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Now 'Ear This from the Expert

On the Road Again

Are you nervous about passing your next driver's license test?

Many of our customers have come into the office very anxious about an upcoming behind-the-wheel driver's test, afraid they'll miss an instruction or comment from the monitor that will cause them to fail. Maybe we can help.

Trying to hear while driving in a car is not an easy task! The road and traffic around you can mask or cover up sounds and voices you need to hear. And, there's the unique problem of listening to companions in a car when everyone's facing the same direction!

As a general rule, we advise our patients to ask speakers to face them while talking whenever possible. But obviously, we wouldn't recommend you drive down the street looking at each other, instead of watching the road and traffic in front of you.

So here are a few tips to help you during your driving test:

- Before starting the exam, advise the monitor that you have hearing loss but that you do wear hearing aids to help.
- Ask the monitor to face you when speaking, instead of looking forward or out the window, to best hear his/her voice and better understand their words.
- If possible, keep the windows up at all times.
- Turn the radio off and air conditioner down as low as is comfortable.

If you're scheduled to take your driving test, call us to set an appointment so we can clean your hearing aids and reprogram them, if necessary. You'll be sure they are working in top condition while you're rolling down the road. Beep, Beep!

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FUNNY BONE

"A cheerful heart is good medicine ..."

A funny thing happened on the way to better hearing...

My mother has had good hearing all her life but as Mom is advancing deeper into her 80's, the last year has proven she's suffering some changes in her hearing, though she won't admit it.

Here are a couple recent examples, but she still won't admit she's having trouble:

I was visiting with her for the weekend and when I came through the front door, I announced with a flourish: **"Your beloved daughter has arrived!"** She came from the kitchen with a quizzical look on her face and, looking around, asked, **"What do you mean, 'my betrothed doctor' has arrived?"**

Later, helping her pack an overnight bag before heading out for a night at the casino, I asked her, **"Did you remember to take ear buds?"** (for her iPod...she loves to listen to music of her own choice to block out the casino noise) and she frowned, asking, **"Why would I remember to take whose beds?"**

Ah, well, maybe tomorrow...

Sound Familiar?
Need YOUR Hearing
Checked?
CALL US TODAY!

Audiogram



Love & Marriage. Hot Dogs & Jelly.

Like the title implies, some things go together, and then some things don't. Take water and hearing aids, for instance. They simply are not compatible.

With August heat here, there's a natural tendency to jump into the nearest body of water to cool off - whether it be a nearby lake, the ocean, or the backyard swimming pool. For hearing aid wearers, this can spell disaster! If you take the plunge but forget to take

your hearing aids out beforehand—don't panic. Here's a list of things to do if your hearing aids get wet:

1. First, remove your hearing aids from your ears or the water as quickly as possible. The sooner you do, the more likely your aids will survive.
2. Next, remove the batteries to avoid rust.
3. For Behind-the-Ear style aids, immediately separate the ear mold from the aid. The plastic tubing

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Happy Birthday 230th to Davy Crockett



Born on August almost mythological, 17, 1786, David figure with a larger-Crockett was the than-life reputation as a fifth of nine children rebellious frontiersman, born to John and a spellbinding storyteller, Rebecca (Hawkins) a skilled woodsman, Crockett of Greene huntsman, fisherman and County, Tennessee. sharpshooter, and David American history Crockett, statesman, folk tells us the stories of hero and defender of the two Davy Crocketts: Alamo. Davy, the historical,

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Happy Birthday 230th to Davy Crockett

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Just eight years old when his father taught him to shoot a rifle, Davy eagerly joined his older brothers for hunting trips until the age of thirteen when his father insisted he go to school. After just a few days, a fight with the class bully ended his schooling. Fearing the bully's retaliation and his father's whipping, the young boy ran away. Crockett traveled throughout Virginia. He decided that his lack of education limited his marriage possibilities, so he learned to read, to write a little, and to "cypher".

A natural leader, David entered the political arena, rising from Lawrence County Justice of the Peace to serving two terms in the General Assembly for Tennessee. In 1827 and again in 1829, he was elected as a Tennessee Congressman. Although of the same

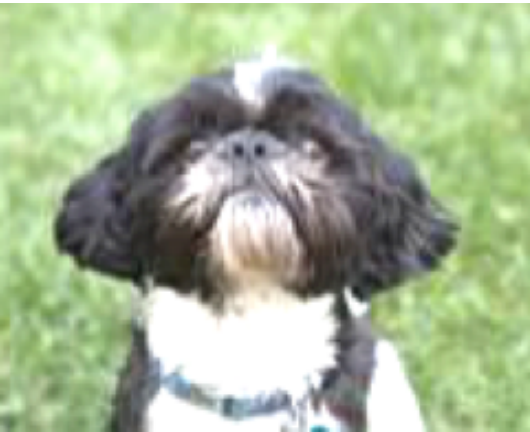
party, Crockett broke company with Democratic President Andrew Jackson on a number of issues and lost the 1831 Congressional election. Winning the ballot in 1833 as a Whig, David Crockett served one term, disillusioned that most of what he voted for suffered defeat. Losing the election again in 1835, he became disgusted and washed his hands of the "corrupt system of politics and bureaucrats" and left to join Texas in their fight for independence.

