

# The Some Times Newsletter

## The Start Of Spring

This year, the vernal equinox - the day when night and day are nearly the same length - starts on March 20th. According to American folklore, the first day of spring is the only time that a raw egg can be balanced on end because the sun's equidistant position between the poles of the earth generates special gravitational forces. This notion goes back to 1945, when a reporter for Life Magazine covered a Chinese ritual in which people balanced eggs on the first day of spring. But the Chinese calendar puts the first day of spring in early February, a month and a half before the equinox. This fact didn't stop Donna Henes, an artist and self described ritual maker, from rallying 100 people in New York City in 1983 to balance eggs on March 20. At the hour and minute of the equinox, she stood her egg on end and announced, "Spring is here." The following year, 5,000 New Yorkers convened at the World Trade Center to repeat the egg ritual, meriting coverage by the New York Times. To this day, many news and radio stations repeat the story and urge people to balance eggs on the first day of spring. But myth busters say the yolk's on them because there are no such special gravitational forces at work on this day. It's possible to get an egg to balance upright on any day of the year - as long as you have the patience to do it.

## Make Time for Life When Work Gets Busy

You've done all you can to strike a balance between your work life and your personal time. But suddenly a new project lands in your corner at work, and you've got to kick into overdrive.

Before you and your family become strangers, try these two techniques from the book *Coming Up for Air*, by Beth Sawi (Hyperion):

- **On again, off again.** Schedule one to three days when you'll plan to work late or come in extra early. On the other days, work your normal hours. This method allows you to set more realistic goals both at work and at home—like when to say "yes" or "no" to certain projects or activities on any given day. And knowing that there are days of reprieve in the week helps you get through the longer days you've scheduled.
- **Marathon and rest.** Sometimes the work at hand may leave you with absolutely no free time. This is when the marathon/rest technique will work best. Commit to working extra long days for several days or even months (if need be). But set a definite end date when you'll stop the grueling pace. This helps you focus on what you need to get done at work and keeps expectations realistic at home.

## ST. Patrick:

### The Myth And The Man

For some, St. Patrick's Day (March 17) is a reason to wear green, go to a parade, and drink more Irish whiskey than usual. But just who was this St. Patrick fellow? The most common belief is that he drove the snakes out of Ireland. Ireland probably never had snakes, though, and the myth may refer to Patrick's efforts to stamp out the serpent imagery used by the Druids. He also may have used the three leafed shamrock to illustrate the concept of the Holy Trinity to the people he was trying to convert to Christianity as a missionary in Ireland during the fifth century.

Historians agree that Patrick was born in Roman-occupied Britain, the son of a Christian deacon. At age 16 he was captured and taken to Ireland, where he was a slave for six years. During this time, his Christian faith strengthened, and one day he heard a voice (according to a letter he wrote about his early life) promising he would soon return home. Shortly afterward he escaped, found his way to a ship, and went back to his family.

An angel appeared to him in a dream, he later wrote, telling him to return to Ireland as a missionary. After a long period of religious training, Patrick went back to the land where he had been a slave to convert the Irish and to minister to those Christians living there. March 17 is believed to be the day of his death.

Although never formally canonized, Patrick came to be considered a saint, and March 17 was celebrated as a religious holiday until 1903, when it became a public holiday in Ireland by an act of the British Parliament.



### Don't forget to change the clocks! Spring is almost here!

Daylight savings time begins on March 8 at 2:00 A.M. this year! Daylight savings time was originally signed into law in the United States in 1918 by President Woodrow Wilson. It was then repealed only seven months later until 1942 when President Franklin D. Roosevelt re-instituted Daylight Savings Time year-round.

## \$50 Off Timing Belt Replacement

Manufacturer's Recommended Maintenance.  
You must present this coupon at time of service. Coupon will not be accepted after repair is completed and paid for. One coupon per person per repair order. Cannot combine with other coupons.

Valid Through March 31, 2023

**Serendipity And The Slinky**

Inventors keep an eye peeled for serendipity, an accidental discovery. They know that an object used for one purpose can become useful for something else.

That's what happened in 1943 when Marine Engineer Richard James accidentally dropped a tension spring from a meter used to test battleship horsepower. The spring "walked" end-over-end all across the floor. And it made a charming noise while it was at it.

