

Columns

Genealogy important for health-related concerns

Genealogy is all the rage with my family and friends but for some reason I just wasn't that interested until I received a health-related diagnosis which requires family medical information I do not know. I have actually given ancestor-related gifts and they were received quite well and all my friends have been pleased with the results they uncovered.

The first thing I found out was that not every ancestor site has a health-related information program; they are primarily DNA program sites. Right now, I am only interested in the health side so trying to traverse the websites is irritating.

I have always enjoyed research and have been doing it for this column for over 20 years so I figured I would zip right through all the boring stuff; wrong! I could not have been more mistaken. Right off the bat I was bogged down visiting bogus websites which advertised for free this and free that; wrong again. It is a good thing that I am a bit of a skeptic or I would have plugged in information, and paid money for nothing. The first site that asked for my email, phone and address told me to be aware of possible spam.

It did not take long for me to discover that the best place for research is county and state records but I also learned that some of the employees in these departments are a bit tired of genealogy researchers. I quickly found that it is best to tell them immediately that I am a novice and to ask what information they need from me to search for what I need.

I have also learned that looking for information before

Memories and Musings

By Cheri Sims



the 1950s is hard to come by; many agencies do not have archive material for the 1910s through the 1940s. The same seems to be apparent for newspapers. I have been told that recent buyouts of many newspapers has caused the loss of information dating back that far. Some of them have not archived written material to computer files and simply don't have the manpower to research all the early files.

It seems that doctors and hospitals have archive limitations too. Technology has grown so fast that entering old records must be quite a cumbersome task. Then one has to deal with the laws that govern privacy. This might sound crass but one would not think that privacy would be a problem for a deceased person and all the deceased relatives but it is. There are many hoops to jump through in order to obtain death and divorce records especially if there are no living relatives to give permission. I really have a lot to learn about genealogy research; wish me luck.

I can't believe that it is almost Easter. I have retrieved the pink tree from the attic and will enjoy decorating it with all the egg ornaments we have collected over the last few years of our travels. I really wish we had started collecting Easter ornaments before

we did but it did not become an idea until Hubby gave me an egg ornament a few years ago. Hubby always took the blame (I say recognition) for the Easter tree because after a couple years of collecting I bemoaned the fact that it was becoming hard to display all of the pretty eggs and he responded with the sarcastic remark, "make an Easter tree." We laughed and joked about that remark until I brought home the pink tree during the following after-Christmas sale.

Last year a friend surprised me with a new Easter recipe of which I had never heard or eaten. Do you know about Easter bark? I guess it has been around for a while but not in my family. My friend's bark was pastel and so pretty; it was packaged in pink boxes filled with lavender and green grass and it looked almost too good to mess up the display by eating the bark, which was absolutely delicious.

I have found numerous recipes online and am not sure which one to make this year but I will share this one that looks much like the one I was given. My friend said she made hers from scratch and had no recipe but I like the looks of this one to share with you all.

I found this recipe on the "Taste of the Frontier" website at: [https://www.kleinworth-](https://www.kleinworthco.com/easter-bark/)

[co.com/easter-bark/](https://www.kleinworthco.com/easter-bark/). This website is really great and if you would like to watch a video of the recipe and have an explanation of each step, then I suggest you look at the site before you try the recipe.

I used to make all kinds of Easter candy and my favorite is chocolate coconut nests filled with malt Easter eggs. Hubby preferred Bailey's cream chocolate eggs but our son was a "Peeps" fan. My parents loved the giant fruit and nut Easter eggs, which can barely be found now, and I have tried to make them at home but they do not taste the same as the store bought ones from the 1960s. I think I will research those fruit and nut eggs and try to get one

for my Mom this year. Happy baking!

Easter bark

- 1 cup white chocolate chips good quality
- pistoles, or chopped bar
- 1 cup dark chocolate chips good quality
- pistoles, or chopped bar
- ¾ cup M&Ms Easter Spring Pastel colors
- a mixture of crushed and whole

Melt the dark chocolate in a double boiler or the microwave until most chocolate is melted except for a few remaining pieces. Remove from the heat and continue to stir until melted.

For the microwave method, stop and stir the chocolate every 20 seconds until it is almost entirely melted except for a few remaining chocolate pieces. Continue to stir until fully melted.

Using a spatula, spread the dark chocolate to ¼ inch thick on a parchment-lined baking sheet. Allow to cool until the surface is no longer wet.

While the dark chocolate is setting, melt the white chocolate. Spread the white chocolate in an even layer on top of the dark.

