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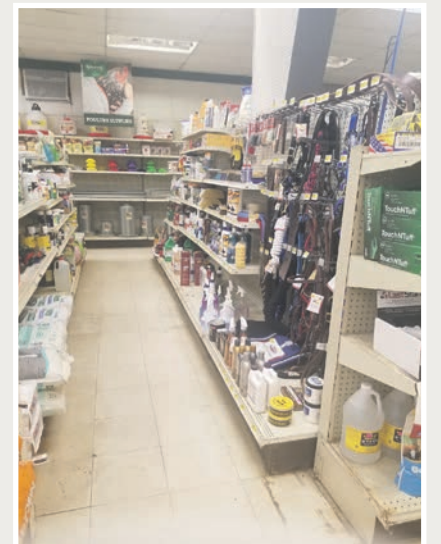
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Poland Science Fair continues through pandemic by adapting

The Poland Central School District Science Fair is one aspect of school that students haven't missed out on at any point in the pandemic.

Poland science teachers and science fair organizers Jessica Meyer and Kevin Ford said they're

The 32nd annual Poland Science Fair on March 5, 2020, was one of the last school events before COVID-19 impacted schools. Meyer and Ford switched to a virtual model for the 33rd annual Poland Science Fair in 2021.

ing skills and using the scientific method, Meyer said.

Students come up with their own projects based on thinking about topics that appeal to them and what they would like to know more about, Meyer said.



Poland Central School District student Maddison Haver presents her Poland Science Fair project virtually to a panel of judges on March 10, 2021. She won the 2021 Grand Championship in the Junior Level for her project titled "Taproots or Fibrous Roots? Which Will Save our Wildlife and Land?" The project looked into how much water different types of roots soaked up.

Photos courtesy of Herkimer BOCES

happy to be able to keep the science fair going because it's important to provide students the opportunity to be intrigued by the world around them and develop questions, ideas and studies based on those interests.

"That's what we want them to do," Meyer said. "That's the future of science and technology."

Now, in 2022, the 34th annual Poland Science Fair will be conducted virtually again – with some changes, including the possibility of in-person presentations for the top-ranked projects.

Through the science fair, Poland students learn about and gain experience with presentation and public speak-

"We want it to be something they already have an interest in," she said. "The whole point behind the science fair is for students to come up with



Poland Central School District student Shelbi Hagues presents her Poland Science Fair project virtually to a panel of judges in 2021. She won the 2021 Grand Championship in the Senior Level for her project titled "Chunky? Smooth?" The project examined which blenders did the best job making smooth smoothies.

their own inquiries – their own line of questioning – about subjects they observe in their own environment."

Another benefit of the science fair is that it's an opportunity to highlight students for academics in a way that is more similar to how athletics achieve-

ments are regularly recognized, Meyer said.


"Some students genuinely love learning, and this gives them an opportunity and a platform," she said.

Science fair winners will be announced in mid-March. More than 70 awards and prizes – in-

cluding financial awards – will be given out.

Anyone who is interested in donating to contribute to the prizes for science fair award winners can contact Meyer at jmeyer@polandcsd.org or Ford at kford@polandcsd.org.

Poland 4




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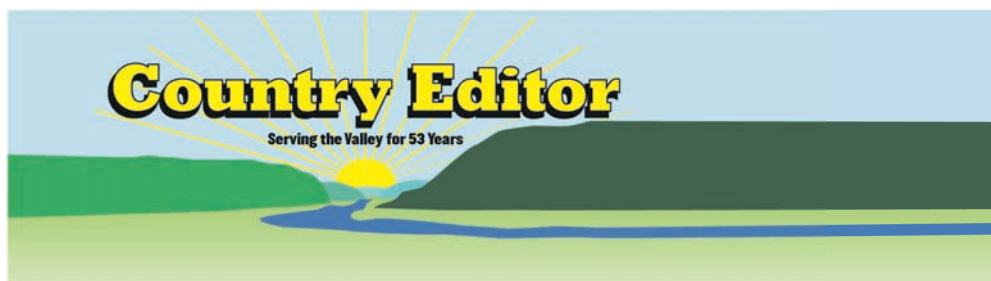
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For any other information or questions please contact Tina Krieger at 518-673-0108, tkrieger@leepub.com, fax 518-673-2381.

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Don't miss out on valuable tax benefits on National Earned Income Tax Credit Day

On National Earned Income Tax Credit Awareness Day, the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance is urging taxpayers to review their eligibility for this valuable benefit. When the federal and NYS earned income tax credits are combined, they can be worth up to \$9,083 for a family with three or more children.

"These credits can be a financial lifeline for working families, particularly those coping with the impact of the pandemic and rising daily expenses," said Acting Commissioner Amanda Hiller. "I encourage all eligible New Yorkers to claim this credit, along with any other credits or deductions they're entitled to receive this tax season."

The earned income tax credit (EITC) is a refundable credit for working taxpayers who earn less than \$57,414. This means you get a refund even if the credit amount is more than what you owe in taxes.

In 2019, almost 1.64 million New Yorkers received the federal EITC, claiming more than \$4.8 billion in

federal and NYS EITCs. Unfortunately, federal estimates show that almost 350,000 eligible New Yorkers may fail to claim the credit.

Every year, thousands of New Yorkers qualify for the EITC for the first time as their filing status or personal financial situation changes. Eligibility requirements for the earned income credit (New York State) are explained on the Tax Department website.

For federal qualifications, visit the IRS EITC webpage at tinyurl.com/2p89s2yr.

More information about federal, state and local earned income tax credits, including the value of available credits, is available at tinyurl.com/2p97p9ks.

You must file a personal income tax return to receive the credit, even if you don't owe any taxes. E-filing is the easiest way to file your return and the fastest way to receive your refund.

Most New Yorkers can file using Free File software at tax.ny.gov/pit/efile, available at no cost on the Tax Department website.

Poland from 2

Poland students in grades 7 - 11 will compete in the virtual science fair by making Google Slides for their projects instead of physical displays and incorporating video into the slides instead of doing in-person presentations to judges.

The plan for the students with the top-ranking projects to present in-person this year if possible is a change from 2021, when those presentations were virtual as well.

A switch was also made to using Google Slides this year instead of the Google Sites used in 2021 in order to align with the Utica College Regional Science Fair.

Some Poland category award winners will advance to the 43rd annual Utica College Regional Science Fair.

Brittany Harvey, who does instructional technology integration for Poland through the Mohawk Regional Information Center, visited science classrooms to help students learn how to use Google Chromebooks to record videos and create Google Slides.

Students have been working on their projects since October - with various deadlines along the way. Some of the final steps include creating the videos and customizing the projects with different fonts and colors, Meyer said.

"The students should be in a good place," she said.

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Poland indoor track program focuses on personal growth, sets four school records

The Poland Central School District indoor track program has set four school records this season.

The boys and girls indoor track coaches, Joel Allen (social studies teacher) and John Allen (fifth grade teacher), said the records are a sign of the progress the program has made and can help generate additional growth.

"It's encouraging," Joel said. "It's good to see the work that these kids put in pay off. I think it can be a motivator for these kids and for others to say, 'Maybe I can get a record someday.'"

There are 19 students participating in indoor track this school year. That isn't the highest overall number for the program, but the 10 boys is the most boys the program has had, and more younger students are getting involved – including three seventh graders and an eighth grader. Four students have set school records, some boys and girls have qualified for sectionals and the coaches are hoping to get relay teams into sectionals.

"It's nice to see," John said. "It's exciting to see them – especially so early in their careers – set a record for themselves and for the school that hopefully they can beat again before they leave."

The following are the students who set school records so far this indoor track season:

- Junior Nicholas Robinson set the school record in the 3,200-meter race on Dec. 29, 2021 at the Utica Challenge Invitational at Utica College with 28 schools in attendance. He then broke his own record on Jan. 14 in a different meet at Utica College with a time of 12:02.43. This record was previously held by 2016 Poland graduate Alec Hart, who set the record on Jan. 8, 2016.

- Junior Aaron Pope set the school record in the 800-meter race at the same meet on Dec. 29. This was

the first time Poland was able to have a student enter the 800-meter race – with two students participating. Pope's record-setting time was 2:41.88.

- Freshman Troy Haver set the school record in the 500-meter race at the Dec. 29 meet as well – with a

time of 1:37.82. This record was previously held by Poland senior Ethan Broadbent, who set the record on Jan. 25, 2019.

