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Country Editor
Serving the Valley for 53 Years

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Volume 10 Number 48

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Philemon 1:3

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Local author's thriller series continues with 'Demon Sphere'

MILLERS MILLS – Local author Bruce Rubin, writing under the pen name Vincenzo Spiaggi, has published his 15th work of fiction, "Demon Sphere," which is the 13th book in the "Johnny Skull" series.

Approximately 100 terrorists are the targets of World Interconnect (WI-7), an international terrorist-hunting organization. These terrorists, supported by international, like-minded financiers, are on a quest to crumble the U.S. and its culture from within. WI-7 is developing a plan to render the terrorists inoperable by using a new weapon – the Demon Sphere – and by coordinating their efforts with the Boston Mafia.

As the evil histories of the individual terrorists are exposed, a third factor – FATE – emerges to assist in the success of WI-7's plan. Johnny Skull, the most respected WI-7 agent, leads a group of 33 agents in an effort to rid the nation of these bloodthirsty terrorists.

Of course, a plethora of sub-plots emerge – as they always do – to widen WI-7's effort beyond the mere elimination of the terrorists, including the thwarting of a wide-ranging voter fraud/ballot manipulation plan to render future American elections unnecessary.

A book signing event is scheduled for Wednesday, June 9 at 7 p.m. at the West Winfield Public Library, 179 South St., West Winfield.

"Demon Sphere," a 603-page paperback, is published by Westwood Book Publishers and is available via Amazon at <https://tinyurl.com/f3crsec7>.

Rubin's other fictional works, "Thicker Than Water" (2005), "Ho Po Pinocchio Day" (2006) and the first 12 books in

the Johnny Skull series ("Small-Town Weekly," 2006; "Small Pebbles, Long Shadows," 2007; "Happiness is the Road," 2008; "The Great Sicilian Rabbit Hunter," 2009; "A Tribute to His Heroes," 2010; "The Natural Order of Human Events," 2011; "Time to Lean, Time to Clean," 2012; "The Antelope Farm," 2013; "One-Legged Geese," 2015; "The First Raindrop of the Storm," 2016; "Curse of the Quincunx," 2018; and "Sunrise Over Evil," 2019) are available at the West Winfield Library, at authorhouse.com and at major book outlets.

Rubin, a New York City native and a graduate of the City University of New York, is a geologist, journalist, fine art photographer

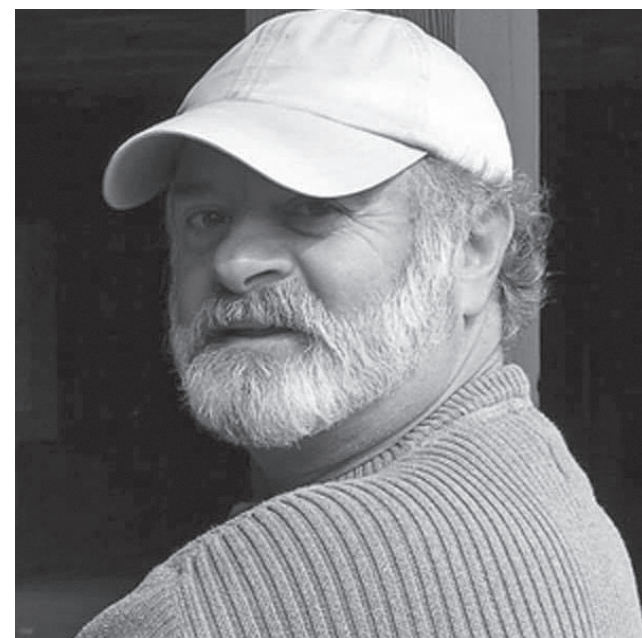
and screenwriter. He spent most of his adult life in the Western U.S., and began writing fiction in the early 1980s. His next book, the 14th in the Johnny Skull series, is a work in progress.

THE THIRTEENTH BOOK IN THE JOHNNY SKULL SERIES

DEMON SPHERE



VINCENZO SPIAGGI
AUTHOR OF SUNRISE OVER EVIL



Author Bruce Rubin

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GTSC warns of spike in motorcycle crash fatalities as Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month Begins



The Governor's Traffic Safety Committee (GTSC) recently held a press event in Albany to mark the start of Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month and urged safety in the wake of an alarming spike in motorcycle crashes and fatalities. According to the Institute for Traffic Safety Management and Research (ITSMR) at the University at Albany's Rockefeller College, fatal motorcycle crashes were up more than 30% in 2020 over the previous year, and fatalities increased nearly 35% from 2019 to 2020, based on preliminary 2020 data.

ITSMR data show that there were 132 fatal crashes that killed 133 people in 2019 compared to 172 fatal crashes that killed 179 people in 2020. So far this year, there has been one fatality and more than 40 reported injuries in just the first few weeks of riding season.

"Despite fewer vehicles on the road last year, we saw a startling increase in deadly motorcycle crashes, and every life lost was someone's loved one," said GTSC Chair and DMV Commissioner Mark J.F. Schroeder. "Everyone sharing the road, whether in a car or on a motorcycle, has a responsibility to help stop these tragedies. As the weather warms up and we continue making progress battling COVID-19, there will be more traffic and more riders, so stay alert, avoid distractions, and never, ever drive under the influence of drugs or alcohol."

Motorcycle riders continue to be overrepresented in fatal traffic crashes. In 2020 alone, motorcycle crash fatalities represented 18% of all motor vehicle crash fatalities in the state. To promote important motorcycle safety tips for riders and motorists, GTSC is using targeted advertisements online. It is also placing important safety messages at more than 150 gas stations across the state. They will be affixed to fuel pump toppers and nozzle handles throughout the riding season. GTSC

also promotes motorcycle safety tips on its website.

Additionally, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is utilizing TV and radio to promote safety as the riding season begins to support the state's ongoing public awareness efforts.

New York was the first state to mandate wearing a motorcycle helmet, and for more than 20 years, the state has had a rider-funded motorcycle safety training and awareness program known as the NYS Motorcycle Safety Program. The program uses a nationally recognized motorcycle training curriculum, developed by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation. The courses teach effective turning, braking maneuvers, tips to avoid obstacles, strategies in traffic, how to select ap-

propriate protective apparel and vehicle maintenance. Motorcyclists can find a training course near them by visiting nysmsp.org.

Motorcycle Safety Foundation Program Manager Ben Zadrozny said, "To all motorcyclists, get trained and licensed; always wear full protective gear including a DOT-approved helmet; never ride under the influence of alcohol or other drugs; ride within your own skill limits; be a lifelong learner. To all car, truck and SUV roadway users, look for motorcycles; never tailgate a motorcycle; use your turn signals; please don't drive distracted!"

For more information about traffic safety in NYS, visit trafficsafety.ny.gov.

