



Randall Brennan
Equity Colorado
303-909-2365

rjbrennan@rjbrennan.com

Volume 41

Inside This Issue...

Cut Big Bucks From Your Utility Bill.....1

Party Pairing.....2

Wireless Service Gripes.....3

Selling Your Home in 2011?.....4



Fun Fact:

90% of women who walk into a department store immediately turn to the right.



Randall Brennan's

NEWSLETTER

How to cut big bucks from your utility bill

(ARA) - "The average household spends approximately \$2,200 every year on energy bills, but there are definite ways to save," says Bill Cunningham, an energy efficiency expert with home heating and cooling equipment manufacturer Lennox Industries. "In fact, homeowners who take the proper steps may be able to cut their annual energy bills by as much as half."

Cunningham points to the following areas of the home, where simple steps can add to your bottom line:

Climate control:

* Get with the program. Install an ENERGY STAR-qualified programmable thermostat, and take the time to program it (the majority of consumers don't). Average savings: \$180 per year.

* Retire the failing furnace. Replace your furnace if it's more than 15 years old. Today's state-of-the-art furnaces can save hundreds of dollars each year in heating costs compared with older furnaces that are only 65 percent efficient. Average savings: \$800 per year.

Water heating:

* Dial it back. Lower the temperature on your hot water heater from 145 degrees to 120 degrees - the only place you'll notice the difference is on your utility bill. Average savings: \$36 to \$61 per year.

* Let the laundry chill. To save hot water and the fuel that it takes to heat that water each year, wash your clothes in cold water. Be sure to choose a laundry detergent that is formulated for use in cold temperatures. Average savings: Between \$24 and \$40 per year.

Appliances:

* Stop the standby energy use. Unplug TVs and other digital devices when not in use, as "standby" energy consumption (particularly with plasma TVs) can add up and drive your energy bill higher. Average savings: \$165 per year.

For more information visit www.lennox.com or www.itpaystolivesmart.com

- Courtesy of ARA Content

Word of the Month:

Studies have shown that your income and wealth is directly related to the depth of your Vocabulary. Here is this month's word so you can impress your friends.

engram

\EN-gram\, *noun*;

1. The supposed physical basis of an individual memory in the brain

Example:

You shut it away, but it has left a mark- an engram, like an inscription on your brain.

Quotes to Live by:

“Though no one can go back and make a brand new start, anyone can start from now and make a brand new ending.”

–Carl Bard

Say What?

Method To My Madness

Strange or crazy actions that appear meaningless but in the end are done for a good reason.

Move over wine and cheese, a new party pairing is in town

(ARA) - With football time in full swing, and family and friends gathering to celebrate the season, the pressures to host this year's best game-day or celebratory party can be stressful. Avoid a staid, run-of-the-mill celebration and try the new entertaining trend that is certain to add a taste adventure to your next get-together. Move over, wine and cheese ... hello, beer and jerky.

Instead of old party pairing standbys like "chips and dip" or "crackers and cheese," a beer and jerky get-together offers your guests the palate-pleasing experience of tasting an assortment of ice-cold brews paired with a bevy of jerky. Not your grandpa's jerky anymore, today's meat snacks are offered in an array of flavors and forms from traditional-style jerky to soft and tender nuggets in beef, turkey, chicken and pork varieties. When making your beer selections, try unique options from local and regional craft or microbreweries.

There is a certain artistry to pairing the perfect flavors, and Brian Carter, Jack Link's Beef Jerky flavor expert, has chosen his meat snack favorites to be paired with the beer selections of a certified master brewer, resulting in four quick, yet tasty beer and jerky pairings.

Barbecue bliss: Barbecue beef jerky and full-flavored, dry stout.

East meets west: Teriyaki jerky and German kolsch or U.S. golden ale.

Taste of home: Ham or turkey jerky and doppelbock or medium-bodied lager.

Spice it up: Peppered or spicy jerky and English ale or English India pale ale.

Whether your party includes just one of these flavor pairings or all four, a "beer and jerky tasting" gathering is certainly a twist on the ordinary entertaining fare. For more tips on how to host a beer and jerky tasting adventure, visit www.jacklinks.com/beerandjerky.

-Courtesy of ARA Content-

Movie Trivia: In what year was the "Wedding Singer" set?

a. 1982

b. 1983

c. 1984

d. 1985

CALL ME NOW AT 303-909-2365

Would you like to know how much your neighbor's home listed for?

Maybe you're just curious. Or maybe you want to know how much equity you have in your home. Or perhaps you are thinking of selling soon and want to know how much your home increased in value. Either way, I can help...No "sales pitches" or runarounds. Just give me a call **303-909-2365** and I will give you the facts.

