

Country Preacher

by Pastor Dan West

Experiencing God's power

Have you ever gone to an apple orchard in the fall to pick apples? When you get near the trees the apples look so good — and after all, you have been promised these apples. As you approach the trees, you notice that all the best apples are high up in the tops of the trees. Oh, you can reach some of the lower ones, but they are small, misshapen, oddly colored with scabs and worm holes in them — but they are apples. Also, you realize you didn't bring anything to put the apples into. You jump to get a few nice ones, but you are totally unprepared to get any quantity of the best ones. Now you know why the sign at the entrance said "Bring your own ladder and basket". This scenario is similar to the one pictured in **Galatians 5: 22-26** for many people. **Galatians 5: 22-23** lists the characteristics of a luscious, nutritious fruit that is available to everyone. It has elements that we all need and crave, and are very pleasant. Even before we accept God's personal invitation to come and enjoy this fruit He is providing, we have a taste of some of it. Mankind was created in God's image and He sends His blessings — sunshine and rain — on all mankind. If the story ended here it would be like the previous applepicking people getting only a few small, scarred apples. But the illustration doesn't end here! The sign out front says:

"How to get the best and the most Fruit of the Spirit": • Give yourself to Christ v. 24



• Consider your worldly, human nature to be dead v. 24

• Conduct your life as the Holy Spirit directs v. 25

• Do not seek credit or recognition for the things you do for the Lord v. 26

Do not do or say things that irritate other people v. 26
Do not have ill will or jealousy toward anyone v. 26 The sign concludes:

"When you obey all the instructions, you will experience and enjoy all of the Fruit of the Spirit!"

So you see Scripture presents two facts here: a) The Holy Spirit provides His wonderful, beautiful, bountiful, empowering fruit to those who come prepared, and 2) The work is not in picking the fruit, but in the preparation for picking it.

We can know all about the Fruit of the Spirit, we can know where it comes from and why, we can see it operating in other people's lives, we can sample it briefly in God's universal blessings, our very spirit craves the elements of it. But unless we prepare ourselves as these verses say, we will not experience the power of it. So our theme for this year, "Experience God's Power" is simply a short way of saying "be obedient to God as He says in verses 24-26, and you will be given what's listed in verses 22-23."

Explaining the sweaters often seen on St. Patrick's Day

Spectators at St. Patrick's Day parades may notice that many parade participants seem to be wearing a similar style of wool sweater. Though it might seem so, such sweaters are not identical, and actually boast a rich and unique history that may even indicate the ancestry of the person wearing them.

Aran sweaters get their name from the islands where they originated. Off the west coast of Ireland and at the mouth of Galway Bay, the Aran Islands are among the most beautiful places in Ireland.

Natives of the Aran Islands were fishermen and farmers. As a result, they needed garments that were water repellant and could keep them warm while they spent time out in the Irish climate, which has long been marked by significant rainfall. In fact, according to the Aran Sweater Market, an Aran sweater can absorb 30 percent of its weight in water before feeling wet. In addition, the wool used to create Aran sweaters is breathable, drawing water vapor away from the skin and releasing it into the air. That allows those donning Aran sweaters, whether they're Irish fishermen or people marching in parades across the globe, to maintain healthy body temperatures no matter the weather.

But Aran sweaters are

much more than practical ways to keep warm in the Irish climate. In fact, Aran sweaters typically indicate much about the people wearing them and their ancestry. Aran sweaters feature complex stitching patterns that serve as reflections of the people who knit them and their families. Because people wore sweaters featuring patches associated with their clans, patterns were often used to identify bodies of fishermen who washed up on beaches after accidents at sea. The Aran Sweater Market on the Aran Islands contains an official register of these patterns, and visitors to Ireland often purchase sweaters after finding one they can connect to their ancestors.

Aran sweaters can be seen far and wide on St. Patrick's Day, and these sweaters often have great stories to tell.



March 2, 2019 • 3

Woodpecker damage? Try scare tactics, redirection

by Dean Fosdick, Associated Press

Woodpeckers, flickers and sapsuckers may be fun for birders to watch but they can be troublesome pecking holes in dwellings, shredding feeders, enlarging cavities in trees, and driving you to distraction by drumming on wooden or metal surfaces.

"Woodpeckers can damage homes, especially those with cedar siding, or homes that are painted brown, making them look like a giant tree trunk," said Clifford Shackelford, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department ornithologist. "These conditions also attract carpenter bees, which bore holes in order to lay their eggs."

Woodpeckers hammer or peck on wood or metal for three reasons, Shackelford said. First is foraging or seeking food. Second is drumming, when a male during the extensive spring mating season lays claim to a territory by tapping on wood or metal. And third is excavating for a place to build a nest and rear young.

What's a harried homeowner to do?

"Since all species of woodpeckers are protected by state and local laws across the United States, lethal solutions or killing these birds is not an option," Shackelford said in an email.

That leaves benign solutions. Several to consider:

• Woodpeckers need trees for shelter and food. Redirect them to different wooded locations. Place birdfeeders at distant sites, leave snags (dead branches or standing trees) on the property, build large nesting or roosting boxes, repair and cover damaged areas of the home or, if all else fails, try a pest control service.

• Frighten or scare. These bird-proofing options include displaying predator decoys, hanging reflective or colorful items, creating loud noises, or introducing odor or flavor repellents.

Predator-like decoys can lessen the degree of woodpecker damage but won't discourage the birds for long, said Marvin Reynolds, an area director for Colorado State University Extension.

"They can become used to owls, hawks or snakes in an area," Reynolds said. "If the predator doesn't move, they will realize it's not a threat."

Stuffing insulation into woodpecker-carved cavities also is a short-term stopgap since the birds simply will remove it, he said.

Pepper sprays are only a temporary fix and need to be re-applied after it rains or snows.

"Hanging an old CD or DVD that can spin in the wind seems a good deterrent," Reynolds said. "Foil strips work the same way."

The sun's reflection from a mirror also will scare birds, he said.

Here's what not to do:

• Don't trap, capture, injure or kill woodpeckers. Do not remove eggs from their nests.

• Refrain from using sticky substances that could be toxic or coat the birds' feathers. Those also could stain furniture and buildings.

• Do not use insecticides to try to eliminate woodpecker food sources. They have many adverse effects, including thinning already scarce pollinator populations.

It's not true that woodpeckers, flickers and sapsuckers kill trees, Shackelford said.

"It's guilt by association because woodpeckers are observed foraging on dead or dying trees that are swarming with hidden insects, namely beetle larvae under the bark or deep inside the wood, that serve as woodpecker food," he said. "Actually, woodpeckers are beneficial because they can help keep numbers of these sorts of insects in check."













Dr. Murcray turns practice over to Dr. Wadas

congtime local Optometrist Dr. Craig Murcray has decided to retire. He opened his practice in 1979 and has been providing eye care services to the community and surrounding areas ever since. He feels fortunate to have had the opportunity to take care of multiple generations of families as well as making countless friends along the way.

