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**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) St. Valentine's Day magic rules the entire week for romantic Rams and Ewes. Music, which is the food of love, is also strong. The weekend offers news both unexpected and anticipated.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) Your aspects favor the arts -- which the Divine Bovine loves, loves, loves. Also, for those looking for romantic love, Cupid is available for requests. After all, his mother, Venus, rules your sign.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) Loving commitments continue to grow stronger. Ditto budding relationships. A recent move to help start-up a new career-linked direction soon could begin to show signs of progress.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) Single Moon Children might be eager to take that proverbial chance on love. But your more serious side will feel better if you take things slowly and give your moonstruck self more time.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) It's a love fest for Leos and Leonas this week. Paired Cats might expect to be purr-fectly in sync. And with matchmaking friends, single Simbas searching for romance shouldn't have too far to look.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) More understanding on both sides can work miracles in restoring ailing relationships to health. Make the first move, and you'll be closer to your much-wanted reunion.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) Accept the fact that you are worthy of being loved, and you'll find proof in what is revealed to you over the course of the week. Also accept a compliment offered with great sincerity.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) Planning to take a new direction in life is exciting. And so is a new awareness of someone's special affection. Expect a slow and mostly steady development of the situation.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) Although you might still feel you weren't treated quite right in a recent matter, all that will work out in time. Meanwhile, enjoy the week's special qualities and potentials.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) Deciding not to give up on a troubling romantic situation helps start the healing process. Expect to find some valuable insight into yourself as things move along.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) The week is filled with positive potentials, but it's up to you to make the right choices. The advice of someone who truly cares for you and your well-being can be priceless.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) It's a good time to make yourself available to possibilities of the romantic kind. Already paired? Good. In that case, be sure to reassure that special person of your feelings.

**BORN THIS WEEK:** Your generosity gladdens the hearts of others, and you bask in their joy.

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## BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Simeon in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. In which book's 13:12 does Jesus predict children rebelling against their parents to be a sign of end times? Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
3. After hearing many things, what did Job call the ones after they tried to console him? Sore losers, Miserable comforters, Wretched sons, Cowardly lions
4. From 2 Samuel 4, what 5-year-old boy was dropped by his nurse and lamed for life? Moses, Mephibosheth, Peter, Andronicus
5. How many times in the Bible (KJV) do the words "Christian" or "Christians" appear? 3, 13, 30, 300
6. What prophet was the son of Elkanah and Hannah? Samuel, Huldah, Daniel, Nathan

ANSWERS: 1) Neither; 2) Mark; 3) Miserable comforters (Job 16:2); 4) Mephibosheth; 5) 3 (Acts 11:26, Acts 26:28, 1 Peter 4:16); 6) Samuel

Comments? More Trivia? Gift ideas? Visit www.TriviaGuy.com

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## February 2021

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13

### Holidays

- 2nd - Groundhog Day
- 14th - Valentine's Day
- 15th - Presidents' Day

### Community Events

**Annual Stew!** Sat 2/6, Hosted by Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church, 2041 Kentuck Rd. Stew will be \$6 a Quart. Drive Thru Pick-Up at 12:30PM (Please Stay In Cars. Stew Will be Delivered). No Pick-Ups Allowed Prior to 12:30PM. For Pre-Orders, Please Call Jason Tate at 434-793-9358, Sally Payne at 434-793-7717, or Cathy Woods at 434-203-0617.

**Brunswick Stew!!** Sat 2/6, Hosted by the Son's of the American Legion, Squadron 1097, 17 Fairfield Ave, Danville. Stew will be \$7 a Quart. This will be a Drive-Thru Only. Pick Up Time, 1:00PM. To Reserve, Call the Post at 434-793-7531, AFTER 1:00PM.

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3. Ford Mustang
4. Mercedes-Benz SL
5. Chevy Camaro
6. Ford Shelby Mustang
7. Ford GT
8. Chevy Chevelle
9. BMW 3 Series
10. Chevy C/K

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by Dave T. Phipps

MY MOM SAYS I "NEED TO GET OUT MORE."  
"ENJOY THE BEAUTIFUL SCENERY," SHE TELLS ME.  
"SOME FRESH AIR WILL DO ME GOOD," SHE SAYS...  
OK. I DON'T THINK SHE MEANT BY THE PIG PEN WHEN SHE SAID IT.

**R.F.D.**

by Mike Marland

OLD MAN WINTER.  
OLD. C'MON, IT'S RIGHT THERE IN HIS NAME!  
SO SHOULDN'T HE BE RETIRED AND NOT DOIN' THIS TO US ANYMORE?

**The Spats**

by Jeff Pickering

I'M HAVING A MIDLIFE CRISIS.  
HA HA... AREN'T YOU A LITTLE PAST MIDLIFE?  
THAT'S THE CRISIS!!

**Weekly SUDOKU**  
by Linda Thistle

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

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

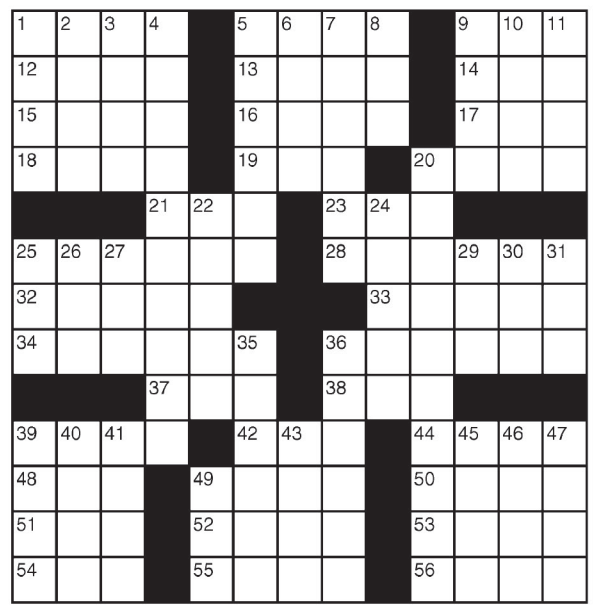
Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. "Danger" sign is bigger. 2. Jersey numbers are different. 3. Stars are black. 4. Fewer people in crowd. 5. Hockey stick is missing. 6. Arena wall is taller.

**King Crossword**

**ACROSS**

- Saudi native
- Job-safety org.
- Old CIA foe
- Mentor
- Err
- Shoe width
- Secondhand
- Watch chains
- Away from SSW
- Slightly
- And so on (Abbr.)
- Tackles weeds
- Longing
- Hearty quaff
- Ex-hausted
- Castor's twin
- Silents star
- Mary
- Country singer Shelton
- Arrest
- Dwellings
- Meadow
- Dancer
- Charisse
- Rage
- Trio after Q
- Raw minerals
- Exist
- Domini
- "Damn Yankees" vamp
- Irate



**DOWN**

- Oaxaca water
- Reddish brown
- Region
- "That'll Be the Day" singer
- Insult
- Coin aperture
- Wheel cover
- Six-pack
- muscles
- Vegas game
- Hereditary unit
- Honey bunch?
- Louis
- Armstrong song
- Haunting
- Hotel area
- "Humbug!"
- "Suits" net-work
- Disco guy
- on "The Simpsons"
- Young fellow
- Guitar's kin
- Ballot marks
- Aslan's land
- Oscar contenders
- Notoriety
- Russian river
- Some wines
- Crisp cookie
- Libertine
- Mideast airline
- Author Bellow
- 100%

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**Answers**

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

Answer

**Weekly SUDOKU**

**Answers**

A	R	A	B	O	S	H	A	K	G		
F	L	O	R	E	S	F	L	O	R		
U	S	E	D	F	O	R	S	N	E		
A	T	A	D	E	T	I	C	H	O	S	
N	E	N	E	N	E	N	E	N	E		
F	L	O	R	E	S	F	L	O	R		
B	L	A	V	E	S	B	L	A	V	E	
X	I	L	E	P	E	X	I	L	E	P	E
C	O	D	E	S	C	O	D	E	S		
M	A	D	E	R	M	A	D	E	R		
E	L	E	S	E	L	E	S	E	L	E	S

Solution time: 21 mins.

