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Salome's Stars

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Although taking advice isn't always easy for the headstrong Sheep, you might want to consider what someone you respect will have to say about an upcoming decision.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) A new offer is tempting, but don't be bullied into a quick decision. Rely on your keen Bovine business sense to alert you to anything that might be questionable.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Your "Gemini Twin" nature rallies to help you deal with this week's hectic schedule, both in your personal and professional lives. One caution: Watch your diet.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Avoid rushing to make up for lost time on a stalled workplace operation. It's best to set up a schedule and pace yourself. Welcome the help of your colleagues.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Despite those glittering holiday distractions that you love so well, be sure to keep your feline senses set on high to alert you to anything that might require fast action.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Making an effort to restore fraying relationships proves to be more successful than you dared hope. The holidays also bring new friends into

your life.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Private and professional matters compete for your attention. Be honest in your assessment of which should get more of it — and for how long.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) A seemingly endless list of must-do tasks is best handled by tackling them one by one. Don't forget to take energy-restoring timeouts between each job.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A vexing relationship seems destined to deteriorate no matter what each side tries to do. A third party's advice just might prove to be helpful.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Reach out and ease any tensions caused by home or workplace pressures before they threaten the relationship-building progress that you've made.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) You often go out of your way to show kindness to others, so don't be surprised if other people want to do something nice for you this week.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) People in your life respect your Piscean wisdom, so don't hesitate to speak up about a matter that you feel isn't being handled quite the way it should.

BORN THIS WEEK: Your personal warmth helps you make friendships, and your sense of fair play helps you keep them.

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BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

- Is the book of 1 Corinthians (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
- For not believing his wife would conceive, who was struck mute, not being able to speak? Gabriel, Zachariah, Joash, Mesha
- The Lord's Prayer, the Beatitudes and the Golden Rule are found in what sermon? Lamb blood, Agnus, On the mount, Dry bones
- According to David, what does God's spiritual cleansing make us whiter than? Light, Clouds, Wool, Snow
- How many times is the name "Lucifer" mentioned in the Bible (KJV)? 1, 7, 9, 13
- From Psalm 19, what do the heavens declare? Holiness, Glory of God, Creation, Mighty wind

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Zachariah, 3) On the mount, 4) Snow, 5) 1 (Isaiah 14:12), 6) Glory of God

Find expanded trivia online with Wilson Casey at www.patreon.com/triviaguy. FREE TRIAL!

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1. Genesis	\$230 million
2. Sting	\$210 million
3. Tyler Perry	\$175 million
4. Trey Parker & Matt Stone	\$160 million
5. James L. Brooks & Matt Groening	\$105 million
6. Brad Pitt	\$100 million
7. Rolling Stones	\$98 million
8. James Cameron	\$95 million
9. Taylor Swift	\$92 million
10. Bad Bunny	\$88 million

Source: Forbes
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Community Calendar DECEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	31	25	26	27	28	29
						30



Breakfast With Santa
Riverbend Volunteer Fire Department is hosting Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 9th from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. We will have a pancake breakfast and crafts for the kids. Of course, they get to meet Santa and tell him what they want for Christmas. Adults \$8 and children 12 and under \$5 per plate. Everything included. (434) 728-0355 mattyandemily@msn.com

Learn To Dance - East Coast Swing, January 2024, Waltz, February 2024, ChaCha, March 2024. Sponsored by Pittsylvania County Parks & Recreation. (434) 432-7736 smath1@centurylink.net

The Cherrystone Baptist Association Men's Ministry Tree Lighting program will be held Sunday December 10th at 4:00 P.M. at the Cherrystone Center at 5551 Tom Ford Rd. Ringgold Va. 24526.

Funny Quotes

I relabeled all of the jars in my wife's spice rack. I'm not in trouble yet, but the thyme is cumin.

I just read a book about marriage that says treat your wife like you treated her on your first date. So tonight after dinner I'm dropping her off at her parent's house.

The best way to get back on your feet is to miss two car payments.

I love bacon. Sometimes I eat it twice a day. It takes my mind off the terrible chest pains I keep getting.

Driver: "What am I supposed to do with this speeding ticket?"
Officer: "Keep it. When you collect four of them, you get a bicycle."

When I was a kid, I used to watch the "Wizard of Oz" and wonder how someone could talk if they didn't have a brain. Then I got Facebook.

