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10 Helpful Tips Before Your Family Goes On Vacation

1. Confirm your vacation reservation, including hotel or campsite, air, car, dining and activity reservations. A few phone calls before you leave can save you from vacation stress later on.
2. Remember to cancel your home newspaper delivery, as most newspaper companies usually require you to cancel several business days in advance, and have the post office hold your mail or a trusted neighbor pick it up each day,
3. Organize the credit cards that you are planning to bring with you and order travelers checks from your bank. Make a list of emergency numbers to call if your credit cards or travelers checks get lost or stolen.
4. If you are planning to visit outside of the United States, order a small amount of your destination country's currency from your bank to take with you.
5. Pack as light as possible or consider shipping large bags, golf or special sports equipment to your destination. There are services that will pick up your bags at your house and deliver them to your destination by the required date.
6. Before you leave, check the weather forecast at your destination for last minute wardrobe adjustments.
7. If you are flying, call the airline and confirm that your flight is still scheduled and departing on time.
8. Pack your camera and video equipment at least 24 hours before leaving your house. This way you can make sure that all the necessary batteries have been charged or replaced.
9. If you are flying, pack a small carry-on bag of essentials you can't be without in case your bags get delayed. Check with your airline/airport as to carry-on restrictions before packing.
10. If you are driving, make certain that you have a map of your destination or road atlas handy. You can also look up driving directions online before you go and find out approximate driving times.

Spend time preparing before you throw your bags in the car to reduce the stress associated with situations that might easily be resolved if addressed at home. It is sure to payoff in a more relaxing and enjoyable respite for everyone in the family.

Happy Birthday

June



6/01 ~ Mark K,
 6/04 ~ Milt J,
 6/07 ~ Mathew S,
 6/08 ~ Denise W,
 6/12 ~ Darrel B,
 6/14 ~ Kelli D,
 6/24 ~ Mark O,
 6/27 ~ Jeremy R,

6/16 ~ Peter L,
 6/25 ~ John D,
 6/29 ~ Danny S.

July

7/05 ~ Gerald B,
 7/06 ~ Amy D,
 7/09 ~ Dean O,
 7/15 ~ Jane K,
 7/18 ~ Gene R,
 7/21 ~ Jack B,
 7/25 ~ Dave S.



August

8/02 ~ Jeffrey H, 8/06 ~ Brian C,
 8/08 ~ Buck H, 8/08 ~ Dennis L,
 8/10 ~ Jonathan L, 8/13 ~ Gary S,
 8/16 ~ Chad D, 8/18 ~ Steve S,
 8/18 ~ Leon Z, 8/30 ~ Steve M,
 8/31 ~ Logan G.

I'd rather be a poor winner
 Than any kind of loser.
 -- George Kaufman

HOME



*I read within a poet's book
 A word that starred the page;
 "Stone walls do not a prison make,
 Nor iron bars a cage!"
 Yes, that is true, and something more:
 You'll find, where'er you roam,
 That marble floors and gilded walls
 Can never make a home.
 But every house where love abides,
 And Friendship is a guest,
 Is surely home, and home-sweet-home:
 For there the heart can rest.*

--Henry Van Dyke

Happy Father's Day!



"I think I'll go for a little walk,"
 said a husband to his wife one
 night after dinner. "How long
 will you be gone?" the wife asked.
 The husband dutifully
 responded, "The whole time."

News from the Yards

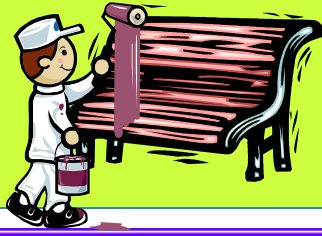
Monticello's Dan Hemminger took a vacation to Missouri and camped in the Ford campground.

Ralph reports that Rick Haus has a new driver in his household. Rick's son has passed his driver's test but with the price of gas so high, he can't afford to drive!

Ronnie Wilkins (9th grader and son of Denise from the Brainerd Yard) received his second Presidential Academic Achievement Award. These are signed by President Bush and awarded to students with a 3.5 GPA or higher for the entire year. Needless to say, Mom is very proud of her son.

Diane Latterell and family traveled to her son, Luke's, graduation on May 17th from Notre Dame University. This is the first of Diane's five children to finish college. "One down," she says, "and four more to go!"

Hutchinson's Melissa Murphy became the wife of Matthew Kohls on April 12th. They had been sweethearts for the last 8 years. She reports that the wedding went great but flew by too quickly. When they returned home, they were surprised to find that some mischievous friends had TP'ed their trees and pulled all kinds of pranks inside their house. We send Missy & Matt our "Best Wishes" for a blissfully happy life together.



