



## Summer Rain



As I write this article in mid-July, the National Centers for Environmental Information released their numbers for June, which showed that Illinois had its wettest June on record, with 9.3 inches of rain. According to the NCDC, that made Illinois the wettest state in the U. S. for the month of June, 2015. In comparison, California only received .23 inches, 40 times less than Illinois.

When I mow the yard, it's like riding on a huge, wet sponge, and I simply try to mow what grass I can and avoid the small ponds and kids fishing in my yard. It seems that I am mowing about every other day, or whenever it's not raining, just to keep up.

When my dog, Shakespeare, wants to go outside, he looks at me with huge brown eyes that say, "Water falling on me again?" He prefers I accompany him with an umbrella.

But as wet as we are, the highest one calendar month total was in Cherrapunji, India, which received 366 inches in one month.

Although people generally politely talk about the weather, now the topic of discussion is rain, and when it will rain next.

But people are careful not to complain too much about the rain, because we all know and remember times when rains were few and far between.

The rain has brought huge puddles for children to wade in, greened and grown the crops, the trees and the flowers, and will no doubt bring pesky bugs and mosquitos.



The old nursery rhyme of "Rain, Rain Go Away, Come Again Another Day" is tempting, but author John Updike put it plain when he said "Rain is grace; rain is the sky descending to the earth; without rain, there would be no life."

So, unlike Gene Kelly, I am not "Singin' in the Rain" but I am accepting the rain for what it is. Like Henry Wadsworth Longfellow said, "The best thing one can do when it is raining is to let it rain."

M. Steelman© 2015

## Friends in Motion

Some anniversaries recently celebrated include: **K. Delbert** and **Ruth Curtis** (59 years), of Avon, **Daryl and Eloise Reid** (53 years), of Marion, IL, **Bob** and **Kay Wheeler** (58 years), of



Ma-  
comb,  
**Allen**  
and  
**Clarice**  
**Blout**  
(60

years), of Ellisville, **Harris** and **Patricia Lafary** (66 years), **George** and **Carolyn "Deedee" Pensinger** (59 years), **Dale and Tiny Walters**, (65 years), all of Bushnell. Happy anniversary to all!

Recent birthday celebrations include: **Ruth Curtis** (78), of Avon, **Eloise Reid**, of Marion, IL, **Sharold Brown** (73), **Isabelle Ferris** (85), **Jim Haynes** (83), **Jada**

**King** (83),  
**Tom Nor-**  
**ris** (86),  
**Annaree**  
**Ogle**(83),

**Beth Vancil** (79), **Linda McGrew**, and **Betty Wilson**, all of Bushnell. Happy birthday to all!



## Sun, Sand, and Cyber Security

*Continued from Page 4*

### Easy Tips to Protect Yourself

Use discretion when posting personal information on social media. This information is a treasure-trove to social engineers. Do not post information about travel plans or details; save the pictures and updates until after you return home.

Set email away messages to only respond to known contacts in your address book.

Disable geo-locational features, such as automatic status updates and friend finder functionalities.

Remind friends and family members to exercise the same caution.

### Easy Tips to Protect Your Devices

Keep your electronic devices with you at all times.

Before traveling abroad, change all passwords that you will use while traveling, and upon return change the passwords of any accounts that were accessed while abroad. This includes passwords used by social media websites and email providers, for which you have automatic logins.

### UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

**Aug. 1 & Sept. 5** - VFW  
breakfast, 7 to 10 am

**Sept. 4** - Free blood pressure,  
pulse/oxygen, cholesterol and  
blood sugar checks at F&M  
Main Bank Lobby, 9 to 10 am

# Sensational Summer Salads

## BLT PASTA SALAD

**Krystal Lillie**

- 12 oz. pkg. corkscrew shaped pasta
- 1/2 cup milk
- 12 oz. lean bacon
- 3 medium ripe tomatoes, cut into chunks
- 1/2 cup mayo
- 1/4 cup sour cream
- 4 Tbsp. chopped chives
- 5 heads lettuce - quartered

Cook the pasta in a large pot of salted, boiling water as label direct.

Drain and toss with the milk in a large bowl; set aside.

