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Country Editor

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BUT WHEN THE FULLNESS OF THE TIME HAD COME, GOD SENT FORTH HIS SON, BORN OF A WOMAN, BORN UNDER THE LAW, TO REDEEM THOSE WHO WERE UNDER THE LAW, THAT WE MIGHT RECEIVE THE ADOPTION AS SONS. ~ GALATIANS 4:4-5

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Make jewelry with Robert Moore at VIEW in Old Forge

OLD FORGE – The Arts Center in Old Forge, VIEW, is offering its popular class series, Silver Jewelry Making with Robert Moore. This six-week class starts on Jan. 10 and runs from 6 - 9 p.m. for six sessions. This fun and creative class is open to beginners.

Moore will teach silversmithing fundamentals and introduce the craft's various tools and their use. Sharpening, cutting, forming and soldering silver will be covered. Class participants will choose a specific piece they would like to create, such as a ring, pendant or small project.

Moore has over 40 years of experience in jewelry art, beginning at the Town of Webb School in an art class taught by Al Stripp and Carmen Lesito. He continued his education with Angelo Pegleane.

For details and to register for the classes, visit ViewArts.org or call 315.369.6411. Registration deadline is Jan. 8.

VIEW is located at 3273 State Rt. 28 in Old Forge. It is open year-round and visitors are always welcome.

CVA girls & boys JV and varsity basketball boosters

The CVA girls and boys junior varsity and varsity basketball boosters have a great Christmas gift suggestion.

February 2019 Daily Drawing Fundraiser

• 93 total chances to win/three chances every day in February. A $5 donation gives the ticket holder the chance to win:

$50 each day in February for the winning number

$10 each day in February for the number above and below the winning number

A special $200 for the winning number on Feb. 15.

All winners will be notified and awards paid to them promptly. This fundraiser is limited to 1,000 tickets.

One hundred percent of money raised will benefit the CVA girls and boys JV and varsity basketball players.

The winning number is determined by the New York State Lottery's evening three number drawing.

Call JoAnn at 315.894.3116 for more information.

DMV reminds snowmobile enthusiasts to register for the season

As winter approaches, the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is reminding New Yorkers to register their snowmobiles. Snowmobile registrations must be renewed annually. DMV allows snowmobilers to renew registrations online on the DMV website, by mail or in person at a DMV office.

"We've made the registration process as simple as possible to encourage snowmobile enthusiasts to take advantage of New York's scenic and expansive snowmobiling trails across the state," said DMV Executive Deputy Commissioner Terri Egan. "We also urge every snowmobiler to enjoy the coming season safely and responsibly."

All snowmobiles operated in New York must be registered and marked with a validation sticker. Riders who complete a registration online can print a temporary certificate, which is valid for 15 days. DMV generates a permanent registration and mails it to the recipient, along with their validation sticker. There is no additional charge for the temporary certificate.

Non-New Yorkers who wish to use a snowmobile in New York State can register if it is already registered in their home state. They can use the NYS Registration for Out-of-State Snowmobile service to get the 15-day registration and operate their snowmobile here immediately. DMV will send a permanent registration in the mail.

The Statewide Snowmobile Trail System covers more than 10,000 miles across 45 New York counties. It is administered by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, and is maintained by more than 200 clubs. It is funded by a portion of snowmobile registration fees and through 51 municipal sponsors. Members of a New York State Snowmobile Association (NYSSA) Snowmobile Club can receive a voucher to reduce the registration fee.

In addition, New York State is a leader in snowmobile education and offers operator training courses for snowmobilers of all ages beginning at age 10. For more information, visit parks.ny.gov/recreation/snowmobiles/education.aspx .

State Parks Commissioner Rose Harvey said, "Snowmobiling is one of many exceptional options New York State offers outdoor winter recreation enthusiasts. As the season approaches, State Parks encourages snowmobilers to take a safety course and get familiar with safety tips to help prevent accidents from spoiling an enjoyable day on the trail."

DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos said, "Each winter, New York's magnificent landscapes transform into a winter wonderland for outdoor adventurers to explore and enjoy. DEC maintains a vast network of more than 1,800 miles of groomed snowmobile trails across the state connecting riders of all abilities with New York's unmatched beauty while boosting local tourism economies. Snowmobile registrations support new trail construction and ongoing maintenance of snowmobile trails on state land. I encourage New York's large snowmobiling community to register their sleds and ride safely this winter."

Snowmobilers must always carry registration and proof of insurance documents on them while snowmobiling. Riders must produce the documents at the request of any law enforcement officer or magistrate. Additionally, riders must produce insurance documentation at the request of anyone who is injured or suffers property damage as a result of operating a snowmobile. Holders of snowmobile safety certificates must carry the certificate when they are snowmobiling.

DMV also reminds snowmobilers that it is illegal to operate a snowmobile while impaired by drugs or alcohol, and drivers and passengers must wear helmets on the state snowmobile trail system.

You can learn more about registering a snowmobile in New York State on the DMV's website at dmv.ny.gov/registration/register-snowmobile .

For more info on the New York State Snowmobile Trail System and tips for operation visit www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7718.html and parks.ny.gov/recreation/snowmobiles/.

A map of New York's extensive snowmobile trails is available at parks.ny.gov/recreation/snowmobiles/maps.aspx .

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Dos and don'ts of holiday safety

It's the most wonderful time of the year, as long as holiday happenings go as planned. Celebrants can ensure that this joyous time of year is not marred by injury, theft or accidents by always keeping safety in mind.

DO turn off Christmas lights before going to bed or leaving home. Lights left on can overheat and cause fires. Electrical distribution or lighting equipment was involved in two of every five home Christmas tree fires between 2011 and 2015, according to the National Fire Prevention Association.

DON'T locate a Christmas tree too close to a heating source, fireplace or lit candles, as trees can dry out and ignite.

DO extinguish candles before retiring for the night.

DON'T gift without doing research into whether or not toys are age-appropriate. Pay attention to toy recalls as well. The Consumer Product Safety Commission provides lists of recalled items.

DO roast rather than fry the holiday turkey. Burns, explosions and carbon monoxide poisoning are some of the dangers associated with turkey fryers. The CPSC, which discourages the use of fryers, says there have been 168 turkey-fryer related incidents since 2002.

DON'T keep purchases in view of potential thieves. Resist putting presents under the tree until the night before Christmas. Hide large product boxes so they're not visible in the trash or recycling pickups, where thieves might look to see what's inside the house.

DO wait until after your holiday excursion to take to social media about it. Otherwise, you're simply advertising that you are not home and risking a break-in.

DON'T drive distracted or under the influence. This is a busy time of year when more people are out and about, so keep your eyes on the road at all times.

DO keep poisonous plants out of reach of pets and children. These can include Jerusalem cherry, mistletoe berries and holly berries.

DON'T locate breakable ornaments close to the bottom of the tree in reach of young children. Glass can shatter and cause serious injuries.

DO tie the Christmas tree to the car securely after purchasing it to avoid lift-off while taking it home from the lot. At home, secure the tree to the ceiling or a wall with a piece of invisible fishing line for extra security against tip overs.

DON'T underestimate the things that can and will go wrong when hosting for the holidays. Take a deep breath, assess the situation and stay calm through any hiccups.

Remember to turn off Christmas lights before going to bed or leaving home.

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Holiday giving for reluctant recipients

Quite a number of people take pleasure from finding gifts under the tree and then having the opportunity to tear open the wrapping paper and see which treasures are inside. But there also is a category of people who claim they have all they could ever need and want and insist that gifts are not necessary. In such instances, what are gift-givers to do?

Sometimes the best present is the gift of one's presence.

Some people prefer to eschew gifts because they simply do not have the funds to reciprocate the generosity. Seniors may be reticent to accept gifts because they've already obtained many things throughout their lives and could be at a point where they're downsizing and simply do not need any more material things. Others could be overwhelmed with clutter and have decided that a minimalist approach is the way to go. A little investigation may be necessary to get to the root of the no-gift mindset and then gift-givers can decide whether they should buy a loved one a gift or find another way to show how much they care.

• Offer something handmade. Gifts come in all shapes and forms, and handmade gifts — particularly the consumable kind — won't take up space and can show just how much you care. Craft a personalized batch of wine, bake a cherished family recipe, develop a uniquely scented bath fizzy, or harness another creative talent you may have. If the gift is handmade, there is a bigger chance it will be received with grace, even from someone who is reluctant to receive gifts.

• Give new life to a cherished item. Think about an item that may be a loved one's most prized possession. Perhaps it is a porcelain doll from childhood or a photograph that can use reframing? Offer to have such an item repaired or restored if it's starting to show its age.

• Offer an experience as a gift. Research from Harris says three-quarters of millennials prefer experiences over material items, and are spending more on travel, cultural events and dining out than objects. Even people who are reluctant to receive gifts may appreciate the gift of an experience that can broaden their horizons.

• Explore useful gifts. These types of gifts may include gift cards to a frequently used supermarket, membership to a fitness center or even enrollment in a roadside assistance club. A subscription to a streaming movie service also is a great and useful gift.

• Gift of company. Sometimes the best present is the gift of one's presence. If a recipient really wants nothing, perhaps an evening spent together in one another's company will make a great gift.

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Mistletoe myths and medicines

by Dr. Leonard Perry, Horticulture Professor Emeritus, University of Vermont

Most people associate mistletoe with kissing, as it's customary for anyone caught standing under a sprig of this plant (often strategically placed in a doorway) to receive a kiss. But did you know that mistletoe, now considered a Christmas plant, was used as a religious symbol in pagan rites centuries before the time of Christ? To the ancient Druids of Britain it was a sacred symbol with both magical powers and medicinal properties.

These ancient people believed mistletoe could cure diseases, make animals and humans more fertile, provide protection from witches and bring good luck. In fact, mistletoe was so sacred to the Druids that if two enemies met beneath a tree on which it was growing, they would lay down their weapons, exchange greetings and observe a truce until the following day!

When the Druids found mistletoe growing on an oak tree, they used a golden knife to remove it, taking care that the sacred plant did not touch the ground to protect its special powers. They then sacrificed a white ox to consecrate the event.

Mistletoe was not allowed in Christian places of worship for many years because of its widespread acceptance in pagan ceremonies. But it is not clear just how it became part of the Christmas holiday season.

