

SIT RIGHT BACK AND HEAR A TALE



Library staff reading stories that can be accessed by phone

PAGE C3

Library assistant Claire O'Brien uses a microphone and computer software to create an audio version of a children's book Oct. 12 at the Shawano County Library. That story will become part of the library's new Stories on a Cloud system.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

KATHRYN HENNES, C7 • KAY REMINGER, C8 • ROB ZIMMER, C12 • AROUND THE COMMUNITY, C14



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Listen to a story on a cloud

Shawano County Library presents alternative way to enjoy good stories

By **LEE PULASKI**
City Editor

Parents not wanting to read that bedtime story for the 100th time and those who prefer audiobooks to turning the pages of actual books are getting some good news.

The Shawano County Library has started a new program called Stories on the Cloud, which features library staff reading from a variety of books as yet another way to connect with patrons.

"Especially during the pandemic times and shortly after, we were looking for different ideas of interacting with patrons," said Kristie Hauer, library director. "We were looking at how to offer services in a different way, offer services at a distance from the library or from each other."

In 2021, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction offered grant funding for libraries to develop hybrid service models, according to Hauer, and the county submitted its proposal and received \$50,000 for a number of programs, one of them being Stories on the Cloud.

"Shawano County Library was one of 20 in the state that received these grants," Hauer said. "There were a lot more requests, so we were fortunate."

Hauer said she got the idea from seeing other libraries implement similar programs, but another catalyst was meeting a vendor at a library conference that promoted audio stories.

Library staff members choose the stories and record them via a microphone and computer software and then load the MP3 files to the server. The library is allowed to have up to 99 active files at one time, and even though there are only 14 selections at the moment, Hauer expects that stories will rotate in and out to give people a selection.

Anyone can dial 715-304-3400 and select from the stories as many times as they want. It requires no apps, special equipment or even the internet. The service is not limited to library patrons and is open to everyone.

"When patrons call into the number here, toll-free, they will hear a welcome message, and then it will take them through the menu, like, press one to hear this story or press two to hear this story," Hauer said.



Shawano County Library assistant Claire O'Brien has enjoyed reading children's stories and loading them to the Stories on a Cloud system. O'Brien has headed up the library's workgroup that is recording stories for patrons and other members of the community to enjoy.

LEE PULASKI | NEW MEDIA

Library assistant Claire O'Brien has contributed her vocal talents for a number of the stories currently available, and she has enjoyed the experience so far.

"It's a really exciting opportunity," O'Brien said. "We have a small work group that's kind of working on it together that I'm heading up, and we have assigned a few stories to each of us just to get started. We want to see what the response from the community and see what it is they're looking for. It'll be good to interact with the

community and get that feedback."

Most of the current selections are classic children's tales, including selections from the Boxcar Children series and Dr. Seuss' "Green Eggs and Ham," but the library is planning to expand its repertoire.

"We're hoping to load poems for National Poetry Month and chapters of adult novels," O'Brien said.

She noted that some of her colleagues were worried about how their voices might sound reading the stories, but she was unfazed.

"This is what my voice sounds like, and I've accepted it. It's been with me for 31 years," O'Brien said. "It's been really cool to go through the process of recording them and uploading them."

O'Brien added that her first recording for the library was "Where the Wild Things Are" by Maurice Sendak because that's her child's favorite story to hear.

"I basically went with what I knew already," O'Brien said.

The library is using the recording software Audacity, which allows staff members to easily record and edit segments that might not have been as quality as they would like without having to record the whole file again.

"You can even record it on your phone, just any MP3 file and upload it to their site," O'Brien said. "It's a very simple user interface. There's not a lot of bells and whistles, and there's no graphics and advertising."

While the service might seem like it was set up more for when health and weather prevented the library from operating, Hauer said it's just as useful for patrons who might be out of town or unable to access the library.

"It seems like a nice service for parents and kids, or for grandparents and kids," Hauer said.

The library is looking at expanding the options, according to O'Brien, even including reading books in other languages or uploading a fact of the day.

"We can do famous speeches and jokes. It doesn't have to be just a story," O'Brien said. "You can upload any story you want — within library standards — not just children's books and novels."

Hauer noted that Stories on a Cloud could also be a supplement to the library's abundant youth reading programs and could even promote those programs to new residents and visitors.

O'Brien said the library is also looking at reading the first chapter of novels and then suggesting if they like the beginning of the book that it's available for checkout at the library.

"It's just an introduction to try something new that you wouldn't have picked off the shelf, but to hear someone read it to you," O'Brien said.

JW returns to door-to-door ministry

Officials say reception from community has been encouraging

By **LUKE REIMER**
Reporter

Shawano residents can continue to expect the occasional knock on their door, as members of the Jehovah's Witnesses have recently gone back to door-to-door ministry.

Jehovah's Witnesses suspended door-to-door ministry in March 2020 due to the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. During the time that door-to-door ministry was suspended, Jehovah's Witness members instead wrote letters and met virtually for ministry.

"I started referring to it as the big 30 — the 30 months where we weren't involved in our in-person ministry," said Jehovah's Witnesses National Spokesman Matt Oleman. "I think that all of us, regardless of Jehovah's Witnesses, or otherwise, had a challenging 30 months with the pandemic and everything that was going on."

The decision to go back to door-to-door ministry revolved around COVID-19 testing, vaccines and other prevention and response prevention methods being more readily available.

"With all of those things, we finally decided after all of those 30 months away, now was time for us to return to really what is core to our goal of reaching people in the neighborhood to try and get them a positive message," said Oleman.

Oleman said that JW members have been participating door-to-door ministry for close to 100 years. He said that even during wars, the ministry stayed in place.

