



# The Country Editor

Just good reading

October 2, 2013

Volume 1 Number 25

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uses unique  
method for  
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## Holiday overload

by Al Dorantes

If you listen closely, you can hear "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas" playing in the background. In early September, Kmart aired the first holiday ad of the season. The commercial aired 106 days before Christmas. In some areas of the country, the ad hit airwaves before school started. This was just the first warning shot. Christmas is here and it wants your money.

Barbra Streisand is releasing a new Christmas album on Oct. 8. You can preorder it now if you can't wait a month to hear her version of "O Little Town of Bethlehem." Twenty-nine percent of shoppers will start before October. We have all heard of Black Friday and Cyber Monday following Thanksgiving, but retailers are pushing these days back into September.

We have seen our first Christmas advertisements in September and before the seasonal help can clear away the Santa Claus end cap displays

and posters we will start seeing Valentine's Day and Easter candy. The spring holidays will barely have a chance to get here before stores start pushing summer clothes. Flip flops and sunglasses replace jelly beans in March. It seems like on the 4th of July candy corn appears on the shelves. Before we know it we will have year-round Christmas sales.

We've been rallying against the commercialism of holidays for awhile now. In 1965 one of the most poignant voices against the commercialism of Christmas was the amazing "A Charlie Brown Christmas." Charles M. Schulz made the case against the over commercialization of Christmas. Charlie Brown and the gang show this through a number of now classic vignettes. Charlie Brown drove the point home when he took home the scrawny little tree instead of the manufactured metal tree.

What's super ironic is the fact that Coca Cola sponsored the initial pro-



*Christmas is here and it wants your money. Our first Christmas advertisements start in September. Twenty-nine percent of shoppers will start before October.*

duction.

Linus Van Pelt brings us some very insightful closure by giving us the true meaning of the holiday. Linus said, "And there were in the same country

shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them,

See Holidays page 4

## Fun family activities tailor-made for autumn

Fall is a great time to enjoy the great outdoors. Beautiful fall foliage coupled with great weather compel many people to spend ample time outdoors before the arrival of harsh winter weather drives them back indoors. The following are a handful of activities that are tailor-made for fall.

• **Raking leaves:** While raking leaves might not jump out at you as a great way to spend a nice fall afternoon, families often find raking leaves together soon turns into a fun day in the yard. Build leaf piles and let the kids jump in, and then do it again.

When raking, encourage kids to collect some colorful leaves and set them aside. Once the raking is done, you can then enjoy making some homemade crafts with the leaves you and your youngsters just collected.

• **Apple picking:** Perhaps no activity is more synonymous with fall than apple picking. Many apple orchards encourage customers to come by and pick their own apples in the fall. Once your family and you have scoured the orchard for the perfect apples, relax with a cup of warm apple cider before returning home to make some homemade apple sauce and, of course, a delicious apple pie.

• **Hayride:** Hayrides are another fall tradition, and many farms offer relaxing hayrides throughout fall. Younger children who may tire if asked to patrol an apple orchard for apples might find a hayride is more their speed. Some farms may even allow customers to walk the grounds and visit the animals on the premises.

See Fun page 3



*Pumpkin picking is a great activity come the fall, perfect for all ages.*

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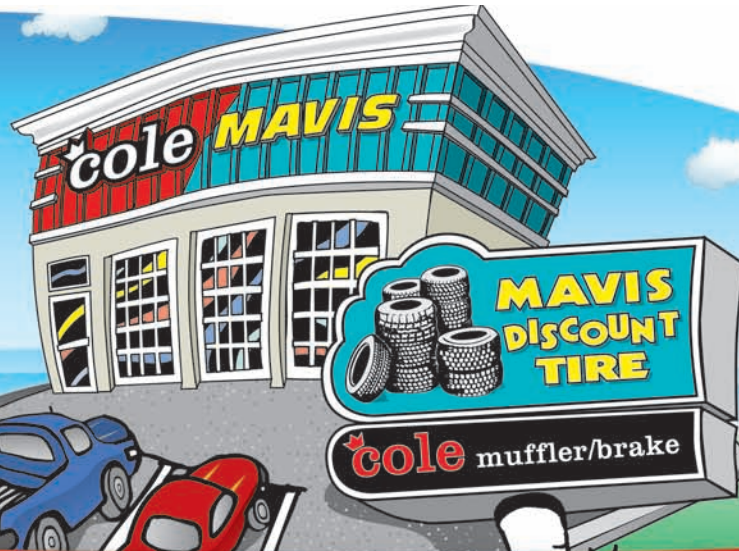
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225/50-17	\$72 <sup>99</sup>
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235/60-16	\$77 <sup>99</sup>
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# The mind-reading machine

## An excerpt from *Corvette Odyssey*

by Terry Berkson

Sometimes my father would sit in his chair, lost in thought, for hours. I'd often wonder what he was thinking about. Maybe it was about my mother who had had a nervous breakdown several years before and was still in the hospital.

He used to take me in his yellow taxi to country auctions where he'd buy things that we would need on the farm he would buy some day. Even as a kid, I saw the impracticality of some of his acquisitions. He bought a barrel full of canning jars, huge spools of copper lightning-rod cable, a two-man crosscut saw, a pedal organ, dishes, rat traps, and more. The only thing he bought that I got some use out of right away was a little oaken box that had a beautiful red velvet-lined interior. It also had a big horse-shoe magnet and something that looked like a sawed-off propeller. Two wires with metal, jump rope-sized handles came out of opposite ends of the box. There was a crank in the front that made the

gears and the sawed-off propeller turn. The box produced an electrical shock that could knock you to Canarsie.

My cousin Charlie, who at that time was as big as a blimp, lived upstairs and was always on hand to parrot his parents' derisions about my father throwing away his money on a lot of junk. Sometimes it would make me feel bad and I'd wish I knew what Dad had in mind. He never explained anything he bought. But when we brought home the oak box and I showed Charlie the jolt it could give, he had nothing but praise for the contraption. I developed a routine about the box being a mind-reading machine and on that ruse Charlie and I shocked just about every kid in the neighborhood.

One time this kid Anthony came roller-skating onto our block. Sometimes I'd hear him singing opera in his alley. I didn't think he had a bad voice. We got him to come over and take hold of the handles to have his mind read.

We were set up on Fernazzo's stoop with a lot of kids gathered around. The machine didn't always produce a charge. Anthony was just standing there skeptically. None of us knew anything about electricity, and we didn't realize that his metal skates would ground him more than any of our previous victims. All at once the juice surged through the wires and into Anthony's arms. Usually the stooge dropped the handles immediately, but now they seemed to be glued to Anthony's hands. My cousin was still cranking away, his eyes closed in concentration.

Then, Anthony fell straight back, pulling both the wires and the box off the stoop. He was lying on the sidewalk, out cold, his skate wheels spinning. He didn't seem to be breathing. My cousin leaned over him and rolled back one of his eyelids.

Mrs. Fernazzo opened her front door and brought out a glass of water. In a few minutes Anthony was back on his skates again. I checked out the



The Mind Reading Machine

Photo courtesy of Terry Berkson

box. The wood was bashed in where it had hit the concrete, but when I opened the lid everything seemed in order.

I wasn't sure what had knocked Anthony out, the fall or the shock, but from that time on, when I'd hear him in the alley, he never seemed to sing his opera on key.

Charlie and I didn't use the box again for a long time.

One day, I went looking for it, but it wasn't in Dad's closet anymore. To my chagrin he

told me he had given it away. Years later, I learned that the box was called a Kidder Box, named after its inventor, and that it was supposed to be for the treatment of nervous conditions. Maybe Dad had bought the contraption to use on my mother. Maybe he actually went to the hospital and made her grip the handles as he cranked away. Maybe he got rid of it because it didn't do any good. He never told me and she never got better.

## Going vegan: at the end of the day an affordable change

by Carly Proulx

Some of us are animal rights activists, lactose intolerant, fisherman, hunters, or round the clock omnivores. Whatever your personal beliefs, food taboos, or recreational sport may be, I believe underneath the saying "humans are creatures of habit" lies no greater truth. There are many reasons why people choose to go vegan. However, through the eyes and ears of small town America I have come to the conclusion that there are just as many reasons why some of us may avoid this path altogether.

