

*AI To Power The Next Wave Of Updates To Google Maps*  
page 2



*The World's Top 10 Gold Producers In 2020*  
page 4



*The War Over Genetic Privacy Is Just Beginning*  
page 6



# UCAST NEWS

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## What's Wrong With McDonald's Ice Cream Machines?

*By Turner Stephens*

McDonald's Ice Cream is out of stock at so many locations and is such a consistent problem that many customers are exasperated. For at least 6 years, there has been a constant stream of complaints on social media from McDonald's customers on this issue. Dozens of YouTube videos stream out to viewers on experiences from disappointed ice cream lovers on how, again and again, they could not buy an ice cream item at McDonald's.

A video from Mashed cited the fact that the number one customer complaint in 2016 on Twitter was that McDonald's ice cream machines were broken. "The Real Reason McDonald's Ice Cream Machines Always Seem to Be Broken" received over 1.8 million views. Mashed placed a pin at the top of the comments section, "When the McDonald's ice cream machine is broken, where do you like to get your ice cream

instead?" The pin has 495 replies, revealing that most customers denied their ice cream do not go to another McDonald's but decide to go to a different fast-food place or a grocery store.

The vanilla soft serve ice cream is an ingredient in ten menu items such as McDonald's Shakes, McFlurry® desserts, and sundaes so when the ice cream machine is down, all these items are unavailable. That's it. Customers must order a meal without these dessert items or throw their hands up in frustration and go eat somewhere else.

This is difficult to understand. Why would McDonald's allow this problem to continue for years? Ice cream is a growing food category worldwide. Retail ice cream unit sales grew 4.3% for the 12-month period ending May 2020, according to dairyfoods.com. Each American consumer eats an average of 23 gallons of ice cream each year, which is over



\$11 billion in sales, according to IDFA's Dairy Delivers. Also, 87% of Americans keep ice cream in their freezer. Take-home ice cream for the freezer is 200% more popular than impulse ice cream, such as soft serve ice cream at fast-food restaurants.

There is a tremendous amount of ice cream competition out there. For this reason, McDonald's has low-price ice cream items on its menu,

which sets it apart to bring in repeat customers. Yet the problem of a "broken ice cream machine" is not common at other fast-food restaurants.

Johnny Harris posted the YouTube video, "The REAL Reason McDonald's Ice Cream Machines Are Always Broken" on April 23rd this year. There are many YouTube videos that complain that McDonald's locations are often or "always" unable to serve ice cream. Yet,

Harris's video apparently hit a nerve, since it received an astounding 7,233,228 views in just 39 days.

Harris videoed himself going to several McDonald's and being told by employees that the ice cream machine was broken. Over the course of the video, he revealed Taylor Company manufactures the ice cream machines for all U.S. McDonald's restaurants.

*Continued on page 5*

## Entrepreneurs Are Motivated By Profit, Not Risk

*By Frank Shostak Of The Mises Institute*



According to modern portfolio theory (MPT), financial asset prices fully reflect all available and relevant information, and any adjustment to new information is virtually

instantaneous.

For instance, if the central bank raises interest rates by 0.5 percent, and if market participants anticipated this action, asset prices will reflect

this expected increase prior to the central bank raising interest rates. Note that once the central bank lifts the interest rate by 0.5 percent, this increase will have no

effect on asset prices, since it is already embedded in asset prices.

Should, however, the central bank raise interest rates by 1 percent, rather than the 0.5 percent expected by market participants, then the prices of financial assets will react to this additional increase.

According to the MPT, the individual investor cannot outsmart the market by trading based on the available information, since the available information is already contained in asset prices. Changes in asset prices occur because of news, which cannot be predicted in any

systematic manner.

This means that methods that attempt to extract information from historical data, such as fundamental analysis or technical analysis, are of little help, for whatever an analyst uncovers in the data is already known to the market and hence will not assist in "making money."

The proponents of the MPT argue that if past data contains no information for the prediction of future prices, then it follows that there is no point in paying attention to fundamental analysis.

**Does the MPT Framework**

*Continued on page 2*

AI To Power The Next Wave Of Updates To Google Maps

By Market Crumbs

Google gave a preview earlier this week of a handful of new features coming to Google Maps this year thanks to improvements in artificial intelligence. The most notable updates include Live View for navigating indoors and the ability to select the most eco-friendly route to get to your destination.

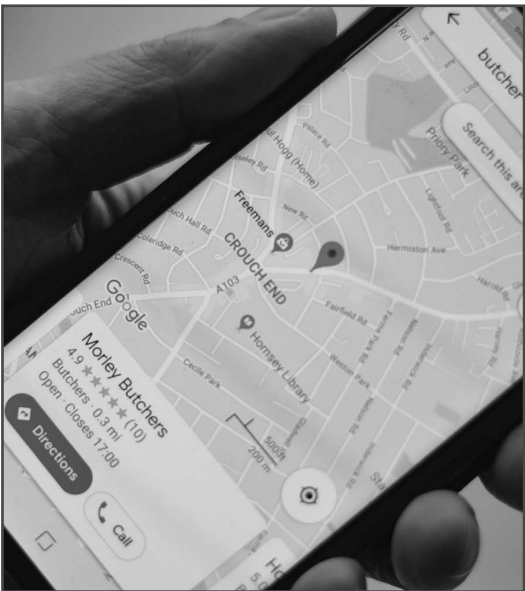
Live View uses AR and a technology called global localization to let Google Maps users explore indoor places that are notoriously hard to navigate such as airports, transit stations, and malls. The feature allows users to hold their phone in front of them to find things such as the nearest elevator, baggage claim, check-in counter, restroom, and ATM.

Live View is now available on Android and iOS in select malls in Chicago, Long Island, Los Angeles, Newark, San Francisco, San Jose, and Seattle. Live View is set to roll out in select airports, malls, and transit stations in Tokyo and Zurich in the coming months with additional cities to follow.

With the help of the U.S. Department of Energy’s National Renewable Energy Lab, Google Maps is also rolling out the ability to choose the route to your destination with the lowest carbon footprint. Taking into consideration factors such as road incline and traffic congestion, Google Maps will soon default to the most

eco-friendly route when it has about the same ETA as the fastest route.

Eco-friendly routes will launch later this year for users in the U.S. with the feature expanding globally to follow. Users in countries that have



low emissions zones such as Germany, the Netherlands, France, Spain, and the UK will even get a feature this summer that alerts them if their vehicle is allowed in a particular area as a result of the zones.

Other features that roll out globally in the coming months include machine learning capabilities that suggest routes that are popular in your city, information about weather and air quality, and curbside grocery pickup information such as pickup and delivery windows, fees, and order minimums.

Google’s VP of Product, Google Maps Dane Glasgow

reflected on the strides that have been made in the way people find their way around over the last 20 years.

“Sixteen years ago, many of us held a printout of directions in one hand and the steering wheel in the other to get around—without information about the traffic along your route or details about when your favorite restaurant was open,” Glasgow wrote. “Since then, we’ve been pushing the boundaries of what a map can do, propelled by the latest machine learning.”

Google hopes it can hold its grip on the maps space as it plans to introduce more than 100 AI-powered improvements to Google Maps this year.

Entrepreneurs Are Motivated By Profit, Not Risk, continued from page 1

Make Sense?

Is it valid to argue that past information is completely embedded in prices and therefore of no consequence? It is questionable whether market participants can discount the duration and the strength of various phenomena.

For instance, a market-

anticipated lowering of interest rates by the central bank, while being regarded as old news, which is therefore not supposed to have real effects, will in fact set in motion the boom-bust cycle.

Obviously, these changes in the real incomes of individuals will lead to changes in the

relative prices of assets. To suggest, then, that somehow the market will quickly incorporate all the future effects of various present occurrences without telling us how it is done is questionable.

Even if we were to accept that modern technology enables all market participants to have

equal access to news, there is still the issue of news interpretation. It has to be realized that markets are comprised of individual investors who require time to understand the implications of various causes and their implications for the prices of financial assets.

Even if a particular cause was anticipated by the market, that does not mean it was understood and therefore discounted. If this were so, it would mean those market participants could immediately assess future

consumers’ responses and counter responses to a given cause. This, of course, must mean that market participants not only must know consumers’ preferences but also how these preferences are going to change. Consumer preferences, however, cannot be revealed before consumers have acted.

MPT Implies Diversification Reduces Investment Risk

The basic idea of MPT is that compiling a portfolio of volatile stocks, i.e., risky stocks, will lead to a reduction in overall risk. The guiding principle for combining stocks in this way is that each stock represents activities that are affected by given factors differently. Once combined, these differences will cancel each other out, thereby reducing the total risk.

The theory indicates that risk can be broken into two parts. The first part is associated with the tendency of returns on a stock to move in the same direction as the general market. The other part of the risk results from factors peculiar to a particular company.

The first part of the risk is labeled systematic risk, the second part, unsystematic. According to MPT, through diversification

only unsystematic risk is eliminated. Systematic risk cannot be removed through diversification. It is held that return on any stock or portfolio is positively related to the systematic risk, i.e., the higher the systematic risk, the higher the return.

The systematic risk of stocks captures the reaction of individual stocks to general market movements. Some stocks tend to be more sensitive to market movements while other stocks display less sensitivity.

The relative sensitivity to market movements is estimated by means of statistical methods and is known as beta. (Beta is the numerical description of systematic risk). If a stock has a beta of 2, it means that on average it swings twice as much as the market. If the market goes up 10 percent, the stock tends to rise 20 percent. If however, the stock has a beta of 0.5, then it tends to be more stable than the market.

Are Profits Reward for Risk-Taking?

Scan here to read the rest of this article



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## Steve Hackett Announces Release Of *Surrender Of Silence* Out September 10th

Legendary guitarist Steve Hackett releases his new studio rock album *Surrender of Silence* on September 10th, via Inside Out Music. The album features 11 new songs as Steve Hackett has been working hard through Lockdown and has completed two studio

classical-acoustic travelogue *Under A Mediterranean Sky*, which was released in January and hit Number 2 in the UK Classical Album Chart, *Surrender of Silence* is a further exploration of Hackett's love of world music, discovering different sounds,

As with *Under A Mediterranean Sky*, *Surrender of Silence* was also recorded during Lockdown and, again, Hackett has called upon some of his musical friends from across the world to contribute. Hackett's regular touring band of Roger King (keyboards, programming, and orchestral arrangements), Rob Townsend (sax, clarinet), Jonas Reingold (bass), Nad Sylvan (vocals), and Craig Blundell (drums) are supplemented by Phil Ehart and Nick D'Virgilio (drums), the vocal talents of Amanda Lehmann, Durga and Lorelei McBroom, Christine Townsend (violin, viola), Malik Mansurov (tar) and Sodirkhon Ubaidulloev (dutar).

