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October 2018

Issue 7
42<sup>nd</sup> Year

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### Did you know that October is also...

**National Apple Month.** Because apples are high in fiber and contain no sodium, cholesterol, or fat, they make a great snack. With more than 2,500 varieties grown in North America, it won't be difficult to find one you can enjoy chopped into your morning oatmeal, baked into a pie, or cored and sliced any time of the day when you want a delicious treat.



International Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Awareness Month. AAC is a set of strategies, tools, and devices used by people to overcome communication challenges. People who rely on AAC might use sign language, text, pictures, symbols, speech-generating devices or a combination of these for their basic communication. This month let's increase our awareness of the possibilities that could develop when everyone has the ability communicate effectively.

**National Work and Family Month.** In 2003 the U.S. government designated October as a time to promote sensible, flexible, and healthy work environments, as well as the benefits of work/life balance. Don't wait for your employer to create an initiative or perk to combat the daily grind. Take a day or more of PTO to decompress from your busy life and reconnect with your family.

**Positive Attitude Month.** Researchers believe people who embrace a positive outlook have less stress, an increased sense of well-being, better coping skills, and longer life spans. Purge the negativity from your life: Meditate, pray, practice positive affirmations, and surround yourself with only happy people. Do whatever you must, but always look on the bright side.

Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 7-13. This year's motto is "Look. Listen. Learn. Be aware. Fire can happen anywhere." Look for and eliminate potential fire hazards in your home. Listen for the sound of smoke alarms. Learn two ways of exiting every room in the event of an emergency. Visit the National Fire Protection Association website at https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Campaigns/Fire-Prevention-Week to access more information.

Bone and Joint Action Week, Oct. 12-20. It's estimated that more than half of the U.S. population over 18 is dealing with some sort of musculoskeletal issue. This can include arthritis, osteoporosis, back pain, injuries or other conditions causing pain, disability, and a diminished quality of life. There is hope. Visit the website for the U.S. Bone and Joint Initiative at https://www.usbji.org/ to find out about research, prevention, and initiatives targeting bone and joint issues

**National Taco Day, Oct. 4.** Have one for breakfast, lunch, dinner, or any time of the day. We celebrate the taco on this day just to give you one more reason to enjoy them.





### Favorite places to eat, 2018 edition

That's your favorite place to eat? The American Customer Satisfaction Index's Restaurant Report 2018 ranked consumer preferences based on such factors as food quality, food order accuracy, courtesy of servers, and food variety. The top full-service restaurants in the United States are:

- Texas Roadhouse
- Olive Garden
- TGI Friday's
- Ruby Tuesday
- Cracker Barrel
- Outback Steakhouse
- Applebee's
- Denny's

- Longhorn Steakhouse
- Red Lobster
- Chili's

### Trends in U.S. dining: Quick decisions and lots of delivery

iners in the United States are pretty spur-of-the-moment when it comes to deciding where to go out to eat, according to a survey cited on the Fast Casual website. Eighty-five percent make their dinner decision on the day of the meal.

Delivery is a popular option among all age groups, from Baby Boomers to Generation Z (born 1995–2010 or so). Fifty-one percent in the survey said they'd gotten food delivered in the past three months, with millennials doing the most ordering—77 percent of the age group.

What are people ordering?

- Burgers (28 percent)
- Wings (27 percent)
- Mexican (21 percent)
- Barbecue (14 percent)
- Desserts (11 percent)



Anyone who considers arithmetical methods of producing random digits is, of course, in the state of sin. For, as has been pointed out several times, there is no such thing as a random number—there are only methods to produce random numbers, and a strict arithmetic procedure of course is not such a method.

—John von Neumann

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### Thinking of a fast? Try these approaches

any people practice intermittent fasting—going without food for a limited period of time. Benefits include fat loss, greater longevity, and better overall health. The Medical News Today website offers these strategies for fasting:

• Twelve hours. Some researchers say that fasting for 10–16 hours can cause your body to start burning fat and turning it into energy. The easiest way to do a 12-hour fast is to start at night. Fasting from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m., for example, means you won't spend all day reminding yourself that you're not eating, so you avoid the temptation to give in when hunger pangs start to rise.

• Two-day fast. You don't have to go completely without food, but under this plan, men should eat only 600 calories a day and women should consume 500. Separate the days—don't go two days in a row. Instead, plan at least one non-fasting day between your efforts. Studies suggest that this can help reduce weight and also improve insulin levels.

• Every other day. Again, limit yourself to 500–600 calories per day on your fast, but eat as much as you want on non-fast days.