Whether you remain unaware the health benefits of veganism, balk at the expense of fresh supermarket produce, or cringe at the prospect of broccoli seven nights a week, it's quite possible that the rumble around this lifestyle choice will supersede the actual facts concerning what it takes to be vegan. On the go seven days a week with little to no culinary skills the venture for me to eat healthy, attain meal diversity, and not have it taste like cardboard can be somewhat discouraging. Coming from someone who lives on paycheck to paycheck I've often wondered if is it more expensive to go vegan or even just vegetarian. Through



Vegan food can be simple to make.

Photo courtesy of Carly Proulx

the years I've heard more than just a few people say, "If only it wasn't so expensive" when referring to the vegan transition. And so this begs the question, "How do those vegans do it?"

I talked to one vegan expert Willow Whitecrow, part owner of the Vegan cafe "Susty's" stationed out in Northwood, NH, to uncover the tricks to her trade, as well as separate some vegan fact from fiction. Vegan chef Willow says, there are many ways to prep vegan style ahead of time while simultaneously creating food that won't go bad in your fridge anytime soon. Legumes, rice, nuts, seeds and grains are all affordable foods that can be bought in bulk and cooked in mass quantity. With the proper herbs and spices these foods are not only essential in absorbing the proper nutrients at meal time, but can also be both palatable and filling. The higher priced mock meats and mock dairy products inspired by veganism is frequently misleading for those who continue to think that being a vegan is out of the question due to a limited budget. Truth is these are pricey processed foods with little to no nutritional value and are often times no healthier and no better on the environment than your average supermarket meats and dairy based foods.

For Chef Whitecrow veganism is not only a way to stay fit and active, it is a moral code she was raised on and lives up to everyday. Besides a free conscience, Willow sees it as a way to give back to the planet by growing and preparing her own foods. "There is so much of the unhealthy being advertised as well as being readily available in these small towns where a majority of the population remains non-vegan. If someone truly wants to make a change they're gonna have to dig a little deeper than their past and pockets. There are so many websites and cookbooks out there with recipes that don't consume an entire day. Anyone can get creative in the kitchen; they just have to be willing and able."

According to the ADA a vegan diet is not only nutritionally adequate, but has the ability to prevent diseases such as type 2 diabetes and heart disease. Like in abiding by any a diet or lifestyle healthy vegans must maintain a balance, and as plants won't cover all

of their nutritional needs they must be aware of other options in order to fulfill their daily nutrient requirements.

Despite the lack of vegan-centric cafe's, cuisines, or on the go veggie places in my town I know there are options. Farmer markets in the summer, the local supermarket's bulk section, and all in all scratching beyond the surface of convenient corporate eating. As the saying goes, "If at first you don't succeed, try, try a-vegan." So keep your chin up and your mind keen to what kind of food is necessary to fit your optimal lifestyle, advance past the supermarket meat lovers, stay strong when alongside the cheese-case, and if you succeed in doing all that, maybe, just maybe going vegan is the right move for you.

### Fun from page 1

- **Hiking:** Hiking is a fun activity that can be enjoyed nearly year-round, but it's especially enjoyable in the fall. That's because few things in nature are as captivating as a park or forest when the fall foliage is in full bloom. Early fall also boasts ideal temperatures for hiking, as the mercury likely won't rise enough or sink low enough to produce the kind of extreme temperatures that can compromise a hiker's afternoon. Instead, fall temperatures tend to be mild and comfortable, allowing hikers to fully enjoy their often beautiful surroundings.

- **Corn maze:** Visiting a corn maze is another activity that many people instantly associate with fall. Some farmers transform their cornfields into corn mazes once the temperatures dip, and such mazes can be fun for adults and children alike. Though adolescents can often be trusted to find their way through corn mazes, younger kids should be accompanied by an adult.

- **Pumpkin picking:** Much like apple picking is best in fall, so is pumpkin picking. Rather than buying your Halloween pumpkin from the grocery store, where your options may be limited, go straight to the source and pick your future jack-o'-lantern from a nearby pumpkin patch, which will provide a much wider selection. Let your youngsters pick their own pumpkins and then spend the rest of the day carving them at home. And don't forget to save those seeds, which can be roasted over an open flame to make a delicious snack.





## WHAT WOULD YOUR MOTHER SAY?!

by S.D. Shapiro

*In the fast paced 21st century we've traded common sense for the ability to quickly look up information on the internet. We've forgotten our manners and civility. How do we get back to our roots? Can we get back? Food for thought . . .*

I was sitting at the Dragon of the Black Pool, a Chinese restaurant and buffet the other day. They make a decent Moo Goo Gai Pan and the egg rolls are always fresh. Anyhow, while I was waiting for my special order to arrive from the kitchen, I noticed an almost disturbing trend in the buffet line. People were piling huge amounts of food on their plates.

Why? It's all you can eat. If you can make three hundred trips to the buffet line, why do some people feel the need to pile it on in one trip?

I saw one guy build a wall, ramparts, with egg rolls. He then proceeded to fill his makeshift mixing bowl with all manner of food from the Asian smorgasbord. Chicken and broccoli, General Tso's Chicken, fried rice, and pepper steak all glopped together into, what I could only imagine to be an MSG-fueled, taste-bud-busting conglomeration.

It's not just adults. It's kids too. And they make a mess! I saw a child, probably second grade age, trip and dump a plate of pear slices onto the floor. The kid rushed back to his table where his little brother sat in a high chair surrounded by halo of rice and other food debris.

When Miao Yin, the waitress, brought my Moo Goo Gai Pan, the pear spiller's mom snapped her fingers and said, loudly, "can we get some napkins. Napkins? And some more water? With lemon?"

There's no need to be rude to wait staff (we've discussed this before). They're just doing their job. And, there's no need to speak loudly to someone like Miao Yin. She's from another country and English is not her first language, but she is not deaf. Yelling won't help the translation.

When it comes down to it, the all you can eat buffet is an amazing thing. There are many types of food and options galore. When you find yourself at the all you can eat buffet just stop and think, "What would my mother say?" She would say, "Just because the sign says, 'all you can eat' doesn't mean you have to eat it all." She'd also remind you, "eat what you take."

*Would your mother have a different opinion? Do you have another moral dilemma you'd like to see featured? Email S.D. Shapiro at s.d.shap@gmail.com with "What would your mother say" in the subject line.*

### Holiday from page 1—

*and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, 'Fear not: for behold, I bring unto you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the City of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God, and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.'"*

That quote is actually the Gospel of Luke, verses 8-14 from the Authorized King James Version but most people since 1965 attribute it to Linus. And that fact probably sums up the consequences of holiday overloads the best.

by Laura Rodley

For the past 35 years, Shelburne Falls, MA has strung its banners across Bridge Street and closed the streets across the Iron Bridge spanning the Cold River, clearing the way for the runners of the fundraiser Bridge of Flowers Classic 10K Race, and the crowds that cheer it on. This year's winner was Glarius Rop, age 29, from Springfield, MA, running the distance in 32.08 minutes, leading the pack of 589 runners at 5:11 minutes a mile.

A portion of race proceeds, \$512, has already been sent to onefund.boston.org, set up by Governor Patrick Duval and Mayor Thomas M. Menino, to benefit families and runners injured in the Boston Marathon on April 15.

In a sense, all the runners are winners, running in face of the fear generated by the Boston Marathon bombers. "A lot of runners are saying 'I'm not going to be daunted by this, I'm going to double my commitment to racing.' Some people might be afraid, but as a whole, we're runners, we're going to tow the mark no matter what and race undaunted," said Michael McCusker, devoted runner and bicyclist and Bridge of Flowers race founder and director.

This year McCusker announced the runners as they crossed the fin-



Kristian Whitsett and two-year-old Anneke came in 106 with a time of 48:23, averaging 7:39 minutes a mile.

Photo by Laura Rodley

# Bridge of Flowers Classic 10K race

ish line, having endured crossing the infamous steep Crittenton Hill in Buckland, which daunts even the strongest runners and makes it the toughest 10K road race in New England.

There are a number of children who take part in the race yet never set their feet on the ground, pushed in strollers by determined runners. One of them was two-year-old Anneke Whitsett, pushed by her father Kristian Whitsett. Whitsett and his daughter came in 106 with a time of 48:23, averaging 7:39 minutes a mile.

"There's always a few every year. It's really fun to see that. We are a USA T.F.N.E. (USA Track and Field New England) race, a sanctioned race. They ask us to not have strollers; some people insist. We ask them to agree to start at the back of the pack," said McCusker.

Noting Whitsett's time, "Kristian is a really strong runner," he said.

