



Thoughts from the Crawlspace

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NEWSLETTER DATE

May Dates:

- 1-31, National Bike Month
- 4, National Teacher Day
- 5, Cinco de Mayo
- 6, National Day of Prayer
- 8, Military Spouse Appreciation Day
- 9, Mother's Day
- 17, Armed Forces Day
- 31, Memorial Day

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Pest thought for the month:

Termites eat wood faster if loud music is played in the house!

Motor Trouble or Fender Bender?

Stay in your car until help arrives. Standing on the highway by a disabled car can be a fatal mistake.

In one case, two Indiana women were surveying the damage caused by a fender bender. A tow-truck driver didn't notice them, and one of them was struck and killed. The other was seriously injured.

A few days earlier, a woman was killed as she hastily crossed a highway on foot after her car broke down.

At about the same time, in Virginia, a father and son were killed by a truck after they stopped to offer help to a stranded motorist.

State police and the American Automobile Association give this advice:

* Pull the vehicle off the

road, activate emergency flashers and call for help. Stay in the car. If you have to get out, get away from the vehicle as quickly as you can.



Safe driving is a must. You don't want your vehicle to end up like this one.

* If you are on a middle lane of an Interstate, the AAA recommends activating emergency flashers. Georgia

State Police recommend staying inside the car where you at least have some protection. AAA recommends getting out of the car to the side of the road, if it can be done safely.

* Never stand directly in front of or behind a vehicle in case it is struck by another car or truck.

Each year, 16 percent of pedestrian fatalities occur on freeways, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. They don't track how many of those victims got out of stranded vehicles.

In any case, the worst thing you can do is to stand around outside the vehicle while waiting for help.

Drivers approaching in a line of cars and trucks will not see you until it's too late.



Don't Let the Bedbugs Bite

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In my childhood, it was common to say "goodnight" followed by the phrase "don't let the bedbugs bite". Past generations had legitimate concerns about the infestation of bedbugs and what chaos they created. However, until recently, bedbugs were not as common and not regularly thought of as a noticeable pest. Unfortunately, they are making a comeback.

To protect yourself, identify them, and help prevent the spread, I have included a few facts that you may find helpful.

Bedbugs are found in every state and are generally around 3/16" of an inch and reddish-brown in color. They are "cigar-shaped" and flat. Sometimes they are no larger than the head of a pin. Bedbugs do not have any body hair-which distinguishes it from the bat bug. They have 3 segments in their beak and 4 segments in their antennae. (You will probably need a good magnifying glass to confirm that). The good news (sort of) is that their entire life cycle is around 1.5

years. The bad news is that around 70 degrees, 40 bedbugs can produce around 6000 bedbugs in 6 months. (I'm starting to itch).

Bedbugs feed between the hours of 12:00pm and 3:00am and take about 3-10 minutes to fill up on human blood. When feeding, their body changes from flat to swollen while they eat 2-6 X their body weight. They can travel about 4' per minute and will travel up to 100' in one night. They will bite on any exposed skin. (Fleas commonly only bite the



Penguin chicks are totally dependent on their parents until they have shed their down feathers and get waterproof feathers.

Creation Minute

Did You Know?

- When an emperor dives deep, its heart rate lowers by 15%—that's 72 beats per minute.
- Emperors, as well as other penguins, have special glands between their eyes that rid the body of extra salt.
- All penguins have a gland located at the base of their tail that produces oil. Penguins use the oil to waterproof their feathers.
- While on land, emperor penguins rest their weight on their heels. This position lowers the contact penguins have with the icy ground.
- Baby penguins, called chicks, eat regurgitated

food from their parents. The penguin's color is a perfect camouflage. In the water, its dark back blends into the dark ocean floor when seen from above; and its light stomach blends into the bright surface when seen from below.

To read the article in its entirety, go to:

<http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/am/v3/n1/emperor-of-ice>

Visit **The Creation Museum** for more information about **Creation Science**.

<http://creationmuseum.org/>

"Don't plant more garden than you can maintain."

Garden News

According to Burpee Seed company, a pack of green bean seeds will produce a \$75 crop. The lowly potato will give back at least \$5 for every \$1 in seeds that you sow.

Six tomato plants can produce 12 to 15 tomatoes a day at their peak, enough for eating, cooking, and freezing for winter stews or spaghetti sauce. Six pepper plants

will do almost the same thing.

If you have the space, a few rows of sweet corn will produce more than you can use, but it's good eatin' when you cut the corn from the cob, bring it to a boil and freeze it for the winter.

The moral of this story: Don't plant more garden than you can maintain.

One

That's the number of regular-season National Football League games that will be played in Britain this season. A second game was scheduled to be played at London's Wembley Stadium but was cancelled because of the British economy.



Don't forget to thank our troops and the veterans of all the wars fought for freedom!



Thinking about Your Communications

There are people who keep their to-do lists in a notebook. At the end of each week, they can look at it and be pleased about their successes and aggravated by their procrastinations.

Here's another good idea: At the end of the week, think back on the words you have spoken to co-workers and people who work for you. You won't have much trouble

remembering various conversations.

