

FREE



A GOOD NEIGHBOR NEWS

"STRENGTHENING OUR LOCAL ECONOMY"

MARCH 2012

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INSIDE THE TEA ROOM



by Brenda Dwyer ©

The other day we had a bizarre twist in weather and enjoyed 60 degree weather for a few afternoon hours. It was bliss. I ran off to the local grocery to get some flowers for my desk – Spring Fever had hit me smack in the heart! Once back at my office, with flowers arranged and sitting prettily upon my desk I realized that I couldn't concentrate no matter how hard I tried so instead of creating a headache from trying too hard, I decided to go for a drive. I had no idea where I was headed when I left the office but I found my destination within 5 minutes. I parked in front of my pathway garden and looked out over the expanse of it. I couldn't help but dream of the wonderful hours that could be spent on hands and knees in the dirt nurturing tiny plants so that they grow

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A GOOD NEIGHBOR NEWS

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CURRENT READERSHIP:
36,000 AND GROWING!



I believe that anyone can conquer fear by doing the things he fears to do, provided he keeps doing them until he gets a record of successful experience behind him.

Eleanor Roosevelt

by Brenda Dwyer ©

Mount Baldy (the affectionate name referring to Mt. Baldhead in Saugatuk, MI is a 123 ft. tall living sand dune that had a staircase containing 282 steps (there are now 303 as they have been replaced since my last encounter) that is basically "sound" resting against a very steep grade. On any given day you will see many (hundreds in season) of people ascending and descending this gateway to one of the most beautiful views in all of Michigan in the hopes of staying fit. Families use Mt. Baldy as a segue way into quality time ... athletes use it for serious train-

ing, even pregnant mothers use it in hopes that it will somehow make their births that much easier and their pre-baby weight that much more attainable. All the "whos" in "Saug"ville climb Mt. Baldy – regardless of age, and by the way, don't worry ... if you're not in shape – you will be. I first "landed" in Saugatuk in the very early Spring of 2003. I say "landed" because I arrived by motor yacht – having come around from Lake St. Claire, MI. The trip was long and slow and unforgettable. The waters were F.A.C., the fog hung low over the recent thaw as the air temperatures began to climb out of their

winter slumber. At any other time, due to the "pea soup" fog, there would have been Coast Guard Advisories not to travel on the open Lakes but for three days we were the only boat out there so the weather itself was the only possible threat. I remember having complete faith – devoid of fear – when I was on that boat. I loved watching the wake we created as she sliced through the water. We would take turns steering her or we would put her on auto pilot and play a game or eat a meal. It was warm on the fly bridge and the seating was ample and so very comfortable. The banquette of seating in front up on the fly bridge was one of my favorite places on the entire boat, however, if we were underway it was hard to keep me from going down to the main level and out to the bow of the vessel – there is nothing in this world that I have ever experienced that is

like that feeling of freedom when you lay your body against the rail and lean out as the wind and the spray kiss your face (think Titanic). Now let me share here that I once wore fear like a heavy cloak due to one thing that I just couldn't overcome – heights. Let me tell you that what I am about to say next is something I don't even understand. As a small child I remember visiting the Capitol Building in Springfield, IL and literally hugging the walls as we made our way around the 2nd and 3rd stories while my parents and siblings looked down from the railing bordering the center of the rotunda at the people milling about below. I was petrified, and yet it made no sense (not even to me). My father, as you know, was a pilot by profession and we owned our own little Piper Cub and I had no

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SALISBURY'S STAKE

by Stephanie J. Salisbury

It's interesting to find that there is nothing I am going through that is uncommon. Throughout history, my troubles are not unique. Even in ancient times, the feelings and emotions I have on a regular basis were valid, were written about.

I've never been much of a fan of the Psalms, but periodically one of them hits me in just the right place in my heart at just the right time. My life seems to be cyclical -- I feel renewed and energized, I get a lot accomplished, I have a sense of worth,

then I have some setbacks, life is a great struggle and I am overwhelmed, and I feel like a failure. Inevitably, when I am low, I can't imagine ever being 'up' again and, when I am 'up', I still have a clenched sense of imminent failure and doom slyly working its way through my psyche. I always feel like, no matter how well things are going, I am not okay.

Today, I read this passage. I've read it before, but never with the sense that it spoke to me that I had today:

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A WORLD OF WONDERS

AN AUGUST DAY

by Monica Clark

By the time you read this, months will have passed since I sat down to write it. That's what's odd about writing this column— I'm always writing into the future, but this time I decided I'm sticking to the past! I'm giving us an August day, a day I squirreled and hid for later. Now, I'm dusting it off and hoping you find it as sweet as the day I tucked it away for us.

It's early August. School hasn't started yet, so the kids are home wringing the last bit

of fun out of those few remaining days of summer vacation. I woke up early this morning-- something I am not too fond of on the weekends--poured a cup of coffee and carried it out to the deck. The lake was misty and calm. The sun peeked out over the treetops and lit a path of light that sparkled and shined across the water.

Chris's cat, Isaac, demanded to be let out and then spent the next few minutes rubbing his

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INSIDE THE TEA ROOM

CONTINUED FROM PG 1

big and strong. I thought of the raking, mulching, planting, and re-designing I could do. Hours had passed before I realized that a cold chill had once again permeated the air. I started up the car and headed to the garage. Isn't it funny how we put certain thoughts to bed for the winter only to have them awaken as spring nears? Why am I startled by this ... I know that to everything there is a season. The winter of 2011-2012 was so mild that it seems as if spring is creeping up on us like a soft whisper ... one season easily blending into the next. I can't wait to see the buds on the trees form and come to life or the grasses turn a lush green ... not to mention the tiny golden and purple crocuses that will pop up all over and blanket our lawns in pretty patches. Let the warmer winds blow, let the sun hang long in the sky, let the days linger and let the birds sing their songs! A season of great beauty is hurrying to embrace us in a big, sun-shiny hug and I am so ready.

SALISBURY'S STAKE

CONTINUED FROM PG 1

"Create in me a pure heart, oh God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me." --Psalm 51:10-12

The history of this passage has nothing to do with my present circumstances. This is a Psalm of David, written after the prophet Nathan had come to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba. He is in the midst of contrition, but he knows there is nothing he can offer God; no sacrifice, no song, nothing. He simply asks for this renewal because David knows God so well that he is certain God will give him the renewal he needs though he doesn't deserve it.

Historically, I've always heard David referred to as "a man after God's own heart". This gives me great hope. It takes away my fears of failure because if this man, who betrayed and murdered and cheated could be so beloved by God, then I know I can be, too. I know that in the midst of my most miserable mistakes, He won't give up on me. I know that in my torpor, or in my moments of being so overwhelmed I cannot think straight, that He is there waiting to give me that same renewing spirit to sustain me that David had the nerve to ask for thousands of years ago.

David even begins this Psalm by asking, "Have mercy on me, oh God, according to your unfailing love." (v.1) That's God's M.O.! Unfailing love! It's not based on what we can do for Him, because He knows and we know there's nothing we have to offer Him.

We're like little kids coming to our parents with skinned knees and failed attempts, wallowing in our failures and hurting because of what we've caused, and He picks us up, dresses our wounds, kisses it for good measure, and holds us close until we've stopped crying. Even if our parents told us not to ride our bike in the gravel and we did it anyway, it doesn't end their compassion when we're hurt, and it doesn't inhibit their love for us. So it is with God.

Whether it's a mistake I've made that leads to failure, or simply taking on too much at once that leads to exhaustion, I can be sure that He is there to give me that renewal of spirit like a fountain inside my heart and soul. What I do with it is my own choice -- it's His free gift to me, along with the gift of free will. I can squander it or I can use it to spread joy. I can be like a miser and keep it all to myself or I can share it with those around me who, like me, also don't deserve it.

The gift is His.
The choice is mine.

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THE CORNER OFFICE

A word from Bob Dwyer, Jr.



AIR DUCT CLEANING WHAT A RIP OFF!

"My neighbor's cousin's friend (Ed's) sister had her ducts cleaned and said it's a rip off!"

"I was thinking about having our ducts cleaned so I looked on the internet and found a bunch of people that said it's a rip off."

"My friend works in a trailer factory and he said it's a rip off."

Okay ... look, I'm going to try to clear this up for you. I want to take this opportunity to lay out everything you've ever wanted to know about duct cleaning but didn't know who to ask.

#1 Stop asking people (that know nothing about duct cleaning) questions regarding duct cleaning.

#2 Just because someone had their ducts cleaned doesn't mean they know anything about duct cleaning; chances are they had a bad cleaning job from a low bidder and don't even know it.

Unfortunately many people pick up a phone and start calling companies for estimates on duct cleaning then hire the cheapest company they can find. This will most likely lead to a bad duct cleaning. In most cases the only thing that got cleaned was their wallet.

#3 Do you even need your ducts cleaned? Some people do, some don't. An honest duct cleaning company will examine your ducts before they start cleaning. Look into your cold air returns, do you see dirt? If you do it could be due to a blocked coil or heat exchanger which

could damage your furnace, cost you more money to operate, and make your home uncomfortable. Not to mention the odors and other health issues it could cause.

#4 Are you aware of the questions you should ask a duct cleaning company before you hire them?

a. **Are you a HVAC contractor YES or NO** (This question is important because your duct system is just that part of a system; part of your furnace and air conditioning system. Cleaning your ducts can change the system's static pressure and delta-t causing damage and higher operating cost. Some states will not allow a duct cleaner to remove a door from a furnace if they're not a licensed or registered contractor. Would you let a carpet cleaner work on your electrical system?

b. **Do you have a duct cleaning truck or portable equipment?** (This question is important because you want to know if the company you called has the best tools for the job. Many companies advertise duct cleaning after purchasing low cost equipment on the internet. This can range from spinning brushes to portable vacuums. If a company brings a vacuum in your home and it just filters the air back into the home I would have a concern. A Truck mount system has an outdoor containment and much greater power; it has the strength to remove large or heavy waste so the job can be completed correctly. If the company you use doesn't have the right equipment for the job do you really want to hire them because they're cheaper?

c. **Do you have a video system so you (and I) can see the entire duct system before, during and after the cleaning?** (This question is important because if they can't see the job and you can't see the job, how does anyone know if the ducts are clean?)

d. **Do you sell sanitizers and**

other sprays or fogs to clean and sanitize the air duct system? (If they answer yes to this question I would run away fast. Do you want someone spraying chemicals into your home? This is often used as an add-on sale. Be cautious!

e. **Do you have a particle counter?** (This is a tool utilized by professionals to count and measure the size of particulates in your air.) It can help identify problems and show how effective your filtering system is. You probably won't find many duct cleaners using this tool; the ones that do are probably on top of their game and the cream of the crop.

If the company you call is an HVAC contractor, has a duct cleaning truck, uses a video system, uses a particle counter and refuses to use sanitizers/foggers/sprays in your just-cleaned ducts then get an estimate from them - it's a company that will most likely do the very best job. If the company doesn't offer these things then do yourself a favor - walk away. Learn to compare apples to apples. Expect to get what you pay for. I see bad, inadequate duct cleaning on a regular basis; we fix bad duct cleaning on a regular basis.

The whole purpose of this article is to educate you; duct cleaning can be a great benefit if done correctly - if you purchase by low price you will probably become a victim. I invite anyone to stop at my store or call to talk about duct cleaning. This invite is extended to consumers as well as those in the duct cleaning business who would like to learn to do a better job. Thinking about duct cleaning? Pick up the phone, call my office and mention this article - I have special pricing just for you and the estimate is free. I'm not listing this price because I want it to be something only the people who took the time to read this article to receive.

SHARING CHERRIES

by Brenda Dwyer ©

Okay, I know it's predictable but I really don't care; his name is Iggy and he is an iguana. I have had an infatuation for iguanas since I can remember. Green is my favorite color and iguanas are one of the most beautiful green creatures in existence. Iggy came to meet me during an overcast moment on the is-



share those cherries with Iggy. We became fast friends (as you can imagine) and it seemed whether I

asked if I could whisk him away with me back to the states ... the answer was always the same ...

uh, NO. So, I took several pictures of Iggy during our short time together (if you ask me he actually looks like he's posing in most of them). I put a little straw hat on him once and he seemed to love it. He had a lot of character. I never did ask him his

had cherries with me or not he liked my company and came out to visit me several times during the month I was there. Iggy was a regular at Ms. Lucy's and more than once I

age (wasn't sure if this would be considered polite or not by iguana standards) ... but I often wondered

THE CAT'S MEOW



by Brenda Dwyer ©
As told by Cody:

She did what?! What?! Brittle was off and meowing like her heart was broke. It seems that Sammy ... a kitten approximately the same age as Brittle (we don't know who she belongs to) got into a fight with Cleo and tore some of the hair off of Cleo's back. Brittle was heartbroken to see her mother licking her wounds. I don't think I have ever seen Brittle quite so brave and determined - she was on a mission to go "even the score".

Although I tried to watch most of the day and keep her close to me with this chore or that I finally lost sight of her around 7PM and that's when the screaming started. I could hear them long before I could reach them. Brittle was yeowling at Sammy out a ways from the back of the house. Sammy's coat was standing on end and her back was extended, she was sideways and ready to pounce. Brittle stood her ground and told her that in no uncertain terms if Sammy ever touched Cleo again, ever came into our yard again; it would be a very dark day for her. Sammy was scared (I could see it in the little puffs of breath filling the air in front of her mouth) and I felt just a twinge of pity in my heart. Yes, my daughter has a plug of hair missing but I wondered to myself - how is it that this little one (Sammy) is so defiant at such a young age? Brittle was acting

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THIS 'N THAT

How to Make a Non-Toxic Cleaning Kit

- SUPPLIES**
 Baking soda
 Washing soda
 White distilled vinegar
 A good liquid soap or detergent
 Tea tree oil
 6 clean spray bottles
 2 glass jars

CREAMY SOFT SCRUBBER

Simply pour about 1/2 cup of baking soda into a bowl, and add enough liquid detergent to make a texture like frosting. Scoop the mixture onto a sponge, and wash the surface. This is the perfect recipe for cleaning the bathtub because it rinses easily and doesn't leave grit.

Note: Add 1 teaspoon of vegetable glycerin to the mixture and store in a sealed glass jar, to keep the product moist. Otherwise just make as much as you need at a time.

WINDOW CLEANER

- 1/4-1/2 teaspoon liquid detergent
 3 tablespoons vinegar
 2 cups water
 Spray bottle

Put all the ingredients into a spray bottle, shake it up a bit, and use as you would a commercial brand. The soap in this recipe is important. It cuts the wax residue from the commercial brands you might have used in the past.

ALL-PURPOSE SPRAY CLEANER

- 1/2 teaspoon washing soda
 A dab of liquid soap
 2 cups hot tap water

Combine the ingredients in a spray bottle and shake until the washing soda has dissolved. Apply and wipe off with a sponge or rag.

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by Brenda Dwyer ©

I never looked forward to being a grandmother. That sounded harsh, didn't it? I never did though. I think it is because I became a grandmother at a very early age. Looking back I suppose that I never really thought about it but if someone had asked me I probably would have thought I'd become a grandmother for the first time right around the age of 50. Well, let's just say that a bouncing baby boy came into my life much earlier than that and I found myself clamoring for an appropriate term for myself because I wasn't ready for the grandma label. We settled on Nana. I have been Nana now for 16 years and it has been quite the experience. Jason will be driving this year and I'm really not ready for that either. It seems so cliché to say it, but time has really flown by. I can still remember when he was just a little

GRANDMA'S

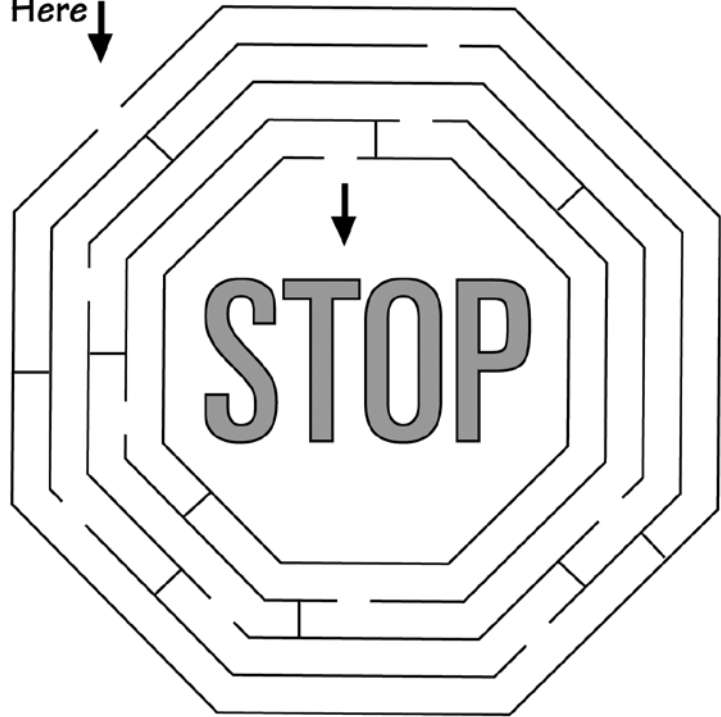
tiny 5lb. baby. My daughter and her husband have just moved their family into a nice home in South Bend and Jason is seeking my help in decorating his room ... so is Jada, actually. I have decided we will make a trip to the local paint store and pick out our colors and build from there. By the time the weekend is over they should both be sleeping in their "dream" rooms. This is what grandmothers do. We see where there is a special need that we can fill and we set to filling it. Their baby brother is having his room done by his father (a noteworthy artist) in the theme of Sponge Bob Square Pants. His room will look like the bottom of the ocean ... Sponge Bob style. Jason and Jada are looking for rooms just a bit more sophisticated. Teenagers tend to have strong opinions about their personal spaces. I didn't even realize how much I was look-