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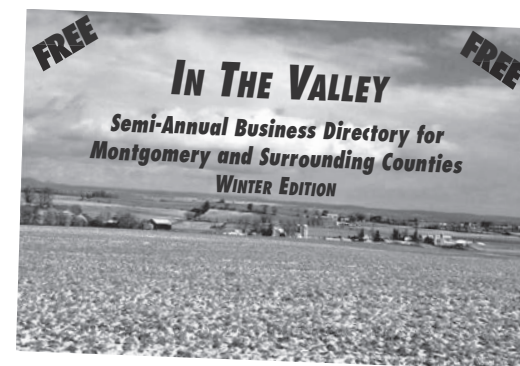
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Canalway Challenge kicks off along New York's canals

Walk, run, cycle, roll or paddle to achieve your mileage goal

The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor invites New Yorkers to take part in the Canalway Challenge in 2021 and enjoy the great outdoors along NY's canals and Canalway Trails. Participants choose a mileage goal of 15, 90, 180 or 360 miles. They then walk, run or cycle on the Canalway Trail or paddle on the NYS Canal System to achieve it. People with disabilities are welcome to participate in a 1st Mile Challenge by completing one mile.

"As New York begins to open more, the Canalway Challenge is a great way for people to get outside and discover all they can do along the canals and Canalway Trail," said Bob Radliff, executive director of the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor. "The range of mileage options is suited to people of all ages and abilities, from those who are just taking their first steps toward fitness to more experienced athletes."

The Canalway Challenge is free and registration is open to individuals and teams. People can complete their miles in one big trip or many small ones.

The 1st Mile Challenge offers people with disabilities and their family and friends opportunities to recreate together and build more active lifestyles. There are numerous places along the canals and Canalway

Trail that are accessible and several that offer adaptive bikes and kayaks.

NYS Canal Corporation Director Brian U. Stratton said, "New York's canals and adjoining trails offer unparalleled opportunities for safe, socially-distanced outdoor recreation. The Canalway Challenge showcases the tremendous investments made in both our canal-side communities through Governor Cuomo's Reimagine the Canals program and in opening of the 750-mile Empire State Trail – the longest multi-use trail in the nation. As we continue to seek new and engaging ways to get outdoors while remaining safe and responsible, the Canal Corporation is thrilled to support this initiative and to invite all New Yorkers to experience the unmatched history and natural beauty of our magnificent Canalway Trail system."

NYS Executive Director of Tourism Ross D. Levi said,

"With more New Yorkers looking for ways to safely recreate outside and experience parts of the state they haven't previously visited, the Canalway Challenge is the perfect opportunity for people of all ages and abilities to explore the state's canal system and the Erie Canalway Trail."

The Canalway Challenge is funded with support from the National Park Service, the NYS Canal Corporation and Market NY through I LOVE NY/NYS Division of Tourism as a part of the state's Regional Economic Development Council initiative.

Participants should follow all NYS Department of Health guidelines for COVID-19 safety while on the Canalway Trail and while visiting state parks, historic sites and communities.

This year's challenge runs through the end of October. Sign up at canalwaychallenge.com.

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The 2021 Canalway Challenge is on. New Yorkers are invited to sign up, choose a mileage goal, and explore the great outdoors along NY's canals. The program is free and runs through October. Photo courtesy of Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor

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Now Here's A Tip

by JoAnn Derson

- We heard from J.D. in Northern Colorado about a recent tip on egg carton use. He wanted to remind me that while Styrofoam egg cartons may be easily recyclable in some places (I take them to my local grocery store), that's not true for all states. Thanks for the reminder, J.D., and for being a reader. Maybe it's time to lobby our grocery chains to switch to cardboard cartons.
- "I put dryer sheets in any size wastebasket. One can put three or four folded out to stand up and put a bag in the basket for a fresher smell. Change dryer sheets as often as you like." – S.H. in Minnesota
- B.H. in Washington has an interesting tactic to keep ants off her hummingbird feeder, which hangs from a pole. "Cut a small hole out of the bottom of a grocery sack, thread the hole on the pole, slide down about two-thirds of the way, tape the edges to the pole tightly, and let the sack hang down like a bell. You will never have another ant climbing up your feeder pole."
- Get lots of extra bathroom storage by hanging an organizer over the back of the door. Look online and you'll find fancy versions made with drawers and hooks, or just use a good old-fashioned plastic shoe organizer that you can pick up at your local store for less than \$10.
- To remove a persistent smell from a lunchbox, wash thoroughly with baking soda and dish soap, then hang to dry. Stuff the lunchbox with crumpled up newspaper and seal for a day. Remove the newspaper, and hopefully the smell with it.

Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 628 Virginia Dr., Orlando, FL 32803.

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HERKIMER

Country Editor

Serving the Valley for 53 Years

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Calendar of events

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

May 14

Utica and Mohawk Valley Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society meeting on 7 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church in the Town of New Hartford. Topic: Amtrak's Golden Anniversary. For more info, contact Paulson at 315.327.8653 or 315.853.5400.

May 13 - 15

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

May 14 and 15

Rummage Sale and Plant & Bake Sale 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Cold Brook United Methodist Church, 467 Main St. (Rt. 8), Cold Brook. Masks and distancing required.

May 15

Pierogi Sale 10 a.m.-2 p.m. St. Mary's Ukrainian Orthodox Church, 324 Moore Ave., Herkimer.

May 17

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

May 19

Third Wednesday Night Dinners Pulled pork dinners at Ilion First Baptist Church, 8 Second St., 4 - 6 p.m. or until sold out. Takeout or delivery only. For more info call 315.894.9041.

May 20

Baked Ham Dinner 4 - 7 p.m. or until sold out. Takeout only. At Emmanuel Episcopal church, the Parish Hall, 594 Albany St., Little Falls. Free delivery to Herkimer and Little Falls. Curbside and walk-ins. Reserve dinner at 315.741.4672.

May 21

Breast Cancer Screenings with Upstate Mobile Mammography Program. 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. at Village of Frankfort Municipal Offices, 110 Railroad St., Frankfort.

May 21 and 22

Rummage Sale and Plant & Bake Sale 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Cold Brook United Methodist Church, 467 Main St. (Rt. 8), Cold Brook. Masks and distancing required.

May 22

Fort Klock Opening Day 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Come experience colonial life in this historic fortified home- stead. 7203 Rte. 5, St. Johnsville. For more info call 518.568.7779.

May 22

Scalloped Potatoes and Ham Dinner 4-7 p.m. Ilion-Frankfort VFW Post 502, 4274 Acme Road, Frankfort. Eat in or take out. For more info contact the post at 315.895.7775.

May 29

Pierogi Sale 10 a.m.-2 p.m. St. Mary's Ukrainian Orthodox Church, 324 Moore Ave., Herkimer.

