



# The Country Editor

Just good reading

November 8, 2013

Volume 1 Number 30

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**Preservation**  
~ Page A3



**Ann Romney's  
cookbook,  
more than  
just recipes**  
~ Page A13



## Blake's auction

by Joseph A. Parzych

When people descended upon the Blake Farm in Gill, MA, to attend an estate auction, they found a treasure trove of 13 antique farm tractors, five Model T Fords and a collection of old newspapers of historic dates, diaries, scrapbooks, photo albums, paintings and a wide assortment of miscellaneous collections and furniture. Though Clesson Blake and his sister Ruth (Blake) Cook, were collectors, they did not accumulate as much as they inherited, according to Richard French, a cousin who had looked after them during their declining years.

Fortunately, Clesson and his sister Ruth were savers. But unfortunately, after a fire an unscrupulous antique dealer made off with several truck loads of valuable antiques at \$1,000 per load before relatives could bring a halt to the unscrupulous looting. To her credit, Ruth Cook would not allow the dealer to touch any of her belongings, nor four pastel family portraits by famous painter Ruth Henshaw Bascomb that were spared. Tradesmen, hired to repair fire damage by the two siblings, also made off with money and valuables scattered about the house and in a large unlocked safe.

The two story Blake house has five bedrooms, a dining room, a living room, two big pantries, plus two rooms that appear to have been workrooms. At the auction, Richard French bought a boot last that had been used at the farm for making leather boots

for Civil war soldiers, cottage industry being common in early times. Boxes holding tens of thousands of tiny wooden pegs used for securing the soles to the boots accompanied the boot last and the one remaining boot.

The paintings by Ruth Henshaw Bascomb brought spirited bidding at auction. Bascomb only painted family pastel portraits. It is unknown if she had any formal training in painting but her work was highly regarded. The portraits are of museum quality.

The open Model T touring car that Clesson Blake and Ruth Koch enjoyed taking on long excursions sported an inspection sticker dated 1999. The touring car brought \$5,500 at the auction. It most likely is the very same Model T that Clesson purchased decades earlier from Carl Schacht for \$300.

The 13 antique tractors only brought \$500 to \$1,000 each because there were so many of them. A frugal Yankee, Clesson usually paid only about \$50 for a tractor. The auction's entire proceeds were in excess of \$50,000. Proceeds from the auction and the sale of the farm were put into a charitable trust



Bidders look at some of Clesson Blake's Model T's at the auction.

for land preservation.

The auctioneer displayed the wide assortment of family collections, handed down for generations, in lots under a tent in the Blake homestead. In the twilight of the evening before the auction, spirits of families past seemed to drift over this last reunion of all the remaining items once owned by generations, summing up the essence of their lives. The barn, which collapsed years ago, is long gone, and the house and sheds have new owners totally unrelated to the family. Only the spirits of families past remain, drifting about the premises.

## An Armistice Day memory

by Skip Barshied

When I awoke this morning, my first thought was about Grandpa and the many pleasant times we spent together. I was sure that today was the day to write the story about finding the bear trap. The only trouble was that the man's name who we bought it from has slipped from my memory. Older people will tell you that failing to remember something can be depressing. Often the memory will reappear. That is, happily, what has happened in this case. So I can continue with the story.

I do not know when Grandpa Garlock started to call himself

"Buckskin Ben." It came about when he started to purchase deer skins from local hunters, have them tanned and made into gloves. It was done at Johnstown and Gloversville, NY, then the leather capital of the country, if not the world.

All of the hunters for many miles around me knew and liked Buckskin Ben. I was often asked to go with him as he purchased the deer skins in the foothills of the Adirondacks. The day that I will tell you about was a famous holiday and I did not have to go to school. It was Armistice Day, Nov. 11, 1945.

See Armistice Day page A3



Benjamin Garlock, known as "Buckskin Ben," the author's grandfather.

Photos courtesy of Skip Barshied

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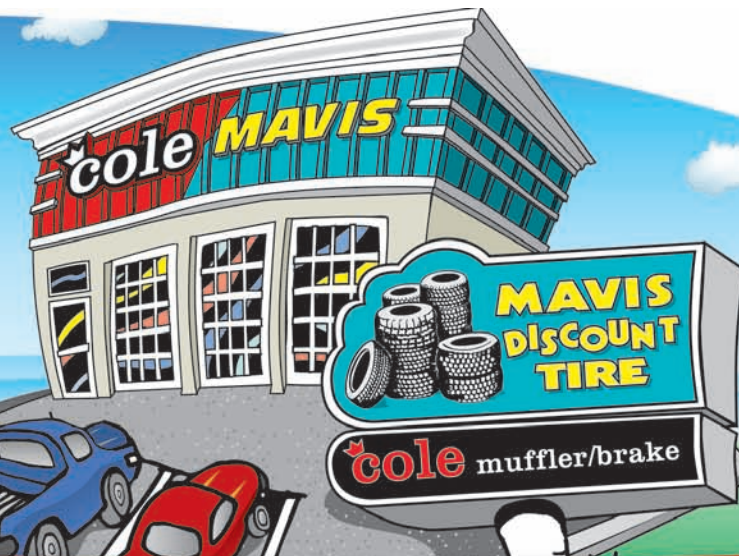
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# Egg on her face

by Terry Berkson

Last week I was reluctant to leave “the farm” and head for New York City because I had a couple of problems with my chickens. My rooster wasn’t crowing correctly and more importantly, at least one of my chickens had been eating eggs out of the laying boxes. It was hard to determine which one was the culprit but I was sure if left unchecked the habit would be contagious. Egg eaters are aggravating. I had already consulted local experts, Vaughn and McNulty, who told me that the problem was likely due to a calcium deficiency. “If you don’t have oyster shells,” Vaughn said, “you could give them some Tums which are loaded with calcium.” After taking a Tum myself I broke up the rest of the roll and mixed it in the feed.

McNulty said that giving them a bowl of milk would be another temporary solution. I tried that too and later got some oyster shells from feed-mixer Jimmy Collins but after several days the problem still persisted. I tried sneaking up on the coop to see if I could catch the cannibal in the act but to no avail. “See which chicken has egg on her face,” my wife Alice wisely suggested. I did a careful inspection

but didn’t find any yolky evidence.

An Amish neighbor told me to collect some fine roadside gravel and throw it into the yard. “They need that to help their gizzards grind up the food,” he said. “And try putting some apple cider vinegar in their water.” I blindly followed all the advice but a week later I was still going out to the coop to find the remains of an egg that had been devoured. I tried putting fake eggs in the box so that the chicken would peck at them and get discouraged when the plastic didn’t crack.

As we headed down the Thruway I recounted all of this to my wife, who had insisted I make a trip to the city. “Well, you can’t do anything about it right now,” she quipped. “So why bother thinking about it?”

“You’re right,” I said. But I just couldn’t get the problem out of my head. Consequently, the very next day I was on the road headed back to the farm while my wife stayed with her mother. During the restless night spent on my mother-in-law’s couch I had thought of an idea that was sure to solve the problem. A bitter pill could cure the guilty chicken’s malady. As soon as I got

back to town I headed for Foo Chow’s Chinese restaurant to place a minimal order which would give me the opportunity to load up on packets of hot Chinese mustard that were available on the take-out counter. A few drops of the stuff will make smoke come out of your ears.

I raced home, left the chow mein on the kitchen table and headed out to the coop where I was sure to find another broken, half-eaten shell with the white and yolk missing. I removed the shell from the laying box and tore open three packets of hot mustard that was as yellow as a yolk. The chicken would surely be fooled. Then I carefully placed the loaded egg back into the box, closed the coop door and watched from the corner of a window. Unfortunately, after waiting a half hour none of the birds came waltzing in for the bait. On the way back to the house I pictured the culprit diving into the mustard, stumbling back and shaking her head as though she had been hit with a frying pan. If she could crow like a rooster I was sure she would.

About ten the next morning when I walked out to the coop to collect eggs I was astounded by what I found... nothing! Of course the artificial eggs



*The baited egg*  
Photo by Terry Berkson

were there and real eggs were in the other laying boxes, but in the box that held the bait, except for some moisture, there wasn’t a trace of the “loaded” egg, not even a piece of shell!

“I can’t believe it,” I told my wife. “She ate the whole thing!”

“She’ll be back,” Alice said. “Get out there and watch.”

“Why?” I wanted to know.

“Because every time I eat Chinese food I’m hungry a little while later.”

Frustrated, I still didn’t know which chicken was guilty but whichever one it was must’ve had a cast iron gizzard. Eating that much Chinese mustard would kill me.

I wondered how consuming large amounts of the stuff

would affect the taste of her eggs. Maybe they’d be good. If I could just get to one before she devoured it, I’d know. Lately I’ve been thinking about feeding bacon bits to my chickens — the kind people sprinkle on salads. If I’m right the resultant product would be bacon and eggs in a shell! I could label the boxes Bacon Flavored Eggs! They ought to sell like hot cakes! But, until I find the egg eater, everything’s on hold. I know that persistence is the answer. I just don’t give up.

Incidentally, early, yesterday morning I said to my wife, “You know, I think Geezbrook’s crow is improving.”

“I don’t know about his crow,” she said. “But, yours is getting better!”

## Armistice Day from page 1

Grandpa was 68 years old. That seemed quite ancient to me. I was 15 and already searching for old guns and relics that struck my fancy. We started for Northville. I told Grandpa that I would like a bear trap. He assured me that all we had to do was ask everyone we came in contact with

the same question: Where can we find a bear trap? That same strategy of questions has helped me discover many hard-searched-for relics since that day 66 years ago.

Finally, we asked a man near Mayfield, NY. He sent us to George Wilson on the mountain road. Wilson had two bear traps and had actually used them to catch bear there in his mountainous area. The largest handmade one he said he found in the woods many years before. When he carried it home, he doubtless began to know that it weighed 46 pounds. I bought the huge trap for five dollars that day and have always kept it to help bring to mind my grandfather, “Buckskin Ben,” and one of our great excursions from long ago.



