





## Playing with Fire



On the last day in August, the people of Nejapa, El Salvador, pay bizarre tribute to their patron saint, Geronimo, by throwing balls of fire at each other in the streets. This state-sanctioned mayhem is over one hundred years old and commemorates the devastating eruption of the volcano El Playon in 1658, which forced the entire town to evacuate and move location. Legend tells that the eruption was the work of the devil, and Saint Geronimo fought back with his own balls of fire, saving the inhabitants of the town.

Today, locals prepare for the holiday by soaking balled up rags tied with wire in kerosene for one month. Once ignited, they easily burn, and when thrown, they spit bursts of flame through the air. The event looks like the game of dodge ball, except instead of balls the teams hurl fire at each other. (Naturally, they wear gloves.)

After night falls, opposing teams face off in the street with a crowd looking on. City officials start the fun by lighting fireworks, and then the two teams light their fireballs and, wearing thick protective gloves, throw hundreds of them at each other. In most cases, fireballs strike opposing team members, and the splashing kerosene explodes in a burst of fire. The streets surge with excitement and suspense, while onlookers shriek with glee and horror. Orange streaks arc through the air and flaming balls litter the street. As participants pick up fireballs with their gloved hands and throw them, it is easy to imagine Saint Geronimo battling the devil.

Understandably, slight injuries are common. Fire engines and ambulances line the streets in case things get out of hand. As the night wears on, the rules relax, participants get bold, and errant fireballs may leave the street and land in the crowd, but it's all part of the fun and excitement. Great balls of fire!

## Italy's Flawed Tower

Construction of Italy's famous Leaning Tower of Pisa began on August 9, 1173. It is the freestanding bell tower to the neighboring cathedral, and, of course, was never meant to lean. The tower first began to tilt in 1178. Its design was flawed from the beginning due to a shallow foundation set in weak and uneven soil. In 1272, engineers tried to compensate for the lean by building upper floors with one side taller than the other, but this caused the tower to lean in the other direction.

Multiple methods have been employed to fix the tower's lean, including the addition of lead counterweights and anchor cables. Finally, in 2008, soil was removed from its base and the tower stopped moving for the first time in its history, preserving its famous angle of 3.97 degrees.

## Boop-Oop-a-Doop

Betty Boop made her cartoon debut on August 9, 1930. The creation of animator Grim Natwick, Betty Boop was originally a French poodle. She didn't become fully human until 1932, when her poodle ears became hoop earrings and her voice adopted her trademark Brooklyn accent.



Although she was a star of the Depression Era, she embodied the carefree flapper girls of the Jazz Age. She earned an adult audience due to her cute and flirtatious personality. Oftentimes, the teenage Betty Boop was depicted defying her parents. She was a modern young woman who got herself in and out of trouble.

Betty Boop's popularity still continues today. She has made cameo appearances in modern newspaper cartoon strips as well as animated films. A Betty Boop musical is even in development on Broadway.

# THE FORUM AT MEMORIAL WOODS

## COLON AND RECTAL CANCER

### A Note from John...

It is amazing how quickly since I arrived at the Forum in April. The greatest pleasure has been becoming acquainted with each of you. You truly are what makes the Forum such a wonderful community.

A great many things are happening in our building that we feel will only add to your Forum lifestyle.

- 1) Plans are to paint and refurbish our buses.
- 2) A new pool maintenance company has been hired and the pool should be kept in good working order. We are painting and refurbishing the pool area including the dressing room. We hope to have this finished by our August 20<sup>th</sup> Luau.
- 3) The Art Room (516) will have a new look with improved lighting, work table, storage shelves and a mural for added interest.
- 4) Remember the greatest compliment one can give is a referral of a friend to The Forum. We are currently offering a \$1000 referral bonus. Please see Emily Collins for details.

As always my door is open and I am available to meet with you if you prefer a private appointment.

Sincerely,

John H. Moore,  
Executive Director



### Warning signs:

- Symptoms such as: persistent diarrhea, feeling of not being able to empty the bowel completely, an urgency to move the bowels or rectal bleeding
- Dark patches of blood in or on stool
- Long, thin "pencil stools"
- Abdominal discomfort or bloating
- Unexplained fatigue, loss of appetite and/or weight loss
- Pelvic pain-which is a late symptom.

### Risk factors for colorectal cancer:

- Those with a history of colon polyps, inflammatory disease of the colon, and cancers of the pancreas, breast, ovaries or uterus.
- Heredity: "as with any cancer, susceptibility to colorectal cancer is at least partly determined by genetic makeup."
- Smoking and excessive alcohol intake.
- Many studies implicate animal fat and protein especially when cooked at high temperatures.
- Do not assume rectal bleeding is caused by hemorrhoids. Your doctor can order tests to diagnose the cause of your symptoms.

Source: Web MD

Frances Barrelli, RN

### Fuel of the Future?

Biodiesel has been trumpeted as cleaner, more environmentally-friendly, and more economical than petroleum-based fuels. In an effort to spread awareness of this energy source, countries around the world have named August 10 International Biodiesel Day.



Biodiesel is an alternative fuel that utilizes natural oils from soybeans, peanuts, sunflowers, coconuts, palms, grapeseeds, old coffee grounds, and even algae. While biodiesel's greatest benefits may be yet to come, it was used as fuel in the 1800s. Rudolf Diesel himself, the inventor of the diesel engine, ran his first engine on peanut oil on August 10, 1893.