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June 29,
2019

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Fort Plain 4th on the 3rd

Wednesday, July 3rd, 2019

Fireworks

at 9:45 PM

At Wiles Park In Fort Plain
Wednesday, July 3rd

- Come Early & Bring Your Lawn Chair and Flashlight -

Schedule Of Events at Wiles Park

8 am-2 pm	Fishing Derby Sign up and Sponsored by Sportsman's Den Children and Adult Classes Pre-register or sign up that morning. Winners announced 7pm	6 pm	Sign-in Horseshoe Tournament by Canajoharie-Fort Plain BPOE #2621
12 pm-2 pm	Chris United Band Entertainment tent. FREE EVENT	6 pm-6:30 pm	VETERANS HELPING VETERANS (AMVETS/ VFW Honor Guard) Piper Chris McGurk Patriotic tunes Congressman Antonio Delgado Independence Day Remarks Rifle Volley Salute, Entertainment tent. FREE EVENT
1 pm-9 pm	L&M Inflatables Bounce house, obstacle course + duo-slide	7 pm-8:30 pm	Airborne Adventures- Hot air tethered balloon rides
1 pm-9 pm	Craft Fair booths, Non-Profit Organizations booths Vendor food booths & sales booths inc. Smokehouse Specialties BBQ	7 pm-9:30 pm	Donny Elvis, entertainment tent. FREE EVENT
2:30 pm-5 pm	FLAME the band Entertainment tent. FREE EVENT	9:45 pm	Enormous Fireworks Display, underwritten by Big Bang Club and the Yerdon Foundation. FREE EVENT
4:30 pm-6:30 pm	Piper Chris McGurk. FREE EVENT	10 pm	Bonfire. FREE EVENT
5 pm-7 pm	In the Bingo Tent, Quick Portraits by Mr. D. FREE EVENT		
6 pm-8 pm	Just for FUN Bingo with Prizes. FREE EVENT		
5 pm-9 pm	Balloon Artist. FREE EVENT		
5 pm-7 pm	Bug Country Remote Broadcast Sponsored by Hill Top Tire. FREE EVENT		
5 pm-7 pm	Games-on-Go video games truck		
5 pm-9 pm	Scotty Nut Nut- Circus entertainment + balloon artist. FREE EVENT		

- Corporate Sponsors -



NO DOGS ALLOWED IN THE PARK - VILLAGE ORDINANCE #58-14 • NO SMOKING IN THE PARK - VILLAGE ORDINANCE #168-1

Organized by the Fort Plain Community Activity Council, or visit Facebook:
Fort Plain Community Activity Council for complete list of events



**Please No Pets
at this Event**

LET'S TRY THIS ONE MORE TIME!

(or, Is anyone listening?)

The Issue:

Montgomery County is "licking its chops" and relishing the concept of dumping the derelict and former Pizza Hut building in Palatine Bridge on the Town of Palatine, under the ill-advised auspices of Supervisor William MacLaughlin.

The Principals:

The County Treasurer Shawn Bowerman, who apparently has "free rein" to do whatever he wants to supposedly get tax delinquent properties back on the tax rolls. William MacLaughlin, on the other hand, is a fledgling town supervisor who obviously thinks he was elected to run the Town of Palatine like his own little fiefdom, the public "be damned."

Our Goal: Previous espousulations have concentrated on the financial and physical downsides of this proposal. This time we are talking about the political and regulatory side of the issue. The following are excerpts from the County's rules for the sale of tax delinquent properties as stated in their sale catalog.

Rule 9(1) 3. No collusion with any other bidder or any public official has taken place.

Conclusion: The "Hut" was pulled from a tax sale last August after an incomplete bidding cycle.

Some time after, Mr. Bowerman and Mr. MacLaughlin put their heads together in some kind of private deal to sell that "Hut" to Palatine. If this is not COLLUSION with not one but two public officials, I need to get a new dictionary.

(Is anyone listening?)

Rule 9(p) (Paraphrased) A TOWN SUPERVISOR cannot bid, as per case law, on properties within his jurisdiction.

Conclusion:

Can this be any clearer?

(Is anyone listening?)

Rule 9(u) All bids are subject to legislative approval and the County reserves the right to reject any bid for any reason.

Conclusion: It would appear that rules 9-1 and 9-p are more than enough to have the legislature reject this proposal. No politics, just rule following!

(Is anyone listening?)

Make no mistake. This proposal is the brain-child of Supervisor William MacLaughlin. It was his manifesto on March 23, 2019 that introduced it to the "common folk." There is no groundswell of support for this expensive, bureaucracy expanding proposal. On record, the only people supporting it are Supervisor MacLaughlin's councildrones, Betty Sanders and Shawn Cotton. These two knaves apparently are incapable of an original thought between them, and are willing to follow "Boss MacLaughlin" down this rathole. Attempts to make this a public issue include numerous letters to the editor, advertisements, individual letters to each member of the legislature and correspondence to the County Attorney Meghan Manion. At this point there is little evidence that the elected people in charge want to do their job.

(Is anyone listening?)

Meanwhile MacLaughlin, Sanders, and Cotton voted to buy the "Hut."

(Is anyone listening?)

If you have had your fill of these kinds of shenanigans, there is long term relief. When election day, November 2019 rolls around, please vote for these candidates for the Palatine Town Council: Chris Novak for Supervisor, Paul Spencer for Councilperson, and Hank Vandenberg for Councilperson. This local government is the only one you truly have a voice. Please make your vote count!

(Thanks for listening!)

Earl Spencer

VETERANS HELPING VETERANS Independence Day Dedication

**July 3 at 6 p.m., Wiles Park, Village of Fort Plain
in the Entertainment Tent at 4th on the 3rd event**

- Chris McGurk: selection to start the ceremony with Armed Forces tunes
- VFW Memorial Squad marches in and gets in formation
- Joe Ballas: introduction of himself and the event
- Joe Ballas: Pledge of Allegiance
- POW/MIA Tribute
- Roy Dimond, 3rd District County Legislator: Introduces Congressman Antonio Delgado for appropriate Independence Day remarks (7-10 minutes)

- Airman Michael Gushue: Honor and Remembrance Flag Presentation to family
 - Veterans: 22 per Day Suicide Awareness presentation
 - VFW Memorial Squad: 21-gun salute and TAPS
 - Veterans tribute balloon release
 - Chris McGurk: closing selection Grand Old Flag
- For more information, contact Ronald O. Dievendorf, 4th on the 3rd Chairman, at 518.265.3931 or mainstreetrod@outlook.com .

Enjoy a safe and happy Independence Day

Independence Day is a celebration of the United States of America. The holiday is marked by fanfare and large parties, complete with barbecues, fireworks and parades.

As fun as July 4th festivities typically are, injuries, particularly those involving fireworks, are a concern that celebrants should not take lightly. An estimated 11,000 people visited the emergency room for fireworks-related injuries in 2016, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. However, fireworks aren't the only danger this time of year. In order to remain safe, individuals can heed these tips.

- **Do not drink and drive.** Alcohol consumption may accompany Independence Day festivities. For those planning on using a car to get to and from parties, it is essential to designate a driver who will not imbibe. Otherwise, utilize any number of ridesharing services or available taxis.

- **Swim smartly.** Always swim with a buddy, and consider hiring a lifeguard if you'll be hosting a pool party and cannot keep a watchful eye on guests in the pool. Adults also should not swim intoxicated, as it can impede the ability to stay afloat and may lead to risky behaviors.

- **Leave fireworks to the professionals.** Watch a public fireworks display instead of lighting fireworks

on the street or in the backyard.

- **Exercise caution with sparklers.** Kids running around with sparklers in hand could be a recipe for disaster, as sparklers burn extremely hot. Make sure children do not wave them around or others can get burned. Keep a bucket of water handy to properly extinguish the sparklers.

- **Review safe boating practices.** If July 4th festivities find you out on the water, be sure that life jackets are worn and set boating and water safety rules for the family.

- **Check in with a vet.** The Fourth of July can be traumatic for pets not accustomed to fireworks and other loud noises or crowds. Behavior therapy, medication and ensuring that pets do not run away from home and get lost may be necessary.

- **Watch food temperatures.** Do not leave food out in the hot sun for too long; otherwise, harmful bacteria can grow and potentially cause foodborne illnesses. The USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service says to never leave food out of refrigeration for more than two hours. If the temperature is above 90° F, food should not be left out for more than one hour.

