

NO-STRESS AIRPORT SURVIVAL GUIDE p.16

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THE LEASH YOU CAN DO

This just in from our old-dogs-and-new-tricks department: Fetch! Pet Care, the nation's largest franchised pet-sitting and dog-walking network, with 144 locations in 33 states, has announced a recruiting drive aimed at retired individuals and

older folks with time on their hands. Veteran animal lovers can earn some additional income plus get daily exercise and, best of all, plenty of licks on the face from their happy charges. For more information on working for the company, call 866-338-2463 or visit www.fetchpetcare.com/jobs. —Ed Dwyer

GOOD NEWS AT THE GAS PUMP

At last, a way for men to get directions without actually having to ask for them! A new Internet-connected system called Applause, being installed in more than 5,000 gas pumps nationwide, will allow drivers to find and print directions to a variety of local attractions. —C.I.



THE NEW LIFESAVERS

The company that made "I've fallen and I can't get up" a national catch phrase has created a new gadget. Life Alert's latest S.O.S. device, above, left, is also a watch, giving subscribers a functional and fashionable way to call for help. Available this January, the waterproof time-piece even works in the shower, where many falls occur. Immobilized wearers simply push a button and company dispatchers contact designated helpers or emergency staff (800-360-0329; www.lifealert.com).

In time, however, that watch may be replaced by a home health care robot. The uBot-5, above, right, now under development by the University of Massachusetts Amherst's Laboratory for Perceptual Robotics, can call 911 and do simple diagnostics to alert EMTs. Plus, it performs household chores (it even takes out the trash) and connects to the Internet, letting long-distance caregivers see in-home action. The robot could be available for home use by 2018. —Cathie Gandel



Some Like It Hotter

WILD FOR WASABI? Hankering for jalapeño? Join the crowd. As we age, some scents become more difficult to detect and distinguish, which can affect the ability to perceive flavors. The result: a boom in demand for spicy foods. Packaged Facts, a market research group, predicts an increased use of flavors such as horseradish and chilies among older Americans. Dave DeWitt, 64, of Albuquerque, New Mexico, publishes a website on hot

eats (www.fiery-foods.com) that's especially popular with 50-plus men. And forget about processed cheese: older eaters "like bolder, sharper flavors, such as feta or Gorgonzola cheese," says A. Elizabeth Sloan, M.D., a food-trends consultant. Fortunately, sweetness is one of our most stable tastes, so keep those Ring Dings comin'.

—Christina Ianzito

Chili Pepper Consumption (Per person in the United States*)



*PUNGENT OR SPICY PEPPERS, EXCLUDING BELL PEPPERS

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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: ROYALTY-FREE/PHOTOGRAPHY/VEER; FOD GRUPEIN, LABORATORY FOR PERCEPTUAL ROBOTICS; UMMASS AMHERST; COURTESY OF LIFE ALERT; STATISTICS SOURCE: USDA ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE