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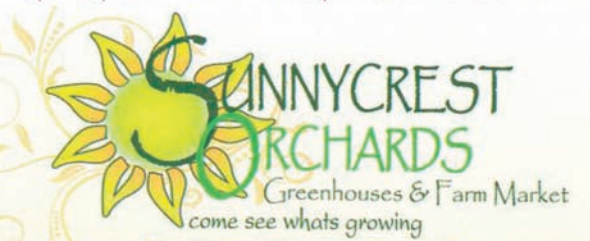
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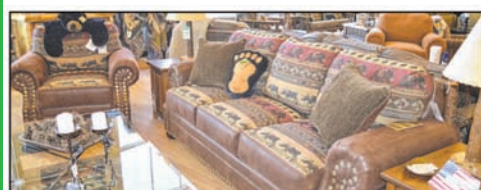


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Great apps drivers can use



Smartphones are a convenient tool that few people can now imagine living without. Smartphone-toting moms and dads know they always have a camera on hand to take quick snaps of their youngsters, while foodies rely on their smartphones to find nearby restaurants or read reviews of eateries while out on the town. But drivers also can benefit from smartphones thanks to the following apps.

· **Waze:** Commuters who download Waze to their smartphones may wonder how they ever navigated their daily treks to the office without this useful app, which allows drivers to share real-time traffic and road information with their fellow motorists. Drivers can use Waze to save time and gas money and make their commutes less stressful. Drivers

who use Waze can actively report accidents and find the least expensive gas prices posted by fellow drivers in their community.

· **GasBuddy:** While fuel prices dipped in late 2014 and stayed low into 2015, today's drivers are still conditioned to find the most affordable gas prices around. The GasBuddy app makes it easy to do just that, as users can share gas prices in their community, which fellow drivers can then peruse to find the most affordable filling stations along their driving routes. Drivers can even enter their city, ZIP code or postal code to find the cheapest gas in their vicinity.

· **AAA Mobile:** AAA members can use the AAA Mobile app to access AAA services on their smartphones. Such services include trip planning, member discounts and roadside assistance. The app also includes a mobile version of the motor club's popular TripTik® Travel Planner, which makes it easy for smartphone users to find club-approved hotels, restaurants and attractions. Drivers can even create and share trip itineraries between their desktop and mobile devices.

· **Insurance:** Nearly every auto insurance provider now offers its own mobile app to policy holders. Such apps may allow drivers to pay their bills, view their insurance identification cards, peruse their policies, arrange for roadside assistance and report claims among other things. These apps put your auto insurance provider at your fingertips and can make it much easier to manage your policy. ■

Simple defensive driving techniques anyone can employ



Driving defensively is a great way for motorists to reduce their risks of accident, maintain their vehicles over the long haul and save money on their auto insurance.

No driver wants to make roads less safe, and many may just need to reacquaint themselves with the following defensive driving techniques they learned way back when they first started driving as teenagers.

· **Avoid distractions.** Older drivers didn't have too many things to distract them from the road, but nowa-

days it's easy to be distracted whether you're driving alone on an empty road or sitting in rush hour traffic with dozens of your fellow commuters. That's because today's vehicles may be equipped with televisions, smartphone hookups and high-quality sound systems that can take drivers' attention away from the road. When

getting behind the wheel, keep your stereo speakers low and turn off all of your devices while driving.

· **Don't be in such a hurry.** Perhaps the most effective defensive driving technique is to slow down when on the road. Making a conscious effort to slow down, even if you are a few minutes late for work or running late for an appointment, can mean the difference between getting into an accident or staying safe on the road. If you know you are running late, don't try to compensate by driving fast. Instead,

call ahead to let whoever might be waiting for you know that you will be a few minutes late.

· **Don't lane hop.** Frequent switching between lanes can make other drivers nervous, increasing the risk of an accident. In addition, sudden or frequent lane changes can make it difficult for drivers to maintain their focus on the road and see more than a few cars ahead of them. Drivers who have been on the road for a long time may feel confident in their abilities to quickly switch between lanes, but fellow motorists may find such shifting distracting and

begin to drive erratically as a result. Stay in one lane as long as possible, and only pass cars on the left.

· **Don't respond to aggressive drivers.** If a fellow driver is driving aggressively, slow down and let them pass or pull over and let them get far away from you before you return to the roadway.

Defensive driving techniques reduce the risk of accidents and help to keep cars running strong over the long haul. Drivers can benefit from periodically revisiting such techniques and practicing them on roadways. ■



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The benefits to car loan preapproval

Smooth out the negotiation process

When purchasing a new vehicle, many people choose to finance their purchases. Much like buying a house, financing a vehicle requires buyers to produce a down payment and then make monthly payments on the vehicle until the balance of the loan has been repaid in full. Financing is a must for many consumers, who oth-

erwise could not afford to purchase a new or reliable preowned vehicle. And just like prospective homeowners can benefit from being preapproved for loans before they begin searching for a new home, auto buyers also benefit in various ways from getting preapproved for a car loan before they begin their search for their

next set of wheels.

• Preapproval smooths out the negotiation process. Few people enjoy haggling with car salesmen over the price of a new or preowned vehicle, and that process is even more difficult when buyers aren't entirely sure of how much money they have to spend. When financing your

vehicle with a preapproved loan, however, the process of negotiation can go much more smoothly, as you and the salesman know you only have a predetermined amount of money to spend. Ask the price to get the car off the lot, and then you can negotiate from there if you feel it necessary.

• Preapproval cuts back on time spent at the dealership. A car dealership's finance and insurance office is where buyers sit once they have told the salesman they want to buy the car and finance their purchase. Those who have not been preapproved often must sit through a sales pitch in this office or sit patiently as the salesman goes back and forth with the finance manager as you negotiate the final cost of the vehicle. However, when you have been preapproved for a loan, no such back and forth needs to take place, and you can cite your preapproval



as a reason you don't want to commit to the extra add-ons that many dealers attempt to sell their buyers.

• Preapproval means the car is yours when you take it off the lot. Dealers are sometimes too quick to put keys in a buyer's hand, and buyers

with poor credit sometimes are allowed to drive a car off the lot only to find out days later that the lender rejected their application, at which time they must return the vehicle or return to the dealership to apply for a new loan, which will almost certainly come with a higher interest rate. Preapproval allows buyers to avoid this frustrating and sometimes embarrassing process.

• Preapproval reduces the risk that you will overspend. Many a new or preowned car buyer has fallen in love with a vehicle and spent more than they should have to make the car their own. Preapproval greatly reduces the chances of this happening, as you know before you begin your search that your lender will only approve a loan for so much money. This can help buyers stick to a budget and avoid buying a car they can't afford. ■

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Drive into Summer



The Reluctant Outdoorsman - fishing

By Al Dorantes

Out of all the outdoor activities I think I hate fishing the most. The reason I hate it so much, I think, is because I have never been, and probably never will be, as successful as my 7 year old self was. That 7 year old went fishing once and I caught 2 trout and a sun fish. I have not caught anything since, unless you count a cold. Knots, broken reels, and mosquito bites are just

bonus reasons I hate fishing. I remember going fishing with my father back in the olden days. We would gather up all the gear; poles, lures, tackle box, hooks, and sinkers and we would toss that all into the back of the truck. We would venture off to secret fishing holes with the fishing gear rattling in the bed of the truck.

Every excursion included a stop at the local general store. This was in the

days before cookie cutter convenience stores on every corner and 24/7 service. Inside the store we would load up on soda, chips, and of course worms. The soda bottles back then, glass bottles, had their labels printed on thin Styrofoam. The worms came in a little Styrofoam tub too. Most of the candy came from the Ferrara Candy Company; Lemonheads, Alexander the Grape, and Atomic Fireballs.

Nostalgia is trouble. Nostalgia is what gets us looking up old flames or tracking down classmates on Facebook. It also led me down a garden path of thinking I could recreate my angling adventures with my own kids.

The first step in my fishing odyssey is obtaining a fishing license. In New York State you need a fishing license if you are over 16. Since I am no longer 7, I had to pony up \$25 to get the license. Thankfully my kids are younger than 16. If you are over 70 and still want to fish the permit fee is reduced to \$5. You need a fishing license if you are going to be fishing for freshwater fish by angling, spearing, hooking, longbow, and tip-ups. Frogs are included too. You need a license if you are going to spear, catch by hands, hook, or by using a club (let's hope you never run into a frog that requires using a club to



The Reluctant Outdoorsman tries out his new fishing gear!

catch). Freshwater baitfish for personal use will also require a license.

I went down to my local sporting goods store and plunked down my \$25 bucks. The clerk asked for my driver's license. For a fishing license? He scanned the driver's license into the computer and after couple keystrokes out popped a fishing license.

I went home, picked up the kids, threw a couple 5 gallon buckets to sit on (I have them lying around from gold panning) into the truck, and drove to the nearest convenience store. We loaded up on snacks; chips, candy, beef jerky, and soda. I bought some worms from a vending machine that took my credit card. Technology. My son even loaded a fishing app onto his phone. The app was supposed to give you locations for good fishing holes based on some sort of algorithm and GPS data.

The app did not have anything nearby so I drove us to one of those nostalgic spots from my childhood; Lock 17 in little falls. Besides being the tallest lock in the

laid out our snacks and got ready to fish when my daughter, Julie, asked, "Dad, where are the fishing poles?"

Back into the truck and back to the sporting goods store we went. When we got there the sign informed us that they were closed. My truck found its way to Wal-Mart. Inside I scoured the sporting goods section and found a couple fishing poles. They were Shakespeare beginner kits. All I needed to go fishing except the worm; pole, reel, line, and hooks. The only problem was the fact that they were pink Barbie fishing poles.

We made it back to Lock 17 with just a little bit of daylight left. We dropped our lines into the water and waited. The kids quickly became more interested in snacks. Before long they were baiting their hooks with gummy bears. By the time the mosquitoes started biting we had caught nothing. Not even a cold. I blame myself. I am a fishing jinx. In the end, nostalgia won. The snacks still tasted as good as I remembered. The kids had a great time and that was a decent haul for an evening of fishing.

