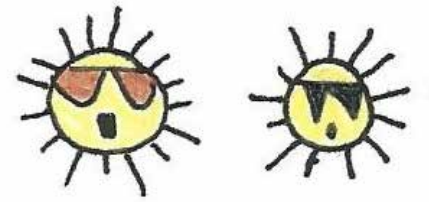


Ferguson

NEIGHBORHOOD

SINCE NEWS 2021



Serving Ferguson and Surrounding Communities

Mosquitoes! Help!!

by Marsha DeMere Gebhardt

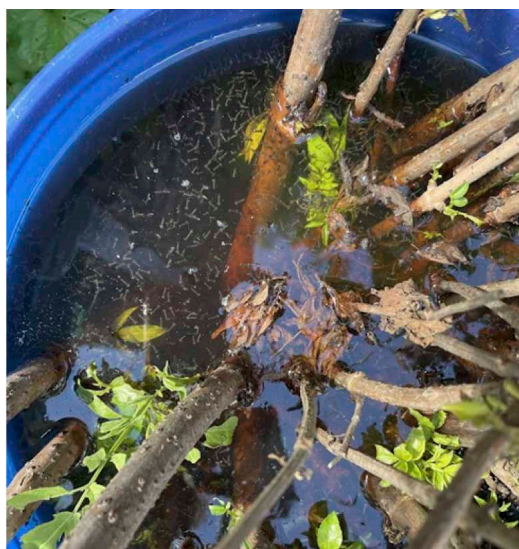
Mass mosquito fogging from trucks DOES NOT significantly reduce the mosquito population! It only kills the adult mosquitoes that are flying at that time and are within reach of the spray. St. Louis County Vector Control contracts with municipalities to treat any areas that are home to disease-carrying mosquitoes. The estimated annual cost to Ferguson is \$1,500, compared with the thousands that Ferguson had been paying for just the chemical to spray from trucks.

Mosquito fogging does nothing to kill the incredible number of mosquito larva, that breed in as little as a cap-full of standing water around your house and yard. Instead, the spraying stays on plants and trees, and kills the beneficial pollinators and the insects and caterpillars that birds feed to their babies.

SO...it is important for residents to learn what we can do to reduce the impact of mosquitoes on our outdoor living.

Most mosquitos do not carry disease and are known as 'nuisance mosquitos'. These are the ones we can only deal with ourselves, in the following ways.

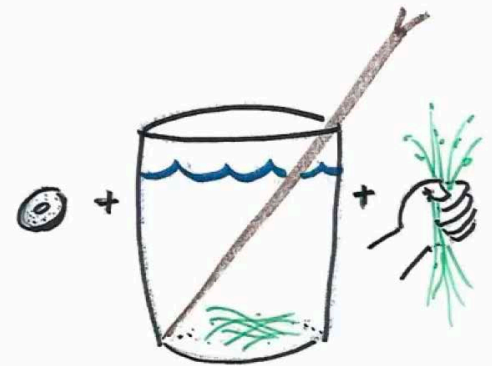
- **Prevent those present from biting you:**
 - Have a fan blowing on you and others gathered with you. Mosquitoes are weak flyers, so a fan 'blows them away'!
 - Keep bare skin at a minimum. Wear lightweight long sleeves and long pants.
- **Reduce or eliminate the number of mosquitoes in your yard:**
 - Eliminate standing water wherever possible. Gutters, low areas, tires, etc.
 - For standing water that you can't eliminate, add a piece of a mosquito dunk. These dunks ONLY kill mosquito larva and black fly larva. They are harmless to pets, birds, people....
 - Make a Mosquito Bucket of Doom! This will attract female mosquitoes to lay their eggs in the bucket's water, and the larva will not survive.



Ferguson Parks and Rec will make mosquito dunks available to residents during the ECO Fair at the Farmers Market on August 17. They will also have buckets available so residents can make their own Buckets of Doom by simply adding grass clippings and a stick for the females to enter to lay their eggs. You'll be welcome to take ingredients for a neighbor or two, as well. If you don't make it to the ECO Fair, you can find mosquito dunks at most big-box and smaller hardware stores. (At our West Ferguson Neighbors July Gathering, we provided these materials. Other neighborhood organizations might like to do the same at future neighborhood events.)

Here's to 'dooming' the mosquitoes, while celebrating the many other, wonderful, insects...the butterflies, moths, and the many non-stinging native bees and wasps. These are a pleasure to observe, and a vital food source for our native birds.

DIY · SAFE · nearly FREE
MOSQUITO CONTROL



BTi dunk + bucket + water + grass + stick =

MOSQUITO BUCKET OF DOOM



AUGUST NEWS AND EVENTS AT THE FERGUSON PUBLIC LIBRARY

For more information, please call the library at 314-521-4820 or visit us online at ferguson.lib.mo.us

CHILDREN AND TEEN EVENTS

STORIES AND SONGS FOR LITTLE ONES

Join us for storytime! Ages 0-5.
Every Wednesday at 10 am

LEGO CLUB

Drop in and build! Ages 6-11.
Saturday, August 17 at 2 pm

ADULT EVENTS

READINGS ON RACE BOOK CLUB

Join us for a discussion of *Social Justice for the Sensitive Soul* by Dorcas Cheng-Tozun.
Monday, August 12 at 6 pm

CONVERSATIONS AND COFFEE

Enjoy a friendly conversation about local news and world events over light refreshments.
Tuesday, August 13 at 6 pm

WILD FOR MONARCHS

Learn how you can support monarch butterfly populations locally through gardening. Register at bit.ly/fmplmonarch24 to save your spot.
Wednesday, August 28 at 6 pm.

ALL AGES EVENTS

THROUGH OUR EYES

Photographs taken by our teen photographers will be on display.
Opening Reception: Aug. 1 at 6 pm
Exhibition Hours: Aug. 2: 10-5 pm and Aug. 3: 10-3pm

FIBER ARTS SOCIAL CLUB

Meet and socialize with other crafters!
Thursday, August 8 at 6 pm

CULTURAL CUISINE

We'll visit Switzerland through delicious food!
Wednesday, August 21 at 6 pm

AUGUST CRAFT KITS

- Aug. 5-10: Twirligig
 - Aug. 19-24: Pop Art Popsicles
- Pick up a free kit while supplies last!



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August Celebration Shout-outs

1 Happy Birthday Mark VonDrasek
25 Happy Anniversary Pete & Merrilee Nadeau



Email Shout-outs to asroc873@charter.net - deadline is the 15th of each month

August at a Glance



- 6 Forestwood Neighborhood Meeting 7PM
- 8 Jeske Park Neighborhood Meeting 7PM
- 11 West Neighborhood Meeting 6PM
- 12 North Elizabeth Neighborhood Meeting 7PM
- 17 NorthHills Neighborhood Meeting 10AM
- 17 ECO Fair at Farmers Market - Get your mosquito dunk (bucket of doom)
- 22 South Central Neighborhood Meeting 6PM
- 22 Ferguson Woods Neighborhood Meeting 7PM
- 26 South West Neighborhood Meeting 6PM

4th of July Parade Photo's

Courtesy of Tim Larson



The Ferguson Newspaper Group may be reached

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 On-line edition fergusonsmallbusinessdistrict.com/

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 Please send all ads to Gary: asroc873@charter.net

Volunteer with the paper

- Info Gathering
- City Meetings - attend and summarize City Council Meetings
- Other Meetings - assure all city-wide events summaries gathered
- Neighborhood groups
- Diversity Meetings
- Business Spotlight

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Give a congratulatory shout out for only \$5

The Ferguson Highlights

by Teyuna T. Darris, Ph.D.

“Lady J Huston Continues to Soar!” (Part 1 or 2)

I originally interviewed Lady J Huston in my April 2021 article, “Joyce ‘Lady J’ Huston--- A Hidden Gem in Ferguson.” In this article, I presented a “deep-dive” into the career and accomplishments of the decorated vocalist, trumpeter, and songwriter Lady J Huston.

Music has been more than just a part of my life; I’m passionate about it. I’ve grown up around musicians, I’m a former musician, and I’m often looking for, reading about, talking about, and listening to musicians and their music.



In this August 2024 article, we will get a fresh update on the work and accomplishments of a decorated musician who lives right here in Ferguson, Lady J Huston. The following is the first half of this article.

Background and Inspiration:

Q1: Could you share with us the unique twists and turns of your musical journey? How did you first step into the world of music?

A1: My mother, Loyce Pickens Huston, was a remarkable contralto singer who adored Jazz and other popular genres. Her local hit, ‘I Want a Man Like That’, was a part of my childhood. I would eagerly accompany her to choir, band, and production rehearsals, absorbing every note and rhythm. This early exposure ignited a deep passion for music within me.

My musical journey took off at an early age. I started playing a single drum and flutophone in grade school, but it was in high school that I truly embraced the trumpet. I would often perform in shows with my mother and other dance groups, starting at the age of 12. My friends were fond of my singing, and I would often participate in talent shows, winning most of them or securing a place. This became my way of earning some extra cash.

Q2: Who were your biggest musical influences growing up, and how do they inspire your work today?

A2: My mother is my first biggest influence. She was somewhat of a momager, encouraging me to dance, then sing, then introducing me to musicians for me to play the trumpet with on shows. Next would be my teacher, Helen Jones-Imes, who taught me to read music in the 4th grade and play the Flutophone. She inspired me to play the horn and the beginnings of music theory. Next would be my Central High School band and choir directors, Herman Morgan and Walter Young, respectively. Mr. Morgan taught me how to play the Trumpet, which is my trademark to this day. Mr. Young discovered I could sing from tenor to 1st soprano. Developing a high singing range makes me stand out amongst others. My talents as a dancer, musician, and singer have excelled my career immensely.

Musical Style and Process:

Q3: How would you describe your musical style to someone who has never heard your music?

A3: I am highly recognized as a Blues artist. This started by touring with the Blues legend Albert King, at 18 years old, eventually becoming his music director. I played in the Howard University Jazz Ensemble while a student there and recorded an album. I enjoy Jazz and scatting. I also enjoy singing Gospel and Classic Soul and will sneak in some Opera to illustrate my higher octave. I like high-energy shows and audience engagement.

Q4: Can you walk us through your creative process? How do you go from an idea to a finished piece?

A4: I enjoy songwriting. Ideas will come from dreams, daydreaming, and mainly my personal experiences. I may pick up rhythmic patterns from birds chirping, washing machines, or other noises around me. If the melody comes first, I’ll formulate lyrics to fit and vice versa. I’ll then go to the piano to structure chord changes and complete the components into a song.

Impact and Experience:

Q5: What has been the most rewarding moment in your musical career?

