

Alcona County Review

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1 Section

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Harrisville, Michigan 48740

Nontraditional school calendar not popular in Michigan

By Janelle James

Capital News Service

Few Michigan schools follow a balanced—or year-round—calendar, even though students, teachers and families say they benefit from it.

According to the Washington Post, only four percent of students nationwide go to schools where they have a shorter six- to eight-week summer break and more frequent, longer breaks throughout the school year. Students

following a balanced calendar start school in mid-August and end in mid-June.

Few Michigan schools have adopted the balanced calendar because of the community pushback. One of the main issues associated with having a balanced calendar is the messaging.

The term year-round education is falling out of favor because students don't attend school all year, said David Hornak, the executive

director of the National Association for Year-Round Education. "The term is no longer being used as much, in favor of a balanced calendar," said Hornak, who is also the superintendent of Holt Schools.

Some parents argue against it because it may conflict with planned summer vacations. They believe kids deserve the same summer vacations that they had as children, Hornak said. Other parents, especially those with high school students, oppose the balanced calendar because their child may not be able to work as long in the summer to save for that car they always wanted or even college.

"I understand the economic reality of students working, but I think their No. 1 priority is school," said Paula Herbart, the president of the Michigan Education Association, the state's largest union of teachers and other school personnel.

Districts with a traditional calendar start after Labor Day, end in June around Memorial Day and have a 12-week summer break. They have shorter breaks throughout the school year.

Advocates for the balanced calendar say that students who have shorter summer breaks don't spend as much time reviewing material from the previous year. That can

help students who struggle, Herbart said. Students remember more information upon returning to school from a three-week break than from a nine- or 10-week break.

"For those students who are slower learners or slower processors, year-round school is really beneficial because there isn't the opportunity to have as much learning loss," she said.

State law requires schools to have 180 instruction days. Balanced schools also adhere to this requirement. They submit a waiver to start school before Labor Day, since most schools typically start later. Balanced schools must also administer state-required assessment tests on the same days as other schools.

There are only a few known schools in Michigan that follow a balanced calendar, Hornak said.

It's difficult to track balanced schools in Michigan because some schools apply for their waiver to start before Labor Day, simply to end the school year earlier in June, not because they follow a balanced calendar.

Advocates for the balanced calendar say that a balanced calendar allows students and educators to have a more set schedule. "Our educators need more balance in their lives, and I think that year-round school could provide that, but again the start and end date is always a bargain," Herbart said.

Hornak agreed. "Families will say that the balanced calendar is more aligned with current lifestyle," he said. "I don't know another career that allows for 12 or 13 weeks off consecutively. Mom and dad can't take the summer off, so parents generally like the balanced calendar because they can better budget for a week or two off for child care rather than taking vacation for the entire summer."

Horizon Elementary School in Holt transitioned to a balanced calendar in 1994. Sycamore Elementary School, also in Holt, implemented a balanced calendar nearly a decade ago.

Students do better because they don't lose as much information, Hornak explained, and student behavior improves. "The students appre-

Continued on page 9

Study details impact of pandemic on energy bills

By Borjana Alia

Capital News Service

Energy bills rose in households across the United States after the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a new study.

That, in turn, created energy insecurity in many households, which led to looking for techniques for coping with finances and behavior, the researchers said.

Financial and behavioral coping techniques include cutting other expenses such as food or medical care, taking out loans and, even reducing temperatures in the home to an unsafe level, according to researchers at Indiana State University and Cleveland State University. It appeared in the journal of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Utilities and government agencies are cooperating in Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and other Great Lakes states to ease the burden and risks of energy uncertainty for low-income households.

In Michigan, DTE Energy, the state Department of Health and Human Services and the Public Service Commission have designed a process to provide energy efficiency education and assistance to those struggling to keep up with utility bills.

Tamara Johnson, the director of energy assistance at DTE Energy, stressed the importance of the cooperation.

Due to the fact that the balance owed is so high, some aren't eligible for assistance, but "we've gotten to a place where we don't see those high balances," Johnson said.

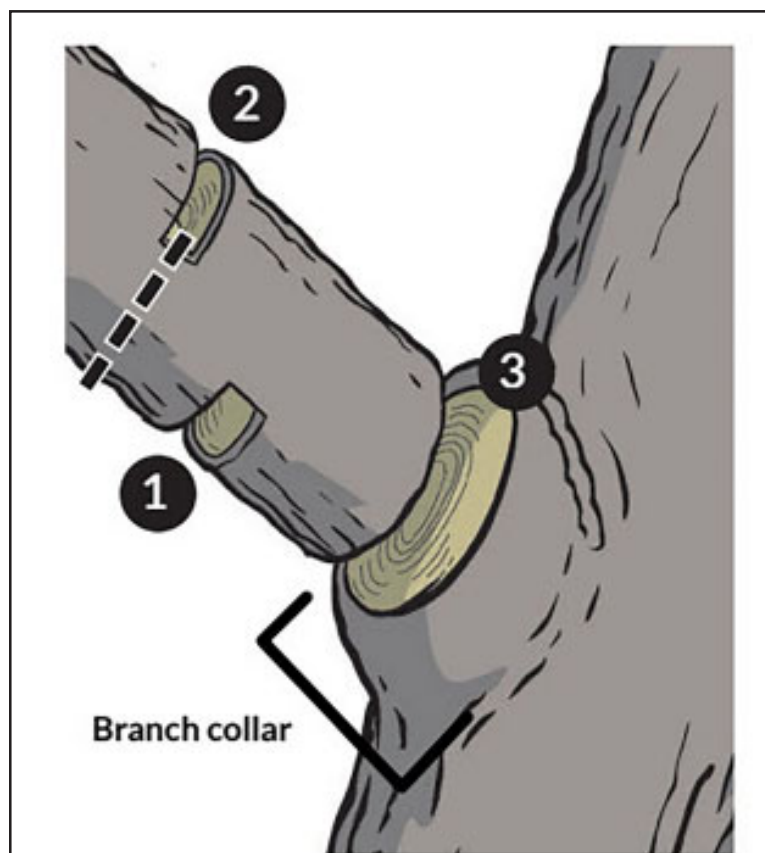
The study by Indiana University professor Sanya Carley and her team centers around the increase in energy costs, especially for families. It found that one-third of American homes are consistently unable to pay their energy bills. "When they struggle to pay their bills, it can affect their mental and physical health," Carley said.

When households can't afford utility payments, it hurts their ability to power appliances and other electronic devices and forces them to make tough decisions, according to Carley, an energy justice expert.

For some, that means deciding to unplug their refrigerator or not charging vital medical devices.

Carley said there are government programs designed to help those struggling to keep up with energy bills. The low-income home energy assistance program called the Weatherization Assistance Program is one of them. It aims to reduce energy costs for households by making energy use in homes more efficient.

Low-income households that benefit from this program on average save \$327 every year, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.



(See figure above.) If a large limb is to be removed, its weight should first be reduced as follows:

1. Make an undercut about 12-18 inches (30-46 cm) from the limb's point of attachment.
2. Make a second cut from the top, directly above or a few inches farther out on the limb. Doing so removes the limb, leaving a stub.
3. Remove the stub by cutting back to the branch collar. This technique reduces the possibility of tearing the bark.

Winter is a good time to prune shrubs and trees. A diagram and instructions explaining the "three-cut method" of pruning to prevent damage. See page 6 for the story. *Courtesy graphic.*



God Bless America



Obituary

Mary E. "Maudie" Rifenbark

Mary Esther "Maudie" Rifenbark, 100, of Pinconning, Mich., formerly of Barton City, died on Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2022, at Ascension Long-term Care Facility in Standish, Mich.



She was born in Pinconning, Mich. on December 11, 1922, to William and Beatrice (Grantham) Hawkins.

She married Howard Rifenbark on November 1, 1941. He preceded her in death on September 8, 1988.

She married Wallace Rifenbark on December 11, 1990. He preceded her in death on August 7, 2014.

Mrs. Rifenbark was a retired bus driver from the Pinconning Area School District.

She enjoyed hunting, fishing, morel picking in the spring, camping, building stone bird houses and figurines.

Her greatest joy and pleasure were being with her family sharing time with them.

Mrs. Rifenbark is survived by her children, Janice Pierson, Dan and Karen Rifenbark, Nancy (Keith Mallory) Pickvet, and Rick and Sandy Rifenbark; eight grandchildren, Connie, Chris, Jodi, Brent, Bryan, Scott, Rodney and Lynn; 16 great grandchildren; and

three great-great grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by one grandson, Marty; two sons-in-law, Lenny Pickvet and Robert "Bob" Pierson; and her siblings, Margaret Flynn, Edward Hawkins and LaVern Hawkins.

The funeral was held Friday, Dec. 30, 2022, at the Lee-Ramsay Funeral Home, Pinconning Chapel. Pastor Charles Campbell presided. Burial was in Woodmere Cemetery, Standish, Mich.