Rating: on a difficulty scale of 1-10 this adventure was

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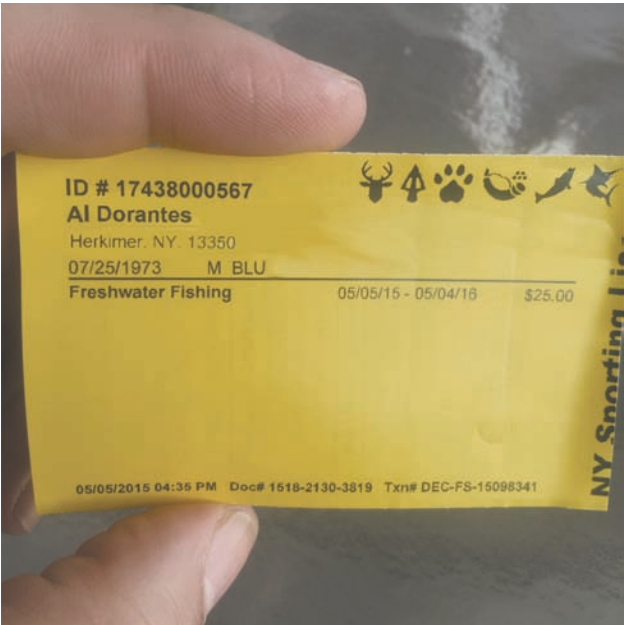
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The kids piled out of the truck. We grabbed the buckets and the tackle box and walked closer to the east end of the lock. We found a nice spot to sit,

a 3. The hardest part was being patient and waiting for the fish to bite. Do yourself a favor and take your kids fishing. ■



“Revolutionary” Works

by 19th-Century French Impressionist Artists Come to MWPAI

By Pat Malin

Historians tell us the French Revolution lasted from 1789-1804 and was influenced in part by our own American Revolution a few decades earlier. Both events stemmed from a need to throw off the shackles of a despotic monarchy and a desire for a freedom of expression rooted in the common man.

Few people realize there was a second French “revolution” beginning in the 1870s. Only this time, the freedom of expression originated with a group of artists discontented with an authoritarian status quo’s opinions of what constituted art.

These malcontents, led by Claude Monet, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Henri Matisse and others, spread their outrageously-innovative techniques across the pond to America, lasting into the 20th century and influencing later generations of abstract artists.

Dubbed “impressionism” in an unflattering way for the painters’ infatuation with shadowy light, a seeming lack of formal structure, haphazard and rapid brushwork, brash use of colors and thick layers of paint, these radical young artists eventually became as beloved and appreciated as the old masters.

Original works of art by the exciting Impressionists have come to central New York and are on view at Munson-Williams-Proctor Arts Institute in Utica from May 16 to Nov. 29. Monet to Matisse, The Age of French Impressionism is expected to be a magnet for visitors from far and wide and could be one of the museum’s biggest shows of all time.

The show features more than 60 paintings and pastel drawings from the renowned collection of the Dixon Gallery and Gardens in Memphis, Tennessee.

For the first time in MWPAI’s 80-year history, it has hosted a show on Impressionism. The size, scope and cost of the exhibition are indeed impressive, according to museum curator Anna D’Ambrosio.

The exhibition includes landscapes, portraits, interiors, and still lifes by leaders of French Impressionism: Edgar Degas, Berthe Morisot, Camille Pissarro, Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec and Alfred Sisley, in addition to Americans Mary Cassatt and John Singer Sargent. Major paintings by Paul Cézanne, Paul Gauguin and Georges Braque, the post-Impressionists, complete the exhibition.

Today when you view the grace and athleticism of Degas’s ballet dancers or Monet’s hazy landscapes, it’s hard to believe impressionism was born from the throes of rejection.

In 1874, the French Salon, which was the arbiter of art in the late 19th century, rejected artworks by a number of fresh, emerging artists, such as Monet, Pissarro, Renoir and Sisley. The radical entrepreneurs, many of whom were in their 30s, went on to found their own exhibition and inadvertently paved the way for modern art.

D’Ambrosio noted that French society in the 1870s was undergoing a social upheaval equivalent to the earlier French Revolution. The country was defeated, demoralized and economically depressed following the Franco-Prussian War; while out on the streets, an emerging working class was struggling to meet the demands of the industrial age.



Edgar Degas (19 July 1834 – 27 September 1917), was a French artist famous for his work in painting, sculpture, printmaking and drawing. He is regarded as one of the founders of Impressionism although he rejected the term, and preferred to be called a realist.

A new wave of paintings and drawings were created en plein air or directly from outdoor settings, such as Monet’s Port of Dieppe, Evening (1880).

For subject matter, the Impressionists paid heed to the changing times and felt compelled to depart from the traditional in other ways. They often portrayed the working class, such as Toulouse-Lautrec’s show girls and the unglamorous street life surrounding Parisian cafes.



Georges Seurat (December 2, 1859 - March 29, 1891) was a French painter and draftsman. Seurat was born into a very rich family in Paris. His father, Antoine Chrysostom Seurat, was a legal official and a native of Champagne; his mother, Ernestine Faivre, was Parisian.

Morisot’s oil painting, Peasant Girl (1880) conveys a charming innocence replete with a background of colorful tulips, but the girl’s dirty hands reveal her true lowly stature.

Degas, likewise, could have spotlighted the prima ballerina, but he chose instead to focus on the anonymous backup dancers. His charcoal and pastel entitled Dancer Adjusting Her Shoe (1885) shows the subject in an awkward, yet ordinary pose.

These works had to be an odd, discomforting sight for the French aristocracy and it was easy for them to disdain the young lions.

Interestingly, many of the Impressionists were trained in classical methods of painting, said D’Ambrosio, so no one really knows why they decided to completely overthrow the old regime.

Just as the Impressionists had an abrupt departure from their predecessors such as Rembrandt, they were succeeded by more unconventional artists in the late 19th and early 20th century, especially Van Gogh, Marc Chagall and Pablo Picasso.

General admission to the exhibition is \$10 and \$5 for students. Children 12 and younger and MWPAI members are free. Guided tours are held Wednesdays and Saturdays at 1 p.m. and Fridays at 1 and 6 p.m.

The presentation of Monet to Matisse is made possible through the support of Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council, New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Gov. Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, The Gilbert and Ildiko Butler Family Foundation, Gilroy Kernan and Gilroy, M&T Bank, Empire State Development Division of Tourism Market New York Funds, and M. Griffith Investment Services, Inc. ■

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How to set the table for casual and formal gatherings

Hosts have a lot on their plates when planning dinner parties. Choosing the menu is a big responsibility, as is taking steps to ensure guests feel welcome.

One area novice hosts may overlook is how to set a proper table. Eating on the go or quickly between commitments means individuals often grab meals wherever they can, and that rarely leads them to the dining

have seen better days, you may want to upgrade to a new set.

Wash any plates and glasses that have not been used in a while before setting the table. A quick rinse through the dishwasher can freshen them up and remove any accumulated dust.

Select a table linen that fits with your décor or theme. It will be the base for your

which order to place the utensils. Begin on the left side of the plate. "F" is for forks, "O" represents the plate itself, "K" is for knives, and "S" is for spoons. The "R" is not used, but the word serves as a mnemonic device nonetheless.

In a basic table setting, there may only be one fork, knife and spoon. In more formal settings, additional utensils are provided for multiple courses. The additional utensils are placed in order of use. Therefore, a salad fork would be on the end and the dinner fork closer to the plate. All knives should be facing in toward the dinner plate.

Beverage glasses are placed above the dish and utensils to the right side of it. Bread-and-butter dishes and/or small salad plates appear to the left.

Many hosts do present dessert well after the main course, so you will not need to have a dessert plate, beverage cup and saucer or dessert utensils on the table initially. They can be brought in later on.

Buy a centerpiece to complete the table. Keep in mind the height and size of the arrangement so that it does not impede guests' views or take up so much space that diners feel cramped. Proper table setting can make any meal feel more special. ■



A proper table setting can establish the tone for your dinner or special event.

room table. But a properly set table can impress guests and improve the ambiance at a dinner party.

Begin by choosing a matching set of dinnerware. You will need to invest in extra dinnerware if you do not have enough items to accommodate all your guests. If dishes and utensils

table setting. The dinner plate should be front and center for each guest. Place a napkin directly on the center of the dinner plate or off to the left side.

Utensils will flank the plate in order of use. The experts at Emily Post Etiquette suggest using the word "FORKS" to remind yourself

Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap
but by the seeds that you plant.
-Robert Louis Stevenson

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Morgan Club

Set sights on visiting Clapsaddle Farm

By Al Dorantes

On Saturday, May 2 the Western New York Morgan Owners Group visited the Ilion Farmer's Market at Clapsaddle Farm. They picked the Ilion Farmer's Market as the location for their monthly meet up and to give the Morgans a run through the Ilion Gorge. Unfortunately uncooperative cool temperatures caused most of the club to leave their Morgans at home. Only one Morgan made the trip.

Most of the members of the Western New York Morgan Owner Group are from the Rochester area. The club holds monthly meetings to celebrate their passion for the Morgan Motor Company. Most club members are also fans of other British cars; MG, Triumph, Jensen Healey, TVR, Lotus and others. Annabelle Tescione, president of the



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been in production since 1936, the 4/4 is the longest running production vehicle in the world and has built up iconic status during that time. Morgan performance is a mix of responsive



John and Larraine McNulty's Morgan.

acceleration and fuel economy. With even weight distribution, Morgans are an intuitive joy to drive.

Club members John & Larraine McNulty from Plainfield, New York in Otsego County were on hand with their white 2002 Morgan 4/4. The McNulty's had the only Morgan present at the Ilion Farmer's Market due to the cool temperatures. The other members drove other vehicles including a Mini Cooper.

Morgans are still popular even though they have stopped importing into the USA because of alleged safety issues; the side airbags are too low according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The McNultys explained that \$35-80,000 is the price range for a Morgan. Larraine added, "\$35,000 will get you a Plus 4 in need

of some restoration."

Club members Bill & Desi Benet, both teach on the college level, own a 1966 44 Competition that they bought in 1977. The Benets



A view of the Morgan's hood, or bonnet, as they would call it in England.

group, owns a 1951 Morgan. She said, "Most of us have known each other since the club's inception. We're all good friends. The Morgans are fun stuff." Among enthusiasts, Morgans are affectionately known as "Moggies."

car. Affordability continues to keep Morgans at the forefront of the minds of sports car enthusiasts. All Morgans are coach built, meaning nearly handmade body and chassis with out-sourced drivetrain. Today Morgan builds in excess of 1300 cars per year. Having

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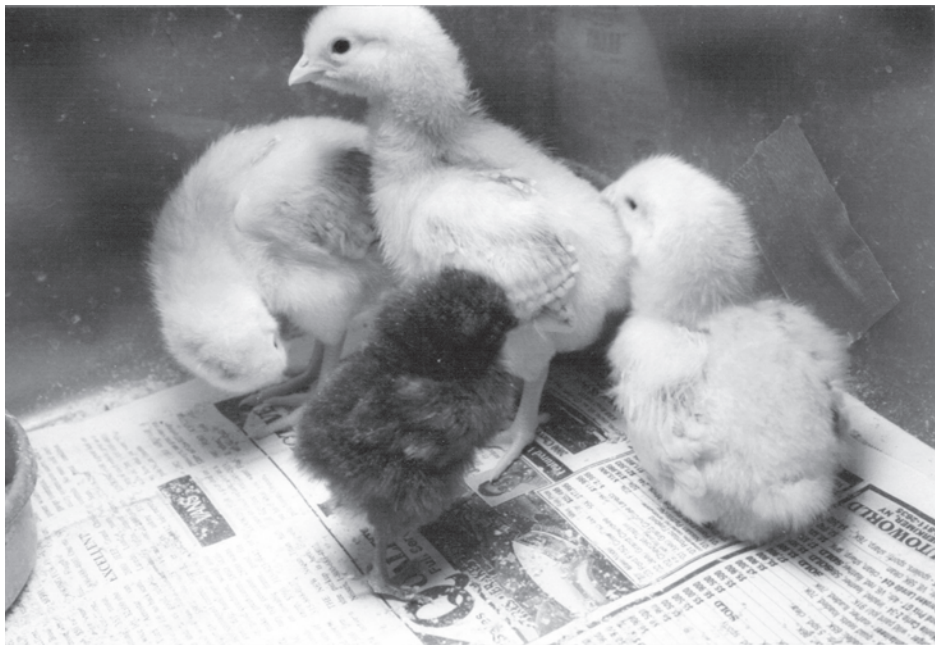
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Pee Wee Hits The Road



Here is Pee Wee as a baby, complete with tail feathers and beak!

