

HERKIMER Country Editor

Serving the Valley for 53 Years

OCTOBER 29, 2021

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Volume 11 Number 20

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Matthew 28:19



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Dolgeville Community Band 2021

by Dawna Crossman

With the direction of Katlin Wolford, the Dolgeville Community Band presented concerts in July and August at the gazebo at Plow Park in Dolgeville.



(First row, L - R) Donna DeRosa, Philip Nash, Dawna Crossman, Director Katlin Wolford, Naomi Gage, Amy Haas, Lenore Signorelli and Sarah Busch.
(Second row) Mark Case, Dan Waltermire, Colin Comstock, Peter Holmes, Mary Brown, Jessica Pollak, Jessica Bladek, Nancy Schuyler, Emma Gage, Barry Gage, Gary Busch, Micah Handy, Gary Bush, Jaron Case, Erin Thayer and Anthony Dangler.
(Third row) Ginger Countryman, Andrew Ashe, Maddie Ha, Breanna Handy, Hannah Getman, Ryan Simpson, Jade Broat and Katelyn Ashe.
Photo by Dawna Crossman

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Preparing for a night out

Many people anxiously await a return to pre-pandemic life. Even though the world isn't yet out of the woods, many restrictions have been lifted in recent months. That means people can once again enjoy evenings out on the town. However, being a bit out of practice, individuals may no longer be familiar with how to prepare for a night out.

Preparing for a night out with friends or even a date night shouldn't be stressful. Some advanced planning can make sure everything goes smoothly.

• **Make a reservation.** If dining out is in the plans, be sure to call the desired establishment in advance to see if they are taking reservations and learn if any restrictions are in place. There's a good chance indoor dining establishments will still be subject to reduced guest capacity, and even restaurants that had walk-in service may now require advanced notice of dining parties, no matter how big or small.

• **Plan your transportation.** If a night out entails enjoying a few alcoholic beverages, then arrange for safe transportation home in advance. Utilize a ride-sharing service or taxi company; otherwise, figure out who will be the designated sober driver. Groups of friends may want to pay for the sober driver's meal as a token of their appreciation.

• **Charge your phone.** If a night out involves hanging out in an unfamiliar location or meeting new people, then be sure that your mobile phone is fully charged and you check in with trusted emergency contacts throughout the night.

• **Pick a pregame meeting spot.** When heading out with a squad of friends, save time by carpooling or establishing a predetermined meetup spot.

• **Know the dress code.** Dress accordingly for the destination and planned activity. The dating and socializing resource Girls Chase advises that slim, black jeans can look classy on a night out. Footwear is important as well, especially if you will be doing some walking or dancing. Women who choose to wear heels may want to stash a foldable pair of flats in their handbags in the event they need some relief.

• **Spruce up your appearance.** Plan ahead for a night out by taking inventory of grooming habits to see if a makeover is in order. Set up an appointment for a haircut, color refresh, manicure/pedicure or even splurge on a few new wardrobe items. If it's been a while since you have been out, you'll want to put your best foot forward.

People are increasingly returning to pre-pandemic activities, which may include enjoying a night out on the town.



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Serving the Valley for 53 Years

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Utica Zoo mourns the loss of red panda

The Utica Zoo is mourning the unexpected loss of one of its beloved red pandas, Ming Yue, on Oct. 11. The female red panda showed no signs of illness or

distress leading up to Monday. Zoo officials do not yet have a cause of death. A necropsy is being performed at Cornell University.

“It is with heavy hearts that we share the very sudden news of Ming Yue’s passing,” said Utica Zoo Executive Director Andria Heath. “The Cornell veterinary team is examining the cause, and it is customary for us to not receive the results immediately.

“This is an unexpected tragedy for all of us, and we recognize the impact this has on our visitors and the community at large,” added Heath. “Please keep our staff in your thoughts. Every team member loves the animals we care for, and any loss is a difficult one.”

Ming Yue was one of two red pandas on exhibit at the zoo. She was born in 2013 at Prospect Park Zoo, Brooklyn, and came to the Utica Zoo in 2014 on loan through Assiniboine Park Zoo, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. She and her mate, Muse, have had two groups of cubs including Xiaobo and Mei Lin in 2019. Muse was born in 2011 and came the Utica Zoo from Red River Valley Zoo in 2012. Muse remains on exhibit.