**Trivia test**  
by Fifi Rodriguez

- SCIENCE: What kind of charge does a neutron carry?
- THEATER: Which 20th-century play features a character named Blanche DuBois?
- HISTORY: Which ancient Greek author is considered "the Father of Comedy"?
- LITERATURE: What were the first names of the Bronte authors and sisters?
- FOOD & DRINK: What kind of nut also is known as a filbert or cobnut?
- AD SLOGANS: Which brand of men's aftershave used the advertising slogan, "Be careful how you use it"?
- MOVIES: What was the title of the movie in which Kirk Douglas played the artist Van Gogh?
- GAMES: Which video game character was the first to be featured as a giant balloon in Macy's Thanksgiving Parade?
- MUSIC: Which Billy Joel song featured a couple named Brenda and Eddie, the king and queen of the prom?
- GEOGRAPHY: What was the former name of the African country of Zimbabwe?

1. A neutron has no charge; 2. "A Streetcar Named Desire"; 3. Aristophanes; 4. Emily, Charlotte and Anne; 5. Hazelnut; 6. Hat Karate; 7. "Just for Life"; 8. Sonic the Hedgehog; 9. "Scenes from an Italian Restaurant"; 10. Rhodesia

Trivia Test Answers!



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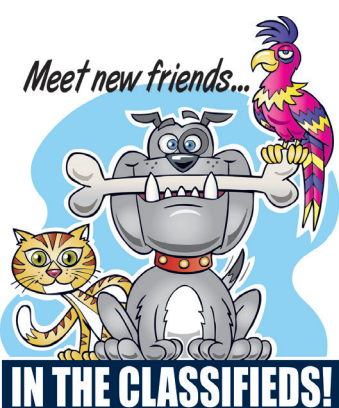


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**PIEDMONT PETS**

February 4, 2021  
By Paulette Dean

Several days ago, I received a phone call from a family dear to me—my niece, her husband, and two of their three children. The father told me I was on speaker and the two teenagers were in the room to participate in the conversation. They wanted to tell me about a decision they were facing with their 20 year-old cat, Nephi. He was weak and had no quality of life; they all felt it was time to let him leave them to go to heaven. They wanted my reassurance.

It was not an unusual conversation. Many times, people call to speak with us about the last, most difficult act of kindness that they can do for their pets who are elderly or chronically ill.

We had a tender conversation about how Nephi had been an important member of their family since he was a little kitten. They have a picture of Nephi being introduced to Ashlyne when they brought her home from the hospital. She is now 18 years old. Nephi had been Ashlyne's best friend for her entire life. He slept on her bed and was her faithful companion as she did homework through the years.

We arranged a time when they would come to Danville to bring Nephi to us. We talked about the sadness of losing a wonderful friend, the beauty of heaven, and the joy that comes from knowing we will have our friends with us throughout the eternities.

At the appointed time, the four humans and one cat came to the shelter. The paperwork was filled out, signed, and I told them I would stay with Nephi. Ashlyne spoke up. She wanted to be with her friend until the end. I was impressed with her strength. Her parents spoke to her and said she could if she wanted to.

Ashlyne, her mother, shelter staff, Nephi, and I went into the treatment room.

Goodbyes were said and tears (lots of them) were shed, but Ashlyne was true to her word. She stayed with her friend, as he stayed with her through the rough times of her life.

I completely understand the various emotions that come with euthanizing a pet. The companion animals who have been in wonderful, loving homes have come to trust their human companions. I have come to know through the years that, even though it is heart-wrenching, our pets are comforted by our presence.

The final act of compassion that we can offer to the animals who have enriched our lives is to make a difficult decision. If at all possible, it is also very kind to stay with them.

Nephi's heartbroken family left the shelter that afternoon. Ashlyne was comforted by the fact that she was with him until he had entered heaven. And I was in awe of a member of a younger generation who understand the lessons of love and loyalty that had been taught her by a simple black cat who had greeted her when she came home from the hospital in a baby carrier.



**DAHS**  
Danville Area Humane Society

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**Tips from Mr. Bonz**

Place a small tarp on the ground before wintry precipitation begins so your pet will have a spot to "go" when you let him out to potty!

Also Don't Forget To Use Pet Safe Ice Melt!!

**Did You Know???**

Colder weather stimulates more hair and coat growth from spending time in heat (inside) and outside in the colder winter weather. It's important to stick to your dog's regular grooming during winter months to keep their skin and fur healthy and well-protected.

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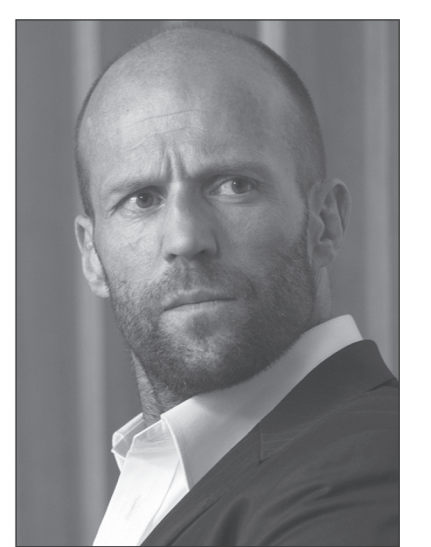
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**HOLLYWOOD**  
by Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD — Action-star Jason Statham was discovered by film director/screenwriter Guy Ritchie (once married to Madonna). Ritchie cast Statham, age 31, in the hit "Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels" (1998). Ritchie next cast Statham in "Snatch" (2000), with Brad Pitt and Benicio Del Toro, another hit. However, their third film together, "Revolver" (2005), with Ray Liotta, flopped. Ritchie's most recent release was "The Gentlemen" (2019), with Matthew McConaughey, Charlie Hunnam, Henry Golding, Hugh Grant and "Downton Abbey's" Michele Dockery, which scored big.



Lionsgate  
Jason Statham

As Statham awaits the release of "Wrath of Man," with Scott Eastwood, Josh Hartnett and "Burn Notice" star Jeffrey Donovan, he's shooting his fourth Guy Ritchie written and directed film, "Five Eyes." Statham (now 53) will play an MI-6 agent who tries to stop the sale of a deadly new weapons technology that could disrupt the world order. His co-star is 58-year-old Cary Elwes, who made his mark as Westly in "The Princess Bride" (1987) at age 25. Elwes has had a busy year, starting with the Netflix film "A Castle for Christmas," with Brooke Shields; the comedy "Best Sellers," with Michael Caine, Aubrey Plaza and Scott Speedman; and the upcoming horror film "Shrine," with Jeffrey Dean Morgan.

wright's character helps police solve the murder of her client's daughter, whose ghost haunted her loved ones. Her most recent film, the romantic comedy "Breaking Fast," has been screened at film festivals. Her younger sister Angela Cartwright was Von Trapp child Brigitta in "The Sound of Music" (1965) and the TV series "Lost In Space" (1965-68). She's now 68.

Veronica Cartwright, star of more than 35 major films, including "The Birds" (1963), "Spencer's Mountain" (1963), "The Invasion of the Body Snatchers" (1978), with Leonard Nimoy, "Alien" (1979) and "The Right Stuff" (1983), is now 71 and showing no signs of slowing down. She's preparing to play real-life psychic June Ahern "In How to Talk with Spirits," based on Ahern's book and psychic work with law enforcement finding missing people in the San Francisco Bay area. In the film Cart-

Taron Egerton, nominated for a best musical actor Golden Globe for playing Elton John in "Rocketman," has only lent his voice to "Sing 2" (this year). He's now preparing to star in "Tetris" as Henk Rogers, the Dutch video-game designer who created The Black Onyx and secured the rights to distribute Tetris on video-game consoles. It chronicles the development and release of "Tetris." Rogers is now 67 and Egerton is 31, which is exactly the age Rogers was when he created Tetris. Egerton has gone from playing gay in "Rocketman" to playing games in "Tetris."

