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VISA Mostercard



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) It's a good time to take a much-needed break from your recent hectic schedule and spend some time in quieter surroundings. Important news could arrive early next week.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) The Taurean traits of reliability and thoroughness could be well-tested when decision-makers consider your proposals and/or requests. Be prepared to answer some probing questions.

answer some probing questions.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) A sudden attack of boredom leaves you with some tasks undone. It's OK to take a short respite, but get back to work by week's end so that you have time for other projects.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Avoid prejudging a situation just because it looks bad. Facts could emerge that can make your position uncomfortable, to say the least. Meanwhile, a relative has interesting news to share with you.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) This is a good time to begin reassessing some of your recent decisions about your long-range goals to see if they still have merit. In addition, spend more time with loved ones this weekend.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) An unsettled situation at home or on the job early in the week could drain your energy levels, making it difficult to get your work done on schedule. But things improve by mid-

LIBRA (September 23 to October

22) A temporary setback could give you time to go over your plans to find weaknesses that you might have overlooked before. Also, a romantic getaway with a special person is favored this weekend.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Professional and personal situations benefit you once you set a positive tone in getting things off to a good start. Honest dialogue smooths over any occasional display of balkiness

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A problem with work-place colleagues or family members seems to defy even your sage counsel. But be patient. Your words will eventually lead to a resolution.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Don't just wait out an unexpected and unexplained delay in your career move. You could gain added respect if you ask why it happened and what you can do to move things along.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Although your workplace strategies are usually accepted, you could be challenged by someone who isn't so favorably impressed. Be prepared to defend your positions.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Your friendship circle expands with new people coming into your life at this time. Welcome them warmly, but don't neglect cherished longtime personal relationships.

BORN THIS WEEK: You love to search for knowledge and share it with others. You would make an especially fine teacher!

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### Vintage Beauty

A history professor was explaining how society's ideal of beauty changes with time.

"Take Miss America in 1921," he noted. "She stood 5 ' 1" tall, weighed 108 pounds, and had measurements of 30-25-32. How do you think she'd do in today's beauty contest?"

One student piped up, "Not very well! She'd be way too old!"



- 1. Is the book of Ephesians (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
- 2. "Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord" is found in ...? Psalms, Proverbs, Numbers, Jeremiah
- 3. What tree did Jesus tell a parable about? Apple, Fig, Olive, Sycamore
- 4. Who was John the Baptist's father? Zechariah, Zacharias, Zephaniah, Zaccheus
- 5. What did the oak tree symbolize in the Bible? Growth, Strength, Weakness, Fruitfulness
- 6. Which is not a book of the New Testament? Revelation, Judges, Colossians, Jude

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Psalms 150:6, 3) Fig, 4) Zacharias, 5) Strength, 6) Judges

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

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PIG-IN-A-POKE

Pelham Community Center

will have BINGO on Saturday.

January 18, from 6:00-9:00

pm. Doors open at 5:30 pm.

Concessions will be avail-

able. This event is for all ages

from children through adults.

Pelham Community Center

is located at 161 Community

Center Drive. Pelham. NC.

For more information please

call 336-388-5652 and leave

a message, or visit our Face-

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Church Invites you to Join our

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Turnpike. Free Books Avail-

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Center (lower level), 760 West

Main St. Danville, 7:00pm

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DANCE for Band Schedule.

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BINGO.

#### Holidays

1st - New Year's Day 20th - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

#### Community Events

The Bible Reading Club will Continue to Meet on Wednesdays at 6pm in the CTK Fellowship Center, 1172 Franklin Turnpike. Bring your Personal Bible, All Welcome! Join Us!

East Coast Swing Dance **Class.** January 8, 15, 22, 29 2025. \$25.00 per person. Pittsylvania County Parks and Recreation. Details/registration call 434-432-7736 (804) 339-8505 mybuddy\_mypal@ vahoo.com

Resource Fair. April 10, 10am-1pm. 760 W. Main St. Resources for Older Adults. FREE. (434) 799-5216 clinebl@danvilleva.gov

Tales of South Africa. Feb. 6, 1:30-3pm. 760 W. Main St. Black History Month event. Registration Required. FREE. (434) 799-5216 clinebl@danvilleva.gov

A Life in Stitches. Feb. 26, 11am-12pm. 760 W. Main St.. Edith Edmunds takes you on The Underground Railroad through her Quilt Exhibit. (434) 799-5216 clinebl@danvilleva.gov

Association of 5551Tom Fork Road, Ringgold Va. Recreation Schedule: 1.The Danville Church & Community Based Tutorial Program 4:30 - 6:30 Every Monday 2. Sit and get Fit Classes, 1st , 2nd. and 3rd Tuesdays of each Month, all ages. 3. Bingo, every 4th Tuesday, all ages 4:30-5:30 4. Every 1st. and 3rd. Thursday Circuit Walk, Indoor walk/ Out door Track, 5:30 - 6:30. 5. Every 1st Sat. Open Gym Outside Activities. 2:00 -Recreation Ministry 4:00 Program Basketball : Oct... Dec., Jan., and April /Board Volley Ball, Nov.& Games Feb, Flag Football, Dec., Tee Ball, March. 6. Family Night every 4th Friday - 5:00- 7:00. 7. Recreation Meetings The third Thursday during the months of Sept., Oct., at 6:00. The remainder months will be on the second Thursday at 6:00. 8. Fun Day Nov. 23, (all ages) 2:00- 4:00. 9. Unity

Recreation Schedule for

Missionary

Cherrystone

information. The Cherrystone Missionary Baptist Association Clergy Ministry invites you to the: DR. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration, Monday January 20, 2025 at 6:00 PM at the Cherrystone Center at 5551 Tom Fork Rd., Ringgold Va Guest Preacher, Pastor Paul Walton of the Hopel Chapel Missionary Baptist Church. Please come out and ioin us in this celebration.

