



24 Hour Emergency Service

Water Damage Clean-Up
Sewage Damage Remediation
Fire and Smoke Clean-Up

July Is National Ice Cream Month

- In 1984, President Ronald Reagan declared July to be National Ice Cream Month, citing the food's "nutritious and wholesome" qualities. He decreed that patriotic Americans should mark the month with "appropriate ceremonies and activities."



- Americans consume the most ice cream in the world per capita, with Australians coming in second. In 1924, the average American ate eight pints a year. By 1997, it had jumped to 48 pints per year.
- The most avid ice cream eaters in the U.S. are the good citizens of Omaha, Nebraska, who eat more ice cream per person than any other American town.
- Vanilla is the most popular flavor by far, accounting for between 20 to 30 percent of yearly sales worldwide. Chocolate comes in a distant second, with about 10 percent annually. The rest of the top 5 is butter pecan, strawberry and mint chocolate chip.
- One of the major ingredients in ice cream is air. Without it, the stuff would be as hard as a rock.
- Among the most unusual flavors of ice cream ever manufactured are avocado, garlic, azuki bean, jalapeno and pumpkin.
- According to the *Guinness Book of World Records*, the biggest ice cream sundae in the world was made in Alberta Canada in 1988, weighing in at nearly 55,000 pounds. The same year, a baking company and a sheet-metal firm in Dubuque Iowa teamed up to produce the world's largest ice cream sandwich, which tipped the scales at nearly 2,500 pounds. And in 1999, Baskin Robbins created an ice cream cake at a beach hotel in the United Arab Emirates that weighed just under 9,000 pounds.

July Birthstone: The Ruby

The ruby's name comes from *ruber*, Latin for red. Rubies have a hardness of 9.0 on the Mohs scale of mineral hardness; among the natural gems only diamond is harder, with a Mohs rating of 10.0.

All natural rubies have imperfections in them, including color impurities and inclusions of rutile needles known as "silk". Gemologists use these needle inclusions found in natural rubies to distinguish them from synthetics, stimulants or substitutes. Usually the rough stone is heated before cutting. Almost all rubies today are treated in some form, with heat treatment being the most common practice. However, rubies that are completely untreated but still of excellent quality command a large premium.



*Oh, say does that star-spangled
banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free
and the home of the brave?*

The Bikini



The history of the bikini is a checkered one. Though the bikini shocked when it appeared on French beaches in 1947, its origins date back millennia.

Depictions of bikini-like garments appear at the Chalcolithic site of Catalhoyuk, and two-piece bikini-like garments were worn by women for athletic purposes in Greece as far back as 1400 BC.

Mosaic artwork dubbed "Bikini Girls" dating back to the Diocletian period (286-305 AD) in Rome, Sicily gained significant archeological renown, while statues of Venus in a bikini was found elsewhere in the Roman Empire. In the modern era, the first functional two-piece swimsuit was designed in 1913 by Carl Jantzen. Australian swimmer-performer Annette Kellerman was arrested in 1907 for wearing a two-piece. Later it was made popular by pin-up girls like swimmer-actress Esther Williams and actress Ava Gardner, Rita Hayworth and Lana Turner.

Recipe Corner

Crispy Cheese Stars



Ingredients

10" Flour Tortillas
Sliced Cheese (provolone, cheddar or mozzarella)
Chili Powder or Paprika

Directions

Heat oven to 350°. Use large star cookie cutter to cut out stars from tortillas (about 5 stars per 10" tortilla). Bake stars on foil covered cookie sheet for 5 minutes.

Use smaller star cookie cutter to cut stars from the sliced cheese. Place cheese stars atop the baked tortilla stars and bake for additional 2 minutes or until cheese melts.

Sprinkle with chili powder or paprika; cool before serving.

Quotes on Patriotism:

I have long believed that sacrifice is the pinnacle of patriotism.

Bob Riley

I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country.

Nathan Hale

Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country.

John F. Kennedy

Patriotism is supporting your country all the time, and your government when it deserves it.

Mark Twain

The proper means of increasing the love we bear our native country is to reside some time in a foreign one.

William Shenstone

The First Hair Dryer



Around the turn of the century, women used vacuum cleaners to dry their hair! Early vacuum cleaners sucked air in through the front and blew it out the back, so the ladies would attach the vacuum hose to the rear of the machine and aim it at their wet heads. The first true hair dryer was developed in the early 1920s in Germany. Made of nickel or chrome-plated steel with a wooden handle, it was large, heavy, and unwieldy. Although modern dryers are lighter and more attractive, they operate on the same principal as the first hair dryer, in which a fan propels air over heated coils and out the nozzle.

Hair Today, Gone Tomorrow

Hair falls out continually as new hair grows in. But if you notice a sudden hair loss, or clumps of hair falling out, see your doctor. According to the American Academy of Family Physicians, excessive hair loss can signify thyroid or other hormonal problems, fungal infections, lupus or diabetes. It can also be a side effect of such medicines as blood thinners, chemotherapy drugs, birth control pills and antidepressants; a sign of too much vitamin A; or an allergic reaction to a new shampoo.

Parting Hair

Some social scientists subscribe to the notion that the way people part their hair reflects their personalities. A part on the left indicates a logical, mathematical bent; a right part signifies a freer, more artistic air. Those who part their hair in the middle or are bald are generally viewed as balanced and trustworthy.

In general, men normally part their hair on their left, women on the right. People who stray from these norms may do so because of their unique natures or jobs. Hillary Clinton and Margaret Thatcher both part their hair on the left. Most U.S. Presidents have parted their hair on that side, too.

