

RAPIDES NEWS

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In My Opinion

BY BETTYE DEKEYZER

JUST STOP THE MUSIC AND GO HOME!

I am as liberal-minded as anyone, but my patience is growing pretty thin. Why you ask? It's noise. What ever happened to quiet restaurants? Or a quiet department store? Even elevators are thumping with canned music. I don't care what anyone prefers to listen to – as long as I am not forced to hear it.

When you are put on hold on the telephone there is that miserable canned music. Regardless of how unpleasant it is you have to listen to it if you want to reach the person you called.

You see, I was raised in a house where quiet resigned supreme. We laughed, talked all the time together but most of the time our big house was quiet. Conversation was quiet, radios were played for our enjoyment and not the entire neighborhood. Our car radios were tuned to stations the passengers enjoyed not blaring loud enough for other cars. It is difficult to understand how people can bear to be in cars with radios turned so high the vehicle booms and shakes houses as it travels down the street.

What I really can't stand is the general din that ruins dining out. The noise generated by bubbling fish tanks, slamming doors, people at tables shouting at each other, televisions blaring, unmannerly children running around tables and the miserable canned music.

When did music take over in restaurants? I remember going out to dinner or lunch and there was a quiet elegance everywhere. People talked and laughed quietly. Waiters took your order quietly and didn't feel compelled to tell you their name or entire personal history.

I have noticed in restaurants noise comes from several sources. Waiters are distracted and frantic. Patrons talk and eat faster. It seems noise exaggerates everything. Think about it. Watch on television what happens when a large crowd gathers? One person begins to yell. The crowd starts to throw their arms up and down. Everyone screams.

I tell you something has to be done about noise before people start to run amuck. Turn radios down. Get rid of the canned music. Lower your voice. We have to save the world.

It can happen if we all for heaven's sake –
BE QUIET!

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Front Cover Image: Entering the Dog Days of Summer, and our flower gardens are still attempting to flower with the late summer blossoms!

Rapides Celebrates



Council Of Service

The Council was awarded a Charter to administer services and programs to elderly citizens in Rapides parish on August 1, 1967. The achievements of the Councils include the following:

Pinegrove, the Council's 78-unit apartment complex in Pineville was officially opened in November, 1999. The \$5.5 million facility is operating at full capacity

Oakwood Apartment Complex in Cheneyville opened in January, 2001 and is fully occupied and maintains a waiting list of prospective tenants.

Rapides News Magazine, an online monthly magazine was created to enhance the capability of the Council to reach a larger section of the community with news and important information. It is the only on-line Council Magazine in the State of Louisiana. The magazine has been an outstanding success and recognized for attractive design, colorful covers

and health news for elderly clients.

The Council website has earned praise for its superior format and professional design. It has an archival program that is accessible to seniors and others who like to research articles written many years ago.

Rapides Council Facebook Page has photographs, current information and news about events and programs.

Louisiana Volunteer Program
The Volunteer Program continues to be a valuable asset to central Louisiana with volunteers serving in 21 hospitals and agencies.

The Council has administered the Department of Agriculture **Farmer's Market Nutrition Program for Seniors** in Rapides parish for 27 years. Seniors are given coupons they use at state approved markets and roadside stands for fresh fruit and vegetables.



Dear Bettye: Why should I have to wear a tie when I wear an ascot to many better places?

You should wear a tie if it is the policy of the restaurant. Ascots are great on certain formal occasions. It takes real courage to wear an ascot to a restaurant these days.

Dear Bettye: What can I do about having to buy things friends grandchildren are selling? They are not anything I want and are expensive.

Just say you are on a diet and can't eat the product or you do not use the product they are selling. Never be forced to buy anything.

Dear Bettye: Tell me once and for all when do you put a napkin in your lap? My friend said to wait until the waiter serves the order. I say as soon as you sit down.

You are right. The waiter might place a napkin in a person's lap when she did not and should have.

Dear Bettye: A neighbor as a dent in her car and does not know what

happened. I do because I saw the man hit her car. Should I say anything to her?

I would ask the man who hit her car, "Did you damage your car too when you hit Mrs. Smith's car the other day?"

