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Fun Fact:

The Earth sees about 760 thunderstorms every hour, scientists have calculated.



Randall Brennan's

NEWSLETTER

How to tackle your home comfort repairs for warmer months

(ARA) - The coming of spring is revealing a list of post-winter home repairs that need to be made. Getting outside now to assess home damage and tackle initial projects will help you get a jump-start on the season.

This is also a good time of year to make sure your home's heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system is functioning properly and at its most efficient rate. American Standard Heating & Air Conditioning offers a few simple tips.

* Check the furnace filter. Cleaning or changing your furnace filter each month will help extend the life of your furnace and may help save on heating and cooling energy costs.

* Clean air ducts. Remove air ducts and return-air grille plates, and thoroughly clean with a rag, scrubbing brush or vacuum to prevent any irritants or dust from making their way into your home's air.

* Inspect the outdoor air conditioning unit. Remove leaves, grass, dirt and other debris that may have built up around your outdoor air conditioning unit or heat pump to ensure nothing is obstructing the air flow.

* Listen for strange noises. Simply listening for loud or unfamiliar noises is good protocol for evaluating bigger issues that may be plaguing your home comfort system.

Easy troubleshooting tips for a variety of system problems are also available in American Standard Heating & Air Conditioning's Symptom Checker guide, found online at www.americanstandardair.com.

With these new improvements, your home will be looking and feeling as fresh as spring, and your cabin fever will be a thing of the past.

- 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.

futz

\FUHTS\, *verb*;

1. To pass time in idleness (usually followed by around).

Noun;

1. A fool; a simpleton.

Example:

I think it's because, unlike most people, she doesn't futz around being polite.

Quotes to Live by:

"Life is like a taxi. The meter just keeps ticking whether you are getting somewhere or just standing still."

—Lou Erickson

Say What?

Rome Was Not Built In One Day

If you want something to be completed properly, then it's going to take time.

Parents: Prevent your child from being a victim of cyberbullying

(ARA) - Cyberbullying, the bullying of a person through the use of an electronic device such as a computer or cell phone, is becoming a growing national problem. Anyone can be a victim of cyberbullying, but students are frequent targets.

Here are some tips from FindLaw.com on what parents can do now to help prevent cyberbullying.

* Ask about friends or other kids. Your child may be reluctant to open up about being the victim of cyberbullying. Start the conversation by asking your child if he has heard about other kids at school who have been victimized.

* Watch for signs. Does your child seem withdrawn? Reluctant to use some forms of technology? Maybe depressed? These are generalizations, but if you've noticed any changes in your child's behavior, he or she may be the victim of technology torment. Have you noticed your child exiting out of a computer screen or smart phone quickly when you walk into a room? Is he or she spending an increasing amount of time on the Internet each day (specifically at night) or using multiple online accounts? Your child could be a cyberbully.

* Set boundaries. It's critical to talk to your child about cyberbullying - what it is and what to do if your child feels threatened. Parents should make it clear that they can check a child's e-mail account, Facebook page, MySpace page, Twitter and smart phone at any time for inappropriate photos and messages.

* It's illegal. Cyberbullying is serious and, in a handful of states, illegal. If your child is involved in cyberbullying another child, he or she could face legal consequences, and you, as a parent, could become embroiled in a lawsuit if the parents of a student victimized by your child sue your child for emotional damages.

* Monitor e-mails with teachers. It's sad, but true: Students can be intimidated and bullied by their teachers and school coaches, too. Insist that your young person always copies you, the parent, on any and all messages with their teachers and coaches.

- Courtesy of ARA Content

Movie Trivia: What did Buttercup always call Wesley in "The Princess Bride"?

- a. Westley
- b. Servant
- c. Farm Hand
- d. Farm Boy

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:

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

Data Series	Jan 2011	Feb 2011	Mar 2011
Unemployment Rate	9.0	8.9	8.8
Change in Payroll Employment	68	194	216
Average Hourly Earnings	22.86	22.87	22.87
Consumer Price Index	0.4	0.5	
Producer Price Index	0.8	1.6	

g.us.htm

US Population Clock
311,127,967
World Population Clock
6,910,920,985

-April 8, 2011

The smart traveler's strategy for saving money on summer trips

(ARA) - Before you know it, kids will be out of school and the warm summer months will provide long days full of possibilities. The tradition of summer travel is still alive and well, and smart travelers know how to plan so they get the most for their dollar.