The family would like to extend a heart felt "Thankyou" to the Ascension Long-term Care Facility staff for the wonderful and loving care given to their mom during her stay with them.

Paid Obituary

Alcona County Review

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Correspondence



To the Editor,
Pertaining to last week's headlines of the Review concerning the proposed community hub, 10 villas and 16 townhouses, being planned by the Alcona Commission on Aging (ACCOA).

I did some basic Internet research. Typing in "what jeopardizes an entity's 501 (c) 3 status?" Answer: "Earning too much income from unrelated activities (such as this newly conceived addendum) and income coming from a regularly carried on trade or business that is not substantially related to the organizations' (ACCOA) exempt purposes."

Read "The Top Ten Legal Risks Facing Nonprofit Boards," by Melanie Lockwood Herman, executive director of the Nonprofit Risk

Management Center." Answer: "Loss of tax-exempt status which is extremely valuable." It relieves the organization of most federal and state income taxes, liabilities and the ability to receive tax deductible charitable contributions (thus threatening ACCOA's entire food bank program and the Pop-Up Pantry program.)

Lobbying and political activity complains - the IRS restricts the ability of tax-exempt nonprofits to engage in governmental activities. The \$12.5 million grant was procured from the State of Michigan General Omnibus Budget after lobbying for said amount. Organizations that receive more than \$175,000 in federal funding or federal funding passed through the state are required to have an

audit. When was the ACCOA's books last audited?

Typing in "management oversight" you will find: The board is responsible for ensuring that the nonprofit is being run well. The board selects the executive director and decides his/her role. The executive director answers to the board of directors, not the other way around.

Type in "can a board fire an executive director?" Answer: A nonprofit's board has the authority under state law to fire an executive director at will unless a specific contract states otherwise.

Lenny Avery was hired to build one senior citizen's center building using millage funding. Nothing more.

Kathleen Gonyea
Lincoln



Calendar of Events



THURSDAY, JANUARY 5

The Community Walking Club for Everyone will meet in the parking lot of the Harrisville branch of the Alcona County Library at 9 a.m. Call (989) 724-6796 for more information.

TOPS 1502 Mikado will meet at St. Raphael Catholic Church, 2531 E. F-30, Mikado at 9:15 a.m. Weigh-in is at 9 a.m. Everyone is welcome. For mor information, call (989) 736-8022 or (989) 739-8600.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6

There will be story time and a craft activity for children at 10:30 a.m. at the Harrisville branch of the Alcona County Library. Call (989) 724-6796 for details.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10

Euchre is played from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Senior Center, lower level, 207 Church Street, Lincoln. All seniors are welcome.

A youth activity for high school students will be held at the Alcona High School

cafeteria from 3 to 5 p.m. A variety of card games and board games will be played. Call (989) 724-6796 for more information. Sponsored by the Alcona County Library.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11

Children of all ages are invited to "Homeschoolers at the Library" for a fun and educational activity at the Harrisville branch of the Alcona County Library. Call (989) 724-6796 for more information.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12

The Community Walking Club for Everyone will meet in the parking lot of the Harrisville branch of the Alcona County Library at 9 a.m. Call (989) 724-6796 for more information.

TOPS 1502 Mikado will meet at St. Raphael Catholic Church, 2531 E. F-30, Mikado at 9:15 a.m. Weigh-in is at 9 a.m. Everyone is welcome. For mor information, call (989) 736-8022 or (989) 739-8600.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13

There will be story time and a craft activity for children at 10:30 a.m. at the Harrisville branch of the Alcona County Library. Call (989) 724-6796 for details.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17

Euchre is played from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Senior Center, lower level, 207 Church Street, Lincoln. All seniors are welcome.

Knitting Klub & Crochet meet at the Harrisville branch of the Alcona County Library from 1:15 to 3:15 p.m. All ages and levels welcome. Call (989) 724-6796 for more information.

The Alcona Book Club will meet at the Harrisville branch of the Alcona County Library from noon to 1 p.m. The selection for January is "The King of Confidence," by Miles Harvey. Call (989) 7246796 for more information.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19

The Community Walking Club for Everyone will meet in the parking lot of the Harrisville branch of the Alcona County Library at 9 a.m. Call (989) 724-6796 for more information.

TOPS 1502 Mikado will meet at St. Raphael Catholic Church, 2531 E. F-30, Mikado at 9:15 a.m. Weigh-in is at 9 a.m. Everyone is welcome. For mor information, call (989) 736-8022 or (989) 739-8600.

Author and shipwreck hunter, Ross Richardson, will present "Michigan Mysteries" at 6 p.m. at the Harrisville branch of the Alcona County Library. Attendees will learn about aircraft missing in Michigan - including one from northeast Michigan. For more information, call (989) 724-6796.

Americanisms



"Life isn't perfect, any failures you have are actually learning moments. They teach us how to grow and evolve."
— Phillipa Soo

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Local Notes

Senior Menu

The following meals will be served at 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday at the Lincoln Senior Center, 207 Church Street, Lincoln.

- Monday, Jan. 9: Tuna noodle casserole, Brussel sprouts, pears.
- Tuesday, Jan. 10: Sweet n sour chicken, rice broccoli, pineapple, A & B Cake and ice cream.
- Wednesday, Jan. 11: Baked spaghetti, peas and carrots, mandarin oranges.
- Thursday, Jan. 12: Beef

tips, egg noodles, mixed vegetables, strawberries.

All meals include milk, bread and butter. Menu is subject to change due to food availability.

Reservations are required by 11 a.m. each day by calling (989) 334-3470. Takeout meals can be reserved at the same number by calling no later than 10 a.m. No membership is required.

A donation of \$6 for folks under 60 and \$3 for those over 60 is welcome. For home delivered meals, call by 8 a.m. Monday through Thursday.

Cardboard Box Sled Race

Alcona County 4-H is sponsoring a cardboard box sled race for Michigan 4-H youth on Saturday, Jan. 14 starting at noon. Participants will create their sleds with cardboard to participate in the event. The race will be held at the Caledonia Sledding Hills (1768 E. Spruce Road, Spruce).

Participants need to register their sleds at: <https://v2.4honline.com>. New members need to enroll in 4-H, then register under events. For questions or concerns, contact Michelle at eaglingm@msu.edu or Les Thomas at thoma322@msu.edu.

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Creating local talent pipeline vital for district

By Dan O'Connor
Superintendent

Like schools across the country, Alcona Community Schools has a significant challenge in finding talented educators for our students now and moving forward.

The timing couldn't be more ideal as the district is seven months into revising its strategic plan, after feedback from the community, parents, students, and staff. The feedback drove the creation the focus area recruit, train and retain and prioritize two dozen action steps to help guide the district's plans over the next three years.

Through this process and from collaboration with a state-wide group of organizations, it's clear finding talented people to teach in classrooms will take multiple approaches, but most importantly start here in Alcona County.

The district has been aggressively working to hire already certified teachers while supporting those with experience in education (paraprofessionals, private school teachers, social workers, custodians, grant-funded interventionists, and preschool associate teachers) toward earning their certification. Many of the staff hired with experience in education are a local talent that the district is committed to supporting.

Universities are also experiencing a 30 percent decrease in students in teacher preparation programs from five years ago, according to a May article from Chalkbeat Detroit.

ACS has also been feverishly working with the AMA ESD and other local districts to join other talent consortiums working to gain access to state funding to initiate programs geared toward creative ways to aid local teacher preparation pipelines. Talent Together is one of the new programs angling for funding that the district has joined.

This group is a statewide group of schools aimed at collaborating with universities around the state that supports staff working in education to earn a living while working in schools while also completing coursework and experiences in the classroom

Superintendent's

**By Dan
O'Connor**
Alcona
Community
Schools
Corner

to earn a teaching certification.

Regional schools are also working with Northern Michigan University on a dynamic plan to offer coursework to add certifications along with initial certification utilizing (hopeful) funding from the state to minimize costs for adults looking at new careers or those still starting their initial education journey.

Recruiting educators from out of the area has been a substantial challenge. Many younger adults are looking for fitness centers, community networking opportunities and want high-speed Internet near local resources (restaurants, shops, etc.).

Affordable housing has cost ACS at least a dozen teaching candidates committed to joining the Tiger family only to realize they couldn't find housing for themselves or their family.

We often refer to the phrase that it takes a village to raise a child. Alcona Community School is looking to our local village for adults to help raise our future generations. If you are interested in discussing any of our programs or brainstorming with our strategic planning group, don't hesitate to reach out.

We need our village to thrive.

(Daniel O'Connor has worked for Alcona Schools since 2006 in many capacities. He has been superintendent for seven years. Dan can be reached at occonnord@alconaschools.net or (989) 736-6212.)

