

5 THINGS TO DO

1 MEET

Iris Apfel Book Signing and Pop-Up Shop, Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens

Sip, stroll and shop for the holidays while Apfel, one of the most dynamic personalities in the world of fashion, textiles and interior design, signs copies of her new book, "Accidental Icon," on the main lawn of the gardens. The event is 3 to 4:30 p.m. today, 253 Barcelona Road, West Palm Beach. Nonmember adults \$15, seniors \$5 and children \$10, students \$7 and members and children under 5 are free. Information: 561-832-5328; www.ansg.org

2 SEE LIFE

Howl at the Moon, Delaplaine Preserve
This twilight hike will offer participants the chance to see the sunset and moonrise nearly simultaneously. The guided hike covers a quarter mile. Bring your own flashlights. The hike is 5 p.m. today, 6084 SW Gaines Ave., Stuart. Free. Information:



Singer-songwriter Jon Shain will perform tonight during MacArthur Under Moonlight at MacArthur Beach State Park. (PHOTO BY KIM HAWKS)

772-214-2790; www.martin.fl.us/EcoRestoration

3 HEAR THEM

A Rockapella Christmas, Parker Playhouse
This lighthearted yet unforgettable experience is packed with holiday cheer. The awe-inspiring five-man powerhouse will bring the classics including "Little Drummer Boy," "O Little Town of Bethlehem" and many more. The show is 8 tonight, 707 NE Eighth St., Fort Lauderdale. Tickets start at \$37. Information: www.browardcenter.org

4 SHOP

Holiday Craft Fair, Due South Brewing
Check out handmade goods by over a dozen local crafters and finish

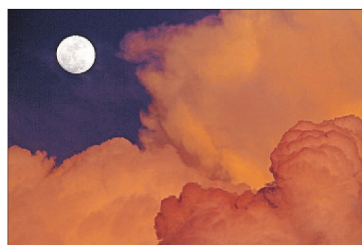
up that last minute holiday shopping while enjoying a beer. Attendees can buy beer and food from Savory Eats Kitchen. The event is 1 to 4 p.m. today, 2900 High Ridge Road, No. 3, Boynton Beach. Information: www.duesouthbrewing.com

5 BY THE LIGHT

MacArthur Under Moonlight featuring Jon Shain, MacArthur Beach State Park
This singer-songwriter has been turning heads for years with his fiery acoustic guitar work and music style, which combines improvised Piedmont blues with bluegrass, swing and ragtime. The show is 7 to 9 tonight, 10900 Jack Nicklaus Drive, North Palm Beach. \$5. Information: www.macarthurbeach.org



Head over to the Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens today for a chance to meet the one and only Iris Apfel. She will be signing copies of her new book. (PHOTO BY DANIELA FEDERICA)



Take a guided hike tonight through the Delaplaine Preserve in Stuart and watch the full moon rise and the sun set nearly simultaneously. (ALLEN EYESTONE/PALMBEACHPOST.COM)

