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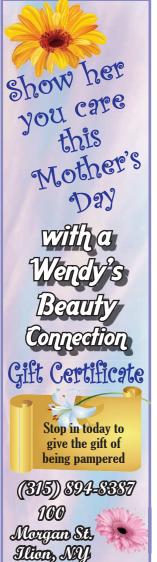
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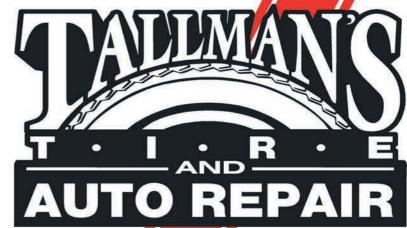
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HERKIMER COUNTRY EDITOR

Herkimer County Public Health Department wins Community Partnership Award for helping schools in Herkimer BOCES region throughout pandemic

Herkimer-Fulton-Hamilton-Otsego BOCES recently presented the Herkimer County Public Health Department with the Herkimer BOCES 2021 Community Partnership Award for cooperation with local schools through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Herkimer BOCES District Superintendent Sandra Sherwood gave the award to Herkimer County Public Health Department Director Christina Cain and her team in person and then officially announced the award during the virtual Herkimer BOCES Annual Meeting.

"Ever since last March, you and your team have stood shoulder-to-shoulder with BOCES and all the schools in our region to mitigate the effects and spread of COVID-19," Sherwood said. "I appreciate all the phone conversations around protocols and that you reach out to all the schools whenever you are needed - nights, weekends, holidays - when the community needs you, you are there.'

The Herkimer BOCES Annual Meeting took place virtually on April 1 and included recognition of the Herkimer County Public Health Department for working closely with Sherwood, Herkimer BOCES Safety Services Coordinator Adam Hutchinson and superintendents in the Herkimer BOCES region throughout the pandemic.

Cain said receiving the award at a time like this makes it extra meaningful.

"I think that especially given the seriousness and the heavy weight that everybody's been living under for the past year, any kind of happy news is wonderful," she said. "And then on top of that, anytime people are really stressed or frustrated or scared, the negative emotions tend to be the ones we hear a lot more, so being recognized for maybe doing a good job is always a good thing, but it definitely is even more impactful

The importance of this partnership made itself clear starting on March 13, 2020, when Herkimer County Public Health Department officials and superintendents in the Herkimer BOCES region met in-person at Herkimer BOCES to discuss COVID-19 for the first time.

Cain was on maternity leave but on the phone with then-Acting Public Health Director Diane Ward, as a decision was made to initially close schools through spring break. Meetings since then have taken place virtually with BOCES officials and superintendents

from the BOCES region and Town of Webb Union Free School District.

That first meeting generated familiarity and trust that everyone could speak openly and honestly in the months to come.

"It was always really seamless," Hutchinson said. "And they've always been really open to - the overall goal is having the best educational experience for kids that we can while keeping them and the community safe."

Cain entered the COVID-19 discussions then, and throughout the year since, well aware that school officials were facing concerns such as maintaining safety, allowing staff to continue working and keeping students on track academically.

With both Public Health and school officials facing heavy responsibilities, the meetings were approached with mutual respect and a desire to stay on the same page regionally, Cain said.

"I think that's really what shines through because things aren't so scary when you know you're going into something with partners who are willing to stand strong with you," Cain said.

Hutchinson said the partnership continued on a regular basis with Public Health assisting with interpreting guidelines to allow graduations and ceremonies to occur as familiarly as possible, sharing and analyzing state or federal announcements and guidance, reviewing reopening plan templates that Herkimer BOCES Safety Services prepared for school districts, helping respond to positive cases of COVID-19 in school, prioritizing schools in the contact tracing process to minimize impact, explaining specifics of quarantine requirements, adjusting screening questions to make them a little bit less restrictive, setting up COVID-19 testing capabilities at Herkimer BOCES, developing a science-based way that could allow high risk winter sports and other sports seasons to take place, helping school staff find access to vaccinations and more.

We would have obstacles and we would have to try to figure out how to deal with them, but because we had that connection at the health department, it was never just like we were trying to throw things at the wall and see what would stick," he said.

Cain said a lack of clarification from the state and federal levels sometimes made it challenging to be as helpful to schools as she wanted to be, but she focused on being clear about where things stood even if she didn't have the answer yet.

"I think that the best thing that I have tried to do is always be extremely transparent and extremely upfront and extremely honest," she said.

Hutchinson said those conversations were very helpful especially in situations when trying to figure out something such as how to space out desks by six feet.

"They were really good to talk to about specific questions," he said. "Once you start tipping over dominoes, the guidelines become a bit of a labyrinth."

Public Health reviewing the reopening plan templates that Safety Services developed for districts was another especially helpful collaboration, he said.

"It gave everybody a nice starting place that was already approved by our local department of health," he said.

Additionally, after BOCES and schools had their first COVID-19 cases in school, Public Health helped make things calm, organized and focused on what information was needed, Hutchinson said.

"When it happens that first time, everybody starts scrambling," he said.

Cain said she intentionally kept the focus on information such as which students and staff would need to be contacted. She helped make sure school officials planned ahead, knew what information they would need and felt more prepared and better equipped to respond to positive cases.

"You couldn't have asked for a more efficient, more organized and quicker response to something," Cain said, of how schools handled COVID-19 cases. "And that not only reflects well on the school, but it reflects well on the population being willing to share that information with the school, to give them as quick a heads up as possible. It speaks to the trust and the respect that the school population also has with the actual school district.'

Public Health's response to COVID-19 and partnership with schools has been a team effort, Cain said.

"We are what I like to say: small and mighty," she said. "We are not a large department at all."

Hutchinson said it was remarkable to see Public Health keep things running through so many challenges.