CrYpToqYrD

news

Wfstrs' tzed erlt drevew
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— Super Crossword —

Answers

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DRSALK	NOBAMA	ASHANTI
FLASHIN	THEPAN	SCOFFAT
SESTINA	SLAPIN	THEFACE
TVS	NEE	EMIR
MONKEY	INTHEM	IDDL
UNSNAP	UHURA	GWB
COYOTE	BABE	INTHEWOODS
HUNTS	MSN	OWE
ORC	IDA	IRANIAN
	SNAKE	INTHEGRASS
BAJA	DEADSEA	EMT
FRANZ	ICE	BR
FIRE	INTHE	BELLY
	RNA	AROAD
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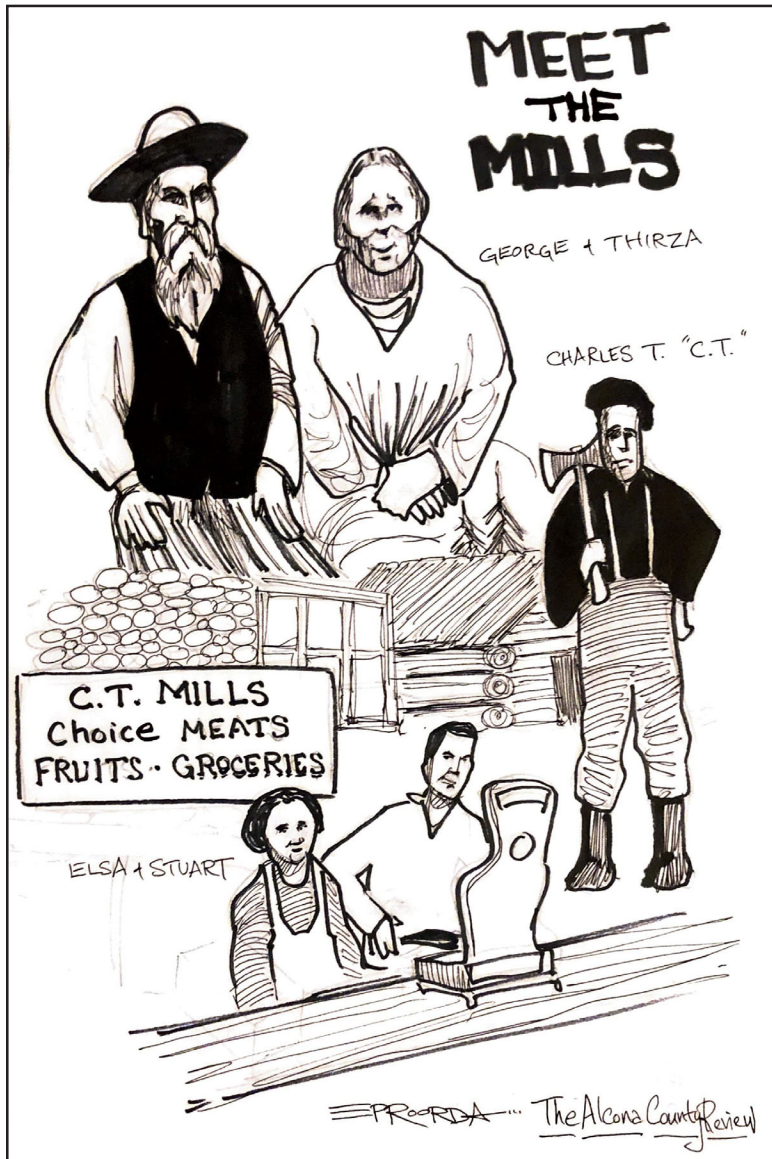
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C. T. Mills choice groceries: A fine example of fieldstone construction

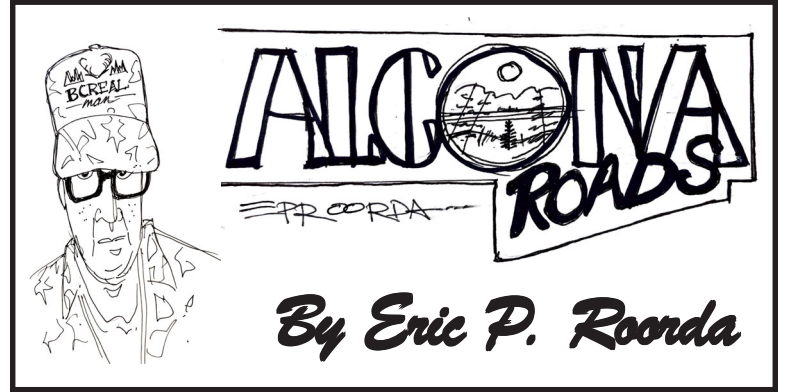
By Eric Paul Roorda
Author & Artist

Fieldstone construction sets apart the architecture of northern Michigan. Grand examples of fieldstone artistry dot the region, like the Midland County Courthouse and certain mansions along the waterfront in Alpena.

But fieldstone construction is primarily "vernacular"—common people built all kinds of things, from root cellars to church steeples, using the nuisance rocks they plowed up from their fields, and dug out of the foundations of their houses.

Alcona County has its fair share of admirable fieldstone structures. Most of them are farmhouses. A couple of them are adorable little chapels: the Old Stone Church at the intersection of Poor Farm and Shaw roads, and Spruce Presbyterian, which is a smaller version of a grand fieldstone church that went up in flames in 1935, (Alcona is such a flammable place).

And one is the store now known as the Lincoln Out-



doors Center, on Main Street. That stately example of fieldstone construction tells the success story of the Mills, an immigrant couple from Canada.

The U.S. Census shows that the Mills were among many Canadian newcomers to Alcona County during its formative years. Thirza was born in 1837 in Ontario, the home province of most Canadian-Alconians. George, two years older, was a "Bluenose" from Nova Scotia. In Canada, Bluenoses have a certain reputation; Nova Scotia is like the U.P., and Bluenoses are like Yoopers.

Their livelihood came from timber. They established a lumber camp on the West Branch River, where their strapping son, Charles T. Mills, grew up wielding an axe and whipsaw. Everyone called him Charlie.

The Mills bought a piece of land where Ritchie Road meets Hubbard Lake Road. Charlie married Elsa Peterson, and the couple bought the property across the road from his parents, where they raised three children: Stuart, Ralph and Ruth. The crossroads became known as "Mills Corners."

Charlie Mills had an entrepreneurial inclination, making a career move from the forest and farm field to downtown Lincoln. That's where he built a fieldstone store in 1928 — two stories tall with large display windows on both sides of the entrance — and hung out a large sign that read "C. T. Mills Choice Meats Fruits Groceries."

Charlie Mills' wife, Elsa, and son, Stuart, joined him in operating the store. Stuart's wife, Helene Enger, added a twist to the grocery business in the 1940s by adding a beauty salon. Later, the Mills' other son, Ralph, ran Mills Groceries with his spouse, Marion, who was born a Kahn. When the Mills' daughter Ruth married, she became a Kahn. The affinity between the two families made sense; the Kahns were grocers, too!

Now, the rumor is that one of those miniature Meijer's stores is coming to Lincoln. If that is true, it would be grim news for local retailers like Kris Mart, Lincoln Hardware, and Lincoln Sports Center. I hope that doesn't happen, and that the C. T. Mills Choice Grocery building, which is such a fine example of fieldstone construction, never stands vacant.

(Eric lives in Springport, where his parents put down roots 50 years ago. He was a college history professor for three decades. His books include, "The Ocean Reader" (Duke, 2020), "Twain At Sea" (Chicago, 2018), and "The White Tail Family: A Coloring Book" (R/DC Press, 2021), which is available for \$10 at eproorda@gmail.com.)

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Rev. Dr. Bryan Salminen
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Rev. Reeve Segrest - Pastor - 989-724-5450

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Check out the Alcona Review Website
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For events, local info & much more!

Free hearing tests can be taken at home

Dear Savvy Senior,

Can you recommend any good online hearing tests? My husband has hearing loss, but I can't get him to go in and get his hearing checked, so I thought a simple online test could help him recognize he has a problem. What can you tell me?

Loud Talking Linda



Savvy Senior

decreasing volumes to determine your specific level of hearing loss. And the other type is known as speech-in-noise or digits-in-noise (DIN) where you'll be asked to identify words, numbers, or phrases amid background noise.

Where to Test

If your husband uses a smartphone or tablet, two of my favorite app-based hearing tests are the hearWHO app created by the World Health Organization, and the Mimi Hearing Test app. Both apps are free to use and are available through the App Store and Google Play.

HearWHO allows users to check their hearing status and monitor it over time using a DIN test, while Mimi uses pure-tone and masked threshold tests to give a detailed picture of your hearing abilities.

There are also a wide variety of online hearing tests your husband can take on a computer.