- Despite having a fulfilling career in St. Johnsville, finding the right person
- to turn his practice over to hasn't been easy. However, he recently met Dr.
- Matthew Wadas who practices in nearby Herkimer. Upon meeting, Dr. Murcray immediately knew he was leaving his patients in good hands and the two agreed to work together to make sure his patients aren't left without quality eve care.
- Dr. Wadas provides full-scope eye care services including treatment and management of eye diseases and infections as well as a wide array of optical services for your glasses and contact lens needs.
- Most importantly, at Dr. Wadas' office, you can expect the same level of per-
- sonalized care and service you came to know at Dr. Murcray's.
- Dr. Wadas is a lifelong resident of the Mohawk Valley and is thrilled to be practicing in the community he loves. "I'm truly blessed" he says.
- Dr. Wadas' office is located at 394 East State St. in Herki
- Office phone number is 315-866-3751. www.wadaseye.com





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Scouts and spaghetti -Country Editor Boy Scout Troop 81's Second Annual Spaghetti Dinner

by Rachael Takacs

On a very chilly evening in January, The Canajoharie Boy Scout Troop 81 hosted their second annual spaghetti dinner at the Moose Lodge in Canajoharie. The cold evening was soon forgotten as guests entered the doors of the Lodge. The Lodge was warm and bustling with activity, and the delicious smells of pasta and tomato sauce wafted through the air.

Greeting guests at the door were Troop 81 members, Kaleb Horning and Ethan Kilmartin. They were in the process of accepting pre-purchased dinner tickets, as well as selling tickets for a 50/50 raffle. According to Horning the money raised is to "help support us in our upcoming events like camping trips, summer camps, and other events."



Kaleb Horning (12th grade) and Ethan Kilmartin (8th grade) greeted guests at the door.

Also, on hand to meet guests and to assist the Troop 81 members, was Scoutmaster Kevin Alkinburgh. Alkinburgh has been Troop 81's Scoutmaster for four years, and before leading this troop, he led the Cub Scouts for eight years. He explained that the spaghetti dinner was a form of alternative fundraising and that he was very optimistic about the night to come.

Many other Scout Committee members were also on the scene working hard to make the night a successful one. Most of these workers were loving scout moms who have been assisting at scout events for years. These ladies included Tania Kilmartin and Shelly Alkinburgh who labored in the kitchen cooking pasta and sauce and Mary Douglass who served spaghetti to the hungry guests.

And according to the guests, all the hard work done by the Scout Committee paid off. Many guests claimed



(Left to right) Shelly Alkinburgh and Tania Kilmartin prepared dinner for the hungry guests.



(Left to right) Ann Marie Murphy and Ellen Hazzard served up salad and smiles.

that the dinner was deliciously satisfying.

One such guest was Susan Kilmartin who was accompanied by her husband Floyd. She expounded on how enjoyable the dinner was and how nice it is to be able to support the scouts saying, "We're very glad to support the scouts because it's such a good organization.'





Scoutmaster Kevin Alkinburgh (far left) poses with Troop 81's attending boy scouts. Photos by Rachael Takacs

Wedding registry tips

Building a wedding registry is a task unlike any other couples may encounter during their lifetimes. Wedding registries are invaluable resources that provide engaged couples' loved ones with gift suggestions. In spite of that value, couples may find it daunting and even a little uncomfortable to build their wedding registries.

Building a wedding registry can feel like walking a tightrope. Couples likely won't want to ask for too much or for gifts that are too expensive, but a poorly built registry can be a major inconvenience for guests. The following tips can help couples build adequate registries that benefit them without asking too much of their guests.

• Register with more than one store. It's important to register with more than one store. Doing so makes things as convenient as possible for guests and increases the chances they will be able to shop at stores they're familiar with. Unless your guest list is predominantly local, try to register with at least one national chain so guests who live in different regions can shop for gifts in-person if they prefer to do so.

• Make a large list. Some couples are hesitant to make large wedding registries, feeling that doing so gives the impression that they're asking for too much. But large registries simply give guests more options to choose from. Many industry insiders advise registering for two to three gifts per guest. That might seem like a lot, but guests will appreciate having all of those options.

• Don't hesitate to include expensive items on your registry. Couples also may be hesitant to include especially expensive items on their wedding registries. However, the couples' parents and other close relatives may be honored to purchase more expensive items, so couples should not feel embarrassed to include them on their lists. It's also important to note that many retailers, after couples' wedding days have come and gone, discount registry items that weren't purchased. So even if no one purchases the more expensive items, including them on a registry may significantly reduce their cost for couples who want to buy such items themselves after tying the knot.

• Vary the prices of items on the list. In addition to including more expensive items on the registry, make sure to include moderately priced and inexpensive items. This gives guests more options and ensures guests who might be spending a lot to travel to and from the wedding can still purchase gifts without digging too much deeper into their pockets.

• Periodically update the registries. Periodically update your registries to remove items you have already received and to add items if many of the less expensive ones have already been purchased. This also makes things more convenient for guests.



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How builders can keep radon from entering a home

the world the dawn As has changed, so, too, have of home buyers. The home buyers of today typically want homes that align with life in the 21st century. That means extra outlets for all of our devices and homes prewired for high speed internet access.

Housing starts, which refers to the number of new residential construction sites, reflect buyers' demand for newly built homes. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, there were slightly more than 1.2 million housing starts in September 2018, which marked a sizable increase from a year prior, when 1.158 million new residential constructions broke ground.

Though prospective buyers want a host of modern amenities, they also want something valued by homeowners since

time: safety. Security systems can safeguard homeowners and their families from criminals. but homeowners also must ensure steps are taken to protect a home's inhabitants from nat-

urally occurring threats, including radon.

Radon is a radioactive gas that is produced from the natural breakdown of the uranium found in most rocks and soil. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, exposure to

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Whatchamacallits

For children that are interested in learning the art of sewing, the usual place to start is with the most basic tools - a needle and a spool of thread. They would learn the delicate skill of threading the needle before embarking on their easiest cross stitch journey, gaining skill as they practiced and began creating more and more difficult projects.

Or, about a century ago, they could have played with this whatchamacallit, "The Little Comfort," a tiny, hand-powered sewing machine.

The Little Comfort was made by the Smith and Egge Manufacturing Company, based in Bridgeport, CT, and the cloth plate for the machine lists three patent dates: June 6, 1896, Jan. 26, 1897, and Oct. 19, 1897. The company released four different versions of the toy, starting in 1886. It features a looper system and automatic tension lifting after each stitch. The automatic tension lifting comes from the raising of the lever screw.

Two of the versions of this small sewing tool feature variable-stitch regulators, which could illustrate that this toy, approximately eight inches in height, was not meant solely as a child's plaything.

The Little Comfort also has a vise built on to it, so it could be attached pretty much anywhere to be used. We have it on a piece of lumber here, but it more than likely would have been gripped to a table or desk edge.

By 1910, Smith and Egge had produced more than 50,000 of these small sewing machines - and an advertisement from that time notes they were selling them for \$4 a piece. The machines were often carried in the John Wannamaker store. They were also advertised as miniature



radon gas is the secondleading cause of lung cancer in the United States.

Because it's naturally occurring, radon can infiltrate any home. However, the EPA, working alongside state and federal geologists, has developed maps that predict the potential indoor radon levels for every county in the country. (Note: Radon can pose a health risk when breathed in through outdoor air, but such instances are unusual because radon is typically diluted in open air.) Each county has been assigned a zone depending on its potential radon threat, and those that pose the biggest threat are designated as Zone 1, while those with the lowest threat are Zone 3. Homeowners building their homes can contact their

state's radon office via www.epa.gov to determine which zone their property is in.

MOHAWK VALLEY COUNTRY EDITOR

In addition to learning which radon zone they're in, homeowners building new homes can ask their builders to take the following measures so their homes' interiors are as resistant to radon as possible.

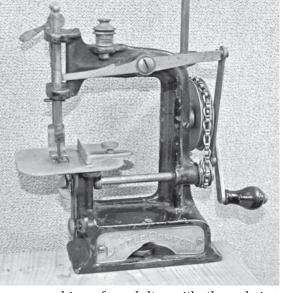
• Install a layer of clean gravel or aggregate beneath the slab or flooring system.

polyethylene • Lav sheeting on top of the gravel layer.