By Terry Berkson

In April I had to get rid of one of my roosters because he was stripping the hens of their back feathers. Unfortunately deporting the bully didn't solve the problem because the hens continued to lose their feathers and I was sure it wasn't due to molting. Eventually, I caught Geezbrook, my prize buff Orpington rooster, in the act with a telltale feather in his beak. I decided, as handsome as he was, that he would have to go to King's auction where

I had unloaded his rebellious son. King must have liked the looks of Geezbrook because he chose not to put him on the block. Instead, he kept him for himself, maybe for breeding purposes. Back on the farm, the remaining rooster continued the abuse but I decided not to give him up because then I wouldn't hear his crow in the morning, which always gives me a charge. Instead, I fitted a wire that amounted to something like a horse's bit in his beak that allowed him to eat, but prevented him from pulling out any more feathers. I suppose I should have tried

this with Geezbrook but that egg was already fried.

Still, the plucking problem continued and I came to realize that the hens were pulling each others feathers out, probably when they were in the coop up on their roosts with nothing else to do. I consulted my chicken guru, Roger Vaughn, to see if he could come up with a solution for the problem. "Maybe you're feeding them too much corn," Jim suggested. "That could result in a dietary imbalance making them crave protein-and feathers are made of protein."

But, I wasn't feeding them too much corn. At the suggestion of an article I read over the internet, I added a tablespoon of salt to a gallon of their drinking water but it made no difference. I fed them more grass and let them free range a little longer but to no avail. The last internet idea I was going to try was to get some pine tar from Agway and apply it to their exposed skin where it would serve as a repellent. This would require catching all of my chickens one by one which was no small task. My son, Jonathan, who is a lot more agile than I, was up for the weekend and agreed to grab each bird so that I could apply the pine tar. When Vaughn heard about my plan, he said, "If you're going to the trouble of catching them, you might as well trim their beaks like you would a dog's nails. Then they won't be able to pull out any more feathers." This sounded like a more practical plan so I abandoned

What is clean eating all about?

Clean eating is a growing trend among people focused on health and wellness. A relatively simple concept of selecting foods that are minimally processed, clean eating intends to instill a greater understanding of the pathway between a food's origins and the final products that end up on grocery store shelves and dinner tables.

Choosing whole or "real" foods that are as close to their natural forms as possible is a staple of clean eating. The availability of convenience food products has never been greater, and not all packaged foods are unhealthy. But clean eating encourages consumers to be more aware of the ingredients in the foods they eat while selecting those foods that are minimally processed. Many foods designated as "clean," including vegetables and fruits, whole grains, free-range meats, low-fat dairy products, unsalted nuts, and whole seeds, are straight from the farm.

Another component of clean eating is eliminating or greatly reducing the consumption of refined sugar. Many health experts advise that refined sugar is a large contributor to unnecessary calories. Many people can get all the energy they need by consuming foods with natural sugars.

If an ingredient list includes names you cannot recognize or if the natural form of the food has been changed (i.e. removing the bran from whole grains), it cannot be included in a clean-eating plan. Also, foods that have a lot of additives, including salt, sugar and fat, are not classified as clean.

Jessica Fanzo, assistant professor of nutrition at Columbia University, advises that not all food processing is bad. Processing is sometimes necessary to prevent pathogens that can lead to illness. For example, pasteurizing milk is a processing method, but one that



Clean eating starts with selecting farm-fresh fruits and vegetables and other foods that are in their most natural form.

is necessary to stop the proliferation of bacteria. Even steaming foods is processing in some form, but it is not on par with some of the overly processed foods available.

The benefits to clean eating are numerous. Increasing intake of fruits and vegetables can boost your immune system and serve as a nutritious way to maintain a healthy weight. Clean eating may help you become more conscious of everything from meal ingredients to portion sizes.

Those interested in clean eating can begin slowly. Start to introduce more fresh fruits, vegetables, legumes, nuts, and farm-fresh foods into your diet. Look for foods in their natural form, such as whole oats and other grains. Avoid highly refined ingredients and limit sugar and salt intake. Opt for fresh herbs and spices to season food. Over time you can make other changes.

Adopting a clean-eating approach to their diet is a great way for men and women to start living healthy lifestyles. Speak with a doctor or nutritionist about healthy and effective ways to transition to clean eating. ■

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the pine tar idea. We were well under way trimming beaks. Jonathan delivered each captured chicken as it squawked bloody murder while I performed the painless procedure. My wife Alice, who was repelled by the idea of trimming beaks, refused to chase after any chickens, and stood nearby with a running commentary of chick chat. All was going well until, Pee Wee, my favorite, most intelligent and noble bird, the one who with my assistance was born in a similar surgical fashion to the great Julius Caesar, decided to make a break for it. I guess all the squawking was too much for her so she jumped the fence and headed for a hedgerow with my son in hot pursuit. Being a bright bird, Pee Wee hunkered down somewhere and gave Jonathan the slip. We finished trimming the rest of the beaks with no sign of the escapee in sight. By nightfall

I sadly figured my favorite chicken was going to be food for the coyotes.

Two days later, I got a call from neighbor Marilyn Purcell. She said that while driving past our place she saw a chicken out by the road in front of the pines with her wing out as though she were hitchhiking. It had to be Pee Wee! I immediately went to the feed bin for some cracked corn and headed towards the road. "Here chick chick," I called as I threw the corn into the pines. Just then a tom turkey bolted out of the trees and crossed the road narrowly escaping death as a passing pickup truck came to a screeching halt. A bearded man in camouflage hat and jacket sat behind the wheel with a puzzling grin on his face.

"What?" I asked as I dropped some corn back into the paper bag I was

holding.

"You'll never get a turkey that way," the man said. "You want to use a gun."

"No," I said. "I was trying to catch..."

Before I could explain, the man rolled up his window shaking his head and was on his way.

It wasn't long before Pee Wee appeared and began to follow my trail of feed across the lawn in the direction of the coop. When I finally got her inside the fence she was strutting past the other chickens like she had been on vacation.

"Look at that bird," I told my wife. "Doesn't she look like she's showing off?"

"I guess she is," Alice quipped. "She's the only one with a whole beak!" ■

Make the most of your home appraisal



Be sure to mention all renovations no matter how large or small they may seem to you. Leave it up to the professionals to do the best possible appraisal possible for your property.

When homeowners think about renovating their properties, many first need to secure some funding to finance such projects. Some may tap into the equity of their homes by refinancing an existing mortgage, while others may apply for home equity loans. Taking the latter approach may require certain steps, including an assessment of how much the home and property is worth.

Home appraisals compare your home to neighboring

properties to determine your home's current market value. Homeowners can facilitate the process by having certain information readily available for the appraiser. When preparing for appraisers, homeowners should consider and collect the following information:

- If your home was built on the largest lot in the community.
- If you have made significant upgrades since it was last appraised, such as

installing a new roof or siding. Don't overlook smaller renovations, like extra insulation added or sealing drafty windows, which can increase a home's value.

- Proof that you have used sustainable resources or if you participated in any energy-savings programs.

Naturally, any expansion projects, such as adding another bedroom or extending the footprint of the home, should be mentioned.

A real estate appraiser is

a certified, licensed professional who will do his or her best to determine the value of your home. The appraisal provides banks with information that can tell loan officers if the house is worth the loan amount. Expect to pay a fee for the appraisal, which is generally included in your closing costs.

The appraiser gathers information for the appraisal report from a number of sources, but the process often begins with a physical inspection of the property, both inside and out. He or she also will compare your home against a few others in the neighborhood, which are known as comparables, or comps. Appraisals will be based on recent prices of comparable properties as well as other factors.

Apart from the improvements done to the home, there are other ways to get a higher appraisal amount. The appraiser may consider the overall maintenance of

the home and property. It is wise to consider curb appeal and ensure the home is clean and maintained when the appraiser arrives. Minor repairs or common maintenance can impress the appraiser. Removing clutter and cleaning up the home's interior can make the home appear larger, possibly increasing its value as a result.

It may be worth it to invest some more money into the property before having an appraisal done. A study sponsored by the National Association of Realtors says wood floors, landscaping and an enclosed garage can lead to a more favorable appraisal.

An appraiser will spend roughly 30 minutes in a home. Try to give that person space to do his or her job. Following the appraisal around during an inspection can raise a red flag that something is wrong with the house that you don't want to be seen. Turn lights

on throughout the house, make sure the heating or cooling system is functioning at full capacity and keep pets locked away. Move items that can impede access to basements or attics.

An accurate assessment of the value of your home will give banks the information they need to determine loan amounts for future renovation projects. Providing background information on the home and having a well-maintained property can improve the chances of a favorable appraisal. ■

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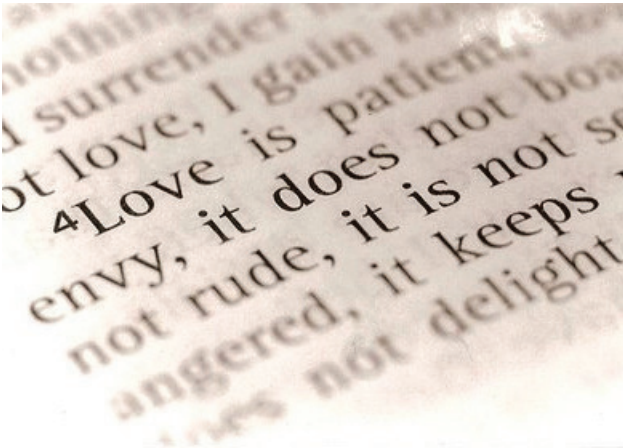
Love Memorial Day

By David Griffin

I am not "religious," but I have a small Bible that is inscribed to Walter Stett from "a friend in the Lord," Margaret Foster, New York, September, 1863. A dried flower from that time is pressed into the pages of I Corinthians 13, the Love Chapter ("Love is patient, love is kind ...") I don't know for sure, but I believe Walter was given this Bible by a young lady who would have never presumed to offer a gift to a man in those times, except that he was on his way off to War. Whether he returned is unknown, but his Bible somehow made it back.