Some top online tests – all offered by hearing aid manufacturers – for speech-in-noise or DIN tests can be accessed at ReSound ([resound.com/en-us/online-hearing-test](https://www.resound.com/en-us/online-hearing-test)) and Miracle Ear ([miracle-ear.com/online-hearing-test](https://www.miracle-ear.com/online-hearing-test)).

And some good online hearing tests for pure-tone testing are available by Signia ([signia.net/en/service/hearing-test](https://www.signia.net/en/service/hearing-test)); Ergo ([eargo.com/hearing-health/hearing-check](https://www.eargo.com/hearing-health/hearing-check)); and MD Hearing Aid ([mdhearingaid.com/hearing-test](https://www.mdhearingaid.com/hearing-test)).

All of these hearing tests are completely free to use and

take less than five minutes to complete.

What to do with Results

If the tests indicate your husband has hearing loss, it's best to think of that as a starting point. He should take results to his doctor or an audiologist for further evaluation.

Many insurance providers and Medicare Advantage plans cover routine hearing exams, however original Medicare does not.

If his hearing loss is mild to moderate, he should look into the new over the counter (OTC) hearing aids, which are available this fall online and at retailers like Best Buy, Walgreens and CVS.

OTC hearing aids don't require a prescription or medical examination for purchase and they're much more affordable than traditional hearing aids you buy through an audiologist or a licensed hearing instrument specialist.

(Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, Okla. 73070, or visit [SavvySenior.org](https://www.SavvySenior.org).)

People get their cats in many ways: shelters, rescues, breeders, gifts and over 52 percent say one of their current cats was a stray.

[freekibble.com](https://www.freekibble.com)



Writing Letters to the Editor

The Alcona County Review welcomes Letters to the Editor so readers can express their opinion or draw attention to local, regional or state issues. However, letters on national topics will not be accepted.

- Letters to the editor must be signed with a first and last name and include an address and phone number where the author can be reached for confirmation or questions during regular business hours. Unsigned letters will not be published.

- Letters must address the editor -- not government, the community, organizations or the authors of previously published letters.

- Letters should be no longer than 300 words. Inappropriate content will be deleted and letters will run on a space available basis.

- This forum is not intended as a thank you section for groups and organizations. Thank yous are considered personal messages and therefore advertising.

Drop off letters to the Alcona County Review office at 111 Lake Street, Harrisville; mail to P.O. Box 548, Harrisville, Mich. 48740; or e-mail using plain text format to editor@alconareview.com.

Publishing Obituaries

The Alcona County Review continues to maintain the policy of not charging for obituaries as long as the obituary includes the vital information of the decedent and follows the established format. (Vital information is on the death certificate, which becomes public information once it is filed.) A good quality photograph can also be included at no charge. An obituary that the family wants published exactly as submitted, or includes memorial type sentiment, can be published as a paid obituary. Please include within the obituary the deceased's connection to the area.

The Review tries to publish as much information about the person's life as possible – marriage, career, military service, interests, survivors (first and last names), etc. – to share what their life entailed. An obituary reflects the person's life – as presented in a newspaper. The Review makes this effort because, while the death of the person is considered news at the time of their passing, a full obituary with vital information also serves as a connection to the future as many people use obituaries to research family history – which is a very popular pursuit these days.

Obituaries must be submitted directly by a close family member or a funeral home. We do not republish obituaries from other newspapers or electronic formats. The editor reserves the right to edit for length, clarity and style. Obituaries may be submitted by email to: editor@alconareview.com.



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By Rachel Coale

Forest Resources Division
Michigan DNR

With frost curling sparkles across the windows and fuzzy socks adorning your feet, gardening season is a warm, summer memory put to bed under a blanket of snow.

Or is it?

It's easy to think that yard-work is over during snow season, but there's a perfect winter task waiting for anyone itching to get outdoors – pruning.

Pruning is more than just giving your trees and shrubs a trim. Sure, whacking branch ends off will make a tree neater, but a bit of technique will help ensure its health and vitality. Pruning removes damaged or sick parts of trees and can stimulate new growth and fruit production.

"The best time to prune most trees is in late winter to early spring before growth starts," said Kevin Sayers, Michigan Department of Natural Resources Urban and Community Forestry program leader. "That's January to March in Michigan."

During this time, trees are dormant, and sap is not flowing, which minimizes the impact of cuts from pruning. The shape of broadleaf, or deciduous trees can be seen best when branches are not obscured by leaves.

The potential for transfer of diseases by insects is also at its lowest in winter since it's too cold for beetles and flies to move about. This is important for oak trees that can be infected fatally with oak wilt disease in warmer months when beetles move from tree to tree.

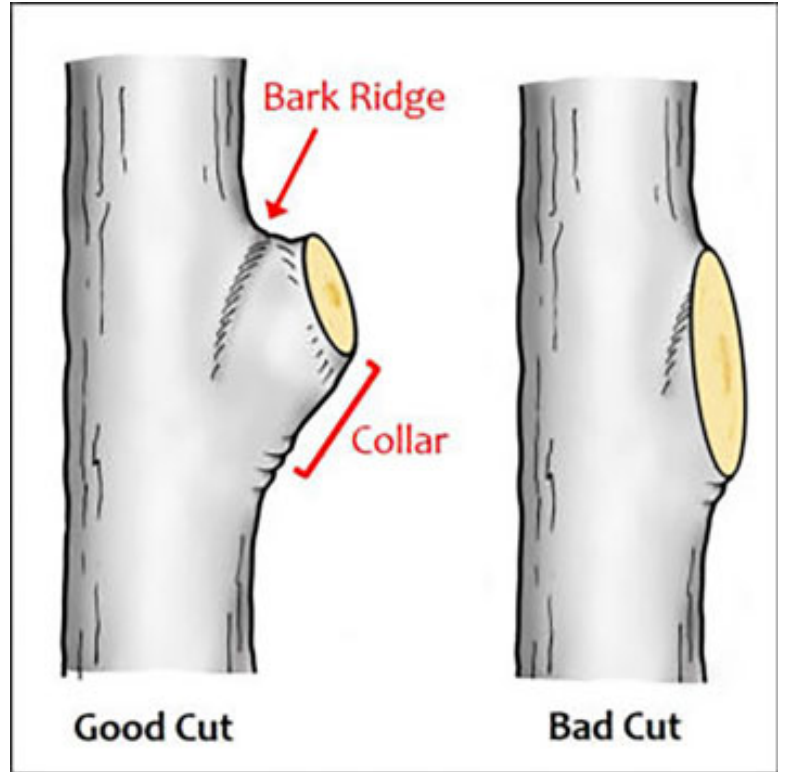
Most trees and shrubs should be pruned in winter, except spring-flowering plants like hydrangeas and dogwoods. Prune them after they flower.

How to Prune

Specific pruning techniques can vary by plant species, blooming time and whether the tree produces fruit, but the basics remain the same.

To prune a tree, look at its overall branch structure and shape.

First, remove diseased, dead or broken branches. Then cut any branches that cross and rub together, as well as any that make the tree grow lopsided. Work



This graphic shows the difference between a good pruning cut, outside the tree's natural branch collar, and a bad one, a flush cut that removes the branch collar. Image courtesy of University of Minnesota.

around the tree, not just from one side, so the shape is even. Prune away suckers sprouting from the base of single-stem trees and trim off low-hanging branches.

When pruning away twigs and branches, find the sweet spot: don't leave long stubs that can be slow healing, but don't make flush cuts that remove the branch collar, the slight swelling where the branch meets the stem.

Wounds created by cuts too close to the trunk can injure the tree. Always make pruning cuts on the outside of the natural branch collar.

Pruning should improve air flow in a tree or shrub by opening up the crown but avoid removing more than 25 percent of the tree in any single year so it can recover more easily.

The "less is more" rule applies to pruning. Good pruning is not measured by the quantity of material removed, but rather by the quality.

Remove heavy or long limbs using the "three-cut method" to prevent damage to your tree. First, cut the end third of the branch off. Then remove the middle third, and finally, cut the remaining third above the branch collar. This prevents a heavy branch from tearing off a strip of bark as it falls.

To finish, is a pruning spray needed? Tree care professionals say no. "Trees are

able to naturally repair and seal themselves after pruning, so treatment is not necessary," said Lawrence Sobson, DNR urban forester and partnership coordinator.

Equipment

Having the right tool for the job will make pruning quicker and easier. Depending on the size and type of plant, here are a few options to consider investing in:

- Hand-held pruning shears – use for small trees and shrubs, roses and detail work.
- Long-handled loppers – best for shrubs, hedges and larger fruit trees.
- Pruning saw or long-handled pole saw – used to remove low-hanging overhead limbs, large branches or brush.

Maintain these tools by keeping a sharp edge, which will help neatly cut twigs instead of crushing them with dull blades. Keep them clean by wiping them with alcohol or a cleaning wipe after use to prevent the transfer of diseases between plants. A bit of oil before storing tools can help keep blades and moving parts from rusting.

