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SOLUTIONS

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Ask the Motor Medics®

Automotive Advice from The Under the Hood® Show

Dear Motor Medics,

I have a 2016 Ram 1500 truck with a small coolant leak on the passenger side head. It appears to be leaking right through the head and not from the gasket surface. Have you seen this before? My local shop tells me that I need to buy a new cylinder head and replace the gasket which will cost over \$3000 unless they find something else while working on it. The truck runs perfectly except for using about a half-gallon of coolant a week. What do you suggest for saving money. I don't have more than about \$1000 to spend to fix this truck currently and I need to keep it going.

Thank you, Jeff in Spirit Lake Iowa.

Dear Jeff,

If it is leaking through the side of the head and not a gasket area that means the head is cracked. Normally the only fix for this is to replace the entire cylinder head. Replacing a head will solve the issue of a crack but for leaks like this where money is an issue, on short notice we have used a product in our own shop many times called K-Seal. You add the product to your engine coolant and drive it until the leak has stopped. Don't mix it with other leak stop additives and don't flush it out. Just add it and leave it. We have seen some vehicles four years after using it that still don't leak so it may be your solution.

Take care, the Motor Medics.

Dear Motor Medics,

I have problems with my 2014 Toyota Tundra with a 5.7 engine and Flex Fuel option and I do use the blended fuel. When I fuel the truck, I will use anywhere from e15 to e85, and I fill it up when I get to about half a tank but sometimes top it off before I start my work week even if its just below the full mark. The dealer says it's the flex fuel alcohol reading in the computer that needs to be reset and I have paid to have it done six times already with a cost of over \$150 each time. What's wrong?

Thank you, Jake in Yankton South Dakota

Dear Jake,

It's not the fuel, it's the truck, but don't go buy a new one just yet. When flex fuel vehicles first came out, a lot of the computers simply watched the oxygen sensors for a major change in the fuel ratio caused by using a different blend of fuel and the computer would adjust accordingly. Then, they started using a special fuel sensor to read the fuel alcohol content directly and that worked well. Today, most vehicles have done away with all that and now just read the o2 sensors after refueling with at least 3 gallons of fuel. If you top off the tank it will skew the reading and lead to this issue every time. Only fill when you need to add 5 gallons or more.

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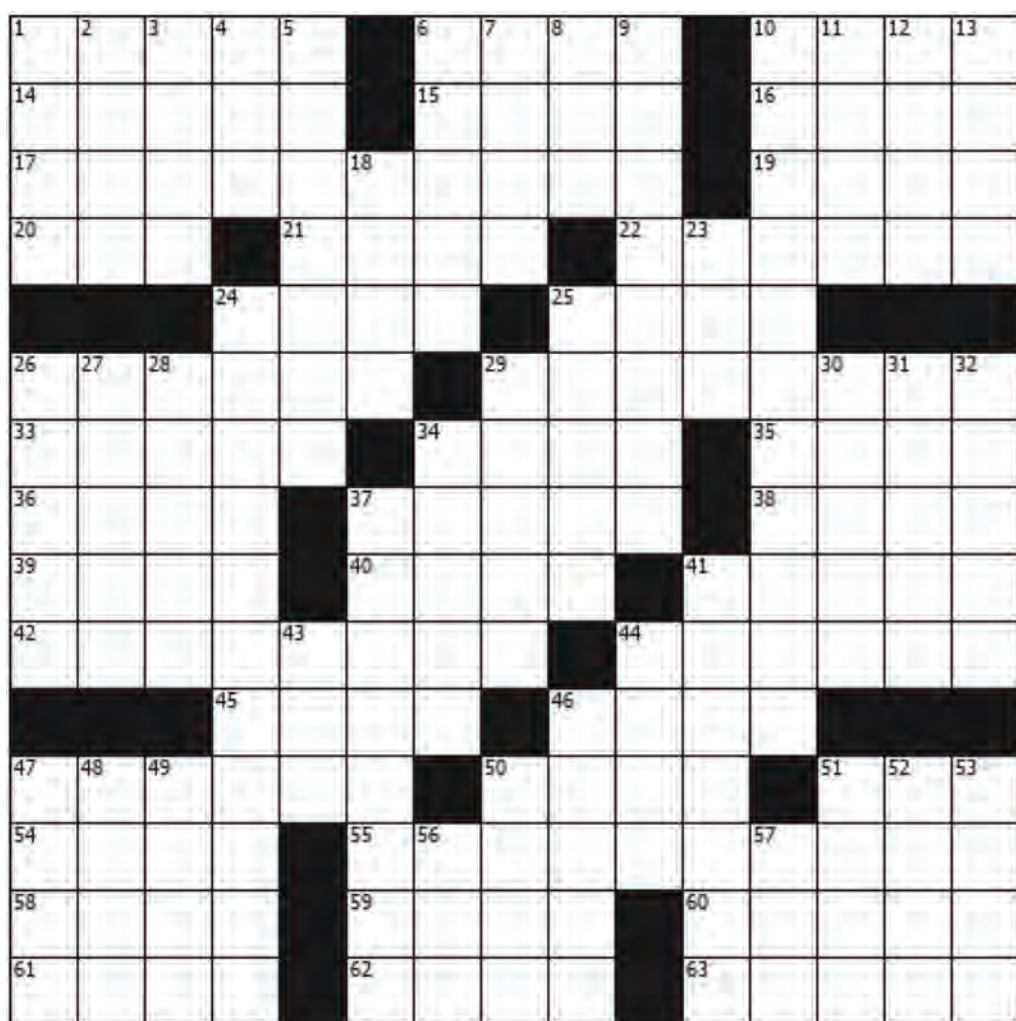
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Across