I want to be 14 again & ruin my life differently. I have new ideas.

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Community Events

Elvis Home for the Holidays. December 5, 1-3 p.m. Ballou Recreation Center. 760 W. Main St. Elvis impersonator Holiday Musical Performance. Refreshments Provided. (434) 799-5216

Please Come and Enjoy the Ballou Park "Building" Friday Night Dance. 7PM. Dance Alone for Exercise or with Friends to a Live-Band. More-Info Call 434-709-4212.

Join Us at Gospel Worship Center for Bible Study every Thursday at 10am. Lunch will Follow from 11-12. All are Welcome!

Free Community Lunch! EVERY Thursday from 11-2pm at Gospel Worship Center, 3480 West Main Street, Danville. All Welcome!

The Danville Master Gardeners are Sponsoring the 11th Spring to Green Conference on Saturday, February 3, 2024 at the Olde Dominion Agricultural Center (ODAC) on Route 29, Chatham, Virginia. The theme is "Less Work, More Garden." Speakers are Pat Lust, Goochland/Powhatan Master Gardener; Bryce Lane, former host of "In the Garden"; and Mary Ann Hansen, retired Virginia Tech Extension Plant Pathologist. The registration fee of \$45 (lunch included) is due by December 12, 2023. For more information, call Debra Bailey at 336-340-1981, the Danville Extension Office at 434-799-6558, or register online at eventbrite.com. Registration is limited to 125 participants.

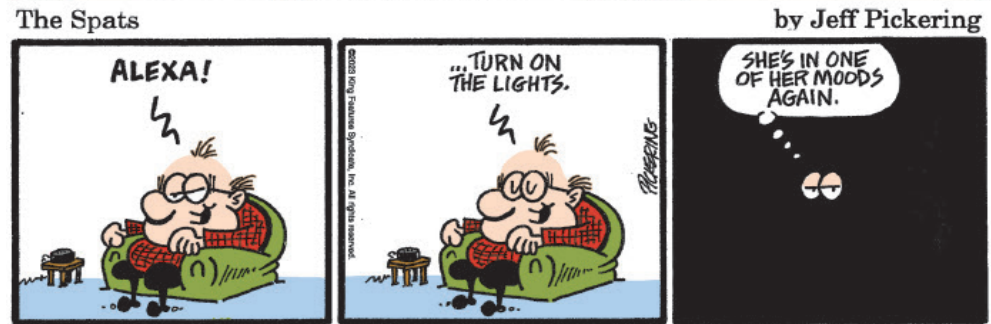
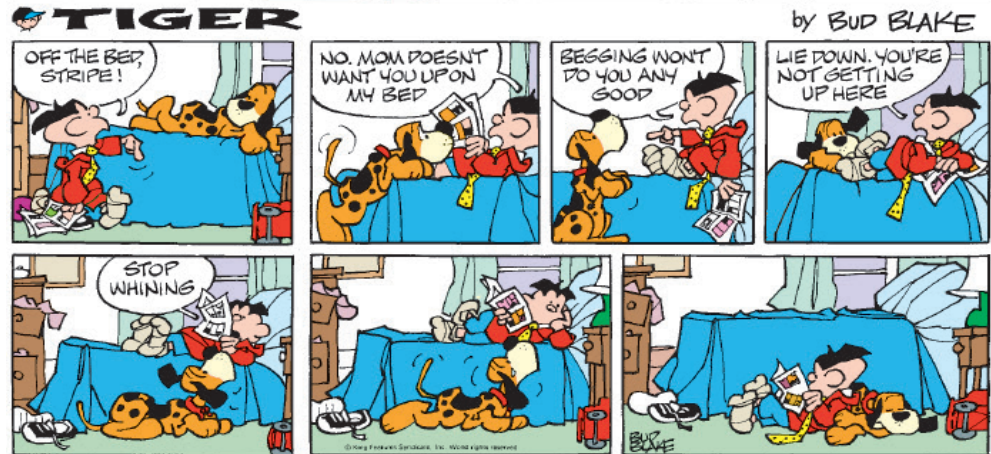
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Amber Waves



Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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.

