

MOHAWK VALLEY

Country Editor

Serving the Valley for 53 Years

DECEMBER 19, 2020

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TREAD COMPOUND

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TREAD DEPTH

Winter tires typically feature deeper initial tread depth than their all-season counterparts. The extra depth allows the tire to process a larger volume of snow, essentially taking bigger "bites" for traction.

TREAD PATTERN

Wide, circumferential and lateral grooves evacuate water and slush, and can process a larger volume of snow. Intricate sipes hold snow within the tread for snow-to-snow traction, and also create thousands of biting edges to provide grip.

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**We'd like to wish you all
a Happy, Healthy
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**We thank you for your
support during 2020 &
look forward to working
with you in 2021!**



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Virtual gallery call for student art from Schoharie Crossing

Schoharie Crossing State Historic Site in Fort Hunter will host a virtual student art exhibit on the theme of "Water's Reflections: Seeing the Past in the Present." This will be a juried show for students in elementary, middle and high schools within New York State. The call is extended until Jan. 3 and works should represent the theme with

connection to our shared history and the Erie Canal.

For more information, visit the Schoharie Crossing NYS Parks website at parks.ny.gov/historic-sites/schohariecrossing. You can also reach out via email at SchoharieCrossing@parks.ny.gov or visit our Facebook page.

The NYS Office of Parks,

Recreation and Historic Preservation oversees more than 250 individual state parks, historic sites, golf courses, boat launches and recreational trails which are visited by 71 million people annually. For more information on any of these recreation areas, call 518.474.0456 or visit nysparks.com, connect on Facebook or follow on Twitter.

Greetings friends and supporters of Schoharie Crossing State Historic Site

This is your eBlast for December 2020 – and what a 2020 it has been! First, we'd like to thank you for the continued support for what we do for interpreting our amazing history, providing great recreational opportunities, creating partnerships, memories, and preserving our shared past.

The Friends Annual Appeals letter has gone out to all current members as well as the two years past due membership. If you are not a member currently and would like to join but may not receive a letter, please contact me and we can send you the form electronically or via the good old USPS. During the 2020 season, the Friends have been quite productive on special projects but have also not been able to fundraise as they may have during programs or events due to COVID-19. Please consider donating to the Friends if you are able.

One such project is the Little Free Library in partnership with the Fort Hunter Library. The LFL was built by Ken Somers, whom donated it, along with his wife Barbara. It has been installed in the Visitor Center Parking Lot and is getting active use by the community. Work continued this season on the Eagle Trail connecting Yankee Hill Lock to the south side of Amsterdam (Empire State Trail). This trail parallels the Mohawk River, running alongside of the paved bike path. However, the Eagle Trail is a more natural walkway along the former Towpath that features scenic views of the River as well as portions of the Historic Canal Prism, Lock E11 in

Amsterdam, and beautiful trees, flowers, and more. Another wonderful thing along the Eagle Trail are the two memorial picnic tables that were placed this year to honor John Turner, a long time Friends member and president who passed away.

The site continues to look toward the future as we interpret the past. We had a very successful online program series during the pandemic season – especially during the month of October to celebrate New York State History Month. Several of those programs are available on the Friends of Schoharie Crossing YouTube channel as recorded presentations. We continue to plan online content for the winter — once the holiday season is behind us. So, expect more information coming via email on those programs ranging in topic from the D&H Canal to the 34th Regt., GE, phrenology and other exciting history. You can always keep up with what events/programs we are hosting or a part of by following us on Facebook.

Thank you all once again. We hope that as 2020 draws to an end, you embrace hope toward 2021 and beyond. May the joys of this season brighten your hearts.

For more information, contact David Brooks, Education Director, Park & Recreation Worker, New York State Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation Schoharie Crossing State Historic Site, P.O. Box 140, 129 Schoharie Street, Fort Hunter. Call 518.829.7516 or visit www.nysparks.com.

MERRY CHRISTMAS



YEAR END EVENT

ALL NEW 2021 NISSAN ROGUE SV AWD



ALL NEW 2021 Nissan Rogue SV AWD

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Model#22211, VIN#JN8AT3BB7MW203261 & JN8AT3BB2MW202308, MSRP \$30,570. Total due at inception: \$3,000 down payment + \$0 security deposit + bank fee included in payment + \$299 1st payment = \$3,299. Negotiated value of vehicle \$30,662.83. Lessee responsible for Insurance, Maintenance, excess wear & mileage, 12k mi/year. Plus tax, title & mv fees. Well qualified credit. Offer Expires 1/4/2021.

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2020 NISSAN ROGUE AWD



ONLY 3 LEFT

2020 Nissan Rogue AWD

\$229 36 mos.

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2020 NISSAN NISSAN SENTRA SV



5 Available at this Payment

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lease for **\$169** 36 mos.

Model#12110, VIN#3N1AB8CV1LY274275, MSRP \$21,785. Total due at inception: \$3,000 down payment + \$0 security deposit + bank fee included in payment + \$169 1st payment = \$3,169. Price includes \$1,100 Nissan LeaseCash. Negotiated value of vehicle \$22,169.08. Lessee responsible for Insurance, Maintenance, excess wear & mileage, 12k mi/year. Plus tax, title & mv fees. Well qualified credit. Offer Expires 1/4/2021.

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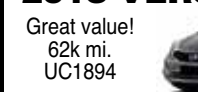
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Put a zesty spin on weeknight meals

(Family Features) Dinner in many households means foolproof recipes that families can count on, but those can become bland and boring. Finding new ways to put a twist on meals throughout the week adds fun to time spent in the kitchen while bringing new flavor to the table.

The following series of recipes will provide a spin on weeknight staples to showcase the simplicity, versatility and zesty flavor of ranch seasoning when used to create family-friendly dinners any night of the week.