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 2000 Toyota Tacoma Silver, Step Side, Regular Cab, 2WD	 2004-2019 Honda Accords & Civics Many to Choose From	 2018 Chevrolet Colorado Black, AT, AC, 4x2, Crew Cab, 38k Miles 2017 Chevrolet Colorado LT Blue, Crew Cab, 4x2, V6, AT, AC, 34k Miles	 2009 Lexus RX350 White, AWD, Tan Leather, V6, AT, AC
 2014 Buick Encore Silver, AT, AC, 2WD, 39k Miles	 2016 Dodge Ram Black, Quad Cab, 4x2, 5.7, AT, AC, 64k Miles	 2011 Mercedes Benz ML350 White, AWD, AT, AC, Loaded	 2019 Chevrolet Equinox White, AT, AC, 4DR, 3k Miles 2018 Chevrolet Equinox LT Green, AT, AC, 4Dr, 25k miles
 2014-2019 Altimas, Sentras. Several in Stock.	 2016-2019 Toyota Corollas, 4 Door. AT, AC, Great on Gas	 2019 Ford Edge Titanium Gray, AT, AC, Leather, Loaded	 2020 GMC Terrian SLE Black, 4x4, 4 DR, AT, AC, Loaded, 5k Miles

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# JOB LISTINGS

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# What's Going on in Shopperland



Shopperland is Danville, Pittsylvania County, & Caswell County

Please email community news to: [info@piedmontshopper.com](mailto:info@piedmontshopper.com)

## Kiwanis Speaker



Kenney Rorrer was the Kiwanis Club speaker on January 7, 2021 at the Stratford Conference Center. In his usual marvelous teaching style--sprinkled with clean jokes--Kenney informed the membership of his vast record and phonograph collection and he shared many interesting facts about the Wreck of the Old 97 and songs (including a 1940 Johnny Mercer recording played at our meeting) that popularized the Wreck of the Old 97 tragedy that occurred on September 27, 1903 in Danville, VA! With Kenney is John Wilt, President of the Kiwanis Club of Danville, VA. John and Kenney are Professors Emeriti from Danville Community College in Administration of Justice and History respectively.

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## River District Association announces new mobile app for Downtown Danville

*Distrx App links Danville to hundreds of other communities virtually*

**Introducing the River District Downtown App: Distrx**

Download today and explore the new River District digital visitors guide!

Business directory and promotions, walking tours, interactive activities, events...and more!

DANVILLE VA -The River Districts Association (RDA) is pleased to announce the River District Downtown App, Distrx. Distrx will be launched and ready for download in early March 2021. Distrx is a mobile app that is part of a nationwide network of Main Street districts and will provide both visitors and residents of the Danville area with a directory of downtown businesses, parking information, walking tours, a calendar of downtown events, and updated COVID protocols.

The Distrx app allows local businesses to keep contact information, business hours, websites, promotions, and coupons they offer updated in real time. All businesses that participate will also be included in the Distrx search engine optimized website: <https://distrx.com/districts/1457-danville-river-district-danville>. New districts are being added regularly, so mobile users throughout Virginia and across the country will be able to see information about Danville's River District. In addition, those that download the app will be able to use it in participating districts throughout the nation with no additional downloads needed. The app and additional functionality are provided by the River District Association and is available at no cost to all businesses located within Danville's River District.

With so many people looking for free, family friendly recreation that also accommodates social distancing protocols, RDA recognized Distrx as a way to create fun and informative walking tours of the River District that can be updated on a regular basis. RDA is currently working with local partners to finalize a series of walking tours, including a Civil Rights Tour, an Art and Sculpture Tour, and a Downtown Revitalization Tour. More tours will be added as they are developed. In addition, it will assist visitors and guests with parking, directions, and events that take place in the district.

The River District Downtown App will be launched on March 6th, 2021 with a scavenger hunt "apptivity" for the community, "You Otter be in the River District." Participants will need to download the app and click on the "contest" section. They will then be directed to follow clues or answer riddles to find all the stops. Those that complete the scavenger hunt will be entered to win Danville themed prizes.

"Printed visitors guides are expensive to produce and become outdated almost immediately, and we wanted to find a fresh new way to communicate all there is to do and see in the River District in a fun and accessible format." said Diana Schwartz, Executive Director of the River District Association, "With the ongoing pandemic, it is essential that businesses can communicate any updates to safety protocols quickly and easily. Distrx also allows us to provide fun apptivities and walking tours to highlight our rich culture and history while addressing more practical needs for anyone coming downtown."

The Distrx app is available to download on Apple and Android devices on the Apple Store, and Google Play App Store. There is no cost to download the app.

If you are a River District business interested in creating a listing or would like additional information about Distrx or the River District Association, please contact [kirsten@riverdistrictassociation.com](mailto:kirsten@riverdistrictassociation.com), or 434-791-0210.

## IALR WINS FOUR PRSA GOLD AWARDS



(DANVILLE, Va.) - The Institute for Advanced Learning and Research's (IALR) Public Relations and Communications team won four Gold Summit Awards from the Blue Ridge Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA). The 2020 Blue Ridge Chapter Summit Awards event was held virtually and winners were announced via video. Out of the 12 tactic categories awarded, Communications Manager Allison Moore and Graphic and Multimedia Specialist Daniel Dalton earned the highest award of gold in the four categories of Annual Report, Newsletter, Website and Video.

The IALR newsletter, which is produced monthly in print and electronic format to summarize the activities and accomplishments of the organization's five divisions, won gold for the sixth consecutive year. The newsletters can be viewed at [www.ialr.org/newsletters](http://www.ialr.org/newsletters). The goal of IALR's 2019 Annual Report was to create a compelling and engaging product with emphasis placed on a more effective and efficient distribution. The main focus was on reducing cost and time spent on distribution while still effectively reaching the target audience through expanded electronic formats. The award-winning annual report can be viewed here: [www.ialr.org/annual-reports](http://www.ialr.org/annual-reports).

The new Great Opportunities in Technology and Engineering Careers (GO TEC) website, developed and launched with oversight by IALR, who serves as the fiscal agent, provides a hub for communications efforts with links from promotional merchandise, literature and social media for the GO TEC program. The website can be viewed at [www.gotecva.org](http://www.gotecva.org).

IALR's analytical chemistry lab has become a leader in Virginia's growing hemp industry, but the department recognized there was confusion about why discrepancies existed in test results from different labs. IALR led crafting of a video series, including an introductory video summarizing the six main causes for lab-to-lab testing discrepancies as well as follow-up videos that focused on each of the six causes to help alleviate the concerns.



Allison Moore, Manager of Public Relations and Communications, IALR



Daniel Dalton, Graphic and Multimedia Specialist, IALR

The Summit awards are open to all professional public relations practitioners and students and the material must be produced by or for an organization based in the Blue Ridge Chapter area. The entries are reviewed and decided by a panel of judges from the Agricultural Relations Council Chapter of PRSA.

The Public Relations Society of America Blue Ridge Chapter is a professional association serving Central and Southwest Virginia public relations practitioners. Founded in 1992, the chapter strives to bring together professionals to enhance the practice, provide an exchange of experiences and ideals, and promote professional development.

## Out on a Limb





# OBITUARIES

"For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's." - Romans 14:8

## David Robertson

November 29, 1946 ~ January 29, 2021 (age 74)



Mr. David Robertson, age 74, of Keeling, VA, passed away on Friday, January 29, 2021 at his residence.

He was born on November 29, 1946, in Danville, VA, to the late Hugh Harrison Robertson and Helen Hobbs Robertson.

Mr. Robertson was the owner/operator of Robertson Excavating, and he

attended the Church of God of Prophecy.

