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LOCAL NEWS...

Second teen killed in Pompano Beach crash

Three days after a deadly crash in Pompano Beach, a second teenager has succumbed to his injuries.

The Broward County Office of the Medical Examiner and Trauma Services confirmed to Broward Sheriff's Office traffic homicide investigators that Richard Joseph Grable died on Monday, June 23, because of the injuries he sustained as a result of the crash. The crash occurred just before 8 p.m., Friday, June 20. Broward County Regional Communications received a report of a traffic crash involving multiple vehicles and a car fire in the 200 block of East Copans Road in Pompano Beach. According to investigators, the preliminary investigation revealed that a 2019 Mercedes Benz CLA 250, driven by 16-year-old Jayden Vico, was traveling westbound on East Copans Road approaching Leisure Boulevard. At the same time, a 2021 Toyota Sienna, driven by 82-year-old Steven Linn Dehne, was traveling southbound on Leisure Boulevard toward East Copans Road. Detectives say that at some point, the Toyota turned left where it collided with the Mercedes.

The collision caused Vico to lose control of the Mercedes. The Mercedes rolled onto its roof as it slid southwest across the roadway and into the path of eastbound traffic. That is when the Mercedes collided with a 2015 Lexus RX 350. Additionally, a 2021 Toyota RAV4 was traveling eastbound on East Copans Road and was struck by debris as the Mercedes slid by it. Deputies on scene immediately began life-saving measures until Pompano Beach Fire Rescue arrived and transported all the occupants of the Mercedes and the Lexus to an area hospital for treatment. Vico was pronounced deceased. The drivers of the Toyota Sienna and Toyota RAV4 were not injured and remained on scene and cooperated with investigators. Detectives said the preliminary investigation reveals that excessive speed may have been a contributing factor in the crash. The investigation into the circumstances of the crash is ongoing.

Fatal crash investigated

Detectives with the Broward Sheriff's Office Traffic Homicide Unit are investigating a fatal vehicle versus pedestrian crash that occurred in West Park over the weekend.

According to investigators, at approximately 9:40 p.m. on Saturday, June 21, BSO deputies and Broward Sheriff's Office Fire Rescue responded to a report of a person hit by a car near the 5600 block of Southwest 19th Street. The preliminary investigation revealed that the victim was walking eastbound on Southwest 19th Street, for some unknown reason, he went to lay down halfway in the driveway of a home in the area. Detectives say the victim remained there for several hours before being struck by the passenger side undercarriage of a 2025 Honda CR-V. The driver of the Honda turned into the driveway to park. Following the collision, the driver immediately stopped and notified emergency services. The victim was transported to Memorial Regional Hospital, where he was pronounced deceased.

Motorcycle race ends in fatal crash

A motorcycleist is dead, and another remains in critical condition after being involved in a fiery crash Sunday afternoon.

The fatal collision occurred at approximately 4:36 p.m. on June 29, near the 4400 block of U.S. Highway 27 in Weston. The preliminary on-scene investigation revealed that 63-year-old Mario Vasquez and 35-year-old Asiel Mena-Echevarria were racing northbound on two separate motorcycles along U.S. 27. Detectives say at some point, Vasquez's 2002 Honda CBR 600 F4 and Mena-Echevarria's 2019 Honda CBR 1000 RR collided in a sideswipe type crash.

Following the collision, the motorcycleists and their bikes fell to the pavement and slid several hundred feet. Mena-Echevarria's motorcycle caught on fire and ignited a large area of grass in the center median.

BSO deputies, Broward Sheriff's Office Fire Rescue, and other local law enforcement and fire rescue agencies responded to assist. Both drivers were transported to Memorial Regional Hospital with life-threatening injuries. Investigators were later informed that Vasquez had succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced deceased. As of this writing, Mena-Echevarria remains in critical condition. The investigation continues.

Big Beautiful Bill passes Senate

President Trump's Big Beautiful Bill passed the Senate Tuesday, with three dissenting votes. Sens. Rand Paul of Kentucky, who complained that it would add too much to the national debt, and Thom Tillis of North Carolina, who blasted the Medicaid cuts as damaging to his home state. Tillis announced Sunday that he won't run for re-election in 2026 after having clashed with Trump over his opposition. Senator Susan Collins also voted nay expressing concerns with the Medicaid cuts and said she prefers raising taxes on high earners.

The bill passed Tuesday when Vice President Vance broke a 50-50 tie, providing the necessary vote for passage.

Now, as of press-time, the bill must pass the House, which votes on Wednesday (one day after The SENTRY goes to press).

So, what's in the Big Beautiful Bill?

It renews tax cuts Trump signed into law in his first term, paying for them partly with cuts to Medicaid, food aid programs and clean energy funding.

No tax on tips, overtime and car loans

The bill would exempt tips and overtime pay from federal income taxes, fulfilling two of Trump's campaign promises. It would also allow taxpayers to deduct up to \$10,000 of auto loan interest for U.S.-made vehicles.

State and local tax deduction (SALT)

This provision, demanded by House Republicans who hail from high-tax blue states, would allow people to deduct up to \$10,000 per year for five years from their federal taxes. The SALT deduction would phase out once an individual's annual income hits \$500,000. As part of the compromise with Senate Republicans, the cap would go back to \$10,000 per year after five years.

Child tax credit
Senate Republicans want to permanently increase the annual child tax credit to \$2,000. House Republicans have proposed bumping it to \$2,500 but scaling back to \$2,000 after 2028.

Immigration enforcement
The package would provide Customs and Border Patrol with \$46.5 billion to build the border wall and associated infrastructure, like access



Alligator Alcatraz opens in Everglades

A single alligator crossing the road is not an unusual sight for native Floridians.

That is not the plan, however, that Governor Ron DeSantis has for the latest detention facility in the Florida Everglades.

At the direction of Gov. Ron DeSantis, Florida is quickly constructing a \$450 million-a-year immigration detention center in the heart of the Everglades as part of the state's push to coordinate with President Donald Trump's aggressive immigration agenda. President Trump, along with Gov. DeSantis and Kriti Noem toured the facility Tuesday.