The Patio Page

THIS WEEK: EMCEE RIVALRY

Answers to this week's puzzle can be found on D2

ACROSS	51 Common folks	114 Grotel's brother	11 Shikoku cash	53 Page of "Juno"	92 Wall — (financial district employee)
1 Moves like a dog's tail	55 Similar to	115 Metal source	12 Is no longer	54 Album's first hail	93 Nearly massless particle
5 Sicilian erupter	57 Actor Kilmer	116 Painter's undercoat	13 Here, in Le	56 Make — in Bagin (working on)	94 Lackluster entity
9 Not too swift	59 Beaver Clay, later	117 A Gershwin brother	14 Sandbar	58 "Grand" hotel	95 — boy!
16 Slack-jawed feeling	60 Riddle, part 1	118 Riddle's answer	15 Indian language	60 1983 comedy with Mr. T	97 Vie for the love of
19 Question to an unknown caller	69 PC combo	125 Sci-fi author	16 Public scandal	61 Gasoline additive	98 Lurches from side to side
22 See	70 Water, in Vichy	126 Email, e.g.	17 Like Afghans	62 Wading bird	99 For a spell
38-Down	71 A, in Italy	127 Some overcrowded houses	18 Act of boxing	63 Slickly	100 Generous type
23 Start of a riddle	72 Zip — "Doo-Dah"	128 Historic span	20 Clio — (Bic brand)	64 Label	101 It's west of Columbia
25 In favor of	73 Riddle, part 5	129 Smiled villainously	24 Drain-cleaning stuff	65 Color shade	102 Of the past
26 Downhillers, e.g.	81 Author	130 See	30 Quick rise	66 "Say again?"	103 Bustle (with)
27 — "haw!" (rocky yell)	82 Fall Classic mo.	131 Top of a car	31 Sewing case	67 Rock's Brian	104 Ski cottage
28 Magazine agent's success	83 12, on a sundial	DOWN	32 Baby buggy, to Brie	68 Boat mover	105 Like
30 Total failure	84 Small kid	1 It follows "I" in a URL	33 Talker	69 Like	106 Co's top dog
32 Riddle, part 2	85 Clorox, e.g.	2 "Feels so nice"	34 Fish in a Pixar title	70 Scoop	112 Half's pop partner
36 Fun — they drinks on credit	87 Having no	3 Loses one's hair	35 Doctors' go.	71 Say again	113 Slightly built
37 Title for Lancelot	88 Riddle, part 3	4 Not guaranteed only to float	36 With	72 Old lovers	114 Admiral Graf — (German warship)
39 Sleep study acronym	89 Riddle, part 6	5 Mermaid of song	40 Shad skin or feathers	73 "Say it —"	115 Mao — lung
40 Big vases	103 Gen. Lee's side: Abbr.	6 British prime minister May	41 1970s Chevy	74 — field	116 Mao — lung
41 Riddle, part 3	104 Half-gent	7 Small peaves	42 "Curse!"	75 Drifting sort	117 Mao — lung
49 Cab	105 End of the riddle	8 Enzyme-name suffix	43 Mouslike animal	76 English prep school	118 Mao — lung
50 Lovingly, to a musician	111 — Stone (heroglyphic discovery)	9 Transparent	44 1970s Chevy	77 Drifting sort	119 Mao — lung
		10 Dwells	45 "Curse!"	78 Drifting sort	120 Sugar-name

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#1,913

Average time of solution: 64 minutes

CAR TALK

This battery failure is likely due to bad luck

Dear Car Talk:

While on a trip through the Smoky Mountains in my 2016 Chevrolet Equinox with 39,000 miles on it, we stopped at the Newfound Gap overlook. When preparing to depart, my car would not start. Luckily, I was in a spot where I had cell-phone service, and luckily, I had OnStar — and especially luckily, they were able to determine my location through my smartphone. My car was towed to the nearest Chevy dealership, where they determined that my battery was dead. No warning whatsoever; the car is less than two years old and is kept parked in a garage when not in use.

The dealership where the car was towed to, as well as my local dealership, both said they just don't put great batteries in cars anymore. My local dealer said they even had batteries fail on new cars freshly delivered to them. Is this true of all new cars, or just General Motors? I'm nervous that this will happen again and strand me in my new car. — Judy

Car Talk:

We're glad you were rescued, Judy, and didn't end up passing through the digestive system of a black bear. But I'm not aware of any big drop in quality in new-car batteries, although the dealers may notice new-car problems before we would, since we don't usually see cars until they're out of warranty. Unless a battery is defective, or there's something wrong with your

car's charging system, a good battery should last an average of about five years. And even mid-range batteries should last three to four years.

So you may have gotten a normally adequate battery that had a manufacturing defect. That's not unheard of. It's also not unusual for a battery to die without warning. Sometimes you'll notice that the starter motor is cranking slower than it used to. But lots of people don't notice that because it happens gradually, or they simply don't care until the car fails to start.

Newer cars do use more power when they're just sitting — for things like alarms, emissions computers and wireless connections. So it's more common than it used to be for a battery to die when a car sits for a couple of weeks. That may be what the dealer is referring to in regard to new cars on his lot. But in that case, you'd just recharge the battery. You don't have to replace it. Your battery presumably could not be recharged. So my guess — and my hope — is that it was just bad luck, Judy.

My advice would be to do your research

when replacing a battery, if you have time. Sometimes you just need a battery right away — like you did — so you can't go to Consumer Reports online and find out what battery is best. And if the idea of a future battery failure really worries you, another thing you could do is take a jump pack with you when you travel out of town.

They now make amazing lithium ion battery packs that are the size of a small book and will fit in your glove compartment. Yet they're powerful enough to start most cars, under most conditions. They cost an average of about \$100. And if you take one with you (heeding the warning about storing it in a hot place), you should be able to overcome a dead battery, even in a remote location.

As a bonus, these compact jump packs also can be used to charge up your phone or tablet. So if you don't want to jump-start the car with it, you'll have enough power to watch an unlimited number of YouTube videos about automotive upholstery while you're waiting for the tow truck.

Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack Talk Cars, Car Talk Plaza, Box 3500, Harvard Square, Cambridge, MA 02238. We can't answer your letter personally, but will run the best ones in the column. You can also email us by visiting the Car Talk section of www.cars.com on the internet.