One study found that this is effective for weight loss and heart health. It's a little extreme, though, and may not be suitable or sustainable for long periods of time.

- Twenty-four hours. Once a week, abstain from eating for a full 24 hours—maybe from one breakfast to the next. You can drink coffee, tea, or other calorie-free beverages during your fast. Return to your normal routine afterward. Be aware, though, that this fast can cause fatigue, headaches, and/or irritability.
- Skip a meal. This type of fast is good for beginners. Instead of fasting for long periods of time, simply skip breakfast, lunch, or dinner. Just remember to eat nutritious and healthful foods during your other meals.

It's important to stay hydrated during your fast, with lots of calorie-free drinks. Try not to obsess about food—plan distractions, like going to the movies or catching up on chores. Finally, avoid strenuous activity when you fast. Rest and relaxation will help you maintain your motivation.

### Nanotubes in your clothes may power your phone

omeday you may not have to remember to plug your smartphone in to recharge it. Scientists are working on clothes that will charge your phone for you, according to the Science Daily website. The fabric contains carbon nanotubes, replacing polyester and other artificial fibers. At present the nanotubes are too expensive to mass produce, but researchers are looking at military applications that may allow soldiers' equipment to recharge—lights, communication gear, and night-vision capabilities.

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### **Game changer**

It was the bottom of the fourth inning, and the home team was getting slaughtered. The pitcher might as well have been playing for the other team. The bases were loaded, and the visiting team's best hitter was up at bat. Just then a horse walked into the dugout wearing the home team's jersey.

"Put me in," he said to the manager. "Your bullpen is done. I can pitch. I can hit. Just give me a chance!"

"Why not," the manager replied. "It couldn't get any worse."

The horse trotted to the mound and relieved the pitcher. He threw a series of fastballs and quickly struck out the player at bat—and the next one and the one after that. He repeated this performance for the next two innings.

When he finally took his turn at bat, the horse hit a fly ball to centerfield that almost made it out of the park, but it hit the wall and fell to the ground.

The centerfielder grabbed the ball, tripped, and dropped it before picking it up again and throwing it toward the infield. The ball flew over the head of the second baseman and almost knocked out the catcher, who caught it and threw it past first base. The first baseman ran into the field, retrieved the ball, and sauntered back to the base.

The horse was out by five feet. He trotted back to the dugout and took a seat on the bench.

"You're the best pitcher I've had all season," said the manager. "You're a pretty good hitter, too. Not much of runner though, are you?"

The horse looked at the manager and said, "Do you think I'd be here if I was?"

### **Road rules**

Then Jane's car stalled in the middle of a busy intersection, no amount of wishing and praying could get the engine to turn over.

Just as she turned on her hazard lights, the guy in the car behind her began to lay on his horn, and he continued to honk even as other cars began to pull around.

Jane walked back to the other driver and said: "My car won't start and I'm waiting for a tow, but if you think you can get it started, have at it. I'll sit in your car and honk at you."

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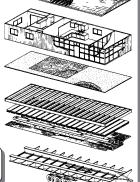




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### OCTOBER•2018

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## **Hillcrest**

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9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
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30	31 Halloween			

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### Take up a hobby

ant to be more creative? Find a hobby. According to the Nature website, hobbies boost inspiration in scientific researchers, and they can spur your imagination, too. Here's how to do it:

- Set aside some time. No matter how busy you are, commit to spending a certain amount of time every day or week on your hobby. It doesn't have to be excessive, but schedule enough time so you can concentrate fully on what you're doing without interruption.
- Consider exercise. Getting your blood pumping can be good for your mind as well as your body. Committing to an exercise routine, even a modest one, forces you to take time out of your day. Focus on things other than work as you work out. You may find the solution to a sticky problem after you're done.



• Look outside your field. Pick a hobby that's not related to your work. Painting, for example, can help you see the world in different ways. Select something that will challenge your thinking, and you may find connections to the issues you're working on.

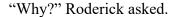
### Making a difference

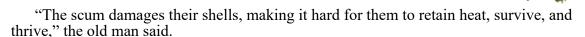
very Sunday while jogging through the park, Roderick noticed an elderly gentleman sitting at the pond with a small metal cage next to him.

One Sunday, Roderick decided to satisfy his curiosity and approach the man to find out what he was up to. As Roderick moved closer he realized what he thought was a cage was actually a trap. Inside were three small turtles, unharmed. A fourth turtle sat on the old man's lap and he gently scrubbed its shell with a brush.

"What are you doing?" Roderick asked.

"I'm cleaning the algae off the shells of these turtles," the old man replied.