Poland 8



Poland Central School District indoor track program students who have set school records this school year pose for a photo together during a meet on Jan. 20 at Utica College. From left: junior Nicholas Robinson, senior Garrett Rankins, freshman Troy Haver and junior Aaron Pope. Photo courtesy of Herkimer BOCES



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CHURCH SERVICE DIRECTORY

<p>JOHNSTOWN CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 3316 St. Rt. 29 W, Johnstown, NY 12095 Offices: 518-762-2982 Cell: 857-523-8417 Pastor, Rev. Mark Fowler Sunday Morning Service 11 AM Sunday School for All Ages 10 AM</p>	<p>LITTLE FALLS FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Pastor Tamara Razzano 16 Jackson St. Phone: 315-823-3004 Email lfirstpres@gmail.com www.presbylf.org Sunday Worship 10 AM Sunday School 10 AM</p>	<p>CHURCH OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT Sr. Mary Jo Tallman, CSJ, Parish Life Director Rev. Leo Potvin, Sacramental Minister 71 E. Main St. Phone 866-1752 Sunday Mass 9:30 AM</p>	<p>PAINES HOLLOW PAINES HOLLOW UNITED METHODIST Lay Servant Gregg Sponburgh Rtes. 167 & 168 • 315-866-1128 Worship 9-10AM</p>	<p>SPRAKERS CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF CHARLESTON FOUR CORNERS 1380 E. Lykers Rd., Sprakers 518-922-9088 Pastor Brett Popp Sunday School (ages 3-adult) 9:45 AM Worship 11 AM Sunday Prayer Meeting 5:30 PM Thu. Evening of Encouragement & Community Kid's Bible Club 6:30 PM</p>	<p>ST. JOHNSTOWN ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH 32 W. Main St., St. Johnstown, NY (next to NBT Bank) 518-568-3007 Church 518-568-2405 Parsonage Rev. David Johnson Sunday Worship 10:30 AM, Tues. Bible Bungee-Jumping 7 PM, "Bible Study" that actually makes sense! A Vibrant, Welcoming Community of Faith & Vision</p>
<p>LASSELLSVILLE LASSELLSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH State Hwy. 29 Pastor Robert A. Lindsay Worship: Sunday 9:30 AM Sunday School to start soon</p>	<p>INGHAMSVILLE INGHAMSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Rev. Gary L. Busch, Pastor Sunday Worship Service 10 AM 443 Inghams Mills Rd. Little Falls, NY 13365 Pastor's Phone (315) 717-9936</p>	<p>CHRISTIAN BIBLE CHURCH H. Ed Reed, Pastor/Teacher 167 Ward Rd. • Phone 858-1282 www.christianbiblechurch.us Sunday School 9 AM Sunday Worship 10 AM Wednesday Bible Study & Prayer Meeting 7 PM</p>	<p>PALATINE BRIDGE TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF STONE ARABIA 5430 St. Hwy. 10, Palatine Bridge, NY Pastor A. Elisabeth Aurand Sunday In Person Worship 9 AM; email for link office@stjm-canajoharie.org 518-673-2224</p>	<p>THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF RURAL GROVE 170 Rural Grove Rd., Sprakers, NY 12166 518-922-7831 Pastor Joshua Fetterhoff pastorjosh@ruralgrovechurch.org Sunday School (all ages) 9:45 AM, Morning Service 11 AM, Eve. Service 6 PM, Wed.-Family Night 7 PM, "Where Bible Teaching is Fundamental"</p>	<p>SEEKER'S FELLOWSHIP 14 Park Place, St. Johnstown, NY 13452 518-568-7700 • Pastor Mike Yezierski Sunday Worship 6 PM, Tues. Prayer 7 PM, Bible Study 7 PM (Wed., Thurs. & Fri.) We teach the fullness of God's Word, a life of holiness for the believer, and salvation for all who trust in Christ's sacrifice.</p>
<p>LITTLE FALLS FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH 555 Albany St. 315-823-3392 Morning Worship 9:45 AM Rev. Chris J. Wintermute, Lead Pastor Rev. William Whalen, Associate Pastor Nursery (infants through age 4) Meet and Greet Sunday at 8:00 AM Sunday School Classes 8:30 AM (nursery through adult) **Our Service is aired on 100.3 FM, 91.1 FM & 88.7 FM on Sundays from 11-12 with a 1 week delay. **LIVE on Facebook: "gingerleecace" account- 9:45 am on Sundays</p>	<p>THE HOLY SPIRIT POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH 618 E. Gansvoort St., Little Falls, NY 315-823-0793 Father Rafal Dadello Mass at 11 AM on Sunday www.holyspiritpncc.org</p>	<p>THE WORD CHRISTIAN CENTER Pastor Dan Annutto 27 E. Main St. • Phone (315) 985-3596 Sunday Services at 10 AM Intercession - Tuesdays at 6 PM</p>	<p>THE HOUSE OF ZION, INC. 580 Dillenbeck Rd., Palatine Bridge 518-577-3069 Pastors Richard & Denise Allen Saturday Morning Worship Service 11:30 AM Listen to UMT on live radio 97.5FM the 1st Sunday of every month 3-4 PM</p>	<p>REFORMED CHURCH OF SPRAKERS 112 Sprakers Hill Rd. Rev. Nancy Ryan Worship ~ 9 AM All Welcome!!!</p>	<p>JOY FELLOWSHIP 296 Co. Hwy. 119, St. Johnstown, NY 13452 518-568-3217 • William Hayes, Pastor Joyce Loughran, Assistant Pastor Sunday School 9 AM, Morning Worship 9:30 AM Wednesday Evening Worship 6:30 PM</p>
<p>ST. PAUL'S UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH Minister Jeffrey J. Frank Mark Bunce, Organist 565 Albany St., Little Falls, NY Phone 315-823-2284 Sunday Service & Religious Education 10 AM</p>	<p>MARSHVILLE MARSHVILLE EVANGELICAL CHURCH Route 10 South Pastor Mark Fowler Worship Sunday 9 AM</p>	<p>NELLISTON VALLEY ALLIANCE CHURCH 85 E. Main St., Nelliston 518-993-3458 Pastor Ken Gies Sunday School (all ages) 9:15 AM, Sunday Worship 10:30 AM, Wed. Praise & Prayer 7 PM, Fri. Youth Group 7 PM (7-12th grade)</p>	<p>RANDALL RANDALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CHURCH NY Rte. 5S Sunday Service 10:30 AM Worship Leader Darlene Spaulding</p>	<p>CURRYTOWN REFORMED CHURCH 829 St. Hwy. 162, Sprakers 518-922-8422 Rev. Donald Hoaglander Visiting Pastor Jane Hubschmitt 518-705-2201 Sunday School 9:15 AM Worship Service 10 AM</p>	<p>ST. JOHNSTOWN METHODIST CHURCH 7 East Main St., St. Johnstown, NY 13452 Pastor Corey Jones 518-568-7983 • 315-866-8626 Worship Sunday 3 PM</p>
<p>FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD Senior Pastor Timothy Parisi 559 E. Jefferson St. Phone 823-4043 • firstaglf@gmail.com Sunday Morning All Worship 10 AM Thursday Bible Study 6:30 PM</p>	<p>MIDDLEVILLE MIDDLEVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 24 Fairfield St. Pastor Mark Hediger, 315-429-9085 pastormarkh@aol.com Sunday Worship 8:30 AM</p>	<p>NEWPORT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF NEWPORT 7497 Main Street Pastor's Phone 315-790-1877 Sunday Worship at 9:45 AM</p>	<p>RICHFIELD SPRINGS CHURCH OF CHRIST UNITING PO Box 896, Richfield Springs, NY 13439 Rev. Mark Isot • 315-858-1553 Service: Sunday 9:15 AM Church School: Sunday 10:30 AM</p>	<p>RIVER OF JUBILEE CHURCH 5057 St. Hwy. 5 S, Sprakers, NY 12166 Pastor: Gail Adamoschek 518-322-1427 / 518-224-4455 Sunday Service 10 AM Children's Church Available Other Learning Opportunities Available Visit us on Facebook</p>	<p>EVERLASTING JOY BELIEVERS FELLOWSHIP 14 Park Place (in with Seekers Fellowship) St. Johnstown, NY 13452 315-858-2112 • Pastor Carolee Coye Sunday Service 10 AM</p>
<p>HOLY FAMILY PARISH OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF LITTLE FALLS Father Brian Slezak 763 E. Main St., Little Falls, NY Phone 315-823-3410 Saturday Vigil Mass 4 PM Sunday Mass 10:30 AM</p>	<p>MOHAWK DENNISON CORNERS COMMUNITY CHURCH Pastor Donald King 219 Robinson Rd. • Phone 866-5215 Sunday: Sunday School 9:45 AM Morning Worship 11 AM Evening Worship 6 PM Wednesday Prayer 7 PM</p>	<p>UNITED METHODIST Pastor Robbin Harris • Phone 845-8730 Morning Service 11:15 AM</p>	<p>RICHFIELD SPRINGS BIBLE CHURCH 19 Church St., Richfield Springs, NY 13439 Rev. David Tosi • 315-858-0564 Sunday School (all ages) 10 AM Worship Service 11 AM & 7 PM Wednesday - Prayer & Praise Call for info on various Youth Ministries www.richfieldspringsbiblechurch.org</p>	<p>ST. JOHN'S REFORMED CHURCH 68 W. Main St., St. Johnstown 518-568-7396 Faithfully Following Jesus Christ Sunday Worship 10:30 AM</p>	
<p>HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH 512 E. Gansevoort St. Sunday School 9:15 AM Sunday Worship 9:30 AM Wednesday Worship 11 AM & 6 PM</p>	<p>MOHAWK REFORMED CHURCH Rev. Brian Engel, Pastor 20 S. Otsego St. Phone 866-4292 Email mohawkpastor@verizon.net Follow us on Facebook Morning Worship: 10:30 AM Sept.- June • 9:30 AM July-Aug. Youth Sunday School (Pre-K - Sr. High) 9 AM Adult Sunday School (Men, Women & Couples) 9:30 AM September - June</p>	<p>KUYAHOORA COMMUNITY CHURCH Pastor Dwayne Durand West Canada Valley High School Auditorium 5447 St. Rt. 28 Mailing Address PO Box 50 Middleville, NY 13406 Phone 315-292-1303 www.kuyahorracc.org Weekly Service Sunday 10:08 AM</p>	<p>SALISBURY CENTER FULL GOSPEL ASSEMBLY OF GOD Pastor Robert Brent 106 Plant Road Sunday Worship 11 AM with Children's Church offered during the service</p>	<p>GRACE CHRISTIAN CHURCH Pastor Michael Torres 20 Center St., St. Johnstown, NY 13452 518-775-0366 Email gccpastor2021@gmail.com</p>	
<p>EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH 588-594 Albany St. Sunday Schedule: High Mass, Rite II 10 AM Nursery & Sunday School 9:45 AM (Sept.-May) Fellowship Coffee Hour 11:15 AM Choir Rehearsal 11:30 AM Holy Day Masses as announced Confessions by appointment</p>	<p>EMMANUEL BIBLE CHURCH Pastor Gary Wilcox 54 W. Main St. • Phone 717-3011 Worship and Word: Sunday 10:30 AM Fellowship Lunch: 12:30 PM Discipleship Hour: Sunday 1:30 PM Bible Study & Prayer: Wednesday 6 PM</p>	<p>OPPENHEIM OPPENHEIM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Route 29 Rev. Jack Ford 315-429-7381 Worship 9:30 Sundays, Totally Awesome God-TAG time 6:30 PM Wednesdays beginning in Oct., Sunday School 9 AM beginning September 18th</p>	<p>SALISBURY CENTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 2545 State Route 29 Pastor Mark Hediger, 315-429-9085 pastormarkh@aol.com Sunday Worship 10 AM</p>	<p>SPRINGFIELD CENTER ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH 7690 Rt. 80, Springfield Center 315-858-4016 Fr. Kyle Grennen, Priest-in-Charge Sunday Eucharist, 9:30 AM Coffee - Fellowship follows service Holy Days - as announced</p>	
		<p>ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH St. John the Baptist Parish 7516 N. Main St. • Phone 845-8017 Saturday Vigil 4 PM Sunday Mass 8:30 AM</p>	<p>SLOANSVILLE SCHOHARIE VALLEY GOSPEL CHURCH Pastor Pat Andreoli 133 Sprakers Rd., Sloansville, NY 518-864-5397 svgchurch@gmail.com Wednesday Prayer 6 PM; Sunday Morning Bible Study 9:45 AM; Worship Service Sunday Morning 10:30 AM</p>	<p>FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH Springfield Center, NY Rev. Terence Brant 607-264-3035 Sunday School 10 AM Morning Worship 11 AM Wed. night Bible Study 7 PM</p>	
				<p>ST. JOHNSTOWN BETHESDA FELLOWSHIP 34 S. Division St., St. Johnstown, NY 13452 518-568-2678 Summer Schedule Sunday Worship 10 AM Wed. Worship and Prayer 6 PM</p>	
					<p>TRIBES HILL SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH 111 3rd Ave., Tribes Hill 518-829-7301 Mass Saturday 4 PM</p>