Dear Bettye: Do you ever crumble crackers in soup in public? We have a bet on your answer. I say never do it

I never crumble crackers in anything anywhere and not because my mother said it was ill-mannered. Mainly because I do not like soggy crackers.

Dear Bettye: I am so humiliated. I made a sarcastic remark about a politician who was a related to someone at the meeting. She laughed but I felt horrible.

There is nothing to be said that would change anything. If she joined in the laughter she may share your opinion.

Dear Bettye: Is it rude to ask guests to remove their shoes and leave them at the door? I don't want my beautiful floors to be ruined.

I don't know what kind of shoes your guests wear, but unless they wear hobnailed boots, but normal shoes will not mar your floor.

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Send your comments and questions to:
bdekrcoa@AOL.com

Top Scams Targeting Older Americans in 2021

Here's how to recognize and protect yourself from these costly cons.

by Sari Harrar, AARP, April 1, 2021

ZOOM PHISHING EMAILS

Con artists registered more than 2,449 fake Zoom-related internet domains in the early months of the pandemic, just so they could send out emails that look like they're from the popular video conferencing website, according to the Better Business Bureau.

The scheme: "You receive an email, text or social media message with the Zoom logo, telling you to click on a link because your account is suspended or you missed a meeting," says Katherine Hutt, national spokesperson for the BBB. "Clicking can allow criminals to download malicious software onto your computer, access your personal information to use for [identity theft](#), or search for passwords to hack into your other accounts."

How to avoid: Never click on links in unsolicited emails, texts or social media messages, Hutt says. If you think there is a problem with your account, visit Zoom's real website at [Zoom.us](https://zoom.us) and follow the steps for customer support.

COVID-19 VACCINATION CARD SCAMS

Many who got a COVID vaccine posted selfies on [social media showing off their vaccination card](#). Scammers immediately pounced.

The scheme: "With your full name, birth date and information about where you received your shot, scammers have valuable data for identity theft, breaking into your bank accounts, getting credit cards in your name and more," Hutt says.

How to avoid: If you want to inform friends and family that you got your shots, a selfie with a generic vaccine sticker will suffice. "Or use a Got My Vaccine profile picture frame on social media," Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody suggests. And review your social media security settings to choose who can see your posts.

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State Library of Louisiana (<http://www.state.lib.la.us>)



The actual inventor of the Bowie knife was probably not Jim Bowie, but rather his equally belligerent brother, Rezin Bowie, who reportedly came up with the design after nearly being killed in a vicious knife fight.

The Bowie brothers engaged in more fights than the typical frontiersman of the day, but such violent duels were not uncommon events on the untamed margins of American civilization. In the early nineteenth century, most frontiersmen preferred knives to guns for fighting, and the Bowie knife quickly became one of the favorites. Rezin Bowie had invented such a nasty looking weapon that the mere sight of it probably discouraged many would-be robbers and attackers. Designs varied somewhat, but the typical Bowie knife sported a 9- to 15- inch blade sharpened only on one side for much of its length, though the curved tip was sharpened to a point on both sides. The double-edged tip made the knife an effective stabbing weapon, while the dull

-edge combined with a brass hand guard allowed the user to slide a hand down



over the blade as needed. The perfect knife for close-quarter fighting, the Bowie knife became the weapon of choice for many westerners before the reliable rapid-fire revolver took its place in the post-Civil War period.

Source: www.history.com

HISTORICAL PLACES: JIM BOWIE HOUSE OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA



James Bowie (c. 1796 – March 6, 1836) was a 19th-century American pioneer, and soldier who played a prominent role in the Texas Revolution. He was among the Americans who died at the Battle of the Alamo. Stories of him as a fighter and frontiersman, both real and fictitious, have made him a legendary figure in Texas history and a folk hero of American culture.

Bowie was born in Kentucky but he spent most of his life in Louisiana, where he was raised and where he later worked as a land speculator. His rise to fame began in 1827 on reports of the Sandbar Fight in Vidalia, Concordia Parish. What began as a duel between two other men deteriorated into a mêlée in which Bowie, having been shot and stabbed, either killed a banker or killed the sheriff of Rapides Parish (perhaps both!) with a large knife. This, and other stories of Bowie's prowess with a knife, led to the widespread popularity of the Bowie knife.

