

HILTON

& MIDLANDS

ISSUE 55

Life





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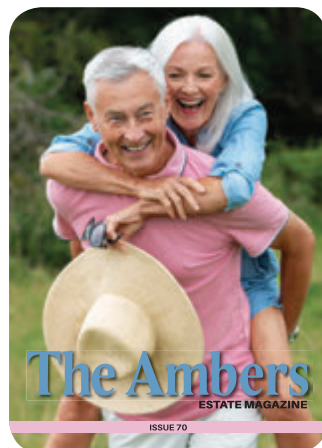
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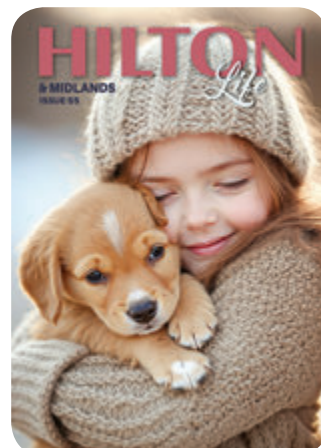
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There is no doubt the world of printed publications has changed radically, it's become more specialized, either by topic or location. Instead of publishing a 'one-size-fits-all' product the focus has switched to niche markets - an aspect which **Kal - Media Publishing** are leading experts in KZN. Established over twenty years ago, we made the decision early on (unlike many of our other competitors) not to switch **entirely** to on-line versions of our magazines; we do both!!

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Dear Readers

Have you ever just sat down and thought, really thought, what would make you happy?

I can hear things like a bigger house, no worries, money, money, money. Lets face it, it is what makes the world go around, or so they say? And yes, I also hear you say that you would rather be unhappy with money than without it. Buying things only makes you happy for a short period of time and you eventually get used to what you had. Then you move on to your next desire.

But seriously, what about the freedom to make your own decisions? To be able to choose who you are or what you want to be? Not to be judged for your decisions? Respect in the workplace or at home?

Many people spend their entire lives searching for the answer to happiness. Everyone wants to know how to be happy and yet you probably don't know many people who actually are.

It's like the proverbial genie in the bottle, granting you three wishes!!! So give it some thought, because only you know what would truly make you happy.

We do have trying times what with the price of petrol, and the on-going road works to name a few. You only need to look out the window at the beautiful day to make you optimistic and a little happy with life at least.

It makes one think!!!!
Till we meet again

Pat Franken

Kaleidoscope Media
082 552 3027



Ive learned.... that one of the simplest ways to stay happy, is by letting go of the things that made you sad.



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On My Mind by William Meyer

Making Sense Of Your Cents Investing Overseas – The Importance Of Diversifying Your Portfolio * Extraordinary Profits From Ordinary Shares * Winning Stock Market Strategies *

Geopolitical risks and massive market volatility are factors investors need to contend with. At times like this the importance of planning carefully and considering off-shore opportunities and idiosyncratic shares is clear.

It is critical for investors to have an international strategy. Adding an off-shore equity/currency component to a South African portfolio reduces the risk of volatility of the overall portfolio. If any one currency or country enters a bear market, an investor will be protected by a diversified portfolio.

The best countries to invest in have fewer government regulations and interference, less government ownership, fewer trade unions, lower taxes and no foreign exchange controls. A thoughtful allocation of capital that results in an ambivalent attitude towards political risks and currency moves is another way to avoid catastrophe.

Idiosyncratic growth stocks are an important building block in achieving this goal.

The profitability of these companies is driven by their own fundamentals, rather than macro-economic conditions, like the US-China trade war.

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William Meyer
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The bottom line

Fenestra doesn't invest clients' money in generic portfolios. Rather investment portfolios are custom made. We listen to our clients, find out exactly what their investment objectives are and design portfolios accordingly. **William Meyer CEO**

Why Fenestra?

Our Mission

Fenestra strives to be a great South African and International specialist investment group. We are driven by a passion for outstanding performance and an unwavering commitment to our philosophies and core values.

"The inherent vice of capitalism is the unequal sharing of blessings, The inherent virtue of socialism is the equal sharing of miseries."
Winston Churchill

We all find some of the 'faces' of capitalism unacceptable. At Fenestra we strive to change what we can. Our clients use their success to set up legacies for the greater good. We need to remember we are custodians and stewards of our wealth and we must act wisely.

I also love Apple CEO Tim Cook's words in the latest Apple results: *"We're always searching across a world of possibilities, finding those places where we can do the most good."*

We are grateful. Apple helped us find the Fenestra motto for 2025.

Focus

Fenestra limits its attention to about 50 outstanding companies but will invest in no more than 10 of them. This restricts the portfolio to only five or six outstanding performers. It is a style of investment advocated by the world's most famous investor, Warren Buffet, of whom CEO William Meyer is an avowed disciple.

Criteria

The criteria for investments are simple but top of the list is honesty of management. Other key investment criteria include an established profit history, a growing market with growing margins, strong cash generation ability and some blue-sky potential. It is also preferable if the managers are very significant shareholders.

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This Winter...