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Poland from 5

• Senior Garrett Rankins set the school record in the long jump at a Jan. 20, 2022, meet at Utica College with a mark of 18 feet and 1/4 inch. This record was previously held by 2019 Poland graduate Joe Grimaldi, who set the record on Dec. 14, 2018.

Poland Athletic Director Greg Haver said having students competing in more events and setting school records helps elevate the program and make others more interested in it. “I think it’s great,” he said.

The indoor track season started in November, with the first meets in early December. The league championship was on Jan. 28. Sectionals were Feb. 3, and some students have qualified for sectionals.

The number of students in the indoor track program has been strong, Haver said.

“I think the quality of the program has increased too,” he said. “It’s going very well.”

Having Joel and John Allen coaching the program together has also been effective, Haver said.

“The kids tend to want to compete for them,” Haver said. “They have a good relationship with the students, so I think that helps.”

Joel said the coaches have a really good group of kids in indoor track – including some younger students – so they’re hoping to build the program from there.

John said that with some younger students joining the team and with some excitement around the team due to the school records, it could catch the interest of other students.

“We’re hoping to grow it,” John said.

Offering cross country, indoor track and outdoor track is helpful for students who are interested in running and other track events, Haver said. “I think they’re all kind of related,” he said.

When Poland built an outdoor track as part of Capital Project 2020, that also helped increase interest in the running programs, and it gives students something to be proud of, Haver said.

“I think when you have nice facilities, it makes kids feel more invested – instead of being a team without a track,” he said. “I think it makes them more interested.”



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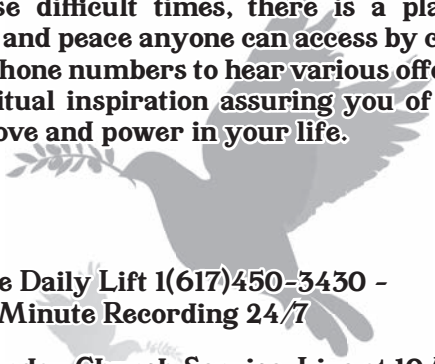
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Community Calendar

February 2022

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12

Holidays

2nd - Groundhog Day
14th - Valentine’s Day
21st - Presidents’ Day

March 2022

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
27	28	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Holidays

13th - Daylight Saving Begins
17th - St. Patrick’s Day
20th - Spring Begins

April 2022

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Holidays

17th - Easter
18th - Taxes Due
22nd - Earth Day

FEBRUARY 3

Stretch Limousine Passenger Safety Task Force to Meet. The first meeting of the Task Force, to be held virtually, has been scheduled at 1 p.m. Those wishing to attend may access the meeting by registering at tinyurl.com/2p8fnkwa

Creative Textile Fibers Group at 12:30–2:30 p.m. at Fort Plain Free Library, 19 Willett St., Fort Plain. For more information call 518.993.4646 or visit www.fortplainfreelibrary.org.

FEBRUARY 4

Black and White Hero Sale. Pickup 11 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3–6 p.m. Ilion Masonic Temple, 118 Morgan St. Pick-up at Third Street (side door). Pre-orders requested. \$8. Sponsored by Evening State Valley Chapter, #82, OES. Call 315.269.6493.

Chicken and Biscuit Dinner at 3 p.m. Stratford United Methodist Church, 1511 State Route 29A, Stratford. Call 315.429.7085 to reserve meals. Pick up starts at 3 p.m.

Black and White Hero Sale. Pickup 11 a.m.–1 p.m. and 3–6 p.m. Ilion Masonic Temple, 118 Morgan St. Pick-up at Third Street (side door). Pre-orders requested. \$8. Sponsored by Evening State Valley Chapter, #82, OES. Call 315.269.6493.

FEBRUARY 5

Second Annual Wintergreen Winterfest 11 a.m.–2 p.m. at Wintergreen Park Road, Canajoharie. For more information contact www.facebook.com/events/238957741665909.

Second Annual Wintergreen Winterfest 11 a.m.–2 p.m. at Wintergreen Park Road, Canajoharie. For more information contact www.facebook.com/events/238957741665909.

