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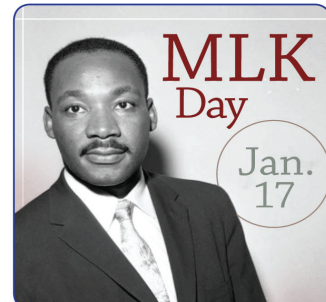
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The Great Resignation and the hourly wage

Dr. Glenn Mollette

A young adult lady in Johnson county, Kentucky was recently faithfully working her convenient store register job. She had a line of patrons buying drinks and paying for gasoline. Someone asked her how much money she made? "Nine dollars an hour," she said. "I've worked here over two years and the pay has been \$9 an hour. I've asked for a raise. I work hard. I'm here almost all the time. A manager from the chain of stores always says, "We are looking into it." She said, "I have to find another job because I can't take care of myself and my children on \$9 an hour."

A patron in line who was only buying a cup of coffee with a \$20 bill took the cash she had just handed him in change and said to her, "Please take this and buy some lunch today." The lady said, "Uh, no, I don't want that," but the man insisted and she accepted it with tears coming from her eyes. "Thank you, thank you so much she said to the man. I've never had anybody to do anything like this for me in my life."

It was good to see a random act of kindness but the episode was a real case scenario of how hard life is for many Americans just like this lady, working for low hourly wages.

On January 5th, the US Department of Labor released its Job Openings and Labor Turnover Summary (JOLTS), revealing that the number of resignations reached 4.5 million in November. The number increased by 370,000, matching September's quit rate record high of 3% — indicating that the Great Resignation isn't showing signs of stopping.

Will the Johnson County lady quit her Job? She will, if she can find a better paying one. Unfortunately, in this area of the country that's not easy to do. She may have to move in order to make more money. Many employers across the country have had to raise what they are offering in order to find and keep good employees. Thus, many of the Americans who did quit their jobs in November did so because of the lure of better pay in other places.

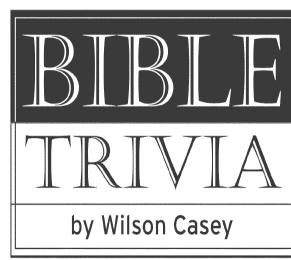
In Kentucky the federal minimum wage is \$7.25. It's the same wage for many other states but some are doing much better. However, you can't go by the state minimum. You have to find the right employer who is paying what will make you happy and determine what it will require of you to be an employee.

If you are looking at state guidelines in hopes of better pay, simply go this site [PeopleReady.com](https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/minimum-wage/state) or <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/minimum-wage/state> and Good luck!

Read Glenn's book titled, *Grandpa's Store* by Glenn Mollette. Order at Amazon.com *Grandpa's Store* is a fun and adventure filled read told from the perspective of a child and young teen. The book is filled with remembrances from the young life of Glenn Mollette. Events are remembered from the time he was about three years old up until his early sixteenth birthday. The book is filled with humor, gripping life stories, inspiration and a little non-sense. This is a great read for any age level but will be very much enjoyed by young adults.

Hear Glenn Mollette every weekday morning EST at 8:56 on XM radio 131 Contact him at GMollette@aol.com. Learn more at www.glennmollette.com

additional biographical, Dr. Glenn Mollette is a graduate of numerous schools including Georgetown College, Southern and Lexington Seminaries in Kentucky. He is the author of 13 books including *Uncommon Sense*, *Grandpa's Store*, *Minister's Guidebook* insights from a fellow minister. His column is published weekly in over 600 publications in all 50 states.



1. Is the book of Capernaum in the Old Testament or New Testament or neither?
2. From 1 Corinthians 14, who advised young Christians to stop thinking like children? Luke, Paul, David, John
3. For how many days did Goliath take his stand for a man to fight him? 2, 6, 10, 40
4. In Genesis 18, whom did God ask, "Is anything too hard for the Lord"? Moses, Adam, Noah, Abraham
5. How many loaves of bread were used to feed the 5,000? 2, 3, 4, 5
6. In Mark 12, whom did Jesus accuse of devouring widows' houses? Sadducees, Midianites, Israelites, Pharisees

ANSWERS: 1) Neither; 2) Paul; 3) 40; 4) Abraham; 5) 5; 6) Pharisees

Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson's Casey's latest book, "Test Your Bible Knowledge," available in bookstores and online.

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January 2022

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
26	27	28	29	30	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	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

Holidays

- 1st - New Year's Day
- 17th - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Simple Math Problem

A business man was interviewing applicants for the position of divisional manager. He devised a simple test to select the most suitable person for the job. He asked each applicant the question, "What is two and two?"