Red pandas are currently classified as an endangered species, and the Utica Zoo works closely with the Red Panda Species Survival Plan to reverse this perilous trend.

Rabies clinic set for Nov. 6

A rabies clinic will take place Saturday, Nov. 6 from 7 - 9 a.m. at the East Herkimer Fire Department, 193 Main Rd., East Herkimer.

All cats, dogs and ferrets three months or older must be vaccinated even if they stay indoors. Every dog and cat needs two rabies vaccinations one year apart, then one every three years. Bring the pet’s rabies vaccination history to receive a three-year certificate. Ferrets must be vaccinated every year.

Dogs should be on a leash. Cats and ferrets should be in a carrier or pillowcase. No vet exams will be given.

A \$5 donation per pet is suggested to defray costs. Visit herkimercounty.org to view a complete listing of rabies clinics in the county. All clinics are by appointment and pre-registration only. Pre-registration will end at noon the day before for this clinic.

To schedule an appointment and pre-register your animals, call 315.867.1176.

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Sat. Nov. 13th – 11:30 AM – All- Breed Production Sale – Registered Dairy Cattle we will take a few QUALITY Grade Milk cows for this sale. We will cut this sale off at 115 head so please everyone who got turned away from the Oct. sale please contact us immediately to hold your spot! Call with your consignments today.

Mon. Nov. 15th – Normal Monday Sale & Monthly Sheep, Lamb, Goat & Pig Sale

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Mon. Nov. 22nd – Normal Monday Sale & Monthly Organic Day

Mon. Nov. 29th – Normal Monday Sale

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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

October 29-30	Contact Ostsego County Conservation Association at www.occainfo.org or call 607.547.4488.	Adults \$12. Eat-in, takeout and delivery. Tickets available from church members, the church office or call 315.894.9041.
October 29	Rummage Sale, Plant & Bake Sale at Cold Brook United Methodist Church, 467 Main St., Cold Brook. Fridays 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday 9 a.m.-4 p.m.	
October 31	Blood Drive 1-6:30 p.m. at Cherry Valley Springfield Central School, 597 County Highway 54, Cherry Valley.	
November 4	Eat, Drink & Be Scary All You Can Eat Buffet 8 - 11 a.m. Sponsored by Newport Lodge #455 and Girl Scout Troop 61127. At the Masonic Lodge #455, 7408 Main St., Newport.	
November 5 and 6	Fall Rummage Sale and Bake Sale at Mohawk Reformed Church, 20 S. Otsego Street, Mohawk. Friday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. (Bag Day). Masks required. Contact 315.866.4292 or mrcoffice@verizon.net for further information.	Yearly Meatloaf Dinner St. Paul's UU Church, 565 Albany St., Little Falls. To-go only, 4 - 7 p.m. (or sold out). Delivery available to limited area. \$10. Call 315-823-2284.
November 6	Rummage Sale, Plant & Bake Sale at Cold Brook United Methodist Church, 467 Main St., Cold Brook. Saturday 9 a.m.-4 p.m.	Town Board of the Town of Stratford public hearing 6:30 p.m. Topic: Town Budget for 2022. Regular monthly meeting immediately following the hearing.
November 7	Rabies Clinic 7 - 9 a.m. East Herkimer Fire Dept., 193 Main Rd., East Herkimer. Pre-registration will end at noon on Nov 5. Pre-register by calling 315.867.1176.	
November 11	Suicide Prevention Awareness Walk at Holy Family Roman Catholic Church, Little Falls, 9 - 10:15 a.m. Walk begins at the Parish Gym located behind the church. For more information, visit holyfamilyparish.org	
November 13	Black & White Hero Sale 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 3 - 6 p.m. Ilion Masonic Temple, 118 Morgan St. Pre-orders strongly suggested, \$8 each; call 315.269.6493. Sponsored by Order of Eastern Star.	Central Valley Central School District Foundation Turkey Trot Road race at German Flatts Town Park, 555 State Route 5S in Mohawk. Register tinyurl.com/yp-c726ft .
November 15	Organ Variety Concert 7 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, Stone Arabia, RT 10N, Palatine Bridge. Features area musicians Dr. Eric Stroud, Rev. Mark Fowler, Janet Shuster, Terry Gordon, Sid Chase, Sue Crua, Norma Bowley, Paul & Jeannette Kling, Castine & Calista Hardesty, Irena Garin & Connie Chamberlain. Love songs and more with vocal, organ trumpet, and piano music. Questions? call 518.673.5443.	Rabies Clinic at Susquehanna SPCA 2 - 5 p.m. Register at 607.547.8111 ext 111.
November 20	Annual Christmas Carousel , 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Morning Star UMC, 36 Second St., Ilion. For more info, email barbara.horwald@gmail.com . Reference Christmas Carousel.	
November 20 - 21	BSA Troop/Pack 25 Mohawk Fundraiser Pancake Breakfast 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. (or sold out) at Mohawk American Legion, 43 W. Main St., Mohawk. Takeout only. Tickets: Mr. Briggs 315.717.9780; Mr. Joyce 315.867.8239; or Mr. Roberts 315.717.6018.	The Mohawk Homestead's Annual Holiday Basket Raffle and Bake Sale 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at 1 Fulton Street, Mohawk. Proceeds benefit Mohawk Homestead. Masks must be worn.
	Salisbury Center Universalist Church Annual Craft Fair, Bake Sale & Chinese Auction 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Auction winners drawn at 3 p.m. Food and beverages available.	Holiday Craft Show 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. German Flatts Town Park, 555 Route 5S, Mohawk. Looking for vendors, \$10/day. Vendors can contact any of the following to reserve a table: Brenda 518.231.2493 or Bjonker0713@gmail.com ; Judy 315.866.2861 or billybebad56@gmail.com ; or Carol 315.866.6791 or pvercz@twcnv.rr.com
	Roast Beef Dinner 4 - 7 p.m. (or sold out). Ilion First Baptist Church, corner of Otsego and Second streets.	

