

# Good News

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**MEMORIAL DAY**

**We Remember**

## ***Memorial Day: Time to remember those of valor***

The tradition of honoring our country's fallen defenders began as a springtime custom following the Civil War. Originally, called Decoration Day, it was a time to remember those whose valor knew no bounds.

To the list of those who died at Gettysburg and Bull Run, we have added names from San Juan Hill, Verdun, Corregidor, Inchon, Khe Sanh, Vietnam, the deserts of the Middle East, and a thousand other places touched by war.

For most of the year, these brave souls lie in anonymity, but on Memorial Day we bring them back to life with our thanks for their great sacrifice.

It is not really a time of sadness. Rather it should be an affirmation that these men and women did not lose their lives in vain.

This special day is a time of tribute to those who fell and to a country that plunged onward in pursuit of justice and democracy. We mourn our dead, but we rejoice in their memory and in the democracy they defended.

## **Conspiracy theory debunked: Weird claim that wireless internet causes disease**

Conspiracy theorists have made an odd link between the organic and digital worlds - and they've burned down 70-foot wireless towers to promote their cause.

Big tech companies such as Google and Facebook have been working to take down memes that claim 5G networks, not an organic virus, cause the symptoms of Covid-19.

In early April, arsonists set ablaze 5G towers in Britain as a protest.

5G wireless network technology is widely in use in China, where there are 100,000 5G towers, and South Korea where it serves up super-fast internet speeds that allow multiple devices to connect at the same time.

The U.S. rollout of 5G has been limited mainly to cities where only a few customers actually can get the coverage now.

Nonetheless, conspiracies attest 5G causes some sort of toxicity in cells, prompting nausea or cellular damage. Hucksters claim that symptoms of Covid-19 are caused by cells trying to expel the virus, according to Fast Company.

The claim has been around for about 20 years and originated with claims of cellular harm due to electromagnetic radiation. A global pandemic is a natural vehicle to promote the claim.

### ***One study responsible***

According to the New York Times, popular fear of electromagnetic radiation can be traced to one person, Bill P. Curry, a physicist, who did a study for a Florida school system in 2000.

The study claimed that increasingly high frequencies of a wireless signal were absorbed by the brain. He reported that radio waves could thus create brain cancer.

Except Curry was wrong.

Radiology experts say extremely high frequency waves, such as X-rays, do pose a health risk, as has been known since at least the 1940s. But radio waves at 5G high frequencies are shorter waves, and less dangerous, not more.

The reason is that human skin provides a barrier to shield human organs, including the brain, from exposure. Skin blocks radio waves, including frequencies of sunlight.



## Hackers love it when people work at home

Someone at your workplace no doubt makes sure the networks are secure and safeguards are in place to block bad guys.

And who does that at your house? Right. You or no one.

During the current crisis, with employees working at home, many companies have issued employees guidance on how to establish home internet security.

It's guidance worth following.

### 1 Change the locks.

That means update your software. You might have noticed that software frequently has security updates. That's because smart hackers figured out how to break the software. But what you may not know is that there is a second wave of dumb hackers who just read the security update for tips on how to get the folks who don't update. It's like they have a key. Your mission is to change the locks and update.

