



Monday, June 5, 2023

Good Monday morning to you!

When you mail a package at the post office, the rate you are charged is based on its weight. When you buy meat at the grocery store, the amount you pay is directly related to the weight of the package. And when you check in your luggage on an airline flight, extra fees are applied if your bag exceeds a specified weight limit. In essence, the more something weighs, the more it costs — except for people, that is.

Imagine checking in at the airline counter and having to step on a scale to determine the cost of your flight. We are not there yet, but one airline is inching toward it.

[National Public Radio](#) reported last week how, in Auckland, New Zealand, the passengers are getting on scales before flying abroad on Air New Zealand. The airline says the goal “isn’t to single out passengers who might contribute to a plane being overloaded or out of balance, but the process is part of a survey to gather real-world information.”

The goal, according to the story, is to obtain readings from at least 10,000 air passengers for a survey mandated by the country’s Civil Aviation Authority. The weigh-ins happen before passengers reach their boarding gate, but those who don’t want to participate can skip it.

Alastair James, a load control specialist for the airline, told NPR, “We weigh everything that goes on the aircraft, from the cargo to the meals onboard, to the luggage in the hold,” so pilots can know the weight and balance of the aircraft. “No one can see your weight. Not even us.”

Sure. And we are also to believe that TSA agents are not having a few laughs when looking over our full body scans. Meanwhile, if you have ever sat by a large person on a flight who is also halfway into your seat, you have to at least be intrigued by the idea of that person having to pay more than you.

Samoa Air attempted this full-blown “pay by the pound” approach in 2013. An NPR story at the time reported that the rates ranged from \$1 a kilogram (2.2 pounds) on some domestic routes to about \$4.16 per kilogram to American Samoa.

NPR’s story from last week includes notes from the U.S. Federal Aviation stating how weight affects everything from a plane’s climb rate to its cruising altitude, speed and maneuverability. Weight appears to be a legitimate concern, but what do you think? Should airline travelers pay by the pound? Shoot me a note and let me know.

Have a marvelous Monday, and thanks for reading.

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CITYVIEW's Best Of Des Moines

CITYVIEW announced its 2023 Best Of Des Moines readers' choices Jan. 31. You can find all the results from the poll in the February issue of [CITYVIEW](#) magazine!

Best Local Place to Purchase a Musical Instrument

1. Rieman Music
2. Uptempo Music
3. Professional Music Center



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DES MOINES 7 DAY FORECAST

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
						
87	87	81	82	84	84	79
63	64	59	60	62	64	



Your Clear Mortgage forecast from Jason Parkin

Again today we'll see a few storms pop up in the late afternoon and evening as the heat continues. Tomorrow, rain chances will be better late in the day and evening as a boundary approaches from the northeast. After that, temperatures get cooler for the rest of the week as conditions look to be drier through Saturday.

For help with preapprovals or refinancing, get in touch with Carrie at carrie.mortgage.

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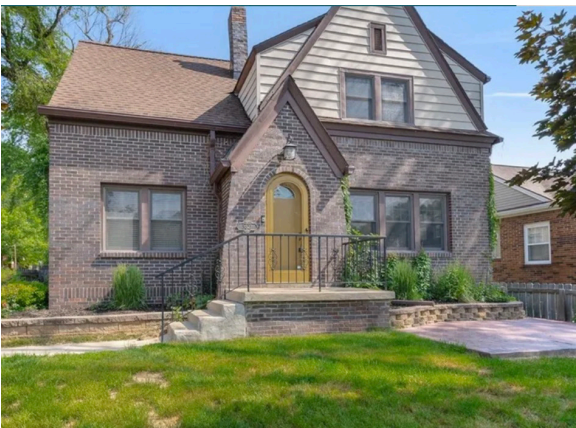
Attention Realtors, post your listings here for \$50. Contact jolene@iowalivingmagazines.com for details.