ing forward to it until just now as I write this. We are going to have fun and we'll build precious memories in the process. I can't wait to see what we accomplish together and I am anxious to see what their visions are for such an important space. I may merely be along to provide all of the necessary supplies and help them to accomplish their goal but any time spent with family is a time of thankfulness (for me) and I can't wait to see what the day has in store. Life is so full to the brim with opportunity and blessing ... even when you don't feel you're ready for it.

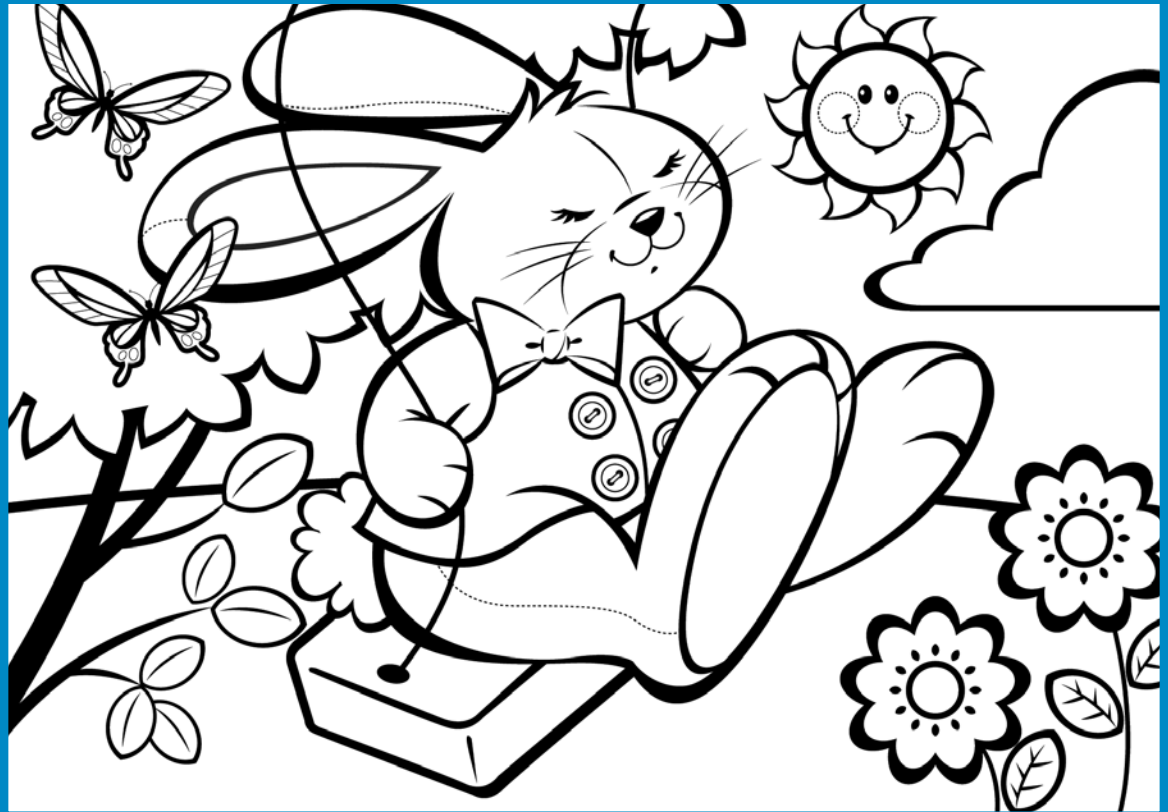


KIDz KORNER

Start Here ↓



CHILD'S PLAY



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FROM OUR KITCHEN

INGREDIENTS

- 4 hearts of romaine lettuce, chopped
- 1/2 English cucumber, sliced
- 3/4 cup grape tomatoes, halved
- 1/2 cup chopped toasted pecans
- 1/2 cup dried cranberries
- 1/2 cup crumbled blue cheese
- 3/4 cup balsamic vinaigrette

DIRECTIONS

1. Layer the romaine lettuce with the cucumber, grape tomatoes, pecans, cranberries, and blue cheese in a large salad bowl. Dress the salad with the balsamic vinaigrette before serving.

BLUE CHEESE AND CRANBERRY SALAD



A WORLD OF WONDERS

CONTINUED FROM PG 1

furry, purry tummy against the deck chair before jumping up on the bench to examine the lantana Brad planted in pots early this spring. His lantana is beautiful, full and lush. The tiny red, orange and yellow flower clusters draw hummingbirds like moths to light. Hummingbird fights sometimes erupt in the air above the deck. With sharp clicks, angry chirps, fluttering flits and arrow-swift darts, the tiny birds dive at each other playing a wild, dangerous game of "Chicken". I duck for cover from the sudden battles.

Speaking of battles, a summer thunderstorm burst upon us early this afternoon—a nice break from the wrenching hot weather we've been having. Lightning jolted and split the sky. Thunder crashed and rumbled, and the house shook with it. Just that quickly, it was over. The farmers are grateful for the rain. It's been so dry. Within a few hours the sky is blue and cloudless again.

A yellow Swallowtail butterfly has spent a good portion of this afternoon visiting each of the flowerpots on the deck—lantanas, geraniums, petunias, pansies and alyssum, the small white flowers that fill the air with a honey-like scent. Brad is our gardener. Plants thrive under his care. I, on the other hand, have a black thumb and can kill a houseplant just by being in the same room. Brad plants plots of tomatoes, peppers, melons, corn, broccoli, and lettuce along with lines of marigolds and tall stalks of hollyhocks and giant sunflowers. His gardens are flourishing. The pumpkin plants mean to take over the world!

This afternoon, I have the rare luxury of being able to play around in the pool. The laundry is done. The groceries are put away. Yes, I should run the vacuum and there is dusting and weeding to be done, but the pool is calling out to me.

The air-filled raft floats and bobs with the current and it spins around in slow, languorous circles. Fingers dangle in the soothing, soft as silk water. The raft twirls and faces west, and the sun touches my face, warm as my mother's hands. Riding the quiet current, the raft drifts slowly away from the sun's gaze and the maples along the lake are framed against the sky—crisp, clean summer-greens contrast with stunning, summer-blue. A hawk floats overhead, high on the updrafts, adjusts his feathers to capture the heated air and sails even higher. A wild band of fox squirrels suddenly invades the yard. The bandits raid the English walnut trees, scampering up and down, burying their treasures along the lake shore or gleefully high-tailing it off across the neighbors' yards. They are a riot in the trees, chattering and scolding each other, rustling leaves and creating a general racket.

Chris comes out and joins me in the pool. He points out a large rabbit hiding in the grass by the lake. Soon, he'll be back down in Bloomington (Chris, not the rabbit!). But, for now, these days are golden. Days as light and slow as dripping honey. Simple, good times made richer by nature's beauty. Summer has peaked and autumn will arrive soon wearing her coat of colorful leaves and foreshadowing what is to come. Deep in the cold heart of winter, these are the days of which we dream.

