



Phyllis Zalenski
Human Sciences Specialist, Family Wellbeing

800 N. Maple St., P.O. Box 28, Monticello, IA 52310
zalenski@iastate.edu • Phone: 319-465-3224 • Cell: 319-480-1106
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Estate Planning: Steps to "Get Your Affairs in Order"

Estate planning is important for everyone. A phrase often used to describe it is "getting your affairs in order" (i.e., taking the time to organize and pre-plan legal documents, financial accounts, property, and personal/medical data). Estate planning addresses three distinct events in a person's life:

- The transfer of wealth and assets after death
- The management of assets following incapacity or disability
- Decisions about end-of-life medical treatment and life support

Below are four steps to get your affairs in order:

• **Write a Will**- A will is very important for anyone who owns property. Without one, state law determines who will receive your assets. Wills should be updated as circumstances change. Wills should be witnessed and notarized at the time of signing so it is not necessary to locate the witnesses at the time of probate.

• **Designate an Executor**- An executor oversees the settlement of a deceased person's estate. There are two primary criteria for an executor: a person who is organized and efficient and geographical convenience, if possible. Naming multiple executors is cumbersome and time-consuming. A frank

discussion, instead, could avoid this dilemma. Another option is naming an attorney as executor.

• **Designate Capable Proxies**- A durable power of attorney names someone to manage financial and legal affairs if someone is unable to do so. A living will addresses end-of-life health care decisions. The person named as a health care proxy in a living will must be willing and able to be assertive about life support decisions with medical personnel.

• **Understand Probate and Non-Probate Assets**- Probate is the court-supervised process of identifying and overseeing the distribution of a deceased person's probate assets. Probate assets are those titled solely in a person's name with no joint owner and not held in trust. A will determines how they are distributed. Non-probate transfers include assets with named beneficiaries and assets held in a trust or in joint ownership with rights of survivorship.

An effective estate plan that includes the steps described above provides a framework for dealing with death and/or incapacity in later life. Don't wait. Plan your estate.

Information provided by Dr. Barbara O'Neill

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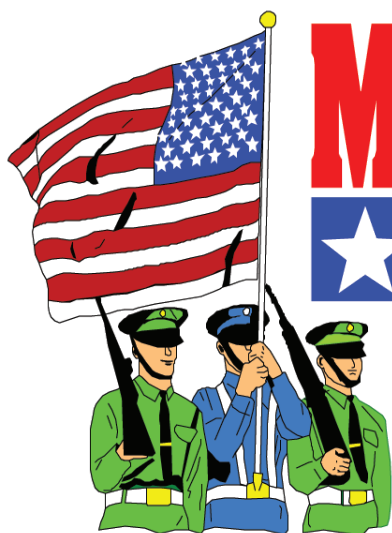
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<p>LaSociete 40 & 8 Voiture 632 Dubuque, County Ph: 563-590-1072</p>	<p>VFW Post 7896 Meeting 2nd Mon. 7 p.m. Memorial Donations Accepted Benton, WI 53803</p>	<p>V F W Post 508 3rd Tuesday 7 p.m. Denny's Lux Club 3050 Asbury Road</p>	<p>Dubuque Boat Club 2656 Lincoln Ave. Dubuque, Iowa 52001 Thanks for your Service!</p>
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KOVELS® Antiques & Collecting

By Terry and Kim Kovel

Regency style

Furniture revivals have taken place since at least the 19th century and probably earlier. New technology made earlier ornate styles easier and less expensive to make, and therefore more accessible to the average buyer. Some are difficult to distinguish from authentic pieces. If you see the word "style" in a description, it is probably a copy or revival piece, not an authentic piece from the period.

For example, this wine rack is described as "Regency style." It was made in the 20th century, not the Regency period, and it sold for \$813 at New Orleans Auction Galleries. The Regency period was from 1811 to 1820 in England, when King George III's son served as Prince Regent. The corresponding American furniture period is American Empire.

Both Regency and Empire were influenced by classical art of ancient Greece, Rome and Egypt. Mahogany was a favorite wood. This wine rack imitates mahogany with a dark stain on pine wood. The wine rack has a brass gallery on top and ring handles on the sides, features that can be seen on authentic pieces from the Regency period.

Q: I have an L.C. Smith typewriter, serial number is "1386874B." Are old manual typewriters worth anything?

A: Lyman C. Smith and his brothers made guns before they made typewriters. They started making a few typewriters in their gun shop after 1884. In 1887, they sold the gun business and founded Smith Premier Typewriter Co. in Syracuse, New York. It became L.C. Smith & Bros. Typewriter Co. in 1903. The company merged with Corona Typewriter Co. in 1925 to become L.C. Smith & Corona Typewriter Co. Personal computers replaced typewriters in most homes, schools and



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Although it was made in the 20th century, this wine rack brings Regency style into a modern setting.

offices beginning in the 1980s. Smith-Corona no longer makes typewriters; it now makes thermal labels. The serial number on your typewriter indicates it was made in 1937. Some old typewriters are collectible and sell for a few hundred dollars. A few rare typewriters sell for more than \$1,000. Many common old typewriters sell for \$20 to \$50.