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Nursery & Sunday School 9:45 AM
(Sept.-May)
Fellowship Coffee Hour 11:15 AM
Choir Rehearsal 11:30 AM
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Sunday School 10 AM

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Sunday School 9:45 AM
Morning Worship 11 AM
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Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study 6 PM

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Tips on having a green Halloween

Halloween is almost here, and there are a lot of simple ways to make the holiday “greener” than ever. According to the National Retail Federation (NRF), consumer spending on Halloween related items is expected to reach an all-time high of \$10.14 billion, up from \$8.05 billion in 2020. Most American Halloween budgets are spent on candy, home/yard decorations and costumes.

These items can add up to a lot of extra waste (packaging, wrappers, etc.)!

In addition to the waste from costumes and decorations, on average, an extra one pound of garbage per trick or treat is generated each Halloween. This results in hundreds of tons of waste in Oneida and Herkimer Counties alone. “If each of us made a few small changes to the way we celebrate the upcoming holiday, we would see a major environmental impact. The Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority (Authority) offers the following money saving and environmentally friendly tips to help “green” your Halloween,” stated Samantha Brown, Authority Recycling Coordinator.

Get creative with decorations. Use natural Halloween decorations like gourds, pumpkins, mums and corn stalks – all of these can be composted when you are through with them. Turn recycled paper into window decorations like spiders, pumpkins or witch hats. Paint grocery bags Halloween white for ghostly effects or make a graveyard scene with paper tombstones. If you are purchasing new decorations, try to find items that can be saved and re-used year after year.

Make your own costume. Halloween would not be the same without a costume. Skip the racks of expensive, plastic costumes and come up with creative ideas for a home-made costume – you might even win the Authority’s virtual costume contest! If you can’t make your own, check out secondhand stores or host a costume-swap with friends. View the rules and prizes for the “Go Green for Halloween” Costume Contest by visiting our website at www.ohswa.org or our Facebook

and Instagram pages.

Collect your treats in reusable bags. Instead of spending your money on plastic pumpkins or plastic Halloween bags, use old pillowcases or reusable shopping bags for trick-or-treating. You can even make them festive by decorating them to match your costume. The Authority is providing free reusable bags for children at its EcoDrops in Utica and Rome through Oct. 31 during regular business hours. Visit www.ohswa.org for locations and hours of operation.

Stay local and walk instead of drive. Stick close to home this Halloween and walk to help reduce air pollution and fuel use. It’s also a great way to connect with neighbors and get some exercise.

Compost your pumpkins. You can add pumpkins, gourds, mums and corn stalks to your compost pile. If you do not compost at home, Halloween is a great time to start. If you live in a community where green yard waste is collected, place your pumpkins to the curb to be collected for composting. Green waste may also be delivered to the Authority’s Utica and Rome EcoDrops for composting.