Ranch Crusted Burgers with Avocado Ranch Sauce Servings: 4

Avocado Ranch Sauce:

1/4 cup mayonnaise

1/4 cup sour cream
1 tablespoon well-shaken buttermilk
1/2 teaspoon Hidden Valley Ranch Seasoning
kosher salt
freshly ground black pepper
3 green onions, thinly sliced
2 avocados, peeled, pitted and diced

Ranch Spice Crusted Burger:

1 1/2 teaspoons Hidden Valley Ranch Seasoning
1 teaspoon paprika
kosher salt
freshly ground pepper
1 1/2 pounds ground chuck (80% lean)
2 tablespoons canola oil
8 slices American cheese
1/4 cup water
4 brioche buns, split in half

Avocado Ranch Sauce

To make avocado ranch sauce: In bowl, whisk may-

onnaise, sour cream, buttermilk, ranch seasoning, salt and pepper until smooth. Fold in green onions and diced avocados; set aside.

To make burgers: In small bowl, whisk ranch seasoning, paprika, salt and pepper.

Heat large cast-iron pan or griddle over high heat. Divide meat into four 6-ounce patties and make deep depression in centers with thumb. Season each with spice rub on one side.

Add canola oil to pan and heat until shimmering. Place on burgers in pan, spice side down, and cook until golden brown and lightly charred, 4 minutes. Turn burgers over and cook 4 minutes, or until they reach desired doneness.

Top each burger with two slices cheese. Add water to pan and cover tightly with lid 10 seconds, or until the cheese is melted.

Place burgers on bottom buns and top each with avocado ranch sauce and top buns.

Ranch Seasoned Chicken and Mushroom Quesadillas with Tomato Salsa and Sour Cream Servings: 4

Tomato Salsa:

4 plum tomatoes, seeded and finely diced
1/2 small red onion, finely diced
1/2 jalapeno, finely diced
1 lime, juice only
2 tablespoons olive oil
3 tablespoons fresh basil, finely chopped into ribbons
kosher salt
freshly ground black pepper

Quesadillas:

2 tablespoons canola oil
1 1/2 pounds cremini or button mushrooms, thinly sliced
2 teaspoons Hidden Valley Ranch Seasoning, divided
12 flour tortillas (6 inches)
2 cups shredded Monterey Jack cheese
16 ounces roasted or rotisserie chicken, shredded
kosher salt
freshly ground black pepper
canola oil
1/2 cup sour cream
tomato salsa
2 tablespoons fresh basil, chopped

To make tomato salsa: In medium bowl, combine tomatoes, red onion, jalapeno, lime juice, olive oil and basil; season with salt and pepper. Refrigerate until ready to use.

To make quesadillas: Preheat oven to 450 F.

In large saute pan over medium-high heat, heat oil. Add mushrooms and season with 1 1/2 teaspoons ranch seasoning. Cook until mushrooms are golden brown and liquid has evaporated. Set aside to cool.

Place tortillas next to each other on baking sheet. Sprinkle thin layer of cheese on eight tortillas. Add cooled mushrooms to four tortillas and shredded chicken to other four tortillas. Season each layer with salt and pepper. Stack tortillas to create four, two-layer quesadillas. Cover each with remaining tortillas; brush top tortillas lightly with canola oil and sprinkle with remaining ranch seasoning.

Bake 6-8 minutes until cheese is melted and tortillas turn lightly golden brown with crispy edges.

Cut each quesadilla into four pieces. Garnish each slice with dollop of sour cream. Add dollop of tomato salsa on top of sour cream and garnish with basil.

Source: Hidden Valley Ranch



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Church Directory

**To Place or Update
Church Listings
Call 518-673-0129
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Amazing Grace Baptist Church
131 Clark Rd., Fort Plain
518-568-7606
Pastor Frank Calabrese
Sunday School 10am, Morning Service 11am,
Sun. Eve. Service 6:30pm, Wed. Service 6:30pm,
Sat. Visitation 10am
www.amazinggracebc.org

**Ames - Sprout Brook
UMC**
613 Latimer Hill Rd.
Ames, NY 13317
518-673-3495
Pastor Jan Markle
Sunday Service 9:00am

Bethesda Fellowship
34 S. Division St.
St. Johnsville, NY 13452
518-568-2678
Summer Schedule
Sunday Worship 10:00am
Wed. Worship and Prayer 6:00pm

**Cherry Valley
Assembly of God**
37 Alden St., Cherry Valley,
607-264-3306
Pastor David Carpenter, Jr.
Sundays 9:30am

**Christian Church of
Charleston Four Corners**
1380 E. Lykers Rd., Sprakers
518-922-9088
Pastor Brett Popp
Sunday School (adult & children) 10am,
Worship 11am,
Sunday Eve. Prayer 6:30pm,
Thurs. Eve. of Encouragement 6:30pm
www.christianchurchcharlestonfourcorners.org

Church of Christ Uniting
PO Box 896
Richfield Springs, NY 13439
Rev. Mark Ioset
315-858-1553
Service: Sunday 9:15am
Church School: Sunday 10:30am

Church of the Good Shepherd
26 Moyer St., Canajoharie
518-673-3440
The Rev. Virginia L. Ogden, Rector
Sunday Worship 9:30
with Communion
Church Email: churchgoodshepherd26@gmail.com
Web Site: www.churchgoodshepherd.com

Church of the Nazarene
3316 State Route 29 W
Johnstown, NY 12095
Offices: 518-762-2982
Cell: 857-523-8417
Pastor, Rev. Mark Fowler
Sunday Morning Service 11:00am
Sunday School for All Ages 10:00am

Community Bible Church
Corner of Cliff & Walnut Streets
Canajoharie, NY 13317
(518) 993-1016
Pastor Wally Braemer
Sunday - Adult Sunday School Class - 9:15am
Worship Service - 10:30am
**God is Good All the Time
& All the Time God is Good**

**Cornerstone
Baptist Church**
7274 St. Hwy. 10, Ames
518-673-3405
Sunday School 10am, Adults & Children
Morning Worship 11am, Youth Ministry
5:45pm, Evening Worship 6pm,
Wed. Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 6:30pm,
Family Night Select Sundays

**Currytown
Reformed Church**
829 St. Hwy. 162, Sprakers
518-922-8422
Rev. Donald Hoaglander
Visiting Pastor Jane Hubschmitt
518-705-2201
Sunday School 9:15am
Worship Service 10:00am