I found the testament in an antique store down on the river in the Rondout section of Kingston, NY thirty years ago. I didn't need another Bible; a few are more than enough for me. It cost ten dollars that I would have rather spent on something else, but I couldn't just leave it there. A woman's love deserves a place of honor, whether romantic or simply sisterly caring. So I brought it home and it sits with other small books on my desk.

Memorial Day reminds me that so many who meant so much to us are gone and more will leave us before finally we're gone too. When I open the little Bible to the pages holding the dried flower, I'm reminded that "these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. And love never fails." Copyright 2015, David Griffin ■



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Thursday, May 21st

4:00 to 5:30pm
407 2nd Ave Ext, Frankfort

5:00 to 6:30pm
517 Keyes Rd, Utica
7 Woodside Ave, Little Falls

Whitesboro Fish Market

Celebrating 30 Years

By Al Dorantes

If you are looking for the freshest fried fish stop into Whitesboro Fish Market located at 103 Main Street in Whitesboro. The Whitesboro Fish Market has been a family business for 30 years. Mike Walter has been running it for the past 10 years. He also drives school bus for Holland Patent school district. He said with a chuckle, "It's 2 good, part

time jobs"

The Whitesboro Fish Market is open Wednesday through Thursday 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm and Friday 9:00 am - 7:00 pm for lunch and dinner on Friday. It is all take out at the Whitesboro Fish Market. All orders packed to go in Styrofoam. Mike caters, bends over backwards, for his customers. There are not a lot of frills he explained. Mike said, "Fresh is

the key to business."

Fish still has top billing at Whitesboro Fish Market. The primary fish being had-dock. You can get it fried or fresh, uncooked so you can prepare it at home. The fish and other seafood arrives fresh, overnight from Boston. You can also get scallops, clams, and shrimp. All salads are made in house; potato, macaroni, coleslaw, as well as homemade tartar sauce



it is actually Christmas Eve day. From 8am - 3:30pm the Whitesboro Fish Market does the average of 3 regular Fridays. Mike attributes this to the fact that, "everybody is putting on the dog." Fish, shrimp, scallops, lobster tails, crab legs, and more find their way to homes for the holiday.

Whitesboro Fish Market has a lot of regulars. Mike Walter would like to see new faces. He plans on continuing with his philosophy of fresh fish plus a good crew equals consistency. Mike said, "People know what they're getting. We're small but efficient; we have a good little system going."

On May 22, Whitesboro Fish Market will celebrate 30 years in business. All customers will receive 25% off their orders. For more information go to: www.facebook.com/pages/Whitesboro-Fish-Market/205411869468907 Fref=ts or call: (315) 736-2105. ■

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can even get fried frog legs at Whitesboro Fish Market.

Most people think that the Lenten season is the busiest time of the year for Whitesboro Fish Market. Mike Walter explained that

Not Just Poodles Pet Salon & Doggie Daycare Inc.

Celebrating 30 Years

By Al Dorantes

If your dog is dirty, needs a bath, is simply a diva look no further than Not Just Poodles located at 105 Main St, Whitesboro, New York. NJP has been grooming and caring for dogs since original owner, Carol Oot, started grooming dogs at the location in May of 1985. Current owner Diane Zielinski started working at NJP in 2005. In 2007 Diane bought the business from Carol and it has been full speed ahead, like a dog chasing a car, ever since. NJP is open every other Monday, every other Saturday, and Tuesday - Friday 8am - 5pm and is sure to find a

convenient time to care for your pet.

Not Just Poodles, like their name says, grooms and cares for all breeds of dogs. They have taken care of dogs ranging from a 3 pound Yorkie to a 230 pound St. Bernard. Customers from Forestport to Herkimer and beyond bring their dogs to Main Street, Whitesboro to get their dog's teeth brushed, ears cleaned, bathed, and anal glands drained. Walk ins are welcome for nails and anal gland care. Appointments are necessary for grooming. Diane Zielinski said, "We don't even hear the dogs bark anymore. It's like

background music to us now."

Not Just Poodles lives up to their name offering grooming for cats. Cat services include nails, ears & brush outs. Besides felines, Not Just Poodles takes grooming to the next level caring for rabbits, ferrets, and more.

One niche that NJP has managed to collar is doggy and pet clothes and accessories. From Leashes, harnesses and collars to pet clothing and booties can be found at Not Just Poodles.

Continued page 19



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Helping Your Pet Look And Feel Its Best For The Past 30 Years!

Maintaining bird feeders and bird baths

essential to avian health

Bird watching is a pastime enjoyed by people of all ages. While many people trek into the woods to see their favorite birds, homeowners can take steps to entice these fascinating and feathered friends right to their backyards.

Homeowners who want to attract birds to their properties can do so by providing the birds food, shelter and places to wash up or cool off. Installing a bird feeder and a bird bath in your yard is one way to attract a bevy of winged creatures that can provide hours of enjoyment.

Establishing a bird-friendly environment may seem as simple as hanging a feeder on a pole or tree and erecting a bird bath nearby. But a certain level of maintenance is needed to keep birds healthy and happy.

According to the experts at the Bird Watcher's Digest, recent research indicates feeders can sometimes be a source of disease for the birds visiting them. The Audubon Society echoes that warning, saying that bird feeders and baths can serve as transmission stations for diseases such as aspergillosis, avian pox and salmonellosis. Recently, scientists noted that the spread of trichomonad protozoan parasites is on the rise, especially among mourning dove and band-tailed pigeon populations.

Such warnings are not meant to deter budding birding hobbyists. Organizations like the Audubon Society hope that such warnings send the message that disinfection and maintenance is necessary to maintain sanitary environments for birds. Doing so is relatively easy and well worth the time for birding enthusiasts.

The Humane Society of the United States advises cleaning hanging feeders once every two weeks or more often if they're heavily used. Ground-feeding designs should be cleaned every two days. Feeders can be immersed in a very-diluted solution of bleach to water (nine parts water to one part bleach). Let soak for a few minutes, and then scrub the feeder with a stiff brush or scouring pad before rinsing. Allow the feeder to dry completely before refilling it with seed.

Bird baths should be emptied of water each day. Brush or wipe the bath clean, then rinse and refill with fresh water. Do not leave standing water overnight; otherwise bird baths can easily become a breeding ground for mosquitoes and other parasites.

Frequently collect discarded seed hulls and clean bird droppings from beneath feeders. If the area around the feeder has become especially soiled, relocate the feeder elsewhere and clean its initial location.

Follow proper instructions with regard to seed and other



bird food. For example, reduce the amount of suet offered in hot weather. Heat can cause suet to spoil, and sticky suet can become stuck in birds' feathers and make it hard for them to keep clean.

Try to provide more than one feeder and bird bath to prevent overcrowding. Crowding can contribute to the spread of disease.

Do not situate feeders and bird baths under perches where they can be soiled by droppings.

If you notice birds look sick or are not acting strangely, halt feeding and bathing to prevent healthy birds from becoming ill. Wait a week before resuming feeding and notify wildlife officials if you find dead or sick birds around your property.

Locate feeders and baths at least 30 feet away from windows so birds do not get confused by reflections and collide with the glass.

Store seed in a dry container with a tight-fitting lid to prevent mold from forming and moisture from getting in.

Creating a thriving habitat for bird watching is easier than one might think. But once birds begin visiting a yard, homeowners must diligently maintain clean feeders and bird baths to ensure the birds stay as healthy as possible. Any questions about wild-bird care can be directed to a local Audubon Society chapter or by visiting a pet store or bird hobby center. ■

“

Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud.

-Maya Angelou



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Watering tips to produce healthy lawns

Summertime waterings are most effective in the morning hours

Summer is a season for landscaping, and homeowners who live in regions that get especially hot in the summertime often worry that their lawns won't make it through the dog days of summer looking lush. But lawns don't have to succumb to the sizzling summer sun. Oftentimes, the right

watering strategies can help homeowners nurse their lawns through the hottest months of the year, ensuring the lawns make it to autumn looking as green as they did back at the height of spring.

• Reconsider when you're watering. Come summertime, homeowners may



Poorly placed sprinklers that shoot water out onto driveways and other surfaces that do not need water can rob a lawn of water it desperately needs when temperatures climb in the summertime.

want a glass of water at high noon, when temperatures seem to be at their hottest. But you and your lawn are different, so the best time to satiate your thirst is not necessarily the best time to water your lawn. Watering in the middle of the day is often ineffective, as water tends to evaporate quickly in the afternoons when temperatures are peaking. Nighttime watering can contribute to the growth of

fungus, which can create an entirely new set of headaches for homeowners. Morning watering sessions tend to be most effective during the summertime, as temperatures tend to be cooler in the morning, leading to less evaporation. Less evaporation means all that watering isn't going to waste.

• Reconsider your sprinkler. If you can't afford an in-ground irrigation system,

which many landscaping professionals feel is the most effective and efficient way to water a lawn, then you likely will rely on a sprinkler to keep your lawn looking lush through the summer months. When choosing a sprinkler, look for one that shoots water out horizontally as opposed to vertically. A vertical sprinkler system is more vulnerable to wind and evaporation than one that shoots water out horizontally, so make sure your sprinkler system is sending water into your lawn and not into summer breezes.

• Avoid overwatering. How much water your lawn needs in the summertime depends on a host of factors, including where you live and how often rain falls in that region. Overwatering can promote the growth of fungus and adversely affect your lawn's root system, making it difficult for roots to grow deep. Speak with a local landscaping professional to determine how often you should water your lawn each week.

• Strategically position your

sprinklers. When choosing where to put down your sprinklers, hook them up to your hose, turn them on and then watch to see where the water is going. Areas that exposed to sun are most in need of water, so make sure the bulk of your water isn't going to shaded areas beneath trees. In addition, make sure you aren't wasting water on sidewalks, patios and driveways. Sprinklers should be positioned so none of the water they're shooting out is landing on surfaces that don't need water. It sounds simple, but too often homeowners drop their sprinklers down, turn them on and then walk away without waiting to see where the water is landing. Position sprinklers or adjust sprinkler heads so all the water is landing on your lawn.