*This bear trap cost the author five dollars in 1945. It was purchased in Mayfield, NY.*

## Raised on a farm

by Elizabeth Zerbst

Fresh air and sunshine... Thunder and rain...  
Snowflakes and dewdrops... Wild flowers galore.  
A father and mother... Two sisters, five brothers...  
A farm full of animals... I couldn’t have had more.

Hard work and religion... Three square meals each day...  
A well balanced upbringing... A life filled with love...  
Black and white television... Ample time left for play.  
Thinking back to my childhood... These are what I think of.

I still love the outdoors... My soul thrives on fresh air.  
I still love all my siblings... Seven best friends for life.  
I have a farm full of animals... They depend on my care.  
I’m a sister, a mother, a grandmother, a wife.

I still live by my faith... An important part of who I am.  
Hard work doesn’t scare me... My family ties are strong.  
I cherish my children ... My grandchildren are my world.  
In my heart I am certain... I am right where I belong.

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## 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 . . .*

We've all been asked the hypothetical question: "You find a wallet; what do you do with it?" And, we've all quickly answered, "Return it," even if we wouldn't. It's fine. It's human nature. What do you do when somebody asks you for driving directions?

My house is the last house on the opposite end of a street that junctions with a major thoroughfare that leads to the highway. What that means is that GPS and all other manner of new-fangled navigation leads people right to my driveway. Once there people undoubtedly ask for directions. It's in that moment that I am faced with one of three options: the truth, the lie, and somewhere in between.

The truth happens more times than not. When the driver rolls down the window and politely asks, "Excuse me, could you please tell me how to get to . . ." This lost traveler will get simple, concise directions.

"Turn around, take a left, then a right." Easy peasy.

When somebody barks, "Hey dude, howdya get to the place I'm looking to get to?" sometimes they get led astray. This happens rarely and despite all my trying. People who sling attitude around get bad directions. Sorry. It's human nature.

"Turn around and take your first left and then do a quick veer to the right. Then you go under the over pass and take another left." I've just given you directions to the city baseball diamond. They haven't played ball there in ten years. Is this bad?

Sometimes if I'm feeling mischievous or if I simply don't know where you need to go, you might get something that's a little bit of both plus the kitchen sink and some malarkey too.

"Head back the way you came until you see the big elm tree." This always cracks me up because they cut down all the elms when they got blight in 1977.

"When you see the elm, hang a right and go down 'till you see the old school." The school is still there, they just turned it into apartments seven years ago.

Three or four more landmarks only Chester Copperpot knows and they might find their way out of the maze. Is this wrong?

Have you noticed that two different GPS systems will give you two completely different routes? Add MapQuest or Google Maps for yet another opinion. Sometimes the usefulness of an old fashioned, paper map cannot be underestimated.

Be helpful to wayward sojourners. It may not be they're fault they're lost. Bad signs, an evil GPS, or a mistake may have led them to you. Take the opportunity to be a Good Samaritan and point them in the right direction.

When it comes to directions Lau Tzu said, "If you do not change direction, you may end up where you are heading." Mom would say, "Keep one eye on the road and one on the map."

*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.*

## Preservation

by Troy Bishopp

The word 'preservation' instinctively takes on several meanings, from heritage preservation to self-preservation, but the seasonal activity of preserving food epitomizes all the genres of definition. Without the skill of canning, curing or freezing handed down from generations, civilization as we know it would get pretty hungry, pretty fast.

My exposure to fermented foods began in earnest at every holiday meal by tasting the year's first ceremonial sour pickles made in a special clay crock under the watchful eye of my Grandpa Steele. He had a basic recipe but added a few pinches of alum powder with a smidgen of mystery herbs and watched us closely for the "pucker factor." If our faces didn't squirm he would take the vessel back to the cellar stairs and comment, "Not ready yet."

The art of preserving, as I remember, was handed down as a rite of passage from mother to daughter while the menfolk shared signature recipes for sausage and hard cider. As a young lad I guess the sweet smell of fruit preserves and jellies lured me into the kitchen to be with my grandmother and mom. The reward of spreading jam on warm molasses cookies for helping peel the apples and hull the strawberries with the tin gouger-thing seemed, at the time, much more satisfying than watching cucumbers brine.

Of all the foods that my family preserved for generations, the sight and smell of a percolating canner full of tomatoes tickled my fancy the most. I can't attribute this interest to a specific thing other than the processing regime seems more mechanical and more workman-like, which suits me. I equate the system to dairying: Gather the cows, feed them, milk them, store in bulk tank and clean equipment and start the process over tomorrow.

Plant the seeds, stake the plants, prune, harvest, scald, skin, feed the hot jars, process, cool and store then start another batch tomorrow. See what I mean, it's more like a job. I like it.

When I apprenticed with my mom, she started me off scalding and shocking the Better Boys and eventually moved me up the chain to filling jars. I was always careful not to mess with the time-tested recipe: tomatoes, onion, basil and salt in the proper doses while mixing and squeezing the air out with a spatula. She always did quality control and cleanliness inspection so that the jars would seal.

It was always understood that a successful canner's



*Of all the foods that preserved, the sight and smell of a percolating canner full of tomatoes tickled the author's fancy the most.*

*Photo by Troy Bishopp*

worth of homemade product would bring compensation for the line worker. The simplest and most enjoyable form of payment for me was and still is a delectable, salty, warm bowl of "maters" floating amongst the basil and onion. It just doesn't get much better than that.

The preservation mentoring extended from my mom to my wife who is a culinary genius in her own rite.

Like any good recipe there are some regional or backyard differences in which the diversity of flavors makes the original even better. My wife grows three to four varieties and colors of tomatoes which add body to spaghetti sauces, stews and chili, to name a few. This year the gals (mom, wife and daughter) canned over 120 quarts of the liquid red gold which will sustain the pantry until next season.

As the sound of the lids seal, I appreciate how important it is to carry on the tradition of preserving food from your own neighborhood.

There is an argument that would say canning or food preservation is more costly than buying processed foods in the grocery store because of economies of scale. It's a valid point. However, in my opinion there are so many more intangibles to growing and processing your own food that it outweighs the concern over worth.

Factor in the fresh taste of the ingredients, the exercise in gardening, the camaraderie in the kitchen and the bountiful fellowship around the dinner table telling stories about the preservation process and you have your answer to the cost question. Priceless!

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Just good reading

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# Hello Again,

After tossing, turning and sort of stretching in bed this morning I finally convinced my feet to touch the carpet. I don't think they liked the idea any better than I did.

Finally reaching the wash basin, I splashed a generous amount of cold water on my face, that was a huge wake up shock, then I squinted into the mirror and I haven't been the same ever since. There was an old man's face looking at me. I tried moaning and groaning then thought a smile would work better, it didn't help much, but then I realized that fellow looking back at me was an old friend. He's been right there for nearly 78 years. No improvement but then as the lady said you can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear.

Then I went downstairs to the kitchen. My wife was feeding our two cats from an expensive looking can of their special high cost cat food. Still feeling a little grumpy I felt like saying – "You have a choice – it's either me or those cats." But I was awake enough to realize her reply might be, "I'm going to miss you."

After a quick breakfast and a time of Bible study with prayer, I headed for the office. When I turned my car onto Failing Ave., a black cat crossed my path. Now I'm not a believer in black cat luck, or unluck, however,

with the mood I started the day off with – that black cat was lucky to jump off the road before my car got there.

Now, answer me truthfully – How's your day going? And, please don't say good – grand or marvelous, my weakened ego couldn't handle it.

Remember those dreamful thought provoking words, "Those Good Old Days?" This is a special message to you ladies of the year 2013 who dream of the good old days!

The following household hint was published under a bold heading in the March 1, 1941 Better Farms Newspaper published in Polaski, NY.

Laundry Hints: Cottons and Linens tend to turn yellow if allowed to dry when not thoroughly rinsed of soap. If clothes are very dirty before laundering add from one to six tablespoons of turpentine or kerosene to a boiler full of water before boiling the clothes.

Can you imagine placing a large metal tub on the wood burning cook stove and filling it with cold water, placing your laundry items in the tub with turpentine (the stuff we clean paint brushes with) or kerosene oil and boiling the clothes to make them clean? Then naturally spooning hot laundry items out of the boiling water

with a stick of wood, possibly an old broom handle, and by hand squeeze out the excess water and then hanging them on the line outside to dry.

Now without further ado, those were the good old days.

Just how unfair can life become? We all are aware of the giant national push for women's rights – right? I bet you're not aware how lopsided this push issue can be and how long we boys have had to suffer. According to an article in the March 15, 1941 issue of Better Farms, a champion boy cherry pie baker Elwin Smith of Niagara County, NY attempted to compete in the New York State Cherry Pie Baking contest. He wanted a shot at the state championship. To cut a heartbreaking story short, the officials would not allow Elwin to compete, as he was a boy. Bet they were afraid he would win.

My wife – a city girl – grew up in Norwich, NY and was fed a dose of old farm-related wives tales by her grandmother. For example: if a herd of milk cows was laying down in the pasture, it means it's going to rain. So – one day we passed a large herd of Holsteins – some of the cows were laying down and some were standing. I asked how that situation stood with her grandmother's saying. She replied, "Well maybe it will rain and maybe it won't."

My wife and her friend in Virginia often talk for a couple of

hours on the phone. When she hung up the phone after only 30 minutes I asked "Wasn't that Barb?" She replied, "No wrong number."

A highfalutin society lady decided to throw a special party and asked the butcher for something special to serve. He suggested human brains. Farmer brains at \$10 per pound. Doctor's brains at \$25 per pound, and politician brains at \$100 per pound. She asked the butcher, "Why are politician brains so expensive?" He answered, "You wouldn't believe how many politicians it takes to get a pound of brains."

Paddy the Irishman was standing on the four corners of Ballyconnell in southern Ireland when a big American car stopped and asked, "Is this the road to Dublin?" Paddy said, "I don't know." "Will this other road go to Dublin?" he was asked. Paddy said, "I've lived here all my life and that road has never gone anywhere." "You don't know much do you?" the Yankee driver asked. "Well kind sir," Paddy replied, "I know I'm not lost."