This new album is full-on electric...

moods, and textures to deliver a rock album of extraordinary variety, power, and beauty.



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"Lockdown cobwebs are blown away in one fell-swoop here!" says Steve Hackett. "With the monster rhythm section of Jonas, Craig, Nick, and Phil along with Rob's soaring sax and bass clarinet, Nad, Amanda, and myself on vocals, Roger's darkly powerful organ, and my guitar, we plunge full-pelt into that wild release of energy."

Our journey takes us from the classical orchestrations of Russia (Natalia) to the plains of Africa (Wingbeats) to mysterious Eastern shores (Shanghai To Samarkand), all via the ocean's depths (Relaxation Music for Sharks (featuring feeding frenzy)).

The Devil's Cathedral pools the talents of Hackett's entire touring band and features King's atmospheric Gothic organ and a powerhouse rhythm display from Blundell and Reingold. Hackett's vocals have never been better and his duet with Amanda Lehmann adds emotion to *Scorched Earth* a lament for the environmental horrors facing our planet. Throughout Hackett's guitars add a rich tapestry of color with soaring solos and intricate weaving melodies.

**Steve Hackett "Surrender of Silence" track listing:**

*Continued on page 4*

## Moorpark College Theatre Arts Offers Free Performances Of "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee"

**First in-person performances on stage since fall 2019.**

The Moorpark College Theatre Arts Department is thrilled to offer FREE tickets to its summer production of "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee," July 22 through August 8 with Thursday through Saturday performances at 8 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. This Tony Award-winning musical is being offered as a Moving Forward Together event as Moorpark College welcomes students, faculty, staff, and community back to campus.

"The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" is a hilarious tale of overachievers' angst chronicling the experience of six adolescent outsiders vying for the spelling championship of a lifetime. The show's Tony Award-winning creative team has created the unlikeliest of hit

musicals about the unlikeliest of heroes: a quirky yet charming cast of outsiders for whom a spelling bee is the one place where they can stand out and fit in at the same time.

The original production was conceived by Rebecca Feldman with music and lyrics by William Finn, a book by Rachel Sheinkin and additional material by Jay Reisswith will be presented in the Studio Theatre of the Moorpark College Performing Arts Center.

"Our Theatre Arts students are excited to be performing before a live audience again," said John Loprieno, director and theatre arts faculty member. "We couldn't think of a better way to welcome everyone back to campus than by offering free performances. Best of all, we have familiar faces from years past, as well as many newcomers to the theatre arts program and

Moorpark College performing in this production. With the Exotic Animal Training Management/America's Teaching Zoo open and live, in-person theatre returning, it's wonderful to see so many people from the community coming back to enjoy the Moorpark College campus."

"The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" will run July 22, 23, 24, 29, 30, 31, and August 5, 6, 7 at 8 p.m. and July 25 and August 1, 8 at 2 p.m. in the studio theatre at Moorpark College. While some of the language may not be appropriate for young children, this upbeat musical romp promises fun for the entire family. Tickets are FREE to anyone interested, but seating is limited so you must make a reservation through the Moorpark College Performing Arts Center Box Office at (805) 378-1485 or online at [www.moorparkcollege.edu/pac](http://www.moorparkcollege.edu/pac).

[www.moorparkcollege.edu/pac](http://www.moorparkcollege.edu/pac).

For additional information regarding "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" or the Moorpark College Theatre Arts program, please contact John Loprieno at (805) 378-1469 or at [jloprieno@vcccd.edu](mailto:jloprieno@vcccd.edu). Moorpark College is located at 7075 Campus Road in Moorpark, 93021.

### About Moorpark College

Moorpark College is one of three colleges in the Ventura County Community College District and annually serves more than 14,000 students. Founded in 1967, Moorpark College is fully accredited and has the highest six-year completion rate within the California Community College System. The Campaign for College Opportunity named Moorpark College a



**MOORPARK COLLEGE**

2019 Champion of Higher Education for the Associate Degree for Transfer Pathway. It is also a designated Hispanic-Serving Institution. The college's signature career/technical programs include nursing, radiologic technology, biotechnology, and journalism. The college's America's Teaching Zoo is the only associate degree exotic animal training program in the country. To learn more, visit [MoorparkCollege.edu](http://MoorparkCollege.edu) or follow @MoorparkCollege on social media.

Contact: John Loprieno

805-378-1469

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The World’s Top 10 Gold Producers In 2020

By Peter Schiff Of Schiff Gold

Who produces the world’s gold?

Gold production fell again in 2020. According to the World Gold Council, gold production came in at 3,478 tons last year. That compares with mine output of 3,597 tons in 2019.

The decline was primarily driven by disruptions in mine production due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but it marked the second straight yearly drop in mine output and continued a trend of flatlining gold mine production.

Looking at general the trend, we see signs of plateauing mine output over the last five years. According to the WGC, production was up 77.72 tons between 2015 and 2016, 33.92 tons between 2016 and 2017, and 28 tons between 2017 and 2018. Gold production then dropped 56 tons between 2018 and 2019.

Gold production has generally increased every year since the 1970s. There was a drop in production in 2008, but that was something of an anomaly, as it occurred at the

onset of the 2008 financial crisis. The recent slowdown in mine production is more concerning. In fact, many people speculate we may be at or near “peak gold.” This is the point where the amount of gold mined out of the earth will begin to shrink every year. Some prominent players in the mining industry think we’re close to that point.

So, which countries produced the most gold in 2020?

1. China – 368.3 tons

China has ranked as the world’s top gold producer for many years, but production has dropped over the last four. More strict environmental regulations have put a drag on mine output.

2. Russia – 331.1 tons

Russia produces much of the gold consumed in Europe, but

the Russian government is the biggest buyer of Russian gold. The country has increased output every year since 2010. In 2019, Russia moved ahead of Australia to become the



number two gold producer in the world.

3. Australia – 327.8 tons

Australia has boosted gold mine output for eight straight years. The minerals industry, including gold, makes up about half of Australia’s total exports.

4. United States – 190.2 tons

Last year, gold production dropped below 200 tons for

the first time in several years and has declined since 2019. Nevada produces about 80% of US gold.

5. Canada – 170.6 tons

Canada has held the fifth spot in the rankings for four straight years.

Production was flat in 2020, dropping by about 12 tons.

6. Ghana – 138.7 tons

Ghana moved ahead of South Africa in 2019 to become Africa’s leading gold producer.

It is the only African country in the top-10.

7. Brazil – 107.0 tons

Brazil moved up from the number 10 spot in 2019. It saw increased mine output for the third straight year.

8. Uzbekistan – 101.6 tons

Uzbekistan is a newcomer to the list. Uzbek mine output increased dramatically in 2020 from 94.6 tons in 2019. It was

the first time the country has produced more than 100 tons of gold. Muruntau ranks as the world’s largest open-pit gold mine by area. Some geologists think it may sit on the largest remaining gold deposit in the world.

9. Mexico – 101.6 tons

Mexican gold mine output fell for the fifth straight year, but the country held on to the number nine spot.

10. Indonesia – 100.9 tons

This small South Pacific nation mines about 3% of the world’s gold supply. It is home to the world’s second-largest gold mine.

Notably absent from the list of top gold producers – South Africa. The country once led the world in gold output. A 2018 study projected South Africa could run out of gold within four decades. Analysts say that at current production levels, the country has only 39 years of accessible gold reserves remaining.

Peru also fell off the top-10 list. In 2018, Peru ranked sixth in the world.

Steve Hackett Announces Release, continued from page 3

- 1. The Obliterati (02:17)
- 2. Natalia (06:17)
- 3. Relaxation Music For Sharks (Featuring Feeding Frenzy) (04:36)
- 4. Wingbeats (05:20)
- 5. The Devil’s Cathedral (06:31)
- 6. Held In The Shadows (06:20)
- 7. Shanghai To Samarkand (08:27)
- 8. Fox’s Tango (04:21)

- 9. Day Of The Dead (06:25)
- 10. Scorched Earth (06:03)
- 11. Esperanza (01:04)

Steve Hackett shares writing credits with both Jo Hackett and Roger King on several tracks. All tracks were recorded by Roger King and produced by Steve Hackett with Roger King at Siren.

About Steve Hackett

Steve Hackett joined Genesis at the beginning of 1971

and gained an international reputation as the guitarist in the band’s classic line-up alongside Peter Gabriel, Tony Banks, Mike Rutherford, and Phil Collins. Hackett’s intricate guitar work was a key element of Genesis’ albums from Nursery Cryme (1971) to Wind And Wuthering (1977) including the classic Selling England By The Pound.

After leaving Genesis at the end of 1977, Hackett’s solo career, which now spans more than

30 albums, has demonstrated his extraordinary versatility with both electric and acoustic guitar. Hackett is renowned as both an immensely talented and innovative rock musician and a virtuoso classical guitarist and composer and this was recognized in 2010 when he was inducted into the Rock Hall Of Fame. He has also worked alongside Steve Howe of YES in the supergroup GTR.

Surrender of Silence – Release

Date – September 10th

Formats: Limited Edition CD+Blu-ray Mediabook in hardcover slipcase, Standard CD Jewel case, Gatefold 2LP+CD & LP-Booklet, and Digital Album.

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Investors Are On The Lookout For A Crash. But Prices Keep Going Up

By Doug French Of The Mises Institute

An insider confided to a friend that all he is doing right now is transaction work for real estate holders who are selling now before the market crashes. His clients, members of Sin City’s Illuminati, once bitten by the ‘08 crash, believe they’ll beat the crowd to the sales window before the local retail and office market collapses.

Tiny capitalization rates translating into unsustainable values are being dangled in front of these folks and they are willing to absorb the tax consequences to cash out and be ready to repurchase their properties back at a discount in a couple of years.

