



# newsLetter

A compilation  
of newsTicker articles  
with Exercises

March 2007

# Contents

## **BRITISH MANSION**

*Tops world's most expensive homes list* 4

## **SOUTH AFRICA**

*May resume elephant cull* 6

## **NEW YORK**

*May never win its war on rats* 8

## **CASSINI SPACECRAFT**

*Snaps views of Saturn* 10

## **EARTH'S CRUST**

*Missing a huge chunk* 12

## **ATKINS DIET**

*Scales tip in favor* 14

## **FOOD PURCHASES**

*No grisly details please* 16

## **DANGER**

*Shouldn't stop journalists* **18**

## **MAN SAVES BEST FRIEND**

*Uses CPR on drowning dog* **20**

## **TEXAS SNAKES**

*Roundup rattles ecologists* **22**

2007-03-02

## BRITISH MANSION

*Tops world's most expensive homes list*

Forbes has just come out with this year's list of the World's Most Expensive Homes 2007.

For the last two years, Forbes.com has made lists of the most valuable properties on every continent in the world except for Antarctica. Six of the top 10 are located in the United States, two in Britain, one in France and one in Turkey.



Apart from spacious living areas and incredible views, many of the homes also come equipped with extras including a home theater with room for 50, a glass elevator and a wine cellar that holds 35,000 bottles.

Forbes' number one home on the list is located in the south of London. Some of its highlights include 58 acres of luscious gardens and 103 rooms. It is priced at \$138 million.

# Exercise

Read the article and complete the following activities.

1. Design your dream home. Include the following details:

- the location and views
- the size and design
- entertainment features
- sports facilities
- specialty rooms and features
- decorating theme

2. Share your design with your classmates. As a class, choose the top 3 you would include in the Forbes' Most Expensive Homes list.

2007-03-07

## SOUTH AFRICA

### *May resume elephant cull*

The South African government is discussing the possibility of culling elephants again, but is open to taking non-lethal options as well.



*Elephants*

South Africa culled thousands of elephants in the three decades leading up to the mid-1990s because of fears their increasing numbers would overwhelm the environment. But culling was stopped in 1995 after an outcry from animal rights activists and the public.

Since then, the number of elephants has risen by about 5% each year. The once endangered animal is back up to a population of 20,000, but their numbers must be limited to preserve habitats. A single elephant can devour hundreds of kilograms of grass and leaves per day.

Some non-lethal alternatives include forced migration and contraception.

## Exercise

Read or listen to the article. Complete the following sentences using your own words.

1. The number of elephants.....
2. In South Africa, the government is....
3. For thirty years, the government culled many elephants because...
4. The culling stopped because...
5. Non-lethal options include...

2007-03-08

## NEW YORK

### *May never win its war on rats*

Recent videos showing rats running across the floor of a restaurant in New York City disturbed many people all over the world. But some experts say that humans are actually more of a health hazard than rats are.



*Rat*

The video showed rats living it up at a KFC/Taco Bell after the restaurant had just passed its health inspection the day before. This incident spurred the Health Department to remove the inspector responsible for the review and close down 13 other restaurants.

The Health Department said that even though rats are a major cause for concern, restaurant's employees who do not wash their hands or store food at the proper temperatures create a greater health risk.

One epidemiologist agreed by saying that poor hygiene was more worrisome than rats in a restaurant.

## Exercise

Read the article and answer the following questions.

1. What is an epidemiologist and what does he or she do?
2. What kinds of consequences can come from employees' poor hygiene in a restaurant? What are the dangers of not storing foods at their proper temperatures?
3. What would you do if you saw rats in the restaurant you were eating in? What do the rats' presence imply?

2007-03-09

## CASSINI SPACECRAFT

### *Snaps views of Saturn*

The Cassini spacecraft has captured new images of Saturn that show the planet and its rings from different perspectives.

The NASA spacecraft took off in October, 1997 and entered into orbit around Saturn in July, 2004.

The images were taken within the last few weeks from different heights and positions that give scientists new views of Saturn's rings. The images include a video sequence showing the rings as they appeared to Cassini while it traveled from south to north, crossing the ring plane.

Cassini team leader, Carolyn Porco said that she and her other team members had been waiting for years to see these images. She said the rings were "breath-taking."

The mission is a joint project between NASA, the European Space Agency and the Italian Space Agency.



*Saturn*

## Exercise

Test your knowledge about the planet Saturn. See if you can find the answers to these questions.

1. Where does the name Saturn come from and what does it mean?
2. What are Saturn's rings made up of?
3. Does Saturn have any satellites? If so, what are they and what are they called?

2007-03-12

## EARTH'S CRUST

### *Missing a huge chunk*

**B**ritish scientists have set out to discover why a huge chunk in the earth's crust has disappeared under the Atlantic Ocean.

**A** team of 20 scientists are aboard the hi-tech British research ship RRS James Cook and ready to survey the sea floor where the mantle has been exposed. The area they will be examining is 3,000 to 4,000 meters deep.



*RRS James Cook*

**T**he primary motivation for the project is to understand how the earth continues to evolve. The discovery of the opening has confused scientists because it doesn't go along with existing tectonic plate theories of the earth's evolution. Scientists hope to find out whether the crust was torn away by geological faults or if it never even fully developed.

## Exercise

Read the article and complete the following activities.

1. Name the four layers of the earth.
2. What is each layer made of?
3. How thick is each layer?
4. What are tectonic plates?

2007-03-13

## ATKINS DIET

*Scales tip in favor*

**W**omen who followed the Atkins plan lost twice as much weight as those on other diets, said a recent study.

**C**hristopher Gardner, lead author of the study, credits the success

of the Atkins diet to the very low amount of carbohydrates consumed while on the eating program. Eliminating refined carbohydrates such as white bread and carbonated drinks can make a big difference.



