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Wallet Lost in NC Has Incredible Journey Home

Last spring, Scott Curri lost his wallet filled with a lifetime of personal treasures. What happened next still amazes Curri. **Gone forever** Curri had stopped at an exit off Interstate 95 near Rocky Mount when his phone rang. It was his wife, Diane. He fumbled for his phone and, without a thought, put his wallet on the roof of his Volvo. Only hours later as he made his way toward his destination in Florida did he realize his wallet was gone.

"It was not in the door where it was supposed to be," said Curri, a 65-year-old semi-retired boat mechanic. He couldn't remember where he had last seen it. He simply assumed it was gone forever.

Glovebox mystery Fast forward about six months. Bobby Liverman was heading out of his state Transportation Department's district engineer's office in Nashville to investigate a drainage complaint. As he drove, Liverman needed a napkin to clean his sunglasses. He reached into the glovebox and found a black, leather wallet. He examined its contents, which included Scott Curri's New York driver license. Liverman mailed him a letter about his lost wallet.

But Curri had moved, and the address was out of date. Liverman's letter was returned by the post office in early November.

Online sleuthing Undeterred, Liverman asked one of his office assistants, Sybil Stancil, to see whether she could locate Curri. Stancil would spend the next six weeks searching for Curri over the internet when she had spare time at work. She called any phone number she could find, reaching several dead ends. But, she didn't give up.

"I'm going to find this man," Stancil said. Then it happened. Around Christmas, Stancil stumbled upon Curri's wife through social media. So, Stancil called her, then eventually talked to her husband.

It was a phone call Curri never would have expected to receive. Equally shocking, they had found his wallet.

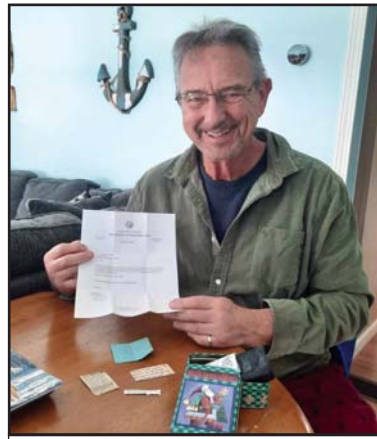
Wallet returned Stancil asked him to describe the wallet's contents. Satisfied he was the owner, she grabbed a small Christmas box from her home, put the wallet inside it and mailed it to South Glen Falls, N.Y. "It was a late Christmas present," Stancil said.

When the box arrived in early January, Curri immediately pried open the leather folds. The cash that had been in the wallet was now gone. No matter, he thought. It probably blew away when he drove back onto I-95 on that day so long ago. The important items were still there, in between the seams. One was a handwritten paper heart cutout from his wife. "A hug & a kiss for you," it read. The second was a personal note and a signed photo from 2008 of his mother, Theta Swinton Curri. She passed away in 2016.

"The money and the other stuff didn't matter," Curri said. "But everything else was irreplaceable."

No thanks necessary Liverman and Stancil were content not to seek any publicity for doing their jobs. So, it was Curri who made sure to return the favor. He sought out the N.C. Department of Transportation's Communications Office last month, so he could share his amazing story. He was so grateful for the NCDOT, and Stancil's extra effort for reuniting him with his wallet.

"Sybil is the kind of person who maintains the faith that things are going to be all right," Curri said. "She's a good person, doing the right thing."



Scott Curri displays the returned wallet and its contents, as well as a December 28 letter from NCDOT, from his home.



Sybil Stancil and Bobby Liverman, who work for the N.C. Department of Transportation in Wilson, stand in front of the vehicle where the lost wallet had been placed into a glovebox.

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You Decide: Did the Chances of a Recession in 2022 Just Go Up?

By Mike Walden: Recessions are part of the economic cycle. Each economic cycle contains a period of growth – called an expansion – and a period of decline, which is labeled a recession. Since World War II there have been a dozen recessions. The last recession occurred in 2020. It lasted only two months, but was very deep.

Bad things happen during recessions. Businesses go bankrupt, workers lose their jobs, the stock market declines and the federal government goes deeper in debt trying to help the country survive.

One of the long-studied issues about recessions is what causes them. The consensus answer is that recessions result from some excess that had developed in the economy. Indeed, recessions are the way those excesses are eliminated.

