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FREE BATTERIES

Get a package of batteries when you schedule an appointment for:

- Updated hearing screening
- Lifestyle assesment
- Measurement of how well your hearing aids are functioning

Now 'Ear This from the Expert

A RING IN THE SPRING

No, not a wedding ring. Even though Spring brings many marriage proposals, engagements and wedding plans, the ring I'm talking about is that annoying, high-pitched squealing-ringing that incessantly assaults your brain day and night.

Many people experience (or more accurately, suffer) from a condition called tinnitus. The majority of time it comes on suddenly and doesn't go away. Tinnitus by definition is, "ringing or buzzing in the ears".

That definition doesn't begin to describe the magnitude of how tinnitus can cause victims to suffer from its non-stop intrusion. The definition also omits the multitude of sounds that can occur from tinnitus. Patients report a myriad of sounds including a hum, a click, "static", horses' hooves, musical tunes or even singing, among others. And it can drive the poor sufferer up the wall!

One patient reported to me that she was constantly hearing

Christian gospel songs. She looked at me with wide eyes and said, "The funny thing about that is, I'm Jewish!"

That story may bring a chuckle, but there is nothing funny about the devastating impact tinnitus can have on its victim. When the intensity of tinnitus relentlessly assaults the brain twenty-four hours a day, some patients cannot focus on even simple tasks. The sound is intense, intrusive and distracting, often and debilitating a person.

Most often, tinnitus is accompanied by hearing loss. Wearing hearings aids often masks the sounds of tinnitus. This brings tremendous relief to many patients. Many of today's sophisticated hearing instruments offer tinnitus "masking" therapy to bring additional relief for tinnitus sufferers. And that's worth checking into!

If you have continual ringing, buzzing, or other phantom sounds in your head, please give us "a ring or a buzz" today! We're here to help.

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Stu's News

FUNNY BONE

"A cheerful heart is good medicine ..."

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

My friend, Georgann, has recently started wearing hearing aids and has not yet gotten into the habit of wearing them all day, every day. Early one morning, Georgann had not yet inserted her hearing aids when her daughter-in-law stopped by after dropping her son off at daycare. Georgann told me this story about an amusing exchange they had about Georgann's 3-year-old grandson:

Kari: "I don't know what's gotten into Brett these days — maybe it's just an extension of the Terrible Two's — but he's really been acting out lately. Yesterday he had an outrageous temper tantrum and threw a tennis shoe at me."

Georgann: "A tissue? That doesn't sound so bad to me."

Kari, emphatically: "Not a tissue, Mom. He threw a tennis shoe at me!"

Georgann, sheepishly: "Oh. I'll go put my hearing aids in."

If your hearing is causing you to mistake a tennis shoe for a tissue, call us today. With cold, flu and allergy seasons all in full swing, we can clear your hearing so you won't hand a tennis shoe to a friend trying to clear their sinuses! We can help you prevent those awkward moments.



What Do Your Friends Say?

Oh, would I like to be a fly on the wall listening to a conversation between friends when they are talking about their hearing aids!

We understand that when patients talk to their hearing professional, it's one thing, but when they talk about their hearing or hearing aids to friends or family, it's a different ballgame. You're likely to be more candid with your inner

circle. We want you to consider us your friends, too, and speak just as candidly to us as you do to friends over dinner or bridge or golf.

During patient follow-up visits or routine checkups, often our first question is, "Are you hearing as well as you feel you should?" We encourage the patient to be critical about how they are hearing in everyday conversational situations.

Cont. pg 3

April Showers Bring May Flowers



This short limerick, an uplifting ditty often repeated during springtime rains, are encouraging words to those who have endured the cold and barren days of winter. It's a reminder that warmer weather is on its way.

As the first green shoots of new grass and daffodils poke their noses through

Cont. pg 2 1

April Showers Bring May Flowers

Cont. From pg. 1



the top of the list for representing spring.

Some sources say that the tradition of the “Easter Bunny” was brought to America by German immigrants who settled in Pennsylvania in the 1700s. It was common among the German children to build a nest for the

mythical “egg-laying hare”, providing a place for the unusual creature to put its colored eggs. They would leave carrots for the “Osterhaus” to eat.

Eventually these customs traveled through the cities, towns and villages and have, over time, graduated to include chocolate bunnies, jelly beans, a hunt for colored eggs, and gifts of all kinds.

As we turn the calendar over and “spring” into April, we can’t help but notice the special dates printed in the squares — beginning with April Fool’s Day on the first.

But the date that captures *everyone’s* attention is, of course, smack-dab in the middle of the month: April 15th. To every U.S. citizen, April 15th is as recognizable as July 4th or December 25th. *No one* misses **income tax day**. For some, this brings a smile because they look forward to a refund. But to most, it means pulling out a myriad of records, forms, and receipts — a daunting task that is a procrastinator’s biggest nightmare.

