



Get my Free Consumer Guide revealing 44 money-making secrets for "dressing" your home for top dollar. See my enclosed insert...

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Tristan Emond's...



Service For Life!

"Insider Tips For Healthy, Wealthy & Fun Living..."

Computer Users Beware!

Your computer is under attack -- from malware, botnets, Trojan horses, worms and zombies. They may sound like aliens, but they're really malicious software that infects your computer without your permission, often for evil purposes.

"Malicious software is one of the biggest threats computer users face today," says Jefferson County (CO) District Attorney Scott Storey. "Like an invisible thief in the night, you won't even know it's there."

What do all these words mean? TechEncyclopedia defines malware as software "designed to destroy, aggravate and otherwise make life unhappy." It may come bundled with other programs, from a website, or from an e-mail attachment, like a virus. Worms and Trojans are examples of malware.

A botnet is a network of compromised computers that can be controlled remotely – not by you. Tens of thousands of computers can be linked together and run under a common command and control system.

To put it simply (and it can get much more complex), while connected to the internet, your computer can be invaded by a virus or trojan and hijacked to become part of a botnet. Once it has been compromised, it's called a zombie.

The Symantec Corporation estimates that there are "millions upon millions" of botnet-infected PCs in existence today.

You must protect yourself. Here's how:

- Subscribe to a credible internet protection suite, including virus and spyware protection and a software firewall. You can research protection programs on such sites as www.pcmag.com.
- Use common sense when it comes to e-mail. Don't open unsolicited items. Know that government agencies, banks and credit card companies will never e-mail you about financial or personal issues.
- Think before you install anything. Weigh the risks and benefits.
- Remember, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure!

Stumble Upon An Interesting Home?

No need to guess its features or wonder about the price. No need to expose yourself to some high-pressure salesman or unwanted obligations. Just call me at 343-7500, and I'll tell you...with no hassles and no obligation.

Get Free money-saving tips at my web site: www.rapidhomesonline.com

Tips For Keeping Food Fresh When Shopping...

When you shop, buy cold and frozen foods last. Take food straight home to the refrigerator. Never leave food in a hot car! Don't buy anything you won't use by the "use-by" date. Don't buy food in poor condition. Make sure refrigerated food is kept cool by asking your grocery bagger to put cold and frozen foods together. When buying food, frozen food should be rock-solid. Canned goods should be free of dents, cracks, or bulging lids which can indicate serious food poisoning threat.

"It's Called A What??"

Most people know that a group of cattle is known as a herd, and chickens travel in broods. But some of our animal friends hang-out together in groups with very unusual names.

A group of baboons is known as a troop. Caterpillars travel in armies, and a set of cats is known as a cluster. Coyotes are grouped in a pack, and dolphins in a pod. A bowl of goldfish is a troubling, and hens hang out in a brood.

A group of hippopotami is known as a bloat, and a bevy of eagles is known as a convocation. And a family of crocodiles is known as a bask. Whew!

Crazy Country Western Titles!

- ◆ How can I miss you if you won't go away?
- ◆ I don't want your body if your heart's not in it.
- ◆ I keep forgettin' I forgot about you.
- ◆ I meant every word that he said.
- ◆ I'm not married but my wife is.
- ◆ If the phone don't ring, baby, you'll know it's me.
- ◆ I liked you better before I knew you so well.

The Merry Christmas Issue! (this is where I write an emotional, sentimental, Hallmark-ready Christmas Greeting)

I wanted to make sure to take the time to thank you all for being my friends, clients, and neighbors.

Wow, I've certainly had plenty of challenges, triumphs, disappointments and opportunities this year. But I wouldn't change a thing. I'm thankful for every opportunity to help someone. My prayer is that each one of you can look around and say, "Yep, this is the time of my life."

So from my family to yours:

May all of you have a blessed Holiday Season.
Merry Christmas

Easy Ways to Dress up that Christmas Gift

Here are some easy ways to use common materials to dress up your Christmas presents. (They'll look good for a little while anyway...)

- Cut a brown grocery bag so that it lays flat. Wrap the present with the paper, then create geometric patterns on the paper with thin masking tape. Tape down a fresh flower instead of a bow.
- Lay out simple white copy paper in the size you need with edges touching. Arrange natural materials such as leaves or flowers along the seams and tape down with clear packing tape
- Use craft paper, available at craft and grocery stores, to wrap presents. Decorate the paper with vegetable stamps. For example, dip a carved potato half in latex paint or cut a raw beet in half. Dot over the paper to create a vivid pattern.
- Use wax paper to wrap odd-size gifts like a houseplant. Cut a piece of paper long enough to go around the object, plus four or five inches. Fold the two ends over several times. Make two holes in the fold with a hole punch. Thread with ribbon and attach a natural object such as bamboo shoots and leaves.

*Information grabbed from Wanda Wen, Gift-wrapping Expert.
www.hgtv.com*

Trivia Tease ...

I have a mouth but do not speak
I have a bed but do not sleep
I run but have no feet
What am I?
(answer at bottom of page)

The Wackiest Laws On The Books!

Did you know that in New Hampshire it is illegal to tap your feet, nod your head, or keep time to the music in a tavern, restaurant, or café? Or that state law in Colorado *allows* people to rip the tags off pillows and mattresses, despite dire warnings not to do so.

And in Alaska, while it's legal to shoot bears, waking a sleeping bear for the purposes of taking a photograph is prohibited.

The dumb laws web site, found at www.dumblaws.com offers an entertaining selection of silly laws on the books in the U.S. and foreign countries. Compiled by Andy Powell and Jeff Koon, the site offers a sidesplitting look at laws that are outdated...or simply incredibly stupid. Other examples include...

