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Be it known that

Jessica Ann Smith

having successfully completed the curriculum prescribed by the Faculty and Board of Directors for St. Christopher College and having complied with all other requirements of the College has been granted the Diploma of

Medical Assistant

and is entitled to all the rights and privileges appertaining to this Diploma.

David Gradnigo III

David Gradnigo III

Dean of Education Vice President of Student Affairs



Steven T. Castille
Dr. Steven T. Castille
President of St. Christopher College

Saint Christopher College is a place where you can find a future in healthcare or the growing field of construction. We have created a school that will give you the education and training you need to build a career. Our career programs are short. In only 12 months you will be ready to start earning more money and working in a better job.

~ Dr. Steven T. Castille

President of Saint Christopher College



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Organic Frozen Wheatgrass Juice

Wheatgrass juice is potent raw, living food. The grass itself comes from the common wheat plant (species triticum aestivum) when it



is young, vibrant and full of rich green chlorophyll. When the grass is squeezed, a dark green liquid is expressed and this is called wheatgrass juice.

Wheatgrass is harvested for juicing when the grass reaches its nutritional peak. This is just before the jointing stage, when the plant is between 7 and 11 inches tall. At this point, it has accumulated energy which will

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- 1 fl. oz. of wheatgrass juice is equivalent to 2½ pounds of the choicest vegetables
- wheatgrass is mineral rich and contains 92 minerals needed by the body
- it is a complete protein containing 20+ amino acids and has higher protein densities than any other food source
- the magic is in the enzymes with more than 30 found in the juice
- the juice is 70% chlorophyll and since the chlorophyll molecule is virtually identical to hemoglobin (red blood cells that carry oxygen), wheatgrass juice will oxygenate your body

Suggested Use: Drink one 1.5oz frozen cup every other day.

......\$30.00 (box of 16 count 1.5 oz frozen wheatgrass cups)

Green Waters Alkaline Water



Green Waters alkaline water reduces infections, flu and colds. Immunity weakens with more and more acidity in our body and thus we fall sick more frequently. Alkaline water can help build up alkaline reserves and neutralize acids helping our body to recuperate and grow strong.

Suggested Use: Drink 64 oz per day for 14 days.

.....\$36.00 / case of six

pH 9.5 Drops



WheTea BURNS STOMACH FAT



One of the primary components of WheTea is EGCG. EGCG stands for epigallocatechin-3-gallate. It is the main antioxidant in tea, said to be more than 100 times more powerful than vitamin C. There is more of it in white and green tea than in black tea. This antioxidant has been shown to help increase your metabolic rate (metabolism) to burn more calories. By raising your resting metabolic rate, your body starts using the fat you've stored throughout your body as a source of fuel to help shed those pounds hanging around.

Suggested Use: 2 droppers per 8 ounces of water. Drink a minimum of 64 oz of water per day. **......\$20.00**





Vitamins Plus
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Address: 505 Bertrand Drive, Lafayette, LA 70506

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BF-4 Weight Loss



Digestive Enzyme Complex



A healthy digestive system does an incredible job of breaking down the food we eat. However, without the help of digestive enzymes, we cannot metabolize food effectively no matter how healthy the food may be. There are roughly 22 main digestive enzymes involved in breaking down the food we eat into nutrients. After all, it's not "food" that our body absorbs for energy and health—it's the nutrients inside the food. Digestive Enzyme Complex is a natural digestive enzyme supplement. This vegetarian supplement can enhance the chemical reactions involved in digestion, promote an

Manglier Tea

mong-lee-AY

The tea is used to build the body's immune system quickly to fight cold, flu, and other infections. It clears viral and bacterial infections. Native Americans first discovered the medicinal properties of this plant in the 1800s. Creole and cajun communities used it before the onset of drug prescriptions and antibiotics. It is natural medicine that can be readily found in south Louisiana.......\$24.00



Pain & Inflammation Enzyme



Chronic pain and inflammation can make even the simplest everyday tasks a challenge. If you suffer chronic pain from a serious health condition or inflammation from over-exertion and physical exhaustion, Liteon Natural's Pain and Inflammation Enzyme Blend



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Research indicates that raspberry ketones appear to support weight management in two ways: first, by decreasing the absorption of dietary fat; and second, by supporting epinephrine-induced lipolysis (the breakdown of fat). Appetite Control and Fat Loss Formula.\$30.00

Wheatgrass Capsules



Alkalize, energize and detox your body with wheatgrass capsules. Wheatgrass is an effective healer because it is nutrient dense and contains major minerals and vitamins A, B-complex, C, E, I and K. It is extremely rich in protein, and contains 17 amino acids, the

publisher's letter



Live your life with gratitude and gratefulness. We all are getting older every day, but we don't have to grow older every day. Taking time to daydream, visit a friend, watch you children grow, or just play in your garden is time well-spent. There is a rush to tomorrow by all of us. We are being prodded into the future by faster computers, shorter delivery times, and a general need to have it, do it, and see it all: NOW!

Take time today for yourself. Take time to breathe in life, all of it: its color, splendor, smells, tastes, and sounds. From the smallest, most insignificant event to the things you have taken for granted.

Tomorrow will be here before you know it. Today will be a distant memory before you realize it. We create our futures and memories in the present. Go through life today, conscious of your surroundings. Why not take a long weekend walking through nature? There are a lot of lessons that nature can teach us, if we will only carefully observe and listen.

Today is a gift of life. Live it with gratitude and don't let the sun set today without seeing it, hearing it, and enjoying it.

Be grateful for the kindly friends that walk along your way. Be grateful for the skies of blue that smile from day to day. Be grateful for the health you own and the work you find to do, because there are always others less fortunate than you.

Be grateful for the growing trees, the roses soon to bloom, and the tenderness of kindly hearts that shared your days.

Acquire the grateful habit if you don't already have it. Learn to see how blest you are. Be thankful for the smallest blessing, and you will deserve to receive even greater ones. Value the least gifts no less than the greatest, and simple graces as especial favors. Most of all if you remember the dignity of the giver, no gift will ever seem small or meaningless.

Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow.

We wish you a month of enrichment for the mind, body and soul.



Steve & Michelle

Steve and Michelle Castille, Publishers



contact us

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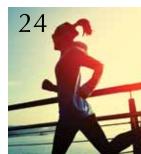
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newsbriefs

Pot & Paddle Lafayette Now Open

Pot & Paddle Jambalaya Kitchen is now open in Lafayette at 2668 Johnson Street, Suite C-4, in Autumnwood Place.



Dedicated to customer satisfaction, Pot & Paddle is a Louisiana-based Cajun restaurant franchise offering freshly prepared, Cajun cuisine in a relaxed, family-friendly atmosphere. The restaurant features a variety of specialties and stands firm to their signature Cajun jambalaya. Other menu items include gumbo, red beans, white beans and pastalaya, as well

as desserts like banana pudding and chocolate chip cookies. The restaurant offers dine-in, carry out and catering services

For information, visit PotandPaddle.com

Tee Tiny Houses Takes Root in Arnaudville

Tee Tiny Houses is planting roots as Louisiana's first tiny home manufacturer right in the middle of Cajun coun-



try. The newest concept in home building, tiny homes are efficient homes with small spaces for those who want to live easy, lessen stress and enjoy the simple things in life. Each home is artfully crafted and uniquely designed for those with simple yet elegant taste.

The company has five different models of tiny homes to choose

from, each designed by Acadiana architects or University of Lou-

isiana at Lafayette senior architecture students for a specific purpose. There is a camp model for hunters and fishers, a rustic cottage model, a model designed for a single occupant, a model designed for the



elderly and a model with a modern design.

Location: 1056 B Coteau Rodaire Hwy., Arnaudville. For information, call 337-781-9215 or visit TeeTinyHouses.com.

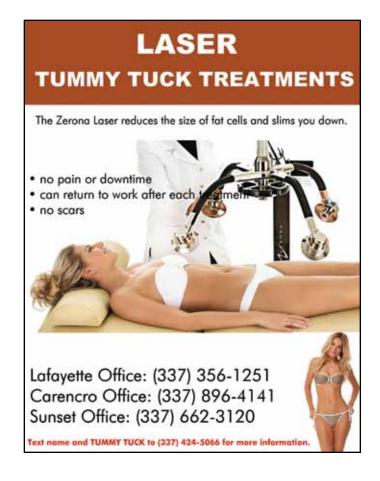
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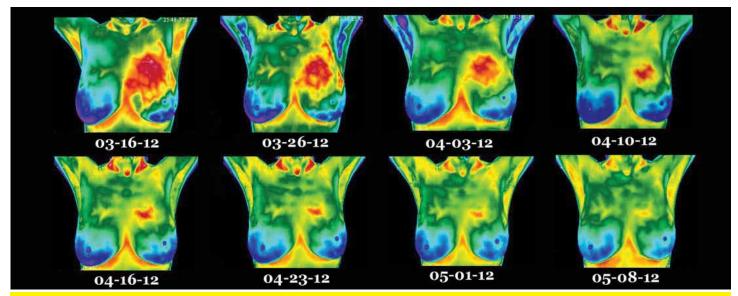


Thermography Exam **BEFORE** and **AFTER**

Why should I have a thermal scan? I have no family history and am not at high risk for breast cancer. Although family history is considered a risk factor, 90% of women who develop breast cancer have no family history. A positive thermal scan is considered the highest risk marker for the future development of cancer. It is 9 times more significant than a family history. A thermal scan can show if a woman may actually be at high risk despite the lack of a family history of cancer. It can also really show if there is any real risk at all where there is a family history.

I have a suspicious mammogram or felt a lump in my breast. Should I have a thermal scan? Absolutely. The information provided from the thermal scan can clarify the other findings, ultimately helping your doctor make better decisions as to the best way to manage the situation.

I have cancer and am scheduled for surgery. What benefit is there to a thermal scan this late in the game? Thermal scans' performed before and after a surgery or other treatment may help evaluate the success of the procedure by monitoring the metabolic and vascular changes of the cancer site. Additionally, once a woman develops breast cancer she is at a higher risk of developing it again. thermal scans' offer early detection of re-occurrence.



This thermography exam shows how with the proper wellness program, cancer risk can be eliminated. First picture (3/16/12) shows abnormal blood vessel activity. Last picture (5/8/12) shows that it is gone at the end of the wellness program.