A5: This is a hard question, there are so many, but here’s one. When voters in Las Vegas selected me as the winner of Black Music Awards in consecutive years which yielded the title of Las Vegas Queen of Blues. I had an amazing band of musicians. We were inducted into the Las Vegas Entertainment Consumer’s Exchange Hall of Fame upon my departure in 2013 when I returned to St. Louis due to illness.



Q6: Can you share a memorable experience you’ve had while performing in the Greater St. Louis Area?

A6: In 2018, I debuted “The Lady J Huston Show” at the National Blues Museum. It was the first venue I sought out to introduce myself to the area. I became a regular there which expanded to multiple engagements in the area.

Community and Culture:

Q7: In what ways do you think your music reflects the culture and spirit of St. Louis?

A7: My PR tagline is: “The Lady J Huston Show is an electrifying blend of Las Vegas pizzazz with the sass of St. Louis Blues, Classic Soul & Jazz. The band members also showcase their talents, providing an array of unquestionable, foot-tapping fun that audiences love.” This city is loaded with talent and our Blues imprint needs to be more recognized. I’m an ambassador in that crusade. In 2023, I was proud to be one of two featured artists in a short film produced by GoUSATV in Hollywood on the St. Louis Blues Scene.

Q8: How do you engage with the local community through your music? Are there specific themes or messages you aim to convey?

A8: I have a music ministry of Gospel and Spiritual songs which I use to uplift the spirits and raise consciousness for a positive outlook on our lives as an alternative to the troubling statistics make the news headlines. I perform for multiple causes, have a new position as Community Arts Program Coordinator with A Red Circle. I am a grant recipient representing Missouri with Music to Life, Inc., (founded by Paul Stokey of Peter, Paul and Mary and his daughter Liz) in which I’m a Musician Changemaker Accelerator (MCA) Academy participant. I’m forming the “Roots & Blues” organization to educate and inspire African American youth in St. Louis, MO to discover their family trees and learn the integral role Blues has played in all American music genres. They will incorporate these concepts into performances, songwriting, or other musical expressions that will enhance their social landscape and communities.

(Look out for the September 2024 edition of the “Ferguson Highlights” in the Ferguson Neighborhood News for the second part of this story!)



CROSSWORD

“Backyard Fun”

By Robin Shively

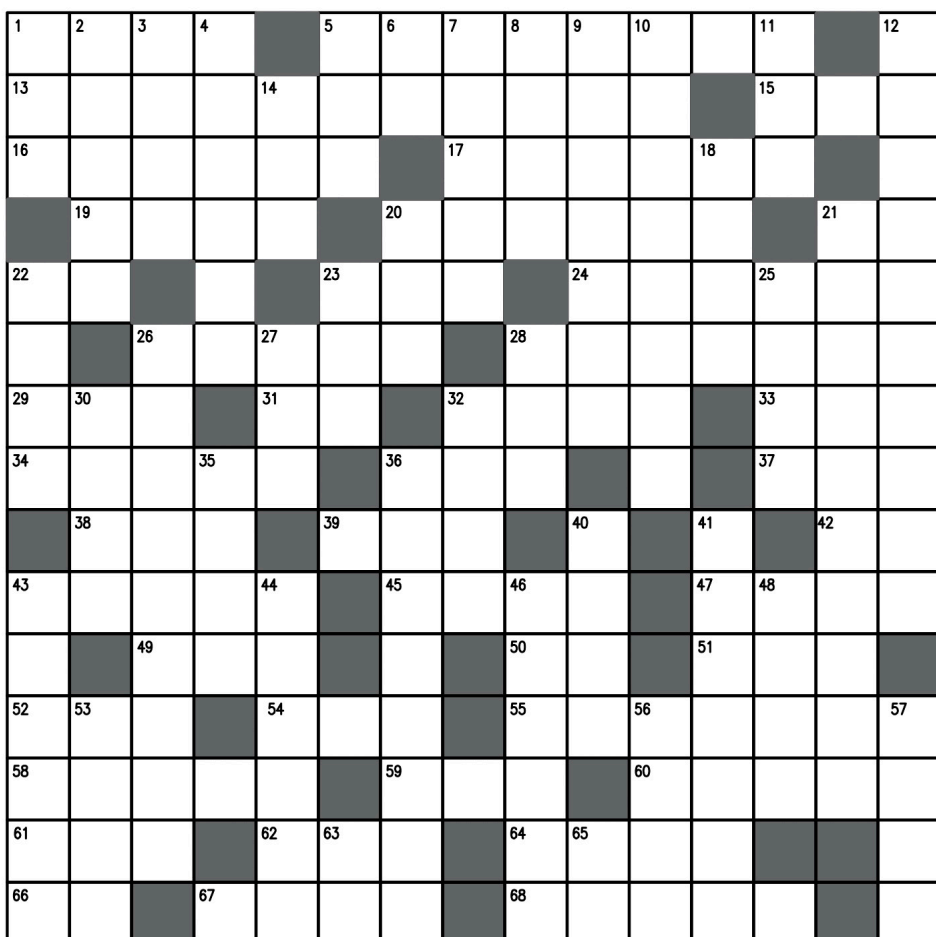
ACROSS

1. Unlatched
5. Ashley Whippet was a champ at catching these
13. Liquid projector
15. Ailing
16. Assignment
17. Felted carpets
19. Appetizer
20. Mini-greenhouse?
21. Co. founded in a garage in 1939
22. “Also” at the end of a letter (abbr.)
23. Small fry
24. Positive particle
26. Something to bear
28. Wanderers
29. Gametes
31. Mo. Or Ill.
32. “__ Blue”; TV series
33. Handy way of communicating (abbr.)
34. Dipper
36. Glen, Sebastian or David Allen
37. Outdoorsy retailer
38. Texter’s “what I think”
39. Didn’t need explained
42. Crazy Horse Memorial st.
43. Ouzo flavor
45. Genuine
47. Tennis notable Arthur
49. Word paired with “improved” on labels
50. Symbol for no. 29
51. “__ -nuff”
52. Three strikes
54. Fish malady
55. Sport with wickets, whether sticky or not
58. Reaction to a pun?
59. Indebted
60. Cuckoo
61. Bled
62. Something that may be affected by 54 down
64. Momentum
66. Word before Capitan or Paso
67. “Now it’s clear!”
68. Lock

DOWN

1. Wonderment
2. Projectiles banned in 1988
3. Cutting-edge name?
4. Grim guy
5. Neighbor of FFPD
6. Smallest of 50 in the U.S.
7. Response to “is so”
8. “Immediately” in the ER
9. Missile burst?
10. Leroy Brown has one
11. Bro’s sib
12. What one does while walking on a muddy hillside
14. Vaccine molecule
18. Adage
20. “Some Like It __”
21. One of two times when it counts to be close
22. Puddle
23. Explosive initials
25. Rend
26. Game with a birdie
27. Employ
28. Manhattan option
30. Narcissistic
32. Staff member
35. Misplace
36. Activity with bags and pitcher’s boxes
40. Insulting insinuation
41. France/Spain border ethnic group
43. Fiona is one
44. J.R.’s kin
46. Receive
48. Not 1 across
53. Russian range
56. Fairy tale beginning
57. Use an Underwood
63. “That is”, for short
65. Noble no. 18

Solution on page 13



Stoned

By Michael Pierce

In June, I was gifted with my first kidney stone. Keep in mind that I’m sixty-two years old.

It was a calcium oxalate stone. The one type that can’t be destroyed by medication or by shock waves. Oxalates are in a variety of foods, including cranberries. The photo shows what this type of stone looks like.

Lucky me.

It hit me on a Friday night. The pain hit about 5 minutes after supper, so I thought it was a gallbladder issue. My wife took me to urgent care, I was sent back for an x-ray, and the doctor told me it was a 10 millimeter stone. Now for the logistics of the issue.

The human ureter (we have 2 of them) is about 5 millimeters in diameter. There was no way on God’s green earth I was going to pass this thing.

They prescribed some painkillers and a couple of other drugs. A week later I was at BJC St. Peters to have the thing removed. Without going into ALL the gory details, the urologist knocked me out, inserted a laser to blast the thing to pieces, then removed all the pieces, then inserted a stent to keep the ureter expanded. I went back a week later and had the stent removed.

So my doctor tells me I should drink three to four liters of water a day. Right now I’m at 2 ½, and I already feel like that’s enough to float a battleship. Although I’m working diligently to get to three, I’m wondering if that’ll ever happen. If there is a silver lining, it’s curtailing my appetite, which is a good thing. I’m not drinking cranberry juice, as cranberries are very high in oxalates.

If I’m lucky, at my age, this will (hopefully) be the only time I have to deal with a kidney stone. Time will tell. If you hear reports of a fat man floating around Ferguson, it will be me, and you’ll know I’ve hit my goal of four liters of water a day.





Hello Ferguson!

by Marian Linck

Every month the July 15 deadline for this article sneaks up on me. Sometimes I have a great idea for an article. Sometimes my husband offers suggestions. Sometimes my mind is blank. That is the case today.

So, here I sit. This article is due today.

Former President Trump had an assassination attempt on Saturday. I have since Saturday evening been glued to TV news as well as social media. Do not worry, this will not be a politically charged article. I am simply trying to find an excuse for my lack of focus and inability to think of an interesting topic.

Another reason for my writer's cramp is my constant focus on the condition of the swimming pool and the weeds on our property. We have been working hard to make everything look exactly right.

Last winter my son said "Hey Dad! I want to throw you a 70th birthday party in June. I will do all the food prep including smoked meats and we can have the party at your house and in the pool. Invite your friends and I will invite some of my friends who had so much fun in the pool in the past!" This sounded like a great idea. We had not had a big pool party in years, and it was time to change that narrative. This sounded like a good idea until we started the pool improvements and the yard upkeep as well as preparing inside our house. Every time we turned around there was something else to repair or clean or eliminate entirely. Rainy days complicated our outdoor efforts. A couple of previously planned trips out of town were also a factor.

One of our out-of-town trips was a Cubs Cardinal game in Chicago. We absolutely love Wrigley Field and it had been too long a time since our last pilgrimage to the friendly confines.



Back to the birthday party. I was concerned that no one would come. I fretted over the pool, the house, and the garden until I was too tired to enjoy the party. To my relief everyone showed up! Everyone had a wonderful time. Those who had not been to our home ever and those who had not visited in a while were kind and loved our home and enjoyed the day.

Our son is quite accomplished on the grill and smoker. The highlight was "burnt ends" made from brisket. It was so delicious and going so fast I finally had to hide the pan so we could enjoy it ourselves. Do not be concerned, there was more than enough pulled pork to satisfy the guests many times over.

