Ever see a fire truck in a parade without a Dalmatian in the seat up front or in the lap of a smiling fireman riding in back? Ever visit a firehouse without having one of those black-and-white spotted dogs come wagging up to you?

Why is that? Why do Dalmations and firehouses go together like smoke and fire? The answer is interesting, and one you’ll likely recall every time you see the Dalmation/firehouse combo from now on.

It all began in the days of stagecoaches. Horse theft was so common back then that many stagecoach drivers strung a hammock between two stalls at night, then slept behind their horses to guard against thieves.
**Financial basics for young adults**

Whether you’re just starting high school or graduating from college, the future seems like a long and open road. You’ll soon be faced with a number of important financial decisions. Get important tips and tricks as you begin your financial journey.

- **Retirement:** Begin saving early. Compound interest will drastically cut down on the amount of principal you’ll need to invest during the course of your working career.

- **Insurance:** Paying monthly health insurance premiums beats the cost of paying for a hospital visit without insurance. Just because you’re young and healthy now doesn’t mean you won’t need medical attention in the future. Take care of yourself.

- **Taxes:** Keep in mind how taxes affect your income. Federal and state taxes take a sizable chunk of funds from your paycheck.

- **Credit:** Your credit score affects almost every aspect of your financial life. Improve your score by paying bills on time, behaving responsibly with credit cards and proving you can pay off purchases in a timely manner.

- **Investing:** Putting money in solid, affordable mutual funds is a smart way to invest. If you’re unfamiliar with the process, talk to a trusted financial advisor.

- **Borrowing:** No matter how much you save, there will come a day when you need a loan. Consider the length of time, interest rates and whether or not interest is fixed or adjustable before you sign. The most important part is to make sure you can avoid financial strain while you pay it back.

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**Dalmatians Continued**

But, if the driver owned a Dalmatian, he could sleep in the house or the stagecoach hotel. Why? Because it was observed that Dalmatians formed an amazingly tight bond with horses. When they became close with a team, no stranger would dare lay a hand on them.

Once the knowledge of this trait spread, more coach drivers went to great lengths to get Dalmatians to watch their teams. In fact, this practice became so common that Dalmatians were first called “coach dogs.” They were used by coach drivers centuries ago in England, Scotland and Wales.

**A horse’s best friend?**

“Dalmatians have always gotten along well with horses,” says Esmeralda Treen of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, a recognized authority on the breed. “Horses are gregarious and feel the need for company. You can’t leave them alone too long. Dalmatians take to horses and become ‘companions.’” Back in the stagecoach days, the ‘Dals’ would run alongside the coaches, or under the rear axle of the moving coach. They’d keep up with the team as far as it ran, sometimes over 20 or 30 miles a day.

“When the coaches reached the inn, the coachman left the dog to guard the team as well as luggage in the coach,” Esmeralda explains. “If the coachman stayed to guard, a robber would sometimes distract him in conversation while others pillered the goods. They couldn’t pull that ruse on the Dal, since they’re very alert dogs.”

While horse numbers grew here in the New World, the number of Dalmatians grew with it for the same reason — they were popular in the Old Country. And, since every firehouse back then had a set of fast horses to pull the pumper wagon, it became common for each group of firemen to keep a Dalmatian.

Again, the spotted dogs not only guarded the firehouse horses, they kept them company during their long, boring waits between fires. And, when they took off for a fire, the dog would run alongside the pumper.

The horses are gone from the fire stations today, but the Dalmatians aren’t. The tradition has been carried on, and it may be as much for the looks and appeal of these beautiful dogs as it is for their nostalgic tie to yesteryear.

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**FUN FACTS**

During World War II, Dalmatians were used to carry secret messages and emergency supply kits.

Dalmatian puppies are born white, without spots. Spots start appearing when the puppy is about 10 to 14 days old, and spots continue to appear on the dog’s body as it grows.

George Washington, Benjamin Franklin and painter Pablo Picasso all owned Dalmatians.

Dalmatians are extremely smart, stubborn and may be easily bored. Like some children, they like to see how much they can get away with.
**FIRE SAFETY CHECKLIST**

Rabbits build their burrows with **TWO WAYS OUT** so they’ll always be able to escape if they sense danger. You need to be ready, too. You can do that by having two ways out of every room in your home in case there’s a fire. **NOW HOP TO IT and GET A JUMP ON FIRE SAFETY.**

Check out sparky.org for more fun!