Mistletoe is the common name for any one of a hundred species of plants from as far away and diverse climates as Australia, South Africa and Europe. Our traditional American mistletoe (Phoradenron leucarpum) is very similar to the European species (Viscum album), only with shorter and broader leaves and more berries (groups of 10 or more compared to clusters of two to six berries in the European species). These species are in the Santalaceae family, one of three mistletoe families, formerly all under the name Viscaceae.

The common name is said to come from the Anglo-Saxon "Misteltan," "tan" meaning twig and "mistl" meaning different. This refers to the fact the plant is different from the twigs it grows on. Another version attributes the name to the word "mistel" for dung, referring to the bird droppings of seeds which spread the plant. The Latin name of the genus means "sticky" and refers to the viscous or sticky juice of the berries.

This slow-growing plant forms a greenish-yellow evergreen shrub that grows two to three feet long, hanging from tree branches. The male and female flowers of the mistletoe are borne on compact spikes on separate plants. The tiny, yellow flowers that appear in late fall soon give rise to the familiar white berries. These attract many birds which, if plants are in junipers, also eat the juniper berries. This results in denser stands supporting more wildlife.

Mistletoe will parasitize many hosts, among them apple trees, poplars, lindens, willows and, more rarely, oaks. Structures called "haustoria" attach it to trees, through which it extracts water and nutrition from them. A botanical anomaly, it is the only complete plant considered a true parasite for it often kills the hardwood tree it infests.

Most American mistletoe is commercially harvested in Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico. It grows in the wild in the southern states, as far north as West Virginia.

The custom of hanging up mistletoe may stem from the Druid tradition of laying down arms and exchanging greetings under mistletoe. Priests would send around youth bearing branches of mistletoe in celebration of the new year. Druids would dance around oaks they found bearing mistletoe. This custom even is mentioned in the writings of Ovid.

So where did kissing under the mistletoe begin? One legend attributes this practice to the English who, after every kiss, plucked a berry from the bunch and discarded it. When the berries were gone, tradition called for the kissing to stop. Needless to say, plentiful bunches were eagerly sought for the holidays.

Another legend comes from Scandinavia, and is alluded to by Shakespeare. In this legend Balder, the god of peace, was killed by an arrow made of mistletoe. His life was restored at the request of other gods and goddesses, with the mistletoe being given to the goddess of love to prevent such from happening again. She said that everyone who passed under it should receive a kiss to show this plant was a symbol of love, not of hate.

Before getting carried away with this symbol of love, be aware that the European mistletoe has been used medicinally for many centuries, and still is. It has been used as a general cure for most ailments, particularly in Korean and Chinese medicine. In Europe, preparations from it are used for treating cancer while in the U.S. this use has not been approved. Studies suggest that this plant may be beneficial for treating HIV, hypertension and diabetes. Research and authorities often disagree on its benefits, and interactions with other products, so it is advised to consult your pharmacist or doctor before using this plant for other than decoration.

Likewise, toxicity of the plant and berries to humans is debated. Only in rare cases has eating the berries been reported to harm children, and then usually in large doses. Berries have been listed as toxic to cats and small animals. If you have such pets, or are concerned about children, perhaps you may wish to hang artificial mistletoe, as I do, for holidays.

Arc Herkimer to offer January Traffic Survival Workshop

Arc Herkimer will offer the National Traffic Safety Institute's six-hour Traffic Survival Workshop on Saturday, Jan. 12 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. in the agency's Training Center at 350 S. Washington St., Herkimer.

Individuals who successfully complete the course will receive up to four points reduction from the total on their New York State driving record and a 10 percent reduction, for three years, in the base rate of the motorist's current automobile liability, no-fault and collision premiums.

Access for the course is the building's main entrance. The course is open to the public and the fee is $38. Books and materials are provided. Payment and registration can be made by calling Kelly Bunce at 315.574.7982. Classes are subject to cancellation due to an insufficient number of registrants.

For more information regarding the Arc Herkimer or to view when additional courses will be offered, visit www.archerkimer.org .

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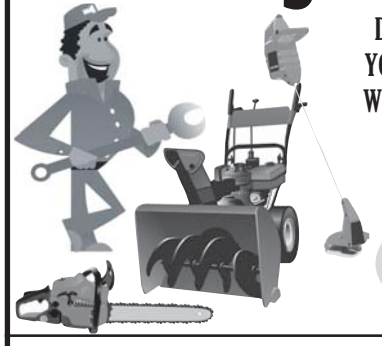

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Let us sing of greater things

by Rich Lowry

It is surely possible to be somewhere in the United States in the Christmas season without ready access to a performance of Handel's "Messiah," perhaps in the middle of Denali National Park or the Mojave Desert.

The work is ubiquitous and deserves every bit of its popularity. It is a Christian masterpiece known by everyone, a soaring work of genius that never loses its ability to astonish and inspire, whether at a performance of the New York Philharmonic or at a local church singalong.

After hearing it performed on Christmas Day in 1843, Ralph Waldo Emerson described a common reaction, "I walked in the bright paths of sound, and liked it best when the long continuance of a chorus had made the ear insensible to music, made it as if there was none; then I was quite solitary and at ease in the melodious uproar."

In his book, "Messiah: The Composition and Afterlife of Handel's Masterpiece," Jonathan Keates traces the history of the work.

A native German who lived in London, G.F. Handel was extraordinarily prolific, composing roughly 40 operas and 30 oratorios. His towering status isn't in question. Beethoven, born nearly a hundred years later, deemed him "the master of us all."

Although the "Messiah" is invariably called "Handel's Messiah," it was a collaboration. The librettist Charles Jennens, a devout Christian, provided the composer with a "scriptural collection," the Biblical quotations that make up the text.

Jennens wrote a friend that he hoped Handel "will lay out his whole genius and skill upon it, that the composition may excel all his former compositions, as the subject excels every other subject. The subject is Messiah."

He needn't have worried. Handel completed a draft score in three weeks in the summer of 1741. The legend says that while composing the famous "Hallelujah" chorus, he had a vision of "the great God himself." There is no doubt that artist and subject matter came together in one of the most inspired episodes in the history of Western creativity.

An oratorio shares some characteristics of opera, but there is no acting. Handel was an innovator, writing English-language oratorios and giving the chorus a bigger role. Typically, leading characters anchored a dramatic plot. The drama in "Messiah" was the Christian story itself, the birth, passion and resurrection of Christ told in scripture.

The work premiered in Dublin, at a performance so crowded that the ladies were urged to come without hoops in their skirts. A correspondent rendered a verdict that has stood up: "The Sublime, the Grand and the Tender, adapted to the most elevated, majestic and moving Words, conspired to transport and charm the ravished Heart and Ear."

It took years for the "Messiah" truly to find its audience, though. Back in London, some wondered whether a theater was the appropriate venue for such elevated material. As one querulous writer put it, "An Oratorio either is an Act of Religion, or it is not; if it is, I ask if the Playhouse is a fit Temple to perform it in." (Everyone is a critic.)

Of course, the greatness of the "Messiah" won out. Handel was buried at Westminster Abbey a national hero. A statue depicts him writing the "Messiah" aria, "I Know That My Redeemer Liveth." By the 19th century, the work was a staple in Britain and the U.S. (associated with Christmas, even though Handel had it performed at Easter).

"It consistently manages to transcend the limits of religious and confessional dogma," Jonathan Keates writes. "Its emotional range, the ways in which it embraces the multiplicity of existence, the directness of its engagement with our longing, our fears, our sorrows, our ecstasy and exaltation, give the whole achievement an incomparable universality."

On the title page of his "Messiah" word book, Charles Jennens quoted Virgil, "majora canamus," or let us sing of greater things. The immortality of Handel's "Messiah" assures that we always will.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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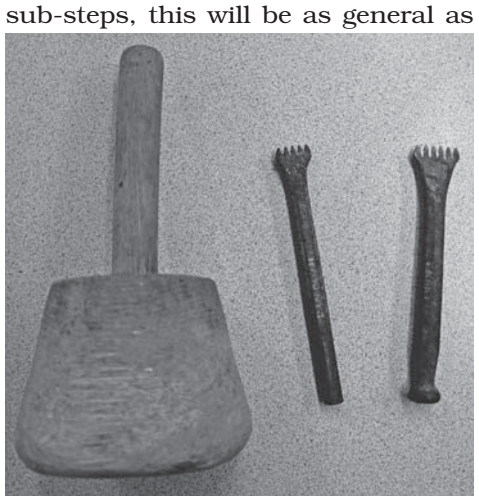
Whatchamacallits

This week's Whatchamacallit is a chisel. However, this differs from previous chisels — it was used for stone. The name of this chisel is the claw (or teeth) chisel.

There are many steps involved in carving stone. As most steps involve sub-steps, this will be as general as possible for simplicity.



The steps involved are planning, layout, roughing out, defining and finishing. The step which would use the claw chisel is defining. At this part of the process, the stone block or slab has taken its main shape but has many rough edges. The craftsman would hold the claw chisel at a 45° angle, gently tapping the end of the chisel with a mallet to refine the shapes and grooves of the stone. All teeth of the chisel would need to be touching the stone or else the crafter would risk damaging their chisel or bruising the stone.

After using the claw chisel, a flat chisel would be used to erase the teeth marks from the stone. This would be the end to the defining process before finishing.

The chisels featured look to be made of iron and have carvings in the handles, most likely the name of the owner of the chisel. The mallet is made of strong wood, possibly oak, but is not the usual mallet used for stone work. The preferred mallet would be made of copper, have a copper head or be made completely out of some other metal to prevent the chisel from damaging the mallet.

Do you have your own Whatchamacallit?