The first interviewee was a journalist. His answer was "Twenty-two."

The second applicant was an engineer. He pulled out a slide rule and showed the answer to be between 3.999 and 4.001.

The next person was a lawyer. He stated that in the case of *Jenkins v Commissioner of Stamp Duties*, two and two was proven to be four.

The last applicant was an accountant. The business man asked him, "How much is two and two?"

The accountant got up from his chair, went over to the door and closed it then came back and sat down. He leaned across the desk and said in a low voice....

"How much do you want it to be?"

He got the job.

top ten

MOST POPULAR VEGETABLES*

1. Potatoes
2. Tomatoes
3. Onions
4. Carrots
5. Lettuce
6. Bell peppers
7. Broccoli
8. Cucumbers
9. Salad mix
10. Celery

*bought in past year Source: The Packer

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If you have any questions, please contact one of our site offices via phone or email.

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Pleasant View, (434) 792-0328, PVIH@drhava.com



How to keep all the cookies to yourself



Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



HANK, WHAT'S ALL THIS? IF YOU'RE COLD, JUST LAY IN THE STRAW IN THE BARN.

YOU CAN COVER YOURSELF WITH SOME FRESH MUD.

YOU REALLY THINK THAT IS BETTER THAN WEARING MY NEW WINTER JACKET?

I WAS JUST HOPING IT WAS CONVINCING ENOUGH TO GIVE UP THAT JACKET?

R.F.D. by Mike Marland



NO SCHOOL TODAY -- THE BUS WON'T START!

HOLD ON, SUPERINTENDENT!

I HAPPEN TO HAVE ACCESS TO A PERFECTLY VIABLE ALTERNATIVE HERE...

The Spats by Jeff Pickering



I MADE MYSELF A NEW BELT...

...IT'S MADE ENTIRELY OUT OF OLD WRISTWATCHES!

WHAT A "WAIST" OF TIME.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

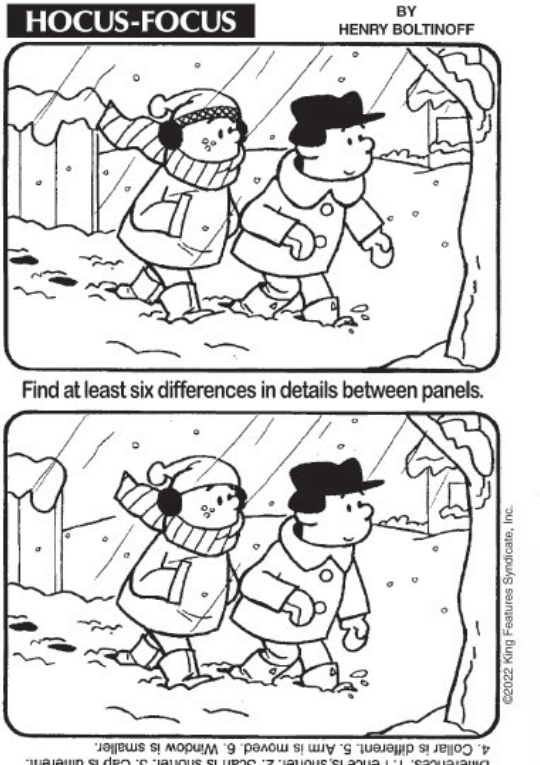
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Fence is different. 2. Scarf is shorter. 3. Window is smaller. 4. Collar is different. 5. Arm is moved. 6. Window is smaller.

King Crossword

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	
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		32		33				34		
			35					36		
37	38	39				40				
41				42	43			44	45	46
47				48						
49				50				51		

ACROSS

- Even
- Apply cream
- "The Good Earth" heroine
- "Please go ahead"
- Fork prong
- The National Pastime
- Circus structure
- Cacophony
- Scalwags
- Basilica areas
- Diving duck
- Soccer legend
- Brewing gizmo
- Greek letter
- Not — out of place
- Skull need
- Kook
- Ordered
- Skin breakout
- Notorious
- Port city of Poland
- Former Mideast org.
- Pealed
- Pitcher's tactic
- "American —"
- Consume too little
- Lion's pride?
- Meadow
- Sciences'

DOWN

- Bar bill
- "— tree falls ..."
- UFO crew
- One of the Ramones
- Cannon of film
- MSN rival
- Reduced-rate postal delivery
- Canada's capital
- Actor Schreiber
- Green Gables girl
- Tennis barriers
- Baseball stats
- Cornhusker's st.
- iPhone download
- Mexican money
- Lost traction
- Black Panthers leader Bobby
- Appreciative
- Rich soil
- Stow cargo
- Grade-school basics
- Flushed
- Hang loose?
- Diva
- Streisand
- Kismet
- Bleak
- Baby's father (Abbr.)
- Fed. food inspector
- Chemical suffix
- Lingus
- Back muscle, briefly
- USN officers