THE CAT'S MEOW

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more out of shock and fear than bravery and there was nothing I could do to console her – she needed for Sammy to understand how upset she was and that this cruel act upon her mother was a travesty and not to be tolerated. Sammy didn't even respond to Brittle ... she just kept a wary eye on her as she disappeared into the woods. I don't know what tomorrow will bring but I do hope that my little Brittle isn't too traumatized by all of this. It is times like this that I wonder what will become of my babies once I am gone. For tonight, I will leave our troubles behind us as I wrap up my girls and tuck them in for the night. My thoughts will turn to Sammy and I will hope that she finds a warm, peaceful place to lay her head tonight too. Prrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr

THE MEMORY BANK

by Bill Raybuck

February 21st marked six years my Moms been gone, and there are days where it hurts as bad as the day she passed. Some people have a great relationship with their Mother, while others struggle with it. I never faced that struggle... My Mom was my best friend. I went to the cemetery that day and stood in the light rain which helped to rinse the tears from my cheeks. I talked to Mom and Dad both... I told them how I missed them, and how I was trying to live my life and make choices that would make them proud of me. I remember so many instances where my Mom taught me about life. She was fiercely loyal to her family, and when it came to her children... well, let's just say that Momma Bears couldn't hold a candle to her. I remember my first "broken heart"... she sat beside me as I cried, and cried with me. She looked me in the eye and said the old famous line that there was "plenty of fish in the sea", and while at the time it didn't feel that way, when she said it, my heart healed a little bit in that very moment. She believed that every man should be self sufficient, and I knew how to cook, clean, and sew before I was 10. When I graduated from Navy Boot Camp, She and Dad flew down to Florida to watch the graduation ceremonies, and I can still see her face as I walked up to them. I carry that memory and the feel of that hug with me every day. I learned about humanity from her... she and I would watch the news together and discuss what people may have been thinking when they did what they did, and how it affected those around them. Towards the end, I watched her wear herself out taking care of my Dad after his strokes, and while most people would have gotten mad, or wanted to run... she stayed. There aren't enough words to express my love for her... there isn't enough space to say the things I could say... In the end, I will say this... when a child looks at their Mother, they see everything they need... a protector, a friend, and a teacher. Most of all, they feel an undying love that lasts forever. I will love you forever Mom, and when I take my last breath, I hope to see you standing there with that same expression you had in Florida, and feel that hug again. Fill your "banks" with all the memories you can, because someday, that's all you'll have.

CELEBRATE MAPLE SYRUP DAYS



Mother Nature is crowned Queen, Maple Syrup is the royal family, and the public are the honored guests as LaGrange County Parks celebrate Maple Syrup Days Saturday and Sunday, March 17-18, at Maple Wood Nature Center, 4550E 100S, LaGrange IN.

The day begins, appropriately so, with a pancake breakfast served by South Milford Lions from 7:00 am-2:30 pm. Sugar house tours take place 8:00 am-3:00 pm, and the popular horse-

drawn wagon tours run through the sugar bush 8:30 am-3:00 pm, with interpreters explaining the life cycle of the maple trees and the tapping operation.

Visitors also will see three different ways to make maple syrup, including instructions on how to make maple syrup at home. A marionette show returns with a performance of "The Young Sugar Makers of the West Woods," an adaptation from the

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SHARING CHERRIES

CONTINUED FROM PG 3

if he blessed others as much as he did me. It's funny; I would see some people go screeching away when the iguanas came out to play ... others were as fascinated as I was. The iguana community had definitely acclimated to people traipsing all over their turf and it was always a welcome sight to my eyes when they would appear. All of the iguanas were fairly interactive but Iggy had personality enough for three thousand iguanas. He was exceptionally large and real fast; I remember the first time I jogged ahead just to see if he would follow and sure enough – he had no problem keeping up. I will never forget Iggy. I saw him again off and on after that and each time I felt the same exhilaration just knowing the fun we would have. It's been quite a while now since I've gone back but I'm sure he's still there being as charming as ever to anyone who happens by ... I can only hope they're sharing their cherries.

AND THE WINNER IS ... GOODY!



MASCOT CONTEST

Vicki Briggs of Middlebury was our HELP US NAME OUR MASCOT contest winner! Thanks Vicki for coming up with what our judges agreed was the perfect name ... GOODY (The Good Neighbor Dog)!

We want to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who entered ... it made choosing all the more difficult! You'll all be seeing a lot more of Goody in the near future ... he has a way of getting into everything here ... such a handful. It's always great to have a new puppy in the house!

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Happy St. Patrick's Day

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7 Eleven - 102 W. Vistula
 Brass Eagle Sport Bar & Café - 909 S. Division (SR 15)
 Bristol Automotive Parts, Inc. - 403 E. Vistula
 Bristol Community Food Pantry - 101 W. Vistula Street
 Bristol O'Hair Port - 102 N. Chaptoula Street
 Chocolate Sensations - 110 Division Street
 Curves - 118 E. Vistula
 Eby's Family Fun - 14583 State Road 120
 Fluid Fun Canoe & Kayak Sales - 609 N. Division Street
 J & J Lawn & Garden - 19976 CR 6
 Kruse Farm Supply - 19904 CR 6
 Rob's Barber Shop - 120 W. Vistula
 Rodgers Auto LLC - 302 Chestnut Street
 Spectrum Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning Co. -
 (574) 848-5804 (Mobil Merchant)

MIDDLEBURY:

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 Backroad Crafts - 11262 CR 116
 Bill's Collision Service - 13024 US 20
 Cargo Plus Sales - 304 N. Main
 Cell Phones Plus / Verizon Wireless - 851 US 20 Suite 5
 Classee Vinyl Window LLC - 59323 CR 35
 Country Wood Creations - 11565 CR 116
 Crystal Valley Computers - 830 S. Main Street Suite A
 Crystal Valley Furniture & Floor Covering - 201 S. Main
 Crystal Valley Power Equipment - 11720W 250N
 Dairy Queen - 416 N. Main
 Dirk's Quality Automotive - 108 W. Wayne Street
 Fay Schwartz Attorney - 103 N Brown Street
 Fox RV, Inc. - 13431 CR 22
 Grand Rental Station - 131 Orpha Drive
 Healthy Pets - 851 US 20
 Hochstetler Roofing - 56781 CR 43
 Hoosier Tae Kwon Do, Inc. - 106 Wayne Street
 Indiana RV Connection - 503 N. Main
 Irongate Self Storage - 53070 SR 13
 Jenkins Automotive (NAPA Auto Parts) - 132 Orpha Drive
 Jerry's Standard Service - 101 N. Main Street
 Justrite Nails - 851 US 20
 Long's Convenience Marathon - 995 US 20
 Middlebury Hills Restaurant - 104 US 20 (Corner of SR13 &
 US20)
 Middlebury K.O.A. - 52867 SR 13
 Monteith Tire - 132 Orpha Drive Suite B
 Mr. Appliance of Elkhart County - 53855 SR 13
 Old Creamery Antiques - 333 N. Main
 Rullis Italian Restaurant - 851 US 20 Suite 2
 Shady Lane Welding - 56322 County Road 35
 The Cinnamon Stick - 102 S. Main Street
 The Getaway Tanning & Hair Salon - 426-1 N. Main Street
 The Market Place - 511 S. Main
 The Out Post RV - 57756 CR 37
 Unique Finds Resale Shop - 304 N. Main
 Varns & Hoover - 101 S. Main Street
 Village Inn Restaurant - 107 S. Main Street

GOSHEN:

7 Eleven - 1000 S. Main Street
 Balloon Express - 125 S. Main Street
 BetterWorld Books - 118 E. Washington Street
 DQ Grill & Chill - 723 W. Pike Street
 Ery's Vac Shop - 906 Linway Drive
 From Scratch Pet Bakery - 107 W. Washington Street
 Goshen Antique Mall - 107 S. Main Street
 Goshen Farm & Lawn Center, Inc. - 2413 Lincolnway East
 Hoogies Sports House - 119 E. Lincoln Ave.
 Jenkins Automotive (NAPA Auto Parts) - 1028 Lincolnway E.
 Joselena Fashions & Alterations - 125 East Lincoln Ave

Maple City Hobbies - 102 S. Main
 Merle Norman - 125 S. Main Street
 Monteith Tire - 1021 N. Greene Rd
 Monteith Tire & Auto Service Center - 2613 Caragana Ct.
 North Side Appliance Inc. - 1920 Elkhart Road
 Once Upon A Child - 4024 Elkhart Road
 Rain Drain Seamless Guttering, Inc. - 57273 SR 15
 Schrock Mobile Power Wash - 574-312-1113 (Business is mobile)
 Snider's Leading Jewelers - 128 S. Main Street
 SRP Custom Graphics - 119 E. Lincoln Ave.
 Terri's Flower Basket - 617 W. Pike Street
 Town & Country Appliance - 215 S. Main Street
 Video Visions - 508 W. Lincoln Ave.

SYRACUSE:

Dairy Queen - 700S. Huntington



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 OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES!