June 5

The Mohawk fire Auxiliary is sponsoring their Annual Village-wide garage sales 8 a.m.- 4 p.m. List of the sales will be on sale for a \$1 at 7:30 a.m. at 28 Columbia St. At 10 a.m. food and raffles will be provided at the station. Residents can sign up at the village hall or by calling Brenda at 315.867.4126.

June 12

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

June 16

Third Wednesday Night Dinners Pulled pork dinners at Ilion First Baptist Church, 8 Second St., 4 - 6 p.m. or until sold out. Takeout or delivery only. For more info call 315.894.9041.

June 16

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

June 18

RSCC Sundae Run/Walk 100% of proceeds from this 5K/10K go toward our nonprofit community center. Registration limited. 8 a.m. start. Register at runsignup.com/Race/Events/NY/Richfield-Springs/RSCCRunWalk

June 21

Third Wednesday Night Dinners Pulled pork dinners at Ilion First Baptist Church, 8 Second St., 4 - 6 p.m. or until sold out. Takeout or delivery only. For more info call 315.894.9041.

June 24

Moses Quinby Day. Beekeeping convention and public field day. Speakers. Craft and food vendors. Kids' activities. Music. Fort Klock in St. Johnsville, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. For info email mosesquinby62@gmail.com.

June 26

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

June 27

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

June 28

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

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Founding faculty member presents compilation of articles, Fallen Stars replica to Herkimer College

Herkimer County Community College emeritus faculty member Raymond J. Lenarcic recently donated several bound collections of his published stories and columns written over nearly five decades. Lenarcic presented the books to President Cathleen McColgin for display and preservation at the college.

umns written over nearly five decades. Lenarcic presented the books to President Cathleen McColgin for display and preservation at the college.

"The Joys and Sorrows" is a compilation of published columns in local newspapers dealing with the various holidays. "Dark Clouds & Golden Skies" includes col-

umns regarding Vietnam combat veterans, Native Americans and a variety of other topics. "Freedoms & Fireworks" contains a variety of writings about the Fourth of July,

including real-life heroes, tragedies and childhood memories. The fourth book is a compilation of seven original Christmas stories, including "The Snowbird," "The Candle

in the Window" and "The Littlest Star." The book covers and many of the stories are illustrated by Lenarcic's granddaughter-

Founding 9



Herkimer County Community College emeritus faculty member Raymond J. Lenarcic recently donated several bound collections of his published stories and columns written over nearly five decades. He presented the books to President Cathleen McColgin for display and preservation at the college. Photos courtesy of Herkimer County Community College



In dedicating his books, Lenarcic stated "Because I enjoyed every minute that I taught at 'Harvard on the Hill,' I have countless memories to help me face the rigors of old age. Wishing the college many more decades of unqualified success."



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Founding from 8 —
ters Emily Firestone and
Lyndsay Snyder along
with Benton Hall Acade-
my principal Joe Long.

In dedicating his books,
Lenarcic stated, "Because

I enjoyed every minute
that I taught at 'Harvard
on the Hill,' I have count-
less memories to help me
face the rigors of old age.
Wishing the college many
more decades of unquali-
fied success."

Lenarcic also present-
ed the college with a large
vinyl banner replicating
the Fallen Stars Memorial
in honor of New York
State's men and women
who died in Iraq and Af-
ghanistan. A committee

including Lenarcic and
his wife, Kay, were instru-
mental in creating four
memorial murals with
binders of biographies to
accompany them. Lenar-
cic credits fellow commit-
tee member Kelly Brown

with having made it pos-
sible for the murals to
travel over 12,000 miles
to be seen by thousands
throughout the state. "It
is important that every
one of these heroes is re-
membered and that we do

something in their names
to better our communities
— something positive — so
that it could never be said
that their deaths were in
vain," he said.

"On behalf of the col-
lege community, I extend
my deepest thanks to
Ray for his generosity in
sharing his collection of
personal writings to be
enjoyed by students, em-
ployees and community
members for many years
to come. We also recog-
nize and appreciate Ray's
continued commitment
to our veterans and our
community, and we look
forward to proudly dis-
playing the Fallen Stars
banner in a prominent
location on campus," said
McColgin.

Lenarcic was one of the
original faculty members
hired at Herkimer College
in 1967. A Chancellor's
Award-winning teacher
of history and geography,
he also coached several
teams including the first
undefeated Northeast
Collegiate Championship
fast-pitch softball team in
1971. The College Board
of Trustees granted him
emeritus status upon his
retirement in 1995.



Lenarcic also presented the college with a large vinyl banner replicating the Fallen Stars Memorial in honor of New York State's men and women who died in Iraq and Afghanistan. A committee including Lenarcic and his wife, Kay, were instrumental in creating four memorial murals with binders of biographies to accompany them.

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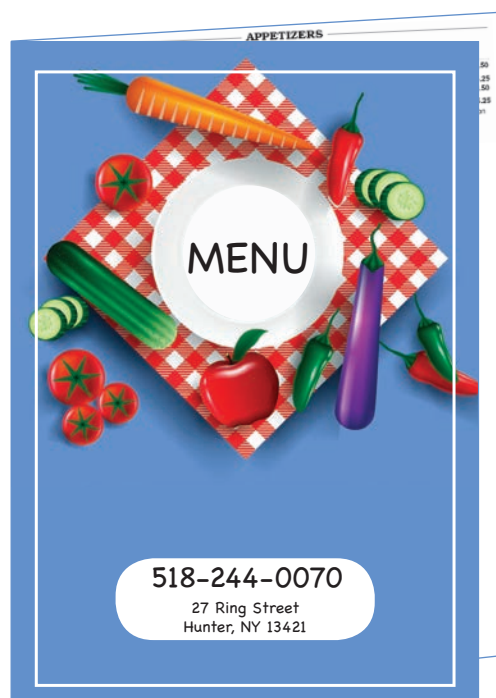
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Six things dog owners should know about Lyme disease

Lyme disease is one of the most common tick-transmitted diseases in the world. Lyme disease primarily affects people, but dogs also are at risk.

Lyme disease is caused by a spirochete, which is a type of bacterium, said VCA Animal Hospitals. Bacteria are contained in the bodies of blacklegged ticks, which are then passed to the host animal when bitten. Transmission of Lyme disease has been reported in dogs throughout the U.S. and Europe. It is most prevalent in the upper Midwestern states, the Atlantic seaboard and the Pacific coastal states, advised PetMD.

Even though Lyme disease is widely known for its effects on humans, pet parents should learn about the ways that tick bites can affect their furry companions.