When to Call a Professional

Some pruning tasks are manageable at home, while others are best left to experts.

When dealing with large, heavy branches or tall trees, especially those located near a building or electrical wires, don't take risks. Tree care can be dangerous, so have tough jobs handled by a professional tree service company.

Find a landscaping company accredited with the Tree Care Industry Association or a certified arborist with the Michigan chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture.

If a pruning project is do-it-yourself sized, gather gear

The Garden Bug Know your zone

The USDA maintains a clickable public website that provides the expected lowest temperatures of all the geographic areas of the U.S. at: <https://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/pages/view-maps> It is used by gardeners and growers to determine which plants can be grown in each of the "zones" and be likely to survive the winter there. – Brenda Weaver

Source: United States Department of Agriculture

Will you turn around?

By Paul White
Columnist

There's a movie that came out in November of 2009 called "The Blind Side" and it's a true story of a wealthy white couple, with a son and daughter, who adopt an 18-year-old homeless African American. That African American went on to be drafted in the NFL by the Baltimore Ravens and played eight years in the NFL.

Twenty minutes into the movie the husband is driving their vehicle, his wife is in the front passenger seat, and his son in the back seat. They come to a stop sign, look left and see "Big Mike" about to cross in front of their car. It's raining and it's cold and Big Mike doesn't have a jacket on.

Dad rolls down the window and asks him where he's going. Big Mike says, "the gym." He walks in front of their car, they turn going the other way, and without uttering a word the mom begins to process the scenario, realizes what Big Mike said can't be true, and finally says to her husband, "turn around."

So, they turn around, pull up next to Big Mike, she gets out of the vehicle and asks him to tell her the truth. He relents and admits he has no place to stay that night. She takes immediate action without considering any consequences; she does what she believes is the right thing at that particular moment.

She makes him get in their vehicle and, instantly, their lives changed forever.

"Turn around" -- those words were to become very important to me. The man who was the actual Father from "The Blind Side" story came and spoke at the Midland Center for the Arts. After his speech, the Father took questions from the audience. He was asked what he had learned from the whole experience.

He shared that the most important lesson was that we

Thoughts to Ponder

By Paul White



all need to "turn around." That one comment his wife made changed his life, and his family's life, forever. As I've thought deeply about this phrase "turn around," I realized that every day all of us are exposed to opportunities that we have developed near-perfect responses for -- responses that allow us to continue with our day without interruption -- without turning around because that would cause us an inconvenience, or an interruption of our plan, or a possible commitment of some sort.

Personally, many of the moments that define the very best moments and memories of my life began with me turning around. For me, turning around is always defined by helping others. It may be in small ways such as not walking by something that has fallen off a hanger, or shelf, in a store and taking the time to put it back on the hanger or shelf rather than thinking "Hey, I didn't cause it to fall so why should I be the one who picks it up?"

It may be helping the individual whose vehicle is on the shoulder of the highway with a flat tire, or a friend-in-need that you take a meal to. It may be paying for the order of the vehicle behind us in the drive-thru. It may be a major life decision like choosing to adopt a child or teenager like the couple did that inspired the book and movie "The Blind Side." They all count as opportunities where we could choose to turn around. This may sound strange but "turning around" became a successful parenting strategy for

me. Many of the times I turned around I had our sons with me and, like it or not, our kids observe and process every single thing we do and say. Turning around helped my wife and I show them the value of helping others for no other reason than it being "the right thing to do."

Will you choose to turn around every day? Will you practice turning around until it becomes second nature for you? Will you allow it to shape your character into the person you were meant to be?

I'll attempt to inspire you with one final thought. While I'm one of the most imperfect people you could ever know, each day I try to turn around every time an opportunity presents itself. From the smallest to the biggest, I have proof that each and every time I turn around, I experience long-lasting joy and happiness. That alone is a worthwhile incentive.

Just think if we could convince everyone in our community to turn around and help others each day.

Maybe we could get this "turning around" thing to go viral.

(Paul White is an entrepreneur, business owner, and a guest columnist from Midland, Mich. He can be reached at coach@theanswerdiscovery.com.)

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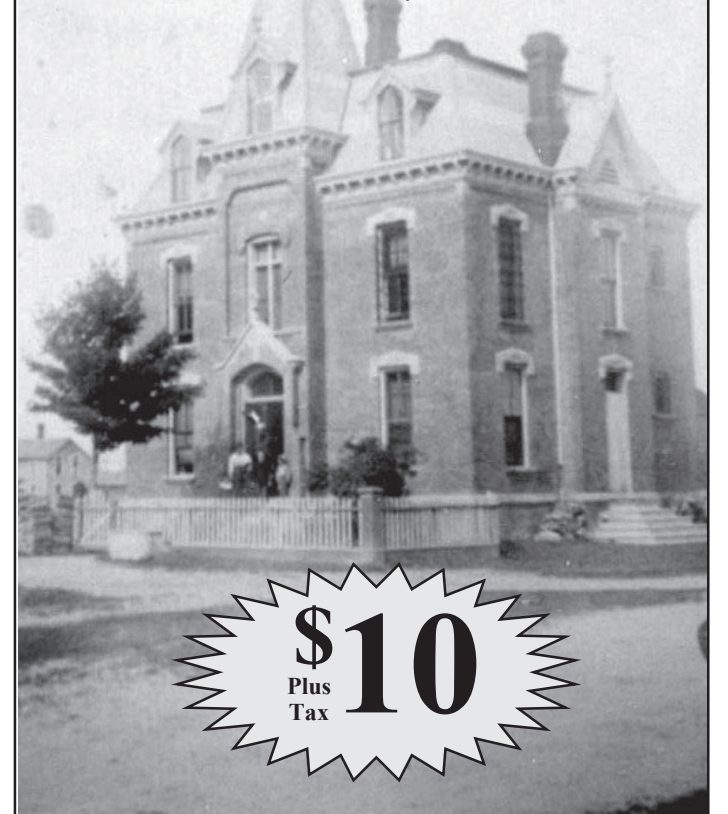
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Pruning Continued from page 6

and size up the scene before starting.

Work gloves are a must for pruning, especially if dealing with a thorny plant. When working on a particularly overgrown or dense tree, also consider putting on a pair of safety glasses or goggles before diving in to avoid getting poked in the eye.

When trimming low-hanging branches, a long-handled pole saw is very helpful as it allows the pruner to work from the ground. Be aware that branches can swing and strike if only partially cut through, so make decisive cuts, work in small sections at a time and be aware of surroundings.

When dealing with anything taller than an individual can reach with a pole saw, be sure to evaluate abilities and

safety. "Ladders are useful for changing light bulbs and cleaning gutters, but are not usually appropriate for pruning tree limbs," said Sayers.

Ladders are unstable and usually aren't large enough to reach desired branches for pruning mature trees, which can be anywhere from 20 to 100 feet tall. In most cases, if the situation needs a ladder to accomplish the work, it probably should be done by a professional instead.

From homes for birds to tasty fruit to cooling shade in the summertime, trees and shrubs provide an array of natural benefits. With the right knowledge, tools and care, trees and shrubs will be happier, healthier and thriving.



Heavy or long limbs should be removed using the "three-cut method" to prevent the branch from tearing off a strip of bark as it falls, as shown in this photo. Photo by Joseph O'Brien, USDA Forest Service.



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Calendar

Continued from page 1

ciate the opportunity to take a breath every six weeks or so, and that's more humane," Hornak said

"The kids really appreciate that," he said. "They work really, really hard, they go home and rest up. When the teacher is rested and well planned, they can come back and engage the kids at a deeper level."

Holt students typically have a break every six weeks: in October, November, February, March and a two-week break in December for Christmas and New Year's Day.

"When school districts shut down for 12 or 13 weeks in the summer, it is often difficult to meet the needs of our students," Hornak said.

"A balanced calendar affords us an opportunity to access our kids to provide them many of the things they deeply desire — for instance, access to instruction and materials, food, in some cases clothing and before and after school care," he said.

Kellie Flaminio has two children, one in fifth grade and the other is in ninth grade. Both attended Horizon Elementary but now they attend schools with a traditional calendar.

Her oldest child is a special education student, she said. "Not having the 12-week (break) helped him to continue to grow academically. He does miss the shorter summers because it's time away from friends and it's time away from structure, and he does like routine."

Akron-Fairgrove School in Tuscola County and Beecher Community School District just north of Flint also follow a balanced calendar. Akron-Fairgrove Schools follow a slightly different calendar: It has a week-long break every six weeks but in June students attend Monday-Wednesday, a half-day on Thursdays and have Fridays off.

"There are so many positive things about the balanced calendar," said Diane Foster, the superintendent for Akron-Fairgrove Schools. "Our families love it, our students love it."