TIP: To clean furniture, dip your dusting cloth in 1/2 cup of vinegar mixed with a teaspoon of olive oil.

CURRENT PRICES

Pottery jar, San Ildefonso, black matte, carved designs with inset turquoise, rounded form, Juan Tafoya, 5 1/4 x 5 3/4 inches, \$115.

Quilt, pieced, nine-patch pattern, 16 squares, each with nine yellow diamond patches, blue and yellow sawtooth border, white ground, Pennsylvania, 1910, 72 x 72 inches, \$260.

Daum dish, frog on a lily pad, pate de verre glass, irregular shape with figural frog on rim, green shaded to yellow to gold, marked Daum France, 2 3/8 x 6 x 6 inches, \$500.

Poster, travel, Meeting of the Chiefs, Native American man on horseback, rock formations in background, Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad Co., copyright 1949, 18 x 24 inches, \$620.

For more collecting news, tips and resources, visit www.Kovels.com

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An Uplifting Moment from Pg. 7 remind us that the ordinary is a necessary and significant part of life. When we allow God into our seemingly ordinary days, they're

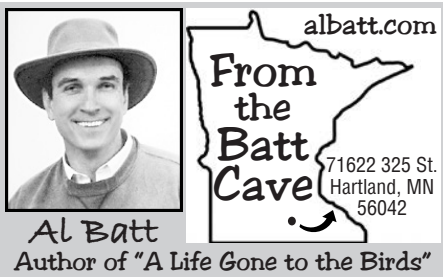
not ordinary at all!
"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters" (Colossians 3:23).

Social Security from Pg. 8 can receive Social Security benefits in addition to their military retirement benefits. For details, visit our webpage for veterans, available at www.ssa.gov/people/veterans.

Please share this information with the military families you know. We honor and thank the veterans who bravely served and died for our country and the military service members who serve today.

On the floor I am more at ease. I feel nearer, more a part of the painting, since this way I can walk around it, work from the four sides and literally be in the painting.

—Jackson Pollock



Al Batt
Author of "A Life Gone to the Birds"

Showing up and shining in the Show Me State

I didn't go to St. Joseph, Missouri, because Missouri loves company.

I drove along the edges of things, and the weather was kind enough that I didn't pack any puffy clothing. I joined people who live in a constant state of Missouri to watch basketball while increasing both my joy and my stress levels. Watching a granddaughter who is nothing short of outstanding is joyous, but it can be stressful. When I was a young fellow caught in mischief-making, my father would tell me I'd taken three years off his life. I figure Dad would have lived another 339 years had it not been for me.

Although basketball players aren't allowed to travel, the team still went to Oklahoma for three games in a state that considers the Lone Star flag of Texas to be that state's rating. It's illegal to serve pie without ice cream in Texas. Remember the à la mode. Then, onto Missouri. A poll done by real pollsters found most Missourians say Missouri-ee versus Missouri-uh. It's partly generational, as 16% of those polled who said Missouri-uh were 65 and older, and 3% of those who said Missouri-uh were below 29.

On my way there, I felt sorry for the workers in the auto plants who install turn signals that are never used. Vultures monitored the highways for food. Highway Helper trucks patrolled the highways in Des Moines, helping stalled vehicles and changing tires. To a vulture, a Highway Helper would be a Roadkill Hamburger Helper and barricade flattened fauna so a vulture could dine in peace.

I wasn't alone in my first hotel room. There were cockroaches. They're in every state. They scurried when I turned on the lights. I swatted one that crawled on me while I slept. I hadn't requested a wake-up call. There were no elevators in that hotel. That was OK. I take steps to avoid elevators. The stairs are always up to something.

Jesse and Frank James robbed banks, stagecoaches and trains, gaining national fame and widespread sympathy despite the brutality of their crimes. A fellow I talked to outside the Jesse James Home Museum reckoned half the people in St. Joseph claimed Jesse James in their ancestry.

Missouri's Governor offered a large reward that Bob Ford, a member of the James gang, wanted to collect. Ford shot James from behind while Jesse straightened a picture in the James home in 1882. Jesse James was 34. Some people believe Ford killed someone other than James in a plot to allow Jesse to escape justice. I might have seen Jesse driving a Ford pickup truck. He looked good for his age.

At the Patee House Museum in St. Joseph, there was an ad for Red Goose Shoes, "They're half the fun of having feet." In 1865, the owner of the Patee House, John Patee, was short of cash and meant to dispose of his \$180,000 hotel by lottery. He purchased the last 100 tickets to ensure all of them were sold, and when they drew the winning ticket, Mr. Patee won his hotel.

