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Game on!

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

Level: Intermediate

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

Level: Advanced

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!

BATH SAFETY WORD SEARCH

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

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

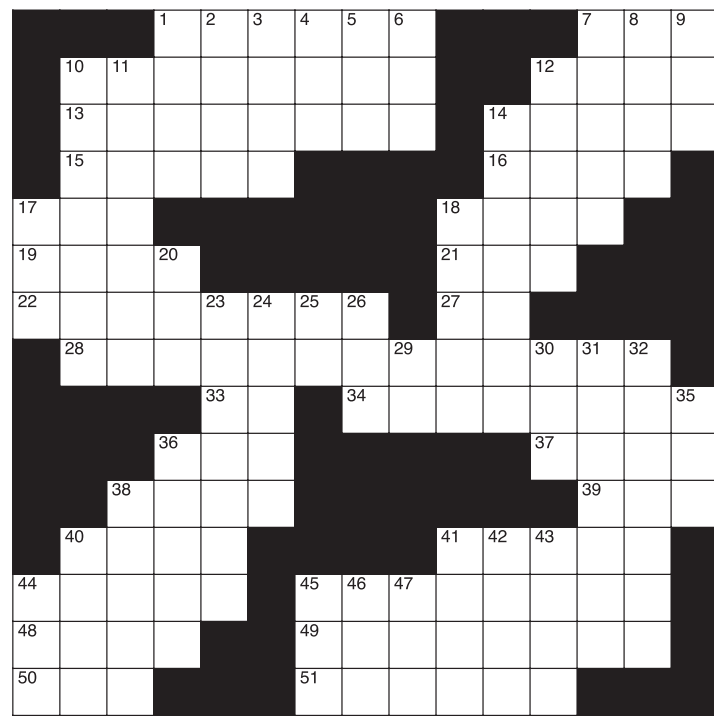
- ANTISKID
- BALANCE
- BARS
- BATH
- BENCHES
- ELDERLY
- FALLS
- HANDHELD
- HOT
- INSTALLATION
- LIGHTING
- MATS
- MOISTURE
- RAILS
- REACH
- RETROFIT
- SAFETY
- SEAT
- SENIOR
- SHOWER
- SLIP
- SUCTION CUPS
- TOILETRIES
- TRANSFER

CLUES ACROSS

- Winged nut
- ___ Humbug!
- One who sets apart
- Circle above a saint's head
- Unpleasantly loud and harsh
- Expressed pleasure
- Feminine given name
- Company of badgers
- Popular Dodge pickup truck
- Witty sayings
- Leader
- Automatic nervous system
- Premolar
- Atomic #28
- Holiday decorative item
- Exclamation of surprise
- Rusk or cracker
- Returned material authorization (abbr.)
- Scottish or Irish Gaelic language
- Eat
- Marxist economics theory (abbr.)
- Ceases to exist
- Male Arabic name
- Series of ridges on an organ wall
- Places where bees are kept
- One-time Yankees sensation Kevin
- Church office
- Single lens reflex
- Pieces of fibrous tissue

CLUES DOWN

- Classify
- Dismounted
- Produced
- Consumed
- Director Howard
- The products of human creativity
- Thai monetary units
- Away from wind
- Builder's trough
- Relating to Islam
- It can sometimes ache
- Small quantities (Scot.)
- Poisonous plant
- Laugh at
- Vogul
- C. European river
- Type of cat
- Exclamation of disgust
- Stephen King novel
- Without armies
- Expression of sympathy
- Relative biological
- effectiveness (abbr.)
- Previously
- Illegal drug
- Kiloelectronvolt
- Large, flightless birds
- For smoking
- Binary
- Competition
- Mark resembling an arrow
- Containers
- Root mean square (abbr.)
- Commercials
- I.M. ___, architect
- 007's creator



Riddle me this...

Riddle: Despite my ability to move at around 100 mph, I seldom leave the room. You can conceal me, but it didn't stop me from marching forward. You won't be able to detect whether I only come once or if I'm doing it frequently. So who am I?

Answer: A sneeze.



