

Mohawk Valley Country Editor

December 8,
2018

Delivered Weekly
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OH, GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD! CALL UPON HIS NAME; MAKE KNOWN HIS DEEDS AMONG THE PEOPLES!
~ 1 CHRONICLES 16:8

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@ 10:00 AM

PREVIEW: 9:00 AM

HELD @

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Esther wants to say Merry Christmas to All! Lets Rejoice! Thank God for all that He has given us! Esther's Budget Shop. 188 Canal St. Fort Plain.

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: "Let's Attend Church This Sunday". You and your family are welcome at Grandview Baptist Church, corner of Lydius & Washington St., Ft. Plain, NY. Sunday School 10am. Morning Worship 11am.

WE HAVE! Timberwolf log splitters. Call for pricing + models available. North Creek Auto 315-866-3698

BUY LOCAL or BYE BYE LOCAL!

The Old Gros Mansion of Freys Bush

Tales from The Minden History Whisperer

How many of us remember the large brick house on Route 163 in Freys Bush? We may remember it as falling down upon itself through the years. It no longer stands and is now committed to memory.

The great mansion was erected circa 1802 by Rev. Johann Daniel Gros (1737-1812) upon his return to this area after retiring from his professorship at Columbia College. It was a substantial two story brick edifice with a fine basement and a cellar room in several compartments. The ceilings were to be some 10 feet, and the rooms were constructed airy and pleasant. One large chamber was never plastered. The farm grew hops for the local manufacture of beer. This pleasant homestead was later long occupied by Lawrence Gros, a nephew of Johann, and an early merchant of the town who subsequently transferred his business to the village of Fort Plain around the 1830s, then a village just springing into life.

A little outlay upon the old Gros homestead would make it a desirable home for several generations to come. It stood a short distance from the site of Fort Clyde, a small fort erected for the defense of the settlers in that part of the town during the Revolution. Rev. Gros was the pastor of the Sand Hill Church during the Revolution. He was presiding when the church was burned, and in turn held his sermons in a barn on the Lipe property next door until a new church was built. Lawrence Gros was a child when the fort was built and he witnessed General Washington's visit to Fort Plain in the spring of 1783, after the end of the war and when peace was

declared. Rev. Gros' wife was the Sunday school teacher at the church and she had her students parade for Gen. Washington. Rev. Gros was born in Germany and came to this country in 1764.

In sight from the house on a commanding knoll of the farm is (or was, before its fence was entirely demolished) a small enclosure, in which were deposited the remains of Domine Gros, his brother, and their wives, as indicated by marble slabs. Others are buried there without headstones, though none are still visible. A few others have been buried in this ground, but as no stones mark their graves, their removal could not be expected. Had this little burying ground been enclosed by a strong stone wall, those graves would have remained intact for generations. Its fate shows the importance of burying, when convenient, in a more public place. When those burials took place, however, there was no better place near.

Mrs. Andrew Dunn, a great-niece of Johann Daniel Gros, had the remains of the Gros family dug up from their resting place near the old house and re-interred in the Fort Plain Cemetery. These were laid to rest in their final place at the Dunn Mausoleum. This mausoleum is one of the two "humps" in the Fort Plain Cemetery, on the left side. The Gros family lay buried in the mausoleum, though the stone is barely readable presently. Andrew Dunn was a jeweler in the village of Fort Plain and his mansion was where the medical office stands presently on Willet Street.

**Submitted by Robert C. Carter,
Town of Minden Historian**



The Gros Homestead, built by Rev. Johann Daniel Gros, shortly after the Revolutionary War.
Photograph of house by Wesley H. Fox, c. 1900

Hot Club Cool Yule



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Fort Plain Reformed Church Faith Formation



Saturday, December 8th 2018
7:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Serving Breakfast 7:00 AM – 9:30 AM
Serving Lunch 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM
Auction Number Calling 12:30 PM

FEATURING: Homemade preserves, jams & jellies; Jewelry: new & used; Handmade crafts: hats, scarves, doilies, etc.; Holiday Decor; "Nearly New" household items; Christmas Ornaments and more!

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Mohawk Valley *Country Editor*

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Sunday, December 2nd 5-7PM
Sunday, December 16th (Christmas at Cornerstone) 4:30-7PM

Our Family Night themes for December will focus around giving.

December 2nd will be Blacklight Night

After a short devotional to start the evening we will be having fun with a variety of games and decorating Christmas cookies. Pizza, beverage and cookies will be served during the evening. Don't miss out on the fun.

December 16th - Christmas at Cornerstone

We will meet at church at 4:30 pm and get instructions for going Christmas caroling in the village of Ames (be sure to dress warm and bring a flashlight.) When we finish caroling there will be snacks and hot chocolate served at the church.

We look forward to having you join us for these events - if you have any questions you may call the church for more information.

Cornerstone Baptist Church

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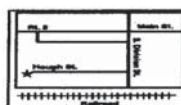


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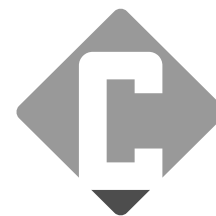
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Library to host kids' holiday workshop

FORT PLAIN – Area children and their families are invited to the Fort Plain Free Library on Wednesday, Dec. 12 as the library hosts a free after-school holiday

workshop for kids. Families can come to the library between 3:30 and 5 p.m. that day for individual photos of the children and related craft projects. The projects will include button-making and the decorating of gift bags. Refreshments will be provided.

The kids' photos will be used to make gifts. In order for the children's pictures to be taken, parents/guardians must sign a waiver granting permission for that purpose. The release can be signed at the library that afternoon, or copies can be picked up/signed in advance at the circulation desk.

Children do not need a signed release in order to participate in the art project; however, all children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information, call 518.993.4646. The Fort Plain Free Library is located at 19 Willett St. Follow the library on Facebook for updates.



KING'S

Sat., December 8th Consignment Auction ~ 6:33PM
Sun., December 9th Breeder Sale ~ 11:33AM
Sat., December 15th Consignment Auction ~ 6:33PM
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Mon. Dec. 10th – Normal Monday Sale & Monthly Heifer Sale.
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Mon. Dec. 24th – **We will be closed this week due to the holidays.**
Mon. Dec. 31st – **We will be closed this day** due to the Holiday but will reschedule to open Wed. Jan 2nd
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10th Annual Candlelight Memorial Service

The 10th Annual Candlelight Memorial Service will be held on Sunday, Dec. 9, at 6:45 p.m., at the Canajoharie Reformed Church, Front St., Canajoharie.

Love doesn't end with death. Families that have had a child die understand that. And it is with that understanding; plans are currently underway in hundreds of areas across the country, as well as around the globe for a Worldwide Candle Lighting event. The 10th Annual Candlelight Memorial Service sponsored by Court Catherine Esther #1264, The Catholic Daughters of the Americas and the Reformed Church of Canajoharie, will host together this ecumenical event on Sunday, Dec. 9 at 6:45 p.m. at the Canajoharie Reformed Church, Front St., Canajoharie, NY.

Held annually, on the second Sunday in December, the Worldwide Candle Lighting unites family and friends who light candles for one hour to honor and remember children who have died at any age from any cause. As candles burn down in one time zone, they are then lit in the next, creating a virtual 24-hour wave of light as the observances continues around the world. This event unites the families to mourn as one, especially during the holidays. This special Sunday, thousands of families join in quietly, lighting candles informally in their home or in churches and houses of worship, funeral homes, hospitals and local hospice and civic community groups.

Please join us in this beautiful tribute to our children. All families and friends are invited to attend from all of our surrounding communities. This service can make handling the holiday season a little easier. Come light a candle in memory of a child, sibling or a grandchild who has died... that their light may always shine. "We invite everyone to participate. Whether it is to support someone you know or because you have been personally touched by the death of a child," says Catherine Smith, member of Court Catherine Esther #1264.

Please RSVP by Dec. 8 to Cathy Smith at 518.673.2718. Refreshments will be served after the event. We will also have a "Memorial Table" available for displaying poems, pictures and other mementos remembering the life of your child. If you have your candle from last year please bring it with you. For other candle lighting services in the area please go to CompassionateFriends.com.

Whatchamacallits

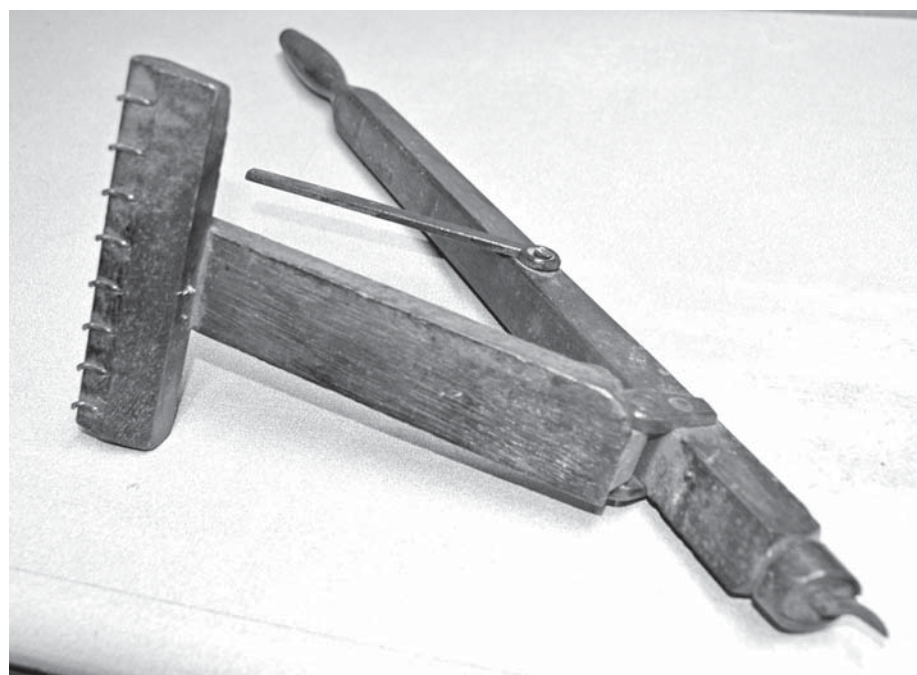
Trends in home décor seem to shift almost as rapidly as the tides. Remember when wallpaper was a thing? Remember the days before Chip and Joanna Gaines remodeled every house to have an open floor plan and layered every wall in ship-lap? Remember when wall-to-wall carpeting was the way to go?