• Include a gas-tight venting pipe from the gravel level through the building to the roof.

• Seal and caulk the foundation thoroughly.

Learn more about radon, including how to determine radon levels in home. vour at www.epa.gov.



machines for adults, with those being sold by FAO Schwarz the only models being directly marketed to children.

Do you have your own Whatchamacallit?

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

How cash-out refinancing can turn into a costly mistake

(BPT) — After years of making regular mortgage payments, it feels good to watch your net worth make upward progress. That's especially true if your house is also gaining value. With a growing amount of equity comes peace of mind, knowing you have the option of tapping into it when you want.

Whether it's time for a new roof or you need to consolidate debt. you may see a traditional cash-out mortgage refinance as the ideal tool to access the money you need. However, if you're considering a cash-out refi, you may be unaware of some of the pitfalls, or you may not know about the alternative solutions that might work in your financial favor.

With a cash-out refi, homeowners can borrow against the equity in their home by taking out a new mortgage loan. This new loan includes the original loan balance and the additional amount borrowed against the equity.

"On the surface, a cash-out refi loan appears to be the better option because these tend to have better interest rates compared to other types of loans, especially credit cards and personal loans," says Wendy Harrington, chief marketing officer at Figure Technologies, a company that offers lending solutions to homeowners. "However, these can end up costing more than homeowners expect, and it's important to take time to understand what comes with the territory."

Harrington offers three things all homeowners need to consider before they opt for a cash-out refi loan:

• Interest rates are rising: After enjoying historical lows, mortgage interest rates have reached 5 percent, the highest in eight years, according to the Washington Post. With a cash-out refi, homeowners face trading their lower interest rate for a higher one.

• Less convenient than other loan products: The application and approval process for a cash-out is anything but efficient, thanks to timeconsuming activities like property appraisals and in-person closings. In all, the loan process can take anywhere from 30-60 days.

 Additional fees: Borrowers often don't realize that cash-out refis come with closing fees for such things as appraisals, title searches and credit reports, adding another layer of cost to the loan.

A smarter solution that can potentially spare borrowers thousands in interest cost, according to Harrington, is a home equity loan. Instead of starting over with a new mortgage, you'd simply take out a separate loan against the equity in your property. This option lets you keep your mortgage interest rate.

To make things more clear, here's a comparison of how the two loans could affect a homeowner like you.

Let's say you took out a \$175.000 mortgage six years ago at 3.625 percent interest. After making monthly payments of \$798, your balance is \$153,365. Now you're looking to do some renovations and pay off some credit card debt, and you need to borrow \$75,000. With your home valued at \$300,000, there's more than enough equity.

With a cash-out re-fi loan, you'd "reset" your mortgage balance at \$228,365 with an interest rate of, say, 5.75 percent interest. That brings your monthly payment to \$1,333, but in 30 years, when the mortgage is paid off, total interest comes to \$287.225 (that's the interest you paid on your original mortgage and the interest you'll pay with the refinanced loan).

With a \$75,000 home equity loan, you may receive a higher rate, but it applies to a much smaller loan amount. If you secured a home equity loan at 9.0 percent APR, your monthly payment for your mortgage and equity loan combined would be slightly higher at \$1,559. However, the term of your equity loan is 15 years, and your mortgage is still on track to being paid off in 24 years. In all, your total interest payments come to \$174,238 (original mortgage plus home equity loan).

Bottom line: In this scenario, a home equity loan comes out as the better financial decision, because not only are you finished paying six years earlier, you would save \$112,987 in interest alone.

If you're looking to access the equity in your house to help you complete a home improvement project or consolidate your bills, taking time to know your options can potentially save you thousands of dollars. Figure has built a calculator to show how much you could save using a Home Equity Loan PLUS instead of a cash-out refi. Calculate your potential costs and savings at Figure.com/cashout.

To Your Good Health

by Keith Roach, M.D. No caffeine after 50? Dear Dr. Roach: I recently heard that after

age 50 you should not take in any caffeine. I do enjoy a cup of regular coffee with breakfast. Is this dangerous? — Anon.

Answer: The majority of people over 50 continue to drink and enjoy caffeine in coffee, tea and other drinks. At reasonable doses it is very safe, and previous studies showing links to cancers have been pretty thor-

oughly discredited. I am all in favor of maximizing enjoyment of life in ways that aren't harmful, and a cup of coffee in the morning is not harmful and is a big source of enjoyment to many.

As we age, many drugs (I'll consider caffeine a "drug" for this purpose) are metabolized more slowly by the body, so some people may find that the same "dose" affects them more. This may occasionally cause a problem with sleeping for people who drink caffeine later in the day or at night, in which case the solution is to drink less or drink earlier.

Finally, age 50 seems pretty young, to me, to be concerned about changes in drug metabolism.

Dear Dr. Roach: We often are advised to get plenty of fruit in our diet. Is dried fruit (apricots, dates, figs, prunes) considered healthy? N.M.G.

Answer: Most dried fruit is healthy; however,

there are two concerns: The first is that they have about the same amount of calories and sugar as whole fruit, and easily can be overeaten. The second is that you should beware of dried fruits with added sugars. Some dried fruits are preserved with sulfites. Sulfites, as I have mentioned, cause allergic symptoms in some people, but are tolerated by most. (c) 2019 North Ameri-

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Good Housekeeping

Strawberry Sodas

This tasty treat is ready in just 10 minutes. 1 1/2 cups milk

1 package (10 ounces) frozen sliced strawberries, partially thawed

1 pint strawberry ice cream

1 (16-ounce) club soda or strawberry soft drink, chilled 1. In a covered blender container at high speed, blend milk and strawberries 15 seconds; pour into five 12-ounce glasses.

2. Add a scoop of strawberry ice cream to each; slowly add soda or soft drink to fill almost to the top. Serves 5.

* Each serving: About 203 calories, 7g total fat (5g saturated), 26mg cholesterol, 77mg sodium, 32g total carbohydrate, 1g dietary fiber, 4g protein.

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Good Housekeeping

Easy Plum Crumble The kids can get hands-on with this cinnamon-scented dessert recipe. Let them blend the crumble topping with their fingers until the mixture reaches the right consistency.

2 1/2 pounds plums, each pitted and cut into 8 wedges

1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice 1 tablespoon cornstarch

2/3 cup (packed) light brown sugar

1 cup old-fashioned oats, uncooked

1/3 cup all-purpose flour

1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon

4 tablespoons butter or margarine 1. Heat oven to 400°F. In a shallow 2-quart glass or ceramic baking dish, toss plums with lemon juice. In a cup, mix cornstarch and 1/3 cup sugar; toss with plums until evenly coated.

2. In a medium bowl, mix remaining 1/3 cup sugar with oats, flour and cinnamon. With fingertips, blend in butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Sprinkle oat topping over plum mixture.

3. Bake crumble 25 to 30 minutes or until plums are tender and topping is lightly browned. Cool on

wire rack 10 minutes to serve warm, or cool completely to serve later. Reheat if desired. Makes 6 servings * Each serving: About 340 calo-

ries, 10g total fat (5g saturated), 22mg cholesterol, 95mg sodium, 63g total carbohydrate, 4g dietary fiber, 4g protein.