Tea, Dec.7, 4:00 - 6:00. All age

groups are welcome to attend.

Contact Kathy B. Ramsey at

434-251-0379 for additional

Community Hotdog Free Lunch! Saturday Jan. 18th 12-3pm at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 1172 Franklin Toke. Bonus-Large Selection of Free Books Available at Little Free Library Container on driveway. All Welcome!!

Brosville Public Library is Hosting a Veterans Coffee the Second Friday of Every Month. Join Us!

#### Six Housewives

Six housewives living in the same apartment building fell into a dispute of such magnitude that it resulted in their being hauled into court. When the case was called, they all made a concerted rush for the bench; and reaching it, all broke into bitter complaints at the same moment. The judge sat momentarily stunned as charges and counter-charges filled the air.

Suddenly he rapped for order. When quiet had been restored, the patient magistrate said gently, "Now, I'll hear the oldest first."

That closed the case.



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9. The MT Haven Tanker Oil

Spill: 45 million gallons, 1991

10. The Odyssey Oil Spill: 40.7

million gallons, 1988

Are you lonesome tonight Is your brastrap too tight Are your corsets just drifting apart Have you got a big chest Making holes in your vest Does your spare tyre Reach into the night Are your stockings all laddered Are you wearing them thin Do you hold up your knickers With a big safety pin Are your false teeth all worn Do they drop when you yawn Well it's no wonder you're lonesome

I bet you sang it:)

**King** Crossword

tonight.

# Amber Waves











The Spats "I DIG, YOU DIG, HE DIGS, SHE DIGS, WE ALL DIG."





#### Weekly SUDOKU 2 3 1 6 2 8 6 9 3 9 5 5 8 6 3 7 5 2 8 6 7 5 7 3 2 4 9 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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Differences: 1. Tail is moved. 2. Window is different. 3. Fingers are not showing. 4. Ear is larger. 5. Blinds are added. 6. Laces are added. 6. Laces are added. 6. Laces are added. 6. Laces are sufferly as the state of the st

**ACROSS** 1 Screen star

Lamarr 5 Abrupt turn Wild party 12 Half a sextet 13 Equi-

Arthur 15 Crystaltapping sound

16 Solicit 18 Funnelshaped

bloom 20 Herrings' cousins 21 Squealer

fix 23 Montana city 26 Scare badly

30 Buckeyes' sch. 31 Tibetan

bovine "Ulalume"

writer 33 Dress store

section 36 Broadway duds

38 Cat doc 39 Life story

40 Madonna role 43 "Cutie," e.g.

47 Peevish

7

49 Actor **Jannings** 

15 14 Tennis great 30 33 22 Chemical suf-

50 "No -!" ("Sure thing!") 51 Quibble 52 Sandwich

24 25

option 53 "Auld Lang 54 Away from

> 55 Ladies of Spain (Abbr.)

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Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

48

39

49

29 "You bet!"

31 However

36 In shape

37 Hermits

39 Davis of

41 Quite

"Jezebel'

42 Lay - the line

40 Actor Omar

43 Nabokov

novel

44 Love god

novel)

45 "- 18" (Uris

34 ICU hookup

35 Pond duck

5 "Hush!" On the 6 Aegean, say Inherited

Tub user China setting 10 Not barefoot 11 Coop group

17 Romantic?" 19 Scot's refusal

22 "A spider!" 23 Jazzy style 24 Exploit

25 Boy king 26 Mas' mates

27 Wall St. debut 46 Right angles

28 Dandy guy © 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

48 Raggedy doll

28

 $t\!e\!st$  by Fifi  $\mid$  Rodriguez

1. TELEVISION: Which popular spinoff series originated with the drama "Breaking Bad"? 2. HOLIDAYS: What is another name for Three Kings Day, celebrated on Jan. 6?

3. LANGUAGE: What does the Latin phrase 'bona fide" mean?

4. MOVIES: In the movie "Babe," what kind of

animal is the title character? 5. MEASUREMENTS: How many grams are

in a kilogram? 6. GEOGRAPHY: Which strait separates Saudi

Arabia from Africa? 7. SCIENCE: What are the three layers that make up the Earth?

8. FOOD & DRINK: Which breakfast food is associated with the retro series "Stranger Things"? 9. MEDICAL: What is the common name for

muscae volitantes? 10. LITERATURE: Which poet wrote a six-volume biography of President Abraham Lincoln? © 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

deb; 7. Crust, mantle and core; 8. Eggo waffles; 9. Bye floaters; 10. Carl Sandburg I. "Better Call Saul"; 2. Epiphany; 3. "Good faith"; 4. Pig; 5. 1,000; 6. Bab-el-Man-Trivia Test Answerst

Answers — King Crossword —

Solution time: 23 mins.