Economy at a Glance:

Data Series	Sept 2010	Oct 2010	Nov 2010
Unemployment Rate	9.6	9.6	9.8
Change in Payroll Employment	-24	172	39
Average Hourly Earnings	22.68	22.74	22.75
Consumer Price Index	0.1	0.2	0.1
Producer Price Index	0.4	0.4	0.8

Information from <http://www.bls.gov/eag/eag.us.htm>

US Population Clock
310,546,887
World Population Clock
6,890,192,834
-December 29, 2010

Survey says: Americans love their phones, but wireless providers need work

(ARA) - Most of us love our wireless phones. The companies that provide our wireless service, however ... well, not so much, according to a new survey.

While most American cell phone users are happy with their phones, they have plenty of gripes with their wireless providers. Respondents to a survey by U.S. Cellular cited among their top complaints the need to repeatedly sign contracts whenever they upgrade to a new phone, waiting out a two-year contract to get a new phone, overages and the big bills that come with them, and early termination fees.

Among the other enlightening (if not surprising) results of the survey:

- * 90 percent said wireless providers should earn a customer's loyalty, not require it by forcing them to sign a contract;
- * 87 percent think they shouldn't have to sign a service contract to stay with their current wireless provider;
- * 80 percent want wireless providers to do something about overage fees and the hefty bills they cause; and
- * 75 percent believe that free cell phones are a lure that traps you into required contracts and early termination fees.

Among the changes customers say they would welcome are:

- * Eliminating repeated contracts. U.S. Cellular has launched a product that features "One and Done" contracts. After their first contract expires, customers need never sign another with the carrier.
- * Initiate robust rewards programs with points that never expire and allow you to get a new phone as early as every 10 to 11 months.
- * Institute overage protection, caps and forgiveness to protect customers from shockingly high bills.
- * Offer a phone replacement plan that replaces or provides a similar handset for customers whose phones are damaged or malfunction - even if the phone is no longer under warranty.
- * Reward customers for setting up auto pay and paperless billing by offering a percentage off their monthly wireless bills.

To learn more about wireless service innovations, log on to www.USCellular.com

-Courtesy of ARA Content-

Food Fact:

-Cast iron skillets used to be the leading source of iron in the American diet.

-In 1995, KFC sold 11 pieces of chicken for every man, woman and child in the US.

Weird Laws:

Illinois- Humming on public streets is prohibited on Sundays.

Arkansas- Alligators may not be kept in bathtubs.

New York- It is against the law to throw a ball at someone's head for fun.

Oregon- It is illegal to buy or sell marijuana, but it is legal to smoke it on your own property.

U.S.A. Facts

- America eats approximately 100 acres of pizza every day.

- Denver International Airport is the largest in the USA and second largest in the world in terms of size over 53 square miles... Also has the longest commercial runway at 16,000 feet.

And... Whether you are thinking of buying, selling, or financing real estate, or stop by and say "hi", I'd love to hear from you...

**Randall Brennan
Equity Colorado
303-909-2365**

rjbrennan@rjbrennan.com

References:-aracontent.com,
copyright 1996-2009, ARAcontent-
<http://www.bls.gov/eag/eag.us.htm>

Selling your home in 2011? Tips to add value during winter months

Major home renovations can be overwhelming, but there are a few fundamental repairs that can update your home's appearance and increase its value. If you're planning to sell your home in 2011, take advantage of the winter months to prepare your home for a spring sale by focusing on a few key projects:

Make a first impression.

The entryway is the first up-close encounter a potential homebuyer will have with your home. Manicure your front yard and update or even replace your front door to complement your home's exterior. If your door is already in great shape, consider a simple replacement of weak or older-looking hardware that will impress buyers at first sight.

Get cookin' in the kitchen.

Experts agree that a kitchen can significantly impact a home's perceived value. An outdated kitchen can be a deal breaker for many homebuyers. To increase the appeal of your kitchen, consider investing in updated, matching appliances that match the style of your kitchen. Some manufacturers even offer replacement panels to update the exteriors of older appliances.

Next, if you can't afford to add new cabinetry, change out the hardware so the knobs, drawer pulls and handles match your decor and add a modern flair. Adding technology-driven fixtures, including built-in water filtration systems, garbage disposals and high-tech faucets is another great way to increase the room's appeal.

Update and upgrade light fixtures.

Lighting is key. It can drastically change the look and feel of a room, and lighting fixtures are affordable and relatively simple to install on your own. A beautiful ceiling fan with lighting can serve double-duty to update your family room. Remember, well-lit and bright rooms appear larger and more open.

Step on it.

Flooring is one of the first things that potential homebuyers notice. Make sure you dust, vacuum and clean so that you show off the flooring to its best advantage. If you have carpet, consider replacing it with wood floors or wood alternatives. If you already have hardwood floors, polish and protect your flooring so that it gleams.

Whether you're trying to sell your home this winter or simply want to update its look, you don't have to wait until the spring thaws. When the cold weather drives you inside, take advantage of the time to make attractive upgrades that can increase the appeal and value to your home.

-Courtesy of ARA Content-