Easy peasy.

With the country just emerging from lockdown, where’s the crash already? The original grave dancer, Sam Zell, has left the cemetery and is “following the pack and spending big on something safer,” Peter Grant wrote in the *Wall Street Journal*.

One of Zell’s companies paid \$3.4 billion for Monmouth Real Estate Investment Corp. Not all distressed, Monmouth “owns 120 industrial properties in 31 states,” Grant reported. “The sector is one of the most profitable because of high demand for fulfillment centers from e-commerce companies such as Amazon.com Inc.”

Bloomberg reported a year ago that Amazon-leased buildings could sell for a capitalization rate of 4 percent, the equivalent

of twenty-five times earnings. A Las Vegas real estate broker and developer who is also



Image Courtesy Of Mises

doing business in red-hot Reno said recently, “Amazon buildings will start selling for three CAPs soon.”

Back in the days of quasi-laissez-faire, a pandemic would have created plenty of opportunities for the Zells of the world, but, as Grant explains, “Hotels, malls, and other properties have suffered enormous declines in revenue. But few owners have been forced to sell at steep discounts thanks to government stimulus programs and the Federal Reserve’s easy money policy which kept a lid on foreclosure.”

Tenants bellied up to the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) bar and while having trouble operating due to labor shortages, with staff staying home on the taxpayer’s dime, they are paying rent. As for Amazon and other fulfillment tenants, covid was a colossus.

“From both a monetary and fiscal perspective, authorities have made sure that distress

would be extremely limited in all walks of life,” Cedrik Lachance, Green Street Advisors’ head of global real estate investment trusts (REIT) research told the *WSJ*. Zell does think retail properties are a “falling knife.” Zell said, “There obviously is going to be an opportunity in retail. I just don’t think it’s here yet.” He added that hotels also look expensive: “I can’t relate... pricing to the way I see opportunity.”

Billionaire Charles Koch can relate. His Koch Real Estate Investments took over the unfinished multibillion-dollar hotel and casino Fontainebleau development on the Las Vegas Strip after the previous owner defaulted on the mortgage.

Florida developer Jeffrey Soffer bankrupted the sixty-three-story, four thousand-room project in the 2008 crash before the doors were ever opened.

In 2010, an opportunistic Carl Ichan bought it for \$150 million (essentially the trade liens on the property), “sold the furniture, and flipped it to New York developer Steven Witkoff for \$600 million seven years later,” Konrad Putzier reported earlier this year.

Witkoff couldn’t obtain a construction loan to finish and defaulted on loans from JPMorgan Chase and Deutsche Bank AG, as well as more than \$200 million in subordinated debt held by South Korean investors.

Koch appeared, bought the JPMorgan note for \$350 million, and waved goodbye to the South Koreans and Witkoff. Koch has brought back Mr. Soffer to restart the project. Putzier wrote in March that the project was far from a sure bet.

However, the opening of Resorts World on the former Stardust site on the Strip’s north end recently has the town abuzz. The Fontainebleau is nearby.

Further south on the Strip, where gaming has taken a backseat to real estate dealing, MGM announced it was buying its 50 percent partner Dubai World out of the sprawling CityCenter project for more than \$2.1 billion, providing MGM full ownership of the Aria and Vdara resorts. Not missing a

beat, the company then sold the Aria and Vdara real estate to Blackstone for \$3.9 billion and will lease the properties back for \$215 million a year in rent to start, or a 5.5 percent cap rate.

Once upon a time, the casino was king of the Strip’s income department. Not so much anymore. Hotel casinos might as well be shopping malls with some slots and table games attached. During the boom years, the casino accounted for only 30 to 40 percent of revenues. And while the floor space, with the odds stacked in the houses, favor has crept upward in recent years, it’s still not half a property’s revenue.

Ludwig von Mises explained, “Interventionism means that the government not only fails to protect the smooth functioning of the market economy, but that it interferes with the various market phenomena; it interferes with prices, with wage rates, interest rates, and profits.”C

Mr. Zell’s goal was always to reinvest that cash. “What it tells you about the Covid era is that they just couldn’t find true distress,” Mr. Lachance said. No distress means a manipulated market that economic actors cannot assess properly.

Las Vegas was once a city driven by odds. No more. Now the government has loaded the dice.

What’s Wrong, continued from page 1

Taylor is also the only approved vendor to service the ice cream machines and sends their technicians out at the obscene cost of \$144 for the first 30 minutes and \$315 for every additional 15 min. Taylor generates 25% of its revenue from the repair and maintenance of its machines. These machines cost around \$18,000 so although they are expensive to service, they are extremely expensive to replace.

Below is a list of the percentage of “broken” or out-of-service ice cream machines in 4 areas in the United States – Ventura County, San Diego city, San Jose city, and the entire USA. It lists 5 days between May 24th and June 8th and times ranging from 3:53 PM to 11:59 PM on the Mcbroken.

com website. The days and times were chosen at random. If a location had a grey dot the data below rated that site the same as having a red dot, meaning that ice cream was not available.

May 24 Ventura County 12%, San Diego 21.88%, San Jose 25%, nationally 8.73%

May 26 Ventura County 16%, San Diego 12.5%, San Jose 21.43, nationally 8.65%

June 1 Ventura County 8%, San Diego 12.5%, San Jose 12.71% nationally 8.18%

June 2 Ventura County 12%, San Diego 12.5%, San Jose 10.71%, nationally 9.96%

June 8 Ventura County 12%, San Diego 12.5%, San Jose 14.29%, nationally 9.66%

Wendy’s, Burger King, IN-

N-OUT Burger, and Chick-fil-A all use Taylor ice cream machines but probably not the exact same C602 model. And, at least online, the number of complaints about ice cream machines being broken at these other fast-food restaurants is extremely low. Taylor Company has been in business for 95 years. Restaurants in 125 countries use their machines.

Harris discovered that a company named Kytch developed a diagnostic app for soft serve ice cream machines including the ones manufactured by Taylor. The Kytch app allows McDonald’s employees to discover and use hidden codes to diagnose and fix many of the ice cream machine problems



that otherwise would result in an expensive Taylor service call. For a while, a growing number of McDonald’s franchisees used the Kytch app and enthusiastically encouraged other franchisees to use it. Soon McDonald’s Headquarters sent a warning to all franchisees that they had developed an app with Taylor and the use of any other non-Taylor-owned app would

violate the ice cream machine warranty. The Taylor app proved to be mostly ineffective in solving the Taylor ice cream machine problems, which was a big disappointment to McDonald’s franchisees.

Scan here to read the rest of this article



The War Over Genetic Privacy Is Just Beginning

By John Whitehead Of The Rutherford Institute

“When you upload your DNA, you’re potentially becoming a genetic informant on the rest of your family.”— Law professor Elizabeth Joh

“Guilt by association” has taken on new connotations in the technological age.

All of those fascinating, genealogical searches that allow you to trace your family tree by way of a DNA sample can now be used against you and those you love.

As of 2019, more than 26 million people had added their DNA to ancestry databases. It’s estimated those databases could top 100 million profiles within the year, thanks to the aggressive marketing of companies such as Ancestry and 23andMe.

It’s a tempting proposition: provide some mega-corporation with a spit sample or a cheek swab, and in return, you get to learn everything about who you are, where you came from, and who is part of your extended family.

The possibilities are endless.

You could be the fourth cousin once removed of Queen Elizabeth II of England. Or the illegitimate grandchild of

an oil tycoon. Or the sibling of a serial killer.

Without even realizing it, by submitting your DNA to an ancestry database, you’re giving the police access to the genetic makeup, relationships, and health profiles of every relative—past, present, and future—in your family, whether or not they ever agreed to be part of such a database.

After all, a DNA print reveals everything about “who we are, where we come from, and who we will be.”

It’s what police like to refer to as a “modern fingerprint.”

Whereas fingerprint technology created a watershed moment for police in their ability to “crack” a case, DNA technology is now being hailed by law enforcement agencies as the magic bullet in crime-solving.

Indeed, police have begun using ancestry databases to solve cold cases that have remained unsolved for decades.

For instance, in 2018, former police officer Joseph DeAngelo was flagged as the notorious “Golden State Killer” through

the use of genetic genealogy, which allows police to match up an unknown suspect’s crime scene DNA with that of any family members in a genealogy database. Police were able to identify DeAngelo using the DNA of a distant cousin found in a public DNA database. Once police narrowed the suspect list to DeAngelo, they tracked him—snatched up a tissue he had tossed in a trash can—and used his DNA on the tissue to connect him to a rash of rapes and murders from the 1970s and ‘80s.

Although DeAngelo was the first public arrest made using forensic genealogy, police have identified more than 150 suspects since then. Most recently, police relied on genetic genealogy to nab the killer of a 15-year-old girl who was stabbed to death nearly 50 years ago.

Who wouldn’t want to get psychopaths and serial rapists off the streets and safely behind bars, right? At least, that’s the argument being used by law enforcement to support their unrestricted access to

these genealogy databases.

“In the interest of public safety, don’t you want to make it easy for people to be caught? Police



really want to do their job. They’re not after you. They just want to make you safe,” insists Colleen Fitzpatrick, a co-founder of the DNA Doe Project, which identifies unknown bodies and helps find suspects in old crimes.

Except it’s not just psychopaths and serial rapists who get caught up in the investigative dragnet.

Anyone who comes up as a possible DNA match—including distant family members—suddenly becomes part of a circle of suspects that must be tracked, investigated, and ruled out.

Although a number of states

have forbidden police from using government databases to track family members of suspects, the genealogy websites provided a loophole that proved irresistible to law enforcement.

Hoping to close that loophole, a few states have started introducing legislation to restrict when and how police use these genealogical databases, with Maryland requiring that they can only be used for serious violent

crimes such as murder and rape, only after they exhaust other investigatory methods, and only under the supervision of a judge.

Yet the debate over genetic privacy—and when one’s DNA becomes a public commodity outside the protection of the Fourth Amendment’s prohibition on warrantless searches and seizures—is only the beginning.