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

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

Mar 1

Bake Sale, Lasagna Dinner and Book Sale. March 1 3-7 p.m. March 2 8 a.m.-noon. Fort Plain Reformed Church, 165 Canal Street, Fort Plain. Book Sale, Lasagna Dinner and Silent Auction on March 1. Book Sale and Silent Auction on March 2.

Mar 2

Benefit Antique Show. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Arkell Museum, 2 Erie Boulevard, Canajoharie. 14th annual Antique Show & Sale by Palatine Settlement Society will be at Arkell Museum for the benefit of 1747 Nellis Tavern in St. Johnsville. \$5 admission. Joan Draus, show manager, may be reached by text or leave message at 518.894.7807.

Mar 6

Ash Wednesday Lenten Journey day. Events all day from 7 a.m. until 6:30 p.m. Fort Plain Reformed Church, 165 Canal Street, Fort Plain. Full day of opportunities to start your Lenten Journey. Brief worship with imposition of ashes planned at both 7 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Come sit, pray meditate as long as you wish all day. Imposition of ashes available all day. Other meditative opprotunities.

Mar 9

Join the Mop & Bucket Company's Improv Theater Group for a night of laughs as they interact with the audience. At the Canajoharie-Fort Plain Elks Lodge, Nelliston. Voted best Comedy Troupe in the Capital Region three years running. Tickets are \$25 before Feb. 25. \$35 thereafter. Includes: Cocktail Hour - 5:30-6:30 p.m. Dinner - 6:30 p.m. Show - 7:45 p.m. Contact: Steve Heiser 518.993.2111.

Apr 23

Friends Speaker & Meeting. For more information. contact Schoharie Crossing State Histor- information, rie Crossing State Historic Site at ic Site, 129 Schoharie Street, Fort Hunter at 518.829.7516 or www.nys-518.829.7516 or www.nysparks. com.

parks.com.

May 4

I Love My Park. For more informa-

tion, contact Schoharie Crossing

State Historic Site at 518.829.7516

May 18

Kids to Park Day. For more information, contact Schoharie Crossing

State Historic Siteat 518.829.7516

May 21

Friends Speaker & Meeting. For

more information, contact Schoha-

rie Crossing State Historic Site at

518.829.7516 or www.nysparks.com.

May 25

Geocache Challenge Starts. For

more information, contact Schoha-

rie Crossing State Historic Site, 129

Schoharie Street, Fort Hunter at

518.829.7516 or www.nysparks.com.

or www.nysparks.com.

or www.nysparks.com.

com.

June 26

Friends Business Meeting. For more information. contact Schoharie Crossing State Historic Site at 518.829.7516 or www.nysparks. com.

July 6-7

Canal Days. For more information, contact Schoharie Crossing State at 518.829.7516 or www. nysparks.com.

Starts July 10

Wildlife Wildlife Wednesday. Wednesday. July 10, Aug. 7, Sept. 11. For more information, contact Schoharie Crossing State Historic Site at 518.829.7516 or www.nysparks.com.

July 16

FMRRC Mule Haul. For more information, contact Schoharie Crossing State Historic Site at 518.829.7516 or www.nysparks.com.

July 23

Friends Business Meeting, For more information, contact Schoharie Crossing State Historic Site at 518.829.7516 or www.nysparks. com.

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Fishing Auction - Sunday March 17th at 1:33pm at King's. Burrows Rd, West Winfield, NY 1-315-822-5221

HAVING PROBLEMS with your well or pump? Call The Water People - Provost Brothers! 518-868-2126

USED TIRE SALE: Huge Inventory, mounting & balancing FREE. No appointment necessary! Save money call Auto World, 534 North Perry Street, Johnstown 12095 518-762-7555

APARTMENT 54 Walnut Street, Canajoharie, \$700.00 per month plus utilities. Not HUD approved. Available March 1st. Call: 518-673-5895

CANAJOHARIE 2 BR APARTMENT for rent. Convenient to downtown. Natural Gas heat, Off-street parking, 2nd floor, Appliances. Tenant pays utilities. Ideal for 1-3 people. Security deposit, references required with application. No dogs. 518-993-4255 or inquire at The Insurance Shults Agency.

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McCarthy Guns. 217 Erie Blvd. Canajoharie. 518-673-4867. www. mccarthyguns.com. We pay top dollar for guns. Buy, Sell, Trade.

Love the Flaws whether yours or the great pieces at Ragtime 39 Main Street, Fort Plain 3000 sq.ft. of some great flaws. Antiques, collectibles, mid-century. Thursday through Saturday 11ish to 5.

Public Auction Saturday, March 9 at 11am Goats, sheep, cattle, ponies, rabbits, farm related merchandise. Consignments welcome. Adirondack Auction Sales & Lucky E Ranch, 3554 State Highway 30, Gloversville, NY 12078 Phone: 518-848-7040 or 518-774-8594

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.

HELP WANTED on dairy farm. Must have own vehicle and be able to operate machinery. Part or Full time. 518-568-2643

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DO YOU HAVE AN ITEM TO SELL? Place your classified ad in the Mohawk Valley Country Editor. Call 518-673-0111

June 1 National Trails Day (Kayaking

Tour). For more information, contact Schoharie Crossing State Historic Site at 518.829.7516 or www. nysparks.com.

June 6

Putman Porch Music. June 6 19. June 6, 13, 20 and 27. For more

Apr 27 Canal Clean Sweep. For more information, contact Schoharie Crossing State Historic Site at 518.829.7516 or www.nysparks.com.

MOHAWK VALLEY COUNTRY EDITOR

June 14-16

Path Through History Weekend. June 14-16. For more information, contact Schoharie Crossing State at 518.829.7516 or www.nysparks.

Kovels: Antiques and Collecting

by Terry and Kim Kovel Namesake furniture

Famous politicians, generous donors, entertainment and sports stars, and military heroes are honored by having their names on statues, buildings, bridges, streets, parks and even rooms. But famous furniture designers and architects are more often given lasting fame when a chair, desk or style is given their name. Some names used today are hundreds of years old.

There is the American Hitchcock chair, a painted wooden chair with a curved top, carved back slats and legs that are continuations of the back's uprights. It was named for Lambert Hitchcock (1795-1852). Even older is Chippendale furniture, named for Thomas Chippendale (1718-1779), an English cabinetmaker who published a book that pictured his designs. Some collectors of early photographs buy daguerreotypes without knowing they are named for Louis Daguerre (1787-1851), who, in about 1839, invented the first photographic pictures.

A 20th-century reproduction of a Carlton House desk sold recently at a Cowan auction for \$660. The original desk looked like a table with a horseshoe-shaped top section made to fit on top of the table. It was ordered by the Prince of Wales in about 1783 and designed by George Hepplewhite. The desk, named for a favored palace, was a gift for a member of the Prince's entourage living at Carlton House, a London palace that was demolished in 1825 after the Prince became King George IV. The building was replaced with Carlton House terrace. An early 19th-century Carlton House desk sells today for \$6.000 to \$10.000.

G: I looked at many Hall teapots online and have been unable to find a teapot like mine. It's an Airflow, black with a gold spout, and what looks like a gold Chinese design. The number is 0450S, and it says it's 8-cup. Is this a knockoff?

A: From 1938 through 1941, the Hall China Company of East Liverpool, Ohio, produced whimsical teapots in unique shapes that are sought after by collectors today. The Airflow teapot was one of these. It was first released in 1940, and its round shape and swooping handle hint of the beginning of Atomic Age design. The Airflow, like other Hall teapots, was made in many colors and sold either plain or decorated. Some, like yours, had Hall's Standard Gold trim. In 1984, Hall reintroduced the Airflow and some other teapots. The reproduction teapots have the company's post-1969 square mark. Your 8-cup Airflow teapot looks like it is from the 1940s. It is worth about \$40.

