

The logo for 'newsLetter' is presented within a blue rectangular box that has a folded top-right corner, resembling a sticky note. The word 'news' is written in a bold, dark blue, lowercase sans-serif font, while 'Letter' is written in a bold, white, uppercase sans-serif font. The entire logo is centered horizontally on the page.

# newsLetter

A compilation  
of newsTicker articles  
with Exercises

May 2007

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2007-05-02

## ANTARCTIC ADVENTURE

*London calling for ice cadets*

The new Ice Station Antarctica exhibition at the Natural History Museum in London is incredibly realistic.

Visitors can experience what it's like to live in Antarctica by touring the new exhibit. "Ice cadets" don special clothing for the cool temperatures while they learn how to survive in the harsh environment, examine penguin habitats and ride on snowmobiles.



Exhibition developer Alex Gaffikin, who has spent two winters and a summer in the Antarctic, said, "There are a lot of physical and mental challenges and that's the kind of thing that we're encouraging the young people to think about."

Gaffikin said the scale, varied exhibits and authenticity of the Ice Station was uncannily familiar to her real-life experiences in the icy waste

## Exercise

Read the article and answer the following questions.

1. What can you learn about at the Ice Station exhibition?
2. What does Gaffikin want kids to learn?
3. What is the climate like in Antarctica? What words does the article use to describe the weather there?
4. What was Gaffikin's impression of the exhibit?

2007-05-07

## THE BECKHAMS

*Buy Beverly Hills mansion*

The fashionable David and Victoria Beckham have purchased a mansion in Beverly Hills in preparation for their move to the U.S. this summer.



*The Beckhams*

Soccer star David will soon begin his new \$250 million 5 year contract with the Los Angeles Galaxy soccer team during late summer. The couple, along with their three boys, will make the move to their new impressive home in July.

People magazine described the house as “modern, airy, very light and spacious with lots of windows.” The 13,000 square foot home has six bedrooms, nine bathrooms and plenty of room for family and other visitors from England. The mansion cost \$22 million.

Former Spice Girl Victoria Beckham will give a first hand account of the family’s move in a six-episode U.S. reality show.

## Exercise

Read the article and answer the following questions.

1. What kind of house do you live in? Describe your home. How many rooms does it have? How many bathrooms? What is your room like and how is it decorated?
2. Would you like to live in a home the size of the Beckhams' new abode in Beverly Hills? How do you imagine it to be?
3. Describe your dream home. How big would it be? Where would it be situated? What would it look like? What special features would it include?

2007-05-08

## MYSTERY MELODY IN CHAPEL

*Musicians unlock the secret*

After 27 years of research, a father and son uncovered the mysterious codes found in a 15th century chapel in Scotland.

Thomas Mitchell and his son Stuart, both musicians, were fascinated by the symbols they saw carved in the arches at Rosslyn Chapel in Edinburgh.



*A tourist looks at the cube carvings on the chapel arches at Rosslyn Chapel near Edinburgh*

The Mitchells began to investigate the history and meaning of the symbols and discovered they were part of an ancient musical system called cymatics or Chladni patterns. The patterns are made up of sound waves with different pitches. By studying the carvings, they were able to decipher the melody.

The melody has been dubbed the Rosslyn Motet. On May 18, four singers and eight musicians playing medieval instruments will perform the piece at the Chapel.

## Exercise

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

1. A team of scientists cracked the mysterious code.
2. The code was a series of symbols that talked about the Bible.
3. The Mitchells named the ancient song.
4. The symbols were carved on the doors leading to the church.
5. Chladni patterns are part of an ancient alphabet.

2007-05-09

## WANTED - COCKROACHES

*Houston museum looking to buy bugs*

A museum in Houston needs cockroaches for a special exhibit about insects and will pay 25 cents per bug.

Entomologist Laurie Pierrel, from the Houston Museum of Natural Science, wants 1,000 American cockroaches. This type of flying insect measures about 2 inches long and thrives in Houston's sub-tropical climate. The cockroaches will be used to demonstrate how they help to decompose waste.