**Dolgeville
Christian Fellowship**
3 Elm St., Dolgeville, NY 13329
315-429-9142
Dr. Marvin Isum, Pastor
Worship Sunday 10:30am
Midweek Fellowship Tuesday 7pm
www.dolgevillechristianfellowship.org

**Dolgeville United
Methodist Church**
21 N. Helmer Ave., Dolgeville
Rev. Jack Ford
315-429-7381
Worship 11:00am
Sunday School @ 9:30am beginning
September 18th
Bible Study - Wednesdays @ 12:30pm

**Emmanuel
Episcopal Church**
588-594 Albany St., Little Falls, NY
315-823-1323
Sunday Mass 10am
Coffee Hour following Sunday Mass
Sunday School & Youth Group
Tuesday 10am Mass & Bible Study
Friday 10am-2pm Thrift Shop

**Ephratah
Reformed Church**
140 Co. Hwy. 140, Ephratah, NY
To live and share Jesus Christ both locally and globally.
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Sunday School for all ages
10am September-June
Sunday Morning Worship 11am
Prayer & Praise Thursdays 7pm

**Episcopal Church of
the Good Shepherd**
26 Moyer St., Canajoharie
518-673-3440
Holy Communion Sundays at 9:30am
Fellowship Time to Follow
Call for Holy Day services
The Rev. Virginia L. Ogden, Rector
churchgood@frontier.com

**Everlasting Joy
Believers Fellowship**
14 Park Place
(in with Seekers Fellowship)
St. Johnsville, NY 13452
315-858-2112
Pastor Carolee Coye
Sunday Service 10am

**Faith, Hope and Love
Church**
Rev. David W. Bowley, Pastor
Saturdays, 5 pm
at the
United Methodist Church Lower Level
50 E. Main St., Canajoharie
call 518-673-5128 or see facebook "Faith,
Hope and Love Christian Church" and our
website <http://faithhopeandlovechurch.com>

First Baptist Church
Springfield Center, NY
Rev. - Gary Tyler
Sunday School 10:00am
Morning Worship 11:00am
Sunday night Worship 6:00pm
Wed. night Bible Study 7:00pm
Free meal & music every
2nd Sat. of the month 4-7pm

**Fonda Fultonville
United Methodist Church**
11 Montgomery St., Fultonville
Pastor Nancy Pullen • 853-3311
Sunday Morning Worship 9:15-10:15,
Sunday School 9:15-10:30, Coffee
Fellowship Following Service
**Our Mission-To Actively Follow Christ
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**Fort Plain United
Methodist Church**
39 Center St., Fort Plain
**Audie Miller,
Lay Supply Pastor**
Church Office 518-993-3863
Kitchen 518-993-3464
ALL WELCOME, Worship Service 11am

**Freysbush United
Methodist Church**
Freysbush Rd., Fort Plain
518-842-1357
Rev. Cindy Leonard, Officiating
Worship 9am,
Sunday School 10am ALL ARE WELCOME
coffee hour to follow service

**Fultonville
Reformed Church**
Corner of 5S & 30
Pastor Jane Hubschmitt
Sunday School 10AM
Family Worship 10:30AM

Glen Reformed Church
State Hwy 161 in the
Hamlet of Glen
4 miles South of Fultonville
glenreformed@nycap.rr.com
Sunday Worship at 9. Sunday School
immediately following Children's Message

Grace Christian Church
20 Center St.,
St. Johnsville, NY 13452
Pastor Martin Glynn
518-568-2122
Sunday School 9:30am
Worship 11:00am

Grace Episcopal Church
24 Montgomery St., Cherry Valley
315-585-4016
Fr. Kyle Grennen, Rector
Sunday School 11:00am
Holy Communion/sermon 11:00am
Active Youth Group - call for detail

Grandview Baptist Church
15 Washington St., Fort Plain
518-993-9929
Pastor Dan West
Sunday School 10am
Morning Service 11am
Bible Study & Prayer Meeting,
Wednesday 6:30pm

Holy Family Parish
Little Falls, NY
315-823-3410
Saturday 4pm
Sunday 10:30am

Joy Fellowship
296 Co. Hwy. 119
St. Johnsville, NY 13452
518-568-3217
William Hayes Pastor
Joyce Loughran Assistant Pastor
Sunday School 9am, Morning Worship 9:30am
Wednesday Evening Worship 6:30pm

**Lassellsville United
Methodist Church**
State Hwy. 29
Pastor Robert A. Lindsay
Worship: Sunday 9:30am
Sunday School to start soon

Lighthouse Baptist Church
1524 St. Rt. 29A, PO Box 114
Stratford, NY 13470-0114
315-429-8854
Pastor Martin Smith
Sunday Morning Worship 10:30am; Wed. Eve.
Prayer Meeting 6:00pm; 2nd & 4th Sunday
Dinner following Morning Service
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**Marshville
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Fonda, NY 12068-0627
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Weekly Masses: Sat. 4:30pm, Sun. 10:30am
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www.katerishrine.com

**New Hope
Christian Fellowship**
32 Spencer St., Dolgeville, NY 13329
Pastor Pat Andreoli
315-429-3630
NewHopeChristianFellowship.net
Sunday School 9:30AM
Worship Service 10:30AM

**Oppenheim United
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Worship 9:30 Sundays,
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**Our Lady of Hope
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Parish Office 518-993-3822
ourladyofhope@frontier.com
Mass Schedule: Saturday, 4pm;
Sunday, 8:30am & 11am;
Confessions: Sat. 3 & by appointment
Please call parish office for Holy Day schedule

**Paines Hollow United
Methodist Church**
Intersection of 167 & 168, Paines Hollow
Pastor Peg Donaghy
518-568-7604
Sunday Worship 9:30AM
Fellowship Hour to Follow

**Randall Christian
Community Church**
NY Rte. 5S
Sunday Service 10:30am
**Worship Leader
Darlene Spaulding**

**Reformed Church
of Canajoharie**
15-19 Front St., Canajoharie
518-673-2816
Rev. Matt Draffen
Sunday 9am Christian Education
9:20 Choir Practice
10am Worship Nursery provided
Fellowship hour follows worship