Current prices

• Pitcher, New Martinsville, Heart in Sand, water, gilt spout, 8 inches, \$10.

• Hood ornament, Ford, flying quail, 3 1/4 x 4 3/4 inches, \$240.

• Arita jar, lid, blue, scholars, immortals, landscape, reclining figure finial, white, Japan, 8 1/2 inches, \$380.

• WWI poster, Join, Army Air Service, bald eagle, mid-air strike, orange, c. 1917, 26 3/4 x 20 inches, \$1,110.

Tip: Never clean an iron cooking utensil with soap. Wipe it with paper towels, wash it in hot water with a plastic bristle brush, and dry well.

For more collecting news, tips and resources, visit www.Kovels.com (c) 2019 King Features Synd., Inc.

The original Carlton House desk was ordered for an 18th-century building in London. This is a 20th-century copy that recently auctioned for \$660.





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Donna's Day: Creative family fun

by Donna Erickson

A boost of sunny fun for a wintry day

The length of daylight is starting to feel a wee bit longer, kites are flying here and there, but cloudy and cold, stormy day weather forecasts are a reminder that spring isn't quite in our grasp.

Here are some sunshine-themed ideas to boost your mood during remaining wintry, and sometimes gloomy days.

Breakfast sunny-side up

On a large sheet of white paper, draw suns and happy faces all over the surface with a yellow marker or crayon. Use it for a place mat at breakfast. Fry eggs sunny-side up and serve in the middle of slices of toast. On a separate plate, enjoy the sunny taste of cut-out sections of a juicy grapefruit. Or, make tasty tropical smoothies in seconds with a combination of frozen mango and pineapple chunks, and fresh banana.

Make a sunshine greeting

Your preschooler's handprints are the rays of the sun in this poster greeting to share with a grandparent, aunt or uncle.

In the center of a large sheet of heavy white construction paper, glue a round, 6-inch diameter piece of yellow paper for the sun (a small salad plate makes a handy pattern).

Squeeze some bright yellow acrylic paint on a paper plate and dilute with a few drops of water. Stir.

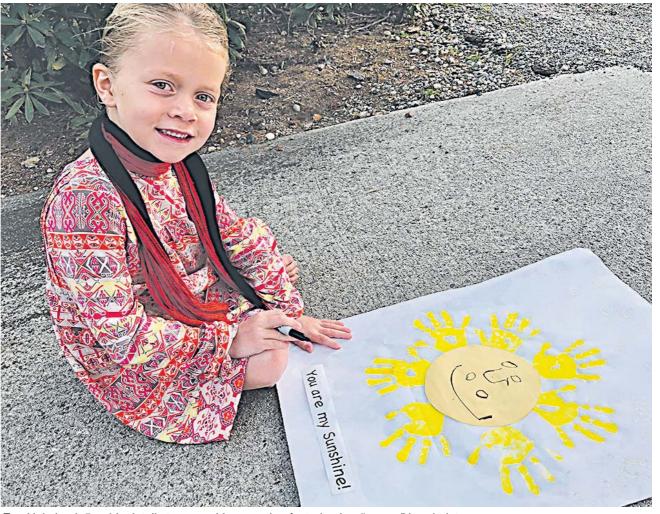
Place your child's hand (palm down) in the paint and guide the painted hand to the white paper. With the palm near the center circle and fingers and thumb going outward to represent the rays of the sun, press lightly to create a handprint. Continue making six more handprints equidistant from each other around the "sun." Let dry.

Add details for a face on the sun with a dark marker, if you wish.

For a kind greeting, print "You Are My Sunshine!" or "I hope you have a Sunny Day!" on the bottom, along with your child's name.

Happy flowers

Use acrylic paints or paint pens to draw a sun on the



Eva Holmlund, 5, adds details to a sunshine greeting featuring her "sunray" handprints.

outside of an empty, clear jar with the label removed. Let dry. Fill it with fresh, yellow daffodils, daisies or tulips from your market and tie a ribbon around the rim. Give it to your neighbors to make their day sunny, too. Follow the sun

At bedtime, check the weather online or in the newspaper to find out what time the sun will rise tomorrow. (c) 2019 Donna Erickson

Distributed by King Features Synd.



Dining entertainment, and celebrations





Music and Ireland go hand in hand. Walk into a pub anywhere in Ireland and you're bound to encounter a local musician entertaining a crowd of funloving patrons. Perhaps that's why music is such an integral component of celebrations on St. Patrick's Day, a day to honor the patron saint of the Emerald Isle. Paddy's Day party hosts who want to provide a soundtrack worthy of this festive occasion can consider these tracks from some of Ireland's most beloved musicians.

1. "Whiskey in the Jar," The Dubliners with The Pogues: This song, which is believed to have been composed sometime during the 17th century, has been performed by various musicians across multiple genres of music. The 1990 collaboration between The Dubliners and The Pogues is a fast-moving version of the song that's sure to get everyone bobbing their heads and tapping their toes.

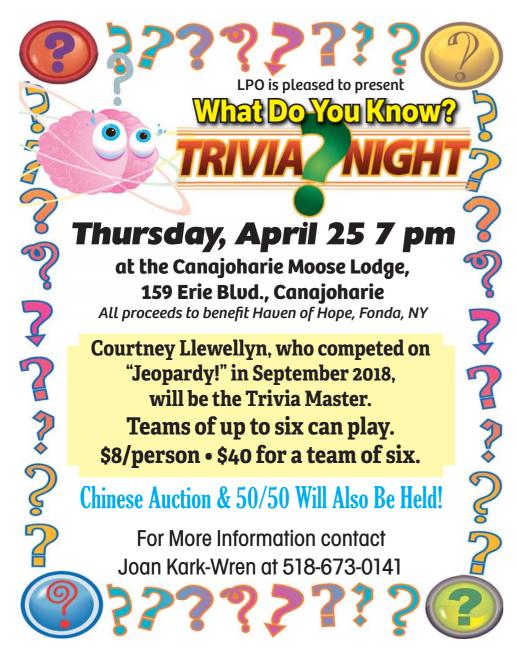
2. "The Broad Majestic Shannon," The Pogues: This song, from the legendary Celtic punk band's 1988 album, was inspired by the River Shannon, the longest river in Ireland, and is sure to invite people to the dance floor with its opening notes. Lead singer Shane Mac-Gowan, widely regarded as one of the most accomplished lyricists of his time, said the song is about an Irishman returning to his home along the Shannon after many years spent in London. That gives the song a somewhat autobiographical tilt, as MacGowan himself spent time living in London and Ireland. 3. "Finnegan's Wake," The Dropkick

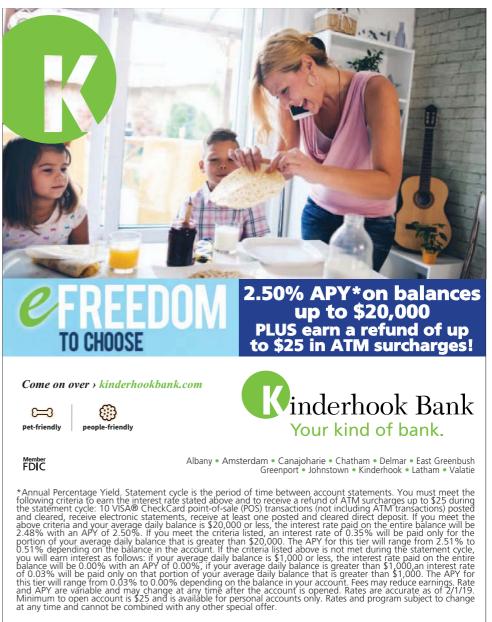
Murphys: Another classic Irish ballad that traces its origins to before the 20th century, "Finnegan's Wake" is a comical tale of the supposed death of Tim Finnegan, a man who loved his liquor. When his friends host a wake in his honor and accidentally spill whiskey on his corpse, Finnegan miraculously awakes and joins in the celebration. This version of the song from the Boston-based Celtic punk rockers will have hosts and their guests bobbing their heads in between laughs.