TIPS on How to Look After Your Pets in KZN This Winter

Although KwaZulu-Natal is generally milder than the highveld, mornings and evenings can still get chilly, especially in the Midlands, inland towns, and at night. A few simple adjustments will keep your pets warm, dry, and comfortable through the colder months.

1 Shelter and sleeping areas

Preferably bring dogs, cats and small pets indoors at night, especially puppies, kittens, seniors, and short-haired breeds. If pets must sleep outside, raise kennels off the ground, block the windward side, and line the bed with dry straw, fleece, or thick blankets (not newspaper, which holds moisture). Place beds away from draughts and use trampoline-style or insulated beds to keep them off cold concrete floors.

2 Warm bedding and clothing

Add extra blankets or blankets-lined boxes in their sleeping spot, and refresh them when they become damp from condensation or rain. Short-haired dogs, small breeds, or thin pets can wear a snug pet jersey or coat that covers the belly during cold mornings and evenings. Avoid plastic-lined or heavy clothing that can overheat or restrict movement; remove garments when indoors in a warm room.

3 Outdoor time and exercise

Shorten walks on very cold or windy mornings; aim for mid-day when it's warmer, and watch for shivering, lifted paws, or stiff movements as signs of being too cold.

4 Food, water, and health

Pets burn more energy keeping warm, so you can slightly increase their daily food (especially working dogs or outdoor animals), but don't over-feed and cause weight gain. Ensure fresh, clean water is always available; check bowls in the morning in cooler areas to avoid semi-frozen water. Older pets and those with

arthritis often feel colder and stiffer in winter; ask your vet about joint supplements or gentle exercise plans.

5 Protecting paws and skin

Wipe paws, legs and belly after wet walks to remove moisture, mud and grit, which can chill the skin and lead to irritation. Bathe pets less often in winter so their natural skin oils and coat insulation stay intact, and make sure they are fully dry before going outside again.

6 Cats and small indoor pets

Bring outdoor or community cats indoors at night if they'll accept it, or at least provide a very cosy, insulated box sheltered from wind and rain. Ensure your cat's bed is off cold tiles, near a warm wall (not a heater), and add a blanket or pet-safe heated pad if needed. For small pets like rabbits, guinea pigs, or rodents, move hutches/cages into a garage, storeroom or covered patio, and add extra bedding and a blanket cover at night.

7 Winter hazards in KZN

Even if it does not snow, KZN can have sudden cold snaps and heavy rain; watch weather forecasts and bring outdoor pets inside when it turns unexpectedly cold. Keep antifreeze, cleaning chemicals, and other toxic substances locked away; pets may be more curious when they spend more time indoors. Before starting your car, check under the bonnet or around the engine, as cats or small animals may have hidden there for warmth.



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2026 Kitchen Colour Trends

Key trends:

- ▶ Warm neutrals: creamy whites, taupes, mushroom, soft browns instead of bright white
- ▶ Moody/dark tones: deep greens, near-black, burgundy/mahogany for islands or lower cabinets
- ▶ Muddy pastels: desaturated clay, dusty blue, muted salmon as accents
- ▶ Earthy terracotta/rust: cabinetry or backsplash highlights
- ▶ Green + matte black or warm brass: a signature 2026 pairing

Practical tip: Use warm neutrals for most cabinets, add drama on an island or accent wall, and test bold colours in pantries.



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THE HANDS OF *truth*



I was having my nails done the other day, and at the next table was an older lady, the nail technician asked if she may take a photo of her nails to put on her Facebook page. A normal enough request. But the lady hurriedly pulled her hands away and said, “My hands are old and ugly, I don’t want to draw attention to them”.

I was surprised because I have passed my 3 score and 10, and although my hands fit into that category, I had never ever thought of that. I do dread getting older, and no its not because of the wrinkles it is because I still have so much that I need to do.

For me, age is a privilege that is denied to many, and even if it is the autumn of your life, we should realise just how precious time is.

Your hands are the story of your life. They tell of love, care devotion and hard work. These hands have touched and held things that some people can only wish for. I do not think of my hands daily and no I don’t loathe these hands either. I just have always taken care of my nails and hands.

These hands have held 4 babies, held teenagers tight, drove my kids to school over the years and hugged my grandchildren. They have planted tomatoes and written articles and a book and put

cream on tired eyes at night. These are the hands that clutched my husband’s back when we danced out wedding waltz, touched each newborns perfect face, the hands that touched my parents for the last time and put their photos in places over the house, lest we forget.

These hands have played in the mud and batter, and learned to knit and crochet, have been rung in grief and sadness, and used the middle finger to a passing impatient motorist.

Yes, I will agree that these hands have gone from bearing velvety skin and long red nails to wrinkled and running with wormy veins, but thank God, they are still working and strong. These hands have become my history holders and am proud of their hard-earned journey and for the fact that they still make everything happen in my life – all that is good and right.

Alas! they keep no secrets any longer, but they bring my mother back to me each day I wash dishes and cook her recipes or to dial the number for my children no longer in my nest. They are veiny and spotty and the map of the life that I cannot erase, but they still keep allowing me to add new chapters.

They are the hands of truth!

A FEW REASONS WHY GOLF IS PRESUMED TO BE THE BEST SPORT...

