EARTH

NARRATIVES
FROM NEPAL

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ICE CORES AND TREE RINGS
RECORD PAST Eruptions

CONSUMER CULPABILITY
IN VOLKSWAGEN SCANDAL?

ISOTOPES TRACE ANCIENT
TURQUOISE TRADE

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Pipe Dreams: What Have We Learned From the Volkswagen Clean-Diesel Scandal?

It came to light this fall that Volkswagen had emplaced so-called defeat devices in millions of clean-diesel cars, thus allowing the cars to pass emissions tests but still drive the way consumers wanted. Many questions remain, but the scandal has already provided important lessons about consumer behavior, markets and the temptation to cheat in this new era of environmental anxiety. | Russell Gold and Michael E. Webber

Relief and Rebuilding After the Gorkha Earthquake

When a magnitude-7.8 earthquake struck Nepal on April 25, mountaineer Ben Erdmann was on a climbing expedition on Annapurna; meanwhile, seismologist Susan Hough and engineer Ajay Sitaula were at home in California and Colorado, respectively, watching the disaster unfold. Soon after, all would be on the ground in Nepal, involved in relief efforts or working to assess what happened — especially why the quake did not do as much damage as scientists expected it would. | Lucas Joel

Sedona: A Journey to the Edge of a Supercontinent

Built upon crimson slopes studded with junipers and towering pines, surrounded by soaring red rock spires, and encircled by 800,000 hectares of pristine national forest, the central Arizona town of Sedona is widely recognized for its natural beauty, diverse recreational opportunities, flourishing art scene and its role as a hub of New Age healing. | Terri Cook

We have many methods for measuring things — volumes, lengths, areas, for example — but we have only one system to measure time. It’s based on three astronomical cycles: a day is based on one rotation on our axis; a month is based on one orbit of the moon around Earth; and the year is based on one orbit of Earth around the sun. Our calendar has changed some over the millennia but has remained remarkably constant. | John Copeland
NEWS

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