On the plus side, you will think of your words of encouragement, those that made people feel uplifted, and words that made them be engaged and cooperative.

Your second list won't be as nice. Stop to think of words that were harmful. What did you say about someone whose name came up at a meeting? Did you say something that made someone feel ashamed if they overheard your remarks? Did you criticize peo-

ple rather than the jobs they did?

Some combinations of words are powerful in a positive way: "I made a mistake." "What is your opinion?" "We ..."

There are many others. A business professor at Indiana Wesleyan University says it's valuable to intentionally use positive expressions like these.

The power of carefully chosen words can build trust and create the kind of workplace where people want to contribute their very best.

Vacation? Check the Multitude of Free Offers for Kids



Sunset, warmth, Paradise ...sounds like the place where I want to be.

Before finalizing your summer travel plans, check with hotels and resorts to see which have the most free offers for children. They may include:

* **A free stay.** All-inclusive resorts and big hotels are offering freebies like not charging for kids if they sleep in the room with you. Free meals and free activities for

them are a plus. Hotels and resorts know that when the kids are happy, the parents will be happy too.

* **A free cruise.** Crystal Cruises and others let kids age 17 and under share their parents' cabins free of charge. They offer many family enrichments and activities. When the ship is in a port, you and your children will enjoy exploring the cities Crystal visits, including London and Copenhagen.

* **Rocky Mountain skiing for free.** Several resorts offer free programs and free ski days to kids who visit there with their parents. Some resorts offer free flights to their location.

* **Free assistance on bike trips.** Renting bicycles is a great way to see the countryside, but what will you do if someone in your party has a flat tire or a two-wheel fender bender? No worries. There is no charge assistance available at more than 200 bike rental agencies in the US and Canada.



"What chefs at fine establishments want to suggest is that their foods are unique to their own restaurants."

'Housemade' Is Not in the Dictionary, But It Is on the Menu

No one is sure who first used "housemade" on a menu, but the new word du jour is now found on updated menus in fine restaurants.

As reported in Newsweek, it is used to describe such menu choices as "housemade morel gnocchi with morel ragout," "cheeseburger with housemade pickles," and "housemade pecan sticky bun."

At menupages.com, they say 244 New York restaurants now

have housemade choices, 118 restaurants in Los Angeles use the term, as do 112 in Washington, D.C. In San Francisco, 176 restaurants offer housemade choices and 192 still say their choice is homemade.

What chefs at fine establishments want to suggest is that their foods are unique to their own restaurants. Further, they say homemade sounds amateurish, while housemade indicates quality.



David Kamp, author of *The Food Snob's Dictionary*, says these restaurants are not only preparing the food, they are preparing the ingredients that go into it, and that's a good thing.

You Can Send a Real Gift on Facebook



If you just discovered that a Facebook friend is having a birthday next week, you can

send a real gift, like a bouquet of flowers, even if you don't know the person's home address.

Here's how to do it:

Go to the same digital wall on which a member would jot a note to a friend and place your order. First-time users have to input credit- or debit-card information.

Once the purchase is complete, the recipient gets a notification on his or her wall. If the recipient provides an address to the vendor, the gift shows up

at their door a few days later.

Note that it's wise not to send a gift to someone who may not accept it.

In the past, gifts through Facebook were limited to virtual stickers to put on profile pages. Some could be used by the receiver to shop online, but that's not as nice as receiving a real gift.





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- ⇒ Well system check
- ⇒ Septic system location inspection
- ⇒ Sprinkler system check
- ⇒ Commercial inspections

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Lowering the Light Bill

Consumers have been conscientious about buying energy efficient appliances and light bulbs, but according to the UK Energy Research Centre many are now actually using more energy.

Before energy efficient appliances and lights, consumers carefully turned off lights and limited electric use. However, after buying an energy-efficient dishwasher, they run it more often or when it's not full. Studies also show that people who use energy-efficient lights lose 5 percent to 12 percent of expected utility bill savings by leaving lights on longer.

With energy-efficient heating and cooling, studies show consumers feel less guilty about setting the heat a degree or two higher in winter and or lower in summer.

By doing these things, they actually defeat the purpose of saving energy.



...more bed bugs continued.

ankles). Probably the best way to determine if you have them is to look for fecal smears anywhere on the sheets. The use of light color sheets would make identification much easier.

Bedbugs generally hide close to their host-which is your warm body! They do not like air currents and generally hang out in the rough sections of the mattress, which is near the seams. 75 % of all bedbugs hang out on your mattress, while the others infest carpets and furniture. Bite signs occur as small red welts along the body where it meets the mattress. For example, if you sleep on your back, bites will show up where your body touches the mattress on both sides. Usually, when you finally see evidence of bedbugs, you have a large infestation already .

underway and will need a pest professional to help exterminate them.

Getting rid of these critters is not easy and will not be done in one treatment. It takes a careful approach by a professional and some proactive measures on your part. It is recommended that you do not buy reconditioned or garage sale mattresses, as these can harbor the larvae and reappear once in use. Vacuuming the mattress and surrounding areas regularly will help also to control the reproduction cycle of bedbugs. If you see evidence of an infestation, get help quick to try and eradicate this annoying pest.

