

# SENIOR TIMES

OHIO'S FOREMOST  
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## FRAUD FIGHTERS

### Stopping scammers in their tracks!

By Miriam Segaloff

More than 80 percent of Ohio residents age 60 and over responded to an AARP survey that they are concerned about becoming a victim of consumer fraud or a scam. One in six said they had already been victimized. "It's happening every day, all over the country," said Lisa Dalga, project manager for the Ohio Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP). "Some scams start in one area and move to another area, but it is happening everywhere, every day."

The SMP is a grant-funded program of the non-profit Pro Seniors and is tasked with educating Ohio's elderly residents and their families about health care fraud and preventing it from taking place.

The Medicare system is one area where fraud and abuse take place relatively often, Dalga said.

"The Medicare system is complicated, confusing, large and there is a lot of money there," Dalga said. "I think that sometimes the perpetrators feel like it's a victimless crime. They think they are impacting the government, but in reality, they are impacting individuals lives when they do it."

Dalga said the medical identity theft and financial loss inflicted by scammers has real-world, identifiable consequences for victims that, in some cases, can be life threatening.

When a person's Medicare identification number is used by someone else, she said, it could lead to a future misdiagnosis, denial of treatment and ineligibility to receive durable medical equipment. For example, she said, Medicare may cover a particular test only once a year. A legitimate Medicare beneficiary may be denied coverage or that test because someone already fraudulently used the beneficiary's account number.

"Last, but certainly not least, there is the emotional

and psychological impact of being victimized," Dalga said. "It's very stressful and anxiety provoking. Just the uncertainty of what is going to happen with them."

Older adults are seen as vulnerable by scammers for a number of reasons, Dalga said. They are a target, she said, just by virtue of being a Medicare beneficiary.

"And, I think, they are perceived as vulnerable," Dalga said. "So, if perception is reality, when the scammers are looking to prey on somebody, they

The less a person answers their phone, the fewer calls they will eventually get, Dalga explained.

"When you answer your phone, it tells them they have a live number," Dalga said. "It not only tells them you are a live number, it tells them you answer, and it tells them you are someone who will talk to them. That is the trifecta for scammers."

One particular scam making the rounds among Central Ohio's elder population involves a person calling a beneficiary and falsely

it by letter in the mail. So, when people are calling and saying they are the IRS, or Social Security or Medicare, it's not the case."

Dalga said beneficiaries should hang up immediately and call the agency back using a number they have locked up themselves. The SMP, she said, can also provide verified telephone numbers for federal agencies.

It is simple, Dalga said. "If it doesn't seem normal or reasonable, verify it."

Other scams currently targeting seniors include promises of free durable medical equipment, such as braces or wheelchairs, or free genetic testing. Both of these things are covered by Medicare, Dalga said, but only under very specific circumstances. And both require the involvement of the beneficiary's primary care physician.

"There are requirements on what Medicare will cover," Dalga said. "They will cover braces if it's medically necessary and prescribed by a physician. Someone calling out of the blue is not your physician."

Medicare beneficiaries should review every statement from Medicare they receive, Dalga said. These explanations of benefits will detail services charged to their Medicare number. And, she said, compromised Medicare numbers can be changed.

"Those statements will tell you if something doesn't look right," she said. "If you don't read them, you don't know what's happening and you can't do anything about it."

The SMP projects receive grants from the Administration for Community Living (ACL) to recruit and train retired professionals and other older adults and com-

See FRAUD, page 9



Lisa Dalga, project manager for the Ohio Senior Medicare Patrol at an event to educate seniors about Medicare fraud.

want to prey on somebody perceived to be vulnerable."

According to the AARP, 38 percent of fraud victims report being contacted by scammers via telephone, more than any other method, including mail (24 percent) and email (5 percent).

Dalga said the scams most frequently popping up in Ohio right now are all initiated with telephone calls.

The best advice Dalga said she has to offer is the simplest. "If there is only one thing I could say, it is do not answer your phone if you do not know who it is."

Many of the people she works with, Dalga said, say they are on the do-not-call list and believe that offers them some level of protection. That is false, she said.

"Scammers don't care about the do-not-call list," she said. "They could not care less. They have nothing to lose."



Why does Medicare call me all the time? It's not Medicare...it's a scammer.

claiming to represent Medicare. The caller tells the beneficiary Medicare is sending out new, better cards. To get the card, the beneficiary is told they need to confirm information like their birth date, Medicare number, and primary care physician.

"Medicare is not sending out new Medicare cards," Dalga said. "If you have not reached out to Medicare about an issue, they will not be calling you. You have to initiate the call. Most federal agencies, if they are initiating something, will do



## Sixties Flashback

By Randal C. Hill



### It's a Car! It's a Boat! It's Both?

The busy Texan was known to be a practical joker, and one favorite trick of his was to startle first-time visitors to his ranch. During a high-speed tour of the vast grounds in his sporty (but somewhat odd-looking) convertible, he would sometimes end up zooming toward his private lake, suddenly shouting that

his brakes weren't working. The prankster then hurtled down a ramp and splashed into the lake. But instead of sinking, the car slowed and—huh?—became a leisurely moving boat!

The aghast visitors had been riding in an Amphicar.

It was conceived during World War Two as a Nazi military vessel called the Volkswagen Schwimmwagen. Later, the Amphicar (a blending of "amphibious" and "car") became a civilian novelty as a vehicle that saw use both on the highway and in the water.

It featured a body length of 15.5 feet and a weight of 1,738 pounds. Manufactured in West Germany from 1961 to 1968, it cost

the equivalent of a new Jaguar E-Type with its price tag of \$2,800. Fewer than 4,000 rear-engine Amphicars rolled off the assembly line, and to this day they remain the only amphibious passenger conveyances to be mass-produced. Each 43-horsepower machine was a convertible and was available in four basic colors—white, red, blue or green. Ninety percent of the buyers were American.

Initially there was a rush of interest and excitement for it. Newly established dealers proclaimed the Am-

The New Yorker and Newsday ran photos and features on it. The Amphicar was even offered as a specialty vehicle for Red Cross emergency rescue services.

As the Sixties drew to a close, the novelty of the craft began to wear thin. For one thing, the marketing concept had always been unclear. (Was it a car or was it a boat?) But other issues also maddled the sales waters. The craft proved to be a high-maintenance item; after every five hours in the water, the Amphicar's engine needed to be



phicar a must-have pleasure item. Modern Mechanix magazine enthused that "it does everything but fly!"

greased—a laborious task that involved lifting the entire vehicle and removing the rear seats. Also, each ocean use required cleansing with fresh water afterwards.