The facility, which has been informally dubbed "Alligator Alcatraz," has received heavy pushback and a legal challenge, but it has also been a boon for the national profile of both DeSantis and his appointed attorney general, James Uthmeier. Both have received waves of national attention — and a resulting boost to their political stock.

"This is going to be a force multiplier, and we are really happy to be working with the federal government to implement President Trump's mandate," DeSantis said. "Under President Trump's leadership, we are working at turbo speed on cost-effective and innovative ways to deliver on the American people's mandate for mass deportations of criminal illegal aliens." Department of

roads, cameras, lights and sensors. The package also includes \$2 billion for the Department of Homeland Security and \$29.9 billion for Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

President Trump and his allies say the bill passage is paramount to balancing the budget although there is still much more to be accomplished.

Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem said. "We will expand facilities and bed spaces in just days, thanks to our partnership with Florida." Environmental groups filed a lawsuit last Friday trying to

block the plan, arguing it could have devastating effects on the Everglades.

"The site is more than 96% wetlands, surrounded by Big Cypress National Preserve, and is habitat for the endangered Florida panther and other iconic species," said Eve Samples, executive director of Friends of the Florida Everglades, which is among the groups suing. "This scheme is not only cruel, it threatens the Everglades ecosystem that state and federal taxpayers have spent billions to protect."

The land being used, roughly two hours west of Miami, is a little-used airstrip owned by Miami-Dade County, but it was taken over by the state for the facility under emergency powers DeSantis enacted in 2023 as part of his immigration crackdown. Under those powers, the state can seize the land for immigration enforcement-related activities. Using its emergency powers, Florida, led by its emergency management division, has brought in tents, construction crews and portable toilets, hired nearly a dozen vendors, seized the land and said the site is set to be operational in just seven days.

Pompano Beach's 4th of July Fireworks Spectacular



Fisher Family Pier | 222 N. Pompano Beach Boulevard
Friday, July 4th - 5:00 pm - 9:30 pm

Join us Friday, July 4th on the main beach by the iconic Fisher Family Pier at 222 N. Pompano Beach Boulevard. The party kicks off at 5:00 p.m., so grab your crew, your beach blankets, and your lawn chairs and settle in for an epic night of entertainment!

Human remains found

Help solve a crime by leaving a tip in secret—no one will ever know it was you.
REWARD \$10,000*
CRIME STOPPERS WILL PAY UP TO \$10,000 FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO THE ARREST OF THE SUSPECT(S) WANTED FOR THE:

HOMICIDE

OF ADLER CORVIL

ON JUNE 5, 2025, THE VICTIM'S REMAINS WERE LOCATED IN AN ABANDONED YARD IN THE 1900 BLOCK OF N.W. 1ST AVENUE IN POMPAÑO BEACH.

CALL (561) 493-TIPS (8477) www.browardscrimestoppers.org

Detectives with the Broward Sheriff's Office Homicide Unit are investigating after human remains were found in the backyard of a house in Pompano Beach. A reward of up to \$10,000 is being offered for any information that leads to an arrest. Shortly after 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 5, Broward County Regional Communications received a call of a dead person who was found in the backyard of an abandoned house in the 1900 block of North- west First Avenue in Pompano Beach. Detectives were able to identify the

victim as Adler Corvil, and believe he was killed sometime in the early part of 2024. Anyone with information on this incident is asked to contact BSO Detective Steve Novak at 954-321-4325 or submit a tip through the SafeWatch app. If you wish to remain anonymous, please contact Broward Crime Stoppers at 954-493-TIPS (8477), online at browardscrimestoppers.org, or dial **TIPS (8477) from any cellphone in the United States. If your tip leads to an arrest in this case, you may be eligible for a reward of up to \$10,000.

The 1928 HURRICANE - THE STORY OF MY FAMILY

CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK

The 1928 hurricane on Lake Okechobee, Ritta Island and Fort Lauderdale

Mr. H.O. Sebring, son of the founder of Sebring, Florida, bought the land and started Sebring Farms in 1918. He planned to have the biggest avocado farm of all. He cleared 200 acres of citrus apple land and planted the trees but the floods in 1922, 1924 and 1926 killed the trees.

The hurricane coming up in 1928 was destined to put a final end to this enterprise.

On the farm there were several houses for whole people and quarters for the colored. We called the house we rented in 1927 the wrong side out house because it had never been finished outside.

Now my father was again farming on Ritta Island with Uncle Mays. They went back and forth on a 16-foot boat to work the land.

Mr. Sebring had a canal dug from the Miami Canal out in the Lake to the land at Sebring Farms so he could bring his own supplies in by boat. He had a pump run by a steam boiler to pump the water off the land. He had to bring in pine wood to fire the boiler.

The canal gave us a swimming pool at our back door; we even had a diving board. All of us could swim. My brother and sisters and I helped Daddy and Uncle Mays with the farm when we were not in school. All of us would go over to Ritta Island on the boat in the mornings.

Daddy set out so much work for us to do. We usually finished up by four o'clock and we would wash back most of the way home because the lake was low.

We swam in the canal then we were home.

This was a distance of about a mile and a half. Daddy would usually work until almost dark, he would pole the boat, unless there were a lot of people in it then he would row. He and Uncle Mays brought out their produce on the boat. They hauled a lot of beans from the island to the mainland.

We had started to school when we came back near the end of 1926 and finished the term in the spring of '27. We went the school year of 1927-28. The school was right out here in what is now Ritta Island on the lake here in the mornings. I lived with her husband and little boy on a house boat on the Bolles Canal, three miles away. Every morning, she rowed herself and her boy in a little boat the three miles, tied it to the bridge and walked to the school.

In the afternoon after school they walked back to the boat and rowed home. She and her husband, Mr. Hughes had just moved the houseboat south of the bridge here a week before the new term of school was due to start for the 1928-29 school year.

The lake was down to 3 feet in the summer but it rained and raised the lake to 13.87 feet between the 6th and 13th of August and in September it had rained almost every day so the lake was over

16 feet elevation.

My folks went to West Pain Beach on Saturday, September 15, 1928 to buy our school clothes. The new term of school was due to start on the following Monday. That's when we found out there was a hurricane heading our way but there told it posed no threat to the Glades area.