\$319,900
3827 Franklin Ave.,
Des Moines, IA 50310

Welcome to this beautiful home in charming Beaverdale neighborhood! The main floor features a kitchen with granite countertops and large center island, formal dining room and a half bath. The spacious living room offers a brick fireplace and plenty of natural light. The second level has three bedrooms and a full bathroom. Hardwood floors on both levels of the home and a fresh paint throughout.

[See more about this listing.](#)

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— From the — — **FOOD DUDE** —

A Columbia University study suggests that flavonoid-rich diets help prevent memory loss and dementia. A flavonoid supplement-taking study group saw 16% increases in memory compared to a placebo group. Tea, red wine, citrus, berries, apples and legumes are leading natural sources of flavonoids.

Sponsored by the U.S. Embassy in Slovenia, Des Moines’ Moe Cason is the Honorary Pitmaster of Slovenia’s Wild West Festival.

Niman Ranch has brought great national chefs to Des Moines for years for their Farmers’ Appreciation dinners. This year, they have also recruited food world luminaries to town. Best-selling author Ruth Reichl (“Comfort Me with Apples,” “Save Me the Plums,” “Garlic and Sapphires”), Slow food’s American trailblazer Alice Waters, and food columnists Gustavo Arellano of the L.A. Times (author of “Ask a Mexican” and “Taco America”) and Charles Plassy of the Wall Street Journal. Aug. 25-27.

— Jim Duncan

Headlines

FROM KCCI: DeSantis signs Bible, Pence hops on motorcycle at ‘Roast and Ride’ rally in Iowa

DES MOINES, Iowa — Amid plates of sliced pork, statement-making leather ensembles and piles of political T-shirts, eight Republican presidential hopefuls descended on Iowa to pitch themselves to voters and, in Mike Pence’s case, hop on a motorcycle. ..[READ MORE FROM KCCI](#)

FROM WHO-TV: Everyone gets a chance to compete in first ‘The Nice Tri’ triathlon Sunday

DES MOINES, Iowa — It was a “trying” day for some and a day of achievement for others at Water Works Park in Des Moines on Sunday for the first “The Nice Tri” triathlon. The event gave everyone a chance to compete. ..[READ MORE FROM WHO-TV](#)

FROM WOI-DT Local 5: Polk County Sheriff’s Office: Bicyclist dies after being hit by car near Bondurant

Officials believe 64-year-old Des Moines resident Gregory Hardy was crossing NE 64th Street when a car hit him around 1:30 p.m. Wednesday. ...[READ MORE FROM WOI-DT Local 5](#)

On June 5 in history ...

1968. Robert F. Kennedy is fatally shot. Shortly after midnight on June 5, 1968, Senator Robert Kennedy is shot at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles after winning the California presidential primary. Immediately after he announced to his cheering supporters that the country was ready to end its fractious divisions, Kennedy was shot several times by 24-year-old Palestinian Sirhan Sirhan. He was pronounced dead a day later, on June 6, 1968.

1981: First scientific report on AIDS is published. On June 5, 1981, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention publishes an article in its Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report describing five cases of a rare lung infection, PCP, in young, otherwise healthy gay men in Los Angeles. It was unknown at the time, but the article is describing the effects of AIDS. Today, the article's publication is often cited as the beginning of the AIDS crisis.

2004: Former U.S. president Ronald Reagan dies. On June 5, 2004, Ronald Wilson Reagan, the 40th president of the United States, dies, after a long struggle with Alzheimer's disease. Reagan, who was also a well-known actor and served as governor of California, was a popular president known for restoring American confidence after the problems of the 1970s.

[Read more at History.com.](#)

Birthdays and Notables!

These celebrities were born on this date: Mark Wahlberg, Kenny G, Rick Riordan, Suze Orman, Mike Zimmer

SUBMIT: Send your birthday greetings and congratulatory notes to: tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com

Morning Chuckle

The answer to yesterday's riddle:

Which one of the chimpanzee's friends told everyone his secret?

THE BLABERBOON

Today's Riddle

How did the chimpanzee get down the stairs so quickly?

Have a guess? Email tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com

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