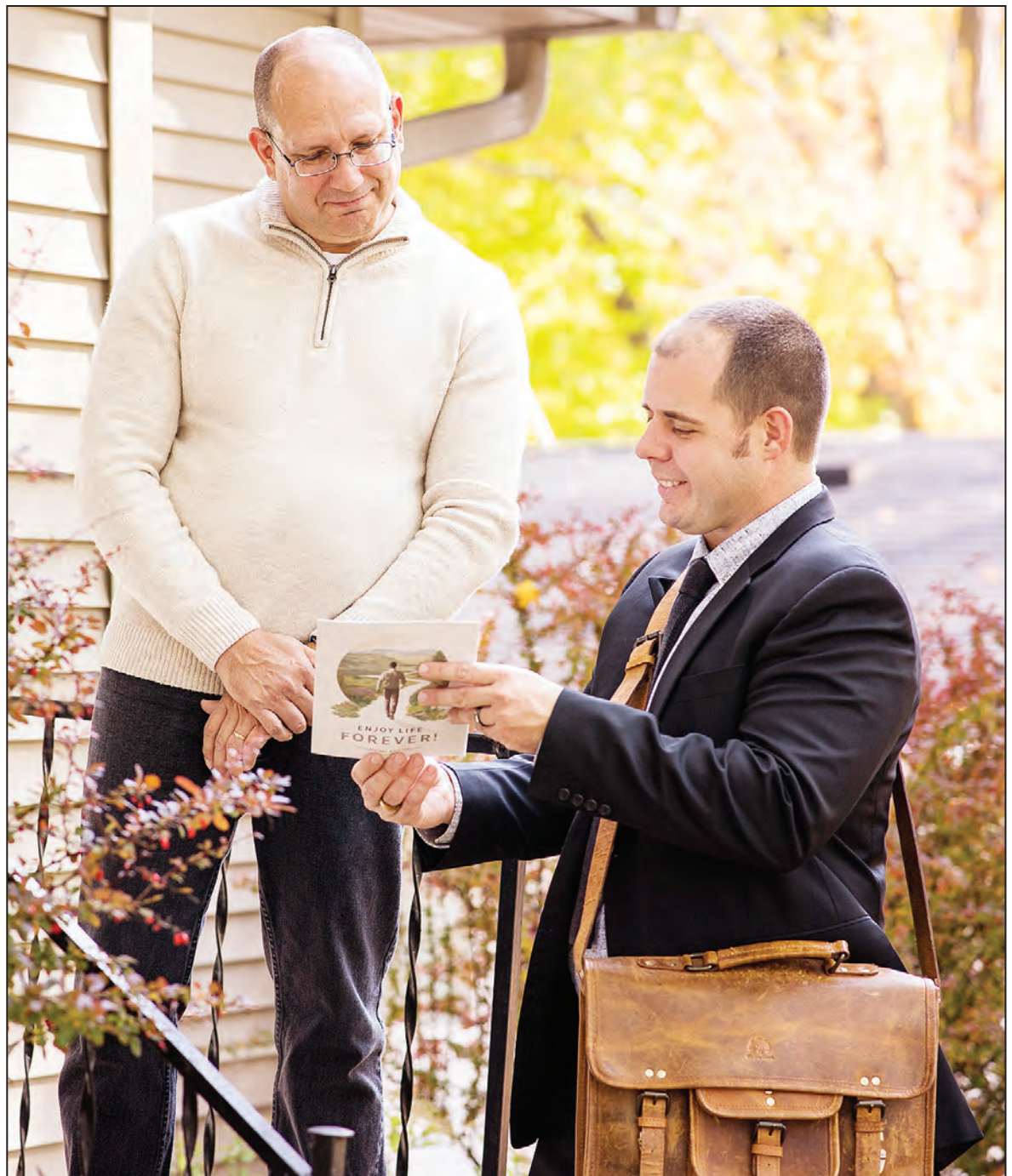
"A pandemic was something that over those 100 years, at least in this country, was something that we never have faced," said Oleman. "Really as a globe, I don't think since the Spanish flu, there has been something that was this significant."

Going back to door-to-door ministry has been a bright spot for JW members, something that has been received well by the public on a national level.

"I was out there just a few days after we returned," said Oleman. "One gentleman asked where we have been. That just tells you people were so used to us coming — everyone is going to make the decision of how they feel being approached at their door, but the general consensus from the friends that I have talked to, is that the community is happy to see us back."

Shawano JW minister Jacob Wheeler echoed Oleman's words about returning to in-person ministry, saying, that he feels great about going back.

"I was eager to get back preaching that way — that is what I have done most of my life," said



Shawano Jehovah's Witness minister Jacob Wheeler, right, meets a Shawano resident during his door-to-door ministry. Jehovah's Witnesses recently went back to door-to-door ministry after 30 months, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. CONTRIBUTED

Wheeler. "The first day out I had some nervous feelings, to be honest, maybe wondering if our neighbors would be comfortable or welcoming to us coming back. Due to the nice responses though so far, those feelings quickly went away. It felt normal."

Wheeler said that Shawano residents can expect the same door-to-door ministry as they were used to before the pandemic.

"I would say that there is not a ton that we are doing differently," said Wheeler. "We still send the Bible's message that we really want people to benefit from. The Bible has so many principles that can help during these tough times. Really, due to the pandemic too, we are

really focusing on respect for people — giving them that space and asking if they are comfortable."

The response hasn't just been positive on a national level, but Wheeler said that Shawano residents have embraced seeing the door-to-door ministry again.

"I think the response has been great in our community," said Wheeler. "People have been very friendly and welcoming of our visits. Even if they rejected our visit or a future visit, they still express appreciation. That has been encouraging to see that appreciation."



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God's creation brings peace and serenity

Are you stressed or filled with anxiety? Do you feel the pressures of society and problems in life bearing down on you so hard you can hardly breathe? I have found when troubles in my life seem to get harder or unbearable, I must remind myself to breathe. I must try to focus on serenity and peace.



KATHRYN HENNES

I recently went on a trip out west to North Dakota. I needed a recharge or a reboot to calm my busy mind. I found my reboot sitting on the bank of the Missouri river watching the breathtaking sunrise and sunset. The sounds of nature and silence gave me the moments of peace and serenity that were greatly needed — just seeing what God in his infinite wisdom had created for us.

Some of you will say, "I don't have time for doing those things." Please take the time to do it. We as humans need to really breathe deeply and feel God's presence. God will give us the reboot we need to face life's challenges.

When I look into the sky or at the animals and creatures around me, I am convinced that this beauty was created by a higher power, and for me, that is God. I cannot imagine how the scientific theories of planets colliding and an explosion could have caused the beautiful and amazing surroundings.

For many years, I was caught up in the hustle and bustle of everyday life. Working full time, taking care of my children, maintaining a household. I never really took the time to see the beauty and blessings that surrounded me. It seemed that there just was not enough time in the day to accomplish all the tasks that needed to be done. I just couldn't solve all the problems that occurred. I needed to breathe deeply. I just wanted to escape life and all its problems and turmoil.