These are some of the safety strategies that can keep Independence Day celebrations both safe and enjoyable.



Keep Independence Day celebrations both safe and enjoyable.



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St. Johnsville Summer Concert Series starts July 8

The Village of St. Johnsville Summer Concert Series at the Marina will start on Monday, July 8. Each concert will be from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. and is free to the public, with local groups selling refreshments at the concession stand. Hope to see you there. In case of rain we will have a tent set up.

The band schedule is as follows:

July 8 - Linda Lee & the Fox Creek Band

July 15 - Jennie & the Buck Shot 5

July 22 - The Swamp Drivers

July 29 - The Elvis Show by Don Brown

Aug. 5 - The Spike Brown Band

Aug. 12 - Stone Soup

Saratoga Arts made this program possible with a Community Arts Grant funded by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature. It is also sponsored by the Village and Town of St. Johnsville.

Mohawk Valley Country Editor

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Did you know?

Frozen desserts can be a great and delicious way to stay cool on a sultry day. When at the dessert counter, people may be met with different options of frosty treats. Two of the more common offerings at ice cream shops are custard and traditional ice cream. Generally speaking, ice cream is a product that contains more than 10% milk fat. Custard is ice cream with the addition of pasteurized egg yolks, which tends to make its texture creamy. The amount of air pumped into the mixture also can affect taste and texture. The less air, the more dense and creamy the product can be, as is often the case with frozen custards.



Air Force Chaplin to speak at Bible Conference

Speaking at Christian Lake Bible Conference the week of July 1 - 5 will be Timothy Tangen, retired U.S. Air Force Chaplain, Greensboro, NC. Brother Tangen will be speaking Monday - Friday evenings at 7:30 p.m. and may be conducting a Bible study at 9 a.m. Tuesday - Friday. Check in at the office. Drive-ins

are welcome.

The Bible Conference also features a campground, beach, boats, fishing and shelters available for public use, with reservations. A large activity building with kitchen facilities is available for church groups to use during the season. A bonfire is planned after the Friday evening service, adjacent to the Prodigal's Refuge facility.

For more information on activities and camping rules and regulations at Christian Lake Bible Conference, call 315.429.3515 or 315.429.3659. Write to Christian Lake, 355 Perkins Mill Rd., Stratford, NY 13470. Christian Lake Bible Conference is also on Facebook.

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Why is Independence Day celebrated on July 4th?

The Continental Congress declared its independence from Great Britain on July 2, 1776. If that date raises an eyebrow, it should. Independence Day in the United States has long been celebrated on July 4th, which would seem to be two days late. But upon closer examination, it seems Americans are not really celebrating their independence two days later than they should be.

According to the National Constitution Center, the Continental Congress approved a resolution declaring its independence from Great Britain on July 2. However, a document still needed to be drafted to explain the decision to the general public. Such a document was already in the works, but it took two days for the men of Congress to agree on a final version. The resulting document, known as the Declaration of Independence, was sent to John Dunlap, an Irish printer who served under George Washington during the American Revolutionary War, who subsequently printed roughly 200 broadsides.

Still, the Declaration of Independence was not read to the public until July 8, 1776, when Col. John Nixon did so in Philadelphia on what is now known as Independence Square. It was nearly a month later, on Aug. 2, 1776, when most members of the Continental Congress actually signed the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia.



Ghostly opportunity coming soon Hyde Hall offers a new summer edition of its ghost tours

COOPERSTOWN – Are you looking for something a little supernatural this summer? Hyde Hall will offer a new take on its fall classic. Though the evenings grow a little longer and warmer, the museum will provide a chilling experience.

Visitors will hear tales of the frightful and mysterious happenings on a guided tour through the shadowy passages and corridors of the historic mansion. Hyde Hall is no stranger to ghostly manifestations, spectral footsteps and distant voices which started occurring more than 150 years ago. Hyde Hall's skilled tour staff will take visitors to the places where the curious events took place. Learn about what terrorized James Fenimore Cooper Jr. in the middle of the night, and see if you can spot what stalks the notorious back hall – are you brave enough to enter the house after dark?

Tours run on Wednesday nights starting in July through mid-August and are available on July 10, 17, 24 and 31 and Aug. 7 and 14. To purchase tickets, or for other details, you can visit Hydehall.org. Don't wait too long – spots on these tours are fleeting.

You can find tickets for the event through Hyde Hall's museum shop or at squareup.com/store/Hyde_Hall.

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- 1 teaspoon dried parsley flakes
- 1. Cut eggs in half lengthwise and remove yolks. Place yolks in a medium bowl and mash well using a

fork. Add mayonnaise, Worcestershire sauce, celery seed, onion flakes and parsley flakes. Mix well to combine.

2. Refill egg white halves by spooning a full tablespoon of yolk mixture into each. Cover and refrigerate for at least 30 minutes.

* Each serving equals: 73 calories, 5g fat, 5g protein, 2g carb., 142mg sodium, 0g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 1 Meat

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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

June 29

Canajoharie Forest Fish and Game Assn., Inc. Family Fun Day. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Rain date July 13. Kid's Fishing Derby. Ages 15 and under. Bring a pole, worms and parent. For more information, call 518.673.2389 or 518.673.3800.

July 1

Fort Plain Free Library launches its 2019 Summer Library Program, "A Universe of Stories." At 19 Willett St., Fort Plain. Kick-off party. Noon-2 p.m. For more information call 518.993.4646.

July 1-5

Air Force Chaplin to speak at Bible Conference. Speaker is Timothy Tangen, Retired U.S. Air Force Chaplin, Greensboro, NC. He will be speaking each day at 7:30 p.m. and may be conducting a Bible study at 9 a.m. Tuesday through Friday also. For more information call 315.429-3515 or 315.429-3659.

July 2

Christian Lake Bible Conference opens for the season. At 355 Perkins Mill Rd., Stratford. The season runs until Aug. 17. Phone 315.429.3515 or 315.429.3659. Visit www.christianlakebibleconference.com.

July 3

4th on the 3rd Celebration. Wiles Park, Fort Plain. Start the day at 8 a.m., with the Fishing Derby, a free event, sponsored by Sportsman's Den. The Derby runs until 2 p.m. Festivities at the park begin at 12 noon. Events run until 9:45 p.m. And finally, at 9:45 p.m., the Enormous FIREWORKS DISPLAY will be held.

July 4

Annual Strawberry Festival. 12-4

p.m. Free admission/parking. For more information visit www.fortklockhistoric.org, call 518.568.7779, email fortklock@gmail.com or find us on Facebook.

July 6

Canal Days. Contact Schoharie Crossing State Historic Site, 129 Schoharie Street, Fort Hunter at 518.829.7516 or www.nysparks.com

Ames Museum Open. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Contact 518.673.5820 or visit www.amesmuseum.weebly.com or write to f@amesmuseum.com.

July 6-7

Tri-County Old Time Power Association 42nd Antique Gas Engine and Tractor Show. In conjunction with Canal Days. 129 Schoharie St., Fort Hunter, NY. Call 518.843.2709.

July 8

Village of St. Johnsville Summer Concert Series. 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. At the St. Johnsville Marina. Free. Refreshments available. Linda Lee & the Fox Creek Band

July 8-12

Ephraim Stolfus speaking at Christian Lake Bible Conference, Stratford. Ephraim Stolfus, former Amish, from New Holland, PA will be preaching each evening at 7:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information call 315.429.3515 or 315.429.3659.

July 9

Montgomery County Rabies Clinic. St. Johnsville Town Barn, 7431 Route 5, St. Johnsville. 6:30 pm - 7:30 p.m. For more information on rabies call 518.853.3531 or your veterinarian.

July 10

Wildlife Wednesday. Wildlife Wednesday. July 10, Aug. 7, Sept. 11. Contact Schoharie Crossing State Historic Site, 129 Schoharie Street, Fort Hunter at 518.829.7516 or www.nysparks.com

July 10, 17, 24, 31, and August 7, 14

Hyde Hall Ghost Tours. Wednesday nights. To purchase tickets, visit Hydehall.org.