The American government drove the final nail into the Amphicar coffin. In 1968, the establishment of the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) brought emissions and safety regulations that the little oddball auto-boat simply couldn't meet.

But not all Amphicars ended up on the scrap heap. About 600 still exist, and some of those—now restored and brought up to required standards—can be rented at such vacation destinations as Disney Springs in Orlando, Florida, and Branson Landing in Missouri.

In Ohio, there's an International Amphicar Owners Club, which boasts about 400 members.

Today, to own a restored one will set you back about \$100,000.

By the way, that Texas prankster who got a chuckle out of frightening his unsuspecting visitors? That was none other than Lyndon Baines Johnson, the 36th President of the United States.

Randal Hill is a retired English teacher and freelance writer who writes for nostalgic magazines and senior publications. [ryterhill@aol.com](mailto:ryterhill@aol.com)

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## Why does Medicare call me all the time?

Your phone rings constantly. Sometimes you recognize the number calling, sometimes you don't. What if it's important? The last few times you answered, it was someone from Medicare. Why do they call you all the time?

**It's not Medicare calling.  
It's a scammer.**



Scammers use computers with phone technology to call numbers in their system constantly, until someone answers. Once someone answers, they mark that number as "active." That means they will keep calling, and maybe sell your active phone number to their scammer friends.

Sometimes they pose as government employees from agencies such as Medicare. They may even know your name. They offer medical services that are free to you, such as knee braces, or dental plans, or prescriptions. They may tell you it's time for a new Medicare card. All you have to do is verify your personal information, such as your Medicare number, your doctor's name, and maybe even your social security number. Stop! Don't give them any information!

The best way to fight back is to not answer the phone. I know it's hard—it rings all the time! If you have caller ID and you don't recognize the caller, just don't answer the phone. The scammers will eventually consider your number inactive and stop calling. But more importantly, if you don't answer the scammer can't ask you questions or offer free services or sign you up for something you don't want.

Another thing that may help to reduce the amount of soliciting calls you receive is to put your phone number(s) on the national Do Not Call list through the Federal Trade Commission and report any robo-calls that you do get to the Ohio Attorney General. Information on both is below.

Stay safe, Ohio friends and let's stop those pesky scammers!

—Lisa Dalgo, Project Manager  
Ohio Senior Medicare Patrol



Preventing Medicare Fraud  
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Publisher Stephen N. Pinsky  
[publisher@insight.rr.com](mailto:publisher@insight.rr.com)

Associate Publisher Lee E. Pinsky

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P.O. Box 623, New Albany, OH 43054  
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SIGN OF THE TIMES

# Teaching seniors about crypto and more

**Natalie Walters**  
The Dallas  
Morning News  
(TNS)

DALLAS Friday afternoon at The Preston of Park Cities retirement home, 16 seniors look up expectantly at their teacher: a 21-year-old former president of the blockchain club at the University of Texas at Austin.

Elevator music plays in the background of the quiet meeting room as he introduces his presentation titled, "Crypto Crash Course."

A few seconds into the lecture comes the first comment from the crowd: "I can't hear."  
The luxury senior living facility on Sherry Lane has regular classes but this is the first one delving into the complexities of cryptocurrencies and NFTs — topics with few experts even among younger generations.

"I was a guest lecturer at my university for an intro to blockchain course just because there aren't a lot of people who know enough to teach this stuff," said Owen Robertson, the young crypto lecturer who's majoring in the management of information systems. He's also on the board of the McCombs School of Business Blockchain Initiative and works as a marketing associate at blockchain company Quai Network.

The Preston advertised the class as a way to educate residents on legitimate crypto avenues and how to avoid being scammed. The class meets three times total, once in person in July and twice virtually in August. The classes will also give an overview of nonfungible tokens — or a unique, individual token on the blockchain that you can buy, sell or trade — and each resident will walk away from the course with their own NFT.

The idea for the lecture came from a brainstorming session for the community's monthly programming series that focuses on spiritual, emotional, vocational, physical, social, environmental and intellectual wellbeing, said Debra Dickerson, director of community life at The Preston.

"In this case, we wanted to provide them with access to a crypto, NFT and internet scams expert, to help them better identify online threats and people looking to take advantage

of seniors," she said. At the first meeting, there were four fewer people than at a typical class hosted by the community, Dickerson said.

"I knew it may be difficult to get them interested in this so I promised chocolate ice cream and wine to everyone who came," Dickerson said. "They see 'crypto' and say, 'I don't know what that is.'"

Elder fraud has increased dramatically with the rise of the digital age, which has brought new and easier ways to scam people through phishing emails and texts. Last year, elders in the U.S. were scammed out of \$1.7 billion through fraud schemes, a 74% increase from 2020, according to a report from the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center. Of the complaints received from seniors over 60, over 5,000 mentioned a form of virtual currency, like Bitcoin, for a total loss of \$241.1 million.

Robertson opened his talk by telling the story of Lazarus Group, North Korean hackers thought to have stolen as much as \$100 million in cryptocurrency from a U.S. company in June. "Scammers can be very elaborate," Robertson told the audience. "The best practice is to never click on a link or PDF unless you know the person who sent it to you and have spoken to them."

Robertson recounted a story of his own in which someone texted him pretending to be his boss. But when he got the text, Robertson was sitting across from his boss.

"Is one way they get to you by saying you won a prize?" asked one member of the audience, saying he had received such a text. "Yes," Robertson said. "If something sounds too good to be true, it probably is."

Robertson referenced the cryptocurrency called Luna, which fell from \$116 in early April to essentially zero, causing many investors to lose large sums of money. If you had bought the coin in its first three months and sold it at its height when it hit a market cap of more than \$40 billion, you could have made 1,000 times your initial investment.

"This is an example of if it's too good to be true, it is. The token was originally trusted like the Amazon of

the crypto world," he said. "But it went from hero to zero."

Cryptocurrencies have skyrocketed in popularity because of the ease of access to them through the internet and because of the chance of large monetary gains, he said.



Owen Robertson said he hopes his crypto crash course for seniors will help them avoid getting scammed. (Rebecca Slezak/The Dallas Morning News/TNS)

"There's a lot of people who have staked their lives on crypto, and I would say to never do that," he said.