Whitsett is employed as an architect at Margo Jones Architects in Greenfield. He has incorporated running with Anneke into his training, though usually not as far as the race distance. "I run with her, especially around nap time. It's a good time to get her out of the house, give my wife some time. Works out well," he said.

Whitsett didn't run in this year's Boston Marathon because he competed in the Greenfield Triathlon the weekend before that, coming in fifth overall out of 100 and winning his age group in the Olympic distance of one and a half kilometer swim, twenty mile bike ride and 10K run. The week before that he had participated in the Lake Placid Ironman Race, in New York, coming in 185 out of approximately 2,500.

He started running in middle school. "It was a nice way to get outside, have some time alone, some time to think for yourself," he explained. He also spent a year running cross-country in college.

Pushing Anneke along during the Bridge of Flowers race, "was a great way to get her outside, get some exercise. At one point going up Crittenton Hill she

said, 'Why is everyone walking?' I said, 'Shh, be quiet,' didn't want anyone to hear. It was pretty funny," he said.

Whitsett was not the only runner pushing a stroller. "I passed one guy going up the hill. We smiled at each other as we were strolling up the hill."

As father and daughter crossed the finish line, Anneke held her two hands together as if in prayer.

According to McCusker, other monies raised by the event have not yet been tallied but will be distributed to the following charities: the Greenfield-based nonprofit DIAL/SELF Youth and Community Services, Northampton based Cancer Connection/Forest Moon, The Art Garden, and Community Resources for People with Autism, in Easthampton.

**The Country Editor**  
Just good reading

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## How to keep your garage work space safe

Auto enthusiasts often find their garage is a sanctuary where they can go and think about their vehicles and little else. Similar to a carpenter's workshop or a gardener's

backyard, a garage can be a place where auto enthusiasts unwind as they pursue their passions for automobiles.

But no garage is a true sanctuary if it is not safe,

and the following are a few ways auto enthusiasts can ensure their work space is safe and sound.

- Keep an adequately stocked first aid kit on hand. An accessible first

aid kit can be the difference between a minor injury or a significant health issue. Make sure the first aid kit is easily accessible, ideally on a low shelf that you can reach should you suffer an injury that limits your mobility. Periodically restock your first aid kit with necessary supplies.

- Post the national Poison Control Hotline number in plain view. That number is 800-222-1222 in the United States, and varies from province to province in Canada.

- Always bring your cell phone with you when working in your workshop. Though it might seem like a good idea to escape from life's distractions and leave your cell phone inside when work-

## Automotive

ing on your vehicle, that cell phone may be your only way to contact the outside world should you suffer an injury. You don't have to answer the phone when it rings, but be sure to bring it with you as a safety precaution whenever you will be working alone in the garage.

- Install a functioning fire extinguisher in your garage, and learn how to use it. Be sure to periodically check the extinguisher's expiration date and make sure it's easily accessible.

- Keep hazardous ma-

terials out of the reach of children. Read the labels on products. Items whose labels include warnings and cautions or suggest products can be poisonous if or when they are ingested should be stored where kids cannot reach them. If necessary, store them in a cabinet that can be locked.

- Store gasoline in a locked outdoor shed or, if keeping it in the garage, make sure youngsters won't be able to reach it. Make sure the gasoline

How 6

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October 2, 2013

## Hello Again,

In the last Hello Again, I mentioned I had been asked if I was a freelance writer and I suggested I must be – because no one would pay for what appears in Hello Again. This got the wheels turning.

After careful examination of my vocabulary, or rather lack of a vocabulary, I felt that my natural bend would serve mankind better as an attendant pumping gas at a self-service gas station or patching the tube in tubeless tires, or cooking ice cream for a hot fudge sundae or something like that, but: I really would choose to become a freelance writer. That is, one who gets paid. I guess I know what you are thinking – I should pay to have Hello Again in this paper. Grin and bear it.

I decided if that was my true desire I should start writing about something, anything, but get started based on a subject which I am familiar with. With that, a housefly landed on my hand – so I had a subject – a housefly. Now what could I say about my new subject matter? I never saw a house fly – birds of most kinds fly – geese, ducks, chickens. Airplanes fly but I never saw a house fly. Can you imagine anyone attempting to put wings and a propeller on a house to get it to fly? Marcy State Hospital would offer a special padded room for that inventor.

With my head resting on my hands, I sat staring out of our kitchen window and a John Deere tractor with its beautiful putt and putt 2 cylinder engine drove by.

Now I was all set – I have enjoyed looking at and working with John Deere equipment – especially John Deere tractors, since I was a kid. In fact, I own a Model MT John Deere tractor. I would write about John Deere tractors. Everyone knows the old John Deere company is honest as the day is long – they would never cheat or stretch a point to sell a piece of equipment. Just think about their motto: “Nothing runs like a Deere.” Then I thought and thought, how about that major theme motto, “Nothing runs like a Deere”? How could I explain the word ‘nothing’ for nothing doesn’t even exist, so how can ‘nothing’ run? Nothing is nothing and the logo Deere showing a running deer is actually miss-spelled. It should be spelled “deer” and not “Deere.” Now I was in a fix – how could I write in purity about a company’s equipment who has claimed to run better than nothing.

A team of mules or horses are certainly worth their weight on a farm but how much value can we attach to nothing? I wondered about the value of nothing horse power when compared to even mule power. If I

decided to farm it, I definitely would prefer horse or mule power over nothing power.

A friend of mine up in Canada who is a corn seed grower says of John Deere tractors that they are green paint with yellow appendages. (We can’t use the actual word he used. This is a family paper.)

Well I can see this subject is too deep to keep on exploring but I did come up with something our American vocabulary can hang its hat on. That is, when someone makes a statement which is so lame-brained and ridiculous even a half-brained writer could not go along with, we should call it a “Nancy Pelosi.” When Mrs. Pelosi said we should pass the Obama health bill into law and then figure out what it means, that is a “Nancy Pelosi.”

Note: A local pastor and his wife are dear friends of ours. The pastor is also a well-known fan of the John

Hello 7

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## How from 5

container is childproof and approved for gasoline storage.

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- Don't allow children into your work space when you're working on your vehicle.

- Wear tight clothing and take off all jewelry. Loose clothing and dangling jewelry that can easily get caught in moving parts, greatly increasing your risk of injury.

- Unplug any power cords before troubleshooting any problems with your power tools.

- When working with power tools, unplug them when taking a break from work and when leaving your work space, even if such breaks are only momentary.

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Deere. I wonder in what vein my name will be mentioned during his congregational prayer meetings. Forgive him, he knows not what he is saying?

Before I cut this attempt at humor off, I felt I should confess that John Deere tractors and equipment have stood the test of time and are held in great respect, and by me.

A special message to a gem in the woods who asked permission to call me Fred – so this for that – hi Dot.

I recall a story about a Japanese emperor when walking through his palatial-sized flower garden one morning, no-

ticed an absolutely beautiful gardenia – this gardenia was perfect in every way, a beautiful soft color, but not too soft, with just the right-sized petals, not too big nor too small – sheltered and nearly hidden from view by dozens of other flowers. He thought its beauty was so grand, he instructed the gardener to remove all of the neighboring flowers so this perfect flower could be totally appreciated.

Since our chats had their beginning about three years ago, we have enjoyed saying hello again to a special group of wonderful, interesting readers. Often it was a chance meeting at a restaurant, church activity, or at a shindig – yet others by letters. Some call me Mr. Lee, others just plain Fred, and none Frederick. This week, by letter from a gem who obviously could be compared to the emperor's one-of-a-kind gardenia, the "Rain Pain Gal," - she wrote "By the way, may I call you Fred?" Better yet – how about I call you "Grandpa Fred." Mr. Lee sounds so formal! Your down-home newsy, next door neighbor-to-neighbor "Hello Again" chats are anything but formal! If permission is needed – Dear Dottie "The Rain Pain" gal – permission is granted. However, so that you don't somehow get a

swelled head over this, you have been beaten to the draw. I am a grandfather to a small herd and a great grandfather to several more, so with this, may I call you granddaughter or is it possibly Grandma Dot?

My T-off for the day: In this morning's mail, we received an envelope edged in bright red with a bold Final Notice message printed on the front. It would appear we are being dunned for a late payment while it was in fact an advertisement piece from the famous Mayo Clinic. Now I ask you, was it proper for that prestigious health center to solicit in that humiliating manner?