Thermography is designed to detect and reveal abnormal heat and vascular development in the breast tissue, which is attributed to early tumor growth. Every physician knows that a tumor, whether malignant or benign, needs its own blood supply to nourish itself to grow. These vascularities grow in very abnormal patterns, creating the heat and inflammation that a thermal imaging camera detects.

An abnormal thermogram is the single most important marker of high risk for developing future breast cancer, ten times more significant than a family history of the disease. In other words, if someone gets a suspicious thermogram

indicating that something is wrong, something usually is. Did you know that the single greatest risk factor for development of breast cancer is a woman's lifetime breast exposure to estrogen? A woman can have up to fifty times more estrogen in her breast tissue than her blood levels indicate.

With the help of a natural practitioner or qualified nutritionist, a woman can make changes to affect her hormone levels and lower her risk. Throughout this time, a woman can monitor her breast tissue changes with thermography and actually see that the changes made to correct the imbalance are working. This is where breast thermography plays

an unprecedented role in breast cancer prevention. Along with over 800 published peer-reviewed studies on the effectiveness of thermography, a study published in the January 2003 publication of the showed thermography to be a "safe, non-invasive and valuable adjunct to (not replacement for) mammography in determining whether a lesion was benign or malignant, with over 97% sensitivity".

Image courtesy of Donna Tomey. Donna J. Tomey is a Certified Clinical Thermographer. received her certification at Duke University under the auspices of the American College of Clinical Thermology, Inc.

healthbriefs

Barefoot Running Improves Technique



Barefoot running has become a popular activity for athletes, and with the right training, can be a helpful tool for many runners. A recent study from the University of Jaén, in Spain, confirms the benefits of barefoot running. Researchers set out to determine what types of changes a 12-week program of barefoot running would produce in foot strike patterns, inversion, eversion and foot rotation.

Thirty-nine recreational ath-

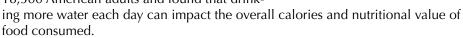
letes with no experience in barefoot running participated. Twenty formed the experimental group, with 19 serving as a control group. Researchers determined each runner's low, high and comfortable running speed and conducted pre- and post-running tests using cameras to document foot strike patterns. The experimental group's training consisted of a progressive increase in the duration and frequency of barefoot running, while those in the control group

performed the same progressive running program with their shoes on.

The experimental group showed significant changes in foot strike pattern, with a tendency toward a mid-foot strike at all speeds. They also displayed changes in foot rotation and inversion toward a more centered strike at the lower speed, supporting the notion that progressive barefoot training can help athletes trying to change their foot pattern to a mid- or front-foot strike.

Drinking More Water Improves Food Intake

Ruopeng An, Ph.D., a kinesiology and community health professor at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, studied the hydration and dietary habits of more than 18,300 American adults and found that drink-



Reviewing data from four parts of the National Center for Health Statistics' National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, in which participants were asked to recall their food and drink intake during two non-consecutive days, An determined the percentage of plain water drunk by each person. He found an association between a 1 percent increase in the subjects' daily intake of plain water and an 8.6-calorie reduction in food intake. An also discovered a slight reduction in foods high in fat, sugar, sodium and cholesterol with the change.

Participants that increased their plain water consumption by one to three cups reduced their calorie intake by 68 to 205 calories per day. The same increase in water correlated with a daily reduction in sodium intake by 78 to 235 milligrams, five to 18 grams less sugar and seven to 21 milligrams less cholesterol.

Sage Linked to Cognitive Health

A 2016 review from Australia's Murdoch University, in Perth, confirms the cognitive



plants in the Salvia genus, particularly sage. Cognition includes processes associated with attention, memory, judgment, evaluation, reasoning, problem solving and decision making.

Researchers discussed the theory that an accumulation of amyloid-ß peptide (Aß) in the body is responsible for some cognitive dysfunction in Alzheimer's patients. Studies have shown that sage can protect mice against Aß-induced neurotoxicity, thus helping to preserve cognition.

The researchers also highlighted acetylcholine (ACh), a neurotransmitter believed to play an important role in attention, learning, memory and motivation. ACh enzyme inhibitors help prevent alterations in ACh, preserving these functions. In vitro and animal studies show that some species of salvia are effective ACh enzyme inhibitors.

In addition, animal studies have shown that sage extracts can reduce depression and anxiety. Both of these conditions can contribute to a decrease in cognitive function.

Further research is needed to determine the extent of the effect and safe dosage.

Your health always seems much more valuable after you lose it.

ecotip

Butterfly Rescue How to Create Helpful Home Habitats

We watch the graceful flight of colorful butterflies and ap-

preciate their crucial role as pollinators. Establishing butterfly gardens or accommodating them in yard plantings increases food sources radically threatened by reductions in blossom-rich landscapes due to development, intensive



agriculture, insecticides and climate change.

The National Wildlife Federation (nwf.org) reports that butterflies are particularly attracted to red, yellow, orange, pink and purple blossoms that are flat-topped or clustered for landing or hovering, with short flower tubes that present easy access to nectar.

Regional planting. In the Southeast, goldenrod, with its arching, yellow flowers, appeals to Buckeye species. Tiger Wing, Dainty Sulphur and Malachite lead the way in Florida.

Some other suitable plants and trees for attracting butterflies, according to the Lady Bird Johnson Wildlife Center (Wildflower.org) are yarrows, red and white baneberries, and red, scarlet and soft maples in the Northeast; Butterfly and Honey daisies, Indian Mallow, American Century and Husiache, in the Midwest; and Giant, Ground, Subalpine and Noble firs, Vine Maple and Columbian Monkshoods in the Northwest.

Inspiring individual efforts. Care 2.com reports that California Academy of Sciences aquatic biologist Tim Wong cultivated California Pipevine plants in his backyard butterfly home four years ago upon learning that it is the primary food for California Pipevine Swallowtails in the San Francisco area. Starting with just 20 caterpillars, he was able to donate thousands of the swallowtails to the San Francisco Botanical Gardens last year and has grown more than 200 plants.

Milkweed. Populations of iconic Monarch butterflies have plummeted 90 percent in the past 20 years, reports the National Wildlife Federation, primarily due to decline of 12 native milkweed species. They need support for their annual 2,000-plusmile migration from the U.S. Northeast and Canada to central Mexico and back. Joyce Samsel, curator of the Florida Native Butterfly Society (FloridaNativeButterflies.org), notes that the Florida Monarch stays south of Tampa year-round.

Learn about milkweed host plant growing conditions at Tinyurl.com/LocalMilkweedByState. Find milkweed seeds via MonarchWatch.org.

Donate to help. Adopt milkweed habitat land through an Environmental Defense Fund (edf.org) program by donating \$35 for one acre up to \$350 for 10 acres. Their goal is to retain and protect 2 million acres.

Common Signs of **Nutrient Deficiency**

Poor Night Vision

Vitamin A, known as retinol, is essential for promoting good vision and overall eye health. It also helps to maintain healthy skin and soft tissues throughout the body.

Cracks at the Corners of the Mouth

More likely to occur for those following vegan and vegetarian diets because it's harder to get sufficient zinc, iron and B12.

Sores or Discoloration of th Mouth and Tongue

Water-soluble B-vitamins are essential for the health of the mouth and tongue. Unfortunately, the body doesn't store them, so we have to constantly replenish them to maintain health.

Weak, Spotted or Ridged Nails

These are common signs of a deficiency in zinc, an important trace mineral needed for the proper function of the immune system. Zinc also serves an important role in cell division and growth.

Poor Blood Clotting

Essential for normal blood clotting, vitamin K also plays a vital role in bone mineralization and cell growth. Lack of witamin K can result in bruising, frequent nosebleeds, and brittle bones.

Weak Muscles and Bones

In advanced cases it's called rickets (for children) or osteomalacia (for adults), but it boils down to a deficiency in vitamin D, an essential nutrient for the growth, health and maintenance of the structural system.

Frequent Cramps in the Lower Legs

Magnesium, Calcium and Potassium support proper muscle development and growth. Lack of these important nutrients can cause persistent discomfort in the feet, calves and back of the leg.

Lafayette Office

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Vitamin Test can help

globalbriefs

News and resources to inspire concerned citizens to work together in building a healthier, stronger society that benefits all.

Saving Sharks
Ocean Sanctuaries Expand in Pacific



The Pacific island nation of Kiribati has established the world's second-largest (1.3 million-square-mile) shark sanctuary, which bans commercial fishing throughout, and has also expanded the Micronesia Regional Shark Sanctuary. The possession, trade and sale of sharks and shark products are also prohibited in these areas as is the use of fishing gear such as wire leaders for targeting sharks.

Worldwide, about 100 million sharks are killed each year in commercial fisheries. Nearly 30 percent of all known shark species assessed by scientists are now threatened with extinction. Sharks are particularly vulnerable to overfishing because they mature and reproduce slowly. Many Pacific island nations have established shark sanctuaries, recognizing the valuable ecosystem and economic roles that healthy populations provide.

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora recently added 13 shark and mobula ray species to its list, a step toward ensuring sustainable and legal trade of these species.

Dirty Driving Traffic Pollution Chokes Big Cities Worldwide

When air pollution blanketed Paris for three days, authorities called it the worst bout in 10 years and made public transit free. For the fourth time in 20 years, the city instituted a system based on alternating odd and even license plate numbers to keep certain vehicles off city streets, effectively cutting daily traffic in half; it's the first time the ban's been maintained for



consecutive days. "Cars are poisoning the air," says Paris city hall transport official Herve Levife. "We need to take preventive measures."

Three other cities—Athens, Madrid and Mexico City—will ban diesel engines by 2025 as part of a similar effort. Beijing, China's capital city, has such dirty skies from cars and coal that protective masks are commonplace despite emissions restrictions and power plant closures, partly due to pollutants from neighboring regions.

Paris leads the world in monthly car-free days, but several large metro cities participate in an international car-free day each September 22, including Washington, D.C., Seattle and Long Island, New York.

Source: EcoWatch.com



Petroleum-Free Phasing Out Plastic Film Food Wrappers

Many grocery store foods are wrapped in plastic packaging that creates non-recyclable, non-biodegradable waste, even though thin, plastic films are not efficient at preventing spoilage. Some plastics are also suspected of leaching harmful compounds into food. Researcher Peggy Tomasula, D.Sc., is leading a U.S. Department of Agriculture team developing an environmentally friendly film made of the milk protein casein that addresses these issues. She states, "The protein-based films are powerful oxygen blockers that help prevent food spoilage. When used in packaging, they could prevent food waste during distribution along the food chain."

