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What's Prettier Than Freckles?

An elderly woman and her young grandson, whose face was sprinkled with freckles, spent the day at the zoo. Lots of children were waiting in line to get their cheeks painted by a local artist who was decorating them with tiger paws.

"You've got so many freckles, there's no place to paint!" a girl in the line said to the little fellow.

Embarrassed, the boy dropped his head. His grandmother knelt down next to him. "I love your freckles. When I was a little girl I always wanted freckles," she said, while tracing her finger across his cheek. "Freckles are beautiful."

The boy looked up. "Really?"

"Of course," said the grandmother. "Why, just name me one thing that's prettier than freckles."

The boy thought for a moment, peered intensely into his grandma's face, and softly whispered, "Wrinkles."

Write It/\$ave It

Are you spending more money than you need to? It's a nagging worry, especially these days. Fortunately, you don't need an advanced degree in finance and accounting to analyze your spending.

Try this: Keep track of your spending for one week. Just one week - longer, and you'll probably get too busy. But you can hold onto your receipts and add them up for seven days. At the end of the week, separate and categorize your expenses (use a spreadsheet if that helps you visualize better).

You'll see what you're spending your money on, and chances are you'll find at least a few areas where you can cut back.

"You Don't Need Feet to Dance"

In 1982, teenager Sudha Chandran was a highly accomplished classical dancer with a promising future in her native country India. That all changed when her right leg was amputated after a car crash. Though the incident brought her bright career to a halt, she didn't give up.

In the painful months that followed, she sought out an Indian doctor who had devoted his life to developing innovative artificial limbs, particularly a solid but flexible artificial foot. The doctor agreed to create a prosthesis for Sudha and studied the type of dance she used to do, tailoring the limb to allow many kinds of movement.

Sudha believed in herself and her dream, and began her courageous journey back to the world of dancing - learning to balance, bend, stretch, walk, turn, twist, twirl, and finally, dance.

In 1984, Sudha made a historic comeback by giving a public recital in Bombay. Her performance was met with thunderous applause, and invitations to dance flooded in from all over the world. A shrewd movie producer invited Sudha to tell her story on screen, launching Sudha's highly successful film and television career.

When Sudha was asked how she'd ever thought she'd dance again, she simply said, "You don't need feet to dance." Instead of asking, "Why me?" Sudha said, "What's next?"

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Holly's Household Corner



Is Smaller Cheaper?

We've become conditioned to believing that purchasing larger portions of food, bigger packages of paper towels, or giant containers of laundry soap is a good way to save money, and sometimes it is. But in some cases, smaller portions or quantities can be cheaper, and the way to ascertain this is by checking the label for the product's price-per-ounce, price-per-sheet or price-per-count, and so on.

For example, a 12-pack of paper towels may actually cost more per sheet than a six-pack or three-pack. A box of 50 tea bags could be priced higher per count than a box of 20. And those pre-packaged apples might prove to be less than a bargain, depending on the price per ounce compared to unpackaged apples.

If your supermarket doesn't provide this information on their shelf labels, ask the manager to start - sooner rather than later! In the meantime, take along your calculator and do your own pricing. Just take the cost of the item - say, a 16-ounce jar of peanut butter for \$3.29 - divide \$3.29 by 16, and your cost per ounce is about 20 cents. If the 28-ounce jar of that same peanut butter is \$6.29, it will cost you 22 cents per ounce. Clearly, the smaller jar is the better buy.

It makes sense - and saves dollars - to read shelf labels or do your own calculation. Spend a little time and you'll save money every time you shop.

Gardens and Greenhouses

"Late Summer Gardening"



As summer comes to an end, relax in a shady spot under a tree and enjoy a salad filled with tasty tomatoes from your garden. Do continue to water 1" per week, slowly and deeply in the morning. Also, continue to weed on cooler days so you can keep ahead of the weed seeds. Enjoy your harvest! Try a new summer salad recipe or grill your fresh vegetables.

Continue to feed and deadhead annuals so they look gorgeous into early fall. Perennials, roses, and deciduous trees and shrubs can be fertilized one last time this month. Feeding after August is not recommended because it will promote new growth that may be damaged by fall frosts. Heavy pruning of woody plants is not recommended in late summer either.

Believe in Your Future

When writer, actor, and political commentator Ben Stein arrived in Los Angeles as a young man to become a screenwriter, he very much wanted to buy a Mercedes 450 SLC. But even used, the Mercedes was far more than he could afford on his entry-level salary. When he explained this to the salesman at the Mercedes-Benz dealership, the salesman replied, "Don't you believe in your own future?" It was the right question. Stein bought the car.