**Reformed Church
of Fort Plain**
165 Canal St., Fort Plain, NY 13339
518-993-4302 • fortplainrca@yahoo.com
Rev. Nancy E. Ryan
Worship 10:30am,
AA meetings Mon. & Tues. 7pm,
Second Thurs. Prayerspace 6am to 6pm

**Reformed Church
of Sprakers**
112 Sprakers Hill Rd
Rev. Nancy Ryan
Worship ~ 9AM
All Welcome!!!

**Richfield Springs
Bible Church**
19 Church St
Richfield Springs, NY 13439
Rev. David Tosi
315-858-0564
Sunday School (all ages) 10am
Worship Service 11am & 7pm
Wednesday - Prayer & Praise
Call for info on various Youth Ministries
www.richfieldspringsbiblechurch.org

River of Jubilee Church
5057 State Highway 5 S
Sprakers, NY 12166
Pastor: Gail Adamoschek
Pastor: Steve Adamoschek
518-322-1427 / 518-224-4455
Sunday Service 10:00am
Children's Church Available
Other Learning Opportunities Available
Visit us on Facebook

**Sacred Heart
Catholic Church**
111 3rd Ave., Tribes Hill
518-829-7301
Mass Saturday
4:00pm

Saint Cecilia Church
26 Broadway, Fonda
518-853-4195
Sunday Worship
9:00am

**Salisbury Center
United Methodist Church**
2545 St Rt 29, PO Box 104
Salisbury Center, NY 13454
315-429-9085
Rev. Lynn R. Lockwood

Seeker's Fellowship
14 Park Place
St. Johnsville, NY 13452
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Methodist Church**
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St. Johnsville, NY 13452
Pastor Corey Jones
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Sunday Mass is 8:30am

**St. Mary's
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315-858-4016
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Sunday Eucharist, 9:30am
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Holy Days - as announced

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518-993-2040
Pastor Jonathan Litzner
405-250-8395
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Tips to simplify shopping and wrapping

The holiday season is a busy time of year. People devote many hours to generating gift lists and planning their shopping excursions. Shopping can be all-encompassing during the holiday season, but it is only half of the gift-giving equation. After all of those toys, articles of clothing and other goodies are purchased, those items will need to be wrapped and hidden away. Gift-givers may be looking for ways to make these tasks just a little easier.

Shop early

The sooner you begin shopping, the more time you will have to purchase everything you need and then get it prepared for giving. While Black Friday and Cyber Monday sales feature great deals, there are discounts to be had all year long if you keep your eyes open. Grab an item here and there when there is something that catches your eye and fits the needs of a gift recipient.

Shopping early also affords shoppers a greater buffer if they plan to do some of their shop-

ping online. Shipping times have changed due to COVID-19, which has disrupted some supply chains and put added pressure on shipping companies. The U.S. Postal Service says products and packages may require more time to be delivered due to limited transportation availability, so shopping early can help ensure everything arrives on time.

Tackle the kids' gifts first

Watching children's bright grins and all their excitement opening presents can make all the hard work worth it. Be sure that you shop for all of the gifts for children in your household first, especially if you play Santa's helper. Use opportunities when the kids are in school or at daycare to bring gifts into the house and then wrap them. Wrapping as you go can help to ensure there are no "spoiler alerts" prior to the holidays.

Create a wrapping station

A dedicated area for wrapping can streamline the process. Gift wrap-

ping supplies can be tough to keep organized because they're usually awkward sizes and can eat up a lot of space. That's where a wrapping station can come into play. It can be custom-made or you can use items already around the house. A laundry room or a large closet can be the ideal location for a wrapping station. Because wrapping paper rolls are the most cumbersome wrapping supplies, find a way to corral them. A tall laundry hamper works, or consider hanging wrapping paper rolls horizontally on thin curtain rods attached to a wall or the back of a door. Simply pull off the amount of paper you need and cut.

Organize other supplies in a nearby drawer or organizational caddy. Store gift bags and tissue paper in a fabric tote bag. Having everything within arm's reach cuts down on time spent searching for supplies.

It's that time of year for shopping and wrapping. Ensure it is a low-stress experience with some time-saving tips.