Plastic six-pack rings are renowned for their negative impact on wildlife and the environment. Now the Saltwater Brewery, in Delray Beach, Florida, is making edible six-pack rings for beer cans that are 100 percent biodegradable. Constructed of barley and wheat ribbons from the brewing process, they can be safely eaten by animals that come into contact with the refuse. Company President Chris Gove notes, "We hope to influence the big guys and inspire them to get on board."

Source: American Chemical Society

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For best results use BF-4 with a low fat diet (no meat for 6 weeks), drink a minimum of 72 oz of water each day, don't skip meals, walk at least 30 mins three times a week. Use organic fiber, digestive enzyme, and our probiatic complex to clean out your colon and get your gut back on track.

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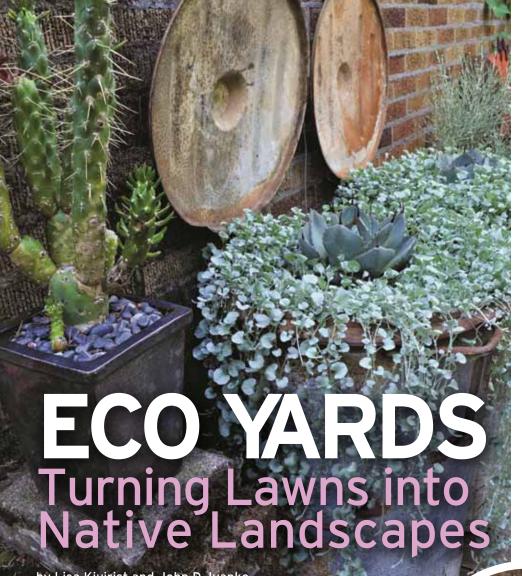
678-1844

DHARMA Wellness Center Sunset

662-3120

Natural Health Center

Carencro



raditional turf lawns are an ecological nightmare," says John Greenlee, author of *The* American Meadow Garden, who notes that most monoculture turf lawns never even get used.

by Lisa Kivirist and John D. Ivanko

His company, Greenlee and Associates, in Brisbane, California, designs residential and other meadows throughout the U.S. as an engaging alternative. Many other appealing options likewise use native plants appropriate to the local climate. For instance, replacing Kentucky bluegrass, Bermuda grass or another non-native species with natives can deliver drought resistance and lower irrigation needs; eliminate any need for fertilizers or toxic pesticides; reduce or eliminate labor-intensive and often polluting mowing and edging; enhance the beauty of a home; and attract birds, butterflies and other wildlife.

Before replacing a lawn, determine the desired result. It may simply be achieving a low-maintenance, lawn-free yard; growing food like vegetables, herbs, fruit or nuts; or supplying ample flowers for a fresh weekly bouquet. Other benefits might include increasing privacy, dining al fresco, escaping into nature or even sequestering carbon dioxide to reduce climate change.

To be successful, choices must be appropriate to the climate, plant hardiness zone, local zoning ordinances and homeowner association rules. Also consider the soil quality and acidity, moisture content and whether plantings will be in full sun or shade, or both.

The right regional native plants often include grasses and ferns, herbaceous plants like flowering perennials and woody ones like shrubs, vines and trees. Native plants provide shelter and food for wildlife and help preserve a sense of place. "Work with a professional landscaper in your area, ideally a member of the Association for Professional Landscape Designers," advises Greenlee. Tap a local university extension service, master gardener and garden club for local expertise, often available at no or low cost via classes or club membership.

Four-Season Climates

From the Midwest to New England, "Wild ginger makes a nice, low groundcover with heart-shaped leaves in shade or part shade, where lawn grass often struggles," suggests Pam Penick, of Austin, Texas, author of Lawn Gone: Low-Maintenance, Sustainable Attractive Alternatives for Your Yard. "Pennsylvania sedge, a low, grassy, meadow-like groundcover, can also work. For areas with full sun, bearberry, an evergreen creeping shrub with red berry-like fruit in fall, or prairie dropseed, a beautiful prairie grass with sparkling seed heads in fall, might be worth trying."

> "Stick with the Carex family of plants, the sedges, for a native meadow," echoes

> > Greenlee. "They vary in color, texture and height. Follow nature's lead and create a tapestry of commingled plants. Start slow and add flowering plants like Queen Anne's lace, daisies, asters and poppies."

Hot and Humid Subtropics

In sunny and well-drained areas of the South, Penick suggests Gulf muhly, an ornamental grass. "Its fall blooms resemble pink cotton candy floating above its green leaves." In Florida, flowering sunshine mimosa with fernlike leaves and other natural groundcovers are low maintenance.

"Basket grass is a low, evergreen grass-like plant with long, spaghetti-type



leaves that puddle around it, suitable for shade or partially shaded areas," advises Penick. "It's slow to grow, but highly drought-tolerant and nicely covers a dry slope or spills over a retaining wall. Texas sedge makes a lowgrowing, meadowy alternative that's evergreen and needs mowing only once every year or two."

Moss is a fine option for shady and moist areas. "If moss is naturally colonizing a patch of yard, allow it to fill in where the lawn doesn't want to grow," Penick counsels. "It makes a springy, evergreen groundcover needing only brief misting to keep it looking good during dry periods."

Mediterranean and California Coast

Plentiful sunshine, rare frosts and modest rainfalls make many California coastal areas perfect for growing lots of plants, rather than plots of water-thirsty turf. "For full sun, work with California yarrow, purple sage, Indian mallow, white sage, lupines and California sagebrush," recommends Charlie Nardozzi, of Ferrisburgh, Vermont, author of *Foodscaping*. "In shade, try mountain yarrow, mimulus monkey flower, California honeysuckle, California flannel bush and coyote mint."

"Blue grama grass is native to many states, and buffalo grass is native to states west of the Mississippi River in the right places," adds Greenlee. They're especially suited for meadows established in drought-prone regions.

Rainy Marine Areas

"For sunny areas, try goat's beard, penstemon, beach strawberry, mock orange and huckleberry," says Nardozzi, who

covers gardening nationally at *GardeningWithCharlie.com*. "For part shade, experiment with gooseberry, red flowering currants, western amelanchier, deer fern, trillium and wild ginger."

Adding some clover to a traditional lawn may eliminate the need for fertilizers while retaining some turf, says

Erica Strauss, of Gamonds,

Washington, in her
Northwest Edible Life blog.
"When the
clover loses
leaf mass
from mowing, its roots
die off to
compensate
and nitrogen
enters the soil
for neighboring
plant roots to use."

White clover works well for those on a budget; microclover costs more and is even better.

For shady, north-facing or boggywet areas, Strauss recommends sweet woodruff. Moss is another option.

Semi-Arid, Steppe and Desert Climes

"If you crave a lawn but want to go native, Habiturf is perfect for the hot, dry Southwest," says Penick. Developed by the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, in Austin, Texas, it's a mix of several native turf grasses, looks like a shaggy traditional lawn and can be occasionally mowed on a high setting to keep it neat. Once established, it needs far less water than traditional turf.

"Silver ponyfoot grows well in many regions as an annual; as a perennial, it needs mild winters," Penick continues. "Native to western Texas, New Mexico and Arizona, it likes good drainage, gravelly soil and full-to-part sun."

Xeriscaping—landscaping that requires little to no water—is especially prevalent in hot, dry regions. Plant picks typically include cactus, succulents, agave and herbs like rosemary or sage.

John D. Ivanko and Lisa Kivirist, co-authors of ECOpreneuring and Farmstead Chef, operate the Inn Serendipity, in Browntown, WI.

More Eco-Yard Ideas

Edible Landscaping

A kitchen garden represented by any kind of edible landscaping replaces some turf grass with produce. Carefully designed and maintained, it can be as attractive as any other garden space. "According to *GardenResearch. com,* 30 million U.S. households, about 25 percent, participated in vegetable gardening in 2015," reports Dave Whitinger, executive director of the National Gardening Association, owned by Dash Works, in Jacksonville, Texas.

"To integrate edibles into a landscape, first assess the locations of sunny and shady spots," says garden consultant Charlie Nardozzi. "Then, identify plants suited to the growing conditions that will fit in those areas. Mix in edibles with flowers, shrubs and groundcovers to keep the yard beautiful." For urban areas, he recommends raised beds and containers as a good way to integrate edibles, bringing in clean soil and moving containers to the sunniest spots in the yard.

"We have 3,000 raised beds in Milwaukee," says Gretchen Mead, executive director of the Victory Garden Initiative, which helps install edible landscapes. "We went from about 35 new kitchen gardens eight years ago to more than 500 each year now."

The easy-to-build raised beds go on top of or in place of turf lawns. For Midwestern residents, Mead recommends beginning with six crops that can be started as transplants, like tomatoes or broccoli, and then growing a couple of plants from seed, like zucchini or green beans.

Water-Saving Gardens

"Water-saving gardens use less of this precious resource through appropriate plant choices, rain-conserving features, berming and terracing to slow runoff, water-permeable hardscaping and smart irrigation practices," says Pam Penick, author of *The Water-Saving Garden*. "Regardless of where you live,

saving water is a priority for everyone. Drought is a growing problem in the Southwest and West, but also affects the Midwest, Southeast and even New England."

"Rain gardens help absorb, retain and use rainfall, preventing it from draining into the sewer," agrees Jennifer Riley-Chetwynd, with Colorado's Denver Botanic Gardens. "Rain barrels collect water from gutters and downspouts so there's more control in time and method of distribution, including perhaps drip irrigation."

According to the Groundwater Foundation, in Lincoln, Nebraska, rain gardens can remove up to 90 percent of problematic nutrients and chemicals and up to 80 percent of sediments from rainwater runoff. Compared to a conventional lawn, they allow 30 percent more water to soak into the ground.

Hardscaping

Hardscaped areas are used far more



for patios and paths, often resulting in an overgrown, pinched look for seating areas and other places meant to be

inviting," cautions Penick. "It can also be easy to underestimate how large plants can grow in a few years. Plan ahead for these 'people spaces' and install them before establishing garden beds."

