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Interesting facts related to Independence Day

Americans celebrate Independence Day every July 4. The holiday has become synonymous with summer fun, as grand fireworks displays and backyard barbecues are integral components of many people's July 4 celebrations.

As Americans and residents of the United States prepare for some festive Fourth of July celebrations, they can keep these interesting facts related to Independence Day in mind.

- There have been many iterations of the American flag. The American flag has become an iconic symbol of freedom recognized across the globe since the United States declared their independence from Great Britain in 1776. But few July 4 celebrants may know that the current version is the 27th iteration of the American flag. According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the current version of the flag officially became the flag on July 4, 1960.

- More than half of all Americans own an American flag. A 2023 poll from WalletHub found that 57 percent of Americans own an American flag. And that's not the only way Americans show their national pride, as the same poll found that roughly one in three Americans intended to purchase patriotic merchandise for July 4.

- The United States is not the only place to celebrate American independence. Such celebrations occur in various countries, including Australia, Denmark, Ire-



land, and Norway. The festivities in Rebild National Park in Denmark is believed to be the largest celebration of American independence outside the United States.

- The National Hot Dog and Sausage Council estimates that 150 million hot dogs are consumed on July 4. Though there's no corresponding estimate related to how many hamburgers Americans eat on July 4, various reports suggest Americans eat roughly 50 billion burgers annually, so it's fair to conclude many a burger will be consumed this Independence Day.

- July is a popular month for nations to celebrate their independence. In addition to the United States, various countries, including Algeria (July 5), Argentina (July 9),

The Bahamas (July 10), Belarus (July 3), Burundi (July 1), Canada (July 1), Cape Verde (July 1), Colombia (July 20), Kiribati (July 12), and Liberia (July 26), celebrate their Independence Day in July.

- John Adams, a Founding Father of the United States and the second president in the country's history, felt Americans should celebrate their independence from Great Britain on July 2. That's because the Continental Congress voted for independence on July 2, 1776. However, the Declaration of Independence was not approved for two more days, thus making July 4 the day to celebrate America's independence from Great Britain.



Sparklers are not child's play

Did you know that the average primary flame blowtorch burns at around 2,000 F? USFS National Technology and Development says wildland fires typically burn between 1,600 and 2,000 F. Aluminum, brass, bronze, copper, and cast iron also can reach melting points at or slightly below 2,000 F.

It's likely safe to say that parents would never let their children handle a blowtorch, wander into a forest fire nor touch molten metals, yet many seemingly have no concerns about children playing with sparklers during July 4 celebrations. The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia says people often treat sparklers much too casually, even though they can burn at temperatures of about 2,000 F. Children are allowed to hold and wave these red-hot metal rods like toys. Sparkler sticks pose a serious burn risk, and the sparks can cause addition-

al burns and eye injuries, warns the CHOP. Young children who would not be trusted with other hot materials should not hold sparklers, warn health experts. Older children should be carefully supervised around sparklers and other fireworks.

Those who want to avoid any possible injuries on July 4 and during other summer celebrations would be wise to avoid sparklers in favor of safer forms of entertainment. Here are some ideas.

- Glow sticks light up in the dark and can be worn or waved around safely.

- Fill water balloons with a mixture of glitter and water. When the balloons pop, it is a festive display.

- Send children around with canned string products that they can spray on one another. If making a mess isn't an issue, shaving cream "fights" also can be fun diversions for children.

- Adults can lead by exam-

ple and leave the fireworks displays to the professionals. Take a ride over to the seaside or where a town is hosting a fireworks display and enjoy the sights from a distance.

- Purchase battery-powered blinking lights, such as those sold at circuses or concerts. Kids can spend hours running around with them in hand. Less expensive flashlights purchased at a dollar store can create the same effect.

- Let children play with confetti cannons.

- "Snappers" or "poppers" could be an option if they are sold nearby. These are small noisemakers that explode and pop when they are thrown at a hard ground surface.

Sparklers may be festive and beautiful to behold, but they are not designed to be handled by children. Alternatives to sparklers are equally fun and much safer.

Tips to save when shopping for your July Fourth barbecue

Barbecues are part and parcel of July Fourth celebrations. Such get-togethers might be even more notable in 2024, when Independence Day falls on a Thursday. That means many people will likely be taking off on Friday, July 5, which adds another day to celebrate with friends and family around the grill this year.

Opportunities to entertain will abound this July, and that can take a toll on hosts' pocketbooks. As the holiday approaches, individuals planning to host a July 4 barbecue can heed these tips to save on food and supplies at the grocery store.