Hurricane strikes 1928
The Huffman Construction Company, under contract to the state, was finally building a highway from South Bay to Clewiston.

A big dipper dredge was working a half-mile west of the Miami Locks. On this Saturday, because it was something new, almost all the boys were there watching the operation of the dredge that was driving pilings across the South Florida Conservation drainage canal. It began to drizzle in the afternoon and the men knocked off and went to their houseboats.

We went home and found that our folks had returned from West Pain Beach. They had been told that an oncoming hurricane was in no danger of turning toward the Glades.

Clarence Lee and his wife lived in a house about 200 feet Northwest of our house. They talked about going to South Bay, which they did the next day, which was Sunday.

Nobody really expected the hurricane to hit. Next day, we harvested a bunch of raw peas, came back; and boiled them about the time of the afternoon. Everybody came over to eat them.

The wind was really beginning to blow and you could see the wave action over the little old mud dike, which protected the mainland at that time.

Everybody had enjoyed the peanuts and just before dark they picked a house for everybody to go and take refuge in. They picked V. B. Thirsk's, the caretakers house.

Everybody except Uncle Minor went there. He stayed in our house to look after things. By the time we got to Mr. Thirsk's house water was already knee deep and rising, apparently the old mud dike, five to eight feet high and about forty feet thick at the base, had been breached by the lake and was washed away.

The house was a good four feet off the ground. By the time all the families had gotten in, the water was high enough that it was coming into the house.

That put all the small kids on the table in the kitchen as we were in the back door. The water continued to rise until it was halfway up the windows and rising more.

In the Thirsk house, which was large,

there was in addition to Mr. and Mrs. Thirsk, our family the Boots family, a Swede, Karl Karanah and several other people. The rest were colored. I don't know how many there were.

Mr. Will reports that there were 21 whites and 42 blacks.

The colored people were in the front part of the house and two of the whites went through the same hole. My family all went through a hole in the ceiling.

By the time all of us got up in the ceiling the water was up over the windows. The wind was deafening and the water was a lull you could hear the black people singing praying and crying.

The weather picked up and the house was moving. Of course, I didn't know what was happening. As of course, I was only 13 years old but I was told later that the house floated off the piling and water came up in the attic.

Mr. Thirsk and Daddy had knocked some of the metal roofing loose, making a hole through the roof. Daddy got out and was pulling a piece of tin off the roof and I was told later that the house floated off the piling and water came up in the attic.

He came up swimming on top of the water and he came in contact with a telephone pole. He hung on to the braces holding the first cross-arm until the wind started down. The water was holding him up there. That's how high it was. As the wind slackened and the water receded, he slid down the pole and huddled there all night.

Mr. Thirsk got out after Daddy and took his wife out. He reached back into the house and grabbed someone else to pull out and it happened to be me. He and his wife straddled the top of the house and he pushed me up there.

He was trying to get other people out of the house when the house disappeared altogether. It was pitch dark and you couldn't see anybody or anything.

I started swimming toward the other houses, which would have been East of this house that we were in. I don't know how long I had been trying to swim until I bumped into some floating timber. I decided to hang on, which I did for the wind and the water carried me South of the old Sebring Farm.

Eventually, the timbers I was holding on to and trying to ride stopped moving. The water got shallow, I tried to push them and couldn't so I crawled up on them and

Pompano Pioneers by Bud Garner



pulled a little old sweater that I had on up over my head as the wind and the rain were driven over my head.

I sat there until daylight. Then I attempted to swim back North. The water here was about knee deep and as I walked the water got deeper. After some hard wading I saw there were people off to my right starting to holler and walking toward them. They finally heard me and it turned out to be Roy, Vernie and Willie Boots. They waited on me and thought until I got up there, that I was their fourth brother. It turned out that he was lost. We waded together and we found the telephone pole that towered over the Miami Canal and regal palms at the Bolles Hotel.

We kept going toward the hotel because we figured it might be standing which it was. We came out on the old highway about a half-mile from the Miami Canal. We came out near where Mrs. Larrick lives today.

There were no houses there at that time but the Bolles hotel in Lake Harbor to see if they could find out. Mr. Lee brought one back to pick up his wife and small children.

I waded up the ditch from that house to Road 27 which was right where Mrs. Larrick's house is today which would be half way of the middle of section one. We were watching while the men were trying get the boat tied up so everybody could get in it. I heard someone call my name I looked up and saw my Daddy across the canal his arm in the air and he was glad to see me.

The men folks had waded out and gone to the Bolles hotel in Lake Harbor to see if they could find out. Mr. Lee brought one back to pick up his wife and small children.

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

What should you do if you're not welcome on vacation?

Chloe Bennet says she felt unwelcome when she visited Venice recently. And she had a decision to make.

"It was a combination of the high visitor taxes, signage prohibiting certain acts, such as sitting on steps or eating outdoors, and critical looks when I used English," says Bennet, an editor who works for an academic publisher based in Tampa.

The unspoken message was: My presence wasn't welcome."

Bennet didn't know what to do. And it turns out that a lot of visitors may be in a similar situation this summer. The most popular tourist attractions will be more crowded than ever, experts say. In fact, the Louvre -- the world's most visited museum -- shut down earlier this month after its staff went on strike, with employees protesting unmanageable crowds brought about by mass tourism and chronic understaffing. Meanwhile,

across southern Europe, there have been coordinated anti-tourism protests in Venice, Barcelona, and Lisbon.

"Bulgar destinations have a love-hate relationship with tourists, especially this summer," explains Susan Sherren, who runs the travel design company Couture Trips.

"They can't live without tourists funding their economy. But at the same time, local affordability concerns and overcrowding have skyrocketed, making the locals quite upset. I really can't blame them and would not wish that influx of humanity in my city." Should you turn around and go home?

So what should you do if you feel like people don't want you there? Turn around and go home? No. As it turns out, there are proven ways to defuse these hostilities and set your trip on the right track. I know because I'm on the road almost every

day out of the year, and I've had to deal with almost everywhere I go. In a minute, I'll share my secrets with you.