FEBRUARY 6

Herkimer Originals v. Providence Pirates 3:15 p.m. at Herkimer College, 100 Reservoir Rd., Herkimer. Visit herkimeroriginals.com

American Red Cross Blood Drive 12–6 p.m. at St. Johns St. Marks Church, 143 Church Street, Canajoharie. Make an appointment at tinyurl.com/46b6ev4y. Sponsor Code: StJohns-StMarksCanajoharie

American Red Cross Blood Drive 12:30–5:30 p.m. at American Legion Post 25, 43 West Main Street, Mohawk, NY. Sponsor Code: MohawkAL

Schoharie Crossing Lunchbox Lesson 12 p.m. Canal History: Food Preservation and Westward Expansion. Online via WebEx. For more information, call the Visitor Center at 518.829.7516 or email SchoharieCrossing@parks.ny.gov.

Children’s Story Hour 11–11:45 a.m. at Fort Plain Free Library, 19 Willett St, Fort Plain. For more information call 518.993.4646 or visit fortplainfreelibrary.org

How to Sell Your Wool to the Wool Pool 7 - 8:30 p.m. To learn more and register, visit tinyurl.com/PreparingForWoolPools or contact Dana M. Havas at dmh353@cornell.edu or 607.391.2664.

PS: It Works! Parent Education Program 6 - 7 p.m. First in series of workshops. Pre-register by contacting Roxanne Westcott, rmw38@cornell.edu or 518.668.4881. Online Training Via Zoom. Dates: Feb. 8, 15, 22 and March 1 and 8.

FEBRUARY 9
Join CCE Albany & Arbor Hill Elementary School for a **Financial Literacy Family Painting Party** 5-6 p.m. Register via: https://bit.ly/3qX7cq1

FEBRUARY 10

Creative Textile Fibers Group at 12:30–2:30 p.m. at Fort Plain Free Library, 19 Willett St., Fort Plain. For more information call 518.993.4646 or visit www.fortplainfreelibrary.org.

Cooking for the Love of the Planet 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Register at tinyurl.com/4avmawy4

FEBRUARY 12

Herkimer Originals v. Bennington Martens 7:05 p.m. at Herkimer College 100 Reservoir Rd., Herkimer. Visit herkimeroriginals.com

FEBRUARY 13

Second Sunday Snowshoe Workshop 1–3 p.m. at Landis Arboretum, 174 Lape Road, Esperance. For more information contact Landis Arboretum at 518.875.6935 or Email www.landisarboretum.org.

Millers Mills Ice Harvest 11 a.m. until the ice-house is full in mid-afternoon at 107 Finger Ave., Jordanville. Watch for signs off Route 51 or Jones Road off Jordanville Road. Parking and admission free. Dress warmly. Bring your camera. Subject to Mother Nature’s fickle ways. Food available. Visit www.millersmillsny.com for updates.

FEBRUARY 15

Children’s Story Hour 11–11:45 a.m. at Fort Plain Free Library, 19 Willett St, Fort Plain. For more information call 518.993.4646 or visit fortplainfreelibrary.org

Take part in in a special winter 15-mile challenge that you can do anywhere in the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor. Walk, run, hike, snowshoe, or cross-country ski at your local park, state park, on the Canalway Trail, or even in your own neighborhood—if it’s in the corridor, it counts. Sign up and log your miles by Feb. 28 at eriecanalway.org/explore/challenge

FEBRUARY 16

SMH House Monthly Dinner 5 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. at St. Margaret’s Ecumenical & Retreat Center at 47 Jordan Road, New Hartford. Chicken and Biscuits dinner. Call 315.724.2324 to sign up. Take-Out at 5 p.m. Dine-In at 5:30 p.m. \$15pp suggested donation. Visit www.stmargarets houseny.org.

Tips for Losing Weight & Keeping it Off! 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 6 - 7 p.m. Zoom Meetings

FEBRUARY 17

Schoharie Crossing Online Winter Lectures - Third Thursdays at 7 p.m. Child Labor on the D&H Canal with Bill Merchant of the D&H Canal Museum – online via WebEx. For more information, call the Visitor Center at 518.829.7516 or email SchoharieCrossing@parks.ny.gov.

Creative Textile Fibers Group at 12:30–2:30 p.m. at Fort Plain Free Library, 19 Willett St., Fort Plain. For more information call 518.993.4646 or visit www.fortplainfreelibrary.org.

Roast Pork Dinner 4-7 p.m. or sold out at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 594 Albany Street, Little Falls. \$12. To go only. Free deliveries to Herkimer and Little Falls. Call 315.741.4672 to reserve dinner.

FEBRUARY 18

Kick the Winter Blues 1:30 p.m. at St. Margaret’s Ecumenical & Retreat Center at 47 Jordan Road, New Hartford. Film, popcorn, and company. Visit www.stmargarets houseny.org.

Herkimer County Chamber of Commerce Legislative Breakfast 7-9:30 a.m. at Herkimer College, 100 Reservoir Rd., Herkimer. \$30. Call 315. 866.7820.

FEBRUARY 19

Holistic Wellness: Treats for Furry Friend 10 a.m. Registrants may email MB at mem467@cornell.edu to receive recipes so that you can make these items at home. Register at tinyurl.com/46w5ctyh

Empowered Women Event at Crosspoint Church. For registration and additional information go to www.crosspointchurchonline.org.

FEBRUARY 21

A Winter Walk 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at Robert V. Riddell State Park, NY-28, Oneonta (just north of I-88 exit 17). Program is free but pre-registration is required so that we can communicate with you in advance of the program to advise you of trail conditions. Register at occainfo.org/calendar/winter-walk/

FEBRUARY 22

Children’s Story Hour 11–11:45 a.m. at Fort Plain Free Library, 19 Willett St, Fort Plain. For more information call 518.993.4646 or visit fortplainfreelibrary.org

To promote your event, please contact us at cfeditor@leepub.com or 518.673.0143.

Millers Mills Ice Harvest returns

The Millers Mills Community in the town of Columbia is again planning their annual Ice Harvest for Sunday, Feb. 13. As always, this event is subject to Mother Nature's fickle ways. Both sufficient ice to cut and snow for sleighs to carry the ice are critical. The Millers Mills Grange sponsors the event and feels compelled to carry on this tradition to offer younger generations an opportunity to step back in time and experience a task that their ancestors once did.

The use of old hand tools to saw, separate and load the ice blocks onto horse-drawn sleighs

maintains the authenticity of a 19th century ice harvest. The only exception is the antique, gas-powered machine used to score the ice the day before. This ensures that the blocks are of uniform size, and easier to cut and handle. The harvest begins at 11 a.m. and continues until the icehouse is full in mid-afternoon. Visitors are encouraged to participate in cutting the ice, if a minimum eight-inch ice depth is met for safety. Cedarville Fire Department and Ambulance crew will be on location.

The Millers Mills Pond (Little Unadilla Lake) has been the source for

ice harvesting since its founding by Andrew Miller over two centuries ago. During that time ice was needed to preserve food and cool farmers' milk. After electricity arrived in 1941, the

community church, and later the Grange, continued harvesting ice to freeze the custard for ice cream making during summer socials. Today the Millers Mills Ice Harvest has become a na-

tionally known community effort to preserve and share a small facet of rural American heritage.

An impressive team of draft horses haul the ice from the Millers Mills Pond to the icehouse

a short distance away. Packed in sawdust and snow, the ice blocks last well into the following summer. The empty sleighs provide spectator rides back to the pond.

Visitors to the nearby Grange Hall can purchase chili, hot dogs, donuts and hot chocolate at the cash concession. The Community Church located by the icehouse will have an abbreviated warm menu too.

Millers Mills is in extreme southern Herkimer County. The Grange is located at 107 Finger Ave. Watch for signs to Millers Mills Road off Route 51 or Jones Road off Jordanville Road. Parking and admission are free. Dress warmly and bring your camera.

Anyone planning to attend can check the status of the ice and the event by visiting the Millers Mills Grange website at millersmillsny.com or by checking their Facebook page for updates and additional information on the day's events.



Come hang out on the ice in Millers Mills on Feb. 13.
Photo by Dylan Hopkins



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How to host the ultimate watch party

Watch parties provide great opportunities to get together with friends and family. Such gatherings can be centered around Hollywood awards shows, sporting events or even the finale of a popular television series. Regardless of what's being watched, hosts can employ various strategies to make the party as fun and memorable as possible for themselves and their guests.

• **Stock up on food and drinks.** Even if the festivities won't include a sit-down dinner, stock up on food and drinks so no one goes hungry or thirsty. If the event you're watching is slated to begin shortly after dinnertime, consider hosting a potluck pre-event dinner. A potluck dinner helps take some of the burden off of hosts and the pre-event meal can be a great time

to share thoughts and theories about the event everyone is there to watch. Provide plenty of nonalcoholic beverages like water, soda, tea, and coffee as well. Alcoholic beverages can be served, but hosts should keep everyone's consumption to a minimum to ensure guests make it home safe.