July 15

Village of St. Johnsville Summer Concert Series. 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. At the St. Johnsville Marina. Free. Refreshments available. Jennie & the Buck Shot 5

July 16

FMRRC Mule Haul. Contact Schoharie Crossing State Historic Site, 129 Schoharie Street, Fort Hunter at 518.829.7516 or www.nysparks.com

July 19

5:30-9 p.m. **Colonial Tavern Night at Old Fort Johnson.** Join us on the lawn of Old Fort Johnson for a Colonial Tavern Night featuring local craft beers and hard cider, a full barbecue pork dinner, and a variety of colonial tavern games. Tickets required. \$25 per person. Advance purchase recommended. Proceeds benefit the restoration of Old Fort Johnson National Historic Landmark. www.OldFortJohnson.org

July 22

Village of St. Johnsville Summer Concert Series. 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. At the St. Johnsville Marina. Free. Refreshments available. The Swamp Drivers

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The 4th on the 3rd Celebration set for July 3 at Wiles Park

FORT PLAIN – The 32nd annual 4th on the 3rd Independence Day Celebration, sponsored by the Fort Plain Community Activities Council, complete with an enormous fireworks display, will take place on Wednesday, July 3 at Wiles Park in the Village of Fort Plain. Start the day at 8 a.m. with the Fishing Derby, a free event, sponsored by Sportsman's Den. There are adult and children's classes and you may pre-register at the Sportsman's Den or sign up that morning. The Derby runs until 2 p.m. and winners will be announced at 7 p.m. at Wiles Park.

Note that all events except for the bounce house, inflatable slide, obstacle course, tethered hot air balloon rides and the Games-On-The-Go video game trailer are free.

Festivities at the park begin at noon with a performance by the Chris United Band. The ever-popular bounce house, inflatable slide and obstacle course open at 1 p.m. Also

at 1 p.m., craft booths and non-profit booths will open and the concession stand will be offering hot dogs, hamburgers, fried dough, smoke-house specialties, soda and water. These events run until 9:45 p.m.

"FLAME" the Band will perform from 2:30 - 5 p.m.

New to the entertainment line-up this year is Bagpiper Chris McGurk who will perform from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Bug Country Radio, sponsored by Hilltop Tire, will do a remote broadcast from the park from 5 - 7 p.m. Also, from 5 - 7 p.m., you can enjoy Quick Portraits by Mr. D or test your skills at the Games-On-The-Go video games trailer.

Kids young and old will enjoy the artistry of a balloon artist and the juggling and circus entertainment of Scotty Nut-Nut from 5 - 9 p.m.

If you are feeling lucky, try playing Just for Fun Bingo from 6 - 8 p.m. It's free and prizes will be awarded.

From 6 - 6:30 p.m., the AMVET

Ceremony "Veterans Helping Veterans" will take place in the entertainment tent. Bagpiper Chris McGurk will play patriotic tunes, Congressman Antonio Delgado will offer Independence Day remarks and the VFW Honor Guard will perform a rifle volley salute.

Watch the sunset from 7 - 8:30 p.m. in a tethered hot air balloon ride offered for a charge by Airborne Adventures.

The featured entertainer for the evening, Donny Elvis, performs in the entertainment tent from 7 - 9:30 p.m.

And finally, at 9:45 p.m., the enormous fireworks display, underwritten by the Big Bang Club and the Yerdon Foundation, will take place overhead. A community bonfire will follow at 10 p.m.

Be advised that no dogs are allowed in Wiles Park (Village Ordinance 58-14) and also there is no smoking in the park (Village Ordinance 168-1).

Fort Plain Free Library to launch summer library adventures July 1

FORT PLAIN – Blast off to adventure this July as the Fort Plain Free Library launches its 2019 Summer Library Program, "A Universe of Stories." The free multi-generational activities take off Monday, July 1, with a kick-off party from noon - 2 p.m. Scheduled offerings throughout the month include family-friendly programs for children of all ages, from toddlers to teens, as well as adults.

Each Tuesday starts at 11 a.m. with "Story Time for Children," a series of interactive, story-based programs with activities, simple crafts and healthy snacks geared for toddlers through second graders and their parents or adult caregivers. Simultaneously, "Meditation for Tweens and Teens" for 12- to 18-year-olds will take place. Participants will learn breathing techniques, practice mindfulness and learn about different types of meditation.

Tuesdays from 2 - 3:30 p.m., youths in grades 7 - 12 are invited to get on board for "The Innovation Division: The Official Division of Teen Innovation, Recreation and Imagination." Through this new initiative, participants will engage in art projects, photography, video gaming, homework help, writing and much more.

Wednesdays, from July 10 - 31, the "Summer Writing Club" for 10- to 18-year-olds will spark creativity and foster self-expression through poetry writing, journaling, flash fiction and revision. As noted by instructor Joan Caska, the young wordsmiths will "discover their own ideas and develop their writing voices in a supportive setting." Each workshop takes place

from 2 - 3:30 p.m.

Thursdays from July 11 - Aug. 1, children of all ages will go on "discovery tours" as part of the "Incredible Amazing Magical Mystery Tour." Activities take place from 2 - 3:30 p.m. and include a scavenger hunt, a treasure map, rock art and more.

From 2 - 3:30 p.m. each Friday through the end of July, kids aged 6 - 12 will take part in "Super Hero Training." Each session will include fun mind- and body-building exercises, cooperative games, brain teasers and more, designed to foster positive energy, self-esteem and confidence.

Several special stand-alone events have also been planned. On Wednesday, July 24 from 10:30 a.m. - noon, the library will host "Science @ the Library" at the Harry Hoag School. Sponsored by the Mohawk Valley Library System and led by retired GE scientists and engineers, the program will include hands-on activities such as the Airzooka, color spinners, a magnet station and more.

On Saturday, July 27 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., the library will host a family fun day in Haslett Park with sidewalk chalk art and a huge obstacle course. A number of other local organizations and businesses are also taking part in this first-ever community event.

Finally, special programs have been planned for adults. On Monday, July 15 starting at 6:30 p.m., Fort Plain Museum president and author Norman Bollen will talk about his exhaustively researched and well documented book, "George Washington and the Mohawk Frontier." On Sunday, July

21 from 3 - 5 p.m., Siena College professor James Belflower will lead a creative writing workshop titled "You are a Character Too." On Wednesday, July 24 starting at 6:30 p.m., author Nancy Palker will discuss her memoir, "Magic and Tragic Rosebud" – described as "a riveting account of working as a nurse at the U.S. Public Health Service Indian Hospital in Rosebud, SD."

The closing program for kids will take place from 6 - 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 2. The special summer programs for adults end on Sunday, Aug. 18, as Belflower presents "The Short Story Writing Workshop" from 3 - 5 p.m.

For more information about any of these free programs or 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.



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Mon. July 15th – Normal Monday Sale & Monthly Sheep, Lamb, Goat & Pig Sale

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- 1 cup water
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 lemon (up to 2)
- 1 pound strawberries
- 1 1/2 cups raspberries
- 1. Make sugar syrup: In

2-quart saucepan, heat water and sugar to boiling on high, stirring until sugar dissolves. Reduce heat to low and simmer, uncovered, 5 minutes. Set aside to cool slightly, about 5 minutes.

2. Meanwhile, from lemon(s), grate 2 teaspoons peel and squeeze 1/4 cup juice. In food processor with knife blade attached, blend strawberries and raspberries until pureed. With back of spoon, press puree

through sieve into medium bowl; discard seeds.

3. Stir sugar syrup and lemon juice and peel into berry puree. Pour into 9-by-9-inch metal baking pan.

4. Cover and freeze mixture 2 hours or until frozen around edges. With fork, scrape ice at edges into center. Cover and freeze until completely frozen, at least 3 hours or overnight.

5. To serve, let granita stand at room tempera-

ture 15 minutes or until slightly softened. With fork, scrape across surface of granita to form ice shards and spoon into chilled wine goblets or dessert bowls. Serve immediately. Makes about 5 cups.

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Libby is a sweet, spayed 5 to 7 year old girl who loves people and has lived with both cats and dogs. Libby loves to be pet!



Raven is a 5 year old spayed female DLH kittle. She loves people and is good with other cats. Raven can be a little shy at first, but she loves to be pet and is playful.



Smokey is a 4 year old neutered male, 64 pound cattle dog. Smokey is good with some dogs, but he needs to be cat tested and in a home with older kids if any. He loves to play!