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- "Kapow!"
- British ref. work
- Holler
- Director Spike
- Chemical suffix
- Fall sign
- Nest egg acronym
- Large, luxurious car
- Brooch
- Range
- Collections
- tear (ragging)
- First lady of scat
- Earth Day mo.
- Transparent
- Dolphins' home
- Traces of smoke
- Agile
- Obtained
- Bygone Peruvian
- Flamenco cheer
- Vacillate
- Quick trip
- Shoe width
- Pungent cheese
- Aachen article

DOWN

- Radar dots
- High nest
- Signified
- Fixes a squeak
- Newspaper chief
- Fiend
- Pivot
- That guy's sash
- Samovar
- kwon do
- Ballroom dance
- Radiates
- Vinyl records
- Back talk
- Billboards
- Picnic dessert
- Jima
- Roman 1051
- "There's no — team!"
- "Better Call Saul" network
- Bellow
- Swiss metropolis
- Sledded in the Winter Olympics
- Like a neglected garden
- Vowel group
- Streisand title role
- Equitable
- Streetcar
- Leary's drug
- Jurist Lance
- Fortify
- A/C meas.

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King Crossword

Solution time: 26 mins.

Answers

ACROSS: 1. POW, 2. BEEF, 3. YEAH, 4. DIRECTOR, 5. SUFFIX, 6. FALL, 7. NEST, 8. LUXURY, 9. BROOCH, 10. RANGE, 11. COLLECTIONS, 12. RAG, 13. SCAT, 14. EARTH, 15. TRANSPARENT, 16. DOLPHINS, 17. TRACES, 18. AGILE, 19. OBTAINED, 20. PERUVIAN, 21. FLAMENCO, 22. VACILLATE, 23. QUICK, 24. SHOE, 25. PUNGENT, 26. AACHEN.

DOWN: 1. RADAR, 2. HIGH, 3. SIGNIFIED, 4. FIXES, 5. NEWSPAPER, 6. PIVOT, 7. THAT, 8. SAMOVAR, 9. KWON, 10. BALLROOM, 11. RADIATES, 12. VINYL, 13. BACK, 14. BILLBOARDS, 15. PICNIC, 16. JIMA, 17. ROMAN, 18. TEAM, 19. BETTER, 20. BELLOW, 21. SWISS, 22. SLEDDING, 23. GARDEN, 24. VOWEL, 25. STREISAND, 26. EQUITABLE, 27. STREETCAR, 28. LEARY, 29. JURIST, 30. FORTIFY, 31. A/C.

Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- MOVIES: Which Disney animated movie features the song "Whistle While You Work"?
- GEOGRAPHY: Which two oceans are on Russia's shores?
- PSYCHOLOGY: What is the fear represented in the condition called euphoria?
- TELEVISION: What is "The Simpsons" home address?
- GAMES: How many dimples are on a golf ball?
- ASTRONOMY: Earth's place in the solar system is how many planets from the Sun?
- LANGUAGE: What is the only country in South America whose official language is Dutch?
- FOOD & DRINK: What is a sweetbread?
- LITERATURE: In which century was "The Canterbury Tales" written?
- SCIENCE: Who is considered the father of modern astronomy?

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1. Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs; 2. Arctic and Pacific; 3. Fear of good news; 4. 742 Evergreen Terrace; 5. Generally between 300-500; 6. Third; 7. Surname; 8. Internal organs of a young animal; 9. Late 14th century; 10. Copernicus.



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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

Treasury staff help citizens find over \$200,000

Last week, the City of Danville Treasurer's Office partnered with the Virginia Department of Treasury's Unclaimed Property division to bring a virtual unclaimed property call event to Danville. Danville's residents were able to call to check for their missing money and have a claim form sent directly to them.

The staff at the Treasury department looked up over 533 names and found \$212,385 during this two-day event that was held Nov. 30 and Dec. 1.

"We are so excited to have held such a successful event once again helping our citizens find over \$1 million since 2019," said Danville City Treasurer Sheila Williamson-Branch. The total found since 2019 is \$1,047, 811.

The City of Danville Treasurer's Office has already saved the dates for 2024 to hold this event again. Those dates will be July 11-12, 2024, and Dec. 5-6, 2024.

The State Treasury's Unclaimed Property Division operates essentially as a centralized lost and found. It handles unclaimed money and property turned over by companies when they have lost track of the rightful owner.