Buggy Rides



Lyle Somers meets death in tragic accident

Popular Lad Fatally Wounded While Hunting

January 4, 1923 ~ The community was shocked Saturday when word went out that Lyle Somers had been fatally wounded by his brother Howard while the two boys were hunting rabbits in Hartigan's woods a mile from town.

The two brothers, Lyle 14, and Howard, 15 years of age, were great pals and on Saturday afternoon set out with their shot guns to spend a few hours in the woods. They left the road at the Con. Hartigan farm and had proceeded but a short distance in the brush when they saw a rabbit and Lyle shot at it.

The boys were close together and in some manner Howard's gun was discharged accidentally. The full charge of fine shot entered Lyle's body near the base of the spine and tore a great hole through to the front of the abdomen, where it lodged just under the skin, only a few of the shot coming through. Howard was at his brother's side almost before he fell to the ground and helped him to a place out near the road when the stricken lad collapsed and was lowered to the ground. Mrs. Thos. Evans, who wit-

nessed the tragedy from her home near by, ran to the scene with towels and blankets while Howard ran to L.H. Dunn's house a quarter mile away to telephone for help.

Dr. A. R. Miller hastened to the scene but a glance convinced him the boy was beyond help. He hastened back to town and sent Claud Yockey with his auto after Lyle while he prepared the hospital to receive the wounded boy. Lyle lived only a short time after being placed in the hospital, and had passed away in less than an hour from the time he was wounded.

That he lived as long as he did was considered a miracle. He was conscious during the greater part of the time and realized that he could not live. He was brave to the end and only said he wished they had not gone hunting.

Funeral services were held Tuesday afternoon from the home of the grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Jos. Miller, and the Presbyterian church, with Rev. C. M. Boyce in charge. The gathering of the people at the church was very large many not being able to get into the building. Interment was made in the west cem-

etry. Lyle Somers was born in Harrisville June 26, 1908, and was the son of Mrs. L. R. Ross. The two boys, Howard, who is only 15 months older, and Lyle, lived in Harrisville practically all their lives; they were inseparable companions and great favorites in the community and in the school. Howard is inconsolable in his grief over the loss of his chum and brother and the tragic manner of his untimely death.

The deepest sympathy is felt for him. Lyle was a student in the Harrisville schools, being an officer in the Junior High. He was popular among his companions, who attended the funeral and in other ways expressed their sympathy for the living and their grief and love for their departed companion.

Besides the mother and brother, there are large number of other relatives surviving. Among those who mourn deeply are the grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Miller, with whom the two boys lived for many years.

Bowling alley & dairy bar under construction

January 1, 1948 ~ A much needed recreational center for Alcona County is now under construction in Harrisville at the south city limits on US-23.

The new eight-lane bowling alley and dairy bar will be of the latest modern equipment. The building, constructed of cinder blocks, will be 52x147 feet and has an offset set aside for a dance hall for the teenagers.

The new business is being started by Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Kerbyson of Greenbush, formerly of Detroit. The new equipment has already arrived and is now in storage awaiting the completion of the building. Mr. Kerbyson states that if weather permits, the dairy bar and alleys will be open to the public in early May.

Fire destroys Lyle Selman barn

January 4, 1973 ~ Fire completely destroyed the large barn, milk house, milking parlor and a loafing shed on the farm owned by Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Selman of South Coville, Road. Mikado. It was discovered at 1:00 a. m. Saturday, December 30.

Among the losses in the blaze were 50 head of calves, yearlings and two year old heifers; 150 tons of hay and a loaded hay wagon. Cause of the fire is believed to have been faulty electric wiring.

The Mikado, Greenbush and Harrisville Fire Departments were called.

New Alcona County judge of probate

January 4, 1973 ~ Gov. William G. Milliken Friday announced the appointment of Paul T. Dwyer Jr., 3313 South U.S.-23, Greenbush, as Judge of Probate for Alcona County for a term expiring January 1, 1975.

Dwyer, an attorney, succeeds the Honorable J. Russell Hughes, Sr., who retired at noon Friday.

Dwyer attended the University of Detroit and received his LLB from the Detroit College of Law in 1960.

He is a member of the State and American Bar Associations the American Judicature Society and the 23rd. Judicial Circuit Bar Association.

Dwyer was an attorney for Metropolitan Airport in 1961-

63 and in 1963 until 1965 was in private practice in Plymouth.

He later was associated with Chrysler Corporation and Chrysler Realty Corporation until entering private practice in 1971 as partner in the law firm of Dwyer and Naegele in Oscoda.

Senate confirmation of the appointment is not required.



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Trivia Test

By Fifi Rodriguez

1. **HISTORY:** What is the name of the ancient trade route that connected the East and West?
2. **LITERATURE:** What was playwright Anton Chekhov's other profession?
3. **TELEVISION:** Who are the next-door neighbors in TV's sitcom "Laverne & Shirley"?
4. **GEOGRAPHY:** Which continent has the most countries?
5. **MUSIC:** What does the shortened term K-pop stand for?
6. **FOOD & DRINK:** What is another name for a kiwi?
7. **GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:** From which Roman god did the month of January get its name?
8. **MEDICAL TERMS:** If you suffer from medial tibial stress syndrome, what is the condition commonly called?
9. **PSYCHOLOGY:** What irrational fear is represented in the condition called ablutophobia?
10. **ANIMAL KINGDOM:** What is a baby turkey called?

Answers: 1. The Silk Road; 2. Playwright; 3. Laverne and Shirley; 4. Africa; 5. Korean popular music; 6. Chinese gooseberry; 7. Janus, the god of beginnings and endings; 8. Shin splints; 9. Fear of bathing; 10. A poult. (c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

Moments In Time

By The History Channel

- On Jan. 16, 1547, Ivan IV Vasilyevich (aka "Ivan the Terrible") crowned himself the first czar of Moscow. But was that nickname really deserved? Yes and no: "Terrible" more accurately meant "strong," "menacing" and "impressive" in his day, but there's no denying the ruler had a pretty fierce, and on occasion murderous, temper as well.
 - On Jan. 22, 1930, excavation began for the Empire State Building. Completed just a little more than a year after construction started, at 102 stories it held the record for world's tallest building until 1972, when it was succeeded by the city's World Trade Center.
 - On Jan. 17, 1949, the first Volkswagen Type 1, or Beetle, in the U.S. arrived from Germany. It was designed by Ferdinand Porsche at the request of Adolf Hitler and sold well because it was not just well built, but reasonably priced, soon becoming "America's budget car."
 - On Jan. 19, 1977, citizens of Miami received a jaw-droppingly unexpected gift from the sky -- a dusting of snow for the first time in the city's history. To date, it was also the last occurrence. Well, maybe next year ...
 - On Jan. 18, 1996, Lisa Marie Presley filed for divorce from Michael Jackson. Speculation as to the cause of the split ran as rampant as the questioning of the rather bizarre coupling in the first place, but Presley herself laid the blame simply on "irreconcilable differences."
 - On Jan. 20, 2010, the Chinese government banned the movie "Avatar," claiming its plot mirrored the nation's forced land evictions. Officials feared the fictional indigenous Na'vi race's revolt could prompt a similar uprising among real-life citizens.
 - On Jan. 21, 2014, activist Kanstantsin Zhukouski nominated his pet parrot in a local council election in Belarus. Unfortunately, he never found out whether the parrot could have actually won, as he soon withdrew its candidacy, probably to avoid a penalty after proving his aimed-for point on the uselessness of his country's politics.
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Super Crossword