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# Animals &



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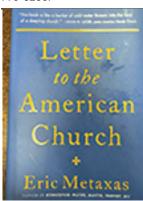
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# Piedmont Pets January 9, 2025 By Paulette Dean The recent snow reminded me of

a case we had nine years ago. We had been called to assist the Danville animal control officer at an address where the body of a dead dog had been found. Other dogs were also on

the property, and were seized.

A little poodle, heavily matted, lived in a rabbit hutch with a very scared pit bull. Living with a chicken wire bottom must have been miserable. A wooden box in the middle of the hutch served as the shelter. The details are too graphic to share.

We took the three seized poodles and the scared pit bull to a local veterinary clinic for examination. Another pit bull was taken back to the shelter.

At the veterinary clinic, the pit bull cowered on the floor. He trembled and looked at us with a pitiful look in his eyes. The poodles were taken into the same exam room in crates. The poor pit bull seemed so terrified, we decided to let his little "hutch roommate" get out of the crate. The little poodle joyfully ran out of the crate, and made a beeline to the pit bull. He jumped back and forth over the pit bull's back, stopping only to lick his friend's face. He whined as he danced around. And then, in a moment of pure delight, he sighed and curled up beside the other dog.

What will we never forget is the effect the poodle had on the





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pit bull. He started wagging his tail, and he stopped trembling. His body actually melted into the poodle and they patiently waited for the veterinarian to examine them. What I saw in that exam room reminded me of the many times I have seen different species, shapes and sizes of animals at the shelter and in homes form loyal friendships.

There are some people who would have us believe that animals do not have emotional lives. They would have us believe they act merely by instinct. I, for one, have never believed that and will never believe that. Other people think that, although animals are wonderful creatures, they do not have souls. That is also not true. They are living, feeling creatures, and they have eternal souls. They are not here on earth simply to fulfill our purposes; they have lives independent of ours. We are their stewards, not their taskmasters





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# Antiques & Collecting

# Altered Furniture

It's a current trend to buy inexpensive old furniture and alter it into something new. Some people may see this as disrespectful to history, but it's a practice that has been going on for hundreds of years. Historically, everyday items like furniture and clothing were made to last, handed down for generations and altered to suit changing fashions.

Furniture of the Victorian era (about 1830-1900) came in many styles, all of which were elaborately decorated. Sometimes, earlier furniture in simpler styles like Queen Anne or Chippendale was recarved or had veneers or inlay added to fit newer, fancier fashions. More recently, the reverse has become more common: paint is stripped off or carvings are planed away to suit more modern, simpler tastes.

This secretaire cabinet, which sold at a Bonhams auction in London, is an excellent example of the earlier trend of making furniture more elaborate. It was made around 1830, during the reign of William IV, but the auction catalog's description included a salesroom notice saying, "the japanned decoration ... is evidently of a later date." Japanning is a type of painted finish that imitates the lacquer used by artisans in China and Japan. It was often used with gilt and colorful decorations, as shown here. The added decorations may have contributed to the cabinet's appeal; it sold for 7,650 pounds, or about \$9,274.

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Repainting old furniture is nothing new. This cabinet was made around 1830, but the elaborate decorations were added later.

fying antique clocks; look for them at your library. Once you have identifying information, check price guides like Kovel's or look at antique stores and shows or online auction results to see what similar clocks sell for. Clocks sell at most antique and estate auctions. If there is a clock repair service in your area, they may be able to help you. You may also want to contact the National Association of Watch & Clock Collectors (www.nawcc.org) for more information.

TIP: Never wash lacquered wood. Just wipe it clean with a damp cloth. Water could seep into the base wood and cause damage.

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1. Who had a hit with "Down Under"?

2. Which artist is known as the "Material Girl"?

3. Who wrote and released "Can't Fight This Feeling"?

4. Who came up with the term "rock and roll"?

5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "A place where there's just loneliness, Where dim lights bring forgetfulness, Where broken dreams and memories meet."

### Answers

1. Men At Work, in 1981. The song topped the charts around the globe, including in Italy, Ireland and Denmark. It's full of Australian slang usually only understood in Australia, such as "kombi," which is a VW bus.

2. Madonna. The video of her 1985 song of that title copied the 1953 Marilyn Monroe performance of "Diamonds Are a Girl's Best Friend" in the film "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes."

3. REO Speedwagon. The song was one of two the group performed at the Live Aid benefit concert in 1985. Hooked up by satellites, concerts were held around the globe and likely watched by nearly 2 billion people.

4. DJ Alan Freed in the 1950s. He was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 1986.

5. "Lonely Street," by Carl Belew, in 1956. Andy Williams followed with the well-known cover in 1959. Since then, over a dozen artists have covered the song, including Patsy Cline, Bobby Vinton and the Everly Brothers.

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- Pottery Wheel Try-It Sessions @ Impotters Clayworx
- College Night @ Ballad Brewing
- Live Music by Brian Ellis & The Real Country Band @ Cascade Community Center
- Live Music by The Bullet Band @ Ballou Recreation Center
- Live Music by The King Bees Duo @ The Golden Leaf Bistro
- Live Music by Mama BriBri & The Stranger @ 2 Witches Winery & Brewing Co.
- Live Music by The Brown Brothers @ Factory Street Brewing
- Local Musician Spotlight w Pat Poekel @ Scuffle Hill Brewing Co.