Landscapers recommend being generous with this technique without paving over paradise. "Plants will spill and lean over hardscaping, so it won't feel too large once your garden is filling in," says Penick. "To address runoff and allow rainwater to soak into the soil, use water-permeable paving wherever possible: gravel, dry-laid flagstone or pavers; even mulch for casual paths."

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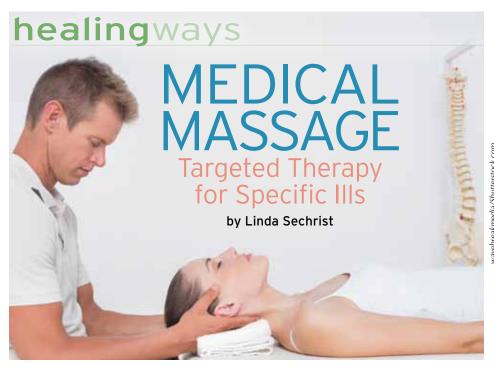
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haron Puszko, Ph.D., founder of the Daybreak Geriatric Massage Institute, in Indianapolis, teaches and certifies massage therapists working in assisted living, long-term care and memory care facilities. She relates, "These individuals appreciate not only the physiological benefits of massage but also having a therapist touch and address them by their names. A 105-year-old woman jokes, 'Now that they've figured out how to keep us alive for so long, they don't know what to do with us. Thank God for massage therapy.'"

Specialty certificate programs such as Puszko's, representing advanced education and training within a modality qualified as therapeutic massage and bodywork, are benefitting both massage therapists and clients. Some outcomebased specialty modalities considered as requirements for specific populations such as seniors, athletes, infants and cancer patients and survivors, are referred to as "medical massage".

The nonprofit National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage & Bodywork provides an accredited, voluntary certification beyond entry-level state licensure. To maintain their status, therapists must complete 24 hours of continuing education and 100 hours of work experience, and pass a criminal background check every two years. The certifying board also approves continuing education providers that teach specialty techniques, including integrative health care, sports massage and military veteran massage. The result is therapies

administered according to a national standard of excellence requisite for therapists working in collaboration with doctors, chiropractors, wellness centers, retirement care communities and other medical settings.

Puszko, an approved provider who founded her service in 2000, offers beginning and advanced weekend workshops for therapists on the complexities of physiological changes and technical skills required to work with geriatric or senior clients. She works from three offices in upscale retirement communities and teaches approved continuing education curricula throughout the U.S. and internationally.

"Although the skills I teach are not taught in massage school, they are in demand at independent and assisted living facilities where massage is considered a vital aspect of health care," says Puszko. "Older Americans represent the greatest challenge to massage therapists. For elderly residents, stretching and pulling on delicate skin and joints, as well as pushing one's elbow into gluteus maximus muscles, are unacceptable approaches." She explains that they might be called upon for a range of needs from helping prepare a 70-year-old marathoner for a race to reducing the stress of an exhausted hospice patient.

Geri Ruane is one of four founding directors of Oncology Massage Alliance, in Austin, Texas. She manages the operations for this nonprofit created in 2011 to help therapists that volunteer to administer complimentary hand and foot massage therapy to cancer patients and caregivers

in chemotherapy infusion rooms and prior to radiation treatment. The alliance offers financial assistance to licensed massage therapists for advanced training through approved third-party oncology massage classes and provides hands-on experience with cancer patients.

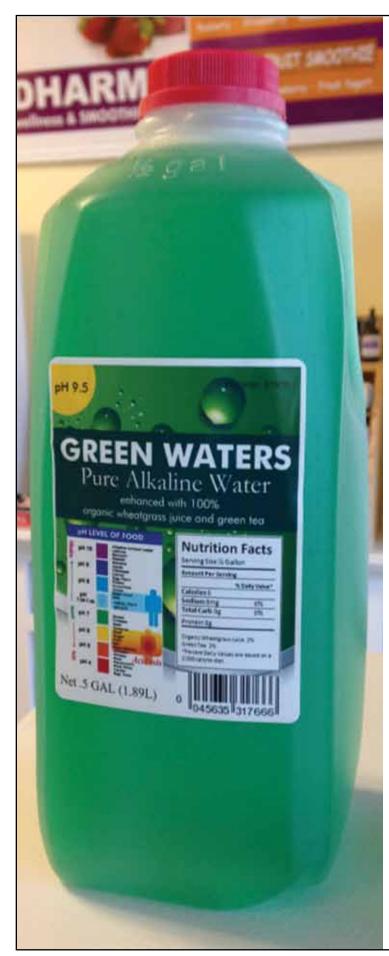
Ruane defines the essential aspects of an oncology massage therapist's (OMT) skill set. "A properly trained therapist has an informed understanding of the disease itself and the many ways it can affect the human body; the side effects of cancer treatments, such as medications, surgery, chemotherapy and radiation; and the ability to modify massage techniques in order to adapt accordingly. Our main purpose is to reduce stress and provide emotional support for cancer patients and caregivers in radiation and infusion rooms."

For example, an OMT will ask a patient about their cancer treatment history, including particulars of related individual health issues, prior to the massage. Hospitals in 35 states and Washington, D.C., now offer massage therapy to individuals during cancer treatment. MK Brennan, president of the Society for Oncology Massage, created in 2007, in Toledo, Ohio, is a registered nurse with a longtime practice in Charlotte, North Carolina. Brennan observes, "In nursing school, I was taught how to give a back rub, an aspect of patient care once provided by all nurses, but no longer part of a nurse's education. It now appears that there could be a resurgence of interest in offering massage therapy in hospitals that would encompass more medical aspects and require modified techniques for different patient populations."

In addition to oncology and geriatric massage, other select massage therapy modalities such as orthopedic, bodywork, Asian techniques and those related to pregnancy, infant and child health care as well as other special needs require advanced education and training.

Before making an appointment with a massage therapist/bodyworker for a specific type of help, inquire about their knowledge, experience, training and continuing education. Ask about additional credentials above entry-level core education that are specific to special needs.

Linda Sechrist is a senior staff writer for Natural Awakenings. Connect at ItsAllAboutWe.com.



BENEFITS OF GREEN WATERS

Lose Weight:

Alkaline water can help lose weight by cutting in on our fat reserves. Acidity is the main culprit because we tend to store more fat than we require. Our dietary patterns not only include more fat but also more acidic foods that further aggravate the problem of a decreased pH level. We should aim to maintain a pH balance of 7.40 which is slightly alkaline. Drinking alkaline water helps in two ways. One that we hydrate our body as our body is 70% water, and second it helps in cutting down on acidity and then on fat.

Anti Aging:

Water is a good anti aging method and drinking ionized water is even better as it helps reduce acne and eczema apart from other skin problems. Alkaline water forms small clusters that are easy to absorb and they hydrate our body more effectively causing our skin to plump up and age more slowly.

Reduce the Chances of Osteoporosis:

Acidity leaches out calcium and magnesium from our body leading to osteoporosis. To combat this problem, alkaline water can help get rid of acidity by neutralizing it and bringing our body in pH balance. The more we lose important minerals from our body the more our bones and body becomes weak, and we become more prone to osteoporosis. The easiest step to avoid such a problem is to drink alkaline water.

Build Cardiovascular Health:

Acidic reserves in our body create several health problems like diabetes, kidney stones etc. Poor digestion led by stress and poor dietary habits add to decreased cardiovascular health. Acidic waste builds up and can aggravate this condition. To get rid of this waste, alkaline water can help neutralize the acidity in our body.

Reduce Joint Pain and Arthritis:

Joint pain develops only when our body is acidic. Alkaline water can combat that by regulating our pH balance and thus eliminating free radicals in our body that target joint causing pain and aggravating arthritic pain. Alkaline water has antioxidants that help reduce free radicals in our body.

Reduce Infections, Flu and Colds:

Immunity weakens with more and more acidity in our body and thus we fall sick more frequently. Alkaline water can help build up alkaline reserves and neutralize acids helping our body to recuperate and grow strong.

Detoxify:

Alkaline water has detoxification properties and it helps to get rid of free radicals. It is also easily absorbed as it is less clustered. Detoxification occurs as alkaline water has antioxidants that act on free radicals in our body, built up because of acidity.

Decrease Risk of Cancer:

We have a higher risk of cancer when our bodies are acidic in nature. Doctors promote alkaline water and alkaline dietary habits only to combat these health risks that are associated with acidity. Alkaline water is a good way to combat cancer risk and get rid of acidity reserves in our body. Cancer develops when our body cells become unhealthy and adapt to our bodys unhealthy environment when our body is acidic. Alkaline water can help reduce the risk of unhealthy cell growth.







BENEFITS OF WHEATGRASS

Lose Weight:

Wheatgrass is a superfodd and provides the essential nutrients needed to build healthy cells in the body. Wheatgrass increases the metabolism and your ability to burn calories.

Fights Depression:

Wheatgrass helps to keep your iron levels stable, which is particularly important for women. Iron deficiency is linked to apathy and depression.

Decrease the Risk of Cancer:

Wheatgrass detoxifies the blood and lymph cells, as well as efficiently eliminates poisons from the body. Wheatgrass is 80% chlorophyll and protects against carcinogens better than any other food.

Improve Healing of the Body:

Wheatgrass juice is an effective healer because it contains all minerals known to man, and vitamins A, B-complex, C, E, I and K. It is extremely rich in protein, and contains 17 amino acids, the building blocks of protein.

Oxygenates the Cells of the Body:

Wheatgrass contains up to 80% chlorophyll, an important blood builder. Chlorophyll molecules closely resemble the molecules that form hemoglobin, the respiratory protein responsible for transporting oxygen from the lungs to the rest of the body.

Detox the Body:

The high amount of chloryphyll found in wheatgrass increases oxygen levels in the blood, an important part of detox and cleansing. It allows toxins to exit the body and its high phenolic content promotes the binding of chelated metal ions in the colon and liver. And, glutathione activates wheatgrass enzymes, catalyzing the breakdown of harmful bodily waste.

Slows Down the Aging Process:

Chlorophyll contains enzymes and super- oxide dismutase, a copper-containing protein found in mature red blood cells. This enzyme decomposes superoxide radicals in the body into a more manageable form, thereby helping to slow down the aging process.