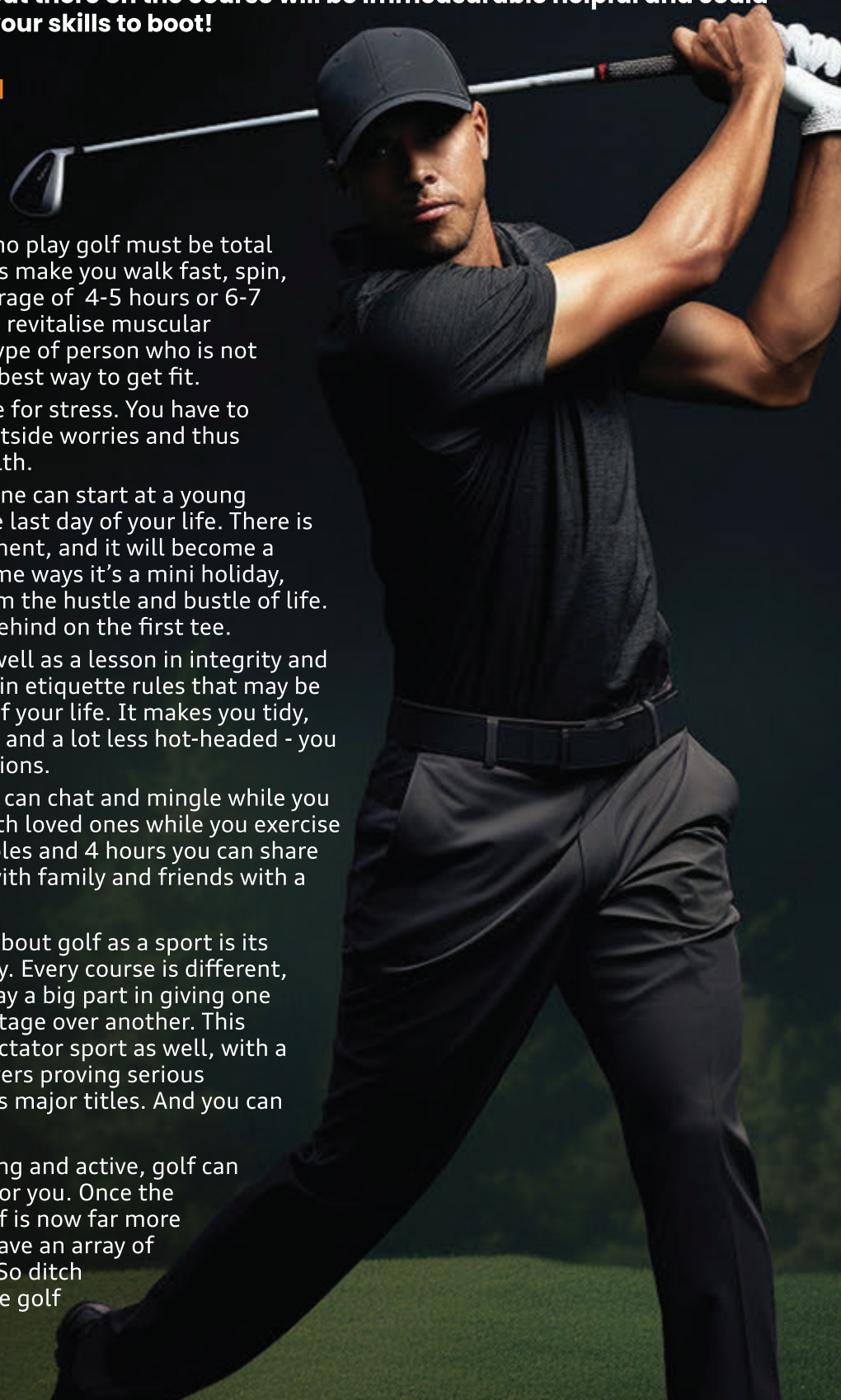
Golf has been around for over 400 years, starting in Scotland, and spreading all over the world to become the sport of choice for retirees and stressed-out executives all over the world. It has always been the sport of choice in the corporate world and just the contacts you will make by being out there on the course will be immeasurably helpful and could impress everyone with your skills to boot!

So here are a few good reasons why we think that golf is the best sport.

- ▶ It prolongs life, people who play golf must be total athletes – not many sports make you walk fast, spin, and bend down for an average of 4-5 hours or 6-7 odd kilometres. This must revitalise muscular flexibility. If you are the type of person who is not active, golf might be the best way to get fit.
- ▶ Concentration – it is a cure for stress. You have to remain focused, forget outside worries and thus improve your mental health.
- ▶ It's addictive, it's a sport one can start at a young age and continue until the last day of your life. There is always room for improvement, and it will become a personal challenge. In some ways it's a mini holiday, without leaving town, from the hustle and bustle of life. You just leave the world behind on the first tee.
- ▶ It provides principles, as well as a lesson in integrity and principles. There are certain etiquette rules that may be applied to other aspects of your life. It makes you tidy, especially in your apparel, and a lot less hot-headed - you have to control your emotions.
- ▶ It makes you friendly, you can chat and mingle while you exercise; spend quality with loved ones while you exercise on the course. After 18 holes and 4 hours you can share moments and emotions with family and friends with a meal and refreshment.