• **Prepare some event-specific treats.** Some event-specific treats like cookies that look like baseballs or desserts designed to mimic the appearance of an awards show statuette can inject a little something extra into the party.

• **Send guests home with event-specific party favors.** Event-specific party favors also can be a nice touch that guests won't soon forget. If you're gathering to watch a big game on the gridiron, pass out foam fingers with league or team logos. If it's the finale of a beloved television series, hand out show-related mementos that allude to a specific and important episode, character or plot point in the show's history.

• **Make sure everyone has a seat and some space.** Before inviting guests, conduct a reasonable assessment of your viewing space and determine how many guests can fit and sit comfortably in the space. Events like games and awards shows tend to last several hours, and guests will want a comfortable seat and a little space to spread out. Tailor the size of your guest list to your available space.

• **Upgrade your tech.** The COVID-19 pandemic forced the cancellation of many watch parties, and in the interim hosts' tech might have

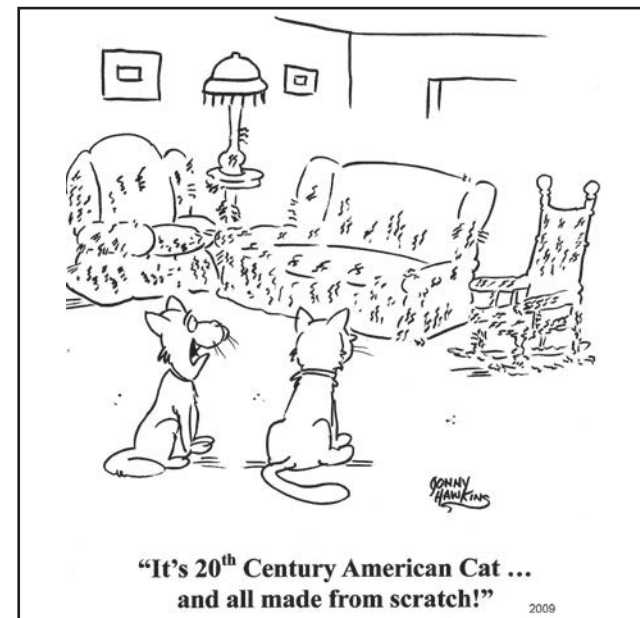
fallen a bit behind the times. Shop around for new items if your television could be a few inches larger or your surround sound system could use an upgrade to make any audiophile proud. Guests will appreciate the high-quality images and sound, and hosts will enjoy the upgrades long after the party has ended.

• **Fill the down time.** A television show watch party may not have much down time, but games and awards shows will have some breaks in the action. Some fun games like bingo can keep guests engaged even when the action on the screen slows down.

Hosts can up the fun factor of watch parties with a few simple strategies to make the festivities feel unique.



Hosts can employ various strategies to make watch parties as fun and memorable as possible for themselves and their guests.



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Empowered Women event planned

On Feb. 19 an all-day event designed to help attendees find hope in a hectic world will feature multiple Dove Award winner Nicole C. Mullen and including Pattie Height, the founder of Out of Egypt Ministries. The free event, named "Empowered Women Empower Women," includes workshops and keynote presentations throughout the day to help women who may feel stuck or hopeless. The intention is for women to come away with the understanding that they are not alone and where to find support.

"God can work through you in and where you are at. You have not been forgotten," said one of the event plan-

ners, Rebeca Hill, from the church. "Crosspoint Church's Empowered Women Empower Women Evangelistic Event is going to be full of community support, empowerment and spreading love. Where hope will be poured into you."

Registration is required for this free event and childcare will be provided. Morning and afternoon sessions will feature breakout sessions and keynote speakers Height, whose church's goal is to come alongside the body of Christ to help them understand the people of the LGBT community as well as cultural issues so the church can be better equipped to minister to them with both grace and truth. Mullen recorded her first

solo album, "Don't Let Me Go," in 1991. She continued her singing-songwriting-choreography career singing backup for Michael W. Smith and the Newsboys, writing for Jaci Velasquez and working as a dancer and choreographer with Amy Grant. During Mullen's first marriage, she endured physical and mental abuse, and gave her motivation to help other women.

Lunch and childcare are provided. Lunch is provided for attendees; however, children in childcare need to bring their own packed lunch.

For registration and additional information go to crosspointchurchonline.org.

Consumer alert: Division of Consumer Protection urges New Yorkers to be aware of at-home COVID-19 testing scams

The New York State Division of Consumer Protection (DCP) is warning about scammers taking advantage of the free COVID-19 test government program to steal personal information for unscrupulous purposes. Due to the high demand, scammers may start using techniques that typically arise with a free government event, such as falsely claiming to be online providers of the tests; sending fake emails and texts that contain harmful links designed to steal your personal information; and using robocalls to pitch testing information.

"The arrival of the COVID-19 free at-home

tests is one more tool in the fight to end this brutal pandemic, but unfortunately, it also creates new opportunities for unscrupulous scammers to attempt to lure people into unintentionally providing their personal information," said Acting Secretary of State Robert J. Rodriguez. "As the free at-home test program is rolled out, New Yorkers can thwart the scammers by keeping their personal, financial and health information safe and questioning any requests for a social security number, credit card, health insurance or other personally identifiable information from anyone not affiliated with a trusted health or government entity."

"The availability of free COVID-19 test kits from the federal government will help millions of Americans to have multiple

tests on-hand as we continue to monitor and navigate the winter surge," said NYS Health Commissioner Dr. Mary T. Bassett. "I urge New Yorkers to be vigilant in safeguarding their identity while they are protecting their health and always verify that a source is legitimate before providing personal information."

Consumers should also be aware that the only website for the free at-home test kits is covidtests.gov. This link will direct you to a USPS page to complete the free at-home test kit request form. The form only asks for your name and address. It does not require you enter a Social Security number, credit card number, health insurance number or any other personally identifiable

Consumer 12

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Molten chocolate in every bite

Dessert is often the culmination of Valentine's Day festivities. Couples can enjoy decadent desserts while out on the town but waiting to indulge until you arrive home gives couples time to digest and savor the rich flavors more completely.

Of course, when it comes to Valentine's Day desserts, chocolate must make an appearance. This recipe for "Molten Chocolate Cakes" is a mix of spongy cake and warm, flowing custard.

Dress up the cakes even further with berries and whipped cream or chocolate shavings. Try this recipe, courtesy of Baker's® Baking Chocolate.

Molten Chocolate Cakes

Serves 6

1 package (6 squares) Baker's® Bittersweet Baking Chocolate
10 tablespoons butter
1 1/2 cups powdered sugar
1/2 cup flour
3 whole eggs

3 egg yolks

Grease six custard cups or soufflé dishes. Place on baking sheet.

Microwave chocolate and butter in a large microwavable bowl on high for 2 minutes or until butter is melted. Stir until chocolate is completely melted. Add powdered sugar and flour; mix well. Add whole eggs and egg yolks; stir with wire whisk until well blended. Divide batter evenly among prepared custard cups.

Bake at 425 F for 14 to 15 minutes or until cakes are firm around edges but soft in the centers. Let stand 1 minute. Run small knife around cakes to loosen. Carefully invert cakes onto dessert dishes. Garnish as desired. Serve immediately.

Tip: Batter can be made a day ahead; pour into prepared custard cups. Cover with plastic wrap; refrigerate. When ready to serve, uncover and bake as directed.

Consumer from 11

information. The service is free.

Every home in the U.S. is eligible to order four free at-home COVID-19 tests. To help ensure that residents have tests on hand if a need arises, the federal government is purchasing one billion at-home, rapid COVID-19 tests to give to Americans at no cost. A half-billion tests are available for order and are being mailed directly to households around the country. People are able to order their tests online at covidtests.gov, and tests will typically ship within seven - 12 days of ordering. This distribution method can spur a wave of scams if people are not aware of the right website or where to go to get the test.

To avoid being victims of at home COVID-19 testing scams, the DCP offers the following tips:

- Don't click on links from sources you don't know. It could download a virus onto your computer or device. Make sure the anti-malware and anti-virus software on your computer is up to date.
- Be aware of emails coming from unknown senders. Watch for emails claiming to be from the CDC or experts claiming to have information about free at-home COVID testing kits. For the most up-to-date information about the coronavirus, visit the New York State Department of Health website.
- Ignore online offers for at-home COVID-19 tests or emails claiming you can get your free at-home testing kit sooner. If you see ads touting getting your at-home COVID-19 testing kit sooner, ask yourself: Is an ad or

sales pitch a trusted source of information?