He is survived by his wife, Lillian Milam Robertson, of the residence; children: Karen Robertson (Harvey); Julie Purviance (Terry); David Robertson, Jr.; and John Robertson (Susan); grandchildren: Dylan Smoot (Hollie); Maegan Lewis; Deuce Smoot; Alexandria Smoot; Gavin Robertson; Caedence Hood; Johnny Robertson; Casie Robertson; and Jessica London; seven great-grandchildren; and siblings: Diane Hodnett; Connie Moran; Vickie Wilson (John); and Richard Robertson (Frieda).

In addition to his parents, Mr. Robertson was predeceased by his siblings, Henry Robertson and Margaret Custer.

Graveside services will be conducted at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 02, 2021 at 2420 Birch Creek Road, Keeling, VA with Rev. Albert Moser officiating. The family will be receiving family and friends on Sunday, January 31, 2021 and Monday, February 01, 2021 at the residence 2420 Birch Creek Road, Keeling, VA

Barker Funeral Home is respectfully serving the Robertson family.

## Shirley (Walker) Massey

April 16, 1936 ~ January 28, 2021 (age 84)



Shirley Walker Massey, age 84, of Danville, VA, passed away on Thursday, January 28, 2021, at UNC-Eden Hospital.

Mrs. Massey was born on April 16, 1936, in Danville,

VA, a daughter of the late Percy Walker and Mamie Saul Walker.

She was a member of Temple Baptist Church.

Mrs. Massey is survived by her husband of 61 years, Claude Wayne Massey; children: Teresa Wells (Stan); Debra Yeatts (Ronald); Doug Ware; David Massey; and Tim Massey; nine grandchildren; eleven great-grandchildren; brother, Otha Walker (Kat); and sister, Lottie Gee.

In addition to her parents, Mrs. Massey was predeceased by her brothers, Richard Walker and Garland Walker.

Graveside services will be conducted at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 02, 2021 in Schoolfield Cemetery with Reverend Joe Bryant officiating.

In lieu of flowers, the family request that donations be made to the Danville Life Saving Crew, 202 Christopher Lane, Danville, VA 24541.

Swicegood Funeral Service is respectfully serving the Massey family.

Honor the memory of your cherished one by sharing the story of their life with friends, neighbors and associates here in the community.



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**New Cattle Trailer for Sale:** 6' x 8', Great for Cattle, Sheep, Goats or Pigs. Great for Small Operation. Asking \$1,400. Call 434-656-1427 AFTER 6:00PM.

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**6' Heavy Road Blade:** Asking \$300. Call 276-650-3841 AFTER 5:00PM.

**6' Box Blade:** Asking \$300. Call 276-650-3841 AFTER 5:00PM.

**5' King Cutter Bush Hog:** Asking \$600. For More Information, Call 276-650-3841 AFTER 5:00PM.

**Slabs for Sale:** Asking \$25 for Pickup Load. Call 252-814-8451.

**Hay for Sale:** Shed Kept. Asking \$30 a Roll. Call 252-814-8451.

**4x5 Hay Rolls:** Oat, Sorgum-Sudangrass and Switchgrass. Asking \$40, Net Wrapped. I have Other Hay, Asking \$45. Located in the Danville/Dry Fork Area. Call 434-250-5063.

**Lab Tested Hay:** Horse Hay 4x5 Rolls, Lab and Horse Tested. Guaranteed to be Good Hay. Asking \$45. Other Hay, Asking \$30 a Roll. Call 434-250-5063.

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**Weider XP23 Training System:** Asking \$125. Call 434-710-6746.

**Gym/Exercise Tower,** Like New. Asking \$139. Pictures Available. Located in Mt Hermon Area. Call 434-728-7700.

**Men's Tall Bicycle:** 21 Gears and Brand New Tires. Paid Over \$300, Asking \$160. Call 434-203-2840.

**Men's 10 Speed Bike,** in Good Condition. Asking \$100. Call 434-713-9491. Pictures Available.

**Food Stuff**

**Fresh Free Range Chicken Eggs: Asking \$7 a Dozen. Ringgold, Danville, and Chatham. Will Deliver. Call 434-713-0037.**

**Hydraulic Chair for Sale:** Chair Pumps Up, and Back Reclines. Arms Need to be Recovered. Asking \$35. Call 434-770-1109.

### Furniture & Accessories

**2 Dressers for Sale:** Heavy Duty and in Excellent Condition. Asking \$140 Each, or \$240 for Both. Pictures Available. Call 434-203-6999.

**Antique Light Blue Sofa,** in Good Condition. Very Clean. Asking \$1,000. Call 434-250-8616.

**Armchair Caddy for Sale,** New. Asking \$3. Call 434-728-1038.

**Real Wooden Stained Hutch:** 2 Piece, 76" H x 17.5" D x 51 1/4" W, with 3 Drawers. Like New. Asking \$250, Cash Only. Pictures Available. Call 434-250-1942.

**La-Z-Boy Super Sofa,** in Good Shape. Smoke Free Home. Asking \$300 OBO. Call 336-349-6773.

**Wooden Computer Desk,** in Good Condition. Asking \$30. Call 434-548-6922.

**Old Kitchen Cabinet,** Asking \$100; Early Country Store Showcase, 4' Long. Asking \$225. Call 434-429-0786 AFTER 12:00PM.

**Hydraulic Chair for Sale:** Chair Pumps Up, and Back Reclines. Arms Need to be Recovered. Asking \$35. Call 434-770-1109.

**2 Dressers for Sale:** Heavy Duty and in Excellent Condition. Asking \$140 Each, or \$240 for Both. Pictures Available. Call 434-203-6999.

**Solid Cherry Bed, Mattress and Box Springs.** Mattress and Box Springs, Headboard and Side Rails. Asking \$150; Old Dresser and Wardrobe, Asking \$100. Call 434-685-7386.

**Cannonball Bedroom Suite:** Queen Size, with Headboard, Footboard, Rails, Dresser, Mirror and Night Stand. Asking \$599. Call 434-685-7386.

**2 Queen Ann End Table:** Call for Price, 434-549-3737.

**Small 2 Drawer Night Stand,** Asking \$100. Call 434-710-9308.

**Ease 2.0 California King Split** Adjustable Base with Wired Remotes. Material is Black, or 2 Twin Size Adjustable Beds. Asking \$300. Call 434-441-3090.

### Guns

**Pulaski Furniture Gun Cabinet:** Holds 6 Long Guns. Asking \$50. Call 276-732-7706.

**Ammo for Sale:** 9 MM 50 RDS Box, Asking \$45; 9 MM 20 RDS Fed Hydra Shock, Asking \$40; 5.56 20 RDS Box, Asking \$20; Winchester 333 RDS .22, Asking \$50. Call 434-250-7726.

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally  
Unlisted clue hint: HE WAS GIVEN THE — DEGREE

Academic	College	Honorary	Second
Advanced	First	Law	Second
Associate	Graduate	Master's	To some
Bachelor's	Highest	Nursing	



## 28 Days of Heart: Getting a Jump Start on Being Heart Smart

by Dr. Brian Zagol, Cardiologist, Sovah Health

If the classic shape of a heart pops into your mind when you think of February, you're not alone. With Valentine's Day falling at the exact mid-point of the month, stores are filled with heart-shaped cards, candy and more to celebrate the annual holiday of love. But there's another reason that hearts should be on your mind right now. Each February we celebrate American Heart Month - a perfect time to refocus on staying heart healthy and giving this important organ the attention it deserves.

Your heart is one of the hardest working and - at the same time - most vulnerable muscles in your body. Maintaining good heart health and ensuring that your heart has what it needs to keep ticking properly can help you add years to your life. Unfortunately, according to the American Heart Association, heart disease is the number one killer of both men and women, with one in four people dying of it each year.

This February, heart health is more important than ever. The COVID-19 pandemic has put a greater spotlight on our health and wellness, and heart disease can put you at higher risk for complications from COVID-19.

That's why it's so critical to pay attention to your heart and give it the love it needs. There are a number of things you can do to make a difference and improve your heart health, including eating healthy, getting regular exercise, understanding the warning signs of heart attacks, having a working knowledge of your family medical history, getting proper sleep, knowing your cholesterol, blood pressure and other important numbers, and eliminating stress.