Send a photo and short description to cllewellyn@leepub.com

Area Church Services

COLD BROOK

COLD BROOK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
467 Main St.
Sunday Worship 10:30 AM

DOLGEVILLE

NEW HOPE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
Pastor Pat Andreoli
32 Spencer St.
Sunday School 9:30 AM
Sunday Worship 10:30 AM
Tuesday Bible Study 7 PM

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH OF DOLGEVILLE
Paster Len Byarty
12 Van Buren St.
Sunday School (All Ages) 10-11 AM
Morning Worship 11-12:30 PM
Lunch 12:30-2 PM
Afternoon Worship 2-3 PM

DOLGEVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Rev. Anthony Bradseth
21 N. Helmer Ave.
Church Phone 429-7381
Sunday Church Service
Oppenheim @ 9:30 AM
Dolgeville @ 11 AM

DOLGEVILLE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
Pastor Marvin Isum
3 Elm St. Phone 429-8390
Sunday Worship 10:30 AM
Mid-week Service Tuesday 7 PM

UNITED LUTHERAN PRESBYTERIAN PARISH
26 E. Faville Ave.
Worship 11 AM

ST. JOSEPH'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
Deacon Jim Bower, Administrator
Rev. T. Healy, Sacramental Minister
31 N. Helmer Ave.
Phone 429-8338
Mass 9 AM Sun, Mon & Wed

EAST SCHUYLER

CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY OF SCHUYLER
Pastor Mark Sowersby
3659 Route 5, East Schuyler
Sunday Worship 10:30 am
Wednesday Night 6:30 pm
Phone 315-895-0926
Christianassemblyofschuyler.com

FRANKFORT

OUR LADY QUEEN OF APOSTLES
414 Frankfort St., Frankfort, NY
Pastor: Father Paul Catena
Deacon: Micheal Carbone
Mass Schedule: Saturday 5:30 pm;
Sunday 9:00 am; Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 am

HERKIMER

SS PETER and PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH
Rev. Thaddeus Franta
305 Main Rd., East Herkimer
Phone 866-3272
Wednesday Vespers 5PM
Saturday Evening Vespers 5 PM
Sunday Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM
Holy Day Liturgy 9:30 AM

HERKIMER

TEMPLE BETH JOSEPH
327 N. Prospect St.
Phone 866-4270
Friday 7 PM

ST. FRANCIS de SALES CHURCH
Rev. Mark Cunningham, Pastor
219 N. Bellinger St.
Phone 866-4282
Saturday Vigil Mass 4 PM
Sunday Mass 8 & 10:30 AM

CHURCH OF SAINTS ANTHONY and JOSEPH
Rev. Quy Vo, Pastor
229 S. Main St.
Phone 866-6373
Saturday Vigil Mass 6 PM
Sunday Mass 10 AM

REDEEMER CHURCH
Pastor Michael Servello
931 Herkimer Rd.
Utica, NY 13503
Phone 792-4748
Saturday 6 PM • Sunday 9 & 11 AM

OAK RIDGE FREE METHODIST CHURCH
Pastor Chris Schumske
838 W. German St.
Sunday School (All Ages) 9:30-10:20 AM
Worship Service 8:30-10:30 AM
with iPraise for the children (K-5th grade)
Phone 866-0575

UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF ST. MARY'S PROTECTRESS
326 Moore Ave.
Sunday Divine Liturgy 10 AM
Holy Day Liturgy 9 AM
Phone 866-1336

NEW LIFE CHURCH
Pastor David Hayner
337 Protection Ave.
Phone 866-1164 • www.nlc-mc.org
Worship 10 AM
Wednesday Worship 6:30 PM

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Rev. Ann Zimmerman, Pastor
Corner of West German & Henry Streets
Phone 866-6474
Sunday Services 8 AM Spoken
Sunday Worship Service
10:30 AM with Music
Bible Studies on Thursday Mornings at 10 AM

THE SALVATION ARMY
Lieutenants John and Lori Wood
429 N. Prospect St.
Phone 866-1240
www.thesalvationarmy.org
Sunday School 10 AM
Morning Worship 11 AM

FIRST UNITED METCHODIST CHURCH OF HERKIMER AND LITTLE FALLS
Pastor Joelle Faulks
Prospect St & Park Ave.
Sunday Worship 8:30 & 10am
Sunday School 10am during school year

HERKIMER

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS (MORMONS)
Branch President Blake Francisco
Gros. Blvd., East Herkimer
Phone 315-866-8095
Priesthood/Relief Society 12:10 PM
Sunday School 11:20 AM
Sacrament Meeting 10 AM
Family History Center hours by appointment; please leave a message at 315-866-7189

HERKIMER REFORMED CHURCH
102 Church St.
Phone 866-1523
Worship 9:30 AM
Sunday School 11 AM
Shepherd's Table:
Tuesday 11-12:30 PM
Thursday 11:30-12:30 PM
Shepherd's Table Dinner:
First & Third Tuesday 6 PM

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Rev. Jill Stellman
300 N. Main St.
Church Office (315) 866-0551
Email: christchurchherkimer@mail.com
www.christchurchherkimer.org
Sunday Services: 10:30 AM
Bible Study: Fridays 7:00 PM (Parish Hall)
Free Community Dinner: Next-to-last and Last Saturday of the month 5:00 PM (Parish Hall)
Entrance to Parish Hall is on Mary Street

ILION

ILION COMMUNITY CHURCH
Pastor Dean Mabry
44 Central Plaza
Sunday Worship 10am
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SAINT AUGUSTINE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Bishop - Dan Herzog
78 2nd Street
Phone: (315) 894-3775
Sunday School at 8:45 AM
Adult Bible Study at 8:45 AM
Holy Eucharist at 9:35 AM

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
90 Morgan St., Ilion, NY, 13357
Reverend Richard Riggle
Bible Study 9:30am
Church Service 10:30am
315-894-2070

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
8 Second Street
Reverend John Partise
Sunday Worship 11 AM

MORNING STAR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
36 Second Street
Reverend Bob Wallaber
Sunday Worship 10 AM
November 1 - May 1
4224 Acme Rd, Frankfort
May 1 - November 1
36 Second Street, Ilion

ILION

ANNUNCIATION CHURCH
109 West Street, Ilion, NY
Pastor: Father Paul Catena
Deacon: Micheal Carbone
Mass Schedule: Saturday 4:00 pm; Sunday 11:00 am; Monday & Wednesday 9:00 am

LITTLE FALLS

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
555 Albany St.
Morning Worship will begin at 10:15 AM
Rev. Chris J. Wintermute will be speaking this morning.
Nursery (infants through age 4)
Junior Church (K-4) during Morning

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH CONTINUED
Worship Service
Sunday School Classes 9 AM
(nursery through adult)
Morning Worship Service 11 AM and is broadcast live over radio station WIZR, 930 on the AM dial with a one week delay.
Monday School Board Meeting 6:30 PM
Tuesday Trustee Meeting 7 PM
Wednesday Final Bible Study & Prayer Time at homes 7 PM
Thursday Choir Practice 7 PM

HOLY SPIRIT POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH
Father Rafael Dadello
615 E. Gansevoort St.
Phone 823-0793
Sunday Mass 11 AM

ST. PAUL'S UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
Minister Jeffrey J. Frank
Mark Bunce, Organist
565 Albany St.
Phone 823-2284
Sunday Service & Religious Education 10 AM

HOLY FAMILY PARISH OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF LITTLE FALLS
Deacon Jim Bower, Administrator
Rev. T. Healy, Sacramental Minister
763 E. Main St.
Phone 823-3410
Saturday Vigil Mass 4 PM
Sunday Mass 10:30 AM

EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH
588-594 Albany St.
Sunday Schedule:
High Mass, Rite II 10 AM
Nursery & Sunday School 9:45 AM (Sept.-May)
Fellowship Coffee Hour 11:15 AM
Choir Rehearsal 11:30 AM
Holy Day Masses as announced
Confessions by appointment

FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Senior Pastor Timothy Parisi
559 E. Jefferson St.
Phone 823-4043 • firstaglf@gmail.com
Sunday Morning All Worship 10 AM
Thursday Bible Study 6:30 PM

LITTLE FALLS

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
512 E. Gansevoort St.
Sunday Worship 9:30 AM
Sunday School 9:15 AM
Wednesday Services 12:10 PM & 7 PM

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Pastor Tamara Razzano
16 Jackson St.
Phone: 315-823-3004
Email lffirstpres@gmail.com
www.presbylf.org
Sunday Worship 10 AM
Sunday School 10 AM

INGHAMS MILLS BAPTIST CHURCH
Rev. Gary L. Busch, Pastor
Sunday Worship Service 10AM
443 Inghams Mills Rd.
Little Falls, NY 13365
Pastor's Phone (315) 717-9936

MIDDLEVILLE

MIDDLEVILLE UNITED METHODIST
Rev. Robert Lindsay
24 Rte. 29
Phone 845-8730
Sunday School 9:30 AM
Worship Service 9:30 AM

MOHAWK

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Rev. Sally Heiligman
7 E. Main St.
Phone 315-866-4782
or 315-520-4723
Holy Eucharist 10 AM

DENNISON CORNERS COMMUNITY CHURCH
Pastor Donald King
219 Robinson Rd. • Phone 866-5215
Sunday:
Sunday School 9:45 AM
Morning Worship 11 AM
Evening Worship 6 PM
Wednesday Prayer 7 PM

MOHAWK REFORMED CHURCH
Rev. Brian Engel, Pastor
20 S. Otsego St.
Phone 866-4292
Email mohawkpastor@verizon.net
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Morning Worship:
10:30 AM Sept.- June • 9:30 AM July-Aug.
Youth Sunday School (Pre-K - Sr. High) 9 AM
Adult Sunday School (Men, Women & Couples) 9:30 AM
September - June

EMMANUEL BIBLE CHURCH
Pastor Gary Wilcox
54 W. Main St. • Phone 717-3011
Sunday School 9:45 AM
Morning Worship 11 AM
Fellowship Lunch 12:30 PM
Afternoon Bible Study 1:30 PM
Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study 6 PM

MOHAWK

CHURCH OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
Sr. Mary Jo Tallman, CSJ,
Parish Life Director
Rev. Mark Cunningham,
Sacramental Minister
71 E. Main St.
Phone 866-1752
Saturday Vigil Mass 5:30 PM
Sunday Mass 9:30 AM

CHRISTIAN BIBLE CHURCH
H. Ed Reed, Pastor/Teacher
167 Ward Rd.
Phone 858-1282
www.christianbiblechurch.us
Sunday School 9 AM
Sunday Worship 10 AM
Wednesday Bible Study
& Prayer Meeting 7 PM

THE WORD CHRISTIAN CENTER
Pastor Gene Kipper
27 E. Main St.
Phone 868-1790
Sunday Services at 10 AM
Intercession - Tuesdays at 7 PM
Free Community Dinner the last Thursday of the Month at 6 PM

NEWPORT

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF NEWPORT
7497 Main Street
Pastor's Phone 315-790-1877
Sunday Worship at 9:45am