But first, let's get back to Bennet's story. She could allow the unfriendly looks and the high taxes ruin her trip -- or she could do something about it.

She decided to do something. "I had wanted to explore Venice for many years and hoped to bond with the city without feeling like I was disrupting its rhythm," she says.

"I decided to modify my behavior to improve the situation. Even basic Italian phrases like 'Buongiorno' and 'Grazie' made a noticeable difference when I used them."

Bennet also decided to support local businesses instead of visiting well-known tourist spots, and she stayed away from attractions

during peak times. "I noticed that locals became more welcoming when they saw my efforts to honor their cultural norms," she adds. Could it be that simple? Just stop acting like a tourist? Maybe. How to deal with feeling unwelcome when you travel.

Experts say you can avoid a chilly reception on your next vacation. But the time to start thinking about it is now.

"Feeling welcome as a traveler starts long before your plane lands," says Jessica Flores, chief experience officer for Tourism Cares, a nonprofit dedicated to advancing sustainability in travel and tourism industry. "The best way to ensure a positive experience is to do your homework before arriving."

Don't go alone. That's the advice of Diane Miller, a professor of organizational behavior at Carnegie Mellon University who has lived in Europe for the last 25 years.

"Travel with a local guide, if possible," she adds. A local will help you avoid the most touristy areas, the biggest crowds, and will help you have a more authentic experience. Also, there's strength in numbers, so travel with friends and respect local customs.

Respect the locals. Lisa Mirza Grotts, an etiquette expert who specializes in travel issues, says Bennet had the right idea. "Pay close attention to local customs and social norms," she says.

The visitors who get the cold stares are usually the ones who flout local practices -- speaking loudly in a country that values peace and quiet or wearing inappropriate or immodest clothing in a more traditional country. Make a personal connection. How do you do that?"

A few words in the local language, genuine curiosity about their culture, and adhering to community rules can quickly defuse tensions, explains John Rose, chief risk and security officer at ALTOUR.

"By remaining flexible, respectful, and informed, you increase your chances of turning a frosty reception into a memorable, positive travel experience."

It's true -- Americans who assume everyone else speaks English ranks as one of the top annoyances at popular destinations.

In other words, get some local advice -- and take it. And don't act like the place belongs to you (because it doesn't).

And how do I know that's true? Well, I've had some experience with this.

What I do when they tell me to get lost. You might find this hard to believe, but even journalists like me are often unwelcome in places we visit. (OK, that was a joke.)

I've always felt welcome in places like Turkey and the Middle Eastern Gulf states or the American South, which have long traditions of welcoming strangers. I've felt less wanted -- which is a polite way of saying I've felt unwelcome -- in places like Australia, Brazil and parts of the Caribbean.

The first thing I always try to do is understand why they dislike tourists. And usually, there's a pretty good reason, ranging from silly ("You drive on the wrong side of the road") to serious ("You've exploited my island for generations").

Rachel McCaffery, a sustainable tourism expert, recalls stepping off a cruise ship in Corsica only to be greeted by protesters. But instead of walking past them, she stopped and asked them why they were demonstrating.

"There were five or six enormous cruise ships that docked in their small town harbor every day," she says. "Turns out the continual churning of giant engines meant we sank the regularly billows into nearby homes, affecting people's health."

That was a classy move. You don't want to be grouped with all the annoying tourists -- you know, the ones that crowd the town square snapping selfies. It's the best way to set yourself apart with good manners and respect for local culture. So that's what I try to do.

My final strategy is the hardest: I try to return their rage with kindness. When they grimace, I smile. And when they ignore me, I lean into my politeness.

And it usually works. Thanks to these strategies, I have friends in some

of the least hospitable places on Earth. And you can, too.

Christopher Elliott is an author, consumer advocate, and journalist. He founded Elliott Advocacy, a nonprofit organization that helps solve consumer problems.

He publishes Elliott Confidential, a travel newsletter, and the Elliott Report, a news site about customer service. If you need help with a consumer problem, you can reach him here or email him at chris@elliott.org.

PROBLEM SOLVED

BY CHRISTOPHER ELLIOTT

Where's the refund for our Mexican vacation rental? I've been waiting for months.

After Betsy Webster cancels her stay at an apartment in Puerto Morelos, Mexico, she's offered a partial refund. But the money never came. What should she do?



Illustration by Dustin Elliott

Q: My husband and I reserved a room in the Layla Guesthouse in Puerto Morelos, Mexico, earlier this year but had to cancel for personal reasons. We canceled within the required time frame and requested a refund (minus a 6 percent cancellation fee) but have yet to receive it, despite assurances from the guesthouse that it was being processed. Can you help us? -- Betsy Webster, La Grange Park, Ill.

A: You should have received your refund by now. But I think I know the reason for your delay.

The Layla Guesthouse is a six-room boutique hotel that was in the process of turning itself into longer-stay apartments when you contacted me. Your refund may have gotten lost in the shuffle.

The guesthouse applies a cancellation policy that's similar to one of a cruise line or tour operator. If you cancel within 20 days of arrival or more, you'll get 94 percent of your entire stay refunded. (The 6 percent cancellation fee covers the credit-card swipe fee and currency conversion.) If you cancel between 19 and 14 days before your arrival date, you'll get 70 percent back. If you're between 7 and 1 day, it goes down to 25 percent.

You knew about these fees and agreed to them. In some ways, they are more generous than what you would have gotten with Airbnb and Vrbo. In other ways, they are not. For example, none of the other platforms charge you 6 percent cancellation fees.

I would normally say that you could have avoided this problem by using one of the vacation rental platforms, but I've seen more than a few refund problems with Airbnb and Vrbo. Companies are quick to take your money and slow to return it, regardless of company size. It looks like you canceled your reservation by email well in advance of your stay and received confirmation that the cancellation was being processed. You followed up several times, only to be told by the guesthouse that they were experiencing technical difficulties, then that your refund was being processed. However, you never received the money.

If a business promises you a refund in writing but doesn't deliver, you may be able to talk to your bank about a credit card dispute. A chargeback under the Fair Credit Billing Act would help you recover all of your money. A dispute department will view your email from the hotel confirming a refund is being processed as a credit memo and claw back the money.