With that, the Yankee driver said, "We seemed to get off on the wrong foot. Tell me sir, if you were going to Dublin, which way would you go?" With that, in a kinder tone, Paddy said, "If I were going to Dublin, I wouldn't start from here."

Most roads eventually lead to a church. The biblical definition of a church is where believ-

ers meet. The road of unbelievers never ends in his lifetime search for happiness.

Well until next time – keep on the right side of the road. Watch carefully for the horse and buggies. Remember that buggy driver doesn't have brakes and your auto horn might scare the horse. Travel with the Lord in your heart.

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# The Country Preacher

by Dan West

I ran across a quote recently that says "When ego comes in, greatness goes out." Ego, of course, refers to an exaggerated sense of self-importance. Now,

each of us is important and has good ideas, but when we put ourself ahead of others, we block further collaboration and improvement of the situation.

Often when someone

interrupts you as you are speaking, they are indicating that they don't think what you are saying is as important as what they have to say. Some people will even ask you a ques-

tion, then while you are answering them, they start talking so you can't complete your answer. I used to tell my students in school, "You have two ears and only one mouth, so you

should listen twice as much as you talk!"

We can learn so much more listening than we can talking. James, the half-brother of Jesus, said "let every man be swift to

hear, slow to speak, and slow to wrath." Solomon said, "In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, but he who restrains his lips is wise." (Proverbs 10:19)

## Whatchamacallit

This week's whatchamacallit is an old carriage pulley, submitted by Carol Haberek. It transported hay to the haymow, which typically was up high in a barn loft and difficult to transport to.

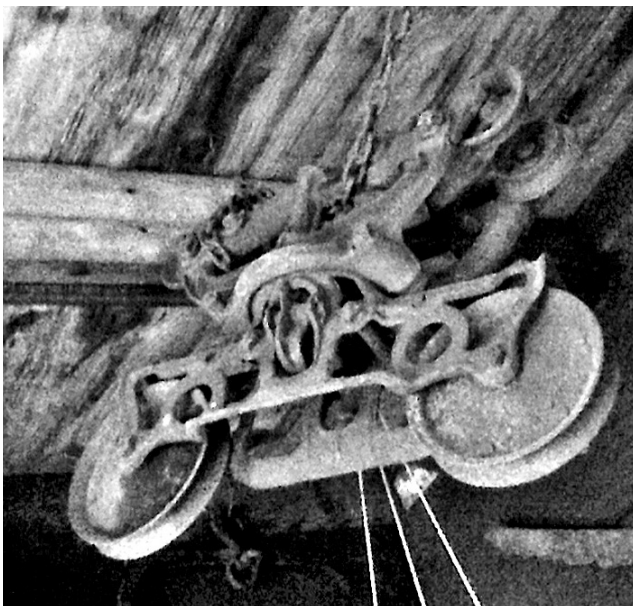
The carriage pulley carried a fork full of loose hay into the barn. When the carriage reached the place in the haymow that the farmer wanted the hay