Heals the Body:

According to the American Journal of Surgery (1940), Benjamin Gruskin, M.D. recommends wheatgrass - chlorophyll for its antiseptic benefits. This includes clearing up foul smelling odors, neutralize strep infections, healing wounds, curing chronic sinusitis, healing chronic inner ear inflammation and infection, reducing varicose veins and healing leg ulcers, healing rectal sores, successfully treating inflammation of the uterine cervix, getting rid of parasitic vaginal infections, and reducing fever.

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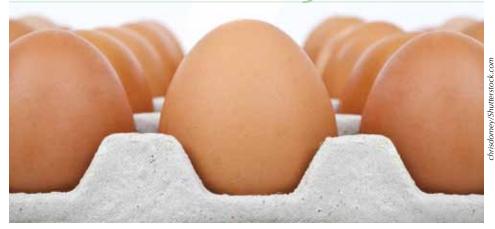
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Eggs-pert Advice How to Buy Good Eggs from Happy Hens

by Judith Fertig

anice Cole, the author of Chicken and Egg: A Memoir of Suburban Homesteading with 125 Recipes, knows how delicious a really fresh egg tastes. She keeps three chickens she calls "the girls" in the backyard of her suburban Minneapolis home. "Jasmine, a white Silkie, lays small, beige-colored eggs; Keiko a black and white Ameraucana and Silver Wyandotte cross, green eggs; and Peanut, a brown, feathery Cochin mix, brown eggs," relates Cole.

Cole has learned a lot about the natural lives of chickens. They need 14 hours of sunlight to produce eggs and lay about one per day. Chickens must be protected from predators, locked up at night in their coop for optimal well-being and let out in the morning to roam. Here are some tips for buying the freshest, most delicious and humanely raised chicken eggs.

How to Read an Egg Carton

Deciphering the language on an egg carton is a first step. Diet affects flavor. "Eggs from pasture-raised chickens allowed to roam—eating grass, worms and bugs in the backyard or a pasture—will look and taste better than eggs from chickens limited to an inside space eating chicken feed," says Cole. "Pasture-raised eggs will have a fresh

herbaceous, or grassy, flavor with an 'egg-ier' essence."

"Look for the terms organic, free range or ideally, pastured or pasture-raised," advises Adele Douglass, in Herndon, Virginia, executive director of Humane Farm Animal Care (CertifiedHumane.org).

"USDA Organic" is a U.S. Department of Agriculture label confirming that the food the chicken ate was certified organic. "Non-GMO" indicates a diet free of genetically modified ingredients. "Free-range", another USDA label, means the chicken had continuing access to the outdoors. "Pasture-raised" assures that the chicken roamed outdoors daily, eating what they wanted; the ideal scenario.

"Cage-free" is a USDA-regulated designation ensuring that the chickens were allowed to roam freely about within their building to get food and water. "Natural" has no real meaning says Douglass; the term invokes no USDA regulation and nothing about actual farming practices. "Certified Humane" or "Animal Welfare Approved" means that each free-range hen has at least two square feet of outdoor space; it's the most desirable designation, says Douglass.

When farmers want to raise egglaying chickens, they need to provide physical conditions similar to those Cole affords, but on a larger and more efficient scale, usually without the love. In regions where 14 hours of daylight are not a given, farmers use artificial lighting.

When snow is too deep for the birds to venture out and it's too cold for bug life, farmers supply indoor coops and feed. How well and humanely they do this is up to consumers to find out.

Egg Nutrition

Eating one egg a day, or moderate consumption, will not raise cholesterol levels in healthy adults, concludes a 2012 review in the journal Current Opinion in Clinical Nutrition and Metabolic Care. While egg yolks contain cholesterol, they also possess nutrients that help lower the risk for heart disease, including protein, vitamins B_{12} and D, riboflavin and folate, according to the Harvard School of Public Health, in Boston. A study by Kansas State University researchers published in the 2001 Journal of Nutrition also found that phosphatidylcholine, another substance in eggs, can decrease the amount of cholesterol the body absorbs from them.

More than 90 percent of eggs sold today come from giant egg factories.

~ Pete and Gerry's, America's first Certified Humane egg producer Plus, eggs are great sources of micronutrients and antioxidants, says Kristin Kirkpatrick, a registered and licensed dietitian and wellness manager for Cleveland Clinic's Wellness Institute, in Ohio.

"I've always been a huge proponent for eggs. As lean sources of protein, they help us stay full, are easy to prepare and can be part of a healthy eating regime because they're packed with free-radical- and inflammation-fighting antioxidants." Kirkpatrick adds, "Eggs also help protect eyes. Their nutrient-rich yolks, like leafy green vegetables, are high in lutein and zeaxanthin, carotenoids that studies have repeatedly shown help protect against macular degeneration."

Ideally, all chickens would be treated like Cole's "girls." For now, the best most of us can do is choose "Pasture-Raised," "Organic" and "Certified Humane". Getting to know more about the farmers that produce our eggs is even better.

Judith Fertig writes food health articles and cookbooks from Overland Park, KS (JudithFertig.com).

Eggs to Trust

Here's Humane Farm Animal Care's Adele Douglass' short list of sources for well-raised eggs.

Kirkland Signature Organic Eggs, at Costco, are Certified Humane. While not pasture-raised, they're cage-free. Costco has partnered with several small family farms throughout the country, which guarantees peace of mind for Costco and gives these smaller purveyors a steady stream of business.

Vital Farms, of Austin, Texas, supplies eggs to stores throughout many of the southern and western states. They specialize in Pasture-Raised and Certified Humane eggs, produced by about 90 family farms. Recently, they pioneered a process to make "culling" (killing non-egg-bearing male chicks) more humane.

Pete and Gerry's Organic Eggs, headquartered in Monroe, New Hampshire, works with more than 30 family farms in Illinois, Indiana, Maine, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Vermont. Their eggs are Organic and Certified Humane, as the chickens live in spacious barns with outdoor ac-

cess. "Most of the year, they roam outside our barns as they please on organically grown grass amid clover and wildflowers," says owner Jesse Laflamme. "At the same time, we also have to ensure our hens are safe from predators and communicable diseases from wild birds."

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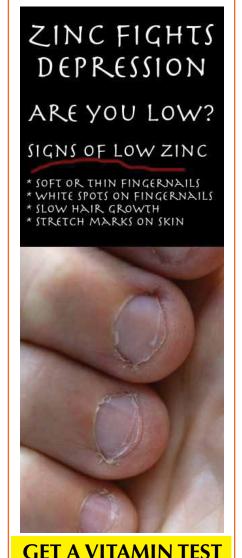
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LIFTED UP, WHO YOU'VE
MADE BETTER. IT'S
ABOUT WHAT YOU'VE
GIVEN BACK.

DENZEL WASHINGTON



by John D. Ivanko and Liam Kivirist

Smart, innovative, technological breakthroughs are making buildings more energy-efficient, healthier to live in and highly attuned to our connected world.

omeowners continue to be interested in green building options because they help foster a healthier, more comfortable and affordable home—and it's good for the environment," says Dan Chiras, Ph.D., of Gerald, Missouri, founding director of the Evergreen Institute and author of *The Homeowner's Guide to Renewable Energy*.

Panel Insulation

"Structural insulated panels in walls, roofs and floors dramatically reduce air leakage and heat loss through thermal bridging, or heat conduction through framing materials, facilitating a more energy-efficient home that can maintain comfortable temperatures with lower fuel bills than a conventionally built home," advises Chiras. Find manufacturers via the Structural Insulated Panel Association at *sips.org*.

Efficient Heat Recovery

"The energy recovery ventilator, or ERV, ensures fresh air in tightly sealed homes

with little heat loss," adds Chiras. The UltimateAir RecoupAerator, a wholehouse air filtration ERV, also flushes out harmful airborne pollutants commonly found in residences, replacing them with clean, fresh, healthy air.

Solar Monitor

"Many solar energy users want to monitor their system using their computer, tablet or smartphone through advances in energy software," says Allison Lindquist, with the Midwest Renewable Energy Association (MREA), which hosts the Annual Energy Fair and sustainable living event every June in Custer, Wisconsin. "One highlight last year was PacketFlux Technologies' SiteMonitor."

"When a homeowner views their energy monitoring data, they quickly begin seeing the correlation between their energy consumption and production," says Leon Dulak, the MREA site manager. "The direct correlation drives them to change how they live and use energy."

It costs slightly more on a monthly mortgage to build

a home that costs far less per month to operate.

Energy Storage

Tesla Motors does more than produce high-end electric cars and solar shingles. The company is also on the cutting edge of future energy storage. Tesla's new, compact Powerwall 2 battery system, complete with inverter, can power an average two-bedroom home for 24 hours.

Chiras says, "Utilities throughout the nation are cracking down with special fees on solar-home owners that occasionally pull electricity from the grid. I think more people are going to opt to go off-grid or install a Tesla battery to provide nighttime power to preempt this. It's easier to maintain than a standard lead-acid battery, and should last as long. When its useful life is over, the homeowner returns it to the company."

"Saltwater-based batteries for homeowners are coming up," observes Clay Sterling, assistant professor of electrical technology at Kankakee Community College, in Kankakee, Illinois. "The batteries from Aquion Energy are nontoxic, safe and recyclable." Their Aspen series of aqueous hybrid ion batteries contain neither heavy metals nor toxic chemicals and are non-flammable and non-explosive, adding to their safety.

Home Plans

Building green gets easier with green home plans. The prototype, superinsulated, 970-square-foot NewenHouse sustainable home in Viroqua, Wisconsin, is about 50 percent smaller and more than 80 percent more energy efficient than the average American home. The plans-and-services package for the Passive House-certified NewenHouse home features double walls for insulation and a super-efficient heat recovery ventilator. Four different home plans are available for houses under 1,000 square feet.

John D. Ivanko is co-author of ECOpreneuring. Liam Kivirist captures the latest technology news on TechSocket.net.

HOME TECH UPDATE

Nest Smart Thermostat

Google's Nest Learning Thermostat replaces the old thermostat and immediately starts saving energy and money. Partnered with a smartphone, custom settings will lower the temperature at night, warm up the house upon waking and reduce heating or cooling swings when owners are away. On average, people save 10 to 12 percent on heating bills and 15 percent on cooling bills according to Energy Trust of Oregon reserach, with the device often paying for itself in less than two years.