4. "Drunken Lullabies," Flogging Molly: Though the band originated in Los Angeles, lead singer Dave King is a Dublin native and his Celtic punk band has a distinctly Irish sound. An acoustic version of the song is available on the band's 2006 live release "Whiskey on a Sunday," but the partyfriendly original version is the eponymous track on the band's 2002 release. Great for a sing-along and destined to get some feet out on the dance floor, this song is a must for any Paddy's Day gettogether.

5. "Danny Boy," Various artists: For the sentimental revelers, this song, set to an ancient Irish melody, is a musthear on St. Patrick's Day. Interpretations of the song vary, with some suggesting it's a message from a parent to a Presley.











Monday to Friday 9:30 to 6:00 Saturday 9:30 to 4:00 Sunday Closed for Worship and Rest



See Our Facebook Page For Opening Dates



2019 rabies vaccination schedule

1. All cats, dogs and ferrets three months or older must be vaccinated even if they stay indoors.

2. Every dog and cat needs two rabies vaccinations one year apart then one every three years.

3. Bring proof of the pet's vaccination history to receive a three year certificate.

4. Ferrets must be vaccinated every year.

5. Dogs should be on a leash; cats and ferrets should be in a carrier or pillowcase.

6. NO EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN. Help to move the clinic along.

7. Owners are responsible to clean up after their animals; supplies are provided.

8. A \$5 donation per pet is suggested to defray costs.

The 2019 rabies vaccination schedule:

March 28, 5:30 - 7
p.m. at East Herkimer
Fire Department, 193
Main Rd., East Herkimer
April 11, 5:30 - 7 p.m.
at Ohio Community Rec.
Center, 140 Nellis Rd., Ohio

• May 2, 5:30 - 7 p.m. at Dolgeville Fire Department, 20 S. Helmer Ave., Dolgeville May 18, 10 a.m. noon at East Herkimer
Fire Department, 193
Main Rd., East Herkimer
May 23, 5:30 - 7 p.m.

at Old Forge Fire Department, 116 Fulton St., Old Forge

• June 6, 5:30 - 7 p.m. at Middleville Fire Department, 41 North Main St., Middleville

• June 19, 5:30 - 7 p.m. at Ilion-Frankfort VFW Pavilion, 4274 Acme Rd, Frankfort

• July 11, 5:30 - 7 p.m. at Danube Town Garage, 438 Creek Rd., Little Falls

• Aug. 28, 5:30 - 7 p.m. at Salisbury Fire Department, 2549 St. Rt. 29, Salisbury Center

• Sept. 19, 5:30 - 7 p.m. at Cedarville Fire Department, 960 St. Rt. 51, Cedarville

• Oct. 3, 5:30 - 7 p.m. at Little Falls Town Garage, 478 Flint Ave. Ext., Little Falls

• Nov. 2, 10 a.m. - noon at East Herkimer Fire Department, 193 Main Rd., East Herkimer

To pre-register for a clinic call 315.867.1176. Pre-registration will end at the close of business the day before all clinics.



Fort Plain Free Library hosts two groups

Library hosts writers

FORT PLAIN – Each Thursday from 3 - 5 p.m. the Fort Plain Free Library hosts the Writers at Fort Plain. The creative writing group is made up of writers from varied writing backgrounds, genres, interests, goals and experience levels who work on memoirs, novels, short stories, poems and more.

Facilitated by published writer Joan Caska, the weekly group features constructive feedback in a friendly, fun and supportive setting. The forum is free and open to the public.

Library to host textile arts handicrafters

Knitters, crocheters, needleworkers, felters and other traditional textile arts handicrafters are invited to come to the Fort Plain Free Library Thursdays to take part in the weekly Creative Textile Fibers Group. From 12:30 - 2:30 p.m., participants meet in a casual setting where they share tips, ideas and patterns or they work on their own fiber-based projects.

The free, drop-in gathering is open to the public. Call 518.993.4646 for more information about either group. The Fort Plain Free Library is located at 19 Willett St.



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Lasslesville Farm \$154.900 Country Living with Room to Roam inside and out! 7.5 Surveyed Acres with woods, river, open pasture. A Big Barn, Lean-to

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New furnace & Water system. This is a nice property! Get Pre-approved and come see!



Lake House on West Caroga Lake \$298,000

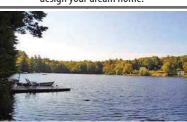
South Shore Rd. 2BR/1BA. Open great room, large lake front sun room. Neat rock features and lakeside patio & dock. 2C garage, extra storage. This owner lived here year round! 2 Back lots included!

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Caroga Lake ACREAGE \$159.000 25 Acres WATERFRONT on the Outlet. APA says

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cottage on peaceful Mountain Lake. Several lots makes up the offering. 2 BR/1 BA open living and dining with room for extra quests.





Peck Lake Year Round Home \$238.000

Nestled in the woods this home is a short walk to the lake access. 3BR/1.5BA, Open living area. Fantastic Kitchen, Finished Basement. Enjoy life at the lake!

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What a deal! 85 FT. waterfront, Same owners for 65Yrs! It's your turn to make yours! 4BR/1BA,

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8.5 Acres BUILD HERE- Wells- \$35.500



West Caroga Lake Access! \$89.900

Updated 2BR/1BA cottage w/deeded lake access Modern conveniences ready for you! Some work being finished so you can relax!

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Vacant Lot Caroga Lake \$16,000 2-lots almost 1 acre. Each 100ft x 180ft deep. Cleared, with driveway. Wooded borders. Once had a structure, Old well, concrete septic tank. Bring all offers!

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WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR REPAIRS DURING A HOME SALE?

Many questions arise during the home-buying process. Buyers looking at homes that require a good deal of TLC may wonder who is responsible for the home's repairs, particularly if such repairs are needed to secure a certificate of occupancy. Depending on the situation, there is no clear-cut answer.

There is no perfect home and things that are acceptable to the current owner may not be acceptable to the buyer who is looking to become the next owner. The home-buying process is typically a careful cooperation between buyer and seller to find a middle ground. The buyer may have to make some concessions, as will the seller. Ultimately, it is this cooperation that often determines if the sale goes through or is terminated.

Before any negotiations can begin regarding repairs, it is advisable for a buyer to have an independent inspector come out and look over the home and property. Most real estate agents will suggest this be done as a first priority — even before a contract is entered on the home. An inspection will unveil any potential problems in a home and indicate things that the buyer may not be aware of, including items that do not meet with code or could be unsafe. An inspector also may point out problems that could cause a mortgage lender to give pause. This may mean the lender will deem problems unsafe and refuse to fund the mortgage until repairs are made.

A copy of this inspection report should be sent to the home seller to review with his or her attorney and real estate agent. The buyer working with his own real estate attorney and agent can petition for certain repairs to be made. Many sellers will make such repairs to ensure the purchase goes through or they will accept a lower purchase price to compensate for the needed repairs, which the buyer will then make. Buyers might want to hire a good real estate attorney to write clauses into the contract to protect their interests. This allows the buyer to forfeit the sale and walk away from the contract should an is-

sue arise.

