



Happy in Havasu!

Vicki Lind

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Did You Know?

The hottest temperature ever recorded was 136 degrees F (58 degrees C) in Al'Aziziyah, Libya, on September 13, 1922.

The coldest temperature ever recorded was -128.6 degrees F (-89.6 degrees C) at Vostok Station, Antarctica.

Summer does not always officially start on June 21st. In 1896, summer began on June 20th. This will occur again in 2012. Summer began on June 22nd in 1975 and will repeat this variation again in 2203.

Every year, almost 200 people die in the U.S. due to excessive heat. There is no official definition of a heat wave.

The most rainfall recorded in one minute occurred on Guadeloupe, an island group in the eastern Caribbean Sea. On November 26, 1970, 1.5 inches (3.8 cm) fell in sixty seconds.

The largest hailstone ever officially measured was in Aurora, Nebraska, and measured 7.0 inches (17.8 cm) in diameter.

Only two U.S. states have record highs no greater than 100 degrees. They are Alaska and Hawaii.

Mt. Washington, New Hampshire, holds the records for both the most windy U.S. city, with an average wind speed of 35.3 mph (57 kph) and the maximum recorded wind speed of 231 mph (372 kph).

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Watching Out for Your Neighbors

Living in an apartment community means that your neighbors are constantly around you. What you may give up in privacy, you can gain in safety, however. Meeting your neighbors can be one of the best ways to protect yourself and your property. Neighborhood Watch programs for years have touted that the best way to foster a safer neighborhood is to simply watch out for your neighbors. This idea transfers well to apartment communities. Get to know your neighbors. Keep an eye out for unusual behavior in your community and immediately report anything suspicious. Let your neighbors and the leasing office know when you will be gone for an extended period of time. If you do become a victim of a crime, let your neighbors know. They may have seen something or someone and can give information that would assist in solving the crime.



Don't Get Soaked

Over half a million cars were damaged by flood waters in Hurricane Katrina, and now more have been involved in flooding in the Midwest. While you might imagine that these cars are considered totaled and are taken off the market, that is not always the case. Many of these vehicles make it into the used car market all over the United States. These vehicles often have been submerged in mud and water, may be contaminated with toxic chemicals, and have damage to the frame, body, and electronic components.

Don't think that you are safe from these scams if you live far from the flood zones. These vehicles have been shipped across the country and could wind up in your area. If you are in the market for a used car, be sure to be aware of the signs that the vehicle may have been involved in a flood.

Be sure to inspect the car, looking under carpets, on the trunk floor, and in door panels. Mud or mildew in these areas indicates a problem. You can have a mechanic do a detailed inspection of the engine and the gas tank. Other places to check include alternator crevices, behind wiring harnesses, and in small recesses in the engine compartment.

Most sellers of flood damaged cars will take care to shampoo the carpets well. But you can still look under the floorboard carpet for water stains. There may also be rusting. Door panels that were submerged in water often fade in color, and you may see discoloration of the interior upholstery. Headlights and door panels often will show a water line.

Mold can grow under the dashboard if the car has been submerged. You may also see rust on screws in the console or under the dash.

You cannot count on the vehicle's title to ensure that you are not buying a salvaged vehicle. Many of these damaged cars are taken to other states and reregistered. Since not all states require a salvage indication on the title, you cannot be sure of its status.



You can request a vehicle history report from CARFAX. This report can tell you who the previous owners were, whether the car has been in an accident or reported stolen, and can show if the vehicle was reported as salvaged or damaged. If a state DMV does issue flood damage titles, you will find this on a CARFAX report.

You often have no recourse if you do buy a flood damaged car, so it pays to take these precautions. You can then protect yourself from these scams, saving you frustration and money.

Keller Williams

Arizona Living Realty
1990 McCulloch Boulevard
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403
(928) 486-6227—Office

Zucchini Mania

Many a home gardener knows that one of the most prolific plants around is the zucchini. Zucchini is tremendously versatile. It can be steamed, sautéed, grilled, deep-fried, stuffed, or shredded to use in baked goods, sauces, or omelets. If you find yourself overloaded with this hearty vegetable, or you've been given part of the bounty of someone else's garden, these recipes and ideas will come in handy.

Grilled Zucchini

Slice zucchini into length-wise slices. Cover with bottled Italian dressing and let sit for about an hour. Place onto medium grill, turning once, for five to ten minutes or until tender. If you have any leftover the next day, try stuffing pita bread with your leftover barbecued meat, the grilled zucchini, plain yogurt, salt, and pepper.

Creamy Zucchini Salad

Combine one cup of sour cream, 2/3 cup of white wine vinegar, one tablespoon of mustard powder, 1/4 cup of sugar, one teaspoon of dill, and salt and pepper to taste. Combine with two large or four small zucchini, sliced thinly. Add one thinly sliced onion. Combine well and chill for several hours before serving.

If all else fails and you can simply eat no more, just shred your extra zucchini and stuff into freezer bags. You'll have all the zucchini you need for those cold winter months.

New Rules for Driving



Although there are new models of cars introduced each year, many people still drive with outdated driving habits. In fact, some older rules of the road may in fact be unsafe in today's vehicles. Review these new rules to keep you and your family safe.

1. Don't pump your brakes when you need to make a sudden stop if you have an anti-lock braking system (ABS). In cars without this system, pumping your brakes would keep your brakes from locking up. The ABS does this automatically. In fact, if you feel your brake pedal shutter or pulse, don't panic--this just means the system is working properly. To stop as safely as possible, press the pedal down hard and hold it until the vehicle has stopped.
2. Don't place your hands at the 10 and 2 o'clock positions. Instead, put your hands on the steering wheel at either 9 and 3 o'clock or 8 and 4 o'clock. The reason for this is that today's vehicles have airbags in the steering wheel. Placing your hands at this lower position lessens the chance for injury if the airbag is deployed. Also, with the lower positioning, you will have more range to move when turning without having to cross over the center of the wheel. Finally, it is more comfortable, lessening fatigue in your wrists, elbows, and shoulders.
3. Don't leave a large space between you and the steering wheel, as you will reduce your ability to handle your car effectively. Also, don't sit too close or you will risk injury from a deploying air bag.
4. Don't set your outside mirrors to see the sides of your car. In order to reduce your blind spots, situate your mirrors so that the sides of your car are just outside of your view.

The Benefits of Volunteer Work

It is easy to recognize the benefits of volunteer work to those who take advantage of the services provided. But don't underestimate the benefits to you personally when you undertake this kind of work. Volunteering can provide you with a way to meet new people, expand your skills, and boost your self-esteem. You will gain career experience along the way as well. Make sure any volunteer work you do is noted on your resume. If you are unsure of what direction your career is taking, exploring different opportunities through volunteering is a great way to test the waters. You also are networking as you work. You are meeting people in a field you are interested in, who could become important contacts by either offering you a job or highly recommending you for one.

Where should you volunteer? A good place to start is anywhere that you would be interested working. Follow your interests or career path. Approach an organization or company, and ask if they accept volunteers. Be honest about your ability to commit to a certain amount of time and what types of jobs you would be interested in. You may be surprised at all of the opportunities out there.



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