# Saturday, 11th

- Wine Tasting @ Vintages by the Dan
- Total Body Workout Class @ Urban Fitness
- Victorian Garden & Flower Show @ The Langhorne House Museum, 117 Broad Street
- Story-Time with Mrs. Judy @ The Dog-Eared Page
- Books & Beans (registration encouraged) @ Links Coffee House Café
- Live Music by Norm & Emily @ 2 Witches Winery & Brewing Co.
- Live Music by Mike Warren & Gina Pulliam @ The Golden Leaf Bistro
- Live Music by Matt Page @ Walker's Roadside Grill
- Cabin Fever Music Series f. Matt Boswell & The HBB @ Community Market
- Vinyl & Brews @ Ballad Brewing
- Live Music by Andy Burnette @ Scuffle Hill Brewing Co.
- Live Music by The Honey Badgers @ Renewal Brewing

- Open Mic hosted by Matt Crowder @ 2 Witches Winery & Brewing Co.
- Sunday Funday @ The Homeplace Vineyard
- Dungeons, Dragons, & Drafts @ Scuffle Hill Brewing Co.





# **Danville Kiwanis Club Guest Speaker**



Danville Kiwanis Club guest speaker Michelle Goad reviewed the value of yoga as a mind, breath and body connection that contributes to personal growth and peace. At their January 2, 2025 meeting, Ms. Goad emphasized yoga as a conscious breathing technique that helps with stress management and contributes to self-awareness. Michelle Goad is the owner of Sweat and Yoga which features a heated, musically inspired yoga studio. Pictured to the right of Michelle Goad is Suzie I who serves as the chair of the Kiwanis Club Program Committee. If interested in membership, contact Suzie Lea at (540) 287-0259 or suzielea72@gmail.com Kiwanis Club meetings are held on the first and third Thursdays at the Averett University Student Union Bldg. beginning at 6:00 p.m.

# **GRAVES TO SERVE AS SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR**

During their first meeting of 2025 on January 2, the Danville School Board selected Ty'Quan Graves as their chair and Keisha Averett as vice chair. They will serve in these capacities for the next year.

Graves has served on the school board since 2018, and this will be his third year serving as chair. Averett has served on the school board since 2021, and this will be her first year serving as vice chair.

Graves and Averett were chosen to serve in their capacities in a majority vote in the school board's annual organizational meeting.

"I'm looking forward to working collaboratively with the board in this new year, continuing to work with our Superintendent, and being a champion for students," Graves said. "I'm looking forward to tackling the new year with an all-in mindset."

"I'm looking forward to supporting the chair and continuing to work alongside the board and Superintendent to ensure all students have access to the resources they need to be successful," Averett said.

In addition, Marketa Bass Jones and Andrea Gillus were elected to continue in their roles as School Board Clerk and Deputy Clerk, respectively. The board also approved dates for the 2025 school board meetings.

The Danville School Board is the governing body of Danville Public Schools. It has seven members who are elected to fouryear staggered terms.

The meeting was the first for new board members Kacey Cunningham and Dr. Corey Williams, who were elected in November. Their terms will last until December 31, 2028, along with Tyrell Payne and Takessa Walker, who were re-elected to the board in November.

The remaining members of the board are Averett, Graves, and Dr. Keith Silverman. Their terms will expire on December 31, 2026.

# 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

#### **Debra Matherly Huffman**

October 23, 1960 ~ January 2, 2025 (age 64)



Debra Matherly Huffman, age 64, of Axton, Virginia, passed away on Thursday January 2, 2025 at Lynchburg General Hospital.

Ms. Huffman was born on October 23, 1960 in Danville, Virginia to the late Fred C. Matherly Sr. and

Emma Haley Dillard.

Ms. Huffman spent most of her life in Danville where she worked as a weaver for Dan River Mills.

Ms. Huffman is survived by her daughter, Mary Smith (Adam); son, Keith Matherly; brothers, Fred C. Matherly Jr. (Penny) and Donald Matherly; sister, Frieda Robertson (Richard); grandchildren, Stephanie Carter, Jackson Carter, Thomas Matherly, and Chad Smith.

In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by her husband, Thomas E. Huffman and brother, Russell Matherly.

Funeral services will be conducted on Wednesday, January 8, 2025 at 1:00 pm at Swicegood Funeral Home with Reverend Ron Pruitt officiating. Visitation will be held on Tuesday, January 7, 2025 from 6-7 pm at the funeral home. Interment will follow at Danville Memorial Gardens.

Swicegood Funeral Service is respectfully serving the Huffman family.

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#### **Janice Lumpkin**

January 9, 1960 ~ December 22, 2024 (age 64)

Janice Mae Lumpkin, age 64, of Ringgold, VA, passed away on Sunday, December 22, 2024, at her residence.

Mrs. Lumpkin was born on January 9, 1960, in Danville, VA, a daughter of the late Martin O. Neal and Lois Mills Neal. She lived most of her life in Rinngold and was employed as a CNA. Mrs. Lumpkin was married to Howard Wade Lumpkin Sr. who survives.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by her children, Martin Lumpkin, Neal Lumpkin, Kenneth Lumpkin and Janice Lumpkin; grandchildren, Howard Wade Lumpkin III and Elizabeth Lumpkin; sister, Pamela Neal and many nieces and nephews and special friend Terry.