Herkimer 4





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Herkimer from 2 -

"They're comparatively such a small department staffing-wise that they're really punching above their weight with this," Hutchinson said. "They've been

able to do testing, do contact tracing and quarantine orders and now doing vaccination clinics, and

they've just been able to roll with it. I'm sure it's been stressful and a lot of work on their end, but they just

keep taking what's coming and making it work, which is really impressive for that department."

Public Health staff have voluntarily taken actions such as working extra hours and fielding phone calls on days off, Cain said.

"My staff, I could never say enough about them to capture the dedication," she said. "And that goes for my clinical staff and my non-clinical staff. It's just absolutely amazing. The amount of loyalty to their profession and the amount of loyalty to their community that they have demonstrated not just on a day but consistently over the past year, I mean, that's a marathon. That's a long, long time. They've lost out on times with their families,

Herkimer 6

Herkimer-Fulton-Hamilton-Otsego BOCES District Superintendent Sandra Sherwood presents the Herkimer BOCES 2021 Community Partnership Award to Herkimer County Public Health Director Christina Cain and the Public Health team. Photo courtesy of Herkimer BOCES



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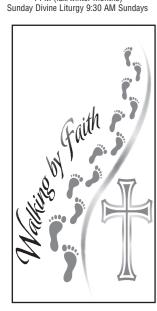
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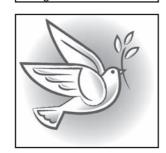
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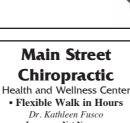
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Herkimer from 4 -

they're up at 11 o'clock at night returning phone calls or sending emails or checking in on people because they're worried. If there was one thing that I wish people knew, it is how lucky they are to have such dedicated staff."

The department's administrative team includes Cain, Director of Health Services Diane Ward, Supervising Community Health Nurse Sarah Foster and Office Manager Kim Schrader. The nursing staff includes senior community health nurses Lonna Hart and Amanda Jones and part-time nurses Mary Ellen Clark, Jill Barra and Karen Noble.

The clerical staff includes Mary Lou Lally, Monica Boyer, Melissa Twitchell, Sharon Manion, Joann Carbone, Deb Falk and Mary Palmeri. Volunteer staff from other county departments includes Kim Barnes, Joann LaDue, Kim Fleming and Martha Calliger.

Cain also said the Herkimer County Office for the Aging has been tremendously helpful with seniors, and Hutchinson said Joseph Angerosa, a state Department of Health employee assigned to Herkimer County as a school resource specialist, has been great to work with as well.

Through frustrations with federal or state regulations rapidly changing and times of being overwhelmed due simply to a lack of hours in the day, department staff put forth the maximum effort, Cain said.

"I could not have asked for more from the staff," she said. "I haven't even had to ask. That's, I think, the most amazing part is they've done it willingly. They've seen what needs to be done and jumped in. Herkimer County is very lucky to have the Public Health staff that they do."

Cain said the partnership with schools has been very helpful for Public Health as well, and any praise for the department is directly reflective of schools and their staff.

"You can't be a good partner unless you have good partners," she said. "You can't be everywhere at once, so having those people as part of your team, you could never do this alone. We couldn't do it without them."

Hutchinson said the partnership meant Public Health could feel confident that schools knew how to respond to COVID-19.

"Because we had that constant dialogue, everybody realized we were all working in everybody's best interest," Hutchinson said. "It was really about keeping the kids and their safety and their educational experience in mind."

Cain applauded school officials for their willingness to shift on a dime and their patience and understanding when information from higher levels of government would keep changing. Their educational expertise and questions meant Cain and her department didn't have to cover all the angles alone.

"Even though this was a public health issue, the schools were very, very strong supports to me as well in that regard – making sure that I didn't misstep and that I didn't overlook anything," Cain said. "They challenged me and the information I was giving them, which allowed me to develop it more and understand it more myself and look at it from those different perspectives."

Cain praised Sherwood for her abilities as a leader, convener, facilitator, organizer and force of positivity. She credited Hutchinson as doing an amazing job, keeping a positive attitude and being a helpful collaborator.

She hopes the community appreciates the value of local districts committing to teamwork, consistency and communicating with families throughout the pandemic to reduce confusion. She said she learned from seeing BOCES region superintendents working together, challenging each other, keeping the same goal and valuing the strength of their team.

"I hope I had some growth too from being involved in that kind of dynamic," she said. "We have great districts in our county, and I'm very proud to be associated with them."

Hutchinson said he knew the schools and Public Health had been working closely together when a receptionist at Public Health started to recognize his voice.

Having such a strong partnership through dealing with COVID-19 was very valuable, Hutchinson said.

"It's just really important," he said. "They made this a lot smoother."

Calendar of events

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

May 13, 14 and 15

June 12

August 16

Rummage Sale Thursday, May 13, Friday, May 14 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, May 15 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Salisbury Town Hall, Rt. 29A, Salisbury Center. Must wear a mask and practice social distancing. Shoppers are asked to bring there own bag to pack purchases. Sponsored by the Salisbury Historical Society.

May 17

Rabies clinic at Susquehanna Society SPCA 2-5 p.m. Register at 607.547.8111, ext 111.

May 20

Baked Ham Dinner 4-7 p.m. or sold out. Take out only. At Emmanuel Episcopal church, The Parish Hall, 594 Albany Street, Little Falls. Free delivery to Herkimer and Little Falls. Curb side, walk ins. Reserve dinner at 315.741.4672.

May 22

Fort Klock Opening Day 10 p.m.-4 p.m. Come experience Colonial life in this beautiful historic fortified homestead. 7203 Route 5 St. Johnsville. For more info call 518,568,7779.

Craft Festival 2021 event now canceled. 41st year slated for June 11, 2022. Sponsored by the Church Of Christ Uniting in Richfield Springs.

June 14

Rabies clinic at Susquehanna Society SPCA 2-5 p.m. Register at 607.547.8111, ext 111.