James thought it would make a great toy and two years later, the first 400 were on the market at Christmas time.

The slinky recently celebrated its 73rd birthday. Today, kids still like them, and adults use them as stress relievers as they pass them from hand to hand.

**Ahhhhhhhhhh Memories!!!**

OK, close your eyes...And go back.....Before the Internet or PC or the MAC.....Before semi-automatics and crack.....Before Play Station, SEGA, Super Nintendo, even before Atari.....Before cell phones, CD's, DVD's, voicemail and e-mail.....way back.....way.....way.....way back..... I'm talking' bout hide and seek at dusk, Red light. Green light, playing kickball & dodge ball until the first... no second... no third streetlight came on. Ring around the Rosie, London Bridge, Hot potato. Hop Scotch, Jump rope, Duck....Duck....GOOSE!!! YOU'RE IT!!

Parents stood on the front porch and yelled (or whistled in my case) for you to come home. Endless summer days and hot summer nights (no A/C) with the windows open...The sound of crickets. Running through the sprinkler, cereal boxes with that GREAT prize in the bottom, ice pops with 2 sticks you could break and share with a friend.

*...but wait.....there's more....*

Watching Saturday Morning cartoons-Fat Albert, Road Runner, Tom & Jerry, Watching Sunday morning oldies (Abbott & Costello, Three Stooges, Tarzan, Shirley Temple) Wonder Woman & Super Man Underoos, catching lightning bugs in a jar, climbing trees, swinging as high as you could to try and reach the sky, a million mosquito bites and sticky fingers. A 13" black and white TV in your room meant you were RICH! Running till you were out of breath, laughing so hard that your stomach hurt, being tired from PLAYING. WORK: meant taking out the garbage or doing the dishes Your first crush, your first kiss (the one that you kept your mouth CLOSED and your eyes OPEN).

**Oh, I'm not finished yet....**

Kool-Aid was the drink of the summer, so was a swig from the hose, giving your friends a ride on your handlebars, when nearly everyone's mom was at home when the kids got there, when a quarter seemed like a fair allowance; and another quarter was a MIRACLE! When ANY parent could discipline ANY kid, or feed him, or use him to carry groceries...And nobody, not even the kid, thought a thing of it. When being sent to the principal's office was nothing compared to the fate that awaited you at home. Our parents and grandparents were a much bigger threat! And some of us are still afraid of them! Nobody was prettier than Mom! Scrapes and bruises were kissed by mom or grandma and made better. It was a big deal to finally be tall enough to ride the "big people" rides at the amusement park.

**Didn't that feel good?**

**If you can remember most or all of these, then you have LIVED!!!**

**A Few Good Ways to Inspire Your Kids**

If you want to get your kids into learning, but you have a small budget, you might want to try some of the following suggestions for cheap ways to inspire young minds:

- ✓ Help your kids appreciate musical styles. How? Tune into a classical station and encourage your kids to move to the music. Then switch to a jazz station and have them move to it, too. Keep switching to stations that play particular styles. When you're done talk to your child about how the music made them feel and move.
- ✓ Take your child to a story hour at the local library or at local bookstores. While you're at the library don't forget to check out some books.
- ✓ Check out an educational video at your local library. Go to the beach and collect some things, driftwood and seashells, for instance. Take your loot home and help your child make art projects out of his finds. When he's done, have an art show, hang the pieces on your wall—and don't forget to put up strips of paper with titles of the artworks on them.
- ✓ Go to a state park. Before you go on your trip, call or check the Internet for free programs for youngsters that the park might offer.



**Remember, Lord, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you, Lord, are good.**

Psalm 25:6-7

**The Lighter Side**

As they were driving to yet another dinner, Albert Einstein mentioned to his chauffeur (who resembled him) that he was very tired of speech making.

The chauffeur said he had heard that speech so many times, he could give it himself. So Einstein let him do it.

At the dinner, Einstein wore the chauffeur's cap and jacket and sat in the back of the room. The chauffeur gave a nice rendition of Einstein's speech. Then a pompous professor asked a question about antimatter formation.