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| <p>ACROSS</p> <p>1 "Pet" annoyances</p> <p>7 Dance click</p> <p>13 Extreme right-wing doctrine</p> <p>20 Polio vaccine developer</p> <p>21 2008 presidential campaign coinage</p> <p>22 Caine/Ustinov adventure film</p> <p>23 SKILgIintLE</p> <p>25 Scorn</p> <p>26 Poem with six stanzas</p> <p>27 PUsmackSS</p> <p>29 Boob tubes</p> <p>31 Born, to Luc</p> <p>32 Arab ruler</p> <p>33 COsimianRE</p> <p>44 "Certainly"</p> <p>45 Open with a click</p> <p>46 "Star Trek" crew woman</p> <p>47 43rd U.S. pres.</p> <p>49 Prairie preyer</p> <p>50 FORchildEST</p> <p>57 Pursues prey</p> <p>58 ISP with a butterfly logo</p> <p>59 Be in the hole</p> <p>60 Like wickerwork</p> | <p>61 Hobbit enemy</p> <p>62 Actress Lupino</p> <p>64 Tabriz native</p> <p>68 Thin iPod</p> <p>69 LAcobraWN (Mexican peninsula)</p> <p>76 The Jordan River flows into it</p> <p>77 CPR expert</p> <p>78 Pas' counterparts</p> <p>81 Kafka or Liszt</p> <p>83 Freezer cubes</p> <p>84 "I'm freezing!"</p> <p>86 Fully grown</p> <p>88 TUBlazeMMY</p> <p>93 Napoli's land</p> <p>94 Retrovirus material</p> <p>95 On — to nowhere</p> <p>96 Member of a sorority</p> <p>97 Kenan's sitcom mate</p> <p>100 DEVspiritICE</p> <p>105 "— to laugh!"</p> <p>107 German cry of vexation</p> <p>108 Column's counterpart</p> <p>109 NblastGHT</p> <p>116 Caribbean island nation</p> | <p>DOWN</p> <p>1 Shareable PC files</p> <p>2 Writer — Stanley Gardner</p> <p>3 Those, to Juanita</p> <p>4 Enormous</p> <p>5 For grades 1-12, in brief</p> <p>6 Factor influencing a dermatologic treatment</p> <p>7 Blaster's stuff</p> <p>8 Circusgoers' cries</p> <p>9 Swiss watch brand</p> <p>10 Spanish appetizer</p> <p>11 "Do I need to draw you —?"</p> <p>12 Grilled sandwiches</p> <p>13 Went without food</p> <p>14 Novelist Sholem</p> <p>15 Oxford, e.g.</p> <p>16 — latte (espresso variety)</p> <p>17 Extreme disrepute</p> <p>18 Doll who is Barbie's 96-Across</p> <p>19 Bishops' headwear</p> <p>24 Peaceful "Avatar" race</p> <p>28 Outlaw Kelly</p> <p>30 Gives the cold shoulder</p> <p>33 Many, informally</p> <p>34 "Time is — side"</p> <p>35 "Girlfriend" boy band</p> <p>36 Lace snarl</p> <p>37 Has dinner at home</p> <p>38 Less — stellar</p> <p>39 Central area</p> <p>40 Prior to, in poetry</p> <p>41 — tai</p> <p>42 Size above med.</p> <p>43 "How icky!"</p> <p>48 Helpful things</p> <p>51 Nada</p> | <p>52 Little branch</p> <p>53 One listening</p> <p>54 Reproductive gametes</p> <p>55 Wildcat's lair</p> <p>56 Lead-in to cone or Caps</p> <p>58 Reach a goal</p> <p>63 Pappy</p> <p>64 Elected group</p> <p>65 U.S. Hwy., e.g.</p> <p>66 "Caught you!"</p> <p>67 "Rambo" setting, for short</p> <p>69 More reasonable</p> <p>70 Per person</p> <p>71 Concept, in Cannes</p> <p>72 Crackling radio noise</p> <p>73 Very close pal, for short</p> <p>74 Onassis or Fleischer</p> <p>75 Jam holder</p> <p>78 Prefix with task</p> <p>79 Non-earthling</p> <p>80 Gawk rudely</p> <p>82 Pizazz</p> <p>84 Unexciting</p> <p>85 Winona of "Stranger Things"</p> <p>87 Quick sprint</p> <p>89 Casual refusal</p> <p>90 "Anna and the King" actress — Ling</p> <p>91 Suffix with southeast</p> <p>92 Fate</p> <p>93 "Caught you!"</p> <p>97 Fate</p> <p>98 Gas in fuel</p> <p>99 Ray of "GoodFellas"</p> <p>101 Westerns, in old slang</p> <p>102 Univ., e.g.</p> <p>103 Louise's film cohort</p> <p>104 Over 50%</p> <p>106 Hogs' homes</p> <p>110 Concerning</p> <p>111 — -do-well</p> <p>112 "Buenos —" ("Good day," in Granada)</p> <p>113 Prefix with tank</p> <p>114 Enjoy a novel</p> <p>115 Toy flown on a windy day</p> <p>117 — Strauss</p> <p>118 Exercised</p> <p>119 Child's plea</p> <p>120 "Bus Stop" playwright William</p> <p>121 Fruit-flavored drinks</p> <p>124 "One Mic" rapper</p> |
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Strange But True

By Lucie Winborne

- A Cornish milkman named Steve Leech was making his rounds when he saw a shop on fire. Using 320 pints of milk, he not only extinguished the flames, but saved seven other stores in the process, earning a "Hero Milkman of the Millennium" award from the National Dairymen's Association.
- An albatross typically spends the first six years of its life flying over the ocean without ever setting foot on the ground.
- In the 1990s, a mysterious soda vending machine dispensing rare and discontinued drinks appeared in Seattle. No one knew who filled it, but sadly, in 2018, it vanished as suddenly as it came, with an explanatory note saying it "went for a walk."
- The first women's boots were designed for and worn by Queen Victoria.
- "Ergophobia" is the fear of work or the workplace. Psychologists attribute the condition to a combination of concerns about failing at tasks, public speaking and social anxiety.
- A 59-year-old man with no previous criminal record held up a bank for the measly sum of just \$1. So what was he actually after? A prison sentence, so he could get free health care.
- Red is the first color a baby sees.
- If diamonds really are a gal's best friend, she might like to pay a visit to the planet known as 55 Cancri e, which is believed to be principally covered in graphite and diamond. Of course, she would also need to bring enough rocks back home to cover the cost of the \$12 million spaceship she'd need to get there.
- There are more historic artifacts under the sea than in all of the world's museums.

Thought for the Day: "I have learned over the years that when one's mind is made up, this diminishes fear." -- Rosa Parks

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CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: **H** equals **B**

KUJL'X LUO HOXL HYOKOB
 HOMOYJIO LP BYFAZ KUOA
 KYFLFAI LUO SFYXL MOYXFPA PS
 J KPYZ? BYJSL HOOY.

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Cost per ad is \$5 for the first 10 words and 20¢ for each word thereafter. Boxed ads are \$5 per column inch.

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Mortgage Foreclosure Sale

This firm is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information we obtain will be used for that purpose.

Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone numbers stated in this notice.

Attention purchasers: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In the event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest.

Default having been made in the terms and conditions of a Mortgage made by Michael C. Simon as mortgagor, to Northland Area Federal Credit Union as mortgagee, which mortgage is dated October 29, 2012, and recorded in the office of the register of deeds for Alcona County, Michigan, on November 5, 2012, in Liber 492 at pages 1,334-1,348, and upon which mortgage is claimed to

be due on the date of this notice the sum of \$55,386.26, and no suit or proceedings at law or equity having been instituted to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof;

Now, Therefore, by virtue of a power of foreclosure sale by advertisement contained in said Mortgage, notice is hereby given under section 3212 of the revised judiciary act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by sale of the mortgage premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Alcona County starting promptly at 10 a.m., on February 8, 2023.

The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.

The land and premises in said mort-

gage, being situated in the Township of Greenbush, County of Alcona, State of Michigan, and described as follows:

Lot 340 Huron-Cedar Lakes Subdivision No. 2, as per plat thereof recorded in Liber 1 of Plats, pages 91 of Alcona County records. Commonly known as: 3178 South US-23, Greenbush, Michigan 48738 Please be advised that the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale, or to the mortgage holder, for damaging the property during the redemption period.

The redemption period shall be six months from the date of such sale, unless the premises are determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241(a), in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

Dated: December 12, 2022
Paul E. Wenzloff (P27662)
Attorney for Mortgagee
903 N. Jackson Street
Bay City, Mich. 48708
(989) 893-9511
12-21, 12-28, 1-4, 1-11

Notice of Foreclosure By Advertisement

Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judiciary act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Alcona County, starting promptly at 10 a.m., on February 1, 2023.

The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.

Mortgage information: Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by James F. Larson and Christine Larson, husband and wife, whose address is 5510 N. Barlow Road, Spruce, Mich. 48762, as original mortgagors, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., being a mortgage dated April 24, 2004, and recorded on May 5, 2004 in Liber 400, page 413, Alcona County records, State of Michigan and then assigned to NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, as assignee as documented by an assignment dated October 6, 2021 and recorded on October 6, 2021 in document number 202100003978, Alcona County records, Michigan. On which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of twenty-nine thousand eight hundred forty-three

and 69/100 (\$29,843.69).

