

History of auctions dates back at least 2,700 years

*So from that morning he went to school there grew a man who played it cool
He came back home a full-fledged auctioneer
And people came from miles around just to hear him make that rhythmic sound
That filled their hearts with such a happy cheer – Leroy Van Dyke “the Auctioneer”*

For the first time in at least two decades, probably closer to three, I went to a live auction the other day, and it was quite an experience. I wasn't really looking for anything, but the rhythmic ebbs and flows of the callers' cadence could easily have enticed me to jump into the fray and start bidding for things that I had originally had no intention of purchasing.

Of course, this isn't an accident. The Auctioneer is

trained to entice competitive bidding between prospective buyers that allow the seller to profit while the buyer still gets something of value for less than retail. Many times however, man's competitive nature compels him or her to bid for auction items at prices that outweigh what they would pay for the same item at retail. There were a few items that went for much more than I would have thought they would, and there were some sweet deals being found. That's the beauty of auctions. Not only are auctions cool places, but the dynamics of auctions have grown into an actual applied branch of economics which deals with how bidders act in auction markets and researches how the features of auction markets incentivize

Hook, Line and Sinker

By Tony Hooker



predictable outcomes. How important is this branch of economics? It's only the basis of research being done by Paul R Milgrom and Robert B. Wilson. If you're like me, you've probably never heard of them until now. All they did was win the 2020 Nobel Prize for Economics for "Improvements to Auction Theory and Invention of new auction formats."

There are historical sto-

ries of auctions dating back at least 2,700 years. According to "Auction Theory," a book by Vijay Krishna, in Babylon, auctions of women for marriage were held annually. The auctions began with the woman the auctioneer considered to be the most beautiful and progressed to the least beautiful. It was considered illegal to allow a daughter to be sold outside of the auction method.

Attractive maidens were offered in a forward auction to determine the price to be paid by a swain, while unattractive maidens required a reverse auction to determine the price to be paid to a swain, per Wikipedia.

The Romans too used auctions. After a successful campaign, they would drive a spear into the ground and surround it with whatever spoils of war they had acquired. Slaves would be auctioned off at the Forum, with the proceeds from all the sales going to the war effort.

The modern English auction, from which our modern auctions descend, finds its roots in the "candle auctions" of the 17th and 18th century. A candle auction is one which ends when a lit candle flame

expires, thus keeping bidders from swooping in at the last second to win the bid.

My grandpa Hooker was a farmer, and as such attended many a farm sale, usually with me in tow, and this recent experience called up so many memories of him, whom we lost 41 years ago. To my way of thinking, anything that conjures up memories of that great man is a good thing, so this might have been my first auction in years, but it certainly won't be my last, and if you see me dragging some pheasant feathers or a lamp made out of duck decoys to the car at a future sale, mind your business, and know that I've succumbed to the auctioneer's call. *Hey, well alright sir, here we go there and what are you gonna give for em?*

Sam's world – kids say the darndest things

Like all grandchildren, my grandkids tend to say stuff that is funny. My grandson, Sam, who recently turned 5 years old, went on a streak of saying some outrageous things last week. Here's the most current list:

Episode #1 - Wes (Sam's Dad): What were you eating? Your poop is green!

Sam: I ate a green goblin sandwich.

Episode #2 - Sam: I just tooted (passed gas while laughing hysterically)

Colleen (Sam's Mom): What do you say?

Sam: Thank you (pauses several seconds before adding) Thank you, God.

Episode #3 - Lucy (Sam's sister) sat down at the dining room table to review her homework. Lucy was upset and tearful because she would rather be playing than doing her homework. Sam is sitting on his mother's lap while she

tries to comfort Lucy.

Once things seem to have calmed down some, Colleen noticed Sam with his hand raised to his face, palm facing out. He's making an odd quiet sound, "Pshhhhhhhhh." Colleen asked Sam, "What are you doing?" and Sam replies, "I'm trying to use my powers to make Lucy feel better... (Shoulders slouch)... but it's not working. My magic doesn't work." Hearing this, Lucy sighs and explains, "You can't use your magic until you're like 20 years old."