And what better time to begin - or recommit - to getting heart healthy than American Heart Month. Sovah Health's 28 Days of Heart is here all month long to give you exercise tips, healthy recipes, key facts about your heart and other ideas to help you get started. Visit SovahHeart.com each day in February to learn something new to help you get a jump start on being heart smart.

If you would like to speak to a provider about your heart health, Sovah Health can help. Call 844.GO.SOVAH or visit the "Find a Doctor" tab at SovahHealth.com to schedule an appointment. In the event of a heart-related emergency, call 9-1-1. Minutes matter, and acting quickly may save a life, including your own.



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**Wood for Sale:** Asking \$55 for Trailer Load, or Call for Pick Up Prices, 434-429-0544.

**Beckett Oil Burner and Tiger Loop,** Asking \$250. Call 434-770-5596.

**Firewood for Sale:** Dry Split Red Oak. Asking \$60 a Truck Load. Call 434-203-5117 and Leave Message.

### Household Items

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**Blue Fabric Shower Curtain,** with Round Rings, Like New. Asking \$8. Located in Mt Hermon/Fairfield Park. Call 434-728-7700.

**LP Gas Burner,** Asking \$20. Contact: laststarfire@yahoo.com

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**Craftsman Push Mower, EZ Walk**, with Big Wheel on Back. Variable Speed Drive System. Asking \$150. Call 434-835-6058.

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**John Deere Tuff Torque:** LA120 Tuff Torque Hydrostat, Guaranteed or Money Back. Fits Other MIA10910 with New Traction Belt. Asking \$250. Call 434-713-4091.

**Simplicity Deck 44**, Complete. In Great Shape. Asking \$100. Call 434-713-4091.

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**Rock and Dirt Hauling:** Hauling of Any Kind of Rock! I also have Dirt I Can Haul! Fill Dirt and Topsoil. I can Spread Dirt or Rock as well. Call 434-713-2722.

**Free Firewood!** All Hardwood; Already on the Ground. Just Cut to Length, and Haul Away. In Mt. Hermon - Send Email for Details: smath1@centurylink.net

**2 Horse Trailer:** 6'6" x 14' L x 6' W. Bumper Hitch, Side Door, Dual Axle. Asking \$2,000. Call 434-685-3878.

**Quart Canning Jars**, Asking \$3 a Dozen. Call 336-394-5984.

**Lumitrol 670 Battery Operated Flashing Road Lights.** 28 Brand New. Asking \$75 Each, OBO. Call 434-710-0371.

**Silver Coins For Sale:** Morgan Silver Dollar, \$25, and a Peace Dollar, \$20. Call 336-514-5304.

**Collectible Ammo Boxes**, and Ammo Can. Several Calibers. Call for Prices, 336-514-5304.

**Free Pallets!!** 32" x 42" Solid Wood Pallets with Plywood Decking. 200-300 Available. Fork Lift Available for Loading. Call 434-251-4437.

**Extra Large Roasting Pan**, Asking \$6. Located in Fairfield Park/Mt. Hermon Area. Call 434-728-7700.

**271' of New Electrical Wire:** Sweet Briar Aluminum 4/0-4/0-2/0. Item 70202, from Lowes. Can be Buried. Paid \$600, Asking \$300. Call 434-203-7638.

**Trees for Sale:** Firewood and Great Crafting. Affordable Prices. Call 336-514-8113.

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**1999 Harley Davidson Heritage Softail:** All Chromed Out. 80CI EVO Motor. Extra Windshield and Seats. Asking \$8,000, OBO. Can Text Pictures. Call 434-710-2975.

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**2002 Honda Shadow VT750CDD:** Liquid Cooled. Motorcycle is Road Ready. Comes with Cover, 2 Helmets with Headsets, and Luggage Set. Asking \$2,800. Contact: rlahrop7367@gmail.com

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**Ping Z II Irons Golf Clubs:** 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 Wedge. Missing Iron 6. Ping Sedona Putter, Ping Zing Sand Wedge. Asking \$60. Call 336-514-0392.



By Lucie Winborne

# Back pain getting in your way?

When a person suffers from acute back muscle spasms (involuntary tensing of the muscles), it can result in short-term pain that may last a few weeks.

A clinical research study (RESUME) for adults with pain due to acute back muscle spasms is now enrolling participants.



The RESUME study is currently seeking volunteers to participate in a clinical research study to evaluate a new, non-opioid, investigational medication for patients suffering from back pain due to or associated with muscle spasms.

You may be eligible to participate in RESUME if you:

- Are 18 - 64 years of age.
- Are able to walk.
- Have sudden onset of back pain associated with muscle spasms not caused by a long-term (chronic) condition.
- Are willing to stop all other non-study provided medications or treatments for back pain/muscle spasms.
- Are willing and able to comply with scheduled visits and study procedures.
- Can be immediately available and assessed to start receiving investigational medication.

Eligible study participants will be compensated for their time. Participation in RESUME is voluntary and study participants can leave at any time and for any reason.



If you would like to learn more about RESUME, please contact us:

Name: Carol Kennedy  
Phone No: 434-793-4711 ext 1169  
Email: carol.kennedy@spectrummed.com  
Study Site: Spectrum Medical, Inc.

If you contact us, it does not mean that you are committing to participate in RESUME.

If you express an interest, a study doctor will complete other assessments before you can enroll in RESUME.

\* Rose DeWitt Bukater's fabulously expensive pendant, "The Heart of the Ocean," featured in James Cameron's "Titanic," was not completely fictitious -- it is believed that a rather large sapphire went down with the ship that fateful night.

\* There is a company called Little Miss Matched that sells packs of mismatched socks.

\* Syphilis was a major problem in the late 19th and early 20th century. Doctors found that the bacteria that caused it was sensitive to heat, so they thought giving a patient a fever could help get rid of it. How did they induce said fever? With malaria injections! While effective in curing syphilis, some patients unfortunately died from -- you guessed it -- malaria.

\* Instant noodles topped a Japanese poll of the country's greatest inventions of the 20th century.

\* Freelancers originally referred to self-employed, sword-wielding mercenaries: literally, "free lancers."

\* In ancient Rome, having a crooked nose was considered a sign of leadership.

\* Andrew Lawrence, ran two hours, 47 minutes and 41 seconds in a banana costume during a London marathon in order to secure the title of the fastest time to run a marathon while wearing a fruit costume.

\* Before mercury, brandy was used to fill thermometers.

\* Author William Faulkner refused a dinner invitation from JFK's White House. "Why, that's a hundred miles away," he said. "That's a long way to go just to eat."

\* Founded in 597 AD, The King's School, in Canterbury, England, is the world's oldest institution of learning.

\* Polar bears have black skin. And their fur isn't actually white! It's see-through, so it appears white as it reflects light.

\* It's illegal in Vermont to prohibit anyone from putting up a clothesline.  
\*\*\*

Thought for the Day: "Success is not final, failure is not fatal; it is the courage to continue that counts."  
-- Winston Churchill



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**Home For Sale:** .83 Acres. 120' Road Frontage Kentuck Church Road, Ringgold Va. 3 BR, Nice, Cleaned Lot. 2 Fireplaces, and Full Basement. For More Information, Call 434-203-4176.

**120 ACRES PREMIUM INVESTMENT PROPERTY:** Cascade, VA. Hunt, Fish, Build your Dream Home. (Tunstall School District). 15 Minutes from Town. Road and River Frontage. Asking \$450,000. Call 434-203-4892.

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**In North Danville:** 2-3 BR, 2 Bath, Hardwood Floors, Central AC, Detached Garage. Located on Alpine Dr. \$800 a Month, \$800 Deposit. Call 434-401-8719.

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**Taking Applications for 1 and 2 BR Apartments,** Apply at Hauser Realty 220 Old Greensboro Rd. 9:00AM-5:00PM, Monday-Friday. Call 434-791-2521.