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Trivia Test Answerst

- "Carrie"; 2. Burger King; 3. Abraham Lincoln; 4. Keaton; 5. The wolf in the story; 6. Bombay; 7. "True Grit"; 8. "Nineteen Eighty-Four," by George Orwell; 9. -40 degrees C and -40 degrees F; 10. Atlanta

Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- LITERATURE: What was the title of Stephen King's first published novel?
- ADVERTISING SLOGANS: Which restaurant chain has the advertising slogan, "Have it your way"?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS: Who was the first president whose likeness appeared on a U.S. coin?
- TELEVISION: What is the family's last name in the "Family Ties" sitcom?
- LANGUAGE: What does the Latin phrase "lupus in fabula" mean?
- GEOGRAPHY: What did the city of Mumbai, India, used to be called?
- MOVIES: Which movie features a character called Rooster Cogburn?
- LITERATURE: Which 20th-century novel features a type of language called "newspeak"?
- SCIENCE: What temperature is the same on the Celsius and Fahrenheit scales?
- FOOD & DRINK: Where was Coca-Cola first sold?

Answers

King Crossword

Solution time: 22 mins.

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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Your batteries should be fully recharged by now, making you more than eager to get back into the swing of things full time. Try to stay focused so that you don't dissipate your energies.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You're eager to charge straight ahead into your new responsibilities. But you'll have to paw the ground a little longer, until a surprise complication is worked out.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Rival factions are pressuring you to take a stand favoring one side or the other. But this isn't the time to play judge. Bow out as gracefully as possible, without committing yourself to any position.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Reassure a longtime, trusted confidante that you appreciate his or her words of advice. But at this time, you need to act on what you perceive to be your own sense of self-interest.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) You need to let your warm Leonine heart fire up that new relationship if you hope to see it move from the "just friends" level to one that will be as romantic as you could hope for.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) There's still time to repair a misunderstanding with an honest explanation and a heartfelt apology. The sooner you do, the sooner you can get on with other matters.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Expect a temporary setback as you progress toward your goal. Use this time to re-examine your plans and see where you might need to make some significant changes.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Some missteps are revealed as the cause of current problems in a personal or professional partnership. Make the necessary adjustments and then move on.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Jupiter's influence helps you work through a pesky problem, allowing your naturally jovial attitude to re-emerge stronger than ever. Enjoy your success.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Set aside your usual reluctance to change, and consider reassessing your financial situation so that you can build on its strengths and minimize its weaknesses.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Some recently acquired information helps open up a dark part of the past. Resolve to put what you've learned to good use. Travel plans continue to be favored.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Act on your own keen instincts. Your strong Piscean backbone will support you as someone attempts to pressure you into a decision you're not ready to make.

BORN THIS WEEK: You embody a love for traditional values combined with an appreciation of what's new and challenging.

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CATS & MICE! Cats outnumber mice by three to one (wonder why?) above. How many of each do you see? ©2022 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

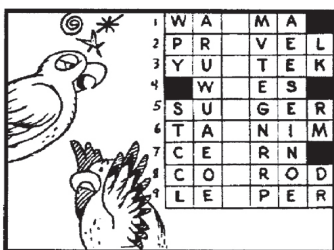
D-MAIL! Find a U.S. city whose name begins with D in each sentence: 1. Each day tons of junk mail arrive. 2. Send all as soon as possible. 3. The sender's identity was hidden very discreetly. Time: One minute.

ROUND TRIPPER! This is an old, puzzling stunt that is always entertaining. It seems that if you start at any point on any circle in this cluster of 16, and proceed alternately circle by circle, counterclockwise and then clockwise, as shown here (or vice versa), your path invariably should take you back to where you started.

Give it a try starting at various places with different-colored pencils.

Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman



FEATHER-BRAINED NAME SCRAMBLE

THIS test is for the birds, says our parrot friend, at left. And he's right.

Scrambled names of nine birds, each missing a letter, appear in rows across.

When letters are added, and names unscrambled, a tenth bird's name will appear in present blanks reading downward.

This mystery bird is an expert diver and has a voracious appetite.

Birds whose names are scrambled (in random order) are crane, condor, martin, petrel, turkey, smew, plover, macaw, grouse.