Robertson's opinion is the industry needs five to 10 years to "let the dust settle" before it's a safe investment. As some in the audience jokingly pointed out, that meant it was mostly off-limits for the older crowd.

"Ninety-nine percent of what is out right now is not worth the risk," he said about the industry that's a little over a decade old. "Don't trust anyone's opinion without verifying it yourself."

But, for seniors who were still interested, Robertson said they'd be best off by investing in Bitcoin and staying away from all other cryptocurrencies. That's partly because its supply limit has always stood at 21 million coins, while other cryptocurrencies have an infinite supply, he said.

"Most of the cryptocurrencies we see today won't be relevant in five years," he said. "It's going to keep changing over time. I see it like the internet in the 1990s."

Robertson ended the class by asking, "Can we take a selfie together? I'd like to turn it into an NFT."

"What's a selfie?" asked one listener.

Reality of crypto scams Most seniors who are victims of crypto scams weren't trying to buy crypto for themselves, said Blake Cohen, a senior blockchain investigator in Austin. He works to prevent fraud and scams on the cryptocurrency exchange Okcoin.

"The same traditional

scams that were used with banks and payment apps are moving to crypto because it's faster and cheaper," he said. "And once the scammer gets it to their own private digital wallet, the victim can't get it back."

The most common crypto scam Cohen sees is hackers

digital wallet. The 2021 FBI report shows this tech support scam was the most common fraud that elders fell victim to in 2021, with 13,900 victims.

"It's the most devastating type of scam," Cohen said. For someone to purchase a token on Okcoin, the platform requires them to submit an official identification photo, such as their passport or driver's license, and a selfie of themselves. But Cohen said they don't know if that person is signing up on their own or because a scammer told them to make an account. If red flags come up, like a senior signs up and immediately wires \$100,000 to their account, Cohen will sometimes ask the senior why they are creating the account, and if they're doing it on their own, he said.

"Even if we stop it, the scammer may have them go to another platform, and they still get scammed," he said.

In one worst-case scenario, Cohen said he saw a victim lose millions of dollars because they were trying to extend the warranty on their anti-virus software. The tech support scammer

said he'd extend it for the victim but, once he gained control of the computer, he bought cryptocurrencies and sent them to his digital wallet instead.

"I can trace where the money went, but you can't get it returned once it's in someone else's digital wallet," he said. "They control it."

A common tactic scammers use is creating a sense of urgency, insisting that the victim has to take action now, Cohen said.

"If you're an elderly person, stop for a second and take a step back and think, 'Does what I'm doing make sense right now?'" he said. "If there's any doubt, stop."

And for family members, it's good to check in with your senior relatives, he said.

"We've had a bunch of scams stopped because a younger relative realized something was up and contacted us," Cohen said. "[Crypto scams] are one of the most devastating problems in the industry and very few people are aware it exists."

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# Postcard From Columbus

Richard Barrett



## Holy Land model displayed at the Harman Theater

In July and August, 1935, a huge model of the Holy Land was exhibited on the stage of the Harman Theater in Columbus. Originally scheduled for two weeks, its stay at the Harman was gradually lengthened to five weeks. While in Columbus it was viewed by 30,000 persons.

The story of the model began in Malta where the Gauci brothers, Joseph and Salvatore, grew up. As children, their mother would read them Bible stories. At some point Joseph promised to take his mother to the Holy Land so she could see the places in the stories she

read them. After their mother became too ill to travel, the Gauci brothers began to make miniature models of Holy Land locations for their mother to enjoy. Their first model was of the Garden of Gethsemane, their mother's favorite location.

While living in Malta, Joseph at age 18 joined the British Navy where he served for 2½ years. He also spent five years in the Holy Land working with an archaeologist. Meanwhile, the younger brother, Salvatore, worked on the docks in Malta as an electrician.

The brothers immigrated to Canada and settled in Edmonton. There, about 1914, they began work on a Holy Land model depicting the life of Christ. The model was built over a period of 11 years and did not incorporate any of the figures from their work in Malta.

The Holy Land model was not an image of the biblical land at any one instant. Rather it illustrated the land of about 2000 years ago with figures illustrating events in the life of Christ. Thus, there are multiple scenes depicting Christ's life, from his birth to his death.

Joseph worked as a sign



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painter by day to provide an income. He worked at night on the model. Salvatore worked on the model day and night.

They began touring with the Holy Land model in 1925 in Canada and the United States. The Holy Land model was 44 feet by 18 feet and depicted the entire Holy Land in the time of Christ. Its weight was given as 10,000 lbs.

The model included 124 scenes of Biblical history and depicts all three provinces of Palestine -- Galilee, Samaria and Judea. It included 740 moving figures and 1200 stationary figures about 3 inches tall. The figures were hand carved by the Gauci brothers and were fitted with appropriate garments. The scenes were numbered and could be followed using a pamphlet that told the stories of 81 scenes. Thirteen miles of piano wire was used in animating the figures. The entire display was said to incorporate 60,000,000 pieces. Lighting permitted the model to be seen at sunrise or sunset.

An initial admission charge was 25 cents for adults and 10 cents for children, but it increased over the years.

Setting up the model required five to seven days for the Gauci brothers and two assistants, working 20 hours per day. Disassembling the model took six persons two days.

In 1961 the exhibit was sold to two brother veterinarians. The model was displayed in Evansville, Indiana, in April, 1962, and then loaded into a semi-trailer for transport. Plans were to exhibit it in Owensburg, Kentucky, before putting it on permanent display in Santa Claus, Indiana. Those plans did not happen as, while still in Evansville, the trailer was broken into and the model was

destroyed by a likely accidental fire.

There do not appear to be any good photographs of the model, but it is shown on several postcards. One such postcard is shown with this article.

Richard Barrett is an historian and the author of many publications on local history. He can be contacted at 614-370-1513 or email to [dick@rbarrett.us](mailto:dick@rbarrett.us)



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## GREY NOSE SOCIETY

# Seniors and senior rescue dogs

Rita Giordano  
The Philadelphia  
Inquirer (TNS)

PHILADELPHIA—Sandy Lange has always had an open heart for dogs in need. So when the folks at Philadelphia's Wet Nose Rescue told her about an old dog that had lived outdoors all her life, never had a bed, just lots of puppies, Lange agreed to give it a try.

As it turned out, outdoor Daniella — Dani for short — was a fast learner. Once in her new home, the senior pooch made a beeline for the spare bedrooms. Curling up on the carpet under a blanket Lange draped over her, she fell fast asleep.