“Waste reduction and recycling is the easiest way to help the environment and have a direct impact here in the Oneida-Herkimer region. With a little creativity and mindfulness, we can make the holiday season less wasteful. Reducing the amount of waste, we create will conserve our region’s landfill space, natural resources and energy,” continued Brown.

For more information on how to “green” your Halloween, visit the Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority’s Facebook page – “Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority.” For solid waste and recycling questions or for more information on the Authority’s other programs, visit ohswa.org or call 315. 733.1224.



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Mohawk Homestead residents visit Fly Creek Cider Mill



Residents from The Mohawk Homestead enjoyed a beautiful fall day at Fly Creek Cider Mill. They fed the ducks, toured the store and finished their visit with some ice cream. Photo courtesy of The Mohawk Homestead

Smullen promotes broadband speed test for all New Yorkers

Assembly member Robert Smullen (R,C,I,SAM-Meco) announced that a significant step in the fight for further broadband access has been taken. The New York State Broadband Program Office is now asking the public to provide input and data via a survey and an internet speed test, to see what the real picture is for broadband access for our citizens. Smullen has championed the issue of broadband access for Upstate New York since his election in 2018. This has become even more important during the recent pandemic, with schools having remote learning, seniors using telemedicine to get healthcare and people working from home.

"I'm optimistic we can now get the real picture of broadband access for our citizens in rural areas, now that the state

is going to do a real survey," Smullen said. "I've pounded the broadband drum since my first day in office, and it's so important now that everyone participates in the speed test survey. We need to know who has what internet speed where, so we can make common sense decisions to get broadband to as many people as possible."

"The internet is a critical part of our lives. People use it for school, for work and for healthcare. It's not a luxury anymore, it's a necessity, and despite the differences between rural and urban life, we can't leave our citizens on the wrong side of the digital divide any longer," Smullen concluded.

All people in our communities are encouraged to take the speed test by visiting empirestate-broadband.com/speed-test to check their internet speed.

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Five ways to support small businesses this holiday shopping season

Small businesses long have been the heart and soul of local communities. There is something to be said about being on a first-name basis with a local restaurateur or another small business owner, as such familiarity often translates into exemplary service.

According to the U.S. Small Business Administration, small businesses account for 99.9% of companies in the country, due in large part to the broad definition of small businesses (those with fewer than 500 employees). However, the vast majority of businesses in the U.S. have a staff that's smaller than 20 workers, according to the Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council. These firms employ nearly 60 million workers, says the SBA.

Despite the prevalence of small businesses, fewer than 80% of entrepreneurial small

business ventures make it beyond their first year, and only around half make it beyond five years.

Consumers who want to help their favorite small businesses survive can use the holiday season and beyond to set the course for success. Consumers can make a concerted effort to fuel this important cog in their local economic engines.

• **Shop local.** The concept is simple but effective. Opting to shop in local stores over larger conglomerates and franchises can help small businesses take root. Before making holiday shopping lists, visit local stores and base gift ideas on items they have in stock. Chances are those gifts will be one-of-a-kind.

• **Purchase gift cards/certificates.** All businesses have slow periods, and post-holidays is often a time when sales stagnate. Gift cards may bring new

customers into local businesses who might otherwise not have patronized them, potentially creating new repeat customers.

• **Cater holiday meals and gatherings.** The holiday season is chock-full of entertainment opportunities. Individuals can rely on nearby restaurants and other food and beverage businesses to cater holiday parties. Some businesses also may be willing to discount or donate food for nonprofit group activities, such as church holiday bazaars, school holiday concerts or fundraising fairs.

• **Mention small businesses on social media.** The holiday season breeds excitement. Therefore, when shoppers are in local stores, they can snap pictures of products and overflowing shopping bags and post them online while praising local businesses.

• **Think about subscription**

gifts. Enrollment in a health club or a massage therapy service are gifts that keep on giving for the recipient, but also help ensure consistent incoming cash for the business providing the service.

When shopping this holiday season, consumers can look to the small, local businesses in their communities that help make towns and cities unique.



Consumers who want to help their favorite small businesses survive can use the holiday season and beyond to set the course for success.