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King Crossword

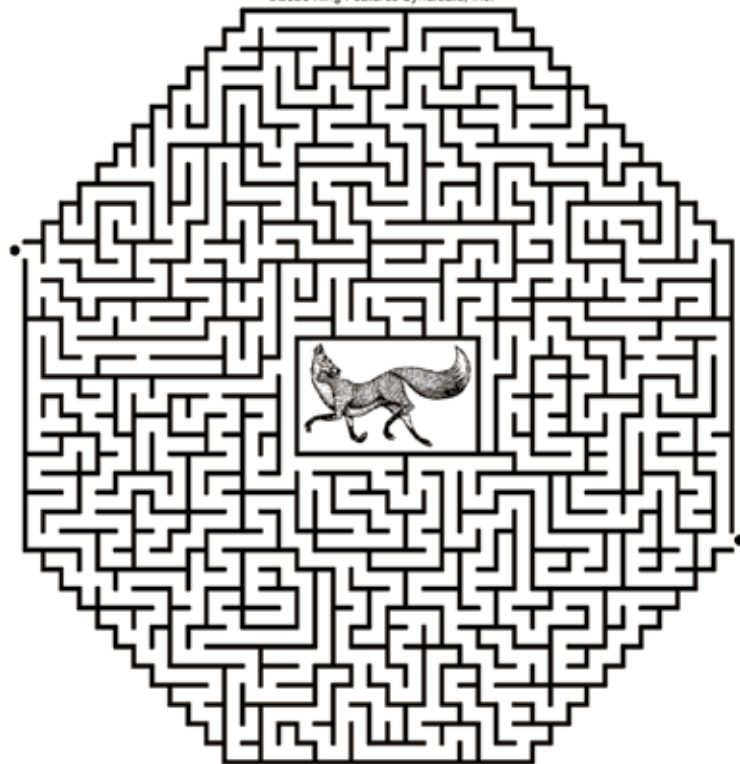
ACROSS

- 1 Vagrant
4 Poke
7 Femur or fibula
8 Elaine's last name on "Seinfeld"
10 Cook by direct heat
11 Silvery
13 Smooth-coated pooch
16 1/20 ton (Abbr.)
17 Humdinger
18 Moving truck
19 Narnia's Aslan, e.g.
20 Antitoxins
21 Munchie
23 Enthusiasts' emotions
25 Roe provider
26 Group of quail
27 Debtor's letters
28 Muslim maiden
30 Thee
33 High-backed chairs
36 Earthling, in sci-fi
37 Flavor
38 Go over the books
- 39 Spud's buds
40 Always, in verse
41 Two, in Tijuana
- DOWN
- 1 Give a leg up
2 One
3 Tuneful
4 Spanish wine town
5 Mad
6 Tavern offering
7 Forehead
- 8 Conductor's wand
9 Whine
10 English channel?
12 Signs of sorrow
14 Kindle competitor
15 Genetic stuff
19 Young fellow
20 Put into words
21 Try for a two-pointer
22 Queasiness
- 23 Nil
24 Ousted
25 Bro or sis
26 Beyond well-done
28 Throng
29 Where the elated walk
30 Affirmatives
31 Uneaten morsels
32 Work with
34 Verifiable
35 Boxer's successful blow

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Mega Maze

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Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps

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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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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Bandanna is backward. 2. Picture has been added. 3. Shade is lower. 4. Bucket has no water. 5. Boy's hat is different. 6. Broom handle is taller.

MAGIC MAZE ● DRONE TERMINOLOGY

CTQOLRIGDBYWTRP
MKIFDBEYAWUSQR
OMKIFDBLLUREZSE
XWUSQONLLTPEJIT
HFDCAVDANO TWMP
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NLK IOMOSH IITRDC
FECL IPOEBL ZTNHO
YWYGYRRNV OUICOT
YAWAYLFOSTBRQHC
PPWGNMLZJIHFEDO

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
Unlisted clue hint: NO FLY —

Autopilot	Controller	Gyroscope	Roll
Axis	Fly away	Octocopter	Throttle
Bind	Gimbal	Payload	Waypoint
Camera	GoPro	Pitch	

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Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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Myrrh

Myrrh resin is harvested from the species *Commiphora myrrha*, which is native to Yemen, Somalia, Eritrea and Ethiopia. Used medicinally to treat indigestion, ulcers, colds, cough, asthma, lung congestion, cancer, spasms, arthritis pain, leprosy and syphilis, it can also be applied directly to the mouth for gum and tooth problems, and to the skin for wounds, abrasions, and boils, as it is considered effective against inflammation and bacterial infection. It is also used in embalming. — Brenda Warner

Sources: 1000bibleimages, wikipedia.org, webmd.com

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CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: A equals E

ZR CLNALWA TUK U IZKA MUBZAXO
LR NLBUY GBZWQZGYAC, ILJYK
OLJ QUYY ZX AXTZQ KZMABCZXO?

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Six ways to stick to a holiday budget

The holidays are an exciting, fun and joyful time of year. And for many people, the holidays also are expensive.

According to the Motley Fool Company, a financial wellness resource, the average American spent \$882.45 on Christmas gifts, food, decorations, travel, and other holiday-related expenses in 2019. Around 56 percent of gift shoppers set a budget for holiday spending, but only 64 percent stuck to it. In addition, 21.5 percent of respondents went into debt due to holiday shopping.

Who doesn't want to have a super holiday with delicious foods on the table and lots of presents to share with family and friends? While that's tempting, such a bounty should never result in financial peril. These six strategies can make it easy to establish and stick to a budget this holiday season.

1. Budget for everything. When working out holiday spending plans, factor in all of the expenses associated with the holidays — not just

the most obvious, like gifts. Costs for gas, parking lot fees, greeting cards, postage, travel expenses, and much more should be included in your final number.

2. Determine how much you can spend. Money for gifts and other holiday expenses should ideally come from your disposable income. Look at your finances in advance of the holiday season and figure out how much extra cash you have for the holidays, and use that figure to determine how much you should spend. Find ways to make up any deficit by curtailing expenses like dining out or entertainment extras. Many people plan to use credit cards to pay now and worry about the aftermath later. Only use credit cards if you have the money in the bank and can pay off the entire bill when the balance due is in January.

3. Set a spending limit for individuals. Based on your numbers and how much you plan to spend overall, start allocating money to categories, including gift recipients.

Come up with a spending range for each person and stick to it.

4. Pay in cash as much as possible. It's easy to know what you're spending when using cash as opposed to credit. There is some risk with carrying around cash, but that risk may be offset by the benefit of spending only what you can afford to spend.

5. Track all purchases. Save the receipts and keep a running total of expenditures so you can see how your spending is measuring up to your budget. If necessary, scale back on one category if you've tipped the scales in spending on another.

6. Shop sales and deals. High-end stores may have the impressive tag, but their prices can set you back. Instead, look for comparable gifts at discount stores and other retailers. Also, if you must use a credit card, use one that earns you a cash-back bonus for added savings.

A holiday budget is a must to avoid overspending and finding yourself in debt early next year.



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Strange but true

by Lucie Winborne

Pine cones have genders. Male pine cones shed pollen and female pine cones make seeds. When the wind blows pollen into the female cones, the seeds become pollinated.

Cats are believed to be the only mammals that don't taste sweetness.

In 1978, DC put out a "Superman vs. Muhammad Ali" comic book. While the plot deals with hostile aliens, the book's main highlight is the whooping Superman gets in a sparring match with "The Greatest"!

The first-ever fashion magazine was sold in Germany in 1586.

Early cosmetic surgeons used a procedure known as paraffin wax rhinoplasty, in which they would inject hot liquid wax into a patient's nose and mold it into the desired shape. Not only was this dangerous, but, no surprise, it really didn't work.

Canada eats more macaroni and cheese than any other nation in the world.

A French general, the Marquis de Lafayette, gave John Quincy Adams a pet alligator. Our sixth president not only kept it in a White House bathtub, but enjoyed showing it off to visitors.

There is a town in India called Santa Claus.

Ever wonder how the tradition of leaving hand and footprints in front of Grauman's Chinese Theater in Hollywood got started? By accident — when silent film actress Norma Talmadge stepped on wet cement.

