

# Don's Home News

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## Read All About It: Be Picky about Trusting Online Info

In the good old days, if you read it, you could believe it. Sources were checked, facts were verified, and anything appearing in print was more than likely true.

But that was before the Wild West days of the Internet. Today, anyone with an opinion – no matter how ill-founded or bizarre – can post it as fact.

“... (I)n the stepped-up competition for readers, digital news sites are increasingly blurring the line between fact and fiction, and saying that it is all part of doing business in the rough-and-tumble world of online journalism,” commented Ravi Somaiya and Leslie Kaufman in the *New York Times*. Universities are so concerned about the blurring of lines that they run courses to help students differentiate between fact and fiction. The Internet lists countless sites to help readers discriminate. You’d think people would be catching on, but they’re not.

In a recent Forbes article, Dan Ackman wrote: “According to a new survey, 52.8 percent of Internet users believe that most or all of the information online is “reliable and accurate.”

As Georgetown University warns: “Keep in mind that almost anyone can publish anything they wish on the Web. It is often difficult to determine authorship of Web sources, and even if the author is listed, he or she may not always represent him or herself honestly, or he or she may represent opinions as fact. The responsibility is on the user to evaluate resources effectively.”

So don’t believe everything you read. And remember, you read it here first.

## Are you missing the hot deals in your online searches for listings?

Most Buyers don’t realize that even the top public sites take up to five days to publish new listings, and most never report when a property goes under contract. In today’s hot real estate market, serious Buyer’s must have listing information immediately in order to have a chance at the hottest new listings.

If you are serious about your home search, I can help save you time and frustration. Email me today at [donzahnle@gmail.com](mailto:donzahnle@gmail.com) with “Help me with my home search” in the subject line and I will set you up with the tools to access the multiple listing service in real time just like I do. I can also notify you of hot new listings within minutes of them being entered in the multiple listing services. Stop wasting time. Contact me today at [donzahnle@gmail.com](mailto:donzahnle@gmail.com).

## Print Out Your Next Home in 20 Hours With a 3D Printer

Imagine building a custom home in less than a day using a 3D printer. Behrokh Khoshnevis, director of the graduate manufacturing engineering program at the University of Southern California, says it’s possible; soon you too can build a 2,500-square-foot residence in 20 hours using “contour crafting”, a 3D printing technique.

Contour crafting is an automated robotic building process that is stronger, faster, safer, cheaper, and more eco-friendly than manual construction, according to Khoshnevis.

Using this process, a massive robotic printer lays out concrete and interlocking steel bars to build a structure and then “prints out” the plumbing, electrical networks, walls and flooring.

The technology allows for unprecedented architectural flexibility, so builders can create unusual design features or unique footprints. “The walls do not have to be linear; you can make them curved simply by changing a computer program,” Khoshnevis said in a TED Talk. As he recently told CBS News, the technology is highly affordable and so versatile that it can be used to build homes in slums or areas struck by natural disasters ... even to construct human habitats on other planets.

Khoshnevis believes contour crafting will replace traditional building methods, making design and construction accessible and affordable for anyone.

With its myriad of applications, 3D printing will have a profound impact on virtually all industries. Currently, the construction industry is lagging behind, but for innovative architects, builders, and the real estate industry, technology such as contour crafting offers exciting possibilities.

# Do Words Still Matter? Try Tweeting Without Them

Google-search “crossword puzzles” and you’ll get more than 5 million results. Some 10 million people have downloaded Words with Friends, according to one word-lover. And Facebook Scrabble has more than 3 million likes. Despite, or maybe because of, technology, words still count.

Consider dictionaries. “My idea about dictionaries is that, in a way, their time has come,” noted the *Oxford English Dictionary*’s (OED) new chief editor, Michael Proffitt, in a recent *New York Times* article. “People need filters much more than they did in the past.”

Proffitt and his more recent predecessors have embraced the Internet instead of harking back to the halcyon days of the OED. Its third edition, now in progress, includes regular online updates and deals

constantly with all the new social media and tech words flying around cyberspace. “I want proof that it is of value to people in terms of practical use” Proffitt told the *Times*. Oh yes, Mr. Proffitt, it still has value. Imagine Scrabble or crosswords without dictionaries. Picture modern playwrights without sources for words. How else would we play Trivial Pursuit, for goodness’ sake? Why, it’s like Twitter without characters.