Bowie enlarged his reputation during the Texas Revolution. After moving to Texas in 1830, Bowie became a Mexican citizen and married Ursula Veramendi, the daughter of Juan Martín de Veramendi, the Mexican vice-governor of the province. Bowie led an expedition to find the lost San Saba mine, during which his small party repelled an attack by a large Native American raiding party. This enhanced his reputation although they didn't find the mine.

At the outbreak of the Texas Revolution, Bowie joined the Texas militia, leading forces at the Battle of Concepción and the Grass Fight. In January 1836, he arrived at the Alamo, where he commanded the volunteer forces until an illness left him bedridden. Bowie died on March 6 with the other Alamo defenders. Despite conflicting accounts of his death, the "most popular, and probably the most accurate" accounts maintain that he died in his bed while defending himself against Mexican soldiers.



JULY BIRTHSTONE

The birthstone for July is the ruby which is believed to protect the wearer from evil. The word ruby is derived from the Latin Rubeus that means red.

The gem is a red form of corundum and all other colors are sapphires. The Ruby's color is due to the presence of chromium that makes the gem subject to cracks.

The gem was once thought to protect warriors if they wore a ruby on their armor. Considered the king of gems, the ruby symbolizes love, passion, energy and success.

THREE UNITED STATES PRESIDENTS DIED ON JULY 4TH

Two Presidents, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, passed away within hours of each other on July 4, 1826. They had been political rivals and then friends for many years later in life. The third President who died on July 4, 1881 was James Monroe.



THE FIRST HISTORIC PRINTING

The Pennsylvania Evening Post, became the first newspaper to print the historic Declaration of Independence on July 6, 1776. Thomas Jefferson made a great deal of editing before he wrote a copy of the Declaration for the Newspaper. As he wrote the document Britain's army was on the way to New York Harbor.



TEA AND WAR

The Declaration of Independence was signed by 56 men representing the 13 colonies. The moment marked the beginning of war against the British.

The American Revolutionary War is said to have started in 1775, however the Declaration was signed more than two years after the Boston officials refused to return three shiploads of taxed tea to Britain. That made colonists so angry they dumped the tea into the harbor. That event became the known as The Boston Tea Party.

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If You Ask Me...

Dear Bettye: I am having a party and only want to invite some of the people at my office. Will the others get mad?

Count on it!

Dear Bettye: My neighbor was furious when a man told her she had no right to complain about the terrible national economy. He said if she really cared she would have voted.

I agree with the man. Not voting allows others to decide the future of America. You are not expressing your opinion on anything unless you vote.

Dear Bettye: Why don't people write thank you notes anymore?

Polite people do.

Dear Bettye: I hear a lot about people putting their own happiness first and they seem selfish.

If someone is not happy it Is impossible to make anyone else happy.

Dear Bettye: I am dating man I really like but my friends say he is no good at all. He has never been faithful to any woman he dated. He admits he was unfaithful but he has changed. What do you think?

It is possible or anyone to change but it only happens once in a blue moon. The Farmer's Almanac says there are no blue moons expected in this century.



PHONY ONLINE SHOPPING WEBSITES

Phony retail websites aren't new, but they look more real today than ever before. "Fake sites are using photos from real online retailers and mimicking their look and feel," Hutt says.

The scheme: You click on an ad online or on social media, see stuff you like at a great price, enter your credit card info ... and never receive a product. "Or you receive a lower-quality item shipped directly from an overseas seller," Hutt says.

How to avoid: Never click on an ad to go to a retailer's website. Instead, bookmark the URLs of [trusted shopping websites](#) you visit frequently and use those, suggests Tyler Moore, professor of cybersecurity at the University of Tulsa. "Don't bother with trying to figure out whether the web address is real. Attackers adapt and change them frequently."

If you're considering buying from a new site, first check online reviews as well as the company's track record via the Better Business Bureau's online directory (bbb.org).