How quickly can you name the mystery bird?

order: Macaw, plover, turkey, smew, grouse, martin, crane, condor, petrel. Hidden bird is the cormorant. Bird

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What's Going on in Shopperland



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2021 Chatham Sartomer Arkema 5K Race Raises Over \$9,000 for Chatham Fire, Rescue, and Local Charities

Chatham, Virginia - The Chatham Sartomer Arkema 5K and One Mile Fun Run raised \$9,621.69 from the 2021 race. The Chatham Rescue Squad, the Chatham Volunteer Fire Department, and ten local charities and schools recently received disbursements from the race committee to officially conclude the 2021 event. The race ran on Saturday, September 11.

"The Chatham Sartomer Arkema 5K race has always been a successful fundraiser for our benefactors," Bill Wiebking, 2021 Race Coordinator, said. "The race committee and I sincerely appreciate our sponsors and race participants who contributed to the 2021 event. We didn't run in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic, and we ran the 2021 event with some restrictions. While the participation numbers were lower than 2019, the 2021 race exceeded 2019 fundraising by \$200.04. A big 'Thank You' goes to race sponsors that pledged additional support."

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Kiwanis Club Speaker




Pictured (L-R) are Terri Johnson, Randy Johnson and Kiwanis Club of Danville Program Chairperson Vanessa Searce.

At their bi-monthly meeting, God's Pit Crew Founder and President Randy Johnson detailed recent crisis response team efforts in South Louisiana after Hurricane Ida and Marshall County, KY relief efforts following a monstrous tornado. Kiwanis members were also informed of the efforts of 700 volunteers who are involved in building projects, local distribution of supplies at 2499 North Main Street in Danville and Blessing Buckets that are distributed domestically and internationally.

2021 Chatham Sartomer Arkema 5K Race & 1 Mile Fun Run Race Disbursement Images with Captions

 Carole Hedrick Rescue Volunteer Chatham Rescue Squad \$3,207.23	 Chief Donald Motley Fire Chief Chatham Volunteer Fire Dept. \$3,207.23	 Col. Greg Phillips JROTC Instructor Chatham HS JROTC \$775.19 (-\$200 for God's Pit Crew) (-\$200 for God's Storehouse)
 Dr. Wanda Carter Principal Chatham Elementary School \$525.67	 Ciara Keen Drum Major Chatham HS Marching Band \$431.38	 Chad Scruggs Athletic Director Gretna High School \$364.02
 Cindy Irby Athletic Director Faith Christian Academy \$276.15	 Martin Pounds Assistant Athletic Director Dan River HS JROTC \$242.47	 Julia Boles Principal Chatham Middle School \$202.06
 Warren Johnson Disaster Rebuild Coordinator God's Pit Crew \$161.65 (+\$200 from Chatham HS JROTC)	 Karen Harris Executive Director God's Storehouse \$114.50 (+\$200 from Chatham HS JROTC)	 Hank Meadows Vice President Grace A Lot \$114.50

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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

Betty Ann Shelton Jarrett Travis

April 26, 1939 ~ January 10, 2022 (age 82)



Betty Ann Shelton Jarrett Travis, age 82, of Danville, VA, went to be with our Lord on Monday January 10, 2022. She passed away surrounded by family in her home in Grottoes, VA. She was born April 26, 1939, in Pittsylvania County to the late Curtis David and Lillie Pruitt

Shelton. Mrs. Travis lived in Danville the majority of her life but relocated to Grottoes, VA. later in life to be near family.

She is survived by nine grandchildren, thirteen great grandchildren, her sister: Gail Ragsdale of Danville, and her children: Curtis D. Jarrett and wife Elizabeth, of Bridgeport, New York, Michael W. Jarrett, and wife Deborah, of Grottoes, VA., and Brian K. Jarrett of Grottoes, VA.

In addition to her parents, Mrs. Travis was predeceased by her son, Mark A. Jarrett of Sutherlin, VA., and her husband Claude F. Travis Jr.

Graveside funeral services for the family will be held at Liberty Christian Church Cemetery in Sandy Level, Pittsylvania County, VA at 2:00 PM on Thursday January 13, 2022, with Doctor Charles Searce officiating.

Instead of flowers she would have preferred donations to her church www.fbcgrottoes.net

Swicegood Funeral Home is respectfully serving the Travis Family.

William Doyle Carter

June 10, 1932 ~ January 6, 2022 (age 89)

Mr. William Doyle Carter, age 89, of Axton, Virginia, passed away on Thursday, January 06, 2022, at his residence.

Mr. Carter was born on June 10, 1932, in Henry County, Virginia, to the late Clay M. Carter and Gracie Rodgers Carter. He was employed at Dan River Mills as a weaver and Sara Lee Knitting Company for many years before retirement and was a member of Cascade Baptist Church.

Mr. Carter is survived by his niece, Lisa Cassell, and nephews, Denzel Carter, and Vic Cross.