Cellophane, invented in 1908, was originally intended to protect tablecloths from wine spills.

Those old witch potions aren't quite as gross as you think: Eye of newt, toe of frog and wool of bat are actually archaic terms for mustard seed, buttercup and holly leaves.

Selfies now cause more deaths than shark attacks.

Thought for the Day: "My father always said, 'Never trust anyone whose TV is bigger than their bookshelf' — so I make sure I read." — Emilia Clarke

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Kovels: Antiques and collecting

by Terry and Kim Kovel
Watch holder

There has always been a need to tell time, and early methods — sundials, hourglasses, water clocks or even large arrangements of stones and shadows — were not accurate. The first mechanical clocks were invented in the 14th century, the pendulum clock in 1656, and by the 1700s there were many clocks in church towers that rang bells to tell citizens the time. The small watch that could be carried by a person was developed after 1810. Then came pocket watches worn on a chain, and in 1868 the wristwatch was made. But there was still no affordable clock for home use.

An unknown person made the first watch holder in the early 1800s. The holder was a small decorative stand that held an available pocket watch on a table. They were made of ceramics, metal, wood — anything that could be shaped into a stand with a large hole. Some were

even made by famous artists and jewelers of bronze or gold, or by a company that made ceramic dishes or statues. Most were not signed.

The watch holder is often a “whatsit.” The hole in the middle is confusing to a 21st century person who tells time with a wristwatch or cellphone. A Neal Auction in New Orleans sold an early 19th century watch holder of gilt bronze. It is shaped like a harp held by swans on a pedestal base. When the watch is inserted in the hole near the top, it creates a decorative “clock.” It sold for \$875.

Q: We have an iron doorstop from my grandfather's house. It has five black and white puppies hanging on a log fence and is 8 inches high and 12 inches wide. We'd like to sell it, but don't know what it's worth. Can you help?

A: Cast iron doorstops were made beginning about 1890. They became popular around 1910 when several companies

in the United States began making figural doorstops. Vintage figural cast iron doorstops made from 1890 to the 1930s, and in good condition, usually sell for the highest prices. New designs and reproductions of old doorstops sold in gift shops, home decorating stores and online are worth less. The

doorstop you describe was made in China and is not old. It sells online for \$30 to \$60.

Current prices

Cambridge glass candy jar w/ lid: rose du barry, peach-blo, acid etched, silver leaf bands, knob, 6 inches, \$115.

Hubley doorstop: cat, red, art deco, cast iron, c.

1925, 5 1/4 x 4 1/2 inches, \$375.

Tiffany salt and pepper shakers: owl, silver, 2 1/2 inches, \$920.

Hasselblad camera: 503CX, Zeiss lenses, branded carrying case, 10 x 13 inches, \$1,970.

TIP: Look at the hinge on a tilt-top table. The wear should show on

both the top and the base if it is old.

Looking to declutter, downsize or settle an estate? The all new 2021 “Kovels’ Antiques & Collectibles Price Guide” by Terry and Kim Kovel has the information you’re looking for.

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This watch holder is an elaborate clock when a pocket watch is put into the hole. An interesting, money-saving idea by an anonymous person in the 19th century.

Happy Holidays

Warmest thoughts and best wishes for a wonderful holiday and a very happy New Year.
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Ready, Set, Give!

Holiday Gift Guide

People to tip and gift this holiday season

Are you making a list and checking it twice? If so, don't forget to add a few extra people to that list who are worthy of a gift this holiday season. Certainly friends and family are in mind for presents, but what about the service providers in your life? After a challenging year, people in the service industry might benefit from a holiday boost this

year more than ever. Here's who you may want to spread some cheer to this holiday season.

• **Hairdressers and nail techs:** It takes a lot of effort to look one's best, and these individuals help people put their best selves forward. Consider tipping the amount you would normally spend on one visit. If you get your hair or nails done frequently and consider this person a friend, opt for a gift instead, such as a gift card to a nice restaurant or a pampering service for him or her.

• **Babysitter or caregiver:** This person is likely close with the family and may be deserving of more than a tip. Pick an age-appropriate gift you know this person will love. What about a coveted pair of Bluetooth-enabled earbuds or headphones? A gift card to a store you know this person frequents also can be fitting, or a year-long subscription to a streaming music or movie service.

• **Landscapers:** If the same person or crew services the lawn most of the time, a tip of \$20 each is an appropriate

amount.

• **Teachers:** Class parents may take up a collection for the teacher and offer one class gift. If your student is educated by multiple teachers and the school staff is top-notch, consider stocking the staff lounge with snacks and beverages or cater a lunch.

• **Mail carrier:** The mail is delivered six days of the week in any and all weather. Treat your mail carrier to a nice gift, but stick to the rules of the U.S. Postal Service. Mail carriers are not allowed to accept cash, checks or gift cards that can be used like credit cards. Stick to a gift of no more than \$25.

• **Cleaning person:** You rely on this person to keep your home tidy and clean. He or she is deserving of the cost of one visit, according to Roseanne Thomas, author of "Excuse Me: The Survival Guide to Modern Business Etiquette."

Individuals can use their discretion concerning service providers in their lives who may be worthy of some extra cheer this holiday season.

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Festive and Flavorful Holiday Snacks

(Family Features) The holidays are filled with delicious food - from indulgent breakfasts to decadent desserts - but snacks can get overlooked. Spice up this holiday season with festive snacks that are perfect for a quick on-the-go bite or a taste of your favorite holiday dessert.

Although beloved in pie, pecans are a versatile nut that can be used beyond the pie shell - add them to a snack mix, incorporate them into granola or munch on them straight from the bag. Delicious

and nutritious, 1 ounce of pecans offers 3 grams of plant-based protein and 3 grams of fiber, plus 12 grams of “good” monounsaturated fats and only 2 grams of saturated fat - perfect to power you through long days of holiday shopping.

This holiday season, nosh on a handful of these spiced Gingerbread Pecans for a sweet and savory snack while decorating the house or wrapping presents late at night, or set out a bowl for the

Festive 15



Santa will soon be on his way in his sleigh - so don't delay!

