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Game on!

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Level: Intermediate

4

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!

5

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A	I	Е	Ι	D	н	0	S	S	Α	Н	Е	Α	0	Е	Α	R	С	М	S	HYGIENIST
Q	W	D	R	G	Ν	Ι	В	R	U	Ν	S	Т	R	Q	Ν	Т	J	С	Е	PARTIAL
U	0	Т	0	0	Α	Ι	Ι	L	Ι	С	Ν	Ι	Ν	В	Е	Ν	Υ	Q	С	PLAQUE
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Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

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16

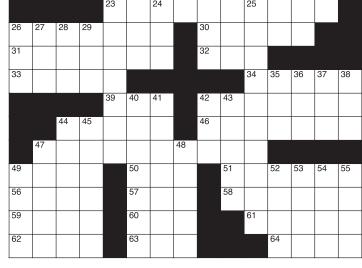
20

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. A device to disengage without
- a kev 5. Subdivision
- 8. Network of nerves
- 12. Lounge chair
- 14. Ocean
- 15. C. European river
- 16. Bowl-shaped cavity 18.
- __ Caesar, comedian 19. Lyric poems
- 20. Tia's sister
- 21. A way to develop 22. Cows collectively
- 23. Areas close by
- 26. Slightly disreputable
- 30. Made a mistake
- 31. One who cites
- 32. Food stall: __ pai dong
- 33. Narrow valley between hills
- 34. Members of people living
- mainly in the Congo
- 39. More (Spanish)
- 42. Classroom implements
- 44. Cognizant of 46. One who tells on others
- 47. Free from slavery
- 49. Thick piece of something
- 50. Containing two nitrogen
- atoms between carbon atoms
- 51. Removed entirely
- 56. Late rocker Turner
- 57. Appreciated
- 58. Observation expedition 59. Opposite of subtracts
- 60. Unit of work
- 61. Wreckage on the sea bed
- 62. Affirmative! (slang)
- 63. Witness
- 64. River in England

CLUES DOWN

- 1. A dissenting clique
- 2. Japanese city
- 3. Spiritual leader 4. Second letter of Greek
- alphabet
- 5. Musical term
- 6. Ruled over



14

18

21

13

- - 38. Soviet Socialist Republic
 - 40. Places to play video games
- 10. Adolescents
- 11. Scottish or Irish Gaelic

7. Fortified wine

8. First year player

language

9. Moved in a circular way

- 24. Factual written account (abbr.)
- 25. Having three sides
- 26. Annov
- 27. Hustle
- 28. American WW2 leader

- 37. They

15

19

22

- 41. Medical event
- 42. When you hope to arrive
- 43. Fixed prices
- 44. Popular Boston song 45. Valley in Indiana and Illinois
- 47. Omit when speaking
- 48. German explorer of the Congo
- Basin
- 49. Stick around
- 52. From a distance
- 53. Heroic tale
- 54. Amounts of time
- 55. Eat

Riddle me this

- 13. Someone who serves in the armed forces 17. Bring up

 - 29. Stale atmosphere
 - 35. US Treasury
 - 36. Sound unit

Solve the code to discover words related to dental hygiene. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 17 = T)

10 12 13 18 6 19 3 Α.

Clue: Dental technique

17 13 8 17 13 8 В.

Clue: Hard, calcified deposits

17 9 19 3 C. 11

Clue: Part of the mouth

D. 17 7 23 8 11 10 7 17 9 9

Clue: Cleaning device

Riddle: I have a tail and a head, but no body. What am I?

Answer: A coin.

Answers: A. scaling

B. tartar C. tongue D. toothbrush

Puzzle answers on page 4!

Slices of life If trees could talk, surviving a great fire

Part two

In part one, Tree grew tall and firm in the forest in the mid-1800s, only to be felled by a human and cut into boards used to build a house. While most would see boards and call them such, Tree continued to see itself as a tree, because one never travels far from ones roots. Whereas bunnies.

squirrels and deer used to encompass Tree's days, now its interests included humans called Dad, Mom and a very small seedling referred to as Mary. Tree watched little Mary grow taller. And soon another little tree-human named Mikey was added to the mix.

Tree was fond of these beings and took pride in keeping them safe from heat and cold and rain and snow. Tree loved the laughter in



the house and found it hard to remember the days when rabbits and squirrels were the height of its existence.

This all happened around 1910 to 1918. Life was good during those years. And then came The Fire.

Tree didn't know much
about the fire until it washouse
blazeright upon them. The
early evening went fromsky.windy and dry to fiery and
dangerous. Tree didn't even
consider its own wellbeing.Tre
and fa
such and faIt was concerned about the
humans, especially Mary and
Mikey.Th

But there wasn't much it could do, being a tree and all.

Dad doused the roof and perimeter of the house with water before leaving with the rest of the humans. Tree understood Dad wanted to protect its walls and was glad. Then all Tree could do was wait.

It was a scary time. The minutes ticked by. Then hours. The wind whipped this way and that and the great fire reciprocated. Tree watched as neighboring houses succumbed to the blaze, lighting up the night sky.

sky. Tree was sad. Tree had lost neighbors and family. What had been such a happy time became sorrowful. Devastating, even.