ONLINE ROMANCE SCAMS

They're not just lurking on dating sites. "Romance scammers are getting close to unsuspecting women and men in online prayer groups and book groups, [through online games like Words With Friends](#) and other groups people are turning to during pandemic isolation," Nofziger says.

The scheme: Scammers typically lure their romance marks off of sites that may be monitored and onto Google Hangouts, WhatsApp or Facebook Messenger, where no one's watching. Eventually they hit you up for money.

How to avoid: Rule number one: Never send money to someone you've never met in person. And say no to requests for suggestive selfies

and videos that a scammer can later use to blackmail you. "It's flattering to be told you are attractive," Nofziger says, "but it will be used against you."

MEDICARE CARD SCAMS

Scammers are emailing, calling and even knocking on doors, claiming to be from Medicare and offering all sorts of pandemic-related services if you "verify" your [Medicare ID number](#).

The scheme: The offers include new cards they claim contain microchips. Some posers are asking for payment to move beneficiaries up in line for the COVID-19 vaccine.

How to avoid: Hang up the phone, shut the door, delete the email. According to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Medicare will never contact you without permission for your Medicare number or other personal information. And it will never call to sell you anything. Guard your Medicare number and never pay for a COVID vaccine. It's free.

SOCIAL SECURITY SCAM CALLS

[Scammers are using "spoofed" phone numbers](#) that look like they're coming from Washington, D.C., to appear credible.

The scheme: You get a scary phone call saying your Social Security number was used in a crime — and you'll be arrested soon if you don't send money to fix it. "They may say your number was used to rent a car where drugs were found and that the Drug Enforcement Agency is on their way to your house," Nofziger says. "The caller may refer you to a local law-enforcement website where you can see the person's picture. You think you've checked it out, call them back and send money."

How to avoid: "Don't pick up the phone unless you absolutely know who's calling," Nofziger says. "If it's important, they'll leave a voicemail."

Did You Know?



July was named for the Roman dictator Julius Caesar who made one of his greatest contributions to history. With the help of Sosigenes, he developed the Julian calendar, the precursor to the Gregorian calendar - the one we use today.

July Holidays: July 4 – Independence day;
July 13 – French Fry Day;
July 20 - Moon Day; July 24 – Cousin’s Day;
July 25, Aunt’s Day.

CLOTHES WITH BRAINS

Companies are weaving sensors into fabric to monitor a variety vital signs. Dozens of firms have developed sports clothes to trace how many calories are burned and the heart rate. Socks are made to track running statistics and a bra that that screens for cancer.

THE BEST DAY FOR GROCERY SHOPPING

The Grocery Foundation confirmed Wednesday is the best day for grocery shopping. Experts say shopping in the evening is the best time. That is when the price of produce is reduced.

BE PROUD AND BE ELECTED, PROMOTED, CHOSEN AND HIRED

Scientists have found that to appear proud conveys that you are a responsible person and signals your value to everyone. Standing tall commands attention and creates the impression of dominance. Tilt your head back slightly to allow you to gaze above the crowd communicates superiority.

STAR TREK PREDICTED MOBILE PHONES

Crew members of the starship Enterprise in 1966, were first to use a hands-free communication tool that wouldn't be created until 1994.

MOLES MEAN SLOWER AGING

People who have moles on their body age slower than those who do not. Moles also insure people will live seven to 10 years longer than people without moles.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ANTIQUE AND VINTAGE?

Antiques are items that are 100 years old and older. Vintage items are at least 25 years older and sought after by collectors.