My husband and I moved up here to the Gillett area from the Richfield area last year. My husband had bought his homestead in the country or what was once the country. There was no more peace and quiet with a car speeding by every 20 seconds. God heard our prayers and



While buffalo are not a common sight in Wisconsin, they do provide quite a view for visitors to North Dakota.

KATHRYN HENNES



Seeing the deer cross close to home can be relaxing as the sounds and sights of nature are a reminder to achieve spiritual bliss.

KATHRYN HENNES

blessed us with our current home here about 150 miles north from where we used to reside. We are now in God's country.

I can sit on my front deck or back deck and listen to the sounds of

nature. I can now take those deep breaths and calm myself down. I can relax at last. I am finally truly enjoying the trees turning color and the cooling temperatures in the mornings and evenings.

I am now embracing the peace and serenity that has eluded me for many years. We invite our family and friends to visit and stay in our guest room so we may share the serenity we enjoy so much.

Stop and breathe now, before it is too late. If you can't find peace or serenity in your surroundings, go for a ride to the country. When you do take that ride, find a small park or a spot by the river and get out of the car, look around you and breathe the fresh air. Look at the beautiful creations God has put in front of you to know how truly blessed you are today. Just for a few moments, close your eyes, take in a deep breath and relax. I hope you will find the peace and serenity, if only for a few moments that you will need to continue your life's journey.

Bless you.

Kathryn Hennes is a dedicated wife, mother, grandmother and lifelong Wisconsinite. Her passion for writing started in high school. She writes inspiring and motivational stories on her many life experiences.

FARM LIFE FROM A FARM WIFE

Corn harvest in full gear as days shorten

"Check to see if the corn is dented," says he.

We were unloading a truck-full of freshly cut wood, the aroma thick and heavy with a deep woody smell, the hemlock especially fragrant. The field of corn was within reach of our neatly stacked and growing pile. We have harvested hemlock, mostly maple, some elm, some beech, a little basswood and just a bit of popple, because it burns too fast.



KAY REMINGER

Wait — this article isn't about wood. It's about corn.

"What? How?"

His rhythmic motion of reaching/stacking/reaching/stacking came to a screeching halt as he gazed at me in amazement.

"You've been a farmer your whole life, and you don't know how to check if a cob of corn is dented?" So he proceeded, with some prompting, to explain. "If a kernel of corn looks pushed in, it's dented. That means it's dry enough to store. Otherwise, it'll mold."

I must point out that some of my farm stories button up quite nicely with dual input over here. He ascertains some particulars, and I ad lib. On any vacation trips and/or farm runs, I'm sure to bring my notebook and pen along. When we are together in a vehicle, he has nowhere to run. I pepper him with questions. His inevitable first response is an exasperated, "You know this stuff!"

When we were farming back in the day, we would fill a silo. This was always done with high expectation on his part. He loved harvesting corn and, as we go on our travels now-a-days, he farmer goosenecks at all the corn fields — checking to see how dry they are or if they're still green, how big the cobs are and so on. I watch the road.

Before harvesting our own corn, we had used a battery-operated corn tester that determined moisture content. We'd husk off a cob or two here and there in different fields and, nudging the kernels off, pour them into the tester. The lower the moisture, the more money we'd make because we didn't have to get it dried down at the



Corn stalks are already 10 feet high, as shown through the back window of Kay Reminger's home.

KAY REMINGER

feed mill where it was stored.

Big dryer bins run on propane. Dried-down costs were charged per bushel; the dryer the corn, the better. Sometimes the weather doesn't allow that. This is why you might see corn standing when winter blows in. Farmers allow the corn to complete a dry-down to avoid excess fees at the feed mill.

Corn can be harvested in a variety of ways. We have 10-foot high stalks in the field right next to our house. This particular field will be combined (shell corn) or it may be chopped for corn silage. Chopped corn can get stored in silos, or in plastic encased silage bags (those big white rows of feed) or piled in a mound. If it's piled in a mound — which, depending on cow needs, could be at least 10 to 15 feet high or more — a pack tractor is used.

This tractor, loaded with extra pounds to add weight for more packing power, can weigh up to 30 tons. This gets driven up and down the mound, over and over, packing the feed tight, creating a density in order to preserve the feed. After it's packed tight, it gets covered with a large sheet of heavy-duty plastic and topped with hundreds of sliced sidewall tires laid flat to hold the cover in place.

In order to chop corn for silage it must test out under 70% moisture content and, ideally, the cob should be dented. (Refer to aforementioned dent lesson.) Corn for silage should not be harvested when it's too wet, otherwise it juices and can potentially produce a lethal gas. Neither, however, should it be too dry, otherwise it won't ferment.



This cob has dented corn, which indicates it's dry enough to be stored for the winter. If the corn is not dented and it's stored, mold could develop.

KAY REMINGER

Years ago when we were still filling silo, I'd chop and my husband would unload. As the feed reached the top, he'd have to climb up, leveling it off and then my job would switch to unloading. He'd have to drive the wagon up to the blower because I could never get it close enough. (I could drive a tractor that was hooked onto a chopper and back it up to the wagon, but not drive a wagon up to the blower for the life of me.)

Leveling off a silo was the worst job on the farm, as far as I was concerned. My biggest fear was that he would be overcome with gas, pass out unbeknownst to me and I'd bury him alive as I kept blowing silage up. When I got done unloading, I'd leave the blower running on low to keep the air circulating up there. Cranking my neck way back, I'd stare at that top window of the silo, willing him to wave. What a relief when I'd see his hand.