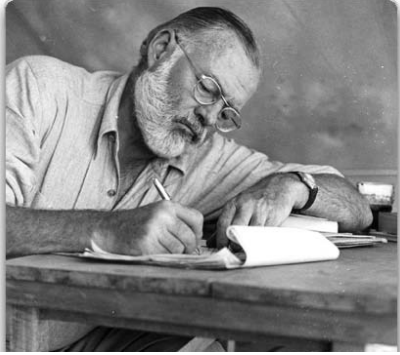
Identity Theft After Death

Yearly, some 400,000 checking accounts are opened in the names of people who are deceased, according to the Identity Theft Research Center in San Diego, California. Many are part of identity theft scams that result in many thousands of dollars in credit card charges. When a loved one dies, the ITRC recommends:

- Don't include the day and month of birth in death notices. Give just the year. Don't give the deceased's address.
- Mail copies of the death certificate to the credit-reporting services, Equifax, Experian and TransUnion. Cancel credit card accounts immediately after death.
- Visit the department of motor vehicles and cancel driver's licenses or ID cards to prevent duplicates from being issued.
- A few weeks after the death, get a free credit report from each bureau.

Hemingway and Brando: American Legends

Ernest Hemingway and the Iceberg Theory



As a young writer living in Paris in the 1920s, Ernest Hemingway conceived the idea of a “new theory” on writing, called *the Iceberg Theory*, after writing the short story “Out of Season.”

“I omitted the real ending [of *Out of Season*] which was that the old man hanged himself. This was omitted on my new theory that you could omit anything, and the omitted part would strengthen the story.”

The concept of the iceberg theory is sometimes also referred to as the “theory of omission.” Hemingway believed the writer could describe one thing (such as Nick Adams fishing in *Big Two-Hearted River*) though an entirely different thing occurs below the surface (Nick Adams concentrating on fishing to the extent that he does not have to think about anything else).

In his essay *The Art of the Short Story*, written in the late 1950s, Hemingway is clear about his method: “A few things I have found to be true. If you leave out important things or events that you know about, the story is strengthened. If you leave out or skip something because you do not know it, the story will be worthless. The test of any story is how very good the stuff is that you, not your editors, omit.”

In 1954, Hemingway received the Nobel Prize in Literature. The prize was awarded to Hemingway “for his mastery of the art of narrative, most recently demonstrated in *The Old Man and the Sea*, and for the influence that he has exerted on contemporary style”. When asked about the use of symbolism in his work, and particularly in the most recently published *Old Man and the Sea*, he explained, “No good book has ever been written that has in it symbols

arrived at beforehand and stuck in. That kind of symbol sticks out like raisins in raisin bread. Raisin bread is alright, but plain bread is better. I tried to make a real old man, a real boy, a real sea, a real fish and real sharks. But if I made them good and true enough, they would mean many things. The hardest thing is to make something really true—and sometimes truer than true.”

Marlon Brando: The Original Method Man



Marlon Brando (4/3/1924—7/1/2004) is considered by many critics to be the greatest actor in motion picture history. He was best known for his role as Stanley Kowalski in *A Streetcar Named Desire* and his Academy Award winning performance as Terry Malloy in *On the Waterfront*, both directed by Elia Kazan in the early 1950s.

In middle age, his well-known roles included his Academy Award winning performance as Vito Corleone in *The Godfather*, Colonel Walter Kurtz in *Apocalypse Now* (both directed by Francis Ford Coppola) and an Oscar nominated performance as Paul in *Last Tango in Paris*.

Brando had a significant impact on film acting. He was the foremost example of the “method” acting style, and was initially parodied for his “mumbling” diction, but his mercurial performances were highly regarded. Director Martin Scorsese said of him, “He is the marker. There’s ‘before Brando’ and ‘after Brando’.” Actor Jack Nicholson once said, “When Marlon dies, everybody moves up one.”

Thank You!

Thanks to YOU the word is spreading! Thanks to all of my wonderful clients and friends who graciously referred me to their friends and neighbors last month!

My business runs on the positive comments and referrals from people just like you! I couldn't do it without you!



Your New Issue Has Arrived!

*Look Inside For Some
Amazing Money-Saving
Tips and More!*

Breaking Bones

A woman went to the doctor and said, “Doctor, I broke my leg in two places!”

The Doctor said, “Stop going to those places!”

A Sure Cure

Three pastors in the south were having lunch in a diner. One said, “You know, since summer started, I’ve been having trouble with bats in my loft and attic at church. I’ve tried everything—noise, spray, cats—nothing seems to scare them away!”

The second pastor said, “Yeah, me too. I’ve got hundreds of them living in the belfry and in the attic. I’ve had the place fumigated and they won’t go away.”

The third pastor said, “I baptized all mine and made them members of the church. Haven’t seen one back since!”

Who Wants To Win Movie Tickets?

**Take my Trivia Challenge
And you could win too!**

This is one of my favorite parts of the newsletter! Each month, I’ll give you a new trivia question. The first 5 people who e-mail my office with the correct answer will win **two FREE movie tickets**. Enjoy a night out on me with someone special in your life! Take your best guess, and then e-mail me at **candy@allfloodfire.com!** Remember, your chances of winning are better than you think!

This month’s Mega Trivia Question:

What city was Ernest Hemingway living in when he came up with his *Iceberg Theory* on writing?

- A) Amsterdam B) Madrid C) Rome
D) London E) Paris

HINT: The answer is somewhere in this newsletter