- Ask guests to bring a side and/or beverages. Hot dogs and hamburgers may garner the bulk of the culinary attention at a July 4 barbecue, but side dishes are necessary as well. When inviting

guests, ask each to bring a side dish or dessert. Potato salad, mixed greens, pasta salad, chickpea salad, and other cold fare go well with traditional barbecue favorites, and asking guests to bring these along can save hosts substantial amounts of money. If guests can't bring food, ask them to bring beverages like soft drinks, iced tea, beer, or wine.

- Shop ahead. Hot dogs, hamburgers, chicken breasts, and other summer grilling favorites can be frozen and thawed out come the day of the barbecue. Shopping ahead for such items, as well as beverages, can help hosts spread out the cost of hosting, which can make it easier to manage the cost of throwing a party, particularly if the guest list figures to be sizable.

- Consider less expensive



cuts of meat. If steak is on the menu at your Independence Day barbecue, consider purchasing less expensive cuts

of meat. The Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association notes that chuck cuts like flat-iron steaks and petite filets are

flavorful cuts that won't cost nearly as much as rib-eyes and New York strip steaks. Hosts also can save on burg-

ers by purchasing ground beef and creating their own patties as opposed to purchasing pre-made hamburgers from their grocer's meat department. The HPBA notes that chicken thighs, legs or quarters also tend to be less expensive than chicken breasts.

- Grill up healthy fare. Vegetables are less expensive than meat and poultry, and there's many ways to prepare veggies over an open flame. Grilled vegetable skewers are flavorful and popular, and guests might appreciate some nutritious fare to counter all the less healthy items they're accustomed to eating at July 4 barbecues.

There's no shortage of ways to save money when celebrating July 4 in the backyard. This year hosts can celebrate to the fullest without breaking the bank.

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17 CASE TRACTORS: CASE #4916543LA; CASE #5221609LA with wfe; CASE, CASE #52119845C-parts; CASE CASE-OMATIC-parts; CASE-O-MATIC with cab; CASE #5107519SC with MM mower; CASE tractor; CASE 700 with nfe; CASE 830 with nfe, fenders, 2618 hrs., 6 fnt weights, 16-9-38 tires; CASE 400 #411-8067198 with nfe, 13-6-38 tires; CASE 830 with super k loader, wfe,3325 hrs., 5-5-38 tires; CASE CC 4200043 with wfe; 2-CASE parts tractor; 2- gray CASE tractors, CC0345902, repaint, nfe and RC422747, repaint, nfe. **TRAILERS:** PJ flatbed, 20'x7', wood floor, twin axle, hand wench, triple ramps, LT235-85R16 tires; 2 wheel 4'x7'; Mallard travel trailer 20' bumper hitch(rough) **AUTOMOBILE:** 1999 Oldsmobile 88LC, #1G3HN52K9X4808897, maroon, gray interior, 4 door **EQUIPMENT:** HART threshing machine #44921; CASE pull type combine; flair box on JD gears; 200 gal pull type sprayer; drag sections; stone boats; end gate seeder; King Kutter 7' 3pt mower; 8' 3pt blade; CASE #10 mower 7' bar; IH disc, CASE steel wheel 6' mower #ok1278; steel flatbed frame 12'x6' with flotation tires; CASE 4 bar rake; 3 bottom steel wheel plow; CASE 2 bottom steel wheel plow; 3 bottom steel wheel plow; 2-CASE 2 bottom plows on rubber; CASE 3 bottom plow on rubber; MOLINE 2 bottom plow on rubber; 8' green cultivator; CASE 4 bar steel wheel rake and more **RIDING MOWERS:** CASE hydro drive #L55-8315764; MURRY 8/30; CASE lawn mower **CASE PARTS AND MANUALS:** Large variety of old mainly CASE parts, fenders, tires and rims, gauges, engine parts way too many to list. Many manuals for tractors, equipment and training manuals **TOOLS:** nice variety of quality tools including MAC, CRAFTSMAN, open end, adjustable, air tools, screw drivers, hammers, sockets, pry bars, etc. MAC 9 drawer tool chest; WATERLOO 12 drawer tool chest, forge, drill press, cutting torch, Millermatic 135 welder arc welder, Powermate 10 hp portable generator, HD metal welding table with vise and more **MISC:** overhead fuel barrel; duels-13-6-38; steel gates; numerous tractor tires; ladders; round tractor wheel weights; rolls of barb wire; cast; chains; hydrol. cylinders; 100-5 gal. buckets; assortment lumber; STIHL chainsaw; portable air comp., deer antlers; hitches; parts bins that are full; battery hand tools; shovels, lawn care and much more **COLLECTIBLES;** weather vane; child's wood sleds; metal lawn chairs, dbl metal wash tub, CASE wood box for diesel gauge and tool co. clock, signage, cast bird, hats, stand, ammo boxes; wood box,40 yrs of Heritage CASE EAGLE magazines and more **GUNS:** REM. Model 700 ml, REM. Model 241, BROWNING bar.270, SAVAGE model 440b 20ga, REM. Model 1100, BROWNING 22 mag., WINCHESTER model 1897, REM. 11-87 skeet 12 ga, REM. Model 700.243, WINCHESTER model 189s, MARLIN golden, Excell 12 ga., 4 REMINGTON barrels. Numerous gun cases and ammunition. **TOYS:** Many CASE tractors of both 1/64 and 1/16 scale including precision 930, DC-3, Steamer, 2594,4894,1270,1070 demo, spirit of 76, agri king, 2390, 2590, plastic, 2294, 4x4, 1030, 930, steam engine tractor over 200 pcs. CASE trucks, plows, mail box pen sets, books, etc. tin truck and car, wind-up, air planes, old games, tin firetruck in box, Lionel train set, numerous old toys. **SALVAGE METAL PILE.**