1. Valentine's Day figure
6. Store of ore
10. Meat-filled treat
14. Well done!
15. Place of bad fruit?
16. Euphemistic oath
17. Life of Riley component
19. It's frowned upon
20. Hyde creator's monogram
21. Forewarning
22. Alex Rodriguez, for one
24. Mötley --- of rock
25. "The Lugubrious Game" painter
26. "... but five loaves, and two ---"
29. Exceptional, as a restaurant or hotel
33. "Henry and June" role
34. On the house
35. Medical breakthrough
36. Julia of Hollywood
37. Vegas equipment

38. "Romeo Is Bleeding" actress
39. Dissenting one
40. They're on the books
41. Had a thought
42. At heart
44. Fable adjuncts
45. Stable fare
46. Make a sacrifice?
47. Development
50. Head for
51. Hatter affair
54. Impart
55. Fantabulous, as a hotel
58. Sometimes it's upped
59. "Battle Cry" author Leon

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



60. Spoliates
 61. Kind of employed "man"
 62. Duke's daughter
 63. Big Bertha's birthplace
- Down**
1. Radio-active one
 2. Russia's --- Mountains
 3. Make the grade?
 4. Princeton greenery
 5. "--- Claiborne" (1995)
 6. Where to wait for the Robert E. Lee
 7. Thor's lord
 8. Place for thieves
 9. Impresses, in a way
 10. Wimbledon venue

11. Awestricken
12. Malacca
13. "What died?" provocation
18. Stern competitor
23. Cakes companion
24. Spicy seasoning
25. Practices girth control
26. Capacitance unit
27. Totally pointless
28. Child's instruction
29. Show disapproval
30. Garth Brooks' hometown
31. Spirit of "The Tempest"
32. Lacerates
34. Imperfections

37. Suffering from spring fever, maybe
41. Mr. Peanut feature
43. "Can't Help Lovin' --- Man"
44. Not the finest dog
46. Dominating
47. Delighted
48. Las Vegas alternative
49. Clued in regarding
50. Part of a crossword puzzle
51. New Mexico artists' colony
52. Where el sol rises
53. Part of NAACP
56. George's lyricist
57. Alamos opener



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BRANDON VALLEY JOURNAL

The official paper of Brandon, Valley Springs, Rowena & Corson including Minnehaha County, BV Education District and the townships of Brandon, Splitrock and Red Rock.

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