



The opening day of deer season was always a special day for me. I can remember counting down the days and even being unable to sleep the night before. I can remember hunting in a downpour and in the hottest of days. It seemed no matter how uncertain the circumstances were, I was willing to get up early and make my way to a tree stand because that fourth Saturday of September was opening day, no matter if the weather cooperated or not. And while I could not predict any other thing with confidence, I could mark my calendar around this certainty.

Years ago, I took a big step of faith. I left a position I had held for many years. I had finally reached a place where I was living on a decent salary with good benefits. But I felt the need to move to a new position where I would have neither. I would have to trust God for everything. I can remember many days, especially early on, where the circumstances around my life on one day were great and, on another day, seemed hopeless. As a result, I begin to live on an emotional roller coaster. When things looked good, I was happy and when things looked bad, I fretted, worried, and complained. I can remember the day God exposed my problem. In a not-so-gentle way, he showed me where I was putting my trust. And it wasn't in him. And in so many un-

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Conservation Corner

by James Cummins  
Executive Director  
of Wildlife Mississippi

October is National Fire Prevention Month with National Fire Prevention Week being observed October 4-10, 2020. This year's theme "Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen!™" works to educate everyone about the simple but important actions they can take to keep themselves, and those around them, safe in the kitchen. Cooking is the #1 cause of home fires and home fire injuries. Unattended cooking is the leading cause of fires in the kitchen. In a fire, seconds count. This can mean the difference between residents of our community escaping safely from a fire or having their lives end in tragedy.

This yearly observance was established to remember the Great Chicago Fire, which occurred in 1871. It killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures, and burned more than 2,000 acres. The fire began on October 8, but contin-

ued into and did most of its damage on October 9, 1871. While the Great Chicago Fire was the best-known blaze to erupt during this fiery 2-day period, it wasn't the largest. That distinction goes to the Peshtigo Fire, the most destructive forest fire in American history. The fire, which also occurred on October 9, 1871, roared through Northeast Wisconsin, burning down 16 towns, killing 1,152 people, and scorching 1.2 million acres before it was done.

The Peshtigo Fire began when several railroad workers clearing land for much needed tracks unintentionally started a brush fire. Soon the fast moving flames were raging across the land. It was the small town of Peshtigo, Wisconsin that suffered the worst damage. Within an hour, the entire town had been destroyed.

People start most wildfires, but some are attributed to lightning from electrical storms. These fires can spread quickly, igniting brush, trees, and even homes. We need to be especially careful when using campfires or bonfires.

Without proper precau-

tions, campfires are potentially dangerous. You need to know how to property build one, how to keep it going, and how to properly extinguish it. Most of these fires burn out of control in one of two basic ways: on the ground or in the trees. Dead leaves or pine needles on the ground may ignite from direct contact or airborne embers or sparks may ignite overhanging branches.

No fire should be lit near trees, tents, or other fire hazards. Never leave a fire unattended. You should always have sand and/or water on hand to smother the fire if it does get out of control. Water is more efficient and effective in extinguishing a fire. The water should be poured until all hissing noises stop. Then you need to stir the ashes with a stick to make sure the water has penetrated all layers.

If water is unavailable, sand may be used to smother the fire. Once the fire has been covered thoroughly with sand, you will then need to stir the ashes with a stick to make sure it has been fully extinguished.

*James L. Cummins is executive director of Wildlife Mississippi, a non-profit, conservation organization founded to conserve, restore and enhance fish, wildlife and plant resources throughout Mississippi. Their web site is [www.wildlifemiss.org](http://www.wildlifemiss.org)*

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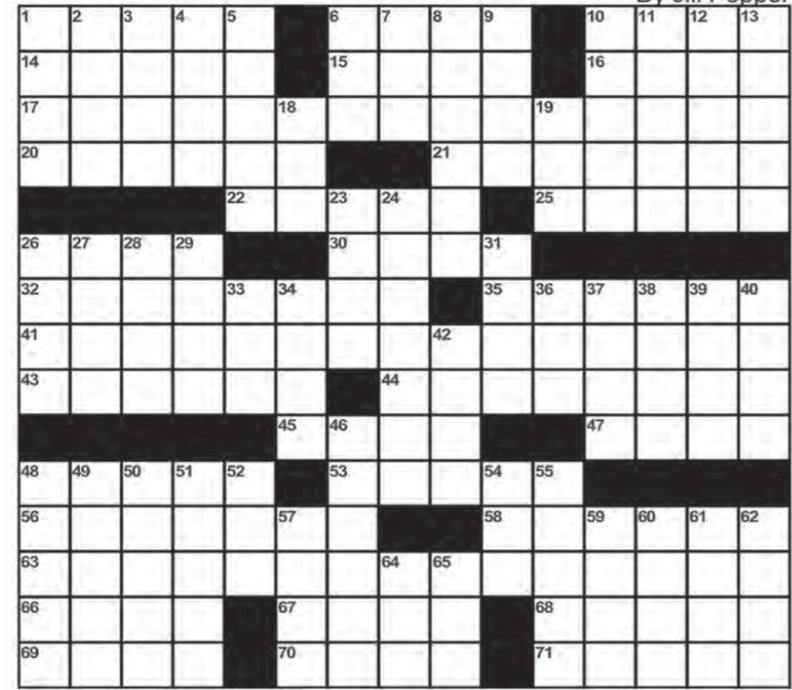
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# CROSSWORD PUZZLE

## ACROSS

- 1) Trash, as a project  
6) Jessica of Hollywood  
10) Agrees quietly  
14) Hawaiian welcome  
15) Cleo's wooer  
16) Way out  
17) No matter what  
20) Flower part  
21) More strange  
22) Mustard choice  
25) Soft, nappy leather  
26) Sound effect  
30) Eye part  
32) LP part  
35) Fasteners  
41) Accept or reject
- 43) "King of Queens" character  
44) Scatter, as a mob  
45) Stake-driving hammer  
47) Harvest  
48) Desert transport  
53) Brief quarrel  
56) Rhododendron's relatives  
58) Becomes less intense  
63) Law of the jungle  
66) Great Lakes city  
67) Atlantic bird  
68) High point for Moses  
69) Bodies of saltwater  
70) Part of a wine glass  
71) Really enjoy

## OR WHAT?



By Jill Pepper

## DOWN

- 1) Some bunts, for short  
2) "Colt" anagram  
3) "Arrivederci" city  
4) "Don't forget about me"  
5) Used a vegetable peeler  
6) "Where \_\_\_\_?"  
7) Computer network acronym  
8) "Hagar the Horrible" creator Dik  
9) Farm measure  
10) Jacket named for a Hindu leader  
11) Nitrous \_\_\_\_ (laughing gas)  
12) Had an evening meal  
13) Cubic meter  
18) "The Phantom Menace" boy  
19) A sibling, for short  
23) Japanese martial art  
24) Fine word for libraries?  
26) Young newts  
27) Applaud  
28) Part of a camping trip, often  
29) Ready for customers  
31) "Bullets," to a poker player  
33) "\_\_\_\_ 'em, Fido!"  
34) Thing on an agenda  
36) Track unit  
37) Swear to be true  
38) Like a desert  
39) Leaning Tower city  
40) Bit of choreography  
42) Carousel music, e.g.  
46) Declare with confidence  
48) Projects for lawyers  
49) A shade of blue  
50) Journalist Shriver  
51) Diminutive beings  
52) Hawaiian gift  
54) Dance noisily  
55) Morbidly fat  
57) Birds, collectively  
59) Opera showstopper  
60) Add a little color to  
61) Biblical twin  
62) Liner  
64) Easy number to add  
65) Dream state, for short