*Cockroaches*

The exhibit will show how useful and clean cockroaches really are. Pierrel said that if it weren't for these insects, there would be a lot "more trash around." She added that cockroaches clean themselves constantly and compared their hygiene habits to those of cats.

For the next three Saturdays, Pierrel will be stationed outside the museum where sellers can drop off the cockroaches and collect their money.

# Exercise

Read the article and answer the following questions.

1. When you think of cockroaches, what images come to mind?
2. Do some research on your own and answer these questions:
  - How many different species of cockroaches are there?
  - What do they eat?
  - How do they help the environment?
  - Who are their predators?
3. Would you like to have a 'pet' cockroach? Why or why not?

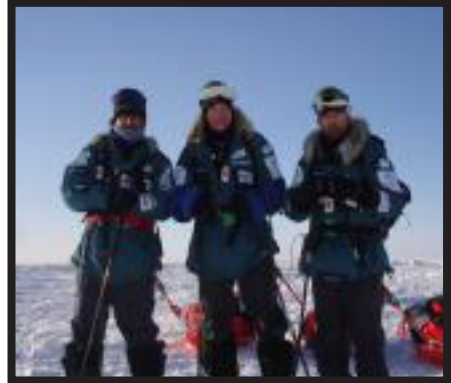
2007-05-10

## ARCTIC RACE

*Tests contestants' physical, mental fortitude*

After extensive training, adventurers are testing their strength by braving freezing temperatures and polar bears in a race that crosses the Arctic.

The Polar Challenge is the world's most difficult polar race. Eight teams of brave men and women travel 350 nautical miles in a race to the North Pole. The participants face temperatures as low as minus 40 degrees Celsius and two weeks of continuous daylight.



*(L-R) Chris Mike, Jonny Black and James Cheshire are seen before the start of the race in the Arctic.*

The teams consist of three competitors each. They ski about 12 hours each day pulling a sled with supplies behind them that weighs approximately 200 pounds. Christopher Mike, one of the team members, said that although the training was rigorous, nothing could have prepared him for the actual race, especially being surprised by polar bears.

## Exercise

Read the article and answer the following questions.

1. Would you like to participate in a race like this? Why or why not? What aspects of this type of adventure appeal to you?
2. What kind of physical and mental qualities does a person need to have in order to compete in this race? Explain.
3. In your opinion, what would be the most difficult aspect of the race? The cold, polar bears...what?

2007-05-14

## WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

*I'm NOT going to die?*

**A** British man decided to live life to its fullest and spent all his money believing that he only had a short time to live. But recently, doctors gave him a clean bill of health and now he is broke and wants retribution.



*Coins*

**D**octors diagnosed John Brandick, 62, with pancreatic cancer two years ago and predicted he would die within one year. As a result, Brandick quit his job, got rid of all his belongings, and spent his savings on entertainment and vacations.

**W**hen doctors told him his illness was not cancer but an inflamed pancreas, Brandick was elated, but now finds himself in a serious financial predicament.

**N**ow he wants compensation for the misdiagnosis and plans to sue the hospital.

## Exercise

Read the article and complete the activities.

1. Describe how you think Brandick felt when the doctors told him he would die within a year.
2. If you only had one year left to live, how would you spend your time? What would you do? List 10 things you would like to accomplish, do or see. Explain why you chose these things.
3. Share and discuss your list with the rest of the class.

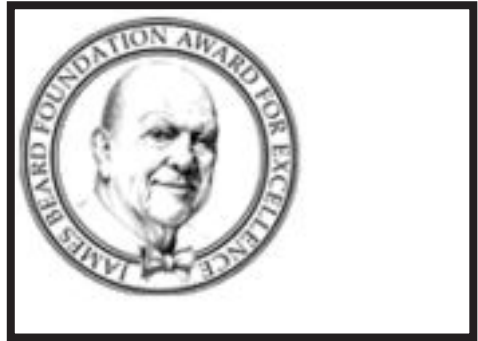
2007-05-15

## TOP CHEF AWARD

*Won by Washington DC restaurateur*

The James Beard Foundation, an esteemed culinary organization, handed out awards to restaurateurs for numerous honors.