In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by her son, Howard Wade Lumpkin, Jr.

Funeral services will be conducted Sunday, December 29, 2024 at 2:00 PM with Reverend Becky Moss officiating. Visitation will be held Saturday evening from 5:00 until 6:30 pm at the funeral home. Interment will follow in Highland Burial Park.

Swicegood Funeral Service is respectfully serving the Lumpkin family.

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. Banker, sometimes	N	First in line	A
2. Saunter	B	Plenty	P
3. Singer Gaye	V	Paper boundary	G
4. Disposed to	E	Fork tine	G
5. Military title	J	City official	Y
6. Vocation	R	Sway recklessly	N
7. New York island	L	King of rock and roll	V
8. "Go away, cat"	M	Morsel	P
9. Round map	B	Pitcher's mitt	V
10. Actor Gary	P	Not as hot	L

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

Contouring Fallout Cut crease Fan brush Foiling Draping Face beat

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"Life is not so much what you accomplish as what you overcome."

- Robin Roberts

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# HOLLYWOOD

by Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD — Austin Butler's just completed the black comedy "Eddington" with Pedro Pascal and Emma Stone. He is now shooting the crime thriller "Caught Stealing" with Zoë Kravitz, Regina King, Matt Smith, Liev Schreiber and Bad Bun-

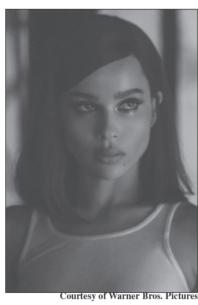
Kravitz (Catwoman in "The Batman," opposite Robert Pattinson) recently directed "Blink Twice," with her ex-paramour Channing Tatum, plus Christian Slater, Simon Rex, Kyle MacLachlan and Geena Davis. It opened in late August 2024 and grossed a modest \$46.4 million against its \$20 million cost. "The Batman 2," again with Pattinson, is now slated for 2027. "The Batman" (2022) cost \$200 million and grossed \$773 million.

Director Luca Guadagnino (whose "Queer" movie starring Daniel Craig has only grossed \$3.2 million against 48 million euros) recently cast Butler as Patrick Bateman in his remake of "American Psycho" (the original starred Christian Bale in 2000). Guadagnino says that it's not a remake but a new adaptation. Is Butler ready for such a demanding role?

Tom Holland's "Spider-Man: No Way Home" (2021) cost \$200 million and grossed \$1.952 billion. Obviously, Holland's chemistry with his off-screen paramour, Zendaya, transferred very well to the big screen. Add Benedict Cumberbatch, Jon Favreau, Jamie Foxx, Willem Dafoe, Marisa Tomei, Andrew Garfield and Tobey Maguire to the mix, and we had an acting fest! But what will the on-screen chemistry be when Spider-Man meets Elvis as Holland and Austin Butler square off in "American Speed" for Amazon MGM Studios?

The top-grossing film in Italy that even beat "Wicked" and "Gladiator II" at the box office was "The Boy With Pink Pants." It tells the story of 15-year-old Andrea Spezzacatena (played by Samuele Carrino), who committed suicide after enduring bullying at school and online. The film explores the real story behind Italy's first publicized case of online bullying

\*\*\*



Zoë Kravitz ("The Batman") will star alongside Austin Butler in "Caught Stealing."

that led to the suicide of a minor.

Apparently, teens and families turned out in hordes to see the film, and the repeated business of teens, who've seen it four or five times, have driven up the grosses. (Much like our teens in the United States who see comic book epics multiple times.)

Equally depressing is the upcoming film from Barry Levinson with David Mamet's screenplay about John F. Kennedy's assassination. It stars Oscar winners Jared Leto, Al Pacino, Jessica Chastain and Brendan Fraser, as well as Oscar nominee Bryan Cranston. The only way they can make this different from the slew of JFK conspiracy films we've had before is to make it a musical!

While the film "Barbie" didn't gross as much as "Spider-Man" (it only grossed \$1.446 billion), it nonetheless sent Barbie doll sales soaring. Mattel calculates that the revenue because of "Barbie" was a whopping \$125 million, up 14% from their usual earnings. Will there be a "Barbie 2," or will it be "Just Ken"?

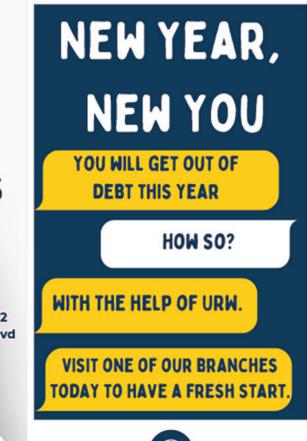
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# LOCATIONS

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MRI Reveals a Disease of the Blood Vessels in the Brain

DEAR DR. ROACH: A recent fall split the skin below my left eye. I went to the emergency room to see if it required stitches. Since I complained of a headache in the back of my head on the left side, they ordered an MRI, which showed "atherosclerotic vascular disease with mild small vessel ischemic disease." They also saw plaque within my internal carotid arteries.

The ER doctors said I should see a vascular specialist soon. Of course, I am scared. I am a 76-year-old woman on Bystolic, rosuvastatin, benazepril and thyroid replacement. I also take sulfasalazine for my inflammatory arthritis. I am thin, take many vitamins and supplements, and exercise four times a week.