The rules often change when buying a home that is a short sale or in foreclosure. A home that is in distress is typically in this situation because the current owners cannot afford to pay their mortgage, and thusly, are not able to afford repairs. According to Think Glink, a money-management website, buyers may try to negotiate repairs with the seller but they shouldn't assume that sellers (or lenders in the event of a bank-owned home) are responsible for the repairs. Generally speaking, most short sales and foreclosures are sold "as is" and may even specify that repairs and requirements for the certificate of occupancy are the buyer's responsibility. A buyer also can ask to have the home price reduced to cover the repairs. But foreclosures are often already deeply discounted.

Buyers should know that, for a home that is not in foreclosure, there are some repairs that should ultimately be the responsibility of the seller. If these repairs are not made, a buyer should think strongly about walking away from the deal, according to Why6Percent.com, a real estate marketing site. Such repairs include:

- lender-required repairs that could impact home safety
 leaky pipes
- water penetration issues, including a bad roof
- unsafe decking or handrails
- wet basements or crawl spaces
- insecure foundations or obvious structural damage
- poorly functioning sewer lines or septic system

It is always advisable for buyers to speak with a reliable real estate attorney and a trusted real estate agent to guide them through the process of buying a home. These people can help buyers navigate the important decisions that can affect the home they'll be living in for the next several years.

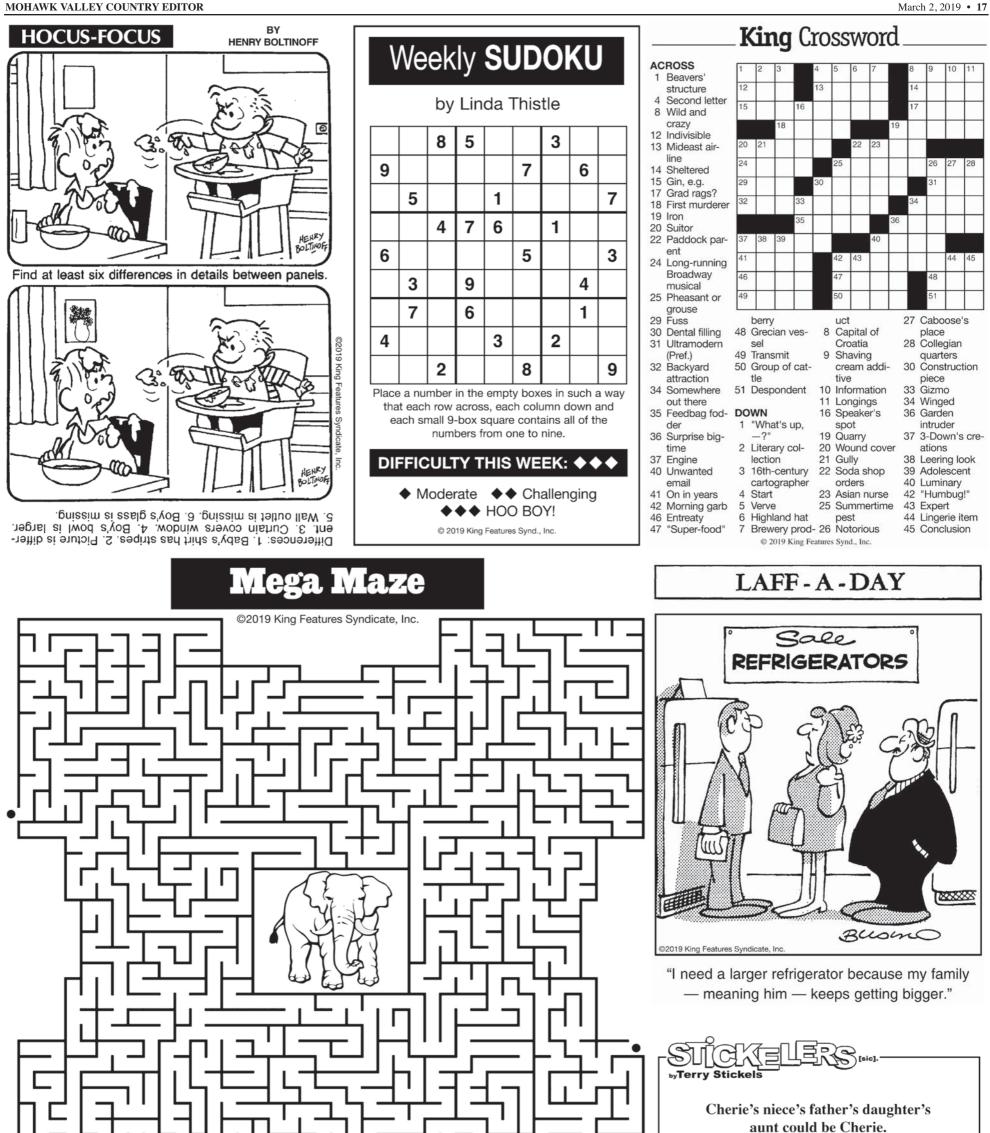
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True or false?

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MOHAWK VALLEY COUNTRY EDITOR

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KOVAL'S Major Appliance Repair has over 30 years experience and is affordable. Call 315-867-9333 Looking to sell your house? We are looking for a 3 BR, 2 BA home in the Canajoharie, Ft Plain, Cherry Valley or Sharon Springs area. We prefer ranch, salt box or Cape Cod, but will consider any that have at least one BR on the ground floor. 2 car garage, large lot and full basement a plus. Give me a call at 518-221-4103 or e-mail me at bruce_button@hotmail. com. No realtors please. My wife is a licensed real estate agent.

ADVERTISERS: Get the best responses from your advertisements by including the age, condition, price and best calling hours. Also, we always recommend insertion for at least 2 issues for maximum benefits. DEADLINE for placing ads is THURSDAY 5pm prior to each edition date. Call 518-673-0111

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Comfort Foods Made Fast and Healthy

by Healthy Exchanges

Sensational Chicken Soup There is nothing more comforting than a great bowl of soup on a cold winter's night.

- 2 (16-ounce) cans fat-free chicken broth
- 1/4 cup water
- 1 cup thinly sliced carrots
- 1 cup thinly sliced celery
- 1 scant cup uncooked noodles
- $1 \frac{1}{2}$ cups (8 ounces) diced cooked chicken breast
- reast
- 1 teaspoon dried parsley flakes

1/8 teaspoon black pepper

 In a large saucepan, combine chicken broth, water, carrots and celery. Bring mixture to a boil.
 Stir in uncooked noodles, chicken, parsley flakes and black pepper. Lower heat, cover and simmer for 10 to 12 minutes or until vegetables and

noodles are tender, stirring occasionally. Serves 4. Tip: If you don't have leftovers, purchase a chunk of cooked chicken breast from your local deli.

* Each serving equals: 179 calories, 3g fat, 23g protein, 15g carbs, 498mg sodium, 34mg calcium, 2g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 2 Meat, 1 Vegetable, 1 Starch; Carb Choices: 1.

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Mail: Mohawk Valley Country Editor, PO Box 121, Palatine Bridge, NY 13428

March 2, 2019 • **19**

How to improve circulation

The human body is a complex, efficient machine. One highly important component of that machine is the circulatory system, which sends blood, oxygen and nutrients throughout the body.