Three hours later when Dani woke up, Lange called her to go out.

"When I bent down to put on her leash, she looked at me and she gave me a big kiss on the face," said Lange, a senior herself. "I'll never forget that. It was like she really appreciated me and being in a house."

Lange and Dani became the first pairing in a program that aims to meet important needs — love, caring, and

companionship— shared by people and canines alike.

Called the Grey Nose Society, a project of the nearly 15-year-old Wet Nose, the program matches senior dogs in need of a home with senior humans, usually 62 or older, who become permanent foster owners. The rescue remains responsible for the dogs' medical expenses, which can get pretty steep with aging animals and hard for seniors to afford. Grey Nose can also help pay for food or other necessities. And if for some reason the older person can't keep the dog, the rescue will take it back. They also offer senior dogs for conventional adoptions at the reduced fee of \$50.

Kim Leslie, who cofounded Wet Nose with her husband, Steve, got the inspiration for Grey Nose from her experiences with her own mother. Before her mom passed away, she had a Chi-



Sandy and Tony Lange are photographed with their dogs Flip and Popcorn. (Jose F. Moreno/The Philadelphia Inquirer/TNS)

huan named Baby.

"Her life revolved around that little dog," Leslie said. "They were good for each other. It gave my mother a reason to get out of bed in the morning."

But as Baby got older, the dog's health problems — and vet bills — started to increase.

The daughter ended up working out an arrangement with her mother's vet to send her the bulk of Baby's bills.

But she knew other elderly pet owners love their dogs just as much as her mom loved Baby, and they face similar dilemmas.

The advocate was also acutely aware of the difficulty getting older dogs adopted.

"In a shelter, senior dogs die," Leslie said. "They just die."

So she started researching solutions. She came across the Mr. Mo Project, a New York-based nonprofit that places senior dogs into loving homes through permanent foster arrangements. The project assists with expenses like vet care.

Mr. Mo seemed like a great way to help get older dogs out of the shelters. What about taking it one step further, Leslie thought. By bringing senior dogs together with senior citizens, she figured they could help each other.

"The dog needs them, they need the dog," Leslie said. "It's just an awesome combination."

That's what Dawn Hollywood, 56, and her husband, Michael Wagner, 60, a retired mental health worker, of Northeast Philly are discov-

ering with Snuggles, a fluffy, white 9-year-old they got from Grey Nose a few of weeks ago.

"Oh my God, I loved her right away," said Hollywood. "She's a cool dog."

Snuggles has won them over on the benefit of a senior dog.

"She knows her place in the house. She knows she's loved," Hollywood said.

So did Truman, a black Lab mix who found a home through Grey Nose, and perhaps for the first time in his whole dog life.

At first, Leslie said she thought Truman would be a hospice placement, a few weeks of comfort at the end of life. He came to them from a South Carolina rescue partner. When police there took him off the street, every rib showed.

"The poor thing was the worst I'd ever seen," Leslie said.

Ziggy Becker, 71, of Wrightstown, agreed to take Truman. But she wasn't about to accept the worst was inevitable. Becker, a retired mental health worker who's rescued many dogs, fed severely malnourished Truman small,

frequent meals, gradually increasing his food intake. As he put on weight, his strength increased. Before long, the old dog was playing with toys like a pup, the squeakier the better.

Truman also had chronic skin problems, Grey Nose paid for the treatment.

Truman, the dog that didn't seem like he would survive a month, ended up living over three more years before he passed away few months ago.

Becker knows his last years were good ones. She's told the Grey Nose folks she would like to take another senior dog. She figures Truman gave her as much as she gave him.

Grey Nose's first adopter, Sandy Lange, would say the same.

"Dani was amazing. Dani was a sweetheart," said Lange, 67.

Dani, a black Labborder collie mix, was 10 when she came to live with Lange, a retired stock clerk, and her husband, Tony, 69, a retired mechanic, but lived nearly five more peppy years. She became best friends with Popcorn, the Langes' young-

See RESCUE, page 6

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TRAVEL TRENDING

No place like home at the Land of Oz

Kathy Witt  
Tribune News Service  
(TNS)

High atop Beech Mountain in North Carolina and hidden within the trees is the somewhere over the rainbow: the Land of Oz. It is as magical as the world L. Frank Baum created in his classic "Oz" book series that was brought to the screen in the 1939 Academy Award-winning movie. And it is where those looking for their heart's desire find the Yellow Brick Road.

**Play:** The Land of Oz opens only during its annual events, including Autumn in Oz (www.landofoznc.com/autumninOz), a festival featuring an interactive theatrical experience, with

performances by the beloved Scarecrow, Tin Woodman, Cowardly Lion and frights compliments of the Wicked Witch of the West and her band of Winged Monkeys. From the twister that rocks the Gales' Kansas farmhouse to the Emerald City, visitors experience the story brought to life as the Yellow Brick Road un-winds through the site of the original 1970s theme park.

Autumn in Oz takes place over three weekends: Sept. 9-11, 16-18



The Scarecrow is a fan favorite at the Land of Oz's Autumn in Oz event. (The Land of Oz/TNS)

and 23-25, 2022. Admission tickets are \$55 (www.ahowpass.com/land-of-oz-theme-park). Rounding out the fun are live performances, face painting, craft and memorabilia vendors and food and beverages for purchase. Add-on experiences: Scenic Lift Ride (\$15), a round-trip chairlift ride to the park from Beech Mountain Ski Resort; and exclusive access to the Over the Rainbow Observation Deck (\$6), for unparalleled views from the top of Beech Mountain on a site that has not been open to the public in more than 20 years.

**Stay:** The Klonteska

Condominiums at 4 Seasons at Beech Mountain (www.beechgetaway.com) are homey and comfortable and have spectacular views of the mountains. Two-, three- and four-bedroom units feature private, covered balconies for taking in the views, plus gas-log fireplace, equipped kitchen and large whirlpool tub in the master bath. Located in downtown Beech Mountain, the condos are close to shops and restaurants, and a short and scenic drive to the Land of Oz.

**Eat:** When it comes to

ski gear rentals and more. They also come to enjoy made-to-order breakfasts — the Fred Muffin is a fan fave — at Fred's Backside Deli, as well as hot and cold sandwiches, grilled burgers, soups, salads and other lunch fare and sweets including cakes, pies and cookies.