UNITED METHODIST
Rev. Robert Lindsay • Phone 845-8730
Sunday School 11 AM
Morning Service 11 AM

KUYAHOORA COMMUNITY CHURCH
Pastor Dwayne Durand
West Canada Valley
High School Auditorium
5447 St. Rt. 28
Mailing Address PO Box 50
Middleville, NY 13406
Phone 315-292-1303
www.kuyahorracc.org
Weekly Service Sunday 10:08 AM

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH
Rev. Quy Vo, Pastor
St. John the Baptist Parish
7516 N. Main St. • Phone 845-8017
Monday & Wednesday 9 AM
Saturday Vigil Mass 6 PM
Sunday Mass 8 AM

PAINES HOLLOW

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Lay Servant Gregg Sponburgh
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Mohawk Valley Christmas dinner

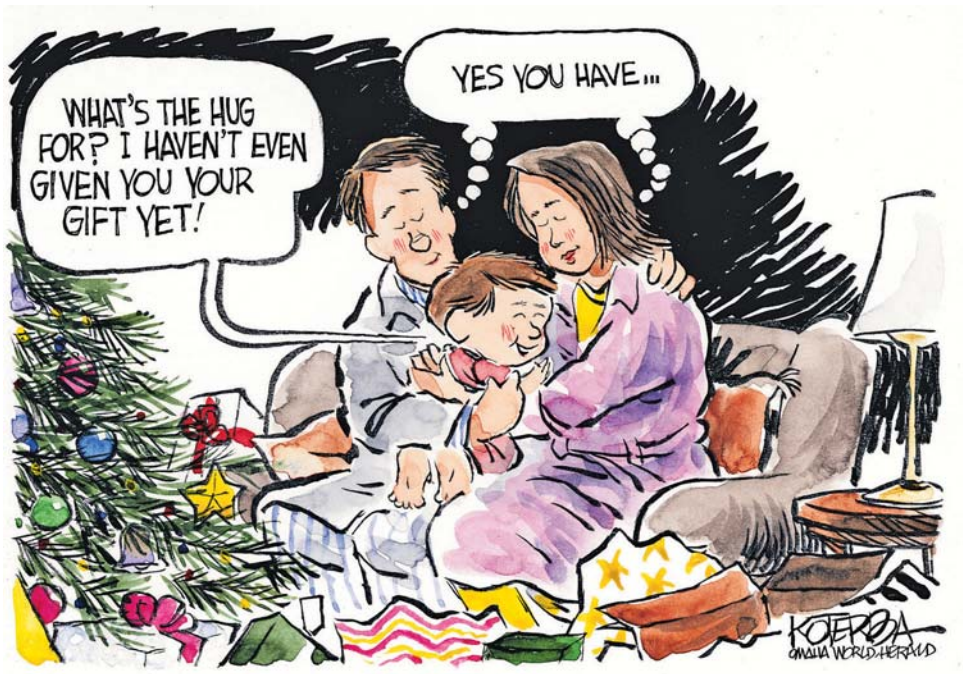
The Annual Christmas Dinner at the First United Methodist Church in Herkimer will take place on Christmas Day, Dec. 25 from noon - 2 p.m.

This is the only dinner offered in the Mohawk Valley. Reservations are not necessary and all are welcome.

For shut-in delivery call 315.867.1204 by Dec. 21. Deliveries are made primarily in Herkimer, Mohawk and downtown Ilion.

Volunteers are needed for serving, cleanup and some deliveries. To volunteer, call Toby at 315.868.5560.

This dinner is sponsored by the churches in the Mohawk Valley and private donations.



Good Housekeeping

Holiday bread

Bake this simple stollen, a quick version of the traditional sweet bread, a day ahead and set it out for everyone to enjoy on Christmas morning with their tea or coffee. Or you can prepare several loaves ahead to freeze. Wrap in foil and seal in freezer-weight plastic bags — they'll stay good up to a month.

2 1/3 cups all-purpose flour
1/2 cup sugar
1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup (1 stick) cold butter or margarine
1 cup part-skim ricotta cheese
1 cup dried tart cherries or other dried fruit, coarsely chopped
1/3 cup pecans, toasted and chopped
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1/2 teaspoon grated fresh lemon peel
2 large eggs
Confectioners' sugar (optional)

1. Heat oven to 325°F. Grease large cookie sheet.

2. In large bowl, stir together flour, sugar, baking powder and salt. With pastry blender or using two knives scissors-fashion, cut in butter until mixture resembles fine crumbs. Stir in ricotta, dried cherries, pecans, vanilla, lemon peel and eggs until well-combined.

3. Turn dough onto lightly floured surface. With floured hands, gently knead dough two or three times to blend. With floured rolling pin, roll dough into 10 by 8 inch oval. Fold oval lengthwise, bringing top half over so that bottom of dough extends by about 1 inch.

4. Place stollen on prepared cookie sheet. Bake 55 to 60 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Transfer stollen to wire rack; cool completely. Sprinkle with confectioners' sugar to coat just before serving, if you like. Yields 16 slices.

* Each serving: About 205 calories, 10g total fat (5g saturated), 48mg cholesterol, 165mg sodium, 27g total carbohydrate, 1g dietary fiber, 5g protein.

For thousands of triple-tested recipes, visit our website at www.goodhousekeeping.com/recipes/.

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Calendar of events

NOTE: Calendar items must be submitted by Tuesday prior to the publication date to be included in the Calendar of Events. Entries may be emailed to cfeditor@leepub.com

Ends Dec 21

Kateri's Christmas Bag Sale. Ends Dec. 21. The store is open Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Little Falls Community Center, 45 Furnace Street in Little Falls. Volunteers are always welcome. If you would like to become a part of the Kateri's Team, please contact Sue at 315.823.1793 or Rae at 315.894.9917.

Dec 22

Golumbki Sale. 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. St. Mary's Ukrainian Orthodox Church, 324 Moore Ave., Herkimer. Golumbki $26 dozen; $13 half dozen; three-piece $6.50.

Dec 21 and 28

Pierogi Sale. St. Mary's Ukrainian Orthodox Church, 324 Moore Ave., Herkimer. Pierogi $8 dozen.

Dec 22 and 29

Pierogi Sale. 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. St. Mary's Ukrainian Orthodox Church, 324 Moore Ave., Herkimer. Pierogi $8 dozen.

Jan 10

Make Jewelry with Robert Moore. VIEW at 3273 State Rt. 28 in Old Forge. For details and to register for the classes, please visit ViewArts.org or call 315.369.6411. Registration deadline is Jan. 8.

Jan 12

Traffic Survival Workshop. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Training Center at 350 S. Washington St., Herkimer. Fee is $38. ayment and registration can be made by calling Kelly Bunce at 315.574.7982.

Santa will be here for the last time before his big trip on Saturday December 22nd from 11-2

Thank you for making our second Christmas season such a wonderful success. All of us here at Lee's Shops appreciate your support of our small business more than you know. We look forward to serving your gift and decorating needs ALL YEAR LONG!

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OPEN WED-SUN 10-5, CLOSED MON & TUES

Holiday gift ideas and other December gardening tips

by Leonard Perry, UVM Horticulturist and Charlie Nardozzi, Garden Consultant

Buying gifts for gardeners, keeping holiday plants cool and having houseplants properly watered are some of the gardening activities for this month.

Gardeners on your holiday gift list might appreciate a decorative basket or pot, or functional garden trug, filled with handy gardening items. Plus, they're fun to put together. Some items to consider are ratchet hand pruners, an ergonomic trowel, fragrant soap, hand lotion, plant tags, paperwhite narcissus or amaryllis bulbs and bird feeders. There are many specialty gloves to choose from for gifts, including ones that are padded, water-resistant, insulated or with long sleeves (great for pruning roses and brambles). If considering weather gear, look into digital and wireless thermometers and rain gauges.

There are some quite attractive light stands for starting seeds and growing plants indoors. For that special person or big gift, what about a cold frame or even small hobby greenhouse? If you still have no idea what a person would like, what about a gift certificate to a garden store or nursery? Or, give a coupon for some help in the garden or landscape, weeding or mowing or other.

There are many garden books to choose from for gift ideas, both instructive how-to ones and ones to inspire. Ones by the authors include "The Fruit Gardener's Bible," "New England Month by Month Gardening" and "Foodscaping: A Practical and Innovative Way to Create an Edible Landscape."

If you brought in your annual geranium plants this fall and are growing them indoors this winter, chances are they're getting leggy by now. The cloudy, short days of November and December don't provide enough light for these plants to thrive. Cut back the plants to about one foot tall. They will resprout and grow bushier in the longer days of late winter.

Amaryllis, cyclamen and most other blooming holiday plants will last longer if kept on the cool side and out of direct sunlight. If you wish to make sure some flowers don't fade before a big event, you can keep the plants in a cool room or part of the house (preferably above 50 degrees F) for a few days and bring them out the day you need them.

Cyclamen in particular prefer cool temperatures, so keep them back from south-facing windows that heat up during the day. Cyclamen also need even moisture, so don't allow them to wilt and definitely don't keep them too wet or they may rot. You'll find these in stores and at florists in many colors including reds, pinks, purple and white, and in both large- and small-flowered selections.

Feel the soil of your houseplants. When it's dry an inch or so deep, apply enough water so it comes out the bottom drainage hole. The larger the pot, the longer you can wait in between watering. The larger the plant, and more root bound within the pot, the more often you may need to water. If you have a fireplace or forced-air heat, you may have to water small pots or hanging ones every couple of days. In general, I find once a week works for most houseplants, less for cacti and succulents. If in doubt, don't water, as too little water is better than too much. You also can buy watering meters which alert you when watering may be needed.

Other gardening tips for this month include buying a locally-made evergreen swag or roping for decorating, and visiting a Christmas tree farm for a nice outing with family or friends.

A simple, tasty holiday treat

Baking is a holiday tradition in many families. Gingerbread cookies may be the first baked goods that come to mind when people envision the holiday season, but celebrants need not limit themselves when preparing special treats for their families.

Macaroons are one beloved baked good that busy holiday hosts may believe are too time-consuming to prepare. However, the following recipe for "Coconut Macaroons with Dried Cherries" from Laurey Masterton's "The Fresh Honey Cookbook" (Storey) is easy to whip up and makes for a tasty holiday treat.