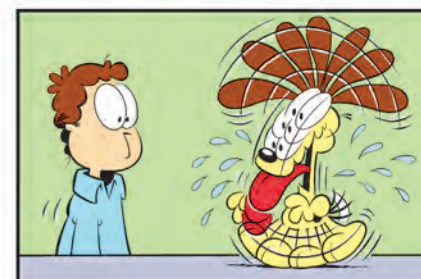
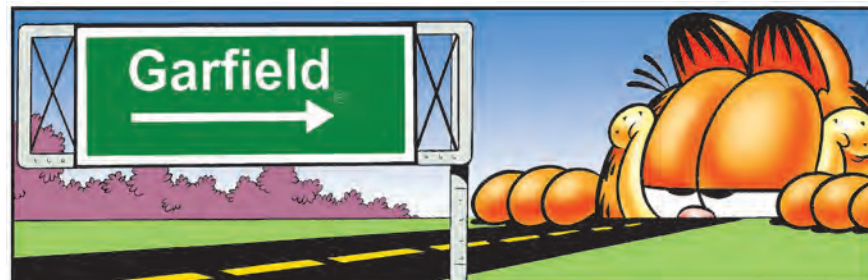
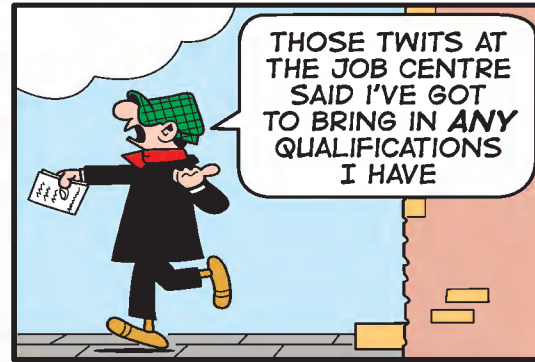
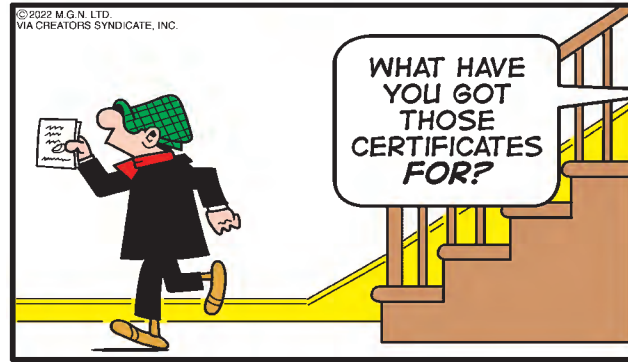
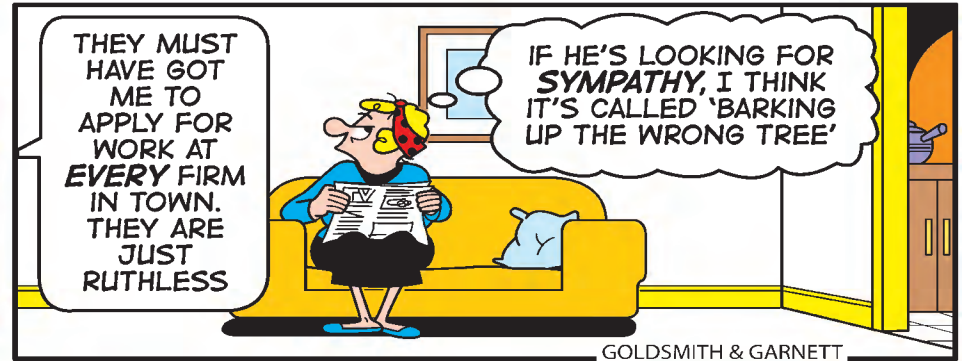
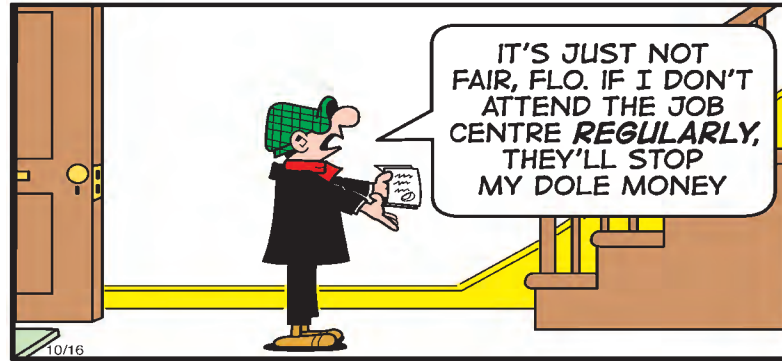
Just now the harvest is in full gear and many farmers with wide, 10- to 12-row corn choppers, along with semis loaded with produce, are traveling to and from the farms. Have patience. They feed us.

("Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and He will establish your plans." Proverbs 16:3)

Kay Reminger was born and raised on a dairy farm, and she married her high school sweetheart, who happened to farm for a living in Leopolis. Writing for quite a few years, she remains focused on the blessings of living the ups and downs of rural life from a farm wife's perspective.

ANDY CAPP

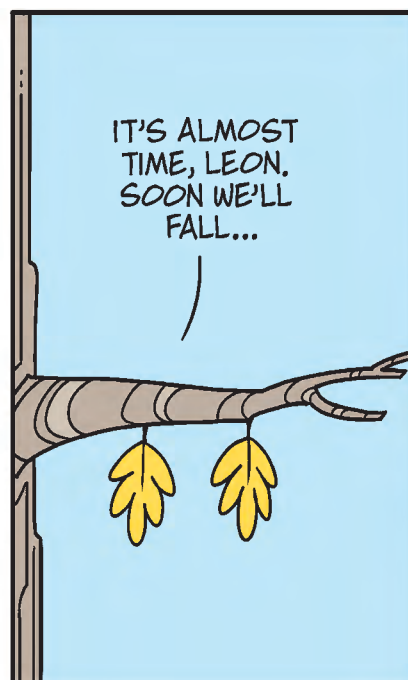
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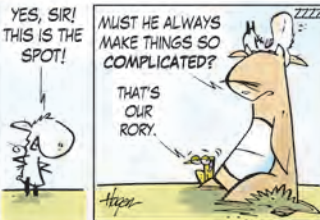