Paw's Corner

by Sam Mazzotta

Owner: Let Cats Roam Freely Outdoors

Dear Paw's Corner: Your point about cats being at grave risk outdoors is just silly. Are there some dangers? Sure, there are. Small dogs are subject to the same dangers, as well as all the other animals that live outdoors. Are you suggesting that we should keep all snakes, hedgehogs, frogs, mice and turtles inside at all times because it's a dangerous world outside? I dare say not!

There is always going to be a bigger animal outside. All animals are free. It is us, as humans, who put the boundaries on animals and cage them in. Do you think that cats didn't exist centuries ago? Of course they did! How do you think they survived? They learned how to survive. Is it important to help those animals in need of a comforting shelter, good food and lots of love? Yes! But please don't cage in the freedom they need in order to survive for centuries to come. – Ellen I., via email

Dear Ellen: Those are... interesting points. You're right, I do harp on the importance of keeping cats in-

side. And for that matter, small and large dogs. And, if they are being kept as pets, snakes, hedgehogs, frogs, mice and turtles.

Why? Because it keeps them exponentially safer and healthier. Staying inside reduces the chance of getting ticks and fleas. It keeps them safe from attacks by other domestic animals and coyotes, as well as (in my neck of the woods, New England) packs of wild turkeys. Keeping cats inside protects other wildlife – cats are hunters, and they love catching songbirds, hedgehogs, snakes, frogs, mice and turtles.

Readers, what are your thoughts on this issue? Write me at ask@pawscorner.com and sound off!

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Thanksgiving pie sale

The North River United Methodist Church members will be conducting a Thanksgiving pie sale this holiday season. There will be three varieties to choose from: apple, pumpkin or cherry. Each delicious pie costs \$12.

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Pullis appointed to Herkimer BOCES BOE

Owen D. Young Central School District Board of Education Vice President Holly Pullis is the newest member of the Herkimer-Fulton-Hamilton-Otsego BOCES Board of Education.

Herkimer BOCES board members voted unanimously on Oct. 14 to appoint Pullis to fill a vacant seat representing Owen D.



Owen D. Young Central School District Board of Education Vice President Holly Pullis (R) is sworn in as a new member of the Herkimer-Fulton-Hamilton-Otsego BOCES Board of Education on Oct. 14 by Herkimer BOCES Board Clerk Shawn Maxson. Photo courtesy of Herkimer BOCES

Young on the Herkimer BOCES BOE. Pullis took the seat, effective the day she was appointed, through June 30, 2022.

Pullis fills the seat on the Herkimer BOCES Board of Education previously held by Linda Tharp, who passed away earlier this year.

Pullis has served on the Owen D. Young Board of Education for six years and was recently re-elected for three more years. Pullis believes the success of a school depends on the board, administration and staff having a good working relationship. She has focused on a variety of areas, including the educational environment, course offerings, financial responsi-

bility and extracurricular activities.

Pullis and her husband Jason have two sons who are currently students at Owen D. Young. She owns and operates Hollywood Enterprises, a business she started in her youth, which raises and sells turkeys for Thanksgiving and throughout the year.

She is also involved in the Pullis family's Roedale Farm, a diversifying dairy and crop farm with a newly opened farm market and corn maze. She works part-time for a local attorney/certified public accountant and is an independent sales consultant.

She is an active volunteer with 4-H, her church and her boys' school activities.



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Herkimer College Phaethon Awards

Herkimer College's arts and literary publication, Phaethon, was recently recognized by the Community College Humanities Association (CCHA) in their annual contest. With the 2020 contest not being held due to the pandemic, both the 2020 and 2021 issues were considered.

Phaethon 2020:

- Best Creative Nonfiction, 1st Place: "Are We Just That Primitive" by Dillon Cowen (Waterville, NY)

- Best Short Stories, 1st Place: "God Wears Ruffled Socks" by Raychel Alvarez '20 (Brooklyn, NY)

Phaethon 2021:

- Best Short Stories, 3rd Place: "The Ivory Cabinet" by Carynn Bohley '21 (Salem, NY)

Phaethon competes in the Eastern Division, which is comprised of community colleges in Connecticut, Washington, D.C., Delaware, Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont and Puerto Rico.

The publication, featuring content from students, faculty and staff, has won many awards over the last several years. In 2019, the CCHA awarded Phaethon "Best Magazine" amongst small colleges in the Eastern Division. Phaethon is advised by faculty members Andrew Devitt, Matthew Powers and Blake Pitcher.