Coconut Macaroons with Dried Cherries

Makes 25 to 30 small cookies

1 cup unsweetened flaked coconut
1 cup sweetened flaked coconut
8 egg whites
Salt
1/4 cup dried cherries
2 tablespoons butter
1 tablespoon honey, preferably orange blossom honey

1. Preheat the oven to 350°F.

2. Combine the unsweetened and sweetened coconut on a baking sheet. Lightly toast in the oven for 5 to 10 minutes. Keep close watch so the mixture does not burn, though you do want a nice toasted golden brown color. Remove from the oven and set aside to cool.

3. Reduce the oven temperature to 325°F. (If using a convection oven, leave at 350°F.)

4. Whip the egg whites with a pinch of salt in a medium bowl until the whites stiffen into firm peaks.

5. Fold the toasted coconut into the egg white mixture.

6. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Drop tablespoon-size rounds, perhaps using a small ice cream scoop, of the coconut mixture onto the baking sheet. Press one or two dried cherries into the top of each macaroon.

7. Melt the butter and honey together in a microwave on high for 20 seconds. Drizzle the mixture over the top of each macaroon. Sprinkle with a tiny pinch of salt.

8. Bake the macaroons for 20 to 25 minutes, until lightly browned (watch carefully to avoid burning), or for 8 to 10 minutes if using a convection oven. The macaroons should be dry to the touch. You may need to bake them longer if it is a humid day. If you live in a dry area, these will keep well for a week.

Chef's note: If you want to be really fancy, melt some chocolate and dip each one halfway into it.

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Gingerbread makes the perfect holiday treat

The holiday season is synonymous with many things, including family gatherings, shopping, elaborate lighting displays, and Santa Claus. For foodies, this time of year is the perfect opportunity to indulge one's love of baked goods.

Between office parties and gatherings with family and friends, it's hard to avoid baked treats come the holiday season. Perhaps no baked good is more closely linked to the holidays than gingerbread, an indulgence many people enjoy only around Christmastime.

Holiday hosts or those who want to bring a dessert to their next holiday gathering can whip up this recipe for "Sticky Chocolate Gingerbread" from Maxine Clark's "Chocolate: Deliciously Indulgent Recipes for Chocolate Lovers" (Ryland, Peters & Small).

Sticky Chocolate Gingerbread

Makes an 8-inch cake

2 1/3 cups dark molasses

6 ounces dark chocolate (60 to 70 percent cocoa solids), grated

1 3/4 cups all-purpose flour

2 teaspoons ground ginger

5 ounces whole pieces preserved stem ginger, drained and roughly chopped

1 stick (8 tablespoons) unsalted butter, softened

1/2 cup plus 2 tablespoons dark brown sugar, sifted (to remove lumps)

2 medium eggs, beaten

1/2 teaspoon baking soda

2 tablespoons milk, warmed

A pinch of salt

Extra-large crystallized ginger pieces, to scatter (optional)

A deep 8-inch square cake pan or 8 x 6 x 3-inch oval cake pan

Preheat the oven to 325°F. Grease and line the base and sides of the cake pan with nonstick parchment paper.

Put the molasses in a pan and heat gently until hot, but do not allow it to boil. Remove the pan from the heat and add the chocolate. Stir until melted.

Sift the flour, ground ginger and salt together in a bowl. Add the stem ginger and toss it around in the flour until every piece is coated.

Using an electric mixer, cream the butter and sugar in a large bowl. Beat in the eggs, then the molasses and chocolate mixture and finally the flour mixture. Dissolve the baking soda in the milk and gradually beat this into the batter.

Pour into the prepared cake pan, scatter with the crystallized ginger, if using, and bake for 45 minutes. Reduce the oven temperature to 300°F and bake for another 30 minutes. (If using the oval pan, cook for about 45 minutes at the higher temperature, then about one hour at the lower temperature, as it will be deeper.) A metal skewer inserted into the center should come out clean. Let cool for five minutes in the pan, then turn out onto a wire rack and let cool completely. When cold, store in an airtight container for at least a couple of days to mature and become sticky. Don't worry if it sinks a bit in the middle — this is normal.

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Why Santa's suit is red, and other Christmas trivia

• The use of a Christmas wreath as a decoration on a front door, mantel or bay window symbolizes a sign of welcome and long life to all who enter.

• Christmas caroling began as an old English custom called Wassailing — toasting neighbors to a long and healthy life.

• The biggest selling Christmas song of all time is Bing Crosby's "White Christmas."

• All modern references of Santa coming down the chimney can be traced to the famous poem "A Visit From St. Nicholas," written in 1822 by Clement C. Moore. In it he describes "And then in a twinkling I heard on the roof, the prancing and pawing of each little hoof. As I drew in my head and was turning around, down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound."

• Due to the time zones, Santa has 31 hours to deliver gifts.

• The first printed reference to Christmas trees appeared in Germany in 1531.

• Artificial Christmas trees have outsold real ones since 1991.

• Candy canes began as straight white sticks of sugar candy used to decorate Christmas trees. A choirmaster at Cologne Cathedral decided have the ends bent to depict a shepherd's crook, and he would pass them out to the children to keep them quiet during services. It wasn't until about the 20th century that candy canes acquired their red stripes.

• A traditional Christmas dinner in early England was the head of a pig prepared with mustard.

• The Santa Claus suit was developed when the Coca-Cola Company hired American artist Haddon Sundblom in 1931 to redesign Santa Claus. Sundblom chose the official colors of Coca-Cola, red and white.

• In America in 1822, the postmaster of Washington, D.C., complained that he had to add 16 mailmen at Christmas to deal with cards alone. He wanted the number of cards a person could send limited by law. "I don't know what we'll do if this keeps on," he wrote.

• An average household in America will mail out 28 Christmas cards each year and get 28 cards in return.

• According to a survey, 7 out of 10 dogs get Christmas gifts from their doting owners.

• In 1836, Alabama was the first state to declare Christmas a legal holiday.

• In 1907, Oklahoma became the last state to declare Christmas a legal holiday.

• In 1947, Toys for Tots started making the holidays a little happier for children by organizing its first Christmas toy drive for needy youngsters.

• According to Christian theology, the true Christmas season begins at sundown on Dec. 24 and lasts through sundown on Jan. 5. For that reason, this season is also known as the Twelve Days of Christmas.

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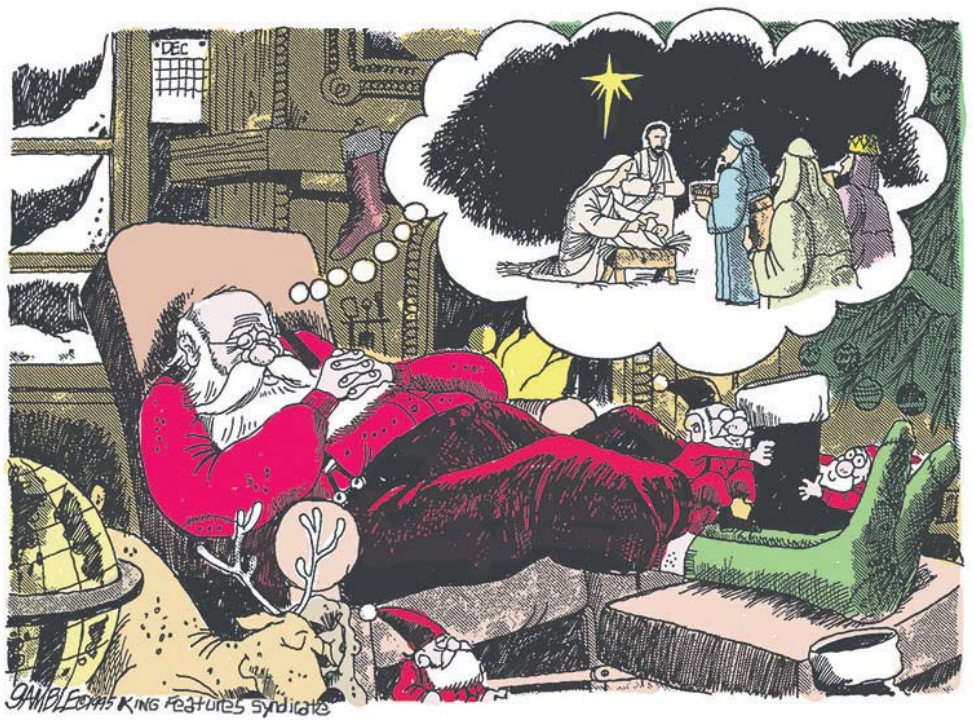

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The Kitchen Diva

Guests can add their favorite toppings to these Oven-baked Omelets.

Photo by Phil Curry

by Angela Shelf Medearis

Omelets are the answer for holiday brunches

Christmas brunch is a holiday tradition at our house, and eggs are always the star of the show. Year after year, eggs have been my choice for a healthy and inexpensive way to feed a crowd. My Oven-Baked Omelet recipe is quick and easy to make, and is a crowd-pleaser for breakfast, brunch or a light supper.

This Oven-Baked Omelet recipe is a convenient, creative way to prepare and serve a buffet-style breakfast or brunch for a crowd. I love providing my guests with their choice of different types of pre-cooked meats, diced vegetables and a variety of cheeses to personalize their omelets. The savory tomato topping and the ingredient selections can be pre-cooked the day before, refrigerated and re-heated to save time.

Oven-Baked Omelets

The pre-cooked toppings for these oven-baked omelets can be set up buffet style and quickly re-heated in the microwave, using an electric skillet or on the stovetop in a sauté pan.

Cooking oil spray, butter or vegetable oil for sauté and baking pans

6 large Eggland's Best eggs, separated

1 teaspoon salt

1 teaspoon pepper

1 tablespoon grated onion

3 tablespoons flour

2 tablespoons Italian seasoning

1/2 cup each, pre-cooked meat and vegetable toppings*

Cheese for sprinkling or topping: Parmesan, Cheddar, American, Gouda, Goat cheese, etc.

*andouille sausage, salmon, Canadian bacon, ham, pork sausage, pork or turkey bacon, black beans, mushrooms, baby spinach leaves, chopped green onions, diced zucchini, diced squash, chopped onions or bell peppers, sliced black olives, etc.

1. Heat oven to 350°F. Grease two 8-inch round cake pans with cooking oil spray, butter or vegetable oil. Place the pans in the oven to heat. In a large bowl, beat together egg whites and 3/4 teaspoons of the salt with an electric hand mixer until soft peaks form. Do not overbeat.