Scan here to read the rest of this article



Dear Self-absorbed

By Doc Lovelace

Dear Doc Lovelace,

I’ve been with my boyfriend for three years, and about a year after we got together, I suggested that we try having an open relationship. For a while, he didn’t do anything with another girl, meanwhile, I met some very nice guys and I even introduced one or two of them to my boyfriend. My guy didn’t seem to mind meeting these other men either and I kind of liked them being friendly towards each other. Then last year when the pandemic started, I decided that I would open up an OnlyFans account for myself to make a little extra money. When I told my boyfriend that I had created an OnlyFans for myself, he was surprisingly upset. I don’t see the big deal about it and I think that he’s being unreasonable. He knows that I love him, and it’s not like I’m doing terrible things

in the content that I produce. Anyways, after I started the account, I noticed that he was more actively trying to meet women – even though we’re living through a pandemic. I’ve never met any of the women that he’s talked to, and when I press him on her/them, he says that it was my idea to be in an open relationship and doesn’t go into a lot of detail. I told him that I think that we should just be exclusive and that we should stop seeing other people, and to my credit, I haven’t seen anyone else during this pandemic because I have immune issues and I don’t want to get the virus.

How do I end the open relationship with my boyfriend? How can I make him see that he’s in the wrong about my OnlyFans account and the content that I produce?

Dear Self-absorbed,

Wake up!!! You can’t make him understand that he is in the wrong, because he ISN’T! If your brother was dating a loosey-goosey like you, you’d tell him to run!

Here’s you: “I want an open relationship,” “I want to bring my boy toys home,” “I want you to see other people.”

“I changed my mind,” “I want to have a real relationship now,” “I want to have an OnlyFans account...” “I want you to like it.”

I, I, I, blah, blah, blah. What do you want next??

My recommendation is for you to do all the things you want, just don’t do it with a decent guy with morals and values.

Find a guy that has no self-respect, that doesn’t care about his future – a guy that cares less about his family, reputation, honor, or love.

You need a guy that will be just



Having a relationship issue?

Is your significant other causing you problems?

Doc Lovelace can help.

If you have a question, relationship situation, or if you’re seeking advice, please send an email to DocLovelaceUCast@gmail.com



like you! You know, classless. The one you have now isn’t.

In fact, it looks like he has most likely found someone else. Ahhh, a wake-up call? Too late!

Funny, you want him to think it’s ok for you to be an exhibitionist?? But he can’t see anybody else? Are you joking?

I mean, anybody can have somebody who will do everybody. But who wants it? Next time try exhibiting some dignity, some self-worth. Button up your blouse, scrub your face, read a book!

My only hope is that he finds

true love somewhere else and that you straighten up your act before you catch something.

It’s not too late to do the right things. You can be proud of yourself and be happy. I speak the truth.

Good Luck,  
Doc Lovelace



Doc Lovelace



# You May Be Paying A Higher Tax Rate Than A Billionaire

By Paul Kiel, Jeff Ernsthausen And Jesse Eisinger Of ProPublica



Image Courtesy Of ProPublica

A new ProPublica analysis of a trove of IRS documents revealed that the richest 25 Americans pay a tiny fraction of their wealth in taxes. But even if you use the most conventional yardstick — income — the wealthiest still pay low rates.

The very richest Americans win at the tax game no matter which measure you use. ProPublica has published an article, based on a vast trove of never-before-seen IRS information, that reveals the pittance in taxes the ultrawealthy pay compared with their massive wealth accumulation.

But that trove of IRS data also reveals new information on how little the 25 wealthiest Americans pay in taxes by the most conventional measure: income. Not all are able to minimize their income and avoid taxes; some report very substantial sums. But even then, the data — and a new analysis by ProPublica — shows they still pay strikingly low rates.

On average, they paid 15.8% in personal federal income taxes between 2014 and 2018. They had \$86 billion in adjusted gross income and paid \$13.6 billion in income taxes in that period.

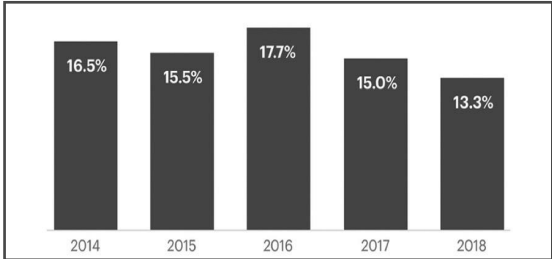
That’s lower than the rate a single worker making \$45,000 a year might pay if you include Medicare and Social Security taxes.

## Even by the Most Conventional Yardstick, the Ultrawealthy Pay Low Income Tax Rates

The top tax bracket is 37%, but the 25 richest Americans paid an average of 15.8% on their reported income from 2014 to 2018.

The federal tax system is designed to be progressive: the more money people make, the higher the tax rate they’re

supposed to pay. Today, a married couple pays a tax rate of 10% on their first \$19,900 in taxable income (after deductions), stepping up to 37% for everything they make above \$628,300.



Credit: Source: ProPublica analysis of IRS data

But those are just the rates on paper. To get a more accurate picture, analysts at the IRS look at what taxes people actually pay. This is known as the “effective tax rate.” If you made \$10 million and paid \$2.5 million in taxes, you’d have had an effective rate of 25%.

Looking strictly at income taxes, IRS statistics show that effective tax rates do, in fact, climb with income. In 2018, the latest year for which data is available, those earning between \$500,000 and \$1 million paid a tax rate twice as high, on average, when compared with taxpayers earning between \$100,000 and \$200,000. Taxpayers earning between \$2 million and \$5 million paid 27.5%, the highest of all taxpayers. But, at that point, the climb stops.

## Why We Are Publishing the Tax Secrets of the .001%

From there, rates descend as incomes rise. By the time you reach the most rarefied income grouping whose data is released by the IRS — the top .001% of taxpayers, a collection of 1,400 who each disclosed income over \$69 million — the rate has fallen to 23%.

But as ProPublica’s new analysis shows, the top 25 pay even less than that.

How is that possible?

Generally, the wealthy of all stripes keep their tax rates low in multiple ways. Some are simple: They avoid forms of income, like wages, that are taxed at a high rate, 37%, and instead make most of their money via capital gains and dividends from investments, most of which are taxed at 20%. (Among those with the highest annual incomes and the highest capital gains are the managers of elite hedge funds.) Large charitable donations reduce taxable income. Other tax-saving

approaches are more arcane: everything from taking deductions for things like interest payments to various credits for business owners.

The top 25 take these strategies and apply them on an epic scale, ProPublica found. The richest also can choose when to take income, matching up their deductions to reduce their bills. Using their vast holdings of stock, they can make large charitable grants. This achieves the twin feat of avoiding any tax on the stock’s growth while getting tax deductions for the full value.

To grasp how low the personal tax burden of the country’s richest Americans is compared with typical wage earners, you also need to count other forms of federal taxes. Social Security and Medicare obligations, which are automatically withheld from paychecks for employees, hardly hit the ultrawealthy at all, because they tend to avoid the forms of income, like salaries, to which the taxes apply. ProPublica found that such taxes had a negligible effect on the total burden of the top 25. If we include them in our calculation above, it would raise the average tax rate of the wealthiest from 15.8% to 16%.

Most workers, however, pay more in Social Security and Medicare levies than in income taxes — though they probably don’t know it. Taxes for these retirement and health programs are administered in

a way that makes them almost invisible: Not only are they subtracted automatically each pay period, but the burden is split. Half is taken directly from employees’ pay and the other half is paid by employers.

Take the typical worker we cited above, who had a salary of \$45,000 in 2018. With the standard deduction, this worker’s income tax bill would be \$3,800, a rate of 8%. But now add payroll taxes. The worker paid a bit more than \$3,400 directly over the course of the year; in addition, the worker’s employer paid an equivalent amount as their share of the worker’s Social Security and Medicare taxes. Government agencies and most economists typically count both contributions —

a total of nearly \$6,900 in this instance — as a tax that is effectively borne by workers since it’s part of the cost of paying their wages. The logic is that employers consider those costs when hiring and would hire fewer people or pay them less because of the tax burden.

All in, our worker paid \$10,700 in taxes. Taken as a percentage of the worker’s full compensation (including a typical health plan), this comes out to a rate of 19%.

Yes, that’s higher than the average rate of the richest 25 Americans.

Scan here to read the rest of this article



# Facebook To Warn Users They’re Using Facebook

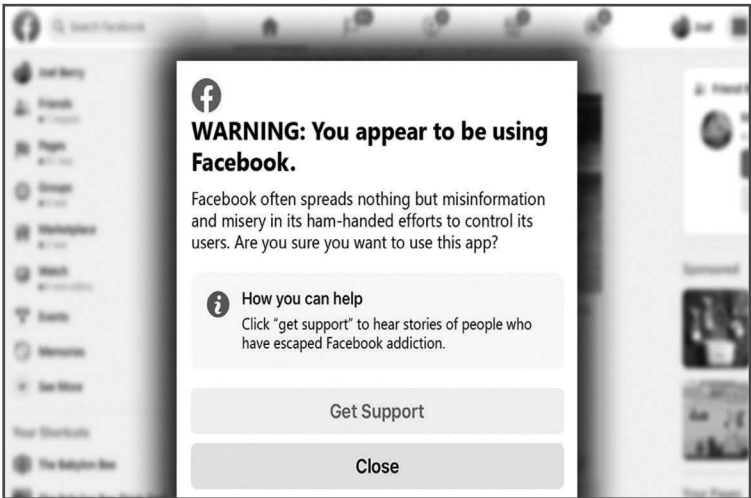
By The Babylon Bee

(\*Note, this article is satirical. The purpose of this piece is parody and light-hearted satire.)

MENLO PARK, CA—There are many dangers online, and Facebook is now making an attempt to steer people away from one of them. The social

CEO of Facebook, Bob Facebook, “and there was one consistent problem with their mental health: us. So now we’re going to warn people when they’re doing something that seems bad for them—namely, using Facebook.”

When other social media



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network is now trying out a new warning that will pop up and tell users when Facebook detects that they’re using Facebook.