After months of waiting, you contacted me for help. My team contacted Layla Guesthouse on your behalf. You also followed up with the guesthouse to press your case. Eventually, a guesthouse representative reviewed your case and issued a full refund.

Your experience illustrates the importance of persistence and following up. It also shows the value of a paper trail. By keeping a record of your correspondence with the guesthouse, you were able to prove that you had canceled your reservation and were entitled to a refund. In the end, your patience and determination paid off.

Christopher Elliott is the founder of Elliott Advocacy (<https://elliottadvocacy.org>), a nonprofit organization that helps consumers solve their problems. Email him at chris@elliott.org or get help by contacting him at <https://elliottadvocacy.org/help/>. © 2025 Christopher Elliott.

Garner

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

He had been looking for members of our family. He thought that we were all lost until he saw me. The Boots boys went to the Bolles Hotel. Daddy and I went back to the old Sebring Farm. We met Uncle Minor Thomas who had been searching for members of the family and hadn't found anybody. He had gone up in the attic of the wrong side out house as the water rose. It was big enough for him, brother and me to sleep up there as we always did.

The attic had broken loose from the house. He got out on top of it and it floated across the road and stopped. We sat straddle of it that night.

We then met up with Mr. Thirsk and the four of us searched around and didn't find anybody.

We went back to the old Bolles Hotel to spend the night. It was open to everybody who could squeeze in.

We went to sleep on the floor. Some of the women had beds, only a few beds were available, the men slept on the floor. We had to do with what little we had to eat.

Most of the crew that were on the construction job had survived and they had gone down and salvaged the canned goods that was on their cook boat, brought it back to the hotel and set up a kitchen.

They fed people with what little they could find. The caretaker of the hotel, which was being cleaned, had at first refused to let people come in. Someone had persuaded him to change his mind and when we arrived I did not see him around. I think he had been sent away. In the meantime some of the commercial fishermen got some of their boats running so they could go to Clewiston.

On Monday, after the hurricane, some of the men in Clewiston put boats together there.

Jim Beardsley and Dean Duff were among those who came out to check on everybody at Lake Harbor. They took some people back to Clewiston and brought back food. Mrs. Hamilton, who was the lock tender, took over the kitchen and tried to head things up at the old Bolles Hotel.

That morning after the storm, as people were grimly searching for the lost in the waters, old Mr. Callahan came out of his two-story house where he lived alone down below Lake Harbor.

The old house was about to fall down but it had somehow withstood the storm. The old man got out on the roadway and was walking along. He was so deaf he could hardly hear.

He saw everybody searching in the water but when someone said

something to him he would cup his hand to his ear and say, Eh?

Not being able to understand them. Finally, looking around, he asked, What in the hell is going on? They shouted, We had a hurricane, where are you going? He replied, I'm going down to the post office to see if I got some mail.

They told him, There ain't no post office, it's gone. Miss Maude Wingfields store and post office built out in the lake at Ritta had been blown away.

Even in face of such great tragedy there was the momentary relief of the comic.

Mrs. Hughes, the school teacher, and her little boy were among those who were lost. Mr. Hughes held on to his wife and little boy in one of the cypress trees out here along the old riverbed. They drowned in his arms. The wind and the water were just too rough.

He hung on to them and knew exactly where they were when it was over and got them out first. They were the first bodies to be taken to the boat-house.

We found all of our family on Tuesday. Uncle Mays and Aunt Berta were found up at Mr. Bishops farm but even though we looked we never did find their son and daughter.

All the bodies were taken to the boat-house of the Bolles Hotel. On Wednesday they were wrapped in sheets and put in pine coffins that the people from Clewiston and that area had sent in by boats.

All the dead were positively identified and their names put on the pine boxes. All of our family and everybody they had identified were taken to Clewiston on a large seine boat. On Wednesday night, the seine boat broke loose from the tug that was pulling it. It drifted into rocky reef, which is just out of Clewiston.

The boat was loaded with people and had to go on. We got to Clewiston and my daddy found a fisherman there who had his motorboat running and they went out and got the seine boat with the bodies on it and towed it in.

The pine coffins were then taken from Clewiston by trucks to Otona Locks under the supervision of Ed Frierson and Glenn Williams who lived at Liberty Point.

The cemetery was on the other side of Moore Haven. We buried the dead that night at 12:00 o'clock.

Later on my daddy went back and had cypress wood crosses erected. The name of each person was painted on with white paint. Daddy always kept the place clean and the markers kept up. In 1943 I put permanent markers there.

We came back to Clewiston that night and my dad left me to spend the night with Dean Duff, at his house on the ridge. My daddy came

back to Lake Harbor and searched some more for my uncles little boy and girl but he couldn't find them. He tried to salvage and save anything of ours that he could find. He came back the next day. The day after that my mother's brother (Joseph Loper) came in from Davis, Florida and my dad's brother from Belle Glade and we went with them to Hollywood.

We met my aunt Edna Drawdy, my father's sister, from Madison, who had come down before the hurricane to visit Rufus Thomas in Hollywood. They made a decision to send me back to Madison with Aunt Edna to go to school. My daddy returned to Sebring farm and Ritta Island to salvage what he could and start farming again. I stayed in Madison and went to school until about a month before school was out. My daddy wrote and said he needed me to help him on Ritta to finish up a tomato crop he had to harvest.

My Aunt bought me a ticket and put me on the train to West Palm Beach. My daddy picked me up there and I came back to Lake Harbor and helped him finish up what little farming he had to do and I went back to Madison the following years and came home every summer.

I graduated from Madison High School in 1935. I went to the University of Florida for three years. I had to drop out to help my daddy on the farm and never did return to the University. (Mutt) Thomas married Virginia, in 1941 in Allapatt, and they went to Lake Harbor where she taught school. The Lake Harbor hurricane dead who were found and identified were buried in the Otona cemetery. They were:

Susan L. Thomas-1895-1928
Wilbur E. Thomas-1917-1928
Mary Sue Thomas-1919-1928
John Bate Thomas-1925-1928
Annie Clair Thomas-1921-1928
Edna Louise Thomas-1927-

1928
Richard H. Thomas-1887-1928
Berta S. Thomas McCranie -

1928
Karl Hararech-September 16,

1928
Carrie Hall-September 16,1928
Virgil S. Boots-September 16,

1928
Madison Hall-1916-1928
William H. Boots-Sept. 16, 1928

Permanent headstones erected by C. A. Mutt Thomas in 1947 in memory of members of his family and others that lost their lives in the 1928 Hurricane.