Consider the recession of 2007-2009, the so-called "subprime recession". Affordable interest rates and lenient lending standards motivated a boom in home construction and buying. Home prices surged, and investors became convinced investing in homes was a "sure thing". Unfortunately for buyers, home prices eventually peaked, sparking a big sell-off as investors took profits. Those who bought at the peak in prices lost large amounts of money, as did the financial institutions that backed them. The country came close to having a financial meltdown similar to the Great Depression of the 1930s.

The last recession in 2020, dubbed the "Covid-19 recession", had an unusual origin. It occurred as a result of government mandates for some businesses to close and individuals to stay home in order to curtail the spread of the virus. Policymakers knew the economy would decline as a result, but the costs were deemed necessary to lower cases, hospitalizations and deaths from COVID-19.

If there is a recession in 2022, there will also be a COVID link. Here's why. With the economy partially shut down in early 2020, and with public institutions such as hospitals facing rising numbers of patients, the federal government began providing an unprecedented amount of financial aid. Stimulus checks to households, enlarged unemployment compensation checks to laid-off workers, special payments to households with children, expanded Food Stamps, broader health care support and special loans to businesses were provided in several aid packages over 2020 and 2021. These allocations totaled \$5.5 trillion.

The financial assistance was so broad and generous that median household income rose and the poverty rate fell. Many households actually emerged from the worst of the virus in 2021 in better financial shape than prior to the virus. They were flush with cash and the desire to spend. But a problem arose because the virus also curtailed the ability of producers to make products and deliver them to consumers. So, with robust spending but limited supply, the national inflation rate – which had been running between one percent and two percent annually in the 21st century – began rising, and ended 2021 at seven percent, three times higher than the level it had been for most of the 21st century. Hence, 2022 began with inflation a top economic problem for the first time in forty years. Although improvements in the supply chain will ease inflation, most experts estimate it will be months before supply problems are completely fixed.

Therefore, the work of reducing the inflation rate will fall to the nation's central bank, the Federal Reserve (Fed). The Fed will have to unwind its "cheap money" policy followed during the pandemic, when it pushed interest rates to near zero and expanded the money supply by 85 percent. Interest rates will have to be raised and the money supply curtailed.

Forty years ago, the Fed faced a similar situation. As a result of stimulus provided by the Fed to deal with two recessions in the 1970s, the economy was running hot and the annual inflation rate reached double-digit levels for several years. After the Fed raised interest rates and curtailed money growth, the inflation rate plunged. But so did the economy as a recession set in.

In the best case, today's Fed will be able to slow the economy enough to reduce the inflation rate, but not too much that the economy contracts, unemployment rises and a new recession occurs. Unfortunately, the "gas pedal" the Fed controls is not precise. The Fed never knows exactly how the economy will respond when it pushes down or lets up on the pedal.

The Fed has strongly hinted it will raise interest rates in 2022. Watch what they do, because everyone's economy will be impacted. Will a recession be in our future? You decide. Walden is a Reynolds Distinguished Professor Emeritus at North Carolina State University.

Know the Warning Signs and Symptoms of Stroke

While most stroke cases are unpredictable, identifying warning signs as soon as possible can make a big difference in how someone is treated for and recovers from a stroke.

"Symptoms can include weakness on one side of the body, numbness, confusion, fatigue, dizziness, blurred vision, a severe headache and potentially paralysis," says Joe Bernard, MD, an interventional radiologist at Carolinas HealthCare System. "However, each stroke case has its own unique combination of signs and symptoms, so not everyone will experience all of them simultaneously nor at the same level of intensity."

F.A.S.T is an easy way to remember the signs of stroke. If you spot these signs in yourself or a loved one, you should call 911 immediately.

• **Face Drooping:** Does one side of the face droop, or is it numb? Ask the person to smile. Is the person's smile uneven? • **Arm Weakness:** Is one arm weak or numb? Ask the person to raise both arms. Does one arm drift downward? • **Speech Difficulty:** Is speech slurred? Is the person unable to speak or hard to understand? Ask the person to repeat a simple sentence, like "The sky is blue." Is the sentence repeated correctly?

• **Time to call 911:** If someone shows any of these symptoms, even if the symptoms go away, call 9-1-1 and get the person to the hospital immediately. Check the time so you'll know when the first symptoms appeared.

To learn more visit www.stroke.org.