“WARNING: You appear to be using Facebook,” the warning reads, “which spreads nothing but misinformation and misery in its ham-handed efforts to control its users. Maybe try reading an actual book instead... not a face one.” “We took a survey of our users’ biggest problems,” explained the eccentric, hoodie-wearing

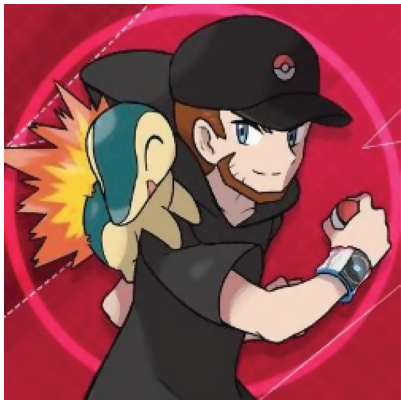
companies were asked if they would follow course, Twitter’s PR office responded that they would not warn Twitter users when they are using Twitter, as they “like to respect users’ choices” and also they “hate users and want them to suffer in a prison of their own making.”

Scan here to read the rest of this article



# U Cast Studios Podcasts

U Cast Studios is a podcast network that’s comprised of two YouTubers who have a combined 679,000 subscribers and 185 million all-time views. We also partner with additional YouTube channels, and offer broker services between advertisers and those channels. Additionally, we produce content in-house.



## Pokéblock Podcast

The Pokeblock Podcast is a weekly show hosted by PokeTuber HoopsandHipHop that discusses a number of topics relating to the Pokemon franchise.

## The IntroSpecktive Podcast

The IntroSpecktive Podcast is a show hosted by IntroSpecktive where he discusses Super Smash Bros and other gaming topics.



## The Talk Spot

The Talk Spot is an interview show featuring guests from all backgrounds.



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Top 5 Restaurants You HAVE To Visit In Ventura County

By Mariah Jeffrey

These five restaurants are affordable, and they have AMAZING food! If you haven't heard of them, I am about to tell you.

Follow me on Instagram for more reviews of local restaurants in Southern California @ocfood.

1. Cho Cho San Restaurant  
400 Thousand Oaks Blvd,  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360



Cho Cho San Restaurant

This is the best sushi in Thousand Oaks and maybe the best in all of Ventura County. I visited this restaurant during happy hour which goes on every day from 2:30 PM to 5 PM. I ordered the Dragon Fly Roll for \$10 and Spicy Tuna Crispy Rice for \$5.50. This meal was so good and surprisingly filling! What makes Cho Cho San unique is their special ponzu sauce and HUGE menu! I seriously recommend you give this spot a try.



Neptune's Net

2. Neptune's Net  
42505 Pacific Coast  
Highway Malibu, California  
90265

This gem is located in Malibu right across the beach, with a panoramic ocean view. The vibe here is great – with most of the seating being outdoors, and the two times I went, I've gotten to see motorcyclists doing wheelies right before my eyes! It was definitely a sight to see. This shrimp basket was \$14.50, the service was quick, and it filled me up! Highly recommend Neptune's Net to anyone that is looking to eat a fresh, seafood lunch with a great view and entertainment.

3. Rice by Mama  
419 E Main St. Ventura, CA  
93001

WOW. This place is good. I was walking around downtown Ventura when I stumbled upon this Thai restaurant. I ordered Chicken Pad Thai (\$12.95) and rice. The portions are HUGE! No question, I will definitely be coming back the next time I'm downtown. Downtown Ventura has 30 + restaurants, unique boutiques, thrift shops, and they provide a great opportunity to support local businesses. They even transformed Main Street into a very spacious



Rice By Mama  
promenade that is open to the public to walk through.

4. Gen Korean BBQ House  
2721 Seaglass Way #3260,  
Oxnard, CA 93036



Gen Korean BBQ House  
All You Can Eat Korean BBQ for \$24.99. The meat here is so tender,

flavorful, and premium cut. Gen is perfect for birthdays and celebrations with friends and family. When ordering, it's hard to know what to get since the menu is HUGE, and maybe you have never tried this type of food. That's why I'm here! I have been to this restaurant 10+ times so it obviously must be good. When you go, order beef and pork bulgogi, Hawaiian pork belly, japchae (noodles), veggies, rice, shrimp, and gyoza to get you started. You can never go wrong with these items, however, don't just stick to those! Order everything you crave just make sure you finish your plate! The Oxnard location is the best location I have tried thus far!

5. Toppers Pizza Place  
2701 Peninsula Rd, Oxnard,  
CA 93035

This Toppers Pizza Location Is in the heart of the Channel Islands Harbor, which serves

amazing food at a dazzling oceanfront location! The Jalapeno Poppers are hands down the best appetizer I have ever had at any Pizza Joint. You can get 6 of these cheesy, bacon jalapeno babies for only \$5.25. Everything else is great as well, such as their salad bar, specialty pizza, and wide selection of beer. However, I would be crazy not to highlight this dish since it is like no other in all of Ventura County! These babies are a must-try!



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# Why Does Simi Valley Have A Mayor And A City Manager?

By Alex Gandel

When it comes to local government, most people don't pay attention to it – when it comes to the type of local government they have, they pay even lesser thought to it.

Simi Valley's type of government is considered a Council-Manager form of government. What this essentially means is that the Mayor and the City Council (in Simi Valley's case there are 4 City Council members) appoint a City Manager to essentially run the day-to-day business of the City of Simi Valley.

According to the City of Simi Valley's website:

“The City operates under the Council-Manager form of government. The City's four Council Members are elected at-large to four-year terms in

alternate slates of two, every two years. The City's Mayor is elected at-large every two years. The Mayor presides over Council meetings and has one vote. Council Members also serve as Board Members of the Ventura County Waterworks District No. 8 and the Simi Valley Library Board of Trustees.

The City Council appoints both the City Manager and the City Attorney. The City Manager heads the executive branch of the government, implements City Council directives and policies, and manages the administration and operational functions through the various department heads. The City Manager is responsible for the appointment of department heads, and also serves as the City Clerk and City Treasurer.”

The mayor and city council members in Simi Valley are not considered fully employed in their positions, meaning that they are encouraged to have another source of income to live off of.

Compare and contrast this with the type of government the City of Los Angeles has.

According to the City of Los Angeles' website:

“The City of Los Angeles is a Mayor-Council-Commission form of government, as defined in the City Charter, originally adopted by the voters of the City of Los Angeles, effective July 1, 1925, and reaffirmed by a new Charter effective July 1, 2000.

A Mayor, City Controller, and City Attorney are elected by City residents every four years. Fifteen City Council



members representing fifteen districts are elected by the people for four-year terms, for a maximum of three terms.

Members of Boards & Commissions are generally appointed by the Mayor, subject to the approval of the City Council.”

The difference between Simi's and Los Angeles' form of city governments is that the mayor and council in Simi

drive policy, but they don't do much in way of day-to-day functionally running the city. In Los Angeles, the mayor clocks in every morning and functionally runs the city. There are numerous different departments and heads of those departments in Los Angeles because the city is so large, but the Mayor of Los Angeles' only job is to be mayor and to be the head of the bureaucracy.

# Stop Avoiding Salt... And Go Sit In A Room Made Of The Stuff!

By Antarra Belcher

Himalayan Salt Rooms have been popping up all over the United States for the past decade, but it turns out Salt Therapy has been around much longer than that. Dry Salt Therapy originated from Speleotherapy, also known as cave therapy in 1843, when a brilliant Polish physician, Dr. Felix Boczkowski realized that those working in the salt mine were experiencing far fewer respiratory illnesses than the general public in Wieliczka. During World War II, a German physician by the name of K.H. Spannahl also noticed that people taking refuge in salt caves in Ennepetal had stronger respiratory systems than those hiding in other places. Even though this discovery was made almost two hundred years ago, we did not see an actual salt therapy device created until 1980 when the

first “Halotherapy” machine was released.

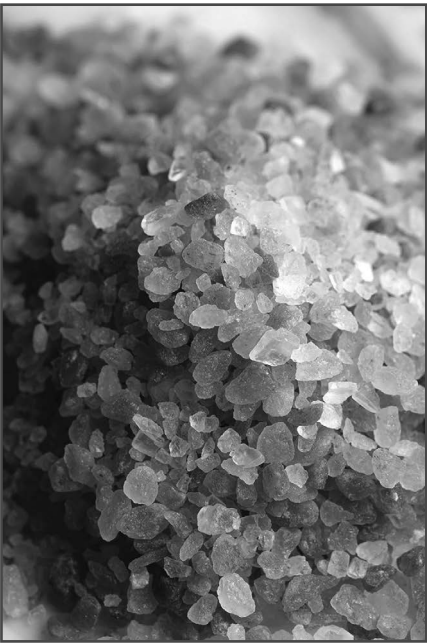
I decided that I wanted to experience a Salt Room Therapy session this past week, and so I booked a session at a high-end health and wellness center in the outskirts of D.C. As I walked into the small dimly lit salt room, I was pleasantly surprised at the ambiance and peaceful feel that the room gave off. I sat on a reclining mesh-type chair that had a heating pad with chakra-colored stones embedded into it and tried to relax my mind and focus on taking deep, thoughtful breaths. This Salt Room's walls were composed of gorgeous pink salt bricks sent from Pakistan as well as an occasional bright white salt brick from Poland. My feet moved around on tons of pink salt that reminded me of the sands on the beach, and

the Halo Generator pumped fine as dust particles of sand spread throughout the air. I was pleasantly surprised as I began taking deep breaths that my sinuses felt far clearer and my lungs seemed able to expand more fully.

Halotherapy, which gets its name from the Greek word “Halois” meaning salt is now a top trend in America, and all over the world due to its incredible health benefits. There is a wide range of health benefits that come from simply sitting in a room made of salt with microscopic particles of salt being dispersed into the room and inhaled into your lungs, such as cell activity and energy as well as blood sugar balance. Salt is by nature a powerful disinfectant as it is both antimicrobial and antibacterial, so it can help someone to cleanse without them even knowing it has

occurred. Most Salt Rooms are composed of Himalayan and Dead Sea Salt, which means it contains 84 trace elements and minerals that our bodies crave and need, while at the same time, not dehydrating our bodies as basic table salt (sodium chloride) will do.