SHIPSHEWANA:

Along the Pumpkinvine - 145 Harrison Street
 Alpha Building Center - 0855 N. SR 5
 Bread Box Bakery & Café - 120 Morton St.
 Classic Auto Detailing - 7020W 200N
 Classic Jewelers - 350 S. Van Buren Suite G
 Country Yard Outlet - 400 N. Van Buren
 Daily Bread Café - 255 E. Main Street
 Dutchman Hunting Supplies - 8435 W. US 20
 Hostetler's Health & Wellness - 260 N. Morton Street
 Hostetler's Hudson Auto Museum - 760 S. VanBuren St
 Hostetler's Main Street Shoppe - 275 E. Main Street
 Indiana Auto Connection - 805 N. SR 5
 J. Farvers Book & Gift Shoppe - 455 S. VanBuren Street
 JoJo's Pretzels - 205 N. Harrison Street 1st Floor (Mercantile)
 L & R Marine - 8435 W. US 20
 L.A. Enterprises - 8275W 050N
 Lasting Impressions Gift Shoppe - 165 Harrison Street
 Lighthouse Christian Bookstore - 225 N. Harrison Street
 Morton Street Coffee - 260N. Morton Street
 Pampered Pet Boutique - 230 N. Morton Street
 R&S Floor to Wall - 9551W 750N
 Red Wagon Toys - 225 Harrison Street
 Shipshe General Store - 420 N. Van Buren Street
 Shipshevana Harness & Supplies - 815 N. Van Buren Street
 Shipshe Pizza - 145 N. Village Drive
 Shipshe Rental Center - 0900 N. SR 5
 Shipshevana Fitness Center, LLC - 505 E. North Village Drive
 Simple Sounds, Inc. - 225 N. Harrison Street
 Splash Waterpark Resort - 800 S. VanBuren
 Wellspring Components LLC - 1085N 850W

ELKHART:

Bueters Sewing Center - 205 S. Main Street
 CD's Pool & Scuba - 23672 Old US Suite P
 Dapper Dog & Fancy Feline - 54595 CR 17
 Dumor Water Specialists - 4405 Wyland Dr.
 Hickory Meats & More, Inc. - 54595 CR 17
 Ink Cartridge Solutions - 1808 E. Bristol Street Suite G
 Insignia Promotions - 135 Easy Shopping Place
 Jenkins Automotive (NAPA Auto Parts) - 59045 CR 13
 Joshica's Planet Canine - 4411 Wyland Drive
 Martin's Pet & Garden Center - 116 W. Jackson Blvd.
 Paradise Pools - 655 CR 17 (Next to Lucchese's)
 Sautter's Floral & Greenhouse, Inc. - 1725 Toledo Road
 Sassi Tan - 56199 Parkway Ave Suite 10
 S-N-J's Heavenly Hair Salon - 23737 US 33 Suite F
 Spectrum Eyewear Gallery - Dr. David Britzke, O.D. - 56028
 Parkway Ave., Suite E
 Tip-n-Toe Nail Spa Parkway - 17 Plaza
 56199 Parkway Ave. Suite 10
 Tru Colors Hair Salon - 54595 CR 17 Suite 5
 Video Visions - 655 CR 17

HOWE:

Laura's Bakery - 1255 W. SR 120
 Laura's Country Store - 1255 W. SR 120
 R & S Carpet Cleaning - 7030N 575E
 The Gathering Place Restaurant - 407 3rd Street
 Twin Mills Camping Resort - 1675 W. SR 120

LAGRANGE:

Dale's Dependable Handyman Service - 2420S 250W

LIGONIER:

Dairy Queen - 909 Lincolnway S.

MISHAWAKA:

Once Upon A Child - 5936 Grape Road

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TALK ACROSS THE FENCE



by Brenda Dwyer ©

Grab your blanket and head on out ...

The skies were a purplish pink with just a touch of golden yellow blended in. It was another picture perfect creation. I have the best view in the world. I am on my back gazing upwards. I often marvel at just how artistic he is, how very creative and I wonder where he gets his inspiration. Often times it almost seems as if he plays with the clouds to form them this way or that and then waits to see if any of us are paying attention. Late into the evening I have often seen a "star" fall here or there and sometimes it's as if there is a snow storm of them and again I wonder ... is he having fun - is he checking to see if any of us are paying attention? Do most of us have our eyes planted right here on the things of this earth ... the people that distract us, the things that distract us ... so much so that we fail to look up? I have seen some breathtaking things when gazing into the heavens. I love even to start out about 10 feet above my natural sight line and watch the tops of the tall evergreens

that surround our home when the wind teases them into a sultry dance ... watching the birds flit in and out is another sight to behold. A little higher still I can see birds flying over and once in a while I watch hummingbirds flit hurriedly past as if on a great mission. Once, down in Southern Illinois I even witnessed eagles flying over ... there were two of them and they were majestic! Just above "bird level" hang the clouds in all of their poofy splendor; they are ever changing and sometimes they put me to sleep if they are embraced in a slow dance. When was the last time you took a blanket out to the yard and spread it out and laid upon it with your eyes to the skies? It doesn't cost a thing except time yet the rewards are priceless. Go ahead ... go out around 7:30 or so and watch as the sun is chased from the sky by the moon. Let your body relax and breathe in. Be enchanted, be amazed ... be still and know that He is watching and I'm not for sure, but I imagine he feels blessed by us in those moments - just as we do when our children spend special moments with us.

CONTINUED FROM PG 1

fear at all if I were to go up with my dad in our plane, however, any other perception of heights whatsoever was off limits. I would freeze in fear at the thought of ascending or descending a set of stairs, a ladder, a step stool, anything that caused me to go up or come down - that is - until I had children. Once you are a mother and have children you become a lioness and fear goes straight out the window - you could hang from a steep crevice if that's what it took to insure your child's safety. Yet, my children were nowhere around when I first encountered Mt. Baldy. Everyone else I knew flew up and down those 282 stairs like it was no big deal ... I spent an entire year trying to get past the 20th step. The end of the second year

CONQUERED

of my affair with Baldy found me ascending to the 40th step. My (late) husband was weary of my failed attempts at what was such an easy thing for him. The week before he passed which was four years into my determination to ascend to the top I made it to the top and even managed to take in the spectacular views that I had listened to others remark over during all that time. I had no idea he would be gone from my life in just 7 days and yet there I was - at the top looking down and we celebrated my success with a resounding high five! Three weeks after he passed I felt the need to ascend Baldy again - I needed him to know that I would be okay and that if I could accomplish this on my own (without him) then I could accomplish anything that life might

throw at me in the years to come. I thought I had said goodbye to fear that day but, as life would have it, fear struck in a different form this year ... this very month ... as writer's block set in and I felt myself beginning to feel disheartened - especially after I missed our deadline a week ago. I had no stories to share - no inspiration on hand to create one and then the very idea of giving into fear made me think of Baldy and set my words in motion. Perhaps, now, just over five years since I last conquered Baldy it is time for a return trip so that I can once again have my breath taken away by the beauty that awaits me at the very top ... and maybe, just maybe while I'm up there I'll reach out and touch God's fingertip.

SURMOUNTABLE EVERYTHING

by Brenda Dwyer ©

I know I can do this. I have conviction. One person can effect change. I am going to dive in with eyes wide open (goggles perched firmly upon my nose). It has been 5 long years since I dove into a pool of water. Someone very dear to me passed from this life in water barely over his head ... someone who used to free dive for unbelievably long periods of time, someone who was like a fish out of water when he was on land. For him to have lost his life so unexpectedly in the most un-

likely of circumstances ... well, to say the least it has left a scar. This year it is time to heal. It is time to leave it all behind and forge forward. When you lose someone suddenly and without warning you are, for lack of a better word, stunned. Life becomes ridiculously precious and you find yourself perched precariously on a tightrope hung above a pool of uncertainty & the unknown - with hope just on the other side - waiting for you to cross over. Your balancing pole is faith and with each successful step you gain confidence.

