the Beautiful Trees

October is usually the month for fall color, but Mother Nature has a mind of her own, so predicting the days when fall foliage will peak in various areas is risky at best.

For wonderfully relaxing and inspiring fall foliage tour, plan ahead.

Elevation and climate have everything to do with fall colors.

In New England, the famous colors of fall start to develop in mid-September with full displays in northern Maine and Vermont by the last week in September. To time your trip visit, yankeefoliage.com.

In the Great Smoky Mountains of North Carolina and Tennessee, leaves begin to turn first at higher elevations in early to mid-October. Take the Blue Ridge Parkway early in October for fabulous high elevation color displays. At lower elevations you can catch nice displays from mid-October to early November when the famous sugar maples, red maples, sweetgum, oaks and hickories blaze forth.

Ohio, with its rolling hills, peppered with creeks and caves, is replete with wonderful driving tours. In Southern Ohio, near Bainbridge, the Fall Festival of Leaves begins October 17 with at least seven recommended skyline drives.

You'll find similar itineraries in New England for drives in Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont.

If you want to be immersed in color try a train ride with hotel accommodations and fancy hotel dinners. Visit vacationsbyrail.com or call (877) 929-7245.

If you are looking for a pleasant afternoon drive, check out any forest in your area. Autumn paints the world with wonderful colors right next door to your home.

Take the Trivia Challenge!

The Wilderness Act is celebrating which anniversary in September 2014?

1 – 20th 2 – 25th 3 – 40th 4 – 50th

HINT: The answer is hidden somewhere in this newsletter.

"I can do everything through Him who gives me strength"

-Philippians 4:13