Language is nothing if not flexible. As a result of the OED’s decision to make “selfie” last year’s word of the year, even etymologists (who study the history and origins of words and phrases) are embracing flexibility. Meanwhile, other words are gone or going. Still, there will always be a standard. Otherwise, how would we know where and how to use phrases like, “for goodness’ sake?”

## Quick Quiz

Each month I’ll give you a new question.

Just email me at [donzahnle@gmail.com](mailto:donzahnle@gmail.com) for the answer.

Which writer said, “Where large sums of money are involved, it is advisable to trust nobody?”

## Why Not Pass Me to a Friend?

If you’ve enjoyed this newsletter and found its information useful, please pass it to a neighbor, friend or co-worker.

And if you have any comments about it, don’t forget to give me a call or send me an email!

## Are You Wondering How Much Your Home Is Worth?

Do you want to know how the price of your home has changed in today’s market? Do you want to know for how much other homes in your neighborhood are selling?

If you’re wondering what’s happening to prices in your area, or you’re thinking about selling your house, I can help.

Either call 404-939-1309 or [email](mailto:donzahnle@gmail.com) me for a no-obligation, professional evaluation.

I won’t pressure you into listing with me or waste your time. [Read about how I feel about pressure!](#) I’ll just give you the honest facts about your home and its value.

I’ll also give you the “inside scoop” on what’s happening in the housing market near where you live!

Call me at 404-939-1309 or email me at [donzahnle@gmail.com](mailto:donzahnle@gmail.com) and we will arrange a time to get together.

## Worth Reading

### How to Spot Fake Online Product Reviews

By staff writers  
*Realsimple.com*

How do you tell if online product reviews are legitimate? They’re sometimes written by ad agencies or consumers hired to give products good press. It only took a few moments to read this piece, which has been online for awhile. The video at the end simply restated the three tips in the article. But to see if I succeeded in using those tips in writing this review, you’ll have to read the article yourself.

**More:** <http://tinyurl.com/June-good-read-1>

### How to be Funny: The Six Essential Ingredients of Humor

By Eric Barker  
*Theweek.com*

As an audience member, you can easily believe that humor just happens. In fact, it takes hard work to produce a joke that feels spontaneous. This article breaks down six essential aspects of humor using the acronym THREES. A hint: It’s not all sweetness and light. T is for Target and H is for Hostility.

**More:** <http://tinyurl.com/June-good-read-2>

### Learn to Embrace Your Messy Brain

By Malcom Gladwell  
*Bigthink.com*

Creative people may have more than messy rooms; they may also have messy brains. Malcolm Gladwell thinks that’s good. He argues creative people should embrace their mental messes. Refusing to clean out mental trash isn’t a sign of laziness or fear. It shows imagination. Creative souls keep everything to see how they can use it. It’s a great trait for writers, but not for order-conscious parents.

**More:** <http://tinyurl.com/June-good-read-3>

# Compromise 101: Buying a Home with Your Spouse

Compromise is key to a successful relationship. But that doesn't mean it's easy, especially when it comes to buying a home with your spouse or partner. How do you strike a balance between each person's needs and wants?

To begin with, start with a plan. Have a frank conversation about what each person wants and needs: Detached or townhome? New build or old? What neighborhood? How much of a down payment? Work through these questions and put together a list of what you must have, and what your deal breakers are.

Look through home magazines together and watch real estate shows. Knowing each other's taste will help during the

search. But keep the focus on the way your home should function rather than décor or room color. Changing these are easy; adding a bathroom is more difficult and costly.

Nail down the financial details before the search begins. Order your credit reports and check for inaccuracies. In some cases, you may not want to repair a negative. According to a recent Forbes article, check with a mortgage professional to find out whether you'll do more harm than good paying off a debt.