to be, he would pull a rope and the carriage would release the fork and the hay would drop into the mow.

~~~

Have your own Whatchamacallit? Send picture and description to [eenager@leepub.com](mailto:eenager@leepub.com).

Visit our Facebook page each week to see if you can figure out what the upcoming Whatchamacallit is!



## Bible trivia

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Cyrus in the Old or New Testament or neither?

2. What word meaning "trouble" did Jesus pronounce on the Pharisees seven times in one speech? Misery, Gloom, Murk, Woe

3. From Proverbs, what stones are worth less than either wisdom

or a good wife? Rubies,

4. What parts of the New Jerusalem's city walls are decorated with precious stones? Sides, Foundations, Fronts, Tops

5. Of these, which book comes before the others in the KJV Bible? Hosea, Job, Ruth, Jeremiah

6. What does Paul say is the supreme gift of the prophecies to believers? Charity, Hope, Faith, Eternity

ANSWERS: 1) Neither; 2) Woe; 3) Rubies; 4) Foundations; 5) Ruth; 6) Charity

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## HOSKING SALES

Weekly Sales Every Monday starting at 11:30 with Misc. & small animals, 1:00 Dairy. We start calves at 5PM cull beef follows. Call for more info and sale times. Our Volume is increasing weekly - join your neighbors & send your livestock this way!

**Monday, Oct. 28th sale** - cull ave. .60 Top cow \$.78, bulls/steers \$.66 - \$.88, bull calves top \$1.70, heifer calves \$1.88, feeder Dairy \$.10 - \$.69, feeder steers \$.79-\$1.09. Dairy Milking age top \$1275, bred heifers top \$1350, open heifers top \$730. **Saturday, 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).

**Monday, Nov. 11th** - Monthly Heifer Sale. Group of 10 short bred & 3 open heifers consisting of 7 Holsteins, 1 Shorthorn X, Ayrshire X, Jersey X, 3 Jerseys. Group of 15 started mostly crossbred heifers, load of springers out of the north country. Expecting a good run. **SPECIAL - FOR THIS SALE WE WILL START AT 10:00 AM.** We will be having brand new items to sell for Christmas - toy tractors, cattle trucks, farm sets, pellet guns, games, figurines, blankets, RC helicopters, large RC helicopter, some tools...plus a lot more.

**Friday, Nov. 15th** - Fall Premier All-Breed Sale 150 Head of Registered Cattle sell. 11:30AM. Early consignments from: Oakfield Corners, Tiger Lilly, Sco-Li, Locust-Vale, Greslon, O-C-E-C Embryos, Windex Farm, Gaige Farm, Woodmansee, Faigle Farm, Posthaven, Manley Farm, Collins-Crest, George Farm, Headwater Farm, Holtmart Dairy, Lawton's Jerseys, Yetter Farm, Seacord Farm, T-Farm, Osborn Bros, Vine Valley Farm, Many Acres, Snow Valley, Licata Ayrshires, Echo Farm, just to mention a few. Watch website for these outstanding consignments. Tom says may be the best line up yet - lots of milk!

**Monday, Nov. 18th** - Monthly Sheep, Lamb & Goat Sale.

**Monday, Nov. 25th** - Normal Monday Sale.

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**Saturday November 9th, 10:00am, preview @ 9:00am**

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**GARAGE:** Anvil, Craftsman Drill Press, Craftsman Radial Arm Saw, Grizzly 8" Buffer, Duracraft Drill Press, 10" Craftsman Table Saw, Delta Belt Sander, Craftsman Miter saw, Craftsman Grinder, 18 Volt Dewalt Drill Set, Bosch Drill Set, Makita Router, Craftsman Air Compressor, Craftsman Open End Wrenches, Skil Saw, Shop Lights, Lead Cords, Hand Tools, Shop Heaters, Bolts, Nuts, Nails, Shop Tables, Tool Shelves, Snow Blower, Kerosene Heaters, Kerosene and Gas Cans, Air Conditioner, Shovels, Rakes, Brooms, Hand Planes, Ladders, Lawn Wagon, Garden Hoses, Small Troy Built Rototiller, Shop Vac Cleaners, Patio Set with Chairs, Wheel Barrow, 2-Small Wind Mills, Lawn Ornaments, Garden Tools, Water Hoses, Lantern, Bird Feeders, and much more items to numerous to list!!

**ANTIQUES:** Cast Iron Fire Alarm Box (Utica, NY) Manual Cast Iron Fire Alarm Box, Oak Ice Box, Early Cyphen's Wooden Incubator (Buffalo, NY) in original red paint very nice piece in great shape, Coffee Grinder, Whites of Utica 3 Gallon Crock with blue painting, Oil Paintings, Blue Fenton Hanging Lamp, Early Post Cards, Tin Pie Safe, Early Cast Iron Scales, Egg Scales, Country Rockers, Buggy Bench, Country Flip Top Table/Bench, Early Wooden Barn Doors for Decor, 2-Bakers Rack, Rug Beaters, 2x2' Butcher Block, Early Country Cradle, Dome Top Trunks, Corner Cupboard, Vintage Dough Board, Wooden Kitchen Utensils, Early Victoria with horn (nice) Piano Stool, Primitive Pigeon Hole Cabinet, Adirondack Rocker, Settee Bench, National Cash Register, Sewing Machine Table, 3 Carousel Horses, 1-Hedstrom Stroller, 1-Early Childs Walker, Texaco Tin Truck, 2 cast Iron Dinner Bells, Cast Iron Grates, Large Pot Belly Stove, Vintage Garden Tools, Large Post Office Mailbox, Fire Hydrant, Early Wagon, Milk Cans, Cream Cans, Milk Wagon, Bob Sleds, Large Ice Tongs, Cast Iron Bed Frame, Hay Forks, Large Wagon Wheels, and much more!!

**FARM EQUIPMENT:** 3 Point 1-Bottom John Deere Plow, 3 Point 2-Bottom Plow, 3 Point 10' Harrow, Small set of Disc, Harrow Plow, Set of Drags, Dump Rake, Wagon Bed with steel wheels, 2-Walk Behind Plows, 2-Large Garden Trailers, Set of Garden Drags, and much more still coming as we set up !!

**Auctioneer Note:** This will be great Auction that you don't want to miss!! Auction will be held under Tent and in the large garage!! Bring your chairs and boxes, and get ready to enjoy an Exceptional Country Estate Auction, This Is A Very Good Clean Local Estate!! Don't Miss This One!! Come Early Stay Late!! Bring Your Chairs and Boxes!! Cash Check or Credit Card!! 13% Buyers Premium, 3% Waived if paying with Cash or Check!

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### Hoarders Estate Auction

**Saturday November 16th • 10:00am**

**Estate of Josephine Bono, 677 Joshlin Hill, Frankfort, NY 13340 Refrigerator, 2 Bedroom Suites, Furniture, 100's of New and Used Items!!**

**Household:** Empire Round Oak China Cabinet, Empire Side Board, 6 Tea back Chairs, deco Bedroom Suite includes Full Size Bed, Dresser with Mirror, 2 over 3 Chest of Drawers, Dressing Table, Chest of Drawers, New Full Size, Box Spring and Mattress, Mission Library Table, Columbia Grafonola, Wentworth Player Piano, Piano Bench, 3 Drawer Dresser, Early Radios, Upright Radio, Singer Treadle Sewing Machine with Cabinet, Country Rocking Chair, Green Sofa and Chair, Cast Iron Lamp, Painted Milk Cans, 8 Wooden Clothes Trees, Copper Kettle, 7 Large Whiskey Barrels, Cider Press, Ice Cream Freezer, 2 Old Push Lawn Mowers, Pots, Pans, Dishes, Pink Depression Glassware, Salt and Pepper Shakers, Set of Silverware, Tea Pots, Kitchen Utensils, some still new in packages, Electric Kitchen Stove, New Batteries still in packs, Brass Hand Bell, Wash Stand, Touch Lamp, Enamelware, Cuckoo Clock, Vintage Clothing, New Clothes Pins, Hot Pads, Dollies, Linens, Wash Clothes, Antiques Games, Early Toys, 1000's of new items still in boxes, Alarm Clocks, Goose Décor, 1000's of Costume Jewelry, Milk Bottles, Lady and Children's Gloves, Sweaters, 100's of Shoes, New Braided Rugs, Pocket Books & Purses, Lots of Rooster Décor, Rooster Clocks, Rooster Lamps, Rooster Towels, Rooster Jars, Crock, Towels, Linens, Blankets, Bedspreads, Towels, Insulated Jackets, 100's of Christmas Decorations still in boxes, Children's Toys new in box, Thanksgiving Decorations new in boxes, Clean Pots, Pans, Dishes, Tupperware's, Sled, Rototiller, Hand Tools, Old Windows, Extension Ladder, Wheel Barrow, 100's of other items that we will be finding as we set up for this Auction!!!

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## More than 10,000 answer boy's plea for a family

ST. PETERSBURG, FL (AP) — A 15-year-old boy who went to a St. Petersburg church to plead for a family now has more than 10,000 people who want to adopt him.

Strangers from every state have expressed interest in adopting Davion Navar Henry Only, who was born in prison and raised in foster care. He lives in a

group home with 12 other boys and has never had his own room or felt wanted.

When he heard his birth mother had died last spring, he decided to find someone to adopt him. So he went to St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church and told his story from the pulpit.

"I know God hasn't given up on me," he told

the congregation. "So I'm not giving up either."

The teen's story was published in a front-page story in the Tampa Bay Times and went viral on social media and was picked up on news sites and television shows around the globe. The boy's case manager, Connie Going, told the newspaper **S u n d a y**

(<http://bit.ly/19FFCbO>) the response has been overwhelming.

"I've never seen anything like this," Going said. "His simple plea just struck a chord with the world."

Going said every adoption offer is being followed through. Couples who have already passed adoption home studies are being considered first, and families without young children or who have expe-

rience with teens and traumatized kids will also receive priority.

Teens are often the most difficult to place. Davion said he's pleased his story has raised awareness about the struggle of other foster teens to find a home.

"I know what it's like to have nobody, with no light at the end of the tunnel, no one who wants you," Davion said. "I just keep saying,

There's only one me. But all my friends, all the other guys at the group home, all these other kids need families too."

Adoption specialists hope to narrow the thousands of inquiries for Davion down to 100 or so, Going told the Tampa Bay Times. The 10 best options will be presented to the teen.

Davion said he is amazed that "so many people actually want me."

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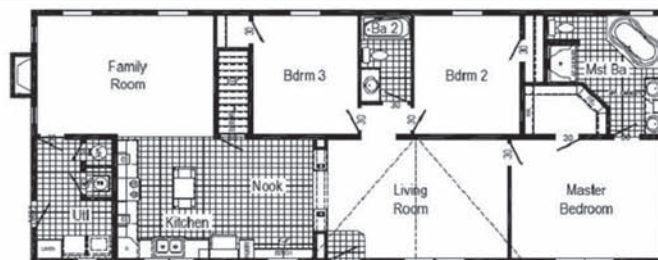
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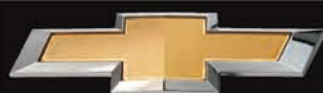
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## 2014 FORD FOCUS



STK#4948. MSRP: \$20,555

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**TOTAL AMOUNT DUE AT SIGNING: \$1,700.**

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## 2014 FORD FUSION



STK#4959. MSRP: \$22,695

**LEASE FOR  
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STK#4919. MSRP: \$23,565

**LEASE FOR  
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**TOTAL AMOUNT DUE AT SIGNING: \$3,100.**

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STK#4915. MSRP: \$30,790

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## 2014 FORD EXPLORER



STK#4848. MSRP: \$32,495

**LEASE FOR  
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**TOTAL AMOUNT DUE AT SIGNING: \$4,000.**

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# Seasonal driving checklist

NAPSA — Whether drivers are trading out their ice scrapers for an open sunroof or putting the cover on the convertible after another summer driving season, experts advise that seasonal car prep should go beyond the basic wash and wax.

With that in mind, consider these car care tips for keeping your vehicle looking and running in tip-top shape.

**Check tire tread depth.** To check tread depth, look inside the grooves on the tire. At every six to 10 inches, a raised wear bar will appear, and if the tread is worn to the same height as the bar, it's time to replace the tire. Make sure to check for wear at several spots on each

tire, as wear may not always be even. If new tires are needed, be sure to follow your vehicle manufacturer's recommendation for size and type of tires, as the wrong tire can hurt vehicle handling.

**Verify battery strength.** Don't assume all is well with the car battery just because your vehicle starts. While some drivers may be able to check their own battery, this is usually best left to the professionals.

**Regularly monitor tire pressure.** Underinflated tires reduce fuel mileage and optimal handling, and can suffer unnoticeable damage that compromises car performance and safety. Check tire pressure of-

ten; don't just "set it and forget it."

**Pay attention to brake operation.** Properly functioning brakes are essential to vehicle safety. Disc brakes on modern vehicles are exposed to road salt, dirt and moisture, which together can create problems. Pay attention when braking. Does your vehicle stop evenly or does it seem to pull to one side? This can indicate a malfunction if it occurs on a variety of road surfaces

and should be checked immediately. What about noise? While an occasional noise is not uncommon, unusually loud or constant noises when applying the brakes should be checked by a professional.