Lucy and Billi Jo are 4 year old Shepherd and Shar Pei mixes. These two sisters love each other and have always been together - so we are really going to try to adopt them out together. These two love people. They will need to be helped with housebreaking, because they have always been outside dogs.



Papo is a 9 year old neutered male pittie boy. He needs a quiet adult home. He loves adventures and is good with some dogs. Needs a kitty free home.



Nikki is a 5 year old spayed female pittie girl who weighs about 70 pounds. Nikki loves people and is good with some dogs. She rides amazing in the car and is housebroken. Nikki is calm as can be and LOVES to cuddle/relax.

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Fort Plain Scout Troop 5061 hosts Annual Pancake Breakfast

by Rachael Takacs

On a beautiful Saturday morning, Fort Plain Scout Troop 5061 hosted their annual pancake breakfast at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Fort Plain. The delicious smells of hot pancakes, scrambled eggs and maple syrup wafted their way throughout the parking lot as the young scouts and their many adult assistants worked tirelessly to provide an excellent meal for their hungry guests. The troop offered convenience to their customers by offering dine in, takeout and delivery options.

Spearheading the event was Scoutmaster Mike Cruger. He was overseeing the boys and girls as they whisked eggs, washed dishes and cooked up pancakes. He explained that he had been Scout Troop 5061's Scoutmaster for eight years. He was pleased to have the privilege to work with them and stated that Scout Troop 5061 planned to continue hosting their pancake breakfast each

month. Cruger also explained, "The girls have their own separate troop. We are in the process of making sure their efforts in fundraising go to them."

Scout Troop 5061 participates in their community in many ways. These include, but are not limited to, community cleanup days, participating in the New York Run for the Fallen, adorning veterans' graves with American flags, bake sales, McDonald's fundraisers and pancake breakfasts such as this one. On July 3, the troop will have a booth set up at the 32nd Annual Fort Plain Fourth on the Third.

These young men and women are dedicated to making the world a better place. With your support, they can make this dream a reality. For more information on how you can help, event information and other Scout Troop 5061 information, visit their Facebook page at facebook.com/FortPlain-BoyScoutTroop61.



(Front, L - R) Scout Troop 5061 members Amelia, Monica and Arionna. (Back) Evelyn, Braedan, Darby, Scoutmaster Mike Cruger and Sam. Photos by Rachael Takacs

Arionna whisks eggs for the hungry guests.



Sam Cruger prepares pancakes.

Nellis Tavern hosts 23rd Annual Rhubarb Festival

by Rachael Takacs

On a humid and rainy day in June, the 1747 Nellis Tavern hosted its 23rd annual Rhubarb Festival. Despite the uncertain weather, the tavern was overflowing with visitors of all kinds, eager to sample some delicious rhubarb products and tour the beautifully restored historic home. In addition to these activities, the Rhubarb Festival included a pie contest, lunch and live music provided by the Battenkill String Band.

Built by Christian Nellis in 1747, the Nellis Tavern is rich with history, beginning with the Palatine Germans who in the early 1700s fled the the parish of Obermoschel for England, where Queen Anne granted them land in America on the condition that they pro-

duced supplies for England. Among these refugees were the Nellises, consisting of Christian, Catherine and William. Upon moving to America, the Nellises resided in the Schoharie Valley before ultimately settling in present day St. Johnsville in 1722. The Nellis Tavern was occupied for the next 200 years, until it became uninhabitable. Currently, the tavern is in the process of restoration, thanks to the unwavering dedication of its owners, the Palatine Settlement Society, who purchased it in the 1980s. The proceeds from the Rhubarb Festival go toward the continuing repairs and renovations.

Greeting guests that day was Palatine Settlement Member Elaine Rider. She offered guests the opportunity to participate in a 50/50 raffle (won by Lisa

Brouillette of Mohawk). Rider also directed participants of the pie contest to the judging room, where each pie was tasted by the judges. All pies that included rhubarb were welcomed – 19 in total. First place was awarded to Amy Jo Simpson of Esperance.

Sally Kuehl of the Palatine Settlement Society was hard at work preparing pies to sell to hungry customers. She was ecstatic about the event. "It's been nicely busy," Kuehl exclaimed. "We've been able to keep up with the crowd!"

Also in attendance was local editor, photographer and treasurer of the Palatine Settlement Society, Sandy Lane. She proudly stated it was the most successful

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NELLIS from 11

Rhubarb Festival to date, and that they had sold out of pies. "It's wonderful! In spite of the sprinkles outside, people don't care. They want their rhubarb pie," she said.

A lot of the guests agreed with Lane. Many in attendance eagerly purchased rhubarb treats, and were also able to purchase sweatshirts, hats and other 1747 Nellis Tavern memorabilia. Some also stayed for lunch, which was prepared by members and volunteers alike. One such visiting couple was Carol and Richard Bushart. Hailing from Nevada, the Busharts were visiting all the colonial forts in the Mohawk Valley, and

had heard about this event at the Fort Plain Museum. When asked what they thought of the event, Carol stated, "This is our first time, and we love it!" She also assured they would definitely be returning next year, and noted how difficult it is to successfully grow rhubarb where they traveled from.

From June to September 2019, the 1747 Nellis Tavern will be open every Sunday afternoon from 1 - 4 p.m. Their next fundraiser will be Evening at the Tavern, which will take place at the 1747 Nellis Tavern on Aug. 17 from 4 - 7 p.m. Beer and soup will be served. For more information on the Palatine Settlement Society and upcoming events, visit their website at palatinesettlementsociety.org.



Treasurer Sandy Nellis Lane pours punch as member John Boyden looks on.

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(L - R) Members Judi Mihal, Sylvia Boyden and Margaret Thomas showcase the many delicious rhubarb treats they were selling that day.

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(L - R) Member Dave Nellis, President Mary Davis, Member Sally Kuehl and volunteer Judy Price take a break from selling mouthwatering pies.

Photos by Rachael Takacs

Key to keeping cool is AC maintenance

Few things beat summer heat better than walking into a comfortably chilled air conditioned home. Air conditioning is often taken for granted, but sorely missed when it is not working. The key to keeping cool all summer long is to ensure that air conditioning systems are functioning properly.

Maintaining an AC unit can save money and protect homeowners' investments. Without regular attention, an AC unit will lose its efficiency, needlessly wasting both energy and money as a result. Poor maintenance also can lead to system failure just when it is needed most. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, the average lifespan of an air conditioning unit is about 15 to 20 years. Home Advisor says homeowners can pay between \$500 and \$4,000 for central air conditioning, with the final cost depending on the unit, additional installation items, such as ductwork, and installation charges. With regular maintenance, homeowners can keep their units humming properly and avoid premature replacement costs.

So what can homeowners expect as it pertains to air conditioner maintenance? The following are some oft-needed checks and fixes.

- Keep it clean. Vacuum the fins and coils of the AC unit on the external compressor/condenser fan with a soft-bristled brush, advise the experts at Family Handyman. This may require unscrewing the metal box surrounding the unit to access the fins. Remove any accumulated debris that may be impeding air



Periodic maintenance of an AC unit will keep it in good repair and working efficiently.

flow. Afterward, go inside and change the filter that is installed with the evaporator that's located in a central duct near the furnace. Inspect the filter periodically to see if it is soiled and needs replacement. Timing can vary depending various factors, such as the time of year, the accumulation of dust and whether or not pets live in the home.

- Straighten coil fins. The fins on the condenser are easily bent and that can affect the flow of air through the coils. If you cannot easily straighten them, then consult with an HVAC professional to do so.

- Check the thermostat. Ensure that the thermostat is still working properly. You also may want to upgrade an old thermostat to a programmable or smart thermostat that enables you to remotely set and ad-

just the temperature.

- Consider an in-line duct booster. HVAC professionals can guide you through the advantages of an in-line duct booster for forced-air cooling. This can increase the flow of cool air into a room that always seems hotter than the rest. Another option is a vent or register booster fan that sits on top or replaces a traditional floor or wall register.

- Deal with condensation. Condensation from air conditioning coils can puddle around the furnace if the condensate drain tube is clogged. Clearing it out will help prevent puddling and the formation of bacteria-laden water in the system.

Periodic maintenance is necessary to ensure uninterrupted service on a home AC unit.

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Whatchamacallits



These three items actually comprise one tool that has evolved only slightly in recent history. Our Whatchamacallit this week is an antique circular or compass-style glass cutter.