AUCTIONEERS COMMENTS: Mercian was a mechanic for the local CASE dealership for 17 yrs and loved CASE. His passion was working on anything CASE and collecting it. Tractors all need some TLC. His tools are high quality and if you're a CASE collector person, don't miss this auction. The farm has been in the family 100 yrs and they did not throw anything away.

OWNERS - Mercian and Diane Slaughter

TERMS: 10% buyer's premium in effect. Cash, good check or credit card (4% convenience fee when using credit card). Nothing to be removed until settled for. Not responsible for accidents or theft. Must have ID. All items sold "As Is - Where Is"

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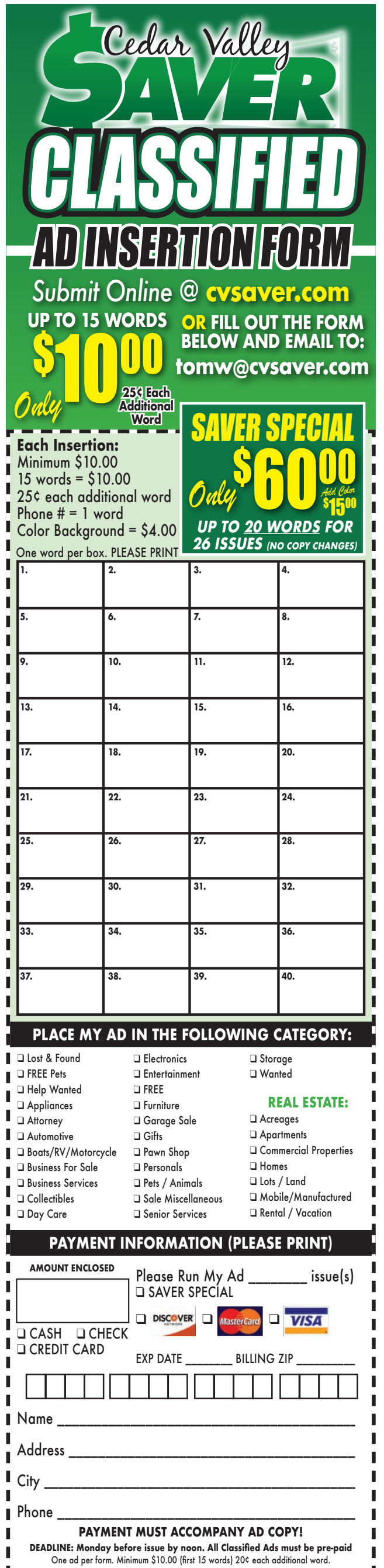
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The position requires two years of experience in graphic design, graphic communications, marketing, public relations, or a related field and an associate degree in graphic design, graphic communications, marketing, public relations, or closely related program. Proficiency in Adobe InDesign, Illustrator, and Photoshop are required and experience with content management systems is preferred. A post-offer, pre-employment background, physical, and drug screen will be required for the selected individual.