### 2 Use a secret code.

Implement two-factor identification. Yes, it is a

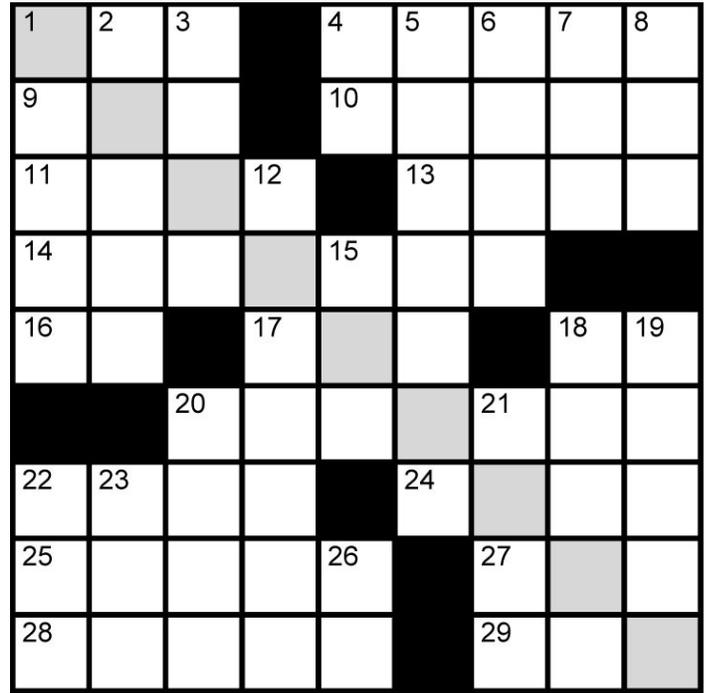
#### Across

1. Genetic stuff
4. Auspices
9. Sprinted
10. Serpent
11. Sea eagle
13. Kind of charge card
14. Military school
16. Perform
17. "Fancy that!"
18. Kipling poem
20. Hamlet's cousin
22. Bank holding
24. Window part
25. Poem of lament
27. \_\_\_ juice (milk)
28. Bit of statuary
29. Trinity component

#### Down

1. Be reluctant
2. DEA agent
3. The "I" of "The King and I"
4. Symbol for arsenic
5. Glossy paints
6. Like some meat
7. White House nickname
8. Census datum
12. Decorative borders
15. Sushi offering
18. Arctic abode
19. Criminal
20. Turn

## Spring yard flower



21. Goals
22. Tennis call
23. U.N. workers' grp.
26. Rocky's greeting

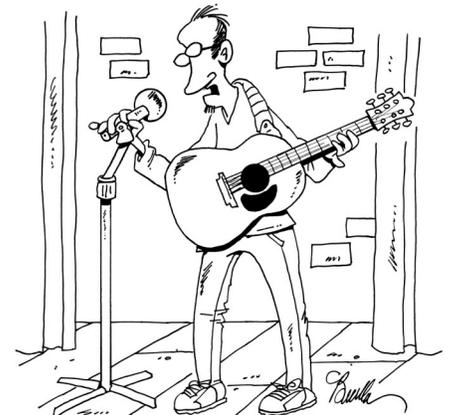


The headline is a clue to the answer in the diagonal.

second step. You will have to put in a new secret code every time you do certain tasks. But it is better than a hacker walking out with your briefcase.

### 3 Use a mask.

Meaning, mask your internet activity with a personal VPN. It protects your privacy. It doesn't protect you from phishing, malicious software, or digital viruses, but at least you aren't accessing your company website in cyber-public.



"Here's a blues number written about my inability to remember computer passwords."

# BOLD BUBBLES.

## The strange journey and powers of the humble bar of soap.

According to Roman legend, thousands of years ago women washing in the river Tiber used bubbly globs flowing down a mountain to clean their clothing.

Whether they knew it or not, the bubbles were inadvertently created by the temple priests on Mount Sapo. Ashes from fires combined with animal fat and river water created a bubbly substance that lifted dirt from skin and clothing.

Soap.

Humans have been using soap for at least 5,000 years, but it isn't an obvious sort of formula. Soap requires three ingredients: An alkaline (like lye), water, and fat.

The fat part is easy and lots of things work well, from olive oil to tallow, which is beef fat.

But lye is a different story. Lye has to be made with white ash from a hardwood fire. Lye makers literally had to go out to a place where hardwoods burned down to ash. They scooped up the white ashes and put them in a barrel. Then, they waited for rain, best for making lye. Buckets full of rainwater were poured into the ash barrel to soak the ash. The lye water formed at the bottom of the barrel. They then caught and stored the caustic lye water that

**FIERCE SOAP MOLECULES** use their tails to pierce the virus membrane and pry it apart!



leached out from the bottom.