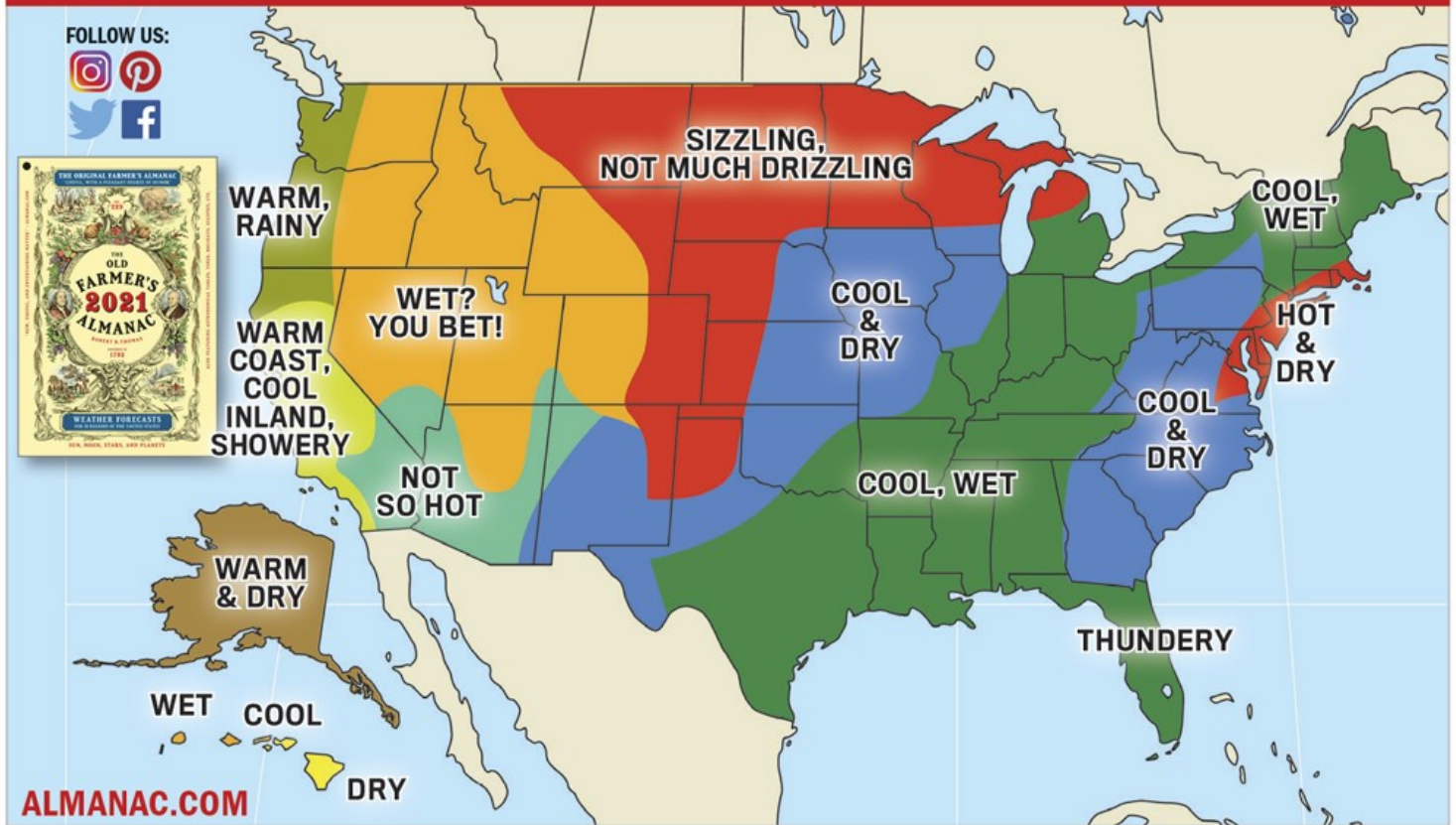


VINTAGE Rotary Telephone



ANTIQUÉ Crank Telephone

THE OLD FARMER'S ALMANAC WEATHER MAP SUMMER 2021



According to the extended forecast in the 2021 *Farmers' Almanac*, summer should be stormy, with a greater-than-average frequency of thunderstorms for a large portion of the country. Many of these storms will be strong, particularly over the eastern third of the nation. These summer rainstorms may be severe and spawn widespread tornadoes over the middle part of the country during June and July.

Portions of the Central and Southern Rockies and Great Plains could also experience higher-than-normal thunderstorm activity.

Summer Heat?

What's summer without heat? It's coming! Summer temperatures are predicted above-normal for about two-thirds of the country, especially in the South and East. While typically the hottest weather can be expected in late July or early August, this year's summer heat could peak in late August, into early September. So be sure to plan ahead and get your air conditioners, box fans, and cool summer clothing ready!