**Inspect/replace wiper blades.** The joys of a leisurely drive through changing scenery can be quickly erased by a freak thunderstorm, especially if that's when you discover you need new wiper blades. The rubber used in wiper blades can become dry and brittle

during the hotter months, especially if they've already been through a season of snow and rain. Replace them early to ensure a clear view of the road ahead.

Essentially, explains Tim Quinn, vice president, AfterSales, Porsche Cars North America, Inc., a new season is "the perfect time to review critical car safety functions."



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# Trimming the costs of automobile ownership

According to the Automobile Association of America, the cost of owning a vehicle is on the rise. In its 2013 "Your Driving Costs" study, AAA determined the cost of owning a vehicle is somewhere between \$7,000 and \$11,000 annually depending on the type of vehicle. That's a substantial amount of money and may leave many motorists looking for ways to reduce the cost

of automobile ownership.

Driving is a way of life for many people left with little choice but to keep a vehicle. Thanks to mass transportation, city dwellers might be able to get by without owning a vehicle, but those who live in rural communities or even the suburbs often find that public transportation runs too infrequently or inefficiently to meet their needs. There are

ways for those who need their own automobiles to reduce the financial burden of vehicle ownership.

- **Downsize your vehicle.** In its study, AAA found that the average cost of owning a vehicle varied considerably depending on the size of that vehicle. That should come as no surprise, as larger vehicles tend to consume more fuel and, as a result, cost more money. But



Driving a smaller car instead of an SUV can save drivers a considerable amount of money over the course of a year.

drivers might be surprised to learn just how much less it costs to own a small sedan than it does a four-wheel-drive sport utility vehicle. Small sedans cost the least amount of money to own at \$6,967 annually, while four-wheel-drive SUVs cost nearly twice that amount, setting their owners back \$11,599 per year. But the most surprising thing from the AAA study might be its findings as to the costs of owning a large sedan. Such vehicles are nearly as expensive as larger SUVs, costing drivers more than \$11,000 per year. So drivers who downsize their vehicles to a small sedan will likely save themselves a substantial amount of money over the life of the vehicle.

- **Drive safe and cash in on lower insurance premiums.** Though numerous factors, including individuals' driving histories, influence the cost of auto insurance, drivers with clean track records might be able to buck the industry trend and pay less for their auto insurance policy next year than they did

this year. In its study, AAA found that the cost of insurance rose by nearly 3 percent in 2012 from the year before. But drivers who can avoid accidents and citations are likely to see their rates decrease from year to year.

- **Buy a used car.** Buying a used car may not give buyers the initial excitement of driving off a car lot behind the wheel of a brand new vehicle, but it might prove quite exciting for your bank account. Revisiting a study they conducted in 2001, in 2013 experts at automotive website Edmunds.com examined three different financing methods and the cost of each over a six-year period, which the global market intelligence firm Polk estimates is the average car ownership period. The study examined the costs, including interest rates and fees, of leasing or buying a 2013 Honda Accord EX and buying a used 2010 Accord EX. The total cost of buying used after six years was \$20,960, while the cost of leasing was \$24,768 and the cost of buying new was

\$28,330. Buying used even saves buyers money when factoring in equity. Of course, leasing saves drivers the cost of maintenance and repairs, which can be considerable when buying used vehicles. However, an older used car won't cost as much to insure as a vehicle that is being leased or financed.

- **Drive less.** Of course, the easiest way for automobile owners to trim the costs of owning their vehicles is to drive less. Though vehicle manufacturers have improved fuel economy in recent years, driving less will save money on fuel, the cost of which hinges on a host of factors, including petroleum demand and economic conditions. Such factors may cause a dip in fuel prices one day, but a sharp increase in price the next day. Regardless of those fluctuations in fuel prices, drivers who can cut back on their driving are certain to save money.

The cost of vehicle ownership is on the rise. But motorists who rely on their vehicles can still find ways to save money.

## Is someone "liening" on your car?

(NAPSA) — When buying a used car, it's important to look for problems that aren't apparent to the naked eye. You might think of damage or fraud, but this includes any financial issues as well.

For starters, make sure any unpaid liens have been resolved before buying the car. A lien is "a legal right to the vehicle by a third party to ensure the repayment of a debt or other financial obligation."

If you buy a vehicle with a lien on its

title, you become legally obligated to pay off the debts. The lien also prevents you from registering the car until the lien is paid off.

One way to help protect yourself is to get a Carfax Vehicle History Report. It can contain a wide variety of information reported on the vehicle, such as title information, accident history and odometer readings, as well as financial issues, such as liens against the car.

Visit [www.carfax.com](http://www.carfax.com) to get a Carfax Report and learn more.

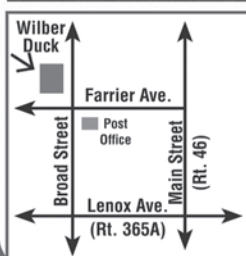
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# Car windows may not protect from sun

by Dee-ann Durbin, AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Car windows are designed to protect you in an accident. But they won't necessarily protect you from the sun.

Automotive glass must meet a host of government standards in the U.S. and elsewhere. It has to let in the maximum amount of light to help drivers see. It has to shatter into tiny pieces instead of shards that might hurt occupants in a crash.

But there are no requirements for sun protection. That can vary by vehicle, and even by window within a vehicle.

Windshields offer the most sun protection, according to Pete Dishart, who leads product development at Pittsburgh Glass Works in Pennsylvania. His company supplies glass to nearly every major automaker, including Toyota, Mercedes-Benz, General Motors, BMW and Hyundai.

By law, windshields must be made of laminated glass, which means they're formed from three parts: two 2.1-millimeter layers of glass separated by an 0.8-millimeter piece of stretchy plastic. The glass is made to break easily if something — the driver's head, for example, or a deer — comes in contact with it. The plastic then stretches to absorb that impact.

The layer of plastic helps windshields absorb nearly all of the sun's ultraviolet rays. Plastic is naturally good at absorbing UV rays, Dishart says, and can be made with extra UV absorbers to protect even more. He says windshields absorb 100 percent of UVB rays, which cause sunburn, and around 98 percent of UVA rays, which don't cause sunburn but can do long-term damage to the skin.

That gives windshields a sun protection factor — or SPF — of 50 or more, the equivalent

of some of the strongest sunscreens, Dishart said.

Sunroofs, too, often contain UV-absorbing technology that can block around 90 percent of UV rays. That's partly to keep the car cool as well as protect occupants from sun exposure.

But side and rear windows are a different story, and their SPF can vary a lot depending on the vehicle.

Side windows are usually made from cheaper tempered glass, which is around 4 millimeters thick and doesn't include a layer of plastic. Tempered glass is designed to shatter into tiny pieces, to protect the occupants in a crash. But unless they're tinted for privacy, side windows usually absorb only 65 percent of UV rays. That gives them an SPF of around 16, Dishart says, the same as some of the lowest grades of sunscreen.

That may be all right for people who don't do a lot of

driving. But several studies indicate a link between skin cancer and sun exposure while driving, especially for truck drivers or those with long commutes.

Some automakers are opting for more expensive, higher-SPF glass, not only to protect the car's occupants but also to cool down their cars. Heat from the sun can force the car's air conditioning to work harder, which lowers the vehicle's fuel economy.

Concerned about the level of sun exposure in your car? Here's what you can do:

- Seek out vehicles with more protection. Glass makers have a trade group — the Enhanced Protective Glass Automotive Association — that lobbies for stricter rules that would require laminated glass in all car windows. The group keeps tabs on which cars have laminated windows and publishes the results. The Ford Mustang, for exam-

ple, has a laminated glass sunroof, while several Buick and Mercedes sedans have laminated glass in the front windows.

- Explore window tinting and aftermarket films. Companies like Solar Gard offer window films that can block UV rays. Glass-tinting companies and auto dealers can install them on a four-door car for around \$200. There are also do-it-yourself kits at auto parts shops. But beware: States govern how much windows can be tinted, and those laws vary.

- Protect yourself. The Skin Cancer Foundation recommends applying a sunscreen with an SPF of 15 or higher around 30 minutes before you drive. Make sure to cover your face, neck, arms and hands. If you have a sunroof and thinning hair, you should also wear a hat, since skin cancer can develop on the top of your head.

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# Ann Romney's cookbook, more than just recipes

by Brian Skoloff, Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — Mitt Romney cooks. He washes dishes. The former Republican presidential candidate even does his own laundry.

The candid revelations come from his wife, Ann, who is taking her own turn in the

media spotlight with a bestselling cookbook, "The Romney Family Table: Sharing Home-Cooked Recipes & Favorite Traditions."

Filled with photos and tales of everyday life inside the Romney household, Romney's new book isn't just about cooking. It offers

readers a peek into the lives of a prominent American family, and she says, helps to dispel the myths of maids, personal chefs, chauffeurs and caretakers.

"I think people would be surprised to see how we really did live our lives," Romney said in a recent interview.

She chuckles at the image of her family being waited on hand and foot as she and Mitt raised five sons. They now also have 22 grandchildren.

"I was doing the cooking. Mitt was washing the dishes. The boys were misbehaving. Life wasn't perfect. It was messy," she said.

With recipes ranging from Mimi's buttermilk pancakes to mango salad, lasagna noodle bake, Mitt's meatloaf cakes and banana trash pudding, the book has reached the New York Times advice best seller list.

Romney said her husband first started cooking when she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 1998, a disease that ravaged her in the beginning, sapping her energy and forcing her to rest constantly, something she wasn't used to doing.

"He learned how to roast a chicken, how to steam vegetables," she said, adding that

things have changed a bit since the disease went into remission.

"It's really interesting that he's forgotten all about it now that I'm better," she joked, noting that he was probably at home making himself hot dogs while she travels to promote her book.

She said proceeds from the book's sales

will be donated to research at the Center for Neurologic Diseases at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston where she has been treated since her diagnosis.

But why a cookbook?

Romney explained it simply: It was a "more upbeat, positive, cheerful thing to write about than politics."



Ann Romney with husband Mitt, 2012 Republican presidential candidate.

Photo courtesy of newsbusters.org

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# New Hampshire pumpkin fest reclaims jack-o'-lantern record

by Holly Ramer

CONCORD, NH — When it comes to pumpkins, it pays to be painstaking.