Have you been watching for the little red bike? This is a great time of the year to wander through the woods and country roads, kickin' through the colored leaves. Go ahead, try it. It's one of God's ways to put life back in focus. If you meet the little red bike, be sure to wave hello.

Enjoy a colorful country walk and talk your thoughts over with the Lord.

A short trip on Sunday could find you in church and open a new and wonderful life. Try it – the good Lord will smile and say you're welcome.

**Fred Lee & Family**



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**2010 Toyota Tundra Double Cab, 4x4** - 42k, 5.7, I Force V8, Fully loaded, TRD Off Road Package, Super Nice Truck

**2010 Toyota RAV - Base, 4x4** - 70k, 4 Cyl., Auto, Alloy Wheels, CD, Fully Equipped, Awesome

**2009 Chevy K1500 Ext. Cab, 4x4** - 125k, 5.3 Vortec, Power Seat, Alloys, Z71 Off Road, Really Nice!

**2007 Chevy K1500 Crew Cab, 4x4** - 101k, V8, LS Trim, 17" Wheels, Fully Loaded, No Rust, Nice Truck!

**2007 Honda CRV EX AWD** - 79k, 4 Cyl., Auto, Fully Equipped, Excellent Service History, AWESOME!!!

**2007 GMC Envoy Denali, 4x4** - 91k, SLT Trim, Heated Leather, Sunroof, DVD, Alloys, One Owner, Southern Beauty!!!

**2007 Ford Ranger Ext. Cab, 4x4** - 137k, V6, 5 Speed, Alloy Wheels, Air, Stereo, Very Well Kept

**2006 Chevy K3500 Reg. Cab & Chassis, 4x4** - 99k, Mighty Duramax, Turbo Diesel, Allison Auto, A/C, Rust Free, One Owner, Ready for Your Body

**2006 Ford F150 Ext. Cab, 4x4** - 85k, Triton V8, XLT Trim, Alloy Wheels, Very Well Kept

**2006 Jeep Liberty Sport, 4x4** - 44k, V6, Automatic, Fully Equipped, Super Clean, Low Miles!!

**2006 Chevy G3500 Extended Express Van** - 103k, 6.0 V8, Fully Equipped, Completely Shaved in Rear, Very Well Kept - Must See!

**2005 Pontiac Montana AWD Van** - 63k, V8, Auto, 7 Pass., Fully Equipped, DVD, 1 Owner, Very Fussy Van!!!

**2005 Chevy K2500 Reg. Cab, Long Box, 4x4** - 69k, 6.0 V8, Air, Stereo, Rust Free Southern Truck, Nice!!

**2005 Toyota Sequoia, 4x4** - 105k, 4.6 V8, Power Heated Leather, 17" Alloys, Sunroof, JBL Audio, Wow!

**2005 Toyota Rav 4, 4x4** - 104k, 4 Cyl., Auto, Alloy Wheels, Fully Equipped, Great Service History

**2004 GMC K2500 H/D Reg. Cab, Long Box, 4x4** - 85k, 6.0 V8, 5 Speed, SLE Trim, 4:10 Gears, Southern Rare Truck

**2004 Toyota Tacoma Double Cab, 4x4** - 109k, V6, Auto, SR-5 Trim, Perfect Frame, Never in Salt!!!

**2004 Chevy K2500 H/D, Reg. Cab, 8' Box, 4x4** - 67k, 6.0 V8, A/C, Stereo, Rust Free Southern Truck!

**2004 Chevy K1500 Ext. Cab, 4x4** - 98k, 5.3 Vortec V8, Power Leather Seats, Fully Equipped, Super Sharp, One Owner, No Rust!

**2004 Chevy K1500 Ext. Cab, 4x4** - 101k, Vortec V8, Fully Loaded, Alloys, Southern One Owner!!!

**2004 Honda CRV EX AWD** - 113k, 4 Cyl., Auto, Fully Loaded, Sunroof, Southern Truck!!

**2003 Toyota Tundra Ext. Cab, 4x4** - 104k, V8, Auto, SR-5 Trim, Alloy Wheels, Sharp, Must See!

**2003 Jeep Wrangler, 4x4** - 108k, 4.0, 6 Cyl., 5 Speed, Hard Top, Rust Free Southern Jeep!!!

**2003 Chevy S-10 Ext. Cab, 4x2** - 98k, 4 Cyl., Auto, Air, Stereo, 3 Dr., Rust Free Southern Lady!!

**2003 Toyota Tundra Reg. Cab, 8' Box, 4x2** - 90k, V6, Auto, Air, Stereo, Rust Free Southern Beauty, Must See!

**2002 Chevy Avalanche LT, 4x4** - 109k, 5.3 Vortec, Z71 Trim, LT Pkg., Heated Leather, Sunroof, Southern Lady

**2001 GMC Sierra K1500 H/D Crew Cab, 4x4** - 122k, 6.0 V8, Sierra Pkg., Alloys, Loaded, No Winters!!! WOW

**1999 GMC Suburban SLE, 4x2** - 103k, 5.7 V8, 3 Rows of Seats, No Winters, Loaded, Perfect

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# Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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: ★

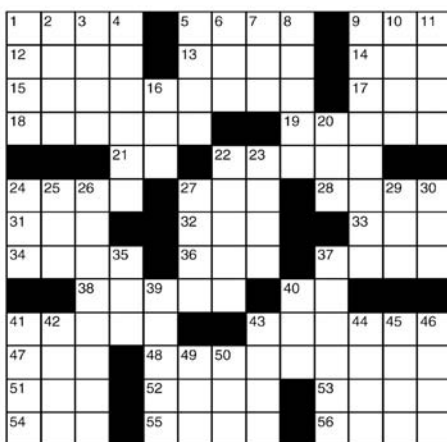
★ Moderate   ★★ Challenging  
★★★ HOO BOY!

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## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Big bash  
5 Virtue's opposite  
9 Flop  
12 Japanese sashes  
13 Exotic berry  
14 Compass dir.  
15 Withdrawing from office  
17 "Cool" amount of cash  
18 Ranking  
19 Part of Hispaniola  
21 Morning hour on a sundial  
22 "Psycho" setting  
24 Hospital furnishings  
27 Space  
28 Organization  
31 Anger  
32 Sailor's assent  
33 "I" strain?  
34 Tournament component  
36 Leno's network  
37 Wan  
38 Reflection  
40 Pacino or Yankovic  
41 Tangy cuisine  
43 Ape  
47 Yoko of



- music  
48 "Ghost" co-star  
51 To the — degree  
52 Author Hunter  
53 Pronto, in the ER  
54 Family  
55 Look for  
56 Highland hats
- 6 Here (Fr.)  
7 Has the skill set  
8 Square dance group  
9 Cecil B. and Agnes  
10 One  
11 Sandwich shop  
16 Formal wear  
20 NRC predecessor  
22 Perhaps  
23 Oil cartel  
24 Humongous  
25 Geological time  
26 Wicker-covered bottle  
27 Group of hoods
- 29 "Yecchi!"  
30 Lad  
35 Big Aussie bird  
37 Not quite  
39 South American range  
40 Intention  
41 Hit on the head  
42 Oppositionist  
43 Kitchen fixture  
44 Greek vowel  
45 Composer  
46 Profits  
49 Previous night  
50 West of Hollywood

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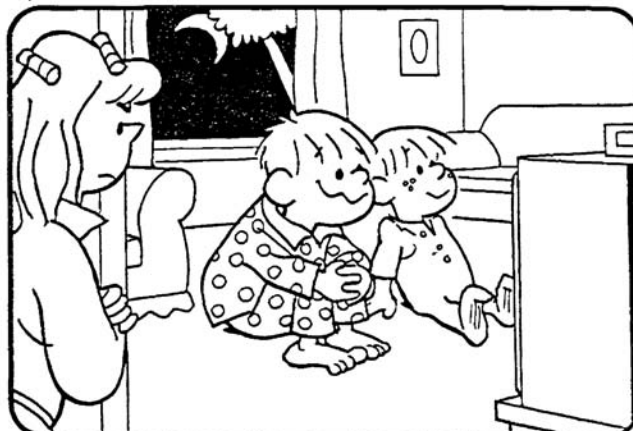
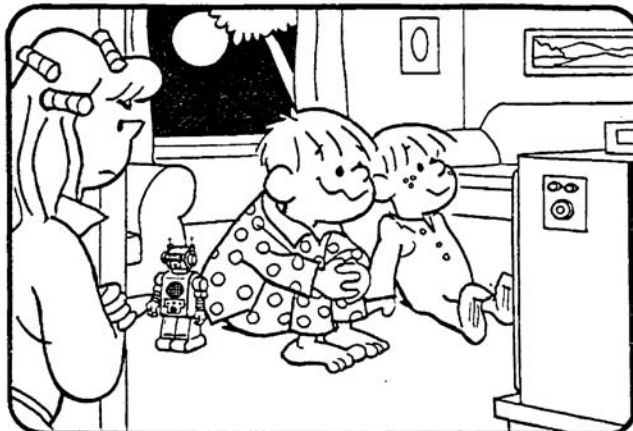
Answer  
Weekly SUDOKU



Answer  
King Crossword

## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY  
HENRY BOLTINOFF



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below.