July 12

Rabies clinic at Susquehanna Society SPCA 4-7 p.m. Register at 607.547.8111, ext 111.

July 24

Moses Quinby Day. Bee-keeping convention and Public field day. Speakers. Craft/food vendors. Kids' activities. Music. Fort Klock, 10-4. For info: mosesquinby62@gmail.com.

Rabies clinic at Susquehanna Society SPCA 2-5 p.m. Register at 607.547.8111, ext 111.

Sept. 13

Rabies clinic at Susquehanna Society SPCA 2-5 p.m. Register at 607.547.8111, ext 111.

October 4

Rabies clinic at Susquehanna Society SPCA 4-7 p.m. Register at 607.547.8111, ext 111.

November 15

Rabies clinic at Susquehanna Society SPCA 2-5 p.m. Register at 607.547.8111, ext 111.

December 13

Rabies clinic at Susquehanna Society SPCA 2-5 p.m. Register at 607.547.8111, ext 111.

Public Health previously had some degree of relationship with most local schools and knew the right people to contact, but the partnerships and communication are now at a different level, Cain said.

"I have grown to really respect and value the relationships that have developed through this," Cain said, "and I feel like those partnerships have just grown some very deep roots now, which is a real silver lining to a challenging time."

It's easy to have good relationships when times are easy, but they mean more during a difficult period, Cain said. She expects the strengthened relationships to continue.

"It's like an expansion of the team here," Cain said. "We're all kind of melding together at this point, and it is just stronger for all of us."



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New York State warns New Yorkers of risk of heatstroke

The Governor's Traffic Safety Committee (GTSC), the New York State Department of Health and the Office of Children and Family Services are urging parents and caregivers to make sure they do not leave children, vulnerable adults or pets alone in a hot car. Even a short time left in a car can be dangerous as temperatures inside, even with windows left partly open, can quickly escalate.

"With everything we juggle in a day, especially parents, it is easy to get distracted and forget about a child sleeping or sitting quietly in the backseat," said Mark J.F. Schroeder, DMV commissioner and GTSC chair. "Do not risk a life and a lifetime of sorrow and regret by leaving a child or pet inside a car. Please take a few simple steps to remind yourself to look before you lock."

New York State Health Commissioner Dr. Howard Zucker

said, "As we approach the busy summer months that can bring dangerously high temperatures, it's a good idea to adjust our habits to include reminders that help keep vulnerable passengers safe. Taking the time to double-check the backseat, or to make a notification plan for absences with daycare or school, are things that all parents and caregivers can do to ensure that a tragic accident is avoided."

OCFS Commissioner Sheila J. Poole said, "As we head into the warmer months, we need to make sure our kids are protected. Sunscreen and an extra bottle of water are important. Infants and little children are especially sensitive to extreme heat and their body temperature can increase three to five times faster than an adult's, especially if they are left in a hot vehicle."

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 24 children died last year after being left in hot cars. Even in cooler temperatures, a vehicle can heat up to dangerous temperatures very quickly. In just 10 minutes, the temperature inside a vehicle can rise by 20° – enough to kill a child left alone inside. An outside temperature in the mid-60s can cause a vehicle's inside temperature to rise above 110°, according to NHTSA.

NHTSA provides guidance for parents, caregivers and passersby on how to prevent a child from suffering heatstroke.

Parents and Caregivers

Never leave a child or vulnerable adult in a vehicle unattended – even if the windows are partially open or the engine is running and the air conditioning is on.

Make it a habit to check your entire vehicle, front and back, before locking the door and walking away. Train yourself to *Park, Look, Lock*, or always ask yourself *"Where's Baby?"*

Place a personal item like a purse or briefcase in the back seat, as another reminder to look before you lock.

Write a note or place a stuffed animal in the passenger's seat to remind you that a child is in the back seat.

Ask your childcare provider to call if your child doesn't show up for care as expected.

Everyone - Including Bystanders

If you see a child or vulnerable adult alone in a locked car, get them out immediately and call 911. A person in distress due to heat should be removed from the vehicle as quickly as possible and rapidly cooled.

Always lock your car doors and trunk, year-round, so children can't get into unattended vehicles.

Store car keys out of a child's

reach and teach children that a vehicle is not a play area.

A child may think a car is an enticing place to play, and they may not understand the dangers an enclosed car can present or how to open the car doors if they lock.

Pets too can suffer or die if left unattended in a vehicle. The American Veterinary Medical Association says hundreds of pets die every year from heat exhaustion after being left in parked vehicles.

If you see an animal in a car exhibiting signs of heat stress, the Humane Society advises to call your local animal care and control agency or police department immediately. You should get the vehicle's license plate number and enter the nearest store or business to request an emergency announcement be made about a pet left in a hot car. You should then go back and wait for police at the vehicle.

Garden planning with plant hardiness zones

by Judith Tremblay, Extension Master Gardener Intern,

Now that the warmer days of spring are here, it is not uncommon for cabin fever to be replaced with gardening fever. However, it is important to take a step back and consider what can successfully be grown in your vegetable garden.

A good starting point is to identify what the plant hardiness zone is for your location. The USDA has divided the country into different zones based on years of data where the extreme minimum temperatures were recorded and then averaged.

The USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map is the standard by which you can determine which plants will be more likely to thrive at a given location. Just enter your ZIP code at planthardiness.ars.usda.gov to find your zone.

The lower the zone number, the colder the tempera-

tures reached in winter. Lower zone numbers also typically mean a shorter growing season since the ground takes longer to warm up.

I live in northern Vermont, and since I am close to Lake Champlain, my zone is 4b. That's because the lake has a buffering effect, making it a bit warmer than other northern locations farther from the lake or at higher elevations.

The growing season is longer for the higher zones, so gardeners in zone 5b will have an easier time growing winter squash compared to gardeners in zone 3b. On the other hand, leafy greens will thrive in the cooler zones 4a and 3b and can be successfully sown well into summer.

