

# Lifestyle

MONDAY, AUGUST 21, 2017

**Books to go:**  
Bringing literature  
to refugees  
stuck in Greece

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Runners participate in the annual Color Run in Centennial Park in Sydney yesterday. The Color Run is a 5km fun run started in the US in 2012 and is inspired by the traditional Hindu festival Holi, where people throw natural coloured powders as the seasons change from winter to spring. — AFP

## Couple's arranged marriage turned into 19-year 'love story'

David and Elizabeth Weinlick's life together began like a reality TV show, blossomed into two decades out of a romance novel, and now seems destined to end in tragedy. David Weinlick and Elizabeth Runze were strangers when they said "I do" in front of thousands of shoppers and in the national spotlight at Minnesota's Mall of America in June 1998. Now it seems the thing that will end what they call "our great love story" is cancer, after David was diagnosed with terminal and inoperable stage IV colon cancer.

They were brought together not by love or mutual attraction but by friends and family, whom David tasked with finding him the right bride. Nineteen years and four children later, it's obvious Elizabeth, or Bethy, was the right choice. The Weinlicks bristle at even the suggestion that their union wasn't meant to last ("It was a spectacle wedding, but not a spectacle marriage," David quips).



In this June 13, 1998 file photo, Elizabeth Runze looks up as David Weinlick says, "I do" during their wedding ceremony at Mall of America in Bloomington, Minn. — AP photos

"Basically, our fairy tale romance is being cut short by decades. We're hoping that we get Dave for another year. We'll be lucky if we get that," Bethy told The Associated Press.

The Weinlicks, both 47, will write their final chapter together in the mostly ordinary way their lives have unfolded since their unusual marriage. There will be family gatherings, a high school reunion, books to read and binge-watching "The West Wing." On Friday, they will return to the same spot where they were married at the Mall of

America to renew their vows - an event that will double as a fundraiser for the Angel Foundation, which has helped their family and countless others suffering from cancer with financial help and free camps for children. Their arranged marriage started with an offhand joke: David told nosy relatives and friends he would be married June 13, 1998, never mind the unknown bride. As the date approached, he enlisted friends and family to help find one.



They shot a commercial, placed advertisements and did countless television interviews, eventually soliciting inquiries from hundreds of women. David's friends grilled the applicants with questions. As the field narrowed to two dozen women, Bethy stood out to his screeners because she showed she was willing to build and work on a relationship.

They overwhelmingly chose Bethy, and the pair was married that day at the megamall, having met briefly just twice before - as Bethy picked up a questionnaire, then



David and Elizabeth Weinlick, poses for a photo at their home in Woodbury, Minn.

dropped it off. The commitment to a relationship that made Bethy David's surprise bride has also been the key to their long marriage, the pair said.

### A happy marriage

"Finding a good partner for life is about working with people as they are, not insisting that ... people have to be the perfect person for you," David said. "You're not going to find somebody carved in a statuary that's perfect for you." David was diagnosed in March, and the cancer had already spread to his liver. Bethy quit her job as a nurse soon after, while David had left his work for the state Democratic-Farmer-Labor party years earlier. After a few rough months, there's still plenty of laughter in the Weinlicks' house in suburban St. Paul - another key to a happy marriage, they said.

They're squeezing in as many laughs as they can, joking about who would remarry faster - David, because he would need his pants ironed - and recalling Bethy telling their growing children, two boys and two girls, now 8 years old to 16 years old, that "Daddy's friends picked mommy because she was the prettiest that day."

But Bethy can't help but cry as she pictures the unfulfilled future she had drawn up for them: building an empty nest when their youngest child leaves home or road trips on a motorcycle together. "The hardest part for me is knowing that there are going to be things that I'm going to miss about Dave in the future and knowing that there's nothing I can do right now to make up for that," she said through tears. "When our first grandchild is born, he's not going to be there. What would have been our 25th wedding anniversary, he probably won't be there." — AP

### Mystery surrounds a pair of false teeth strapped to a tree



A pair of false teeth have been found tied to a tree. Lois Salcombe, from Skegness, discovered a pair of false teeth inside a plastic food bag that was strapped to a tree as she was out walking, according to Mirror Online. The teeth were left with a note, which read "Have you lost your teeth?" but

there was no further information. Lois took a photo of the finding and circulated the picture on Facebook in a bid to track down the mystery owner.

### Father designs app to force teens to reply to parent's texts

A father has designed his own mobile phone app which forces his son to reply to his text messages. Nick Herbert, of West Wickham, London, was fed up of his 13-year-old son Ben ignoring his messages so much that he designed an app called ReplyASAP. According to The Sun newspaper, the app takes control of his son's mobile phone home-screen and sounds an alarm that doesn't stop until he has replied to the message. Nick said: "I'm hoping the app will make our relationship better. It will alleviate the stress when I can't get hold of him as I will know that he has seen my message." If the message is read, it alerts the parents but they also get a message if the phone has been switched off, which notifies them that the message is pending. At the moment, the app is only available on Android phones but it's expected to be rolled out onto iPhones. The app costs 99p to snoop on one person, £2.49 to track four people, £6.99 for ten people and £12.99 for platinum, which connects with 20 numbers.



### Bizarre News

#### Teenager's tan turns out like Nutella

A teenager looked like she'd self-tanned in "Nutella" after falling asleep with the lotion on. Alicia Bettsworth, 18, put three layers of St Moriz ultra-dark fake tan all over herself to try and get the perfect beach body look, but got a shock when she opened her Snapchat and her face resembled the color of the chocolate spread. The mother from Crawley, West Sussex claims she couldn't leave the house for a whole week because of the tanning fail. She told the MailOnline: "When I woke up the next day and saw what color I was I thought 'what the hell have I done?'" "Once I got over the shock I started laughing and thought it was hilarious. I looked like I'd bathed in Nutella." My



little girl looked a bit confused at first and then she burst into tears - she was probably a bit scared." Alicia said she ended up having a nice shade once it had faded a bit. She added: "I just stayed indoors and hid from the world. I tried to get it off in the shower it wouldn't go any lighter." "It was only a week later that I got a really nice tan from it, but in the meantime I just didn't go out."

#### Two boys allegedly ate £300 worth of food after supermarket lock in

Two young boys locked themselves in a supermarket and allegedly scoffed £300 worth of food. Police have launched an investigation after two 12-year-old schoolboys from South Lanarkshire hid in a Sainsbury's store in Kingsgate, East Kilbride, after closing time on Monday and allegedly gorged on hundreds of pounds worth of produce. After allegedly hiding in the clothing section supermarket, it's claimed the boys spent four hours roaming the aisles helping themselves to treats and goodies before being found at 2am by workers who were just about to start their early morning shifts. The children's parents were called and the police were contacted. — BangShowbiz