Today, more and more people are embracing the hardwood floors beneath that carpeting, but still desire some color (and something warm beneath their feet come wintertime). That's where area rugs and accents come into play. This is not a new decorating trend, though. Smaller rugs – really any carpet or rug that doesn't cover the entire floor – have been in use for a long, long time. We started with animal hides. Today, it's more likely some kind of polyester blend. Nevertheless, over time,

and often after a good cleaning, that carpet may not seem as big as it once did.

That's where this whatchamacallit comes into play. This wooden contraption is a carpet stretcher. It can actually be used on carpets of all sizes, including the kind that entirely cover floors. On area rugs, this would slightly stretch out the material. On larger, room-sized carpeting, this tool could be used to fit the covering firmly against the baseboards or remove wrinkles. To use it, you would place the small spikes in the carpet or rug and then pull back on the handle, slowly and carefully.

Many modern versions of carpet stretchers are available, but they tend to be mechanical and somewhat expensive. They all have the same basic design as this antique model, however.



Do you have your own Whatchamacallit?

Send a photo and short description to cllewellyn@leepub.com or call Courtney at 518.673.0144

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An 18th century Mohawk Valley plane finds its way home

This writer joined the Early American Industries organization 50 years ago this year. Years ago I attended a meeting somewhere in New England. While sitting in a hotel lobby a man showed a wooden plane used to make window mullions (the wooden strips between the glass in window frames). I looked at the forward end where the maker's name is usually stamped. The "H. Clock" and the initials "H.K." spoke to me as if to say "I'm part of Mohawk Valley history." I had already been active in the restoration of Fort Klock in St. Johnsville, NY, for several years. As luck was with me, I was able to purchase the plane. The effort to document the makers of American wooden planes had been ongoing for several years. Members Emil and Martyl Pallock were composing a book on "American

Wooden Planes." They had never heard of a Clock plane. The family name can be spelled with a K or a C.

About the year 2000 I was given a fine hand-forged door latch with the same HK and 1775 cut into it. I contacted Thomas Elliot, who has done an outstanding job of editing and publishing the editions. The new edition included the information about the Klock (Clock) plane and the latch. Both are to be given to the Margaret Reaney Memorial Library Museum in St. Johnsville as a memorial to the Klock family and to Kenneth Nellis, a Klock descendant who first placed the latch in this old collector's hands.

Skip Barshied
Stone Arabia

How young people can avoid the debt trap

Rites of passage come in many forms. Some are religious ceremonies marking an important stage in a person's spiritual life, while others are less ceremonial but still impactful.

For many young people who are old enough to vote but not necessarily old enough to live completely independent of their parents, digging oneself out of debt is an early financial rite of passage. But youth and debt need not go hand in hand, even though statistics suggest otherwise.

According to the Federal Reserve, student loan debt reached historical highs in the first quarter of 2018, surpassing \$1.5 trillion for the first time ever. That figure is even more staggering when compared to figures from a decade ago, when total student loan was about \$600 billion.

And it's not just student loan debt that's jeopardizing young people's financial futures. Consumer debt compiled through the use of credit cards has long been a thorn in the sides of young adults, many of whom apply for credit cards before they fully understand the concept of credit, only to learn the hard way that swiping credit cards comes at an oftentimes steep cost.

But while the young people of yesteryear might have landed in debt by using credit cards for nonessentials like a night out with friends, a recent survey from the professional services firm PwC found that young adults currently between the ages of 25 and 34 are more likely to buy day-to-day essentials with credit. In fact, 20 percent admitted to doing so in the past six months, compared with just 6 percent of adults age 55 and over. That could be due to a number of factors beyond young adults' control, including

low and stagnant wages, but it also might be a byproduct of young adults not knowing how to avoid debt. If it's the latter, then young adults can try to employ the following strategies to avoid falling into the debt trap.

- Explore your repayment options. According to Student Debt Relief, a private company that looks to educate and empower consumers about student loan debt, the average college graduate in the class of 2016 had \$37,172 in debt. That's nearly \$10,000 more debt than the average graduate from the class of 2011. Young adults struggling to repay their student loans can explore various options, including federal student loan repayment plans, such as the Pay As You Earn plan and the Income-Based plan. Each plan is different, but young adults should know that they have many repayment options.

- Avoid consumer debt. Interest rates on credit cards can be high, especially for young people without lengthy credit histories. As a result, it's best to only use such cards for emergencies and not to pay for nights out with friends or a new pair of shoes. Consumer debt that's not paid off in full each month also can adversely affect young adults' credit ratings, which can hurt them when they get older and look to buy their own homes or other big-ticket items.

- Live at home. While many college graduates want to maintain their independence and live on their own after graduation, moving back in with Mom and Dad might be the most financially savvy move to make. Doing so allows young adults with jobs to begin building their nest eggs and can help them avoid having to use credit cards to meet their day-to-day needs.

Calendar of events

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

Dec 8

Hyde Hall Holiday Pop Up Store. 10 a.m. - 2:20 p.m. Kent Center, Hyde Hall, 267 Glimmerglass State Park Road, Cooperstown. Books, China, and Gift Items from the Museum Bookstore. Quilts by Mountaintop Crafts, Pottery by Abbey Koutnik, Candles from Four Girls Chandlery and more. Hot mulled Cider generously donated by Fly creek Cider Mill. Please enter via Glimmerglass State Park. Further information visit HydeHall.org or call 607.547.5098 Ext 6.

Fort Plain Reformed Church Faith Formation Holiday Fair 2018. 7 a.m. - 1 p.m. 165 Canal Street, Fort Plain. Serving Breakfast 7-9:30 a.m. Serving Lunch 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Auction Number Calling 12:30 p.m. Featuring: Homemade preserves, jams and jellies; Jewelry: new and used; Handmade crafts: hats, scarves, doilies, etc.; Holiday Decor; "Nearly New" household items; Christmas Ornaments and more. 165 Canal Street, Fort Plain, NY. Call the church at 518.993.4302.

Free Clothing Give-away. 9 - 11 a.m. Valley Alliance Church, on State Highway 5 just one mile east of the Nelliston traffic light. Doors open at 8:45 a.m. Refreshments will be provided.

Dec 9

10th Annual Candlelight Memorial Service. 6:45 p.m. Canajoharie Reformed Church, Front St., Canajoharie. Please RSVP by Dec. 8 to Cathy Smith at 518.673.2718. Refreshments will be served after the event.

Valley Choralaires' Christmas Concert. 3 p.m. United Methodist Church, East Main St., Canajoharie.

Valley Voices for Christ Holiday Vocal Concert. 6 - 7 p.m. Church of Christ Uniting, 22 Church Street, Richfield Springs. Light refreshments. Free will offering.

Dec 11

6 p.m. - **Canajoharie/Pal Br Chamber of Commerce Meeting.** Arkell Center, 2 Lower Maple Ave., Canajoharie, NY. Call 518.673.4408 or email Joancimino77@gmail.com.

Dec 12

Wednesday Night Fly Tying Class. 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Otsego Land Trust office, 101 Main St. Pioneer Alley, Cooperstown (this is the same building as the Farmers' Market). Children ages 11 and up are more than welcome, but must come with an adult. Pizza and beverages will be provided throughout the evening, compliments of the land trust. Pre-registration is recommended. To RSVP and for more information, please contact OLT's Communications and Outreach Manager Becky Talbot by email: becky@otsego.landtrust.org or by calling 607.547.2366 ext. 108.

Senior Citizens Pinochle Card Party 12:30 to 4 p.m. Donation \$2, prizes and refreshments. Looking to sub, call Terry 518.673.5635. Arkell Center, 2 Lower Maple Ave., Canajoharie, NY. Call 518.673.4408 or email Joancimino77@gmail.com.

Dec 13, 20 and 27

Thursdays. 10:15-11 a.m. **Diet Club** - Gallery at Arkell Center, The goal is to be held accountable while maintaining weight, 518-673-2112. Arkell Center, 2 Lower Maple Ave., Canajoharie, NY. Call 518.673.4408 or email Joancimino77@gmail.com.

Dec 14

1:30 p.m. - **Canajoharie 4-5 grade choir with Ms. Leogrande.** Arkell Center, 2 Lower Maple Ave., Canajoharie, NY. Call 518.673.4408 or email Joancimino77@gmail.com.

Holiday Workshop for Kids. 3:30-5 p.m. Fort Plain Free Library, 19 Willett St., Fort Plain. For more information, please call 518.993.4646.