One of the greatest things about golf as a sport is its comparative unpredictability. Every course is different, and the weather can also play a big part in giving one player an unexpected advantage over another. This results in an interesting spectator sport as well, with a wide array of top-notch players proving serious contenders for each of golf's major titles. And you can learn a lot by just watching.

Seriously, even if you're young and active, golf can make a great second sport for you. Once the preserve of the wealthy, golf is now far more accessible and most cities have an array of courses open to the public. So ditch that cricket bat, put on some golf duds, and hit the course - you'll thank us later!



Village of Nieu-Bethesda



The small village of Nieu-Bethesda is often described as one of South Africa's most artistic and isolated hamlets.

Tucked away in the remote Karoo region at the foot of the Sneeuberg mountains, it feels almost frozen in time, with gravel roads, historic cottages, and a quiet pace of life that contrasts sharply with urban centres. Its isolation, due to limited road access, has helped preserve not only its old-world charm but also a strong sense of community and creativity that draws artists, writers, and travellers seeking inspiration and solitude.

The village is best known for the remarkable Owl House, created by outsider artist Helen Martins in collaboration with Koos Malgas. This unique site features hundreds of cement sculptures, glass, and reflective elements, all arranged in a surreal landscape filled with owls, camels, and mystical figures. The Owl House has become a cultural landmark, symbolizing the transformative power of art in even the most remote places. Today, it continues to attract visitors from around the world who are curious about Martins' life and vision.

Beyond the Owl House, Nieu-Bethesda has developed into a quiet creative hub, home to galleries, craft shops, and small theatres such as the Kitching Fossil Exploration Centre, which highlights the region's rich prehistoric past. The surrounding Karoo landscape - vast, dry, and hauntingly beautiful - adds to the village's sense of introspection and inspiration. Together, its artistic heritage and geographic isolation give Nieu-Bethesda a distinctive atmosphere, making it a place where creativity and stillness co-exist in a deeply memorable way.



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EATING MEALS TOGETHER TODAY

is still vitally important

In today's fast-paced world, where schedules are packed and screens often dominate attention, sitting down for a family meal can feel like a luxury. Yet, it remains one of the simplest and most meaningful ways families can connect. Sharing a meal provides a natural pause in the day - a chance to gather, talk, and be present with one another without distractions.

Family meals create a space for conversation that might not happen otherwise. Around the table, children and parents alike can share stories about their day, discuss challenges, and celebrate small victories. These regular moments of connection help build trust and strengthen relationships, giving everyone a sense of belonging and support within the family unit.

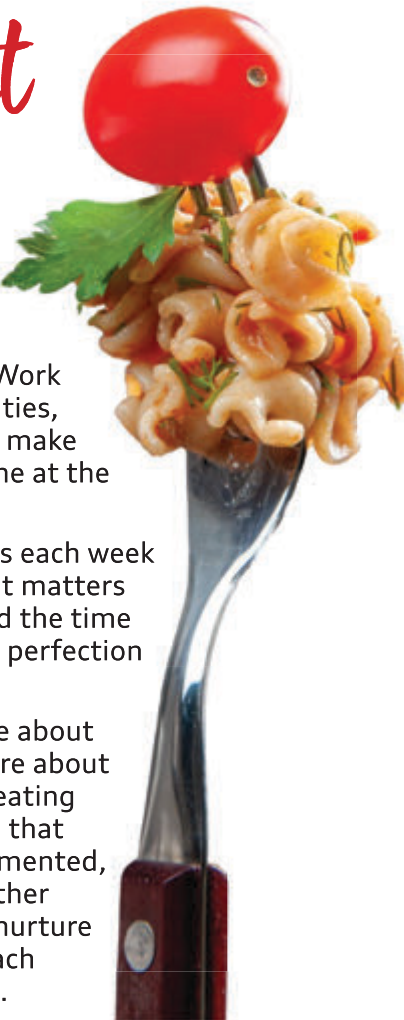
There are also lasting benefits for children who grow up eating meals with their families. Research has shown that regular family dinners can support better communication skills, healthier eating habits, and even improved academic performance. More importantly, these shared experiences often

become cherished simple routines that children carry with them into adulthood.

Of course, modern life doesn't always make daily sit-down dinners possible. Work commitments, school activities, and differing schedules can make it difficult to gather everyone at the same time.

But even a few shared meals each week can make a difference. What matters most is the intention behind the time spent together, rather than perfection or frequency.

Ultimately, family meals are about more than just food. They are about connection, routine, and creating a sense of home. In a world that often feels rushed and fragmented, taking the time to eat together remains a powerful way to nurture relationships and remind each other of what truly matters.



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I CAN HEAR YOU... I JUST CAN'T UNDERSTAND YOU

Why conversations become harder with age – even when your hearing seems “fine”

Have you ever said...“Everyone is mumbling.”
“I can hear you, but I can’t make out the words.”
“I’m fine one-on-one, but I struggle in groups.”

If so, you’re not alone - and more importantly, you’re not imagining it.

Many people believe hearing loss is simply about volume. But in reality, one of the most common challenges - especially as we get older - is understanding speech clearly, particularly in noisy environments.