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**QUIZ**

1. According to an NFPA survey, only ⅓ of Americans have:
   a. smoke alarms and a home escape plan
   b. developed and practiced a home fire escape plan
   c. smoke alarms in the bedroom
   d. an outside meeting place

2. If a fire breaks out in your home, you have ___ minutes to get out once the smoke alarm sounds:
   a. 30 minutes
   b. 20 minutes
   c. 10 minutes
   d. a few minutes

3. You should know at least _____ ways out of every room in your home.
   a. five
   b. four
   c. three
   d. two

4. All smoke alarms should be replaced every ______.
   a. 15 years
   b. 10 years
   c. 5 years
   d. 1 year

5. A home fire escape drill should be practiced at least how often?
   a. once a month
   b. twice a month
   c. once a year
   d. twice a year

6. If the smoke alarm sounds, you should do what?
   a. call the fire department and then leave the home
   b. get outside and then call the fire department
   c. remove the battery
   d. wait for the fire department to arrive

7. If you have to escape through smoke
   a. run as fast as you can to your way out
   b. crawl on your stomach to your way out
   c. get low and go under the smoke to your way out
   d. hold your breath and walk slowly through the smoke to your way out

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If all boxes have **YES** checked, your family is rabbit ready. If there are some boxes checked **NO**, ask a grown-up to help you fix the problem.

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**FIRE FACTS**

- One home structure fire was reported every 85 seconds in 2010.
- In 2010, U.S. fire departments responded to 365,500 home structure fires. These fires caused 13,350 civilian injuries, 2,640 civilian deaths and $6.9 billion in direct damage.

**Escape planning**

- Only one-third of Americans have both developed and practiced a home fire escape plan.
- One-third of Americans who made a plan estimate they would have at least 6 minutes before a fire in their home would become life-threatening. The time available is often less. Only 8 percent said their first thought on hearing a smoke alarm would be to get out!

**Smoke alarms**

- Almost two-thirds (62 percent) of reported home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.
- In fires considered large enough to activate the smoke alarm, hard-wired alarms operated 92 percent of the time, while battery powered alarms operated only 77 percent of the time.

**Cooking**

- Cooking has been the leading cause of reported home fires and home fire injuries since 1990. Unattended cooking was by far the leading cause of these fires.
- 90 percent of burns associated with cooking equipment resulted from contact with hot equipment or some other non-fire source.

**Heating**

- Heating equipment was the leading cause of reported home fires in the 1980s and has generally ranked second since then.
- The leading factor contributing to heating equipment fires was failure to clean, principally creosote from solid fueled heating equipment, primarily chimneys. Portable or fixed space heaters, including wood stoves, were involved in one-third (32 percent) of home heating fires and four out of five (79 percent) home heating deaths.
How to make a home fire escape plan

- Draw a map of your home. Show all doors and windows.
- Visit each room. Find two ways out.
- All windows and doors should open easily. You should be able to use them to get outside.
- Make sure your home has smoke alarms. Push the test button to make sure each alarm is working.
- Pick a meeting place outside. It should be in front of your home. Everyone will meet at the meeting place.
- Make sure your house or building number can be seen from the street.
- Talk about your plan with everyone in your home.
- Learn the emergency phone number for your fire department.
- Practice your home fire escape drill!

Memorize your fire department’s emergency phone number and write it here:

Use the space at left to create your home fire escape plan.

- Draw a floor plan or a map of your home. Show all doors and windows.
- Mark two ways out of each room.
- Mark all of the smoke alarms with Smoke alarms should be in each sleeping room, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home.
- Pick a family meeting place outside where everyone can meet.
- Remember, practice your plan at least twice a year!

Check out www.sparky.org for fire safety games and activities.

Sparky® is a trademark of NFPA.

Grown-ups: Children don’t always wake up when the smoke alarm sounds. Know what your child will do before a fire occurs. Get more information on smoke alarms and escape planning at www.nfpa.org/factsheets.

Bats have long been associated with Halloween but the connection is by far less ominous than some would suspect. Halloween’s origins are rooted in ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, which marked the final harvest (in Ireland, this happened on October 31st). Folklore states that this was the time of year when the veil between worlds was the thinnest, allowing the spirit world to intermingle with the living.

During Samhain, the pagan Druids would gather together around giant bonfires to ward off evil spirits. Attracted to the warmth and bright light of these fires were many small flying insects. Natural food for hungry bats. People saw the bats flickering in and out of the firelight during the festivals and they became a feature of Halloween lore.

The link between the bat and Halloween became strengthened with the discovery of the vampire bat in the 17th century. Tales of bats that drank blood had circulated throughout Europe for centuries before but it wasn’t until the Spanish exploration of Central and South America that there was physical proof. It was a natural association for a dark holiday, a creature that laps the life blood of its prey in the dark of night.
Managing your finances with technology

Technology is an ever-evolving resource. In recent years, we’ve seen online and wireless technology change the way we communicate, shop, travel, learn and even date. Pretty much anything can be done with your home computer, smartphone or tablet. This includes managing your money.

How we treat our finances has a direct impact on the way we live. Learn the basics about money at an early age to become more responsible and make smart financial decisions throughout your life.