- Be aware of emails asking for your personal information. Do your homework when it comes to sharing your personal information over email. Confirm by calling the sender.
 - Hang up on illegal robocallers. The federal government will not call you to offer you a free testing kit. If you receive a call about free at-home COVID-19 testing, hang up. Don't press any numbers. The recording might say that pressing a number will let you speak to a live operator or remove you from their call list, but instead it might lead to more robocalls.
 - Official government websites use ".gov." A .gov website belongs to an official government organization in the U.S.
 - Secure .gov websites use HTTPS. A lock symbol or https:// means you've safely connected to the .gov website. Share sensitive information only on official, secure websites.
- If you choose to shop online for at home COVID testing kits, keep these tips in mind:
- Make sure the test you're buying is authorized by the FDA. Check the FDA's lists of antigen diagnostic tests and molecular diagnostic tests before you buy to find the tests authorized for home use. (EUA is "emergency use authorization.")
 - Check out a seller before you buy, especially if you're buying from a site you don't know. Search online for the website, company or seller's name plus

words like "scam," "complaint" or "review."

- Compare online reviews from a wide variety of websites. You can get a good idea about a company, product or service from reading user reviews on various retail or shopping comparison sites. Think about the source of the review. Ask yourself: Where is this review coming from? Is it from an expert organization or individual customers?

- Pay by credit card. If you're charged for an order you never got, or for a product that's not as advertised, contact your credit card company and dispute the charge.

For up-to-date information on COVID-19 testing and vaccination information, visit the NYS Department of Health website or call the COVID-19 Hotline at 1.888.364.3065.

The NYS DCP serves to educate, assist and empower the state's consumers. For more consumer protection information, call the DCP Helpline at 800.697.1220, Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. or visit the DCP website at dos.ny.gov/consumerprotection. The division can also be reached via Twitter at @NYSConsumer or Facebook at facebook.com/nysconsumer.

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Q: Do you sell on line?

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Q: Can we shop in the store and still have our items shipped home?

A: YES! Our boaters and cyclists ask this one a lot.

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Herkimer College appoints Procopio to assistant director of public relations

Herkimer County Community College has appointed Kari Procopio of New Hartford to the position of assistant director of public relations. Procopio will play a key role in planning, executing and assessing internal and external

communication strategies that increase the visibility and reputation of the college with a variety of stakeholders and the general public.

Procopio brings more than 20 years of experience in communications, marketing and public relations work to the position. She most recently held the position of deputy director of administration and community engagement for the Utica Zoo, overseeing administrative operations and directing community engagement.

Procopio served nearly seven years in various roles at YWCA Mohawk Valley, where she helped advance the mission of the organization through grant writing and acquisition, public policy advocacy, communications and community engagement.

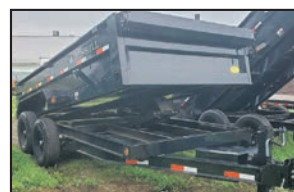
She also has experience as a project manager for Brockett Creative Group, communications director for the American Red Cross Mohawk Valley Chapter, freelance copywriter, corporate events planner, reporter and broadcaster.

Procopio holds a bachelor's degree in journalism, with a concentration in political science, from Utica College.



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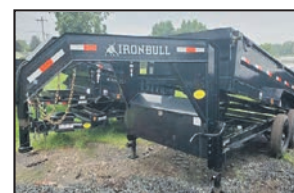
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Valentine's Day gifts couples enjoy together

Valentine's Day is a time to bring smiles to the faces of loved ones - particularly the special someone in a person's life.

Gifts that appeal directly to spouses or significant others may be the standard, but gifts couples can use together can bring them closer together. The following are some great Valentine's Day gifts couples can enjoy together.

- **Quirky mugs:** Mug sets come in all shapes and sizes and express various sentiments. Some even feature interlocking designs designed to symbolize that couples are two pieces of one puzzle. Kissing mugs, which look like lips touching when they are brought together, are perfect for couples who enjoy their morning coffee together. Look for them at www.uncommon-goods.com.

- **Matching robes:** Plush terry cloth robes need not be reserved for luxurious stays at premiere hotels. Coordinating robes can be monogrammed and worn on lazy days when gathering in front of a cozy fire.

- **Charcuterie set:** A romantic meal is the start of any Valentine's Day celebration. Invest in a compact charcuterie board with two matching wine glasses and enjoy the set on date nights at home.

- **MasterClass lesson:** Purchase a MasterClass instructional (www.masterclass.com) and learn

photography tricks or insider tips from established professionals together.

- **Travel excursion:** Jet set to an exotic locale with



Valentine's Day gifting may be even more enjoyable when gift-giving focuses on presents couples can enjoy together.

a planned adventure. Parents can arrange for a sitter, friend or relative to look after the children so the trip provides some one-on-one time. This trip can serve as the second honeymoon couples dream about.

- **Custom cornhole set:** Couples who love tailgating or opening up their homes (and yards) to guests can purchase monogrammed or custom-carved bean bag toss boards.

- **Fancy coffee maker:** Couples who spend more time in take-out coffee shops than they probably should can brush up on their barista skills at home. There are plenty of coffee makers on the market that can help couples whip up lattes, cappuccinos or espressos with ease.

- **Wine club membership:** Couples who enjoy sampling the latest vintages and flavors may enjoy a wine subscription. Winc.com is just one of the delivery services available. Or couples who prefer to be a little more hands-on can experiment with winemaking kits.

- **Hot tub:** What can be more relaxing than soaking in a warm bath of bubbling water? A backyard hot tub turns up the heat on relaxation and time spent together.

- **Tokens of love:** Matching or coordinating bracelets, necklaces or even tattoos can serve as enduring symbols of a couple's love.



Now Here's A Tip

by JoAnn Derson

- File this one under safety AND energy smarts: Clean the dryer vent after every load. Clean the dryer vent screen monthly with a gentle soap and water bath. Rinse well and dry thoroughly before inserting back into your dryer.

- I used to struggle with plastic wrap every time I tried to use it. But now, it's a breeze since I learned to do these two things: One, keep plastic wrap in the freezer. It unrolls evenly, not one side or the other. Two, use a serrated knife to cut it instead of relying on the metal strip down the side of the box. You lay it out on the counter, and just run the knife down the edge you want to cut. Works like magic, and it's no longer frustrating. - G.S. in Georgia

- Store an apple or two with your potatoes to keep them from sprouting. Be sure to check them often.

- Cut cotton pads in half to double your supply. They are typically big enough for two uses, and you can always use two halves if you need a whole.

- "Make a cream lipstick last longer and stay cleaner by using a make-up brush to apply. Your skin picks up more of the lipstick than necessary, one reason why we blot our lips afterward. But the brush uses only what you need. And there's less bacteria transfer." - Y.R. in Massachusetts

- Studies have shown that you spend more and make worse decisions when grocery shopping at

peak hours. To be a saver on the family food bill, pick a time to shop when you're not rushed; have a list; know the sales ahead of time and eat before you

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Mon. Feb. 7th – 1 PM at OUR FACILITY – We will be selling 75 head of the Open heifers and calves from both Parker Farms Herds 1&2 - all AI sired. Normal Monday sale & Monthly Fat cow & Feeder Sale.

Fri. Feb. 11th – Parker Farm 1 – 11 AM – Sale held at the farm: 163 County (CR 27) Highway 27, Granville, NY. Selling 80 Holsteins AI sired Cows in various stages of lactation presently ave. 51# in the tank. DHI RHA 17,236 3.8 648 3.5 525. 30 bred heifers – well grown short bred to springing. We will be selling the milk calves at the farm also.

Sat. Feb. 12th – Parker Farm 2 – 11 AM – Sale held at the farm: 1599 County Highway 28, (CR 28) Granville, NY. Selling 120 Holsteins AI sired cows in all stages of lactation presently ave. 62# in the tank. DHI RHA 16654 3.6 593 3.1 498. We will be selling the milk calves at the farm also.

Mon. Feb. 14th – Normal Monday Sale & Monthly Heifer Sale.

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NYS Animal Protection Federation names new board president

The New York State Animal Protection Federation (NYSAPF) has announced the election of Stacie A. Haynes of Westford as Board President, effective Jan. 1, 2022.

Formed in 2010, the NYSAPF was established to safeguard the well-being of all animals through legislative and policy initiatives in NYS. It is the voice of NY's animal shelters, humane societies and animal welfare organizations, and a trade/educational resource for its member organizations striving to maintain the highest standards in animal welfare and care.