1 p.m. - **Canajoharie Senior Citizens Club Meeting.** Arkell Center, 2 Lower Maple Ave., Canajoharie, NY. Call 518.673.4408 or email Joancimino77@gmail.com.

Dec 16

Merry Christmas Concert - Helen M. Maksymicz, Organist. Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, E. Gansevoort Street, Little Falls, NY. 2 p.m. Also on program are Bob Leskovar, Lynda Dudgeon, Donna Dillman, Debbie Marone, Bill Bennett, Donna Hull. It will be a fun concert with refreshments to follow. There will be a free will offering to help pay for organ repairs.

Dec 18

Canajoharie High School Company of Song to perform with Mr. Anker. Arkell Center, 2 Lower Maple Ave., Canajoharie, NY. Call 518.673.4408 or email Joancimino77@gmail.com.

Dec 19

Local History Round Table. 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Fort Plain Free Library, 19 Willett St., Fort Plain. The local history forum is a free, drop-in discussion group facilitated by town and village historians on the third Wednesday of each month. Please call 518.993.4646 for more information.

Courage is the most important of all the virtues because without courage, you can't practice any other virtue consistently.

Maya Angelou

Local clubs collect for area women’s shelters



CANAJOHARIE, NY — A Bi-Club meeting of the Mohawk Valley Women’s Club and the Palatine Literary Society was held at the Arkell Center on Monday evening, Nov. 12, where members collectively contributed pocket-books, toiletries, bathrobes, gloves, and notebooks with an estimated value of \$1,078. This effort is part of a national effort by the General Federation of Women’s Clubs (GFWC) to aid victims of domestic violence through a PURSE project done on a local club level – namely, Purses Uniting Resources to Successfully End violence against women. These items were then donated to our area women’s shelters through Catholic Charities in Amsterdam.

While snacking on delicious autumnal desserts, the members of the respective clubs, and several Arkell Hall residents who were guests for the evening, enjoyed an educational program covering how the GFWC began and how these two local clubs (as well as Colonial Club and Monday Evenings Club prior to their merger), have been serving our communities and beyond with countless volunteer hours and monetary donations for over a century. Prior to it being disbanded, the Fort Plain Saturday Morning Club, also similarly

served in our communities. Attendees enjoyed perusing scrapbooks full of club memorabilia, newspaper clippings, and photos of fun club social functions. They learned that, while these early clubs began as a way for homemakers to get out of the house for self-improvement through arts and education, they evolved into strong volunteer organizations making meaningful contributions to both local communities, such as establishing free libraries, as well as international efforts, like “Bundles for Brits” during World War II. More recently these clubs were instrumental in starting a prescreening program for

kindergarteners, sending backpacks of nutritious food home with children in need each weekend when free school meals are not available, and sewing washable feminine hygiene kits for a member’s missionary trip to Guatemala. Both clubs meet on a monthly basis (except during the harsh winter and busy summer months). Women who would like to become involved in aiding our communities while making new friends are encouraged to consider attending a meeting of either club as a guest. Contact Deborah Riley at debri3@gmail.com for more information.

The bi-club meeting of the Mohawk Valley Women’s Club and Palatine Literary Society recently collected and donated purses filled with toiletries and pampering items for the local women’s shelters in our area with a value of over \$1,000. Photo courtesy of GFWC Mohawk Valley Women’s Club


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
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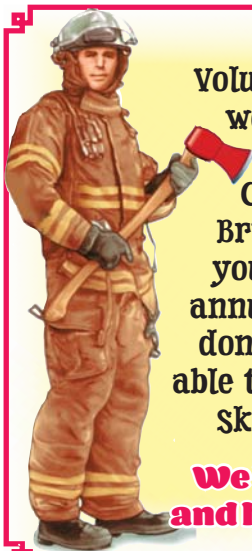
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The Canajoharie Volunteer Fire Department would like to thank the residents of Canajoharie, Palatine Bridge and Sprakers for your support during our annual fund-drive. With the donations received we are able to purchase a trailer and skid unit for our Bobcat

**We hope you have a safe
and happy holiday season.**

To Your Good Health

by Keith Roach, M.D.

**Does hole on heart
increase stroke risk?**

Dear Dr. Roach: Articles on strokes or TIAs rarely mention that they can be caused by a congenital heart defect. I had a family member with a patent foramen ovale, found at age 54, after he'd had several strokes. He had surgery to repair it and has been well ever since.

I would like to know why a PFO isn't often mentioned or considered. When I see an obituary for a young person who died suddenly, I wonder if there was an undiagnosed hole in the person's heart. One in six people has a hole in the heart; that is a high percentage. I think the public should be educated and made aware of this congenital condition. — J.R.

Answer: A patent foramen ovale (which literally means "open oval-shaped window") is a remnant of our embryology. The foramen ovale is a small open flap that is necessary to send oxygenated blood from the placenta to the body of the developing fetus. In about 25 percent of people (that's one in four, even higher than you thought), the "hole" doesn't completely close. PFO is the most common of the "holes" in the heart (ventricular septal defect and atrial septal defects are the other common ones).

A stroke is caused by the death of brain cells. PFOs are certainly implicated in strokes. In general, the younger and healthier the person, the more likely it is that a "cryptogenic" stroke (one with no obvious cause) may be due to a PFO. What is likely is that a blood clot can pass through the foramen ovale and go to the

brain's blood vessel, blocking off blood supply to an area of the brain, causing a stroke.

The absolute increase in stroke risk is hard to quantify. For people who have never had a stroke, it is generally not recommended to close the PFO. This surgery has risks, and these risks probably outweigh the small potential benefit. For people who have had a stroke, the risk of recurrent stroke from PFO is higher. One group has created a model (the RoPE score) to help predict the likelihood of recurrent stroke. This can help the clinician examine the benefits of surgical repair of the PFO. Surgery is most likely to benefit younger people without traditional risk factors for stroke.

Dear Dr. Roach: I heard that letting vinegar touch your skin causes arthritis. Is there any danger in using vinegar as a cleaning agent? — N.J.A.

Answer: I often get asked whether apple cider vinegar cures arthritis (it doesn't) or can help relieve symptoms (it might, but there is no good evidence that it does), but I have never heard anyone ask about vinegar touching the skin causing internal problems. Vinegar is a mild acid (most are about 5 percent acetic acid), which normally isn't particularly irritating to the skin, and shouldn't be absorbed. Even if it were, acetic acid is found in the body (it's an important molecule in several metabolic pathways), and your body can use it as an energy source. There is no reason to be concerned about being exposed to household vinegar.

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Let us sing of greater things

by Rich Lowry

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

The work is ubiquitous and deserves every bit of

to music, made it as if there was none; then I was quite solitary and at ease in the melodious uproar."

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

A native German who lived in London, G.F.

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

He needn't have worried. Handel completed a draft score in three weeks in the summer of 1741.

dramatic plot. The drama in "Messiah" was the Christian story itself, the birth, passion and resurrection of Christ told in scripture.

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

It took years for the "Messiah" truly to find its audience, though. Back in London, some wondered whether a theater

was the appropriate venue for such elevated material. As one querulous writer put it, "An Oratorio either is an Act of Religion, or it is not; if it is, I ask if the Playhouse is a fit Temple to perform it in." (Everyone is a critic.)

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

"It consistently manages to transcend the

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

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

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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Handel's "Messiah" is a Christian masterpiece known by everyone, a soaring work of genius that never loses its ability to astonish and inspire.

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

After hearing it performed on Christmas Day in 1843, Ralph Waldo Emerson described a common reaction, "I walked in the bright paths of sound, and liked it best when the long continuance of a chorus had made the ear insensible

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

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

Jennens wrote a friend

The legend says that while composing the famous "Hallelujah" chorus, he had a vision of "the great God himself." There is no doubt that artist and subject matter came together in one of the most inspired episodes in the history of Western creativity.

An oratorio shares some characteristics of opera, but there is no acting. Handel was an innovator, writing English-language oratorios and giving the chorus a bigger role. Typically, leading characters anchored a



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Ames - Sprout Brook UMC

613 Latimer Hill Rd.
Ames, NY 13317
518-673-3495

Pastor Jan Markle
Sunday Service 9:30am

Bethesda Fellowship

34 S. Division St.
St. Johnsville, NY 13452

518-568-2678

Summer Schedule

Sunday Worship 10:00am
Wed. Worship and Prayer 6:00pm

Cherry Valley Assembly of God

37 Alden St., Cherry Valley,
607-264-3306

Pastor David Carpenter, Jr.
Sundays 9:30am

Christian Church of Charleston Four Corners

1380 E. Lykers Rd., Sprakers
518-922-9088
Pastor Brett Popp
Sunday School (adult & children) 10am,
Worship 11am,
Sunday Eve. Prayer 6:30pm,
Thurs. Eve. of Encouragement 6:30pm
www.christianchurchcharlestonfourcorners.org

Church of Christ Uniting

PO Box 896
Richfield Springs, NY 13439

Rev. Mark Ioset
315-858-1553

Service: Sunday 9:15am
Church School: Sunday 10:30am

Church of the Nazarene

3316 State Route 29 W
Johnstown, NY 12095
Offices: 518-762-2982
Cell: 857-523-8417
Pastor, Rev. Mark Fowler
Sunday Morning Service 11:00am
Sunday School for All Ages 10:00am