Blueair Purifier

Leveraging a mix of filters, ionizers and fans, the Blueair HEPASilent air purification system captures 99.97 percent of particles down to 0.1 micron. A range of sizes are available to suit different spaces.

Haiku Light

The Haiku Light fixture from Big Ass Solutions brightens when someone enters a room and turns off when it detects the absence of movement. The light-emitting diode (LED) fixture produces 50 percent more light than a typical 15-watt compact fluorescent light (CFL).

Natufia

The Natufia Kitchen Garden is a fully automated vertical garden that easily fits into a kitchen area. Natufia manages the non-GMO, certified organic seed germination, watering, nutrient needs, humidity control and light cycles, freeing the gardener to simply pick and savor year-round fresh produce. While pricey, it provides an option for urbanites that both lack outside growing space and prioritize convenient healthy eating.

Smart Robot

This handy droid vacuums up dust mites, allergens, pet hair and dirt. iRobot's Roomba 880 detects debris, maneuvers around most furniture and curtains, features a high-efficiency particulate air filter to suck up the small stuff, works on a variety of surfaces and automatically plugs itself in to recharge.

Self-Cleaning Toilets

The bowl of Toto's MH wall-hung, high-efficiency toilet with powerful 3-D dual flushing is coated with a nanotechnology glaze that seals the porcelain with an ionized barrier; its non-porous surface repels visible and invisible waste. The company's smart toilet model also cleans itself.





RUN FUN Races Beckon Beginners

by Aimee Hughes

've run in cities, rural areas and suburbs. I've run while deployed to military bases in the Middle East, in cities on four continents, in blazing heat and winter snowstorms," says Maria Cicio, a licensed professional counselor candidate and marathoner in Grove, Oklahoma. "I've been running regularly for 25 years, mostly injury-free, and have found what works best for me."

For beginners, Cicio recommends starting with a 5K race. "There are a hundred reasons why a full marathon would not be fun for a beginner, but trail running, charity races and 5K road races are perfect," she says.

Cicio attests the physical health benefits come from the training and preparation more than from the race itself. "You can run for many years before deciding to run an official race, in which case you'll probably have already experienced increased cardiovascular health, improved muscle tone and strength.

"Running your first race can focus your running and turn it into training. You might increase your daily or weekly mileage, depending on the planned length of the race, or add some speed work to your regular running routine. When I'm training for a race, I'm more in tune with what my body needs; I also sleep better," she says.

The mental benefits are what keep many people running, even after the physical ones seem to plateau, advises Cicio. "Running means regular exercise, so it can improve our general mood. While numerous studies show this to be true, the best evidence comes from runners themselves."

Almost everyone has heard of a runner's high, even if we haven't experienced it ourselves. It's long been accepted that endorphins released during exercise create a feeling of euphoria after a satisfying workout. Recent research on mice



by the Central Institute of Mental Health at the University of Heidelberg Medical School, in Germany, suggests that it might be natural endocannabinoids that lighten our mood and contribute to the high.

Meditation master Sakyong Mipham Rinpoche, in Halifax, Canada, teaches an online course, The Art of Mindful Running. He points out that running, or doing any physical activity, in a meditative state can deepen, train and enhance the mind. "Within 20 to 30 minutes, you have an opportunity to work with your mind. Instead of just spacing out or trying to get exercise, you can actually say, 'I am going to be present, I am going to relate to my breathing and my movement a little bit,'" says Mipham. "This is healthy both for the mind and the body."

Those looking for an alternative to running on concrete and asphalt find that trail running ups the fun factor while nature nurtures us. "While I'd always loved running races, the roads rarely changed. Even the same trail tends to change daily, with a new puddle or a log to jump or crawl over, or a new offshoot. The natural running landscape is full of surprises," says Nikki Partridge, an avid trail runner, American College of Sports Medicine-certified personal trainer and Stott Pilates instructor in Auburn, California.

"Trail running healed me," says Partridge. "I always had some injury from running: tendonitis, sprained ankles, runner's knee, pulled hamstrings, illiotibial band syndrome, shin splints or plantar fasciitis. I became a walking encyclopedia on injury and recovery. But the trails saved me. I no longer pronated when I ran, I had no more tendonitis from running on canting sidewalks—even my knee pain disappeared—my balance improved and my body was happy."

When winding down after a race, carve out ample time for recovery and reflection. "I always ask myself what I liked about how it was organized, course conditions, support staff and the after-party, and then look for another race that fits my preferences," says Cicio. "Consider taking a vacation around a particular race that interests you or find a local road race the next time you travel. For a modest fee, you get to run a race and typically luck into a T-shirt, food and party camaraderie."

The running world can open our eyes to new places, good people and greater self-awareness, along with physical fitness. Spring is a good time to lace up our shoes and begin the expansive journey.

Aimee Hughes, a freelance writer in Kansas City, MO, is a doctor of naturopathy and senior staff writer for LongevityTimes online. Connect at Aimee@LongevityTimes.com.



The Benefits of an Alkaline Body

Fewer Colds

An acidic environment promotes the growth of bad bacteria, yeast and fungi. The imbalance of your body's good bacteria makes you more prone to getting infections. You will be less likely to suffer from the common cold when your body is alkaline.

Cancer Prevention

A major benefit of having an alkaline body state is that you might reduce your risk for developing cancer. When your body is too acidic, oxygen levels are lowered and cellular metabolism stops. This can lead to the growth of cancer cells. Maintaining an alkaline state helps encourage healthy cell turnover, which is key in the prevention of cancer.

- · Skin more elastic, youthful
- Deeper more restful sleep
- Abundant physical energy
- Suffer from fewer headaches and viruses
- Good digestion
- · Less arthritis
- · Reduction of candida (yeast) overgrowth
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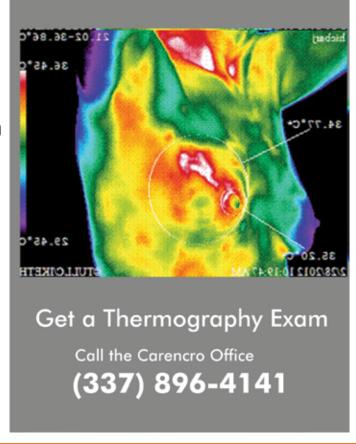
Connie's Story

"In 2007 my thermogram indicated a possible pathology in the right breast between 9 and 12 o'clock. I was diagnosed in February of 2012 with cancer exactly where the thermogram revealed it to be all those years ago.

I had a mammogram in 2009 with negative results. In 2011 my general practitioner performed an exam, felt nothing and gave me a clean bill of health. One year later the GP felt a mass and strongly urged a mammogram. It revealed a large mass between 9 and 12 o'clock. My concurrent thermogram showed not only the mass, but possible involvement of the lymph nodes as well.

Due to my doctor's dismissive attitude towards thermography, I did not take the 2007 report seriously. I allowed three years to pass before my next mammogram. Now I have been diagnosed with invasive breast cancer (5.4 cm mass), 31 lymph nodes removed in which 16 are involved (stage 3 or 4 cancer).

This was truly a learning experience for me - thermograms do count! I could have prevented this! Now I am engaged in a battle with cancer; including chemotherapy and possibly radiation."



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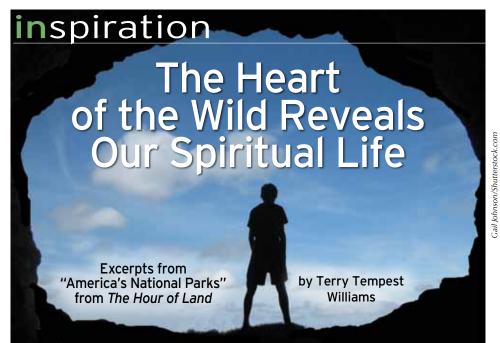


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t was standing inside Timpanogos Cave (a national monument) as an 8-year-old child that marked me. Hiking to the entrance

of the cave with our church group, we were ushered in by a park ranger. Immediately, the cool air locked inside the mountain enveloped us and we wore it as loose clothing. Immense stalactites and stalagmites hung down from the ceiling and rose up from the floor, declaring themselves teeth. We were inside the gaping mouth of an animal and we were careful not to disturb the beast, traversing the cave on a narrow constructed walkway above the floor so as not to disturb its fragility. But it was the Great Heart of Timpanogos Cave that captured my attention.

When everyone else left the charismatic form, I stayed. I needed more time to be closer to it, to watch its redorange aura pulsating in the cavernous space of shadows. I wanted to touch the heart, run the palms of my hands on its side, believing that if I did, I could better understand my own heart, which was invisible to me. I was only inches away, wondering whether it would be cold or hot to the touch. It looked like ice, but it registered as fire.

Suddenly, I heard the heavy door slam and darkness clamp down. The group left without me. I was forgotten—alone—locked inside the cave. I waved my hand in front of my face.

I learned early on we live by

Nothing. I was held in a darkness so deep that my eyes seemed shut even though they were open. All I could hear was the sound

of water dripping and the beating heart of the mountain.

I don't know how long I stood inside Timpanogos Cave before our church leader realized I was missing, but it was long enough to have experienced how fear moves out of panic toward wonder. Inside the cave, I knew I would be found. What I didn't know was what would find me—the spirit of Timpanogos.

To this day, my spiritual life is found inside the heart of the wild. I do not fear it, I court it. When I am away, I anticipate my return, needing to touch stone, rock, water, the trunks of trees, the sway of grasses, the barbs of a feather, the fur left behind by a shedding bison.

Wallace Stegner, a mentor of mine, wrote: "If we preserved as parks only those places that have no economic possibilities, we would have no parks. And in the decades to come, it will not be only the buffalo and the trumpeter swan that need sanctuaries. Our own species is going to need them, too. It needs them now."

Excerpts from The Hour of Land: A Personal Topography of America's National Parks by Terry Tempest Williams, reprinted with permission. Learn more at CoyoteClan.com/index.html.

pH 5.5 Acidic Body

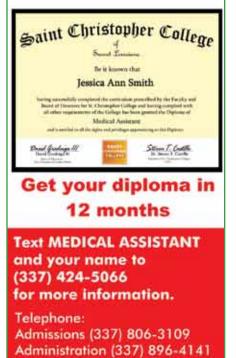


If your body is acidic, you cannot lose weight. The body's main way of flushing out toxins is through your colon, kidneys, skin and lymph system. However, the more bombarded these organs becomes with toxins, the less effective they become at flushing. The result is that excess acidic wastes get stored in fat cells where they cause less harm to the body. Despite your best efforts, you are unable to lose weight because your body is holding on to these excess fat cells; after all, it needs them for storing acidic wastes. Alkalize your body to lose weight.