(Mutt Thomas is the nephew of Mel Johnson, husband of Ovieda Hardin Johnson of Pompano Beach. Ovieda Family, The Hardins, were pioneers of Pompano, being among the first settlers in this area.)

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HEALTH

Simpler, less costly virus testing in high-risk settings



Screening for an immunological biomarker in the nasal passage can effectively rule out a respiratory virus — reducing the need for conventional PCR tests.

The COVID-19 pandemic yielded important advances in testing for respiratory viruses, but it also exposed important unmet needs in screening to prevent the spread of infections in high-risk settings.

While PCR (polymerase chain reaction) tests are the gold standard for detecting viral infections, they remain a challenge for screening large numbers of people in places vulnerable to outbreak — such as health care centers and nursing homes — due to high costs and the fact that different tests are required for each virus.

A new Yale study, however, finds that an alternate strategy — using a nasal swab to screen for an antiviral protein produced by the body as a defense against infection — can be an effective method for ruling out respiratory infections, limiting PCR testing only to those who are most likely to be infected, and at a fraction of the cost.

Most people aren't going to have viruses, so you don't want to do sophisticated, expensive tests for them. Ideally you want a simple, inexpensive test...

By comparing the results from both PCR tests and screenings for the immunological biomarker in more than 1,000 people (including children and adults, some who had a viral infection, and some who did not), the researchers found that using the less-costly screening test would enable a 10-fold or greater reduction in the need for PCR tests.

This new approach, the findings suggest, may offer a valuable strategy for managing outbreaks and for routine screenings to prevent virus transmission in high-risk settings, said Ellen F. Foxman, an associate professor of laboratory medicine and immunobiology at Yale School of Medicine (YSM) and senior author of the study.

"If you wanted to screen every person who walked through the door for every respiratory virus, it would be difficult and prohibitively expensive," said Foxman. "But we also know that in some settings with close quarters — like military barracks, health care and rehab facilities, or assisted living centers — an infected person who might be asymptomatic can spread the infection to others,

AI Tool Interprets Echocardiograms in Minutes

Cardiologists use echocardiography to diagnose a range of functional or structural abnormalities of the heart. Using often over 100 videos and images that capture different parts of the heart, echocardiographers make dozens of measurements, such as the heart's size and shape, ventricle thickness, and the movement and function of each heart chamber, to assess patient heart health.

A new study researchers find that an artificial intelligence (AI)-enabled tool can interpret echocardiograms with a high degree of accuracy in just a few minutes.

"Echocardiography is a cornerstone of cardiovascular care, but it requires a tremendous amount of clinical time from highly skilled readers to review these studies," says Rohan Kherra, MD, MS, assistant professor of medicine (cardiovascular medicine) at YSM and of biostatistics (health informatics) at Yale School of Public Health.

Kherra is the paper's senior author and director of the Cardiovascular Data Science Lab (CarDS). "We wanted to develop a technology that can assist these very busy echocardiographers to help improve accuracy and accelerate their workflow."

The researchers found the AI tool, PanECHO, could perform 39 diagnostic tasks based on multi-view echocardiography and accurately detect conditions such as severe aortic stenosis, systolic dysfunction, and left ventricle ejection fraction, among others. This study builds on previous publications, including a 2023 publication in the European Heart Journal, that demonstrated the technology's accuracy.

Greg Holste, MSE, a PhD student at the University of Texas Austin

including people at high risk from getting very sick from the virus.

"So the question was, how do you triage testing in these settings? Most people aren't going to have viruses, so you don't want to do sophisticated, expensive tests for them. Ideally you want a simple, inexpensive test that allows you to say, 'OK, you don't have a virus, you can go on your way,' and then focus further testing on the people who need it."

This strategy could have been useful during the early COVID-19 pandemic, when our hospital was sometimes testing 10,000 or more people per week.

First authors of the study were Julien Amat, a postdoctoral associate in Foxman's lab, and Sarah Dudgeon, a PhD student in the research group of Wade Schultz, an associate professor of laboratory medicine at Yale. The study also involved a team of other collaborators in Yale's Department of Laboratory Medicine.

For the study, the researchers drew on an observation made by Foxman's lab in 2017. In nasal swabs taken from patients with suspected respiratory infections, among those who tested positive for viruses with PCR tests antiviral defenses had also been activated. This finding, researchers concluded, suggested that the presence of these antiviral proteins might be a useful indicator of the presence of a virus.

In the current study, they focused on the protein CXCL10 (a cytokine produced in the nasal passage in response to multiple respiratory viruses) using 1,088 swab samples collected from COVID-19 screening tests or clinical settings in Yale New Haven Hospital. They then performed a series of analyses — including a comparison with test results from PCR tests conducted using the same swabs, and mathematical modeling to predict resource savings from using the test in different scenarios.

The biomarker performed well in predicting viral infections regardless of patient age, sex, or other demographics, Foxman said.

What's more, the research team utilized electronic records to evaluate those instances when the results from biomarker screening and the PCR tests did not align (when, for instance, the biomarker test was negative, and the PCR test was positive), and discovered factors that might contribute to the mismatches.

who is co-authorized by Kherra and is co-first author of the study, says, "We developed a tool that integrates information from many views of the heart to automatically identify the key measurements and abnormalities in a cardiologist would include in a complete report."

PanECHO was developed using 999,727 echocardiographic videos collected from Yale New Haven Health patients between January 2016 and June 2022.

Researchers then validated the tool using studies from 5,130 Yale New Haven Health patients as well as three external data cohorts from the Heart and Vascular Center of Semmelweis University in Budapest, Hungary; Stanford University Hospital; and Stanford Health Care.