DIFFERENCES: 1. Curlier is missing. 2. Moon is different. 3. Robot is missing. 4. Sleeve is shorter. 5. Picture is missing. 6. TV dial is missing.

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# Virginia woman uses unique method for intricate quilts

by Ray Reed

FOREST, VA — A pair of donkeys, looking quizzically over a fence, inspired Deb Droog's creative juices.

Because the Bedford County artist has been in a quilting phase for several years, she recreated a magazine's photo of the donkeys on fabric, using sewing machines to paint their images with thread.

Nothing was lost in the transfer to the quilt; the animals look just as be-

mused in stitches as they did in the Country Living magazine picture that piqued Droog's talents.

The donkeys' image is art on a quilt, using more than 50 thread colors so well the magazine also published a photo of the quilted version.

"I do love doing animals, because they have these expressions," Droog said in her Forest-area studio.

Mitchell Bond, co-owner of the Goose Creek art studio in Bedford, said

Droog's techniques of painting animals in layers of thread on fabric is rare in the worlds of art and quilting.

"Hers is all machine-done. She gets a very effective result with the technique she uses," Bond said. "That building up of layers of thread is really unique," he said.

In another of Droog's quilted inspirations, a rooster with hair-like feathers and cocked head stares straight at viewers,

seeming to ask, "What are you looking at?"

The rooster image came from a calendar, and Droog recreated it just for

rooster on fabric, using the four sewing machines in her studio.

One of the machines is computerized, does em-

can sew through multiple layers of heavy fabric and do the fine stitching needed in detailed artwork.

One is 12 feet long and



Deborah Droog makes quilts from her Forest home using a variety of sewing machines and an abundance of materials such as multicolored thread and fabric of many patterns.

art's sake — at first, as an oil painting for her daughter's kitchen wall. Later, she replicated the

broidery and cost \$9,000, she said. But her favorite machine is a cast-iron, \$1,600 workhorse that

performs the basic quilting function of stitching

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## Simple steps for candle safety

Candles are one of the easiest and most effective ways to add aroma and ambiance to a home. While many people would like to use scented candles in their homes, they may be weary of the fire risk. However, candle-related fires appear to be on the decline.

Scented candles are just one component of the larger science of aromatherapy, which is an alternative treatment that uses scents to alleviate physical and psychological disorders. Nurses and doctors at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston actually offer classes in aromatherapy to deal with cancer and other ailments. Certain scents can make a person feel more alert, while others may reduce stress and relax a person.

It is estimated that candles are used in seven out of 10 American households and that people spend around \$2 billion annually on candles, according to the National Candle Association. Candles can be used for aromatherapy or to make a room feel more cozy. People who are anticipating a weather event that may knock out electrical power also rely on candles as an alternative light source. Although using candles can lead to fires, the NCA reports that candle-related fires have dropped to their lowest level in roughly 10 years. Data shows candle fires dropped by nearly 50 percent between 2001 and 2010. That's thanks in part to the industry's safety standards and consumer education efforts.

According to a Home Candles Fires report issued by the National Fire Protection Association, there were approximately 9,600 accidental candle fires in 2010, the latest year for which figures are available, compared to a peak of 18,900 in 2001. The statistics are based on data reported by the federal government's National Fire Incidence Reporting System and NFPA's survey of fire departments.

"We are extremely pleased that candle fires are continuing to drop," said NCA executive vice president Carol Freysinger. "We believe there's no question that the industry's safety standards and educational campaign have been pivotal in reducing candle fires."



While candle fires tend to peak during the holiday season, when candles are an integral part of holiday decorating, candles are widely burned throughout the year, including during outdoor gatherings in the summertime. To reduce the risk of fire when using candles, consider these guidelines from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

- Trim the wick to 1/4 inch each time before burning. Long wicks can cause uneven burning, dripping or flaring.
- Use a candleholder specifically designed for candle use. It should be sturdy and heat-resistant.
- Avoid drafts, vents or air currents that can cause rapid or uneven burning and excessive dripping.
- Never leave a burning candle unattended.
- Do not burn candles by or on anything that might catch fire.
- Keep candles out of the reach of children and pets.
- Follow the manufacturer's recommendations on burn time and proper use.
- Don't touch or move a burning candle or when wax is liquefied.
- Discontinue burning a candle when 2 inches of wax remains.
- Always keep a candle within sight.
- Extinguish all candles before bed or if you feel sleepy. The largest number of candle fires occur in the bedroom.

When used safely, candles make a welcome addition to a home. EL136203

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together the creatively designed top to the batting and bottom layer of fabric. Droog doesn't think in basic terms, though. "This is a multimedia place where you can do anything you want to," Droog said. Among those things are



Photos courtesy of [www.newsadvance.com](http://www.newsadvance.com)

orphaned quilt tops found in estate sales. They are country-style quilts that had been started by grandmothers many years ago. "I sort of have a need to find them and quilt them and finish them up," Droog said. "Somebody put a lot of hard work into them, and it's kind of my payback to legacy," she said. Friends who share Droog's quilting interests help her finish the quilts, and she gives many away

to her family and friends. She also does what she calls "comfort quilts" for cancer patients. One is a horse-themed quilt for her brother, who has lung cancer. "He loves horses, so I'm embroidering all these horses on that machine,

and I'm going to fix him a quilt with boots and horses," Droog said. None of her creations are done to earn money, Droog said, although she does sometimes accept commissioned requests for oil paintings if the request has a meaningful purpose. In one such case, a man from Kenya wanted her to paint his deceased father. But there was only one photograph of the father, and it came from a photocopied newspaper

printed in the 1940s. "I asked for pictures of all his sons, and asked the mother which favored the father the most, and which had the same skin color," Droog said. "I painted him set in the 1940s, with sort of an ethereal background, like maybe he was up above, you know. "When he came to get it, he cried. He said, 'You have captured the spirit of my father.' "That has happened to me so many times," when paintings requested by families have comforted descendants who didn't have photos of their ancestors, she said. Droog's grandchildren use her studio when they visit, Droog said, and she helps them sew, paint and create. Shelves and cabinets hold ribbons, paints, zippers, yarn and other accessories the



children can use. "They love it," Droog said. And teaching them to use the talents they've inherited is one of her pleasures. "That's the fun I get, having somebody else discover their qualities and their skills and develop them," she said. Natural talent may account for 10 percent of an artist's skill, she said, but 90 percent of success comes from working to develop those talents. Droog said she also teaches a few adults each year to quilt or paint. "I just figure God gave me a talent," Droog said, and she's happy to help other aspiring artists.

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## Planting garlic and other October gardening tips

by Charlie Nardozzi, Horticulturist and Leonard Perry, UVM Extension Horticulturist

Now is the time to plant garlic for harvest next summer. Purchase garlic sold specifically for planting, or buy organic garlic.



Commercial, nonorganic, supermarket garlic may have been treated to inhibit sprouting. Plant individual cloves, root end down (pointed side up), 2 inches deep and 8 inches apart, in well-drained, compost-amended soil. Once the ground freezes, cover the garlic bed with 6 inches of straw or shredded leaves for winter protection.

To get the sprouts to ripen faster, pinch off the top couple of inches of your Brussel's sprouts plants to direct their energy into the sprouts that are already developing along the stem. Clip off any lower leaves that have yellowed, and keep plants watered if fall weather is dry.

When frost blackens the tops of dahlias, cut the foliage back to 2 inches tall, then dig up the tubers. Let them dry for a day or two, but not too long or they will start to shrivel. Brush off any loose dirt and store in a plastic crate or cardboard box, lined with perforated plastic and filled with dry peat moss, wood shavings, or other similar material. Keep moist but not wet or they will rot. Store in a cool, dark area between 35-45 degrees F.