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**4'x5' Utility Trailer:** Asking \$200 Firm. Call 434-728-2197. Ask for David.

**6.5 x 12 Utility Trailer:** 24" Mesh Sides, Rear Gate/Ramp, New Spare Tire. Call for Price, 434-250-6007.

**6.5 x 12 Utility Trailer:** 24" Mesh Sides, Rear Gate/Ramp, New Spare Tire. Call for Price, 434-250-6007.

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**Looking to Buy a Kitchen** Island, Medium Size, at a Reasonable Price. Call 434-709-2583.

**Looking to Buy Fencing** of Any Kind, 5' or Taller. Call 434-203-2840.

**Looking to Buy a 1965** GWHS Yearbook. Call 434-441-7916.

**Looking for Old Harley Stuff:** 1980 or Older. Pan Head, Shovel Head, Iron Head. One Part or Boxes Full. Call 434-421-0012.

**Looking to Buy a Moped,** Working or Not Working. Will Pay Cash. Please Call 434-548-3220.

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**Looking to Buy an Older** 4-Wheeler that Runs Good. \$2,000 Cash to Spend. Call or Text 434-728-6770.

**Local WTB: Used Vinyl Records,** Any Size. Please Call before having Yard Sale. Also Interested in Buying Turntable and Reel to Reel. Call 434-203-9964.

**Wanting to Buy:** Expired Sealed Diabetic Test Strips. \$8 Box Of 50; \$16 Box of 100. Call 276-340-8559.

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# Red Bird Times

MONTHLY SENIOR SECTION



**'A LIFE WELL-SPENT' - SENIOR LEGAL PLANNING**  
by Robert W. Haley, Attorney

**THE ESTATE & ELDER LAW CENTER**  
of Southside Virginia, PLLC

(855) 503-5337 / www.VAElderlaw.com

Please email comments, suggestions or questions to [rhaley@vaelderlaw.com](mailto:rhaley@vaelderlaw.com)

## Community Based Care

Community based care (CBC) through Virginia Medicaid is a program virtually no one knows exists! Once eligible, CBC will provide a caregiver in the home for up to forty hours a week. In many cases, this is enough help so that the family can put a plan in place that will keep the elder out of the nursing home for a period of time, perhaps even eliminating the need for nursing home care!

The criteria and eligibility requirements are virtually identical to nursing home Medicaid. Just think, this may be the help that you need that will allow your spouse or parent to remain in the home as long as medically possible! Plus, it's cheaper for Medicaid to help you keep your loved one at home than it is to pay for nursing home care, so it is a win-win for all concerned.

## Private Homes

Scattered throughout Southside Virginia are private homes that have been licensed by the state to provide care for up to eight elders. There are also homes that do not accept Medicaid but still provide lower costs than a traditional nursing home. Families often opt for this type of care so as to keep their loved one in a home environment. Once again, few know of this option unless they have direct contact with one. We attempt to maintain a current roster of all options available at our elder care resources website: <http://www.estateandelderlawcentervirginia.com>

## Assisted Living

At times, an elder will need help but they still do not meet the criteria for either CBC or nursing home care. In that case, many families look to assisted living facilities for help. These facilities are predominantly private pay, which means that there is no Medicaid coverage available to help pay the costs. The one benefit that is helpful here is if the elder is a qualifying veteran. If so, he or she may be eligible for Veteran's Aid and Attendance. In these cases, most assisted living facilities can help with the application for benefits.

The key to remember is that there are options available and pitfalls to avoid. If you see a loved one's health deteriorating, please contact a qualified and certified Elder Law Attorney to discuss the options available for your family.

As always, if you have a question or issue that you think might be a good topic for this column, let me know! Email me at [rhaley@vaelderlaw.com](mailto:rhaley@vaelderlaw.com) or send to me via snail-mail to this address:

**The Estate & Elder Law Center of Southside Virginia, PLLC**  
742 Main Street, Danville, VA 24541



Robert W. Haley, Managing Attorney – Certified in Elder Law by the National Elder Law Foundation  
Member of the Council of Advanced Practitioners, National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys  
**The Estate & Elder Law Center of Southside Virginia**  
[www.VAElderlaw.com](http://www.VAElderlaw.com)

## Long-Term Care: A Nursing Home Is Just One Option!

When we think of long-term care, most of us immediately think of the nursing home. While that is still the overwhelming option that most folks utilize, it is not the only option to think about. Which means, you should be thinking of long-term care options a lot sooner in the process!

Most folks have very little idea of the options that are available when planning for long-term care. I have many clients that do not come to see our firm until a parent or loved one is already in skilled care (rehab) or custodial care (nursing home). Yet, when I hear about what has been going on previously, the family missed opportunities for care because they simply did not know possible alternatives even existed!

Whenever we finish a document execution for clients, we always urge them to return if and when someone's health begins to deteriorate. Why? Because we want folks to know the options available to them and in many cases, these options can delay or even alleviate the need for nursing home care. At the very least, we can put off nursing home care as a last resort. We also warn them against any steps that they might take that could jeopardize eligibility for long-term care coverage later.

## Caregivers

Often the first step folks might take is to hire extra help for the home. This could be in the form of just a sitter or an experienced nurse that sits with elders either as their primary occupation or on the side. No matter, if you or your family hires the person, you just became an employer, and they just became your employee. It is now your responsibility to comply with all tax laws (deductions) applicable to all employers. I have seen many folks make the huge mistake of hiring a sitter and paying them in cash. Not only will that potentially get you in trouble with the IRS, it will jeopardize future eligibility for long-term care coverage under Medicaid.

Further, if you hire an employee, you have to have a written and signed personal services contract between you and that sitter. This is a requirement under the Medicaid regulations. If you do not, Medicaid will treat all the money you have spent on caregivers as if you just simply gave that money away! It's harsh, but that is the rule at this time. We help folks set up a proper caregiver agreement so as to be in compliance with all the laws and avoid this unexpected and unwelcome issue.

Note that, if you hire a sitter through an agency, the agreement and tax compliance is not required, as the caregiver is an employee of that agency and not your family.

So, if you are thinking of hiring a caregiver or sitter to help care for an aging loved one, do your due diligence and put the right plan in place.



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**\$80,000 PER YEAR! ARE YOU PREPARED?**

In too many instances, the costs of long-term care quickly wipes out a lifetime of savings. You need Robert W. Haley, Certified Elder Law Attorney with **The Estate & Elder Law Center of Southside Virginia** working with you and your family to plan and implement a strategy to cut through the red tape and maximize asset protection!

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## Even Exchange by Donna Pettman

Each numbered row contains two clues and two 6-letter answers. The two answers differ from each other by only one letter, which has already been inserted. For example, if you exchange the A from MASTER for an I, you get MISTER. Do not change the order of the letters.

- |                        |                 |                      |                 |
|------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Blackeye            | ___ _ _ N ___ _ | Get goosebumps       | ___ _ _ V ___ _ |
| 2. In need of practice | R ___ _ _ _     | In need of a polish  | D ___ _ _ _     |
| 3. Infuriate           | ___ _ R ___ _   | Place behind bars    | ___ _ C ___ _   |
| 4. Rosie's bolt        | ___ _ _ _ T     | Danube or Po         | ___ _ _ _ R     |
| 5. Chalkboard material | S ___ _ _ _     | Cause happiness      | E ___ _ _ _     |
| 6. Skin blemish        | ___ _ U ___ _   | Stew in a closed pan | ___ _ A ___ _   |
| 7. Puff up with pride  | ___ W ___ _     | Turtle's "house"     | ___ H ___ _     |
| 8. Wall hanging        | ___ _ S ___ _   | Worker on a train    | ___ _ R ___ _   |
| 9. West Indian dance   | ___ _ _ O ___ _ | Arms and legs        | ___ _ _ _ S     |
| 10. Tent dweller       | ___ _ M ___ _   | Friendly apparition  | ___ _ S ___ _   |



# FINAL EXPENSE INSURANCE

**Prepare for Rising Funeral and Cremation Costs!**

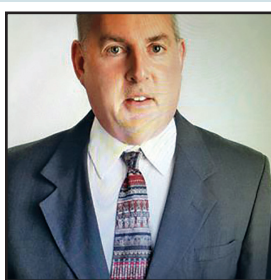
## Why Final Expense Life Insurance?

