

The SHOPPER

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

Level: Advanced

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

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!

DENTAL HYGIENE WORD SEARCH

U	M	C	I	S	T	A	I	N	S	P	A	Q	G	M	E	A	O	T	T
P	J	L	D	A	W	F	U	W	A	D	N	I	N	D	E	M	F	H	A
L	I	E	B	M	W	L	Q	R	J	Y	O	W	I	W	C	A	R	J	A
I	U	A	I	B	I	D	T	U	A	P	I	H	D	W	T	A	G	M	U
O	C	N	F	T	E	I	S	B	C	H	T	Y	N	O	B	A	A	W	N
A	H	I	E	D	A	T	U	A	H	E	A	S	O	M	O	A	I	U	M
H	N	N	U	L	M	T	E	Y	U	A	D	E	B	A	N	A	L	N	M
Q	L	I	N	E	N	N	W	S	H	A	R	N	A	P	I	W	I	Q	P
D	P	A	N	W	O	H	C	D	R	B	S	G	C	A	T	Q	H	L	I
G	M	T	H	E	D	I	G	A	O	F	I	D	T	I	H	P	R	E	I
P	R	B	E	J	P	T	O	P	G	I	C	I	I	O	O	E	C	A	B
L	D	D	I	D	C	O	S	B	A	H	S	A	O	E	A	R	M	S	S
A	I	E	R	G	N	I	I	R	U	N	S	T	R	Q	N	T	J	C	E
Q	U	D	O	O	A	E	S	L	I	C	N	I	N	B	E	M	Y	Q	C
E	F	J	E	F	S	P	T	S	M	J	I	B	I	E	A	N	D	N	S
F	J	G	F	B	F	F	L	R	T	M	L	A	F	E	L	N	J	C	A
J	B	O	Q	J	O	B	W	E	E	F	N	M	F	W	L	Q	D	H	S

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

ABRASION
ABSCESS
ABUTMENT
ACID
ADJUSTMENT
AMALGAM
ANALGESIA
BACTERIA
BICUSPID
BITE
BONDING
BREATH
CARIES
CLEANING
CROWN
FLUORIDE
HYGIENIST
PARTIAL
PLAQUE
ROOT
SEDATION
STAINS
TARTAR
TOOTH

CLUES ACROSS

1. A device to disengage without a key

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

1	2	3	4			5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13		14				15			
16					17	18				19			
20						21				22			
				23		24				25			
26	27	28	29					30					
31								32					
33										34	35	36	37
				39	40	41		42	43				
		44	45					46					
	47						48						
49					50				51		52	53	54
56					57				58				
59					60					61			
62					63						64		

7. Fortified wine
8. First year player
9. Moved in a circular way
10. Adolescents
11. Scottish or Irish Gaelic language
13. Someone who serves in the armed forces
17. Bring up
24. Factual written account (abbr.)
25. Having three sides
26. Annoy
27. Hustle
28. American WW2 leader
29. Stale atmosphere
35. US Treasury
36. Sound unit

37. They ____
38. Soviet Socialist Republic
40. Places to play video games
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...

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

Answer: A coin.



Puzzle answers on page 4!

⊙ ** ☐ ☺ ⛔ ~ 🌑 ♪ ✧ * 🍀 × ❄️ + 💦 ❁ ▲ 🌙 ✨ 🔗 ☆ 🏢 🔲 ☰ Ω ↻
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

CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

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

A. 10 12 13 18 6 19 3

Clue: Dental technique

B. 17 13 8 17 13 8

Clue: Hard, calcified deposits

C. 17 9 19 3 11 1

Clue: Part of the mouth

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

Clue: Cleaning device

Answers: A. scaling B. tartar C. tongue D. toothbrush

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



By
**JILL
PERTLER**
Columnist

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 was right upon them. The early evening went from windy and dry to fiery and dangerous. Tree didn’t even consider its own wellbeing. It was concerned about the humans, especially Mary and Mikey.

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.

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

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 Louisiana 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 Pittsburgh 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 me.

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



By
**SCOTT
CERNEK**
Columnist

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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Page 2 puzzle answers

PUZZLE 1

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

PUZZLE 2

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

CROSSWORD

S	N	I	B		A	R	M		R	E	T	E
E	A	M	E	S		S	E	A		O	D	E
C	R	A	T	E	R	S	I	D				
T	A	M	A	R	A		A	G	E	K	I	N
					V	I	C	I	N	I	T	I
R	A	F	F	I	S	H		E	R	R	E	D
A	D	D	U	C	E	R		D	A	I		
G	O	R	G	E						L	U	B
					M	A	S		E	R	A	S
					A	W	A	R	E	T	A	T
S	L	A	B		A	Z	O		E	R	A	S
T	I	N	A		D	U	G		S	A	F	A
Y	E	A	H		S	E	E			R	A	S

U M C I S T A I N S P A Q G M E A O T T

P J L D A W F U W A D N I N D E M F H A

L I E B M W L Q R J Y O W I W C A F R A

I U A I B I D T U A P I H D O T L G J U

O C N F T E I S B C H T Y N T B G A M N

A M I D D A T U A H E A S O M O A A W M

H E N E L M T E Y U A D E B A N M I U I

Q N G U E M N W S H R E N A P I W L N Q

L I A N E N H W D T B S N R A T R A T P

D P T N W O R C N R F A G C I H Q H L I

G M T H E D H G E O L B D T Y I H L E I

P R B E J P I A Q G I I I G O T P R D B

L D D D I C T P E B C S I T O O E E A S

A I E I D H O S S A H E A O E A R C M S

Q W D R G N I B R U N S T R Q N T J C E

U O T O O A I I L I C N I N B E N Y Q C

E D J U F Y E S S M H I R R R A M D Y S

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1005 N. Dakota Rd., Ridott, IL 61067

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Registration Starts at 11:30 am, Bidding to start at 12:00 PM SHARP!

311 E. South Street, Dakota IL 61018

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.

Room Sizes:

Living Room: 12' x 22', Kitchen: 8' x 11', Dining Room: 11' x 9', Master Bedroom: 11' x 11', Bedroom 2: 11' x 12', Bedroom 3: 9' x 8', Basement - Kitchen Bar Area: 7' x 12', Eating Area: 8' x 11', Family Room: 11' x 24'. Small garden shed.

Located at 311 East South Street in Dakota, IL 61018

Registration will start at 11:30 am and Bidding will start at 12:00 pm SHARP!

****The Agent shall charge a Five percent (5%) Buyer's premium and the buyer's premium shall be added to the final bid price of the real estate. The successful buyer will be required to put down \$7500.00 at the conclusion of the closing of the auction on Saturday, November 4, 2023, and the buyer will enter into a purchase agreement. Closing will 30 days or sooner. If buyer cannot perform at closing, they will forfeit their earnest money. Property being sold "As Is Where Is" without contingencies.**

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



445270

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Back home

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



By
**CHRIS
HARDIE**
Contributor

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 cider-making 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

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, whip-poor-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.



• 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.

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As Tree only hopes. *Jill Pertler is an award-winning syndicated columnist, published playwright and author. Don't miss a slice; follow the Slices of Life page on Facebook.*

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real estate

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