The only recent improvement made to this tool has been the addition of a suction cup on the pivot point. Our example has a wide rubber gasket attached to the bottom of the pivot point. However, notice its center is open, leaving a gap, which would create some suction capabilities.

Pressure is placed on the pivot point with one hand

and the other hand turns the arm while applying even pressure to the cutting point to score the glass.

The bar is marked like a ruler, so the user could determine the diameter of the circle to be cut, but they had to remember if they wanted a six-inch disc, they'd have to set the cutting blade at three inches, and so on.

Our example has nicely turned wooden handles for easy gripping during the circular motion. The cutting end was easily removed and is notched to help with snapping the glass disc free from the rest of the pane.

Do you have your own Whatchamacallit?
Send a photo and short description to csuo@leepub.com or call Colleen at 518-673-0145

Pool safety starts with prevention

Pools make some backyards the places to be in late spring and throughout summer. Lazy summer afternoons are a lot more enjoyable when they're spent in or alongside a pool, and kids tend to say "I'm bored" with considerably less frequency when a pool is within arm's reach.

Pools are certainly fun, but they're only as fun as they are safe. According to the USA Swimming

Foundation, between Memorial Day and Labor Day in 2018, at least 148 children younger than age 15 fatally drowned in swimming pools or spas. While those figures represented a 9 percent decline from the year prior, 148 deaths is still 148 lives lost too early.

Pool safety need not come at the expense of summer fun. In fact, homeowners can employ various preventive mea-

sures to reduce the risk of pool-related accidents on their properties.

- Inspect gates around your pool. The International Code Council®, a member-focused association dedicated to the construction of safe, sustainable, affordable, and resilient structures, advises homeowners to inspect all pedestrian gates in the barrier fences around their pools. Such gates should be self-closing

and self-latching, as both features ensure gates are always closed. In addition, the ICC recommends padlocking other gates around the property.

- Remove objects around pedestrian gates. Kids can climb up on chairs, tables, large toys, and other objects left around pool gates to gain access to pools even when their parents aren't looking or even home.

Such items should be removed.

- Install a pool alarm. Pool alarms can alert homeowners to accidental or unauthorized entrance into the water. The ICC recommends installing such alarms while noting that they should not be considered a substitute for barrier fences or safety covers.

- Install automatic or

manually operated pool covers. Pool covers can effectively prevent access to pools, spas or hot tubs. At the end of each pool session, cover the pool, even during the height of summer when pools are used daily. The minor task of covering the pool is worth the considerably lower risk of accident or injury if pools remain uncovered.



Summer afternoons at the pool can be made much safer by adhering to a few safety tips.

Ephraim Stolfus speaking at Christian Lake Bible Conference

Christian Lake Bible Conference is in its 48th year preaching the Word of God from the King James Version.

Speaking at the Bible conference in Stratford during the week of July 8 - 12 will be Ephraim Stolfus. Stolfus, former Amish, from New Holland, PA, will be preaching from the Scriptures each evening at 7:30 p.m. Monday - Friday. Drive-ins are welcome.

The Bible conference also features a camp-

ground, beach, boats, fishing and shelters available for public use, with reservations. A large activity building with kitchen facilities is available for church groups to use during the season. A bonfire is planned after the Friday evening service each week, held adjacent to the Prodigal's Refuge facility.

For more information on activities, camping rules and regulations at Christian Lake, call 315.429.3515 or 315.429.3659.

Creative writers group meets each Thursday

FORT PLAIN - Do you like playing with words? Each Thursday from 3 - 5 p.m., the Fort Plain Free Library hosts The Writers at Fort Plain, a creative writing group. Wordsmiths from varied writing backgrounds, genres, interests, goals and experience levels share their work in a fun and non-threatening setting. In addition to memoirs, participants work on novels, short stories, poems and more.

The forum is facilitated by published writer Joan Caska and features constructive feedback in a friendly and supportive setting. It is free and open to the public. The group will not meet on July 4.

Call 518.993.4646 or visit the library at 19 Willett St. for more information.



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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Church section
5 Gangster's girlfriend
9 GPS forerunner?
12 Contemptible
13 Met melody
14 Expert
15 Grand
17 Scooted
18 Baltimore athlete
19 Luxurious fabric
21 Rocky Balboa's greeting
22 Native New Zealander
24 Lowers the lights
27 Proscription
28 Make a sweater
31 Historic time
32 Table scrap
33 Id counterpart
34 Zinger
36 Anat. or biol.
37 Fermi's bit
38 Nothing
40 My group
41 Money under the table
43 Star-related
47 Knock
48 Bread spread
51 Greek H
52 Reed instru-

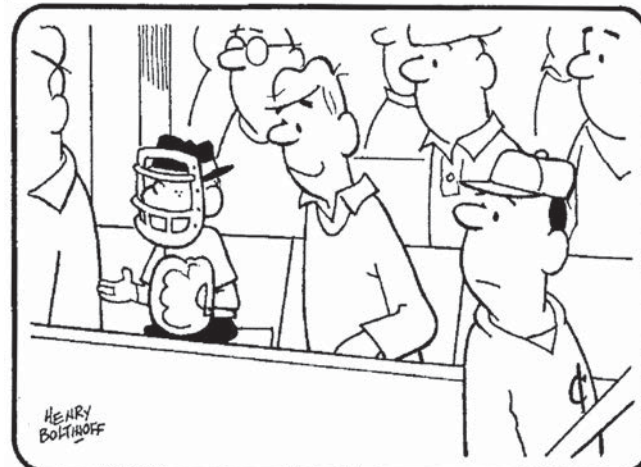
1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12					13					14		
15					16					17		
18								19	20			
			21			22	23					
24	25	26			27			28		29	30	
31					32					33		
34			35		36			37				
		38		39				40				
41	42					43				44	45	46
47					48	49	50					
51					52					53		
54					55					56		

- ment
53 Lotion additive
54 Lair
55 Collars
56 Longings
9 Strict disciplinarian
10 "Super-food" berry
11 Teller's partner
16 "Xanadu" band, for short
20 Clumsy craft
22 Parade
23 Opposed
24 Society newbie
25 401(k) alternative
26 Almond confection
27 Variety of 2-Down
29 "Where did — wrong?"
30 Huck's pal
35 Baby's cover-up
37 Off
39 Lousy car
40 "Born in the —"
41 Raised
42 Assess
43 Census statistics
44 Anger
45 Unsigned (Abbr.)
46 Dregs
49 Lawyers' org.
50 Burgle

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTHOFF

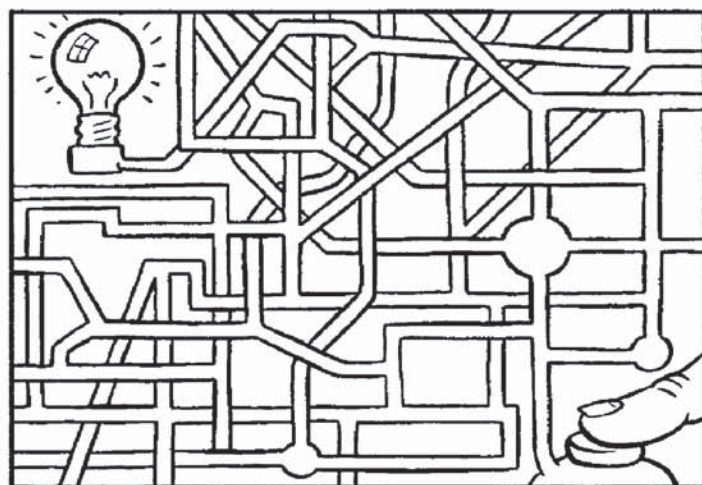


Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Boy's mask is black. 2. Man's collar is different. 3. Player's shirt symbol is different. 4. Player's hat is black. 5. Man on left is gone. 6. Fence is different.

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LET THERE BE LIGHT! See if you can turn on the light by finding the correct electrical route through this circuit board from the switch to the bulb.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

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



A PRESIDENTIAL STUMPER! Four requirements must be met before a person can become president of the United States. He, or she, must be at least 35, born a citizen, and have lived in the U.S.A. for at least 14 years. Can you tell us what the fourth requirement is?



Answer: The candidate must get elected!