Keeping a lawn lush and green at the height of summer requires homeowners to adopt effective strategies. Such a strategies can make the difference between a lush landscape and one that succumbs to summer heat. ■

Ideas for pool perimeter landscaping

Think safety first

With the rise of the "staycation," more and more homeowners are turning their backyards into their own private oases. The centerpiece of many such retreats is a refreshing and inviting pool.

Whether above-ground or in-ground models, pools

make for welcoming spots to enjoy warm days and nights. A new pool can quickly turn a yard into the "it" spot to spend vacations or cool off at the end of hot summer days. While pools are often the focal point of a backyard, many homeowners want their pools to blend seamlessly with the

rest of their yards. When transforming a backyard that includes a pool, homeowners should consider a few factors to ensure each afternoon spent poolside is as safe as it is fun.

Safety first

Although the goal may be

to soften the lines of the pool and/or create sight barriers that will provide some measure of privacy for swimmers, homeowners must put safety above all else. Before any decorative touches are added, it is important to surround a pool with a slip-resistant surface and fencing (many communities require fences be erected around pools). Consult with a landscaping contractor, who should be knowledgeable about safety codes, or speak to the permit-issuing department at town hall. There should be a list of requirements to ensure pool placement as well as any surrounding touches are legal and within code.

Nonslip surfaces

Concrete, brick and pavers and decking are popular materials used to surround a pool.

Cont on page 20

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Make the most of small living spaces *Did you know?*

Lack of space calls for creativity



Tiny houses are a recent phenomenon and have spurred many businesses - from builders to decorating experts - looking to connect with consumers who want to go small. The small house movement advocates for living simply in small homes, some of which can be as small as 100 square feet or less.

Although living in a tiny house is not for everyone, many people prefer small-space living to living in larger, more spacious homes and apartments. For those looking to make the most of their small living spaces, there are ways to make such living arrangements feel larger:

· Light is your friend. Establish adequate lighting in

a room that includes at least three working lights. Varied light sources from different angles will eliminate dark corners and shadows that can make a space feel smaller. Lighting also can draw the eye where you want it and distract attention from the room's flaws.

· Make use of vertical space. Homes where space is at a premium may have limited storage areas. An often-overlooked storage option is vertical space. Space above doors, shelving, and areas above cabinetry are ideal places to store items. Use hooks on walls to keep belongings off the floor.

· Choose light-colored paint. Choose lighter hues for your home furnishings and wall colors. You do not

have to limit this to white (unless landlords require white walls). Pale colors will help reflect light and can make the room seem larger than it really is. Using a dark color on the flooring can make other lighter shades really pop in contrast.

· Conceal the clutter. If you cannot keep personal belongings to the utmost minimum in a home, experiment with clever ways to keep items out of sight. Furniture that serves dual purposes can help with this task. Storage ottomans will conceal small toys or linens and also provide seating options in a room when guests come over. A dresser can be used as a dining room buffet piece, and the numerous drawers can hold knickknacks or silverware.

Furniture with built-in, hidden storage is well worth the investment when living spaces are limited.

· Create dual-purpose rooms. Lack of space means getting creative with the space you do have. A nook in your bedroom can be devoted to a miniature home office. Perhaps you can establish a crafting center in a portion of your laundry room. Garages have long served as catch-all spaces in homes. Apart from storage, they can be subdivided for home gyms or even a place to gather and watch a ballgame.

· Hang mirrors to "expand" rooms. Mirrors can trick the eye into believing there is more space in a room. Mirrors melt away room borders and can accelerate the flow of light. Hanging them throughout your home can make spaces seem larger.

· Think about built-in furniture. Traditional furniture may not be practical for small spaces and can waste a lot of room. Custom-built furniture is often the way to go to maximize the area you do have. Employ a little do-it-yourself initiative as well, customizing items for the perfect fit.

· Work with a designer. If you're having difficulty making a small space work for you, consult with an interior designer or a contractor for some ideas. ■



Opening a dresser drawer to find clothes disorganized and stuffed inside can be frustrating. Bulky clothes may not seem to fit correctly and other items can become stuck at the back of a drawer, making it difficult to close the drawer properly. Although you may be tempted to purchase an entirely new dresser or give up and store items solely in the closet, try a new tactic.

Various organizing experts advise folding and layering clothes vertically in drawers to create more space and keep things neat. An additional benefit to this method of storage is you can more readily see just what you have in the drawer, rather than lifting and looking underneath your clothing. Anyone can give this a try to free up space in their drawers. This method also works especially well with children's clothing, giving kids the opportunity to see their clothes and choose their own outfits. ■

Not Just Poodles

Continued from page 16

Not Just Poodles also offers doggy daycare. Feel safe leaving your pet at a secure facility while you run errands or go to work. The one-on-one service gets your dog constant supervision and plenty of attention and exercise for your dog. Your pet will be treated like family at Not

Just Poodles.

Diane Zielinski said, "Most dog grooming customers seem to be nice people." It is always bring your dog to work day at Not Just Poodles. For more information go to: www.notjustpoodles.com or call: 315-736-7567. ■



Here is Baxter, a Lapsoapso getting pampered and spoiled at Not Just Poodles and Doggie Day Care. The crew is always ready to make your "babies" feel loved. Call today for an appointment!



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Ideas for pool perimeter landscaping

Continued from page 18

Installers can make recommendations on materials and finishes, but one suggestion is to choose a rough finish. Pool water can make surfaces slippery. Concrete that is stamped or scarred provides extra traction than a smooth surface. The same can be said for brick patios and pavers. Avoid smooth stones or pavers with shiny surfaces, as these may only increase the risk of falls.

Homeowners who have chosen wood or composite decking to surround a pool should talk to their contractor about nonslip protective coatings. Such coatings typically are acrylic-based liquids applied like a paint or sealer. Some composite decks may

be crafted with texture or a built-in coating to reduce slipping. In addition, use nonstick mats on decks and patios to provide a little extra footing where people enter and exit the pool.

Mulch and stone

Homeowners often prefer some combination of mulch or stone to serve as a transition between the pool, concrete or paver hardscape and the lawn. Stone may be more practical for those with inground pools because it will not easily blow onto the water surface. With an above-ground pool, mulch or stone can do the trick, serving as a barrier so that pool water does not overly



Homeowners have many options with regard to landscaping the areas surrounding their pools.

drench the surrounding lawn or damage grass after exposure to pool chemicals. Mulch and stone also will provide drainage from water runoff from the pool and rain.

Another advantage of having an additional barrier between the pool and lawn is that lawn clippings will not be shot into the pool when mowing. Stone and mulch can be dressed up with statues, lawn ornaments and tolerant plants.

growing grasses will offer a privacy barrier.

Keep trees and flowering plants far enough away from the pool's edge so they do not contribute to debris that falls into the pool, which can complicate maintenance. Also, flowering plants may attract insects and other wildlife that may interfere with your enjoyment of the pool. It's better to create a friendly environment for wildlife further away from the pool.



Keep in mind vegetation around the pool should be tolerant of full sun and a pretty flowering tree maybe beautiful but will create a lot of debris for your pool filter and vacuum.

Finishing touches

Plants can provide the finishing touches for a poolside landscape. Homeowners should keep in mind that pools are not often shaded from the sun, so plants placed around the pool will need to be sun- and drought-tolerant. Succulents, such as aloe and jade, may work, as can the perennial shrub yucca. Moderately

Homeowners who need some advice planning the landscaping around their pools can rely on the expertise of landscape architects as well as employees at lawn and garden centers. Pool companies may work with landscapers and offer recommendations to people unaccustomed to working around pools.■

Transplanting trees

No small task

An alluring landscape can make a home that much more enjoyable. Many homeowners devote considerable time to their lawns and gardens, and that devotion can pay both instant and long-term dividends. A well-groomed landscape can make it more enjoyable to relax in the yard, and such a property will be more attractive to prospective buyers when homeowners want to sell their homes.

But even the most well-designed landscapes sometimes need some rearranging, and those changes may involve transplanting trees. Homeowners may transplant trees for various reasons. Some homeowners might be moving to a new home and want to take a favorite tree along with them, while some trees simply outgrow their existing space and need to be moved elsewhere on the property. Regardless of why trees need to be transplanted, homeowners can take several steps to ensure the process goes as smoothly as possible.

• Determine why the tree needs to be moved. Some trees that are not thriving in their existing location may not benefit from a transplant. For example, a tree with a pest infestation might need to be replaced rather than transplanted. Determining the reason behind a transplant can save you the trouble of transplanting that won't benefit from the move. If a tree is not getting adequate sunlight in its present location, then transplanting it to a different location on your property with more exposure to sunlight might reinvigorate the tree. If soil is the problem, then transplanting the tree might prove ineffective unless you also test the soil where you plan to move the tree and adjust it so the tree can thrive.

• Prune the tree roots. Tiny roots that extend beyond the tree absorb water and nutrients, and such roots need to be pruned before transplanting a tree. Landscaping professionals note that root pruning stimulates the growth of new small roots nearer to the tree's trunk, and these newer roots will be dug up when the time comes to transplant the tree. Root pruning must be done well in advance of transplanting the tree. For example, if you hope to transplant the tree in the fall, then do your root pruning in the spring before new buds appear on the tree. Speak with your landscaper or a nearby garden center to determine the best way to prune your tree's roots.

• Time your transplant correctly. Avoid transplanting trees when temperatures are colder and the ground is frozen. Transplanting before or after a thaw allows the transplanted roots time to develop. In addition, transplanting the day after you have watered the soil around the tree reduces the stress on the tree's roots, making it easier to keep the root ball intact.

• Protect the root ball. When transplanting a tree, make sure the root ball does not dry out. If it does, the tree likely won't thrive in its new location and all your hard work will have been for naught. Cover the root ball with damp burlap or canvas so it can retain more of the moisture it will need to adapt to its new location.

• Plant the tree sooner rather than later. While you can store a transplanted tree before you plant it elsewhere on your property, storing it for a long period of time increases the chances that the transplant will be unsuccessful. Ideally, you want to plant the tree in its new location as soon as possible. If you must store it, make sure you don't suffocate the root ball, as roots must be kept damp or they will die and potentially cost you the tree.

Transplanting a tree can add appeal to a property and help reinvigorate an unhealthy tree.■

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Tucker Backyard Pools and Spas

Over 15 years of experience



By Al Dorantes

Tucker Backyard Pools and Spas is located conveniently on Commercial Drive in New Hartford, right across from Consumer Square. Ben Tucker brings over 15 years of experience to the pool and spa industry with extensive knowledge in sales, service and installation. Tucker has a passion for two things – starting and growing a successful business in the Mohawk Valley and transforming backyards for families to have memorable times together for years to come. Tucker Backyard Pools and Spas has 4 employees who install and service everything they sell.