☉ ✱ ☼ ☽ ☾ ☿ ♀ ♁ ♂ ♃ ♄ ♅ ♆ ♇ ♈ ♉ ♊ ♋ ♌ ♍ ♎ ♏ ♐ ♑ ♒ ♓

CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to bath safety. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 12 = A)

- A. 15 25 6 22 22 2 13 19**
Clue: Slick
- B. 14 13 12 11**
Clue: Hold onto
- C. 12 5 5 6 21 2 24 3**
Clue: Mishap
- D. 11 12 3 8 13 23 23 7**
Clue: Tiled room in house

Answers: A. slippery B. grab C. accident D. bathroom

Puzzle answers on page 4!

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Slices of life

New year phrase: 'More in 2024'

Someone I've never met (social media, where else?) came up with a phrase for the new year: "Let's do more in 2024." I've decided to adopt it for my own, because it's well-balanced, makes logical sense and has good meaning, purpose and intent.

Plus it rhymes; who doesn't appreciate a good rhyme?

But what, exactly, do I want more of in the next year? What do we all want?

The basics, of course.

Here's my short list:

More peace.
Isn't this a nice thought? More peace: world peace, governmental peace, neighborhood peace, hippy peace, familial peace, marital peace and – most importantly – inner peace.

Peace is all-encompassing and all-good. There can never



By **JILL PERTLER**
Columnist

be too much peace. Unless you are talking an extra piece of pie after eating one already, but that's a different kind of peace and doesn't count, unless it's in calories.

More kindness.

Kindness ranks right up there with peace; the two are twin equals, or at the very least kissing cousins. Kindness begets peace and vice versa. Kindness is equally effective with family members, friends and strangers. It takes little to no effort and provides positive feel-goods to the

giver as well as the receiver. Kindness costs nothing and it is something we all possess in infinite amounts.

Not even chocolate can claim that many attributes.

More faith.

I'm not necessarily talking about the kind you get in church. Faith – and a deepened trust – reside far beyond church. That's the faith I aspire to. Faith in nature – that trees will shed their leaves in the fall; dandelions will sprout optimistically each spring. Trust in the human spirit – people are innately good. Trust in the future. Trust in today. Trust in yourself. Trust in something bigger than yourself.

That's faith.

More doing and participating.

I don't know about you,

but I've spent nearly a lifetime thinking about the things I'd like to do. Now is the time to actually do them. To participate for real. These bucket-list acts don't need to be earth-shattering or life changing. They just need to be you doing them. Maybe that means world travel; maybe that means staying home and reading a good book. You do what means doing to you, just do it more, in 2024.

More connectivity.

But not to our phones or the internet. More than ever we need to realize and appreciate our connections to one another. We are all part of the whole. We may think of ourselves as individuals, but we are, truly, nothing without each other. We are an island. We not only need one another; we are

better together. Connections enhance our lives and make the world a better place – one handshake, one hug, at a time.

More light.

Of the kind that requires no battery-power or electricity. True light is a beacon that knows no physical power source. We all have a light that shines from within – however cliché or corny that may sound. It's true. Open up. Flip your inner light switch to "On." Together we can illuminate the world, and that, my friends, can change everything.

More love.

You probably saw this one coming. The most basic tenet of all: we need more love. We can never overdose on love. We can never give too much of it. When we think about basic needs, we list food,

water and shelter, but love should be at the top of the list – in both the giving and receiving mode.

Just like kindness, giving love provides just as much as receiving it does, perhaps even more so.

Doing more in 2024...

More peace. More kindness. More faith. More participation. More connectedness. More light and more love. Seven aspirations for the year. Lofty? Perhaps. Doable? I think so. Maybe take one each day of the week. Maybe try them all at once.

Either way, you can't go wrong.

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.

Weekly connection

Winter has definitely arrived

Winter has finally arrived here in southern Wisconsin, and it has come with vengeance and in all its glory. In the last few days we have been hit complete with two large snowfalls and then an arctic vortex of cold and wind that is rather bone-chilling to say the least. When I go out to feed my beef cows, steers and heifers, I am just amazed at how hardy they are. Even my sheep and ponies don't seem to be fazed as they come running across the snow drifts with great nimbleness and grace to get their morning and evening hay. At least they have a couple small sheds



By **SCOTT CERNEK**
Columnist

to hunker down in out of the wind. The beef animals only have the trees for shelter. It was pretty cool, pun intended, to find the cows the other day when my wife and I were delivering their evening hay. They were all lying down in the creek bed with trees and snow drifts rising up on every side. It was a picture of

tranquility. They had found their shelter and seemed as warm as toast and just as contented as I am sitting in my warm house resting in my recliner.