Immediately sprinkle the top of the white chocolate with the M&Ms and the sprinkles. Use the back of a spoon to gently press the candies into the white chocolate.

Allow the bark to cool at room temperature until set, about 1 – 2 hours.

Break the bark into pieces and enjoy! <https://www.kleinworthco.com/easter-bark/>.

Good week for moon viewing

Given New Moon yesterday, we can look forward to the Moon in the evening sky for the rest of this week. Tonight, a very thin crescent Moon might be visible just after sunset, low in the western sky, near Jupiter. Binoculars will help, plus you'll need an unobstructed horizon.

The two sky objects are only 1.5 degrees apart! If that's too difficult, though, the Moon should be easier to see tomorrow night and it will be above the brilliant planet Venus Friday night. The Moon gets higher as it ventures farther eastward with each day until, next Tuesday, it is situated just to the left of the reddish planet Mars. To the left of the Moon are the twin stars marking the heads of the Gemini twins.

In the night sky

By David Leake



Saturday is the first public open house of the year at the Champaign-Urbana Astronomical Society's observatory, located southwest of Willard Airport. We'll be giving free views of the Moon and planets from 7–9 p.m. if the weather allows. If you're unsure, call our hotline at 217-351-2567. See cuas.org for directions. Join us!

Lastly, Mercury is rising

from the Sun's glare. Next Tuesday evening, right after sunset, Mercury is right next to Jupiter, the two being separated by 1.5 degrees. It's pretty low in the west, though.

David Leake is retired Planetarium Director of Staerckel Planetarium at Parkland College and co-founder of the Champaign-Urbana Astronomical Society, Inc.

CLUES ACROSS

- Influential American political family
- ___ Chantilly, ___ de Menthe
- Within
- Pleasure seekers
- Computer manufacturer
- Home to college sports' Flyers
- Fungal disease
- Sleepwalk
- Spielberg sci-fi film
- Seasonable
- Taxis
- Radio direction finder (abbr.)
- Thin, narrow piece of wood
- "Mystic River" actor Sean
- Ingenuous
- Musical composition
- Turkish surname
- High or hilly area
- Wilco frontman
- Pour it on pasta
- Electric car company
- Sea eagle
- Walk with difficulty
- Sign of healing
- Boy
- Protein-rich liquid
- Washington city
- Individual portion of TV series (abbr.)
- Thought over
- Scads

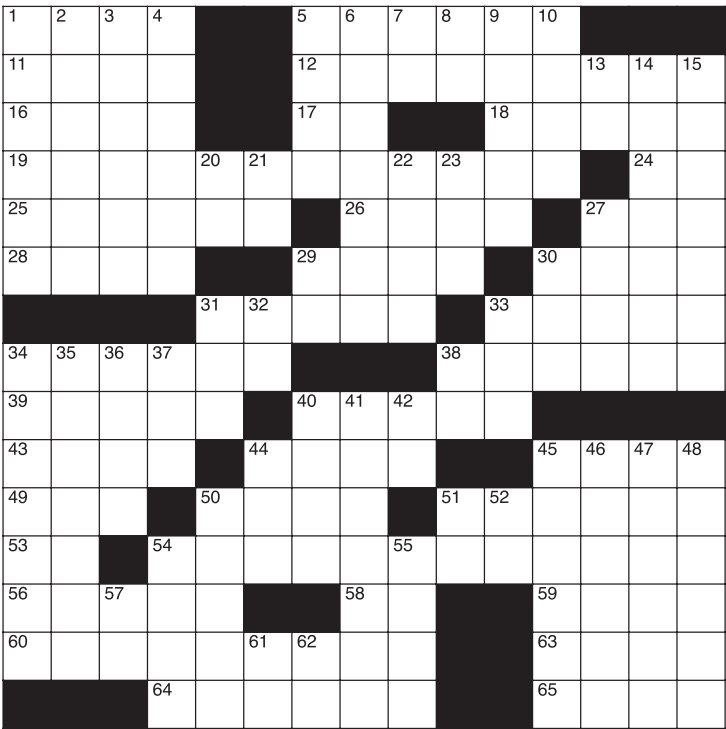
- News agency
- Standard
- Deadlock
- Pre-Columbian empire
- Removed
- French commune