Hearing vs Understanding: What’s the Difference?

Hearing and understanding are not the same thing. Hearing is simply the ear detecting sound, while understanding is the brain making sense of it. With age, the ear often loses sensitivity to higher-pitched sounds which makes speech seem muffled. At the same time, the brain works a little harder to keep up, especially in noisy places or fast conversations. The result? Voices are audible, but words can feel blurred, making everyday conversations more tiring than they used to be.

You may notice:

Restaurants feel overwhelming
Group conversations are hard to follow
You miss punchlines or respond incorrectly

Why does this happen?

Background noise competes with speech, and the brain has to “fill in the gaps”. However if there is a hearing loss in the higher frequencies, certain speech sounds become even harder to distinguish through background noise.

The Hidden Impact

When conversations become difficult, many people start to withdraw from social situations and avoid group gatherings. Over time, this can affect confidence, relationships, and overall wellbeing.

A QUICK SELF-CHECK: TICK THE BOXES THAT APPLY:

- ☐ I can hear people talking, but I don’t always understand what they’re saying
- ☐ I struggle more in groups than in one-on-one conversations
- ☐ I often ask people to repeat themselves
- ☐ I feel like others are mumbling
- ☐ I avoid noisy places (restaurants, events, gatherings)
- ☐ I feel tired after long conversations
- ☐ I turn the TV up louder than others prefer

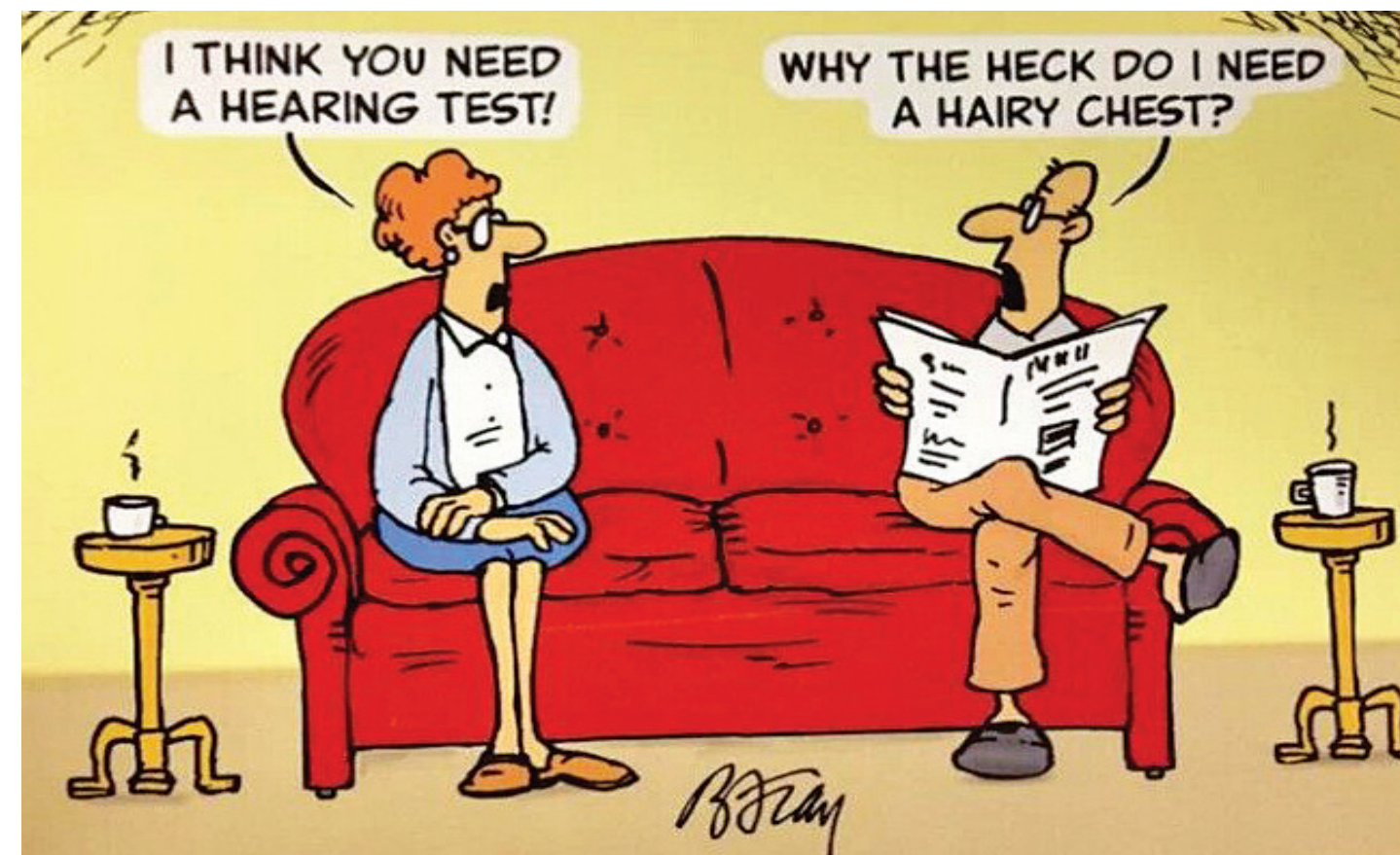
If you ticked 2 or more, it may be worth having your hearing checked - not just for volume, but for clarity.