When cleaning up the flower garden in fall, leave some the seedheads to feed the birds. The seedheads of plants like purple coneflower (*Echinacea*), black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia*), coreopsis and cosmos will provide a tasty treat for birds such as goldfinches.

Keep watering trees and shrubs, especially evergreens, which were

newly planted this growing season until the ground freezes. Although the tops of woody plants may be dormant, their roots are still active until late in the season.

Weed your perennial gardens and shrub beds thoroughly in the fall and you'll have fewer weed problems to begin the following year. It's also a good time to edge beds.

The foliage of evergreens can be injured over the winter by the drying effects of wind and sun, especially if they are planted in a southern or western exposure. Protect plants over the winter with burlap screens.

If you test your soil and add any needed amendments now, the soil will be ready for planting when you are in the spring. Contact your local university Extension office for a soil-testing kit,

also available at many garden stores. Since your soil can vary from location to location in your yard, if you notice different characteristics of the soil in different beds, test them separately.



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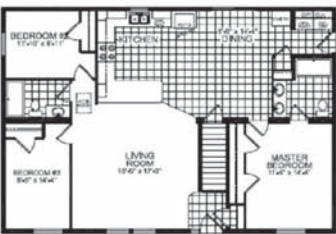
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## Kansas woman crochets nests for rescued birds

HOISINGTON, KS — For one Kansas woman, crocheting is for the birds.

The Great Bend Tribune reports that Ruth Stephens of Hoisington

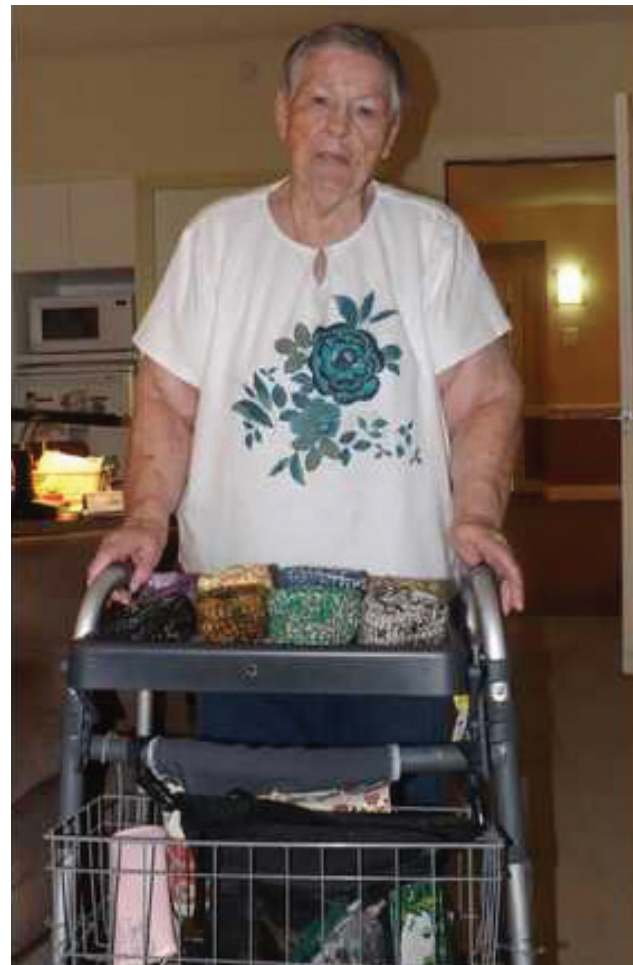
has crocheted 128 bird nests in the past couple of months. She then ships them to the Bird Recovery Center in Santa Rosa, CA. The center only uses one nest per

bird. After the bird leaves, the nest is thrown away to prevent the spread of diseases.

Stephens' nephew and his wife live in California. They immediately thought of Stephens when they heard the center needed help with

nests.

The center sent her instructions and patterns for the nests. Cotton yarn is preferred, and she's always looking for more. One friend donated yarn remnants. She also found a box of yarn at a second-hand store.



Ruth Stephens of Hoisington displays the bird nests that she crochets for the rescued birds in California. "Birds can't tell color," she said, so she uses yarn of many colors.

Photos courtesy of www.gbtribune.com

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by Carla K. Johnson, Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — The MacArthur Foundation announced recently that it is increasing the value of its annual “genius grants” to \$625,000.

Previously, grants of \$500,000 have been awarded in a secrecy-shrouded process to winners who work in fields including music,

medicine, the arts and journalism. The foundation last increased the grant in 2000.

“We looked at many benchmarks and decided it was time to make an adjustment,” said Cecilia Conrad, vice president of the MacArthur Fellows Program, the formal name for the genius grants. The Chicago-based foundation wants

the no-strings-attached five-year stipend to be enough to give winners “freedom and flexibility,” and it needed to respond to inflation, Conrad said.

MacArthur also announced most past recipients surveyed said the grants improved their financial stability and increased their opportunity for creativity. The winners thought the amount of the stipends was adequate.

But some asked for more help responding to the huge boost in visibility the grants brought them. The foundation plans to “explore ways to better support new Fellows as they cope with

the sudden increase in public attention.”

Past winners — nearly 900 so far — have included poet Kay Ryan, TV producer David Simon, physician Peter Pronovost and documentary filmmaker Laura Poitras, who has become known for her recent work on the National Security Agency surveillance story.

One thing that won’t change is the mysterious selection process: Win-

ners have no idea they’ve been nominated for the awards until they get the call, and nominators must remain anonymous.

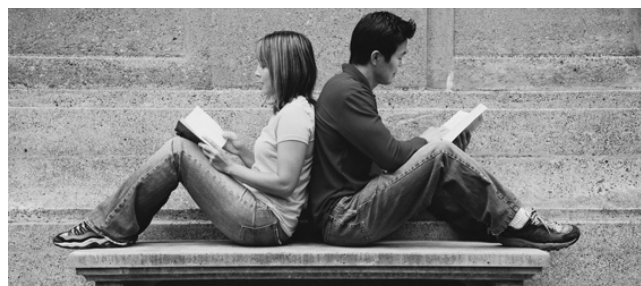
Past recipients said in the survey that they would like more interaction with one another and the foundation. In a letter to past winners, Conrad said: “We will be experimenting with a variety of Fellows events to create these opportunities. Stay tuned.”

MacArthur also sur-

veyed the public to find out how the genius grants are viewed. Ten percent said the program inspired them to think about their own contribution to society and their own creativity.

Conrad calls that the “one day, maybe they’ll find me” impact of the genius grants, an aspect she’s gratified the survey was able to document.

The next genius grants will be announced Sept. 25.



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# First U.S.-made smartphone just as cheap to produce

NEW YORK (AP) — Motorola's new Moto X phone doesn't cost more to make simply because it's assembled in Texas, research firm IHS said on

Aug. 28.

The Moto X is the first smartphone to carry the "Made in the U.S.A." designation. Labor costs are higher in the U.S. compared with Asian factories, where phones are typically made. But IHS said the Moto X is about five percent cheaper to make than Samsung Electronic Co.'s flagship Galaxy S4 phone. The firm said the Moto X's overall production cost is just nine percent more than that of Apple's iPhone 5.

The findings come as little surprise, as the labor cost of a phone is just a small part of its production cost. IHS estimates that labor and other assembly costs Motorola \$12 per phone for the Moto X, bringing the pro-

duction cost to \$226. That compares with \$207 for the iPhone 5 and \$237 for the Galaxy S4. IHS said Motorola is able to keep the cost of parts low by using standard components that don't break much new ground.

By assembling the phone in Fort Worth, Texas, Motorola is able to let customers order custom designs online for delivery within four days. Standard black or white models are available immediately at retail stores.

"With the Moto X, Motorola is reaping the public-relations and customization upsides of producing a smartphone in the United States, while maintaining competitive hardware costs," said Andrew Rassweiler, senior director for cost bench-

marking services at IHS.

IHS said the estimated \$12 for assembly is about \$3.50 to \$4 more than other leading phones.

"Our initial estimate suggests the additional costs of onshoring the Moto X are relatively low," IHS said.

The phone went on sale last Friday, starting with AT&T. It's coming to oth-

er carriers, including Verizon this week. The Moto X's price is about \$200 with a two-year service agreement.

The Moto X is Motorola's first phone designed from the start under its new owner, Google Inc. The Internet search company bought Motorola Mobility for \$12.4 billion last year.