Make a Difference

"Make A Difference Day" is the most encompassing national day of helping others ~ a celebration of neighbors helping neighbors. Everyone can participate. Created by USA WEEKEND Magazine, Make A Difference Day is an annual event that takes place on the fourth Saturday of every October. The next event is Saturday, October 24, 2009.

Millions have participated. In 2008, 3 million people cared enough about their communities to volunteer on that day, accomplishing thousands of projects in hundreds of towns.

Your project can be as large or as small as you wish! Look around your community and see what needs to be done. Or let the Idea Generator help you find a project idea to help your community.

After participating on October 24, please send in an entry form so you will be counted among the millions of volunteers and be considered for an award.

For more information about this annual event, visit www.usaweekend.com/diffday/index.html.

Do treat for any lawn fungal problems like rust with Scotts or Bayer granular fungicide. If you are seeing powdery mildew on lilacs, roses, etc. try Fung-onil or Orthenex. There is still time to apply grub control until September too.

By the end of August you will have relaxed enough to be ready for planting again! It will be a perfect time to dethatch, aerate and reseed your lawn. Late August thru the beginning of September is the best time to divide and transplant Irises, Poppies, Peonies, and any of your spring blooming perennials so they can get their roots established 6-8 weeks before the fall frosts. Consider adding a bit of late summer and early fall color with gorgeous Perennial Hibiscus, Black-eyed Susan, Sedum spectabile, and plenty of fall mums too. ~ Information from www.petittigardencenter.com

Is Facebook Your Friend or Foe?

Could your Facebook profile prevent you from getting a job offer? The online job site CareerBuilder reports that its survey of over 3,200 hiring managers found that 22 percent say they screen job applicants by viewing their social networking profiles, and 34 percent have eliminated job candidates because of the content they've found.

Top objections? Forty-one percent cited posts on drinking or drug use, and 40 percent were troubled by candidates' provocative photographs. Also: poor communication skills; evidence of dishonesty concerning applicants' qualifications; discriminatory remarks on race, religion, or gender; and unprofessional screen names.

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It's Oktoberfest!

Did you know that the Canadian twin cities of Kitchener-Waterloo host the next-to-largest Oktoberfest in the world, second only to the original celebration in Munich, Germany?

Also billed as "Canada's Greatest Bavarian Festival," the event began in 1969 and now hosts upwards of 700,000 visitors annually. This year's festival runs from October 9 to 17 and offers 15 "Festhallen," Bavarian-decorated buildings or tents scattered throughout the Kitchener-Waterloo region that form the hub of the festival. The roster includes a Thanksgiving parade, treasure hunt, car and fashion shows, the Miss Oktoberfest pageant, oompah bands, Bavarian dancers, and of course, beer and lots of great German cuisine.

According to their Web site, the Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest is wunderbar! For information visit www.oktoberfest.ca/.

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Positive Thinking Corner

Success is about failure. At least, it's about learning how to fail without letting it stop you from moving forward. As business coach Jane Herman writes:

"You've heard the expression, 'Anything worth doing is worth doing well.' Here's your new motto: 'Anything worth doing is worth being willing to do badly.' If something is important to you, then you've got to be willing to try it, even knowing that you may fail. If you have the attitude that you can't do something unless you can do it well, or perfectly, then you will never take a step. Be willing to take the step."



Stressed Out?

Our work lives are often filled with what can seem like unbearable amounts of stress. And while some of those stresses are unavoidable, there's a lot you can do to start to whittle those high levels of stress down to something that feels at least manageable. Here are a few suggestions:

Know when to say "No." That means you have to first understand your own limits. Then set limits on others so they don't encroach on your time by pressuring you to take on tasks or responsibilities that will throw you out of balance.

If possible, avoid people who consistently stress you out. If your boss is the culprit, you might not be able to do this. And you can't steer clear of everyone who occasionally causes you anxiety. But you can avoid people who have a history of leaving you feeling stressed after you've tried to change the situation and they haven't responded.

Don't expose yourself to unnecessary environmental stressors. For instance, if you read the news on the Internet during a break, but it leaves you feeling tense, stop reading news on your break. Do something that relaxes you instead: Go for a short walk, knit, meditate, work a puzzle.

Learn to manage your time. Letting projects go until the deadline is upon you will undoubtedly cause you stress. Work at a steady pace - and don't procrastinate. Procrastination can affect the quality of your work and leave you feeling anxious and strained for prolonged periods.