Different plants are better adapted for each location, so knowing your plant hardiness zone will allow you to select the best-suited plants and produce rewarding crops.

Happy planting!







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Year of the Hardy Hibiscus

Hardy hibiscus adds a splash of tropical flair to your perennial garden. Fast-growing and fabulous, these plants explode with pinwheel-like flowers the size of dinner plates in late summer. Often confused with their tropical cousins, these plants are actually capable of surviving temps as low as -30° F.

North American gardeners can feel assured knowing they are planting a native perennial. Hardy hibiscus are hybrids that can be primarily traced back to the species *Hibiscus moscheutos*, which can be found growing naturally in wetlands and along riverbanks throughout the Midwest and East Coast.

Know Your Hibiscus

Hibiscus is both the common and botanical name for a few different popular classes of the plant. Most think of tropical hibiscus (H. rosa-sinensis) when they hear the word, while horticulturists may note the shrub Rose of Sharon (H. syriacus) also falls in this category. However, neither of these plants fall into what is commonly considered "hardy hibiscus." Here is a quick overview of how they differ:

• Hardy Hibiscus – This set of plants primarily includes the species native to North America (such as *H. moscheutos* and *H. laevis*) and hybrids of those species. These plants are true perennials, tend to have the largest flowers and die back to the

ground each year.

• Shrub Hibiscus – Also called Rose of Sharon, shrub hibiscus most frequently refers to the species *H. syriacus*, which is native to southern and central Asia. Rose of Sharon has a woody habit and bloom on the same structure each year. These tend to be the largest in size with some varieties getting 15 feet tall.
• Tropical Hibiscus

- Tropical hibiscus are from southeast Asia and are technically a shrub, like their cousins, though significantly less hardy. These varieties tend to be used in the landscape in southern parts of the U.S. or as patio or house plants since they are not frost tolerant.

Common Varieties to Keep An Eye Out For

Hardy hibiscus comes in shades of white, pink,

red and yellow, with different eye patterns and streaking through the petals. The leaves of the plants can also vary in color from green to bronze and near-black. Some of the most popular series available include Summer Spice®, Luna, Head Over Heels® and Summerific®.

How To's for Happy Hibiscus Plants

Hardy hibiscus have a

history of growing in wet areas such as along riverbanks and around inland lakes. They perform best with consistent watering, particularly if they have been recently transplanted. If your hibiscus is losing its lowest leaves or aborting buds, you may need to up the water. This water-tolerant characteristic makes them perfect for areas of the garden that periodically flood, or as a thriller in rain gardens.

Another characteristic of the genus is they are late to break dormancy in spring. When they do wake up they're off to the races, growing more than an inch a day. Depending on the year, hibiscus may stay dormant through the end of May.

Instead of tearing your hibiscus out and starting over, try planting them with tulips, daffodils or other spring-blooming bulbs who will be out of bloom when hibiscus are ready to emerge. As an added bonus, the tired foliage of these spring-blooming bulbs will quickly be covered by the wide hibiscus habits.

Once your hibiscus gets going, be sure to leave them plenty of space to grow. Mature hibiscus can get five to six feet wide and grow quickly during the year. If you take a week's vacation in June, you're likely to come back to a plant twice the size you left it.

Full sun is a must. In too much shade the otherwise sturdy habits stretch and get floppy. Over shading will also lead to a decrease in bud count and diminished flowering performance. UV light (full sun) will also bring out the dark foliage colors.







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Mon. May 10th - Normal Monday Sale & Monthly Heifer Sale. Special: Morrison Farm Complete Dispersal - Selling 53 head of Holsteins Al sired. 40 milking age, 13 heifers - 8 preg. 10 cows fresh last 60 days, 5 due next 60 days balance in all stages of lactation. Ave. 65#/day SCC 120-130,000. 4.2F 3.5P. Reason for sale - owner has other business interest. Group of 35 head of Registered and sire ID Holsteins. 3 Fresh cows from overstocked Dairy all milking well some up over 100# - plenty more for this sale something for everyone.

Sat. May 15th - Sale held on the farm – Jordanville, NY. 11:00 AM. Thomas Rudd Farm Equipment Dispersal. Complete line Hay & Tillage Equip. 2 Kubota Tractors w/ loaders; Kuhn Round Baler; Discbine; tedders; rakes, 2002 F350 Truck; 24' flat bed gooseneck Trailer; many round bale feeders 2 w/roofs; 4 btm plows; cultipacker; roller; round pens; Complete Roping Areana (over 100 – 10' galvanized gates) & roping chutes, 2 round pens. Watch for future ads for more details or complete listing on website. ! GPS address: 240 Yule Corners Road, Jordanville, NY. Thomas Rudd: 315-858-9461.

Mon. May 17th - Normal Monday sale & Monthly Sheep, Lamb, Goat & Pig Sale

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Spring garden cleanup and planning

by Bonnie Kirn Donahue, Gardener, UVM **Extension Master**

It's spring and that

means it's time to get back into your flower and

vegetable gardens. Once the soil has dried

When cleaning out flowerbeds, gently remove any dried leaf debris and old mulch, taking care not to disturb spring-flowering and other emerging plants.

Photo by Bonnie Kirn Donahue

out in your flower gardens, remove any sticks, dried leaf debris and old mulch, being careful not to step on any emerging plants.

Use this time to think about how you can build your garden's soil health by adding organic matter. Dried leaf debris can be chopped fine with a lawnmower, collected and worked back into the soil. Adding a layer of compost or mulch to your soil are other ways to do this.

If you left your perennial flower heads and stems intact over the winter for bird and insect habitat, it's time to trim these back. Try to cut these old stems as close as you can to the ground (within an inch or so). The new growth will begin to grow from the base, so be mindful of what you're trimming.