Lenders will scrutinize both your scores. If one is significantly lower, it may affect your ability to get a mortgage. Don't wait for the search

process to begin before you start work to repair your credit.

The real test of compromise will start when the house hunt begins. Even if you stick to the must-have list, there will undoubtedly be homes that one partner loves; the other, not so much.

If you and your partner come to a standstill over a home, discuss why. Could some inexpensive changes make a difference?

Lastly, don't let pressure to buy override your opinions or your partner's. As this is the biggest purchase you'll make, you both should be totally comfortable with it, whatever it takes.

## Once Upon a Time – Canine-Style

Question: What has four legs, barks, and can help your child read? Answer: A canine tutor.

If your child is struggling with reading or behind in homework, there is a wonderful proven solution that works on several levels. READ, or Reading Education Assistance Dogs, is a literacy program that started in Utah with the goal of helping children develop their reading skills. Now the program, or a variation of it, has spread across North America, and it's likely available at a school or library near you.

The precious pooches help improve confidence and motivation to read, and are great reading buddies who won't bark back any harsh comments or criticisms if a child stumbles or reads slowly.

Best of all, you can try this at home – with your own dog. Simply make this a learning experience for both dog and child, and chances are they'll respond eagerly.

Feline-lovers haven't been forgotten; a similar program has been tried with shelter cats, and despite the challenge of getting the cat to focus, child and animal delight in the experience.

## Share Your Soda: WHO Would Approve

Don't gulp down that sugary soda by yourself. Split it with a friend.

Citing an increase in dental and obesity problems, the World Health Organization (WHO) is now recommending people decrease their sugar intake to no more than 5 percent of an individual's daily calories. That's down from a previous WHO limit of 10 percent, issued in 2002.

As well as table sugar, this includes

honey, syrups, fruit juices and fruit concentrates (but not fresh fruit), plus sugars added to foods in processing.

For an average adult, the new guidelines will allow for six teaspoons (25 grams) of sugar a day. An average can of soda is estimated to contain 10 teaspoons (40 grams) of sugar.

So, if you must pop a tab, consider sharing with a friend – or two.

## Ask the Agent: This Month's Question

### What household hazards should we look for when viewing a home?

By looking for the household hazards before you buy, you can save yourself a ton of headaches, not to mention cash.

**Mold** – High amounts of mold spores can lead to respiratory problems. But you can easily identify it and ensure it's dealt with before you move in. Note areas where mold could be a problem, such as water damage in bathrooms, kitchens, or basements, and condensation on the windows.

**Pests** – Mice, bugs, and other critters may carry disease and/or will chew through wood. Check for broken screens, holes, or cracks around windows and doors.

**Asbestos** – Most builders up until the late 1980s, or even later, used asbestos as fire protection. It's dangerous when it's drilled into or sanded. Ensure you know where asbestos may be in your home or consult with a professional before renovating.

To search for listings online click [here](#)

[www.donzahnle.com](http://www.donzahnle.com)

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2			5	1				6
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**Sudoku instructions:** Complete the  $9 \times 9$  grid so that each row, each column and each of the nine  $3 \times 3$  boxes contains the digits 1 through 9. Contact me for the solution!

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## Recipe: Barbecue Salmon with Ginger

### Serves 4

4 salmon fillets, skin on  
¼ cup soy sauce  
¼ cup sake  
¼ cup mirin  
¼ cup olive oil  
2 teaspoons sugar

### Garnish:

5 tablespoons olive oil  
6 shallots, finely chopped  
4 tablespoons peeled and finely grated ginger  
3 cloves garlic, finely chopped  
4 tablespoons soy sauce

Place fillets in a large baking dish without overlapping. Combine next five ingredients and pour over the fillets. Cover and marinate in the refrigerator for 1 to 2 hours, turning occasionally.

For the garnish, heat oil in a skillet and add shallots, ginger, and garlic. Sauté over medium heat until fragrant, about 5 min. Add soy sauce and stir. Remove from heat and set aside. Discard marinade. Place fillets, skin side up, on preheated, greased grill for 3 min. Turn and cook 4–6 min., depending on thickness. Spread a tablespoon of the garnish on top of each fillet before serving.

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