Without missing a beat, the chauffeur said, "Sir, the answer to that is so simple that I will let my chauffeur answer it!"

**Jolene's Corner**

In these cold winter months, breaking into spring sometimes a tropical dish sounds enticing. Try this mango vanilla infused chicken recipe.

- 2 boneless skinless chicken breasts
- 2 medium sized mangos
- 1 cups water
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 Tablespoons brown sugar
- 1/8 teaspoon dried thyme
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- 1/8 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1 Tablespoon melted butter
- Salt and pepper to season chicken



Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Mix butter, dried thyme, paprika, and ginger in a small bowl and set aside. Split chicken breast in half to make a thinner breast. Season chicken with salt and pepper and ginger mixture. Place in baking dish. Place in oven and bake for 10 minutes. Peel mangos and remove flesh from pit. Purée mango flesh in a blender with vanilla, brown sugar and water. Strain mango purée. Reserve pulp. Smear the breast with 1/3 cup of the purée on the chicken. Bake for another 10 minutes. Raise oven temperature to 475 degrees. Smear another 1/3 cup of the mango purée on chicken. Bake for 5 more minutes or until the internal temperature reaches 165 degrees. Remove from oven and cover with foil for 10 minutes. Remove foil and serve.

Hint: Blend the rest of puree with the pulp and make Mango smoothies for breakfast the next morning.

**Save Dough When You Rent Wheels**

Travel is expensive enough. When you need to rent a car, don't spend money unnecessarily. Here's a tip: Don't rent your car at the airport. Often it's cheaper to take a cab or public transportation into the city, where you can avoid extra taxes and user fees that city governments often impose on airport rentals.

You can usually return the car at the airport with no extra charge, as rental companies generally allow customers to drop off their vehicles at a different location.

If you're staying at a hotel, park at a public lot down the street. Chances are the rates will be cheaper than the hotel's overnight parking fees.

**FREE Vehicle Inspection**

Bumper to bumper inspection of your belts, fluids, under carriage, tires, brakes, battery, lights, horn and much more.

**Valid Through March 31, 2023**

**FREE Code Scan**

Is your 'Check Engine' light on?

**Valid Through March 31, 2023**

FREE Computer Scan Most OBDII Vehicles 1996 and up.

Does NOT include diagnosis of any condition or failure. FREE Scan Only.

**THANKS FOR THE KIND WORDS!**

Don't hesitate to take your car here for service, they are always excellent and give you a free inspection on numerous items, can't go wrong!

Noel

**\$10 Off Labor Coupon**

**Not Valid On Oil Change -**

You must present this coupon at time of service. Coupon will not be accepted after repair is completed and paid for. One coupon per person per repair order. Cannot combine with other coupons.

**Valid Through March 31, 2023**



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*Ahhh...Memories!*

*The Slinky*

*Inspire your kids*

*Jolene's Recipe*

*Money saving coupons*

**RIGHT THE FIRST TIME, ON TIME, EVERY TIME SINCE 1975**

## **Know Your Rights!**



As a new car owner, did you know that federal law prohibits a car dealer from requiring you to have service done at their location in order to preserve your new car warranty? Did you know that you have the right to *choose* your own automotive service provider and *choose* what parts are used? Choosing an automotive service facility other than a new car dealership to service your vehicle will not void



or alter the terms of your original manufacturers new car warranty

These rights are afforded to you by the Magnuson-Moss Warranty Improvement Act of 1975.

*The only exceptions are:*

1. If your car breaks down due to a defective part that is still covered under warranty.
2. You are notified of a recall for defective parts that are to be replaced for FREE.
3. The federal trade commission has published a notice that *specific* parts are required.

These are the only instances where a visit to the dealer might be necessary. Otherwise, all you have to do to keep a new car warranty in force is to have your car serviced at the intervals specified in your owner's manual or warranty booklet and keep records (the date, odometer reading, make, model, VIN (vehicle identification number), and itemization of parts used and services performed.

Save time, hassles and money by choosing STAR Automotive for the care and maintenance of your car, van or truck. We can service your vehicle from the first day you own it. After all, it is *your* choice!

If you ever have any questions about your new car warranty, give us a call at 541-476-9646