

Canyon Creek CHRONICLE

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PROTECT EYES THIS SUMMER

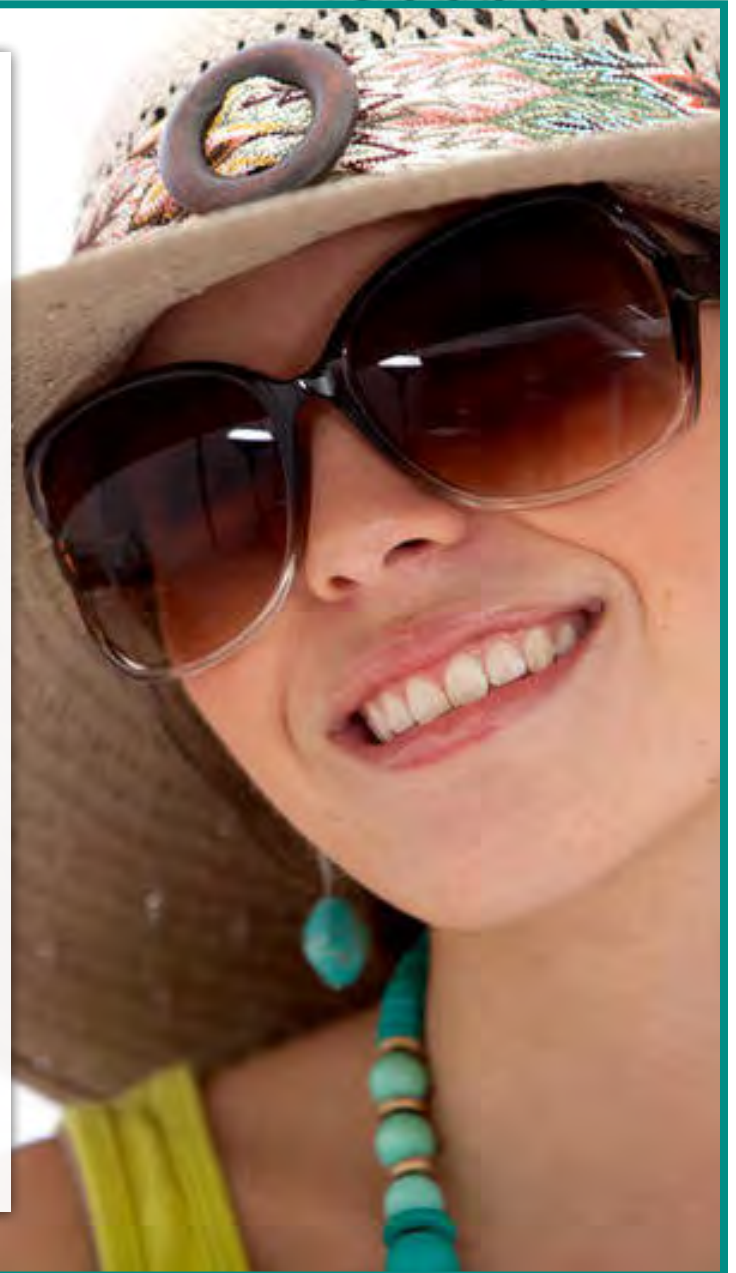
Take precautionary measures to protect your eyes during the summer to prevent long-term damage to eyesight, said a Baylor College of Medicine ophthalmologist.

"Ultraviolet light, or UV exposure, has been linked to the development of macular degeneration, cataracts and other vision-loss problems," said Dr. Elizabeth Baze, assistant professor of ophthalmology at BCM.

Baze offered tips you can practice to help protect your eyes from sun damage this summer.

- The more the sunglasses wrap around and shield your eyes and the skin around the eyes, the more protection you have.
- Sunglasses need to provide 99 to 100 percent UV protection.
- Sunblock is a must, including the skin around the eyes.
- A broad-brimmed hat can add extra protection.

If you have an existing eye condition like macular degeneration or cataracts, protecting your eyes from the sun should be a top priority during the summer, she said.



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Physical Symptoms Could Be Sign Of Depression

Depression and chronic mood disorders can manifest themselves through physical symptoms, said an expert at Baylor College of Medicine.

"Physical symptoms often drive a patient to see a primary care physician, and then the diagnosis of depression may emerge," said Dr. Sanjay Mathew, associate professor in the Menninger Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at BCM.

Symptoms include gastrointestinal syndromes or chronic pain conditions. Many patients will have diagnoses of both a physical illness as well as depression.

The first step is to get a complete medical history and physical exam to rule out any medical conditions before making a psychiatric diagnosis.

Certain types of antidepressants and medications that help treat seizures also help with the physical symptoms of depression at low doses. This can help avoid the use of multiple medications.