Does the MRI mean I have dementia or Alzheimer's? What does it mean? -- R.M.

ANSWER: No, the MRI cannot make a diagnosis of dementia. Dementia is diagnosed presumptively by a clinical exam that notes impairments in cognitive functioning such as memory, language and attention. (A definitive diagnosis of Alzheimer's is made by a pathological evaluation of brain tissue, which is almost never obtained while a person is alive.)

What the MRI shows is a disease of the blood vessels of the brain caused by cholesterol plaque. High blood pressure, smoking, high blood cholesterol, a previous family history, and other factors put people at risk for this condition. Some, but not all, people with the kinds of blood vessel disease you have will develop dementia, which is caused by cumulative damage to the brain tissue from multiple small strokes. In your case, both the large vessels (carotids) and small vessels are affected, suggesting that your cholesterol and blood pressure haven't been ideal.

Your doctor has already taken some steps to slow or prevent the worsening of this condition. Careful control of your blood pressure (with Bystolic and benazepril) is essential. A statin drug (rosuvastatin) has been shown to reduce stroke risk and your overall dementia risk. I don't know whether these are the best medicines for you or whether they are at the right doses, since only your doctor knows you well enough, but it is clear that your doctor is taking steps to protect your heart and brain.

Inflammatory arthritis (especially rheumatoid arthritis and lupus) increases the risk of blood vessel damage in the brain and heart, so early treatment is more important with people who have these conditions. Unfortunately, not all primary care doctors know how important inflammatory arthritis is when it comes to heart attack and stroke risk.

I do not believe there are any supplements or vitamins that are both safe and effective at preventing stroke, but there are a handful of people who may benefit from them. For example, people with high homocysteine in their blood may benefit from vitamin B12, folic acid, or their methylated counterparts.

A careful review of your overall health condition and diet is critical. You may be referred to a specialist for cognitive testing if there is any evidence of change in your thinking ability. A few blood tests will help further stratify your risk and may show a need for additional treatment.

Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to ToYour-GoodHealth@med.cornell.edu.

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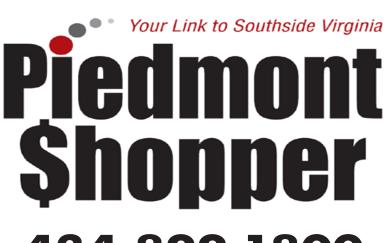




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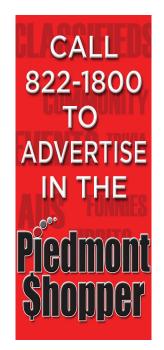
- 1. Rik Smits, known as "The Dunking Dutchman," spent his entire NBA career from 1988 to 2000 with what team?
- 2. Geoff Capes, World's Strongest Man champion in 1983 and 1985, competed for Great Britain at the 1976 and 1980 Olympic Games in what athletics event?
- 3. What Dominican infielder, whose career spanned 1982-2007, was the last active Major League Baseball player to have been born in the 1950s?
- 4. Golfer Peter Thomson, who won the Open Championship five times from 1954-1965, hailed from what country?
- 5. He played tight end for 11 NFL seasons, most notably for the New York Jets from 2000-2004. His son, Rocco, threw 23 touchdown passes for the 2023 Iowa State Cyclones. Who is he?
- 6. What American figure skater, 1995 U.S. women's singles champion, overcame drug addiction and later became a circus performer?
- 7. "Clean, Old-Fashioned Hate" is the name of the college athletics rivalry between what two teams?

# Answers

- 1. The Indiana Pacers.
- 2. The shot put.
- 3. Julio Franco.

4. Australia.

- 5. Anthony Becht.
- 6. Nicole Bobek.
- 7. The University of Georgia Bulldogs and Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets.
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793-2422.









### by Freddy Groves

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For veterans covered under VGLI, your costs will go down somewhere between 2% and 17%, with most averaging around 11%, depending on your age.

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And no, you don't have to ask for it. These discounts will be automatic.

There are others types of insurance through the VA as well. See www. va.gov/life-insurance for information on eligibility, and the other forms of insurance that are available, such as mortgage life insurance (if you have a service-connected disability and a specially-adapted home), whole life insurance (if you have a service-connected disability), group life insurance (after you're out of the service) and Traumatic Injury Protection (if that ever becomes necessary after an injury).

If you're already covered and want to check your policy, pay the premium, see the details of your insurance or change beneficiaries, you can do that online. However, accessing your policy online depends on the type of policy it is. See www.va.gov/life-insurance/manage-your-policy for the details about whether your access will be though the VA portal, through Prudential or via milConnect.

As of now, the VA's insurance covers over 5 million veterans, active duty and families, but there's always room for more. If you're not currently covered and you want to explore getting insurance coverage, see www.va.gov/life-insurance/options-eligibility for your options.

A heads up: You'll need to sign up for certain types of insurance in the first 120 days when you leave the service.

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# Tackle Wellness Goals by Adding a Touch of Green

# Better-for-you recipes inspired by savory salad kits

FAMILY FEATURES

round the start of a new year, many people are setting their wellness intentions, from incorporating a variety of greens into meals to boosting daily step goals, drinking more water and practicing gratitude.