Diamond Lil

by Brett Koth

LEON and GARY:
THE
FALL GUYS





DOGS OF C-KENNEL

BY MICK MASTROIANNI AND MASON MASTROIANNI

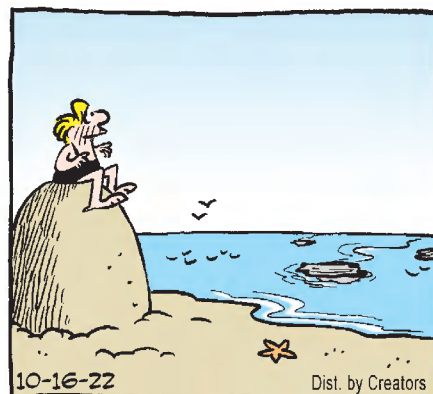
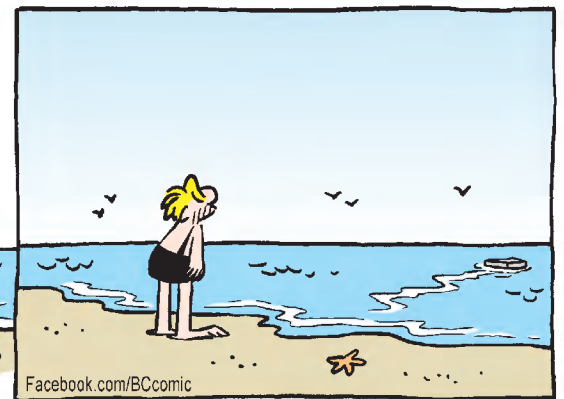
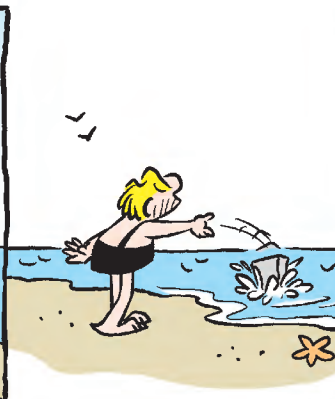
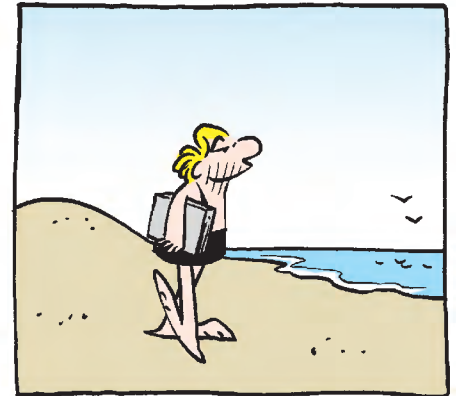
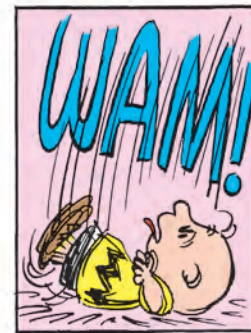
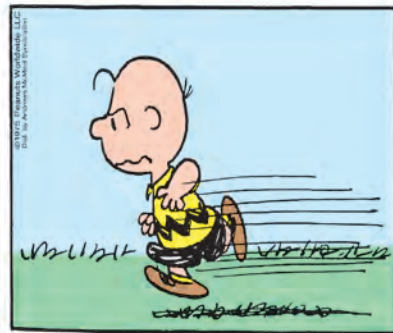


Puzzle Answers

8	5	9	6	4	2	1	7	3
7	1	4	3	8	5	2	6	9
2	6	3	9	7	1	5	8	4
3	8	1	5	2	4	7	9	6
5	2	7	8	9	6	3	4	1
9	4	6	7	1	3	8	2	5
4	7	8	1	5	9	6	3	2
1	3	2	4	6	8	9	5	7
6	9	5	2	3	7	4	1	8

6	4	8	3	2	9	5	1	7
7	3	2	1	5	4	8	6	9
9	1	5	8	6	7	2	3	4
5	2	9	4	1	3	6	7	8
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Now's the time to bury bulbs in your garden

With October comes peak spring bulb planting season. October is the best time to plant as the soils are beginning to cool and the bulbs are readily available. Be sure to get your selection now, either from a local garden center or online. There are so many wonderful, colorful, delightful bulbs to tempt gardeners that are planted now for an amazing spring showcase of bloom.

Many garden centers are filled with a huge selection of colorful bulbs. Fall planted bulbs for spring color include such traditional varieties as tulips, daffodils, allium, hyacinth, fritillaria and others.

Of course, tulips and daffodils are well-known and come in a variety of different styles and bloom times. Some of the other bulbs are lesser-known, but equally dramatic and charismatic in the garden during the spring season.

Here are some tips for planting bulbs this fall for an amazing display come spring:



ROB ZIMMER

When shopping for tulips and daffodils, be aware that, with each of these, you can select bulbs that bloom early in the season, mid-season and late in the season. For example, there are tulips that bloom early (April), tulips that bloom in the middle of the season (early to mid-May) and tulips that bloom late in the season (sometimes into June). These bloom times should be indicated on the package. For the longest bloom season, select a variety from each of these three bloom periods. That way, you will have bulbs

Plant a variety of different bulbs for the best display. You can mix and match them, almost like a wild flower garden, or keep them in their own colorful drifts and masses of bloom.

in bloom from April into June.

Plant bulbs in masses for the best showcase. Instead of using a bulb planter and digging single holes in straight rows, use a shovel and dig out a hole 1 to 3 feet wide and stuff it full of spring bulbs. Whether you use all the same bulb or a variety of different types, you will create a more vivacious and lively display in the spring by planting in masses. Experiment with different shapes, as well. Plant in a large oval or teardrop shape for a drift of stunning beautiful color in spring.

Take advantage of pre-mixed color combinations and blends for an amazing effect. Many bulb companies now offer bulb mixtures or blends in color combinations that are easy to plant and come up looking beautiful in spring. For example, there are combinations of pink and purple, red white and blue, red and white, purple and white, and all different mixtures. Some of these mix bulbs of different types together.

These blends allow you to mix it up without having to spend a lot of time or money sorting through individual varieties. Many of these blends, like the pink lemonade mix of pink tulips and yellow daffodils, are simply beautiful.

Many gardeners plant bulbs in and among their perennials, so that when the perennials begin to leaf out in May and June, they will hide the leftover foliage of the bulbs. Sometimes, daffodil foliage and tulip foliage can look unsightly for a few weeks, but it is necessary to allow the foliage to continue to feed the bulb. Planting bulbs among hostas, daylilies and other perennials can help hide this unsightly foliage until it withers away.

Mix and match colorful bulbs this fall for a beautiful spring display that will be so welcomed during March and April when they begin to emerge and bloom and brighten the garden with the season's first color.

MARRIAGES

OCONTO COUNTY

Dillon Daniel Brown and Stephanie Lea Tilot, both of the Town of Little Suamico, Sept. 26, 2022.