When the soil is dry enough, you can add your first application of mulch for the season. There are many types of mulch. Consult with the experts at your local garden center to determine which mulch is best for you.

Plan to spread two to three inches of mulch over the garden. After spreading, pull the mulch away from the base of each plant as too much will encourage rot.

gardens spring-flowering bulbs, you'll want to be extra careful. You may even decide to leave the cleanup and mulching until after the bulbs have finished blooming to protect them.

For your vegetable beds, clear out any plant matter from last season. This can be added to a compost pile as long as it is not diseased or insect-infested.

Once you have cleaned out your beds, add a layer of compost or finely chopped plant material, such as dried leaves, grass or hay, to return organic matter back to the

Some years spring can arrive quickly, and other times it seems to take forever. Either way, take this time to think about what you'd like to get out of your garden this year. More flowers in your vegetable beds? Healthier tomatoes? Experimenting with new herbs? Want to try growing zucchini in a container?

Start by taking a few minutes to reflect on the lessons you learned from last season, and vour desires for this season. From here, pick your top two or three priorities, and outline the steps needed to accomplish these. Perhaps you need to do more research, purchase materials, hire a garden designer or just get digging. Spring is the perfect time to do all these.

Taking advantage of the spring slow period by doing light garden cleanup and setting a realistic plan in place will help you get the most out of your summer vegetable and flower gardens.



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2019 seems like an eternity ago... but it wasn't all that far in the past. It was pre-COVID so this year some changes will be implemented for the safety of us all BUT... it will be a celebration and we are happy to be back! Watch for more details to follow!!!





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10 • May 7, 2021

Strange but true

by Lucie Winborne

- Guns N' Roses frontman Axl Rose once earned \$8 an hour for smoking cigarettes, for a science experiment at California's UCLA.
- If you translate "Jesus" from Hebrew to English, the correct translation is "Joshua." The name "Jesus" comes from translating the name from Hebrew, to Greek, to Latin, to English.
- The tongue is the only muscle in one's body that is attached from one end.
- In 2007, Scotland spent 125,000 British pounds devising a new national slogan. The winning entry was: "Welcome to Scotland."
- The suicide palm gets its name from how it meets its demise. At the end of its life, the stem tips explode in a massive array of tiny flowers capable of being pollinated and developing into fruit, and their nectar attracts insects and birds. However, the flowers also exhaust the plant and drain its nutritional supply until it dies.
- There is a punctuation mark used to signify irony or sarcasm that looks like a backward question mark.
- Lipstick was considered an essential item for female nurses in the armed forces during the World War II, both to remind women they were ladies first and military second, and because it might have a calming effect on the male soldiers.
- A 2013 exhibition in Dublin displayed a variety of cheeses made with bacteria samples obtained from people's feet, armpits and navels. No one actually ate them, so we can't comment on the taste.
- We goofed! Our Feb. 8 "Strange But True" column contained this statement: "Baked beans aren't baked. They're stewed." It should have read, "In the U.K., baked beans aren't baked, but stewed." We apologize for the error.

Thought for the Day: "Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant." — Robert Louis Stevenson

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Poland 8th grader receives UC Regional Science Fair Junior Level Grand Championship trophy

Poland Central School District eighth grader Lily Martin was amazed when she recently found out she won the Junior Level Grand Championship at the Utica College Regional Science Fair, but her teacher wasn't surprised.

That's because of the type of student Lily is and the work she put into her science project, said Poland science teacher Jessica Meyer. "She always gives it her all," Meyer

said

The 33rd annual Poland Science Fair took place virtually for the first time this school year. Students who won awards in Poland's science fair were eligible to advance to the

Utica College Regional Science Fair, which also took place virtually this year.

Poland students won 23 awards at the Utica College Regional Science Fair. Lily recently received the trophy at school from winning the Junior Level Grand Championship. Meyer and Poland science teacher Kevin Ford, who served as the 2020-21 coordinators for the Poland Science Fair, presented Lily with the trophy.

Lily and the Poland science teachers who plan the annual Poland Science Fair said the experience of having the science fairs virtually was different, and when Lily was asked how it felt to find out she won, her response was "Pretty cool."

Lily Martin holds the Utica College Regional Science Fair Junior Level Grand Championship trophy in the hallway at Poland Central School District. Photo courtesy of Herkimer BOCES

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Simple tips for a better wedding registry

(Family Features) - For some couples, the idea of registering for wedding gifts is an exciting way to start planning for the home they'll be sharing as newlyweds. For others, the registry is just one more chore to check off the wedding to-do list.

Regardless of where you fall on the love-it-orhate-it spectrum, most experts agree a registry is a good idea, especially for couples who will be setting up a home together for the first time. Keep these tips and etiquette guidelines in mind to get the most out of your registry.

• Take inventory of what you have and what you need. For couples who've lived alone or together, the registry may be a way to fill in gaps for necessities neither of you already have. It's also a good way to begin upgrading the less expensive kitchen items and furnishings you had as college students or singles. Make a list of your needs and wants so you don't forget any essentials. If you're still in doubt, request a checklist from the store where you'll be registering so you can do some planning.

• Register for things at a wide range of price points. The whole purpose of a registry is to make it easy for your

guests to get you things you'll like and need. Part of making it easy is recognizing your guests have diverse financial situations. While it's customary to gift the bride and groom, not everyone can afford an extravagant gift,

especially if they've spent money on travel and attire to attend. While it's a good idea to offer modest options, don't shy away from bigger ticket items that a small group might chip in on together.

• Keep access in mind

when you choose where to register. Avoid stores that are local or regional if you have many guests who live out of the area. Also avoid the temptation to choose online only options, as some guests will prefer to see what they're

buying. Aim for a mix of large national stores and online retailers.

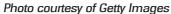
• Plan to block off at least a few hours for an in-person registry. It will take time to get everything set up. Traveling through the store, debating options and making your selections could take longer than expected. Also be sure to ask how you can add to or edit your registry after your initial visit.