A hearing assessment doesn’t just measure how loud sounds are. It also looks at how clearly you understand speech, especially in background noise, and whether hearing support (if needed) can improve your quality of life.

A Final Thought

Hearing well is not just about sound - it’s about connection. It’s about enjoying conversations, sharing stories, laughing at the right moment, and feeling part of the world around you. If you’ve ever thought, “I can hear... but I just can’t understand,” that’s your sign to take action. Help is available.

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How to have the CAR TALK...

Learning to drive is an exciting milestone for many teenagers because it represents freedom and independence. For parents, however, it can be both a proud and anxious moment. This is why having the "car talk" with teenagers who are learning to drive is so important.



The talk is not simply about explaining how to operate a vehicle, but about discussing responsibility, safety, and the consequences of careless driving. By having this conversation early, parents can help teenagers understand that driving is a privilege that requires maturity and good judgment.

One important part of car talk is helping teenagers understand the risks that come with driving. Many young drivers are easily distracted by mobile phones, loud music, or friends in the car. Others may feel pressured to speed or show off their driving skills. Parents should openly discuss these dangers and explain how quickly a small mistake on the road can lead to serious accidents. Encouraging teenagers to think about the safety of their passengers, pedestrians, and other drivers can help them develop a stronger sense of responsibility behind the wheel.

Another key aspect of the car talk is setting clear expectations and rules. Parents should discuss family driving rules such as always wearing a

seatbelt, avoiding phone use while driving, obeying speed limits, and never driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs. These rules help teenagers understand the boundaries and standards expected of them as new drivers. At the same time, parents should allow teenagers to ask questions and share their thoughts so that the conversation feels supportive rather than controlling.

Finally, the car talk should not be a one-time discussion but an ongoing conversation as teenagers gain more driving experience. Parents can continue guiding their teenagers by offering advice, practicing driving skills together, and setting a good example through their own driving habits. When parents communicate openly and lead by example, teenagers are more likely to develop confidence and safe driving habits.

Ultimately, the goal of the car talk is to prepare young drivers not only to pass their driving test, but to become responsible and careful drivers for life.

TIPS on how to keep colds and flu away this Winter

To keep colds and flu away this winter, focus on getting your annual flu vaccine, washing your hands frequently with soap for at least 20 seconds, and avoiding touching your face. Additionally, prioritize at least 7–8 hours of sleep per night to maintain a strong immune system.



The most effective strategies to stay healthy this winter include:

1 Optimize Your Immune System Eat a balanced diet: Focus on whole foods, fresh fruits, and vegetables to get essential vitamins (like Vitamin C and D) and minerals. **Hydrate properly:** Drink plenty of water to keep your nasal passages and throat lubricated, helping to flush out contaminants. **Stay active:** Regular, moderate exercise (20-30 minutes a day) boosts your immune defenses.

2 Practice Good Hygiene Sanitize surfaces: Regularly disinfect high-touch areas in your home and workspace - such as doorknobs, keyboards, remotes, and faucet handles. Avoid touching your face: The eyes, nose, and mouth are the primary entry points for germs. **Cover your coughs:** Use a tissue (or your sleeve) rather than your hands when sneezing or coughing.

3 Limit Exposure Ventilate indoor spaces: Avoid stagnant air by letting fresh outside air into your home and office regularly. **Keep your distance:** Steer clear of uncomfortably crowded indoor areas during peak season, and avoid close contact with people who are already sick. **Stay home if ill:** Protect your colleagues and family by self-isolating if you develop symptoms.



Healthy plate

healthy me



Is a simple idea with a powerful message: what we put on our plates directly shapes how we feel, grow, and thrive. In busy family life, it can be tempting to reach for quick, convenient meals, but building a balanced plate doesn't have to be complicated. By making small, thoughtful choices each day, families can create eating habits that support energy, wellbeing, and long-term health.

A healthy plate is all about balance. Half the plate can be filled with colorful vegetables and fruits, providing essential vitamins and fibre. A quarter can include whole grains like brown rice, whole wheat bread, or maize meal, which give lasting energy. The remaining portion can be lean protein such as beans, eggs, chicken, or fish to help build and repair the body. Adding a small amount of healthy fats - like avocado or nuts - rounds out the meal and keeps everyone feeling satisfied.

For children especially, learning what a healthy plate looks like can shape their habits for life. When families eat together and model balanced meals, children are more likely to try new foods and develop a positive relationship with eating. It also becomes easier to teach them about moderation - that all foods can fit into a healthy lifestyle when enjoyed in the right amounts.

Healthy eating doesn't mean giving up favourite foods or spending hours in the kitchen. Simple swaps, like choosing water instead of sugary drinks or adding an extra vegetable to a meal, can make a big difference over time. Involving children in planning meals or helping with preparation can also make healthy eating more enjoyable and less of a chore.