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arth's oceans shelter more than a million species, employ millions of people and feed billions more. Their complex ecosystems increasingly face critical challenges, including acidification, overfishing and pollution. Inspiring us all, youths nationwide are stepping up with bold, creative actions benefiting present and future generations to show us how we too, can do our part.

Sean Russell, 24, of Englewood, Florida, was exposed to ocean wonders in junior marine conservation summer camps and 4-H programs. Volunteering with Mote Marine Laboratory's dolphin research program, in Sarasota, Russell was struck by how improperly discarded fishing line entangled and killed dolphins and other wildlife. At 16, he launched the Stow It—Don't Throw It Project to promote portable receptacles made from repurposed tennis ball containers for anglers to stash used fishing line for later safe disposal on shore. More than 21,000 containers have been distributed nationwide to date.

While earning a bachelor's degree in biology, Russell launched the Youth Ocean Conservation Summit to harness youth enthusiasm for related issues. Six summits have convened hundreds of concerned young change-makers and adult professionals. "Young people learn about current threats to marine

life and become inspired by peers sharing ideas and successes," says Russell. Planning and skill-building sessions fuel action, often assisted by microgrants to help kick-start community projects.

Russell is also involved with the nonprofit EarthEcho International, which activates young leaders through peer-to-peer networks. One recent campaign, 3T4E, encouraged youth world-wide to pick up three pieces of trash on November 1 and document their efforts. Nearly 2 million social media impressions later, they've reached youth in 24 states, in 19 countries and on six continents, according to Executive Director Mia DeMezza.

Founded by siblings Philippe and Alexandra Cousteau, the Washington, D.C., EarthEcho shares service learning stories that record steps young people are taking to mitigate local waterway issues. In a virtual classroom field trip series, they can explore issues such as oceanic dead zones and acidification through dynamic multimedia presentations. "These young people are going to inherit the problems we've created, and deserve a seat at the table," says DeMezza.

Given the opportunity, youth can play a key role in conservation, research and policy making for Earth's oceans. "I look at youth not as leaders of the future, but leaders of today," says Russell.

Daniela Fernandez, 23, is one of the youth leaders working to bridge the generational divide on ocean conservation issues. An undergraduate at Georgetown University, in Washington, D.C., she was invited to a 2013 United Nations (UN) meeting to address the state of the world's oceans. When she inquired if they had social media outlets to share their discussions, she discovered they did not. The 2016 Christopher Benchley Ocean Award winner relates, "I returned to campus with a sense of urgency about the issues I learned about, which led me to start a nonprofit to connect Millennials with the oceans."

The resulting Sustainable Oceans Alliance (SOA) has since hosted three global ocean summits with participants from more than 30 colleges and universities, learning directly from leaders in government, science, business and policy. Summit-watch parties at embassies around the world enabled Millennials to submit questions and comments online. Consequently, Secretary of State John Kerry's office partnered with SOA to incorporate a youth component in the state department's 2016 Our Ocean Conference.

The SOA, recognized by the United

Nations as a game-changing initiative, has catalyzed 30 chapters on U.S. campuses, with plans to expand to Britain, Chile and Spain. Actionable steps include advocating for college curricula on ocean health. Already, the alliance has helped sway global policy, gathering 30,000 signatures petitioning that ocean conservation be included in UN sustainable development goals. It also mobilized youth advocating for the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument, America's first marine monument (measuring a bit larger than Yellowstone National Park), off of Cape Cod, created by former President Obama in 2016.

Russell and Fernandez agree that rallying around solutions is key to engaging youths and adults alike. "You can talk about the problems all day long, but it's solutions that inspire people to take action," says Russell.

Fernandez adds, "Often, people feel helpless in the face of big issues, but if you give them a simple way to help, they will get behind it."

Connect with freelance writer April Thompson, in Washington, D.C., at AprilWrites.com.

What We Can Do Now

Everyone has a part to play in keeping oceans clean and healthy. Here are some ways concerned individuals of all ages can help.

Do away with disposable plastics. Use reusable alternatives to single-use plastics such as plastic bags, water bottles, to-go containers, takeaway cups and straws, all of which clog the oceans and endanger 600 aquatic species due to ingestion or entanglement.

Green what drains. Anything that washes down the drain can end up in waterways. Avoid dumping chemicals like paint, oil and solvents and opt for non-toxic cleaning products like DIY cleaners made from vinegar and baking soda, which are safe for people and the seas.

Eat smart. Per a 2016 United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization report, nearly a third of commercial fish stocks are now fished at dangerously unsustainable levels. Find best choices on the Monterey Bay Aquarium's downloadable sustainable seafood guide and app at *SeafoodWatch.org* when dining or shopping, and ask seafood eateries and fish counters to carry ocean-friendly selections.

Reduce fertilizers. Fertilizer runoff from gardens and commercial agriculture eventually end up in oceans, leading to "dead zones" with low levels of oxygen that kill aquatic life.

Cut energy use. Carbon dioxide from fossil fuel consumption is turning oceans acidic, which is particularly harmful to coral reefs. Use energy-efficient appliances and vehicles, opt for renewable energy plans from local utilities and bike, walk and take public transit.

Primary sources: Ocean.si.edu; Ocean.org; Ocean.NationalGeographic.com



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ENZYME THERAPY FOR PETS

A Key to Good Health

by Shawn Messonnier

nzymes are among the most commonly used supplements for cats and dogs because they are widely beneficial. They support digestive health and enhance nutrient absorption, as well as reduce inflammation and boost overall wellness.

A nutrition school adage states, "If you have a question on your exam and don't know the answer, put down 'enzymes' and you'll likely be correct." The point is that enzymes made by the body for specific functions are essential to life because they affect nearly every physical or biological process.

Enzymes help normal, healthy pets use nutrients and support the righting of gastrointestinal disorders, whether involving simple vomiting, diarrhea, chronic or complete constipation, anal sac disorders or inflammatory bowel disease, regardless of cause. Because sick pets often suffer from reduced appetite and impaired digestion, enzyme supple-

ments are often added to a dietetic regimen to improve their nutritional status.

Helpful enzymes include proteases, carbohydrases (like amylase) and lipases that break down proteins, carbohydrates and fats, respectively. Digestive enzymes are highly specific both to the type of food they act upon and the conditions under which they work. They can be derived from pancreatic, plant or microbial sources (bacteria or fungi).

While pancreatic enzymes activate mainly in the small intestines (being inactive in the stomach's lower pH environment), plant and microbial enzymes begin digesting foods in the stomach immediately after ingestion and likely even on the food being prepared, if the enzymes are added several minutes before they are eaten. Enzymes from microbial and plant origins have a broader spectrum of activity because they are stable and active through a wide pH range of 3.0 to 8.0.

hormone synthesis, which can positively affect hair growth and reduce shedding.

A novel use for enzymes is to help pets practicing coprophagia, or the eating of their own or another animal's feces. Adding the proper enzymes to the diet is believed to curb this problem, which could result from a nutrient deficiency caused by incomplete digestion and absorption. For pets with behavioral coprophagia, enzyme supplementation is unlikely to help the problem but will still benefit the pet's overall health.

The recommended dose by breed and weight is based upon experience, the label of a specific product and directions provided by the family veterinarian. Using enzymes according to a professional's advice is safe, with rare to nonexistent side effects. Talk to the pet's doctor about the best enzyme products to address individual needs and keep them healthy.

Shawn Messonnier, a doctor of veterinary medicine practicing in Plano, TX, is the author of The Natural Health Bible for Dogs & Cats and Unexpected Miracles: Hope and Holistic Healing for Pets. For more information, visit PetCareNaturally.com.

The Knot Prayer

Dear God,

Please untie the knots that are in my mind, my heart, and my life.

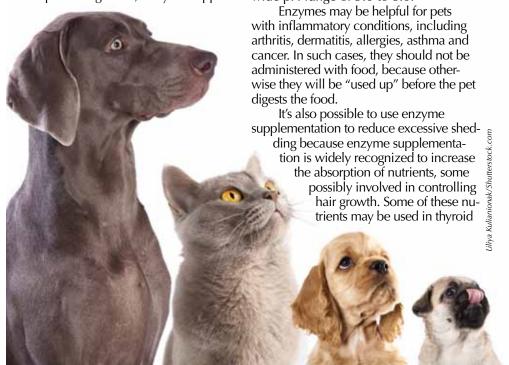
Remove the have nots, cannots, and the do nots.

Erase the will nots, may nots, might nots that may find a home in my heart.

Release me from the could nots, would nots, and should nots that obstruct my life.

And most of all, dear God, I ask that you remove from my mind, my heart, and my life all of the "am nots" that I have allowed to hold me back. Especially the thought that I am not good enough.

Amen



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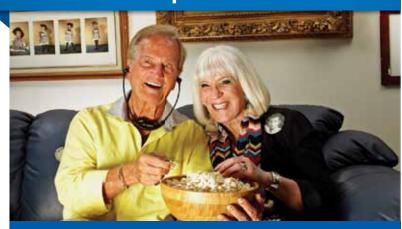
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- Andrew Weil, M.D.

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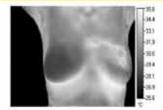
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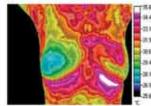
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Note: LOUISIANA is in the top 3 states with the highest rates of breast cancer mortality in the U.S. 1 in 8 Women will develop breast cancer this year.





Left Breast Cancer Grey Scale and Color Breast Temperature

Left image identifies the warm (white) vascular markings in the left breast. These markings are not only warm but appear chaotic in their distribution. They are actually circling a tumor and are angiogenic. The color image demonstrates the degree of warming that has occured in the left breast. The heat is a function of increased tumor metabolism. in combination with cancer inducted blood vessel dilation, inflammation and neoangiogenisis.

Mammagraphy cannot delete a turnor until offer it has been growing for years and reaches a certain size. Thermography can detect the possibility of briest concer much earlier, because it can image the early stages of increased blood supply to concer ceits (angiogeness), which is a necessary step before they can grow into a detectable.