Community Bible Church

Corner of Cliff & Walnut Streets
Canajoharie, NY 13317
(518) 993-1016
Pastor Wally Braemer
Sunday - Adult Sunday School Class - 9:15am
Worship Service - 10:30am
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& All the Time God is Good**

Cornerstone Baptist Church

7274 St. Hwy. 10, Ames
518-673-3405
Sunday School 10am, Adults & Children
Morning Worship 11am, Youth Ministry
5:45pm, Evening Worship 6pm,
Wed. Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 7pm,
Awana Club 6:15-8:15pm

Currytown Reformed Church

829 St. Hwy. 162, Sprakers
518-922-8422
Rev. Donald Hoaglander
Visiting Pastor Jane Hubschmitt
518-705-2201
Sunday School 9:15am
Worship Service 10:00am

Dolgeville Christian Fellowship

3 Elm St., Dolgeville, NY 13329
315-429-9142
Dr. Marvin Isum, Pastor
Worship Sunday 10:30am
Midweek Fellowship Tuesday 7pm
www.dolgevillechristianfellowship.org

Dolgeville United Methodist Church

21 N. Helmer Ave., Dolgeville
Rev. Jack Ford
315-429-7381
Worship 11:00am
Sunday School @ 9:30am beginning
September 18th
Bible Study - Wednesdays @ 12:30pm

Emmanuel Episcopal Church

588-594 Albany St., Little Falls, NY
315-823-1323
Sunday Mass 10am
Coffee Hour following Sunday Mass
Sunday School & Youth Group
Tuesday 10am Mass & Bible Study
Friday 10am-2pm Thrift Shop

Ephratah Reformed Church

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10am September-June
Sunday Morning Worship 11am
Prayer & Praise Thursdays 7pm

Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

26 Moyer St., Canajoharie
518-673-3440
Holy Communion Sundays at 9:30am
Fellowship Time to Follow
Call for Holy Day services
The Rev. Virginia L Ogden, Rector
churchgood@frontier.com

Everlasting Joy Believers Fellowship

66 Hancock St., (Rte. 5S)
Fort Plain, NY 13339
315-858-2112
Pastor Carolee Coye
Sunday Service 10am

Faith, Hope and Love Church

Rev. David W. Bowley, Pastor
Saturdays, 5 pm
at the
United Methodist Church Lower Level
50 E. Main St. Canajoharie
call 518-673-5128 or see facebook "Faith,
Hope and Love Christian Church" and our
website <http://faithhopeandlovechurch.com>

First Baptist Church Springfield Center, NY

Rev. - Gary Tyler
Sunday School 10:00am
Morning Worship 11:00am
Sunday night Worship 6:00pm
Wed. night Bible Study 7:00pm
Free meal & music every
2nd Sat. of the month 4-7pm

Fonda Fultonville United Methodist Church

11 Montgomery St., Fultonville
Pastor Nancy Pullen • 853-3311
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Sunday School 9:15-10:30, Coffee
Fellowship Following Service
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131 Clark Rd., Fort Plain
518-568-7606
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Sunday School 10am, Morning Service
11am, Eve. Service 6pm, Wed. Service
6:45pm, Thurs. Visitation 6pm
www.fordsbushbiblechurch.com
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Fort Plain United Methodist Church

39 Center St., Fort Plain
Audie Miller,
Lay Supply Pastor
Church Office 518-993-3863
Kitchen 518-993-3464
ALL WELCOME, Worship Service 11am

Freysbush United Methodist Church

Freysbush Rd., Fort Plain
518-842-1357
Rev. Cindy Leonard, Officiating
Worship 9am,
Sunday School 10am ALL ARE WELCOME
coffee hour to follow service

Fultonville Reformed Church

Corner of 5S & 30
Pastor Jane Hubschmitt
Sunday School 10AM
Family Worship 10:30AM

Glen Reformed Church

State Hwy 161 in the
Hamlet of Glen
4 miles South of Fultonville
glenreformed@nycap.rr.com
Sunday Worship at 9. Sunday School
immediately following Children's Message

Grace Christian Church

20 Center St.,
St. Johnsville, NY 13452
Rev. Harry J. Teuchert
315-866-8626
Sunday School 9:30am
Worship 11:00am

Grace Episcopal Church

24 Montgomery St., Cherry Valley
315-585-4016
Fr. Kyle Grennen, Rector
Sunday School 11:00am
Holy Communion/sermon 11:00am
Active Youth Group - call for detail

Grandview Baptist Church

15 Washington St., Fort Plain
518-993-9929
Pastor Dan West
Sunday School 10am
Morning Service 11am
Bible Study & Prayer Meeting,
Wednesday 6:30pm

Holy Family Parish

Little Falls, NY
315-823-3410
Saturday 4pm
Sunday 10:30am

Joy Fellowship

296 Co. Hwy. 119
St. Johnsville, NY 13452
518-568-3217
William Hayes Pastor
Joyce Loughran Assistant Pastor
Sunday School 9am, Morning Worship 9:30am
Wednesday Evening Worship 6:30pm

Lassellseville United Methodist Church

State Hwy. 29
Pastor Robert A. Lindsay
Worship: Sunday 9:30am
Sunday School to start soon

Lighthouse Baptist Church

1524 St. Rt. 29A, PO Box 114
Stratford, NY 13470-0114
315-429-8854
Pastor Martin Smith
Sunday Morning Worship 10:30am; Wed.
Eve. Prayer Meeting 6:00pm; 2nd & 4th
Sunday Dinner following Morning Service
with Afternoon Service following dinner
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Marshville Evangelical Church

Route 10 South
Rev. David Bowley
Worship Sunday 9am

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Fonda, NY 12068-0627
518-853-3646
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friars@katerishrine.com www.katerishrine.com

New Hope Christian Fellowship

32 Spencer St., Dolgeville, NY 13329
Pastor Pat Andreoli
315-429-3630
NewHopeChristianFellowship.net
Sunday School 9:30AM
Worship Service 10:30AM

Oppenheim United Methodist Church

Route 29
Rev. Jack Ford
315-429-7381
Worship 9:30 Sundays,
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Wednesdays beginning in Oct., Sunday
School 9:00am beginning September 18th

Our Lady of Hope R.C. Church

115 Reid St., Fort Plain, NY 13339
Parish Office 518-993-3822
ourladyofhope@frontier.com
Mass Schedule: Saturday, 4pm;
Sunday, 8:30am & 11am;
Confessions: Sat. 3 & by appointment
Please call parish office for Holy Day schedule

Paines Hollow United Methodist Church

Intersection of 167 & 168, Paines Hollow
Pastor Peg Donaghy
518-568-7604
Sunday Worship 9:30AM
Fellowship Hour to Follow

Randall Christian Community Church

NY Rte. 5S
Sunday Service 10:30am
Worship Leader
Darlene Spaulding

Reformed Church of Canajoharie

15-19 Front St., Canajoharie
518-673-2816
Rev. Matt Draffen
Sunday 9am Christian Education
9:20 Choir Practice
10am Worship Nursery provided
Fellowship hour follows worship

Reformed Church of Fort Plain

165 Canal St., Fort Plain, NY 13339
518-993-4302 • fortplainrca@yahoo.com
Rev. Nancy E. Ryan
Worship 10:30am,
AA meetings Mon. & Tues. 7pm,
Second Thurs. Prayerspace 6am to 6pm

Reformed Church of Sprakers

112 Sprakers Hill Rd
Rev. Nancy Ryan
Worship ~ 9AM
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Richfield Springs Bible Church

19 Church St
Richfield Springs, NY 13439
Rev. David Tosi
315-858-0564
Sunday School (all ages) 10am
Worship Service 11am & 7pm
Wednesday - Prayer & Praise
Call for info on various Youth Ministries
www.richfieldspringsbiblechurch.org

River of Jubilee Church

5057 State Highway 5 S
Sprakers, NY 12166
Pastor: Gail Adamoschek
Pastor: Steve Adamoschek
518-322-1427 / 518-224-4455
Sunday Service 10:00am
Children's Church Available
Other Learning Opportunities Available
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Sacred Heart Catholic Church

111 3rd Ave., Tribes Hill
518-829-7301
Mass Saturday
4:00pm

Saint Cecilia Church

26 Broadway, Fonda
518-853-4195
Sunday Worship
9:00am

Salisbury Center United Methodist Church

2545 St Rt 29, PO Box 104
Salisbury Center, NY 13454
315-429-9085
Rev. Lynn R. Lockwood

Seeker's Fellowship

14 Park Place
St. Johnsville, NY 13452
518-568-7700
Pastor Mike Yezierski
Sunday Worship 6pm, Tues. Prayer 7pm,
Bible Study 7pm (Wed., Thurs. & Fri.)
We teach the fullness of God's Word,
a life of holiness for the believer,
and salvation for all who trust
in Christ's sacrifice.