We did not expect gifts either.

Our friends know our appreciation of good bourbon. Let us just say we need to build a few more shelves for all the wonderful new additions to our collection.



My aunt used to always make Rich a peach pie for his birthday. My cousin, Diane, decided to step up and continue the tradition with her own efforts at home-made peach pie. Her efforts did not disappoint. Quite delicious! We also have some great gift cards to favorite restaurants including Carnivore, JJ Twigs and Cuginos.

I am so glad we made the effort to make our home beautiful and welcoming. The hard work paid off and we continue to enjoy the fruits of our efforts. The pool continues to be my second part-time job. Green algae loves to grow in a nice warm pool especially after rain. Brushing the green stuff from the sides and floor of the pool is an every other day work out.

It is an eventful summer, so far. We enjoyed fireworks at Norwood Hills Country Club. We also attended a City Soccer game recently. Most exciting is that we are preparing for grand-child #4. Mom is scheduled to be induced on the 26th of July so our young man should make his appearance shortly after. Mom and Dad are keeping his name a secret.



This article is brief. Thank you for reading. You may contact me with your bourbon recommendations or your disapproving comments about our favorite baseball team and stadium at manhattanmarian@gmail.com.
Marian Linck



Digital Ferguson - Adventures in Printing

by David Pickens

I think I am being kind when I say that for almost anyone in IT or even for most users of IT, printing stuff brings up all the most horrible of all horror stories, and I have a lot of them. Printers can be your best friend, or your worst enemy, and the same printer can be a savior or the Antichrist on the same day. Many of us in IT, in fact, secretly or sometimes (in my case openly) hate them, and always have because, in part, we really don't see the point. You have the information RIGHT THERE on the computer screen, why print it out and create endless mountains of paper that need to be misfiled, stored forever possibly until the sun finally dies, and almost always forgotten?

But I have to confess, I do have a printer, and it is a peach, a Brother DCP-L2550DW black-and-white laser multi function printer. It's no longer made unfortunately because I would buy it again if it broke. Here's what I use it for: I print out recipes on it because I find it difficult to cook going back and forth from the kitchen to the computer screen and trying to remember how many cups of vinegar, milk, or oregano the recipe was calling for. Also, sometimes the State, Federal, County, and Local Government forces me to produce actual paper documents like for example my Paid Personal Property Tax Receipt when I renew my automobile tags even though they already have that exact same information RIGHT THERE ON THEIR SECRET STATE GOVERNMENT SCREEN at the State License Office.

We also for a time had a little Brother color printer, which I bought because my beautiful spouse needed to print out some creative project in color, and so she printed like, twelve color pages and was done with that project and there it sat, taking up approximately 1.5 square feet of desk space for the next four years, where it would only get used when it got accidentally selected and used, and everyone wondered where their printout went because they looked on the other printer. And thus was set the stage for an adventure because a family member I won't mention (Hi Mom!) was wanting to print out some photographs, and wanted my help selecting and buying a color printer to help her do this. And I told her, hey, we have one we're not using anyway.

I had recently in fact taken the printer out of service and planned to donate as an e-cycle it to Goodwill Industries. When I do this I like to put a label on the device to indicate whether it works (or not) although I have no idea whether the good staff and volunteers there pay any attention to my little labels or not. Goodwill takes electronics (except old Cathode Ray Tube monitors and televisions) whether they work or not. So I had set the printer up for testing it and printed out a few photo images. YUK! The results were really horrible. What can happen here is that even though the ink cartridges showed as being 50% full or higher, when they get old and unused they can sort of dry out. And worse, the printer head that produces the image can get clogged up with dried ink, and just doesn't work well even with a new set of cartridges. In low-cost consumer printers like this one, the heads can't be replaced. And just to test it with a fresh set of cartridges – which might not work if the print-head was clogged – would cost \$60. So basically I felt this printer I was going to gift to a loved one was toast. But I sort of brightened as I had not cruised the Internet for a color ink jet photo printer for a while and was curious to see what was out there.

Now of course there were all the usual suspects, HP, Brother, Epson, Canon. I really suggest the reader who is in the market to study the extensive reviews on PC Magazine <https://pcmag.com/picks> because they really do a deep dive into all the best categories. But what caught my eye was a newish product by Canon the Selphy CP1500 (around \$120.00) that uses an entirely new way of printing called dye sublimation. Basically you buy a canister containing the dyes along with special paper. The paper runs through the printer 4 times (automatically) and once the photograph is complete it is dry and protected by a coating. The claim is that the dyes and coating will last 100 hundred years but there is no one around who has been able to verify this. Along with the printer you will need a Canon RP-108 kit (\$30) and that contains a dye canister and 108 sheets of 4"x6" paper. So your print cost for these are \$0.27 / photograph. The dye cartridge is only good for the included 108 sheets and you need to buy another kit. The reviews on this product are generally excellent however realize you are stuck with 4"x6" format or smaller. I thought this might be an excellent choice.

Eager though I was, and always am, at any chance to try some new technology kit on someone else's dime, I presented my findings and discovered the photo print size limitation was a deal breaker. When I inquired further on the extent of the project, I discover Mom's need for color printing, or photo printing was, like my own household's need, pretty rare and project based, something that really doesn't rise to justifying an expensive to operate and maintain photo printer. So we decided to choose instead to take advantage of the many web-based photo printing outfits.

Again PC Magazine (search "online photo printing services") mentioned above is our friend, and they have an extensive, up to date 2024 review on their testing of the many available services of this type. Especially helpful is their section labeled Pros and Cons for each product they review, to help you find the best match for your needs and pocketbook. Since we have one close by we're going to try Walgreens for prints we might need fast, which is actually pretty rare, and Nations Photo Lab for higher-quality photography needs.

As has been true almost forever, one size fits all is never a realistic answer when it comes to technology. If you're in a business situation, having almost instant access to attractive high-quality color printing might be essential, and in most cases I'd recommend leasing a high-end business class color laser printer. But for a household that might just be totally impractical. Explore many options before making a decision, because making a mistake on a printer might tempt one to curse every day, and be mean to your IT staff. And we really can't have that.

David has been in Information Technology in almost every role possible for such a long time it would take a supercomputer to calculate. The first computer someone let him play with was in an F4-E. His first PC was a Timex Sinclair because he could not afford a TRS-80. He is currently running a computer consulting practice. You can contact him at david@bigpurr.com.

FAITH, THE SUCCESS KEY!

By Dr. Larry A. Brown

It is a fact that there are more good things that will happen than bad things. So, if one can hold on and stay steadfast during times of tribulation, turmoil, and difficulties, there is a shining light ahead that leads to positive and good things. That is, no doubt, what the attorney and justice, Thurgood Marshall meant when he chose to use "Keep the Faith, baby" as one of his favorite statements.



It encourages us to "Hold on and believe in good outcomes" It tells us to keep on going and we will someday be successful and overcome the bad. Remember, he came along during a time when Blacks were still struggling immensely to become equal and also to overcome the ravages of oppression and human misuse.

We would do well to adopt that same kind of commitment today since there are so many challenges to be faced. We read and see often, where someone has given up and allowed unpleasant circumstances and conditions overwhelm them.

It certainly is easier said than done in actuality but it is important enough to remind others constantly that they want to become winners, not losers, heads and not tails, up and not down.

This requires a lot of faith and belief on our part because people can tell when you are serious and well meaning rather than just saying something casually. If said with the proper belief and seriousness, it can go a long way towards helping the individual overcome and make it through.

Young people really need this belief and older folks need to know that it is still not too late to achieve some successes.

We must understand that we are here for a reason and season. It may be that your special purpose is to be an encourager of our brothers and sisters. Don't miss the opportunity.

It requires us to be sensitive to our surroundings and the people in them. If we can help, contact us at www.gracechapelministries.org or gracechapeldevelopment@gmail.com.

We are all in this together. Let's help each other!

Now, FAITH is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen!

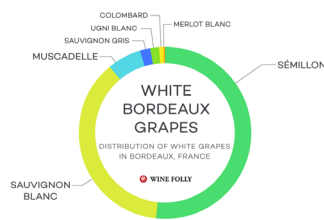
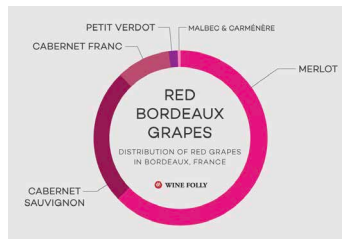
What is Raghib Drinking?

By Raghib

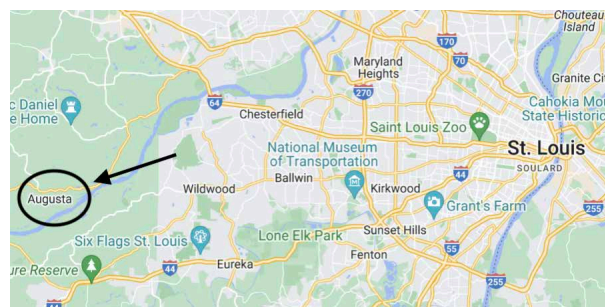
Welcome back! July 4th is one of my favorite holidays. I get to spend time with my family, enjoy the fireworks, grill, and drink some absolutely incredible wines! In my last column, I introduced you to the French term terroir (ter-war), which refers to the microclimate and soil. When great terroir is matched with great winemaking techniques, you end up with a great bottle of wine.



However, at its core, terroir is really an abstract term which is not limited to winemaking. A rich, buttery, and delightful cheese, it's the terroir. An acidic and robust cup of coffee or tea, it's the terroir. Succulent Kobe beef, it's the terroir. You get the point! As we move down the ladder of abstraction, there are other terms that I would like to introduce you to. Those terms are appellation and American Viticultural Area (AVA). When wine lovers speak about appellations, we are referring to legally defined areas where grapes are grown. Some European countries (cough, cough France LOL) are REALLY serious about their appellations. In France, some grapes are only permitted to be grown in certain appellations! There will never be a Petite Syrah from Bordeaux. In fact, there are only about 12 grape varieties that can be legally grown in Bordeaux.



You may be asking yourself, "If an appellation is a legally defined area where grapes are grown, what then, is an AVA?" Great question! The simplest answer is that an AVA is our American version of an appellation. With an AVA, there is no restriction on the type of grape that is grown. In America, appellations can exist within an AVA. For example, within the Napa Valley AVA there are several appellations, like Rutherford and Howell Mountain. If you really want to impress your friends with your new and



growing wine knowledge, casually mention that the first official AVA in the United States was NOT Napa, but IS Augusta, Missouri (a future column will be devoted to this fact).