Strangely, somewhere along the line someone decided to make lye and combine it with fat and more water.

Today we might think of soap as gentle, but it is actually fierce to dirt, bacteria, and viruses.

Soap molecules are pin-shaped crow-bars. Their tails love fat but hate water. Their heads love water. So when soap molecules find a piece of dirt or virus, the tails pierce the fatty membrane, while the heads pull away toward the water, thus prying open the dirt or virus and destroying it. Fancy science for some glop that once rolled down a hill.

Today soap smells nice and has lots of different forms from hand soap to detergent. Yet, the recipe really hasn't changed much from recipe used by Romans or ancient Egyptians. It's still ancient science.

## Traffic accidents down dramatically as people stay at home

It might not be safe to hug a stranger, but driving on freeways is safer than ever.

All over major U.S. cities traffic is down, pollution is down, accidents are down.

According to a study by the University of California, Davis, California traffic accidents have fallen by 50 percent since March 19, when the populace was ordered to stay at home.

Typically there are 1,000 collisions and 400 accidents that result in injuries or fatalities every day on the congested freeways of California.

Now the numbers are 500 collisions and 200 injury/fatality accidents.

The study measured these highways: I-5, both north of Los Angeles and toward Oceanside, U.S. Route 101, U.S. Route 99, state road 152 toward Los Banos and I-280 toward Daly City.

Pollution is also down worldwide. A Stanford scientist studied satellite imagery and found a dramatic decline in air



pollution. Marshall Burke, assistant professor in the Stanford department of Earth System Science, predicted that quarantine might save 77,000 lives in China.

In Los Angeles, as April began, residents were enjoying their fourth week of smog-free air.

In fact, the air is clearer from Los Angeles to India, which has 21 of the world's 30 most polluted cities. In fact, in major cities in India, something new is in the sky: blue. Living with such badly polluted air makes dwellers in such cities uniquely at risk for viruses like Covid-19.

However, scientists say with the resumption of factory work and traffic, blue skies will once again be replaced with gray.

*The lowly cauliflower has gained respect, devotees*

Though cauliflower is native to Asian countries, it made its way to North America in the late 1600s. Two hundred years later, Mark Twain called it "a cabbage with a college education!"

Cauliflower is so smart it can grow by the light of the full moon almost as well as during the day. It's sometimes called the "moon crop."

People who eat cauliflower are smart too. At the Foundation for Preventive Oncology in New York, they say it is one of the best healing foods you can buy, especially when it's eaten raw.

The carotenoids in cauliflower make it a powerful defender against cataracts.

Its sulforaphane helps prevent cancer by increasing production of enzymes that sweep toxins out of the body before they can damage cells and make them cancerous.

Its other cancer-fighter, I3C, works as an anti-estrogen. It reduces harmful estrogen levels that can cause tumor growth in the colon, breast, and prostate.

But cauliflower does more than fight cancer and protect the eyes. It's rich in vitamin C and folate, nutrients that keep the immune system working well. Just three florets of uncooked cauliflower can supply two-thirds of your daily value for vitamin C.

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**Cauliflower gratin with ham**

Divide a 2 pound cauliflower into florets. Cook in salt water 5 or 6 minutes. Drain it and run cold water over it.

Carefully brown 3 tablespoons of bread crumbs in 1/2 tablespoon butter and set aside.

In a small pan, melt 2 tablespoons butter. Add 2 tablespoons flour, then add 3/4 cup milk, 3/4 cup chicken broth, a bay leaf, and a clove of garlic.

Stir and simmer 8 to 10 minutes. Remove bay leaf, garlic.

Cut florets to similar sizes. Put in a buttered blend. Cook 1 minute, baking dish, salt and pepper. Pour sauce on florets. Tear 1 ounce thin ham slices apart and scatter on top.

Finally, top with a cup of shredded cheddar. Bake 30 minutes at 400 degrees. Let stand 30 minutes before serving.