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FREE

THURSDAY, SEPT. 14, 2023



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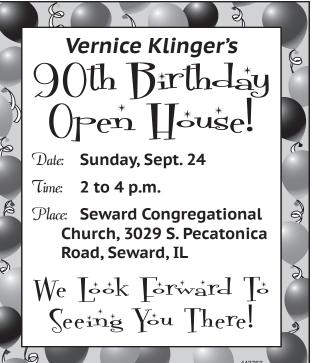




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Game on!

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

Level: Advanced

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

Level: Intermediate

SUDOKU Fun by the Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test! Here's How It Works: Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

A B C D E F G H i J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to mold awareness. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 25 = E)

4 18 7 16

Clue: Structure fungi can form

4 6 7 16 25 1

Clue: White type of mold

4 18 6 17 5 20 21

Clue: Dampness

D.

10 21 25 13 5 8 25

Clue: Inhale/exhale

G U Ε R Ι Ι C S L N C ٧ Н Ε D Ι C 0 Ι В В В Υ В Υ C R 0 N Ι U М М Ε 0 Ι В 0 Т N W 0 М L L K N 0 C N F R В Р S Т G Т Ι М C Α S W М Ε L N 0 ٧ М N Υ М Ι Α Ν D Ι В G R ٧ Ρ М Ι Т D S Ε Ι Т F F S Н S W Т N 0 N Ε Α Ι Ε Н М Н Т S Α М 0 М Ε Р R Н Ι Υ U Α Χ Ε R 0 C R Т Т М М R U Ι Т X S Ι S X 0 В Α W Τ W Р 0 D Α C Υ В Κ X н N R V Ε D В 0 Н S Ε Υ C 0 ٧ М Т C D R Ε Ι F Ι D Ι U Ε D F L W S Α 0 C Χ Χ Ρ М Ρ 0 W U R K K L S Н N Α Α М Р S D G D

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

ALLERGEN **ALTERNARIA** ANTIMICROBIAL **ASPERGILLUS** ATTIC **BASEMENT BATHROOM BIOCIDE** BLACK **CLEAN** CONTAMINANT **DAMP DEHUMIDIFIER FUNGI** HUMIDITY HYPERSENSITIVITY **MILDEW MOLD** MUSHROOM MYCOTOXIN **PATHOGEN** REMEDIATE **SPORES**

ACREMONIUM

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Type of crayon
- 7. Fashion accessory
- 10. Most cerebral 12. Incline from vertical
- 13. Dependent on
- 14. Broken in
- 15. Strongly desires
- 16. Mounted soldier
- 17. Ad __: when necessary
- 18. Cattle
- 19. Ottoman military
- commanders
- _ student, learns healing
- 22. Composed in poetic meter
- 27. Promotional material 28. Where people live
- 33. Sodium
- 34. Embarrassing
- 36. Medical man
- 37. Mother of Hermes
- 38. One who saves the day 39. Tooth caregiver
- 40. Not clothed
- 41. Slope covered with loose stones
- 44. Used to cook
- 45. Praises enthusiastically
- 48. Rooney is a famous one
- 49. Beekeeper 50. Pigpen
- 51. Potato chip brand

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Living quarters
- 2. Horizontal passage 3. Attacks
- 4. Vietnamese offensive 5. Midway between east and southeast
- 6. Confined (abbr.)
- 7. Book of Esther antagonist
- 8. Port in Yemen
- CNN's founder

- 13 15 21 22 36 48 49
- 10. Type of bulb
- 11. Prepare
- 12. Promoted
- 14. Dinner jackets
- 17. Partner to cheese
- 18. Nebraska city
- 20. Human gene
- 23. Pays no attention to
- 24. Lowland South American plain
- 25. Blood group
- 26. Mauna ___, Hawaiian volcano 29. Atomic #37
- 30. Unit of electrical resistance
- 31. Jeweled crowns 32. Nastiest
- 35. Traditional cars need it
- 36. Bowler hat
- 38. Robust
- 40. Not straight
- 41. Stony waste matter 42. Have an interest in
- 43. Jacob ___, journalist
- 44. Maintains possession of
- 45. Swiss river
- 46. Average cost of market goods
- 47. Spanish soldier: El __

Riddle me this...

Riddle: What dresses for summer and sheds in the winter?

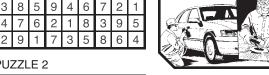


Answer: A tree.

D. breathe

Puzzle answers on page 3 and 4!

CROSSWORD

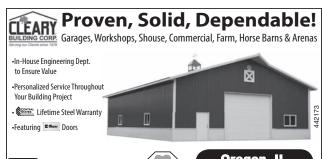


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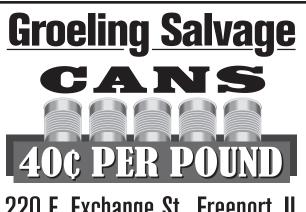
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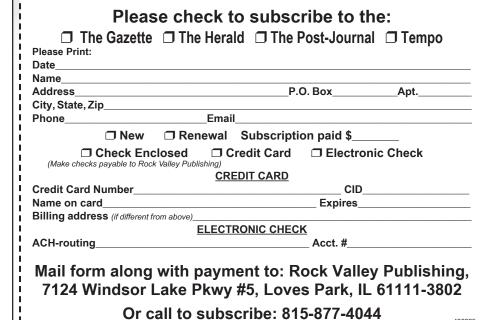
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FREELANCE REPORTERS

A new suit for the wedding

The first suit I ever bought was in my freshman year of high school back in the fall of 1976. It was a baby blue leisure. I had been voted to be the freshman rep for the homecoming court at my high school, so my mom took me to

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town and got me a suit. It had long lapels and my long navyblue shirt collar hung over the lapels on each side. Those leisure suits were in style for about two years and then disappeared off the face of the earth for good. Usually, styles

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make a return after a decade or two, but not the leisure suit. Like very few things in this world, they have never come back around.