In addition to his parents, Mr. Carter was predeceased by his loving wife, Ruby Carter, and brother, Cecil Carter.

Graveside services will be conducted Saturday, January 15, 2022, at 2 PM at Danville Memorial Gardens with Reverend Wayne Mayberry officiating.

Swicegood Funeral Service is respectfully serving the Carter family.

Tessica Ingram Adkins



Tessica Ingram Adkins of Sutherlin, Virginia, passed away on December 16, 2021, at the age of 36. She was born on January 4, 1985, to Belinda Gillespie

Wilson Searce and Lonnie Wayne Wilson, Sr. in Danville, Virginia.

Tessica was member of The Way Ministry. In addition to her parents, she is survived by her sons Mikael Malik Ingram of Danville, Virginia, and David Andrew Morrison, Jr. of Danville, Virginia; her daughter Domonique Danielle Ingram of Danville, Virginia; her brothers Lonnie Wayne Wilson, Jr. of Sutherlin, Virginia, and Thomas Lee Searce III of Danville, Virginia; her sister Crystal Stauffer of Danville, Virginia; her uncle Tim Searce of Sutherlin, Virginia, and four nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her stepmother Patricia Marie Wilson and by her stepfather Tommy Searce, Jr.

A memorial service will be held at The Way Ministry (313 Songbird Lane, Danville, Virginia, 24540) on December 19, 2021, at 4:00PM with Teresa Hawker officiating. A visitation will be held after the service. At other times, the family will receive friends at the mother's residence (901 Laurel Grove Rd, Sutherlin, Virginia, 24594).

Norris Funeral Services, Inc. & Crematory, Mt. Hermon Chapel, 3995 Franklin Tpke., Danville, Va. is respectfully serving the Adkins family.

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

These free obituaries are sponsored by Swicegood-Barker Funeral Services as a service to their clients/families and Piedmont Shopper readers. Please let them know we appreciate their continued support.

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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. A dozen dozen | ___ O ___ | Mower's target | ___ A ___ |
| 2. Basement | ___ E ___ | Arrest | ___ O ___ |
| 3. Window sealer | ___ U ___ | Burger portion | ___ A ___ |
| 4. Exhilarate | ___ A ___ | The upper crust | ___ I ___ |
| 5. Lone Star capital | A ___ | Actor Hoffman | D ___ |
| 6. Hooray, well done | ___ O ___ | Heroic | ___ E ___ |
| 7. Peril | ___ N ___ | Cloak and | ___ G ___ |
| 8. British drummer | ___ R ___ | Turn on the engine | ___ T ___ |
| 9. Little meower | K ___ | Hand warmer | M ___ |
| 10. Rabbit cage | ___ T ___ | Gut feeling | ___ N ___ |

Gregory Keith Boyd



Gregory Keith Boyd, 49, of Martinsville, VA departed this life on Sunday, January 9, 2022 at his residence. Born in Martinsville, VA he was a son of the late Winford Spencer Boyd and Doris Mae Boyd.

Greg was a truck driver for Richmond Restaurant Services and was a member of Dan River Church. On April 25, 2012 he married Hannah Boyd, who survives of the residence.

Survivors also include two sons, Zachary Boyd (Shelby), Tyler Boyd, a grandson, William Boyd, siblings, Dean Boyd (Susie), Lessie Shaughnessy (Terry), Wink Boyd (Amy), Mary Boyd, Debbie Witt (Tom), Wendy Parnell (Robert), and Stephenie Bailey (Brad).

In addition to his parents he was predeceased by two brothers, Michael Witt and Jeffrey Witt.

Funeral services will be held on Friday, January 14, 2022 at 11:00 AM at Dan River Church with Pastor Scott Randlett and Mr. Jay Wentz officiating. A private burial will follow in the Boyd Family Cemetery.

The family will receive friends on Thursday evening from 5:30-7:30 PM at Dan River Church.

Wrenn-Yeatts Westover Chapel is serving the Boyd family.

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HOLLYWOOD
by Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD — Are great movie musicals a thing of the past? When Steven Spielberg decided to remake "West Side Story," he purported to reimagine what the American Film Institute chose as the second greatest movie musical of all time. Spielberg's "West Side Story" received 93% positive notices from 306 reviews, which critics called "a knockout," "brash effervescence" and "a poignant American fairytale." But The New Yorker magazine disagreed, saying "Spielberg's 'West Side Story' remake is worse than the original. Spielberg makes misguided additions and removed much of the best."

The film cost \$100 million, and was originally due Dec. 18, 2020, but was delayed by COVID-19. In its 45-day theatrical release, it needed to gross \$300 million to break even. They're looking down a long road for that. It's unfortunate that the film was banned in four major Middle East countries due to objections to the transgender character "Anybody's," played by nonbinary actor Iris Menas.