For more information and to read the latest editions, visit herkimer.edu/phaethon. Free hard copies of the publication are available in the Herkimer College library.



Phaethon 2021 cover

Did you know?

The National Institutes of Health notes that roughly 80% of people between the ages of 11 and 30 experience acne at some point. Various factors are believed to be related to the formation of acne, including genetics, an increase in sex hormones called androgens and hormonal changes related to pregnancy or to starting or stopping the use of birth control pills.



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Authority sponsors two fall re-use and recycling challenges for students in Oneida and Herkimer counties

The Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority (Authority) has two fall recycling challenges for youth in Oneida and Herkimer counties to participate in. These challenges help to encourage creativity with waste reduction, reuse and recycling. The Authority will be hosting the Green Halloween Recycled Costume Contest (due Nov. 2) and the America Recycles Day Poster Contest (due Nov. 10).



Green Halloween Recycled Costume Competition

In celebration of Halloween 2021, the Authority is sponsoring a virtual Green Halloween Costume Competition to promote creative reuse and waste reduction. "Over 35 million Halloween costumes are purchased every year in the United States, with many of them being thrown away after just one use. That adds up to a lot of waste," said Samantha Brown, Authority recycling coordinator.

Any resident of Oneida or Herkimer counties, ages 0 - 18, can submit a photograph of themselves in a homemade upcycled/recycled Halloween costume made of common household items. Materials for the costume can include paper, cardboard, plastic bottles, plastic bags, cups, aluminum foil – anything that will help bring your costume to life!

Costumes will be judged based on creativity, use of recycled/upcycled items in the costume, originality and quality. Costumes that are purchased instead of handmade will not be considered.

The first place winner will receive a \$250 Amazon gift card. The second place winner will receive a \$100 Amazon gift card. Winners will be featured on the Authority's social media pages and website.

Parents and teachers: Submit a picture of the entrant in their creatively handmade recycled/upcycled costume by emailing samb@ohswa.org or by sending a direct message to the Authority's Facebook page (@AmIRecyclable). Submissions must be received no later than Nov. 2. Include the entrant's first name, city/town/village the entrant lives in and age. Winners will be notified on Nov. 5.

America Recycles Day Poster Contest

America Recycles Day, Nov. 15, is a day to recognize the importance and the impact that recycling has on preserving our environment as well as conserving energy and natural resources. To celebrate America Recycles Day, the Authority is sponsoring a Poster Contest to encourage youth to be creative about ways to reduce, reuse and recycle on a daily basis. This year's poster themes are proper curbside recycling, food waste reduction and the importance of reuse.

- Curbside Recycling – Potential ideas for this poster theme include showing what items can (or cannot) go into curbside recycling bins, how to prepare recyclables before placing them in the bin, recyclables being collected by a recycling truck or what curbside recyclables might get turned into later on.

- Food Waste Reduction – Potential ideas for this poster theme include sharing or donating food to people or animals, putting food waste into a compost pile instead of the garbage, delivering food waste to the Authority where it will be made into electricity through the Food2Energy program or taking care to store food properly so it stays fresh for as long as possible.

- Reuse – Potential ideas for this poster theme include using a reusable water bottle, lunch pail, grocery store bag or straw instead of a disposable version, donating clothes that no longer fit to someone that can wear them or upcycling your recyclables into something useful – such as making a plastic milk jug into

a birdfeeder.

Students can enter in one of three categories: Grammar (K-6), Junior High (7-9) and High School (10-12). First place winners in each category will receive a \$250 Amazon gift card. Second place winners in each category will receive a \$100 Amazon gift card. Third place winners in each category will receive a \$50 Amazon gift card.

Winning posters will be professionally printed and displayed at various locations throughout the region to educate the community. Additionally, the Authority will utilize the posters in its public education program.

Visit the Authority's website at ohswa.org to view the America Recycles Day Poster Contest guidelines.

Posters must be received by Nov. 10. Winners will be notified on Nov. 15.

"As the holiday season quickly approaches, the Authority wants to encourage youth in Oneida and Herkimer counties to be mindful about waste reduction, reuse and recycling – and get creative in the process! Because the submissions will all either be done online or through the mail – you can participate in these challenges from home. Please share these contests with your friends and family – the Authority looks forward to seeing what our community comes up with," said Brown.