Pools are still the best seller at Tucker Backyard Pools and Spas and that keeps Ben and the staff busy now through October and into November. Ben Tucker explained that modern heaters “Can get you into December if you want to pay for the gas.” Ben Tucker said, “We try to give customers exactly what they have in mind. We’re not mind readers, but we come close.”

Basics of pool installation: first the site is chosen and the pool area is excavated. Next the pool panels are installed. Concrete is then poured. The liner is added and then the area is back filled. Finally water is added and the pool is ready for swimming and splashing.

Ben Tucker also explained that fiberglass pools are an emerging market in Central New York. The pools are pre-formed and dropped in with a crane. “In some cases we’re in and out of the yard in one day.” There are no liners to replace and the pools come with a lifetime guarantee. Ben explained, “You can pair fiberglass with traditional pools. For instance, a tanning ledge that spills over to traditional in ground pool.”

Tucker Backyard Pools and Spas services everything they sell. If you have a pool already and need ongoing service, their service and staff is available for you. They want you to spend more time enjoying your pool and less time cleaning and maintaining it. They can

help with simple openings/closings for the season or offer weekly cleanings that will keep your pool balanced, crystal clear and clean for the whole summer. Tucker’s commitment to service includes: home delivery, openings/closings, cleaning and maintenance contracts, liner installation, pool inspections and, of course, pool installation.

Free water testing and a full line of Haviland pool and spa chemicals are available at Tucker Backyard Pools and Spas. They offer home delivery of chemicals which ties into Ben Tucker’s philosophy of customer service; making customers happy.

Tucker Backyard Pools and Spas can also get filters and parts. Ben Tucker said, “I can get just about any pool related item you need.”

Whether you are looking for pool noodles, chemicals, or a new pool Tucker Backyard Pools and Spas is the right choice for you. For more information go to: www.tuckerbackyard.com ■

Veggie garden tips for beginners

Gardens need not take up much space, and even apartment dwellers without yards can plant small gardens in containers they place on terraces or window boxes.

Although establishing a garden is easy enough, beginners may make a few mistakes along the way. Those who already have paved the garden way before can offer novice gardeners some worthwhile tips.

One of the first decisions novice gardeners must make is which crops to grow. This will help determine how much land you will need and which supplies or soil amendments will be necessary. According to The Old Farmer’s Almanac, a common error for beginners is planting too much and more than anyone could ever consume, so it’s best to start small and be proud of that small garden.

Plants such as peppers, squash and tomatoes produce throughout the season, so you may not need many plants to provide for your needs.

Locate your garden in an area that gets adequate sun. Many vegetables need between six and eight hours of sunlight per day. Vegetables and fruit also need plenty of water because they’re not very drought-tolerant, so keep gardens close to a water source.

Soil preparation is also key. Till the soil and remove debris like rocks, sticks and hard clumps of dirt. Work with organic material, such

as manure or compost. Apply mulch after planting to help maintain moisture levels in the soil.

Plant the tallest crops at the rear of your garden bed. Work forward with shorter crops. Try to leave a foot or more between planting rows.

It’s easy to get a garden started and enjoy fresh food for many months to come. ■

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Field Of Honor

By Al Dorantes

It used to be called Decoration Day. The last Monday in May was set aside to remember fallen soldiers from the civil war. Since its inception it has become an official holiday and is now known as Memorial Day. That is why, as May comes to an end, veteran groups and other civic organizations spend time decorating the graves, memorials, and parks dedicated to our deceased veterans.

On Saturday, May 23 at 9 am at Oak Hill Cemetery in Herkimer, NY a group of volunteers led by the Herkimer Veterans Council will mark out and plant a field of flags to honor the fallen. Almost 700 flags will be placed in precise rows. A sign emblazoned with the emblems of the different branches of military service and the words, "Remember Our Veterans" will be situated

at the top of the field of flags. Tim Tubia, president of Herkimer Veterans Council said, "When the community comes together to honor all veterans it's almost an indescribable feeling. You see the sincerity in their eyes, feel their gratitude in a hand shake, and hear it in their voices. It makes you stand a little taller and you feel proud and you are thankful."

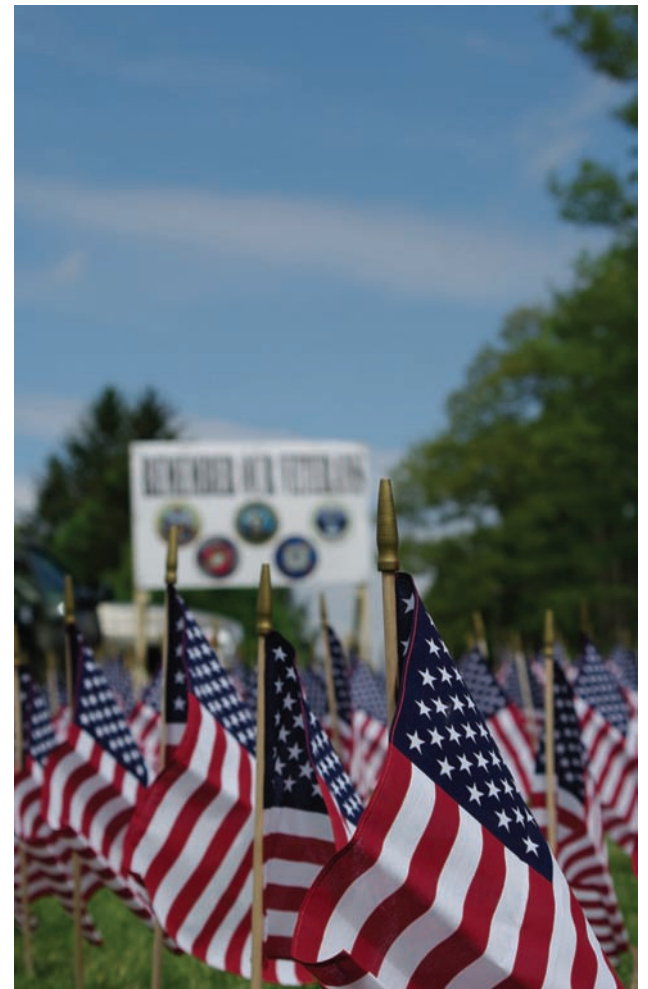
Years ago the Herkimer Veterans Council decided to switch their Memorial Day display from their traditional placing of flags on graves to the field of flags. The change was two part. First, they will place 676 flags in Oak Hill Cemetery, 100 in Calvary Cemetery, and 50 at a memorial on Mohawk Street versus 1500 - 1600 if they marked the graves with flags. And that number is just at Oak Hill and Calvary Cemeteries. One of the difficulties with placing flags on individual graves is that as the members get older and older and as they pass

the knowledge of whom exactly is a veteran passes with them. This makes marking all veteran's graves problematic.

Another reason for the switch is sheer cost. It can be daunting for a group like the Veterans Council that relies on donations, to purchase new flags every year. Tim Tubia said, "We were lucky to be able to purchase the flags for just under \$1 per flag plus shipping. This year we spent \$1300 - \$1400 and we only bought 8 gross"

The Department of Veterans Affairs estimated that in 2011, 670 American World War II veterans died every day. The average age for a WWII veteran is approximately 92 years. Korean War veterans are estimated to be 69 years old and the average Vietnam veterans will clock in at youthful 65 years old. The men and women putting out flags and bunting are getting older and older. Somehow, America needs to get our young people involved. Get your kids, get your grandchildren, out to these events. The veterans will appreciate your help and together we can keep decorating.

Volunteers and participation will be key in keeping Memorial Day and things like Herkimer's field of flags going. As our veterans age they will need to rely on us the same way we relied on them to protect our freedom. If you



Flags eye view. A sign emblazoned with the emblems of the different branches of military service and the words, "Remember Our Veterans" will be situated at the top of the field of flags.

have a Boy Scout troop, Girl Scout troop, organization, or just a group of friends please contact your local VFW, American Legion, or other veteran organization and become involved. Get out there and help our veterans.

Next time you see a field of flags or a small version of Old Glory fluttering beside a headstone take a moment, a quiet moment,

and remember the sacrifice that soldiers and veterans have made for our freedom. Say a little prayer for the men and women who are serving and protecting our country right now. Then, take another second to consider the people who continue to decorate the graves, memorials, and parks for our fallen. ■

WWII veteran, Bud Sorensen places a flag while Bill Thompson watches for accuracy.

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Preowned items can be good for the environment



Embracing preowned items can save shoppers money and benefit the environment.

Purchasing used items may be good for the wallet, but such purchases also can benefit the environment. Used items go on sale every day, whether they're preowned cars or used clothing. Saving items from landfills prematurely reduces the number of new things that need to be manufactured, saving energy as well as money.

There are so many ways to make the most of used merchandise and find the things you need. Here are some ways men and women concerned about the environment can look to preowned items to benefit the planet and their pocketbooks.

Treasure hunting safety tips for the savvy yard sale shopper



(MS) -- Summer is here and garage sales and flea markets abound. But as you search for that perfect treasure, be sure to keep safety in mind. Second-hand items, especially electronics, building supplies, appliances

and helmets, may carry certain risks if damaged or used. If you are planning on reselling consumer items, check the Consumer Product Safety Commission's Web site for a guide on things that can and cannot be sold, and for product recalls. CSA Group, a leading certification and testing organization, offers these safety tips for yard sale shoppers.

Second-hand items

- * Avoid electrical or gas products if a label from a recognized certification organization, such as CSA Group, is missing. Look closely at the mark to ensure it matches the design and colour of certification marks from the same organization on other similar products.
- * Check wiring and extension cords for wear and damage. In particular, look for worn insulation and splices on the cord and loose or exposed parts on

the plug.

- * Avoid purchasing used bicycle, hockey or construction helmets, as you don't know their history or what damage may be hidden from plain view.

Counterfeit or illegal goods

- * Counterfeiters often use flea markets to peddle fake goods. Packaging on counterfeits is often poorly designed or has only partial illustrations. Misspellings and unclear printing on products and labels may be another indicator of a fake product.
- * Brand-name companies want you to know whose product you're buying, so look for a recognized name. Also, look for return addresses or company contact information on packages.
- * Check the "look and feel" of goods. Fake products often seem light and flimsy. ■

Organize a tag sale

Garage sales, tag sales, yard sales, and flea markets are great places to find preowned items. Men and women who are both bargain- and eco-conscious can organize their own neighborhood sales where several houses around the neighborhood pool their items for one large sale. Bargain hunters can then peruse the collected merchandise and feel good knowing their purchases are benefitting the environment.

Scout local garage sales

Garage sales are another way to bargain hunt and benefit the environment at the same time. Who knows what treasures you may be able to find at nearby garage sales? When shopping, set a spending limit and look for certain items you need, such as a bicycle or furniture. You may be surprised to find a quality item that costs much less than a brand new store-bought product.