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GET YOUR CALENDAR ITEMS PUBLISHED

SUBMIT CALENDAR ITEMS TO: publisher@NAacadiana.com

Monday April 3

Cajun Classique – 5-7pm. Thru April 9 Sunday 8am-7pm. Classic wooden boat cruise down Bayou Teche with excursions in Breaux Bridge, St. Martinville, New Iberia and Franklin. Bayou Teche, Breaux Bridge to Franklin. CajunClassique.com.

Thursday April 6

Rhythms on the River – 5:30 - 8:30pm. Thru Thursday May 4. Live music by local artists. Free. River Ranch Town Sq.

Friday April 7

Downtown Alive – 5:30pm. Thru Friday May 12. Friday night live music party with local musicians. Foods and beverages for purchase to pay for artists. Free. Parc International, Lafayette.

Bach Lunch – 11:15am-1pm. Thru Friday April 28. A lunch hour series featuring local performers. Free. Benefit of the Lafayette Science Museum. Parc Sans Souci, Lafayette.

Saturday April 8

3rd Rice City Classic Car, Antique Tractor & Implement Show – 9am-3pm. Marvel at the automobiles of an era gone by and up to today's hot rods. Free. Purchase food and beverage from vendors or activities and train rides for children. Crowley City Hall. 337-783-0824 ext 301.

Hopefest – 11:00am - 9:00pm. A music-festival fundraiser by juniors of St. Thomas Moore Catholic High School. Acadiana Boys and Girls Club of Acadiana and the Options Program. Parc International, Garfield St, Lafayette,

Saturday April 15

Lao New Year Celebration – 8:00am – 8:00pm. Thru Sunday April 16. Lanexang Village celebrates with live music, a beauty pageant, parades, sand castle building, children activities and vendors selling clothes, jewelry, music and food of Southeast Asia. Wat Thammarattanaram Temple, 7913 Champa Ave, Broussard. 337-251-6624.

Wednesday April 19

Cycle Zydeco – 8:00am-7pm. Thru Sunday April 23. Casual touring bike ride through Acadiana with food, live music and attractions. A four day 172 mile bike ride through several towns in Acadiana including Arnaudville, Eunice and Opelousas. Hosted by TRAIL. 337-781-9416. CycleZydeco.org.

Friday April 21

13th Annual Le Feu et l'Eau Rural Arts – 11am-11pm. A celebration featuring a multitude of local artists, performers and cultural workers in a variety of disciplines and genres. Free. NUNU Arts and Culture

Collective & Downtown Arnaudville.

Scott Boudin Festival – 6pm-12am & Sat April 22 –10:30am-12:30am. Thru Sun April 23-12pm-7pm. Gather to celebrate family, food, arts and crafts, music, and Boudin. The Scott City Hall building.

Saturday April 22

Southern Garden Festival – 9-5pm. Enjoy art, live music, a garden tour, Master Gardener presentations, bayou boat tours and refreshments. \$10. Family Promise of Acadiana. Gardens of Harold and Sarah Schoeffler, 3502 East Simcoe St, (near Oakbourne Country Club) Lafayette. Director@ FamilyPromiseAcadiana.org.

30th Annual Acadiana RV, Sports & Boat Show – 12-7pm. Thru Sun April 23. A showcase of trailers, boats, kayaks and motor homes. Cajun Field, 201 Reinhardt Dr, Lafayette.

Louisiana Boil Off – 4pm. A crawfish boiling competition with live music. Tasting for \$20 - \$25. Boys and Girls Club of Acadiana. Warehouse 535, 535 Garfield St, Lafayette.

Sunday April 23

3rd Annual Celebration of Life Butterfly Release – 2-4pm. Heart of Hospice releases butterflies with a vigil of music, crafts for young guests and the reading of names of those remembered. Refreshments served. Calla Ott. LARC Acadian Village - Stutes Store, 200 Greenleaf Dr, Lafayette. 337-232-8159. Calla.Ott@HeartofHospice.net.

Wednesday April 26

Festival International de Louisiane – Thru Sunday April 30. The largest international music and arts festival in the United States with a special emphasis on the connection of Acadiana and the Francophone world. Free. Downtown Lafayette. FestivalInternational.org.

Friday April 28

32nd Annual Étouffée Festival – 5pm-12am. Thru 11am-5pm. Sunday April 30. Festivities include carnival rides, bands, bingo, various vendor booths, an auto show and étouffée tasting. St. John Francis Regis Church, 370 Main St, Arnaudville. 337-754-5912.

Saturday April 29

Cajun Woodstock – 10am & Sunday April 30. A festival that highlights culture & music of the area. \$5. St. Jude Children's Research in Memphis. Church Point City Park, 100 E Darbonne St, Church Point. CajunWoodstock.com.

Sunday April 30

Paws in the Park – 10-2pm. A day at the park of fun and games for the kids and pets. Raffle tickets for a long list of prizes available. St. Martin Humane Society. Parc de Pont, downtown Breaux Bridge. Info@ StMartinHumane.com.

Depression Anxiety Can't Focus **Brain Fog**





Mood Enhancer can help you



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BEAT THE HEAT - BEAT THE RAIN. Indoor birthday parties.

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All birthday party rentals include: rental of the building, all of the indoor jumps and arcades are FREE and INCLUDED WITH BUILDING RENTAL, unlimited guests, and bring your own food and drink.

PRIVATE EVENTS ONLY meaning you are renting the building and all entertainment. This is a private party for you and your guests ONLY.

Place your deposit and book your party online.

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25 cm

2 cm

2 cells 90 days 1 year 16 cells

256 cells 2 years

4.896 cells 3 years

65,536 cells 4 years

1,048,576 cells 5 years 16,777,216 cells 6 years

268,435,456 cells 7 years

8 years 4,294,967,296 cells 9 years 68,719,476,736 cells 10 years

1,099,511627,776 cells

First Detected by Thermography

Thermal imaging can see a tumor the size of a grain of rice. You'd have a 99% survival rate

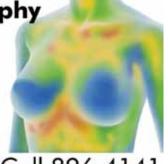
First Detected by Mammogram

Tumor size at 8 years is about the size of a dime

Breast Thermography

Can increase your chance of survival.

Schedule your first appointment now.







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6-Week Program Only \$340

Lose weight with meal replacment shakes and BF-4 fat burners. Join today and get a bottle of BF-4 and a box of wheatarass.

Must present this coupon at the time of joining.



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Being overweight is unhealthy

Doctor's recommend that you lose weight to prevent major health issues.

BF-4

Take two capsules before each meal to help you lose weight.

Use BF-4 for a minimum of 30 days to lose weight and continue as needed.



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(337) 356-1251

(337) 662-3120

(337) 424-5066

Carencro Office Lafayette Office

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Send a TEXT





Opelousas (French: Les Opelousas) is a small city in and the parish seat of St. Landry Parish, Louisiana. It lies at the junction of Interstate 49 and U.S. Route 190. The population was 22,860 at the 2000 census. Although the 2006 population estimate was 23,222, a 2004 annexation should put the city's population above 25,000. In the 2010 census, the population shrunk to 16,634. Opelousas is the principal city for the Opelousas-Eunice Micropolitan Statistical Area, which had an estimated population of 92,178 in 2008. Opelousas is also the 3rd largest city in the Lafayette-Acadiana Combined Statistical Area, which has a population of 537,947. Source: www.wikipedia.com



VITAMIN SHOP IN Opelousas, LA

Front Desk: (337) 678-1844 Line 2: (337) 678-1500

Hwy 190 Next Door to Lucky's Casino and Truckstop







BF-4 \$45

Frozen Wheatgrass \$30

Green Water \$36/case

Become a Medical Assistant

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12 Month Diploma Program

The healthcare industry is booming and medical administrative assistant and secretary jobs are expected to increase as much as 36% over the next several years! You'll learn from our dedicated faculty members with real world experience. Saint Christopher College's Medical Administrative Assistant program can provide training to help you read and understand medical terminology, manage and update patient records, and perform basic office procedures—all at a pace that's right for you.



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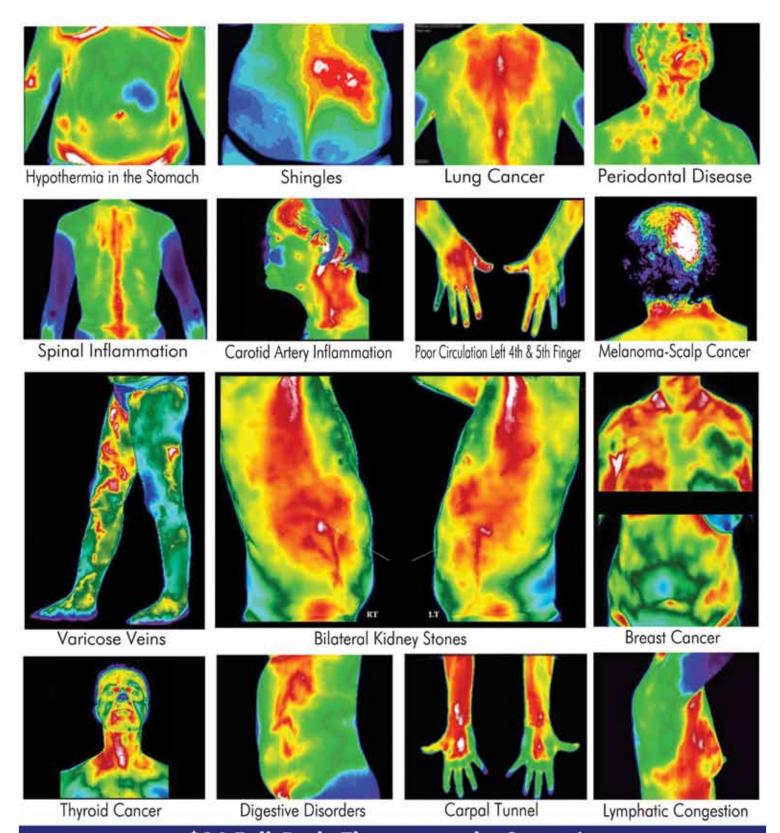
- no pain or downtime
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Thermography is used to:

- · help make informed decisions regarding the need for further treatment
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- · identify the originating source of neuropathic dysfunction
- support the existence of a suspected condition
- · aid in accurate diagnosis and treatment