

HAVE A  
**good  
day**



|| January 2017 ||

## Heartwarming Apollo Mission

Cynthia Abercrombie was beside herself when her dog, Apollo, went missing after escaping from his enclosure. Week after week she searched with no success. Then a month later the animal shelter in Swansea, Massachusetts, called with great news. Her Pyrenees mix was safe and sound in their facility, identified by the dog's microchip.

Still, eleven-year-old Apollo was 1,100 miles from Abercrombie's home in Jacksonville, Florida. How was she going to get him back home? Her fixed income wouldn't allow her to go and get him.

Fortunately, the good Samaritans at East Coast Paws, a volunteer animal transport service which rescues dogs from high-kill shelters and delivers them to safe homes, orchestrated a plan. Two dozen volunteers, each driving an hour, relayed Apollo home. "It's a big relief just having him back, knowing he's OK," Abercrombie said, with tears in her eyes. Abercrombie is thankful to the team who helped reunite her and her beloved pet, and grateful that her late husband had suggested microchipping Apollo when they first got the pup.



*Apollo jumping up on Jean Mahata, one of his caretakers, at Swansea Animal Shelter in Massachusetts where he spent a month.*

## Handled with Care

The secret's out. Apparently, the best way to ship a bicycle is to pretend it's an expensive TV. Dutch bicycle manufacturer VanMoof started this practice after they received customer complaints that their international orders were being delivered damaged.

“Our team sat together and we imagined that couriers would be more careful with packages if they knew even more precious goods were in them,” says VanMoof cofounder Taco Carlier. “As our boxes are exactly the size of a huge flat screen television, we decided to print an image of a television on them. It works great.”

Since using this strategy, the amount of damaged bicycles has been reduced 70 to 80 percent—especially for American orders. So if you order a VanMoof bicycle, expect a TV to show up at your door.



## Digging This Dog

For most Americans, it's synonymous with ballparks and barbeques, a good reason to consume 16 billion wiener wonders a year. More than 150 million hotdogs are eaten on the Fourth of July alone. On average,

you'll dress up your dog with mustard, ketchup, relish, and onions, or enjoy it all by its beautiful self, in 6.1 bites. But who's counting? New Yorkers are the number one hot dog consumer, followed by residents of Los Angeles, Baltimore, and Washington DC. Lest you think the hot dog is merely for “commoners,” President Franklin Roosevelt made sure that hot dogs were on the White House menu when King George VI of England came to visit in 1939. Even NASA approved hot dogs as a regular food item on Apollo moon flights, Skylab missions, and space shuttle flights. You could say the hot dog is out of this world!



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## Cheesy Problem Solved

It's the perfect comfort food pairing—a bowl of tomato soup and a grilled cheese sandwich. Heating the soup is a snap, but that sandwich is sometimes a gooey mess to clean up afterward. That is, unless you have toaster-friendly grilled cheese bags on hand. Pop any sandwich you want heated up into the reusable Teflon-coated bags and turn your toaster into a stove top. These bags create the perfect grill with no drippy, sticky cheese. It's perfect for college students and people on the go. And one bag goes a long way—it can be reused up to 50 times!

## Roller Coaster Cure

We've heard that Disneyland is the happiest place on earth, but did you know that's especially true for people who suffer from painful kidney stones? A recent study published in the *Journal of the American Osteopathic Association* shows that riding roller coasters can shake, rattle, and roll kidney stones right out of a person.

Dr. David Wartinger, one of the lead researchers, took a silicone model of a kidney packed with kidney stones and urine to Disney World and rode the Big Thunder Mountain Railroad, the runaway mine train amusement ride.

Wartinger found that the bouncing, jostling, and jarring sensations from the coaster caused the stones to pass. Seat location definitely matters. A sufferer sitting in the front passed a kidney stone 17 percent of the time, while backseat riders had a whopping 64 percent success rate.



Just for  
laughs



"Sorry, but we're all out of the 'I told you so' cards."



"How much longer before I start to hate having birthdays, Grandma?"

Money can't buy friends, but it will get you more enemies.

Youth and beauty fade, but integrity endures forever.

The only reason some people listen to reason is to gain time for a rebuttal.

# Making a Fresh Start

**F**alse start. They are dreaded words for athletes in many sports. A whistle is blown, a flag is thrown, and the competitor responsible for the infraction is either penalized or sometimes given another chance to regroup.

Each of us has had false starts in life, times we have headed out in a certain direction and later wished we could turn back and do it over. Too often, though, we never turn back and simply stumble on, seeking a way to make the best of a poor beginning.

At the start of a new year, we sometimes make feeble attempts to get back on the right track. "New Year's Resolutions" is our name for those usually quickly abandoned efforts.

Fortunately, there is a way to erase our false starts and begin a new life, with a clean and unblemished slate. Jesus explained that fresh start this way: "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God" (John 3:3). A new life requires an unmistakable radical transformation—a start that compares with birth.

You may be dissatisfied with your spotty record and history and wish

you could make a new start. That is exactly what the gospel (or Good News) is about. When you acknowledge that your life has been marred, God offers the possibility of a fresh start—a new birth.

That takes place when you admit your need and when you trust Jesus as Savior and Lord. After Jesus made that new birth declaration, he explained: "This is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

That new start can be yours the very moment you trust Jesus. "Anyone

who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Erase the false starts. Accept Christ. Live in faith. Then it will be a happy new year *and* a happy new life.

[Jim Kraus]

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NAME &  
ADDRESS:

HAVE A GOOD DAY AND A SPLENDID *forever!*

