



David has the necessary equipment, skill and motivation to deliver outstanding real estate photography for a fair price.

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Summer 2010

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## Inside This Issue...

**How To Protect Yourself and Your Home When Traveling...Page 1**

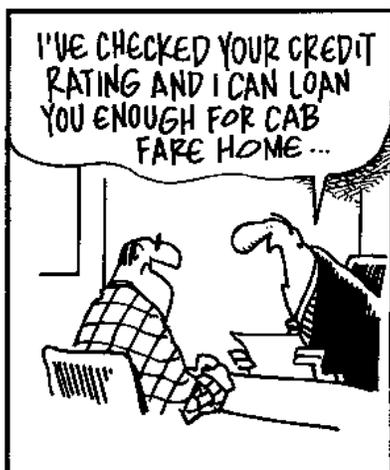
**David's Photo Tip for This Issue....Page 2**

**Antibiotics for Heart Diseases? ...Page 3**

**Today's Thrifty Tip....Page 3**

**Why Use A Home Inventory? ..... Page 4**

**Here's A Cost-Effective Way To Treat Minor Injuries....Page 4**



David Showalter's...

# Pleasantly Practical

*Healthful, Successful & Fun Living...*

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## Going on Vacation? Here's How To Protect Yourself and Your Home

Each year thousands of vacationers experience the humiliating, degrading, and sometimes frightful effects of crime. You might think I'm talking about personal assault, but statistics indicate there's a more common crime: personal theft while on vacation.

Although summer and holidays are the most popular time for vacations, anytime you travel for business or pleasure, you can become a target for burglars and thieves. Many of them are watching and waiting for just the right opportunity to strike.

Here are a few tips to dramatically reduce your chances of becoming a victim:

### Protecting Your Home:

- ◆ When leaving your home, double check all doors and window locks, and purchase slide-lock protection for sliding doors – a frequent point of entry for burglars. The locks cost less than a dollar and simply screw onto your window frame. Garage windows and doors, also a frequent point of entry, should be secured.
- ◆ Ask a friend to stop by your home at different times while you are away, or to be a house sitter. Ask them to turn on lights at night, or consider buying a light timer set for every evening. Setting up multiple timers in alternating rooms works best. Radio timers are also a good idea.
- ◆ Temporarily cancel newspaper subscriptions and postpone mail delivery, unless you've made arrangements for someone to pick up these items on a daily basis.
- ◆ Engrave your name or an identifiable number (your own "secret code") on large valuables. It makes them less attractive to burglars, and makes them easier to identify and recover if they are stolen.
- ◆ Consider installing an alarm system, which can serve not only as protection, but may qualify you for a discount on your homeowner's insurance.
- ◆ If you have more than one car, park your second vehicle in your driveway while you're away. If you will be away for more than a week, ask a friend to change the position of the car a few times during your absence.
- ◆ Move expensive electronic equipment away from the windows where they might be visible.

Don't give your home a "closed-down" look by completely shutting drapes and

### EXCEPTIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Gets buyer's attention!

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## Word For The Month...

Experts say a strong vocabulary is a sign of higher intellect and advanced culture. Here's this month's word, so you can impress your friends and colleagues...

**Moribund** \mohr-eh-behnd\ (adj.)

Meaning: Inactive or becoming outmoded. Obsolete.

Example Sentence: Mr. Keebles refuses to part with his **moribund** IBM cardpunch machine and mainframe computer in his computer technology class at the high school.

## Consumer Corner...

Here are a few neat tricks you can use around your home.

- **Nutritious Soft Drinks:** Does your family drink too many soft drinks? A healthy substitute is to add a little club soda, ginger ale or lemon lime soft drink to your favorite juices.
- **Iron Maintenance:** Does your iron pull and drag on fabric because of brown spots on the sole plate? Rub it with a mixture of heated vinegar and salt to remove the mineral deposits. The inside of the iron may need cleaning, too. Fill the water reservoir with white vinegar water and let the iron heat and steam for a few minutes. Pour out the vinegar water and rinse with clean water. Before using on clothes, steam iron on an old rag until the steam runs clear.
- **Handy Bags:** Throw a couple plastic grocery bags into your car's glove compartment. They will come in handy on outings to hold little treasures like wet bathing suits, fast-food trash, or anything you need to seal quickly and easily.
- **Perfect Flowers:** Flowers from your garden don't need to flop in a vase. A plastic scouring pad placed in the bottom of the vase makes a great floral "frog." They fit into odd-shaped containers too.