According to a 2015 study from Pew Research Center, with the rising convenience of mobile devices, 92 percent of U.S. teens report going online daily. Technology provides people of all ages with an unprecedented global reach to information. Utilize innovation and technology as an incredible point of access to financial services and education.

Young people can start to develop smart financial habits now. Begin by using technology to become financially literate, make sound decisions about future financial planning and learn the fundamentals of our national and global economy.

BY GARY F. MCCracken
BATCON.ORG

A prominent part of modern folklore about bats imagines them as the transformed bodies or souls of dead people who are not at peace and who prowl the night sucking the blood of human victims: Vampires!

In Dracula, Bram Stoker not only coupled bats with vampires, but also coupled eastern European vampire mythology with a real person, Vlad Tepes (“Vlad the Impaler”), a Wallachian (Romanian) prince who lived from 1430 or 1431 to 1476. Vlad Tepes was the son of Vlad Dracul. The younger Vlad called himself Dracula (“Son of Dracul”).

During a period of bloodthirsty princes, Vlad Tepes was famously bloodthirsty, reputedly ordering the deaths of 100,000 people, many his own subjects. There is no evidence that Vlad drank the blood of his victims, but he was an expert at torture. During his life, Vlad Tepes had allegiances at various times with both Christians and the Moslems, with the result that he was distrusted by all sides. With the invention of the printing press, handbills and pamphlets recounting, and perhaps exaggerating, his misdeeds were widely circulated by the German press. Vlad Tepes became infamous throughout Europe — one of the first people whose image was made by the media. He came to the attention of Bram Stoker.

The existence of vampire bats was well known in Europe by the 1890s, but whether Bram Stoker knew of them or not is uncertain. Stoker may simply have borrowed from and given a new twist to the folktales that associate bats with death. We can be certain of two things: that the vampire bats of the New World never lived in Vlad Tepes’ castle and that vampire bats were not the source of Old World vampire myths.

Vampire Bat Facts

- The word “vampire” means “blood drunkenness.”
- Vampire bats are found in Mexico, Central and South America.
- They feed on blood from cows, pigs, horses, and birds. Though uncommon, vampire bats occasionally bite humans for blood.
- Vampire bats make a small cut with their teeth and then lap up the flowing blood with their tongues.
- These bats are so light and agile that they are sometimes able to drink blood from an animal for more than 30 minutes without waking it up. The blood sucking does not hurt the animal.
- Unlike some other species of bats, vampire bats can walk, run, and jump. They have very strong hind legs and a special thumb that helps them take off after feeding. Also, heat sensors on their noses help them find a good spot on an animal’s body to feed.
- If they can’t find blood for two nights in a row, they will die. Luckily, female bats can be generous. Well-fed bats will often regurgitate blood to share with others in exchange for grooming.
- Female bats in captivity seem especially friendly toward new mothers. After a baby is born, other bats have been observed feeding the mother for about two weeks after the birth.
- Vampire bats are the only known mammals that survive solely on blood.
- A vampire bat’s body is only about the size of a human thumb.
- A special substance in vampire bat saliva keeps blood from clotting.

SOURCE: kids.nationalgeographic.com
WORD SCRAMBLE

How many different words can you think of using the letters in VAMPIRE BATS? Try to think of words each using three, four, five, six letters per word.

1. __________ 11. __________
2. __________ 12. __________
3. __________ 13. __________
4. __________ 14. __________
5. __________ 15. __________
6. __________ 16. __________
7. __________ 17. __________
8. __________ 18. __________
9. __________ 19. __________
10. __________ 20. __________

WORD SEARCH

Find the 14 words listed below. Words can be vertical, horizontal or diagonal.

BATS BLOOD BONFIRE CELTIC DEAD DRACULA POLKORE HALLOWEEN NIGHT SAMHAIN SCARY SOULS SPIRITS VAMPIRE
CREATING AN ACROSTIC POEM

To create an acrostic, follow these five easy steps:
1. Decide what to write about.
2. Write your word down vertically.
3. Brainstorm words or phrases that describe your idea.
4. Place your brainstormed words or phrases on the lines that begin with the same letters.
5. Fill in the rest of the lines to create a poem.

V ____________________________
A ____________________________
M ____________________________
P ____________________________
I ____________________________
R ____________________________
E ____________________________
B ____________________________
A ____________________________
T ____________________________

Read Today News

The Read Today team is excited to start a new school year. To help kick off a great year ahead Read Today stopped by Mid-valley Elementary to celebrate a renewed three-year, $3-million grant that would supply tutors to students that need help with reading. The tutoring program will help thousands of Utah kids receive the mentoring they need to read at grade level. Governor Gary Herbert was in attendance and said reading is such an important part of education and it plays a huge factor in what we choose to do when we grow up. The better readers we are, the better jobs we can get and the more successful we'll be.
ELECTING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

According to the United States Constitution, a presidential election is to be held once every four years. The process of electing a president and vice president begins long before Election Day. Candidates from both major and minor political parties and independent candidates begin to raise money and campaign at least one year in advance of the general presidential election. In order to officially represent a political party, a candidate must be nominated by that party.