2. In another bowl, mix the egg yolks, remaining 1/4 teaspoon salt, pepper, grated onion, flour and Italian seasoning. Beat until the mixture is thick and thoroughly blended. Gently fold in the egg whites. Spread mixture in the hot cake pans. Bake for 15 minutes, or until a knife inserted in the center comes out clean.

3. Use a knife to loosen the omelets from the sides of the pans. Invert the layers, bottom-side down, onto serving plates. Cut the omelets into wedges. Cover the pieces with foil to keep them warm.

4. Have your guests select the pre-cooked meats and vegetables of their choice. Add 1/2 teaspoon oil to medium sauté pan and heat over medium-high heat. Add 2 to 3 tablespoons of the pre-made tomato topping per serving to the pan, and heat for 2 minutes over low heat. Add your guest's topping selections to the hot tomato topping and mix until warm, about 2 minutes. Spoon the topping mixture over the omelet slice. Sprinkle with cheese, if desired. Serve immediately with sliced fruit and hot biscuits or rolls. Serves 12.

NOTE: If using a microwave, mix 2 to 3 tablespoons of the tomato topping and your guest's pre-cooked topping choices together in a bowl. Micro-cook on high for 1 minute.

Tomato Topping:

2 tablespoons of olive oil

8 ounces cherry tomatoes, diced

1 tablespoon Italian seasoning

1 clove garlic, finely minced

1 teaspoon salt

1 teaspoon pepper

Using a medium pan over medium-high heat, heat the oil. Add cherry tomatoes, Italian seasoning. garlic, salt and pepper. Sauté for 5 to 8 minutes, until the tomatoes begin to soften.

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VHS Employee Recognition Program at Francesca's

HERKIMER – Valley Health Services and Valley Residential Services celebrated their dedicated staff on Tuesday, Nov. 13 during a recognition dinner at Francesca's Banquet & Catering facility in Ilion. At the event staff were recognized for their length of service to the organization and one staff member who embodies the qualities most celebrated was named the organization's employee of the year.

This year, the following staff were recognized for length of service:

5 Years: Clarissa Bell, Sid Clark, Samantha Coleman, Andrea George, Crystal Hight, Dominique McCumber, Amanda Miller, Elizabeth Rando, Spencer Raymo and Linda Senko.

10 Years: Christine Cockett, Melissa Elthorp, Robin Singer and Melissa Ward.

15 Years: Melissa Clark, Amanda Smith and Jeanette Golicki.

The employee of the year was Michelle Neff, who joined the dietary staff at VRS in 2015. Neff was nominated by her co-workers. The co-workers stated she displays a strong work ethic and it shows in the quality of her work. She demonstrates exemplary judgment, kindness and compassion at all times.

Award recipients collectively.
Photo courtesy of Valley Health Services

top ten

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1. New Hampshire
2. Pennsylvania
3. Connecticut
4. Delaware
5. Minnesota
6. Massachusetts
7. South Dakota
8. Maine
9. Alabama
10. Rhode Island

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Treating matting more easily

Long-haired dogs can be beautiful to behold, but their lustrous locks require more grooming than short-fur breeds. If tangles are left to their own devices, a condition called matting can occur. Matting is not only a hassle for pet owners, but also uncomfortable for dogs. Understanding matting can help pet owners stay on top of the problem so dogs stay healthy and look their best.

Unlike other dogs that shed hair that falls out and congregates around the house like fuzzy tumbleweeds, some long-haired breeds shed hair into their undercoats, which can contribute to mats. Poodles, bichon frises and cocker spaniels are prone to matting. Other breeds, such as Yorkshire terriers and malteses, have single soft coats that tend to tangle quite easily and are susceptible to matting as well.

Mats tend to form underneath the fur and quite close to the skin, and in areas of friction, such as under the collar, behind the ears or on the lower legs. Light daily brushing may not reach the matting. Long-haired breeds often need detailed grooming so mats can be uncovered and addressed early on before they contribute to greater problems.

Grooming experts and even vets warn that matting is not just a cosmetic problem. Over time, severe matting can tug endlessly at the skin and deny fresh air and stimulation to areas of the dog's body. This can lead to rashes or sores.

Furthermore, mats can harbor bacteria, feces, parasites, and dirt, creating an unsanitary situation for the dog, says Melissa Verplank, president of the Paragon School of Pet Grooming.

Treating matted dog hair requires a few strategies.

• Prevention is the best solution, so dampening the fur with a detangling spray and using a slick brush that will detangle fur every day will help. Separate sections of fur and gently lift and brush away tangles.

• If mats are already present, retailers offer detatting tools and mat-splitting devices that will gently slice and separate the mat without tugging too much on the pet's fur and skin.

• Shampoo the dog with a conditioning product to wash away any dirt and debris accumulation in the fur.

• If matting is extensive, or if it is proving troublesome to handle the task alone, a professional groomer may be needed. If he or she determines that the mats are just too dense to comb out, it may be necessary to use hair clippers to trim away the mats. Groomers have the expertise to delicately cut away mats and avoid nicking the skin.

Dogs prone to matting are those with longer hair that sheds readily. Pet owners can discuss grooming treatments and brushing regimens to keep mats from becoming a headache for all involved.

Pet owners can discuss grooming treatments and brushing regimens to keep mats from becoming a headache for all involved.

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Good Housekeeping

Eggnog Hot Chocolate

Start off Christmas morning in a very special way with this rich and creamy Eggnog Hot Chocolate.

2 1/2 cups milk
12 ounces bittersweet chocolate, finely chopped
4 cups eggnog
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1/4 cup coffee liqueur (optional)
Whipped cream
Cinnamon or peppermint sticks, for garnish (optional)

1. In a medium saucepan, bring milk and chocolate just to a simmer; remove from heat. Let stand 2 minutes. Whisk chocolate until melted and smooth.

2. Stir in eggnog. Gently heat over low heat until very warm. Stir in vanilla and coffee liqueur, if using.

3. Pour into mugs. Top with whipped cream and cinnamon sticks, if desired. Makes 8 (1 cup) servings.

* Each serving: About 458 calories, 33g total fat, 42g total carbohydrate, 11g protein.

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Ugly Sweater Party
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MVRC holds Voice of Democracy essay contest in local schools

The Rotary Club of the Mohawk Valley is excited to announce the winners of its first-ever essay contest for "Voice of Democracy," aimed at encouraging young people to explain what democracy means to them and the important role it plays in our democratic society. The essay contest was inspired by our recent November elections. Rotarian Irving Mason, retired college professor, also encouraged the event. Mason wanted to provide students in grades 10 - 12 the opportunity to express themselves in regards to democratic ideas and principles. A committee of Rotarians reviewed the essays received from Frankfort-Schuyler High School and Herkimer High School. The Rotary Club is honored to announce the following winners of this year's contest:

Frankfort-Schuyler High School: Michael Quinn

Herkimer High School: Zach Williams

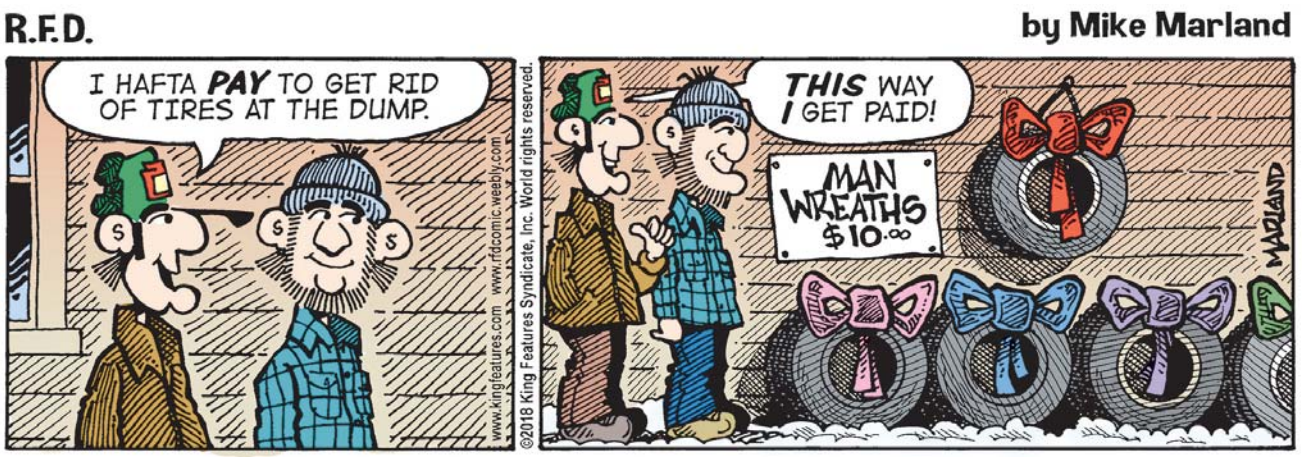
"We had an excellent response to our first-ever essay contest. A special thanks to all of the young writers who submitted entries, and to the local high schools who participated in this project," said Club President Elyse Enea Bellows. "Congratulations to these fine young writers and to the many others who shared their essays with us."

For more information on the Mohawk Valley Rotary Club visit www.facebook.com/MohawkValleyRotaryDistrict7150 .

(L - R) Rotarian Irving Mason, essay winner Michael Quinn, club president Elyse Enea Bellows, Daniel Enea, Frankfort-Schuyler High School Principal Mr. Stalteri and Frankfort-Schuyler High School U.S. History Teacher Anthony Reina.

(L - R) Herkimer High School Principal Mrs. Tomaso, essay winner Zach Williams, club president Elyse Enea Bellows and Rotarians Irving Mason and Daniel Enea.