1. Lyme disease only causes symptoms in 5% to 10% of affected dogs. Many dogs have it but never show symptoms.

2. The animal health experts at Boehringer Ingelheim say dogs with Lyme disease can experience various symptoms, including joint swelling and pain, fever, lethargy, loss of appetite and kidney problems. Dogs may not exhibit symptoms for weeks or months after being bitten.

3. Lyme disease is diagnosed based on the presence of certain symptoms. A Lyme disease antibody test can identify the presence of the disease, but only if the dog's body has produced antibodies.

Testing is recommended no sooner than four weeks after a tick bite. Other tests include a polymerase chain reaction and an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay.

4. Lyme disease is a year-round threat. Ticks do not die in the winter. Rather, they hide out and wait for the first warm day to arrive to move around. It's important to keep up with tick-control treatments no matter the month.

5. Most tick control remedies do not actual-

ly repel ticks – they just kill the tick shortly after the tick has bitten. That's good news since there is a greater chance of bacteria being transmitted the longer the tick is attached. Only tick collars repel ticks, but there are pros and cons to such products.

6. Ticks latch on to dogs in areas where blood vessels are closest to the surface of the skin. This includes the head, the neck and the ears. However, since adult ticks are quite

big, dogs will attempt to bite them off if they are seen. Ticks tend to hide in places like inside the ears, between the toes and around the neck.

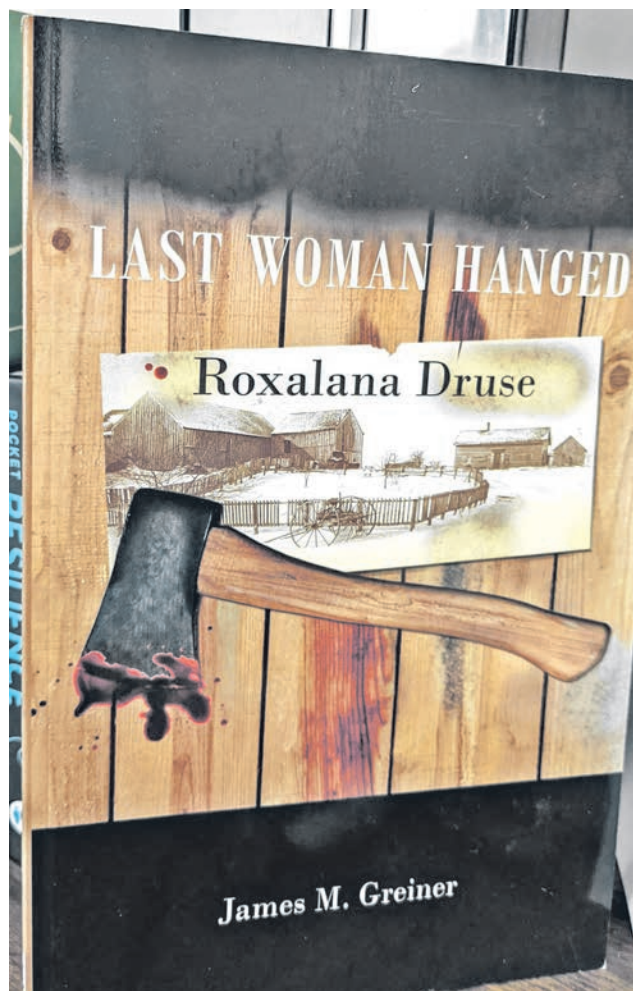
Pet owners should use gloves, tweezers or a tissue to form a barrier between the tick and their skin when removing ticks. The bacterium that causes Lyme disease can pass through a wound in the skin, said VCA Hospitals. Annual vaccination also can help dogs maintain immunity.



Next book reading at Herkimer County Historical Society

Our next book read at the Herkimer County Historical Society is May 25 (the last Tuesday of the month) at 6 p.m. We'll be discussing "Last Woman Hanged" by James M. Greiner. He'll be there. Books are on sale at the Historical Society. We'll have books and artifacts there too!

For more information, visit facebook.com/herkimerhistory. The Historical Society is located at 400 N. Main St., Herkimer.



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June Daily Number Drawing fundraiser for 1834 Jail

The Friends of Historic Herkimer County are holding a Daily Number Drawing fundraiser for the month of June. Tickets are \$5 per ticket. Payout will be weekdays Monday – Saturday \$25, Sundays \$50, Holidays, Flag Day June 14 \$50 and Fathers' Day June 20 \$50.

To purchase tickets, mail your donation to: Friends of Historic Herkimer County, P.O. Box 703, Herkimer, NY 13350 and we will mail your ticket stub(s) to you or call Katie at 315.867.5036.

The proceeds will go towards a major interior restoration project of the 1834 Herkimer County Jail that is beginning this year.

Amtrak's Golden Anniversary subject for May railway society meeting

The Utica and Mohawk Valley Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society will meet on May 14 at 7 p.m. at the Zion Lutheran Church on the corners of French and Burrstone roads in New Hartford.

There will be a business portion conducted by President Harry Lenz with reports on the Adirondack Scenic Railroad, the chapter picnic in August, New York Central 6721 and possible bus

and Amtrak trips, along with many more activities and projects ahead for our chapter in the coming months.

After the break, Vice President Bradford Paulson will coordinate the Utica and Mohawk Valley Chapter's salute to Amtrak and its 50th anniversary with books and classic schedules along with many different items pertaining to Amtrak on this monumental occasion.

This meeting is open to

anyone who is interested in railroads, railroad history, the history of Amtrak and the history of the American passenger trains. We would like to invite guests the opportunity to join the chapter as regular members. We would also like to invite all active and retired railroad personnel to the meeting as well.

For more information, contact Paulson at 315.327.8653 or 315.853.5400.





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Good Housekeeping – Gingered Pear & Dried Fruit Crisp

Dessert doesn't get much easier than this. Canned pears are mixed with chunks of dried fruit and a sprinkling of cinnamon, then topped with crumbled gingersnap cookies.

2 cans (28 to 29 oz. each) pear halves in light syrup
1 tbsp cornstarch
1 cup mixed dried fruit, cut into large pieces
1/4 tsp ground cinnamon
1 1/2 cups gingersnap cookies (about 20 cookies)
3 tbsp butter or margarine
2 tbsp brown sugar
Fresh mint sprigs for garnish

1. Preheat oven to 400° F. Drain pears, reserving 1 cup syrup. With wire whisk, mix cornstarch into reserved pear syrup until blended. In shallow 2 1/2-quart glass or ceramic baking dish, toss pears with reserved syrup mixture, dried fruit and cinnamon until evenly mixed. Bake filling, covered, 15 minutes.

2. Meanwhile, in food processor with knife blade attached, blend gingersnap cookies, butter and sugar until finely ground and evenly mixed. With fingertips, press cookie mixture into small chunks and scatter over pear filling.