Okay, now that you have an understanding of appellations and AVA's let's talk about awesome wines from some of my favorite appellations. Here are a few wines that I enjoyed during July 4th. Remember, an appellation can influence the price point!!!

Belle Glos Pinot Noir Clark & Telephone, 2019. A lovely and delicious Pinot Noir from one of my favorite appellations for Pinot Noir, Santa Maria Valley. Hints of dark fruit and fig. Very versatile. Can pair with pasta, pizza, burgers, and barbecue chicken. Price point \$50.



Adobe Road Cabernet Sauvignon, 2021. An absolutely incredible Cabernet Sauvignon from two appellations, Napa Valley and Sonoma County. Hints of dark fruit, vanilla, and cocoa. Can pair with lamb, barbecue ribs, or steak. Price point \$90.

Happy tastings!

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**FOR THE LONG HAUL AND
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Financial Focus – Insuring Your Home

By Joan Cleaveland (cleav73@gmail.com)

Lindenwood University – BA Business Administration

Nearly ten years ago, Senator James Inhofe from Oklahoma brought a snowball into congress to prove that global warming was a hoax. While this stunt may have convinced those who already thought climate change was a natural occurrence, studies by NASA and other scientific organizations have continued to prove otherwise. And now, evidence of climate change caused by mankind is starting to hit where it hurts – in our wallets.

Natural disasters are becoming more frequent and insurance companies are assessing these costs and finding that their business model may not be sustainable without some changes. Most homeowners have their real estate taxes and home owners insurance paid by the mortgage company. Once a year a letter will come showing if there was a surplus or deficit in the escrowed funds to pay these two bills and a new amount for the monthly house payment would be listed. While I don't recall ever having a surplus, it was pretty certain I would have my mortgage payment increased to cover the shortage and the projections for the next year.

A friend who paid off her home a couple of years ago reported that her homeowners insurance nearly doubled this past year. She lives in the Midwest and not in a flood zone, so the explanation of costs incurred due to storms didn't really sit well. After speaking with her agent and making some changes they came to a more reasonable amount. This made me look back at the past couple of years and I noticed my insurance went up by 15% in 2023 and 22% in 2024. And it is possible that some of my coverages have changed and I may be guilty of ignoring or putting aside papers sent out to explain this. So looking at homeowners insurance a little closer is a good idea.

According to bankrate.com the average cost of a policy covering a \$300,000 home in June of 2024 was \$2,230. Typical policies exclude earthquakes, floods, mudflows, landslides and tsunamis. Others may also exclude wildfires and hurricanes depending on where you live. The level of risk for such events may require extra insurance coverage. So if you live in a flood plain you may be required by your mortgage holder to purchase flood insurance. And if you don't have a loan on the property you should still have insurance for a likely peril in your area.

Insurance is a way to protect you from the risk of financial loss due to an unforeseen event such as a fire or storm damage. What I never knew was that insurance companies also buy insurance – known as “reinsurance”

to help protect the insurance company when catastrophic losses occur. Just like with home owners insurance the cost to cover these devastating losses has increased the cost of reinsurance for the insurance companies. Since we are all in this insurance pool, the risks are shared and we all pay more. Looking at the number of billion dollar natural disasters over the last twenty year shows a significant increase which is likely to continue according to climate change experts. The most costly natural disasters involve hurricanes and tornados. Both are happening with more frequency. Although we all pay more for insurance, other parts of the country like Florida, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas seem to be paying the most. Seeing those makes me feel a little better about my own expense.

If you have been surprised by a higher insurance bill there are a few things you can do to help. You may want to see if perhaps the deductible could be raised from \$500 to \$1000. So going forward if you do have damage, you probably wouldn't put in a claim if the damage was going to cost less than \$1000. Reducing claims can also help cut the cost. Another option might be to look at the value of your home and make sure you have adequate coverage and didn't show the value of your home at more than it should be. Certainly if you found the value of your home to be understated you should make that correction even knowing it may cost more. If you did have a catastrophic claim this could be an issue. Other considerations would be the age of your home and costs to repair it if damage occurs. And insurance companies do keep track of the number of claims you might have over a period of time and that may also go into determining your annual costs. About 30 years ago, my sister had her home broken into several times over the course of two years. While her neighborhood wasn't considered to be dangerous, the police did explain to her that the crooks know the stereo and television would be replaced and planned another break-in within six months. After the third robbery, her insurance was cancelled. To help with her insurance costs and protecting her from future break-ins she got an alarm system. Having protection such as smoke detectors or other features that may reduce risk factors can also help reduce insurance costs. Where you live may also make a difference, if the risk of violence is near it can cost you more. So taking steps to mitigate your risk can be helpful for controlling your expense.

So whether you believe it or not climate change is here and eliminating some of the man-made causes may help in the future. In the meantime, looking for ways to reduce your risks may help. And while there isn't a state in the union that doesn't have some risk of natural disasters looking at the risks may help you choose a good place to own a home. If you have any questions or comments please contact me at cleav73@gmail.com.

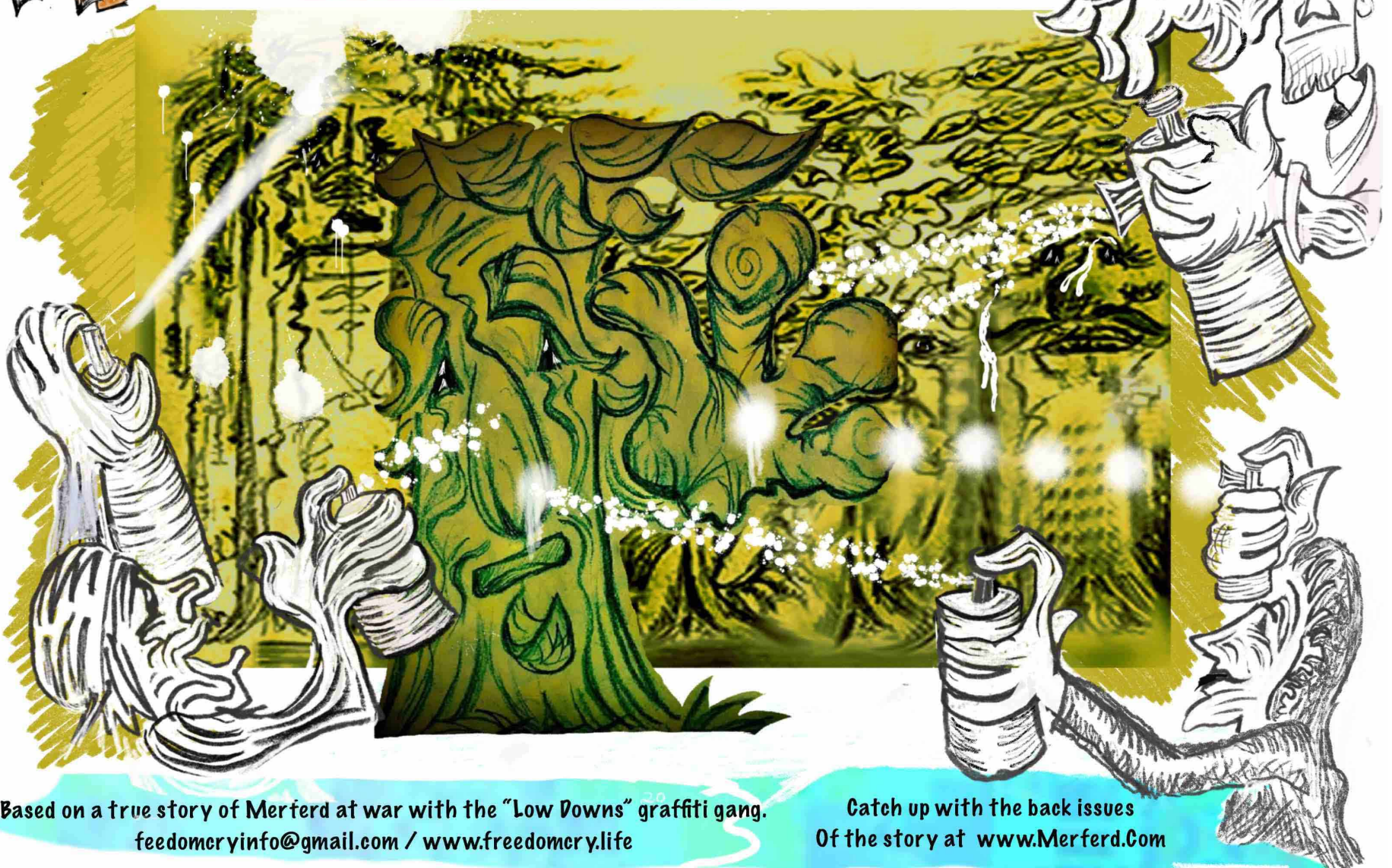
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What Do You Think About the Last Company You Worked For?

By Pat Mathias



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Easy does it. . . This can be a loaded question during your job interview. Whatever you do, avoid any negative comments or your dissatisfaction with your former employer. This is not a time to vent about how terribly you were treated or how you didn't get along with your boss.

The reason you want to avoid saying anything negative is that, if you say something bad about your former employer, it's a good chance that you will say bad things about your new employer. Of course, that may not be true, but why take a chance?

Instead, use this as an opportunity to share your positive experiences. Here's a few you may consider:

- Was there someone who had great leadership skills you admired? Provide their level in the company and identify what made them a great leader. Some examples are, she was a good listener, she was fair, she recognized staff who went above the call of duty, etc.
- Was there good camaraderie on work teams? Whether you observed it or participated on a team, mention it and give an example. Share how team members interacted with one another, and how conflicts/disagreements were handled with tact and diplomacy.
- Did you work in a small company and really liked it? Explain what you enjoyed about working in a small company. You might mention that you liked the "family feel", or how hierarchy wasn't as pronounced as in large corporations. (Of course, if you're interviewing at a large company, you don't want to give the impression you can't adapt to the new environment.)
- Did the company have a very diverse workforce and promoted diversity? If so, you may want to elaborate on this topic, especially if the company you're interviewing with has a diverse workforce. You can mention that the company had a great mix of males and females in top leadership roles, for example.
- Did you enjoy the company's culture? Explain what you like about the culture, i.e. their promotion of work-life balance, their commitment to their core values, etc.

You may think of other things you liked about your former employer. Even if you left on not-so-pleasant terms, think back when you started. What did you enjoy about your new job, the management, your co-workers, or the environment? It would be beneficial to prepare statements about your former employer and practice them before the interview. The main thing is to strive to keep it positive.



Under The Hood With Robinwood
 By Bob McGartland

IT'S NOT YOUR FATHER'S TRANSMISSION ANYMORE....

