



*The World According To Our Basset Hound, Flash... Aka: Sniffy
Can I help you? I'd really like to help!
I can sniff you out a good home...*

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Kevin Cope...

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"Insider Tips For Healthy, Wealthy & Happy Living..."

Miracle Food Wrap Discovery Could Eliminate Food Poisoning

It can happen from eating at the finest of restaurants or at filthy "greasy spoons." You simply never know when it's going to strike; you just know that, given enough time, nearly everyone will be a victim.

Food poisoning is an all-too common experience in our country. Each year, hundreds of thousands of Americans are subject to the nausea and diarrhea that accompanies the sickness. And food poisoning can be deadly for the very young and elderly.

Commonly masked as the "flu," most food poisoning starts out as "that funny feeling," followed by cramping, then nausea and vomiting. However, unlike the flu, most food poisoning lasts only about 24 hours. But it is an uncomfortable, sometimes excruciating 24 hours!

Fortunately, hope is in sight. Not too long from now, food poisoning could become a thing of the past thanks to a new technology.

A plastic food wrap that continually tests for bacteria and flashes a warning when food is tainted could be available as early as next year. That's according to researchers, who told a biotechnology conference in Toronto that the Food and Drug Administration still wants the wrap to pass some safety tests—including proof that the testing material itself doesn't leak into food.

But they said the technology, which uses antibodies to test for the presence of a pathogen, has been proved. "The advantage of the technology," said Gordon Furzer of the Toronto-based Toxin-Alert, Inc., "is that it would operate all the time and would allow all foods to be continually tested."

A warning label, perhaps reading "Warning, Don't Eat Me," would show up on the wrapping if certain types of bacteria at toxic levels are detected. Currently, food processors test only a fraction of their products.

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Tips For Keeping Food Fresh When Shopping...

When you shop, buy cold and frozen foods last. Take food straight home to the refrigerator. Never leave food in a hot car! Don't buy anything you won't use by the "use-by" date. Don't buy food in poor condition. Make sure refrigerated food is kept cool by asking your grocery bagger to put cold and frozen foods together. When buying food, frozen food should be rock-solid. Canned goods should be free of dents, cracks, or bulging lids which can indicate serious food poisoning threat.

"It's Called A What??"

Most people know that a group of cattle is known as a herd, and chickens travel in broods. But some of our animal friends hang-out together in groups with very unusual names.

A group of baboons is known as a troop. Caterpillars travel in armies, and a set of cats is known as a cluster. Coyotes are grouped in a pack, and dolphins in a pod. A bowl of goldfish is a troubling, and hens hang out in a brood.

A group of hippopotami is known as a bloat, and a bevy of eagles is known as a convocation. And a family of crocodiles is known as a bask. Whew!

Crazy Country Western Titles!

- ◆ How can I miss you if you won't go away?
- ◆ I don't want your body if your heart's not in it.
- ◆ I keep forgettin' I forgot about you.
- ◆ I meant every word that he said.
- ◆ I'm not married but my wife is.
- ◆ I'm the only hell my mama ever raised.
- ◆ If I can't be number one in your life, then number two on you!
- ◆ If the phone don't ring, baby, you'll know it's me.
- ◆ I gave her a ring and she gave me the finger.
- ◆ I liked you better before I knew you so well.

These tests can take several days to complete, during which time consumers are buying and eating the food.

Please Welcome New Clients Into Our Real Estate Family...

I'd like to take a moment to personally introduce and welcome a few of my newest clients. And special thanks for everyone who thought of me with your referrals!

Bill & Sarah Swindle of Sugar Grove, IL

Eric & Marcie Cope

Katherine Barden (Referred by Lisa Reid – Thanks Lisa)

Got An Unfair Traffic Ticket?

If you find yourself getting a traffic ticket you feel you didn't deserve, here's a little helpful advice.

Attorney Mel Leiding says many traffic tickets are unfair, undeserved, and easy to beat. He claims that about 60 percent of the tickets fought in the court are won by average citizens without any legal training.