Darian Riley Kostreva, of the Town of Abrams, and Mariah Hope Potter, of Ashwaubenon, Sept. 26, 2022.

Todd Alan Schoenwalder and Katelin Michelle Devasure, both of the Town Little Suamico, Sept. 26, 2022.

Blake Clinton Benjamin and Mary Pearl Ringel, both of the Town of Little Suamico, Oct. 3, 2022.

Joseph Daniel Sickel and Melissa Marie Muska, both of the Town of Little Suamico, Sept. 13, 2022.

Peter Aaron Otradovec and Harrison Harold J. Sehres, both of the Town of How, Sept. 13, 2022.

Harvey Robert Wellnitz and Amanda Marie Steinfeldt, both of the Town of Morgan, Sept. 13, 2022.

Eric Michael Thomson and Candice Rose Ann Lewandowski, both of the Town of Mountain, Sept. 17, 2022.

William Jeffrey L. Tachick and Samantha Jinii Koski, both of the Town of Breed, Sept. 19, 2022.

Christopher Lee Stein and Brittany Diana Lingenfelter, both of Peshtigo, Sept. 19, 2022.

Bennett Joseph Lippert and Alexandria Pearl Clark, both of Oconto Falls, Sept. 19, 2022.

Brady Edward Bostedt and Carli Mae Meyer, both of Oconto, Sept. 20, 2022.

Daniel Stuart Micoley and Heather Celina Micoley, both of the Town of Spruce,

Sept. 20, 2022.

Brett Allen Milhans and Emily Ann Bork, both of Gillett, Sept. 24, 2022.

Thomas Earl Larson, of the Town of Stiles, and Julie Ann Sylvester, of Oconto, Sept. 25, 2022.

Vincent James Basile and Hannah Jean Shimek, both of Oconto, Oct. 3, 2022.

Christopher Lucas Mueller and Ryan Marie Nelson, both of Oconto, Oct. 4, 2022.

Andrew Gilbert Olson and Darcie Dee Ermis, both of the Town of Breed, Oct. 4, 2022.

Daniel Lewis Wentz, of Pulaski, and Noreen Adele Cota, of Cecil, Oct. 7, 2022.

Joseph Dean Kitslaar and Stephanie Janine Paape, both of the Town of Little Suamico, Oct. 9, 2022.

Christopher Michael Stuhr and Casey Ellen Lewis, both of the Town of Lakewood, Oct. 9, 2022.

SHAWANO COUNTY

Kendall Steven Block II and Cherish Renee Moss, both of Shawano, Sept. 26, 2022.

Wesley John Bloomer, and Sarah Lynn Baker, both of Shawano, Oct. 15, 2022.

Samuel Robert Boivin, of the Town of Waukechon, and Hannah Marie Hass, of Shawano, Oct. 28, 2022.

Lucas Dewey Capelle and Stephanie Marie Calaway, both of the Town of Green Valley, Sept. 17, 2022.

Steven Arthur Carroll and Olivia Paige Beilke, both of the Town of Red Springs, Oct. 8, 2022.

Jeffrey Allen Durow and Tracy Jean Wilquet, both of the Town of Washington, Oct. 1, 2022.

Chanden Allen Genke and Jadeyn Lee

Gretzinger, both of the Town of Herman, Sept. 17, 2022.

Joshua Matthew Ginzl and Riley Marie Bonnin, both of the Town of Black Creek, Oct. 1, 2022.

Matthew Wayne Golnick and Makayla Donae Wainman, both of Shawano, Sept. 17, 2022.

Nathan Robert Griesbach and Casey Rae Schultz, both of the Town of Maple Grove, Sept. 24, 2022.

Aaron Lee Gutt and Samantha Sue Harrison, both of the Town of Almon, Sept. 24, 2022.

Aaron John Hoffman and Courtney Lee Lievrouw, both of the Town of Belle Plaine, Sept. 30, 2022.

Ryan Thomas Hoffman and Rochelle M. Jahnke, both of Shawano, Sept. 17, 2022.

Zachary Michael Jadin and Kayla Marie Duchateau, both of the Town of Angelica, Oct. 1, 2022.

Cullin James Kowalczyk and Elizabeth Ann Miller, both of Shawano, Oct. 1, 2022.

Tyler Christopher Lardinois and Noley Jean Graves, both of the Town of Green Valley, Sept. 24, 2022.

Austin Michael Lee Loberg and Ashley Ann Pfeiler, both of Clintonville, Oct. 8, 2022.

Mason Elliott Moesch and Francesca Marie Rabas, both of Shawano, Oct. 8, 2022.

Alex Joseph Noble and Savana Rose McIntyre, both of the Town of Wescott, Sept. 9, 2022.

Trenton William Nolan and Brooke Margaret Surber, both of the Town of Wescott, Oct. 8, 2022.

Chad Michael Nooyen and Dominicka Lewicki, both of the Town of Black Creek, Sept. 24, 2022.

Brian Jay Retzlaff, of Shawano, and Brenda Lee Wendler, of the Town of Belle Plaine, Oct. 22, 2022.

Greg Alan Riesenberger and Sarah Faye Scheibe, both of the Town of Belle Plaine, Sept. 24, 2022.

Robert Raymond Rigsby and Barbara Jean Novitski, both of the Town of Seneca, Oct. 8, 2022.

Christopher Edward Schantz and Karissa Lynn Steif, both of Shawano, Oct. 8, 2022.

Larry H. Seay and Jennifer Anne Jauquet, both of Shawano, Sept. 17, 2022.

Bradley Joe Stankowski and Barbara Jo Below, both of Clintonville, Sept. 10, 2022.

Cody Kenneth Stonebrook and Grace Elizabeth Boylan, both of Bonduel, Oct. 15, 2022.

Timothy James Szulczewski II and Brooke Lyn Hilliker, both of the Town of Grant, Oct. 1, 2022.

Cody James Thomack and Kaitlyn Marie Schallock, both of the Town of Pella, Sept. 29, 2022.

Dakota Lambert Thompson and Margaret Lee Butzen, both of Albuquerque, New Mexico, Sept. 3, 2022.

Mark Allen Vigue II and Samantha Jo Fredrick, both of the Town of Wescott, Oct. 1, 2022.

Chad David Weise and Megan Rose Entringer, both of the Town of Hartland, Sept. 17, 2022.