3. Bake crisp, uncovered, 10 to 12 minutes longer or until filling is hot and bubbling and cookie topping is crisp. Spoon into dessert bowls; garnish with mint sprigs. Serves 8.

• Each serving: About 270 calories, 6g total fat (1g saturated), 2g protein, 54g carbohydrate, 4g fiber, 0mg cholesterol, 185mg sodium.

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Low-maintenance lawn alternatives

A traditional lawn may not be right for every property nor desired by every homeowner. There is no denying that lawns take time and effort to establish and daily or weekly maintenance to thrive. Homeowners who find that a traditional lawn is not practical can explore some low-maintenance alternatives.

Wildflower meadow

Homeowners with wide swaths of property may discover meadows are cost- and time-efficient. Stores sell special wildflower meadow mixes of seeds or homeowners can use wildflower plug plants throughout areas where grasses are left to grow longer. This natural area can be a home to wildlife and an idyllic backdrop to a home. Most meadows only require a spring or summer and autumn cut to thrive and look good.

Ornamental grasses

Partition areas of the property for ornamental grasses to grow. The gardening resource Elemental Green says ornamental grasses tend to be drought-resistant and low-maintenance. They won't need much fertilizer and are often resistant to pests as well. Ornamental grasses grow in tufts or sprays and will not require mowing. However, they are not ideal for areas that get foot traffic.

Moss

Moss can thrive in shady areas and ones where the soil tends to stay a bit damp. Moss is velvety soft and green, so it can mimic the look of a traditional lawn but won't require mowing and other upkeep. Because it spreads quickly, moss can take over quite rapidly. You will need to protect areas where you do not want moss by creating barriers to stop spread.

Gravel

Stone and gravel areas can reduce maintenance in the landscape and require very little upkeep. When gravel is installed correctly, weeds may not grow readily. Gravel installation may include laying heavy-duty, semi-permeable landscape fabric, which is available in home improvement centers. Gravel is cheaper than pavers and can be just as beautiful.

Artificial turf

If the desired look is a lawn without all the upkeep, there are various artificial grass options on the market. Homeowners who opt for artificial turf can save money and space devoted to lawn mowers and other lawn tools.

Grass may be ideal for some, but there are alternatives for people who have troublesome landscapes or desire a low-maintenance product for their homes.



The gardening resource Elemental Green says ornamental grasses tend to be drought-resistant and low-maintenance. However, they are not ideal for areas that get foot traffic.

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Oreo and Peach: Two cats up for adoption at Montgomery County SPCA

Oreo is a four-year-old male cat who prefers to observe you and your actions (perhaps with a judgmental head tilt) as compared to interacting with you on a daily basis. Oreo's independent streak makes him the perfect cat for anyone looking for only one cat and someone who can give Oreo the space he's looking for. Don't misunderstand – Oreo likes to play with cat toys day and night. He just prefers if you don't join the party!

Oreo has been with the Montgomery

County SPCA for a while now and while we love having him around, he would much prefer to be the king of his own castle, playing with toys day and night and silently judging you from a distance.

Peach is a four-year-old female cat who prefers screen time over people time. Peach loves to spend time on her scratching post, playing with catnip and on her iPad – yes, her iPad. Peach prefers to be the queen of her own domain and is looking for a home that will pro-

vide her love and attention but isn't initially looking for a great deal of interaction. Oh, and good quality Wi-Fi and an iPad of her own is a must.

Peach has been with the Montgomery

County SPCA for a while now and while we've grown to love her standoff-ish personality, she's looking to upgrade her situation and get a little more screen time in your home.



Oreo



Peach

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Lawn watering and fertilizing techniques

A lush, green lawn is a sight to behold. Many variables are involved in growing and maintaining grass — and water and fertilizer are among the most important components.

Knowing how much water and fertilizer to apply and when to apply it can make a big difference in the appearance and health of a lawn. That's because a well-fed and watered lawn will develop a better root system, which makes the lawn less vulnerable to stressors like drought, mowing, foot traffic, and heat, according to the Scotts® company.

Fertilize

There is no magic formula governing when to fertilize a lawn. The type of grass and how well-established a lawn is must be considered. Experts suggest having the soil tested to determine its pH levels and if any nutrients are lacking. A fertilizing schedule can then be developed after testing.

Keep in mind that over-feeding a lawn will not make

it grow any better and actually can damage the turf. Several small applications of fertilizer during the lawn's most active growing period may be helpful, advises the home improvement resource Tools Around the House. An annual application (late spring for warm-season grass or fall for cool-season grass) may be all that's needed.

Certain fertilizers need to be applied and watered in. Others may be combined with weed-control products and must be set on top of damp grass. Read packaging to determine the right application.

Water

The right watering schedule and techniques can help a lawn thrive. Scotts® says adjusting for climate and nature can help grass to grow strongly. A lawn that has a grayish cast or appears dull green is telling an owner that it needs water. Another test is to step on the lawn. If footprints disappear quickly, the grass blades have enough moisture

to spring back.

Water the lawn in the morning before 10 a.m. when it's cooler and the winds tend to be calm so that the water can soak in. For those who must water at night, do so in early evening so that the water can dry before nightfall and will not contribute to disease.

Scotts® says to water an established lawn until the top six to eight inches of soil is wet. Most lawns need one to 1.5 inches of water per week from rain or a hose to soak the soil that deeply. Newly established lawns may require more water to keep the soil moist but not soggy.

Visit a lawn care center for more information on watering the type of lawn for your area or visit www.scotts.com for additional tips.

A well-fed and watered lawn will develop a better root system, which makes the lawn less vulnerable to stressors.

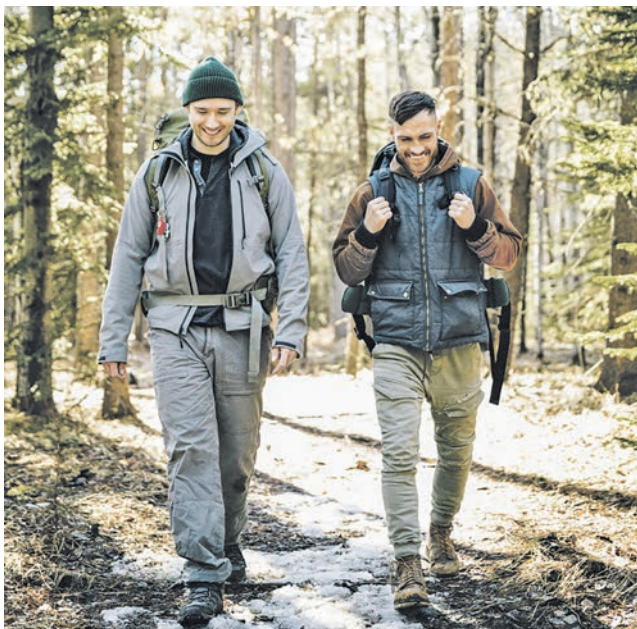


Lawns & Gardens

How to reduce risk for Lyme disease

When the weather warms up and hours of daylight increase, few people can resist the allure of the great outdoors. Nature beckons each spring, and those answering that call must do so safely.