Photos courtesy of Rotary Club of the Mohawk Valley



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Morning Service 11AM

TUESDAY
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WEDNESDAY
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& Bible Study 6:30PM

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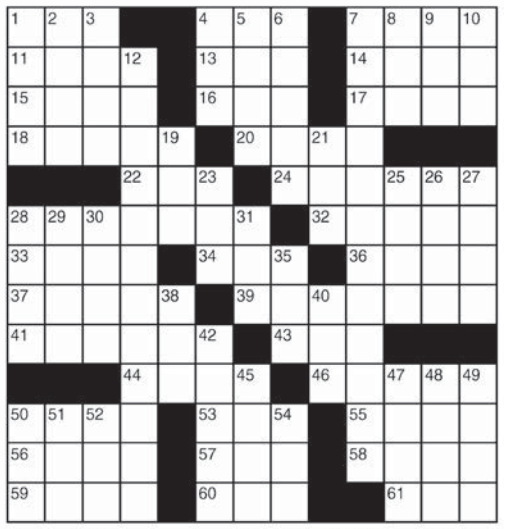
King Crossword



ACROSS
1 Leno's network
4 Plant bristle
7 Outdoor garment
11 Cupid's alias
13 Luau dish
14 "Do — others ..."
15 Hindu wrap
16 Type measures
17 Adolescent
18 Gear parts
20 Tempo
22 Gratuity
24 In the same place (Lat.)
28 Swiss Guards' site
32 Japanese cartoon art
33 Verve
34 Fix the soundtrack
36 Smile
37 Harsh
39 Pavlova performances
41 Improved
43 Sticky stuff
44 Aware of
46 16 ounces
50 Overly proper person
53 Witty one
55 — gin fizz
56 Apiece
57 Ostrich's cousin
58 Tackles' teammates
59 Sharpen
60 Actress Susan
61 Request

DOWN
1 Bird's home
2 Scottish hillside
3 Heart of an apple
4 Gorilla
5 Sonogram area
6 Some Japanese-Americans
7 Acting without restraint
8 Individual
9 Devoured
10 Heavy weight
12 Not budging
19 Toper's interruption
21 "The — Daba Honeymoon"
23 Cushion
25 Tragic
26 Send out
27 Clothing store section
28 Part of speech
29 Lotion additive
30 Without slack
31 Gist
35 Satchel
38 Coop dweller
40 Prune
42 Plied the oars
45 Appellation
47 Arm bone
48 Agrees silently
49 Dilbert's furniture
50 Church seat
51 Cheery remark?
52 "Rocks"
54 Fellow

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Jewelry rack is missing. 2. List is shorter. 3. Feathers are missing. 4. Pendant is missing. 5. Skirt is different. 6. Sign is different.

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

2			5	4			3	
		8	6			4		
	5				8			7
		1			9			8
8				1		2	5	
	6		2				9	
9	1		8			6		
		6		5				2
7					3		8	

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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Mega Maze

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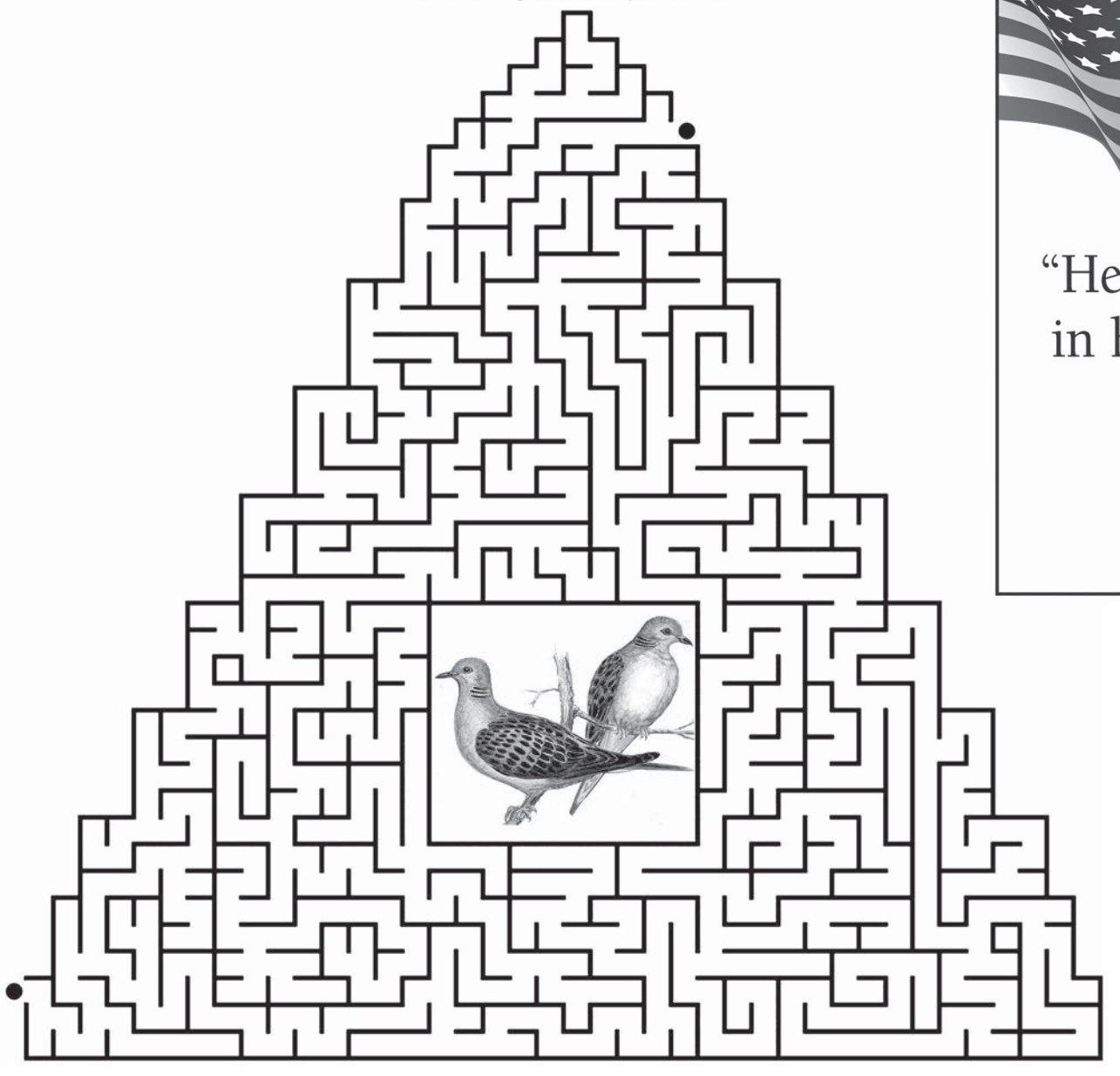

Americanisms

"He who has not Christmas in his heart will never find it under a tree."
— *Roy L. Smith*

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Have a happy holiday!

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25 Air Tools
35 Announcements
45 Antiques
55 Appraisal Services
75 ATV
80 Auctions
82 Auto Body
110 Bedding Plants
120 Bees-Beekeeping
130 Bird Control
140 Books
155 Building Materials/ Supplies
157 Building Repair
160 Buildings For Sale
161 Bulk Foods / Spices
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170 Butchering Supplies
173 Carpentry
175 Cars, Trucks, Trailers
180 Catalogs
182 Catering
190 Chain Saws
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205 Christmas
214 Clocks & Repair
215 Collectibles
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253 Consignment
265 Construction Equipment For Rent
275 Construction Machinery Wanted
277 Construction Services
280 Construction Supplies
312 Crafts
325 Custom Butchering
330 Custom Services
360 Deer-Butchering & Hides
370 Dogs
410 Electrical
415 Employment Wanted
440 Farm Machinery For Sale
445 Farm Machinery Wanted
447 Farm Market Items
460 Fencing
470 Financial Services
480 Fish
483 Flooring
494 For Lease
495 For Rent
500 For Sale
510 Fresh Produce, Nursery
525 Fruits & Berries
527 Furniture
529 Garage Sales
530 Garden Supplies
535 Generators
537 Gifts
575 Greenhouse Supplies
585 Guns
587 Hair Styling
589 Hardware
600 Health Care/Products
605 Heating
610 Help Wanted
653 Hotel / Motel
683 Jewelers
700 Lawn & Garden
711 Lessons
760 Lumber & Wood Products
790 Maple Syrup Supplies
805 Miscellaneous
810 Mobile Homes
811 Monuments
812 Multi Media
813 Music
815 Motorcycles
817 Nails
820 Nurseries
910 Plants
950 Real Estate For Sale
955 Real Estate Wanted
960 RVs & Motor Homes
975 Rentals
980 Restaurant Supplies
1040 Services Offered
1075 Snowblowers
1080 Snowmobiles
1096 Sports
1109 Thrift
1140 Trailers
1147 Trains
1148 Travel
1165 Trees
1170 Truck Parts & Equipment
1180 Trucks
1187 Vacuum
1190 Vegetable
1200 Veterinary
1205 Wanted

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The Country Editor

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Antiques

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City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone #: _____ Fax #: _____ Cell #: _____
Email Address: _____
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Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____ MM / YY
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Signature: _____ Today s Date: _____
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Mohawk Homestead hosts Mickey and Minnie for Christmas

Mary Tubia, owner of Be Our Guest - Children's Parties, stopped by the Mohawk Homestead with gifts for the residents on Saturday, Dec. 8. Mickey and Minnie handed out gifts and had their photos taken with each resident. The residents were so happy to visit with them.

Photo courtesy of The Mohawk Homestead

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

N	B	C			A	W	N		C	O	A	T
E	R	O	S		P	O	I		U	N	T	O
S	A	R	I		E	M	S		T	E	E	N
T	E	E	T	H		B	E	A	T			
			T	I	P		I	B	I	D	E	M
V	A	T	I	C	A	N		A	N	I	M	E
E	L	A	N		D	U	B		G	R	I	N
R	O	U	G	H		B	A	L	L	E	T	S
B	E	T	T	E	R		G	O	O			
			I	N	O	N		P	O	U	N	D
P	R	I	G		W	A	G		S	L	O	E
E	A	C	H		E	M	U		E	N	D	S
W	H	E	T		D	E	Y			A	S	K

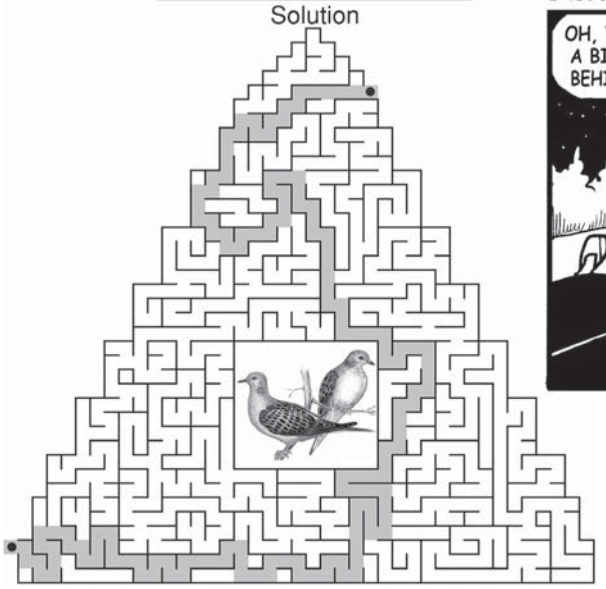
Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

2	7	9	5	4	1	8	3	6
1	3	8	6	9	7	4	2	5
6	5	4	3	2	8	9	1	7
5	2	1	4	3	9	7	6	8
8	9	3	7	1	6	2	5	4
4	6	7	2	8	5	3	9	1
9	1	5	8	7	2	6	4	3
3	8	6	9	5	4	1	7	2
7	4	2	1	6	3	5	8	9

Mega Maze

Solution



Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps

Merry Christmas!