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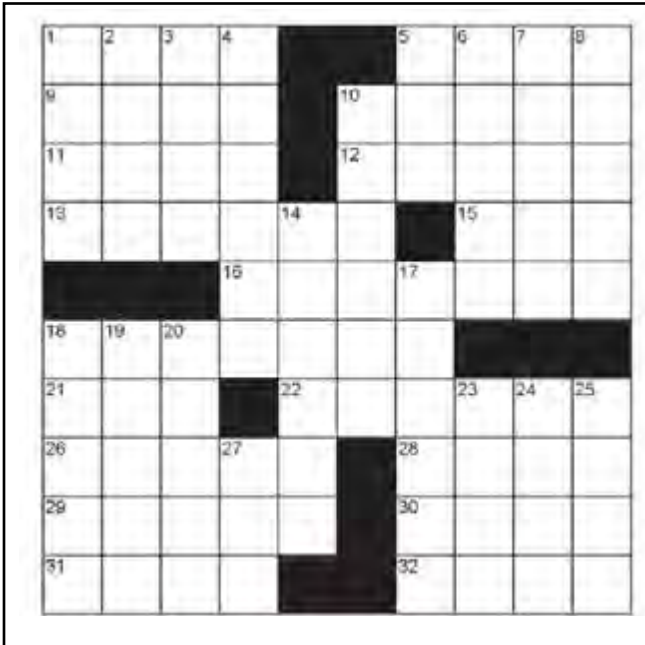


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ACROSS

1. Curse
5. Glasses
9. Charge card
10. Japanese dish
11. Pear type
12. Type of alcohol
13. Mete out
15. Deer relative
16. Mountains
18. Sin
21. Fawn's mom
22. Rain shoe
26. Angry
28. Sole
29. Whoop
30. A spinning toy (2 wds.)
31. Plateau
32. Former magistrate of Venice

DOWN

1. Baby's "ball"
2. Famous cookies
3. Loch __ monster
4. Levy
5. Jag
6. Direct
7. Animal kingdom division
8. Soft materials
10. Member of an American Indian people
14. Dancer Rogers
17. Put more ammunition in
18. Abhorrence
19. Skill
20. Heroic actions
23. Upon
24. Slug
25. Publicity
27. Drink

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A FOCUS ON HEAT EMERGENCIES

Healthy Tips To Stay Cool In Extremely Hot Weather

By: Concentra Urgent Care

Heat emergencies fall into three categories of increasing severity:

Heat Cramps, Heat Exhaustion, and Heatstroke.

Heat illnesses are easily preventable by taking precautions in hot weather. Children, elderly, and obese people have a higher risk of developing heat illness. People taking certain medications or drinking alcohol also have a higher risk. However, even a top athlete in superb condition can succumb to heat illness if he or she ignores the warning signs. If the problem isn't addressed, heat cramps (caused by loss of salt from heavy sweating) can lead to heat exhaustion (caused by dehydration), which can progress to heatstroke. Heatstroke, the most serious of the three, can cause shock, brain damage, organ failure, and even death.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS:

Heat Cramps

- Sweating
- Pain in arms, legs, and abdomen
- Heat Exhaustion
- Moist, pale skin
- Fatigue and fainting
- Dizziness and lightheadedness
- Headache and confusion
- Nausea and vomiting
- Rapid pulse and breathing

Heat Stroke

- No sweating
- Dry, hot, red skin
- Confusion/loss of consciousness
- Rapid pulse
- Temperature over 103° F
- Seizures

CAUSES:

The following are common causes of heat emergencies:

- High temperatures or humidity
- Dehydration
- Prolonged or excessive exercise
- Excess clothing
- Alcohol use
- Medications, such as diuretics, neuroleptics, phenothiazines, and anticholinergics
- Cardiovascular disease

WHAT TO DO IN HEAT EMERGENCIES...

First Aid

1. Have the person lie down in a cool place. Elevate the person's feet about 12 inches.
2. Apply cool, wet cloths (or cool water directly) to the person's skin and use a fan to lower body temperature. Place cold compresses on the person's neck, groin, and armpits.
3. If the person is alert, give cool water or sports beverages. It's advisable to drink slowly and steadily, particularly if they are experiencing nausea.
4. For muscle cramps, give beverages as above, and massage and stretch affected muscles gently, but firmly, until they relax.
5. If the person shows signs of shock (bluish lips and fingernails, and decreased alertness), starts having seizures, or loses consciousness, call 911 and continue cooling procedures, as described above.

DO NOT:

- DO NOT underestimate the seriousness of heat illness, especially

if the person is a child, elderly, or injured.

• DO NOT give the person medications that are used to treat fever (such as aspirin or acetaminophen). They will not help, and they may be harmful.

• DO NOT give the person salt tablets.

• DO NOT give the person liquids that contain alcohol or caffeine. They will interfere with the body's ability to control its internal temperature.

• DO NOT use alcohol rubs on the person's skin.

• DO NOT give the person anything by mouth (not even salted drinks) if the person is vomiting or unconscious.

PREVENTION:

- Wear loose-fitting, lightweight clothing in hot weather.
- Rest regularly in a cool area; seek shade when possible.
- Avoid strenuous physical activity in hot or humid conditions.
- Drink plenty of fluids every day. Drink more fluids before, during, and after physical activity.
- Be especially careful to avoid overheating if you are taking drugs that impair heat regulation, or if you are overweight or elderly.
- Be careful of hot cars in the summer. Allow the car to cool off before getting in.
- Avoid heavy meals and hot foods.

For more information on how to cope with the heat, ask your Concentra health professional, or visit the CDC's Web site at: www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/heatstress/

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