At the Pony Express Museum, the ad read: "WANTED YOUNG, SKINNY, WIRY FELLOWS not over eighteen. Must be expert riders, willing to risk death daily. Orphans preferred. Wages \$25 per week. APPLY PONY EXPRESS STABLES St. Joseph, Missouri."

A rider could carry only 20 pounds of mail. The maximum weight on a horse was 165 pounds. Models of a rider's boots were on display at the Pony Express Museum. The

Al Batt cont. Pg. 14

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Memories Passed On (As told to my grandson Maury)

by Jerry Eberhardt (1924-2017)

The Best Of Jerry
originally published
May 2015

"I Just Wanted Somebody to Talk to!"

A couple weeks ago, Maury, when Grandpa was having his weekly (and always very enjoyable) Friday lunch at Mario's with Duke, etc. someone brought up a name immediately causing me to recall this memory. The person involved has passed away years ago but this caused me to remember an incident that was both humorous and also "tugged at the heart strings."

When Grandpa had an office in downtown Dubuque, Maury, I parked my car in a commercial lot just a block away. Across the street was a barbershop. Because of its convenient location for me I became one of its patrons. This led to becoming acquainted with a shoe shine man who operated out of this shop. His name was Lester Gruie. Not only did I get a shine when I was there for a hair cut but I also popped in regularly to get a shine from Les once or twice a week. Les didn't have a "set charge." He relied on his customers to "pay" whatever they choose.

Here, I must explain, Maury, why Grandpa would get his shoes shined a little more frequently than necessary. It was because Les was a



**Jerry Eberhardt with
grandson, Maury Cohn**

"simple man" in the same way Tom Hanks played "Forrest Gump." (Your mom and dad will explain). As I recall, Les was on the job for about five years, over which time we had many short 'interesting and at times humorous' conversations. Then, one day when going for a hair cut, Les wasn't there. The barber told me Les had some health problems. A short time later I heard he was in a retirement home somewhere. What happened next, Maury, is why Grandpa has this memory.

Two months later I received a telephone call from Marshalltown, Iowa. When the operator asked me if I'd accept a collect call from a Lester Gruie, I did. Wondering why he called me, we talked for quite awhile. Finally I said: "Why did you call?" Maury, I'll never forget his reply. He said,

"I just wanted someone to talk to!"

Much love, Grandpa.

Al Batt from Pg. 13

boots could be worn on either foot. A sign indicated it wasn't until after the Civil War that people wore right and left shoes. Some dispute that. A cobbler in Philadelphia differentiated the left foot from the right foot in shoes in 1817. Others claim shoes made that distinction for thousands of years, but shoes fitting either foot were sometimes in fashion.

I visited Missouri Western

State University's Walter Cronkite Memorial, a tribute to the famed news anchor born in St. Joseph in 1916. He ended his broadcasts with, "And that's the way it was."

My granddaughter Joey, an All-American first-team player, was on the NCAA DII National Championship team.

There are two of me because I'm beside myself with joy.

And that's the way it was.

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1. GEOGRAPHY: The island of Ibiza belongs with which European country?
2. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of flamingos called?
3. MOVIES: What is the name of the island terrorized by a shark in "Jaws"?
4. U.S. STATES: Which state capital has the highest elevation in the United States?
5. ANATOMY: Where is the corpus collosum located?
6. LITERATURE: Who wrote the children's book "Where the Wild Things Are"?
7. TELEVISION: Which 1970s

- TV show had a spinoff hit with "Laverne & Shirley"?
8. MATH: How many sides does a dodecagon have?
9. ASTRONOMY: Which one of the planets in our solar system has the Great Red Spot?
10. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president ended the military draft?

Answers

1. Spain.
2. A flamboyance.
3. Amity Island.
4. Santa Fe, New Mexico.
5. In the brain. It connects the two hemispheres of the brain.
6. Maurice Sendak.
7. "Happy Days."
8. 12.
9. Jupiter.
10. Richard Nixon.

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by Ryan A. Berenz

1. In August 2023, the London Capitals defeated the London Mets to claim the championship in what baseball league?
2. Tim Grgurich resigned as head coach of what college basketball team after just seven games and a 2-5 record in 1994?
3. How many times was drag racer Doug Kalitta the NHRA Top Fuel season runner-up before he finally won a championship in 2023?
4. What Minnesota Vikings player set the NFL record for

longest kick return touchdown with a 109-yard score on the opening kickoff vs. the Green Bay Packers in 2013?

5. What two golfers made holes-in-one in consecutive groups in the final round of the 2004 Masters?
6. Who was the first American woman to win an Olympic gold medal in boxing?
7. What Iowa Hawkeyes women's basketball star surpassed LSU's Pete Maravich as the all-time career NCAA Division I scoring leader?

Answers

1. The British Baseball Federation's National Baseball League.
2. The UNLV Runnin' Rebels.
3. Six.
4. Cordarrelle Patterson.
5. Padraig Harrington and Kirk Triplett.
6. Claressa Shields (2012).
7. Caitlin Clark.