Haynes, who has served on the NYSAPF Board of Directors since 2019, is looking forward to tackling the federation's ambitious 2022 humane agenda.

"This year's agenda involves a number of key priorities impacting companion animals, including shelter and rescue standards, stopping the puppy mill pipeline, and strengthening animal cruelty laws," Haynes said. "It is truly an honor and a privilege to work alongside NYSAPF Executive Director Libby Post on issues that we know affect our animals each and every day."

Haynes is no stranger to animal welfare issues. As the executive director of the Susquehanna Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SQSPCA) since October

2015, she was the driving force behind the SQSPCA's \$5 million SHELTER US Capital Campaign and the resulting state-of-the-art animal shelter. Haynes spearheaded the formation of Otsego County's Animal Cruelty Task Force in 2019, a partnership between the shelter, the Otsego County Sheriff's Department, the District Attorney's Office and area veterinarians. In 2020, Haynes was named one of America's Top 10 Animal Defenders by the Animal Legal Defense Fund.

"Stacie is the best example of who and what animal shelter professionals are supposed to be and do," said Post. "As a board member and the federation's treasurer, Stacie's leadership and business acumen have kept us focused and moving ahead. I look forward to a great partnership that advances our legislative agenda and enhances the state of animal welfare in New York."

The SQSPCA is one of more than 100 NYSAPF members across the state adding its voice to animal welfare advocacy in NY. In addition to monitoring legislation and working to pass or defeat bills based on their impact on the state's network of animal shelters, the federation offers a wide array of member benefits.

"Our shelter has enjoyed many advantages as a result of our NYSAPF membership. We are kept up to date

on shelter issues involving New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, we have received guidance and technical assistance with our local advocacy efforts, assistance with the Companion Animal Capital Fund grant process and we have attended countless workshops on animal cruelty coordinated and/or sponsored by the federation," explained Haynes. "We have also received shelter improvement consulting services, which has significantly upgraded our operations. I urge all New York State animal shelters to join. It is an opportunity to strengthen your organization and to make a meaningful, lasting difference."

Haynes is especially proud of the NYSAPF's role in securing the NYS Companion Animal Capital Fund in the FY17 budget and ensuring it has remained in the state's annual budget in four of the last five years. COVID zeroed out many programs and services in that year's state budget.

"The Companion Animal Capital Fund helped to launch the SQSPCA's new facility. I look forward to continuing advocating for this fund to help other animal shelters and, ultimately, more animals statewide," Haynes said.

For more information about the NYSAPF and the federation's Education Fund, visit nysapf.org.

Fun facts about tarantulas

With their eight legs, large size and hairy bodies, it's no wonder that tarantulas strike terror in some people. However, for others, these arachnids are marvels to study and keep as pets.

Tarantulas are the largest spiders in the world. Nearly 1,000 species are known to science. Oddly

enough, the first spider to be called a "tarantula" wasn't a tarantula at all, but a large wolf spider that was believed to be causing a strange epidemic called "tarantism" in southern Italian city of Taranto between the 15th and 17th centuries. Though those fears were

misguided, the name tarantula remained and has been used for other large, hairy spiders.

Most tarantulas are placid and will not actively seek to bite anyone unless seriously goaded. In fact, most are inclined to flee. Furthermore, despite their large size, experts

say most tarantula venom has very low toxicity to humans and should a bite occur, it is no more harmful to a human than a bee sting, according to the environmental wellness resource One Kind Planet.

Tarantulas do not make webs like other spiders. Their silk is used for reproduction. To prepare for mating, a male tarantula will make something called a "sperm web." Females

will spin silk around their egg cases as a level of protection. Tarantulas also are unique in that they produce silk from their feet rather than spinnerets and silk glands.

One distinctive trait of tarantulas is their hairy bodies. Yet that isn't true hair. Unlike mammalian hair, which is made of keratin, arthropod "hair," which is actually setae, consists of chitin.

While it may seem like tarantulas will win most fights, the "tarantula hawk," actually a spider-hunting wasp, ventures into tarantula burrows in the wild and paralyzes the spider with a sting. Then it drags the spider back to its own burrow as a food source.

If tarantulas are to be kept as pets, it's important to note that they are not social animals and there should be only one to an enclosure, which should feature a secure, ventilated lid. Ground-dwelling tarantulas are better first spiders for beginners as they move more slowly than tree-dwelling species and can be more easily moved or handled. But it's best to handle tarantulas as little as possible, ideally only when cleaning their habitats.

Tarantulas often inspire fear. But these placid spiders can make for great and interesting pets.

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Budget-friendly Valentine's Day ideas

The National Retail Federation indicates Valentine's Day is the fifth largest spending event in the United States after the winter holidays and Mother's Day. Each February, people clamor to get gifts for their sweethearts and create romantic memories through fine dining and decadent desserts.

According to Finder, a tool used to navigate complex decision-making processes, Americans were expected to spend a combined \$50 billion on gifts and activities in 2021, with gifts averaging \$187. Men tend to spend more than women on Valentine's Day.

Everyone may be spending more on Valentine's Day this year due to inflation. In 2021, used cars and trucks, oil, meats and poultry, airline fares, and wom-

en's apparel were just some of the items that increased significantly in price. Finding ways to be frugal may be challenging this February, but these ideas are a start.

DIY card

While a card may be the smallest purchase on your shopping list, you can still save an average of \$3 to \$5 on a card by making one yourself or sending a free digital greeting.

Dine in

Restaurants are popular options for couples on Valentine's Day, but they can be busy and prices may be inflated. Many also offer limited prix fixe menus. By making a meal at home and picking and choosing less-costly ingredients, couples can save a substantial amount of money.

Be flexible with jewelry

You don't have to spend a fortune to make an impression with gifts. Diamonds may be a girl's best friend, but other stones are often less costly. Try giving a birthstone as an alternative. If gold is out of your price range, many sterling silver options are just as beautiful. In addition, consider warehouse retailers for jewelry purchases, as they may have lower costs.

Frugal flowers

The cost of roses definitely goes up near Valentine's Day, so consider giving another flower. Lilies can be lovely or maybe that special someone has a signature flower. A flowering plant, which will cost less than many bouquets and will last far beyond Valentine's Day if given care, is another alternative to consider.

Save on chocolate

Sweet treats are the name of the game, but many popular chocolate boxes can be pricey this time of year. Plan ahead and keep a stockpile of chocolates from Halloween or Christmas. Then use floral wire or pipe cleaners to turn bite-sized packages into a hand-made chocolate bouquet. Otherwise, purchase various

chocolate bars and package them with hot chocolate, chocolate cookies and other decadent offerings in a themed gift basket.

Saving on Valentine's Day comes down to being creative and focusing on the sentiment rather than the price.



Save on Valentine's Day festivities with a homemade meal, like a heart-shaped pizza at home.



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-ATTENTION-

The Dolgeville Central School District will be conducting public informational meetings for its proposed Capital Improvements Project at the following municipal locations:

- Salisbury Town Hall - Thursday, February 10th @ 6:30 p.m. •
- Stratford Town Hall - Thursday, February 10th @ 7:30 p.m. •
- Manheim Town Hall - Monday, February 14th @ 7 p.m. •
- Dolgeville Village Hall - Tuesday, February 22nd @ 5:30-6 p.m. •

There will also be a **Public Hearing** held at the Dolgeville Central School Sam Camardello Memorial Auditorium on Tuesday, **February 15th @ 6 p.m.**

The **Public Vote** will be held at the Dolgeville Central School High School Cafeteria on Tuesday, **March 1st** from 2-8 p.m.