Lyme disease is a potential threat for people who live in certain regions. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that Lyme disease cases have been reported in nearly every state, though residents in certain states are more vulnerable than others. For example, CDC data indicates that incidence rates were highest in several states in New England, including Maine, New Hampshire and Rhode Island, while rates in Oklahoma, Missouri and Wyoming were especially low.



Everyone should take steps to prevent tick bites when going out into the great outdoors.

Lyme disease is spread by the bite of an infected tick. Playing, hiking, camping, or working in wooded or grassy places where instances of Lyme disease are high increases a person's risk of being bitten. But that doesn't mean those in areas like New England, the mid-Atlantic or the upper-midwest must avoid such activities. However, they should take steps to prevent tick bites when going out into the great outdoors.

• **Recognize where ticks live.** The CDC reports that blacklegged ticks cause Lyme disease and that such ticks live in moist and humid environments. In addition, the Lyme Disease Association notes that ticks are most likely to be in certain areas, including woods, areas where woods meet lawns and where lawns meet fields. Ticks also may be living in tall brush/grass, under leaves, under ground cover, near stone-walls or wood piles, or in shady areas. Ticks also may be drawn to areas around bird feeders or outdoor areas designated for pets.

• **Wear insect repellent.** The CDC recommends wearing insect repellents registered with the Environmental Protection Agency. Repellents should contain DEET, picaridin, IR3535, oil of lemon eucalyptus, para-menthane-diol, or 2-undecanone. The EPA even has a tool on its website that can help people choose the right repellent products for them. That

tool can be found at epa.gov/insect-repellents/find-repellent-right-you. The CDC advises people to treat clothing and gear, including socks and tents, with products containing 0.5 percent permethrin, which can remain protective even after several washings. Pre-treated clothing may be protective even longer.

• **Check for ticks every day.** Ticks can be found anywhere on the body, and the CDC recommends checking for ticks every day. Pay particular attention to under-arms, in and around the ears, inside the belly button, the back of the knees, in and around all head and body hair, between the legs, and around the waist.

Ticks pose a threat when spending time in the great outdoors. Various preventive measures can help people reduce their risk for Lyme disease.

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Hill Top Tire celebrates 30th anniversary during 31st year in business



(L - R) The Hill Top Tire family: Dave Webb, Jennette Nare and Mindy, Katie and Elwyn Webb. The business is in its 31st year. Photos by Courtney Llewellyn

Hill Top Tire's 30th anniversary celebration was delayed until it was safer for folks to gather. Thankfully, due to great customer service and a sterling reputation, the open house event that had been postponed still saw an enthusiastic turnout.

On hand to welcome visitors were Dave Webb, the founder of Hill Top Tire in Fort Plain, his wife Mindy, and his son Elwyn and his wife Katie, and his daughter Jennette. Dave – who has patented his own tire design! – will soon be passing along day-to-day operations to Elwyn. When asked if he was retiring, though, Dave said, “No, but I’m ready to take a step back and work for him. I feel good about the transition. And I’m ready to see the business continue.”

Despite not being able to host their customer appreciation event last year, Hill Top Tire was still busy. They added a new 60-foot by 60-foot building in 2020 because they were simply out of room in their old building, which Elwyn said is

stocked full of product.

“We’re not just consumer tires. We do farm, OTR, construction – and the business grew last year,” Elwyn said. And it continues to grow. He noted they just ordered their fourth boom truck and now service a total of 15 counties in New York.

Hill Top Tire is Montgomery County's oldest and largest tire dealer, and they are the only certified Firestone, Michelin

and Titan tire dealer in their area.

They offered a free lunch and goodies for those who came to the open house. Also on hand were Laurie Britton from Bug Country and Bare Arms Gun Shop of Little Falls, which offered a virtual shooting range.

“We like seeing people,” Elwyn said. He invites everyone to stop by.

Find Hill Top Tire online at hilltoptire.net.

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Guide to adopting a shelter pet

The pandemic has brought a lot of changes to daily life. One of the positive effects of COVID-19 is that many individuals have turned to pets to tame loneliness or bring some brightness into their lives amidst all the uncertainty and turbulence.

In April 2020, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals said applications to foster dogs and cats was up 200%. In addition, PetPoint, a software system shared by shelters nationwide, reported fostering and adoptions were up by 700% since 2019. A TD Ameritrade survey found 33% of Americans have considered fostering or adopting a furry friend during the pandemic.

While it may be tempting to rush out and adopt a pet right away, careful consideration must be given before bringing a new pet into a home.

Expense

One of the biggest considerations is cost. The TD Ameritrade survey found that dog owners spend up to \$1,201 a year on their pets, while cat owners spend up to \$687 per year on average. Food costs top the list of pet expenditures, followed by veterinary care and grooming.

Lifestyle

Another aspect to consider is if a certain animal will fit its prospective owners' lifestyles. Outdoor enthusiasts and physically active people may want an exercise buddy, so a high-energy dog breed may fit the mold. Those who want a cuddling companion or lap warmer may opt for a less active dog or a cat.

Research the Pet

It's important to learn the care needs of specific pets, particularly among breeds of cats and dogs. For example, certain dogs may fit best with one person and not take to a household full of kids. Some breeds need ample outdoor space to run around, while others may be content to be couch potatoes.

Another consideration is temperament and the animal's history. Some rescues come from abusive situations or may have spent years on the street, so owners must be ready to help such dogs adjust to more loving environments. It's



While it may be tempting to rush out and adopt a pet right away, careful consideration must be given before bringing a new pet into a home.

important to ask how the pet came to be in the shelter. All considerations need to be factored into the equation.

Learn the Adoption Process

Each shelter or rescue organization has its own rules and regulations for adoption, including fees they charge by way of a donation. According to

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the pet resource Top Dog Tips, a shelter needs to be sure that adoptive pet parents will be able to care for the pet. An extensive questionnaire and a potential home visit may be part of the application process. Veterinarian references, age restrictions (adoptive pet parents are often 21 years or older) and permission from a landlord if one rents will be needed. Some rescues have stipulations regarding fenced yards. Some shelters even insist on a disclaimer that they reserve the right to remove the pet if they feel the animal is not being properly cared for.

Pet adoption should always include careful consideration of a wide range of factors.

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Donna's Day: Creative Family Fun

by Donna Erickson
Create abstract art with melted crayons

Before you toss out the crayon stubs your school-age kids have hoarded in shoeboxes and drawers around the house this past winter, make these brilliant note cards and postcards or a colorful abstract picture. It's great rainy day fun.

