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Sugar Creek

SPOTLIGHT

May • 2026

Issue 3 • 50th Year

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Photo Credit: David MacAskill



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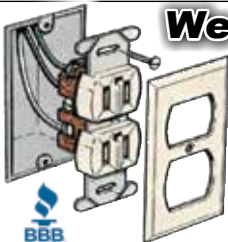
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MANAGER'S CORNER

By: Victoria Greenwood



May 1, 2026

HOME MAINTENANCE

Roof debris on homes will be the focus for your homes in May. Please look around your home and on the roof to make sure there are no limbs hanging near or on your roof. Of course, we also check for other home issues. With your help we can keep Sugar Creek looking its best. As always, letters will be sent out if you don't comply. Thank you for your diligence in this matter.

LEAVES

Please remember if you are blowing your leaves out of your carport or out of your lawn, you must pick them up and bag them. Do not blow them into the street or the drains.

LEAVING FOR THE SEASON

Hope everyone had a fabulous winter in Sugar Creek! A lot of people go away for the summer, so for those of us leaving; have safe trips and we will see you when you return.

We want to remind you to let the office know that you are leaving and please have someone available for your weeding, gutters, roofs, and trimming. The summer months and the rain will make weeds grow quickly and debris get into the gutters.

PET OWNERS

The office requires a copy of your up-to-date vaccination papers for your pets. Please submit them ASAP. If you cannot get to the vet, please have the vet e-mail the paperwork to office@sugarcreekfl.com or fax to 727-586-1756.

PARK EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBER

There have been some questions and concerns regarding the park emergency phone number. This number is listed in the Monthly Media, page 1, lower right-hand corner. It is also listed in the phone directory on page 1 and it is posted on the clubhouse doors and the office door. If the office is closed, the number is listed on the closed sign.

The emergency phone is the number you call for a park emergency ONLY; it will always be answered by a Sugar Creek employee. Please add it to your phone list: 727-301-9589.

HOME SALES

Do you want us to give you \$250? We will, if you are a current resident and you refer someone that buys a home in our community. It's a win-win!

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Happy Mother's Day!



SUGAR CREEK MANUFACTURED HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION

The HOA will be purchasing the 2026 Pinellas County Florida Manufactured Home Communities rent survey. The report includes their findings and observations of other parks in our area, with specific information about each community's rent amount and services included in their monthly fee.



If you have concerns about the monthly rent and other improvements for the park, please consider joining the HOA. The cost of membership is \$10 a year per household. Your membership helps to cover the cost of this report and other expenses of the HOA. You can contact Terri Carlisle at terricarlisle48@gmail.com if you would like to join.

Thank you, Deborah Polchlopek, President

SUGAR CREEK SOCIAL CLUB PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It's that time of the year again and the snowbirds have started leaving the park for the Season. All will be missed. Safe Travels!

The Events we had in 2026, were fun. New Year's we had 81 people attend. The Block Party had 93 people attend, that is a terrific turn out. Thank you, to Joe and Delia for pulling everything together. The Pool Party was also a success with 61 people attending.

Thank you to everyone who helped at all the events, it is always a pleasure and very much appreciated.

Belinda is going to try and keep the monthly breakfast going throughout the summer. Our breakfast during the season usually has 25 to 32 people attending. We are hoping to have at least 10 people in attendance for the summer. You will still need to purchase a ticket in advance for \$6. Diana Williams #218 & Marilyn Spangler #172 will be selling the tickets.

Thank you.

Debra McLain

MEMBERSHIP S.C.C.C.: The cost is \$10.00 per person per year or \$25.00 per person for 3 years. Remember the members of the S.C.C.C. always get first choice. Please contact Diana Williams to join.

SPECIAL EVENTS IN MAY

May 2 – Kentucky Derby Potluck – Doors open at 4:30. Race at 6:30
May 25 – Memorial Day Ceremony & luncheon at 11:00



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MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 15 Tom & Josie Moburg
20 Cary & Sharon Martin
25 Donald & Stephanie Smith



MAY BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | |
|----|---------------|----|------------------|
| 1 | Patty Miller | 17 | Ken Collins |
| 7 | Keith Bush | | Barbara Shuey |
| | Judy Dominick | 18 | Joan Woelfel |
| | Kathy Parker | 19 | Joyce Botelho |
| 8 | Helen Cole | 20 | Richard Canastra |
| 12 | Sally Wiese | 21 | Dawn Eno |
| 15 | Deanna Kearns | 24 | Linda Rose |
| | Sharon Rop | 28 | Eric Evans |
| 16 | Gary Carlisle | 30 | Marilyn Spangler |
| 17 | Peter Cnossen | 31 | Leo Mercier |



Please advise the editor if birthday or anniversary dates are incorrect or omitted so that corrections can be made.