Whether you're planning a trip with the family, your girlfriends, or just your spouse, being money-wise doesn't mean having to cut corners on a vacation. Consider these insider travel tips to get the most out of your summer vacation plans:

Eat smart and save

Dining can be one of the most costly parts of taking a summer vacation. Booking accommodations with a kitchen might cost a bit more, but the savings of eating in throughout a trip can add up quickly. If you do like to eat out, a smart travel tip is to eat at local eateries and avoid the big tourist locations.

Look for online travel discounts

The Internet offers a plethora of travel savings, but finding these can be confusing. DailyGetaways.com offers exclusive, limited-time discounts from April 11 through May 13, 2011, that can save you up to 60 percent on travel across the U.S. this summer and beyond. Each day a new travel deal is announced from top U.S. travel brands equating to deep discounts on car rentals, hotel stays, airline certificates, travel vouchers, theme park tickets and more.

Walk and use public transit

Renting a car and taking taxis can be very expensive. Limit your use of these options by traveling to destinations that offer attractions that you can walk to or access easily by public transportation

Look for packages and VIP offers

Booking a travel package can save you money on the overall cost of your trip. Research bundled options to get the biggest discount possible. Auction sites are another way to get access to value-filled vacation packages

From finding the best deals online to being strategic about where you stay, travel smart this summer and save a lot of money for a vacation full of memories to look back upon.

-Courtesy of ARA Content-

Food Fact:

-Research show that only 43% of homemade dinners served in the US include vegetables.

-The average child will eat 1,500 PB sandwiches by high school graduation.

Weird Laws:

Virginia- Police radar detectors are illegal.

Tennessee- It is illegal to place tacks on a highway.

Pennsylvania- A person is not eligible to become Governor if he/she has participated in a duel.

New Mexico- You may not carry a lunchbox down Main Street.

U.S.A. Facts

- Elkhart, Indiana is the band instrument capitol of the World.

- San Francisco Bay is considered the world's largest landlocked harbor.

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...

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

The power of 60 seconds: How to fit doing good into any schedule

(ARA) - No matter how much you want to volunteer and find ways to give back to your community, for most people, it seems difficult to find the time. With everything that needs to get done each day, it rarely seems like your schedule can accommodate a moment to relax, much less taking on a big volunteer commitment.

Nonprofits know just how packed the average person's schedule is, and they're trying to make it easier for you to make a difference.

Consider these great ways to make a difference that won't interfere with your schedule:

* Go online. Everyone - including nonprofit organizations - knows the power of the Web. That means that nonprofits are making it easier than ever for you to interact with them via their websites. For instance, when you visit JoinMyVillage.com, 60 seconds of your time releases corporate donations that make a real impact for girls and women in Africa.

* Make "doing good" part of usual activities. Look for creative ways to add volunteering or supporting a program to something you already have planned. If you're going to host an event like a book club meeting or a party, consider it an opportunity to raise money or awareness for causes you support. Or, if you have a weekend (or even a weeknight) set aside for family time, make it a charitable effort. You could go as a group to a soup kitchen, lend a hand to clean up a local park, or volunteer to help walk animals at a local shelter.

* Use the power of social networking. Word of mouth is as important today as it has ever been, but now it's your digital voice that carries farthest. Using social networking tools like Facebook and Twitter allow you to reach a lot of people with little effort - and little time. Thousands of nonprofits can be searched on www.causes.com, which connects directly to Facebook, making it easy for you to "like" organizations and get updates on the work they're doing. Plus, when others see you interacting with an organization on a social networking site, it can build their curiosity and encourage them to get involved as well.

In about the same amount of time it would take to refill your coffee cup, you can make a real difference in a massive effort like fighting global poverty.

-Courtesy of ARA Content