Country Editor

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155 Building Materials/Supplies
157 Building Repair
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161 Bulk Foods / Spices
165 Business Opportunities
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173 Carpentry
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180 Catalogs
182 Catering
190 Chain Saws
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205 Christmas
214 Clocks & Repair
215 Collectibles
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312 Crafts
325 Custom Butchering
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510 Fresh Produce, Nursery
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811 Monuments
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820 Nurseries
910 Plants
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975 Rentals
980 Restaurant Supplies
1040 Services Offered
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Announcements

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Look for photos on estatesales.net & Craigslist

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FOR RENT: Nice 2 bedroom, 1 bath mobile home set up in quiet park out on Creek Road (Route 168), Mohawk. Rent \$725. Application process includes a credit check. Serious inquiries only. leatherstockingmhp@yahoo.com or see more details at leatherstockingmhp.com Text only to 315-723-4270



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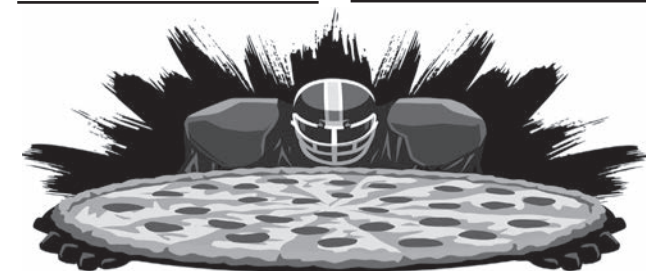
Murray snowblower, 24" cut 5hp, runs good, \$280. Troybilt snowblower, 24" cut 8hp electric start, runs good, \$400. GE electric stove, like new cond., \$100. 315-823-0672

3 UTILITY Trailers aluminum-4x8, 4x6; 40 gallon fish tank complete with walnut stand, lots of extras, \$15.00; Brother's printer new \$20.00; walnut desk, \$15.00; TV and Microwave stands, 2 Hamilton Beach toaster ovens, \$20/each; assorted antique chairs and tables, assorted bicycles. Call 315-894-1335

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THE TOWN OF SALISBURY will be accepting sealed bids for a 2012 Ford F-250 pickup with a Boss V-Plow. Automatic transmission, 6.2 liter V-8 engine. Approximately 190,000 miles, well maintained. Minimum bid to be \$7,000 with the Town Board's right to reject low bids. Truck to be sold in "as is" condition and can be seen at the town garage on St. Rt. 29. Sealed bids must be submitted by 6:30pm OR can be mailed to PO Box 241, Salisbury Center, NY 13454 and the sealed envelope must clearly marked "TRUCK BID" must be received by meeting time.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the German Flatts Board of Fire Commissioners will hold their regular meetings at 7:30 PM on the third(3rd) Thursday of every month at the Mohawk Village Hall, 28 Columbia St., Mohawk, NY. By order of the German Flatts Board of Fire Commissioners.



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Home Country

by Slim Randles

Windy... leave it to you to come up with something none of us ever really thought about before.”

“Well, Del,” Windy said to our one-man chamber of commerce, Delbert McLain, I figger you got more-a your finger on the pulsations of America than anybody else whoever lives ‘round here.”

Delbert’s promotional agility is amaz-

ing to behold. Why, just the International Knife Sharpening Olympics by itself was enough to make a guy legendary, and it didn’t even happen because they couldn’t find enough dull knives to get it started. But the idea was worthwhile.

“I’m thinking what you need, Windy, is a campaign. You know... let everyone know about you wanting an honorary degree and just keep at it until it... happens.”

“Campaign?”

“Sure. How many local folks realize just how important that degree is to you?”

“Jest a couple’s all.”

“Hey, guy,” Delbert said, “let’s get out there and beat the drum on this. Okay? I’m behind your campaign all the way. Well, no, I can’t actually neglect my duties as the chamber of commerce to actively... campaign for you. But you figure something out and stick with it, and my mon-ey’s on you getting that degree. And if anyone asks for a reference, you just tell them to ask me.”

“Thanks so much, Delbert, you’re the best. So what should I do now?”

“Beats me,” he said, “but I know you’ll



come up with something.”

Brought to you by “Home Country” (the book), published by Rio Grande Press and available on Amazon.



Dance cares (and muddy shoes) away with a cha-cha-cha doormat.

Photo Credit by Donna Erickson

Donna’s Day: Creative Family Fun

by Donna Erickson

Keep Out Mud With a Cha-Cha-Cha Doormat

Dance away mud, grit and grime from your shoes and boots with a whimsical doormat. Your family can paint it together and then use it every time you walk through the door during this wet and muddy season.

Why is it so much fun? The design is actually a set of four painted footprints arranged in such a way that your kids can follow them to do basic “cha-cha-cha” dance steps. Once they get the hang of the

moves, you won’t have to nag them the next time they walk through the door. Instead of asking “Did you wipe your feet?” for the umpteenth time, simply ask, “Did you do the cha-cha-cha?”

Here’s the stuff you’ll need to make your own cha-cha-cha doormat in three easy steps:

- One sturdy plain colored fiber doormat or large carpet sample
- A sheet of newspaper
- Marker
- Scissor
- Acrylic paint in two colors

- Sponge brush
- Here’s the fun:
1. Draw a pattern of the sole of a large boot or shoe on a sheet of newspaper. Cut out the paper shape. Make four.
 2. Tape the patterns onto the doormat in a “cha-cha-cha” step pattern. Two patterns should be next to each other at the top half of the doormat and the other two directly underneath.
 3. Outline each shape with a marker, remove the patterns and fill in the outline with paint. Let dry. Set it at your front or back

door.

Teach your kids the basic “cha-cha-cha” steps, and practice using the “footprints” as a guide. This might be a good time to ask a grandparent, aunt or uncle to step in and share their dancing skills with the kids. Who knows? Your child may be just baby steps away from “Dancing with the Stars”

- and your floors will stay relatively clean to boot!

Extra tip: If your kids have plain, solid color rubber rain boots, person-alize and brighten them with a few dabs of paint. Apply acrylic paint in squeeze bottles directly on the outside of clean, dry boots to make designs and patterns.

Find more family fun at

Living the country culture: Dan Sullivan

by Courtney Llewellyn

The village of Richfield Springs in Otsego County, NY, has a popula-tion of about a 1,000 people. The borough of Brooklyn has about 2.6 million. Even though Dan Sullivan grew up in New York City, he discovered his heart’s home

was the country.

Dan said he grew up playing on the streets of Brooklyn, just like any other city kid, but when he was 10 or 11 years old, he joined the Boy Scouts. Through their field trips and camps, he discovered the glory of Upstate New York. “It was so beautiful I was in tears,” he said. “I decided back then that I wanted to move to the country.”

For the complete story, be sure to check out countryculture.co.

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Mega Maze

Solution

SCRAMBLERS

solution

1. Trade 2. Spartan;
3. Latent; 4. Radio

Today's Word

SPOILED

GERMAN COMPOSERS

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

ACROSS

1 Shade
4 Frontiersman Crockett
8 Pocket bread
12 100 percent
13 Dutch cheese
14 Pedestal occupant
15 Cowboy's sweetie
16 Do math
18 Slowpoke
20 Hydrocarbon suffix
21 Cushions
24 Persian Gulf emirate
28 Nutritional label info
32 Flamingo's color
33 Copper head?
34 Lauder of cosmetics
36 Summer on the Seine
37 Guns the engine
39 Toe of Italy's boot
41 Fashion
43 Hit with a stun gun
44 Ms. Thurman
46 Gossip
50 Baseball's "Iron Man"
55 Deluge refuge
56 Now, in a memo

57 Cowboy's neckwear
58 Luau bowlful
59 Quick swims
60 Winter blanket
61 Novelist Rand

DOWN

1 Crones
2 — Bator
3 First lady of scat
4 Proclaim
5 Nabokov novel
6 Batman portrayer Kilmer
7 Village People hit
8 Accumulate
9 Hollywood's Lupino
10 Nanny's charge
11 Hearty quaff
17 German conjunction
19 Wall St. debut
22 Platter
23 Attack
25 Coffin stand
26 Con
27 Furniture brand
28 2006 Pixar film
29 Help a hood
30 Tax
31 Actress Ward
35 "Calm down!"
38 Drinks noisily
40 Spell-off
42 Brit. record label
45 LAPD alerts
47 Wine valley
48 Helen's home
49 Related
50 Scoundrel
51 "— was saying ..."
52 Napkin's place
53 "— -Tiki"
54 "Evil Woman" band

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MAGIC MAZE ● GERMAN COMPOSERS

ASPNKIFCARXVSQO
LJHECAXVTLEDNAH
RMENDELS SOHNPNL
JLLIEWHFDSDADGBY
XVTRBVP SNMUYOAM
KIGEUDOCUIBABZW
XWUTSRHHQOPHRNT
LJIGSFCUTDCOATZ
AYXWYSATREBUHCS
VTSRPOBZNLEKMC I
JIGFECNEGNIBSBL

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
Unlisted clue hint: JOHANN SEBASTIAN —

Beethoven	Debussy	Mendelssohn	Strauss
Bingen	Handel	Schubert	Wagner
Brahms	Haydn	Schumann	Weill
Chopin	Liszt	Schutz	

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Mega Maze

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Cabinet is moved; 2. Neckline differs; 3. Handle is mis- ing; 4. Gloves are different; 5. Apron is different; 6. Pants are different.

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"Off-hand, I'd say he's _____."

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!

Swap
DATER
Warrior
PARANTS
Unrelated
TALENT
Static
AIRDO

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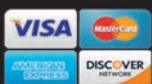
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See dealer for full warranty details

*See dealer for full warranty details.



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