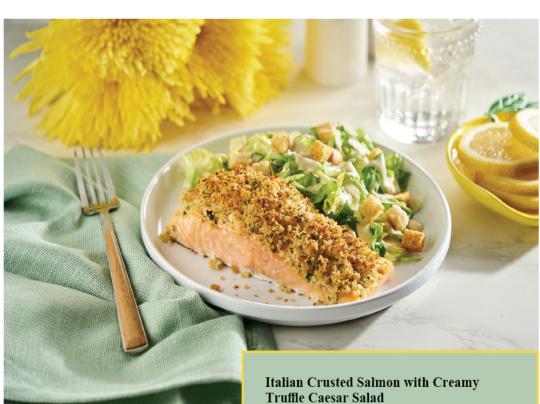
As part of the journey, it's important to rethink nutrition and your recipe repertoire to include better-for-you meals. For example, you can satisfy seafood cravings while getting your protein fix with Italian Crusted Salmon with Creamy Truffle Caesar Salad. This one-pan solution is paired with a Fresh Express Twisted Creamy Truffle Caesar Chopped Salad Kit, inspired by high-end dining experiences with flavors that transport you to the finest restaurants around the world.

The kit allows you to indulge in crunchy garlic brioche croutons paired with garden

fresh crispy romaine lettuce, delicate sprinkles of truffle Parmesan cheese shreds and creamy dressing, transforming every bite into a sensation to be savored

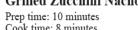
With more than 100 varieties of fresh, healthy and convenient ready-to-eat salads, Fresh Express can also provide recipe inspiration and support on your journey toward a healthier lifestyle. The unique blend of little red and green baby butter lettuces in the Sweet & Crunchy Salad Blend is perfect for adding to Grilled Zucchini Nachos, a delightfully tasty alternative to traditional nachos. This veggie-forward version offers a healthier dinner idea or an easy snack for game day gatherings and other group celebrations.

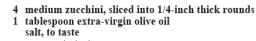
Visit freshexpress.com to discover more than 380 fresh recipes and find a store near you.



# Grilled Zucchini Nachos

Cook time: 8 minutes





- pepper, to taste
- cup cheddar cheese, shredded
- 1 bag (5 ounces) Fresh Express Sweet & Crunchy Salad Blend
- cup canned corn, cooked and drained cup canned black beans, rinsed and drained
- cup tomato, diced 1/4 cup green onions
- 1/4 cup red onions
- jalapeno, finely diced (optional) avocado, diced
- 1/4 cup cilantro, chopped
- 1 tablespoon sour cream Heat grill to medium heat

In large bowl, toss zucchini and olive oil to coat. Season with salt and pepper, to taste.

Place zucchini on grill pan; grill 4-5 minutes until just tender. Top zucchini with cheese and cook until cheese

melts, 1-2 minutes.

Remove from grill and place on plate or large platter. Top cheesy grilled zucchini with salad blend; corn; black beans; tomato; green and red onions; jalapeno, if desired; avocado; cilantro; and sour cream.

Prep time: 10 minutes Cook time: 20 minutes Servings: 2

- clove garlic, minced
- teaspoon lemon juice
- teaspoons chopped, fresh rosemary 1/2 teaspoon honey
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- tablespoons panko breadcrumbs tablespoons finely chopped walnuts
- teaspoon olive oil 2 salmon fillets
- nonstick cooking spray bag (9.3 ounces) Fresh Express Twisted Caesar

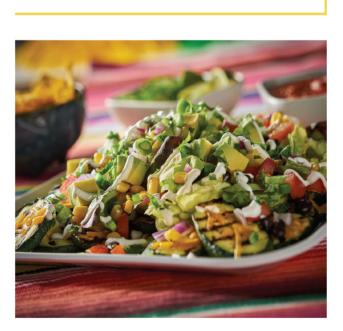
Creamy Truffle Caesar Chopped Kit Salad 2 lemon wedges (optional)

Heat oven to 425 F. Line sheet pan with parchment paper. In small bowl, combine garlic, lemon juice, rosemary, honey and salt. In another small bowl, combine breadcrumbs, walnuts and olive oil.

Place salmon on prepared sheet pan. Spread mustard mixture over fish; sprinkle with panko mixture, pressing to adhere. Lightly coat with nonstick cooking spray. Bake 12-15 minutes, or until fish flakes easily with fork.

Place greens from salad kit in large bowl. Drizzle with Evenly divide salad among two plates. Top with

salmon. Serve each with lemon wedge, if desired.





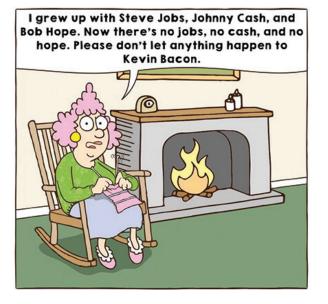




- \* Many people have written in the tip to use two similarly sized bowls, one larger than the other, to serve cold salads at picnics. You add a few cups of crushed ice to the larger bowl, then nestle the smaller bowl into it, making it "chilled." In any case, remember: Don't leave food out longer than two hours.
- \* If you are doing food platters for your barbecue, consider making several smaller platters instead of one large dish. The large ones are harder to store when you prep beforehand, but a better reason is that the items will not go stale/too warm/too cold quite as fast, and it's easy to switch out plates throughout the party.
- \* "Using plastic cups for a crowd? Remember to put out a permanent marker, colorful rubber bands or some other way to mark one's glass. It's sometimes hard to keep track when they all look the same." -- C.L. in Pennsylvania
- \* "Purchase a small cooler to use for large quantities of sides. I have a cooler advertised as fitting a six-pack of drinks. It's perfect for holding macaroni salad at our summer beach gatherings with family. I do not use it for anything else, and it retains its cold temperature despite the heat (when everyone remembers to keep the lid closed, of course)." -- R.R. in South Carolina
- \* "For serving utensils used during picnic lunch, I have two large zip-top plastic bags. I label them 'clean' and 'dirty'. Anything used to touch raw meat goes in the 'dirty' bag. And serving spoons that can be used again to serve are in the 'clean' bag." -- M.A. in Arizona