**Treat:** Before heading to Autumn in Oz, stop in at the free-admission Beech Mountain History Museum (www.facebook.com/BeechMountainHistoricalSociety), a true jewel of a museum operated by Beech Mountain Historical Society



Follow the Yellow Brick Road during the Land of Oz's Autumn in Oz event. (The Land of Oz/TNS)

restaurants, Beech Mountain is all about the local experience, from the always-bustling Famous Beck Oven Pizza with live music, arcade and air hockey to the cozy and iconic Alpen Restaurant & Bar, a traditional European inn.

Locals and visitors alike find Fred's General Mercantile (www.fredsgeneral.com) irresistible and can while away a couple of pleasant hours browsing its shelves. The store was established by Fred Pföhl in 1979 when the original Land of Oz Theme Park was still open. Pföhl worked summers at Land of Oz while attending Appalachian State University. When he and his wife, Margie, decided to build the store, Jack Pentec, who designed the theme park, prepared the blueprints.

Visitors come to Fred's for fresh produce, stuffed animals, clothing, hardware,

volunteers. Inside is a diorama of the original Land of Oz Theme Park along with related memorabilia and the volunteer guides love to share the Oz chapter of Beech Mountain history. Also here is the definitive backstory of the park: Tim Hollis' photo-rich book, "The Land of Oz." Museum hours during Autumn in Oz are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Thursday-Sunday.

For more information about Autumn in Oz and Beech Mountain, visit Beech Mountain Visitors Center, www.beechmtm.com.

(Author and travel and lifestyle writer Kathy Witt feels you should never get to the end of your bucket list; there's just too much to see and do in the world. Contact her at KathyWitt24@gmail.com, @KathyWitt.)

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**RESCUE**, from page 5  
er dog and she provided the neighbors with no end of entertainment when Large tried to take Dani on a walk route not to her liking.

A year after Dani's passing, Popcorn was still in mourning. So when Gray Nose told the Langes about Flip, a 13-year-old black Lab/border collie mix like Dani, they opened their home once more.

"He's a good boy. Very, very affectionate," Lange

said. "And he's good with Popcorn."

Recently, a fellow senior was talking about getting her first dog. A puppy, she was thinking.

"I said, Don't take this the wrong way, I love all dogs. But puppies are overrated," Lange said.

Consider adopting a senior dog, she told her friend.

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## Tinseltown Talks

Nick Thomas

### New Beatles Book

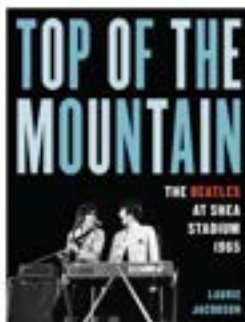
Producing a book showcasing her favorite band was a dream come true for life-long Beatles fan Laurie Jacobson. A celebrated author of five previous Hollywood books, her latest effort did require the assistance of others.

In "Top of the Mountain: The Beatles at Shea Stadium 1965," released on August 1st, Jacobson meticulously weaves first-person interviews and quotes from dozens of writers, agents, producers, photographers, fans, friends, and celebrities such as Meryl Streep and Whoopi Goldberg who have come together to convey the compelling story behind the

historic New York Beatles concert.

Jacobson didn't merely recount a day in the life of the Fab Four's milestone 30-minute show that featured a 12-song set before some 56,000 screaming fans from the twist and shout generation. She describes the long and winding road leading up to the August 15 event and, in the end, its influence on music history as the first pop concert performed in a major American sports stadium - shattering attendance records.

"I spent close to 7 years gathering information and amazing photos - hundreds never seen before," ex-



plained Jacobson from her home in Northern California (see [www.lauriejacobson.com](http://www.lauriejacobson.com)).

Laurie was just 10 when the Beatles began conquering her adolescent world.

"Like so many others, I saw them on 'Ed Sullivan' and was immediately hooked," she recalled. "Those smiles, that hair! I ran right out to buy their 45 of 'I Want to Hold Your Hand' and went bonkers with posters and magazines

- anything Beatles!"

Although unable to attend the famous Shea event because she lived in St. Louis, almost exactly one year later her parents provided a ticket to ride the wave of Beatlemania still sweeping the country when the group came to town on their final U.S. tour.

"It was threatening rain," she remembered. "So, they dispersed with the opening acts and straight away introduced the Beatles. I watched in silent wonder, teary-eyed, knowing this was my moment with them. I wanted to soak in every detail and memorize every move. I honestly don't remember a thing about the crowd, just them. Nine 3-minute songs and it was over. The rain was falling, and my parents whisked me away."

Barely a teen, Laurie let it be known to all that this girl had joined the ranks of devoted Beatles collectors while embracing their musical revolution that sparked the so-called 60s British invasion. Sure, some disapproving parents across the country were declaring it's all too much - cringing at the group's mop-top



Author Laurie Jacobson surrounded by some of her Beatles memorabilia - photo credit Jon Provost

hairstyles, their raucous music inciting its liberating social influence, and the near-hypnotic effect on their adoring teenage fans - but hers were understanding.

"They supported it 100% and often surprised me with Beatles items which I cherished and still have," said Jacobson, who maintains a collection that includes dolls, models, T-shirts, a yellow submarine, rare albums and books, posters, buttons, ticket stubs, and several decades worth of scrapbook clippings.

With the Beatles soaring days waning in '66, the previous year's sellout Shea Stadium concert remained the most memorable, not only for fans but for the band as well.

"Biggest crowd they ever played and biggest paycheck, too," noted Jacobson. "You can see on their faces when they step onto the field - the moment they became aware of their power." For her book's title, the author even paraphrased something John Lennon later remarked in 1971 about the Shea concert: "I saw the top of the mountain on that unforgettable night." For those who lived through the 60s, the Beatles provided musical diversion to help survive the ever-tightening social, cultural, and political chains crushing the country. Today, in a post-Beatles world seemingly also inundated with

See BEATLES, page 10

### Adam-12's Kent McCord still on duty

Not even a pandemic could slow down Kent McCord's desire to interact with admirers, even if only through virtual fan conventions.

"I've done several of these online over the last two years and always enjoy talking with fans," said McCord, who turns 80 in September, from his Los Angeles home.

Best known as one half of the crime-fighting police duo on "Adam-12," McCord's Hollywood career can be traced to college days in early 1961 when a fellow student invited him to participate in a friendly game of touch football. The two teams were captained by Ricky Nelson and Elvis Presley!

The informal match led to a friendship with Nelson that sparked McCord's five-decade-long film and television career including a recurring role in "The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet" and most notably co-starring alongside Martin Milner (1931-2015) in "Adam-12" (see [www.kentmccord.com](http://www.kentmccord.com)).