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Plant Talk

by Ken Resch



Building Better Gardens

"April is the cruelest month. . ." so starts T.S. Eliot's poem "The Waste Land." The lines that follow it are depressing in their upside-down imagery of what we typically think of April. Yet, those words crossed my mind many times this past April what with temperatures going up and down, cold winds blowing against newly emerging foliage, and even freezing rain nipping at tulips and daffodils. It's a strange start to our 2024 spring. In that regard, I want to pass along several ideas you might like to consider trying out in your garden or yard.

Some of you may be familiar with www.instructables.com, a web site where amateurs show, in step-by-step fashion, how to build whatever it is they've posted. My friend and fraternity brother Dan, has many instructibles related to our garden endeavors. I'm going to highlight a few of his along with several others worth considering.

Do you have limited space in which to plant vegetables? One of Dan's latest ideas is to grow squash vertically. Yes, rather than having yards and yards of vines snaking across the ground, use the space above the garden! Go to <http://www.instructables.com/id/Grow-Squash-Vertically/> where, in two easy steps Dan shows how to get the squash to go up.

By his own reckoning, "[my] vertical squash plants produced 51 squashes from just 12 square feet of garden space." If growing squash isn't to your liking, try gourds and then go to <http://www.instructables.com/id/Build-a-Gourd-Birdhouse/> to see just how easy they are to create. I've made many past gourd bird houses and I can confirm that birds do nest in them.

For those who grow pole beans or sugar snap peas or any

vining vegetable, you might like Dan's idea of a garden pyramid to add both function and interest to the garden. Yes, it may be easier to lash some poles together and use mesh, but this instructible looks to be fun to make. Look it up at <http://www.instructables.com/id/Garden-Pyramid/>.

Finally, I'm trying an idea I recently learned about from Dan B., a Master Gardener and now a friend I met in Missouri. We were visiting at my house which has a lot of wooded area around my house, and he asked me if I'd ever heard of "hugelkultur." With an obvious puzzled look, I pled total ignorance. The simplest description would be a mound consisting of logs and branches on the bottom followed by layers of organic material like grass clippings, pruned shrubbery, compost, and other organic matter. In Eastern Europe where hugelkultur originated, these mounds could be four feet wide, eight feet long and several feet high. Plants would then be grown right in the mound.

I'm taking a slightly different approach and building my mound with a 4 x 8 raised metal planter. My grandson has begun scouring my woods for rotting logs and deadfall while I've added various piles of compost and soil. Eventually this pile will be about 16" high and then I will add a planting mix bought in bulk from a local landscape company. I realize by description may be difficult to comprehend so I suggest you check out this link from the Vego Company where I purchased my raised garden. https://vegogarden.com/blogs/academy/start-your-hugelkultur-garden-beginner-s-guide?_pos=3&_psq=hugel&_ss=e&_v=1.0. Another excellent site that shows building a hugelkultur mound in a raised metal bed can be found at <https://www.news-herald.com/2022/04/05/hugelkultur-a-different-approach-to-raised-beds-mounds/>. In fact, if you simply type "hugelkultur" into your search bar and then click on the "Image" button at the top of the page you'll be able to see many visuals of hugelkultur beds. Whatever you may do, this spring, get out and try some new ideas to make your gardening easier.



The Garden Bug
Wild violets

If you choose to propagate wild violet plants, divide an established "clump" in spring or fall by gently separating the rooted stems from each other within the group, then replant them separately. Also, their seeds can be collected and sown in the fall, if you desire spring blooms. Other than watering following planting, and occasional watering throughout the growing season, wild violets require very little care. Their foliage is occasionally affected by spider mites in dry weather.

Brenda Weaver

Source: gardeningknowhow.com

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1. Name the non-Beatle musician credited on "Get Back."
2. Which group released "Long Lonely Nights"?
3. Name the Vikki Carr worldwide hit that was a translation from the original French version.
4. Which group was the first to release "Walk Away Renee"?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "I stood on this corner, waiting for you to come along, So my heart could feel satisfied."

Answers

1. Billy Preston, in 1969. The

and in the film "Siam" in 1998. Came from Hollywood" in 1982 used in the documentary "It and Juan, in 1961. The song was 5. "What's Your Name," by Don in 1967. Four Tops followed with a cover 4. The Left Banke, in 1966. The and Lebanese. languages, including German with translations into several the globe covered the song, His Star." A dozen artists around which translates to "Alone on original was "Soul sur Son Etoile," 3. "It Must Be Him," in 1967. The Clyde McPhatter, also in 1957. It was later covered by 2. Lee Andrews and the Hearts, in 1978. Lonely Hearts Club Band" film appeared in the "Sgt. Pepper's Billy Preston." Preston also citation reads "The Beatles with