• Get your partner involved. There are bound to be some parts of the registry your partner may not care about, but asking for input and making decisions together lets you both share in the excitement. Focus on things you'll each find useful as you settle into your new home. For example, the person who will be responsible for taking out the trash should get to pick the new kitchen trash can.

Find more inspiration for planning your way to wedded bliss at eLivingtoday.com.

Source: eLivingtoday.

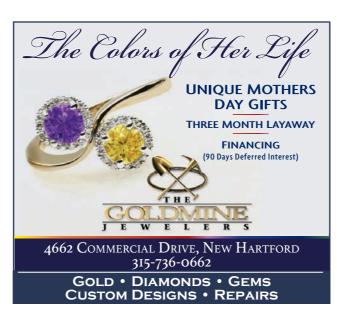




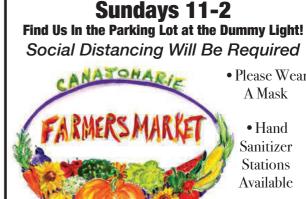












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Herkimer College "Call of Duty: Modern Warfare" eSports team wins NJCAA invitational in inaugural year of competition

In its first year of NJ-CAA competition, the Herkimer College "Call of Duty: Modern Warfare" eSports team capped off its undefeated season by winning the national championship invitational on Monday, April 26 over Irvine Valley College

(California).

The team, composed of Christian Mandia and Jayden Vargas, went a perfect 9-0 in its "Call of Duty" matches for the year.

Mandia, a first year student from Utica, and Vargas, a first year stu-

dent from the Bronx, defeated the number one seed from the University of South Carolina-Sumter by a score of 4-0 in the semifinal matchup on Monday before beating Irvine Valley in the championship match 4-1 later that evening.

The team was coached by Herkimer staff members Joshua Lanza and Frank Drapalaski.

"To say that Frank and I are proud of them is an understatement at this point," said Lanza. "It is no doubt that all the hours of practice, the hard work and dedication they have put into the team came into play on Monday night."





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Pet parents are looking for more than just a reward for their furry friends

(BPT) - As many pet owners have spent more time at home during the pandemic, there has been an opportunity for dog lovers to enhance their relationship with their pet, like they never have had before. Thanks to newfound work-life balance and more quality time together, the bond between dog owners and their furry friends has strengthened over the past year, and many dogs have found their foreyer homes. According to the American Veterinary Medical Association, the number of pet adoptions as a percentage of intake rose more than 13% from 2019 to 2020.

With the abundance of time spent at home, pet owners are spoiling their four-legged companions. Consumers are counting on treats to keep their pets occupied and ease the guilt when they are too busy to give their dog attention. In a Cargill survey conducted last April, 18% of dog owners said they were giving their dog more treats, and 12% said they were giving their dog more chews and bones.

What are pet owners looking for when purchasing treats? Research from

Packaged Facts points toward four main motivators: function, entertainment, training and bonding. Consumers want treats that are healthy, transparent with their ingredients and can serve multiple usage occasions and purposes, such as rewards and long-lasting entertainment.

To address these trends and the needs of dog owners, Cargill recently launched The Chompery, a new brand of butcher-quality dog treats. The products are all natural, single-ingredient, sourced and produced in the U.S., and span an expansive portfolio consisting of bully sticks, pig ears, slow-roasted bones, organs, jerkies and more.

Pet treat buyers are particularly concerned with pet health and treat origin. More than half of dog owners seek out pet treats that are made in the USA. Consumer research revealed that the most important product claims for American treat buyers include easily digestible, made in the USA and natural, demonstrating that pet owners want only the best for their four-legged friends.

Consumers are also seeking bones and chews

that provide dental hygiene benefits. The American Veterinary Medical Association recommends daily teeth brushing for pets but says brushing several times a week can also be effective. Busy schedules can make it hard for pet owners to brush that often, so they

look to products that can help decrease plaque accumulation.

While humans keep in mind what is best for their dog's health, dogs are returning the favor. During the pandemic, people have counted on their pets for emotional support, daily interaction, comfort and companionship. Some dogs even help their owners with physical health by accompanying them on walks and routine exercise.

Of course, there is nothing a dog loves more than hearing "do you want a treat?" after a long walk. Whether you're offering your pup a treat following good behavior, exercise, the completion of a learned trick or just because, seeing the immense joy on your pooch's face can ease stress and be a bright spot each day.

Fortunately for pets, financial concerns are not curbing owners' willingness to bring home tasty treats. In a survey conducted last July, 90% of dog owners reported spending the same or more on their pet as they did before the pandemic.

Pet treat purchases are also frequent and often spur of the moment, commonly picked up in the midst of a routine grocery store run. Nielsen data revealed that 72% of dog owners said they purchased treats in the past 30 days, and 65% of dog treat purchases are unplanned. To provide consumers with a new dog treat option outside the pet aisle, The Chompery products will be available in the meat aisle at grocery stores.

As many organizations continue to encourage a work-from-home policy, it looks like life will continue to be anything but ruff - and filled with tasty treats - for our favorite furry companions.



Dog owners are seeking bones and chews that provide dental hygiene benefits to their pets.













Stay safe when working in the yard

A day spent working in the yard is an ideal way to pass the time on spring and summer afternoons. A pristine landscape can add value to a property and instill pride in homeowners who put a lot of thought and effort into their lawns and gardens.

A sun-soaked day can make it easy to overlook potential threats when working in a lawn or garden. But safety precautions are of the utmost necessity when working in the yard, where the risk for serious injury is considerable. For example, the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons reports that, in 2016, more than 90,000 patients, including nearly 5,000 children, were treated in hospital emergency rooms for lawn mower-related injuries.

Lawn- and garden-related injuries can be prevented without going to great lengths.