'PAR' FOR THIS ONE IS 8! Pictured below are two puzzle grids for you to fill in. Hints are given for each word. The words in Grid B contain the same letters as the corresponding words in Grid A.

- To put away.
- Shakespeare was one.
- An outer-space drink.
- To goad into action.

S			
	A		
		N	
			D

GRID A

T			
	R		
		A	
			P

GRID B

- What a tug boat does.
- Small wire nail.
- A small biter.
- Type of hard candy.

Answers: 1. Stow-tows. 2. Bard-brad. 3. Tang-gnat. 4. Prod-drop.

LET'S HAVE A PICNIC!

Hidden in the diagram above are 16 items we can take on our picnic. 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 items that you're looking for:

Brownies	Eggs	Potato salad
Cake	Ham	Roast beef
Cheese	Ice tea	Sandwiches
Chicken	Pickles	Tomatoes
Cole slaw	Pie	Watermelon
Cookies		

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by Donna Erickson

It's lemonade-stand season

When they answered, “from birthday presents and the bank,” their mom and English teacher Ingrid Adams responded with an emphatic: “No! Money comes from work!”

That was the moment she realized she had work to do in order to change their perspective on money. That

motivation was the spark to fire up the kids this spring to become mini entrepreneurs in a way that made sense to them: the time-honored tradition of setting up a humble lemonade stand.

Ingrid knew the cardinal rule of good business. Location, location, location. The front stoop of their townhouse is on a fairly busy street, where families drive to and from community soccer fields, a popular dog park and a weekend farmer's market. It would likely attract throngs of thirsty families on a hot day.

The first step: Investors in this American kind of entrepreneurship. Ingrid footed the bill and made it clear she was saving the receipts for reimbursement in this

business plan: \$12 for grocery store lemonade and \$11 from the local dollar store for cups, pitchers and poster board for the sign. Their grandmother lent them her TV tray for a table.

Holding a sign, waving it back and forth, Josh attracted attention to the “drive-up” stand. SUVs and minivans stopped as Naomi poured the lemonade and Josh delivered it curbside to adults and thirsty kids in car seats in the back. (Ingrid kept a watchful eye close by). Always with a kind “thanks for your business, and have a great day” comment, the neighborhood customers consistently said “keep the change!” as they pulled away.

“That didn’t encourage math skills, because they didn’t have to calculate change,” said Ingrid, “but it helped the bottom line.”

I'd invest in Josh and Naomi! In fact, who knows, by this summer, they may be imagining a franchise and creating a "Find the Closest Lemonade Stand" app for our phones. Nostalgic traditions with modern technology!

As the mercury rises, watch for lemonade stands popping up where you live. If you approach one of these businesses operated by cheerful kids, do stop. You'll quench your thirst, and be applauding their enthusiasm and good work with your support.

(c) 2019 Donna Erickson

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7. Ford Escort
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9. Ford Model T
10. Volkswagen Passat

Source: Autoblog

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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.

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A ministry of Faith Bible Church
www.fbcministriesny.com

Pastor: Mark Kelly (518) 234-3497 106 Crosby Rd
Principal: David White Sprakers, NY 12166

Preparations are currently under way for Faith Bible Academy to begin its 46th year of operation this September. The private Christian school, located two miles north of the village of Carlisle on Carlisle Road is a ministry of Faith Bible Church. David White, principal notes that applications are currently being received. For information concerning the academy, interested persons should contact the school at (518) 234-3497.

Faith Bible Academy admits students of any race to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students of the academy.

Faith Bible Academy does not discriminate on the basis of race in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, and other school administered programs.

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Morning Service 11AM
Prayer & Bible Study Wed. 6:30PM

Pastor Dan West

Kovels: Antiques and Collecting

by Terry and Kim Kovel
Rookwood fountain

Flowers were an important part of the lives of Americans from the 1880s to 1950s. Technology had advanced to a time when pottery could be made in multiples in molds and large kilns. New types of plants had been introduced to the country, flower arrange-

ments were a sign of wealth and good taste. Formal gardens were important.

Collectors can find many flower vases by Rookwood, Weller, Roseville, Grueby, Fulper and many other important factories. And urns, flower vases, wall pockets, flower frogs and even chairs, benches, garden

ornaments and fountains were popular. Life-sized frogs, rabbits, turtles, squirrels, even deer, dogs, elves and large mushrooms were created to display outdoors. Talented artists made the expensive garden fountains. Many were sculptures of groups of children with birds, fish, plants, shells and large

rocks. The Rookwood Pottery started making architectural pottery fountains in 1902 that were groups about 3- to 5-feet high, with water pouring from rock crevices or mouths of large fish.

Today, a Rookwood fountain can sell for \$3,000 to \$8,000, depending on the artist, subject and condition. It

is not unusual to have many chips, stains even firing cracks in a fountain after years outside, but it still sells for thousands of dollars. It also pays to get expert repairs that will raise the value and add to the life of the fountain. A Rookwood fountain sold by Brunk auctions a few years ago brought \$2,300 even though it was damaged. Wear and tear on a garden piece adds to the romance and aged look. Check the backyards of house sales or even houses for sale for overlooked fountains and birdbaths or ornaments. You might find a forgotten treasure.

Q: I have a print by Henry Aiken and wonder if you could tell me anything about it — the year and someplace besides eBay where I can sell it.

A: Henry Thomas Aiken (1785-1851) was a British artist known for his pictures of sporting scenes. Some of his oil paintings sell at auction for thousands of dollars, but many original works have been reproduced

and are available online for as little as \$10 or less. Your print should be seen by an expert to determine if it is an original and what its value might be. If it's an original, it would sell for a satisfactory price at an auction.

Current prices

- Fan, mother-of-pearl, folding, silver gilt overlay, women, landscape, 10 1/2 x 20 inches, \$75.

- Tea caddy, Georgian, mahogany, inlaid, octagonal, foil lined, bone escutcheon, handles, 5 x 8 3/8 inches, \$175.

- Tile, Carmel Mission, cloud, sky, hills, California Faience, 5 1/2 inches, \$440.

- Lighter, table, enamel, lacquer, ants, butterflies, beetles, black, Dunhill, England, 4 x 3 1/4 inches, \$1,125.

Tip: Think about the problems of owning a cat and a large collection of ceramics.

For more collecting news, tips and resources, visit www.Kovels.com

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This 32-inch-high Rookwood faience fountain featuring a child and a dolphin spouts water from the dolphin's mouth into a pond. The water recirculates thanks to a pump, and when the water evaporates either a hose or rain refills it. It cost \$2,300 at a Brunk auction in North Carolina a few years ago.

The back side of a chicken

Many years ago I sometimes stopped at the old Smith Farm in Hallsville. I enjoyed visiting with Marjorie and her son John. At that time the old brick house was much the same as it would have been 100 or more years before. It was like stepping back to another day and age. RZ Smith, the mill owner and machinery dealer in Hallsville, was from that family. The old house from basement to attic was filled with the possessions of another day. Mrs. Smith was from the Zaller family, another prominent town of Minden family. For years she had sold some antiques to dealers. I had made some great purchases of things I still have. One of them is the subject of this story.