## Quote of the Month...

"Where you find quality, you will find a craftsman, not a quality-control expert."  
~Robert Brault,  
craftsman, not a quality-control expert."  
~Robert Brault,

Make sure your homeowner's policy is paid and the policy suits your current needs.

Arrange for lawn and landscaping services if your trip will be longer than a week. Never leave spare keys "hidden" under doormats or anywhere outside your home. If you're departing from a local airport, don't write your personal address on your luggage tags. Use a business address instead.

## While On Vacation:

Use a hotel safe to store valuable items instead of leaving them in your hotel room.

Keep the entry and balcony doors locked and use deadbolts and chains wherever possible.

Don't open the door to anyone. Even if a hotel repairman shows up, call the front desk to verify that a repairman has been sent.

Don't leave keys lying around when you're at the beach or pool.

If you rent a car, be sure the rental agency is not advertised anywhere on the car.

Tourists and travelers are frequently targeted by these means.

Always lock your car, even if you will be gone for just a few minutes.

At night, park in a lighted, visible place. If someone seems to be following you to your car, walk past it and find help.

All it takes is a little common sense and forethought, and you can measurably reduce your chances of becoming a victim of crime.



## Photo tip- Memorize the Effective Limit of Your Flash.

To avoid taking extra bright or dark photos, remember your camera flash range. How far or near should your subject be for proper exposure? The flash range of a compact camera is often 3 to 12 feet. The flash range may change as you zoom your camera's lens so it is best to check the instruction manual. Caution: fingers can easily block the flash on tiny cameras. That is embarrassing!

## Mind Teaser...

What falls but does not break, and what breaks but does not fall?  
(answer at bottom of last page)

## Thrifty Tip Of The Month...

Here's a great way to buy quality paint for your home at pennies on the dollar.

Many paint stores have a supply of paint that is either not exactly the color the customer really wanted, or the customer who ordered the color never came back to pick it up.

These paints are called "mistints," and you can buy them for only a few dollars per gallon. There is nothing wrong with the paint; it's just that the company cannot sell it as regular stock because it was a special mix. It's a win-win situation for the store and for you!

## Where Professionals Vacation

Artists: Painted Desert, Arizona  
Athletes: Olympia Heights, Florida  
Confectioners: Carmel, Indiana  
College Professors: University City, Missouri  
Ecologists: Green Bay, Wisconsin  
Firefighters: Smokey Mountains  
Forester: Thousand Oaks, California  
Geologists: Stone Mountain, Georgia  
Gossip Columnists: Grapevine, Texas  
Helicopter Pilots: Hoover, Alabama  
Home Builders: New Castle, Pennsylvania  
Jewelers: Pearl City, Hawaii  
Landscapers: Garden City, Michigan  
Lawyers: Accident, Maryland  
Loan Officers: Fairbanks, Alaska  
Manicurists: Finger Lakes, New York  
Optometrists: Plainview, New York  
Pastors: Chapel Hill, North Carolina  
Pianists: Florida Keys  
Podiatrists: Arches National Park, Utah  
Politicians: Dodge City, Kansas  
Realtors: Loveland, Colorado  
Refrigerator Repairmen: Chillum, Maryland  
Retired Army Officers: East Point, Georgia  
Sailors: Marina, California  
Sheriffs: Marshalltown, Iowa  
Tree Trimmers: Long Branch, New Jersey  
TV Evangelists: Paradise, California

Usually you go on vacation to forget things, but it's not until you open your luggage that you know whether you have.

-Gene Yasenak

breaks but does not fall?  
(answer at bottom of last page)

You may search forward, backward, horizontally, vertically, or diagonally to find the following occupations.