Scan local advertisements

Church bulletins, newspaper classified ads and online bulletin boards typically boast a number of items for sale, many of which are being sold at a fraction of the cost of new items. Before embarking on shopping trips, check these advertisements to see if there are any preowned items that meet your needs.

In addition, there are a number of social media groups that enable members to advertise their items for sale. Others are encouraged to inquire about the sales and make their own offers. Though it might take some effort, it is possible to get brand-name used merchandise for less.

Visit consignment stores

Consignment shops and Goodwill(R) stores are popular places to buy preowned items. These stores take donations or offer items for sale on consignment, which means once sold the person who provided the item gets a portion of the sale.

When browsing the racks of these stores, it's possible to discover high-end items mixed in with less expensive items. Shoppers may find designer handbags and clothing for much less than they would sell at retail, especially if the pieces are one or two seasons old. Relying on these stores to supple-

ment classic wardrobe pieces is cost-effective and beneficial to the environment. If you regularly shop consignment stores, you can develop a rapport with the shopkeeper, who may alert you when new items are available.

Arrange private swaps

Many people find it advantageous to host their own swaps of clothing and other items among friends or neighbors. Parents of school-aged children find that sharing clothing helps them to save a good deal of money. Sporting equipment or bicycles the kids may have outgrown can be shared with parents of younger children.

When proposing a swap with fellow parents, inquire as to whether anyone has items that they no longer need or could be seeking things that you have. Parents may be anxious to rid themselves of items or take items off your hands.

Garage sales, private sales, consignment stores, and private swaps are great ways to find preowned items, which is not only economical but good for the environment as well. ■

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How to choose a marina for your boat

Taking to the seas on a boat is a recreational activity enjoyed by thousands of people. Boat owners who are not able to keep their vessels on their properties due to proximity to water or space constraints must seek out a marina in which to moor their boats for the duration of the season.

There are hundreds of marinas from which to

choose, and in coastal cities and towns you may be facing some difficult decisions. However, keep in mind that not all marinas will be able to offer the same level of services and amenities. Boat owners must also consider cost when choosing a marina. It is important to weigh your marina options carefully because once the decision has been made you often have to commit to a

certain term of housing your boat there.

Certain features available at marinas will help dictate which places will make for a good match.

Size and type of boat

First and foremost, your marina options will be narrowed down by the type of boat that you own. Certain boatyards are simply not able to accommodate larger ships, while others are customized to certain vessels, like pontoon boats or sailboats. Knowing the limitations of the marina beforehand can help narrow down your options.

Electricity and water supply

Many boat owners would like a steady supply of electricity and fresh water available at their slip to charge components and also to make cleanup easier after a day on the water.

Some marinas offer electrical hookups as part of the monthly fee. Others may have it available as pay-per-use. It is important to have a list of amenities available so you can narrow down your options.

Is the area safe?

A boat is not a cheap investment. Because you spend quite a lot on the initial purchase and maintenance, you want to ensure your boat will be safe while it's docked. Find out how easy it is to get inside of the marina and if there are security personnel patrolling. Safety is not restricted to whether the boat can be vandalized or the marina can be accessed. It also involves how the vessel is protected from the weather. Make sure that the marina is in a wind and wave protected area. Check out the actual slip you can rent and ask about tide variations. Verify how water levels vary based on

the time of day and year so you're ensured your boat will not get grounded.

Location

Most boat owners would like a marina that is close to home or a rental property. After all, traveling hours to arrive at the shore may negate the benefits of having a boat. How often the boat is in use and the availability of marinas nearby will dictate your decision, as will how easily you will have access to the routes you want to explore on your boat.

Noise level

Many people take to their boats to get away from the hustle and bustle for a while. Others prefer the sense of camaraderie they share with fellow boaters. Find out whether social gatherings or parties are allowed within the marina to judge if a marina will offer peace and quiet or the social hot spot

you desire.

Dry docking

When the season is over, boat owners prefer to take their boats out of water. Does the marina offer facilities to overwinter vessels on the same property? Are there maintenance facilities also available to ready the boat for the season? These are other questions to consider.

Other facilities

Some marinas have everything from a fueling station to a club house. The marina may offer a snack bar or cafe with a WiFi signal. Each of these amenities will affect the price, so it is best to know what you absolutely need and what is merely a luxury.

Having a safe place to store your boat is a necessity, but marinas are not all one and the same. ■



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Safeguard yourself

Summertime ailments and accidents

Summer is often marked by vacations, recreational events and relaxing moments spent by the pool or on the beach. But when the weather heats up, so can

potential health hazards that can ruin all of the fun. The following are some of the more common summertime ailments and how to avoid them.

· **Lawn and garden injuries:** Lawn and garden injuries may not be common, but men, women and children should exercise caution when using lawn and garden equipment. Wear protective shoes and gloves and safety goggles. Remember to turn off any motorized tools before attempting to repair or unclog the blades.

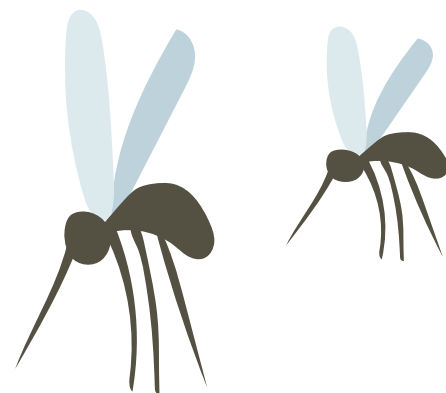
· **Swimmer's ear:** Water that remains in the ear canal after swimming can make the ear a breeding ground for swimmer's ear, which is a bacterial infection. If water remains in your ear for more than one night, visit an ear, nose and throat specialist.

· **Insect bites and stings:** Insects return when temperatures rise. Mosquitoes may be the biggest nuisance, but biting flies and wasps also make formidable foes. Use insect repellent to keep the bugs away. Wear long

pants and check for ticks after hiking.

· **Boating accidents:** Many boating accidents can be attributed to inexperience with the vessel and failure to take proper safety precautions on the water. Make sure everyone on the boat wears a life jacket, and follow proper boating protocol throughout your trip.

· **Dehydration:** The body needs extra water on hot days, especially when spending ample time outdoors. Dehydration can cause dizziness and dry mouth and may make you feel faint. Always drink plenty of water and avoid alcoholic beverages and soft drinks, which can contribute to dehydration when consumed in excess. ■



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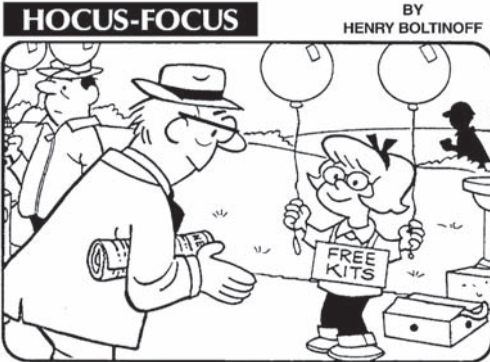
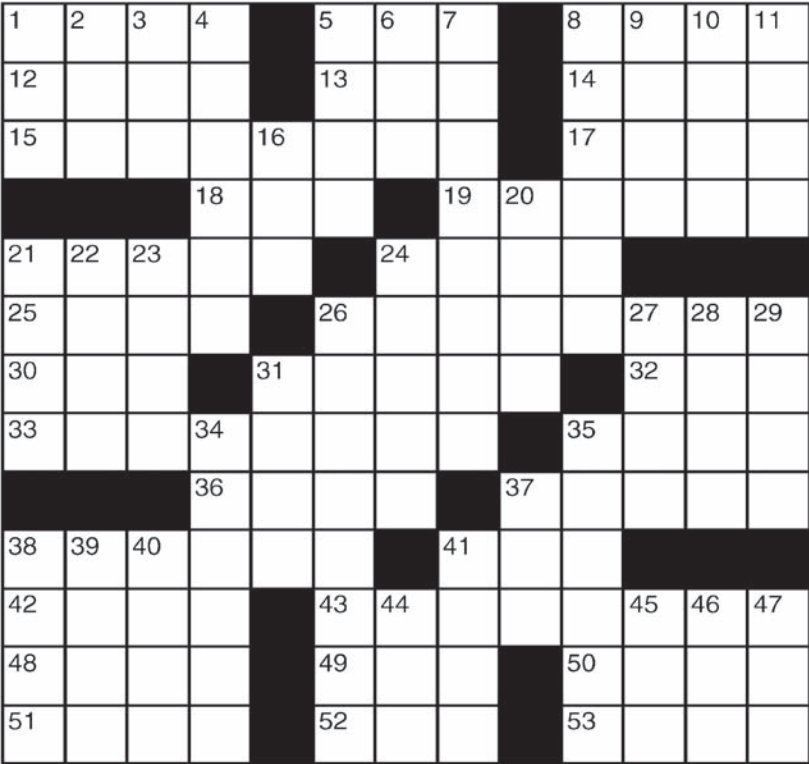
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King Crossword

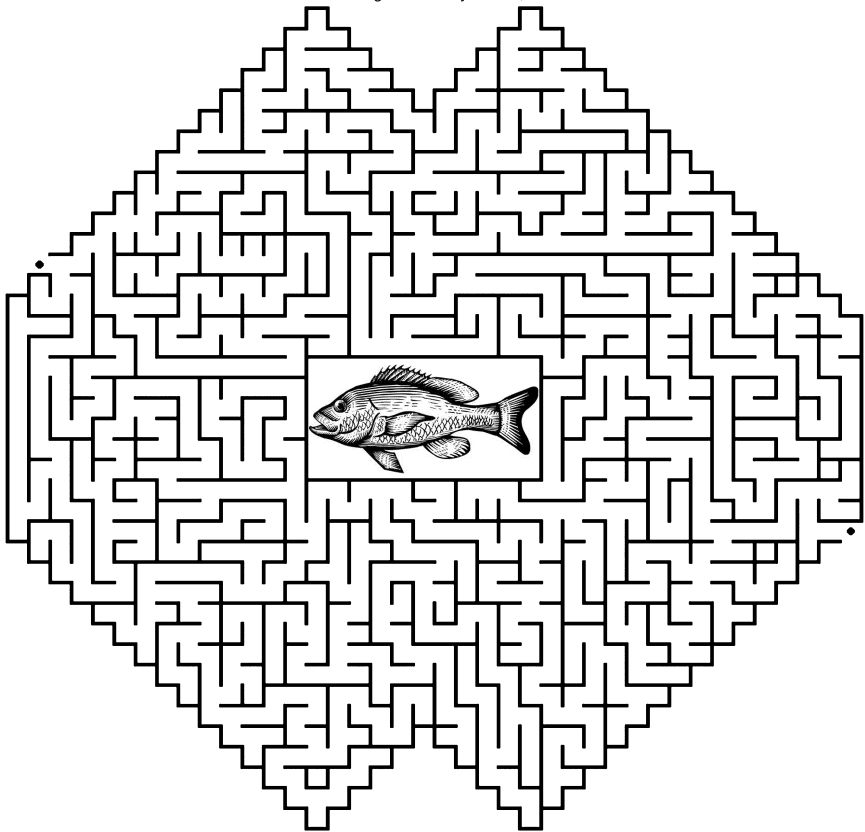


Amber Waves



Mega Maze

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“When you can’t make them see the light, make them feel the heat.” — Ronald Reagan