Unclaimed property can include utility deposits, customer refunds, unpaid wages, money from insurance policies, securities and investments, bank accounts, and tangible property.

In addition to the virtual call events, citizens can go online to www.vaMoneySearch.org and search their name for unclaimed property. There is no charge for searching, either at community-outreach events or through the website.

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Scenes from Danville Christmas Parade



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December 7-23
 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

\$10/cars • \$20/vans & minibuses

Children's Village is open until 9 p.m. nightly. Photos with Santa, refreshments, model railroad scene, and activities are included in admission fee. A portion of proceeds support volunteer organizations working the gate and traffic controlling nightly.

The 2023 ornament is available inside Children's Village for \$10 while supplies last! A limited amount of ornaments from previous years are available while supplies last.

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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

Thomas Wayne Durham

April 29, 1958 ~ November 29, 2023 (age 65)



Mr. Thomas Wayne Durham Sr., age 65, of Pelham, North Carolina passed away on Wednesday, November 29, 2023 at his residence.

Mr. Durham was born April 29, 1958 in Danville, Virginia to the late Thomas Durham and Catherine Barker Barbour who survives.

Mr. Durham spent most of his life in Pelham where he was a truck driver for Marshall Construction.

In addition to his mother, he is survived by his wife of 47 years, Deborah Durham; sons, Thomas Wayne Durham Jr. (Janet), Michael Jason Durham (Belinda); sister, Tammy Durham Neff; brothers, David Barbour, Chad Durham; sister, Kimberly Durham; grandchildren, Ariel Durham, Desiree Durham, Brianna Durham, Kolten Durham, Emily Durham; great-grandchildren, Novalie Durham and Neveah Barley

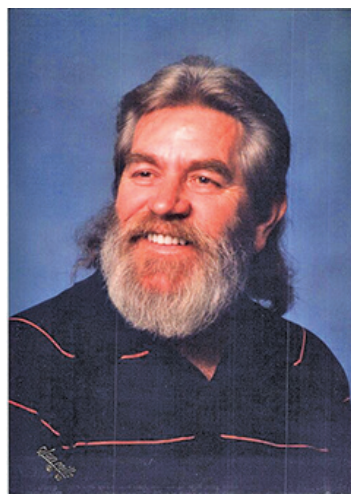
In addition to his father, he is predeceased by his step-father Wayne Barbour.

Funeral services will be conducted Sunday, December 3, 2023 at 2:00 pm at Swicegood Funeral Home with Reverend Mitch Cifers officiating. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the funeral. Interment will follow at Lively Stones Baptist Church Cemetery.

Swicegood Funeral Service is respectfully serving the Durham family.

Thomas LeRoy Knowles

August 10, 1943 ~ November 28, 2023 (age 80)



Mr. Thomas LeRoy Knowles, age 80, of Chatham, Virginia, died on Tuesday, November 28, 2023 at Lynchburg General Hospital.

Mr. Knowles was born on August 10, 1943 in Draper, North Carolina to the late Mary Frances Knowles and John

Wesley Knowles.

Mr. Knowles lived most of his life in Draper and Chatham where he retired from Goodyear Tire and Rubber.

Mr. Knowles is survived by his wife, Lori Knowles; sons, C.A. Knowles (Misty), Thomas Leroy Knowles II, Jeremiah Knowles; daughter, Teresa Davis (Reid); brother, Stewart; sisters, Essel, Lisa; grandchildren, Dawn Knowles, Joshua Davis (Cristen), Alanda Knowles, Nicholas Davis, Bethany Eanes, Little T Knowles, Hannah Davis, Mya Knowles, Jazmine Knowles, Gavin Burton; great-grandchildren, Cassidy, Amarion, Cayden, Ja'Ziya, Camille, Cassius, E'Owyn, Atticus, Kareem, and Charlotte.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his daughter, Doricia Jo Knowles; brothers, JD and Pete; sister, Shelby.

Memorial services will be conducted Saturday, December 2, 2023 at 2:00pm at Swicegood Funeral Home with Reverend Kenneth Barnes officiating. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the funeral.

Swicegood Funeral Service is respectfully serving the Knowles family.