Brett Michael Wilson and Emilee Lynne Ellis, both of Shawano, Nov. 11, 2022.

Latest barn quilt has quite a fowl theme

Greg and Debbie Bernitt have sponsored Shawano County's 397th barn quilt that is on display on a barn on their 20-acre farm at 542 State Road in Birnamwood.

Even prior to the Bernitts purchasing the farm in 2014, it was known as Mallard Acres, so that is what they named their quilt pattern. The quilt, which features a mallard duck in the center, was painted by Judy Kunst, who is the grandmother of one of Greg and Debbie's sons-in-law, Shane Schmidt.

After living in Galloway for 36 years, Greg and Debbie thought about moving to the Appleton area, but Greg was not excited about the idea of living out his retirement years in a subdivision, so when he heard about the property in Birnamwood coming up for sale, he contacted the owner to see if they could come and see it. Although the buildings, especially the house, were not in great condition, Greg, who has worked in construction for 37 years, thought it had potential, so they made the purchase.

Immediately upon moving in, reconstruction of the house was started. During the construction, the Bernitts tried to preserve the integrity and charm of the farmhouse and the property. The house was almost completely gutted, plumbing and electrical wiring were updated, and

a new master bedroom, master bathroom, entry, and laundry were added. Demolition of the lower level created an open concept kitchen, dining area and living room.

To preserve the barn, a metal roof was added, windows were replaced and a potting shed was added to the barn's east end. Since completion of the farmhouse, Greg and Debbie have enjoyed working the land to add a variety of food plots, a garden, an apple orchard and a pumpkin patch to improve the quality of the soil and preserve the land. They also cleaned and enlarged the existing pond, adding huge rocks as the border.

Greg and Debbie raised four daughters, three of whom are married and have six children among them. The girls bring their families to the farm often and the grandchildren treasure their time there.

The Bernitt property was established in 1857 and exchanged hands several times until Leonard and Mary Oppen purchased the house in 1963. Leonard farmed the property with six dairy cows and fields of corn, oats and soybeans. They raised 11 children in the house that had five bedrooms and one bathroom. After Leonard died in 2014 at the age of 87, Mary moved into an apartment in Birnamwood in September that year and still resides there. She enjoys visiting the farm from time to time.



Greg and Debbie Bernitt are shown with Shawano County's 397th barn quilt on their farm at 542 State Road in Birnamwood.

JIM LEUENBERGER

Backpacks ease loads when they're used properly

Backpacks are a practical and useful way to get textbooks and supplies to and from school, and when used properly, they should ease children's load, not make it worse.

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, there was an estimated annual average of 1,200 backpack-related injuries to children under 19 years old treated in emergency rooms from 2019 to 2021.

In recognition of National School Backpack Awareness Day, Aspirus Health aims to help educate parents, caregivers and students about health risks of backpacks that are too heavy or worn incorrectly.

"Common backpack-related injuries that we see in kids include neck pain, back pain and shoulder



MEGAN STANKOWSKI

pain," said Megan Stankowski, Aspirus Health physical therapist. "These are avoidable, but it may require parents to observe and gently remind their kids to make some adjustments to how they use their backpacks."

The American Academy of Pediatrics and the Pediatric Orthopedic Society of North America offers some tips for parents to help children wear their backpacks safely and correctly:

- Choose the right backpack. Your child's backpack should have two broad, padded shoulder straps, a padded back, a waist or

chest strap, and compartments. These features help distribute the weight of the contents more evenly throughout the body.

- Educate your child about proper backpack wear. Keep straps on both shoulders and use the waist strap. Adjust straps to fit snugly.

"Backpacks will probably need to be readjusted seasonally, loosening it up with a winter jacket and then tightening it back up in the spring," Stankowski said.

- Pack safely. Help your child understand how to distribute the weight properly. Put the heaviest items low and near the center of the back. Make sure the bottom of the backpack rests in the curve of the lower back.

- Check the weight. Make sure your child is not carrying more than 15% of his or her body weight

in their backpack. If you notice them leaning forward to support the backpack's weight, then it's too heavy.

- Lighten the load. Encourage your child to clean the backpack weekly and take out unneeded items, store items in a locker at school when possible, and take only what's needed to school. Carrying heavier items in their arms will also alleviate some of that extra weight.

"If a child starts showing signs of injury from wearing the backpack incorrectly, the first thing the parent should do is adjust the backpack and make sure it's fitting correctly," Stankowski said. "Check that they are packing and lifting it properly. If nothing is helping, they should seek help from their primary care provider or physical therapist."

AROUND THE COMMUNITY

Shawano woman selected for WFBF leadership event

Fifteen agricultural leaders have been selected to participate in the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Leadership Institute, including Amanda Williams from Shawano.

This year-long leadership training program's mission is to develop strong and effective agricultural leaders.

"Today's farmers and agriculturists must take the lead to be advocates for their farms and agribusinesses," said WFBF Senior Director of Member Relations Wendy Kannel. "The institute gives participants the skills and confidence necessary to lead the future of farming and agriculture in their county Farm Bureau, local community and beyond."

The WFBF Leadership Institute consists of five, multi-day sessions that provide hands-on learning on agricultural issues, leadership development and speaking skills, interaction with Farm Bureau staff and government leaders at the state and national levels and networking with other participants. The class capstone event will be a trip, with the WFBF board of directors, to Washington, D.C., in June 2024.

Farm Bureau members interested in applying for the 2025 class can contact Kannel at 608-828-5719 or wkannel@wfbf.com.

Theater auction to help with roof, sound system

Abrams Spotlight Productions Inc. is seeking donations for its on-line virtual auction.

The ASPI Spotlight Auction begins at noon Dec. 8, and ends at 8 p.m. Dec. 11.

Anyone interested in donating prizes, auction baskets, money or gift certificates is encouraged to call 920-826-5852 or email theater.aspi@gmail.com. Donations are due Nov. 21, and pick-up service is available.

The theater is operated solely by volunteers, and proceeds from the auction will help to bring high-energy, live entertainment to the community. ASPI currently is running capital campaigns for its sound system and its roof.

ASPI is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that presents musicals, comedies and dramas at the Nancy Byng Community Theater in Abrams. Learn more at <https://abramsspotlightproductions.com>.

FRESH Project announces winter farmers market

The FRESH Project's Winter Market and Craft Show will return the second Saturday of the month from November through March with vendors offering locally grown foods and homemade crafts.