• Know your terrain before mowing. Knowing the terrain in your own yard can reduce the risk for accident or injury. This can be especially important when mowing the lawn with a riding mower. Adhere to manufacturers' recommendations regarding inclines to reduce tip-over accidents that can pin riders beneath the mower. Study hilly areas of the yard prior to mowing so you know which areas are safe to mow with a riding mower and which areas are best mowed with a walk-behind mower. For greater control when using a walk-behind mower on an incline, mow parallel to the slope.

· Apply and reapply Sunburns sunscreen. may not require trips to the emergency room, but they can still be serious. In fact, the Skin Cancer Foundation notes that sunburn is a leading cause in the majority of cases of basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma and melanoma, which is the deadliest form of skin cancer. The SCF recommends applying sunscreen 30 minutes before going outside to allow the sunscreen to bond to your skin. Reapply sunscreen at least every two hours, and more often if you're sweating excessively. The SCF recommends broad spectrum sunscreens, which protect the skin from both UVA and UVB rays. Though a product with a sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 15 is

acceptable when walking the dog or driving to work, the SCF advises using a product with an SPF of 30 or higher when engaging in extended outdoor activities like gardening or mowing.

• Employ the buddy system. Use the buddy system when pruning tall trees or performing any tasks that require a ladder. The Orthopedic Institute of Pennsylvania reports that more than 164,000 people are injured each year falling off a ladder. Ask a significant other or neighbor to hold the ladder in place while you climb up to reduce your risk of falling. If cutting large branches, cut

them piecemeal to reduce the risk of being injured by heavy falling branches.

• Inspect the property for insect hives. The OIP notes that the most common insect stings in spring come from bees, wasps and hornets. Homeowners who are not careful can inadvertently come across hives when doing spring cleanup, making them vulnerable to bites and stings. That can be very dangerous for anyone, and especially so for people with a history of allergic reactions to insect bites or stings. Inspect areas where you'll be working to make sure insects haven't put down roots in your property. If you discover any hives and are hesitant to remove them on your own, contact a local landscaping firm.

Lawn and garden accidents and injuries can be serious. Thankfully, accidents and injuries are easily prevented when homeowners take a few simple safety precautions while tending to their lawns and gardens.



Knowing the terrain in your own yard can reduce the risk for accident or injury. This can be especially important when mowing the lawn with a riding mower.

CVCSD Foundation accepting applications for Panarites Medical Award

The CVCSD Foundation is accepting applications for the Panarites Medical Award. The scholarship, for \$1,000, will be awarded to one CVA alum each year. Applicants must be enrolled or accepted into a medical school or post-graduate program to become a physician, nurse practitioner or physician assistant.

Application requirements include copies of high

school and undergraduate transcripts, letter of acceptance into a certified medical school or other post-graduate training and a 500-word essay outlining future goals in the chosen field. Documents must be received by Aug 1

All information may be sent to the CVCSD Foundation, 111 Frederick St., Ilion, NY 13357.













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Israeli couscous with currants

Israeli or pearl couscous is a delicious alternative to traditional couscous. This larger, chewier pasta (contrary to popular belief, couscous is not a grain) adds a pleasant texture to the dish, and it takes on a hint of nutty flavor when toasted.

- 1 bunch green onions
- 2 tablespoons margarine or butter
- 3 cups Israeli (pearl) couscous
- 2 cups water
- 1 cup chicken broth
- 1/4 teaspoon ground allspice

Salt and pepper

- 3/4 cup walnuts, toasted and chopped
- 1/2 cup currants
- 1/2 cup loosely packed fresh mint leaves, chopped
- 1. Cut white and light-green portion of green onions into 1/2-inch pieces. Thinly slice dark-green portions; set dark-green onion slices aside separately from 1/2-inch pieces.

- 2. In 4-quart saucepan, heat margarine on medium until melted. Add white and light-green onion pieces, and cook 3 minutes or until beginning to soften. Add couscous and cook 7 to 9 minutes or until most grains are browned, stirring couscous frequently.
- 3. Add water, broth, allspice, 1/2 teaspoon salt and 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper to couscous; heat to boiling on high. Reduce heat to low; cover and simmer 8 to 10 minutes or until liquid is absorbed and couscous is tender but still slightly chewy.
- 4. Remove couscous from heat. Stir in toasted walnuts, currants, chopped mint leaves and reserved sliced green onions. Makes about 6 1/2 cups couscous (12 side-dish servings).
- * Each serving: About 220 calories, 7g total fat (1g saturated), 0mg cholesterol, 180mg sodium, 34g total carbohydrate, 3g dietary fiber, 6g protein.

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

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Bible Trivia

by Wilson Casey

- 1. Is the book of Hosea in the Old or New Testament or neither?
- 2. Emboldened by God's declaration, which Old Testament king went into battle with singers leading the army? Ahaz, Hezekiah, Manasseh, Jehoshaphat
 - 3. From 1 Chronicles 29, how many years did David

reign over Israel? 7, 33, 40, 57

- 4. The prophecy of Obadiah is basically about what nation? Shem, Edom, Tabor, Nebo
- 5. What was Aquila's profession in Corinth? Tentmaker, Harp player, Mapmaker, Servant
- 6. David was what relation to Boaz? Brother, Son, Grandson, Great-grandson

ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) Jehoshaphat; 3) 40; 4) Edom; 5) Tentmaker; 6) Great-grandson

Hardcore trivia fan? Visit Wilson Casey's subscriber site at www.patreon.com/triviaguy.

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Addressing backyard pet waste

Pets benefit households in myriad ways. The Animal Health Foundation notes that being around pets can decrease cortisol levels (a hormone activated by stress). Pets also may inspire their owners to engage in physical activity, such as walks around the neighborhood or play sessions in the backyard, and a physically active lifestyle can reduce a person's risk for various diseases.