## Some trees can be pruned in winter

Many homeowners may not know that pruning trees in the winter can benefit some trees. Deciduous trees are dormant in winter, so they won't bleed sap when pruned at this time of year like they will at other times of year. In addition, many varieties of trees are less likely to attract disease or insects if pruned in the winter. Oak trees, for example, emit a strong odor when pruned, and that odor can attract a type of beetle that causes oak wilt. But this type of beetle hibernates in the winter, making this the ideal season to prune oak trees.

Before pruning trees, regardless of the time of

year, homeowners should learn the types of trees on their property and when the ideal pruning season is for each type of tree. Pruning also may depend on climate, so speak with a local gardening or landscaping professional to determine when is the best time to prune the trees on your property.

Once the time has come to prune, keep the following tips in mind to maintain healthy and aesthetically appealing trees.

- Remove limbs that appear to be competing for space. Tree limbs that are crossing, rubbing or growing parallel to one another can be pruned. Such limbs may prohibit the growth of nearby limbs.

- Remove limbs that are growing in. Some tree limbs may appear to be growing toward the interior of the tree, and these limbs can be pruned.

- Remove limbs growing toward the ground. A healthy tree's limbs will grow outward, not toward the ground.

- Remove dead limbs. Dead limbs simply take up space, and a dead limb is not going to grow back come the spring. Dead, broken or diseased limbs should be removed when pruning.

- Do not top trees. Tree topping is the removal of large branches and/or trunks from the top of a tree. Topping leaves a tree susceptible to disease and insect infestation, and homeowners who top trees to prevent them from getting any larger should know that topping actually promotes the growth of smaller, weaker branches that eventually grow as tall, if not taller, than the original branches before the tree was topped. Topping also decreases a tree's life expectancy.

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1187 Vacuum  
1190 Vegetable  
1200 Veterinary  
1205 Wanted

## Announcements

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## Calendar of Events

### COUNTRY EDITOR

**NOTE: Calendar entries must arrive at the Country Editor's office by the Friday prior to our Wednesday publication date for them to be included in the calendar of events. Send events to Lee Publications c/o Country Editor, 6113 State Highway 5, P.O. Box 121, Palatine Bridge, NY 13428 or e-mail: kkelly@leepub.com.**

### OCT 3

#### Rabies Clinic

Little Falls Town Garage, 478 Flint Ave. Ext., Little Falls, NY. 6-7:30 pm. All cats, dogs & ferrets 3 months old or older must be vaccinated even if they stay indoors. Bring proof of the pet's vaccination history to receive a 3 year certificate. Dogs should be on a leash, cats & ferrets in a carrier. No exams will be given. Owners are responsible to clean up after their animals. \$5 donation per pet is suggested to defray cost. Pre-register online. Contact Herkimer County Public Health, 315-867-1176. On Internet at [www.herkimercounty.org](http://www.herkimercounty.org)

### OCT 3 & 10

**Clinton's Farmers' Market** Clinton Village Green, Clinton, NY. 10 am - 4 pm. Over 70 vendors from all over the Mohawk Valley will offer locally grown produce, fruit, fresh cut and dried flowers, jams, jellies, meats and cheeses, maple syrup, honey, baked goods and much more. There will also be a fine selection of hand-made arts & crafts items available, as well as beautiful watercolor paintings, jewelry, clothing and many other interesting items for sale.

### OCT 3-4

#### Annie

Rome Community Theater, 8911 Turin Rd., Rome, NY. 7:30 pm. The musical Annie tells the story of a little orphan and her dog Sandy who ends up in the lap of luxury with Depression era billionaire Daddy Warbucks. This classic family musical has a happy ending for Annie, Daddy Warbucks and the whole gang. Call 315-339-2545. On net at [www.romecommunitytheater.com](http://www.romecommunitytheater.com)

### OCT 4

**Jane Monheit to Perform** The Other Side Gallery and Performance Space, 2011 Genesee St., Utica, NY (across from the Uptown Theater). 8 pm. Tickets are \$15 and may be reserved at the Cafe Domenico, by calling 735-4825 or by e-mail to [kodomenico@verizon.net](mailto:kodomenico@verizon.net). Seating is limited so to ensure admission, please reserve your tickets as soon as possible.

### OCT 5

**Choctaw Tool Basket** Shawangunk Nature Preserve, 255 Shawangunk Rd., Cold Brook, NY. 9-11 am. This amazing V shaped basket comes from the Choctaw tribes of N. America. It looks complicated but we will make it easy for you to weave one for holding tools or Autumnal floral arrangements. Call 315-826-7405 or

[shawangunk@ntcnet.com](mailto:shawangunk@ntcnet.com).

### Managing our Difficult Selves

Shawangunk Nature Preserve, 255 Shawangunk Rd., Cold Brook, NY. We can have a lot of them; the Frustrated Self, the Polite Self, the Angry Self, the Mean Self, the Sad Self, the Selfish Self, the Depressed Self, etc. Some are more difficult to deal with than others, but they are all part of being human. We can accept and deal with them in ways that are not harmful to ourselves and others by cultivating an aware, mediating coach. Led by a certified NYS counselor and Minister. No fee. Call 315-826-7405 or e-mail [shawangunk@ntcnet.com](mailto:shawangunk@ntcnet.com)

### OCT 6

#### 1805 Frisbie House

Salisbury Center. Open on Sundays from 1-3 pm. New exhibits and picture show. No admission.

#### Chinese Auction & Chicken BBQ: Poland Vol. Fire Co. Annual Open House for National Fire Prevention Week

Poland Fire House, 11 Case St., Poland, NY. Open House: Noon until 5 pm. Chicken BBQ: Noon until Sold out, Eat-in or Takeout. Chinese Auction opens at noon, drawings to start at 4 pm. For info call 315-826-7141.

### OCT 9

#### 7th Annual Central NY Veterans Expo

SUNYIT Campus Center Gymnasium, 75 Residential Dr., Utica, NY. 10 am - 2 pm. Connecting veterans and their families directly to area providers. The Expo begins at 10 am with a service fair with local and regional agencies and businesses including the VA and many not or profit service providers. Speakers on veterans issues at 11:30 am - 12:30 pm. Special services for homeless veterans are also available. Admission is free.

### OCT 10

#### Herkimer County Historical Society Second Annual Celebrity Roast

Knights Inn, Little Falls, NY. 6 pm. Hosted by the Herkimer County Historical Society. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased ahead of time at the Herkimer County Historical Society, 406 N. Main St., Herkimer, NY, at the Herkimer County Chamber of Commerce, 420 E. German St., Herkimer, NY. A Roast commemorative booklet will be published for that evening. Anyone interested in placing an ad with a special message to John can call the Historical Society at 315-866-6413 or find the details on their website at [www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nyhchs](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nyhchs)

### OCT 11

#### The 2nd Annual Cocktail Party and Silent Auction

The Beeches, 7900 Turin Rd., Rome, NY. 6 pm. The Ava Dorfman Senior Center invites you to attend the 2nd Annual Cocktail Party and Silent Auction. Please join us for a night of food, fun and friends. All of the proceeds will benefit the Senior Center. We will be auctioning off various goods and services that have been generously donated by area businesses. We will also announce the winner of the 2013 Jetta. Tickets for the car raffle are on sale now at the Ava Dorfman Center, Rome VW, and Dippin Donuts on Black River Blvd. For reservations

or donations please contact The Ava Dorfman Center at 315-337-8230.

### OCT 12

#### Annual Herkimer County Habitat for Humanity

Registration is at the German Flatts Town Park and Fort Herkimer Church. Entry and information forms available from Valley Libraries, area bike shops and select businesses. Teams and individuals re invited. For further information call 315-894-3713.

#### Personal Financial Management

Shawangunk Nature Preserve, 255 Shawangunk Rd., Cold Brook, NY. Learn ways to manage your financial situation, cut back on expenses, maintain a balanced budget. No fee. Call 315-826-7405 or [shawangunk@ntcnet.com](mailto:shawangunk@ntcnet.com)

### Quilling

Shawangunk Nature Preserve, 255 Shawangunk Rd., Cold Brook, NY. 10 am - noon. Quilling is the art of turning curled paper strips into lovely, delicate designs that may be used on holiday cards, or mounted on colored mat or a piece of rustic wood for a special gift. Get started with a pretty motif we'll mount on old barn-board. Materials \$5. Register ahead. Call 315-826-7405 or [shawangunk@ntcnet.com](mailto:shawangunk@ntcnet.com)

### OCT 19

#### Community Connection Fair

First Baptist Church of Herkimer, corner of Green and N. Washington Streets, Herkimer, NY. 11 am - 2 pm. Find out more about a wide variety of services in the Herkimer area. Come and meet representatives from area agencies and organizations. Gather information and ask questions. All are welcome! Free refreshments!