Meanwhile, cook the bacon in a large skillet over medium-high heat until crisp. Drain on paper towels. Discard all but 3 tablespoons of bacon drippings from the pan. Add the tomatoes. Crumble the bacon into bite-sized pieces; set aside 1/4 cup for garnish. Toss the remaining bacon and the tomato mixture with the pasta. Mix the mayonnaise, sour cream with the pasta until evenly combined. Season with salt and pepper. Add the lettuce; toss again to coat. Garnish with the reserved bacon. Serve at room temperature.



## RED SKINNED POTATO SALAD

**Kathy Danner**

- 2 lbs. clean, scrubbed, new red potatoes
- 6 eggs
- 1 lb. bacon
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 1 stalk celery, finely chopped

2 cups mayonnaise

Salt and pepper to taste

Boil potatoes in a large pot of salted water until tender but still firm, about 15 minutes. Drain and refrigerate to cool. Place eggs in saucepan and cover with cold water. Bring water to a boil and remove from heat. Cover and let eggs stand in hot water for 10 to 12 minutes. Remove from hot water, cool, peel and chop. Place bacon in a large deep skillet, and cook over medium heat until crisp. Drain, crumble and set aside. Chop the cooled potatoes, leaving skins on. Add to a large bowl along with the eggs, bacon, onion and celery. Add mayonnaise, salt and pepper to taste. Chill for an hour before serving.

## GARDEN PASTA SALAD

**Shirley Rapp**

- 1 1/2 cups uncooked rotini pasta
- 1 cup fresh broccoli or cauliflower florets
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1 medium carrot, sliced thinly
- 1/2 cup chopped, peeled cucumber
- 1/2 cup frozen peas, thawed
- 1/2 cup sliced radishes
- 4 oz. cubed or shredded cheese-your choice
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 2 Tbsp. prepared mustard
- 2 to 3 tsp. sugar
- 4 1/2 tsp. fresh dill or 1 1/2 tsp. dill weed

Cook rotini according to el dente directions. Drain and rinse in cold water. In a large bowl, combine the pasta, all vegetables and cheese.

In a small bowl, combine the mayonnaise, mustard, sugar and dill. Pour over pasta mixture; toss to coat. Cover and refrigerate at least 2 hours before serving.



# Sun, Sand, and Cyber Security

Every summer, vacationers put their house lights on timers and their mail on hold when they travel away from home. It's just as important when taking a vacation to take similar precautions with good cyber habits. Many cyber criminals specifically target travelers...

Criminals often set online lures to sell fake vacations or tickets. These may be just simple advertisements or sophisticated scams using realistic websites, complete with phone operators that will "assist" you.

## Home Alone

Social media posts with pictures of tourist attractions may update your friends and family, but they also tell criminals that you're on vacation and your house is empty. Other older posts may contain personal details or pictures of your home, telling thieves what items of value are in the house or how to circumvent security systems.

## Stolen "Keys"

Sensitive data, such as login names and passwords, are especially valuable to criminals. One way criminals obtain such data is by installing a "keylogger" on hotel public computers. The keylogger records every keystroke typed on the computer and then transmits that information to the criminal.

## Missed Connection

Some cyber criminals specialize in "sniffing" the Wi-Fi and public networks in airports and coffee shops, allowing the criminal to collect and read all information sent over a wireless network.

Other criminals use a practice called "juice jacking", where the criminal rigs a public charging kiosk to siphon information directly from your device when you plug into it.

## Who's the Boss?

The cyber security threat doesn't end with you; Social engineers often use information about a boss' vacation to gain physical access or commit financial fraud. The social engineer



knows that they can reference the boss and the boss will not be reachable to verify whether he/she really did order the "repairman" or gave instructions for a fraudulent wire transfer.

## When in Rome...

Different countries have different laws, which may allow government employees or law enforcement full access to your device without your knowledge or permission. Some countries are known to collect all data residing in that country, while others collect data from devices left in hotel rooms. This may be very important in countries that do not have the same freedom of speech as the United States. Some of these countries are known to have jailed tourists who posted negative comments online about the government or who posted criminal activities online, such as the use of alcohol or drugs.

Luckily, with a little care it's possible to avoid these problems. Follow these simple tips to ensure that the only memories from your vacation are good ones: See tips to protect yourself on Page 2. *Continued on Page 2*