At its heart, "healthy plate, healthy me" is about caring for ourselves and our families. It's not about perfection, but about making better choices more often. By focusing on balance, variety, and shared meals, families can build a strong foundation for health - one plate at a time

QUICK AND EASY WRAP IDEAS FOR SCHOOL LUNCHES

CHICKEN + AVOCADO
1 wrap
½ cup cooked shredded chicken
½ avocado
2 lettuce leaves

Spread the lettuce over the wrap, top with avocado and chicken. Spread a little extra avocado on the edge of the wrap to seal together.

CHICKEN, HAM + CHEESE
1 wrap
½ cup cooked shredded chicken
2 slices cheese
4 slices ham
½ carrot, grated
1 tablespoon mayonnaise

CHICKEN CAESAR
1 wrap
½ cup cooked shredded chicken
¾ cup thinly sliced lettuce
1 slice cooked bacon, diced
¼ cup grated parmesan cheese
1 tablespoon caesar salad dressing

CHICKEN + SALAD
1 wrap
½ cup cooked shredded chicken
¾ cup thinly sliced lettuce
¼ cucumber, thinly sliced
½ tomato, thinly sliced
½ carrot, grated



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COLD FIGHTING CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP

The most soothing, comforting soup for flu season! So easy to make, you'll be feeling better in no time!

INGREDIENTS

- ▶ 1 Tablespoon olive oil
- ▶ 1 Onion, diced
- ▶ 3 Carrots, peeled and diced
- ▶ 2 Ribs celery, diced
- ▶ 3 Cloves garlic, minced
- ▶ 1 Tablespoon freshly grated ginger
- ▶ 1 Tablespoon minced lemongrass
- ▶ 1 Tablespoon chopped fresh thyme leaves
- ▶ 1 Tablespoon chopped fresh rosemary
- ▶ 5 Cups chicken stock
- ▶ 2 Bay leaves
- ▶ 1 Pound boneless, skinless chicken thighs
- ▶ ¾ Cup pasta
- ▶ 3 Tablespoons freshly squeezed lemon juice
- ▶ Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- ▶ 2 Tablespoons chopped fresh chives

INSTRUCTIONS

- ▶ Heat 1 tablespoon olive oil in a large stockpot or Dutch oven over medium heat. Add onion, carrots and celery. Cook, stirring occasionally, until tender, about 3-4 minutes.
- ▶ Stir in garlic, ginger, lemongrass, thyme and rosemary until fragrant, about 1-2 minutes.
- ▶ Stir in chicken stock, bay leaves and 1 cup water. Add chicken and bring to boil; reduce heat and simmer, covered, until the chicken is cooked through, about 10-12 minutes.
- ▶ Remove chicken and shred, using two forks; set aside.
- ▶ Stir in pasta and cook until tender, about 8-10 minutes.
- ▶ Stir in chicken and lemon juice; season with salt and pepper, to taste.
- ▶ Serve immediately, garnished with chives, if desired.

WINTER will soon be upon us...



When sniffles, sneezing, and a runny nose appear, it's often hard to tell whether you're dealing with a common cold or an allergy. Both can look very similar at first, especially in children, and it's easy to assume they're the same thing. However, understanding the differences can help families respond in the right way and avoid unnecessary worry.

A common cold is caused by a virus and usually develops gradually. Symptoms often include a sore throat, blocked or runny nose, coughing, and sometimes a mild fever. Children may feel tired or a little under the weather, and symptoms typically clear up within a week to ten days. Because it's contagious, colds can quickly spread through households, especially during colder months or when children are in school.

Allergies, on the other hand, are the body's reaction to triggers like dust, pollen, pet hair, or certain foods. Unlike a cold, allergies are not caused by a virus and are not contagious. Symptoms tend to appear quickly and can last for as long as the person is exposed to the trigger. Common signs include frequent sneezing, itchy or watery eyes, and a clear runny nose. There is usually no fever, and the person often feels otherwise well.

One helpful way to tell the difference is to look at how long the symptoms last and what other signs are present. If symptoms come and go, especially at certain times of the year or in specific environments, allergies may be the cause. If there is a fever or the person feels generally unwell, it is more likely to be a cold. Paying attention to patterns can make it easier to identify what's going on.

For families, knowing the difference means better care and comfort. Colds usually just need rest, fluids, and time, while allergies may require avoiding triggers or using appropriate treatments. When in doubt, especially if symptoms are severe or ongoing, it's always wise to seek medical advice. With a little observation and care, parents can help their families feel better and get back to their normal routines more quickly.



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NECESSITY OR FASHION?

Handbags have long been a staple in everyday life, blending practicality with personal expression. For many people, a handbag is first and foremost a necessity.