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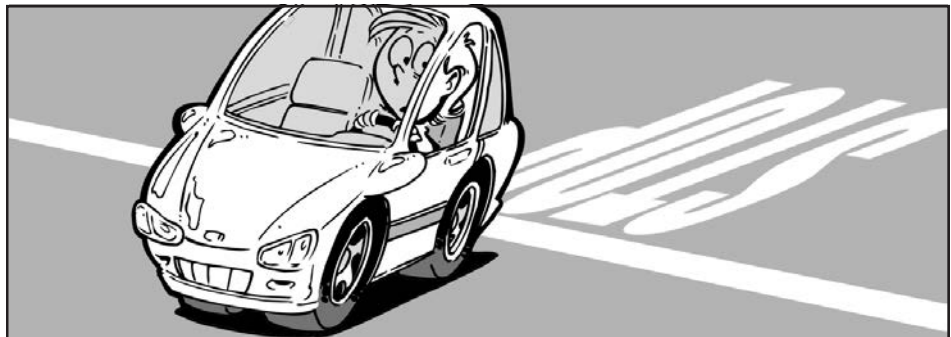
Radio from the 20th Century by Bill Zwack



William Conrad, actor, producer and director was born John William Cann, Jr., on September 27, 1920 in Louisville, KY. He was the deep throated, authoritative voice of Marshall Matt Dillon on the adult western *Gunsmoke* on CBS for the entire run of the series. Considered too stout for the TV series, however, some of the radio actors from *Gunsmoke* were considered but were voted out. For several years the network had wanted to develop such an authentic, honest sounding series. *Gunsmoke* seemed to fit the bill. Conrad, who was averaging 10 to 15 shows a week, specialized in drama with roles on *The Whistler*, *Romance*, *Lux Radio Theater*, and *Suspense* to name just a few. He was also the opening signature voice on *Escape* in the distinctive mode of Orson Wells.

at KMOC Beverly Hills. "I was fascinated with radio and used to hang around with a dear friend who was an announcer," he said in a 1969 interview. "He'd let me do a commercial every now and then." During WWII he worked for the Armed Forces Radio Service. After *Gunsmoke*, he filled the TV screen in titled roles in *Jake and the Fat Man*, *Cannon* and *Nero Wolfe*. His films included *The Killers* and *Sorry Wrong Number*. In voice-over work he was heard on the *Rocky and Bullwinkle* TV series. Conrad claimed once that he was on approximately 7,500 radio programs, not to mention the many TV series that he was part of. Because of his CBS contract, he sometimes appeared on shows on other networks under the pseudonym Julius Krelboyne. William Conrad died Feb. 11, 1994 in North Hollywood, CA.

The heavy set Conrad got his first paying job at age 17



If a car is traveling at 55 miles per hour, it will travel 56 feet before the average driver can shift his foot from the accelerator to the brake.

Down Memory Lane

Exerpts From The Pages Of "The Avalon" A Newsletter Of The Dubuque Packing Company

Baseball 1952

Baseball 1952



SHIPPERS (above) Back Row: (left to right) F. J. Hanson, "Red" Kelleher, John Tschudi, Wally Gau, Rich Jahn, George Jurisic. Center Row: Jim Schiesl, Norm Jotham, Bill Jotham, Dick Gilligan, Dick Zillig. Front Row: Walt Chapman, George Gantenbein, Tug Robinson.

BASEBALL

While our Packers baseball team capped its third straight Industrial League softball title earlier this month, the Dubuque Packing Company also boasts two other classy diamond aggregations — the Shippers and our Girls team — both presented in this issue. Congratulations to the Champion Packers and to our other teams. Our Dupaco girls team tied for second place in the Dubuque loop.



GIRLS TEAM (right) Back Row: (left to right) Manager Russ Gantenbein, Pat Hein, Pat Moore, Rachel Myrschalk, Betty Hoefler, Jean Ann Hoefler, Coach Louis Hanson. Center Row: Pat Mills, Sally Pfab, Joan Franzen, Joan Folsof, Beverly Foulks. Front Row: Grace Biehl, Dolores Sowie, Joan McDonald, Alice Schiltz.

VETERANS POST

by Freddy Groves

VA by the Numbers

The Department of Veterans Affairs has been going all out to provide expanded access to care to veterans. They're calling it Access Sprints, and it means they're scheduling more appointments at night and on weekends, as well as scheduling more veterans into their daily schedule.

The effort seems to be showing progress. Just this year so far the VA has had 25,000 more new patients than they did during the same period last year. Appointments increased by 11%.

Per the stats, 12% fewer new patients had to wait over 20 to 28 days to get an appointment, and 14% fewer new patients are having to wait to see community providers because of wait time eligibility.

This is on top of the care they provided in 2023 in over 116 million appointments.

Other 2023 stats are equally impressive. The crisis line took over 1 millions calls, over 33,000

veterans received emergency care in suicide crises and 5.5 million dental procedures were completed for over 560,000 patients.