Why do we take someone's word for it when we are told that there are over 10 million stars in the Universe, but have to touch it when we see something with a sign that says, "Wet Paint" ?

And More News...

Mark Buchite's son, Cameron graduated from the St Cloud Technical College on May 16th with a degree in Architectural Drafting and has secured a position with a Crosslake Architectural firm. Congratulations Cameron!

Monticello's Justin has discovered that when out biking, one needs to watch out for trees that suddenly jump into your path and collide with you. –Or-- when biking lay off the hard cider???

Two members of the Design Team, Jane & Jason, along with Monticello's Mark & Justin ran in The Old Glory Run (5K) on Saturday May 17th. Ann and Joe Harren from Westwind sponsored 50 runners in the race and asked our 4 to join them.

Traveling this summer?

You might want to make note of these Weird Laws.

- It is illegal for a driver to be blindfolded while operating a vehicle. It is also illegal to wear a fake mustache that causes laughter in church. (Alabama)
- It is a misdemeanor to shoot at any kind of game from a moving vehicle, unless the target is a whale. (California)
- If an elephant is left tied to a parking meter, the parking fee has to be paid just as it would for a vehicle. Men may not be seen publicly in any kind of strapless gown. It is illegal to skateboard without a license. Women may be fined for falling asleep under a hair dryer. (Florida)
- Shooting rabbits from a motorboat is strictly prohibited. (Kansas)
- It is illegal to lie down and fall asleep with your shoes on. (North Dakota)
- It is illegal to fish for whales on Sunday. (Ohio) (Do they actually have a lot of whale fishing there?)
- It is illegal to drive without windshield wipers. You can drive without a windshield, just make certain you have windshield wipers. It is illegal to shoot a buffalo from the 2nd story of a hotel. A recently passed anticrime law requires criminals to give their victims 24 hours notice, either orally or in writing, and to explain the nature of the crime to be committed. It is also illegal to milk another person's cow. (Texas)
- Butter substitutes can not be served in state prisons. (Wisconsin)

Why do we keep pushing harder on the buttons of our remote controls when we know that the batteries are dead?



Say, "What?"

Most school teachers agree that kids come up with some very imaginative and humorous responses. Here are some examples:

- The spinal column is a long bunch of bones. The head is on the top and you sit on the bottom.
- One of the main causes of dust is janitors.
- A scout obeys all to whom obedience is due and respects all duly constipated authorities.
- The four seasons are salt, pepper, mustard and ketchup.
- The climate is hottest next to the Creator.
- The word trousers is an uncommon noun because it is singular at the top and plural at the bottom.
- The future tense of "I give" is "I take."
- Most of the houses in France are made of plaster of Paris.
- We do not raise silk worms in the United States because we get our silk from rayon. He is a larger worm and gives more silk.
- Syntax is all the money collected at the church from sinners.
- In spring, the salmon swim upstream to spoon.
- The pistol of a flower is its only protection against insects.
- Water is composed of 2 gins. Oxygin and Hydrogin. Oxygin is pure gin and Hydrogin is gin and water.
- To keep milk from turning sour. Keep it in the cow.



We wish everyone a safe and enjoyable 4th of July, Independence Day! Remember the sacrifices our leaders and soldiers have made and continue to make so we can live in the "Land of the Free."

Keeping Your Kids Safe Near Water

Children are at risk whenever they are near water. According to the National Safe Kids Campaign, drowning is the second leading cause of unintentional injury-related death to children ages 14 and under. In the summer months, the number of water-related injuries rises because kids spend more time near pools and beaches. Parents should make sure that kids are under constant supervision when near water, pool or lake. Here are some important water safety tips.

1. Always watch your children when they are near water – pools, hot tubs, lakes, streams or just on the beach. Even if your kids can swim, they could develop a cramp, lose their footing, or encounter a drop-off, a strong current or wave/wake.
2. Make your kids wear personal floatation devices if appropriate but remember PFD's should never take the place of parental supervision.
3. Teach your kids to swim as soon as they are ready (usually after the age of 4). Also have them take a water safety course.
4. Take a CPR course and learn the basic emergency procedures. Even if you never have to use it, it is worth the effort.
5. If there is lightning, even far off, get off the beach immediately and seek shelter.
6. Do not swim after a large meal.
7. Before swimming at a new beach or pool, check the rules and ask a lifeguard or someone from the area who is familiar with the site if there is anything in particular you and your family should be aware of.