Wednesday, January 2, 2019

The Region News



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Wise and Otherwise

By Kent A Stock

What are you doing New Year's Eve?

Since many of you are probably reading this in 2019, the question should be what did you do New Year's Eve? Party all night long, see in the first sunrise of the New Year and/or asking yourself if you had a good time because you can't remember most of it?

Not these days, buddy, as many of my age or even younger have hung up their all night ways. Maybe not entirely because God has given us short term memory loss so we go out there and, despite being mid-50s, we try to act like we are in our mid-20s. Life will remind you the next day or several days, that is definitely not the case; trust me on this one. God has a sense of humor, you know.

Today it is more like, "Honey, are we staying up to watch the ball drop?" The spouse doesn't answer and

you are like, "Yes! Bedtime!" Does snoozing together in your respective recliners count as a celebration? I'll allow it. The snoring can be like your own noisemakers welcoming in the next year.

Our family gets together and plays games, eats, watches some sort of sporting event, you get the picture. We adults do our best to keep each other awake until midnight.

Our tradition is at the stroke of twelve on New Year's Eve, we go outside of our house to bang on pots and pans. Thankfully, we have lived for decades near these people and they know of our noisy tradition. They put up with us anyway. No one has shot us yet. Let me emphasize yet, please and thank you.

Just like noisemakers or party horns it is supposed to scare away the evil spirits from the old year. Tradition

also says you are supposed to come out one door, make your ruckus and then go back in another door because that will confuse any evil spirits that might not have been scared off by all the noise. If that is the case, evil spirits are just plain stupid.

It is normally a quick eats, tells stories, eats...I think trip out of doors because, well, we live in Illinois and quite often it is a balmy four degrees below zero on December 31. The evil spirits probably aren't even there those nights because they are in their nice, warm home watching Dick Clark's Rockin' New Year's Eve.

> We end up by us all trying to sing Auld Lang Syne which, out of all the noise we make, is probably the most likely thing to scare off most anything!

Happy New Year 2019! Hope you made it until midnight!



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The Mt. Zion Region News (ISSN 10860657) USPS (594-960) P.O. Box 79, 433 N. State Highway 121 Mt. Zion, Illinois 62549-0079 217-864-4212 Fax: 217-864-4711 Email: mtzionregionnews@comcast.net

Publisher

Periodicals postage paid at Mount Zion, Illinois

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Published weekly by Mt. Zion Publications, Inc. Subscriptions to print & online newspaper 1 Year - In Macon and Moultrie Counties - \$32.00; 1 Year - Rest of Illinois - \$34.00; 1 Year - Out of State - \$36.00; 1 Year - In Macon and Mountrie Counties - Senior Discounts - \$29.00; 1 Year - Rest of Illinois Senior Discount - \$31.00; 1 Year - Out of State - Senior Discount - \$33.00 Postmaster: Please send address changes to Mt. Zion Region News P.O. Box 79 Mt. Zion, IL 62549-0079