Lois Sparks Hayes



Lois Sparks Hayes, 90 years old of Danville, VA passed away peacefully on November 21, 2023. She was born May 21, 1933 in Henry County to Vertie Tucker Sparks and Thomas Richard Sparks. She was

predeceased by her parents, two brothers (Bill and Charlie) and her sister (Margie).

She is survived by the love of her life, her husband of 68 years Ray Herbert Hayes. She is also survived by her three children, Lori Lape (husband Nick) of Richmond Va., Herby Hayes (wife Cindy) of Danville Va. and Marcie Slayton (husband Keith) of Appomattox Va.

Lois (Nana) leaves behind eight grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Lois graduated from Schoolfield High School in 1951 and was the proud graduate of the Memorial Hospital School of Nursing in 1954. She was an extremely accomplished nurse, who had a spirit of love and compassion that greatly informed her delivery of nursing care. In her last nursing job, she served as a head nurse at Southern Virginia Mental Health Institute. While there, she was injured in the line of duty and suffered many health setbacks as a result.

Lois was a gifted homemaker, cook, entertainer of friends, painter, crafter, thrift store aficionado, square dancer, belly dancer and could make a penny squeal.

She was a devoted member of First Presbyterian Church and served in many capacities there, including being a choir member.

She loved living at Myrtle Beach for several years and especially loved walking on the beach and collecting shells. "I was never in a hurry there", she would say.

She will be missed more than words can express.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, January 20, 2023, at 11:00 AM at First Presbyterian Church, 937 Main St., Danville, VA 24541, with a visitation an hour prior.

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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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 M_A_S_T_E_R for an I, you get M_I_S_T_E_R. Do not change the order of the letters.

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|
| 1. Uncover | ___ V ___ | Revoke | ___ P ___ |
| 2. Georgia fruit | ___ E ___ | Steam cook an egg | ___ O ___ |
| 3. Join together | ___ ___ N | More rapidly | ___ ___ R |
| 4. Dedicate | ___ V ___ | Designate | ___ N ___ |
| 5. Really speedy | ___ C ___ | Idiosyncrasy | ___ R ___ |
| 6. Correct | R ___ | No longer dark | L ___ |
| 7. Twisted cord | ___ N ___ | More than once | ___ C ___ |
| 8. Fissure | ___ C ___ | Gulp of air | ___ T ___ |
| 9. Calvary sword | ___ A ___ | Clear-headed | ___ O ___ |
| 10. Energetic and perky | ___ I ___ | Beautiful | ___ O ___ |

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KOVELS Antiques & Collecting
By Terry and Kim Kovel

Homemade Sleds

Do you have fond memories of spending a winter day sliding down a snowy hill? Sledding is a pastime that has been around for a long time.

Archaeologists have evidence that the earliest sleds were used not in snowy climates, but in ancient Egypt. Heavy loads like stone for construction or monuments were loaded onto platforms with runners and pushed along tracks to their destination.

Sleds have been in use for so long that it's uncertain when they went from being practical vehicles to children's toys. The first steerable sled for children, the Flexible Flyer, was patented in 1889. Before then, children played with homemade sleds that are now collected as folk art.

This sled, painted blue with yellow stripes and a spray of flowers, with metal swan's head handles, was made in the 19th century and sold for \$328 at an auction by Pook & Pook, Inc.

Q: I'd like to know the possible value of a Florence Ceramics three-section bonbon dish. It's light pink with two applied pink roses and one rose bud in the center where the three parts come together. It has irregularly shaped ruffled and fluted edges and is about 9 inches by 9 inches.

A. Florence Ward started Florence Ceramics Co. in Pasadena, California, in 1942. She worked out of her garage until moving to larger quarters in 1946. The company was in business until 1964, when it was sold to Scripto Corp., which closed in 1977. The company is best known for its figurines depicting historical or fictional characters. Boxes, bud vases, candleholders, candy dishes and other decorative items were also made. Several different pieces were made with delicate applied roses. A dish similar to yours was listed online for \$50.

TIP: To remove wax from a Hanukkah menorah or another candleholder



A painted sled makes a snowy day even more festive. Like many homemade toys, this one doubles as a piece of folk art. It sold for \$380 including the buyers' premium.

with small candle cups, run hot water in the holes or use a hair dryer to warm the metal, then remove the wax with cotton swabs.

CURRENT PRICES

Pair of Christmas ornaments, acorns, mercury glass, silver finish, kugel style, 8 inches, \$50.