The #1 job of the automatic transmission in your vehicle is to deliver the correct amount of power to your wheels so you drive at the speed selected as efficiently as possible. Over the last two decades, transmissions have evolved tremendously.... from a three-speed automatic transmission, which was the industry standard, to transmissions that commonly feature 6, 8, even 10 speeds. These additional speeds combine for a smoother & quieter ride, more power when necessary and have been a major contributor to more fuel-efficient vehicles. For these improved transmissions to deliver maximum benefit to your driving experience, making sure you have them properly maintained. Some manufactures recommend servicing the transmission around 50,000 miles, others at 100,000 miles. Some manufactures do not even list a service interval. Transmission fluid is like engine oil, it breaks down over time. We have even found transmissions with 35,000 miles on them where the fluid has started to turn black from a nice red color. Transmission fluid service is especially important. How important? The previous generation of transmissions could be rebuilt for \$500.00 to \$800.00.... today's multi-speed transmissions can commonly cost \$3500.00 to as much as \$7000.00 to rebuild. Many of today's transmissions do not have an external dipstick to check the level and condition of your transmission fluid. There are special procedures and tools required to check the fluid. Most of the procedures are performed with the vehicle raised up on a lift. You absolutely want to make sure to avoid these costly repairs with regular scheduled transmission service from your automotive service provider

WHAT ARE THE RECOMMENDED TRANSMISSION SERVICES?

There are two primary automatic transmission services.... a transmission fluid exchange service. Using proper equipment, a cleaner is added to the running engine for ten minutes, then 95% of the old transmission fluid is removed from the transmission and replaced with new fluid. A fluid conditioner is added to enhance the properties of the fluid. New fluid allows the transmission to operate at a lower temp, and improves lubrication to all the clutches, gears, seals and bearings. The other service is transmission drain and fill with a filter change. This involves removing the transmission pan, draining the old fluid in the pan and replacing or cleaning the transmission filter, cleaning the transmission pan, examining the pan for impurities & particles, replacing the pan gasket, and replacing the fluid with the factory recommended fluid. Preventative maintenance saves you time and money.

WARNING SIGNS FOR TRANSMISSION PROBLEMS

Depending on how you drive, where you drive, and whether you pull a boat, RV, or other type of trailer, your vehicle may require transmission service before the manufacturer's recommended service interval. Here are some warning signs that you should be aware of:

- discolored or contaminated fluid
- your vehicle is shifting seems rough or jerky
- your vehicle's transmission seems to slip between gears
- red fluid under your vehicle
- check engine light comes on
- your vehicle hesitates when you put it in gear

Any of these warning signs should be taken seriously, and a visit to your automotive service provider should be scheduled. Catching a potential transmission problem before it reaches the critical stage can translate to saving you thousands of dollars and the inconvenience of having your vehicle in the shop for repair.

Lastly, with the summer vacation season still with us, your vehicle will experience additional pressure on the transmission if you're pulling a boat or RV. When you schedule your next service, it is a good idea to talk with the service provider about your vehicle's recommended transmission service interval.

If you have any concerns or problems with your transmission or any area of your vehicle, please give us a call or visit us at robinwoodauto.com. We are here to help.

Unexpected Guests

By Pat Kosmal

It was the perfect time to mow the lawn. The ground had finally dried out enough after an overnight downpour two days earlier. The overgrowth hid lumpy tunnels that zig-zagged across the yard. Resident moles return every Spring from their winter sleep in the woods beyond our fence. Poison capsules or unsightly traps never discourage the annual pilgrimage. A sturdy rider mower can at least flatten the lumpy trails that add a "natural" woody look, which means we have a lawn untouched by grading, fertilizing or weeding. A mix of wild violas and budding dandelions blend into lush greenery with patches of clover that attract bunny rabbits. However, an unexpected surprise was about to change nature's predictable Spring transition.

Posed among distant beds of iris and daylilies stood two new silent visitors -- a mother doe and her baby fawn. The stately mother, her velvet hide the color of creamy coffee, stood serenely alert. Her large dark eyes surveying the habitat while the tiny newborn wobbled nearby on spindly legs.



Although it wasn't the first time a grown deer had hopped over the five-foot chain fence, it was an unlikely leap for a newborn. Unless...the doe had given birth to her fawn inside our fenced yard. An easy hop for the one, but impossible for the other. And neither one attempted to retreat through the open gate near the house. Consequently, all ground work came to a halt and deer watching began from afar.

Humans are advised to avoid feeding or approaching wild critters. Let them browse at a distance and they will eventually move along. A wild life rescue team can be called if an animal is injured or trapped. Otherwise give them a little time to find their own way back to their normal stomping grounds. Say 48 hours.

The hilly green belt around Ferguson provides safe cover for a variety of wildlife. One year a red fox dug out a lair, hidden by shrubbery, underneath our concrete front porch. We only discovered our boarder after spotting some furry scraps scattered nearby -- possibly the remains of field mice. We have also enjoyed visits from wandering wild turkeys, a couple of peacocks (yes, really), and families of possums who raid any garbage container left outdoors. Sixty feet above us, a hawk's nest in a pine tree overlooked the area. A horse and a lone coyote wandered down our street one year before disappearing into the nearby woods.

But having a doe give birth in our back yard was a unique event. So allowing 48 hours for the newborn to move along seemed reasonable until we saw mother doe leap over the five-foot fencing into a wooded gully, leaving her helpless offspring behind. As we waited and watched, the fawn wandered alone around its shaded corner of the yard.

On day two, we were happy to find that mother doe had returned, apparently to safely nurse her newborn. And as we watched from a distant house window, they both wandered and disappeared between evergreen trees and bushes. When the weatherman predicted more rain on the way, noisy lawnmowers stayed in the garage. Then night fell, no moon, total blackout. Not even the soft hoots of neighboring owls broke the silence. But before dawn, some bit of a noisy scuffle could be heard in the near distance. Not a good sign.

Day three: Who wanted to take a closer look to explore the night's commotion? Not me. A few weeks earlier I had watched a hawk dismember a wee rabbit, leaving only a furry tail in the grass. But curiosity led to a pleasant surprise. Huddled beside a yucca patch, the fawn lay resting, safe and sound. A closer examination revealed that mother doe had helped herself to our strawberry bed, along with a healthy side dish from a hosta border. Netting had to be draped over the blueberry bushes. Do deer eat green grapes? We may soon find out.

It is now a Saturday morning, past the 48-hour deadline, so we emailed the local conservation branch for more answers. Should we use wire cutters to open another exit route? Or let the happy campers enjoy relative safety inside our yard -- since mother doe has no problem jumping back and forth into the fawn's corner refuge to feed it every day. Perennial greenery will survive the does appetite. So why not let the grass grow and let nature take its course. Another rainy day is on the way. No drought is forecast for the near future. We should be hearing from the conservation department in a few more days.

A motion spotlight caught the doe grazing much closer to the house last night. Apparently, she is staying longer inside our yard while her fawn sleeps, cradled in its bed of yuccas. Today we plan on eating out on the

back patio, weather permitting, to keep an eye on the grape arbor. I'm sure our visitors will keep their distance. They don't seem to be as sociable as the husky bears we watch on TV, knocking on kitchen windows.

Is this day five? It is a quiet Monday. The noisy mowers and motorcycles are having a brief rest. And for a moment I thought our shy guests had moved on. Until this morning. The two of them had left the safety of their shady overgrown hideaway and are standing together in the grassy side yard -- mother over her fawn, swabbing its coat with a wide tongue to remove any odor that could attract a predator. Then after her speckled fawn is fed, she slowly leads it off along the fence into the shady undergrowth beneath the pine trees. She must trust us not to bother her ritual. But she is alert, ears always perked and eyes trained across the fence line over neighboring roof tops.

Is it wise to reach out to a professional group -- trained to handle these occasions when humans now occupy natural areas that once served as the playground for other species? Or should we stand back and wait for a helpless doe to grow out of its temporary nest? As long as the city does not enforce its weed code, our four-legged friends will continue to enjoy nature's protection. Trash or dumping is another issue. Does anyone want to live near a contaminated landfill? The doe chose to deliver her fawn in a clean and healthy environment.

While I was thinking about that, the doe ate an entire pot of begonias down to the bare ground! In full bloom, they were minding their own business in a round clay bowl by the garage door. And here she comes again, nibbling her way through wild strawberries growing in the ivy. Maybe we need to plant marigolds again since they seem to resist attacks by wandering critters. No word yet from the conservation team. That could mean they have more important matters to deal with.

It is now approaching one week since the pair arrived outside our doorstep. And another perennial plant, a balloon flower, was nibbled away yesterday--just a couple of feet from our back door. A larger bunch nearby was left untouched, so we put a tomato cage over it. We'll soon know whether mother doe can chew around wire. But today, the twosome remain hunkered down in a cooler back corner and I am wondering how long it will take before the fawn will be able to jump the fence with its mother. Another week? A month? Two?

Meanwhile, I sprinkled cosmos seeds into the empty begonia pot, adding another half inch of potting dirt. It is a bit late to start off seedlings but it looks like a long hot summer. And at this stage, I feel it's about time to find proper names for our doe and fawn. Mother: "Molly"? But will the fawn grow into a doe or stag? There must be some neutral name. Perhaps just a word that suits it -- like "Freckles" -- matching its brown and white spotted coat.

Things can get even more complicated as time goes by. Who knows how to handle occasions where humans have moved into areas once the playground for other species? There are too many predators out there --two-legged as well as four-legged. So should we simply stand back and wait for a helpless fawn to grow out of its nest and eventually trot off with mother doe? I hope that Molly and Freckles will soon solve that problem for us.

A day later, moving in closer to the house, Molly nibbles on the clematis vines hanging over the front fence. Then lifting her nose and light as a feather she hops over, dropping into a neighbor's easement filled with honeysuckle, rotting tree trunks and tangles of wild poison ivy. She has left Freckles behind, once again, in our care.

The next day, when Molly reappears outside our kitchen window -- following a path behind a row of forsythias bordering the wire fencing, she has been joined by her fawn, Freckles. While the doe patiently waits to clean and nurse her frisky fawn, Freckles meanders up and down the grassy slope. In a slow and patient ritual, Molly eventually makes her way along the fence line, pausing to nibble around the huge trunk of an old wild cherry tree. She is alert, ears perked, eyes trained on the undergrowth around a small gap in the fencing. Freckles has followed close behind until Molly steps away and hops over the front railing. Standing still, she waits for Freckles to find and squeeze through the fence gap. And then, a moment later, they both are standing side by side before disappearing into the wooded easement covered with the debris of an unattended woodland.

