

Your aneurysm was located in the abdominal part of the aorta. Here, aneurysms are much easier to detect. The doctor might hear a noise created by blood flowing through the dilated aorta, or he or she might be able to feel the pulsations of the aneurysm. Neither of these is possible in the chest section of the aorta.

You can't be so hard on your wife's doctor. His task was an all but impossible one. And I say this not in an attempt to clear a fellow doctor, but in an attempt to explain to you what happened.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: I have a yearly exam, with blood work done before the doctor's exam. He has the results when I see him in the office. This year, for the first time, he told me my electrolytes were fine. I thanked him. I have no idea what electrolytes are. Will you tell me?
— H.L.

ANSWER: Electrolytes are sodium, potassium, chloride and bicarbonate. They're called electrolytes because they carry an electric charge. Each of them has important and different roles to play in the body. They're involved in the production of the heart-beat, the transmission of nerve signals, in blood pressure control and the balance between the body's acids and bases.

The story of these minerals is told in the booklet on sodium, potassium and other minerals. Readers can obtain a copy by writing: Dr. Donohue — No. 202, Box 536475



Photo by Betsy Bethel

DRIVING TOWARD SUCCESS

Members of the Early Childhood School Readiness Committee with the Ohio County Family Resource Network delivered books and school supplies to Triadelphia Middle School in Wheeling last week as the result of a school supply drive and the Deb Allen Memorial Book Drive. Pictured in front, from left, are seventh-graders Jarred Biehl, Sherayle Baylor and Amanda Drahos with donated backpacks; and back row from left holding donated books are committee members Cheche Price, Michelle Harriman, Wendy Miller, Lisa Garrison, Dawn Didriksen, Candia Riddle, David Hacker and Claudia Raymer, FRN director.

to be there, but you will not travel on the same plane. Offer to pick her up at the airport when she gets in. If she doesn't show up, be sure to include her by emailing or texting photos of the dresses as you are looking at them. Call for her opinion on whatever plans you are making. Her level of participation is entirely up to her.

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "Michigan," who was upset when the restaurant owner took a portion of a tip left for the servers.

My son is a 25-year-old culinary school-educated sous chef with three years of experience. He has no benefits (not uncommon) and makes no tips. He and his co-workers make anywhere from \$8 to \$13 an hour. He loves his work, but lives paycheck to paycheck. A routine dental visit would be a hardship. Yet, when the waitstaff can pull in \$200 a night in tips, the cooks don't get a dime of it.

Isn't a tip a reward for the total experience — meaning both the food and the service? I believe a new way of thinking on this topic is way overdue.

— Mom Worried About Her Starving Chef Son

Dear Mom: In many restaurants, tips are shared between the waitstaff, cooks, busboys and other workers. Obviously, this is not the case in your son's place of business, but it's a common and practical solution.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please email your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 737 3rd Street, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254.

Reading Aloud Develops Love of Reading

When I was expecting my first child 28 years ago, I read everything I could about babies and

SCHOOL BELLS

Go!" written to be read to babies in utero (it's titled "Oh Baby, the Places You'll Get A Book to be room community, exposes students to books they might not dis-