St. John's Lutheran Church

774 St. Hwy. 163, Fort Plain, NY
518-705-7552
Rev. David A. Johnson, Ph.D.
Sunday Worship 9:00am, Sunday School 10:00am,
Ladies Aid W.E.L.C.A. Handicapped Accessible

St. John's Reformed Church

68 W. Main St., St. Johnsville
518-568-7396
Faithfully Following Jesus Christ
Sunday Worship 10:30am

St. John's & St. Mark's Lutheran Church

143 Church St., Canajoharie
518-673-2224
Pastor Zach Labagh
Sunday Worship 11am,
Christian Ed. 9:45am
stjstm@frontiernet.net

St. Johnsville Methodist Church

7 East Main St.,
St. Johnsville, NY 13452
Pastor Corey Jones
518-568-7983 • 315-866-8626
Worship Sunday 3pm

St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church

31 North Helmer Ave., Dolgeville
315-429-8338
Sunday Mass is 8:30am

St. Mary's Episcopal Church

7690 Rt. 80, Springfield Center
315-858-4016
Fr. Kyle Grennen, Priest-in-Charge
Sunday Eucharist, 9:30am
Coffee - Fellowship follows service
Holy Days - as announced

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

36 Lydius St., Fort Plain, NY 13339
518-993-2040
Pastor Jonathan Litzner
405-250-8395
Sunday School 9:45-10:45am
Bible Study & Coffee Hour Sunday 10-10:45am
Church Service 11am

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

32 W. Main St.,
St. Johnsville, NY (next to NBT Bank)
518-568-3007 Church
518-568-2405 Parsonage
Rev. David Johnson
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565 Albany St., Little Falls
315-823-2284
Service Sunday 10am
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1 Church St., Cherry Valley
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8:30am & 11am

Stratford United Methodist Church

Route 29A
315-429-9085
Rev. Lynn R. Lockwood
Worship 9am

The Christian Church of Rural Grove

170 Rural Grove Rd., Sprakers, NY 12166
518-922-7831
Pastor Joshua Fetterhoff
pastorjosh@ruralgrovechurch.org
Sunday School (all ages) 9:45am,
Morning Service 11am, Eve. Service 6pm,
Wed.-Family Night 7pm,
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The Holy Spirit Polish National Catholic Church

618 E. Gansvoort St.
Little Falls, NY
315-823-0793
Father Rafal Dadello
Mass at 11am on Sunday www.holy-spiritncc.org

The House of Zion, Inc.

580 Dillenebeck Road,
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The Time for Truth Ministries

PO Box 351
Amsterdam, NY 12010
Phone 518-843-2121
Cell 518-774-8558

Trinity Lutheran Church

5430 St. Hwy. 10,
Palatine Bridge
518-673-2224
Rev. Zach Labagh
Sunday Worship 9am, Sunday School 10am,
(No services in July, meet at St. John's St.
Mark's Lutheran Church in Canajoharie).
Communion on the first & third Sundays

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50 E. Main St.
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umc673@frontiernet.net
Communion Last Sunday of the Month

Valley Alliance Church

85 E. Main St., Nelliston
518-993-3458
Pastor Dave Prahst
Sunday School (all ages) 9:15am,
Sunday Worship 10:30am,
Wed. Praise & Prayer 7pm,
Fri. Youth Group 7pm (7-12th grade)

Victorious Life Church RMI Fellowship

104 Main St. & 431 St. Hwy. 80
Fort Plain, NY
518-993-3102
Sunday School 9am,
Morning Worship 10:30am,
Youth Group 5pm,
Evening Worship 7-8pm

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Church Listings
Call 518-673-0129
or email
jsnyder@leepub.com**

The Kitchen Diva

by Angela Shelf Medearis
Holiday gifts from
the kitchen

Gifts from the kitchen are easy and inexpensive to make, and are always welcome during the holidays. Sachets and potpourri make beautiful and aromatic Christmas gifts.

Sachets can be made of a variety of herbs or potpourri and are simple to make. The bath sachets may be placed directly into the tub or tied to the faucet so that the hot water passes through the herbal mixture as the bath is drawn. Sachet bags also may be placed inside clothes drawers, tucked into the corners of couches or armchairs, or placed inside of closets.

Any number of creative combinations may be used to make potpourri. Spices, flowers, essential oils, your favorite perfume, dried herbs and citrus peels all make a wonderful potpourri. Using a fixative — such as tincture of benzoin, styrax, orris root or muskene — will extend the life of the perfume and ingredients. Most fixatives can be purchased at craft stores.

Remember, gifts from the heart are part of the true meaning of Christmas. These easy-to-make recipes for bath sachets, potpourri and rubbing lotion will be fragrant reminders long after the holiday season is over.

Bath Sachets

2 cups dried herbs (lavender, sage, rosemary, pennyroyal, lemon verbena, chamomile, thyme or mint — alone or in any combination)

8 (4-inch) squares of cheesecloth or cotton (8



Sachets and potpourri make beautiful and aromatic Christmas gifts.

small handkerchiefs work well)

8 (12-inch) lengths of ribbon or lace

Place the herbs in a plastic bag. Roll a rolling pin back and forth over the herbs until they are slightly crushed. Place 1/4 cup of the dried herbs in the center of the cloth square. Gather the square in a pouf and knot a piece of ribbon or lace around the neck of the pouf to secure the herbs. Make ribbon or lace into a bow, leaving the ends long enough to tie the bath sachet to a faucet. Makes 8 bath sachets.

Rose Petal Potpourri
3 cups dried rose petals
2 cups dried lavender
1 cup dried lemon verbena

1 tablespoon dried lemon peel
1 tablespoon allspice
1 tablespoon cinnamon
1 tablespoon cloves
1 1/2 tablespoons orris root

In a large jar, combine the rose petals and lavender. In a medium bowl, mix together the lemon verbena, lemon peel, allspice, cinnamon, cloves and orris root. Pour the lemon mixture into the jar containing the rose petals and lavender. Cover jar tightly and shake ingredients. Let potpourri stand for 3 to 4 weeks, shaking mixture frequently to combine the scents. Makes 6 cups.

To give as gifts:
8 small drawstring bags or 8 (4-inch) squares of

cheesecloth or cotton (8 small handkerchiefs work well)

8 (12-inch) lengths of ribbon or lace

Place the potpourri in a decorative bag with a drawstring, or to make a sachet, place 1/4 cup of the potpourri in the center of a cloth square. Gather the square in a pouf and knot a piece of ribbon or lace around the neck of the pouf to secure the potpourri. Make the ribbon or the lace into a bow.

Herbal Rubbing Lotion

This is refreshing herbal lotion is a wonderful pick-me-up for sore muscles and tired minds at the end of a long day. The herbs also give the rubbing alcohol a pleasant fragrance. The herbs may be obtained from nurseries or grocery stores.

1 cup fresh lavender leaves
1/4 cup lemon verbena
1/4 cup mint leaves
1/4 cup rosemary sprigs
2 cups unscented rubbing alcohol

Place the herbs in a plastic bag. Roll a rolling pin back and forth over the herbs until they are slightly crushed. Place herbs in a glass jar that has been sterilized by boiling. Add the rubbing alcohol. Cover tightly and label the jar NOT TO BE USED INTERNALLY. Set aside in a cool, dry place for 5 to 7 days. Strain the alcohol through several

layers of cheesecloth into pretty jars or bottles. Cap tightly and label bottles or jars, NOT TO BE USED INTERNALLY. Makes 2 cups rubbing lotion.

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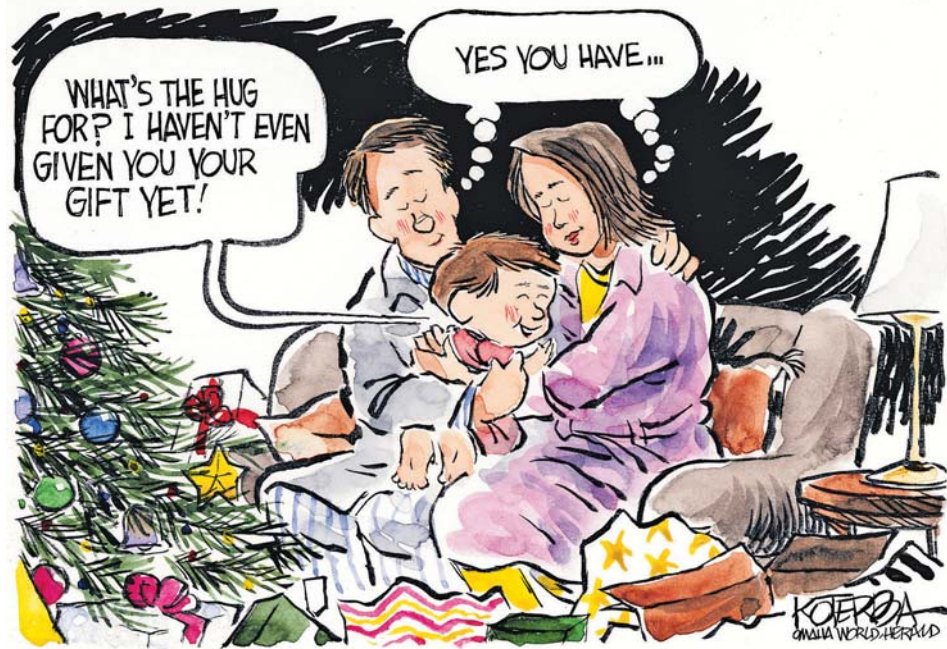
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Natural Christmas tree aficionados love the authenticity such trees provide during the holiday season. Natural trees also provide a unique aroma that can make holiday celebrations feel more homey.

When purchasing natural trees, holiday celebrants, especially those who like to buy their trees in early December, may be concerned about keeping their trees fresh throughout the holiday season. The following tips can help trees last until the final present is unwrapped and the last of the eggnog has been consumed.

• Buy a freshly cut tree. Whenever possible, celebrants should cut their own trees. This ensures that the tree they bring home is fresh, increasing the chances it will remain so throughout the season. If it's not possible to cut your own tree, the National Fire Protection

Association notes that fresh trees should have green needles that do not come off when touched. Trees that appear to be dried out or those that shed needles when touched should be avoided.