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Pet Pals

Nobody is more passionate about animals than pet owners - and that's why Country Editor is introducing its new Pet Pals section! Every month, we'll be bringing you heartwarming stories, tips, tricks, educational and entertaining news and stories - and photos of your fuzzy friends. We'll share our news with you, and you can share your best snaps of puppies and kitties (and others!). We'll print as many as space will allow.

You'll also learn about local businesses that offer services and necessities so you can pamper your pets. Find out about groomers, trainers and toy providers through Pet Pals!

For more information, contact members of our Editorial Department - Joan at jkarkwren@leepub.com, or Courtney at cllewellyn@leepub.com.

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Festive from 14

family to enjoy.

You can also make snack-sized versions of your favorite holiday desserts to have on-hand when you're craving a quick and tasty treat. Chopped pecans add a flavorful and nutrient-dense crunch to these paleo-friendly No-Bake Pumpkin Pecan Pie Bites, while pecan halves provide a festive touch to these Reindeer Pecan Brownies.

Discover more nutritious, delicious and festive recipes at AmericanPecan.com.

Reindeer Pecan Brownies

Prep time: 20 minutes

Cook time: 15 minutes

Yield: 20 brownies

Nonstick cooking spray

1 stick (1/2 cup) unsalted butter, melted

1 tablespoon pecan or canola oil

1 cup, plus 2 tablespoons, granulated sugar

2 large eggs

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

1/2 cup all-purpose flour

1/2 cup cocoa powder

1 teaspoon espresso powder (optional)

1/4 teaspoon kosher salt

20 raw pecan halves, cut in half

40 candy eyeballs

20 red chocolate candies

1/4 cup chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 350 F. Spray mini muffin tin with nonstick cooking spray.

In large bowl, whisk melted butter, oil and sugar until well combined. Add eggs and vanilla extract; beat until mixture is thick and pale in color, about 1 minute.

Sift in flour and cocoa powder. Add espresso powder, if desired, and salt. Using rubber spatula, fold dry

Festive 17

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— King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.



— Weekly SUDOKU —

Answer

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

If someone had a wide variety
of moral principles, would
you call it ethic diversity?

CryptoQuip
answer

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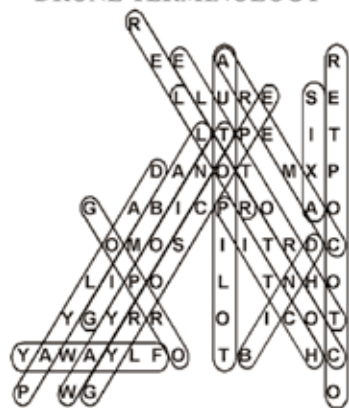
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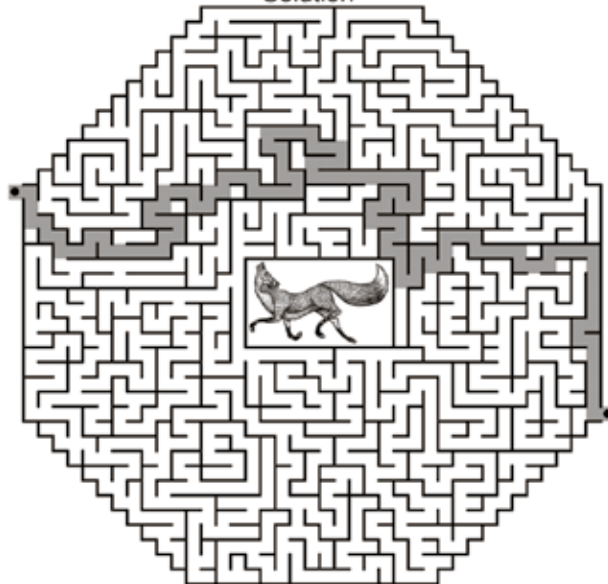


DRONE TERMINOLOGY



Mega Maze

Solution



Now here's a tip

by JoAnn Derson

• **Inexpensive gift idea:** On the front of an empty photo album or scrapbook, print out and arrange color photos of your recipient in a collage. Glue the photos to the front of the album and cover with a decoupage glaze, like Mod Podge. Let dry and glaze again. You've just made a one-of-a-kind gift!

• If you are a re-gifter, always document from whom and in what year you received a gift. Then re-gift it to someone who

will have little to no contact with that person. For example, if Aunt Emily from out of town sends you a lovely soap basket that you would never use, you could re-gift it for your office party.

• After-Christmas sales are a great time to buy not only gift wrap (look for solid colors that you can use all year long), holiday cards and decoration, but also next season's winter wear. Things like scarves and gloves can be great bargains. And even coats can go on sale. Take ad-

vantage — especially if you have kids — and buy up.

• "Recycle in the new year by using wrapping supplies to help store your holiday decorations. The cardboard tube from gift wrap can be cut into smaller pieces, which you can wrap strands of tree or house lights around. Boxes can be put to use to hold ornaments or other decorations, and ribbon and bows that are still in good condition can be tucked away for re-use next year." — E.F. in Oregon

• "Resolutions are a great idea, and, like a lot of people, last year I resolved to exercise more often. I keep a stationary bike in my living room, and I use it while I watch my favorite programs on television. It has helped me lose 8 pounds, and I feel much better. This year, I am going to resolve to volunteer to help others." — I.N. in Nebraska

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

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We Wish You a Merry Christmas!

Festive from 15

ingredients into butter mixture until just combined. Batter should be thick.

Using 1-tablespoon cookie scoop, transfer batter to prepared mini muffin tin. Bake 13-15 minutes until toothpick inserted in center comes out mostly clean, with some lingering crumbs.

Add chocolate chips to heat-proof bowl; microwave until smooth and melted. Pour melted chocolate into sandwich bag and cut off small portion of one corner to use as tip. Use melted chocolate to "glue" on pecan antlers, candy eyeballs and red candy noses to brownies.

Allow chocolate to set before transferring brownies to airtight container.

Note: Brownies will stay fresh for up to three days.