Forbes magazine has announced there will be a stage musical sequel, "Maria," by Steven Sapp and his wife, which focuses on what happened to Maria after Tony's death. Maria was alive at the end of "West Side Story," but Juliet died in "Romeo and Juliet." Shakespeare never wrote a sequel.

AFI's list of the 20 greatest movie musicals ranks "Singing in the Rain" at No. 1, followed by the original "West Side Story," "The Wizard of Oz," "The Sound of Music" and "Cabaret." Rounding out the top 10 are "Mary Poppins," "A Star Is Born" (with Judy Garland), "My Fair Lady," "An American in Paris" and "Meet Me in St. Louis." "The King and I" comes in at No. 11, followed by "Chicago," "42nd Street," "All That Jazz," "Top Hat," "Funny Girl," "The Band Wagon," "Yankee Doodle Dandy," "On the Town" and "Grease."

But where are the great musicals such



Ariana DeBose in 2021's "West Side Story"

as "Gigi" and "Oliver" (Oscar-winners for best picture and director)? And perennial holiday favorites like "White Christmas" and "Easter Parade," or classics such as "Oklahoma," "Carousel," "Camelot," "Lili," "The Great Ziegfeld," "Silk Stockings" (great Cole Porter score), "High Society" (Sinatra/Crosby, Grace Kelly, Louis Armstrong) and the Oscar-winning "True Love."

Then there's "Hello Dolly" (Barbra Streisand and Louis Armstrong singing the title song is electrifying), "The Dolly Sisters" (Betty Grable and June Haver at their best), "No Business Like Show Business" (Marilyn Monroe at her hottest singing "Heat Wave" or "Bye Bye Birdie" (Ann-Margret's breakout role? And how could Irving Berlin's "Annie Get Your Gun," with the showbiz national anthem, "There's No Business Like Show Business," be left off?

The American Film Institute rated "Citizen Kane" the best film of all time over "Gone with the Wind." Frankly, my dears ...

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Resolutions...

Now is a time when many of us reflect back on the past and try to implement a plan for a better future. Many of us have a goal to lose weight, exercise more, or stop some habit that may not be good for us. Are you including your finances in your goals for 2022? Give this some thought and decide what kind of financial goals you need to set for yourself. Here are some suggestions you may want to consider:

- Improve your credit score
- Set a goal for a savings account
- Pay off debt
- Savings plan for retirement

After you determine what your goal is the next step is to develop a plan to reach that goal. Setting a short term goal and reaching that goal will encourage you to set a larger goal. Putting your plans in writing will also help you in deciding what you need to do to reach that goal. Changing habits is never easy but one thing is for sure...nothing changes if nothing changes. Let us help you reach your financial goals!



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Use variations to change up basic vegetable soup

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by Ryan A. Berenz

1. What U.S. track and field star, a winner of nine Olympic gold medals, recorded songs "Break It Up" and "Lovers Don't Talk" for his 1987 album "Modern Man"?

2. Name the Baseball Hall of Famer who in 1984 became the first manager to win the World Series in both the AL and the NL.

3. What member of the World Golf Hall of Fame is No. 1 on the LPGA Tour career wins list with 88?

4. A January 2018 high-speed car crash in Los Angeles claimed the life of what 2002 NBA Draft pick from La Salle University?

5. The KFC Yum! Center is a college basketball arena located in what U.S. city?

6. The Ashes is the name of a Test cricket series contested between what two countries?

7. An anthropomorphic pepper named Cayenne was the unofficial mascot of what Sun Belt Conference university's athletic teams from 2000-2010?

Answers

1. Carl Lewis.
2. Sparky Anderson (1975-6 Cincinnati Reds, 1984 Detroit Tigers).
3. Kathy Whitworth.
4. Rasual Butler.
5. Louisville, Kentucky.
6. England and Australia.
7. The Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns.

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This soup is delicious, but to avoid the "soup again?" syndrome, simple additions to the basic vegetable soup totally change up the flavors so we don't get bored. Some variation ideas follow the recipe.

What makes this recipe unique is that the veggies are sauteed for a little caramelization, maximizing their natural sweetness. This adds tremendous depth of umami flavor you don't usually find in vegetable soup.

Of course, you can add any veggies you like to this soup, but I concentrated on lower-carb veggies. However, strong tasting vegetables like broccoli or asparagus tend to overpower the other flavors.

This delectable recipe can be made on the stovetop or a crock pot, makes about 10 servings, is easily doubled and freezes beautifully in single or family-size portions.