Leiding has written a new book titled, "*How To Fight Your Traffic Ticket And Win!! 206 Tips, Tricks and Techniques*" (Avenir International Publishing: 1-800-676-5757). Leiding advises everyone to plead "not guilty." He says not guilty doesn't mean you didn't do it – it means that the officer must come to court and prove beyond a reasonable doubt that you're guilty. There's a 30 to 50 percent chance the officer cannot show, resulting in a probable dismissal of your ticket and return of your money.

"A simple way to increase the odds of a 'no show' is to ask for continuances. This will set the hearing date at your convenience, not the officer's convenience," he says. The recent trend is to contest unfair tickets because they've become so expensive. Tickets average \$150 and go up to \$1,350 after penalty assessments.

Leiding's book also includes simple driving tips to avoid getting future tickets and some interesting ways to talk your way out of a ticket.

Other tips include how to handle the initial stop. He advises to roll your windows down, turn on the interior lights at night, put both hands on the wheel to show there's no danger to the officer.

And above all...smile and present a good attitude.

Check out my new website at www.cometolakekeowee.com

Trivia Tease ...

I have a mouth but do not speak
I have a bed but do not sleep
I run but have no feet
What am I?
(answer at bottom of page)

The Wackiest Laws On The Books!

Did you know that in New Hampshire it is illegal to tap your feet, nod your head, or keep time to the music in a tavern, restaurant, or café? Or that state law in Colorado *allows* people to rip the tags off pillows and mattresses, despite dire warnings not to do so.

And in Alaska, while it's legal to shoot bears, waking a sleeping bear for the purposes of taking a photograph is prohibited.

The dumb laws web site, found at www.dumblaws.com offers an entertaining selection of silly laws on the books in the U.S. and foreign countries. Compiled by Andy Powell and Jeff Koon, the site offers a sidesplitting look at laws that are outdated...or simply incredibly stupid. Other examples include...

In Fairbanks, Alaska, it is considered an offense to feed alcoholic beverages to a moose. Sterling, Colorado has a law on the books that states that cats may not run loose at night without being fit with a flashlight.

Did You Know?...

- ◆ The animal with the largest brain in proportion to its size is the ant.
- ◆ Temperature and crime are correlated. Many more crimes are committed in the hot summer months than in the cold winter months.
- ◆ Ancient Egyptians regarded the heart as the center of intelligence and emotion. They believed the brain to be totally insignificant, and during mummification, the brain was removed...thinking it would not be needed on the "other side."

Answer To Trivia Question:
A River!

Shrewd Job Interview Tactics...

Everyone wants to do their best during a job interview – especially if it's for a position you truly desire. But did you know this: If you're one of the first candidates interviewed for a job, odds are you will *not* get hired?

The first candidates frequently get overlooked simply because, after all the interviews are completed, the interviewer forgot details about the first person. Here are a few helpful strategies you might want to consider the next time you're interviewing for "a big job."

- ◆ First, pay attention to *when* you'll be interviewed. If you are offered an interview, for example, on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday, select Wednesday. A mid-week interview will be close enough to the end of the week (many hiring decisions are made Wednesday through Friday), yet far enough from the beginning of the week to be remembered. If you're offered a choice of time for your interview, select the *last* interview appointment of the day.
- ◆ You'd be amazed at how many applicants never follow-up their interview. And those who do frequently take so long, their follow-up is meaningless. Make sure you follow-up your interview *the very next day* by phone to thank the executive for his or her time. Most importantly, add a point that was not discussed at your interview – perhaps something about your "company fit" you learned during or since your interview.
- ◆ To serve as an additional contact, mail a letter to the interviewer so he or she receives your letter within two or three days of the interview. And here's the clincher: enclose something of value to the interviewer. Perhaps it's an article about the company or special news you learned about through internet company research. The impression will pay off enormously.

Are You My Client Of The Month?

Every month I choose a very special *Client Of The Month*. It's my way of acknowledging good friends and saying "thanks" to those who support me and my business with referrals, word of mouth, and repeat business.

This month's *Client Of The Month* is Lisa Reid. I met Lisa through a mutual friend. We currently have her house listed *and* under contract. She was so pleased with our services that she recommended us to a co-worker to sell her home. Thanks Lisa!