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

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#### **COPYCAT TEXAS ROADHOUSE ROLLS**



#### **INGREDIENTS**

6 tablespoons butter, cut into tablespoon-size pieces

½ cup honey

1½ cups 2% or whole milk, scalded (see note)

1 cup room temperature water

11/2 tablespoons instant or active dry yeast

2 large eggs

1 tablespoon salt

7 <sup>3</sup>⁄<sub>4</sub> to 8 cups all-purpose or bread flour Melted butter, for brushing

#### **INSTRUCTIONS**

Add the butter and honey to the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the dough hook. Pour in the scalded milk. Mix for a few seconds. Let the mixture rest until the butter is mostly melted.

Add the water. Let the mixture cool until 105-110 degrees F (on an instant-read thermometer).

Add the yeast and mix to combine. Let the mixture sit for 5-7 minutes until the yeast is bubbling and the top of the liquid looks foamy.

Add the eggs, salt and 2-3 cups of the flour. With the mixer on medium-low speed, continue adding flour until the dough pulls away from the sides of the bowl. Don't over flour the dough. It should be soft and slightly sticky, not stiff.

Knead on medium speed for 4-5 minutes, adding additional flour only if the dough clings to the sides of the bowl and is really sticky.

Cover and let rise until doubled in size.

Scrape the dough onto a lightly greased or very lightly floured counter and roll or pat into a thick rectangle, about 15X10-inches in size and 1/2- to 3/4-inch thick.

Cut the dough into 24 square or rectangle shapes. The rolls are meant to be a bit rustic, so don't worry if they aren't all the exact same size or shape.

Line two rimmed, half sheet pans with parchment paper and lightly grease with cooking spray. Place the rolls 1/2-inch apart on the baking sheets (I place them in four rows of three each).

Cover and let rise until noticeably puffy or doubled in height, 60-90 minutes, depending on the warmth of your kitchen.

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Bake the rolls for 18-22 minutes until lightly golden on top and bottom.

Immediately out of the oven, brush the top of the rolls with melted butter.

# NOTES

Scalded Milk: scalding milk means to heat the milk just below a boil until small bubbles form around the edge and the milk is steaming. This helps break down the proteins of the milk creating light and fluffy breads/rolls.

Temperature: it's important to add the yeast to the milk/water/butter/honey mixture when it is at just the right temperature. An instant-read thermometer is really invaluable here. If you don't have one, dip your finger in the mixture - it should feel like pleasantly warm (but not hot) bath water.

# Cinnamon Honey Butter

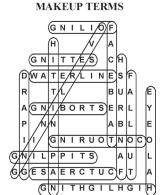
1/2 cup butter (I use salted)
1/4 cup honey
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
splash of vanilla (about 1/4 teaspoon)



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# **Even Exchange**

- . Lender, Leader
- 6. Career, Careen
- 2. Amble, Ample
- Ellis, Elvis
   Scram, Scrap
- Marvin, Margin
   Prone, Prong
- 9. Globe, Glove10. Cooper, Cooler
- 5. Major, Mayor



\* Shonda Rhimes got the idea for the TV series "Grey's Anatomy" after a doctor told her how hard it was to shave her legs in the tiny hospital shower.

\* The first Hershey's chocolate bars with almonds were produced in 1908 because they were cheap to make. The nuts took the place of some of the more expensive milk chocolate, which meant Hershey's could keep the price of the candy at a nickel.

\* A website called Myfridgefood.com lets you enter whatever ingredients you have in your fridge and tells you what you can make with

- \* One of the reasons your lungs feel refreshed when walking through a pine forest is because of an anti-inflammatory compound called a-Pinene, found in conifers. It is used as a bronchodilator in the treatment of asthma and is abundantly present in marijuana.
- \* An estimated 10% of Europeans are immune to HIV infection because they have an ancestor who survived bubonic plague, or "Black Death."
- \* The Hardy Tree in London's St. Pancras churchyard is named for Thomas Hardy. The Victorian author worked at the burial ground in the 1860s and rearranged tombstones around the base of an ash tree to make room for a rail-way expansion.
- \* If you're a man and pee on a pregnancy test and it's positive, you could have cancer.
- \* Because of the amount of granite in its construction, Grand Central Station produces more radiation than is allowable at a nuclear power plant.
- \* In India, a statue of Jesus had "holy" water mysteriously dripping from its toes, which worshipers would collect and sometimes drink. A man traced the fluid's source to a clogged toilet behind the wall, condensing on the statue.

Thought for the Day: "A good example has twice the value of good advice." -- Albert Schweitzer

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