Nearly 5 million veterans were screened for toxin exposure, an important step in monitoring their health. (As of March 5, 2024, veterans exposed to toxins and meeting other requirements have become eligible for VA health care, even before enrolling for other VA benefits. This means those who were in the Vietnam War, Gulf War, Iraq, Afghanistan, the Global War on Terror or any other combat zone since Sept. 11. Any who weren't deployed but who trained and were exposed here in the U.S. are included in eligibility.)

Even the non-medical efforts saw success: Ten million veterans have individual pages in the online digital Veterans Legacy Memorial website, with over 5 million of those being created in the last year, and 5.6 million policyholders got life insurance coverage.

The VA was able to hire over 61,000 staffers to provide care to the increased number of veterans seeking health care, bringing the total to over 400,000.

Not a bad year for the VA ... and veterans.

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SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

What Seniors Worry About

It's very helpful to have friends and acquaintances scattered across the country when I need to do another informal poll. This time my questions to them concerned what seniors worry about.

I got them started with a list of suggestions on a page, to be ranked in order, with a blank place under each one for comments, and space below for their own contributions.

And I wasn't surprised.

The number one concern was about money. Is there enough to last the rest of our life? Will grocery prices ever come down again? We're concerned about having to go back to work to keep from burning through our savings, running up medical bills, losing the house because of not being able to pay the mortgage and having the rent raised to an

amount we can't pay.

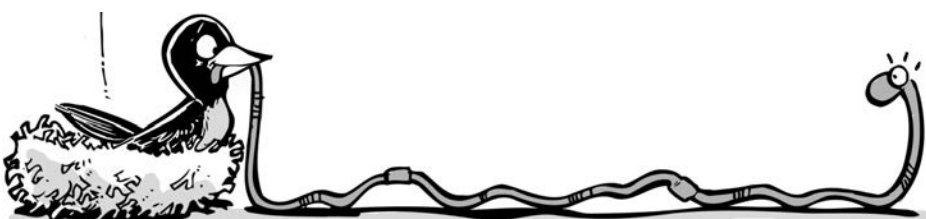
Health was the second biggest concern, with loss of independence topping that list. We fear getting dementia, losing muscle strength, falling and breaking a limb, having to go into the hospital or rehab for an extended stay, catching Covid or a bad flu. This was a very long list with everyone adding comments.

Concerns about safety was surprisingly high in the rankings. We worry about crime on the streets, not being able to trust our financial advisers and that we might need to give up driving.

Other topics ranked lower, but they're concerns just the same. We worry about identity theft and not being able to recover from it if we lose money. Tied with that are concerns that we might not recognize scams. We worry about needing to ask others for help with things we used to be able to do.

But the one topic that garnered the most comments was loneliness. We fear losing all our friends when they die. We fear being the last one standing.

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Stanley 55 Combination Plane

The Stanley No. 55 Combination Plane is a versatile woodworking tool manufactured by the Stanley Rule & Level Company. It's a multifunctional hand plane that can perform the tasks of many different specialized planes, such as dado planes, plow planes, rabbet planes, and more.



Introduced in the late 19th century, the Stanley No. 55 was part of a line of combination planes that were popular among carpenters and woodworkers because they offered a wide range of cutting capabilities in a single tool. These planes typically came with various blades, cutters, and accessories that could be configured in different ways to perform different tasks.

Collectors and woodworking enthusiasts often seek out the Stanley No. 55 and other vintage combination planes for their historical significance and practical usefulness in traditional woodworking. Many of our clients are finding antique woodworking tools hiding in their garage, or workshop. We have had many opportunities over the years to work with and find value for our clients by selling their items on eBay. This No. 55 Plane sold on eBay for \$281.25.

Contract Bridge

SLOW — DANGER AHEAD

South dealer.

Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ A K 5
 ♥ 8 7 6 5
 ♦ K J
 ♣ Q 8 7 6

WEST

♠ 2
 ♥ K 10 9
 ♦ 8 6 5 4 3
 ♣ A K 10 2

EAST

♠ 8 6 3
 ♥ 3
 ♦ A Q 9 7 2
 ♣ J 9 5 4

SOUTH

♠ Q J 10 9 7 4
 ♥ A Q J 4 2
 ♦ 10
 ♣ 3

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	4 ♥	

Opening lead — king of clubs.

Some plays in bridge are not seen very often, largely because the opportunity to use them is relatively rare. But when they arise, they can spell the difference between success and failure, so the conscientious player must continuously be on the lookout for them.

Take this case from a team-of-four match. At both tables South got to four hearts and West led the king of clubs. This was followed at each table by a spade shift at trick two.

At the first table, declarer won the spade with dummy's king and, in an attempt to reduce the possibility of a spade ruff, led a heart to the ace and continued with the jack.

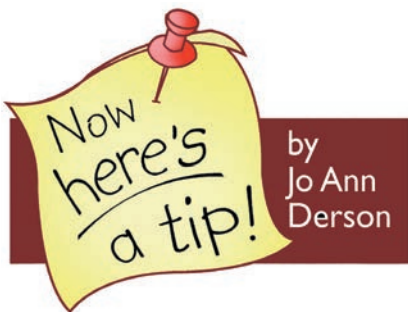
This approach failed to produce the desired result when West took the jack with the king and shifted to a diamond. Declarer put up dummy's king, but East won with the ace and returned a spade, ruffed by West, so the contract went down one.