You might be my next *Client Of The Month* too! Watch for your name here in an upcoming month.

"No loss of flood and lightning, no destruction of cities and temples by hostile forces of nature, has deprived man of so many noble lives and impulses as those which his intolerance has destroyed."

--Helen Keller (1880 – 1968) American author and lecturer.

Check out my new website at www.cometolakekeowee.com

Go Figure!...

Did you know...the most stolen books from public libraries, in order, are... "The Bible," "The Koran," and "The Police Entrance Examination Guide!"

Thanks for Thinking of Me!

Did you know I can help you or any of your friends, family or acquaintances save time and money when buying or selling a home? Thanks for keeping me in mind with your referrals...and spreading the word!

Bad Luck??...

A man was just coming out of a coma when he sees his devoted wife sitting close by. He motions for her to come closer.

As she sat by him, he whispered, eyes full of tears, "You know what? You have been with me all through the bad times. When I got fired, you were there. When I got shot, you were by my side. When we lost the house, you stayed right here. When my health started failing, you were still by my side." You know what else?" he asked.

"What, dear?" she gently asked, smiling. "I think you're bad luck!"

More Airline Yuks...

I was once on a Southwest flight that was delayed at the gate after everyone boarded. The flight attendant said over the intercom, "We're sorry for the delay. The machine that normally rips the handles off your luggage is broken, so we're having to do it by hand. We should be finished and on our way shortly...."

I'd Love To Hear From You!

Whether you're thinking of buying, selling or financing real estate, or just want to stop by and say "Hi," I'd love to hear from you...

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Bob Hill Realty

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"Who Else Wants To Win A \$25 Gift Certificate?"

Take my Trivia Challenge and you could win too!

Guess Who Won Last Month's Trivia Question? I'm pleased to announce the Grand Prize Winners of last month's quiz. And the winners are...drum roll please: Donna Wetherell, Brandon Lynch, Rhonda Dula and Erin Hoxit. Honorable mentions go to Alan, at Barker's Pest Control and Jerry Edwards.

How Many Items Are In Two Baker's Dozen?

- a) 14 b) 26 c) 12 d) 24 e) 36

No need to go calling your local bakeshop, because the answer is "B". There are 26 items an *two* baker's dozen. Congratulations to our 4 winners you've each won a \$25 gift card to the restaurant or store of your choice. Now...let's move on to this month's trivia question...

On Earth, It Takes 365.25 Days For Our Planet To Circle The Sun. How Long Does It Take Mercury, The Planet Closest To The Sun At 58 Million Miles, To Circle The Sun?

- a) 37.24 hours b) 15.67 days c) 87.97 days d) 215.38 days e) 659.27 days

Call or email me right now with your answer and you could win too! 903-5671, 1-866-267-0863 or kevincope@nctv.com.

Real Estate Corner...

Q. We are thinking of selling our home, and heard there are four critical phases of the selling process we must examine with our agent. What are those phases?

A. If you're selling your home, you need to be aware that there are four critical phases of the selling process. A mistake in any of the phases can jeopardize a fast, top-dollar sale.

Here are the phases: 1) **Pricing the property** to ensure the likelihood of stimulating offers. Many people try to set a high price thinking they can come down later. That's a big mistake because above-market pricing stifles showings and discourages offers of any kind, usually netting the homeowner a lower price than they planned on getting. 2) **Marketing the property** to attain the highest number of showings from qualified buyers. Check your agent's marketing plan carefully to ensure they have the ability to do more than just place it in MLS and hold a few open houses. 3) **Creation and Negotiation of the purchase contract.** A good agent's negotiating skills can make or break a purchase contract. Check their experience in these matters. Ask questions about past transactions they handled. 4) **Managing the escrow process.** During this phase, your agent must be on top of all the escrow functions: inspections, appraisals, financing, contingencies, and more. When interviewing real estate agents, make sure you address each of the four phases of the selling process. Your dialog will be pivotal in establishing trust and a personal chemistry that is crucial between you and your agent. If you have a question about selling your home, please call me at 903-5671 or 1-866-267-0863.

Check out my new website at www.cometolakekeowee.com