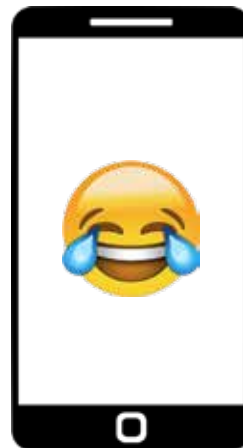
NEWSLETTER EDITOR REQUEST

Summer time is the slowest time of the year for activities within our community. I am always looking for additional information to put in our newsletter. I have tried recipes, humor, information from the Almanac, etc. If you have suggestions on other things that you would like to see included, please send them to me at terricarlisle48@gmail.com. Thank you, Terri



70 YEAR OLD TEXTING CODE

ATD.....At The Doctors
BFF.....Best Friend Fell
BTW.....Bring The Wheelchair
BYOT.....Bring Your Own Teeth
FWIW.....Forgot Where I Was
GGPBL.....Gota Go, Pacemaker Battery Low
GHA.....Got Heartburn Again
IMHO.....Is My Hearing-Aid On?
OMSG.....Oh My, Sorry, Gas



SUGAR CREEK LIBRARY

We are finally finished with winter and spring has arrived. Great weather is a good time to visit our Sugar Creek Library and pick up some reading material. We are receiving books by some new authors thanks to the generosity of neighbors. Take as many as you like and return to the bin provided. Happy reading!



Thanks, Marie and Jerry

DISTRIBUTION MANAGER:

The rainy season is coming! Please get a hook or basket for your carport to make sure your Park Mail doesn't blow away or get wet. Need a hook let me know.
Kate McGettigan & Floyd Michielson

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Have a great month,
Kate McGettigan





14 ★ 10

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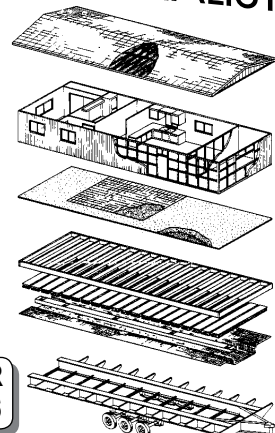


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- MAY 16, SAT — FISHERMAN'S VILLAGE - Day of Celtic Music \$79
- MAY 22, FRI — AMERICA 250: STARS & STRIPES FOREVER \$124
- MAY 23, SAT — "SOUNDS OF '67" at the Broadway Palm \$179
- MAY 29, FRI — "HAPPY TOGETHER" 7:00 PM at Ruth Eckerd Hall...\$114

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EDITOR:

Reservations for the Clubhouse can be made with me by email at terricarlisle48@gmail.com or by calling me at 727-224-5650. You will then need to inform the Office of your event and leave a \$200 security deposit.



June newsletter submissions need to be received by May 7, 2026. Please email me at terricarlisle48@gmail.com. If you have any questions, please call me at 727-224-5650. Please remember, if you need to cancel a scheduled activity at the Clubhouse, post a cancellation notice on the Bulletin Board. Thank you.

SUGAR CREEK POOL AND SPA RULES

Swim at own risk
Warning - no lifeguard on duty
Maximum load for swimming pool 15 persons - 7 persons for spa
Pool and spa open 24 hours
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Shower before entering pool or spa
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23. Not new
24. Low point
26. Worldwide
30. Stash
32. Scrutinize
33. Pomp
37. Pretentious person
38. Desert watering holes
39. You (archaic)
40. Idioms
42. Offering little or no hope
43. Twiddled one's thumbs
44. Purchasers
45. Chocolate source
47. Not thin
48. Roman robe
49. Hyperactive
56. Wicked
57. Knockout
58. Custom
59. Peddle
60. Distinctive flair
61. Genus of heath
62. 3
63. Break
64. Adjust again