• Protect trees on the way home. The Tree Care Industry Association advises consumers to protect their Christmas trees as they transport them home. Wrap the tree in a plastic wrap so it makes it home damage-free. A damaged tree might not make it through the holiday season.

• Cut pre-cut trees before leaving the lot. Pre-cut trees can make it through the holiday season looking their best, but buyers should request that employees cut as much as two inches off the bottom of the tree before leaving the lot. Once trees are cut, sap begins to seal their base, making it hard for them to absorb water. By requesting that between one and two inches be removed from the bottom of the tree at the time of purchase, buyers are ensuring their trees will be able to absorb the water they'll need to make it through the season when they get home.

• Place the tree in water the moment you get home. To prevent the base of the tree from drying out, place it in water the moment you get home. Freshly cut trees may initially need the water in their tree stands filled in the morning and then again in the evening. As the season progresses, trees likely won't need their stands filled more than once per day.

• Place the tree away from heat sources. Placing trees away from heat sources, such as radiators, fireplaces, heating vents and lights, reduces the likelihood that trees will dry out and also reduces the risk of fire.

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Food safety for the holidays

Montgomery County Public Health wants to ensure everyone stays healthy this holiday season. Food is always an important part of holiday festivities, but holiday meals can take a turn for the worse if food safety isn't a regular ingredient in preparing and cooking the food. The food you serve your family can be very harmful if not handled safely or refrigerated promptly.

Foodborne disease infections continue to be a serious health issue in the United States, causing an estimated 1 in 6 Americans (or 48 million people) to become sick each year. The most common foodborne diseases associated with meat, poultry and fish are salmonella, campylobacter and E. coli. Most people become sick by eating contaminated foods or beverages or by coming in contact with someone who has a foodborne illness. Pregnant women, older adults, infants and young children, and those with weakened immune systems, are at higher risk for severe infections.

Here are a few helpful tips:

Clean – Remember to wash your hands with soap and warm water for 20 seconds before and after handling food. Hand washing is one of the best ways to prevent the spread of foodborne illness. Wash all kitchen utensils, dishes and countertops with hot water and soap.

Separate – Try to use one cutting board for raw meat, poultry and seafood and a separate one for fresh produce. Keep fish and seafood, raw turkey, roasts, hams and other meats and their juices separate from other side dishes when preparing meals.

Cook – Cook meat and poultry to a safe minimum internal temperature: turkey, stuffing, casseroles and leftovers to 165 degrees; beef, veal and lamb roasts to 145 degrees; “fully cooked” ham to 140 degrees and fresh ham, pork and egg dishes to 160 degrees. Use a food thermometer. Egg products can be substituted in

recipes typically made with raw eggs, such as eggnog, custard or key lime pie. Be sure that eggs and products containing eggs are thoroughly cooked when serving those at higher risk for foodborne illness.

Chill – Chill food promptly. Keep the fridge at 40 degrees or below to prevent bacteria from growing. Custard pies and other egg dishes should always be kept cool. Put leftovers in the refrigerator within two hours. Remember to never defrost food at room temperature.

Remember, be “food safe” during the holidays by following the four basic steps of food safety.

For more food safety tips:

- Visit the Be Food Safe website at www.befoodsafe.gov

- Ask Karen at www.askkaren.gov

- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services at www.foodsafety.gov

- FDA at tinyurl.com/yah3kh6z

- Or call the U.S. Department of Agriculture's toll-free Meat and Poultry Hotline at 1.888.674.6854 or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Consumer Information at 1.800.CDC.INFO.

Montgomery County Public Health wishes everyone a safe, happy and healthy holiday season.

Cranberry Brie Bites

The perfect holiday party appetizer, and so easy to make.

- 1 tube crescent dough
- Cooking spray, for pan
- Flour, for rolling out dough
- 8 ounce wheel Brie
- 1 cup whole berry cranberry sauce
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans
- 6 sprigs of rosemary, cut into 1 inch pieces.

1. Heat oven to 375°F and grease a mini muffin tin with cooking spray. On a lightly floured surface, roll out crescent dough, and pinch seams together. Cut into 24 squares. Place squares into muffin tin slots.

2. Cut brie into small pieces and place inside the crescent dough. Top with a spoonful of cranberry sauce, some chopped pecans and one little sprig of rosemary.

3. Bake until the crescent is golden, about 15 minutes.

4. Serve warm. Makes 24 bites.

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The Fort Plain Museum's – Christmas at the Fort

The Fort Plain Museum's annual holiday event, Christmas at the Fort, will be held on Saturday, Dec. 8 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and is free admission. This event is held at the museum, located at 389 Canal Street, Fort Plain, NY. This is a great opportunity to visit with family and friends, and to enjoy the holiday season in a historic environment.

The museum is decorated for the holiday season and refreshments will be served. The forthcoming book, "George Washington and the Mohawk Frontier" by museum Chairman, Norm Bollen will be available for the first time. There

will be live colonial Christmas music by the Liaisons Plaisantes, a local author book fair and signing, holiday shopping, and free tours of the museum. The gift shop is stocked with the latest titles on the American Revolution, Mohawk Valley and local/NYS history, and a variety of colonial toys and games.

- The Liaisons Plaisantes, who specialize in 18th century music, will be playing colonial Christmas music from 1 to 2 pm. We will also have copies of their "A Plaisantes Christmas" CD for sale in the gift shop.

New to this year's event is a local au-

thors book fair and signing. This portion of the event is from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. The following authors will be signing their book(s):

- New released, George Washington and the Mohawk Frontier by Norman J. Bollen
- The Home Voices Speak Louder Than the Drums: Dreams and the Imagination in Civil War Letters and Memoirs by Wanda Easter Burch
- A variety of Mohawk Valley/American Revolution history books by James F. Morrison
- The Trail of the Wild Flowers Parts I

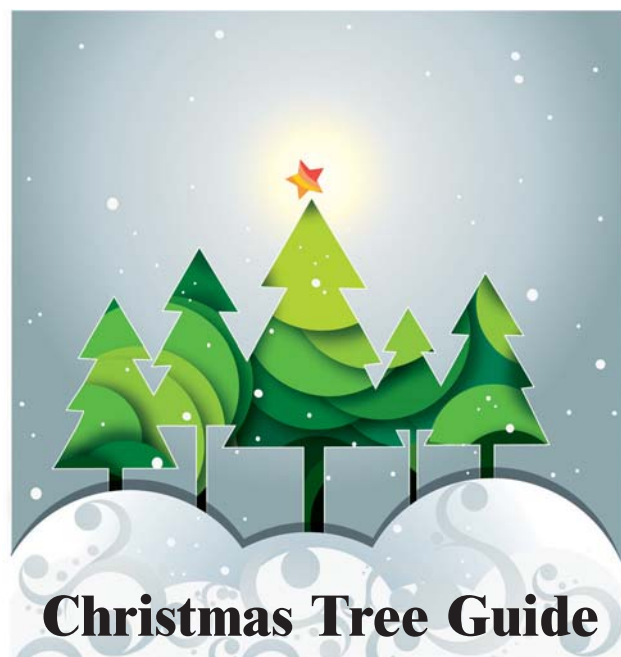
& II - Lucy Ladd Stratton by Sandy Nellis Lane

- War on the Middleline: The Founding of a Community in the Kayaderoseras Patent In the Midst of the American Revolution by James E. Richmond

- Crucible Along the Mohawk by Johnny T. Rockenstire

- Whispers of Liberty and many more by Heidi Sprouse

The Fort Plain Museum thanks everyone for their generous support and we wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday season.



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Easy Christmas morning breakfast

Christmas morning is an exciting and joyous time for families. Children are anxious to rush downstairs and see what Santa has left under the tree, and parents are eager to see the looks on youngsters' happy faces.

Having a fast and easy breakfast at the ready on Christmas morning allows families to jump right into the festivities rather than spending too much time in the kitchen.

This recipe for "Spiced Yogurt Muffins," courtesy of the National Dairy Council, Dannon and McCormick, can be made in advance and then enjoyed while peeking into Christmas stockings or watching holiday parades on television. This big-batch recipe is ideal for feeding a houseful of overnight holiday guests. Or it can be prepared in advance and doled out as needed throughout the week. The muffins also can be made as a treat for holiday office luncheons. Cut the recipe in half for smaller yields.

Spiced Yogurt Muffins

(Yield: 50 servings)

- 6 1/2 cups Dannon plain fat-free Greek yogurt
 - 4 cups water, room temperature
 - 1 box (5 lbs.) Gold Medal® Muffin Mix, Whole Grain Variety
 - 3 tablespoons McCormick pumpkin pie spice
 - 2 tablespoons McCormick Chipotle cinnamon
- Combine yogurt and water in mixing bowl. Whisk until blended. Set aside.
- Add spices to dry muffin mix in a large bowl. Add yogurt and water mixture to the muffin mixture. Mix until just blended. Don't over mix.

Using a scoop, portion into greased or lined muffin

pans. Bake at 350°F for 24 minutes, or 17 to 20 minutes in a convection oven, until the tops are golden brown.



Make-ahead muffins can be a quick breakfast that's perfect for Christmas mornings at home.