Much controversy surrounds Crockett's reasons for involvement in the Battle of the Alamo in San Antonio, but it was there, on March 6, 1836 at age 49, that Davy Crockett lost his



life. Neither oratory reports nor written records clearly explain the final hours of the 'King of the Wild Frontier', but he lives on in the memories of millions of Baby Boomers who, as children in the 1950's and '60's, carried rifles and wore coonskin caps in imitation of this courageous American folk hero.

Buddy's Bio – Buddy Gets Blasted (and not from Mariela)



5 feet long) slither out of the bush from the side of the trail and then he stopped, stretching out straight across our path. Of course Buddy started barking about a minute later.

Thank goodness the snake continued on into the grass on the other side.

This week Buddy and I took a walk and we weren't so lucky. We didn't run into any snakes, but we did find a very mischievous skunk. I've seen coyotes, snakes, tarantulas and bob-cats up there but never a skunk.

It didn't take long for the skunk and Buddy to see each other. Buddy is always on the leash due to past experiences with the coyotes. He was barking away and evidently this skunk had had enough. He turned and blasted his spray right in our direction.

I can tell you – that is one powerful odor! We were a

pretty good distance and still caught the full effect. We didn't get the main spray but it was enough to retreat and go a different direction.

Buddy wasn't at fault by any means but we both did take a tomato juice cleansing when we got home to get rid of the awful smell. Next time I'm running!



Summer time is great for the outdoors. We like to hike in the hills behind our house in San Clemente. The city has made some really nice trails for hikers, bikers and every once in a while you can even see an occasional horse.

One time I was walking the trail with Buddy and we saw a rattle snake (about

— LOONEY LAW —

In Baltimore, MD, it's illegal to keep an iguana that measures less than 30 inches long, or over six feet long (!) at home as a pet.

— POTPOURRI —

This Date in American History:

08/03/1960 - U.S. scientists bounced first telephone conversation off the moon

08/08/1876 - Thomas Edison received a patent for his mimeograph

08/15/1945 - Japan surrendered to the United States, ending WWII in the Pacific

08/12/1851 - Isaac Merrit Singer granted a patent for his sewing machine

08/13/1889 - The coin-operated telephone was invented by William Gray in Hartford, CT

08/16/1858 - First transoceanic message transmitted (American inventor, Cyrus West Field)

08/24/1891 - Thomas Edison applied for patent for motion picture camera

08/31/1897 - Thomas Edison received patent for his Kinetoscope

Just a quick glance at Americans changing the world. It's what we do.

— FUN FACTS —

You are born with 300 bones, but by the time you are an adult you only have 206.

Love & Marriage. Hot Dogs & Jelly.

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holds moisture, letting it seep deeper into the hearing aid, chancing corrosion of the electronics.

4. Gently dry your hearing aids with a tissue, towel or soft cloth. **Gently** shake the aids to remove the water. Don't shake too vigorously – you may shake the water deeper inside.
5. Excessive heat can melt the electronics. **Do not attempt to dry your aids using a microwave or a traditional or toaster oven.** This method "fries" rather than "dries" the aids. It can also cause an electrical fire in your microwave. Let ear molds air-dry.
6. Using cleaning tools that came with your hearing aids, remove any dried or "melted" earwax from the aids. Thoroughly brush the speaker and microphone areas. Use the vent cleaner (the tool with the long tip) to clear the vent.
7. Don't use hand tools to pry open the casing. You can damage the hearing aid further and negate any warranties.
8. Leave your battery doors open on a clean, dry surface to completely air out. That may take anywhere from a few hours to a day or two, depending on how long or how intensely the aids were exposed to the liquid.



9. Place hearing aids in a sealed baggie with uncooked rice for 24 hours. The rice will absorb moisture.
10. Once you are reasonably certain that the instruments are completely dry, install new batteries and try them out. If your aids still don't work, call us for an appointment.

We recommend using a Dri-Aid kit every day during the hot, humid summer months to keep moisture from accumulating inside the hearing aids, prolonging their life.

This is a good time to remind you to confirm that you have a repair warranty and/or Loss Damage replacement policy on your instrument(s). **Call us today to verify you have protection in place before something happens.**

Answers to "Invention Trivia"

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1. Aspirin
2. Pong Video Game
3. Coca Cola
4. Lifesavers Candy
5. Ice Cream Cone