The market will be held at the First Presbyterian Church, 100 Presbyterian St., Shawano, on the following Saturdays — Nov. 12, Dec. 10, Jan. 14, Feb. 11 and March 11.

To participate, farmers, crafters, artists and bakers are encouraged to register at www.thefreshproject.org by clicking on the vendor application tab to access the application form.

"We are always excited about having an alternate event that includes the community and provides family-friendly fun," said Executive Director Dave Mendoza. "Vendors will also be able to provide cooking demonstrations and answer any questions shoppers may have."

For information, call 715-526-5206.

Neurologist joins Prevea center in Oconto Falls

Prevea Health has announced that neurologist Dr. Yousaf Ajam will be joining Prevea's neurological care teams in Green Bay, Oconto Falls and Sturgeon Bay.

Ajam is a board-certified neurologist who sees patients at the Prevea Oconto Falls Health Center, 853 S. Main St, Oconto Falls. He specializes in comprehensive neurological care with a special focus in epilepsy and clinical neurophysiology (EEG and neuro monitoring).

"I primarily see patients with seizures, strokes, Parkinson's disease, migraines and a host of other neurological conditions," said Ajam. "I like to take my time with my patients and explain why they feel the way they do. I then focus on discussing the treatment process, so my patients can understand what is truly going on within their body before, during and after treatment."

Ajam is a graduate of the Shifa



YOUSAF AJAM



Glowing with education

Lane Bruner, a third grade student at Sacred Heart Catholic School, plays with a flashlight and solves multiplication problems on Sept. 30 as his class earned a Glow Day. The students filled their class marble jar for good choices, and earned a day full of glow-in-the-dark activities.

CONTRIBUTED

College of Medicine, completed his training in neurology at University of Texas Medical Branch and is fellowship trained in clinical neurophysiology, epilepsy track, at the New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center. He is certified eligible for the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology.

Appointments with Ajam can be made by calling 920-272-1610.

Lakewood library gets \$8,000 in donations

Lakes Country Public Library recently received an anonymous \$10,000 matching donation offer to help fund its much-needed building renovation and expansion. As of

the second week of October, more than \$8,000 has been received from dozens of donors.

Contributions can be sent to Lakes Country Public Library, 15235 State Highway 32, Box 220, Lakewood, WI 54130. Write "Building Fund" on the memo line for checks. Donors may also visit lakescountrylibrary.org to donate online or to take the virtual tour of the new building, including floor plan. Donations of any size are appreciated and fully tax-deductible.

Around the Community is a roundup on local events, honors, awards and more. Organizations interested in sending news about what they're involved with can contact NEW Media at news@newmedia-wi.com. Items with a specific date like an event should be sent at least two weeks before it takes place.

Puzzles

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THE NEWSDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)
 OPPOSITE ATTRACTION: Explained at 127 Across
 by Billie Truitt

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 38 Match's early end
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 47 Competitive squads
 51 New Deal pgm.
 52 Quipster
 53 Fence features
 54 Road service org.
 56 Director Ang or Spike
 57 Tied the knot
 59 "Turn up the heat!"
 60 Early automaker Benz
 62 11th century date
 63 Island of the Blue
 Dolphins author
 64 Big name in water
 scooters
 67 "I'd like a shot at that!"
 69 Barely scraping by
 72 Shaved to the max
 74 Long-gone flightless
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- 75 Cabinet dept.
 78 Competitive blowout
 79 Swelled heads
 81 E-file recipient
 82 Ageless, in verse
 83 Egyptian serpent
 84 Letters on a Cardinal's
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 85 "____ show biz!"
 88 Pitch ____-hitter
 89 Dog show org.
 90 Nut-bearing tree
 92 Boss' late-hour
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 96 Wall Street trader,
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 98 "C'mon, be ____!"
 99 Suffix for beat
 100 Loch of fame
 101 British bar owner
 105 South American
 percussion instrument
 109 Web fashion shop
 111 Munich misters
 115 "Scenic" ending for
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 116 Well-qualified
 117 Europe/Asia border
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 119 Best-possible
 120 Church officer
 121 Bridge fee
 122 Analogy phrase
 123 Industry slang
 124 Palm readers
 125 Footnote abbr.
 126 Dry run
 127 What the five longest
 answers have in
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 6 AQI monitor
 7 Apply, as rouge
 8 '80s South African
 leader
 9 Overindulge
 10 Short golf stroke
 11 Victoria's Secret
 garment
 12 "Rapid"
 conveyance
 13 Twenty: Fr.
 14 Mexican miss
 15 Aggravation
 16 Singer Baker
 17 Reacts to yeast
 18 Actress
 Witherspoon
 29 Strategic gimmicks
 30 Sought office
 32 Stiffly proper
 33 Variety show act
 35 Lesser ____ evils
 36 Enjoyed immensely
 37 French Caribbean
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 40 Corn covering
 43 Midnight or noon
 44 Harpo Productions
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 45 Tag on a mid-June
 gift
 46 Sultans' wives
 48 Very popular now
 49 '70s Israeli leader
 50 Alluring
 55 Opera villainess,
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 58 Barely known celebs
 59 "I ____ differ"
 61 Spiny succulents
 62 Manchester
 measurement
 64 Baby carrier brand
 65 Sean Lennon's mom
 66 Something strange

DOWN

- 1 Club bookings
 2 Greek letter club
 3 Metallic fabric
 4 Sea-dwelling superhero

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- 68 Sheep meat
 70 Rapper-turned-actor
 71 Sculpted trunk
 72 Grouch
 73 Give the slip to
 76 Egyptian crosses
 77 Breakaway factions
 80 Short walking distance
 82 Miso soup mushroom
 84 Fraternal group in
 fezzes
 86 Be informed (of)
 87 Ike's two-time
 opponent
 88 Locking horns
 91 Width-measuring
 device
 93 Microscopic machine
 94 Ousts from office
 95 Completed, as a
 cartoon
 97 Prior to AD
 101 Affectations
 102 Reunion attendee
 103 Where a skate clicks
 a rink
 104 Dwindle
 106 Quick resignation
 107 Health care pro
 108 Cook-off creation
 110 The Producers
 secretary
 112 Sierra Nevada city
 113 Classico competitor
 114 Narrow opening
 118 Land parcel

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