In Fairbanks, Alaska, it is considered an offense to feed alcoholic beverages to a moose. Sterling, Colorado has a law on the books that states that cats may not run loose at night without being fit with a taillight.

Did You Know?...

- ◆ The animal with the largest brain in proportion to its size is the ant.
- ◆ Temperature and crime are correlated. Many more crimes are committed in the hot summer months than in the cold winter months.
- ◆ Ancient Egyptians regarded the heart as the center of intelligence and emotion. They believed the brain to be totally insignificant, and during mummification, the brain was removed...thinking it would not be needed on the "other side."

Answer To Trivia Question:
A River!

Shrewd Job Interview Tactics...

Everyone wants to do their best during a job interview – especially if it's for a position you truly desire. But did you know this: If you're one of the first candidates interviewed for a job, odds are you will *not* get hired?

The first candidates frequently get overlooked simply because, after all the interviews are completed, the interviewer forgot details about the first person. Here are a few helpful strategies you might want to consider the next time you're interviewing for "a big job."

- ◆ First, pay attention to *when* you'll be interviewed. If you are offered an interview, for example, on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday, select Wednesday. A mid-week interview will be close enough to the end of the week (many hiring decisions are made Wednesday through Friday), yet far enough from the beginning of the week to be remembered. If you're offered a choice of time for your interview, select the *last* interview appointment of the day.
- ◆ You'd be amazed at how many applicants never follow-up their interview. And those who do frequently take so long, their follow-up is meaningless. Send a personal thank-you note *the very next day* to everyone who interviewed you. Make sure you know the best way to communicate with the individuals, whether it be by regular mail, email or fax. Add something about your "company fit" you learned during or since your interview.
- ◆ Follow up your note with a phone call or email within a week to 10 days (sooner if the employer is on a faster hiring timetable). Continue to sell your strengths during the call. Most of all, be patient. Keep following up, but don't be annoying. Many times the hiring process takes longer than an employer anticipates.

Tired of hearing from me?

No problem. I certainly don't want to bother you and I respect your privacy.

If you don't feel my newsletter is informative and entertaining, and would like to be removed from my list, please give me a call at 391-7086 or email me at tristan@rapidhomesonline.com.

"No loss of flood and lightning, no destruction of cities and temples by hostile forces of nature, has deprived man of so many noble lives and impulses as those which his intolerance has destroyed."

--Helen Keller (1880 – 1968) American author and lecturer.

Go Figure!...

Did you know...the most stolen books from public libraries, in order, are... "The Bible," "The Koran," and "The Police Entrance Examination Guide!"

Thanks for Thinking of Me!

Did you know I can help you or any of your friends, family or acquaintances save time and money when buying or selling a home? Thanks for keeping me in mind with your referrals...and spreading the word!

Bad Luck?...

A man was just coming out of a coma when he sees his devoted wife sitting close by. He motions for her to come closer.

As she sat by him, he whispered, eyes full of tears, "You know what? You have been with me all through the bad times. When I got fired, you were there. When I got shot, you were by my side. When we lost the house, you stayed right here. When my health started failing, you were still by my side." You know what else?" he asked.

"What, dear?" she gently asked, smiling. "I think you're bad luck!"

More Airline Yuks...

I was once on a Southwest flight that was delayed at the gate after everyone boarded. The flight attendant said over the intercom, "We're sorry for the delay. The machine that normally rips the handles off your luggage is broken, so we're having to do it by hand. We should be finished and on our way shortly..."

THANK YOU for reading my Service For Life![®] personal newsletter. I wanted to produce a newsletter that has great content and is fun and valuable to you. Your constructive feedback is always welcome.

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The trivia challenge race!

Don't wait - last month I no sooner got off the phone with winner #1 when winner #2 called!

This month's prizes:

- 1) \$25 gift certificate to Rushmore Mall (for those last minute shoppers)
- 2) Free ½ hour massage gift certificate (give the gift of health)
- 3) A collection of dips from Tastefully Simple (for your Christmas Parties)

Guess Who Won Last Month's Trivia Question? I'm pleased to announce the winners of last month's quiz. And the winners are...drum roll please: Janelle Werlinger and Ramona Hansen – both from Sturgis, SD. So now we answer the question:

Just How Many Items Are In Two Baker's Dozen?

- a) 14 b) 26 c) 12 d) 24 e) 36

No need to go calling your local bakeshop, because the answer is "B". There are 26 items in *two* baker's dozen. Why is that? See the answer below...

Now...let's move on to this month's trivia question...

On Earth, It Takes 365.25 Days For Our Planet To Circle The Sun. How Long Does It Take Mercury, The Planet Closest To The Sun At 58 Million Miles, To Circle The Sun?

- a) 37.24 hours b) 15.67 days c) 87.97 days d) 215.38 days e) 659.27 days

Call me right now with your answer and you could win too! **391-7086**

How does 13 become a dozen?

The bakers' dozen originated back in the 13th century when bakers who were caught shortchanging their customers were dealt with severely. To deal with this problem, they would give 13 for the price of 12. (they liked their hands attached to their arms...) This provided them some insurance in case one got lost, ruined, eaten by the apprentice ☺ or otherwise not there.

Bakers today keep the practice because the 13 items fit neatly in the rectangular pans...check it out at:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bakers_dozen (where else?)

Disclaimer: This newsletter is not intended to solicit properties already on the market for sale or buyers already represented. If your home is listed with another agent or you are working with a real estate professional, call or email me to be removed from my list.

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