The only other time that I had bought a new suit was in 1997 for one of my uncle's funerals. I remember showing up with a shirt and tie and one of my older brothers took me to JC Penny and bought one for me. He even bought me a new shirt and tie to go with it. I was a very poor schoolteacher at the time with four kids and he had just begun a new higher paying job. It was very generous of him, to say the least. Anyway, that black suit has been my "go-to" for the past 27 years. During that time, I have officiated about 40 weddings and another 50 or 60 funerals, all while wearing that same black suit.

Well, our last child is set to get married very soon and

SCOTT **CERNEK** Columnist

my wife was wondering if I was going to rent a tux for the wedding. Since I have been thinking about purchasing a new suit for several years, I decided to take a look at what my options were. After looking at about ten different styles and colors, we decided that it was time to bite the bullet and buy a new gray one. It actually isn't all that much more than renting a tux when you compare the prices, and it will be nice to have a new one to wear for future funerals and weddings that I may officiate. The nice man in the shop advised that all I would have to do is pick

out a new shirt and tie and it would make each occasion special.

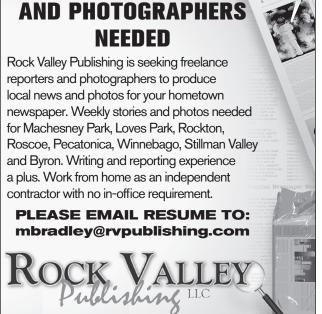
Speaking of weddings, we now have all four of our kids married off. To date, the first three have blessed us with 12 grandchildren and two more on the way. Each family is so unique and provides such a blessing to my wife and I whenever we get together. It's especially fun when all of the families get together at the same time. The only difference in getting together one family at a time or when we all get together is that the grandkids have so much fun playing with their cousins that they kind of forget about Grandpa and Grandma, unless I get out the whiffle ball and bat. They love baseball and they all come running. The older ones especially are really starting to spank the ball good. There are always some

great opportunities for a little character building as we play. It's a lot like teaching my gym classes at school. I tell my classes that I have three rules, respect, respect, and respect. Respect for others, respect for themselves and respect for the rules of whatever game we are playing. I guess once a coach, always a coach.

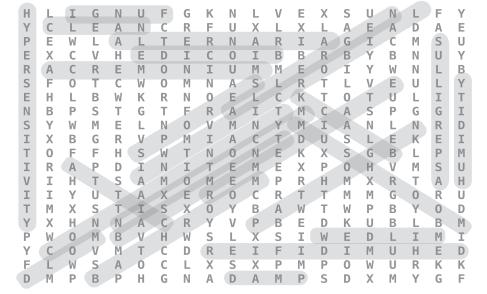
Jesus did a lot of coaching when He was on this earth. He started out with a team of 12 disciples whom He guided and challenged each and every day. In Luke 9:22-23 we read, "And he said to all, 'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it." I'm sure Jesus went on to tell them how to do these things.

"Come after me" means to become a disciple and requires them to first of all deny himself. This means not simply denying certain things but denying personal control of one's life. Number two shows true commitment. Jesus said to take up his cross and make a commitment that will lead to rejection and possibly even to the point of death. Number three, Jesus said to "follow me." In Jesus' day, "follow me" also meant joining the company of his disciples who traveled in ministry with Jesus around Palestine. Today, we have the same choices to make if we are going to become His followers. Giving our hearts to Jesus means He owns us and that leads to eternal life.

Until next week, God bless!



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SMELL for the distinctive, rotten-egg odor associated with natural

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should act any time you detect even a small amount of this odor in

Note: Be aware that "odorant fade," while uncommon, can occur. Odorant fade occurs when

a physical or chemical process causes the level of odorant in the gas to be reduced. This can happen in both existing gas pipe and new installations. Some individuals may not be able to

detect the smell of the natural gas odorant because they have a diminished sense of smell,

diminished so that it is not detectable. Some gas lines, due to their unique function, may not

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If you smell gas, act fast!

in such a situation.

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Online Survey

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Carbon monoxide

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Appliance safety

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- Be sure all furnace controls and emergency shut-offs are in proper working condition.
- Keep trash and other combustible materials away from your air, heating and water heating systems.

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CALL Nicor Gas at **888.Nicor4U** (642.6748) or **911** once you are out of the area of the suspected leak and in a safe place. Stay away until Nicor Gas or emergency personnel indicate it is safe to return.

For more information, visit **nicorgas.com/safety** or call **888.Nicor4U (642.6748)**.

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Pastor Phil Thompson

Philip Thompson grew up in the south suburbs of Chicago and moved to the Rockford area in 1982. He and his wife Steffane were married at First Presbyterian Church in Rockford in 1985. Phil was ordained as an elder in 2018. After retiring from a 37-year career in the insurance industry, Phil felt the call to serve. After completing his studies at University of Dubuque Theological Seminary, Phil was commissioned by Blackhawk Presbytery to serve as pastor at Middle Creek Presbyterian Church in Winnebago, IL starting on February 1, 2024.

Meet & Greet Open House

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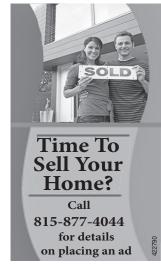
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