CLUES DOWN

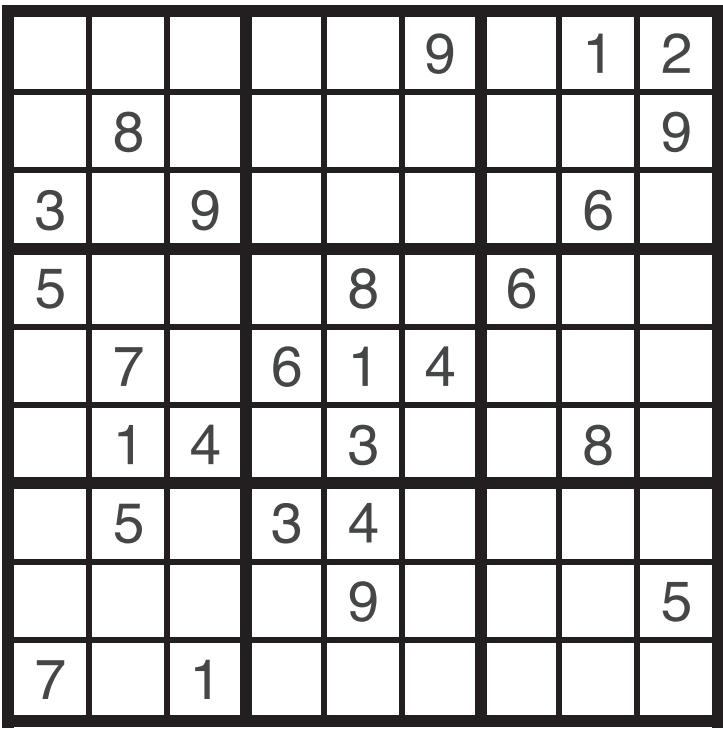
- Large, dangerous animals
- Straighten out
- Family tree
- Large stinging paper wasp
- European river fish
- Cut down in size
- Denotes past
- Larry and Curly's partner
- Samoyedic ethnic group
- Male parent
- Specific gravity
- Demeaned oneself to
- Rigidly
- Yankovic is a "weird" one
- Belonging to me
- Path
- Airborne (abbr.)
- Level
- Atomic #94
- Born of
- Midway between northeast and east
- Northeastern bank
- Defunct airline
- Having no purpose
- A low wall
- Swedish city
- Earn a perfect score
- Atomic #81
- Beginner
- Give off
- Incorrect letters
- Telecommunication service provider (abbr.)
- Idyllic
- Popular beer
- A way to fine
- Evildoer
- More withered
- Seventh note of a major scale
- Commercial
- Abnormal breathing
- Moved more quickly
- City of Angels
- Partner to Pa
- Equally

PUZZLES

CROSSWORD



SUDOKU



HOROSCOPES

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

It is very important that you do not count your chickens before they hatch, Aries. Something you suspected was a sure thing may not pan out this week.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

You have a secret desire that you want to let out, Taurus. But you're not sure of the timing. Stop letting your head dictate your heart and put plans into action.

GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21

Friendships could falter due to your insecurities, Gemini. Others want to be around you for good reason. Try to see the value in relationships and make the effort to socialize.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, you could be defeating your own efforts this week. There may be something telling you that you're not good enough to go for your goals. A pep talk can put you back on course.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23

There's a fresh development in your love life coming down the pike, Leo. Romantic feelings solidify and you might

be in for some exciting adventures in the weeks to come.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, the crowd around you may not be the support system you need right now. Making new friends can be tough, but it's worthy pursuit at this point.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, no matter how much you want to spend time with family or friends right now, work seems to draw you away. Focus on finding more balance.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

You might be feeling fed up with the pace of lessons being taught to you, Scorpio. If the teacher or mentor simply isn't effective, then you might need to find a new educator.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, it might seem like having the utmost control sets you up for security, but that's not always the case. Being too controlling may push others away.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

This may be an emotional week for you, Capricorn. Your relationship will have to

weather a few storms before things right themselves again.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Poor habits can keep you from getting where you want to go, Aquarius. A friend or family member may need to step in to show you where you could be going wrong.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

Help a partner heal by being sensitive to his or her suffering. You may not know all the ins and outs, but being supportive can help greatly.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

- MARCH 19, Neil LaBute, Director (60)
MARCH 20, Spike Lee, Director (66)
MARCH 21, Jace Norman, Actor (23)
MARCH 22, J.J. Watt, Athlete (34)
MARCH 23, Victoria Pedretti, Actress (28)
MARCH 24, Jim Parsons, Actor (50)
MARCH 25, Elton John, Singer (76)

SOLUTIONS