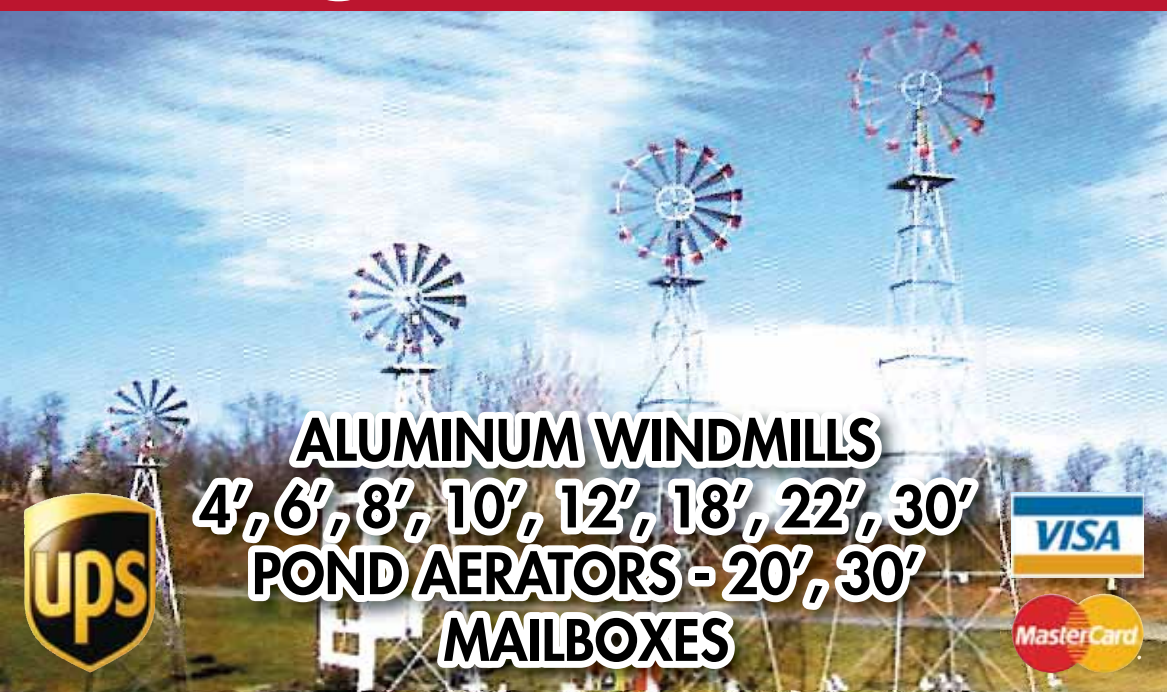
Years ago I was a lifeguard for a pool at a condominium complex. In the years from then until that day five years ago I would dive off of the side of a boat with no hesitation whatsoever. Now here I am with the drive to succeed planted firmly in my heart and determination to see me through it. I will succeed. I don't want to be the girl on the side of the pool looking in any more. I want to have fun again and live this life to the fullest! If you have convictions I hope you succeed in your determination. Success feels so good.

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SUDOKU OBJECTIVE

The objective of the game is to fill all the blank squares in a game with the correct numbers. There are three very simple constraints to follow. In a 9 by 9 square Sudoku game:

- Every row of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order
- Every column of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order
- Every 3 by 3 subsection of the 9 by 9 square must include all digits 1 through 9



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

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters in each word to spell something pertaining to World Tourism Day.

SAPPRSOT

ANSWER: Passport

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

WORD SEARCH

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

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>ARGUE
BIRDS
BUILDS
COASTAL
COMIC
CONTAINING
EAGLE
EARLY
EXITS
FROGS
GIVES
GLASS
GLOOMY
GOVERNMENTS
IDEAS
IRONS</p> | <p>ISSUED
LIVELY
MEETS
MINER
MONTH
NORTH
OASIS
OFTEN
OLDER
PERCH
POUND
PUFFS
PURPOSE
QUITE
RAFTS
REPEAT
RESIGNS
ROBES</p> | <p>SENSE
SIRUP
SQUIRTS
STATE
STICK
SUNNY
SUPPRESS
TARTS
TASKS
TASTE
TEMPER
TOMATO
TRAINING
TRYING
VENUS
VISITOR</p> |
|---|---|---|

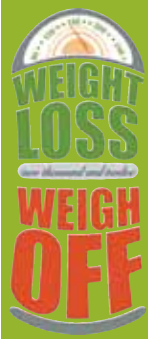
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>ACROSS
1. SMALL NORTHERN INDIA HAND DRUM
6. BIND
10. 100 LBS.
13. "SNOWY" BIRD
14. INDICATES
15. POLICE, WITH "THE"
16. A LOAN FOR A PERSONAL ITEM (2 WDS)
19. PRETENDED
20. ANCESTRY
21. NOT YET FINAL, AT LAW
22. BREATHED NOISILY DURING SLEEP
24. "YIKES!" (2 WDS)
29. DWARF BUFFALO
30. GO-____
31. BODYGUARD TO BRITISH MONARCH (3 WDS)
39. BEEHIVE, E.G.
40. BRAWL
41. JULY 4 (2 WDS)
48. ONE WHO REQUIRES SOMETHING
49. "AQUARIUS" MUSICAL
50. IV PART
51. CURVED
55. SOUTH AFRICAN PROVINCE SETTLED BY BOERS IN 1836 (3 WDS)</p> | <p>60. "SESAME STREET" WATCHER
61. CY YOUNG, E.G.
62. ADD UP
63. "A CHORUS LINE" NUMBER
64. CONTRADICT
65. HEX</p> <p>DOWN
1. P.I., E.G.
2. EASTERN POOH-BAH
3. BIKINI PARTS
4. "____ GO!" (CONTRACTION)
5. ADJUST
6. ANYONE (4 WDS)
7. "MUCH ____ ABOUT NOTHING"
8. THE "P" IN M.P.G.
9. "C" ____ LA VIE!"
10. ACTRESS BLOOM
11. RICHARD ____, GERMAN COMPOSER
12. SOME SUITS
14. GRACE WORD
17. ARABIC FOR "COMMANDER"
18. HARDLY HAUTE CUISINE
22. "BUONA ____" (ITALIAN GREETING)
23. REMAINING AFTER ALL DEDUCTIONS (VARIANT SPELLING)
24. BENDER</p> | <p>25. CHARLOTTE-TO-RALEIGH DIR.
26. LONG, LONG TIME
27. CONGRATULATIONS, OF A SORT
28. AMSCRAYED
32. BOUND
33. "... HAPPILY ____ AFTER"
34. CHECKERS, E.G.
35. "ALL THE THINGS YOU ____"
36. FREE FROM, WITH "OF"
37. BYGONE BIRD
38. CHESTER WHITE'S HOME
41. ALTOGETHER (2 WDS)
42. BRAIN CELL
43. FORMAL ARGUMENT
44. "OUR TIME IN ____" (10,000 MANIACS ALBUM)
45. DOG-____
46. "GOOD GOING!"
47. PASTRY SHELLS
52. ABOVE
53. "SOAP" FAMILY NAME
54. AND OTHERS, FOR SHORT
56. "CRIKEY!"
57. "CONCENTRATION" PRONOUN
58. BUFF
59. ADD-ON</p> |
|---|---|---|

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					32	33	34				35	36	37	38
					39						40			
41	42	43	44					45	46	47				
48								49						
50								51			52	53	54	
55					56	57	58							59
60					61						62			
63					64						65			

GEARING UP

I recently got wind that a group of local people are going to start a fund raiser that involves losing weight. I told them "I'm all in". What a brilliant idea ... take a need you yourself have and turn it into profit for someone else! I love it! I needed to lose the weight anyway but when I heard what it was for my determination grew that much greater. The "event" is not going to start until April so I have between now and then to formulate a weight loss plan. Those who are participants will have to find sponsors to sponsor them at \$\$ per pound. This could be any amount per pound that you are able to pledge. I hope that you are paying attention here because even though I am not at liberty to say what the cause is - I hope to have a lot of sponsors because it is a very worthy cause. So, as I am gearing up for losing weight I hope you will formulate a plan to help out and sponsor me - or anyone else that participates. Watch April's paper for full details. I'm really looking forward to it. :)



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Are we heading into another dog day summer?

It's just around the corner... the soft warm breezes whisper of a very hot summer ahead. Are you ready? The winter thaw has taken us to Spring's doorstep so don't delay in making sure your comfort isn't compromised.

We all want to feel cool and comfortable in the Summer months...

Let A Good Neighbor check/service your central air system this year! Your comfort is our top priority! Save your sweat for working out and when you're finished we can make sure that you cool down with a cool and responsive system! Let us keep you feeling dry and confident that your home will feel just the way you want it to - when you want it to.

No one wants to turn down the thermostat only to find that the A/C won't kick on. Having your A/C serviced on a regular basis is key... we can make it super easy for you with a annual service agreement! Why have one more thing on your plate to remember? We will make the maintenance of your A/C super simple for you. Give us a call!

It's much too important to take for granted. Do it for yourself - do it for your family!



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Think of your heating & cooling system as the "lungs" of your home. The air they expel through your duct work is the air you are breathing in every time the air flows. Cleaning your filters is an important part of home maintenance - just as important as needed duct cleanings.

Let us take the guesswork out of it for you. We offer free estimates on replacement equipment as well as on air duct cleanings.

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CELEBRATE MAPLE SYRUP DAYS



CONTINUED FROM PG 5

book with the same name. The local chapter of Tri Kappa will also be making maple cotton candy for guests to enjoy.