- Underwriting Medical Exams not required. **NO MED EXAMS!**
- Premiums, rates and monthly payment will always stay the same. **NO INCREASES!**
- Final Expense policies are whole life insurance and accumulate a cash value.
- Benefits are never reduced. No decrease in coverage.
- Coverage is available for ages **0-89**.
- Very Affordable Monthly Payments!
- You can get coverage between **\$2,500 and \$50,000**.

## If I Died Tomorrow, Could My Family Afford It ALL?

- Final Expense Insurance gives yourself and your family peace of mind
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- Reduces emotional toll on spouse and other family members

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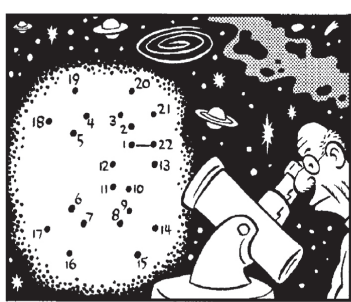


**Chatham Health and Rehabilitation Center** received recognition from the American Health Care Association/National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA) in the 2020 Quality Initiative Recognition Program.

This program honors AHCA nursing center members who achieve one or more of the following AHCA Quality Initiative goals:

- Safely reduce long-stay and short-stay hospitalizations
- Improve long-stay or short-stay satisfaction
- Safely reduce the use of antipsychotic medications
- Improve short-stay functional improvement or long-stay worsening mobility
- Skilled Beds Available.

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**CONNECT THE DOTS** and find out what the end of everything is.

ANSWER: The letter "G," of course, is at the end of "EVERYTHING."

**DON'T SLIP UP ON THIS ONE!** Try solving this AlphaMath puzzle over a nice cup of hot cocoa. You must replace the letters in the sign with the digits 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 and 9, so that you have a correct addition problem. The same letters get the same digits.

**IT'S MAGIC!** Use the numbers 6 through 15 to fill in this Magic Number Square. The numbers in each horizontal row, vertical column and even the four corner squares must total 55. We've filled in six of the squares. The rest is up to you. Use trial and error – and a good eraser!

ANSWERS: First row: 13, 16, 20, 6. Second row: 19, 7, 12, 17. Third row: 8, 22, 2, 11. Fourth row: 15, 10, 9, 21.

## Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



Hidden in the diagram above are 17 words associated with winter. They can be found by reading up or down, or side to side. You'll even find them diagonally going up or down. Letters can be used more than once. Listed below are the words that you're looking for.

- |           |           |          |
|-----------|-----------|----------|
| Blizzard  | Lights    | Sleet    |
| Christmas | Mistletoe | Snowball |
| Drift     | Presents  | Toboggan |
| Fireplace | Salt      | Toys     |
| Flurries  | Shovels   | Trees    |
| Holidays  | Sledding  |          |



## How to Choose a Medical Alert System

Dear Savvy Senior,

*I am interested in getting my mom, who lives alone, a medical alert system with a wearable pendant button that will let her call for help if she falls or has a medical emergency. What can you tell me to help me choose one?*

Too Many Choices

Dear Too Many,

A good medical alert system is an effective and affordable tool that can help keep your mom safe and living in her own home longer. But with all the different products and features available today, choosing one can be challenging. Here are some tips that can help.

### Three Key Questions

Medical alert systems, which have been around since the 1980s, provide a wearable help button – usually in the form of a neck pendant or wristband – that would put your mom in touch with a dispatcher who could summon emergency help or contact a friend or family member as needed.

To help you narrow down your options and choose a system that best fits your mom's needs, here are three key questions you'll need to ask, along with some top-rated companies that offer these products.

### Does your mom want a home-based or mobile system?

Medical alert systems were originally designed to work inside the home with a landline telephone, which is still an option. But since fewer and fewer households have landlines these days, most companies today also offer home-based systems that work over a cellular network. With these systems, pressing the wearable help button allows you to speak to a dispatcher through a base unit located in your home.

In addition, many companies offer mobile medical alert options, too. You can use these systems at home, but they'll also allow you to call for help while you're out and about.

Mobile alerts operate over cellular networks and incorporate GPS technology. They allow you to talk and listen to the operator directly through the pendant button, and because of the GPS, your location would be known in order for help to be sent.

If your mom doesn't leave the house very often, she may not need a mobile system, but if she is still active, she may want added protection outside the home.

### Should her system be monitored or not?

The best medical alert systems are monitored, meaning that the help button connects you with a trained operator at a 24/7 dispatching center.

But you also have the option to choose a system that isn't monitored. With these, when you press the help button, the device automatically dials a friend or family member on your programmed emergency call list.

These products can often be set up to call multiple people and to contact emergency services if you don't get an answer from someone on your list.

### Should you add a fall-detection feature?

Most medical alert companies today now offer the option of an automatic fall detection pendant for an additional fee of \$10 to \$15 per month. These pendants sense falls when they occur and automatically contact the dispatch center, just as they would if you had pressed the call button.

But be aware that this technology isn't full proof. In some cases, this feature may register something as a fall that isn't. The alarm might go off if you drop it or momentarily lose your balance but don't actually land on the ground.

### Top Rated Systems

Here are four top companies, rated by Consumer Reports, that offer home and mobile monitored medical alert systems:

- Bay Alarm Medical: Fees range between \$20 and \$40 per month; BayAlarmMedical.com; 877-522-9633.
- GreatCall's Lively Mobile Plus: The device costs \$50 plus a \$25 to \$40 monthly service fee; GreatCall.com; 800-650-5921.
- MobileHelp: Monthly fees run \$20 to \$45; MobileHelp.com; 800-809-9664.
- Phillips Lifeline: \$30 to \$50/month, plus a onetime device/activation fee of \$50 to \$100; Lifeline.Philips.com; 855-681-5351.

# Birdhouse NEWS

## EEEEK!

A woman in Sydney, Australia walked into her daughter's room recently and was horrified to find dozens of Huntsman spiders, also known as giant crab spiders, crawling on the walls and ceiling, reports the Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC]. Her plight was posted on Twitter and it has gone viral but not all of the thousands of people who saw the post believed it to be real. At least one person tagged the story, which was accompanied with photos, posting a message that read: "Do huntsmen that big appear in those numbers? I smell a rat. A big, Photoshopping rat." A subsequent video proved the "horrific" sight was for real.

## FRIENDSHIP

Dan Volcko is a veteran Phoenix, AZ fireman who came down with the COVID-19 virus and had to be hospitalized. Visitors were not allowed but Volcko's coworkers were determined to see him and give him a lift, says the Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC]. And so, they boarded their fire truck, backed up as close as they could to the hospital and climbed their ladder to pay their friend a window visit. It got pretty "emotional," according to one the fellow firemen on the scene. Volcko, who is in recovery, told reporters: "I never expected to find myself in that situation needing the help, and I've

never been in that position where they've had to come comfort and be supportive in that way, so that was an unbelievable experience."

## AIRBAG JEANS GIVE BIKERS A SAFER, NEW LOOK

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that tens of thousands of lives are saved each year by airbags in their cars. But, what about the hapless motorcyclist who gets into an accident? Swedish inventor Moses Shahrivar has a patent pending for what he calls, airbag jeans; he already has airbag equipped vests that deploy and help prevent injuries to a cyclist's chest, back and neck in a crash. The jeans are hitched to the motorcycle and when that tether is pulled, should the bike be in an accident, airbags lining the jeans are triggered and cushion the impact, according to the Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC].