If you have any questions, contact Samantha Brown at 315.733.1224 ext. 2800 or samb@ohswa.org.

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Time for a children's vision checkup

As the routine of a school year settles in, families may direct their focus to factors that have nothing to do with school supplies or enrolling youngsters in extra-curricular activities. For example, the weeks after families settle into a new school year routine can be a great time to have students' vision checked.

According to Prevent Blindness, the oldest eye health and safety nonprofit organization in the U.S., common vision problems in children include amblyopia (lazy eye), strabismus (crossed eyes) and refractive errors like myopia, astigmatism and hyperopia.

A recent study titled "Children's Vision and Eye Health: A Snapshot of Current National Issues, 2nd Edition" pointed out that vision has a critical role in children's physical, cognitive and social

development. Furthermore, visual functioning is a strong predictor of academic performance in school-age children, according to the study. In fact, without early detection and treatment, uncorrected vision disorders can interfere with learning and impair children's development.

Parents and educators are urged to be aware of symptoms of common eye disorders in children, which include the following:

- Rubs eyes a lot
- Closes or covers one eye to read or see
- Tilts head or thrusts forward
- Has trouble reading or doing other close-up work
- Holds objects close to eyes to see
- Blinks more than usual
- Complains things are blurry or hard to see
- Squints eyes or frowns



All children, and especially those who are having issues with their eyes, should visit with an eye professional annually to have their vision checked.

In addition, parents can rely on Prevent Blindness in conjunction with Children's Vision Massachusetts and School Health for a new web resource

to assess their kids' digital screen time use. Tips are available at preventblindness.org/childrens-screen-time-tips.

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COUNTRY

CULTURE

THE LAND • THE FOOD • THE PEOPLE

MAGIC MAZE

TWO N'S IN THE MIDDLE

EEBYVSPMJHEBYVT

QOLLIGDBYWTRPMK

IFDABYWUSQOMKIF

DBZECXTWULSQONL

SLJHSIEMAFDCAYW

VIEANENITRSSLQP

NLNNLENNUTEIEKI

HFSNNNONALENNUG

ECBAEEBOERENNAB

ZYWIVDKWUIYEEIS

RQBPNNMLJIHVTFFD

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
Unlisted clue hint: SHELTER FOR A DOG

- Anna

Anne

Banner

Biennial
- Bonnet

Dennis

Dinner

Fennel
- Gunnel

Inns

Minnow

Tennis
- Tunnel

Tyrannical

Viennese

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Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Thick

NEEDS

Lyric

VERSE

Gun

PILOTS

Teacher

ONTERM

TODAY'S WORD

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Request
- 4 Lawyers' org.
- 7 Jab
- 11 Grub
- 13 Sinbad's bird
- 14 Way out
- 15 Spanish greeting
- 16 Somewhat (Suff.)
- 17 Memorandum
- 18 You'll get a rise out of it
- 20 Iowa crop
- 22 Owned
- 24 Beginnings
- 28 Pudding variety
- 32 Lebanon's neighbor
- 33 Press
- 34 Rage
- 36 Joyful tune
- 37 Plaintive poem
- 39 Sees the world
- 41 Country singer West
- 43 "Caught ya!"
- 44 Frank
- 46 Gold mold
- 50 Writer Didion
- 53 Flushed
- 55 Fascinated by
- 56 Byron or Tennyson
- 57 Nest-egg acronym

DOWN

- 1 Needing liniment
- 2 Oxford, for one
- 3 Caffeine source
- 4 "Entourage" character
- 5 Pear type
- 6 Sneeze sound
- 7 The White
- 8 Kitchen gadget brand
- 9 Tool set
- 10 Tours season
- 12 U.S. capital on the Potomac
- 19 Eastern "way"
- 21 ER workers
- 23 601, to Nero
- 25 Canal of song
- 26 Cash drawer
- 27 Pre-college exams
- 28 Even
- 29 Woody's son
- 30 Bard
- 31 Illustrations
- 35 Historic time
- 38 Shriek bark
- 40 Sushi fish
- 42 Haunting
- 45 Sleuth Wolfe
- 47 Wildebeests
- 48 "Beetle Bailey" dog
- 49 Horn sound
- 50 "The Wedding Planner" actress, to fans
- 51 "Alley —"
- 52 Exist
- 54 Dapper fellow