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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Woodsy home
6 Buddy
9 Lawyers' org.
12 Russian pan-cakes
13 "— -la-la!"
14 CSA soldier
15 Big name in porcelain
16 Expression of regret
18 Find
20 Flightless flock
21 E.T.'s transport
23 Previous night
24 Wherewithal
25 Tatters
27 Robin Hood's missile
29 Tiers
31 Big river
35 Helicopter part
37 Bygone times
38 Go around the world?
41 Wager
43 Table scrap
44 Gaucho's weapon
45 Antenna
47 Green field?
49 Amorphous masses
52 Reggae-like music
53 Tiny

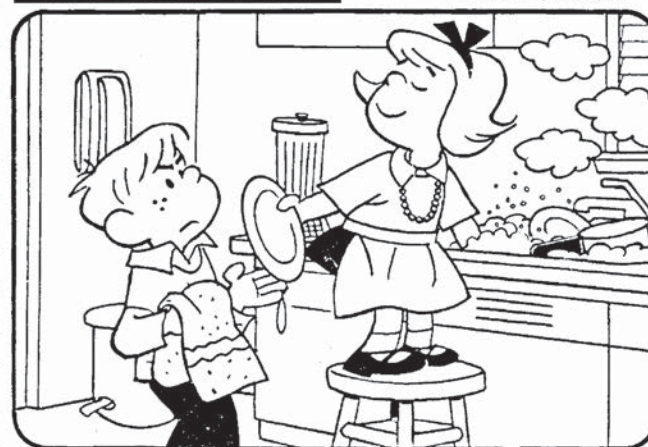
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47				48			49		50	51
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55				56				57		

- 54 Dutch city, with "The"
55 NYC hrs.
56 "Acid"
57 Secret rendezvous
8 Discoverer's cry
9 Scent
10 Started
11 Big canyon
17 Maneuvering room
19 Sailor's "Halt!"
21 Cyber-address
22 Air safety org.
24 Mid-May honoree
26 Soap opera, e.g.
28 Harder to find
30 Deteriorate
32 Fauna study
33 Bobby of hockey
34 Trawler need
36 Followed orders
38 Not just chubby
39 Ice cubes, slangily
40 Swell
42 Snug
45 Census data
46 Winged
48 Fly-by-night?
50 Clear the tables
51 Collection

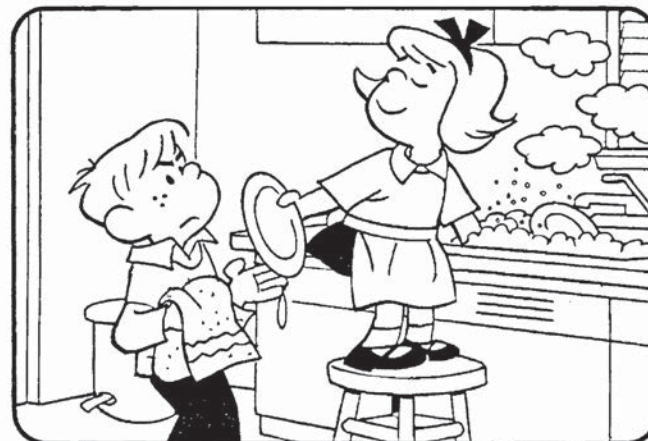
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF

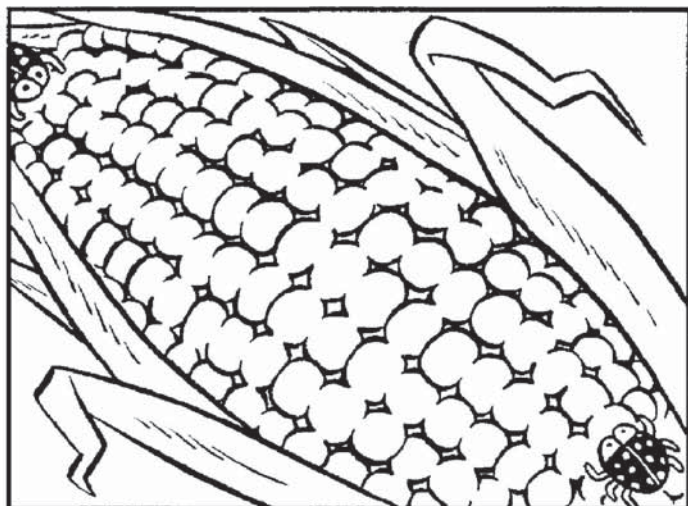


Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Phone is missing. 2. Towel is shorter. 3. Blender is missing. 4. Beads are missing. 5. Apron is different. 6. Pan is missing.

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A MAIZE MAZE! Can you help this little bug find his way across this mazy ear of corn so that he can join his buddy at the other end?

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Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

FIND THE FLOWERS!

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

Illustrated by David Coulson



HIDDEN ANIMALS! See if you can find the four animals hidden in the following three sentences.

- At last a girl moved.
- He made errors on purpose.
- Well, I only got terrified out of my wits.

Answers: 1. Stag. 2. Deer. 3. Lion and otter.



Hidden in the diagram above are the names of 17 flowers. They can be found by reading up or down, or side to side. You'll even find them diagonally going up or down. Letters can be used more than once. Listed below are the flowers you're looking for.

IT'S MAGIC! Use the numbers 5 through 14 to fill in this Magic Number Square. The numbers in each horizontal row, each vertical column, and even the four corner squares, must total 45. We've filled in six of the squares; the rest is up to you. Use trial and error – and a good eraser!

		19	3
18	4		
	21		
			20

[45]

Azalea	Fuchsia	Plumbago
Buttercup	Geranium	Poppy
Carnation	Hibiscus	Rose
Cosmos	Hyacinth	Sunflower
Edelweiss	Iris	Verbena
Foxglove	Lily	

Answers: First row: 10, 13, 19, 3. Second row: 18, 4, 9, 14. Third row: 5, 21, 11, 8. Fourth row: 12, 7, 6, 20.

Did you know?

Credit scores are important factors when lenders determine if individuals applying for credit or loans are worthy borrowers. Credit is used when purchasing a new home, buying a car, opening a business, or applying for new credit cards. A credit score is a three-digit number that corresponds to a certain range. The standards were established by FICO®, and the higher the score, the better (scores start at 300 and move upward to 850). Various things can impact

credit score, and some weigh more heavily toward the final score than others. The following are the factors that influence credit score in order of their importance, according to Wells Fargo bank.

- Payment history (making payments on time)
- Current debts (carrying high balances)
- Credit history
- New credit application inquiries
- Types of current credit (mixed forms of loans, credit cards, etc.)



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Country Preacher

by Pastor Dan West

In **Acts chapter 2** we are told about the first time the Holy Spirit came upon all believers. Up to this point, throughout the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit would indwell a believer to accomplish a specific ministry, and then He would leave. That changed here just 50 days after Jesus was resurrected from the dead.

In **verses 5-12** we see that the Holy Spirit made the followers of Jesus able to speak in languages

from all over the world. The word "utterance" in **verse 4** means they spoke clearly even the dialect and accent of each nationality.

What did they say, you might ask. **Verse 11** says they spoke about "the wonderful works of God". As we put this in context we realize they were presenting the Gospel to all these people. **Verse 37** says when they heard this their hearts were touched and they asked "what shall we do"?

Peter, who had been preaching to the crowd answered their question by telling them to "repent". This word means to change one's mind or direction. In the context of a believer sharing this word with an unbeliever it is referring to turning your heart and mind away from being self-centered to being Christ-centered. Another way of looking at this is to switch away from a "if it feels good, do it" or "if it seems good to me, it must be good" men-

tal to a mind-set of asking God what is ultimately the best and letting Him guide our thoughts and actions.

God's Word, the Bible gives us absolutes that never will change to guide us through our lives, not just for the next step, which if done our own way could do us damage for the rest of our lives. Repent and follow the Lord; when Peter preached this sermon, 3,000 people did just that.

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Senior News Line

by Matilda Charles

Newest phone scam: Social Security

If you see the number 1.800.772.1213 on your Caller ID, beware. Social Security has put out a warning about scams involving spoofed phone numbers. Scammers can make any numbers they want appear, even the number for the Social Security Administration!

Social Security is not likely to call you. They certainly won't call you and ask you to verify your number (especially the new number on the card you were recently sent), or the bank where your automatic deposit is sent, or any other personal information. Social Security won't call and threaten to take away your benefit if you don't answer their questions or tell you they can help get your benefits increased. If you get one of these calls, hang up and report it at the Office of the Inspector General (800.269.0271).

But there's more. The newest phone scam trick is to make your caller ID look like the call is from someone in your town, with state and local area codes. While you might be suspicious of out-of-country area codes or calls from out of state, you're more likely to pick up the phone if you think it might be one of your neighbors. This is what the scammers count on.

If you do pick up one of these calls, or any number you don't recognize, the most important thing to remember is to never say "yes." Your voice is being recorded, and if you answer "yes" to any question, scammers will use that as verification that you want to sign for whatever it is they're peddling.

Instead of answering any of their questions, ask your own questions. Ask who is calling, ask where they got your number ... or better yet, just hang up without saying a word.

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If there's a single lesson that life teaches us,
it's that wishing doesn't make it so.

Lev Grossman

HANDYMAN: ACCESS TRANSPORTATION is looking for a Handyman- "Jack of all Trades" type person to perform duties such as, but not limited to: Grounds Maintenance (including snow removal and mowing/ trimming), light building maintenance and general cleaning, light mechanical work and general errands. Candidate must be able to work independently and with others. Must possess a clean NYS drivers license. 40 hrs per week. Salary based on experience. Apply in person, 16 River St., Fort Plain. NO PHONE CALLS.