## THE DOG FAKED IT

Russell Jones who lives in London was concerned when he noticed his dog was walking with one of its front paws raised so he took his pet to the vet for a checkup. It cost him the equivalent of \$400 but the dog doctor could find nothing wrong with the pooch's leg. It turned out, according to the Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC], that Jones, himself, had a broken ankle and that his dog was actually mimicking his limp.

## IT'S NEVER TOO LATE

Tommy Cook's 1969 Camaro was stolen seventeen years ago but he never gave up hope of getting it back, says the Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC]. Amazingly, Cook, who lives in Spottsville, VA, was helping a friend check out a Camaro that was for sale at a repair shop in Maryland when he spotted his own long-lost vehicle in a corner of the shop. The car had been repainted, but its VIN number proved that it was indeed his car. And it was in better condition than when it was stolen in 2003. Apparently, the Camaro had four owners, including the car thief, in the interim who took pretty good care of the car.

## SHOW OFF

Some people have taken a devil-may-care attitude when it comes to travel during the COVID-19 pandemic; they'll take public transportation and risk infection. But most of us are taking the coronavirus seriously. And then there are those who are "super paranoid." Take, for example, Richard Muljadi and his wife, Shalvynne Chang, a very wealthy couple who reside in Jakarta, Indonesia. They recently took a Batik Airline flight to the island of Bali, purchasing each and every seat – a total of 162 business class and economy class seats – in order to eliminate the risk of exposure, reports the Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC].

Send your senior questions to: SavvySenior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit [SavvySenior.org](http://SavvySenior.org). Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.





**Heartstrings**  
by: Elsee  
Email any comments, suggestions or questions to [elsee53@gmail.com](mailto:elsee53@gmail.com)

February the LOVE Month or Is it?

It's February already? It's the month in which we recognize the importance of LOVE. A month when it seems that Love is all around us. Everywhere we turn we are inundated with red hearts, red roses, boxes of candy, expensive pieces of jewelry or bottles of that sweet smelling perfume. All symbolizing that on the 14th day in February, we shower a loved one with extra special gifts to show our love. Yes, it's called Valentine's Day. As history reveals, this day seemed to be meant for couples leaving those without a significant other feeling excluded. As time marched forward, the meaning has changed and it became a day for ALL to show and share Love. February 14th is not only known as Valentine's Day; it is commonly known as Happy Singles Awareness Day or Happy Friendship Day.

Perhaps you have wondered why I entitled this article February the LOVE Month or Is it? It is simply because we have ALL been living the past 11 months in such a way where Love has played a much different role in our lives. We have all been experiencing the toughest months thanks to the Pandemic. At times it may seem as though COVID-19 has robbed us of the events, traditions, and simple everyday activities that we love year after year. This year it may even include how we will be celebrating "LOVE" on Valentine's Day.

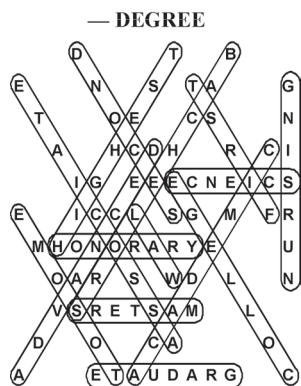
In thinking about Valentine's Day 2021, I couldn't help but ask myself several questions. With Covid never very far from any of us, how do I show LOVE to someone, if I can't be within 6 feet of my loved one/s? How do I take my significant other out to our favorite restaurant if it is locked down? Heaven forbid that I try and sneak in a smooch without being afraid of being exposed to the horrible virus? The biggest question of all is: How do I get beyond this and unleash this love that has been suppressed all these months? These are just a few of the questions that have crossed my mind as I reflect on Valentine's Days of yesteryear to Valentine's Day this year. Oftentimes I find myself struggling to look on the bright side and count my blessings. Being from the WEST COAST and experiencing "lockdowns" in my area, has made it challenging to maintain a positive outlook. I have even found myself on occasion wondering if Love still existed. Has anyone else had this happen to them during this trying time?

Here's what I have come up with as possible solutions. The key is to look for alternate ways to celebrate this day. Try preparing a special cooked meal in the privacy of your own home rather than going out this year. Go ahead and bring home those aromatic roses as they are the #1 flower given on Valentine's Day, or if money is tight a bouquet of wild- flowers. Or how about a box of chocolates and a bottle of wine? Take the time to stop by a local department store (masked up of course) and pick up a gift for your special someone. Consider extending LOVE to those on the front lines of this pandemic who literally sacrifice their lives on a daily basis. Send a nice card to a local hospital, Police or Fire station with a heartfelt "Thank you." Point being, don't allow the virus to stop you from showing your love. While life may be a tad unusual this year, do not lose hope that things will one day return to some sort of "normalcy". This year COVID may keep us from doing those "extraordinary" activities we look forward to on Valentine's Day, but it must not keep us from expressing LOVE to others. Let's do whatever we must to make this the best Valentine's Day ever. February is and will always remain the LOVE month! As always it's been a pleasure to write this and I pray that all of you are and will remain in good health. Above all... BE SAFE!

80 Beers minus your age plus 40 dollars give you the year you were born.

**Does it work?**

**See you next week!**



**Even Exchange**  
answers

1. Shiner, Shiver
2. Rusty, Dusty
3. Enrage, Encage
4. Rivet, River
5. Slate, Elate
6. Bruise, Braise
7. Swell, Shell
8. Poster, Porter
9. Limbo, Limbs
10. Camper, Casper

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**R. Keith Motley**



1. When British pirate radio station Radio Caroline went off the air in 1990, what was the last song it played?
2. How many times did The Clash release "Should I Stay or Should I Go"?
3. Which 1964 Dave Clark Five song knocked the Beatles off the top spot on the chart?
4. What was the 1988 hit "White on White" about?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "Who's gonna ride that chrome three-wheeler, Who's gonna make that first mistake?"

Answers

1. "Pilot of the Air-waves," by Charlie Dore. The renegade radio station transmitted from a boat in international waters. The station name came from President Kennedy's daughter Caroline.
2. Twice. The first time, in 1982, rising to No. 17 on the U.K. chart. The second time, in 1991, it finally reached No. 1, at least in the U.K.
3. "Glad All Over." The Beatles had held No. 1 for five weeks with "I Want to Hold Your Hand."
4. The singer, Danny Williams, has to watch a former lover marry someone else.
5. "Fire Lake," by Bob Seger & The Silver Bullet Band, in 1980. The song took nine years to write, off and on, and was finally used on Seger's "Against the Wind" album.

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**IF YOU'RE HAPPY AND YOU KNOW IT,**

**IT'S YOUR MEDS.**

**SENIOR NEWS LINE**  
by Matilda Charles

On Medicare? Beware of COVID Card Scam ---  
Have you received a phone call asking if you've received your new "special" Medicare COVID card? Beware: There is no such thing. It's a scam.  
I did receive such a call. The person on the other end asked if I'd received my new card, which I'd heard nothing about, and proceeded to try to ask me a number of questions. She claimed there are a lot of fancy benefits that come with the COVID card.  
In the name of research for this column, I did not hang up immediately as I usually do. Instead, I went along with the caller, listening but not providing any information. I asked where they'd gotten my name and was told they were accessing the Medicare database. I was quickly convinced it was a scam.  
I hung up and called the Medicare fraud line to report it. The fraud people were very glad I did. Other forms of COVID scams include offering fast eligibility for the vaccine, fake vaccine sign-up websites, fake testing and wellness kits, and fake contact tracers who want to know your Medicare card number.  
Fact: There is no new Medicare card for COVID.  
Fact: Medicare isn't going to call you about anything unless you have called or written to them and asked them to contact you by phone.  
If you receive a call such as the one I got, hang up immediately and then call to report it. Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), or HHS at 1-800-447-8477.  
As for the fancy benefits the caller promised me, check your Medicare Summary Notice or Explanation of Benefits to be sure there are no errors for items and services that you do not get.  
This might be the newest scam against seniors, so spread the word among your friends. There is no "special" Medicare card for COVID.



No Yard Sales This Week