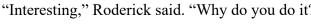


"Is that what I see you out here doing every Sunday?" asked Roderick.

"Yep," the old man replied. "Rain or shine, I come here every week to take care of these turtles."

"Interesting," Roderick said. "Why do you do it?"

"It's my way of making a difference," the old man replied.





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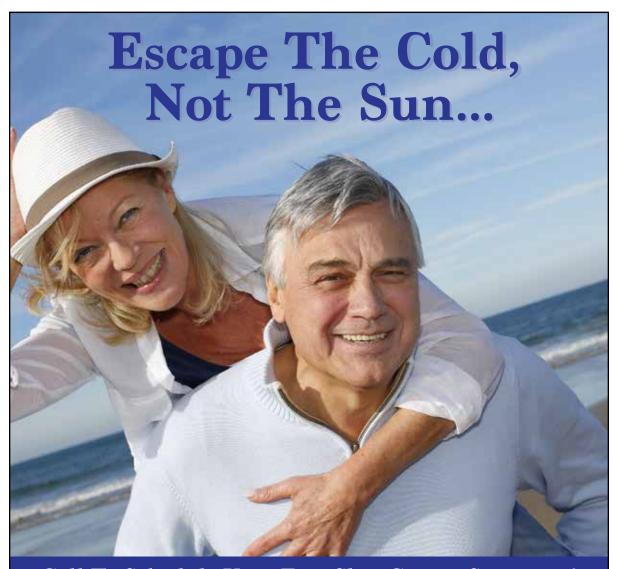
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### Honoring those who have died

The Mexican celebration of Día de Muertos (Day of the Dead) is often mistaken for a Spanish version of Halloween. It is actually a way for families to honor loved ones who are no longer living.

Scholars believe the tradition is rooted in ancient Aztec culture. Thousands of years before Columbus ever set foot in the New World, Aztec people honored the lives of their deceased ancestors in celebrations that spanned what is now the month of August. Indigenous populations throughout central and southern Mexico maintained these practices for centuries.

With the arrival of Spanish settlers in Mexico in the 16th century and the influence of Christianity that followed, the practice transformed into a three-day celebration paralleling the Allhallow-tide of All Saint's Eve, All Saint's Day, and All Soul's Day taking place Oct. 31 through Nov. 2.

In the 21st century, the observance of Día de Muertos begins at midnight on Oct. 31, when it is believed that the souls of the dead are allowed to return to be with their loved ones. Día de los Angelitos (Day of the Little Angels) or Día de los Inocentes (Day of the Innocents) falls on Nov. 1, when the souls of deceased children and infants are believed to return. Día de los Muertos follows on Nov. 2, when the spirits of the ancestors are honored.

During this time families will create altars in their homes or at the cemetery, where they tidy and decorate the graves of their loved ones. Ofrendas (offerings) of food, sweets, toys, trinkets, marigolds, and beverages are left on these altars. Family and friends share stories of their loved ones, sing songs, offer prayers, and feast as a tribute to the departed.

To dance, especially at the gravesite, is a way to awaken the spirits and invite them to join the family once more. The parades and large festive gatherings in cemeteries are just another way to show respect and celebrate the lives of those who have passed on.

Día de Muertos is observed throughout Mexico, most of North and South America, and around the world. Will you honor your late ancestors this year?

People carry their loved ones with them. They are forever present.

—Tove Jansson

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## October Sudoku

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### Migration from Africa may have started earlier

arly humans may have migrated from Africa hundreds of thousands of years earlier than was previously thought, reports the U.S. News & World Report website. Stone tools found in China have been dated as 2.1 million years old, making them older than skulls and artifacts unearthed in Georgia, which are 1.8 million years old.

Ninety-five artifacts were discovered in the Loess Plateau, which is north of the Qinling mountains that divide the north and south of China. They include chipped rocks, fragments, and hammer stones. The artifacts were spread through layers of dirt, evidence that humans may have used the same site many different times. Scientists also found bones of deer and pigs mixed in with the tools, but so far they can't say whether the tools were used to hunt.

### **Giant dinosaur unearthed in Argentina**

The earliest-known giant dinosaur was a four-legged plant-eater with a medium-length neck and long tail. It walked the Earth some 210 million years ago, and the remains of one have recently been discovered in Argentina's San Juan Province, according to the Reuters website.

Scientists have named the big dino Ingentia prima—"the first giant." It was about 33 feet long and weighed approximately 10 tons, with legs less like pillars than the giant sauropods that came after it, and a shorter neck.

Ingentia wasn't only the largest dinosaur of its time, but the biggest land animal of any kind up to that period, at least twice as large as other plant-eaters it shared the warm environment with.