So...Molly had chosen to depart on her own terms -- not leading Freckles through an open gate, but around a tiny gap in the fence enclosure. Will we ever see them again? Probably not. Nine days of rest and recovery were enough for a healthy newborn fawn. Now it needed to learn how to survive in the surrounding suburban sprawl landscaped with highways and shopping centers. Molly has a lot to teach Freckles and she has been a lesson in responsible parenting.

A lone red-throated hummingbird has stopped by for an evening sip of sugar water. And as the sun sets, we close the shutters and pull the curtains. But I will wait a few more days before removing the wire tomato cage.

Boredom Busters to Help Keep Dogs in Good Homes

By Dara Ashby



People call me regularly for help with their destructive, bored dogs. Over the course of my many years in rescue, I have collected a fairly-large bag of tricks for helping dogs succeed in their homes. Hopefully this information will help other dog parents.

Exercise is great but mental stimulation is just as important for your dog's health and happiness.

Boredom can lead to behavioral problems, destruction, and frustration for both of you.

Because of their nature, dogs need opportunities to solve problems and exercise their minds. A bored dog is an unhappy, frustrated dog which leads to you being unhappy and frustrated; chewed shoes, remote controls, unwanted digging, etc. Below are some tried and true things that you can do, to provide mental stimulation for your companion dog.

Sniffs on walks. When going on walks, let your dogs sniff like crazy. A dog's nose is like our eyes when we read the newspaper, filling their minds with lots of great neighborhood information. Don't pull your dog away when they discover a good smell.

Enrichment lick toys. Invest in enrichment toys that you can stuff or cover with peanut butter, plain yogurt or cream cheese and keep in the freezer, ready to go. A marrow bone, once emptied, can be restuffed with these things listed above and provide hours of challenging entertainment. A Kong can also be used. Lick mats are a great resource also. Spread these with yummy ingredients and keep in the freezer ready to grab. You can find these on Amazon or Petco.

Foraging toys. Treat dispensing toys, snuffle mats and dog puzzles provide mental challenge and foraging that dogs naturally love to do. Fill these with their favorite small treats or kibble. You can find these on Amazon or at Petco. Also google Sniff Games for dogs.

Kiddie pool. Buy a plastic kiddie pool and fill with hard plastic (dog safe) balls and hide treats in the pool. Or for the digger dogs, provide an A-OK place for them to dig by filling it with sand and hide treasures (treats) in the pool.

Splash pool. Get a splash pool for hours of entertainment. Many different varieties can be found on Amazon.

Keep a toy box filled with a variety of different toys and chew bones. Benebones are great for chewers! Variety is the spice of life for active minds.

Schedule doggy playdates with a friend or neighbor. Having time with other dogs is critically important for continued socialization and enrichment plus dogs will love you for it. NOTE: If your dog hasn't spent time with other dogs, follow these steps found here: <https://www.animalhumanesociety.org/resource/how-successfully-introduce-two-dogs>

Car rides. Dogs love seeing the world. A nice car ride is a great alternative to a walk, especially on a rainy or cold day. This is a great way to wear them out.

NOTE: If you have a dog that gets carsick, check this article out: <https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/health/car-sickness-in-dogs/>

Provide an entertaining window view. Dogs love watching activity. They love sitting in front of a window waiting for you to come home. Keep the curtains open and shades up so pup can watch the world outside.

Canine Enrichment FB page. If you are on Face Book, join the Canine Enrichment FB page for some great ideas from other dog parents just like you.

Doggy Day Care. Enroll your dog at a local doggy day care place. Be sure to do your research to make sure it's a positive, safe place for your dog to go to.

Group dog training. Enroll you and your dog in a group dog training class. It's important for you to be with your dog when going to any type of dog training. Learning together helps you form an important bond with your dog. It also gets you out to meet like-minded people and make new friends. Group classes will help build your dog's confidence.

Dog socialization is very important throughout their lifetime, providing many positive experiences. Be sure to use "force free" training classes. Petco, PetSmart, and for those in St. Louis, Greater St. Louis Dog Training Club at <https://gsitc.org/> is a great place to check out. Or single doggy sessions with Nexus Dog Training, 618-318-9919.

Dog Agility Clubs. For the Einstein doggies out there, or those that LOVE to climb, leap, herd, and run, joining a local agility club can be awesome for your dog's brilliant, busy mind and a lot of fun for you as well. For those in St. Louis here is the link for Greater St. Louis Agility Club <http://www.stlouisagility.org/>

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The Sick

By Patricia Brothers

No coverage, not even one bar, the battery was dying anyway. It was still daytime, but there was an overcast and the sky had a perfectly even dullness, so there was no way to tell what time of day it was, much less which direction was north or south or anything else for that matter. A two-lane blacktop road snaked up into the distance and disappeared into some trees, or a forest if you wanted to get technical about it. It also snaked down toward some lumpy hills and disappeared there as well.

What sounded like a two-stroke chainsaw could be heard in the distance, but it was impossible to tell whether it was up in the forest or down in the lumpy hills. This has been happening more often lately. Two different ways to go, with a dying battery and no bars, I am terrified to take either one. I hefted the bag with what belongings I could carry, grabbed my nine-year-old daughter Amanda's hand, and sighed. I swab the locket my husband gave me before he left for his final tour in the army. It was beautiful. It was a heart shaped locket with a sapphire (my birthstone) in the middle with surrounding diamonds. I rubbed it again for good luck and wished he was still alive. Hoping he is still alive. Praying he is still alive.

We had a decision to make. My 17-year-old, Tonya asked if we should go straight or go right. Truth is, I didn't know. All I wanted was to be somewhere safe. For the past 3 days, there was not another human in sight except for that sound. And what I didn't want - was to be near that sound. Thinking that the sound must be coming from the forest like area, I decided to go right.

We were tired. More like exhausted in every way imaginable. We discovered a local bodega attached to an apartment building that appeared secure. I left the girls at the front door (something I always hated) - leaving them alone. They knew the rules, only come looking for me unless danger is imminent. Hiding from whatever is left of the Army, those who have formed their own militia, and of course; the sick.

Amanda and Tonya slid into the shadows of the door. I snuck around back and checked the doors and the windows. No luck. My hope is that there is no one locked inside or that the disease has spread inside. My biggest hope; food. I climb the fire escape and check the other windows. I am in luck. The window slides open. A little too easy for my liking. I frowned but decided to do my test.

I took a pebble from my pocket and threw it as hard as I could against the far wall. I must have thrown it a little too hard because it banged loudly against the wall then ricocheted against a vase. I waited. I paused listening for any sign of movement. There was none. I unlatched the machete from the makeshift holster. I had learned a few tricks on finding refuge. One, do not lean in headfirst. That almost cost me dearly once. Two, always slide in facing inside with my back against the wall to give myself leverage in case of an attack. That way, I can push off the wall and force the attacker to stumble backwards.

Remembering that the girls were still outside; I weaved my way into each room and found that everything was perfect. It looked like whoever lived here packed up, locked up, and got out of Dodge before everything hit the fan. If only I were that lucky. "Luck favors the prepared." Ha! What a joke. I saw the signs and I thought I was prepared. But no one prepared me for the traffic jams, the infestation of the sick, and the indecisive, always late teenager. No matter how many times I yelled at her to come on; Tonya still had her same habits on her.

I screamed "Tonya let's go" over 15 times in 30 minutes. I yelled and yelled. Our little cul-de-sac became blocked with the neighbors' cars and all the neighboring streets' cars. Returning from my thoughts - I moved quickly through the building sweeping left and right ensuring that no corner went unchecked and suppressing the urge to be angry at Tonya. The bodega was clean. Fresh even. "When did they leave?" I wonder.

I quietly turn the locks to open the door. Amanda and Tonya look up. As they always do, Amanda slides in and then Tonya. The idea is to always be a barrier between the danger and Amanda. Protecting Amanda is always the objective. I tell Tonya that the place is clean, and the first order was to barricade the doors and secure the building even more. We each took turns taking a bath. It was so delightful. Neither one of us could remember the last time we had a full bath.

Finally, a home even if only for a moment. I checked the fridge and there was food! I began checking the labels. I closed the fridge and used what light was left outside to check the cabinets. More food. Then a sick feeling came over me. "What if they come back? What would we do?" There was just too much good stuff left. The only thing that gave me solace was seeing mold on items in the fridge.

I grabbed three packs of ramen noodles and vegetables from the freezer. I learned quickly to season food after the fact to not alert the world that we were around and had food. I placed the ingredients in a large bowl. This is the first time in days that we ate a real meal. After dinner, I searched the linen cabinet and found thick blankets. Tonya jumped into action helping me to secure all open windows. We closed the curtains and nailed the blankets to the wall. I turned to look at the girls curled up on the couch. I covered them with the remaining blanket before closing the door of the bathroom. For the first time in what feels like ages, we were able to sleep and feel secure.

Sadly, it was short lived. There was scratching. No scraping. "Oh no." I thought. This can't be happening. I rose slowly and stood in the semi-dark

room. I crept to the window. Sure enough, there were maybe 4-6 sick people scraping at the window. They must have picked up our scent. Or maybe they lived here. They were scraping at the only window that was once unlocked. Before I could formulate a plan, there was a loud BANG! Then someone whooping.

It was gunfire. I didn't have to wake the girls. I looked over and they were already on the floor of the hallway lying there quietly - not moving, looking at me for instructions. I indicated to stay quiet. Just as quickly as the gunshots rang out - they left. Tonya is visibly shaken by the event. We pause for a moment before returning to the couch. We sat there quietly. Then Tanya speaks.

She recalls every day me stopping at the ATM to withdraw \$500. She also recalled me going into the bank several times until one day the cards stopped working and the tellers denied access to accounts. She remembers being dropped off at school and being angry over the heated conversation about not spending money and being conservative just in case of crisis. I told her that we couldn't buy what was considered frivolous things. She continuously screamed "why not" like a five-year old throwing a temper tantrum. I tried to assure her that we needed the cash for food as the prices would increase dramatically. And it did.

At school, many kids were wearing masks. Most were coughing with, and without masks. Then the announcement came that students who have been coughing were to report to the gym. The police, and Army presence was crazy. I parked on a side street and told her to run fast as they were blocking off roads. I tossed a pill bottle at her and told her to take two of the green and orange pills.

I gave commands about what to do. "Don't grab too much as we may have to travel on foot. Don't touch anything anyone else has touched. Wear the mask ALWAYS. Pack sweats and leggings. As much as possible don't let anyone touch her or her sister. Don't call anyone except family. We need to be out of the city in less than 30 minutes." Blah, blah, blah. And she destroyed our only chance at safety.