DOWN

1. An international trade treaty
2. Towards the back
3. Diva's solo
4. Portent or omen
5. Navy jacket
6. Planet
7. African sheep
8. Nerd
9. Flavoring extracts
10. Without intention
11. Hindu loincloth
12. Scuba user
13. Flower stalk
21. Addition
25. Revelation response
26. Sharp intake of breath
27. Moon goddess
28. Scent
29. According to the Bible
30. Enclosed
31. Anagram of "Sage"
33. Rate
34. You (archaic)
35. Big laugh
36. Guffaws
38. Witness
41. American Dental Association
42. Meat retailer
44. Sheep sound
45. Shroud
46. Nimble
47. Not back
48. Exam
50. Low-lying area
51. Nestling hawk
52. Empty weight
53. Nile bird
54. Moral weakness
55. French for "State"



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The absent-minded composer

The famous composer Ludwig von Beethoven once went to a restaurant for some dinner, but being very absent-minded he forgot what he actually came there for. A waiter asked him several times what he would like to order, but Beethoven paid him no attention.

After an hour Beethoven called the waiter and asked him, “How much do I pay?”

The waiter replied, “Sir, you haven’t ordered anything yet. What I can do for you?”

Frustrated, Beethoven snapped back, “Oh, just bring whatever you want and leave me alone!”

Einstein: A genius with a human touch

Albert Einstein was a scientific genius, and stories about him are legendary. Three stories illustrate that he was as human as the rest of us:

- When Einstein went to Princeton University in 1953, someone asked what he would need for his office. His reply: “A desk, some pads and a pencil, and a large wastebasket to hold all of my mistakes.”
- A student visited Einstein in his Princeton office one day with a copy of this year’s final exam in his hand. “Professor, all the questions on this year’s test are the same as last year!” “Yes,” Einstein replied, “but this year all the answers are different.”
- After finishing a paper, Einstein and his assistant could find only one paper clip in his office to hold the pages together. Unfortunately, it was bent out of shape and impossible to use. They searched the desk for something to use as a tool to straighten the clip, and found a full box of paper clips in one drawer. Instead of taking one of those clips, Einstein used one as a tool to straighten out the bent clip.

The assistant asked why he didn’t just use one of the fresh clips. Einstein answered, “Once I am set on a goal it becomes difficult to deflect me.”

Quote

To hell with facts! We need stories!
—Ken Kesey



A lesson in taking chances

A story from the book *Art and Fear*, by David Bayles and Ted Orland (Image Continuum Press), illustrates the power of taking chances and risking failure when you're trying to achieve something of quality:

On the first day of class, a ceramics teacher announced that he was putting his students into two groups. Half the students would be graded on quantity of works produced, the other half on the quality of just one work. On the final day of class, the instructor looked at the pots from both groups and realized that the best pots—those with the most creative designs and those that seemed most beautiful—all came from the group graded on quantity.

As the authors put it: “It seems that while the ‘quantity’ group was busily churning out piles of work—and learning from their mistakes—the ‘quality’ group had sat theorizing about perfection, and in the end had little more to show for their efforts than grandiose theories and a pile of dead clay.”

Take a fresh approach to solving problems

You don't always want the same old solutions to everyday problems. Sometimes you want to try something different. From the *Fast Company* website comes these ideas for finding a fresh approach:

- **Rephrase the question.** The way you frame the problem may limit your options. Teach yourself to expand the scope. Instead of, “How can we throw a great birthday party for Ted?” Ask, “What can we do to make this a memorable birthday?”
- **Look for bad ideas.** Seeking perfect solutions can put too much pressure on your creativity. Give yourself a break and try coming up with some bad ideas. You'll get them out of the way quickly, and sometimes a bad idea can lead to something new and exciting.
- **Challenge your assumptions.** Take a hard look at your basic beliefs about the situation. Is the customer really always right? Is the lowest price necessarily the best deal? Turning your assumptions on their heads can suggest a different direction to go in.

Quotes

There are painters who transform the sun to a yellow spot, but there are others who with the help of their art and their intelligence, transform a yellow spot into sun.
—Pablo Picasso

Did You Know?



May is commonly referred to as the month of natural purity and beauty, representative of the Greek Goddess it was named after, Maia. This was because of flowers like roses, tulips, and lilies tend to bloom most in the month of May.

