5 THINGS TO DO

1. **MEX**
   Iris Apfel Book Signing and Pop-Up Shop, Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens
   Stop, craft and shop for the holidays while Iris Apfel, one of the most dynamic personalities in the world of fashion, culture and interior design, signs copies of her new book, “Accidental Icon,” on the main lawn of the gardens. The event is 1-4 p.m. today, 253 Barcelona Road, West Palm Beach. For adults $15, seniors and older adults $7, students $3 and members and children under 5 are free. Information: 561-833-5281; www.anaps.org

2. **LIFE**
   Head West, Delaplane Preserve
   The spotlight hike will offer participants the chance to see the dunes and marshes nearby simultaneously. The guided hike covers a quarter mile. Bring your own flashlight. The hike is 5 p.m. today, 604 SW Garden Ave., Stuart. Free. Information: 772-214-2796; www.seminol. flsu.edu/illustration

3. **HEAR THEM**
   A Rockin’ Christmas: A Parker Playhouse-Produced Holiday Show
   This light-hearted yet unforgettable experience is packed with holiday cheer. The awe-inspiring five-piece powerhouse will bring the classics including “Little Drummer Boy,” “Oh Little Town of Bethlehem” and many more. The show is tonight, 7-9 p.m., Eighth St., Fort Lauderdale. Tickets start at $37. Information: www.browardtheater.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 Savoury Eats Kitchen. The event is 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., today, 3000 High Ridge Road, No. 1, Boynton Beach. Information: www.duensouthbrewing.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 heavy acoustic guitar work and music style, which combines inspired folk melodies with bluegrass, swing and ragtime. The show is 7 to 9 tonight, 1000 Jack Nicklaus Drive, North Palm Beach. $5. Information: www.macarthur-beach.org

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**The Patio Page**

**THIS WEEK: SCOTTY PARRY**

Answers to this week’s puzzle can be found on 8B.

**Dear Car Talk:**

While on a trip through the Smoky Mountains in my 2015 Claret Red Equinox with 30,000 miles on it, we stopped at the Natural Bridge 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 helpful, they were able to determine my location through my usual home phone. My car was towed to the nearest Chevy dealership, where they determined that my battery was dead. No warming whatsoever: the car is less than two years old and has been 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 we’re 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 definitely defective, it’s better to wait a few months before doing anything. Information: www.car-talk.com

**Dear Car Talk:**

I have a 2010 Equinox with 50,000 miles and it is running well. I just replaced the battery because the alternator was dead. But it will not start when I turn the key. It sounds like the starter is kicking but then dies. What is going on? — Ernest

**Car Talk:**

It’s possible that the alternator is not charging the battery. The battery is running down, causing the starter to try to crank the engine and the battery to just go dead. Information: www.car-talk.com

**Dear Car Talk:**

I have had two trucks that had died on me. In both cases, the battery was dead, but when I tried to start the truck again, the battery recharged. I was able to get the trucks started that day, but I replaced the batteries. When I try to start the trucks now, the battery does not recharge and I have to get a jump start to get the trucks started. — James

**Car Talk:**

It’s possible that the batteries were not fully charged when you replaced them. You may want to try a new battery to see if that fixes the problem. Information: www.car-talk.com

**Dear Car Talk:**

I have a 2001 Honda Civic that has a bad starter and I’m wondering if you could give me some advice on what to do. — Betty

**Car Talk:**

It’s possible that the starter is not working properly. You may want to try a new starter to see if that fixes the problem. Information: www.car-talk.com

**Dear Car Talk:**

I have a 2006 Honda CR-V that runs well but sometimes it won’t start in the cold. The battery is fine, but the alternator is starting to act up. What can I do? — Mary

**Car Talk:**

It’s possible that the alternator is not charging the battery. The battery is running down, causing the starter to try to crank the engine and the battery to just go dead. Information: www.car-talk.com

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**This battery failure is likely due to bad luck.**

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 which 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 battery packs that are the size of a small book and will fit in your glove compartment, or even in the glove compartment. 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 mishap stories while you’re waiting for the tow truck.

Get a question about cars? Write to Car Talk, 53 Devonshire St., Boston, MA 02109. Include your name, address and ZIP code. We can’t answer every letter personally, but will run the best ones in the column. You can also email us as visiting the Car Talk section of news.com on the Internet.

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