We hope you’ve already prepared. If not, now’s the time to set that appointment with your CPA or get out your computer and Turbo-Tax. Uncle Sam awaits, and *then* it’s time to celebrate!

the cold and muddy soil, these infant ornaments of nature confirm that spring has, indeed, come again. The fragile little plants are a refreshing reminder of the “new birth” associated with springtime.

The rabbit, known to grow its family in fast and large numbers, is associated from ancient times with fertility. It is this prolificacy that puts the rabbit at

Buddy’s Bio—Buddy Survives the Winter Rains



Although we survived the rains fairly well, no one is happier to see the weather clear more than Buddy. He had a tough winter. He doesn’t like doing his business in the wet grass. *Especially* while it’s raining!

In general, Buddy is not much of a water dog — except at the beach or in someone’s pool. But those are different stories. On one of the rainier days, Buddy had to go out. He was standing anxiously by the back door. Luke let him out and then, having to leave for school, Luke told us to watch for Buddy when he wanted back in.

We were having our regular busy morning preparing for work, errands and getting Daniel ready for school. Buddy never came to the door. Mariela noticed and took an umbrella to check on him. He had found a nice dry covering under a chair in the back yard. Buddy saw Mariela and he took off like a bullet for the back door. She had left it cracked open. Buddy saw his moment and shot right into the house, muddy paws and wet body going full speed.

Well, as you can picture, Mariela was right on his tail, umbrella flailing, but

she couldn’t catch him until Buddy had created a messy trail through the kitchen. His grand finale was a jump up on the living room couch. Poor Buddy! A tough scolding, then a bath. Clean up for the rest of us. *What* a morning!



— LOONEY LAW —

In South Australia, if an ad asking for the return of lost or stolen goods states “No Questions Asked”, the person returning the goods cannot be investigated or arrested, regardless of what information comes to light.

— POTPOURRI —

AMERICA’S MOST TAXING DAY OF THE YEAR IS APRIL 15TH

Someone asked, “What’s the difference between a ‘fine’ and a ‘tax’?”

The answer? A ‘fine’ is a tax for doing wrong. A ‘tax’ is a fine for doing well.

While it is often reported that the rich don’t pay enough taxes, the truth is, the lion’s share of federal income taxes are paid by those who are rich, according to data for 2016 from the Tax Policy Foundation.

- The Foundation estimated that the **top 1% of American earners** (persons with incomes in **excess** of \$615,000) paid 45.7% of individual income taxes in 2016. The **top 20% of earners** (those with annual incomes above **\$134,300**) contributed nearly **84%** of all federal income taxes.
- In 2016, **77.5 million Americans** — or **45.3%** — didn’t pay **any** income tax. These same individuals typically have low purchasing power and therefore also contribute nominally to local tax revenues.

— FUN FACTS —

An actual statement on U.S. IRS tax forms require: “Income from illegal activities, such as money from dealing illegal drugs must be included in your income on Form 1041, line 21 or on Schedule C or Schedule C-EZ (Form 1040) if from your self-employment activity.”

What Do Your Friends Say?



I, for one, honestly enjoy — and appreciate — hearing what patients are truly experiencing, both the good and bad. It helps me serve you better when I know what you are up against in your real world of listening, hearing, and sound.

As providers, our goal is to help you hear better. We want you to know that we truly welcome all your hearing concerns! From your honest feedback, we can best determine what modifications are needed for your specific hearing system. In this way, we can maximize your hearing aid’s responses to help you attain your highest possible hearing clarity.

As your provider, we use programming software with a matrix of nearly infinite options to improve speech clarity so you can understand conversations better. We can reduce loud noise discomfort, make soft sounds louder, boost hard-to-hear voices, take away that occluded (“hollow”) sound of your own voice reverberating in your ear canal, and more. If there is any issue you have with the physical fit or sound quality of your hearing aids, please... let us know.

I’ve had patients say; “I don’t like to bother you with such small concerns.”

As your hearing care professionals, we strive to give you **Concierge Level Care**. That means *there are no small issues*. If you are struggling to insert your hearing aids, have questions about using your remote control, need help with cleaning your aids, or have *any* trouble at all, call us for a check-up and openly tell us about the situation.

Even if you didn’t purchase your hearing aids from our clinic, we will be happy to help you get the best hearing possible. Because...as your hearing care provider *and* your friend...you and your hearing are important to us, and we’re here to help. Call us today.

Answers to Convolved Vocab

From pg. 4

1. j — askew; awry; kitty-corner
2. i — a fib; pretentious nonsense
3. g — counterclockwise
4. h — stomach pain; bellyache
5. b — 2 vowel sounds together as 1
6. d — a large knife; knife fight
7. c — confuse; perplex; fluster
8. a — vain boasting; ostentation; bluster
9. e — growing & grooming facial hair
10. f — meaningless language; nonsense