Some additional benefits to visiting a Salt Room include helping with chronic ailments such as asthma, chronic bronchitis, as well as seasonal and frequent allergies. Those with annoying skin conditions also experience relief after a Salt Therapy session, as it can help ease the pesky symptoms associated with psoriasis, eczema, and painful acne. Even if you do not suffer from any of the conditions above, Salt Room Therapy can still



be something worth checking out as it also provides calming and detoxifying effects to the body. When you visit a Salt Room, you can anticipate a stronger immune, nervous and lymphatic system, as well as a reduction in headaches, fatigue, and experience a better sleep.

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Superbug Fears Grow In The UK As Pig Farms Escalate Use Of Antibiotics

By Andrew Wasley And Susannah Savage Of The Bureau Of Investigative Journalism

The use of certain antibiotics deemed critical to human health has surged on British pig farms supplying major supermarkets, prompting fresh concerns about the rise of antibiotic-resistant superbugs.

Previously unpublished industry data seen by the Bureau of Investigative Journalism, Vet Record, and the Guardian shows the use of a class of antibiotics prescribed for various infections in humans more than doubled on UK pig farms between 2015 and 2019, with experts warning of a potential further rise because of impending changes to the sector.

The Bureau’s investigation has established the drugs are in use on pig farms supplying pork to Tesco and Waitrose.

The increase in usage of this class of drugs, known as aminoglycosides, came even as livestock farmers in the UK cut back on the overall use of antibiotics following stark warnings that the drug resistance crisis could lead to the deaths of millions of people around the world by 2050.

Antimicrobial resistance was seen as a priority under David Cameron’s government but has

received less attention from Downing Street in recent years.

Jim O’Neill, who chaired the UK government’s review into superbugs, said the Covid-19 pandemic has underlined the need to put the issue of drug-resistant bacteria back on the global political agenda. He said: “There needs to be much stronger international agreement, and discipline following those agreements, that we will dramatically reduce the use of antibiotics in animals – especially those that are critical for human health.”

Tesco and Waitrose acknowledged they allow the use of the drugs by pork suppliers but insisted they are used responsibly.

Antibiotics are widely used in livestock production to treat and prevent disease, particularly on factory farms where pigs and poultry are often reared in overcrowded conditions in which bacteria can flourish. These farms can act as incubators for potentially fatal drug-resistant diseases in humans.

Aminoglycosides are a class of drugs that includes gentamicin, a medicine used in humans to treat meningitis and infections

of the blood and abdomen. They are deemed “critically important” to human health by the World Health Organization (WHO). Despite this, they are used on pig farms to combat scour, an intestinal disease in young piglets, and other illnesses.

This description covers drugs that are the sole option or one of a handful of choices to treat infections caused by bacteria transmitted from non-human sources (such as food poisoning) or bacteria carrying “resistance genes” from non-human sources such as farm animals.

Data compiled by the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board, an industry body, and released under Freedom of Information laws, shows the use of aminoglycosides jumped from 2.6mg per kilogram of body weight in 2015 to 5.9mg in 2019.

Coilín Nunan, the scientific adviser at the pressure group Alliance to Save our Antibiotics,



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said: “Reductions in antibiotic use can be achieved if pigs are kept less intensively and husbandry is improved.”

He added that farms should not be permitted to take piglets away from the sow at an early age – a “stressful” practice associated with large increases in antibiotic use.

According to industry experts, the recent jump in the use of aminoglycosides is likely due to the phasing out of other antibiotics such as colistin – a measure specifically designed to tackle antimicrobial resistance – and changes on farms in preparation for an EU ban

on the use of zinc oxide, also commonly used to control scour.

Grace Webster, a vet from the Pig Health and Welfare Council, which brings together the industry and government, said the sector had made progress by reducing overall usage, but added: “We do have great concern about losing zinc oxide because there’s a chance it will increase our antibiotics use.”

Scan here to read the rest of this article



11 Out Of 200 Questions To Get To Know Someone

By Conversation Starters World

Whether it’s a coworker, acquaintance, or just someone you want to get to know a little better, it can be hard to make a connection with people. Not to worry though, I’m here to help with more than 11 out of 200 questions to get to know someone.

**1. What shows are you into?**

Probably at least one or two shows they mention will be

shows that you’ve seen and can talk about, and even if not, then you can get them to explain what the shows are about and what they like about them.

**2. What’s your claim to fame?**

Most people like talking about themselves, and what better question to get them to talking than letting them talk about

something they are proud of?

**3. How often do you play sports?**

If they are into sports, this one can be good, but if not, you might want to pass on to another question.

**4. Are you usually early or late?**

An odd question, but it can be a good one if you are going to get to know them and see them again. At least next time you meet you’ll know when to expect them to arrive. If they are usually early and you are usually late, you might want to make a special effort to be on time.

**5. What**

**quirks do you have?**

This is another uncommon conversation question, but it can often tell you a lot about the person, and it can be a good way to get them talking about themselves.

**6. How often do you people watch?**

Some people enjoy people watching, others not so much. It often depends on whether they live in a small town or a big city.

**7. What’s your favorite drink?**

It can be alcoholic or nonalcoholic, but everyone enjoys talking about the things they love. And if you ever want to buy them a drink, you’ll know what to get them.

**8. What do you hope never changes?**

A very open-ended question that can lead to a lot of different types of answers, some more interesting than others. It all depends on what

direction they want to take it.

**9. What’s your dream car?**

Another question for getting them to talk about what they love and who knows, it may be a car you’ve also had your eye on, and you can get into a conversation about cars.

**10. Where would you rather be from?**

Most people have a special place in their hearts from their hometown, but a lot of people would rather have been born somewhere else.

**11. What songs have you completely memorized?**

You probably don’t want to pressure them to sing it unless they’ve got a mind to, but it will give you a good idea of what type of music they like and can lead easily into a

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Something’s Fishy. Why Is Mike Trout So Loyal To The Angels?

By Alec Moore

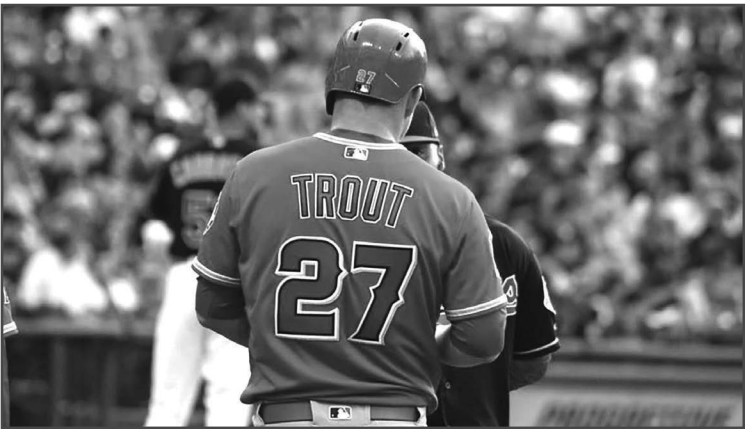


Image Courtesy Of Flickr And Ian D’Andrea

Mike Trout has been on the Angels for nearly a decade and has been the best player in baseball since his first full season in 2012. His greatness is as consistent as the Angels’... um, not greatness. During his spectacular career, his team has made the postseason exactly once, in 2014. Yet Trout has never once complained publicly, never requested a trade, and when the Angels offered him a contract extension, he signed a 12-year deal for \$426,500,000. Yes,

that’s a lot of money. But could Trout have made a lot more than that as a free agent? Also yes. Instead, he committed to presumably playing the rest of his career for a team that has been consistently mediocre for years. This begets the question: WHY? Well, I have a few theories. The city of Los Angeles’ other longtime baseball superstar, the Dodgers’ Clayton Kershaw, has a long track record of underperforming

in the playoffs, tarnishing his otherwise spectacular legacy. Mike Trout didn’t hit well in his one playoff series. Perhaps Trout is afraid he’d choke in the postseason like Kershaw so he decided it’s better not to get there. Trout is from New Jersey. One might think he’d want to go play close to home with the Phillies, Yankees, or Mets. Then again, everyone knows New Jersey is pretty terrible so maybe Trout just wants to stay as far from there as possible. So SoCal it is. Not to get too conspiratorial, but this is America in 2021 so unfortunately we have to get too conspiratorial. What if the Angels have some kind of dirt on Trout that they threatened to go public with if he left them? Is it possible that the great Mike Trout is secretly an actual trout masquerading as a human ballplayer?

In his rookie year, Trout led the league in stolen bases with 49. Over the years since, his steals have dramatically declined down to 11 in 2019 and then just one in the COVID-shortened 2020. Perhaps he’s concerned that even if he wanted to leave LA, his legs no longer work well enough to get himself to another city. The same year Trout was Rookie of the Year, the Angels also added the great Albert Pujols as a free agent. They signed Pujols to a 10-year deal when he was already 31. Like Trout now, Pujols had been the game’s best player for a decade. But his decline had already begun and he spent the first few years of his time with the Angels as a relative disappointment and the last few as a below-average player/old man. And yet the Angels still play Pujols despite his

being terrible for years simply because they are paying him a lot of money. Maybe Trout anticipates that one day he too will be terrible, but he assumes the Angels will likewise let him play out his deal with them, no matter how little he does to help the team. The Angels changed their name from the Anaheim Angels to the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim seven years before Trout arrived. And in 2016 they shortened it to simply the Los Angeles Angels. So perhaps Trout got his LA teams confused and has thought all along that he’s on the Los Angeles Dodgers, that perennial contender. I think this one is the most likely scenario. So congrats, Mike Trout, on finally bringing the city of Los Angeles a World Series championship last year!\*

\*Don’t tell him the sad truth.

Is The NBA Better With Parity?

By Dustin Brewer

It’s a debate that seems to be as old as some sports themselves: is it better to have parity or dynasties? In the NBA, dynasties are much more common as the Lakers, Spurs, Warriors, and (maybe you can say they’re a dynasty) the Miami Heat have claimed multiple titles over the last 20 seasons. But is parity better for a league where players are constantly pushing to try to be part of the next big dynasty? The Brooklyn Nets made future-mortgaging moves to team up James Harden, Kevin Durant, and Kyrie Irving and if that group splits up without multiple championships, it’ll be hard to see it as a success. Similarly, the Philadelphia

76ers have stayed committed to the (sometimes) ill-fitting pair of Joel Embiid and Ben Simmons, hoping that the Process could take them to the promised land. Part of what makes the NFL so massively popular is the fact that while there are very bad teams when the season starts, almost all of their 32 teams could conceivably have a shot at making the playoffs or winning the Super Bowl. With 53-man rosters, there’s a little more room for error or for a team to be able to withstand injuries than on an NBA team where teams usually use 10-man rotations with a few players at the end of the bench.