At the second table, West's spade shift at trick two was also taken in dummy, but South found a superior line of play that enabled him to make the contract. At trick three, he led the queen of clubs from dummy and, after East followed low, discarded the ten of diamonds!

West took the queen with the ace and switched to a diamond, but the bird had by this time flown the coop. South ruffed, played the ace and queen of hearts and easily scored the rest of the tricks. He had executed a "scissors coup" — a play designed to cut communications between the defenders in order to defuse an impending threat.

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by Steve Becker



• A topcoat a day keeps the manicurist away! Revive your polish by giving the ends a quick coat of clear topcoat daily to extend the life of your manicure.

• "I like to cut out and save comic strips. I used to put them in photo albums with the plastic sleeves, but the pages were a little small. Now I use scrapbook pages, which are much wider. I just glue them to a coordinating color paper. They look much nicer, too." — *A reader in Virginia*

• The hardware on my favorite purse started to look very banged up and flaking. I found a silver leaf pen at the craft store, and it was very easy to spruce my bag up again.

• To keep spring boots looking tall and smelling pretty good, loosely roll a thin stack of newspaper, stick it down the leg portion of your boot, then fill it with a stack of balled-up newspapers. It will support the leg, which will not flop over, causing cracks. And the newspaper absorbs any smells.

• If you have trapped hairs, try this trick: Wet an old, clean toothbrush and dip it in baking soda or body scrub. Gently exfoliate the area once a day for several days, and it should work itself right out.

• Bar soap is much more concentrated and eco-friendly than liquid body washes. These days, they are just as moisturizing as any liquid soap. Look for ingredients like shea butter or the words "ultra-moisturizing" and "added emollients."

Send your tips to **Now Here's a Tip**, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

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Zap Popcorn in the Microwave for Healthy Snacking Anytime

Just about everyone loves popcorn, right? Whether you're outdoors at a ballgame, at the zoo, or at a neighborhood park concert, it's portable and easy to take wherever you go. When you settle into a theater seat, popcorn and a movie naturally go better together.

When I crave a snack in the midafternoon, a bowl of popcorn is a favorite. It's low in calories and tastes great, so what's not to like? And it's a casual welcome treat for anyone who stops by, even the neighbor kids! They happily grab a handful after school and continue with their active play, with a "Thanks, Donna!" in between munches.

When we host a last-minute barbeque at our house and I'm focused on getting food on the table, I don't fret about appetizers. Along with simple, crowd-pleasing cheese, crackers, nuts and fruit on a board, I'll set a giant bowl of popcorn to the side. It's usually gone in minutes.

When my three kids were young, I popped it using the traditional method — on the stove in a big pot with kernels swimming in a glob of oil. It worked, but there was always a greasy stove, pan and lid to clean up. Nowadays, I don't have an air popper, nor do I buy the store-bought, butter-laden microwave bags with too much salt for my taste.



PHOTO CREDIT: Donna Erickson

Instead, my new strategy uses the microwave, but I pop good-quality popcorn in a bowl instead of a bag. I can have 5 cups in just about 5 minutes. Yes, this homemade, easy recipe is the best and my go-to! A dab of oil, quality kernels, no fuss.

It's easy, healthy and perfect every time. Just add personal toppings when it's done for more popcorn pizzazz.

EASY MICROWAVE POPCORN

Makes 5 cups

- 1/4 cup fresh popcorn kernels
- 1/2 teaspoon canola or vegetable oil

In a microwave-safe glass bowl that's 6 cups or larger in size, kids can measure and stir popcorn kernels with oil.

Cover the bowl with a microwave-safe plate and microwave on high for about 4-6 minutes (microwaves and popcorn vary), or until there are only 3 seconds between pops.

An adult should carefully remove the bowl and top plate with oven mitts, as it will be very hot. Pour popcorn into a serving bowl, season to taste and enjoy!

...

Donna Erickson creates relationships and community through food and fun. Find more to nourish and delight you at www.donnaerickson.com.

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Cremer's Cooking Tips

Cremer's Brats

Pour enough water to cover onions.

Cover and bake for one hour.

Remove brats from oven and place on medium-hot grill until you have grill marks (5-10 minutes).

You can also chill brats and use them at a later time, throwing them on grill to heat through to an internal temp of 165° (10- 15 minutes).

Ingredients
12 Cremer's Homemade Brats
2 or 3 Large Onions

Directions
Pre-heat oven to 350°F.
Slice onions into 1/2" thick slices, layer a baking dish with onions and place Cremer's Homemade Lean Brats on bed of onions.



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Tickets: \$35 (in advance) \$38 (at the door).