In this activity, pointillism gives way to 20th century abstract. Ask

your kids: "Wanna just slab some melted crayons all over some paper?" They're bound to say yes. After all, it sounds like it's going to be a mess. How could they possibly resist that?

Here's the stuff you'll need:

- Electric frying pan or warming tray
- Heavy-duty aluminum foil
- Crayon stubs with paper removed (fluores-

cent colors work beautifully)

- Heavy construction paper or blank stationery cards

Here's the fun:

1. With adult supervision, cover the bottom of an electric frying pan or warming tray with heavy-duty aluminum foil. Set the pan on low heat. Drop the little bits of crayon right on the foil and watch them melt, forming small puddles.



Before you toss out the crayon stubs your school-age kids have hoarded in shoeboxes and drawers around the house this past winter, make brilliant note cards and postcards or a colorful abstract picture. Great rainy day fun.

2. To make the note cards, fold a piece of heavy paper in half. While holding one half of the

paper in one hand, gently lay the outside surface of the other half in several puddles of wax for a second or two. Use a Popsicle stick to press the paper into the wax if necessary. Lift the paper out of the wax. The colors should be brilliant and spread everywhere in a fascinating abstract design. If the melted crayon adheres in clumps, let it drip down the card a bit for a "lava lamp" effect. Lay aside to harden.

3. Stack several folded cards and tie them together with a ribbon and bow or bead for a lovely present to give someone special. Or write a note or postcard to a friend and mail it.

Quick tip: Why not add your own personal stamp to the back of your designer note cards? Take a stamp with the first letter of your name, add a little poster paint to an ink pad, and give the back of your cards a unique signature.

Find more family fun at donnaerickson.com. Write to Donna at info@donnaerickson.com.

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VENDORS WANTED: The Moses Quinby Conference & Field Day is seeking food and craft vendors for Saturday, July 24th, from 10-4. All craft vendors welcome. Those with bee, beekeeping, honey, garden/pollination and eco-related items will be given priority. Call for information: (518)599-2450 or mosesquinby62@gmail.com



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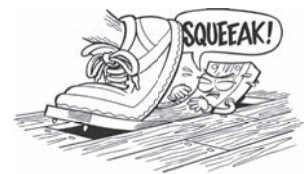
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Central Valley CSD Foundation recognizes third quarter students & employees of the month



Ellen Luppino, CVA High School's principal's clerical staff.



Marsha Griffith, CVCSD superintendent's secretary/district clerk.



Aaron Carey, Barringer Road principal.



JoAnn Bonacci, Barringer Road principal's secretary.



Jody Balash, sixth grade math teacher at Jarvis.
Photos courtesy of Central Valley Central School District Foundation

The Central Valley Central School District Foundation in Ilion recently recognized the district's students and employees of the third quarter.

"We are so proud of the students who not only shine academically, but are also models of excellent school citizens," said JoAnn Duga, foundation president. "We are also happy to publicly acknowledge just some of the many employees who make our district a great place to learn and grow."

The recognition program acknowledges students and employees each quarter with the hope that there will be recipients from each school building: Fisher and Barringer elementary schools, Jarvis Middle School and CVA High

School, as well as at the district level and CVCSD bus garage. If no nominations are received for a certain building, an additional student or employee from another building may be recognized.

Third quarter student recipients include Gabriella Chandler, a sixth grader at Jarvis; Jacob Yager, a fifth grader at Jarvis; and Paige Young,

a sixth grader at Jarvis. No nominations were received for Barringer Road Elementary School, CVA High School or Fisher Elementary School.

The employee recipients include Jody Balash, sixth grade math teacher at Jarvis; JoAnn Bonacci, Barringer Road principal's secretary; Aaron Carey, Barringer Road principal; Marsha Grif-

fith, CVCSD superintendent's secretary/district clerk; and Ellen Luppino, CVA High School's principal's clerical staff. No nominations were received for Fisher or the CVCSD bus garage.

Community members who would like to nominate a faculty or staff member for the quarterly recognition can find the nomination form at CVal-

leyCSDFoundation.org or on the Central Valley Central School District Foundation Facebook page. Selected employees and students will be announced near the end of

each marking period.

For more information about the foundation, contact JoAnn Duga at 315.894.3116 or joann.dugaCVAFoundation@yahoo.com.

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How heartworm affects household pets



Pets are beloved members of many families, so it's no surprise that so many pet owners place such a great emphasis on raising healthy pets, often going to great lengths to provide nutritious foods for their furry friends and protecting them from a host of dangers, including heartworm.

What is heartworm? The American Veterinary Medical Association notes that heartworm is a serious and potentially fatal disease caused by a parasite that primarily infects dogs, cats and ferrets. According to the American Heartworm Society, the heartworm is one foot in length and lives in the heart, lungs and blood vessels of affected pets.

What happens if a pet is infected with heartworms? Heartworms can cause severe lung disease, heart failure and organ damage.

Geography is not a

factor that affects heartworms. The AVMA said heartworms pose a threat to pets in every state in the U.S. and various countries across the globe.

According to the AVMA, all dogs are susceptible to heartworm infection. Indoor and outdoor cats also are vulnerable to heartworm infection. The AVMA noted that heartworm is spread from animal to animal via mosquitoes, which can easily get into homes, potentially biting pets, including indoor house cats.

Do cats and dogs infected with heartworm react differently? The AHS noted that heartworm manifests itself very differently in cats than it does in dogs. In fact, dogs with heartworms whose conditions have not yet been treated may have several worms in their bodies, while cats with heartworms typi-

cally have three or fewer worms and may not have any adult heartworms. The AVMA noted that diagnosing heartworm in cats is more difficult than diagnosing it in dogs, perhaps due to the smaller number of worms in infected cats than in infected dogs. Various tests may be needed to determine the likelihood of heartworm infection in cats, but such tests are not always conclusive. But potential warning signs of heartworm in cats include coughing, respiratory distress and vomiting.

The AVMA indicated that dogs may show no signs of illness if they were recently or mildly infected with heartworms. Signs may only develop when

the worms reach adulthood. Dogs may cough, become lethargic, lose their appetites or experience difficulty breathing. In addition, the AVMA indicates that dogs with heartworm infections may tire rapidly after only moderate exercise.

The good news for pet owners and their pets is that heartworm is entirely preventable. Various preventive medicines are available, and pet owners can speak with their veterinarians to determine which product is best for their pets.

Heartworm is a serious yet preventable disease. Pet owners who suspect their pets are infected with heartworm should report those suspicions to their vets immediately.