"The tool can now measure and assess a wide range of heart conditions, making it much more attractive for future clinical use," says Evangelos K. Oikonomou, MD, DPhil, clinical fellow (cardiovascular medicine) and co-first author of the study. "While it is highly accurate, it can be less interpretable than the read from a clinician. It's still an algorithm and it requires human oversight."

While PanECHO is not yet available for clinical use, the paper discusses several potential future clinical applications of the technology. For instance, echocardiographers could utilize the tool as a preliminary reader to help assess images and views in the echocardiography lab. It could also be used as a second set of eyes to help identify potentially missed abnormalities in existing data bases.

The researchers also note that this technology could be particularly valuable in low-resource settings, where access to equipment

Self-deception: The hidden way you might be cheating yourself

People often cheat to win money, get prizes, or beat others. But what if there's nothing to gain except feeling good about yourself? Would people still bend the rules just to feel a bit smarter, more accomplished, or healthier? New research says yes — and shows exactly how and why they do it.

A study led by Professor Sarah Dommer of Penn State University explored how people cheat even when there's no reward beyond self-satisfaction. Her work explains that people sometimes fool themselves in ways that go unnoticed, even by their own conscious minds.

Cheating for Self-Worth

Across four different experiments, researchers found that people cheat not just for things like cash, but also for how they feel about themselves.

If cheating lets someone believe they're smarter or capable, that may not even recognize their behavior as wrong. They lie to themselves and truly believe their success comes from talent, not cheating.

Believing in your brilliance feels great—until you realize the shortcut you took shaped the story, not the skill.

This self-deception is called diagnostic self-deception. It happens when someone cheats, but then tells themselves the good outcome was due to their own ability. Even if it's clear they had an unfair advantage, they manage to block out that fact and boost their self-image instead.

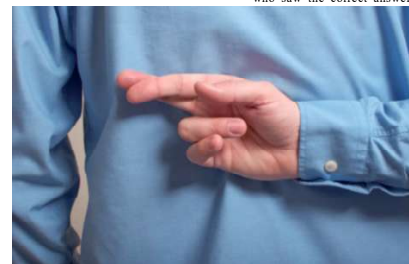
Dommer explained, "I found that people do cheat when there are no extrinsic incentives like money or prizes but intrinsic rewards, like feeling better about yourself. For this to work, it has to happen via diagnostic self-deception, meaning that I have to convince myself that I am actually not cheating." This form of cheating isn't always deliberate. It can happen under the radar, where people don't realize how they're skewing their own judgment.

The first study involved 288 college students who were shown meal descriptions and asked to track calories using a food app. One group received exact calorie counts. The other didn't, and had to choose from five different calorie options.

One example was a breakfast of pancakes and butter. The calorie options ranged from 300 to 560. Without clear data, many students in the group without calorie info chose the

lowest numbers. Rather than averaging the values or estimating honestly, they entered lower numbers,

after three minutes, giving those in the cheat group a way to boost their scores. Like in the earlier study, those who saw the correct answer



making it seem like they had eaten less.

This let them believe they were eating healthier than they actually were. Their cheating helped them build a better image of themselves without any outside reward—just a feeling of being more health-conscious.

In a second study, researchers gave 195 adults a 10-question IQ test. Some participants had a chance to cheat: the correct answers were highly highlighted. They were told to keep track of how many they got right and later report their scores themselves.

Afterward, everyone took another 10-question test where cheating wasn't possible. They also guessed how well they thought they would do on that second test. The group who had cheated on the first test gave themselves higher scores than the control group and expected to do well again. Their belief wasn't based on their actual skill, though—it was based on a false sense of confidence built on cheating. When tested without help, they didn't score as well, showing their true ability was lower than they thought.

The results showed how cheating can warp someone's view of their own intelligence. After doing well with help, they started to believe they were truly smarter.

A third test asked participants to unscramble letters to form real words. One version of the task had no help. The other revealed the correct word

ended up claiming they solved more words. They also believed the task was a good way to measure intelligence—and that their performance reflected their smarts.

They rated their own intelligence higher than the control group did. They thought, "I'm doing well because I'm smart," rather than admitting, "I got help."

Participants in the cheat group engaged in diagnostic self-deception and attributed their performance to themselves," said the researchers. "The thinking goes, 'I'm performing well because I'm smart, not because the task allowed me to cheat.' This shows how easily people reshape their thoughts to match the outcome they want."

The last experiment involved a financial literacy test. This time, researchers added a twist. Before taking the test, some participants read a statement explaining that most adults in the country cannot pass a basic financial literacy test. This small detail had a big effect.

By adding uncertainty—making people doubt their financial skills—it became harder for them to deceive themselves. They now cared more about accuracy than about looking smart. Cheating dropped. After the test, participants also rated themselves on financial traits like saving ability, understanding credit, and budgeting. Those who read the statement seemed more honest with themselves, showing that even a little doubt can reduce the urge to cheat

A new approach to Alzheimer's?



For decades, scientists have focused on amyloid plaques—a b o o r m a l clumps of misfolded proteins that accumulate between neurons—as a therapeutic target for Alzheimer's disease. But anti-amyloid therapies haven't had strong headway in treating the devastating condition. Now, researchers

at Yale School of Medicine are zeroing in on a byproduct of these plaques, called axonal spheroids, and exploring how to reverse their effects.

Axonal spheroids are bubble-like structures on axons—the part of

the neuron that sends messages

House Jameson Professor of Psychiatry.

"Our research introduces a new hypothesis that axonal spheroids are a potentially very important pathological process for the study of Alzheimer's disease."

Grutzendler. "We believe that targeting these spheroids could be an important future avenue for treating Alzheimer's disease by improving the overall electrical conduction and brain circuits—rather than just simply removing the amyloid plaques."

In order for such a therapeutic to be

through electrical impulses—that forth due to swelling induced by amyloid plaques. Previous research at YSM has shown that as these spheroids grow, they block electricity conduction in the axons, which can hinder the ability to communicate with other neurons.