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
	3 Social Committee Meeting 6:30	4 Bowling I Need Texas 6:00 <i>Cisco</i>
10 Corn Hole 1:00		11 Bowling I Need Texas 6:00
<i>Mother's Day</i>		
	17	18 Bowling I Need Texas 6:00 I Need
24 Corn Hole 1:00	25 Memorial Day Ceremony & Luncheon 11:00	25 Bowling I Need Texas 6:00
<i>Pentecost</i>	<i>Memorial Day</i>	
	31	

Sugar Creek

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<p style="text-align: right;">1</p> <p>Men's Poker 5:30</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">2</p> <p>Kentucky Derby Party 4:30</p>
<p>g 9:00 That 1:00 Hold'Em</p> <p><i>De Mayo</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">6</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">7</p> <p><i>National Day of Prayer</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">8</p> <p>Happy Hour 4:00 Men's Poker 5:30</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">9</p> <p>Breakfast 9:00-11:00 Music Bingo 7:00</p>
<p>g 9:00 That 1:00 Hold'Em</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">13</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">14</p> <p><i>Ascension Day</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">15</p> <p>Men's Poker 5:30</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">16</p>
<p>g 9:00 That 1:00 Hold'Em</p> <p>That 6:30</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">20</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">21</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">22</p> <p>Men's Poker 5:30</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">23</p> <p>Music Bingo 7:00</p>
<p>g 9:00 That 1:00 Hold'Em</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">27</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">28</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">29</p> <p>Men's Poker 5:30</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">30</p>
				<p style="text-align: center;">Poker</p> <p>2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30</p>

VINYL SIDING

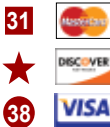
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Report: Fiber may prevent breast cancer

Parents and young women concerned about breast cancer may want to take note of a study from the journal *Pediatrics*: Scientists have discovered that adolescents and young women can significantly reduce their chances of getting breast cancer later in life by eating a high-fiber diet early on.

Researchers tracked more than 90,000 women over a period of years. Women 27-44 answered questions relating to their diet as adults and in high school. The data they collected about fiber consumption, after screening out other factors like race and family history of breast cancer, showed that women who had eaten high amounts of fiber had a 12-19 percent lower chance of getting breast cancer. In addition, women who reported a high fiber intake during their high school years were found to have a 16 percent lower risk of suffering breast cancer overall, as well as a 24 percent lower risk of being diagnosed before menopause.

Fiber from fruits and vegetables appear to offer the most health benefits.

Keep your workplace a healthy zone

From Ebola to the Zika virus, new diseases seem to be rising every day to threaten our health. If you're a manager, you should do everything you can to keep your workforce safe from illness. Take these steps to minimize the risks:

- **Adjust absentee policies.** Many organizations still penalize workers for taking sick leave. Let your employees stay home when they're sick rather than risk infecting others.
- **Promote hygiene.** Post restroom signs urging workers to wash their hands frequently. Instruct cleaning services to wipe down telephone receivers as well as desk surfaces.
- **Plan ahead.** Consider how you'd respond if your department experienced a 30 percent absentee rate. How can you ensure that essential functions are covered? You can't stop bad things from happening, but you can take steps to keep them from crippling your organization.

Quotes

Healthy citizens are the greatest asset any country can have.
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7 ★ 27

Try these year-round common cold remedies

You can catch a cold any time of the year, no matter what the weather is. Although you can't cure it, you can relieve its symptoms with some simple remedies. Try these:

- **Honey.** Honey mixed with tea or warm lemon water can relieve coughing and sore throat.
- **Zinc.** Zinc supplements taken within the first few days of having a cold can shorten your illness and could prevent a cold in the first place.
- **Hot liquids.** Hot tea or water can loosen up congestion in your chest and sinuses.
- **Salt water.** Evidence suggests that rinsing your mouth with salty water can clear up nasal congestion and unclog your sinuses.
- **Vitamin C.** Evidence that vitamin C can help you avoid or shorten colds is mixed, although research does hint that it may be effective for those with a vitamin C deficiency.



Exercise: More isn't necessarily better

Losing weight is just a matter of exercising, right? Actually, that may not be the case, according to a study of exercise and weight loss reported on the CNN website.

Researchers looked at 332 adults in the U.S., Jamaica, and Africa, measuring their activity level over a week. The volunteers displayed a variety of exercise levels from sedentary to active. Although those who exercised and were active more burned away more calories than the others, their activity tended to hit a plateau—after a certain level, more exercise didn't produce more weight loss.

Switching exercises helped a little, since using different muscles can make your body use more energy. But in the long run, a combination of exercise and a reduced-calorie diet may be your best bet for losing those unwanted pounds.