For consideration, apply online at <https://www.cedarfalls.com/jobs> (preferred) or print and complete an application from the above link and email to Jobs@cedarfalls.com or provide to Cedar Falls City Hall by mailing or delivering to: City of Cedar Falls, Finance & Business Operations Dept., Attn: PT Graphic Designer, 220 Clay Street, Cedar Falls, IA 50613. Proof of education or transcript copy, and relevant certifications are encouraged at the time of application and will be required before interviews are completed. Submission of a resume and a portfolio or link to a portfolio are also encouraged. The deadline for materials is Thursday, June 25 at 4:30 p.m.

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HVAC maintenance tips to keep your cooling unit running strong

Upon the arrival of the dog days of summer, few things can be as welcoming as a cool home. Air conditioned interior spaces offer a much-needed respite from summer heat, but that relief is not guaranteed. Indeed, a summer heat wave can be just as taxing on an HVAC unit as it can be on people. But some simple pre- and in-season maintenance tips can go a long way toward ensuring an HVAC unit provides ample relief once the mercury rises.

- Replace the air filter. Prior to summer, replace the filter on your HVAC unit. Doing so ensures dust, dirt, and allergens won't affect the efficiency of the unit. An inefficient HVAC unit will make it harder to cool the home, and that may force the unit to work harder, which in turn can lead to a higher energy bill.

- Don't forget the condenser. The condenser is the unit on the outside of your home. Over time, debris from the landscape, including dirt, grass, and leaves, can get inside the condenser and potentially affect the performance of the unit. While it's inevitable that some landscape debris will get into the condenser, routine checkups and removal of debris can ensure that the buildup is not excessive.

- Lend a hand inside. For people who live in areas where summer can get especially hot, there may come a point in time when even the most well-maintained HVAC unit can use a hand. Homeowners can take certain steps during heat waves to improve the efficiency of their HVAC unit with an eye toward saving money and preventing the unit from overheating.

Closing curtains and blinds during times of day when the heat is peaking or particular rooms in a home are drenched in sun can naturally lower the temperature inside a home, thus alleviating the burden on the HVAC system. Ceiling fans also can be employed while the air conditioner is running to circulate cool air more effectively. That can prevent the HVAC unit from working extra hard to cool the home.

- Take a different approach to dinnertime. If you're accustomed to turning on the stove each night at dinnertime, recognize that doing so will increase the interior temperature of your home. As the temperature inside increases, the air conditioner will work harder to keep interior spaces cool and comfortable. That can be taxing on the HVAC



unit and lead to higher energy costs. When it comes to dinnertime during the dog days of summer, consider cold dishes like salads and/

or grilling so the stove can stay off as much as possible.

Some simple maintenance tips and strategies can ensure an HVAC unit provides

ample relief come the dog days of summer.

Summertime hydration strategies

Summer is a season to spend outdoors soaking up some sun. But all that time outdoors can pose some health risks if people are not careful. The dangers of overexposure to the sun are well-documented. Sunburn is one such threat that can not only lead to discomfort, but also increase a person's risk for skin cancer. But sunburn is easily prevented with the use of sunscreen, and that's not the only summertime threat that's easily avoided.

Dehydration occurs when the body loses more fluids than it takes in. Come the dog days of summer, it's easy to lose fluids when spending time outdoors. Sweating is one way to lose fluid on a hot day, but there are myriad ways to avoid dehydration once the hot weather kicks in.

- Don't wait until you're thirsty to drink water. According to NHS Inform, the national health information service of Scotland, thirst is typically the brain's way of warning individuals that they are dehydrated. So it's unwise to wait until you're thirsty to drink water. A proactive approach can help



to prevent dehydration, especially when spending time outdoors on hot days.

- Take breaks for water. A mid-morning coffee break or a mid-afternoon snack

break are part of many people's daily routines. You also can incorporate drinking water into your daily routine. When pouring your morning coffee or tea, pour

yourself a glass of water as well. When reaching for a mid-afternoon snack, pour yourself another glass of water.

- Keep a water journal. Documenting your daily water intake is one way to overcome forgetfulness in relation to remaining hydrated. Smartphone apps like Water Reminder and Plant Nanny can help people remember to drink water throughout the day. For those who prefer a more traditional approach to journaling, keep a small notebook near your desk or in your pocket when going outdoors so you can always know when your most re-

cent water break occurred.

- Look to foods to stay hydrated. Drinking water isn't the only way to ensure you stay hydrated. Various foods are loaded with water. Henry Ford Health® notes that watermelon, berries, bell peppers, and grapes are water-rich foods that can

help you stay hydrated.

Dehydration can creep up on hot summer days and put people in serious jeopardy. That's why it's imperative that people make a concerted effort to hydrate and do not wait until they're thirsty to enjoy a glass of water on a hot summer day.



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