It’s unfortunate but in the NBA, an injury to a key player is essentially the end of a team’s title aspirations. This year alone the Lakers saw a potential re-peat disappear because of injuries to Davis and LeBron James. Championship windows in the NBA are tight and an injury can derail everything. All this goes to say that dynasties and league parity are both enjoyable for different reasons. The thrill of believing almost any team has a shot at the title is a lot better than the inevitable Thanos-like approach of a perennial favorite but there is still a flip side argument to be made. An NBA season is 82 games



followed by teams needing 16 wins in the playoffs to win the title. Now, doing that four or five times in a decade is a feat of greatness that needs to be celebrated. Michael Jordan is the GOAT for a variety of reasons but leading the Bulls to six titles in eight seasons certainly is a large part of his legacy. Feel-good success stories will always have a place in any

sport, fans will inevitably fall for those sentimental teams, but history seems to favor the dynasty. As more players join forces and form super teams, the outlier champion will probably become rarer but more memorable than ever. Fans will always love to see unlikely success stories, but it’s the dynasties that make those underdogs so unforgettable.

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This Month In Sports History: August

By Andrew Bernstein (The Official Photographer For The NBA) And Veronica An

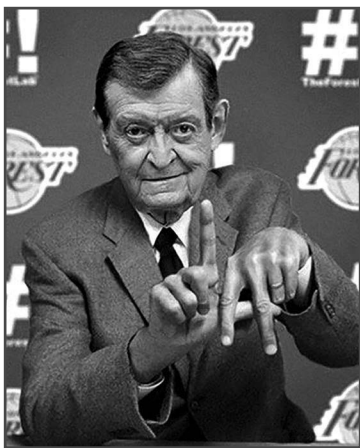
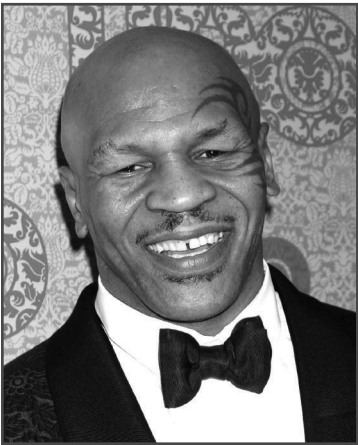


Image credit Reddit  
August 5th

On this day in 2002, the sports world lost an icon, and the Los Angeles Lakers bid farewell to a cherished family member. The legendary Los Angeles Lakers play-by-play announcer Chick Hearn was a pioneer in the early days of the television era. Known for his rapid-fire broadcasting style, Hearn’s play-by-play was simulcasted on radio and television. Regardless of the platform, Hearn had the ability to captivate everyone. His talent to evoke imagery, to play with words, brought the game to those at home. What used to be known as “Chickisms,” are now simply basketball lingo we’ve become accustomed to hearing every day. Without Hearn, James Harden wouldn’t get to the “charity stripe,” terribly bad shots would never be degraded to such a simple yet descriptive term of “didn’t draw iron,” and nobody would have the satisfaction of hearing their favorite player “picking the pocket” of an opponent during a close game or ending up in the popcorn machine. They say a picture is worth a thousand words, but Hearn’s

slew of iconic lines brings to memory a thousand different occasions. Perhaps what’s even more impressive, is his loyalty and dedication to his craft. Having consecutively called 3,338 Laker games through the span of four decades and nine championships, we open the refrigerator of history to remember a man who has closed it so many times before, with the Jello jiggling and the butter getting hard.



August 19th

On this day in 1995, Mike Tyson returned to the ring. After a four-year hiatus, Tyson showed he was still a force to be reckoned with by defeating Peter McNeeley in 89 seconds in the fight billed “He’s back.” Tyson was back and he would continue to dominate. Following the McNeeley fight, Tyson went on to win his next three bouts. On March 16th, 1996, Tyson regained the WBC Heavyweight Title by knocking out Frank Bruno in the third round. On September 7th, 1996, Tyson regained the WBA Heavyweight Title by knocking out Bruce Seldon in the first round. However,

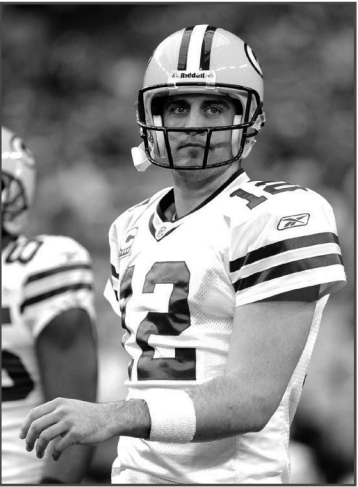
Tyson would go on to lose both of the titles to Evander Holyfield. Regardless, Tyson is a boxing legend with a record of 50 wins and six losses.



August 27th

On this day in 1995, Tiger Woods’ won the 95th U.S. Golf Amateur Championship. This was actually Woods’ second year claiming the title, as he had won it in the previous year. The golfing legend would go on to win the title in 1996, becoming the first and only player to win three consecutive Amateur titles. Most golf fans view Tiger as one of the most successful athletes of all time, but his promising career started at a much younger age. Tiger Woods was a golf prodigy. At the age of three, Tiger shot a score of 48 over nine holes at the Navy Golf Course in Cypress, California. By the age of 12, Woods

was shooting under 70 on regulation golf courses. Tiger Woods would go on to turn pro at age 20, win his first major at age 21, and became the youngest golfer to achieve the career grand slam at age 24. At age 43, Woods won the Masters Tournament for the fifth time in his illustrious career.



August 29th

On this day in 2018, star quarterback Aaron Rodgers signed an NFL record contract extension with the Green Bay

Packers. The 4-year contract was worth \$134m rising to a possible \$180m with a record \$103m in guarantees. The record extension came deservedly so, as Rodgers has been the Packers star quarterback since being drafted by the team in 2005. During his time there, Rodgers has collected many personal accolades along with team achievements. Rodgers’ led the Green Bay Packers to the 2010 Super Bowl, where they won against the Pittsburgh Steelers. The 304 passing yards and three touchdowns were enough for him to be named the Super Bowl MVP in 2010. In 2011, Rodgers won the NFL MVP and in 2012 was voted by his fellow players as the best player in the league on the NFL Top 100 Players of 2012. The 9x Pro Bowler continues to keep the Green Bay Packers a contending team in the NFL.

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# Sports Betting Constitutional Amendment Qualifies For 2022 Ballot In California

By Evan Symon Of The California Globe

A group of 18 tribes spent \$11 million to get 1.4 million signatures for the proposed amendment on the ballot.

A proposed constitutional amendment that would allow sport betting at tribal casinos and horse-racing track, as well as craps and roulette at tribal casinos – garnered enough signatures to get on the 2022 ballot.

The office of the Secretary of State confirmed that 1.4 million signatures, all collected by Native American tribes who wrote the amendment, had been verified.

According to the proposed amendment, sports betting would only be allowed to be made in person at tribal casinos and California-licensed racetracks. All betting would be limited to those 21 and up and to professional, non-California collegiate, or amateur sporting events. Any college game in which a California team plays would not be open to betting, as well as to all high school events.

A 10% tax on all gross sports betting revenues would

automatically go to state mental health programs, public safety, education, and regulatory expenditures. All sports betting at tribal casinos would see an additional cut to pay for regulatory costs and other programs, with the exact amount to be negotiated on between the California tribes and the Governor should the new proposition pass.

Additional casino games would also be legalized for tribal casinos should the new amendment pass, including roulette and craps.

Tribal casinos have been attempting to expand into sports betting since 2008, with a more concerted effort launched in 2018 following the U.S. Supreme Court’s passage of Murphy v. National Collegiate Athletic Association, a landmark case that ended the federal ban on sports betting. Ever since the Murphy decision, 26 states have passed legalized sports betting initiatives. Californian lawmakers have repeatedly authored legalization only for the efforts to fizzle out. Last years’ most prominent

attempt, SCA 6, failed to reach a Senate vote despite being initially passed in several Senate Committees.

Native American tribes have been the primary supporters of the proposed constitutional amendment, noting that California is a large market for sports betting that is being served by neighboring states and that legalization can bring in millions of tax revenue.

“This is an important step toward giving Californians the opportunity to participate in sports wagering while also establishing safeguards and protections against underage gambling,” explained tribal chairman of the Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians Mark Macarro on Thursday.

Nationwide, the expansion of sports betting has brought in an estimated \$54 billion in bets, resulting in \$3.2 billion of revenue for casinos and other betting locations such as racetracks. \$534 million in taxes and revenue sharing has also been generated for state and local governments. Pennsylvania and New Jersey,



both of whom had passed sports betting laws in the last 3 years, reported \$134 million and \$132 million in taxes and fees being collected respectively.

In California, the total could reach tens of millions according to an analysis by the state Legislative Analyst’s Office (LAO).

“The magnitude of the increase in state revenues is uncertain, but could reach tens of millions of dollars annually,” noted the LAO.

However, the California Gaming Association, as well as numerous card clubs who were not included in the amendment, have vowed to fight hard against the upcoming proposition. They argue that the tribal casinos are just using the amendment to further grow their tax-free

gaming control on California.

“This initiative does nothing to advance sports wagering, and instead expands the tribal casinos’ tax-free monopoly on gaming and rewards those operators for prioritizing their own wealth over public health and safety,” said Kyle Kirkland, president of the California Gaming Association, on Thursday.

Both sides have raised and spent substantial funds over the amendment so far, with much more expected to be thrown into the effort both for and against the amendment in the lead-up to the 2022 election.