MAY SUDOKU

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Monthly

ALS Awareness Month. ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig’s disease, is caused by the death of neurons, leading to stiff muscles, twitching, and gradually worsening weakness. No cure is known, but this month is an opportunity to spotlight and support research to fight this deadly disease.

Better Hearing Month. Approximately 36 million Americans suffer from some form of hearing loss—and more than half are under 65. Visit an audiologist today to learn how to protect your hearing and ensure that your ears stay healthy throughout your life.

National Military Appreciation Month. As designated by Congress, National Military Appreciation Month celebrates the history of our armed forces and recognizes the brave people who have served in every branch of military service. It also allows Americans to educate each generation on the historical impact of our military through community participation.

National Bike Month. Sponsored by the League of American Bicyclists and celebrated in communities from coast to coast, National Bike Month is a chance to showcase the many benefits of bicycling and encourage more folks to giving biking a try.

Weekly

Children’s Mental Health Awareness Week, May 3-9. A yearly event aimed at raising awareness of the issues and causes integral to the children’s mental health field nationwide. Sponsored by the National Federation of Families for Children’s Mental Health, this year’s theme is “Healthy Families, Resilient

Food Allergy Awareness Week, May 10-16. Food allergies affect up to 15 million people in the United States, including one in 13 children. Whether you’re newly diagnosed or brushing up on the facts, learning all you can about the condition is the key to staying safe and living well with food allergies.

American Craft Beer Week, May 11-17. American craft brewers are small, independent, and traditional. The average American lives within 10 miles of a brewery, and the United States now has more beer styles and brands to choose from than any other market in the world. Enjoy a cold one (responsibly) all month long.

Teens and social media: What's really going on?

If you think your kid is checking his or her smartphone every 30 seconds, you may not be far off. A study of more than 200 eighth-graders reported on the CNN website found that the heaviest social media users check the Internet more than 100 times daily, even when they're in school. What are they looking for?

- Checking their online posts for comments and “likes”: 61 percent.
- Seeing whether friends are doing things without them: 36 percent.
- Making sure friends aren't saying mean things about them: 21 percent.



Fifteen percent of teens in the study reported receiving inappropriate photos. And 94 percent of parents were unaware of the amount of fighting that occurs on social media.

The workplace is becoming more flexible

Flexible working arrangements have caught on big time in the United States. A study by Flexjobs, an online service specializing in telecommuting and flexible jobs, reported the following trends:

- **Employers are fairly casual about productivity.** Although 89 percent of employers support workplace flexibility, 64 percent have no formal policies regarding telecommuting and flexibility programs, and only 3 percent actively monitor such factors as performance, engagement, and productivity.
- **Health factors are a major driver of flexibility.** Flexjobs found that 32 percent of respondents to their survey believe flexible working arrangements would benefit their health; 29 percent are interested in flexibility in order to have more time for exercise.



Caregiving has its rewards

As Americans live longer, families are feeling a heavier burden in the caregiving area. The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that some 40.5 million Americans are acting as unpaid caregivers for older family members. Most just help one person, but 22 percent are responsible for two people and 7 percent provide help to three or more. Most caregivers are between the ages of 45 and 64 (23 percent), but 17 percent of people older than 65 act as caregivers as well.

The demands may be high, but many Americans find the work worthwhile. Yes, 32 percent describe caregiving as stressful, but 88 percent say helping out an elderly loved one is a rewarding experience.

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- **Apply steady, firm pressure.** Never pump or “feather” your brakes. The ABS regulates the braking pressure so the brakes don't lock up. If you pump or slightly release pressure on the pedal, it confuses the computer system and shuts it off.
- **Don't let up.** The grating noise you may hear is the sound of the ABS working.
- **Don't yank the wheel.** You can steer your car safely, but if you yank the wheel, you could lose control.
- **Be prepared for skids.** Remember that the ABS doesn't prevent skids. Nor does it allow for shorter stopping distances than conventional brakes.



Don't get zapped at work (or home)

Electrical hazards at home and in the workplace injure thousands every year from burns and shocks. Faulty or overloaded wires cause the majority of accidents, so protect your family and your co-workers by following these guidelines:

- **Get inspected.** If your electrical panel hasn't been inspected for more than 10 years, get a qualified electrician to look it over.
- **Unplug heat appliances after use.** At home, that includes toasters, hair dryers, and irons, among others. In the office, unplug space heaters or anything else that can cause a fire.
- **Use the correct wattage.** Putting a 75-watt bulb in a 60-watt light socket is asking for trouble.
- **Use surge protectors.** They'll keep computers and other appliances safe from overloaded circuits.
- **Keep appliances away from water.** If an appliance that's plugged in falls into water or gets wet, unplug it before you reach for it.
- **Don't yank cords.** When unplugging an appliance, always grip the head of the cord. Yanking and tugging can damage the cord's wire and insulation, which can lead to an electrical shock or fire.