Amanda called to me barely audible. I heard my daughter's worry and lovingly said to her the words that always comforted her when she had doubts about anything: "I'm here baby". Those were the words I said when there was a monster under the bed, the thunder and lightning was just a little bit scary, she was just sad but couldn't explain why: "I'm here baby". Those words caused both girls to run to their mother.

No one paid attention to the training manuals. Including me. I called my family. They were safe. The last communication was a text from my niece: WE'RE ALL SAFE 2GTHR WR R U? After almost 2 years the water turned cold. It was still clean, but as for drinking I made sure to boil it. It came to a point where we did not eat much. In those two years my phone did not ring, nor did it chime. Did they count us as dead? Why at this point has there not been any type of news? Amanda humbled me quickly with one simple question. What if the sickness spread and they all died or worse was killed? I finally turned on my phone after leaving it off for so long. As the phone came to life there was hope. Hope became a reality:

(ding) AUNTIE WE'RE STILL LKG 4 U

(ding) AUNTIE PLZ SAY SMTHG

(ding) IT'S 2024 N UR STLL PETTY

(ding) OK LAST KNOWN PLC WE GO'N SMWHR IN ICELAND GET THR!

With the food running out, we packed up all we could carry and set on our journey. We retrieved one metal bat that Tonya held onto. I had found 2 semi-automatics and enough clips to last us for a while. I stepped out first followed by Amanda and then Tonya. No one had forgotten the mission. Protect Amanda. I decided to stay on the road that we were on until I could find a better mode of transportation. We moved quickly and quietly. The problem wasn't the sound or movement, it was our scent.

Just then, about three people who clearly were sick descended on us. I shot them before they could reach my family. Those times spent at the gun range paid off. The sound caused more to come. We ran fast like the wind. The sick ran faster than the last time and that surprised me. I couldn't catch my breath. The kids ran faster than the sick and I.

We rounded the corner and came upon a dealership. Tonya smashed in the door with the bat. She rushed inside followed by Amanda and then me. We pushed the desks in front of the door. We were no longer downwind, so the swarm rushed on. Tonya got the idea to try the key fobs. If just one of the cars chirped - that was our way out. We started trying key after key after key. Tonya held the magic key. It chirped. Then it chirped again.

We waited to see if the sound stirred anything or anyone else. The sound was very close. We eagerly jumped in the SUV. I found myself driving mostly on the sidewalk. My eyes constantly sweeping for whatever danger that could be lurking around the corner. We drove for what seemed like days. I turned on the phone. I sent a text to my niece: SAFE IN LOUISIANA ... LOOK FOR MARK CUMMINGS ... GIVE HIM MY NUMBER. Only one way to go this time, with five bars and a full battery. Find a boat and additional supplies. Get to Iceland no matter what it takes.

To be continued...

The Ferguson Computer Corner

by Doug Neely Jesus loves you! How can I do otherwise?
AUGUST, 2024

For a long time, I have made note that I consider August to be a month of no holidays. Well, at least no major holidays of note. Therefore, this time, I will dispense with using wincalendar.com to inform you of such holidays. Yeah, that is certainly fair.

Last Month, dept.

I spoke of stuff you would likely find in your puter. Now, I will continue that topic.

First off, I want to stress that we are talking about the kind of puter most of you have. It is a desktop type, and has a "name brand" name prominently emblazoned upon it. This does NOT mean that it is the best product it can be for you.

These puters are designed and built with their price point being their primary (by far) reason to exist, otherwise they would not exist. This means that their service life reflects their cost, as more capable puters would be more costly to produce, and not provide the profit required by the manufacturer to continue manufacture and sell to you at a price you are willing to pay.

Regarding the power supply and motherboard, these 2 items are usually the first items to fail. Since the sound and the audio are built into the motherboard, there are few main parts left to discuss.

The first up for consideration is the hard drive (or the solid-state drive). This is the only place we put the software, which makes the thing work. Oh! And we store data on this drive, too. You know, like the pics of old Aunt Martha and Uncle Fred, your tax info, and anything else you think is important enough to save. This drive is usually the next part to fail. When it does, you don't usually like to replace it with something better; you usually want to get by the cheapest way you can. If you can afford it, don't get the el-cheapo drive; get a little better one. Go for service life and performance, NOT size or cost. Most of you think that you should get the biggest one you can, but it has been my observation that one never uses most of the space on a big drive anyway, so why pay for that cost?

Next likely to fail is the optical drive. This is an important drive. It is often NEEDED to re-install the operating system, or to install some other programming. The singularly important part of this drive is the laser, as it will fail on you without warning. Once it does, you have no other choice than to replace the entire drive. Again, don't be a scrooge. Get a name brand; for instance a Sony is good, and so is a Kenwood, if you can find one.

USB stuff. Get a usb 3.x; don't accept a 2.anything, as they cannot handle the power, nor are they fast enough.

Next is add-ons, some of which do not even come with the puter. Just read the reviews on such devices; always do your homework!

RAM, dept.

Buy the good stuff that has a lifetime guarantee, backed by a company that has been around for a long time and knows what they are doing. Go to crucial.com.

CPU, dept.

The central processing unit is responsible for ALL of the "thinking" your puter does. The 2 main choices are AMD and Intel. I like AMD, but they are both decent.

LASTLY, dept.

The more fans you have in your puter's case, the better. But if you have a name brand puter, you likely have only 2. One will be on the cpu, and the other will be an exhaust fan.

Fans usually will last 5 to 7 years. However, when they fail, the puter should NOT be run until it has been replaced!

And Another Thing, dept.

Maybe I should've made this point in the beginning, but hey! I'm only perfect on days that end in "y". :) LOL!

The point is this: name brand puters are usually, in my experience, NOT a great place to invest your \$\$\$\$. Put your ducats into a puter that is "homemade" so that you can pick the best parts to put into it. It may cost a little more initially, but it will save you far more \$\$\$ in the long run, and outlast puters that will nickel and dime you to death. Also, it will give you the performance and dependability you are entitled to expect.

Summation: a good puter is always a good investment, if you get the right one. One that will be around for a long time will save you a lot of grief.

ME GO NOW!

Your puter warranty is only as good as the one who services your warranty. However, your LIFE warranty through Jesus is FULLY & COMPLETELY DEPENDABLE!

He will ALWAYS save you! All you have to do is ask! There is no other salvation except through Him!

IF YOU would like to avial yourself of some of Doug's FREE puter advice, email him at: fergusoncomputercorner@aol.com

Always be sure to include your local telephone number inside the body of your missive, and put the phrase:

I need puter advice into the subject line.

If you don't do these 2 things, you will not hear from him.

Crossword Solution from page 4

1	A	J	A	R		5	F	R	I	S	B	E	E	S		12	S				
13	W	A	T	E	R	P	I	S	T	O	L			15	I	L	L				
16	E	R	R	A	N	D			17	N	A	M	D	A	S		I				
	19	T	A	P	A			20	H	O	T	B	O	X		21	H	P			
22	P	S		E			23	T	O	T		24	P	R	O	25	T	O	N		
		26	B	R	U	N	T			28	R	O	A	M	E	R	S				
29	30	V	A		31	S	T		32	N	Y	P	D		33	A	S	L			
34	L	A	D	L	E			36	C	O	E			O		37	R	E	I		
		38	I	M	O			39	G	O	T			S		41	B		42	S	D
43	A	N	I	S	E			45	R	E	A	L			47	A	S	H	E		
			49	N	E	W				N			50	C	U		51	S	H	O	
52	53	U	T			54	I	C	H			55	C	R	O	56	Q	U	E	57	T
58	G	R	O	A	N			59	O	W	E				60	N	U	T	S	Y	
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Ferguson Has A History Museum

Ferguson has a Historical Society and a History Museum. We encourage any people reading this article to join in the conversation or become a member. Contact information is at the bottom of this article.



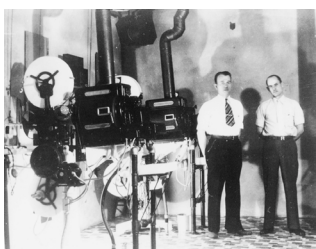
You have probably seen this building as you drive down Florissant Road in Downtown Ferguson. Since this photo was taken things have changed a bit, we now have a great coffee shop, Latte Lounge, as well as the H.G. Events Center located in the old Savoy building. To long-time residents the Savoy was a movie theatre – and to really-long-time residents, this was Saturday morning entertainment before and during the early years of television. There were B-movie westerns, space movies and adventure films along with the serials, designed with cliff-hangers to bring you back the next Saturday. We covered the Savoy in an earlier article (2021), after searching the Ferguson History Museum library for images, it was decided we needed to update the story of the Savoy.

Have you ever wondered why a Ferguson local banquet center was called the Savoy? The name goes back the 1930's when a Mr. Harry Hulett began showing motion pictures at the Masonic Temple (the building next to Central School). With the money he made he built a theatre on Florissant Road – the present site of the HG Events Center. The theatre opened on Christmas Eve in 1936. The movie was Ramona starring Loretta Young and Don Ameche. Guess what he named his theatre – the Savoy. In the 1940's and 50's it was a Saturday morning gathering place for the kids – featuring westerns, spy movies and outer space serials (designed to bring you back next week). The rest of the time were films aimed at an adult or family audience.



This is what the Savoy looked like in the late 1930's and early 1940's. Note that the shop to the left of the ticket booth is the where the Savoy sold the candy, soda and popcorn necessary for a full evening of entertainment.

To the right is a photo of the of the projectors and the two projectionists who ran the films. Note the chimneys coming up from each projector. The heat from the lamps could burn up the film unless it was vented. The projectionist's job was the keep the film rolling. Since each reel could only last about 20 minutes, it was important to be ready to start the second projector without a lapse of image. It was not uncommon for the projectionist to make a mistake (fall asleep) or the film to burn causing a loud complaint from the audience



The building consisted of a theatre and two small businesses on each side of the theatre. When I was a kid in the 1950's the shop to the left was a Record Store (remember 45's and LP's). It had a listening room to audition your selection. The one on the right was a gift shop run by a friend's mother, Ruth Ohlemeyer.

That all faded away in the 1960's with the age of television. In 1963 Wehrenberg Theatres remodeled the building and renamed the theatre the Crown. The Crown, after 30 years, closed in 1993. At some time, the small store to the right was taken over by the Teakwood Shop which was closed in the mid 2000's when the remaining barber, Marty, retired in his mid 80's.

The photo to the right gives you an idea of what the Savoy looked like in the mid-century. You are looking toward the streetside wall. Upper center are the projection windows. On the left is a windowed room – called the “cry room”. If you brought small children to the movies, you got special seats behind glass. This protected the audience from your kid's cries.



To the left is a photo looking the opposite direction, toward the screen. The hand-held camera blurred the image of the seats as well of a kid in the audience. The photo was taken just as one image on the screen was transitioning to a new image.