Careful attention to onerous rules helped the city of Keene again break the world record for the most lit jack-o'-lanterns. Guinness World Records confirmed that 30,581 carved and lit pumpkins were displayed Oct. 19, topping the record of 30,128 pumpkins set by Boston in 2006.

Guinness officials are sticklers, but festival organizers and volunteers work hard to meet the stringent requirements, said Ruth Sterling, owner of the festival's management company, Sterling Design & Communications. That means rejecting pumpkins that flame out during the five-minute judging period or don't appear to have been "intentionally designed." In other words, you can't just punch a hole in a pumpkin and consider it "carved."

"Sometimes it's from a 4-year-old and that's

the best they can do," Sterling said. "We get a little mad about it, but we comply."

Started in 1991, the Keene Pumpkin Festival netted its first world record in 1993 with fewer than 5,000 pumpkins. Before Saturday, its most recent record-setting event was in 2003, with 28,952 jack-o'-lanterns. This is the ninth time it has held the record.

In 2010, the group that had been running the festival stepped aside because the event had grown too large to manage, but it was saved by a non-profit organization called Let it Shine, Inc. In recent years, Keene has enjoyed a friendly competition with Highwood, IL, and both were featured on HGTV's "Pumpkin Wars" last year.

Highwood officials hoped to snatch the record with 30,919 jack-o'-lanterns in 2011, but Guinness officials did not accept the tally. This year's total in Highwood was 28,036, said Tali Hylen of Ripple Public Rela-

tions.

"It rained and was windy Saturday night, preventing our crew from climbing scaffolding," Hylen said. "The boards were too slick and we couldn't risk safety."

In an update posted on the Keene festival's website, Sterling described the moment the total was announced Saturday night.

"The magic of the day cannot be described quickly enough to post this," she wrote. "Try to think of the best feeling in the world and multiplying it by 30,581."



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# Real Estate Guide

## How to earn a more affordable mortgage

Home ownership remains a dream for many people. But on the heels of the recession that began in late 2008, prospective home buyers are finding it far more difficult to secure a mortgage than it was in the years before the economy took a turn for the worse. Stricter guidelines now govern both borrowers and lenders alike, and the process can quickly frustrate prospective homeowners.

But strict guidelines and more diligent lenders do not mean prospective borrowers will not be able to secure a loan to finance their home purchases. It just means those borrowers might want to take every step possible to ensure their loan applications are approved and their mortgages are affordable.

• Address credit concerns before beginning

the process. Poor credit is a prospective borrower's worst enemy, and it's an instant and glaring red flag to lenders. And thanks to inaccuracies on their credit reports, some people may have poor credit and not even know it. Before they even begin the process of applying for a home loan, would-be applicants should go over their credit reports with a fine tooth comb, ensuring there are no potentially harmful inaccuracies that may affect the ability to secure an affordable mortgage. Inaccuracies or poor credit histories can bring down individuals' credit scores, which lenders use to determine home loan interest rates. So prospective applicants should have any errors to their credit reports corrected and/or work to improve their credit scores before applying for loans.

• Pay down debt. Even if an applicant's credit score is solid, lenders may scoff at applicants with substantial amounts of debt. Credit card debt should be paid down before beginning the process, and it also may benefit applicants to pay off any additional loans, such as car notes or student loans, before applying for a home loan. The less debt an applicant has, the more attractive that applicant becomes.

• Avoid overusing credit cards. Using credit too frequently also can

make it more difficult for prospective home buyers to secure a home loan. Credit card holders each have a maximum limit on their credit cards, and financial experts recommend using less than 20 percent of available credit to maintain a strong credit rating.

• Don't bluff on loan applications. Some borrowers might be tempted to inflate their earnings on home loan applications, including counting overtime or bonuses they haven't yet earned when listing

their annual income. Borrowers can expect lenders to request documentation of any extra income, including bonuses, so applicants should avoid including additional income on their applications unless they can prove it.

Applicants also must avoid hiding past issues on their applications. Banks performing their due diligence will eventually discover any past problems, so applicants should be straightforward from the start. Applicants concerned about their earnings should know that it's acceptable to include in-

formation about assets such as retirement plans and savings even if those funds don't figure to be used to pay the mortgage.

• Make a substantial down payment. Lenders look fondly on borrowers who can afford hefty down payments, feeling that such borrowers are less likely to default on their loans. In addition, the larger the down payment, the less the monthly mortgage payment will be, saving borrowers a significant amount of interest fees over the course of the loan.



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The

# Country Editor

Just good reading

Section B

## Deer hunters: Pack gear to properly field dress your deer

**Temperatures higher than 40 degrees Fahrenheit lead to increased risk for food safety concerns for hunters**

Though there seems to be a chill in the air, fall temperatures above 40 degrees Fahrenheit mean that hunters must be diligent about following food safety practices to prevent foodborne illnesses. Michigan State University Extension recommends cooling carcasses as quickly as possible along with additional food safety guidelines to prevent cross contamination. The fla-

vor and overall quality of meat is negatively impacted by exposing the carcass to cycles of floating temperatures above and below 40° F. Meat will not freeze until temperatures reach 26° F.

Here is a quick checklist of additional gear to pack when hunting:

- Several pairs of tight-fitting, disposable gloves — these not only can protect hunters from disease but also

assist in keeping the deer carcass clean during the dressing process.

- Clean, sharp knife and small saw or heavy duty snips to make cuts and split carcass.

- Pre-moistened wipes and/or container of clean water to maintain sanitation of knife and saw.

- Strings about six to eight inches long to tie off the anus and assist in other

dressing procedures.

- Large resealable food grade plastic bag to place the heart and/or liver into.

- Clean, dry towels or paper towels to dry the carcass with after washing.

- Rope to tie legs apart or drag deer.

- Kill tag attached to a string.

- Flashlight.

When hanging a deer

carcass, it is recommended to hang it with the head down so that all of the blood can be drained from the carcass. This will result in higher quality meat and is similar to how carcasses from livestock are hung. Process the meat from the carcass as soon as possible as aging venison is not necessary and could increase gamey taste.

Deer Hunters B3

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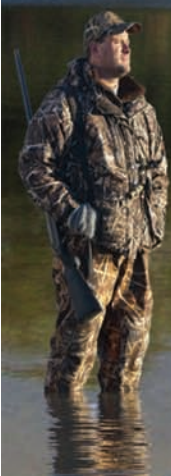
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## Venison: Handling and preserving safely

### Home preserving venison

Freezing is the easiest way to preserve venison. To prepare venison for freezing, trim away connective tissue and fat, the source of strong "gamey" flavor. Protect the meat by wrapping it in moisture, vapor-resistant packaging materials. Package in quantities that your family will eat in one meal sitting. Label each package with the date and cut of meat. Freeze quickly at 0 degree or below. For best eating results, use frozen ground venison within three months. Frozen venison steaks or roasts should be used within eight to 12 months.

Canning venison is also a popular method to preserve meat. When canning venison, you must use a pressure canner to process since venison and other meats are low-acid foods.

Low-acid foods must be processed in a pressure canner to assure their safety. The National Center for Home Food Preservation recommends canning venison according to directions for canning beef, veal, pork, lamb and mutton.

- Choose high-quality, chilled meat strips, cubes or chunks.
- Remove excess fat.
- Strong flavored wild meats should be soaked for one hour in a brine made of one tablespoon of salt, per every quart of water.
- Rinse meat.
- Cut into one-inch wide strips, cubes or chunks.

**Hot-pack** — Precook meat to the rare stage by roasting, stewing or browning in a small amount of fat. Pack hot meat loosely into hot jars,

leaving one-inch of headspace. Add a half teaspoon of salt to pints; one teaspoon to quarts, if desired (salt is not critical to the processing and can be omitted). Fill the jar, leaving one-inch of headspace, with boiling broth, water or tomato juice. Remove air bubbles and wipe the jar rims. Adjust lids and process as directed below.

**Raw pack** — Add a half teaspoon of salt to each pint jar; one teaspoon to quarts, if desired (salt is not critical to the processing and can be omitted). Pack raw meat loosely in hot jars, leaving one-inch of headspace. Do not add liquid. Remove air bubbles and wipe the jar rims. Adjust lids and process as directed below.

Process both hot and raw pack meat in a dial-gauge pressure canner at 11 pounds pressure or in a

weighted gauge pressure canner at 10 pounds pressure (pounds of pressure required vary according to altitude). Pints should be processed for 75 minutes; quarts should be processed for 90 minutes.

Remember that timing does not begin until the canner has vented for 10 minutes and comes up to pressure. If your pressure goes below the correct number of pounds, timing must be started over. Correct processing must be followed precisely to ensure a safe product.

Using safe techniques to clean, store and preserve your venison will allow you to enjoy the meat all year long.

This article was published by Michigan State University Extension. For more information, visit [www.msue.msu.edu](http://www.msue.msu.edu)

### Deer Hunters from B1

*Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) is naturally occurring bacteria in fecal matter of deer and other mammals. Some strains of *E. coli* are pathogenic and can cause foodborne illness. Other harmful bacteria can be found in deer as well. Bacteria are able to double

rather quickly if the conditions are acceptable, especially above 40°F. With daytime temperatures above 40°F, deer hunting gen-

erally occurs in conditions that can cause rapid microbial growth. Additional things hunters should look for are signs of disease

such as internal organs that look or smell funny. When in doubt, do not consume the venison and properly dispose of the entire carcass. The MDNR has check locations available to test any deer that is suspect for chronic wasting disease or bovine tuberculosis.

This article was published by Michigan State University Extension. For more information, visit [www.msue.msu.edu](http://www.msue.msu.edu)

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# Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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| 3 |   |   | 2 |   |   |   | 4 |   |
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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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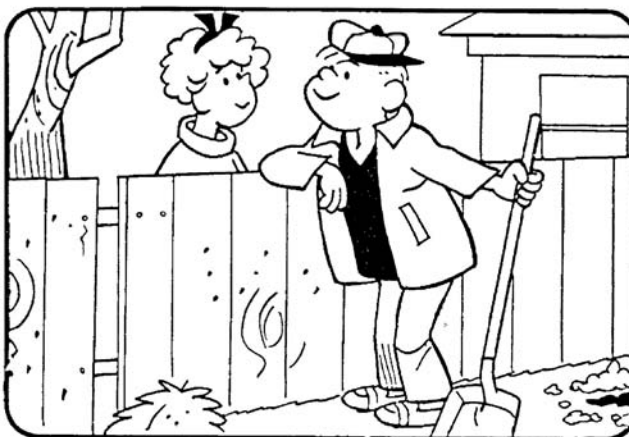
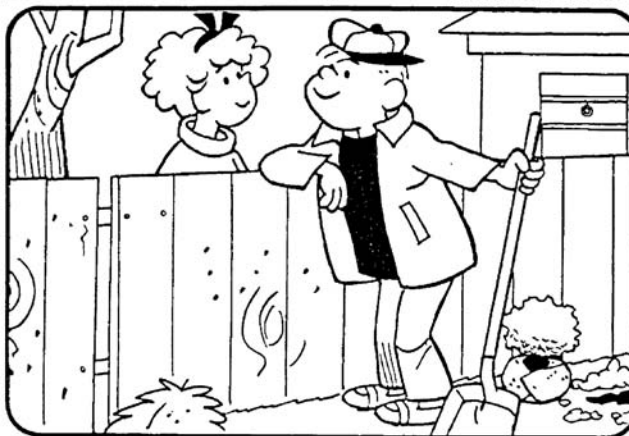
ANSWER

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ANSWER

## 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. Fence opening is wider. 2. Hair is different. 3. Neckline is different. 4. Arm is moved. 5. Window shade is missing. 6. Shrub is missing.

## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Energy
- 4 Car
- 8 Mexican money
- 12 Skull tool
- 13 Got bigger
- 14 Small stream
- 15 Wasteful
- 17 Exam format
- 18 Ashen
- 19 Last letter
- 20 Sleep soundly?
- 22 Pedestal part
- 24 Master of ceremonies
- 25 Crystalline mineral
- 29 "I — Camera"
- 30 Shuts loudly
- 31 Brazilian tourist mecca
- 32 Miami squad
- 34 Shape
- 35 Knocks
- 36 Coral producer
- 37 Let