Herkimer BOCES VP-TECH students support Stuff the Bus toy drive

HERKIMER – Additional local children will be receiving presents this holiday season thanks to Herkimer-Fulton-Hamilton-Otsego BOCES students who helped organize a collection of toys to donate to Stuff the Bus.

Herkimer BOCES Valley Pathways in Technology Early College High School students who were a member of the VP-TECH team at the recent Herkimer County Youth Summit ran the toy collection efforts under the guidance of Kenneth Ille, a Herkimer BOCES technical education mathematics teacher.

"Service to their community is a very important thing to learn in high school because it's civility," Ille said. "It shows them how to be better citizens. It shows them there is a world outside of their own, and they need to take care of others."

Stuff the Bus is an annual toy drive that has collected more than 100,000 toys for children in Oneida, Herkimer, Madison, Otsego, Fulton and Montgomery counties since its creation in 2008 by Roser Communications Network and its stations.

The fact that the toys go to children in the Mohawk Valley is one reason that Herkimer BOCES wanted to get involved, Ille said.

"This stays here," he said. "Hopefully, these toys help many kids have a great Christmas."

During his hour-long drive to work every day, Ille started hearing about Stuff the Bus on KISS FM, and he thought it would be a chance for VP-TECH students to do something positive for the community.

Herkimer-Fulton-Hamilton-Otsego BOCES students pose in front of the bus for Stuff the Bus on Thursday, Dec. 6 after loading toys they helped collect at Herkimer BOCES. (Back, L - R) Connar Dibble, Andrew Doolittle, Christopher Janis, Brianna Holtz, Rebecka Brewer, Jenna Lyman, Aurora Burdick and Keri Delaney. (Front) Aleksandr Kurganov.

Photos courtesy of Herkimer BOCES

"I'm always looking into ways students can do community service," he said.

Working on the project also helps VP-TECH students, who come from school districts across the Herkimer BOCES region, connect to their VP-TECH school, Ille said.

"I'm trying to build a sense of ownership here," he said.

Toys were donated from not only Herkimer BOCES Technical Programs staff, but also from Special Programs and the Pathways Academy at Remington, Ille said. Donations included Barbie dolls, remote-controlled cars and trucks that could be used in sand, members of the VP-TECH Youth Summit team said.

"That's what I would do," VP-TECH sophomore Aleksandr Kurganov, of Frankfort-Schuyler, said with a laugh. "I'd play in the sand." He added he was happy to support the Stuff the Bus cause.

"I'm glad we're helping kids by giving them toys and stuff," he said. "I

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Stay safe this holiday season

The holiday season is an exciting time of year, and it is easy to get swept up in the decorations, crowds and social engagements. Despite the joviality and revelry of the holiday season, there is also the potential to become a target of theft. Allstate Insurance says break-ins, package theft, online hacking and pick-pocketing incidences increase around this time of year. As a result, it's imperative that celebrants exercise caution come the holiday season.

Stop the "porch pirates"

Shoppers are not the only ones eagerly awaiting the arrival of packages come the holiday season. Thieves are ready and waiting to snatch up items once they are delivered. Dubbed "porch pirates," these criminals take packages off of porches when the delivery services leave them behind. According to a study by Blink, a video security company, residents of rural areas have a higher chance of being victimized by these crimes, which can occur anywhere. A 2016 survey from InsuranceQuotes.com found that roughly one in 10 adults has had a package stolen from his or her home before they were able to open it.

To avoid such crimes, consider having packages sent to a business location where there are more people around to receive them or to a neighbor who is home all day. Other suggestions include requiring a signature through the shipping service upon deliver or requesting the package be dropped off in a concealed area.

Be alert of your surroundings

While shopping in busy malls and other stores, keep track of the people close to you. Consider keeping credit cards and cash in an inside pocket rather than a back pocket or in a purse, which is more easily snatched. Exercise caution at ATMs, guarding PIN codes and retrieving and storing withdrawn funds quickly. When checking out at the store, ensure that your card never leaves your hand. Many retailers now have chip-imbedded card readers that enable customers to complete transactions without handing over their cards.

Check receipts and statements

Because digital theft and identity theft spike this time of year, be sure to cross-reference purchases made against banking and credit card statements frequently. Alert banking institutions to any fraudulent purchases immediately so you will not be responsible. Then have new cards issued and prior accounts closed. Shop from secured sites, and only use secure WiFi connections.

Keep gifts and purchases out of sight

Do not leave bags in the back seat of a car in plain sight of thieves. Hide purchases in the trunk or under a cargo cover in an SUV or truck. Also, do not advertise what you've bought or received to thieves by leaving the empty boxes outside. That big-screen TV box is a big giveaway that you now have expensive electronics in the house.

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think it's a good thing to do."

Community service is important because helping others feel that people are kind to them might help them avoid mental illness, Kurganov said. For example, receiving a toy on Christmas when you otherwise might not have could help you avoid feeling depressed, he said.

"It helps out the people who don't have much, and it gives them kindness," he said.

VP-TECH sophomore Andrew Doolittle of Dolgeville said it was interesting to support Stuff the Bus and help local children.

"Give them a nice Christmas," he said.

Community service makes a town a nicer place, Doolittle said. He thinks the toy recipients will feel good as a result, he said.

"It will mean a lot," he said. "It would make my day."

VP-TECH sophomore Connar Dibble of West Canada Valley also thought Stuff the Bus was a good cause to get behind.

"I think it was very nice to do for kids that don't get gifts like many people do," he said.

Community service is important because it supports those who have less and gives them a chance for happiness, Dibble said.

"I would say they will be very happy with what they get," he said.

Toys are loaded on the bus for Stuff the Bus on Thursday, Dec. 6, outside of Herkimer-Fulton-Hamilton-Otsego BOCES.

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How NORAD came to track Santa Claus

by Amy Anderson

It was the Cold War, and according to legend, a man sat at a desk in Colorado Springs, CO, with two telephones on it — one a direct line to the Pentagon. It wasn't a number in wide circulation, so when the phone rang on Christmas Eve of 1955, the Air Force colonel on duty at the Continental Air Defense Command center could be forgiven for his surprise at hearing a young child on the other end of the line ask: "Is this Santa Claus?"

Fortunately, Col. Harry Shoup, described by his children as "straight-laced and disciplined" in an NPR StoryCorp interview, was a good sport. After an initial bit of irritation, the colonel assumed the persona of Santa and chatted with the child, then spoke to the child's mother. It turns out the very private number to the very important phone on his desk had been misprinted in a Sears ad alongside a photo of Santa Claus, enticing the kiddies to "Call me on my private phone." Col. Shoup's night was just beginning.

The man who would come to be known as "Colonel Santa" instructed some airmen to answer any additional calls, and instead of turning away from this typo, leaned directly into the storm. He contacted the local radio station and reported the current radar location of one very merry sleigh and the operator's eight tiny reindeer.

So began the tradition still carried by the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD). Today the operations center uses complicated satellite systems and powerful radar to track Santa's progress around the world each Christmas Eve. A staff of 1,500 answer more than 140,000 calls and emails, and send updates by the minute to Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. NORAD's dedicated website, www.noradsanta.org, live-tracks Santa's location and offers updates in seven languages so that eager children and weary parents alike can know with certainty when it's time to go to bed!

To track Santa this year, visit www.noradsanta.org, or follow updates by searching for @noradsanta on social media. To speak to a volunteer, call the toll-free number 877.Hi NORAD (877.446.6723).

For more information about NORAD's day-to-day job, visit www.norad.mil.

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Giving at Christmas

Girl Scout Troop 20528 paid a visit to the Mohawk Homestead for the holidays. They sang some hol-iday songs to the residents and made them a giant Christmas card. The residents enjoyed the annual visit from the girls.

Photo courtesy of The Mohawk Homestead

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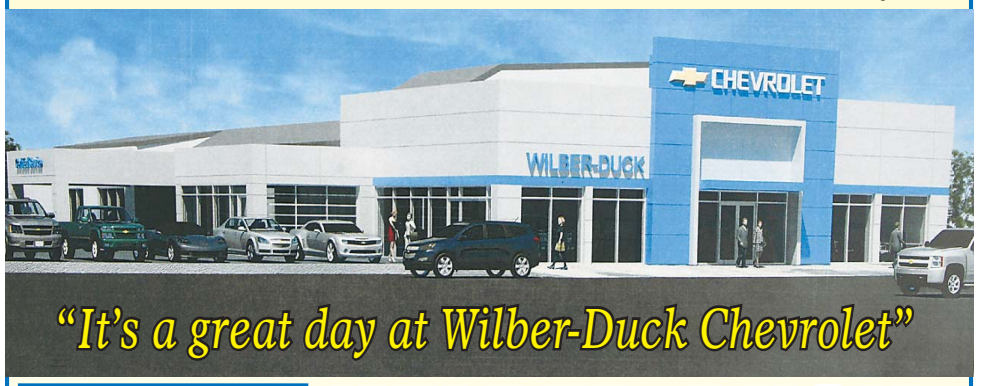

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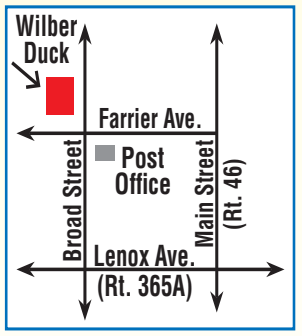

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