Space Station experiment points to possible life on Mars

Fungi from the dry, frigid environment of Antarctica took a trip to the International Space Station to determine their ability to survive under the harsh conditions of the planet Mars. Their endurance suggests that primitive life may indeed be viable on the red planet's surface.

As reported by the NBC News website, scientists took samples of the fungus from the McMurdo Dry Valleys in Antarctica, then had them sent up to the ISS, where the crew placed them on a sealed platform outside and exposed them to various types of conditions, including one which simulated the sparse atmosphere and the exposure to radiation present on Mars.

After a year and a half, the fungi had retained 60 percent of their cells, providing evidence that simple forms of life can survive under the toughest conditions in space and on distant planets.

Robot cockroaches could save lives

Few animals are as maligned as the lowly cockroach. But scientists have found something worth emulating about them—their ability to squeeze into even the tightest spaces. Cockroaches on the run are about ½ inch tall, but they're able to compress their bodies to a 10th of an inch when they're trying to hide. Scientists at the University of California-Berkeley have been able to adapt that flexibility in a small, soft, multi-legged robot dubbed CRAM (Compressible Robot with Articulated Mechanisms). Constructed with an “origami-like” manufacturing technique, CRAM is seven inches long, three inches tall, and 1.6 ounces, and it's able to compress itself just like a cockroach to get inside tiny spaces. The scientists hope that CRAMs could be deployed in swarms to search for survivors inside collapsed buildings.

Tarantulas have their own ‘Man in Black’

A new species of tarantula has been identified by a postdoctoral researcher at the Florida Museum of Natural History. Actually, Chris Hamilton discovered 14 previously unidentified species during his Ph.D. research at Auburn University, but only one of them was named after one of his favorite entertainers: country singer Johnny Cash.

Aphonopelma johnnycashi can be found, appropriately enough, near Folsom Prison in California, the setting of one of Cash's most famous songs and the site of several concerts the “Man in Black” performed during his lifetime. Tarantulas have more than 50 different species, and Hamilton examined more than 3,000 specimens, narrowing the field initially to 29 possibles and finally to 14 completely distinct species. Given that Hamilton has a tattoo of Cash himself, the name came naturally.

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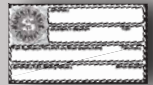
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Get promoted with this career-savvy advice

Chances are good you don't want to stay in the same job forever. Whether you dream of moving up to the CEO's office someday or you're just looking for a bump in your salary, understanding how to get promoted is vital to your career success. Keep this advice in mind as you climb the workplace ladder:

- **Get to know your boss.** Find out what your boss likes and doesn't like, both in and out of the workplace. Do your best to adapt your style to fit his or her personality.
- **Keep the drama down.** Make a solid effort to get along with everyone in your workplace. Pitch in to help, support your co-workers, and show that you're a team player.
- **Pay attention.** Don't force your boss or co-workers to repeat themselves. Take notes if necessary, but concentrate on remembering instructions and priorities so you don't have to bother people over and over again.
- **Record your results.** Your boss may not remember everything you've accomplished at review time—or when looking for someone to promote. Document your successes and share them with higher-ups to show what you're capable of.



Smart advice for success

Hard work alone won't guarantee a successful career. Although the phrase “work smarter, not harder” has become a cliché, you can flourish in your workplace by focusing your efforts on smarter strategies. Keep these in mind:

- **Challenge yourself.** Take on projects that force you to learn new skills and confront important challenges. You won't get anywhere doing the same job over and over.
- **Overprepare.** Take time to plan. The more information you have at the start of a project, the better you'll be able to deal with problems and obstacles.
- **Listen.** Don't do all the talking. Make a point of asking questions and paying attention to what co-workers, bosses, and customers have to say. Learn as much as you can from the people around you.
- **Know who your friends are.** Don't assume that your co-workers are all on your side. This may sound cynical, but remember that other people have their own agendas. Be discreet and keep relationships on a professional level.
- **Be positive.** Bosses and co-workers like to work with colleagues who are cheerful and upbeat. Project a positive attitude in everything you do, even when problems erupt.



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