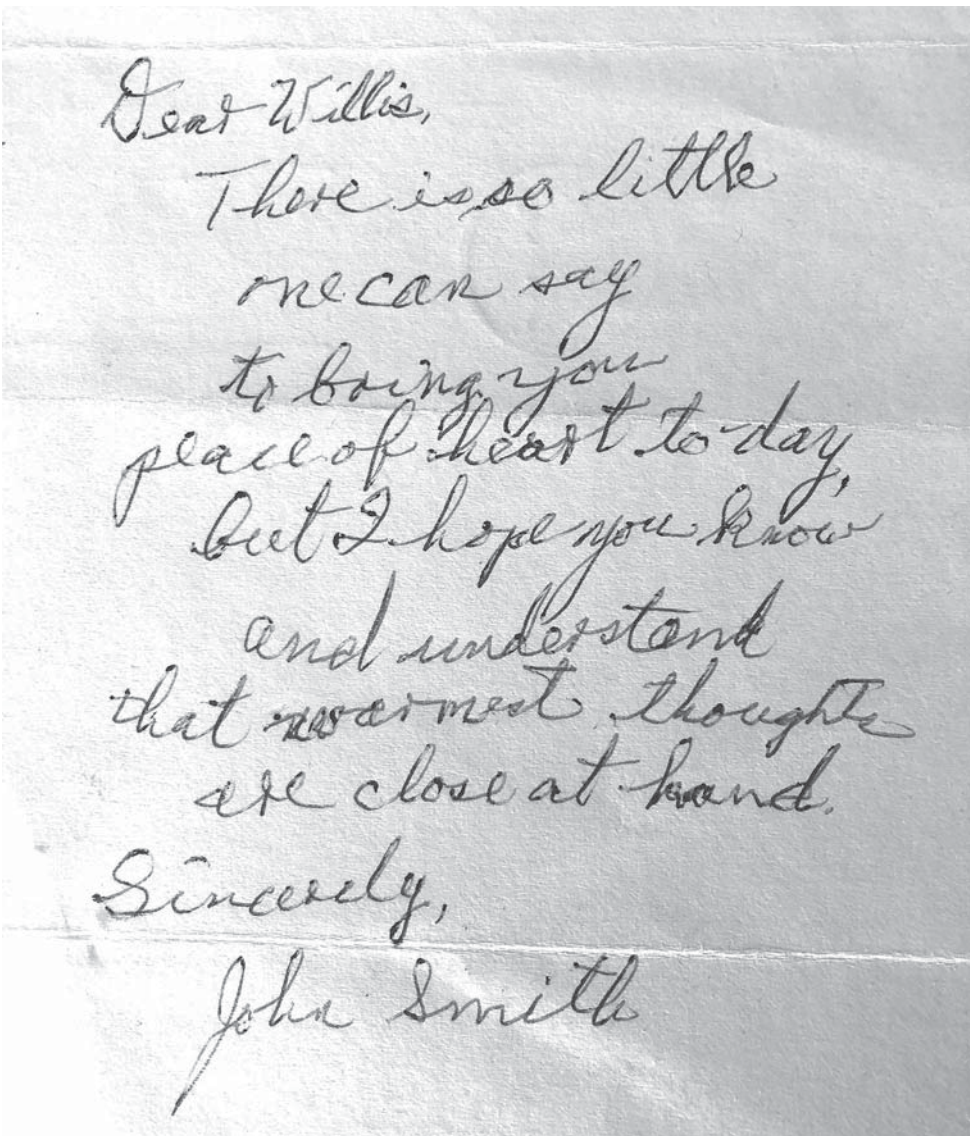
While rummaging in the cellar where some cooking was once done I spotted several jugs and crocks under the cellar stairs. Oh, well, they did not seem special since they had no blue designs on them. I'll just turn

them around to see the front. Boy, what a surprise. There was a bold chicken picking corn and it read E & JP Norton, Bennington, VT.

I often think of that crock and other things that came from there. They are treasures to me, just like the memories of

John and his mother are. John Smith stayed on the old family farm and cared for his mother. He was a gentleman who sent the attached note to me when my mother died in 1987. So long, John, you were a great friend.

Skip Barshied
Stone Arabia



Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

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Cherry Valley Outdoor Games return for 3rd year



Arden Cogar, Jr. holds the U.S. record at 14.04 seconds to chop a face in the front, turn and chop the back in the Undercut Chop.



Holly Waterfield competing in the Women's Single Buck. Holly, a Cherry Valley native and her husband Nathan have organized the event for all 3 years.



Nathan Waterfield finishes up the 3 Board Jig competition with a final chop.

STIHL TIMBERSPORTS® hosted its Northeast Qualifier at the Cherry Valley Outdoor Games June 14-16 at the Alden Field Center in Cherry Valley.

STIHL TIMBERSPORTS® Series was established in 1985 and assembles the world's top **lumberjack athletes** to compete in the original extreme sport. Athletes compete in five regional professional qualifiers for a chance to go to the U.S. championship. A variety of **disciplines**, based on traditional logging skills, are used to determine the best all-around lumberjack. Disciplines include Hot Saw, Single Buck, Springboard Chop,



Chris Savosh powers through the 19-inch diameter piece of white pine in the Single Buck event. The current U.S. record is 10.34 seconds held by Dave Jewitt.

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hand Chop.

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exciting sport at www.stihlusa.com.



In the springboard chop, competitors start on the ground with two springboards in front of a nine-foot tall pole holding an 11-inch diameter log on the top. On "Go," they cut a small pocket with an axe at roughly belly button level for the first springboard, then jump onto the first board before cutting another pocket higher up the pole, placing the board into the hole and jumping on the board, which provides a secure location to chop the log secured to the pole they have been climbing. Time starts on "Go" and stops when the log on top of the pole is severed. Competitive times in the springboard chop are around one minute to cut both board holes, climb and chop the log.



The sixth and final discipline that ends every STIHL TIMBERSPORTS® contest is the loudest and least predictable. The hot saw is a power tool created only for making three cuts in a 19" diameter white pine log as fast as possible. With the heart of a dirt bike or snowmobile, these hot saws are chainsaws in name only.



Jason Lentz powers through the 19" white pine log in the Hot Saw event.

Photos by Christopher Wren

WWII veteran Joseph Mastracco honored

by Elizabeth A. Tomlin

History lives in St. Johnsville where West St. Johnsville Cemetery Superintendent, WWII veteran Joseph Mastracco, tells stories – and facts – about people whose final resting place is located there.

They include people like Moses Quinby (1810-1875), who was famous in the Mohawk Valley (and worldwide) as the “Father of Practical Beekeeping” and the “Father of Commercial Beekeeping in America.”

Quinby, who reportedly purchased property from the Klock family and built his homestead where the Battle of Klock’s Field occurred, is only one of the historical figures whose final resting place is located on the premises.

Mastracco pointed out markers for the Klock family and several other local, noted families during a recent walk through the West St. Johnsville Cemetery.

Soldiers from several wars fought in the Mohawk Valley are also at rest there.

“Even soldiers from the War of 1812 are buried here,” Mastracco confirmed, showing grave sites with dates that are now barely discernible.

Mastracco has been superintendent/caretaker of this cemetery for 27 years and has learned what each marker says by heart.

His heart-felt devotion to the grounds has not gone unnoticed by West St. Johnsville Cemetery’s Board of

Directors (BOD) or by the community, and has resulted in the production of a granite bench designed by Christopher McFee and Dennis McFee from McFee Memorials, with an imprinted dedication honoring Mastracco.

“Joe has worked tirelessly to maintain the cemetery’s operations and grounds,” said Julie Rider Erno, West St. Johnsville Cemetery BOD secretary/treasurer. “It was time to show him how appreciated he is.”

Mastracco is responsible for the park-like setting at the site, clearing out the sumac and planting an extensive variety of trees. “We’ve even got a ginkgo tree up there,” Mastracco reported.

To advance his green thumb skills and help him be even more diligent with his duties, after retiring from 37.5 years at Beech-Nut, Mastracco joined a Cornell Cooperative Extension class for more extensive training. After advancing in the class he joined a group of volunteers to troubleshoot horticultural problems that folks from the public had with their gardens.

“People would call in because something was wrong and we would volunteer to go in and help,” he explained. This included testing soils and looking for pests.

Erno credits Mastracco with saving the West St. Johnsville Cemetery by forming a board of directors at a time when many local cemeteries were being taken over by local governments.

“In 2010, there was no board and things were going downhill,” said Erno. “Joe approached me and asked if we were interested in forming a board. Because of Joe, we got a board together and it’s still going, because Joe took the initiative to get a board together.”

“When the town takes over, there’s a lot more restrictions,” Mastracco remarked.

Now the cemetery remains private.

A life-long resident of St. Johnsville, Mastracco is an icon in the community and was recently chosen as the St. Johnsville Chamber of Commerce Springfest Honoree for the 2019 Springfest Parade.

Erno also stated that to her knowledge, Mastracco, who served in the Navy and actually saw history taking place during the aftermath at Pearl Harbor, is the last



Julie Rider Erno, West St. Johnsville Cemetery BOD secretary/treasurer, shows the bench dedicated to Joseph Mastracco for his many years of service as superintendent at the cemetery.



Mastracco, who will be 95-years-old in August, displays photos from his WWII Navy days.



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Sports News: Congratulations to the Varsity Boys Baseball Team, who finished their season as Class C Sectional Champions and Regional Runners-up. Further congratulations to the Unified Basketball Team for winning their Regional Championship - the highest honor in the league!