FRED WEHREBERG CIRCUIT	
APOLLO DEBALIVIERE AT WATERMAN	P. Muni-B. Davis in 'Borderdown.' P. Lorre in 'Mr. Moto's Gamble.' LARGE VEGETABLE BOWL TO EACH LADY PATRON.
CINDERELLA CHEROKEE AND IOWA	GLORIA STUART in 'ISLAND IN THE SKY' Luise Rainer in 'THE TOY WIFE.'
MELBA GRAND AND MIAMI	ERROL FLYNN in 'ADVENTURES OF ROBIN HOOD'
MICHIGAN 7224 MICHIGAN	Melba Only: Edith Fellowes in 'LIFE BEGINS WITH LOVE' Michigan Only: Lew Ayres in 'KING OF THE NEWSBOYS'
SAVOY FERGUSON MO.	DINNERWARE. F. Bartholomew-W. Baxter in 'KIDNAPPED' RONALD REAGAN in 'ACCIDENTS WILL HAPPEN'
STUDIO 6227 NATURAL BRIDGE	Calif. Colored Ware. Joan Bennett in 'I MET MY LOVE AGAIN' JOHN BOLES in 'SINNERS IN PARADISE'
VIRGINIA 517 VIRGINIA	California Colored Ware. GENE RAYMOND in 'STOLEN HEAVEN' Pat O'Brien in 'WOMEN ARE LIKE THAT.' March of Time.
MELVIN 2912 CHIPPEWA	9-In. Crystal Bowl. B. Karloff in 'Invisible Menace' 'Trip to Paris' with Jones Family

The newspaper ad above was taken from one of the St. Louis papers in 1938. Wehrenberg was a major local theatre chain in the St. Louis Metro. “The Adventures of Robin Hood” with Errol Flynn (a lady's heartthrob) was a swashbuckler film. It featured the stars of the era: Olivia de Haviland, Basil Rathbone, etc.

The movie ad to the right is from 1944. It is the middle of World War II. This is a classic war movie – especially in 1944. The war turned to the side of the Allies in 1943 and 1944 was the slow beginning of the end. The film featured Cary Grant and Judy Garland. “In order to provide information for the first air raid over Tokyo, a U.S. submarine sneaks into Tokyo Bay and places a spy team ashore”. It was a “Double Feature” with “Carribbean Romance” as the second feature. (Note that Carribbean was misspelled – should be Caribbean). The movie was a definite “B” movie with no actual big stars. Feature films were often paired with “B” movies to give the moviegoer a full evening's entertainment.

SAVOY	
Ferguson 21, Mo. Yorktown 1204 Free Parking	
FRIDAY, MAY 12 — Song of Texas; Lisbon Clipper Mystery; Captain America.	
SATURDAY, SUNDAY, MONDAY, MAY 13, 14 AND 15 Matinee Sunday 1 p. m. Pay Day for Kiddies for One Hour PHANTOM NO. 13	
GARY GRANT	JOHN GARFIELD
“DESTINATION TOKYO”	
Action Packed — Excitement — The U. S. Copperfin Flashing Signals that Send Our Bombers Surging Vengeance—Bent Over Tojo's Home Town.	
AND OLGA SAN JUAN in CARRIBBEAN ROMANCE	
TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY, MAY 16 AND 17 JEAN PIERRE AUMONT SIR CEDRIC HARDWICKE GENE KELLY	
“THE CROSS OF LORRAINE”	
The Thrilling Story of the Fighting French—Mighty, Magnificent Drama.	
ANN SAVAGE	TOM NEAL
KLONDIKE KATE	
THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, MAY 18 AND 19 CAPTAIN AMERICA and CARTOON BOB HOPE in	
“COLLEGE SWING”	
AND BING CHOSBY in WAIKIKI WEDDING	
Coming Next Week — Riding High; My Best Gal; No Time for Love.	

Today it is the HG Events Center which occupies the old Savoy Theatre. Inside the center you can still see a stage where the screen was located. Times change but a memorable building still stands in downtown Ferguson.

Membership in the Ferguson Historical Society is open to anyone – membership levels range from \$20.00 to \$50.00 a year. If you are interested in joining or have any suggestions, questions, or items to donate to the Ferguson Historical Society, please contact Jerry Benner at fjbenner@mindspring.com. You are also welcome to visit the History Museum at 1064 Smith (behind the Community Center) by e-mailing the above address. Note: we will need to schedule a date for you, so ask well in advance

“The Ferguson Historical Society is dedicated to preserving and promoting the history of Ferguson Missouri. Membership is open to all sharing our interest.”

EarthDance Farming Apprenticeship Update

By Jess Garrett

It's nearly mid-season for the farm and for the EarthDance Summer and Full Season Farm Apprentices. EarthDance wants to share some of what they've been digging into and learning! They've got fresh, local, organic produce galore, thanks to so many contributing hands and the bounty that comes from doing our best to tend to the earth, and you can shop for it at the EarthDance Pay What You Can Farm Stand and the their booth at the Ferguson Farmers Market (also Pay What You Can!)

The EarthDance Apprenticeship is the organic farm school's flagship and longest running program. Since 2009, teaching people to grow food year-round in a hands-on, community-centered way has been at the heart of their work right here in Ferguson. More than 450 Apprentices have come to EarthDance to explore their agricultural dreams. Many of them have gone on to make a living growing food, to teach other people to grow food, and/or to be a part of the good food movement in other creative ways

Our 2024 Summer Apprentices are Marlan, Mia, Brady, Sy, & Sarah, and our Full Season Apprentices are Dani & Blake. Read on to learn more about them!

Marlan Davis (Teaching about herbs during an apprenticeship enrichment, while fellow apprentices listen and learn)



When I was a young child, I was always fascinated about plants. I had a garden at the age of 7. Years ahead, the summer before my senior year in high school, I moved to Arkansas to help my great grandmother with her land, and that's where it started to all make more sense. I've acquired an abundance of information here at EarthDance! And, I realize that EarthDance has not only helped me to learn more about farming but also has been an environment where I have been able to meet beautiful hearts, which has created a peaceful atmosphere to connect, heal, and expand. I want to thank everyone at EarthDance for this opportunity!

Mia Phutrakul (Holding a giant squash in the Harvest House)



There is so much that I have absorbed in just a short amount of time that I would have never thought I'd have the opportunity to learn about a farm in this way. This apprenticeship has led me to really think deeply about where my food comes from and whether or not it's sustainable. Know your farmer!



Brady Struckhoff (Left, pictured with apprentices Marlan [left] and Blake [middle] at an apprenticeship field trip to Urban Buds)

Working the summer apprenticeship at EarthDance has helped me already become significantly more confident in my abilities to grow food. I enjoy being taught how to think through situations instead of what to think. I want to eventually make a career out of growing food and providing it to communities in an affordable way for people. I see the difference it makes in peoples lives physically, mentally, and

spiritually when they are being nourished by food that is healthy. Showing up to work at EarthDance is motivating for me because I feel like a small part of a system that is contributing to not only restoring Earth but helping to restore the community as well, and being a part of that has helped me feel like I am able to make a difference as I am able.

Sy Oliver (Right, with fellow apprentice, Mia, at Urban Buds)

As an Afro-Indigenous woman with a deep ancestral connection to the land, I am eager to continue the tradition of honoring the earth and all its inhabitants through sustainable farming practices with my vision in combining agriculture art and music to create a healing space for women. My vision is to weave together the threads of agriculture, art and music to create healing spaces for women. Agriculture forms the foundation of this vision. It is not just about growing food but



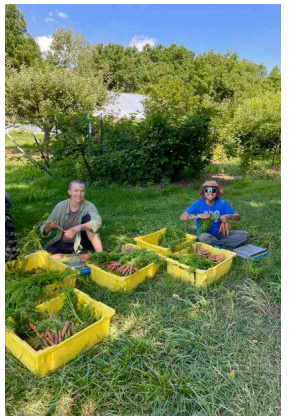
about nurturing life, understanding the cycles of nature, and fostering a deep connection with the earth. I believe working with the soil, planting and watching them grow can be a proudly healing and transformative experience that I want to offer once I am fully equipped to provide the opportunity. Being a part of this apprenticeship program is providing me with the opportunity to dive deeper into the world of agriculture and taking the steps towards turning this vision into reality.

Sarah Staab (Right, with [L to R] Full Season Apprentice Dani, Storytelling VISTA Sammy, and Farmer Will showing off a bountiful cucumber harvest)



I was drawn to working at EarthDance because I love gardening and wanted to be able to use my love of gardening to help fight food insecurity. I am interested in pursuing a career in agriculture and want to learn more. I started volunteering last summer and loved the community and farm so much that I decided to come back as a Summer Apprentice to continue to learn and have a bigger role on the farm. I now know that I want to continue to pursue a career in sustainable agriculture in some way and find a job that has a community like EarthDance.

Dani Fuhrman (Right, pictured with fellow apprentice Mia)



My time so far at EarthDance has helped open my mind to lots of great ways to make food equitable and sustainable. First and foremost this apprenticeship has offered me confirmation that the path that I am on is going in the right direction. I want to do work that aligns with my interests and values as well as learning skills that were lost in previous generations in my family tree. I want to do work that is conscious and restorative to the land and the community. Transitioning from hair, an industry where I had lots of experience, to a field where much of what I am doing and learning is new to me has been challenging at times, but I've been steadily gaining confidence. I feel like the nurturing culture here really helps with that. I want to continue to learn the different aspects of not-for-profit food production and food justice work.

Blake Riley (Holding pepper plants in the EarthDance orchard)



This apprenticeship has provided me with an exceptional opportunity to learn and collaborate with experienced farmers on a local organic farm. Additionally, it has been a pleasure to work alongside volunteers, from the initial stages of seed planting to the final steps of harvesting, washing, and packing produce for local markets. I am striving to make the most of each day and maximize this valuable experience. Throughout this process, my vision for the future and my plans have become clearer and more defined. Each new lesson boosts my confidence in my ability to grow food sustainably for the rest of my life. I have already learned so much and am looking forward to continuing my education on EarthDance's regenerative farming practices.



2024 Apprentices at Urban Buds



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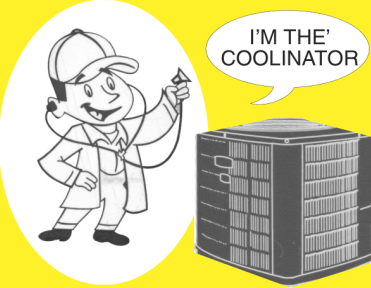
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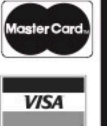
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