"I got a 5-year role playing Rick's fraternity brother in Ozzie and Harriet," noted McCord, who still recalls his only line - "Rick who?" - during a 1962 episode ("Rick, the Host"). It was his first on-screen speaking part.

The popular series was produced by patriarch Ozzie Nelson, who also wrote and directed many episodes. "Ozzie could have picked anyone for the role and I'm sure he chose me because I



Kent McCord and Martin Milner in Adam-12 - NBC publicity

was Rick's friend," he said. "But those two little words I first spoke changed my life."

Initially, that included uncredited roles in five Elvis Presley movies, followed by more substantial parts in film and television, and eventually meeting "Dragnet" creator Jack Webb who brought McCord in to play Officer Jim Reed in several episodes of the revival series "Dragnet 1967" and subsequently "Adam-12."

"The charm of 'Adam-12' was its simplicity," said McCord. "Just two cops in a black-and-white patrolling the streets of Los Angeles. The moral of the stories was simply - crime doesn't pay."

McCord recalls meeting Milner, some 10 years his senior and already a seasoned actor, in the Universal parking lot as the pair waited for a ride to shoot the pilot on location.

"Marty was yawning and told me how he couldn't sleep the night before begin-

ning a new show," recalled McCord. "I'd had a restless evening too, so hearing that from a veteran actor was very reassuring. From that moment on our relationship was cemented."

While his "Adam-12" role brought recognition from audiences around the world, he and Milner also inspired young viewers as well as police organizations that used episodes as training videos.

"To this day I get police officers telling me they became cops because of 'Adam-12,'" said McCord. "Others remember how kids approached them differently before and after the show aired. Its positive impact means a lot to Marty and me."

Nick Thomas teaches at Auburn University at Montgomery, in Alabama, and has written features, columns, and interviews for numerous magazines and newspapers. See [www.getnick.org](http://www.getnick.org).



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## FLED THE NAZIS

# At 102 she's finally ready to tell her story

Stephanie Farr  
The Philadelphia  
Inquirer (TNS)

**PHILADELPHIA** — When the doorbell rang at 2 a.m., Ise Korona already knew who was outside of her family's Vienna apartment.

Hours earlier, Korona, then 18, told her parents she would answer the door if the Nazis came back that night.

As she pulled the door open, a Nazi soldier stood before her with a gun pointed at her face.

"He said 'Let me in.' I said 'You're welcome to, but you're a little late,'" she recalled. "He saw the mess and turned around and left."

But he never left Korona's mind.

"For years I woke up at 2 o'clock in the morning and heard the bell ring," she said. "For years."

And for decades, Korona has kept her story of that night — known as Kristallnacht — and her memories of the Holocaust to herself. Not even her husband, who died in 1985, or her only child, who died in 2017, knew what she endured.

Now 102, Korona, who's

lived in Philadelphia for 76 years and in the same Rittenhouse Square apartment for 36, is starting to tell her story. Last year, she participated in a video interview for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's Oral History Archive and last month, she shared her memories with the Inquirer.

Korona's daughter-in-law, Wendy Krinsky, with whom she lives, said it was questions from Korona's grandson and the recent birth of her first great-grandchild that moved Korona to speak about her experiences.

"We want this little girl to know about her great-grandmother," Krinsky said. "And I want people to know that there's still people alive that actually did go through all of this."

Korona is among an estimated 40,000 Holocaust survivors still alive in the U.S., and one of an estimated 2,000 in Pennsylvania, according to the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (also known as the Claims Conference), which negotiates for compensation on behalf of Holocaust survivors.

Greg Schneider, executive vice president of the Claims Conference, said many Holocaust survivors who initially couldn't bear to talk about what they experienced do so later in life as they start to understand the importance of their stories.

"Think of how painful it must be for her to do this. She's pushing herself to do something she didn't talk about for decades and decades, not even with her husband," he said. "That, in and of itself, is a lesson in bravery and heroism we should all learn from."

**Kristallnacht**  
Korona grew up as the youngest of three daughters to a couple who owned a men's hat store in Vienna. Life was good until March 1938, when German troops invaded Austria and flooded the streets of their town.

"I remember when the Nazis marched in, I looked out the window and everything

was red, white, and black with the flags and everybody screaming," Korona said. "I can still see the picture. It was unbelievable. So many people were marching. It



Ise Korona shares her memories of Kristallnacht (Alejandro A. Alvarez/The Philadelphia Inquirer/TNS)

was so well organized."

Korona remembers seeing Adolf Hitler in the parade of troops that marched through Vienna.

"He was standing on his car, with the hand like this and I didn't know what to do with myself," she said. "I was hiding in a doorway. They were awful times."

On Nov. 9-10, 1938, the Nazis conducted a wave of violent anti-Jewish attacks — known as Kristallnacht, or The Night of Broken Glass — during which they destroyed Jewish homes, synagogues, and businesses and took tens of thousands of Jewish men to concentration camps.

Korona remembers walking downstairs from her family's apartment on Nov. 10, 1938, and being confronted by a group of Nazis.

"They asked the concierge 'Who is she? Is she Jewish?' She said 'Yes,' and they said 'OK, let's start with her,'" Korona recalled.

Inside her family's apartment, the Nazis forced everyone to kneel before them as they destroyed their home and took all of their belongings.

"They cleaned out everything they could, everything, and they broke all the mirrors because they thought they would find money in the back of the mirrors," she said. "You cannot imagine what they did. It was awful."

When they left, Korona's mother wanted to clean up, but Korona cautioned against it.

"I said 'No mama, we can't do that because they might come again,'" she said.

And at 2 a.m., that soldier who put the gun in Korona's face did come, but left when he saw there was nothing more to take.

For six months after Kristallnacht, Korona remained in Vienna with her parents, oldest sister, and brother-in-law (her middle sister had fled to England months before).

"I could not walk in the street because if you didn't wear the swastika pin they knew you were Jewish," Korona said.

Once, when she did go out, she was forced to wash dishes for the Hitler Youth of the Nazi Party.

"Another time I had to scrub the pavement in the street and the people were standing around and calling us names, saying 'C'mon you dirty Jew! Work faster!'" she recalled. "It was awful."

But through it all, Korona tried to learn what she could, from crocheting to cooking, to make sure she was prepared to work wherever she ended up — if she could ever get out.