The days ticked by

slowly. The fires dissipated and finally became smoldering piles of lost dreams.

Tree was despondent. And then, there was movement on the street outside - familiar movement. It was the humans called Dad and Mom and best of all they had with them Mary and Mikey. It was the first time, and perhaps the only time, Tree wished it had a voice. It would have called out to its humans - to welcome them back. To say thank you for the water. which had undoubtedly saved its wooden-being from being taken by the fire.

Instead, tree stayed silent, and gave thanks for the humans who loved him (and who Tree loved in return.)

Mary and Mikey grew to be teenagers (a hilarious yet trying time for Tree). They moved out of the house. Shortly after, Dad and Mom left and another set of humans (Tree had learned they are called family) inhabited the house. They had little humans of their own, and tree grew to love them nearly as much and maybe even more than Mary and Mikey.

This happened over and

over. Humans replaced humans. Tree was amazed and saddened at the brevity of human life. One just gets to know the humans inhabiting itself and they up and leave - or, worse yet, die. Tree witnessed three humans die and felt immense sadness when this happened, while understanding this was how it is supposed to be. Death here on earth is only a rebirth of some sort, much like Tree's rebirth and metamorphosis from branches to boards.

Tree has cultivated the ability to sense when a human death is near and has come to realize that death is not ugly, but beautiful. The humans witnessing the death don't typically see this, so Tree employs a tactic it has come to know as "pray" to connect with its roots and the humans in proximity. Tree prays for the humans to see the unfolding of the universe's grand plans – including the beauty of death and a celebration of a life well-lived.

If trees could talk, the tree at 758 Lilac Street could recite volumes. But that's not how it's supposed to be.

Trees don't talk. But they can stand near. They can shelter. They can witness. They can love.

See SLICES, Page 5



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Weekly connection No greater joy

Last week I wrote about the movie called The Blind. The Blind is the true-life story of Phil Robertson of the reality TV show, Duck Dynasty, At one point, Phil was the starting quarterback at Louisianna Tech where he played ahead of Terry Bradshaw until he quit school to get back to life in the woods and hunting. I wrote that Bradshaw became the starting quarterback at LA Tech after Phil quit the team. Eventually Bradshaw went on to become a four-time Super Bowl champion with the Pittsburg Steelers in the 70s and ultimately made his way into the Hall of Fame. I inadvertently wrote that the National Football League Hall of Fame is in Dayton, Ohio, instead of Canton, Ohio, which is where it actually is. You see, I have a built in fact checker who has been married to me for some 37 years and she caught my mistake. She's caught a few of them over the years. I'm pretty blessed that she is always looking out for

Speaking of blessings, this past Sunday afternoon we had the great joy of having our grandkids and some great nieces and nephews over to our farm for a birthday celebration for our two oldest granddaughters. One is nine and the other eight. They are sisters and are just about exactly a year apart in age. The girls requested to have



their birthday celebration at the farm, and it was a perfect fall day. Our backyard playground became the place of joyous laughter and fun for hours. There were little ones in the sandbox, others on the swings and slide, and still more jumping on the trampoline. Last year I found one of those old metal playground slides for sale and I put it up next to our swings, which are also heavy-duty from an old city park. I can't begin to tell you how much fun all these cousins have when they get together.

My wife made 26 Boy Scout suppers for me to cook on the open fire. Now these Boy Scout suppers consist of a hamburger patty, sliced potatoes, carrots, and onions with a big slab of butter on top all wrapped up in a tin foil pack. Earlier, I had started a fire in the fire pit, and we threw the foil wraps on top of the coals to cook. I flipped them over a few times and in about 12 to 15 minutes everything was ready to eat. After I led the family in a big prayer of thanks to the Lord for all our blessings, we dove in. The meals were

absolutely delicious! When we finished eating, out came the marshmallows, chocolate bars and graham crackers and we made a bunch of s'mores for everyone to enjoy. We jammed a couple of candles shaped in the form of the numbers eight and nine into a couple marshmallows and sang happy birthday to these beautiful little angels and then watched them open their presents. When everything was done, we walked down to the shed and climbed on top of the haystack looking for places to hide. As they were playing one of the birthday girls came over to me and said, "this is the best birthday ever, grandpa!" Man, God is good!

I've been preaching a lot lately about pouring our faith and love for God and the Lord Jesus into the hearts and minds of our kids and grandkids. You see, if they love the Lord, He is the one who will bring them strength to live in a world full of evil and darkness no matter how difficult things get. In Third John 1:4 we read, "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth." I concur with the Apostle John, who was talking about his children in the faith. In this case I can say that about our church family and our own children and grandchildren. There is no greater joy than to know they are walking in the truth! Until next week, God bless.