Toy, Santa Claus, Steiff, plush, stuffed, red suit, hat and boots, white faux fur trim, stitched felt fingers, tag on chest, 14 x 8 inches, \$110.

Furniture, cupboard, hanging, yellow fir, flat molded top, wood peg construction, single paneled door opens to two shelves and three small over wide drawers, hand-forged hinges and lock, 28 x 23 x 10 inches, \$750.

Daum cameo glass bowl, scenic landscape, river, distant village, white shaded to green, acid etched, gilt ginkgo leaves, round, four-sided undulating rim with band of enamel flowers, marked, "Daum Nancy," Cross of Lorraine, 4 x 5 x 6 inches, \$3,600.

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

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5Hp Wood Splitter. Pics Available. Vertical/Horizontal. Asking \$550. Call 336-394-5984.

Simplicity Mower. 42" Deck. Cuts/Runs Good. Asking \$450. Call 434-728-3881.

Older Leaf Shredder. From Sears. Asking \$35. Call 434-421-2850.

Snapper Riding Mower. High Vac 30" Mower with Bagger. 10.5 HP. Asking \$300. Call 434-258-9085.

Firewood For Sale. Seasoned, Mid Green and Green. Reasonably Priced. Call 434-441-1364.

Cub Cadet Mower, with 5x7 Trailer. Nice. Asking \$1300. Call 434-251-6800.

3 Point Hook Up Spreader. Asking \$100. Call 434-251-6800.

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REDSKINS SOLAR BIRD FEEDER LANTERN. SOLAR POWERED BIRD FEEDER LANTERN \$15 SEAT COVERS COWBOYS STEELERS RAVENS VA Tech TAR HEELS CLEMSON \$40. 434-713-0988. (434) 713-0988 dickersonmike21@yahoo.com

75 6 Ft. T Posts with Clips. Call for Price 434-822-8489.

Will Cut Grass and Rake Leaves. Call for Prices and More Information 434-579-6386.

50" Regular Mower. Call for Price 434-250-3128.

50" Cub Cadet Mower. Zero Turn. Call for Price 434-250-3128.

Push Mowers and Lawnmower Parts. Weed Eater Parts Too. Call for Price. 434-250-3128.

Gas Fire-Pit with Tank. Asking \$250. Call 434-835-6621.

McCulloch Chainsaw. Asking \$45. Call 336-457-3879.

FREE Firewood. Free! Call 434-548-6848.

WTB: 17Hp or Higher Engine with Fuel Pump for Craftsman Riding Mower. Call 434-709-7783.

Miscellaneous

A Sun Tan Bed. Good Condition. Suntan Bed for Sale. Bulbs Good. (434) 421-1914

HAY. 4 X 5 ROUND BALES, HORSE QUALITY. MIXED GRASS FESCUE, ORCHARD, TIMOTHY, SERECA, CLOVER, CLEAN CUT STORED IN BARN. (434) 421-2190

50 Gallon Plastic Barrels. 50 and 15 Gallon Plastic Barrels. \$10.00 and \$5.00 Call 434-432-9505. (434) 432-9505 the4witters55@zimbracloud.com

ROOFS! ROOFS! ROOFS!
Call 434-483-7055

Compound Bow for Sale. I have a fire flight compound now for sale just need new string on it it's a little worn. (434) 421-2722 Fmeagan1994@gmail.com

Home Heating Fuel. Call for Price. Over 150 Gallons. Call 434-483-3179. (434) 483-3179

New Fuel Pump. 400/350 N.T.C. Cummins \$1000; Injectors \$100 Each; Main Bearings \$300 New. No Text. Cash Only. (434) 203-1723

One Half-Gallon Aqua Jar. Dated 1908 Ball Ideal Aqua Half-Gallon Jar with Glass Top and Wire Lock. \$25.00 (434) 489-1430

Fishing Lures. Great Deal! 25 Boxes of Fishing Lures \$25.00 a Box. Come and get them will not last long. (434) 857-5314 lad_2@juno.com

Ready to Go Before Christmas. Elle is AKC Registered French Bulldog Puppy 8 Weeks Old for Free Adoption Email bowdensha1@gmail.com bowdensha1@gmail.com

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

* Water itself does not conduct electricity well, but the impurities found in water do.