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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DELIVER

Today's Word

3. Pistol; 4. Mentor

1. Dense 2. Serve; solution

SCRAMBLERS

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COUNTRY
CULTURE
THE LAND · THE FOOD · THE PEOPLE

by Slim Randles



Steve was out in the Mule Barn parking lot the other day, tightening something with his wrenches under the hood of his pickup truck. The rest of us stood around, looking wise, and sipping coffee. “You sure it ain’t the solenoid?” said Bert. “I don’t think they make them anymore,” said Doc. “It’s usually the solenoid,” Bert said, with finality.

emerged from his cavern of wires and metal long enough to say, "Didn't I see you have a goat now, Bert?" Bert nodded. "That's why I hate allergies." We waited. We stared. "Well you see, Maizie's allergic to cow's milk, so we bought Ernestine for her." "And Ernestine is?" "The goat ... right. So what happens is somehow I have to milk Ernestine. Twice a day. We wanted to go overnight to the city last week. Ever try to find someone who will babysit and milk a goat?"

"I won't do it," said Dud.
"Neither will anyone else," said Bert, sadly.
"So we either stay home, or take the goat with us. Ever try to find a motel that takes goats?"
"Not recently," Doc said.
"So we stayed home. Oh, it wouldn't be so bad if she liked me..."
"Maizie?"
"Ernestine. See, she waits until I have her almost milked out, then she'll stick her foot in the bucket and kick it all over me. The other day, I was standing in her pen and talking with Mrs. Gonzales next door, and Ernestine came running up behind me and ran right between my legs."

"Did you fall?"

"Of course. And Mrs. Gonzales tried not to laugh, but it didn't work."

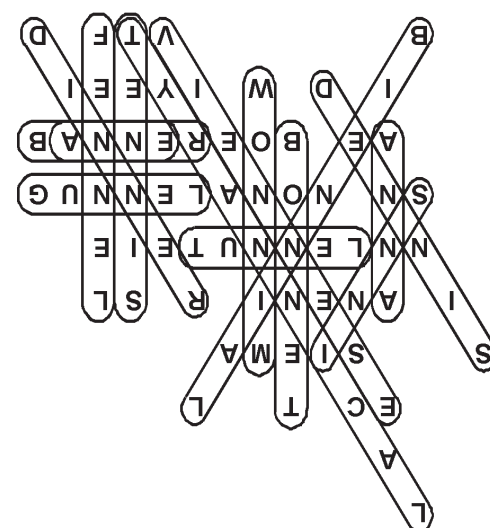
"Bert," said Doc, "why don't you just buy goat's milk at the store?"

"Maizie says she needs it fresh, because it's better. You guys ever notice how a goat has horns and cloven hooves?"

We nodded.

"I don't think I need to add anything to that," said Bert.

Pick up "Home Country: Drama, dreams and laughter from the American heartland" www.lpdpress.com.



TWO N'S IN THE MIDDLE

S	K		A	B	A	P	O	K	E					
C	H	O	L	A	I	S	H	N	O	T	E			
Y	E	A	S	T		C	O	R	N					
						H	A	D	O	N				
T	A	P	I	O	C	A		S	Y	R	I	A		
I	R	O	N		I	R	E		L	I	L	T		
E	L	E	G	Y		T	R	A	V	E	L	S		
D	O	T	I	E		A	H	A						
					O	F	E	N		I	N	G	O	T
J	O	A	N		R	E	D		I	N	T	O		
L	O	R	D		I	R	A		A	U	T	O		
O	P	E	C		E	O	N		S	O	T			

Solution time: 22 mins.

Answers

— King Crossword —

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

**Check out countryculture.co
Learn about Cranberries**


While a lot of people only really think about cranberries once a year – Thanksgiving, we see you, and we're excited – October is actually National Cranberry Month. From fresh to frozen to dried (and even that weirdly gelatinous stuff that you find in the can), cranberries are a fruit you can (and should) use year-round. Drink it as juice in the morning, add some dried bits


to your salads and savor the boggy taste!

Yes, boggy, because that's where cranberries grow. While the word "bog" can sound a little unappetizing, it just means it's a freshwater wetland that accumulates peat (a deposit of dead plant material, usually mosses).

**To read the full article, visit
countryculture.co**


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