R E H P A R G O T O H P R  
P R O F E S S O R R R O S  
T U M K T B F N T O E L C  
T P B O Z A A S R T G I A  
N S V L R M I N F L N C R  
O H I M I T P G K A A E P  
E K E G N S I A H E R M E  
G R P E O A H C I R R A N  
R F I B C L E E I N F N T  
U C L T P M O Z R A T F E  
S R O T I D E E M I N E R  
A R T I S T E V G P O C R

Actor  
Artist  
Banker  
Carpenter  
Editor  
Farmer  
Geologist  
Mechanic  
Miner  
Mortician  
Painter  
Photographer  
Pilot  
Policeman  
Professor  
Publisher  
Ranger  
Realtor  
Scientist  
Surgeon  
Vet

## Could Antibiotics Prevent Heart Disease?

Everyone knows that cholesterol, high blood pressure, and lack of exercise are factors in heart disease. Now a new player has entered the field—infection. Researchers have found a bacterium that causes pneumonia, "Chlamydia Pneumoniae," in the arterial plaques present in obstructed coronary arteries.

In preliminary studies, patients with atherosclerosis who were given antibiotics against Chlamydia fared better than those who were not so treated. Some doctors suggest that anyone who has had a heart attack should consider taking an antibiotic long enough to eradicate any Chlamydia infection that may be present.

Studies are being continued. For more information contact your doctor, or go to [www.americanheart.org](http://www.americanheart.org).

### Show Maximum Value!

I'm told that investors / buyers in our new economy hold money but wait to purchase until they are shown exceptional value.

**Sellers expect agents** to present maximum value. They understand that superior photography brings results.

While typical photos provide typical results, Elevated Photography attracts buyers!

**Sellers and agents win at closing!**

## Did You Know...

- ◆ Hershey's kisses are called that because the machine that makes them looks like it's kissing the conveyor belt.
- ◆ The longest recorded flight of a chicken is thirteen seconds.
- ◆ An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.
- ◆ "I am" and "I do" are the shortest complete sentences in the English language.
- ◆ A duck's quack doesn't echo, and no one knows why.

## Who You Ask Is Everything!

The graduate with a Science degree asks, "Why does it work?"

The graduate with an Engineering degree asks, "How does it work?"

The graduate with an Accounting degree asks, "How much will it cost?"

The graduate with a Liberal Arts degree asks, "Do you want fries with that?"

## The Job Interview...

"I see you were last employed by a psychiatrist," said the employer to the applicant. "Well," she replied, "I just couldn't win. If I was late, I was hostile. If I was early, I had an anxiety disorder. If I was on time, I was compulsive."

## Quote...

"The review in the paper said, 'the aesthetic subtext of his work is the systematic exposure of artistic pretension.' I thought I was just taking pictures."

*E. Leonard*

## Answer To Mind Teaser...

**Night and Day.**

**THANK YOU** for reading my Pleasantly Practical newsletter. I intend to produce newsletters that have great content and are fun and valuable to you. Your constructive feedback is always welcome.

**David W. Showalter**

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# Do You Have A Home Inventory?

What's the best way to make the most of your insurance dollars and protect your belongings in case of an emergency or disaster? Create a home inventory of everything you own.

According to the Insurance Information Institute, the home inventory will help you to:

- Purchase enough insurance to replace the items you own.
- Get insurance claims settled faster.
- Substantiate losses for income tax purposes.

To make the task easier, the Institute created "Know Your Stuff – Home Inventory Software" available as a free download at [www.knowyourstuff.org](http://www.knowyourstuff.org). The software lets you store digital photographs along with your list of possessions. You can burn a copy of the information on a CD or print out a room-by-room document and store either in a safety deposit box or other secure location.

Here's good advice: Make it fun by getting the family involved. Have your kids help out by opening closets and drawers and listing the contents.

## David's Montana Photograph for *This Issue*



# Fast Relief For Weekend Warriors

If you ever have a sprain, headache, or other ailment that could benefit from an "ice pack", you can make your own easily with corn syrup.

Here's how: Pour 1 cup of corn syrup into a zippered storage bag and close. Put the bag into another bag, seal, and "freeze". Because syrup doesn't freeze, you will end up with a nice, flexible, soft "ice pack". Be sure to label the contents clearly so that no one will misuse it. Just use more corn syrup and larger zippered storage bags if jumbo "ice packs" are required.