Episode #4 - Colleen says to Sam, "Sammy, what happens if there's a fire? What's the first thing you do when you notice the house is on fire?" Sam responds, "Grab the toys."

Episode #5 - Colleen is in the midst of a video conference with Lucy's teacher when Sam runs up behind her (visible on the computer screen) while waving his hands fran-

tically as if there was a fire. Sam shouts, "I HAVE TO GO POOOPY!" The teacher obviously observes and hears what is going on and appears dumbfounded while Colleen can only shrug her shoulders.

Episode #6 - My daughter, Colleen, has recently given up trying to keep up with the huge garden in her backyard and she has decided to have a landscaper come in and take down the garden. Part of what the landscaper did was to spray Roundup throughout the backyard where the garden was located to prevent the regrowth of some of the deep-rooted blackberries, raspberries and asparagus.

Colleen has been trying to explain to Sam and Lucy that they must stay out of the backyard because the backyard has been sprayed with "poison." The other day, Sam watches his Dad from the rear window of the house as his Dad walks

So there I was

By Pete Buckley



through the "poisoned" backyard. Sam jumps up, opens the back door and yells to his Dad, "How are you not dead yet?"

Episode #7 - On a rather sunny day, Sam tells his Dad, "It's so sunny I'm going to get a sunny eyebrow." His Dad replies, "You mean a sunburn?" Sam: Yeah.

Episode #8 - Sam made the following observation to his mother: "Police Officers have really good eyebrows." Colleen asked Sam why he thought this and Sam shrugged his shoulders and said, "It's just how they're made."

Episode #9 - My 4-year-old grandson, Sam, was asked if he wanted to have a few friends over for his upcoming birthday and if he did, who would he like to invite. Sam replied, "Bennett and Malcolm... Malcolm throws up a lot, but I still like him."

Episode #10 - Sam was entertaining his parents by singing, "You Are My Sunshine." After he finished the last line, "... Please don't take... my sunshine... awayyyy," his mother said, "Very nice! Now please go and get your pajamas on." Sam responded, "Uuuuggghh,"

and as he heads upstairs he whispers "That's it; you're not my sunshine anymore."

Episode #11 - Sam recently explained to his mother that Peaches, their 2-year-old lab, can't kiss. "But when she licks (points to his hand that Peaches just licked) his love comes out (Sam mimics pulling an imaginary object out of the palm of his hand) like this."

Episode #12 - Sam does not lack self-confidence. While attending a camp for pre-schoolers, Sam was asked, "What's the best part of camp?" Sam turned his head to the side while thinking and eventually answered, "They all love me."

Episode #13 - Sam tells his mother, "I don't know what to be when I get big." His mother replies, "That's OK; it took me a long time to figure out what I wanted to be." Sam immediately responded incredulously, "But you're a mommy!"

Allergies are like an iceberg!

When you think about your itchy eyes, running nose, coughing, and sneezing, I'm sure the last thing you think about is an iceberg. But, after reading this article, I think you will have a much better idea of why I used this analogy.

Most iceberg's size is hidden by the water level. Up to 95% of some iceberg's mass is below the water line. So, what looks like a small problem from the surface can be a huge problem underneath the water line. This same thing holds true with allergies. Your symptoms could just be a small nuisance now, but as you continue to ignore them, your body becomes even more inflamed and lead to chronic disease, just like the iceberg

underneath.

It is now known almost every chronic disease includes chronic inflammation as one of its hallmarks. The more inflamed you are, the more chronic disease you will have. So, once you get on top and control your allergies, your overall ability to create and maintain health is greatly increased.

So, how do you help yourself with your allergies? I can break it down into three different parts. First, you must have good barriers between you and the outside world. Second, you need to make sure you can keep your immune system in balance. And finally, your liver must be working normally. If one or more of

Real Life Wellness

By Dr. Bill Hemmer



these three things are compromised, your allergies will continue to get worse.

Your mucous membranes act as good barriers when they are all healthy and intact. You have mucous membranes throughout different parts of your body. Mucous membranes are found in your digestive tract, your sinuses,

your lungs and your bladder. These membranes are an extremely important barriers to keep the bad allergens out. If these membranes are cracked or broken, then allergens enter your body where they are attacked by your immune system cells.