Scan here to read the rest of this article



# The 2010-2014 San Francisco Giants Are the Worst Dynasty In Baseball History

By Alec Moore

Much has been written about the greatest dynasties in baseball history. The 1996-2000 Yankees. The 1949-1953 Yankees. The 1936-1939 Yankees. Okay, so most of them were Yankees teams. But there were also the 1972-1974 Oakland A’s and the 1910-1913 Philadelphia A’s. In less transient teams, there were the 1915-1918 Boston Red Sox and the 1942-1946 Cardinals. And then there are the 2010-2014 San Francisco Giants. They won three titles in five years, a huge accomplishment. But they never even won 95 games in the regular season, were downright bad in between two of their championship seasons with a record of 76-86 in 2013, and had an unimpressive 88 wins as a Wild Card playoff team in their 2014 title run. As far as dynasties go, these Giants are not even as impressive as the hugely

popular show “Dynasty” that aired on ABC in the 1980s but are probably better than the “Dynasty” reboot currently airing on the CW.

I’m defining “dynasty” here as a team that won at least three titles with no more than one season not winning it between each championship. The 2010-2014 Giants are one of eight such teams, alongside the others mentioned. That said, these Giants are also pretty clearly worse than many other dynastic-ish teams, like the 1970s “Big Red Machine” Cincinnati Reds (titles in 1975 and 1976, but also World Series appearances in 1970 and 1972), 1963-1965 Dodgers (two titles in three years, plus a World Series appearance in 1966) and even the 1991-2005 Braves (just one World Series win, in 1995, but 14 straight division titles and four additional World Series

appearances) and 1947-1956 Brooklyn Dodgers (just one win, in 1955, but five other World Series appearances in a decade). Not to mention the 1927-1928 Yankees, the 1961-1962 Yankees, and the 1977-1978 Yankees, all of which lost the World Series the year before winning back-to-back titles (the Yankees also lost the Series in 1963 and 1964, making five straight appearances). Unlike all these far superior teams, those 2010-2014 Giants teams never made any additional World Series appearances. They just managed to win the Series whenever they got there (a pretty important thing, no doubt, but not as indicative of sustained success as always being in contention).

These earlier dynasties and almost-dynasties each featured multiple Hall of Famers, including elite all-time



greats Joe Dimaggio, Yogi Berra, Mickey Mantle, Stan Musial, Reggie Jackson, Eddie Collins, Derek Jeter, Mariano Rivera, Johnny Bench, Greg Maddux, Jackie Robinson, Sandy Koufax, and a young ace pitcher for the 1915, 1916, and 1918 championship Red Sox teams named Babe Ruth. But the 2010-2014 Giants have an excellent shot to be the first dynastic team in MLB history to have a grand total of zero Hall of Famer

players. If anything, there’s a good chance that their sole representative in the Hall will be their manager, Bruce Bochy. And he would deserve it. After all, he somehow won three World Series championships with a team with no Hall of Fame players!

Scan here to read the rest of this article





## What Are Telomeres And Can They Predict Lifespan?

By Jane Miller

If you had the option, would you want to know how long you might live? Or would ignorance be bliss? Some of us may have pondered this question philosophically, but it has never been an option. Now it might be. In the last decade, scientific advancements have led to emerging businesses that offer DNA kits that claim to let you know the age of your cells. Knowing your biological age can then help you get a rough idea of your lifespan.

While chronological age is how long a person has been alive, biological age is how old one's cells are and how aged one's body appears from an objective, scientific point of view. Finding out the biological age of a person is done by measuring the length of their telomeres, part of the chromosomes in cells. Average telomere length has been shown to correlate directly to lifespan in humans and animals, and many companies can now help you determine your biological age.

Our cells divide and replicate to keep us alive, and each time they do, the DNA is also duplicated. There is one slight change each time they replicate, and that happens to the telomeres. Telomeres are DNA structures found at the end of chromosomes – basically, end caps to our DNA. Their purpose is to help alert the cells in our bodies when to stop replicating - essentially when to die. As our cells age, the telomere lengths of those cells shorten. By measuring the length of telomeres, you can see how quickly you are aging and if they correspond to your chronological age.

Cells divide faster when stress is inflicted on our bodies. Since telomeres are on the end of the chromosome, they are especially sensitive to damage. This damage can come from stress like diseases, injuries, and even pregnancy (a fascinating discovery that makes sense because the body works doubly hard to create

new life). Telomeres also get shorter from unhealthy habits such as smoking, eating too much red meat, or simply getting too little sleep.

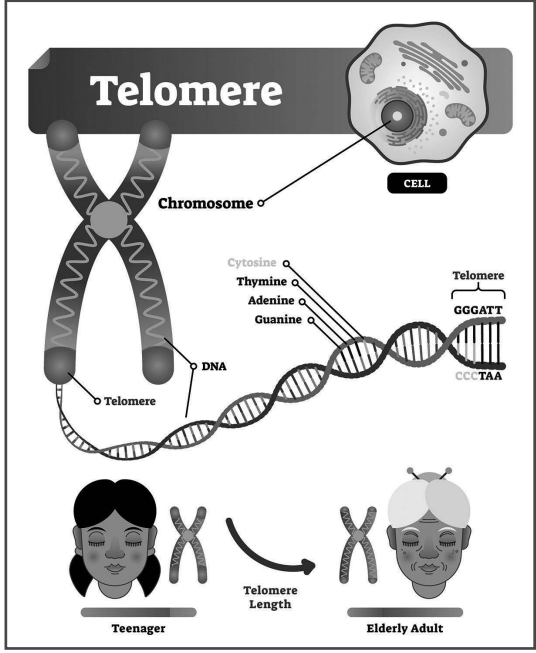
Several companies, such as TeloYears and SpectraCell Laboratories, offer at-home kits to test your telomere length, somewhat like a DNA test. The idea behind these tests is that once you know your biological age, you can potentially slow down your aging by making lifestyle changes. Most of these telomere testing companies offer suggestions for slowing down your personal aging process.

However, the lifestyle changes recommended if you do

indeed have shorter telomere lengths than optimal are pretty obvious and applicable to everyone. These changes can include things like exercise and eating more fruits and vegetables - lifestyle changes

some, the efficacy of these tests is dubious for various reasons. For one thing, telomere length can change significantly over the course of even just a few months. Also, this is a relatively new industry that has cropped up after the functions of telomeres were discovered in 2009. There's still a lot left to learn about these fascinating DNA end caps.

The bigger and perhaps more interesting question is, why don't we always do the things that are good for us? That is another exploration in and of itself. Even if they might not always be accurate, these tests may be helpful because they give us an extra push in the right direction. Sometimes we need hard evidence to propel us into action, as is the case when a person is diagnosed with diabetes and realizes they have to change their habits. Even if there are doubts about using telomere testing to determine lifespan, they may still be worth trying simply because the results could motivate us to make impactful lifestyle changes.



## Liminal Spaces Open The Mind And Soul To New Possibilities

By Greg Goodsell

Empty art galleries, vacant corridors, and abandoned strip malls are all examples of “liminal spaces.” If this term is new to you, it seems at first glance to put a positive spin on what is more commonly referred to as existential angst and urban decay.

An Internet search on “liminal spaces” brings up this glib summary. “The word liminal comes from the Latin word ‘limen’, meaning threshold – any point or place of entering or beginning. A liminal space is the “crossing over” space – a space where you have left something behind, yet you are not yet fully in something else.”

This definition implies that a liminal space is whenever we arrive for a doctor's or dentist's appointment, and we arrive to see no one, receptionist included, is there. We expect to see a room full of people awaiting their turn and are instead confronted by a silent room. The effect is frequently unsettling and alienating as if we have momentarily been rendered the last person on earth.

In addition, waiting rooms, empty parking lots, hotel lobbies, and rest stops, make you feel weird if you spend too much time in them because these spaces exist for the things that come before or after them.

Something as mundane and commonplace as a rest stop along a busy highway qualifies as a liminal space. You are expected to use the facilities, perhaps purchase a soft drink or candy bar, and then resume your journey. In this case, the mind and body take a necessary break to regroup before continuing the journey.

The concept of liminality as a state of transition was developed by the anthropologist Arnold van Gennep, in the early 1900s, in his book, *Rites of Passage*. The concept was then later developed by other anthropologists and creative thinkers.

People who are overwhelmed with personal and work responsibilities can greatly benefit by pursuing the creation of their own liminal spaces. It can be relatively simple, such as

redecorating your living space by rearranging the artwork on the walls. You can also move your favorite chair to the other side of the room. While your mind has grown accustomed to the furniture in a particular place, its rearrangement can make your mind open to new possibilities.

Waking up an hour earlier than you usually do can also refresh and recharge the mind. With the extra time, you can better prepare for the day ahead by doing light housework or engaging in more “personal time” such as reading and exercise.

Exploring a neighborhood that you are unfamiliar with is also among the recommendations. Checking out new stores, restaurants and exploring the architectural quirks of the residential area can prove to be a fascinating adventure.

In short, these philosophers claim that the deliberate seeking out or creation of liminal spaces can give the modern man the opportunity to regroup before taking on the necessities of the everyday.

## Weird & Wacky News

By Chris Carnicelli

**From around the corner, down the street, and up your alley – here are some stories that are hitting the headlines... and they're all TRUE!!**

**Dateline: British Columbia**

Birds do it. Photographer Tony Austin captured an odd sight one day. A ‘murder of crows’ had landed close by and one of them was curiously flopping around in the dirt, covering itself with ants! Apparently, the bird was “anting” -- spreading ants on its feathers and wings for either cleanliness or to share the ants’ defensive secretions of fungicides, miticides, and insecticides. Talk about your ride-sharing!

**Dateline: West Jordan, Utah**

California, here I come! Two little girls, ages 9 and 4 years old, set out before dawn in their parent's car as they wanted to see the beach -- in Malibu! Unfortunately, the 9-year-old was driving, and things didn't go as planned. Several miles

away from home, the kid veered into oncoming traffic and slamming into a semi-truck. Both girls were wearing seatbelts and no one was hurt. Their parents were unaware of the joyride and police were called. Plot twist: they were headed in the wrong direction!

**Dateline: Sardinia**

I may not know art, but I know what I like! 67-year-old Italian sculptor & artist, Salvatore Garau just sold his “immaterial” sculpture called, *“I am,”* for \$18,300. The buyer got a certificate of ownership for this work of ‘art,’ which turned out to be... a vacuum cleaner. Yeah, a vacuum cleaner. Garau states that his artwork is “nothing more than a space full of energy and even if we empty it, there is nothing left.” The artist demanded his work be displayed free of any obstruction and in a 5-by-5-foot area.





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