Korona's English tutor even helped her write letters to strangers she found in U.S. phone books who shared Korona's last name, in the hopes one of them might help get her escape.

Two people responded, but Korona couldn't get to the consulate and so, she remained in Vienna. "Nobody survived"

One day, a friend told Korona about two Quaker women in England who were helping Jewish teenagers flee Austria. Korona wrote them and they sent her a special permit to travel to England.

In April 1939, Korona, then just 19, left with only the clothes on her back and her permit from the Quakers. "I went to line up at the Gestapo for a day and a night. The Nazis stood there and one had the whip in his hand, shouting 'Next! Next!'" Korona said. "He gave me a piece of paper and that was my passport."

One of the Quaker women told Korona she'd wear a red scarf to pick her up so she'd recognize her.

"At the station a lady approached me with a red scarf and she had a dictionary under one arm and a bar of chocolate in the other hand," Korona said. "They were just wonderful."

She stayed with the women for about a week, until her sister, Margit, who was already in England, came to get her. For three years, Ko-

rona worked as a maid at the estate of Sir John Windlaw-Milne, a member of British Parliament, before taking a job at a factory outside of London, where she made U-boat transmitters.

Korona's eldest sister and brother-in-law eventually fled Austria to Italy, then to Philadelphia, where he had relatives. In 1946, they brought Korona, then 26, and her middle sister here too.

Once all three sisters were in the U.S., they hired a lawyer to find out what happened to their parents, who couldn't leave Austria.

"We knew that they did not survive," Korona said. "Nobody survived, Nobody."

The lawyer determined they were taken to a concentration camp in Poland, where they murdered on April 19, 1942. Korona knew the name of the camp once, but long ago blocked it out.

**A pact**  
In Philadelphia, Korona lived in Strawberry Mansion and worked as a hat maker before joining her sister and brother-in-law's custom jewelry business.

In November 1949, Korona met her husband, Leo, a Holocaust survivor from Poland, at a shiva (she's pretty sure it was a set-up by friends). Two months later, they wed and made a pact not to talk about what they saw during the Holocaust.

"When we got married we promised not to live in the past but to live in the present," Korona said.

She would later learn from one of her husband's friends that Leo, who was a furrier by trade, was in several concentration camps and only survived because he was able to line the Nazis' uniforms with fur so they didn't get cold. He'd also been married with two children, Korona said.

"His son, who was maybe 4-years-old, he was shot in front of my husband, and the little girl was with the mother and went to the you-know-where," Korona said, referring to the gas chambers.

Despite never talking to each other about their experiences, Leo Korona did share his story with the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum's Oral History in 1981, four years before his death.

Leo and Ise Korona had one child of their own, Gary, and both men joined the family jewelry business, which eventually became known as Korona Creations

See NAZIS, page 9

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**CENTRAL OHIO SENIOR CITIZENS HALL OF FAME**  
*Devoting a life's work to service*

by Steven Centofanti

A lifelong resident of Jasper Township, Glenn Rankin has devotedly served his local community through several efforts. Glenn is passionate toward cultivating and guiding the next generation of leaders in the Boy Scouts. His commitment to honoring veterans is evident with his volunteerism in the Fayette County Honor Guard. Along with these passions, he also volunteers his time to various organizations and causes that further strengthen his Fayette County community.

Rankin was honored for these accomplishments at the 46th Central Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame, an annual recognition ceremony that acknowledges exceptional older adults who give back to their communities. The Hall of Fame, which is hosted by Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging, takes place in May during Older Americans Month, a national awareness campaign

that celebrates the positive impact older adults make on society.

The Scouts are an integral part of Rankin's life. He was introduced to scouting as a child and it made a profound impact on him, ultimately leading him to become a Scout Master for Troop 67 in Jeffersonville. He was instrumental in helping 50 boys make Eagle Scout, the highest achievable rank in the organization. Rankin served as a spokesman for all levels in the Scouts and helped with the Pinewood Derby Race. He earned his Eagle Scout in 1962 and was also awarded the District Award of Merit in 2005, the highest award given to an adult scout.

Developing future leaders is important to Rankin, but so is honoring the leadership that veterans displayed in serving and protecting the country. Rankin is a member of the Fayette County



**Glenn Rankin**

Veterans Honor Guard, a group that ensures every veteran receives an honorable burial. He drives the van that transports members and their rifles to various cemeteries. He also participates in fir-

ing his rifle for the 21-gun salute.

Rankin was instrumental in raising funds and ensuring that names were added to the Jeffersonville Veterans Memorial. In addition to Rankin's service in the Honor Guard and his involvement with the memorial, he teaches the proper way to dispose of an American flag. Rankin had a decorated 30-year career in the Ohio Air National Guard. He served during Vietnam and Operation Desert Storm.

Rankin's additional service commitments include the Fayette County Tired Iron Antique Machinery Club, past president; the Fayette County Genealogical Society, past president; the Fayette County Historical Society, current

president; the Jeffersonville Lions Club, current president; VFW 3762, judge advocate; American Legion Post 25, commander; Buckeye Boys State, cochairman; Jeffersonville Alumni Association, past president and currently the secretary; and the Jeffersonville Veterans Memorial, committee member.

Rankin was the owner and operator of several local businesses, including owning a filling station. He has participated in Jeffersonville parades for 40 years. He is now serving his fourth term as a Jasper Township Trustee. Glenn is a husband, father, and brother.

Rankin was one of eleven inductees honored at the 2022 Hall of Fame recognition ceremony, which was

held at The Gallery at Champions venue (Champions Golf Course) in Columbus on May 25, 2022. Colleen Marshall of NBC4 emceed the event. MedGold sponsored the program, LifeCare Alliance sponsored the beverages, and Simply EZ sponsored the inductee floral gifts.

COAAA, a regional organization that informs and supports people as they navigate the experience of aging or disability. COAAA serves eight central Ohio counties: Delaware, Fairfield, Fayette, Franklin, Licking, Madison, Pickaway, and Union.

Steven Centofanti is Communications Manager for the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging.

**NAZIS**, from page 8

and grew into a wholesale operation on Chestnut Street.

Korona worked until she was 81, and then volunteered at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, crocheting hats and blankets for babies and cancer patients. She was also a talented oil painter and a voracious reader. Recent cataract surgery has kept her away from her books, but she hopes to get back to reading soon.

Despite divorcing from Korona's son in 2008, Krimsky remained close with her mother-in-law, and in 2013, she moved in to help take care of her.