Bible Trivia

by Wilson Casey

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

2. The King James translation of the Bible contains more than how many references to gems and precious stones? 100, 500, 1,700, 2,200

3. Which book recounts the story of the Israelites wandering in the desert for 40 years? Titus, Hebrews, James, Romans

4. From 2 Samuel 14, how many shekels did Absalom's hair weigh after he cut it off? 2, 10, 50, 200

5. Two hundred shekels weighed around how many pounds by royal standard in biblical times? 1/2, 1, 3, 5

6. Where did Jesus attend a wedding where the wine was exhausted? Sardis, Antioch of Syria, Joppa, Cana of Galilee

Answers: 1) Old; 2) 1,700; 3) Hebrews; 4) 200; 5) 5; 6) Cana of Galilee

Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson Casey's book "Test Your Bible Knowledge," available in bookstores and online.

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It was sure nice, Windy thought. Just sitting out here in Mamie's yard with my dog, Ramses, and some refreshments Mamie brought out that did not include raw meat or vegetables no one could pronounce.

"Don't that there sun feel good, Mamie?"

She smiled and nodded and drank more tea.

"Afore you know it, them ol' bears'll be out and wrasslin' around fer somethin' to eat. Gotta be careful in the woods, ya know. Take a rifle along. What? Oh, a thirty-ought six should be plenty, I'm thinkin'. 'Course ya hafta place yer shot right. Nothin' worse than a wounded bear."

Mamie thought something less than killing the bear should work right.

"Well, Mamie," said Windy, "there's two schoolers of thought on that one and one of 'em's wrong. Ya see, the hippy dippy folks carry a spray 'em can of pepper juice with 'em in the woods. And they wear these here little bells on their belt loops."

Mamie smiled and nodded.

"The idear bein' that little bell a dingie-dongin' 'round will tell the bear, hey, thass a hooman bein' and you better watch out cuz he's smarter'n you are. But les' jest say that ol' bear's got hisself a hearin' problem and that bell don't mean nothin' to him. Wellsir, thass where that danged pepper spray comes in handy. Yep, ol' Organic Woodsman hisself pulls out that can and jest lets her rip right in the bear's face. I'll jest bet that smarts somethin' awful, too."

But later, you know, when they're trackin' that bear down, he makes hisself easy to tell from other bears, cuz his poop smells like pepper and its got little bells in it.

"Yep. Thirty-ought six should be enough."

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- 11 Weaving frame
- 13 Standard
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- 16 "The Greatest"
- 17 Donate
- 18 Line dance
- 20 Wife of Jacob
- 22 Moreover
- 24 Like bell-bottoms
- 28 Fragrant flower
- 32 Ouzo flavor
- 33 Sparkling Italian wine
- 34 Nile biter
- 36 Complain
- 37 Daily trio
- 39 Flying horse
- 41 Soup grain
- 43 — of 1812
- 44 Victor's cry
- 46 Small boat
- 50 TV clown
- 53 Tool set
- 55 Traditional tales
- 56 Ms. Brockovich
- 57 Scratch (out)
- 58 List-ending abbr.

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DOWN

- 1 Mr. Guinness
- 2 Nitwit
- 3 Slay
- 4 Ecol. watchdog
- 5 Event for Cinderella
- 6 Fleeting
- 7 The Duchess of Sussex who once starred in "Suits"
- 8 Bird (Pref.)

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

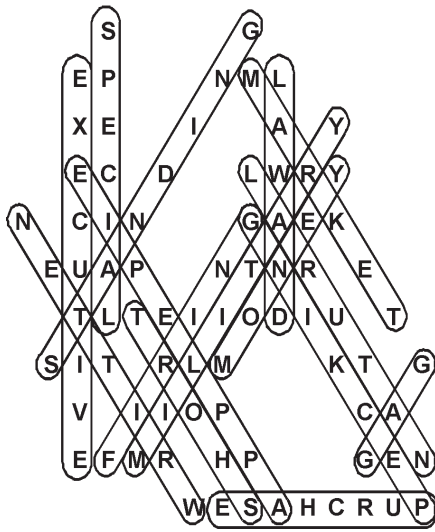
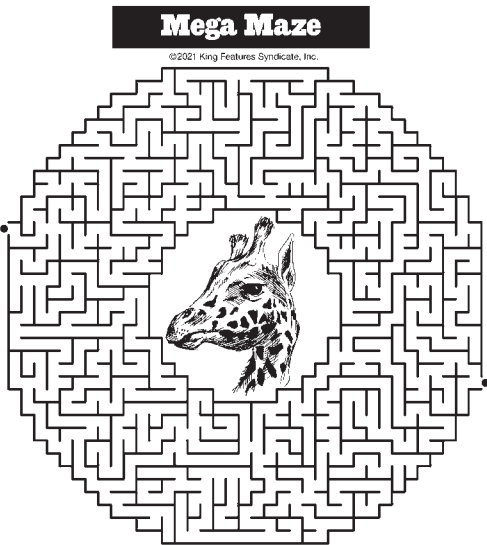
Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
Unlisted clue hint: **Order a Product Out of Stock**

- Apple-pie Executive Firing Gag
- Law and Market Military Money
- Natural Pecking Purchase Short
- Special Standing Written

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— ORDER



T	E	R	B	O	Z	O	B	A	R	M	E	A	S	T	I	J	A	S	M	I	N	E	A	N	D	C	O	O	N	G	A	L	E	E	A	D	D
A	P	S	I	N	S	S	E	K	E	K	E	X	S	E	K	E	X	S	E	K	E	X	S	E	K	E	X	S	E	K	E	X	S	E	K	E	X
A	N	T	L	O	R	E	A	N	T	L	O	R	E	A	N	T	L	O	R	E	A	N	T	L	O	R	E	A	N	T	L	O	R	E	A	N	T

Solution time: 22 mins.

— King Crossword —



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*Claim is Based on Outdoor Power Equipment Institute market statistics from 2019 unit shipments.
© Kubota Tractor Corporation, 2021. \$0 Down, 0% A.P.R. financing for up to 60 months or customer instant rebates of \$300 are available on purchases of select new Kubota ZD Series equipment from participating dealers' in-stock inventory. Promotional rate available to qualified purchasers through Kubota Credit Corporation, U.S.A.; subject to credit approval. Example: 60 monthly payments of \$16.67 per \$1,000 financed. \$300 rebate is not available with 0% A.P.R. or other promotional financing. Some exceptions apply. Offers expire 6/30/21. Terms subject to change. This material is for descriptive purposes only. Kubota disclaims all representations and warranties, express or implied, or any liability from the use of this material. For complete warranty, disclaimer, safety, incentive offer and product information, consult your Dealer or KubotaUSA.com.



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Care Products, NEW Inish Fragrance and Body Care, Spring Scarves,
Neck Ties, Socks and the list keeps going and going...

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- We are family owned and operated! Shop Small... That's US!
- We offer a lay-a-way program year round
- We offer free local delivery or can ship worldwide!

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