### **Exoplanet may have life-sustaining environment**

stronomers have found a new planet with a temperate climate that could support life, according to the Sci-News website. The planet, Ross 128b, orbits a cool red dwarf star that's just 11 light-years from Earth. The planet is about 1.35 times more massive than our world. Using spectography, scientists determined that the iron levels in the star are similar to those of our sun, which can influence the development of planets.

Astronomers at Brazil's National Observatory calculated Ross 128b's mass and then estimated the planet's radius. The findings indicated that Ross 128b should have a rocky surface. They were also able to measure the temperature of the planet by observing how much of the distant star's light reflects off its surface. Results showed that Ross 128B probably has a temperate climate.

"Although Ross 128b is not Earth's twin," the scientists say, "and there is still much we don't know about its potential geologic activity, we were able to strengthen the argument that it's a temperate planet that could potentially have liquid water on its surface."

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	<b>5</b> ,
. \$100	Recreational Golf Cars of Florida
\$10 .	Royal Enterprises
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\$10 .	Bob's Mobile Hoome Washing
\$10 .	
\$10 .	Battleline Termite & Pest Control
\$10 .	Jones & Sons Plumbing, Inc
\$10 .	Appliance Specialty
\$10 .	Rod Runners
\$10 .	Doll Brothers Carpet Cleaners
	\$10 . \$10 . \$10 . \$10 . \$10 . \$10 . \$10 . \$10 . \$10 . \$10 .

Judith Bennett	\$10	Boss Electric Corp.
Lou Ann Gatton	\$10	Bob's Mobile Hoome Washing
Rene Dean	\$10	Nature's Resource Pest Control
James Ververis	\$10	Battleline Termite & Pest Control
Cheryl Clark	\$10	Jones & Sons Plumbing, Inc
Gail Marquis	\$10	Appliance Specialty
		Rod Runners
Gary Cornely	\$10	Doll Brothers Carpet Cleaners
Kammie Tipton	\$10	Bill The Carpet Guy
Ruth Young	\$5	Discount Computer Repair
Susan Halloran	\$5	Buggin Out Termite & Pest Control
Carol Vensrim	\$5	Imperial Electric Service of Pinellas
Ann Difeo	\$5	Heller's Moble Home Washing
		Jones & Sons Plumbing, Inc
Heather Deitch	\$5	1st Class Handy Man Service, Inc.
Susan Craig	\$5	Rod Runners
Donna Fluno	\$5	Palm Harbor & Dunedin Electric, Inc
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Ruth Heyza	\$5	Bill The Carpet Guy
Linda Williams	\$5	Appliance Specialty
Jim Padgett	\$5	Jones & Sons Plumbing, Inc
Teresa Joseph	\$5	Buggin Out Pest Control
		Boss Electric Corp.
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### The widow and her sheep

n old fable tells the story of a poor widow who owned only one sheep. When the time came for it to be shorn, she decided to save the money she'd have to pay the shearer and handle the job herself.

"How difficult can it be?" she thought and then set about shearing the wool from the sheep. Of course, she had no idea what was doing and caused great injury to the animal as she attempted to shear the fleece.

"Oh, why do you torture me so?" cried the sheep. "My blood will not increase the value of my fleece. If you want me dead, simply send me to the butcher."

The widow was taken aback. Not only had she done a poor job of shearing and would not make much profit from the wool, but the wounds she created for the animal would require attention from the vet and an expense she could not afford to pay.

### Saving the grass and so much more

Then a Florida man collapsed while doing yard work, his wife called 911. First responders arrived within minutes to find Gene Work having a heart attack. He lapsed in and out of consciousness as they stabilized him and transported him to the hospital.

His wife, Melissa, was at his side on the ambulance ride. She was shocked that he kept fretting over the lawn each time he regained consciousness. He was worried the sod he wasn't able to put down would die. Work was rushed into surgery, and thankfully his life was saved that day.

Yet Work's pleas had not fallen on deaf ears. Though Melissa's brother-in-law stayed behind to finish the lawn, he soon received help from the same firefighters who saved Gene Work's life.

After delivering him to the hospital, members of the Pasco County Fire Department returned to Work's home and finished laying his sod. "We believe in helping the community whenever we are needed ..." read a post on the department's Facebook page.

Little did they know that Work had been under increasing pressure to finish his lawn or face a hefty fine from his homeowners association. Nor were they aware of Melissa Work's own health issues, adding to the family's stress.

One thing we should all remember: Never let your problems consume your life, because there are always good-hearted people, closer than you might realize, who are willing to help.

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