"Without Wendi I wouldn't sit here. She is just wonderful," Korona said. "She will

get a halo from me."

Krimsky also receives help from BAYADA, a non-for-profit home health care provider. Korona's primary BAYADA aide, Angela Barnhill, of Southwest Philly, said she loves spending time with her.

"She is very tiny but she's a force to be reckoned with," Barnhill said. "You can just feel that spirit."

And it's that spirit Korona is channeling now to tell the stories she's kept for so long, for one important reason.

"So that it shouldn't happen again," she said. "It should never, never happen again."

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**FRAUD**, from page 1

munity members to prevent, recognize, and report health care fraud, errors, and abuse. These SMP team members then participate in outreach events to help educate Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries on the same prevention, recognition, and reporting techniques.

In 2020, the nationwide SMP projects had a total of 5,720 total active team members who conducted 9,870 group outreach and education events, reaching an estimated 425,103 people. In addition, the projects had 249,134 individual interactions with, or on behalf of, a Medicare beneficiary. Additionally, the SMP proj-

ects reported \$16.8 million in expected Medicare recoveries. Cost avoidance totaled \$53,768, while savings to beneficiaries and others totaled \$33,554.

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Miriam Segaloff is a local freelance writer and frequent contributor to Senior Times.

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101-YEAR OLD RECALLS

Early family planning efforts before Roe v. Wade

Rylee Wilson  
The Dallas Morning  
News (TNS)

DENTON, Texas — Mildred Kitchens has been witness to a century of Texas history, and the 101-year-old has a lot of stories to tell — including about her time providing family planning services before the landmark Roe vs. Wade case was decided in 1973.

Her work in reproductive health that dates back more than a half-century is particularly timely in wake of last week's U.S. Supreme Court decision overturning

Roe. Kitchens, a few weeks shy of her 102nd birthday, was a medical case worker around 1971, for a public health family planning service visiting clinics in dozens of towns, from Texarkana to Livingston.

The Denton centenarian said the Supreme Court's ruling to overturn Roe, the 1973 case that originated in Dallas County that enshrined the constitutional right to an abortion, brought up a lot of feelings for her.

Though Kitchens helped hundreds of women access contraceptives, said she

believes the widespread availability of birth control means abortions aren't necessary.

"There are so many ways not to be pregnant, if you don't want to have a baby," Kitchens said.

In her career as a social worker, she said she only recommended abortions for two of her clients.

"I think having an abortion affects a woman, probably internally, a lot, when she sees other people with beautiful children at a later age, and wonders what would have happened if she had not had that abortion,"

Kitchens said.

A 2020 study that followed women for years after they had had an abortion found after 5 years, 95% of those surveyed said they did not regret having the procedure.

The first birth control pill, Enovid, was approved by the Food and Drug Administration in 1960. By 1964, the pill was the most popular form of reversible contraception in the U.S., which it remains to this day.

There are many forms of birth control available, with some forms of long-acting contraceptives like IUDs



Mildred Kitchens, 101, poses. Kitchens worked at the Department of Public Welfare until she retired at 80-years-old.

reaching efficacy rates of 99% — but no form of birth control is completely fool-proof.

Kitchens said the family planning service did "everything but abortions," offering tubal ligations and intrauterine devices — but Kitchens said most women wanted birth control pills, and many did not want their husbands or partners to know about it.

At the time, teenagers, if they were unmarried, needed parental permission to get contraceptives. Kitchens helped some skirt the process.

"My name was well known as a social worker," she said.

Current law still requires anyone under 18 to have permission from parents, a guardian or a judge to get an abortion.

Kitchens, born in Diboll, Texas, in 1920, had a long career as a social worker in Texas.

Kitchens said as a teenager in Diboll, abortion was not ever talked about.

"If a girl dropped out of school, she went to stay with her grandmother for nine months," Kitchens said. "We didn't talk about abortions. She had the baby some way. That's how I grew up."

Kitchens said she grew up poor — and was determined to get an education.

After graduating from what is now Texas Woman's University at 19, she worked for the Weeks Progress Administration, interviewing

workers about their health, she described in a 2020 oral history with the History Center in Diboll.

She worked for the Red Cross during World War 2, while her husband was in the Navy, and taught high school for a time in Tyler.

When she left teaching, she found her way to the family planning service. A 1971 article in the Tyler Morning Telegraph described the program as part of the Public Health Region 7 program run out of East Texas Chest Hospital in Tyler. According to the report, it was the first program of its kind in Texas.

Shirley Sidwell, the director of the program, told the paper that the service provided family planning, education, and follow-up care for women in the region.

"We never had a clinic that wasn't packed with women," Kitchens said.

She said the program was short lived, and she later carried on her career as a social worker for the State Welfare Service. She retired from social work at age 80.

"We were a very close team. We rode together everywhere, and we worked together at the health department in Tyler," she said. "It was a real good program. The government was trying to help us, but like everything, anything good that can make money for somebody, is quickly taken over."

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BEATLES, from page 7 disturbing national and global issues, Baby Boomers can still, if only briefly, get back that uplifting spirit their music provoked.

"It was so much more than their music for us — they changed the way we looked, the way we thought, and for many, the paths we chose," explained Jacobson. "Our memories are full of love and emotion, and we have passed that on to our

children and their children. I'd like readers to experience the pure joy at the peak of Beatlemania when optimism ruled and anything was possible."

Nick Thomas teaches at Auburn University at Montgomery, in Alabama, and has written features, columns, and interviews here, there, and everywhere for numerous magazines and newspapers. See www.genick.org.

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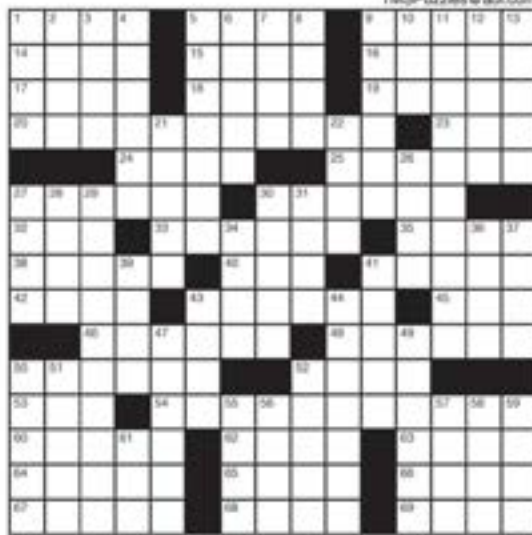
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