Scott Beam, LaGrange County Interpretive Naturalist, said, "It's a great time of year to be in the woods," with the first signs of spring are emerging. "I have seen the first mushrooms, the first migratory birds, the first flowers, the first critters out of hibernation. I've tapped trees for sap, and this weekend, I get to share it all with everybody else."

Last year, the event had a record-breaking attendance of nearly 4,000 guests. Beam said approximately 7,850 gallons of sap are gathered from 535 "taps" to make 157 gallons of pure maple syrup.

**For more information on these
and other events, contact:**

**(800) 254-8090 • www.VisitShipshevana.org
Email: info@lagrangecountycvb.org**

The LaGrange County Convention and Visitor's Bureau is the official agency for tourism marketing, planning and development in LaGrange County, Indiana. If you have any questions about LaGrange County or would like more information about Shipshevana and other LaGrange County attractions, please go online to www.VisitShipshevana.org or call (800) 254-8090.

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TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY 2012 PARK AND RECREATION ACTIVITY GUIDE

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The Middlebury Park and Recreation Department, with assistance from the Park Board and the Friends of Middlebury Parks (FOMP), provides high quality parks, facilities, trails and programs for the Town of Middlebury. The Park Department is responsible for all of the maintenance and improvements in the parks and trails, plus maintain the street light flower pots throughout Town. Public programming has been an increasing emphasis offered by the Park Department. The Town parks provide excellent venues for a variety of recreational, outdoor education and family fun activities. Please feel free to take advantage of the following programs and remember to get outdoors and enjoy your Middlebury Parks.

PROGRAMS AT A GLANCE

Detailed descriptions of the programs below

MARCH

Thursday, 1st
Thursday, 8th
Friday, 16th
Saturday, 24th
Saturday, 24th

Stewardship Day - Nest Box Building
Stewardship Day - Compost Tea
Fun Friday - Nest Box Building
Stewardship Day - Prairie Planting
Blue Heron Rookery Tour

6:30-8pm at the Library
6:30-8pm at the Library
6-8pm at the Library
10am-12pm at Riverbend Park
1-3pm at Riverbend Park

APRIL

Thursday, 12th
Tuesday, 24th

Stewardship Day - Shrubs for Wildlife
Earth Day - Recycling Program

6:30-8pm at Riverbend Park
405pm at the Library

MAY

Thursday, 3rd
Saturday, 5th
Friday, 18th

Stewardship Day - Garlic Mustard Pull
FOMP Volunteer Day
Fun Friday - Disc Golf

6:30-8:30pm at Riverbend Park
9-11am at Krider Gardens
6-8pm at Memorial Park

JUNE

Saturday, 2nd
Thursday, 7th
Monday, 11th
Friday, 15th

National Trails Day Bike Ride
Stewardship Day - Bird Garden
Summer Fun Starts
Fun Friday - Basket Ball Contest

9 am meet at Essenhaus
6:30-8:30pm at Krider Garden
6-8pm at East Park

SPECIAL EVENTS

Saturday, August 18th

Middlebury Riverfest

at Riverbend Park

MARCH

Stewardship Day - Nest Box Building on Thursday, 1st from 6:30-8pm at the Library. Come build a blue bird nest box or bat house to attract wildlife at your home landscape. Materials come in pre-cut kits, just follow the instructions and use screws to assemble. Kits cost \$5.00 each.... a bargain of a price.

Stewardship Day - Compost Tea Making on Thursday, 8th from 6:30-8pm at the Library. Come learn about the benefits of using compost tea and how to make your own compost tea. Plus learn where to purchase compost teas from local producers.

Fun Friday - Nest Box Building on Friday, 16th from 6-8pm at the Library. Same program as listed above.

Stewardship Day - Prairie Planting on Saturday, 24th from 10am-12pm at Riverbend Park. Come learn about prairie habitats and then help us plant our prairie.

Blue Heron Rookery Tour on Saturday, 24th from 1-3pm meet at Riverbend Park. Come learn about the majestic Blue Herons and view an active rookery. A great opportunity to see these birds' nesting and mating behaviors.

APRIL

Stewardship Day - Shrubs for Wildlife on Thursday, 12th from 6:30-8pm at Riverbend Park. Come learn about native shrubs that can be used to attract wildlife and for bank stabilization. We will then plant a variety of shrubs along the edge of the pond and Little Elkhart River.

Earth Day Program on Tuesday, 24th from 4-5pm at the Middlebury Library. Come have fun while learning how to reduce, reuse and recycle. Then help judge castles made from recycled materials

MAY

Stewardship Day - Garlic Mustard Pull on Thursday, 3rd from 6:30-8:30pm at Riverbend Park. Come learn about this invasive plant and how it is affecting forest habitats, then help us remove the plants as part of our Garlic Mustard Pull Challenge.

Friends of Middlebury Parks (FOMP) Volunteer Day on Saturday, 5th from 9-11am at Krider. Come out and learn more about FOMP and help us spruce up Krider Gardens for the Spring. Coffee, water and donuts will be provided.

Fun Day - Disc Golf in the Park on Friday, 18th from 6-8pm at Memorial Park. Come discover and try disc golf, a popular Frisbee oriented sport. Participate in a putting contest and win a prize.

JUNE

National Trails Day Bike Ride on Saturday, 2nd at 9 am meet at Essenhaus. Come ride with us to Shipshewana and back. Learn about the Trails of Middlebury vision, updates on phase 2 of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail and a new bicycle friendly initiative.

Stewardship Day - Bird Garden on Thursday, 7th from 6:30-8:30pm at Krider Garden. Come out to learn about native flowers and shrubs that will attract birds, then help us spruce up our Bird Garden.

Middlebury Summer Fun Day Camp - June 11th-July 20th. Free day camp to children ages 5-12 that live in the Middlebury School District. Camp runs Monday-Friday 9am-3pm. Must pre-register. For more info contact the park office at 825-3283.

Fun Friday - Basket Ball Contest on Friday, 15th from 6-8pm at East Park. Come participate in a free throw and 3-point contest, prizes awarded.



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Dear Neighbor,
 Did you lose sleep last summer waiting for your air conditioner to be repaired and sweating from the 80 to 90 degree temperatures?
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 Did you say to yourself that you would never go another summer without a new central air conditioner to replace the old, inefficient, and unreliable one?

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN GET THAT AIR CONDITIONER WITHOUT TAKING A PENNY OF YOUR POCKET:

I have made special arrangements with GE Bank and several manufactures so qualified buyers can buy now with no money down. Some customers are getting payments as low as \$37.00 per month. What's even better is that these new systems are so energy efficient you can save more than that on your electric bill.

WHY NOW IS THE BEST TIME TO ACT:

Right now we are in between the seasons and business is slow. I've got to do something to make the phone ring! So here's my offer to homeowners like you:

If you purchase a furnace and/or air conditioner, you will get these two unbeatable bonuses:

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- Reduced low price guarantee

These are brand new 2012 models. They are NOT seconds or "blem's" or discontinued stock. And they all have a complete parts and labor warranty.

So, I've made it possible for homeowners to buy now, get a great deal and pay later. Yes, you can get a new heating & cooling system for as low as **\$10.00** a week: that's both furnace and air.

This is, by far, the best opportunity to replace your old system before the really scorching summer weather begins.

HERE'S HOW TO GET STARTED:

Call us at 574-825-1677 and we will set up and appointment for your FREE survey. A systems consultant will come to measure your home and explain this fantastic program to you.

WHY THIS OFFER CAN'T LAST:

Right now my business is slow. That's why I'm making this incredible offer. I need to keep my technicians busy. Things always start improving as we get closer to summer from all the air conditioning business. So this special will stop soon

Give us a call right now at 574-825-1677 and we'll set up an appointment for your no obligation survey.

Thank you for reading this rather long letter. I hope you will profit greatly because of it.