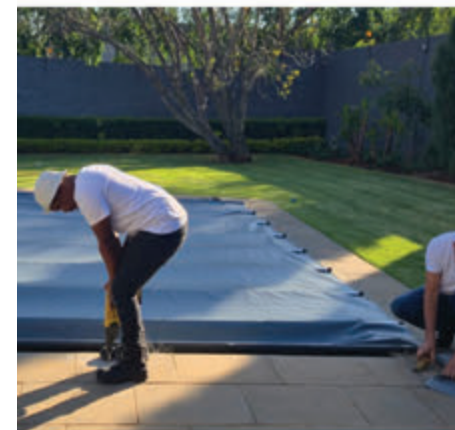
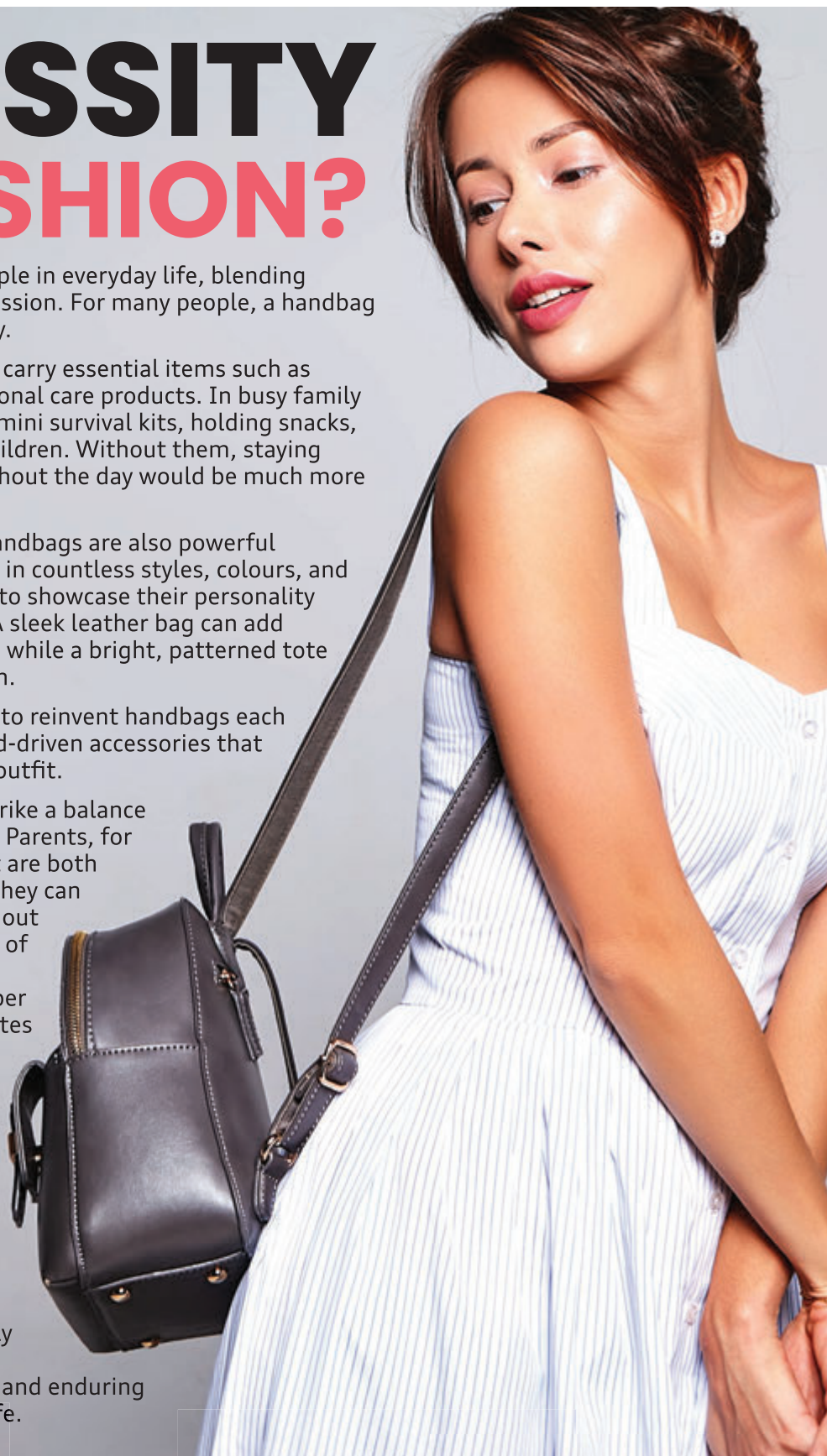
It serves as a portable space to carry essential items such as wallets, phones, keys, and personal care products. In busy family life, handbags often double as mini survival kits, holding snacks, wipes, or even small toys for children. Without them, staying organized and prepared throughout the day would be much more challenging.

Beyond their functional role, handbags are also powerful fashion statements. They come in countless styles, colours, and materials, allowing individuals to showcase their personality and compliment their outfits. A sleek leather bag can add sophistication to a formal look, while a bright, patterned tote might express creativity and fun.

Designers and brands continue to reinvent handbags each season, turning them into trend-driven accessories that can define or elevate an entire outfit.

For families, handbags often strike a balance between necessity and fashion. Parents, for instance, may choose bags that are both spacious and stylish, ensuring they can carry everything they need without sacrificing appearance. The rise of multifunctional designs - like backpacks that look chic or diaper bags that resemble designer totes - shows how the line between practicality and style continues to blur.

Ultimately, whether handbags are seen as a necessity or a fashion item depends on perspective. For some, they are indispensable tools for daily life; for others, they are an extension of personal style. In reality, handbags successfully combine both roles, making them one of the most versatile and enduring accessories in modern family life.



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