VERY VERSATILE VEGETABLE SOUP

Yield: 10 servings Time: 1 hour (stovetop)

- 3 tablespoons olive oil, divided
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 4 large carrots, chopped
- 4 celery stalks, chopped
- 4-6 cloves garlic, minced (more if you love garlic!)
- 1 medium head green cabbage, chopped
- 1 (28 ounce) can Italian-style diced tomatoes, undrained
- 2 cups green beans, fresh or frozen, chopped
- 2 small russet potatoes (optional) peeled and chopped
- 8 cups (five 14.5 ounce cans) low-sodium chicken, beef or vegetable broth
- One big pinch red pepper flakes (optional)
- Salt and pepper to taste

1. The secret to this soup is the saute. Put 1 tablespoon oil in a large soup pot on medium-high heat. Add onion and cook until nearly translucent. Add carrot and saute for 3 minutes. Add celery and continue to cook for another 3 minutes, adding more oil as needed. (Remember that you're not cooking the veggies, just sauteing for the scrumptious flavor it imparts. If you get a little golden color, that's fantastic!)

2. Add the garlic and mix it together for 1 minute. Add cabbage and stir. I

add a little salt and pepper now. Cook until the cabbage begins to wilt. Add the tomatoes, green beans, potatoes, if using, broth and pepper flakes, and mix it all together.

3. If you're putting this in a crock pot to finish; dump it in now, set to LOW for 6 to 8 hours. To finish on the stovetop; let it come to a boil then turn heat to low. Let it gently simmer away until the veggies are tender, and the soup smells divine, roughly 30 minutes.

4. Add salt and pepper to taste at the end because as the soup reduces, it concentrates the flavors, including salt. You can replace half the broth with water to reduce the sodium.

VARIATIONS

Change the flavor by adding these ingredients to the hot soup by the bowl.
Mock Minestrone — White beans, big handful of spinach, cooked ditalini or small shell pasta, and Parmesan cheese.

Cabbage Roll — Cooked hamburger, rice and a splash of Worcestershire. Finish with a dollop of sour cream.

Southwest — Add shredded cooked chicken, black beans, corn and a dash of cumin and chili powder. Top with shredded cheese.

Greek Lemon Chicken — Cooked shredded chicken, orzo or rice, dried or fresh oregano and a big squeeze of lemon.

I'm for anything that makes it easy and affordable to reach our nutritional goals. Here's to a healthy 2022!

Lifestyle expert Patti Diamond is the penny-pinching, party-planning, recipe developer and content creator of the website "Divas On A Dime — Where Frugal, Meets Fabulous!" Visit Patti at www.divasonadime.com and join the conversation on Facebook at [DivasOnADimeDotCom](https://www.facebook.com/DivasOnADimeDotCom). Email Patti at divapatti@divasonadime.com



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* Freshen stuffed animals by securing a few in a pillowcase and adding a fabric softener sheet. Put in the dryer on low heat for 20 minutes, then remove and brush out the fur, if necessary, while still warm.

* "Keep a quart container in the freezer and whenever you have a small amount of leftovers, chop them up and add it to your container. When it's full, thaw it. Add some of your favorite soup beans, pizza sauce, milk and cheese, and you have a unique and delicious soup." -- M. from Pennsylvania

* If you've been decluttering as a part of your New Year's resolutions, and you came across old pairs of eyeglasses, know that you can donate them to any Lion's Club in your area. They redistribute the glasses to those who cannot afford them. You don't have to know the prescription, and they take reading glasses, too!

* How can you keep snow and ice off your windshield? Some say a solution of three parts vinegar to one-part water sprayed on the windshield each night can cut your ice-scraping time in half or better. (Use caution to avoid your paint job.) Also, try covering your wipers with an old pair of long socks so they don't freeze to the glass!

* "For pastry cooking, try grating frozen butter into the flour. It cuts in better and will stay cool longer. This helps when I'm making shortbread, as the flour and butter need to be combined. I don't end up having to put it in the fridge to cool it back down." -- C.S. in South Carolina

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How my kids walk by a sink full of dishes...



Weddings

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1. Who released "Daddy Don't You Walk So Fast"?
2. Where did the name of "disco" music and dance come from?
3. Who released "To Sir With Love"?
4. Which singer released "Private Dancer"?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "I run a comb through my hair and step out in the street."

Answers

1. Wayne Newton, in 1972. The song climbed the charts around the world and was even translated into other languages.
2. France. During the 1940s when the Nazis were occupying Paris, "discotheque" was a type of nightclub where patrons danced to phonographic records. Disco became popular in the U.S. in early '70s, emerging out of an urban subculture.
3. Lulu, born Marie McDonald McLaughlin Lawrie, in the 1967 film of the same name, starring Sidney Poitier. It was the best-selling single of the year, after staying at No. 1 for five weeks.
4. Tina Turner, on her album of the same name, in 1984.
5. "Make Me Lose Control," by Eric Carmen, in 1988. The song was a single that was never on an album and stayed at the top of the adult contemporary chart for three weeks. It came out shortly after Carmen's "Hungry Eyes" in the film "Dirty Dancing."