In their latest study, this same team, led by Jaime Grutzendler, MD, Dr. Harry Zimmerman and Dr. Nicholas and Viola Spinelli Professor of Neurology and Neuroscience, and Prifit Cai, PhD, associate research scientist in neurology, used a novel approach to reveal the intricate molecular architecture of axonal spheroids. They also identified a potential target for reversing the axonal spheroid pathology.

And hopefully with that, we can improve neural function in the context of Alzheimer's disease.

The team conducted their study in collaboration with Evangelia Petralaki, PhD, of the European Molecular Biology Laboratory of the European Bioinformatics Institute and the YSM laboratories of Angus Naim, PhD, Charles B.G. Murphy Professor of Psychiatry, and Kristen Brennan, PhD, Elizabeth Mears and

day become a reality, researchers need a better understanding of how these structures form. In this paper, we asked the question, "What is a spheroid?" says Grutzendler. "In other words, what exactly are the mechanisms of spheroid formation?"

For the study, the team investigated the proteins within axonal spheroids to identify the signaling pathways and protein-protein interactions that are occurring throughout their stages of growth. The team's ultimate goal was to uncover underlying drivers of their formation that scientists could use as targets for halting the spheroids' growth.

The researchers introduced antibodies that bind to a protein the team had previously found to accumulate throughout the axonal spheroids. They then used this protein as a hub from which they could tag all of the other proteins surrounding it. Think of it as akin to a network of sprinklers that together cover an entire lawn.

The researchers used this technique to tag and catalog all of the axonal spheroid proteins in both human and mouse postmortem brain

The causes and complications of snoring

Nearly half of adults habitually snore when they sleep.

For some, it's not a problem. For others, it may affect the quality of their bed partner's rest. It can also be associated with sleep apnea, a condition affecting a person's ability to breathe and the quality of their sleep.

"It could be suggestive of something more going on," said Dr. Neerav Goyal, director of head and neck surgery at Penn State Health.

Snoring is caused by relaxed throat or nasal tissue that vibrates when it collapses while the body is horizontal during shut-eye.

"A lot of it has to do with how air flows through your nose and mouth," Goyal said. "When we sleep, muscle tone lapses and tissues vibrate much as a reed does when you play a musical instrument."

Those who sleep on their back are more prone to snoring than side sleepers because of how gravity collapses tissues and muscles in the airway. Sometimes sleeping propped up with a wedge pillow or in a recliner instead of horizontally can help lessen snoring.

For some, snoring is caused by a genetic anatomic obstruction such as a deviated septum, large tonsils, a floppy soft palate or a large neck circumference.

People with disorders such as cerebral palsy or degenerative diseases may be prone to snoring, because they have less muscle tone as-is. Medications (such as sedatives) and alcohol can also decrease muscle tone.

Those who are overweight or obese with a body-mass index higher

and self-deceive. Dommer explained, "How do we stop people from engaging in diagnostic self-deception and get a more accurate representation of who they are? One way is to draw their attention to uncertainty around the truth itself. This seems to mitigate the effect."

By adding uncertainty—making people doubt their financial skills—it became harder for them to deceive themselves.

Most people think of cheating as a conscious choice. They imagine someone knowingly taking advantage to win. But this study shows something else: sometimes, cheating is sneaky—even to the person doing it.

The research challenges the belief that all cheating is on purpose. It suggests that some people cheat almost by accident, especially when they want to feel better about themselves. "I don't think there's a good cheating or a bad cheating," said Dommer. "I just think it's interesting that not all cheating has to be conscious, explicit and intentional."

But just because it's subtle doesn't mean it's harmless. Fooling yourself about your intelligence, health, or financial skills can lead to problems. People may skip helpful tools or advice because they wrongly think they've done enough.

"These illusory self-beliefs can still be harmful," Dommer said, "especially when assessing your financial or physical health. When a person engages in diagnostic self-deception, they may underestimate products and services designed to help them. This is why it's important to be aware of illusory beliefs and strive to seek accurate self-assessments."

In other words, it's easy to fall into a trap where you believe you're doing better than you are. And once you believe it, you're less likely to improve or seek help.

Even when there's nothing to win, people may still cheat for money or rewards, but to feel smarter, more capable, or healthier. It's a quiet kind of cheating that hides behind self-confidence. That's what makes it hard to spot—and even harder to fix.

This research helps us understand why honesty with yourself matters. By paying attention to uncertainty, and by understanding the subtle ways your mind can fool you, it becomes easier to grow in real and healthy ways.

tissue. They discovered hundreds of proteins that were not previously known to exist within the spheroids.

The approach also highlighted multiple important molecular signaling pathways within the structures. One of these, a pathway called mTOR, is a key driver in cell growth and metabolism, was overactive in axonal spheroids. So, the team conducted an additional experiment in which they applied amyloid to neurons in a petri dish, causing them to develop structures similar to axonal spheroids in human and mouse tissue. When they introduced a pharmacological agent that blocked the mTOR pathway, the spheroids shrank. This held true in mouse tissue as well.

Paving the way to new therapies for Alzheimer's disease and beyond

Grutzendler hopes his team's dataset will spur further research on axonal spheroids. These abnormal structures are not only significant in Alzheimer's disease, but also other neurodegenerative diseases such as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and Parkinson's disease. Thus, future studies could lead to new therapeutic strategies for all of these conditions.

Grutzendler's team also has plans to investigate other signaling pathways identified in the study to further understand how to prevent axonal spheroid formation.

"We're moving in a more translational direction where we might be able to find very specific therapeutic approaches that will ameliorate the spheroid pathology," he says. "And hopefully with that, we can improve neural function in the context of Alzheimer's disease."

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side 25 may also be at risk, because they may have extra tissue and weight around the airway.

Others only snore, on occasion, when they have allergies or a cold.

Snoring becomes a problem when it interferes with someone's or their bed partner's ability to get enough restful sleep. In some cases, snoring is associated with sleep apnea, where a sleeping person stops breathing, oxygen levels drop and he or she awakens gasping for air, preventing a restful night of sleep. "If you snore and feel you are getting less restful sleep, it may be a good idea to see your family doctor about an evaluation for sleep apnea," Goyal said.

When snoring is caused by an obstruction in the mouth or throat, dental appliances or surgical repair of the soft palate may help.