- 40 Texas city
- 41 Laugh-a-minute
- 42 Saskatchewan, e.g.
- 46 Roundish hairdo
- 47 Aching

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- 48 Eviscerate
- 49 Existed
- 50 On the rocks
- 51 Vast expanse
- 11 — podrida
- 16 Pub missile
- 19 Probability
- 20 Roe provider
- 21 Hideo of baseball
- 22 Campus
- 23 Charitable donations
- 25 Buy and resell quickly
- 26 Drags out
- 27 Ethereal
- 28 Cavort
- 30 "Pygmalion" writer
- 33 Atom component
- 34 Points of concentration
- 36 Macadamized
- 37 Bedouin
- 38 Bio title
- 39 Traditional tales
- 40 Sported
- 42 Letter before
- 43 Sindbad's bird
- 44 Prompt
- 45 Timetable abbr.

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# Put a stop to the battle of the holiday bulge

The holiday season is dominated by parties, family gatherings and festive foods. Overindulgence in rich foods and drink during the holiday season, compounded by cold weather that can make it difficult to exercise, often leads to weight gain by the end of the holiday season. But focusing on diet and exercise during the holiday season can help you avoid unwanted weight gain and provide

more energy as the season progresses.

The following are some effective ways to sail through the season without gaining weight.

- Don't scrimp and sacrifice all of the time. The body is a powerful machine, but it does not always work the way that we want it to. According to nutritional experts, rather than metabolizing food on a daily basis, the body is geared to work over

longer periods of time. That means you can balance out a high-calorie day by eating less food and/or lighter fare on the days before and after those days when you anticipate overeating.

- Fill up before you go out. If you are worried about high-calorie foods and drinks that are often served at parties or holiday gatherings, eat before going to the event. Hunger may

cause you to overeat and fill up on the wrong kinds of foods. Instead, eat a low-calorie snack that's high in protein and high in fiber before leaving the house.

- Fill up your plate with the right mix of foods. Don't deny yourself when faced with a big holiday dinner. Rather, fill the plate with a good mix of foods. Devote more space to lean proteins, such as roasted turkey

or chicken. Even lean ham is good. Devote much of the rest of your plate to roasted vegetables and whole grains. Take only small portions of high-fat foods like candied yams or bread stuffings. You will still satisfy your craving, but you won't be overdoing it.

- Skip the spirits for the most part. Alcoholic beverages are loaded with empty calories. Many people would

rather reserve bonus calories for a piece of pie or a rich brownie. Limit yourself to one drink per day.

Weight gain may be another part of the holiday season for many men and women. But individuals concerned about adding extra pounds can stop the pattern of gaining weight during the holiday season by making smart choices throughout the season.

## Eight easy ways to prevent a holiday disaster

RepairClinic.com® shared eight tips to get appliances ready for holiday season party hosting.

### 1. Tune up the refrigerator.

- Check the gasket (rubber door seal), which helps keep warm air out. The gasket should be replaced if it is worn or torn.

- Clean off the condenser coils. These are

the large, radiator-like coils located at the back or beneath the unit. Use a long-handled bristle brush and a vacuum to easily and efficiently clean off the coils. Refrigerator owner's manuals provide specific instructions on how to efficiently do this.

- Clean out the interior: Use a rag and an all-purpose appliance

cleaner to remove stains and sticky spills from shelves and walls.

- Replace the water filter serving your ice-maker and water dispenser. These filters should be changed twice a year.

### 2. Inspect the

### dishwasher.

- Look for broken glass, fruit pits, toothpicks, bones and other debris in the drain area at the bottom of the tub and remove them.

- Use a warm wet rag and household cleaner to wipe the space be-

tween the door and bottom of the tub.

- Use a pipe cleaner or sewing needle to clean out the spray arms' holes.

- If the dishwasher is leaking or making unusual noises, troubleshoot and replace any broken parts to prevent a complete appliance failure.

### 3. Run an oven's self-clean cycle no fewer than two weeks prior to the holiday.

"Due to the extreme temperatures associated with the self-cleaning function, there is risk of damage to an electrical component or the door latch," said Chris Hall, appliance technician and RepairClinic.com president. "If you're cooking a holiday meal, you should run the self-cleaning feature at least few weeks in advance to give yourself time to repair the range in time for holiday cooking."

### 4. Clean the microwave oven.

Use a rag and warm, soapy water to remove spills from the interior. A heavy-duty degreaser will remove tough spills. Glass trays may be cleaned in a dishwasher.

### 5. Make sure the

### range vent hood is working properly and clean it.

Power it off and use a non-abrasive, household cleaning spray to remove grease and dirt from the interior and exterior of the hood. Avoid spraying the cleaner directly onto the light bulb or light bulb socket.

Clean the grease filter, the thin silvery screen. Follow the owner's manual for specific instructions related to this. Charcoal filters cannot be cleaned; they must be replaced when they lose effectiveness. If the filter is torn or too dirty to clean, replace it.

### 6. Purchase a fire extinguisher designed for your kitchen.

Note that there are only one or two models that are approved for kitchen use. Know how to use the extinguisher. Store it in an easily-accessible location.

### 7. Don't use space heaters when guests are present.

Due to their compact sizes, space heaters often tip over, especially in high-traffic areas, which can be a fire hazard.

### 8. Pay attention to appliance performance and fix as needed.

"If an appliance is making noises, leaking or taking longer to do its job, it's a good idea to troubleshoot now and fix the issue before it causes a breakdown exactly when you need them most," said Hall.

For more information visit RepairClinic.com



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# Kansas man launches custom-built submarine

by Gary Demuth

**SALINA, KS** — Ever since Scott Waters watched the Disney movie classic '20,000 Leagues Under the Sea,' he's wanted to build his own submarine.

"I watched it over and over, and I got blueprints for a submarine back in the first grade," he said. "I actually knew back then how a submarine was built."

Now, at age 27, the rural Salina resident has finally fulfilled his lifelong dream to build an actual working submarine, the Salina Journal reported.

For the past five years, Waters has been building, piece by piece, a 14-ft-long, 6-ft-tall, 4-ft-wide, 4,500 lb, steel-plated two-man submarine.

It's completely custom-built using boiler-grade steel and equipped with a high-pressure air system, enforced framing and bumpers, acrylic plastic windows, exterior mounted tanks filled with compressed air to raise and lower the sub, an exterior lighting system, global positioning system, underwater communication devices and sonar system with a 180-foot radius.

The sub is powered by eight Marine batteries placed inside sealed cylinders on the bottom half of each side of the sub.

When fully operational, the sub is designed to travel at 4 nautical knots, or 4.5 miles per hour, operated by a pilot who sits in a conning tower on the upper cylinder of the sub.

Waters, who earned his Eagle badge as a Boy Scout, decided to name

his sub 'Trustworthy' after the first Scout law.

"But if I had known how long it was going to take, I would have named it 'Persistence,'" said Waters, who is vice president of Waters True Value Hardware in Salina.

Earlier this month, five years of persistence paid off as Waters and several volunteer workers and divers successfully launched Trustworthy from the Milford Marina at Milford Lake.

"We'll start with a pre-dive inspection of every part of the sub to see that there's nothing we've forgotten," he said. "We'll put it in the water with a trailer, like they do a motor boat, then drive around the surface to see if the motors are functioning properly."

Before that, Waters said, a ballast test would take place, where weight is added and subtracted so it is distributed evenly.

"The last thing we'll do is dive it with me inside, with divers hanging onto it," he said. "I can use a slate or sign language if anything goes wrong, or if I have to bail out, I have a full scuba system inside."

Divers assisting Waters in his launch were Radley Ramsey, a veteran diver/scuba instructor and owner of Frontier Scuba Center in

Manhattan, and Manhattan resident Pat Cox, a veteran rescue diver who also has worked 44 years as an environmental engineer.

"We're here to support Scott," Cox said. "I've done diving all over the world, but this is the first time I've done this around a submarine."

Similar to the NASA space shuttle launch, a single setback can delay the launch for hours, and that was the case with the sub launch. The electrical system was not grounding properly and delayed the sub's launch time.

Once the sub was put in the water, Waters said everything checked out and the launch went smoothly. Although the sub has the ability to dive as deep as 350 ft. and support life for 72 hours, Waters said the sub dove just a few feet at Milford Lake.

Waters' next step is to take the sub to the Florida Keys for the annual convention of PSUBS, which stands for 'personal submersibles.' It's an organization of like-minded amateur submarine builders who have built and operate their own personal submarines.

"There's about 60 of these in the whole world and (this is) the only one in Kansas," he said.

Waters said he doesn't

know the total cost of the sub, since some of the materials were donated and all of the labor was volunteer, but he would guess it's somewhere between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

Waters hopes that when his sub is fully operational, it can be utilized for underwater search and rescue operations.

One thing Waters wants to clear up is the color of the sub. Yes, it's yellow as in The Beatles' famed 'Yellow Submarine,' but that wasn't meant to reflect the Fab Four's famous tune.

"Actually, it was supposed to be orange, but the paint got screwed up and mixed wrong," he said. "But it worked out, because the sub has to

be visible so people can see it."

So now that he's built a fully operational two-man sub, the culmination of his childhood dream, what could Waters possibly do for an encore?

"I'm working on my pilot's license," he said. "So I think I'm going to build an airplane. I just can't stop."

## Kodiak museum acquires rare map for collection

**KODIAK, Alaska** — The Baranov Museum in Kodiak has added a rare map to its collection.

The Kodiak Daily Mirror reports the museum has acquired a 125-year-old map of the Alaska Commercial Co.'s trading districts.

The former Kodiak-based company provided residents in Kodiak and other rural parts of the state with access to

items like canned goods, clothing and mail.

The map includes locations of company trading locations and stores.

Museum curator of collections Anjuli Grantham chanced upon the map on eBay, offered by the Alaskan Heritage Bookshop in Juneau.

It cost \$150, and the

museum asked the seller to hold it until it could find funds for the purchase of the 18-inch by 14-inch map. Afognak Native Corp. board member Jeffrey Abate donated the money for the map.

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# Woman finds her own way to weight loss and health

by Ellyn Couvillion, The Advocate

BATON ROUGE, LA (AP) — People who have worked for years with Monica Esnault passed her in the hallway, at first not recognizing her new, slimmer profile. Others have introduced themselves and asked how she lost weight, because they want to do it, too.

Esnault, 46, lost 160

pounds over the last two years after she methodically changed her lifestyle.

From her highest weight of 343 pounds, she now weighs close to 180 pounds and is deciding where she'd like the scale to settle. "The promise I made myself was to do it in a way I could live with the rest of my life," said Esnault, an assistant director with LSU's office of bur-

sar operations.

Esnault said she struggled with weight all her life, but had gotten it under control with diet and exercise in college and into her mid-20s. But, at some point, she began to feel she was losing the battle.