There are many factors that influence who will ultimately become the candidate for a party. The public’s perception of the candidates is influenced by such things as media reports, public opinion polls, candidate preference surveys and advertising.

The spring of an election year is characterized by intense campaigning for primaries and caucuses all over the nation. This process reaches its peak at the national conventions of the political parties. Once at the national party conventions, the delegates from the states cast votes for the person who will represent the political party in the November general election. In order to secure a party’s nomination, a candidate must receive a majority of the votes from the delegates. The candidate for president then must choose a vice presidential candidate.

If a president is running for re-election, this nomination process must be completed, even if the president does not have any opponents from within his own political party.

Once the national conventions have been held and the candidates from the political parties have been nominated and chosen, the presidential election begins in earnest as a contest between the candidates from the political parties.

Some people choose to run for president without being affiliated with a political party. Such independent candidates need not concern themselves with getting nominated by a party, but they must meet other requirements. For example, such candidates are required to collect a large number of signatures to support their nominations.

In this national presidential election, every citizen of legal age has an opportunity to vote. However, the president is not chosen by direct popular vote. The Constitution requires that a process known as the Electoral College ultimately decides who will win the general election.

The Electoral College is a method of indirect popular election of the president of the United States. Voters in each state actually cast a vote for a block of electors who are pledged to vote for a particular candidate. The number of electors for each state equals its Congressional representation.

After Election Day these electors assemble in their state capitals, cast their ballots and officially select the next president of the United States. Legally, the electors may vote for someone other than the candidate for whom they were pledged to vote. Generally, this does not happen.

The votes of the electors are then sent to Congress where the president of the Senate opens the certificates and counts the votes.

The president-elect and vice president-elect take the oath of office on Jan. 20.

SOURCE: bensguide.gpo.gov
You apply to and focus on one school at a time and submit more applications at a lower cost. A common application, which is the higher-education equivalent of a resume, is one way to find a school’s best fit. Pay close attention to each application deadline by at least a third of the time and submit more applications at a lower cost. A common application, which is the higher-education equivalent of a resume, is one way to find a school’s best fit. Pay close attention to each application deadline by at least a third of the time and submit more applications at a lower cost. A common application, which is the higher-education equivalent of a resume, is one way to find a school’s best fit. Pay close attention to each application deadline by at least a third of the time and submit more applications at a lower cost. A common application, which is the higher-education equivalent of a resume, is one way to find a school’s best fit. Pay close attention to each application deadline by at least a third of the time and submit more applications at a lower cost.
How to Decipher the Polls

During a presidential election race, the news media often become fixated not on the candidates’ ideas or their campaigning, but on the latest poll results. Here are a few things to keep in mind as you sort through all the numbers:

- Who sponsored the poll? Special-interest organizations often sponsor polls that are designed to place their issues at the top of the list of voters’ concerns.
- Who was surveyed? Was it all adults or just likely voters? All parents or parents of school-age kids? Such factors can have a dramatic impact on poll results.
- How were the questions worded? The exact wording of survey questions also can skew the results.
- When was the survey conducted? A poll is a snapshot of people’s opinions at a specific time. If one candidate is getting favorable attention in the news during the week of the poll, then the numbers are likely to reflect it.
- What is the margin of error? Typically, a reputable poll has a margin of error of 5 percent or less. If the margin of error is 5 percent and one candidate is ahead in the poll by 5 percent, then it’s just as likely that the race is a dead heat.
- Translation: If the margin of error is 5 percent and one candidate is ahead in the poll by 5 percent, it’s just as likely that the race is a dead heat.

Young voters still high on Obama

Voting-age Americans 30 and under give President Barack Obama high marks for his presidency but are not nearly as enthusiastic about the major party candidates vying to succeed him, according to a new GenForward poll of young voters.

Percentage who approve or disapprove of how Barack Obama is handling his job as president:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AFRICAN-AMERICANS</th>
<th>ASIAN-AMERICANS</th>
<th>HISPANICS</th>
<th>WHITES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Approve</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disapprove</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percentage with a favorable or unfavorable impression of Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Favorable</th>
<th>Unfavorable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>60%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33%</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percentage with a favorable or unfavorable impression of Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Favorable</th>
<th>Unfavorable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5%</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30%</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67%</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results based on survey of 1,851 U.S. adults ages 18-30 conducted Sept. 3-14. Margin of error is ±3.8 percentage points.

Source: GenForward poll

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