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Berry Fruit Salad with Honey Lime Dressing



Just throw red berries in a large mixing bowl and generously drizzle the honey-lime-mint dressing to bring out the summery freshness. Fruits keep their shape nicely and the salad is beautiful to look at, ideal to finish a dinner with a light touch!

INGREDIENTS

- 1 pint strawberries, hulled and quartered
- 1 pint blueberries
- 1 pint cherries, pitted and halved
- 1/2 pint blackberries
- 1/4 cup honey
- 1/4 cup fresh lime juice
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh mint

Honey Lime Dressing

- 1/4 cup honey
- 1/4 cup fresh lime juice
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh mint

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Add all fruit to a large mixing bowl, and gently toss together.
2. In a separate bowl or mason jar, whisk together honey, mint, and lime juice. Drizzle the salad with the dressing, to taste. Cover and refrigerate fruit salad for 3 to 4 hours before serving. Serve chilled.

I lifted up my shirt to check out my abs and a Cheeto fell out, so there's that.

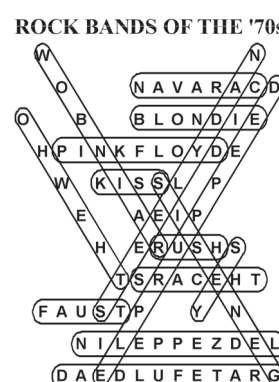


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None this week. Too cold!!

See You Next Week!



Even Exchange answers

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Gross, Grass | 6. Bravo, Brave |
| 2. Cellar, Collar | 7. Danger, Dagger |
| 3. Putty, Patty | 8. Starr, Start |
| 4. Elate, Elite | 9. Kitten, Mitten |
| 5. Austin, Dustin | 10. Hutch, Hunch |



by Freddy Groves

Mail Delays Prompt VA to Extend Deadlines

The Department of Veterans Affairs ran into a big snag with a printing vendor and a lot of notification letters to veterans were delayed. But fear not -- the VA is extending your response time.

The Government Printing Office, which provides printing services via contracted vendors, couldn't get out the notification letters dated from July 13, 2021 and Dec. 31, 2021. Some of those letters, which required a response from veterans, could have dealt with required exams for compensation and pension, or for making an election about services or benefits, or more.

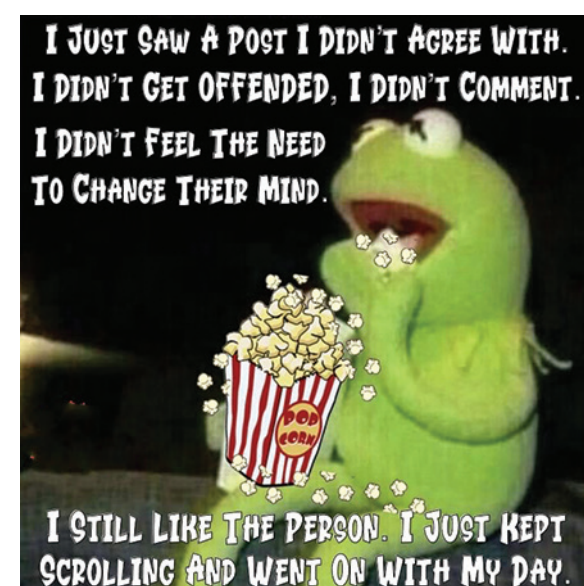
Typically, there are problems if you don't respond in time. However, at this point, because of the delayed mailings, the VA isn't going to terminate, reduce or deny services and benefits unless you've been contacted and there's documentation about your right to respond; or the information it asked you for has been received; or the response period has ended.

If you haven't received an expected communication from the VA, call 800-827-1000 to ask about the status of any letters you should have received. Be certain they have current cellphone, home phone, email and address info for you.

If you've filed an appeal, the Board of Veterans' Appeals also is experiencing significant delays in getting information to you about hearings and decisions. As of last month, the board is figuring up a workaround to get information to you and your representatives. If you're waiting on a notice about a hearing, they'll try any number of methods to reach you. If you have to postpone, call them ASAP. If you're waiting on a decision, ask your rep to access Caseflow to see if your decision information has been included yet.

For more information, including ways to get additional assistance, check www.bva.va.gov/docs/Delayed_notifications_fact_sheet.pdf

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