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Simple ways to keep a realistic budget

Successful financial plans often begin with the creation of a budget. A budget is an estimate of income and expenses in a given period of time. Budgets help with long-term goals like paying off a mortgage or sending a child to college as well as short-term goals like financing a dream vacation. Not all budgets are alike, and when people hear the word “budget,” they may get apprehensive. Budgeting may require making some concessions in regard to spending habits, but it doesn’t have to put a complete damper on plans. In fact, with a budget in hand, people may be more free to spend because they will have a stronger grasp of their financial situation.

Making a realistic budget does not have to be a chore. Here is how to get started.

- List the necessities. Begin by calculating the costs associated with fixed needs, including rent/mortgage, utilities, food and any other bills you have to pay each month.
- Add existing debt. Debt includes any routine payments being made to credit card companies, student loan lenders, car payments or unpaid medical bills.
- Conduct a spending analysis over several months. Budgets are easier with fixed numbers, but unforeseen variables can affect spending every month. These can include the extras for clothing, entertainment and much more. Average the cost of these expenses throughout your analysis period so you can get some idea of how much to allocate for them.
- Use software or apps to help. There are plenty of resources available to help people calculate their budgets and get a picture of their financial habits. Resources such as Mint, YNAB (You Need a Budget) and various accounting programs can produce spreadsheets, pie charts and bar graphs as you work to create a budget.
- Start trimming gradually. Quitting a certain lifestyle cold turkey can be jarring. Gradually cut back on your spending if

your analysis suggests that’s the way to go.

- Automate saving. Immediately removing a set amount from your paychecks by having it directly deposited into a separate account can remove the temptation of spending too much from your financial equation.

Budgets are a key part of a financial plan and can help people reach their goals.



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 - Community Auction
September 22, watch for details
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Sept. 7, 2018- watch for details
 - Shop Small Saturday
Saturday, Nov. 24, 2018
 - Elves Night Out
Friday, Dec. 7, 2018

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King Crossword

Answers

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

Solution time: 27 mins.

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

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

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



“I heard a bird sing in the dark of December. A magical thing. And sweet to remember. We are nearer to Spring than we were in September. I heard a bird sing in the dark of December.”
- Oliver Herford

Stay safe when stringing holiday lights

Lighting displays are one of the many things that help make the holiday season a special time of year. Often awe-inspiring, holiday lighting displays present a perfect opportunity for communities and individuals to showcase their festive sides.

Safety should always be a priority when stringing holiday lights both inside and outside a home. The National Fire Protection Association notes that between 2009 and 2014, fire departments in the United States responded to an average of 210 home fires that started with Christmas trees per year. Lighting displays strung on home exteriors also can pose safety risks if homeowners do not exercise caution. Fortunately, various strategies can help homeowners safely decorate their homes' interiors and exteriors this holiday season.

- Choose a fresh tree. The NFPA recommends celebrants who prefer natural Christmas trees choose ones with fresh,

- green needles that do not fall off when touched. Dry trees are more likely to catch fire than freshly cut trees. Adding water to the tree stand each day will keep trees fresher longer. When placing the tree, avoid placing it too close to heat sources, making sure it is at least three feet away from fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.
- Check all lights before stringing them. All lights, including those going on trees inside a home and those being strung outside, should be inspected prior to being strung. Look for any worn or broken cords and replace any defected lights.
- Employ the buddy system. When stringing lights, always work with at least one other person. This makes it safe for homeowners who must climb ladders to string lights on especially tall trees and/or on their home exteriors.
- Avoid working in inclement weather. The weather during the holi-

day season can sometimes be unpleasant or unpredictable. Check the forecast before stringing exterior lights to ensure Mother Nature won't pose a threat. Avoid hanging lights if the forecast pre-

dicts wet, icy or windy conditions that can make ladders unstable.

- Turn lights off when going to bed and/or leaving the house. Interior and exterior holiday lights should not be left

on when no one is home or everyone inside is sleeping. If left on overnight or when no one is home, lights may contribute to fires that damage homes and may even prove fatal.

Holiday lighting displays help make this time of year special. Following some simple safety procedures when decorating with lights can ensure everyone enjoys a safe and happy holiday season.





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051: REDUCED PRICE!!! 21 Highland PL, CANAJOHARIE: Welcome Home!!! Nice three bedroom, one bath home in Historic Canajoharie. Updated kitchen, wood floors, some new windows. Large back yard for the kids and pets.
Asking \$64,900



055: 154 Otsego Street, CANAJOHARIE: This home has been well cared for, new wood/laminate floors, new windows, new stove, many extras included. Great starter home for new family, easy to heat. Cozy screened in back porch overlooking small, but very nice backyard. Family room was used as a second bedroom, making it a possible three bedroom, one full bath home. **Asking \$79,000**



801: 2977 County Hwy 31, CHERRY VALLEY: This home has a little bit of new and old. Original home dates back to 1890's with updates - vinyl siding, newer kitchen, addition with handicapped bathroom, hardwood flooring, newer roof and on 2.3 acres with 245' road frontage on two sides of road. Just off Route 20 close to Cooperstown, Otsego Lake and Canajoharie. Family or master bedroom with bath, dining room, living room, kitchen with open dining area/laundry and 3 bedrooms and one bathroom with shower. Two-story barn with upstairs. **Asking \$124,900**



847: 210 Moyer Street, CANAJOHARIE: Great village home with many characteristics!!! Walking distance to schools, fenced in back yard, 3 bedrooms, 1 full bath 2nd floor, 1 half bath 1st floor, three season porch, hardwood flooring, 100 amp breakers, laundry room, new hot water heater and a fireplace. Two car detached garage. Sit in the back yard by the fire pit and listen to the gorge below. With some TLC this home would be a gorgeous home for entertaining. **MUST BE A FHA WITH 203 OR CONVENTIONAL LOAN. Asking \$69,900**

Christmas Morning Italian Strata

Prepare this strata the night before and then bake it while everyone opens presents on Christmas morning. By the time the last gift is unwrapped, breakfast is ready and waiting! Serves 12.

- 1 1/2 pounds pork-sausage meat
- 1 12-ounce loaf French bread
- 2 4-ounce cans mushrooms
- 6 large eggs
- 1 quart milk
- 2 teaspoons Italian seasoning
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder (optional)
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1 8-ounce package shredded mozzarella cheese (2 cups)
- 1 4-ounce package shredded Cheddar cheese (1 cup)
- Chopped parsley for garnish

Night before serving:

1. Grease 13-by-9-inch glass baking dish. In 10-inch skillet over medium heat, cook pork-sausage meat, stirring frequently to break up sausage, until thoroughly cooked and no longer pink. Using slotted spoon, remove

sausage to paper towels to drain.

2. Cut French bread into 1/2-inch cubes. Drain and chop mushrooms. In baking dish, combine sausage, bread cubes and mushrooms. In large bowl, whisk together eggs, milk, Italian seasoning, garlic powder and pepper. Pour egg mixture over sausage mixture. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate overnight.
- About 1 3/4 hours before serving:
3. Heat oven to 350 F. Bake strata, uncovered, 1 hour. Remove from oven and sprinkle evenly with mozzarella and Cheddar cheeses. Bake 15 minutes longer or until knife inserted in center comes out clean. Remove strata from oven; let stand 10 minutes for easier serving. Garnish with chopped parsley.

- Each serving: About 390 calories, 24 g fat, 170 mg cholesterol, 855 mg sodium.

Find more triple-tested holiday recipes at www.good-housekeeping.com/recipes/.

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& PRINT SERVICE

How NORAD came to track Santa Claus

by Amy Anderson

It was the Cold War,

ta Claus?"

Fortunately, Col. Harry

Claus, enticing the kid-
dies to "Call me on my

So began the tradition
still carried by the North

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

To track Santa this year, visit www.norad-santa.org, or follow up-

dates by searching for @noradsanta on social media. To speak to a volunteer, call the toll-free number 877.HI NORAD (877.446.6723).

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

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NORAD's dedicated website, www.noradsanta.org, live-tracks Santa's location.

Photo courtesy of NORAD Santa Tracker

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

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

private phone." Col. Shoup's night was just beginning.

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

Wise winter weather tips for your family yard

When Old Man Winter comes calling, homeowners need to keep everyone in the family — including your pets — safe. Follow these wise winter weather tips from the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI) and TurfMutt.

- Bring pets inside: Dogs and cats should be kept inside during cold weather months. Wipe their paws and bellies after they've been outside, and check for ice accumulation between paw pads. If you're using a de-icing agent, remove that salt and other agents, too.

- Pick up debris: Before it snows, remove debris and household items from your family yard. Doormats, hoses, toys and sticks can hide under a layer of snow that could harm your snow thrower, family or pets.

- Clear a path: Your snow thrower is a

convenient way to clear your driveway and sidewalks. It also gives your pet a path to their bathroom area.

- Trim trees carefully: When using a chainsaw, stand with your weight on both feet, adjust your stance so you are angled away from the blade and hold the chainsaw with both hands.

- Ventilate portable generators: If a winter storm knocks out your power, a generator can be a life-saver, if used properly. Place the generator outside and away from windows, doors and vents that could allow carbon monoxide to come indoors.

- Watch where you throw: Keep kids and pets away from the equipment, and never put your hand in the chute or auger to clear a blockage. Turn the machine off and always use a clean-out tool.

Don't be pushed around by the fears in your mind. Be led by the dreams in your heart.

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