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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ELEMENTS
MAGIC MAZE ● DISCOVERED
SINCE 1900

P A X M U I R H O B V S M Q M
O L A M U I N F A H J H U U U
E D C M A I X M V M T R I P I
N L U J E H L F U U D N S A C
B Y F (B E R K E L I U M) S M N
X V E T N R I P B N T T A U A
O M R K O I I C U O A E H I R
G E M D D B U N I T N Z T R F
X W I U A T U M I U R Q O U N
L J U I R G F N D L M C A C L
Y X M U I N E H R P W V T S R

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally

Americium	Dubnium	Hassium	Radon
Astatine	Fermium	Lutetium	Rhenium
Berkelium	Francium	Nobelium	Ununonium
Curium	Hafnium	Plutonium	

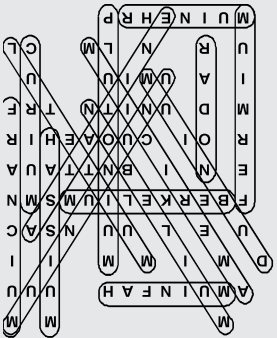
ACROSS

- 1 Appear to be
5 Erstwhile acorn
8 KFC flavorer
12 Notion
13 Eisenhower
14 Hodge-podge
15 Chris Martin's band
17 Desire
18 Weep
19 Ersatz bullets
21 Pass along
24 Piglet's papa
25 Memo acronym
26 Protect oneself possum-style
30 Doctrine
31 Prognosticators
32 Half of XIV
33 Fan of Jerry Garcia et al.
35 Coop group
36 Engrossed
37 Fellows
38 Poisons
41 Jazz style
42 Acknowledge
43 Winter

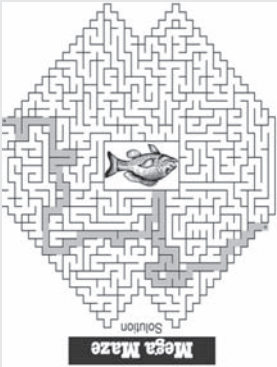
DOWN

- 48 Collections
49 Sphere
50 Met melody
51 Deuce
52 Like some humor
53 Abound
29 Ph.D. hurdle
31 Counterfeit
34 About to nod off
35 Jazz fan, maybe
37 Pantheon member
38 Expansive
39 Always
40 Staff member?
41 Infant
44 Blunder
45 Raw rock
46 Falsehood
47 Water barrier
1 “— ‘em, Fido!”
2 Tokyo's old name
3 Wet wriggler
4 Wild and crazy
5 Unctuous
6 Alias (Abbr.)
7 Computer component
8 “The Da Vinci Code” director
9 Verve
10 Skaters' mecca
11 Androids
16 Snoop
20 Deposits
21 Incursion
22 Being, to Brutus
23 Dalai —
24 Speak sheepishly?
26 X-rated entertainment, maybe
27 Still
28 “—

ANSWERS



ELEMENTS DISCOVERED
SINCE 1900



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

Weekly SUDOKU
Answer

TREY	WRY	WRY	WRY	WRY	WRY	WRY	WRY	WRY
SEIT	SEIT	SEIT	SEIT	SEIT	SEIT	SEIT	SEIT	SEIT
AVIA	AVIA	AVIA	AVIA	AVIA	AVIA	AVIA	AVIA	AVIA
VENO	VENO	VENO	VENO	VENO	VENO	VENO	VENO	VENO
SEIT	SEIT	SEIT	SEIT	SEIT	SEIT	SEIT	SEIT	SEIT
SEIT	SEIT	SEIT	SEIT	SEIT	SEIT	SEIT	SEIT	SEIT
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SEIT	SEIT	SEIT	SEIT	SEIT	SEIT	SEIT	SEIT	SEIT

King Crossword
Answers
Solution time: 21 mins.

Teaching kids to swim

Reduce the risk of drowning



Introduce children to water at an early age so they can quickly grow acclimated to water.

Swimming is a popular activity once temperatures heat up. Millions of people flock to beaches to dip their toes in the water, and scores more spend afternoons exploring the depths of backyard pools.

Upon being introduced to the water, younger chil-

dren may be somewhat apprehensive, as swimming in pools or oceans can be intimidating to youngsters. Parents should exercise extreme caution when teaching kids to swim, as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention notes that more than one in five fatal drowning victims are chil-

dren under the age of 14.

Although swimming can be dangerous, experts in pediatric and adolescent medicine affirm that participation in formal swimming lessons can reduce the risk of drowning considerably.

Children whose parents swim may be eager to join mom and dad in the pool. The following are some tips for parents as they start to develop a plan to teach their kids to swim.

- Wait until the child is developmentally ready. The American Association of Pediatrics recommends that parents wait until after a child's fourth birthday to teach them how to swim. This is when children have developed enough to understand commands and have the motor skills required for swimming. At this point, parents can register children for swimming lessons with trained instructors.

- Introduce playing in the water early on. Parents should make sure their children grow accustomed to playing in the water. Many kids start to like the water around the time they become toddlers, when bathing introduces them to splashing and bobbing toys. Use these opportunities to take your child into the water, so he or she acclimates

to feeling the water on his or her body and face. Kids can sit with adults on pool steps or retrieve toys from within reach. An adult always should be nearby.

- Wait before submerging kids. The American Red Cross says to wait until a child is around age three before submerging him or her under the water. Young kids can swallow a lot of water, which can be dangerous. Sputtering water also may turn a child off to swimming completely.

- Begin in calm water. The open ocean can be daunting, even to adults. So it might be better to begin swimming lessons in a calm body of water, such as a lake or pool.

- Invest in formal swimming lessons. Parental perceptions and anxieties may interfere with parents' abilities to properly teach their children how to swim. Therefore, hire third-party professional instructors to teach kids to swim. The Red Cross can put you in touch with certified swimming instructors who also are knowledgeable in first aid.

As children become more confident in the water, they can practice swimming strokes and submerging themselves for underwater swimming. ■

“

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-Henry Ward Beecher

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Did you know?

Fireflies are often seen lighting up the night sky on warm evenings. They are particularly abundant during the summer months. One reason that fireflies glow is to attract mates. Males will flash, and females will respond to mates they find interesting. Fireflies also may glow to avoid predators. The luciferase enzyme in firefly cells causes a chemical reaction that stimulates light, a phenomenon called bioluminescence. Fireflies are filled with lucibufagins, a poor-tasting chemical that turns off predators from attacking



the blinking bug. Some fireflies cannot light up at all and use pheromones to attract mates. Fireflies can be fun to catch and release and also beneficial to have around. In the larval stage, fireflies will eat destructive insects. Adult fireflies may feed on nectar and could help to pollinate plants. Despite their name, fireflies aren't really flies. They actually are a type of beetle. Fireflies are difficult to spot during the day because they're often resting on leaves or plants. It's only at night when their brilliant light show comes alive. ■

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Two Winners

Many more to come

We kicked off our contest, which allows our readers to enter to win \$100 cash with the first issue of this month, and are very excited about the participation we are seeing from our entire readership area! We have had participation from New Hartford, Whitesboro, Ava, Canajoharie, Sharon Springs, Richfield Springs, Utica, Clinton, Rome, Newport, Remsen, Frankfort, Little Falls, Forest Port, Oneida, Cold Brook, Boonville, Sherrill, Herkimer, Marcy, West Edmeston, West Winfield, Hamilton, Cazenovia, New York Mills, Yorkville, Oriskany, Westernville, Ilion, Stittville, Camden, Old Forge and even one from NYC who was up getting the family

camp ready for the season!

We are asking questions about what you like most about your EDITOR and we have answers such as, "all the interesting articles", "the ads, we like to see what is going on locally", which as the editor, makes me very happy. I like knowing I am on track! We also ask where you typically pick up your copy and once again, I am thrilled to hear that so many of our drop spots are being utilized out there. It is such a pleasure hearing how easy it is to find a copy of EDITOR; a very big goal of ours was to make sure that you, as our faithful readers, always could grab your copy easily and conveniently. I guess I

am kind of using this contest as my report card and I am very happy to share my good grades with you all! Thank you for your continued support!

**Contest Rules
on this page...
You Could Win
the Next \$100!**

A brand new feature we are hoping to kick off in the very near future is to add engagement and wedding announcements as well as other milestones worth celebrating and sharing with our readers. From a special anniversary to a job promotion or any other news you

want to share, we welcome your submissions. Please do keep in mind that not all photos will be publication friendly. These are a few of the things that we can't fix and that will probably cause your submitted announcement not to run: blurry out of focus photos, very dark photos, being too far away from the people so that no faces are recognizable, photos with filters already put on them, photos with chopped off heads or photos that are not "family friendly". Since the whole point of these announcements is to show local faces, if your photo doesn't meet publication standards, we will not be able to publish your announcement. Please submit these, preferably by email, to janet.leepub@gmail.com. Mail them to Janet Lee Stanley, EDITOR, 219 N Prospect Street, Herkimer, NY 13350 or stop by and drop them off to our office.

The \$100 Cash Contest rules and this edition's clue can be found on this page; good luck... I hope to be taking your picture for our next issue!

Janet Lee Stanley, Editor

\$100 Contest Winner

You could be the next lucky reader



Joseph LaBate of Little Falls, NY was our second lucky winner in our Reader Contest! Joe was randomly chosen from our many entries and received \$100 cash from EDITOR magazine. The correct answer for this issue was found on page 23 in the article Animal Aeration written by Troy Bishopp. We will be giving away \$100 in each and every issue so keep your eyes open. The new contest requirements are listed in the ad accompanying this announcement. Drawing will be held at 4pm on Wednesday May 27th! You could be the next lucky winner.

Joe told me he grabbed his copy of EDITOR at the Fastrac in Mohawk. Joe says, "There's always a lot of interesting articles and I often learn something. I also enjoy seeing the dishes prepared by area restaurants, they make my mouth water!"

Joe shared that he enjoys the magazine and looks forward to it. Thank you, Joe, for being a dedicated reader! ■



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