To reap the rewards of a pet, owners must be willing to put in the effort to care for companion animals. This includes those tasks that can be unsavory, such as cleaning up pet waste. Not only is pet waste messy, if left out and about it

can be an eyesore, a health risk and affect the quality of the soil in one's yard.

Regular removal of pet waste benefits the environment as well as pets and their owners. There are a variety of solutions that can help people rid their lawns of pet waste.

- Put it in the trash. If allowed, placing waste in a trash receptacle is an option. However, certain areas of the country do not allow feces disposal in landfills. Bacteria found in animal excrement also can leach into the environment if not handled properly.
- **Flush it.** Another solution is to flush waste down the toilet. But that is not always

convenient and it requires owners to bring waste indoors. Do not flush cat waste that is covered in litter.

• Utilize a sewer line attachment. This disposal system is connected directly to a



septic tank or sewer line. It will require washing out debris and waste that gets stuck in the plumbing.

- Use an enzymatic dog waste dissolver. Soaking waste and using an enzymatic product can dissolve it more safely than using lime or another chemical. It can be used out in the open, or applied to waste stored in a receptacle.
- Create a septic-style composter. Some people create a mini septic station in their yards in which the waste can break down and then dissolve into a predetermined corner of the property, away from where it can affect the landscape.
 - Use a hose and water.

Solid waste is not the only concern in the yard. Concentrated urine may contain high levels of nitrogen as well as salts and other compounds, according to The Spruce: Pets. These components alter the pH of the soil and cause patches of grass to die and turn yellow or brown. Females cause more damage because they squat and make a puddle of urine, while males tend to lift their legs and disperse the spray. Washing down areas where pets urinate can help dilute the urine and prevent damage.

Various products and strategies can help pet owners neatly and safely remove pet waste from their yards.



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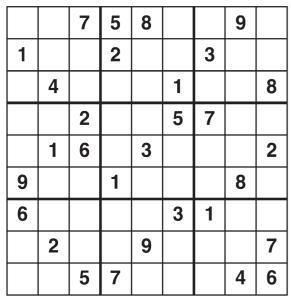






Weekly **SUDOKU**

by Linda Thistle



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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MAGIC MAZE ● ONE-WORD MUSICALS

OUROLJGDAXVSPNK IFCAXVSQOLJHECN AXVTRPNLJHFLDBE HAMILTON)YXVLTTG RPOEMKIKTIGEESA YEDBIPZNLXRPWUH USVTPNERCATSQEN ONPILRNJBIHDGDE F D P Y T I C A M E L O T A P CAYOGACIHCXGMMO

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally Unlisted clue hint: STORY OF EVA PERÓN

WVTSRHPLESUORAC

Amadeus Annie Cabaret Camelot

Carousel Cats Chicago Copenhagen Godspell Oklahoma Gypsy Pippin Hair Rent Hamilton

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King Crossword

ACROSS Fashion 6 Cougars 11 Copier part 12 Sanford of "The Jeffersons" 14 Sweatshirt variety 15 "The Raven' 16 Off-roader (Abbr.) 17 Burn with steam 19 Khan title

Moses

singer 26 TV actor Prinze 49 Restaurant 28 Business mag Sports ven-

30 Melancholy 31 Dagwood's

20 "Moonstruck star

— -la-la

23 War god 24 "Praying"

lady 35 Chic again 39 Lariat 40 Neither mate

42 Actress de Matteo

figure 46 Last (Abbr.)

BJAN DIT Nam

6 Columns Secondhand

Chess piece On the train

52 Not as small 53 Admin. aides

54 Plant firmly

DOWN

1 Mollify 43 — -de-Franc 44 Red Square Caches 3 Pay stub

> Floral rings Upright

13 Rental contract

18 Canine cry 21 Bonn's river 23 Threw in

25 Moreover 27 Corn serving 29 Movie houses

31 Hat edges

novel 33 Puccini works

34 Very long time 36 Plod 10 Composer Prokofiev

37 Counted (on) 38 Western flick Crude cabin 41 Sentry's

weapon 44 Cannes milk 45 Linguist

Chomsky 48 Checkcashing needs

50 Sphere

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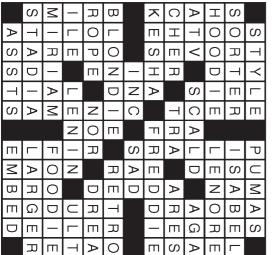
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Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Sign is different. 2. Badge is missing. 3. Pocket is soded. 4. Stripe is missing. 5. Kerchief is different. 6. Pen is missing.



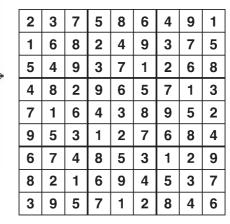
Solution time: 21 min

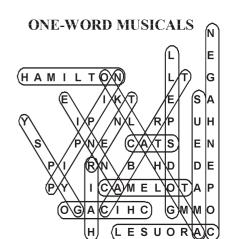
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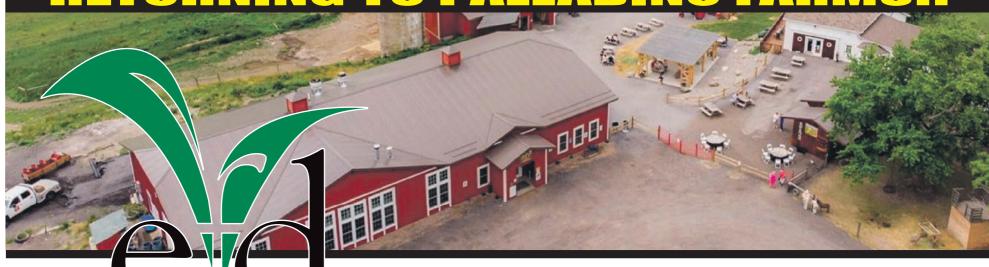
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