In perfectly healthy bodies, blood, oxygen and nutrients circulate throughout the body without issue. However, several conditions, including obesity and diabetes, can contribute to poor circulation, which is not a standalone condition but rather a byproduct of another serious health issue.

According to the health information site Healthline, when the circulatory system is not working at optimal capacity, people may experience tingling, numbness and throbbing or stinging pain in the limbs. Pain and muscle cramps also may result from poor circulation, the symptoms of which vary depending on the causes. For example, someone whose circulation issues

S C A B

M A P S

are a result of peripheral artery disease may experience different symptoms than someone whose circulation has been compromised by diabetes.

ing the circulatory system are complex, it's important for men and women to learn how to address such issues if they suspect their systems have been compromised.

Poor circulation results from various health issues, so people who think they are dealing with poor circulation should not try to address the issue on their own. Rather, the best way to improve circulation is to visit a physician the moment you note a symptom. Doctors will confirm if patients are experiencing circulation issues and diagnose what's causing those issues. Doctors also will work with their patients to devise a course of treatment for the issue that's causing

Because issues affect-

• Visit your physician.



People can help themselves by taking various steps to improve their circulation.

their poor circulation. • If necessary, lose weight and keep it off.

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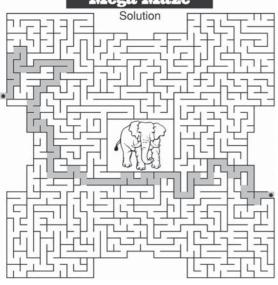
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Answers Solution time: 27 mins.										Answer										
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HAT'S THE LAST OF THEM. NOW FINALLY I JUST BARELY HAVE ROOM FOR MY SHOES. WE NEVER USE THE THIRD STALL ANYWAY.

Stickelers Answer

The answer is **true**.

ditions that can contribute to poor circulation. So many people who are diagnosed with poor circulation may be advised to lose weight and keep the weight off once it's been lost. A 2009 study published in the International Journal of Cardiology found that losing weight helped obese women improve their circulation. A healthy diet that includes fish like salmon that is

by Samantha Weaver

the inner spirit."

• It was French-German physician,

philosopher and humanitarian Albert

Schweitzer who made the following sage

observation: "In everyone's life, at some

time, our inner fire goes out. It is then burst into flame by an encounter with

another human being. We should all be

thankful for those people who rekindle

• You might be surprised to learn that

• In parts of Illinois, it was once illegal

• If you've ever yelled out a warning in

you've used a monepic sentence; that is, one that is complete with just a single

word. Of course, at the time you proba-

bly weren't concerned about the gram-

• If you're like the hypothetical aver-

age person, your mouth will create

10,000 gallons of saliva over the course

matical nature of your utterance.

panic — "Stop!," "Run!," "Don't!"

famed lover and heartbreaker Casanova

eventually became a librarian.

to put a cake in a cookie jar.

Obesity is one of the con-

high in omega-3 fatty acids, which have been shown to improve circulation, can help people lose weight and maintain healthy weights going forward.

• Consider yoga. A 2014 review of an assortment of peer-reviewed studies found that yoga can have a positive impact on risk factors for cardiovascular disease. A low-impact exercise, yoga can compress and decompress veins, potentially improving circulation. It takes time to master yoga positions, but even beginners who cannot fully perform poses during a yoga regimen can benefit from doing the exercises to the best of their abilities.

Poor circulation is a byproduct of various conditions. Once a condition has been diagnosed, patients can help themselves by taking various steps to improve their circulation.

Strange but True

of your lifetime.

• It's been reported that the country's first pizza parlor was in New York City naturally. It opened in 1885, but barely got by. In 1895, it was sold for a mere \$200 — small change even in those times.

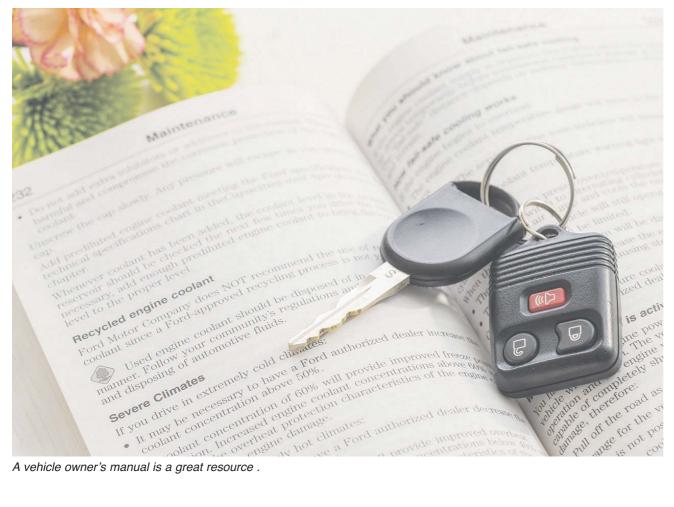
• The bearded vulture is the only known animal whose diet is made up almost exclusively of bone.

• It's a well-worn trope that men refuse to stop and ask for directions when they're lost. That point of view might seem to be supported by the results of a survey conducted by the American Automobile Association, which found that just 34 percent of male drivers admit to stopping to ask for directions. However, the same survey found that only 37 percent of women did the same.

Thought for the Day: "It is no measure of health to be well adjusted to a profoundly sick society." - Jiddu Krishnamurti

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How to reduce vehicle maintenance costs



A vehicle owner's manual is a great resource .

Major repairs to a vehicle can be expensive. When unanticipated repairs are necessary, drivers' budgets can be thrown out of whack, potentially causing a domino effect that compromises their ability to pay their bills on time.

Whether your vehicle is brand new, a few years old or reaching milestones on its odometer with every mile driven, there are ways to care for the vehicle so you aren't caught off guard by costly repairs down the road.

• Read your owner's manual. A vehicle owner's manual is a great resource that can help drivers keep their cars and trucks running strong for years. Every vehicle, whether it's purchased brand new from a dealership or preowned from a preowned dealer or private citizen, should come with an owner's manual. Don't worry if you purchased a preowned vehicle from a private citizen who lost the manual, as many manufacturers have manuals available for free on their websites. Print manuals may cost some money. Drivers may be able to find their manuals elsewhere online. Once you have the manual in hand or on your computer, visit the maintenance section to familiarize yourself with the manufacturer's recommended maintenance guidelines.

Adhering to those guidelines is a great way to keep your car running strong for years on end, and it might just save you from the hassle of sudden expensive repairs.

• Protect the engine. The engine is arguably the most expensive part of your vehicle to replace, so protecting it should be a priority. Routine oil changes and oil filter replacements is a great way to protect the engine. Manufacturer guidelines vary in regard to oil change and oil filter replacement intervals, but such recommendations can be found in your manual.

• Hone your DIY skills. Drivers also can save

pairs. YouTube is home to many DIY tutorials that can teach drivers how to change their own oil and replace the filters on their vehicles. Routine repairs are relatively easy, and many tutorials can walk you through them step-by-step. Depending on how much you drive, learning to do your own minor vehicle repairs may save you hundreds of dollars per year.

own minor vehicle re-

• Perform routine inspections. Older vehicles may or may not alert drivers via noises or leaks that they're in need of repair. Routine inspections of hoses. brakes and tires, which should always be properly inflated, can let drivers know if their vehicles are experiencing problems before those problems grow and become something costly.

Vehicle maintenance costs tend to be most expensive when drivers ignore routine maintenance or miss signs that their cars and trucks might be struggling. By adhering to manufacturer maintenance guidelines and paying attention to their vehicles, drivers can reduce the cost of keeping their cars on the road.

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