The highly coveted James Beard Awards are considered to be “the Oscars of the food world”. Sixty awards including best chef, best restaurant, cookbook of the year and many more are presented each year.



*James Beard Foundation  
Award*

This year French chef Michel Richard won the chef of the year award, for his fusion of French and California cuisine. The best restaurant prize was awarded to Citronelle in Washington, D.C., and brothers Matt and Ted Lee won the award for the Cookbook of the Year for their Lee Bros. Southern Cookbook.

Independent volunteer panels made up of food and beverage professionals vote on specific award categories to determine the winners.

## Exercise

Read the article and answer the following questions.

1. Do you have a variety of restaurants where you live? Name some of the ethnic foods available in your area.
2. What is your favorite kind of food? Describe it, the flavors, sauces, ingredients, etc.
3. What is your favorite local restaurant? What kind of food is served there? What's the atmosphere like? What is the price like?
4. Take a vote to see which local restaurant is the most popular with your classmates.

2007-05-16

## SMITHSONIAN

### *Adds Dell relics to collection*

Dell Inc. will be immortalized at the Smithsonian museum in an exhibit that features items from the company's beginnings.

An old 1985 yellowish hard drive and screen that only has one disc drive and 640 kilobytes of memory will be one of the featured items at the exhibit. Clint Johnson donated the computer which he had stored up in his attic for almost two decades. He realized it was now considered to be "a historic artifact," and gave it to the Smithsonian National Museum of American History.



*Michael Dell, chairman and CEO of Dell Inc*

Other items on show will be founder Michael Dell's employee badge and an old receipt for \$960.

Dell commented, "If we do our jobs right, technology we develop in 2007 might be good for the museum in 23 years."

## Exercise

Check out the Smithsonian museum at the website below and answer the following questions.

<http://www.mnh.si.edu/>

1. What are the visiting hours of the museum? How much does it cost to get in?
2. Name three exhibitions that the museum offers that you would be interested in visiting.
3. Give some details about one of the exhibits that you are interested in. What does it talk about? What does it show? What did you learn? Share your information with the class.

2007-05-18

## NASA SHUTTLE TANK

*An eyesore but ready to fly*

NASA announced that the damaged U.S. space shuttle has been repaired and is ready for its June 8 launch, but warned that it is not very attractive.

Last March, the shuttle had been scheduled to leave on a mission for the International Space Station. But inclement spring weather brought a hail storm which pummeled the shuttle, damaging its tank and delaying take off.



NASA

Technicians worked for three months filling in the affected areas with white-colored foam. Now, Atlantis's normally orange-colored tank is covered with over 4,200 white spots, giving it a "speckled" look.

Fuel tank manager John Chapman said, "We have total confidence in the integrity of the repairs, but I'm telling you right now that your mind will have a hard time convincing your eyes."

## Exercise

Read the article and complete the following sentences in your own words.

1. The shuttle's take off was delayed due to.....
2. Technicians had to.....to fix the shuttle.
3. NASA warned that.....
4. The normally orange tank is now....

2007-05-21

## JK ROWLING URGES READERS

*Don't ruin Potter's ending*

J.K. Rowling, author of the Harry Potter series, asked people not to ruin the ending of the final book by spreading rumors of its contents.



*J.K. Rowling*

Rowling was recently informed that “spoiler” emails had reached The Leaky Cauldron fan site. The emails came from people who said they knew what the plot contained in the final book, “Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows”, due out on July 21.

Many people have been following the series of the boy wizard for almost 10 years and Rowling said she wanted readers to delve into the book without any prior notions about its plot. The author added that she did not want the rumors to diminish readers’ “pleasure in the book.”

## Exercise

Read the article and answer the following questions.

1. Have you read the Harry Potter books or seen the movies? Which one was your favorite and why? Describe your favorite character from the series.
2. Based on the last book's title, predict what the story will be about. Compare your ideas with your classmates.
3. Why would people spread rumors about the book's plot? What do they have to gain?