I had to borrow my nephew and his four-wheel drive McCormick tractor the other day to break through the snow drifts in the field to get out to my heifer pasture with some feed. That tractor smashed right through the drifts with no trouble whatsoever. The next day I fired up my old two-wheel drive narrow front end Super-H Farmall and thought I would just follow

his tracks down to the feed bunk with hay and silage. I knew it was a gamble that I would be able to get through those drifts with my old girl and it sure was a gamble. The wind had blown all night and mostly filled in the tracks that my nephew had made, but I gave her a try anyway. When I came to the big drifts those large rear tires would spin and the front end would try to shift right or left so I kept pumping those rear brakes, first the right one and then the left to keep the front end straight. Several times I thought I was stuck for good, but I would back up a couple feet and churn forward again with the snow up to the rear axle at times. It was quite a challenge, but I'm proud to say that after a half hour or so I finally got out to the heifers with their feed. Now the challenge was to make it back, uphill. Somehow the track that I had cut helped just enough to allow me to dig my way back with all the same

drama as the trip out. I had such a feeling of victory over the elements just by using pure grit and determination and a few prayers too.

We had my parent's family Christmas last weekend, and it turned out to be great fun to have most of the families here for the get-together. There were 48 of us who made it in a blizzard, including some 35 of my mom's great-grandkids all playing happily together. There was hide and seek, Uno, wrestling, and a few other indoor games that probably should have been outdoor games except the blizzard made that an impossibility. One of my pastor brothers from Colorado Springs even made the 14-hour drive to be here. There are four of us who pastor and it's always a joy to spend time together chatting about our faith and God's faithfulness along with a myriad of stories from our childhood. Anyway, mom had ordered a big birthday

cake for Jesus, and we ate tons of chicken, cheesy potatoes, corn pudding, and other dishes to pass. The best part though was just getting together and letting all the cousins get to play and know each other better.

We have so much to be thankful if we just open up our hearts to God's presence. He is so good and marvelous in all His ways. In fact, in Psalm 118 the Psalmist is proclaiming the wonder of Jesus Christ as the cornerstone by which all of humanity could place their foundation in for salvation. The writer says in verse 22 and 23, "the stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. This is from the Lord and it is marvelous in our eyes." Jesus Christ is the answer for each and every human being in the world. He wants to be the cornerstone, the foundation of our lives. Turn to Him today for a new life of purpose and meaning.

Until next week, God bless.



Page 2 puzzle answers

PUZZLE 1

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

PUZZLE 2

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

CROSSWORD

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

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real estate

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The Wheel Deal
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\$19⁹⁵
1st three lines
Extra lines are \$1.95 each
17 Papers

Starts for 4 weeks and if not sold you call us and we will renew at no additional charge!
(Maximum run 16 weeks total)

PRIVATE PARTY ONLY.

Ad must be prepaid.
Deadlines vary.

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• Private Party Only •
Just fill out the coupon below and drop off or mail to:
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Write your ad below, One Word Per Box, be sure to include your price

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RIGHT NEXT TO WATER TOWER
M-F 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Sat. 8 a.m.-3 p.m.



5257 SWANSON ROAD, ROSCOE
2 MILES S. OF HONONEGAH ELEVATOR ON RT. 251
M-F 8:00-5:30; SAT. 8:00-3:00
815-637-4055

520 LOGAN AVENUE, BELVIDERE
3 BLOCKS EAST OF BELVIDERE PARK
M-F 8:00-5:30; SAT. 8:00-3:00
815-544-4452

1610 ALPINE ROAD, ROCKFORD
1 BLOCK SOUTH OF COLONIAL VILLAGE
M-F 8:00-5:30; SAT. 8:00-3:00
815-398-7867

5302 N. 2ND, LOVES PARK
ACROSS FROM POPEYE'S
M-F 8:00-5:30; SAT. 8:00-3:00
815-282-1177

TIRE DEPOT
4734 N. SECOND STREET, LOVES PARK
M-F 8:00-5:00; SAT. 8:00-NOON
815-633-8307