* When Ethiopian emperor Menelik II didn't feel well, he would eat a few pages of the Bible. While this curious habit didn't do him any harm as long as his consumption was limited, in 1913, feeling particularly ill after a stroke, he ordered an entire Old Testament book of Kings to be fed to him, a page at a time, but died before he could complete it.

* Humans can live unprotected in space for about 30 seconds if they don't hold their breath.

* Two actors have died while playing Judas Iscariot in live productions of the biblical story by accidentally hanging themselves for real during his death scene.

* Ever find yourself getting a little sleepy during a virtual meeting? Contrary to popular belief, researchers have determined that the cause isn't information overload, but mental underload and boredom. (Frankly, we're not too surprised!)

* A 1999 study found that a single square kilometer (247 acres) of the Amazon rainforest can contain about 90,790 tons of living plants.

* As editors around the globe already know, hearing grammatical errors can cause physical stress.

* Following a nationwide legal battle (and graceful concession from Gregory's Restaurant and Bar in New Jersey), Taco Bell successfully ensured that the term "Taco Tuesday" can be used freely throughout all 50 states.

* If Earth's history was condensed into a 24-hour span, life would have appeared at 4 a.m., land plants at 10:24 p.m., dinosaur extinction at 11:41 p.m., and human history would have begun at 11:58:43 p.m.

Thought for the Day: "If a man empties his purse into his head, no one can take it away from him. An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest." -- Benjamin Franklin

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* Zip-top bags are essential when our family packs for holiday visiting. We use gallon-size bags for the kids' outfits -- top, bottoms, underclothes, etc. -- and each bag holds one complete set. There is no suitcase chaos, as the bag comes out, and yesterday's clothing goes in, ready for laundry day when we get home. Happy traveling. -- JoAnn

* After Christmas sales are a great time to buy not only gift wrap (look for solid colors that you can use all year long), holiday cards and decoration, but also next season's winter wear. Things like scarves and gloves can be great bargains. And even coats can go on sale. Take advantage -- especially if you have kids -- and buy up.

* Here is a wonderful shopping tip that's especially useful during holiday shopping but is something we do all year round: Spend your first hour or so browsing only. Nothing goes in the shopping cart or your bag, and no purchases. If, after you are ready to buy, you still remember the things you "had to have," go back and make the purchases. -- M.M. in Arizona

* A great storage container for fancy ornaments is a liquor box, which you can get for free outside of package stores. They have cardboard separators that make it easy to store glass bulbs. -- W.F. in New Mexico

* I try to buy the same amount of presents for each of my grandchildren. I set a budget for each, and that carries me throughout the year, as I like to shop early for sales. One thing I do, though, is to take into account the value of the item if I get a super great deal. I think it makes it more fair for the rest of them. I haven't had any complaints! -- Grandma, via email

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

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Yard Sales

BIG BARN SALE UNTIL APRIL! BIG BARN SALE, TIL 04/30/2024 AT 3045 BROOKLYN RD., SUTHERLIN, VA. OR CALL FOR APPOINTMENT 434 709 4212. Jars, Pictures, Oil Lamps, Chairs, Coolers, Tools Big, Small, Dishes, China, Christmas Items, Stools, Wood, Big Stoves, 78 Records, Bunk Bed, Turf-Builders, Sleds, Metal, Furniture, Big Pans, Towels, Old Dolls, Bed, Clothing and Much More.

Yard Sale. Sat Dec 9th, 9am-1pm. Indoor. 405 West Main Street. Housewares, Collectibles, China and Much More.

Yard Sale. Sat Dec 9th, 8-12pm. 105 Princess Drive. Please Wear Mask. Stove, Coats and Other Nice Items.

Yard Sale. Fri Dec 8th, 2023 from 02:00 PM - 04:30 PM, Sat Dec 9th, 8-? 137 Stokesland Ave. Christmas, Dolls/Teddy Bears and Much More!

Garage Sale. Dec. 15th-16th, 8am-2pm. 9400 Martinsville Highway, Danville. Lamps, Wall Unit, Household, Tires, Antiques and More!

Yard Sale. Dec. 13th, 14th & 15th, 8-12. 150 Sunset Place. Christmas, Coats, Blankets and More! Call 434-728-4982.