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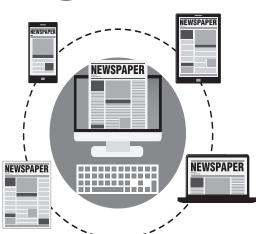
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Page 2	puzzle answers

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The Living Estate of Barbara E. Schrader Live Onsite Real Estate Auction will be held on Saturday November 4th at 12:00 pm SHARP. Mark your calendars! This beautiful ranch home has 3 bedrooms, basement, 1 1/2 Baths (1/2 is unfinished) and a 2-car attached garage. This home sits on a beautiful 1 acre setting with mature trees surrounding the property.

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Any questions or for a private showing, please contact O.D. Holley at Advanced Auction & Appraisal at 815-218-0705.





Auction location: 7526 Old State Rt. 121, Hopedale, IL Property location: 208 Olive St., Emden, IL *Real estate sells at approximately noon*

Go to skauctions.net, auctionzip ID # 51582, or gotoauction.com ID # 10344 for pictures

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445459



Back home

The slow turn of summer to fall

The turn of summer into fall isn't an overnight makeover but more like the gradual creation of an autumnal artist.

It starts subtle with splotches of yellows, oranges and reds dotting the green canvas. Tall green corn stalks begin to brown and stoop. Orange pumpkins emerge from withering vines. Morning fog hangs in the coulees. The days grow shorter. Jackets emerge.

Then suddenly you notice one day that the hills are ablaze with color, there's frost on the windshield and summer is over. Fall crept in without you knowing.

Fall is a season of such beauty but it also brings me a little sadness. Spring brings hope after a cold winter. Summer are those plans of hope put into action, new gardens, outdoor projects, long days of

sunlight and feeling strong. The shorter days and cooler temperatures remind me that I'm growing older. Unfinished tasks wait for another year as my list was bigger than my ambition. The summer that seemed to last forever when I was young passed by like a blink of the eye.

While our temperatures this year still give us a taste of summer, nature knows what's coming. The barn swallows, our annual seasonal avian tourists that fend off the mosquitoes, have been gone for a couple of weeks. The old dairy barn, their favorite nesting place that echoes with

• **Slices** (Continued from page 3)

And they do. They see comings and goings. They see life and death. They see the world at its best and its worst.

They can grow toward the clouds or they can be cut to their quick.

Through it all they stand by us and support us, albeit silently.



chirping all summer, is quiet.

The wooly bear caterpillars are moving about, although I have yet to examine the amount of black on them. Folklore says the longer the black bands, the colder, snowier and more severe winter we will have. I'll worry about winter another time.

Hummingbirds still appear at our feeder, although these are likely travelers heading south.

We have yet to be nipped by frost, although it will be coming soon. We're enjoying the late-season tomatoes and soon will be harvesting what promises to be a record squash crop, along with a few pumpkins that will welcome visitors at our doorstep.

It seems like the apple crop is a bit lighter this year, but I'm holding out on the harvest, hoping that my son and grandson, my cidermaking partners, will show up for a fun day of pressing.

I also will relish the beauty of fall and be thankful for the creator of such a diverse and colorful world. It's a reminder that change is a constant part of our world.

But the thoughts of work undone and regrets

As Tree at 758 Lilac has done - for generations - and will continue to do. As Tree only hopes.

Jill Pertler is an awardwinning syndicated columnist, published playwright and author. Don't miss a slice; follow the Slices of Life page on Facebook.



remembered had me a little down one morning last week. Dawn was slowly creeping into the valley and I was outside for a morning chore.

It was faint at first, so I stopped to listen, just to be sure.

Much to my surprise, I heard the call of a whippoorwill.

"Whip-poor-will, whippoor-will. The call that conjures warm summer nights

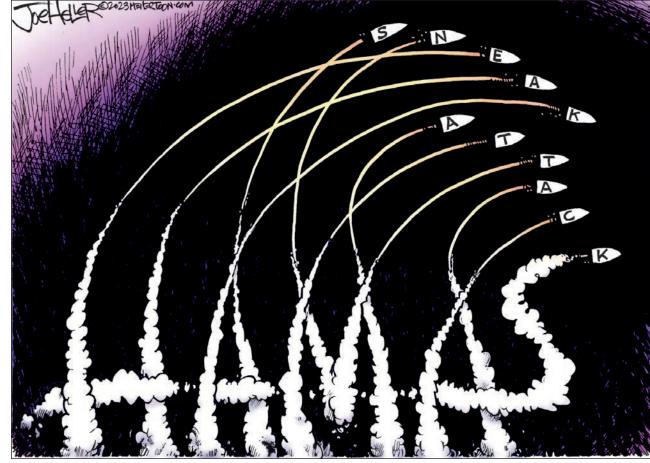
floated across the valley. Whippoorwills also are

migratory and spend their winters in Mexico and Central America.

But one still remained. Perhaps it too was sad to see summer fade away and was saying goodbye.

Chris Hardie spent more than 30 years as a reporter,

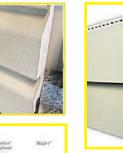
editor and publisher. He was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize and won dozens of state and national journalism awards. He is a former president of the Wisconsin Newspaper Association. Contact him at chardie1963@gmail.com.



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