#### Heating with Wood

Shawangunk Nature Preserve, 255 Shawangunk Rd., Cold Brook, NY. Learn how to cut your heating expenses with wood heat. There is actually a lot to it; the kind of wood, how to cut it, when its cut and split, where and how long its dried, how to store it, how to clean and maintain your wood stove and be safe. No fee. Call 315-826-7405 or [shawangunk@ntcnet.com](mailto:shawangunk@ntcnet.com)

#### Marionette Puppet

Shawangunk Nature Preserve, 255 Shawangunk Rd., Cold Brook, NY. 10 am - noon. Bring your own favorite stuffed creature and turn it into a lively toy to spice up winter nights. It's not hard to make a walking and dancing Marionette Puppet on strings. For all ages. No fee. Call 315-826-7405 or [shawangunk@ntcnet.com](mailto:shawangunk@ntcnet.com)

### OCT 24

#### Rabies Clinic

East Herkimer Fire Dept., 193 Main Rd., East Herkimer, NY. 6-7:30 pm. All cats, dogs & ferrets 3 months old or older must be vaccinated even if they stay indoors. Bring proof of the pet's vaccination history to receive a 3 year certificate. Dogs should be on a leash, cats & ferrets in a carrier. No exams will be given. Owners are responsible to clean up after their animals. \$5 donation per pet is suggested to defray cost. Pre-register online. Contact Herkimer Co. Public Health, 315-867-1176 or [www.herkimercounty.org](http://www.herkimercounty.org)

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## Deer “sightability” versus deer density

by Kip Adams, Wildlife Biologist for the Quality Deer Management Association.

How many times will you be asked this hunting season, “How many deer did you see?” Your answer is often followed immediately by, “Yeah, the deer herd is up (or down) in my area too.” As deer density increases do we always see more deer, and do we always see fewer deer as it decreases? The answers to those questions are obviously “no.”

How are deer density and sightability related? Deer density is defined as the number of deer per square mile. Sightability is defined as the ability to view an object of interest — such as deer during hunting season or “how many deer have you seen?”

Are density and sightability directly related? Are they partially related? Using deer as an example, let's look at the factors affecting each and determine how density influences the number of deer hunters see.

Deer density is regulated by reproduction, recruitment and survival. In the deer world, habitat quality governs these parameters and plays a large role in the number of deer an area can support. Healthy habitats provide adequate nutrition and permit increased reproduction, recruitment and survival. Survival requires adequate food, cover and protection from predators. Forested cover can provide protection from four-legged predators. Legal

and moral restrictions on the number, sex or age of animals available for harvest can provide protection from two-legged predators (hunters). In a nutshell, high quality habitats can support higher numbers of healthy deer while poor and/or degraded habitats support fewer, less healthy animals.

Deer sightability is regulated by habitat type, food sources and their availability, hunting techniques (stand/still hunting vs. driving), deer behavior,

weather (temperature and precipitation) and deer density. Sightability in open habitats can be deceiving; even though you can see farther and should theoretically be able to see more deer, deer spend less time in open environments, particularly after being exposed to human pressure. Food sources affect deer movements and therefore directly influence sightability. Deer need to eat and are very good at finding the most palatable and nutritious food sources in their

home range. Therefore, areas with little or low quality food typically have low sightabilities (even if the deer density in the area is high). Areas with abundant food often have higher sightabilities until human pressure causes deer to become less active during daylight hours (even low density herds can have high sightabilities in feeding areas).

Article submitted by Bob Wagner Susquehanna Branch of QDMA [www.susq-qdma.org](http://www.susq-qdma.org)

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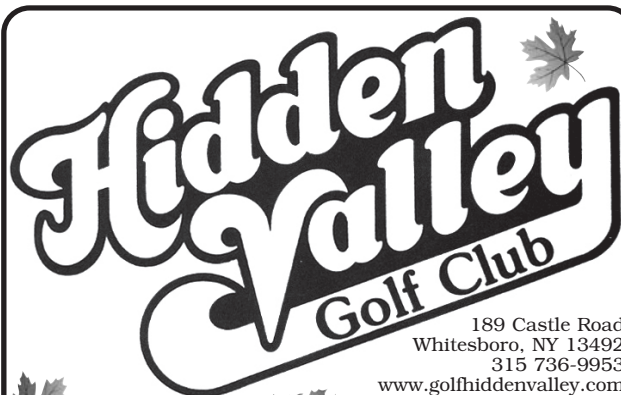
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**Monday, Oct. 7th** - Monthly Fat Cow & Feeder Sale.

**Monday, Oct. 14th** - Monthly Heifer Sale.

**Sat., Oct. 19th** - sale held in Richfield Springs, OHM Holstein Club - Sale Chairman Jason Pullis 315-794-6737. Call with your consignments.

**Sat., Oct. 19th** - 3:00PM - Cobleskill Fairgrounds - Coby Classic XVI - Beef Show calf Sale. Sponsored by Cobleskill American Animal Producers Club. Contact Donna Cappadona 518-852-0228.

**Monday, Oct. 21st** - Monthly Sheep, Lamb, Goat & Pig Sale.

**Sat., Nov. 9th** - Orange County, NY - sale on the farm. 11 AM Gold-Bar Holsteins Complete Milking Herd & Bred Heifer Dispersal. 100 Head of Registered Holsteins (20 R&W).

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### 2010 FORD F-150

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### 2012 CHEVY TRAVERSE

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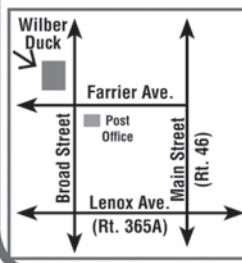
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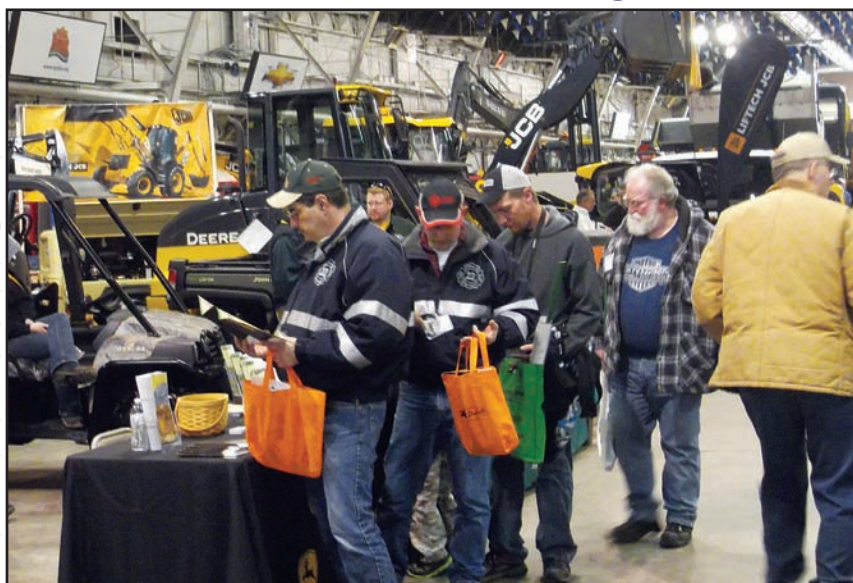
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## The Country Preacher

by Dan West

Have you ever lacked wisdom? If you are like most of us, there have been many situations in your life that you could

have used more wisdom.

There is a big difference between wisdom and knowledge. Knowledge is simply facts, information. Wisdom is

knowing how to apply it correctly and effectively. For example, knowledge is knowing your wife is fat; wisdom is not telling her that.

Acquiring knowledge is what school and study is for; it is our responsibility to work at that. Wisdom comes, in part, from experience, either our own or learning from others' experience. But still, it is not possible for us to experience every situation we need wisdom for.

The Apostle James writes to believers, (1:5) "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without scolding, and it shall be given to him." But he adds, "let him ask in faith, not wavering."

Simply put, if we have implicit faith in the Lord, He will give us wisdom for every situation that comes into our lives, when we ask. If you don't have faith in Him, He won't give you wisdom — you're on your own! The choice is yours.

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