Free Summer Meals: All kids and teens aged 18 and under are eligible for free breakfast and lunch this summer, at the Harry Hoag Elementary School. Breakfast will be served from 8:15-9:15 a.m. and lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. All meals must be eaten at school and supervision is provided. No registration is needed; to eat for free just show up! Meals begin on Wednesday, July 3rd and conclude with a picnic lunch on Friday, Aug 9th.

DARE Graduation: Sixth grade students gathered on May 30th to celebrate the conclusion of the 2019 DARE Program. Following some opening remarks, the students and families gathered heard from essay winners Zach Briggs, Addison Parsons and Dakota Dodson. Each sixth grader received a DARE diploma, and then joined their instructor, Deputy Heather Harder, in thanking the Montgomery County Sheriff, Superintendent Ziskin, Principal Crisman, and long-time program assistant Pat Hanifin.

Grade 6-8 Summer Program: Students entering grades 6-8 are invited to participate in the Summer Enrichment Program from July 8th - 18th. The program will help students to be better prepared for high school, while participating in fun activities such as writing, blogging, movie making, and coding robots. Classes will be held outdoors and inside the air-conditioned library at the Jr/Sr High School. To sign up, or for more information, contact teacher Kevin Bogus at kevin.bogus@fortplain.org

Students of the Month:
Congratulations to these Students of the Month for May and June:

Daniel Kilmartin	Grade 12
Gabriella Jenks	Grade 11
Landen VanAlstine	Grade 10
Sophia Rogers	Grade 9
Alex Rivkovich	Grade 8
Amelia Cruger	Grade 7
Emily Abrams	Grade 12
Alanis Rogers	Grade 11
Sarah Paradiso	Grade 10
Levi Thomas	Grade 9
Sadie Kersey	Grade 8
Mason Cook	Grade 7

Upcoming Events:

6/28	Final Report Cards Mailed
6/29	Graduation 10:00 a.m. @ HHS
7/3	First Day of Summer Meal Prgm
7/4	No School or Meal Programs
7/8	HHS Math/Literacy Pgm Begins
7/22	Astro-Not-Yet Camp Begins

Class of 2019 Top 10 Students: The Jr/Sr High School is proud to announced the following top scholars:
Valedictorian: Bryce Thibodeau
Salutatorian: Sherry Huang
Quinn Jones
Emily Abrams
Patrick Murphy
Elijah Jordan
Mackenzie Wintermute
Kevin Staples
Caleb Cochran
Calli Logan

Congratulations to all!

Schools Dedicate Yearbooks: Before heading out to Field Day on June 4th, elementary students and staff gathered in the gym for the 2018-2019 yearbook dedication ceremony. Elementary yearbook staff, and their advisors Mrs. Arndt and Mrs. Kretser, announed to the group that this year's yearbook features two honorees. The first was 6th grade math teacher Amanda Souza. The students spoke of her ability to make math easier to understand, and her willingness to help any student at any time. The second dedication was to technology teacher and Team Tech leader Matthew Heiser. In their remarks about Mr. Heiser, the students mentioned how much fun they have with all of the technology projects and learning that takes place in the computer lab. Both teachers were thanked for the daily difference they make in the lives of their students. Congratulations!

The Jr/Sr High School yearbook committee held their dedication, in a ceremony in the auditorium on June 11th. Yearbook Editor Quinn Jones presented the 2019 yearbook dedication to Family & Consumer Science teacher Mrs. Cory Cooley. The students thanked Mrs. Cooley for her kind demeanor and the way that she always has a smile and uplifting comment for every student that she comes across. Mrs. Cooley is truly dedicated to the students and staff of the Fort Plain Jr/Sr High School, and does her best each day to have a positive effect on everyone that she interacts with. Following the ceremony, the class of 2019 enjoyed their Senior Slide Show, featuring events, activities, and candid moments from their years at Fort Plain Central School.

National Honor Society Induction: The Fort Plain High School Chapter of the National Honor Society inducted nine new members on Saturday, May 11th. President Sherry Huang opened the ceremony by welcoming the attendees and making some remarks about one of the four pillars of the National Honor Society, character. Sherry noted that good character is harder to achieve than good grades, because character is not a conscious decision. "Grades show what you are capable of. Character shows who you really are. Success shows both." The other honor society criteria include: scholarship (a GPA of 89.955 or higher), service (volunteering in the school or community) and leadership (in the classroom, athletics, or extracurricular activities). The new members inducted for the 2018-2019 school year were: Nathaniel Beam, Gulum Demir, Brady Fureno, Taylor Gifford, Jasmine Livingston, Willow MaGinnis, Crystal Smith, Michaela Stockwell, and Lauren Weinberger. Congratulations to all of the members!

Fourth Graders Learn About Energy: The district's fourth grade students have spent much of the spring learning about various types of energy - and following the path from energy generation through use. For the unit on solar energy power, the students learned about solar panels and how they take energy from the sun and transfer it into mechanical energy. They built and tested both a solar-powered model car and a solar-powered grasshopper. Next, students focused on wind energy, which is also popular in the Mohawk Valley area. They learned about wind turbines and wind farms, while creating their own windmill generator. Once the different methods of generating electricity were learned, the classes studied electrical circuits, which are needed to transfer electrical energy into sound, movement or light. They took on the task of

assembling a complete circuit, allowing the electrons to flow from the energy source to the varoius devices. To conclude the unit, the fourth grade students constructed solar ovens, which were then used to enjoy some tasty s'mores!

7th Graders Learn About Heart Surgery: Students in Mr. Dale Smith's 7th grade Life Science classes took part in Bassett Hospital's "Up Close Cardiac Surgery Program." The interactive session helped students to understand how their choices can impact the development of heart disease. Students were taught cardiovascular concepts by other students from the New Visions program, and watched a recording of a heart surgery, as narrated by a cardiac surgeon. The session brought home the importance of being heart-healthy, as well as encouraging students to think about careers in the field of cardiac medicine.

8th Grade Career Pathway Exploration: A group of eighth grade students recently visited the HFM BOCES Career and Technical Center (CTC) in Johnstown, to learn more about opportunities for educational pathways in the areas of engineering, skilled trades, construction, and environmental conservation. The session was designed to allow students the opportunity to explore different careers, and what path they may wish to take as they enter high school. The hands-on day included visits to the classrooms and labs, as well as time spent outdoors observing machinery and equipment. Each student got a chance to operate an excavator and construct a laser-pointer. It was a great chance for them to think about where their future career interests may lay.

4th Graders Present Fables: This year's fourth grade students have recently spent time studying fables, to learn about their lessons, morals and themes. In order to better understand the fables, the students were given the opportunity to bring them to life through the use of a "Readers' Theatre." The classes studied several elements of acting and dramatic presentation. They constructed a mini-stage to present their stories, and integrated some simple props and costume pieces to enhance the viewers' experiences. The students enjoyed presenting their live fable enactments to many families, friends, and fellow elementary school students.

Team Tech Finishes Third in Competition: Harry Hoag students in Mr. Heiser's Team Tech group recently finished third in a state-wide technology contest! The groups were tasked with coming up with a solution to improve equity in education, through the use of technology. After brainstorming several ideas, Team Tech decided to tackle the issue of "Summer Slide." "Summer Slide" occurs when children don't participate in academic settings over the summer break, and regress in their learning, leaving them unprepared for the next school year. Team Tech created a website for students and families, which features informaton about free and low-cost educational programs right here in our own community. The students spent several days designing and creating the website. For the contest, they presented their idea and site, via SMARTboard, to principals and other administrators from across the state. Mr. Heiser was very proud of both the work that the students did, and their fantastic third place finish. To view the students' website visit <https://bit.ly/2XTJkge>

5th Graders Down on the Farm: Fifth-graders recently took a field trip to the Montgomery County Farm & Home Safety Day at the Fonda Fairgrounds. The event was hosted by the Montgomery County Soil & Water Conservation District, and was designed to create an awareness of home and farm hazards and how to avoid them. The students participated in a series of stations, with topics including: bicycle safety, electrical safety, railroad safety, Lyme Disease, rabies in New York State, bees and stings, farm equipment safety procedures, and much more. At each station, the students met with career professionals. They were able to learn about how workers stay safe on the job, while also gaining valuable knowledge about keeping themselves safe all summer long.