*Bread*

**T**he women on the Atkins diet also had the most improvements in terms of cholesterol and blood pressure, added the study published in this week's Journal of the American Medical Association.

**W**omen who followed the Atkins diet for 8 weeks lost an average of 10.4 pounds. Women who tried others, including LEARN, Ornish and Zone diets, lost an average of only 3.5 to 5.7 pounds.

## Exercise

Read or listen to the article. Answer the following statements with either True or False. Make all false statements true.

1. Women lost the most weight following the Ornish and Zone diets.
2. In the Atkins diet it's important to eliminate meat.
3. Eating a large amount of carbohydrates helps to lose weight.
4. Cutting out white bread and soft drinks is important for weight loss.
5. No improvements were made in cholesterol and blood pressure levels while on the Atkins diet.

2007-03-14

## FOOD PURCHASES

*No grisly details please*

**B**ritish consumers are becoming more conscientious about animal welfare, especially when it comes to buying food. However, they really don't want to know all the messy details, said a recent report.



*Cook in restaurant*

**T**he international food and grocery research body IGD said that 64 percent of people consider animal welfare when purchasing food. However, only 10 percent of consumers buy all higher welfare foods due to the increased prices.

**F**reedom Food, advocates of improving animal welfare standards, funded the research. The IGD report said that although many consumers feel guilty about eating meat they are hesitant about investigating animal treatment issues.

**T**he report also linked the growth in demand of higher welfare foods to rising affluence among consumers.

## Exercise

Read the article and complete the activities.

1. What does the article refer to when talking about “animal welfare” ?
2. Do you eat meat or are you a vegetarian? Explain your preference.
3. What animal welfare issues concern you?
4. Would you be willing to spend more money on “animal friendly” food products? Explain.

2007-03-15

## DANGER

### *Shouldn't stop journalists*

**C**BS News correspondent Kimberly Dozier was critically injured in an Iraqi bomb attack but believes that despite the danger, journalists must still cover the war.



*Kimberly Dozier*

**L**ast May a car bomb explosion seriously wounded Dozier and killed her two crew members, James Brolan and Paul Douglas, when they were reporting from Baghdad.

**D**ozier, Brolan and Douglas, along with ABC news correspondent Bob Woodruff, also critically wounded by a car bomb in 2006, were honored at the Radio and Television News Directors Foundation First Amendment dinner in Washington, D.C.

**D**ozier and Woodruff consider themselves very lucky to have survived and both are dedicated to reporting the truth to the people and the leaders back home in the United States.

## Exercise

Fill in the blank with the correct form of the verb and name the tense.

CBS News correspondent Kimberly Dozier was critically injured in an Iraqi bomb attack but \_\_\_\_\_ (to believe) that despite the danger, journalists must still cover the war.

Last May a car bomb explosion seriously \_\_\_\_\_ (to wound) Dozier and \_\_\_\_\_ (to kill) her two crew members, James Brolan and Paul Douglas, when they were \_\_\_\_\_ (to report) from Baghdad.

Dozier, Brolan and Douglas, along with ABC news correspondent Bob Woodruff, also critically wounded by a car bomb in 2006, were \_\_\_\_\_ (to honor) at the Radio and Television News Directors Foundation First Amendment dinner in Washington, D.C.

Dozier and Woodruff \_\_\_\_\_ (to consider) themselves very lucky to have \_\_\_\_\_ (to survive) and both are dedicated to reporting the truth to the people and the leaders back home in the United States.

2007-03-16

## MAN SAVES BEST FRIEND

*Uses CPR on drowning dog*

A U.S. Air Force veteran saved his drowning dog by using CPR and mouth-to-snout resuscitation.

Randy Gurchin's dog Lucy ran out onto a frozen lake located on his property when the ice broke and Lucy fell in. Gurchin managed to pull Lucy from the water. She was not moving, was blue in color and unresponsive to her master.



*Bulldog*

As a pilot who flew combat missions over Iraq and Afghanistan, Gurchin was prepared for emergency situations. He used his first-aid training to save his dog. He closed Lucy's mouth and proceeded to breathe air into her lungs while pushing on her chest. After a few minutes, she began to breathe and Gurchin took her to a local veterinarian.

Lucy has made a full recovery.

## Exercise

Read the article and complete the following activities.

1. What does CPR stand for? What is it used for? Describe the steps for using CPR.
2. What is Mouth-to-mouth resuscitation? Describe the steps.
3. When would you use mouth-to-mouth?

2007-03-19

## TEXAS SNAKES

### *Roundup rattles ecologists*

The annual rattlesnake roundup in Texas boosts businesses but rattles ecologists.

During the three-day roundup, hunters scour the arid landscape looking for snake dens. Once they find a den, the hunters pump gas fumes into the hole to drive the snakes out and place them into a pit. The organizers at the Sweetwater, Texas roundup say that every part of the snake is used. The skins



*Rattlesnake*

are made into belts, the meat is sold and the venom is used by pharmaceutical companies. Ecologists, however, say that the roundup is not environmentally friendly or ethical. Lee Fitzgerald, the curator of amphibians and reptiles at Texas A/M University says “There’s no glory in rattlesnake hunting,” and added that the gas affects other animals as well.

## Exercise

Do some investigating on your own about rattlesnakes. Find the answers to the following questions.

1. Where do rattlesnakes tend to live?
2. Name three different kinds of rattlesnakes.
3. Are rattlesnakes venomous? Can their bites kill?
4. Describe what a rattlesnake looks like.
5. Work in pairs. Find three interesting facts about rattlesnakes and share them with the class.