She enjoyed eating out with friends and, early in her career, she traveled enough to throw off an exercise routine.

Over the next two decades, she'd have some success with dieting and exercising, but it wouldn't last. Her turning point came a few years ago, when Esnault learned she was pre-diabetic.

"It was like a jolt," she recalled.

Esnault had seen her beloved grandmother, who was diabetic, have to go on dialysis at age 88, in the final years of her life.

Today, Esnault has turned her health around. She is no longer

borderline diabetic. Her doctor has also dramatically lowered the dosage of her blood pressure medicine, and Esnault hopes to soon be able to get off it entirely.

## Her method

### Menu change

No more sodas. Esnault, who used to drink five or six Cokes a day, went "cold turkey" and now drinks only water.

### Find what you like to eat.

Esnault tailored her own diet, incorporating "only things I like because you can live with that."

On previous weight-loss programs that focused on high-protein, low-fat or low-sugar diets, Esnault found that eating the same foods all the time (foods she didn't much like anyway) didn't last and she regained the pounds.

Among her "likes" are low-sodium, turkey-bacon sandwiches with fat-free cheese on wheat

bread; fresh and canned fruit; frozen low-calorie meals; lean beef; red beans and turkey wraps.

"I build enjoyment into my meals," Esnault said.

Esnault avoids fried foods and sweets. She doesn't often eat between meals, but if she's very hungry, she'll enjoy something like a handful of cashews.

### Dine in, not out.

Esnault, who used to go out for most meals, now dines out just once or twice a week. Her friends at work have begun bringing their lunches, too — one of them sets up a card table in an office, and they visit and enjoy lunch together.

### It's ok to eat.

Allow for flexibility. "If it's somebody's birthday, I eat cake," Esnault said. And, if she gets a craving for her favorite candy, Hot Tamales, "then, it's on," she said.

### Step it up.

Exercise five to six days a week. Esnault began exercising a couple of years ago by going to a local gym and walking on the outdoor track.

The first time she went

to a gym, she said, she told herself, "I'm going to come every day and walk around one time, if it's all I can do."

Before long, she was lapping the track several times to make a mile.

Today, Esnault works out at two different gyms, using weight-training machines twice a week at one gym, and doing cardio work on the treadmill, elliptical and bike on the other days.

### Just do it anyway.

"I promised myself no excuses" to miss workouts, Esnault said, no matter how little time she had on any given day.

"If I had only 20 minutes, if I had 15 minutes, I went," she said. "I refuse to let circumstances limit what I can do."

Esnault said she, "never said in my mind" how much weight she wanted to lose. "I could not allow myself to think about it," she said, "even though I knew I needed to lose 150 pounds."

"Then you get to enjoy success along the way," she said. "That was key for me."

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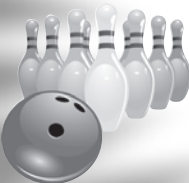
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## Man with muscular dystrophy finishes marathon

CHICAGO (AP) — A man with muscular dystrophy was the last runner to cross the finish line of the Chicago Marathon — nearly 17 hours after he started the race.

Thirty-eight-year-old Maickel Melamed of Venezuela made it across the finish line of the 26.2-mile race at 1:30 a.m. About 100 people cheered him on as he finished.

The resident of Caracas says his message to people is: "If you dream it, make it happen."

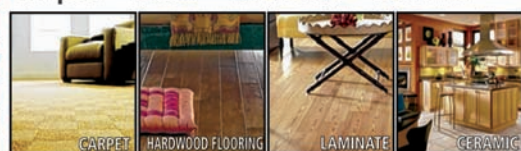
Melamed started running marathon two years ago and has competed in marathons in Berlin and New York City. His time for the Chicago Marathon was 16 hours and 46 minutes.

The winner was Kenyan Dennis Kimetto, who finished the course in 2 hours, 3 minutes, 45 seconds.

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# North Carolina woman creates dolls from historic figures

by **Joey Millwood, Times-News of Hendersonville**

HENDERSONVILLE, NC (AP) — Violet Bowman knows a little something about history. More specifically, she's a trivia buff when it comes to presidents and first ladies.

The 79-year-old retired from General Electric 17 years ago and merged the two things she loves — dolls and history — into one hobby.

Over the years, Bowman has designed and created dresses for dolls that transform the plastic figurines into historical people, including 19

different first ladies.

There's Martha Washington in a green dress with a matching hat and gloves. Barbara Bush has shiny grey hair that Bowman made specifically for the wife of George H. W. Bush. There's even Nancy Reagan in a long, red gown.

"I love the history of the first ladies," Bowman said. "I love all of their accomplishments. They all had a big part in forming our nation and our government."

Bowman draws inspiration from photographs, paintings and museums. For what she does, there's no creative

template.

"I don't have a pattern for them," she said. "I just make them."

And it's not just the first ladies that intrigue the Mills River resident. She has hundreds of dolls, and the cast is filled with characters from "Gone with the Wind" and a group of 20s-styled flappers as well as Cleopatra and Marie Antoinette.

The dresses, Bowman said, will take months to make in some instances. Marie Antoinette wears an intricately designed gold dress. Another is made of pearls galore that Bowman strung to-

gether one by one.

She also will break down jewelry to create tiny earrings, and designs the dolls' hair to look like the person.

Her neighbor and friend, Charlotte Works, was amazed when she first came into Bowman's home and saw the dolls. Bowman even looked at a picture of Works' grandmother and created a doll for her walking buddy.

"I could not believe that she had this kind of talent," Works said. "I think they're museum quality."

And that's what Bowman's hopes and dreams

are. Maybe one day, they'll be on display for others to enjoy, she said.

For now, Bowman displays the dolls in her home. She loves her hobby so much that she can't even pick a favorite doll, she joked.

"I enjoy making them all," Bowman said. "I enjoy thinking about what I'm going to make next."

Next up is a doll from the 18th century similar to her already-created Marie Antoinette doll.

## This is a hammer

by **Samantha Mazzotta**  
**Someone kicked hole in bathroom door**

**Q:** My youngest brother stayed at my house for the weekend and at some point, somebody kicked a hole through the bathroom door. All the way through! Is there any way to repair it? — Stacy in Hampton Beach, NH

**A:** On a temporary basis, just for privacy and safety, you can patch the damaged door by attaching a piece of plywood to either side using wood screws. The plywood should overlap the hole by at least an inch on all sides.

However, you'll need to replace the door completely, once you have the time and the finances. That your brother's friends managed to knock a hole through it means the door was probably hollow, which is common for interior doors. It will be less expensive to replace than a solid wood door. Also on the plus side, you can replace it with the door of your choice.

Another option is to replace the entire frame, allowing you to purchase a prehung door.

Replacing the door properly will take a little bit of skill. If you've done some basic carpentry before (using

power tools, etc.) you can handle a door replacement. Otherwise, you may want to hire a contractor to do the entire door replacement. Ask for a written quote before agreeing to any work.

Before heading to the home-improvement store for a replacement, measure the height and width of the door and take those measurements with you. You'll need the new door plus — if you want to completely replace the hardware — new hinges and a lockset (which includes the doorknob and latch). You also can use the old hardware to save money.

If you plan to replace the door yourself, plan ahead. Online videos can give a great visual overview of the task.

Home tip: If your door

scrapes the floor slightly on opening and closing, place a piece of sandpaper on floor where it rubs and

open/close the door across the sandpaper a few times.

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## Purdue Yard and Garden calendar ~ November

by B. Rosie Lerner, Purdue Extension, Consumer Horticulturist

### Home (Indoor plants and activities)

As houseplant growth slows, apply less fertilizer and water.

If plants are dropping many leaves, move them closer to sunny exposures, such as west- and south-facing windows. Artificial lights may be

needed to supplement particularly dark rooms.

Pot spring-flowering bulbs with tips exposed to force into bloom indoors. Moisten soil and refrigerate 10 to 13 weeks. Transfer to a cool, sunny location, and allow an additional three to four weeks for blooming.

Continue dark treatment for poinsettias by

keeping them in complete darkness from 5 p.m. to 8 a.m. daily until early December or until red bracts begin to show.

### Yard (Lawns, woody ornamentals and fruits)

Prevent rabbit and rodent feeding damage by erecting physical barriers, such as metal mesh (1/4 inch) hardware cloth. Pull mulch a few inches away from the

trunk, as the mulch provides a warm winter home for rodents. Chemical repellents also are available, but their effectiveness is temporary and not foolproof.

Prevent frost cracking (or sunscald) by wrapping trunks with commercial tree wrap or painting the south- and southwest-facing sides of the trunk with white latex outdoor paint. Young, thin-barked trees such as maples and many fruit trees are especially susceptible. Be sure to remove the tree wrap by early spring to prevent overheating of the bark.

Remove dead, diseased or damaged branches.

Protect the graft union on rose bushes by mounding soil around the plants and adding mulch on top. Wait until several killing frosts have occurred so plants will be

dormant when covered. Plants covered too early may be smothered.

If you are planning to order a "live" Christmas tree, prepare its planting hole before the soil freezes. Mulch the area heavily to prevent freezing, or dig the hole and put fill in a protected, nonfreezing area such as a garage or basement.

Clean up and discard fallen leaves and fruits around fruit plants to reduce disease carryover.

Continue mowing lawn as needed. As tree leaves fall, run them through your mower (remove bagger), allowing the shredded leaves to remain on the lawn. Be sure to mow only when grass and leaves are dry.

An early November application of fertilizer can help keep lawns green into winter and boost early spring recovery. Apply 1/2 to 1 pound actual nitrogen, per 1,000 sq. ft. of lawn, in quick-release, water-soluble

form. Timing should aim for near or after the last mowing of the year but while lawn is still green.

### Garden (Flowers, vegetables and small fruits)

Remove crop and weed plant debris from the garden and add to the compost pile. This will help reduce the carry-over of diseases, insects and weeds to next year's garden.

Fall tilling, except in erosion-prone areas, helps improve soil structure and usually leads to soils warming and drying faster in the spring. This allows crops to be planted earlier.

Apply mulch to strawberries to prevent winter injury or death to their crowns. Wait until temperatures have hit 20 degrees F to be sure plants are dormant. If mulch is applied too soon the plant's crown can rot.

Dig and store tender flowering bulbs, and keep in a protected location.

Complete planting of spring-flowering bulbs.

## Oklahoma teen finds 3.85-carat gem at Arkansas park

MURFREESBORO, AR (AP) — A 14-year-old girl from Oklahoma City has unearthed a 3.85-carat diamond at Arkansas' Crater of Diamonds State Park.

Tana Clymer discovered the canary gem at the park, which is the only diamond-producing site in the United States open to the public. Tana says she'd been digging in the dirt for about two hours when she discovered the gem on the surface of the

search field.

The yellow diamond is teardrop-shaped and about the size of a jelly-bean. Tana named the diamond "God's Jewel." According to the park, Tana plans to either keep the diamond for a ring — or, if it's worth a lot, sell it and use the money for college.

Her gem is the 396th diamond found so far this year at the park in southern Arkansas.

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