Christmas Eve Oyster Stew



Ingredients

- 16 ounces fresh Oysters shucked, in liquid
- 1/4 cup Butter (or ghee)
- 1 teaspoon Organic Celery Sea Salt
- 1/8 teaspoon White Pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon Paprika
- 4 cups half and half
- 1 sprigs fresh thyme

Instructions

Drain oysters, reserving the liquid
 Over medium heat, in a heavy bottomed pot, melt butter
 Add oysters and seasonings. Saute for roughly 3 minutes or until the edges of the oysters are curled.
 Add reserved oyster liquid, half & half and thyme. Cover and simmer for 5 minutes.
 Remove thyme and serve.



See You Next Time

— HEADED

Even Exchange answers

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Reveal, Repeal | 6. Right, Light |
| 2. Peach, Poach | 7. Twine, Twice |
| 3. Fasten, Faster | 8. Breach, Breath |
| 4. Devote, Denote | 9. Saber, Sober |
| 5. Quick, Quirk | 10. Lively, Lovely |

8 Smart Ways to Save On Holiday Expenses

FAMILY FEATURES

While often regarded as the most wonderful time of year, the holiday season is also an expensive spot on the calendar. Even as many families feel the squeeze of inflation and rising costs, there is hope for your budget when it comes to gatherings, gifts, food and beyond. Consider these tips from the money-saving experts at Slickdeals and Head of Deals Vitaly Pecharsky to avoid overspending without sacrificing your festive spirit.

Stick to a budget. Beyond gifts and stocking stuffers, holiday costs can add up quickly once you factor in travel, decor, pet care, special events and more. Create an all-encompassing budget for the season then break it into segments for each type of expense, including hidden expenses like wrapping paper or extra toiletries for guests, so you don't end up with an unexpected credit card bill.

Split up food costs. Instead of putting yourself under the pressure of full-time holiday chef (and taking on all the expenses that come with it), consider hosting a potluck-style gathering. Providing the main course and encouraging guests to bring an appetizer, side or dessert is an easy way to avoid a hefty hosting bill. Send an e-vite with a list of must-haves that allows loved ones to sign up for specific dishes to ensure everything is covered without doubling up.

Search for the best deals. Whether you're looking for the perfect gift from toys to technology or trying to save on travel costs and home decor, make sure you find the best price. Consider a site like Slickdeals, where a community of millions of people work together to save money so you can be confident you're getting the best deal. With 12 million shoppers assisting others by vetting and voting up the top deals from renowned retailers, your holiday needs are covered without sacrificing quality. You can also set Deal Alerts that send notifications directly to your inbox when a deal that matches your criteria is posted to the site.

Share experiences, not just "things." Gadgets and gizmos may come to mind when brainstorming holiday gift ideas but remember some family members and friends just want more time together. If you're considering a special experience for – and with –



Photos courtesy of Shutterstock



that special someone, think about their favorite hobbies and activities. Animal lovers may be overjoyed with a day at the local zoo and gearheads would cherish tickets to the next auto show. Integrating experiences into your gifting repertoire often makes for a more memorable (and cheaper) solution.

Take advantage of gift cards. A quick internet search can lead you to discounted gift cards, allowing you to save cash on holiday purchases. Or, for the one on your list who has everything, simply give the card as a gift so he or she can pick out what's truly needed. As an added bonus, discounted gift cards are typically available even at the last minute so procrastinators can still save.

Show off your DIY skills. Buying new holiday decorations and replacing worn out crafts are seasonal expenses you may not immediately factor into your budget. Rather than heading to the store for (likely overpriced) ornaments and tablescapes, put your creative cap on and repurpose goods from around the house. Reusing items like glass jars to make homemade snow globes, for example, can be a crafty way to save. Plus, it's a fun activity for family members to enjoy together.

Seek out post-holiday sales. Once the holidays are over, it's a perfect opportunity to get ahead of the game for next year. Stock up on gift wrap, decorative items and other nonperishables that are often heavily discounted in the new year.

Save throughout the year. A handy tip for holiday seasons to come, try creating a fund each year where you can save up for gifts, food, travel and other end-of-year expenses. Set up a special bank account specifically for holiday savings where you contribute a small amount each month to be financially prepared for the festivities.

Find more ways to save this holiday season by visiting Slickdeals.com.