Gingerbread Pecans

Prep time: 5 minutes

Cook time: 40 minutes

Yield: 2 cups (6 servings)

1 large egg white, beaten

2 cups raw pecan halves

2 tablespoons granulated sugar

2 tablespoons light brown sugar

2 teaspoons gingerbread spice blend

1 pinch salt

Preheat oven to 300 F. Line baking sheet with parchment paper; set aside.

In large bowl, use fork to whisk beaten egg until frothy. Add pecans and stir until coated. Sprinkle pecans with granulated sugar, brown sugar, gingerbread spice and salt. Stir to coat evenly. Spread pecans in even layer on prepared baking sheet.

Bake pecans 40 minutes, stirring halfway through. Allow pecans to cool completely.

Note: Pecans can be stored in airtight container for up to four days.

No-Bake Pumpkin Pecan Pie Bites

Prep time: 15 minutes

Chill time: 1 hour

Yield: 12 bites (6 servings)

Crust:

1 1/2 cups raw pecan pieces

3/4 cup pitted medjool dates (about 7 dates), soaked in hot water 10 minutes

1 pinch pink salt

Filling:

1/3 cup pumpkin puree

1/3 cup full fat coconut milk

1 teaspoon pumpkin spice

1/4 cup maple syrup

1 pinch pink salt

1 scoop collagen peptides (optional)

12 raw pecan halves, for topping

To make crust: In food processor, process pecan pieces, drained dates and salt until combined and "dough" starts to form into ball.

To make filling: In bowl, combine pumpkin puree, coconut milk, pumpkin spice, maple syrup, pink salt and collagen peptides, if desired. Whisk until smooth.

Line cupcake tin and evenly distribute crust mixture, about 1 1/2 tablespoons in each cupcake opening. Use fingers to press crust into even layer.

Evenly disperse pumpkin pie filling among openings until tins are about half full.

Top each with one pecan half and place in freezer at least one hour.

Source: American Pecan Council

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by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Herod in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. Which "Caesar" ordered all the world to be taxed, causing Mary to travel to Bethlehem while expecting the baby Jesus? Julius, Tiberius, Claudius, Augustus
3. Where in the Bible (KJV) does it inform of the Christ Child being born in a December? Does not, John 1:14, Romans 6:23, Galatians 4:4
4. With seemingly two different New Testament answers, who was the father of Joseph? Jacob/Heli, Gideon/Ishmael, Solomon/Nahum, Samuel/Pilate

Bible Trivia

5. Where did the angel Gabriel appear to Mary saying, "Blessed art thou among women"? Nazareth, Tyre, Ninevah, Gazi

6. For the journey to Bethlehem, how did Mary and Joseph travel? Bible not specific, Cart, Rode donkey, Small raft

ANSWERS: 1) Neither; 2) Augustus; 3) Does not; 4) Jacob/Heli; 5) Nazareth; 6) Bible not specific

"Test Your Bible Knowledge," a book with 1,206 multiple-choice questions by columnist Wilson Casey, is available in stores and online.

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To your good health

by Keith Roach, M.D.

Here's how to reduce risk of heart disease

Dear Dr. Roach: I'm a 70-year-old female who had a stress test, echocardiogram and carotid study. I passed all tests. My cholesterol is 173, with my HDL 56, LDL 95.6 and triglycerides 108. My blood pressure is 110/64. The cardiologist put me on 5 mg of Crestor. He feels this will help my numbers. He also has me taking CoQ10 and vitamin D3 in case my legs start aching from the Crestor. I've been taking everything now for two weeks, and my legs are starting to ache. Is it really necessary to stay on Crestor? — J.S.

Answer: I put all your numbers into the standard risk calculator at www.cvriskcalculator.com, and your risk for heart disease or stroke in the next 10 years is

6.8%. That is in a range where medication therapy is not usually recommended.

Of course, I can't tell you to stop taking the medication your doctor has recommended. He may know something about you that I don't. It's possible you have a less-common risk factor your cardiologist may not have told you about.

Some people with very good cholesterol and blood pressure numbers have high levels of C-reactive protein, for example, which confers an increased risk for heart disease. That's true even in people with desirable cholesterol levels, and people in that situation would clearly benefit from taking Crestor or a similar medicine. All of these medicines have the risk of muscle aches, although the risk of serious muscle damage is very small.

Nearly everyone can reduce their heart disease risk by having a diet with very little meat but high in vegetables, legumes and nuts, along with whole grains and fruits. Regular moderate exercise is as important as diet. Keeping stress levels low, having good close relationships and sleeping 7-8 hours daily are underappreciated beneficial factors to reduce heart risk as well.

Dear Dr. Roach: I am 76, female, healthy, do not take any meds and am scheduled for a total knee replacement. During the testing, they made an incidental discovery on the CT scan of "a possible right sided right Hutch diverticulum of the bladder" and "two prominent right external iliac lymph nodes, measuring up to 15 and 13 mm in short axis."

My surgical team did not respond, and my internist says "do not worry," with no explanation. I would greatly appreciate your opinion. — L.M.

Answer: A Hutch diverticulum is a congenital condition, a small pouch in the wall of the bladder. They are seldom diagnosed in adults. They can be associated with infection and stones, but if you have had no problem with either of those conditions, I would certainly advise against doing anything about it.

The external iliac lymph nodes are structures in the hip, and like all lymph nodes, may enlarge in the presence of infection or inflammation. Yours are definitely enlarged, with less than 8-10 mm considered normal. Although we worry about enlarged lymph nodes as a symptom or sign of cancer, it's thought to be cancer only about 1% of the time. After you recover from surgery, it may be worth taking another look to see if they have shrunk. If they are persistently enlarged, especially if they are growing, some physicians would recommend a biopsy to be sure it is nothing to worry about.

Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu.

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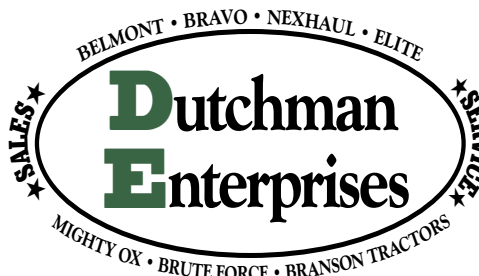


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