Said premises are situated in the Township of Alcona, County of Alcona, State of Michigan, and are described as: Commencing at the SW corner of Section 18, T28N, R9E, Alcona Township, Alcona County, Michigan; thence N 00°25'34" E along the west line of said section and the centerline of F-41 Highway, 209.00 feet to the point of beginning; thence continuing N 00°25'34" E along said west line and said centerline, 96.99 ft; thence N 89°54'40" E 100.00 ft; thence S 46°16'40" E 37.22 ft; thence S 89°18'31" E 183.60 ft; thence S 04°51'36" E 278.67 ft; thence S 89°54'40" W along the south line of said section and the centerline of Black River Road, 128.07 ft.; thence N 00°25'34" E 209.00 ft.; thence S 89°54'40," W 209.00 ft. to the point of beginning. Said parcel being a part of the SW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of said Section 18 and containing 1.14 acres of land, more or less. Being subject to the rights of the public over the westerly 100 feet and the southerly 33 feet thereof. Also being subject to easements, restrictions and zoning of record, if any. Legal from deed book 371 page 634: All the following described premises situated in the Township of Alcona, County of Alcona, State of Michigan, to-wit: The north half (N-1/2) of the following described premises: Commencing at the highway corner post, being a part of the southwest quarter (SW 1/4) of the southwest quarter (SW-1/4) of Section 18, T28N, R9E, thence north 209 feet along highway 171, thence east 209 feet, thence south 209 feet, thence west 209 feet to the point of beginning; Subject to any part thereof

used for roadway purpose or clear vision purpose as given in release of highway right of way recorded in Liber 55 of deeds, page 270, Alcona County Records. Street Address: 5510 N. Barlow Road, Spruce, MI 48762.

The redemption period shall be 12 months from the date of such sale, unless the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA § 600.3241a in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of the sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judiciary Act of 1961, pursuant to MCLA § 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

This firm is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt, and any information we obtain will be used for that purpose. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Dated: January 4, 2023 For more information, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing: Kenneth J. Johnson, Johnson, Blumberg, & Associates, LLC, 5955 West Main Street, Suite 18, Kalamazoo, Mich. 49009 Telephone: (312) 541-9710. File No.: MI 22 4727 1-4, 1-11, 1-18, 1-25

Kovels: Antiques & Collecting

By Terry and Kim Kovel

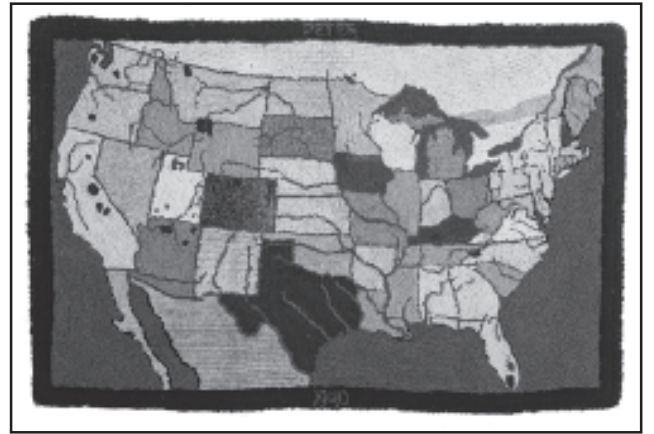
Hooked rugs

No one is sure who made the first hooked rugs, but most historians think it was the Vikings. We do know that in the early 19th century, floormats were made in the United States from 9-inch-long pieces of yarn leftover from machines that made rugs.

The first rugs to interest U.S. collectors were made at Grenfell Mission, a philanthropic organization founded in 1892 to help residents of Labrador and Newfoundland, Canada. In the 1920s and '30s, they developed a cottage industry to make and sell handicrafts. Items included knitted goods and hooked rugs from donated dyed silk stockings, and later flannel, wool and burlap. The rugs had artists' scenes of Labrador and were sold in retail shops in the U.S. and England. Grenfell rugs are now prized by collectors.

By 1940, rug making had become an art form, not just a job for the poor. Artists and amateurs made hooked rugs to use or sell. This hooked rug pictures a map of the United States. On the back it reads, "For Peter Stone on his 5th birthday Nov. 10, 1940, with Carlo's love." Perfect provenance. It sold at a Cowan's auction for \$469.

Q: I found an old serving tray in a resale shop that caught my eye. It is handpainted with flowers and leaves. There is a lot of gold detail. It looks old. The sales-



This hooked rug with a picture of the continental United States has the name of the recipient and the date on the back. It brought \$469 at Cowan's Auctions. Photo courtesy of Kovels.com

woman said it was toleware. What is that?

A: Toleware is painted tinware, usually with a black varnished background and designs painted on by hand or stenciled. It is correct to call any painted tin-plated sheet metal "painted tin." Tin was painted to protect it from rust as well as to make it attractive. Toleware made before the 19th century was often called japanned ware. The designs were sometimes inspired by Japanese lacquer ware. Toleware prices depend on the design and whether there is rust or paint loss. It is very popular today and a tray can sell for \$200 or more. There is also toleware with a red background.

TIP: Don't shake dirt out of a small rug. The whipping action will break small fibers and loosen the knots. You can put it face down on clean snow. It will remove dust and dirt.

CURRENT PRICES

Glass decanter, Kluck Kluck, blue, shaped sides, short cylindrical neck, flattened rim, clear and blue stopper, Holmegaard, 1960s, 10 1/4 x 3 3/8 inches, \$85.

Doll, Mary Hoyer, Amish girl, hard plastic, sleep eyes, brunette hair, blue dress, white apron, pleated bonnet, original box with inserts, 1950s, 14 inches, \$240.

Jewelry, pin and earrings, trembler, layered brass flowers, domed moonstone cabochon centers, dangling filigree brass beads with moonstone ends, Joseff of Hollywood, pin 6 x 3 inches, earrings 2 1/2 inches, \$935.

Toy, seesaw with rocking clowns, painted cast iron, two clowns with hinged arms and hips, rocking action makes marble roll from one clown to the other, Muller & Kadedder, Germany, 8 1/2 inches, \$1,110.

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Veteran's Post

By Freddy Graves

Get your money faster with direct deposit

If you've ever had anything stolen out of your mailbox, or if a check has just failed to show up, you know the angst, trouble and problems that follow because of that missing money.

The Department of Veterans Affairs has a way to safeguard the benefit money that comes to you. The Veterans Benefits Banking Program, for veterans and beneficiaries, will do a direct deposit into your account.

According to the VA, if receiving a paper check, you're 16 times more likely to have it lost or stolen. You're 22 times more likely to have it go missing altogether and need to file a claim for it, which of course takes time. They say that

since many veterans are using direct deposit, fraud has gone down by 93%.

And with direct deposit, you'll get your money faster. It suddenly just appears in your account, on time, every time, not making its way through the postal system.

Through the banking program, there are 43 banking institutions that have signed up to provide low or no-cost checking and savings accounts. You can find those banks here: veteransbenefitsbanking.org/financial-institutions. (Don't miss the FAQ. A lot of questions are answered.) Scroll down to the list of banks. (I'm a fan of USAA.) If you already have a bank ac-

count (or credit union) and you like them, you can set up a direct deposit right into your account. Call the VA at 800-827-1000 and find more information at www.va.gov/change-direct-deposit.

It can take a little while to think about this kind of change if you've never had direct deposit. But it can be rather disconcerting to have a neighbor from a block away show up at your door with a check that was mistakenly delivered to them.

You can eliminate a big source of worry and potential problems if you consider signing up for direct deposit for your benefit payment.

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BINGO

Mikado Goodfellows Bingo every Monday 6:30 p.m. at Mikado Civic Center. Winner-takes-all game and hot balQI. All proceeds to charity.

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Central Boiler Certified Classic Edge outdoor furnaces. Exceptional performance and value. Call today! Gauthier Heating & Cooling (989) 471-2478.

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Jamieson Nursing Home
Now Hiring
R.N., LP.N., CNA
and a cook.
Call 989-724-6889

BUYING TIMBER

Buying standing timber, minimum five acres. Cole Forest Products (989) 736-8928.

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



R.F.D.

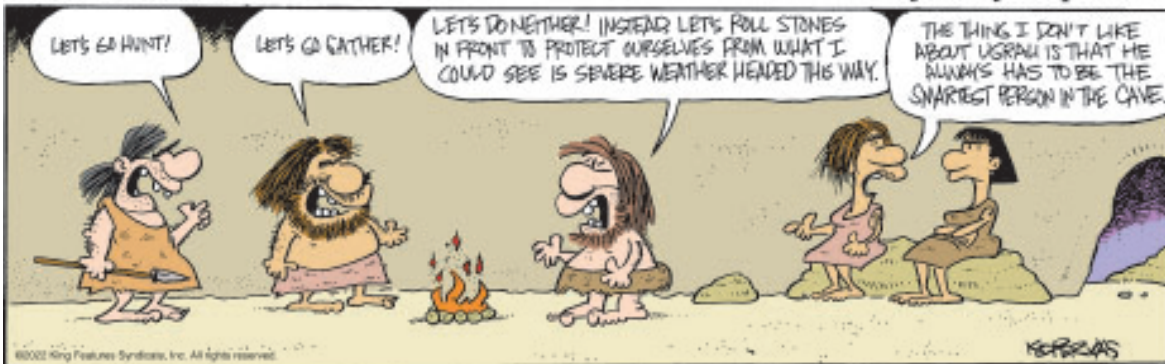
by Mike Marland



Please Note: R.F.D will retire on 1/30/23

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



GRIN and BEAR IT



"Your money is going through a slight downsizing."



Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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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!