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 S K C U R T I M K J S L O H E
 C R O P S W F W E C B E O Z L
 Y X V A U T R S E G D I R B I
 Q P F O S E L C Y C R O T O M

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
 Unlisted clue hint: SCATTERED TRASH

- | | | | |
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| Billboards | Farms | Motels | Trucks |
| Bridges | Fast food | Motorcycles | Wildlife |
| Cattle | Hitchhikers | Rest stops | Wrecks |
| Crops | Mile markers | Troopers | |

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SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

	5			8			9	
7					6	5		
		2	7					4
	2				1		8	
1				7				9
		7	3			6		
3				1				6
		4			5	1		
	6		9					7

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

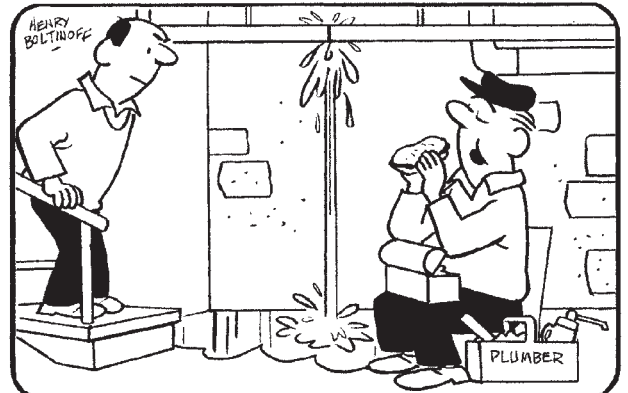
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

- ◆ Moderate
- ◆◆ Challenging
- ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

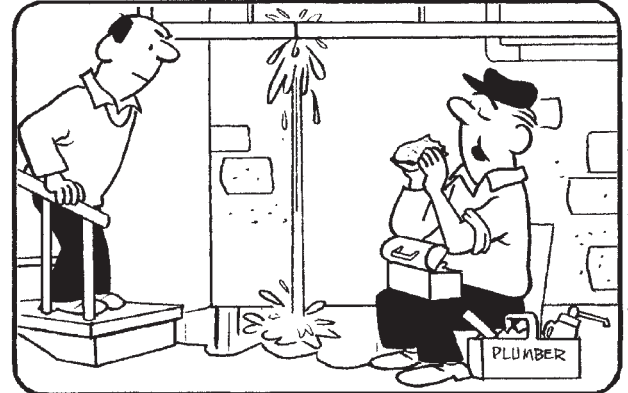
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Railing is different. 2. Handle is added to lunch box. 3. Sleeve is rolled up. 4. Leak is moved. 5. Pipe is thinner. 6. Bite is missing from sandwich.

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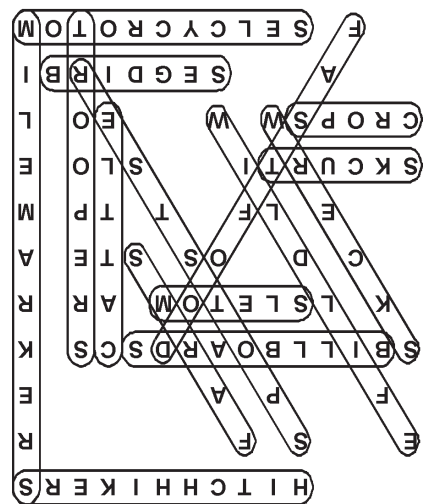
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SEEN ALONG THE ROAD

Go Figure! answers

19	12	8
=	=	=
2 = 9	- 5	+ 9
+	+	+
8 = 7	+ 1	- 2
+	-	-
4 = 3	÷ 8	+ 4

— King Crossword —
 Answers

Solution time: 23 mins.

E	L	A	N	U	S	S	S	A	G	E	
G	I	B	E	R	O	O	E	S	P	O	
G	R	E	E	N	B	A	Y	T	H	A	N
S	E	T	O	A	K	C	H	E	S	S	
				L	I	N	B	I	G		
N	A	D	I	R	A	L	A	R	M	E	
U	N	U	M	S	K	Y	E	A	S	E	
B	O	H	E	M	I	A	D	E	T	E	R
				G	O	B	C	A	N		
F	J	O	R	D	B	R	R	E	L	L	
R	E	N	E	G	R	E	E	N	T	E	A
E	T	T	E	N	E	T	E	R	O	S	
E	T	O	N	U	T	E	W	E	S	T	

SUDOKU Answer

5	7	8	4	3	6	1	9	2
2	1	3	2	5	1	8	7	6
9	6	7	1	7	9	4	6	3
2	1	4	6	2	1	7	3	8
9	8	6	2	1	4	5	9	1
3	8	3	4	1	7	8	6	2
4	9	3	6	4	2	7	5	8
1	8	5	1	6	4	2	3	7
2	9	7	3	2	1	8	3	4

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Stickelers Answer The word COUSIN does not belong because it doesn't specify gender.