This brings me to the second part of your allergic

response. If your immune system gets out of balance, meaning your immune cells don't attack enough or attack too much, then your allergic reactions will also remain out of balance. One of the best ways to balance your immune system is to keep it quiet by not eating foods you are allergic to.

The best way to figure out those foods is by going through an elimination diet. One of the best free elimination diets is found on the Whole 30 website. Once you figure out what foods you are allergic to, then it will be much easier to keep your immune system in balance. Other ways to do it is through other specific supplements, but most of the time

you can get yourself back into balance with food.

The final way to help your allergies is making sure your liver is working properly. Your liver is so important for thousands of different functions in your body, but one really important one is it controls the amount of histamine your body can neutralize. Histamine is what creates your symptoms with allergies. That is why you are given antihistamines to control symptoms. But your liver can do the work if it is working properly.

You don't have to suffer with your allergies! Start working on these three things and you will notice a big difference in your symptoms and save some Kleenex!

Public health is a mission and a mindset

By Colleen Lehmann, DCHD public health liaison

In this month that includes the celebration of Public Health Week, Douglas County Health Department considers itself fortunate be counted among local healthcare entities in providing quality care to county residents. However, quality of care without the accompaniment of availability is the proverbial hole in the dam for much of the world.

Working to establish equitable access for everyone is one of the core tenets of public health. DCHD takes this responsibility very much to heart, maintaining and continuing to develop programs for Douglas County residents

aimed at improving overall health and well-being. Just a sampling of the ways in which local public health impacted the Douglas County community can be seen in DCHD's 2022 annual report. The bustling full-service dental clinic saw 2,694 patients for a total of 8,811 encounters. Those included 3,199 cleanings, 1,764 fillings, 974 sealants, 1,184 extractions, and 132 dentures/partials.

DCHD nursing department served 273 households through the WIC program, administered 1,480 COVID-19 vaccines, and conducted 2,305 COVID-19 tests. There were 673 immunizations given, 451 lab draws, 179 flu shots, and

159 nail clinics appointments. TB skin tests numbered 32, and 27 lead screenings were conducted.

On the environmental side, 237 inspections of the 143 food establishments under DCHD jurisdiction were done, and 144 temporary food vendor permits issued. Nine food safety presentations were conducted, attracting 192 participants. Permits for 33 septic systems and nine water wells were issued.

Last year's Summer Meals program had 635 youth participants and resulted in 6,512 meals served. Companion programs meant 138 households received two weeks of food to take home on the last day

of Summer Meals, 43 kids received new sneakers and 23 got new backpacks for the upcoming school year.

DCHD presented opioid overdose training to 197 individuals; and distributed 317 doses of Narcan to residents, businesses, and first responders. Over 40 individuals received assistance with the application process for medical marijuana, and 17 youth participated in tobacco/vaping cessation efforts.

Taking its show on the road, DCHD took part in or hosted 11 events in 2022. These included having booth space at four area festivals, one county fair, two summer movie nights, and one library expo;

and marching in one festival parade. DCHD also hosted a senior health fair and a children's activity event.

DoCo Health Center – a student-based health center offering medical and mental health care to Douglas County students and their immediate families – went from concept to reality in 2023

with its official opening on February 6. We're excited to be offering quality care from licensed providers, regardless of ability to pay, to this target demographic. Equally gratifying is that demand is such we are looking for additional care providers. Other proposed efforts are in various stages of planning and, fingers crossed,

will join our list of available services when fully developed.

Meanwhile, in keeping the public uppermost in public health – you are invited to come lunch with us on Thursday, April 20 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Purchase food and/or drinks at one of the five food trucks that will be on site near our Tuscola Outlet Mall location (Suite J600, next to Old Navy) and just hang out. We'll have information available on DCHD services, are happy to answer questions, or look forward to just saying hello and chatting. Can't stay? Not a problem, come grab something delicious and be on your way. We'll be there either way ... it's kind of our thing.