Sincerely,
 A Good Neighbor, Bob Dwyer

THIS 'N THAT

FURNITURE POLISH

- 1/2 teaspoon oil, such as olive
- 1/4 cup vinegar or fresh lemon juice

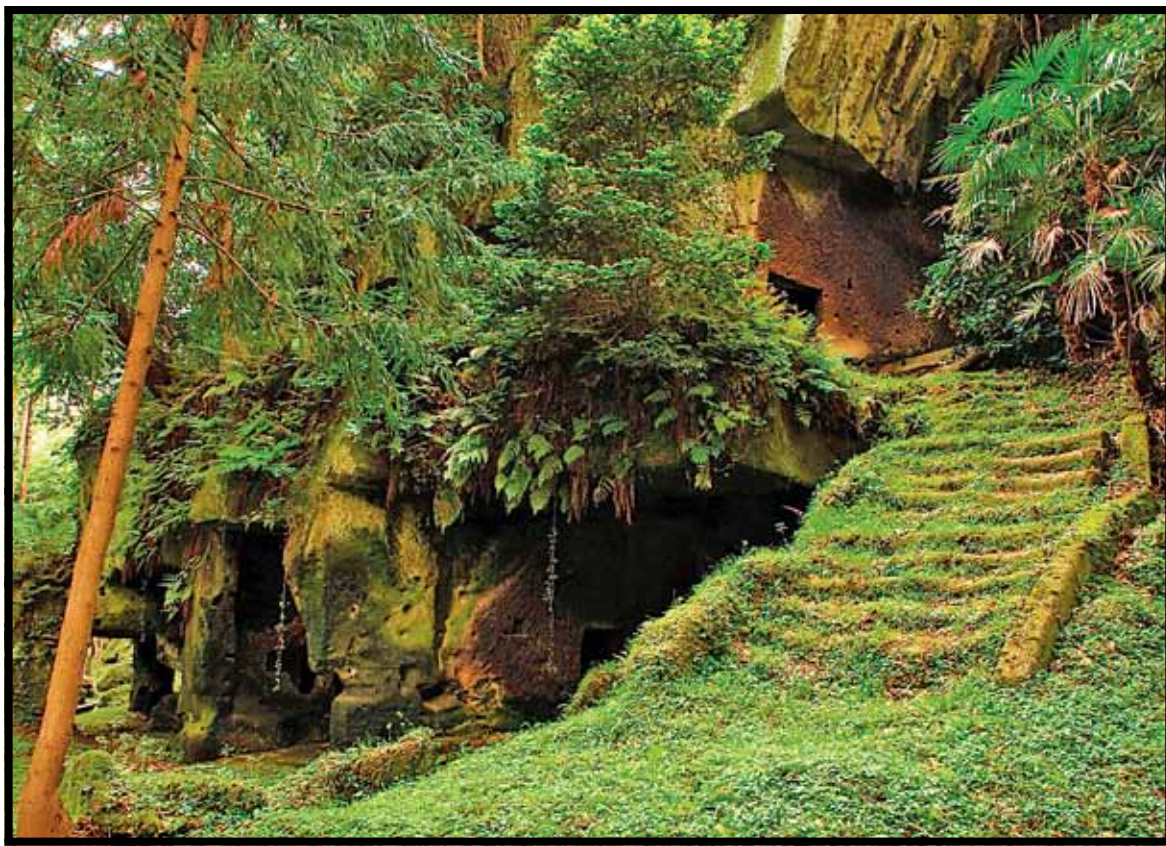
Mix the ingredients in a glass jar. Dab a soft rag into the solution and wipe onto wood surfaces. Cover the glass jar and store indefinitely.

VINEGAR DEODORIZER

Keep a clean spray bottle filled with straight 5 percent vinegar in your kitchen near your cutting board and in your bathroom and use them for cleaning. I often spray the vinegar on our cutting board before going to bed at night, and don't even rinse but let it set overnight. The smell of vinegar dissipates within a few hours. Straight vinegar is also great for cleaning the toilet rim. Just spray it on and wipe off.

CONTINUED TO 15

DESTRI OF NOCHAM ©



A GLOSSARY FOR THE STORYLINE "DESTRI OF NOCHAM" CAN BE FOUND ONLINE @ www.agoodneighbornews.com

by Brenda Dwyer ©

As Destri's quickened footsteps left her beloved Nastra behind she could only think of one thing; Hangnar was bent on ruining everything she had held dear and beloved up to now. For Hangnar to have taken ownership of retaliation for his ancestor's unrequited love was insane and Destri knew all too well that those ruined by insanity are to be dealt with very carefully. Terzin cooed in her ear as she ran as fast as she could to aid her people. Soon she took to the trees and leapt from one lush canopied top to the next. Within moments from reaching her destination Destri stopped to alert Phelome of her impending arrival with a high pitched wail. There just happened to be a delm of Sembits close by who heard Destri's alarming wail and

came to see if there was trouble. Destri welcomed the Sembits and invited them to join her in fighting for Nocham. The Sembits were deeply honored to go into battle with Destri. The Sembits and the Nochis were fast friends; loyal for listrays. Soon the cries of her people made their way to Destri's ears and her heard leapt. She knew in that moment there was no doubt that she would give her life to save her people. The Sembits crashed through the forest sounding like the loudest thunder claps – repetitive and frightful. The Lancenz were already there rushing to and fro with the Nochis; preparing the village for the impending attack. Destri's nostrils flared – she could smell the Odei as they made their way towards her. The marvens circled in the distance – signaling to Destri of the location of the

Odei. Destri was thankful in this moment for all of the creatures that had been her devoted allies. They would all work together to keep Nocham intact and its inhabitants safe. The Odei had no idea what they were coming into. If they thought that Nocham would be easy to take down they were sadly mistaken. Before the next veens were played out – many Odei would lose their lives all because of their allegiance to Hangnar – one who was driven by wicked obsession. The vistrilin sounded once more as Destri gathered the Nochis around her. This would be a time of victory; a time that would mark their history and propel them into that which was determined from the beginning of all creation. To be continued ...

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Annual A GOOD NEIGHBOR Coloring Contest Winners

Congratulations to the winners of the 2012 A Good Neighbor Coloring Contest! Your colorings were very creative and unique.

OUR WINNERS ARE AS LISTED:

Ages 2-3 Crystal Stoltzfus

Ages 4-6 Beni-Alex Sandoval (pictured below)

Ages 7-9 Josiah Sandoval (pictured below)

Ages 10-12 Regina Schwartz



Our most sincere thanks to everyone who entered the contest! There were so many great submissions this year that Bob, Bill & Rick had a hard time deciding who should win (everyone was so good)! We look forward to more contests throughout the year this year so be watching the paper for the next one!



Submitted by
Benji Alex Sandoval, Age 6



Submitted by
Josiah Sandoval, Age 8



Submitted by
Crystal Stoltzfus, Age 3



Submitted by
Regina Schwartz, Age 12

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR CONTEST WINNERS! We hope you had a lot of fun and we look forward to having you come in to claim your prizes! We want to thank everyone who participated and for those that didn't place as a finalist, we want you to know you are still a winner in our book! It was a beautiful sight having our front windows covered with your creative and unique works of art!

LOVE



by Brenda Dwyer ©

Daisy was being her usual compliant self. In all my life I have never met a dog that was so adaptable to every situation. Once again I was asking her to change her schedule, her routine, her comfortable existence to adjust to my needs and once again she happily obliged. I am sure there have been countless times that I have changed her routine without so much as a thought. I have grabbed her little bed, her bowls, her toys and carted her off to this place or that since she was just weeks old. I have moved her in and out of cars, boats, homes, hotels, stores, etc. and she hasn't so much as whimpered.

Today was an exceptionally long day on an emotional level. There were things hoped for that when it finally came down to the wire ... that point where you find out which path you will be taking ... the very point that you realize you had been holding your breath with anticipation then whoosh ... your dreams come true and the next crucial moment passes. That was when it struck me. I wish I could be more like Daisy. I wish I could learn to go with the flow and not allow life's unpredictability to phase me. It is something to strive for.

It's not just about being phased. It's her attitude. She smiles. She does! You have to see it to believe it but her eyes sparkle and she smiles! She is always smiling. I don't think I have ever seen her cry. Yes, dogs cry ... I have seen dogs cry. Daisy is different. She's a tiny ball of happy. What is it that brings that kind of happiness, of contentment to a dog?

Well, it didn't take me long to realize the answer. She knows she is loved. There is no doubt in her mind; none. Who knows ... perhaps there is only happy or sad with dogs ... I don't know. All I do know is that Daisy is always happy regardless of circumstance and she is always willing to please ... to go as far as I ask her to. Wow.

In this life I have learned lessons from my parents, from my ancestors, from my environment, from watching and from listening and now from observing Daisy.

She is a true blessing in my life. No more or less wonderful than any other blessing. She comforts me when I am sad, she loves to run and frolic beside me when I am happy ... she is most at peace when she is able to just lie beside me in a chair, in my lap, on my bed or on a sofa or even the floor. She just likes being with me and I like her being there. I love being with her. I miss her when I'm at work. I miss her all the times she naps. All of this love for a tiny little bundle. Who knew?

When it was time to release my children to the wind to fly and create families of their own it wasn't long after that it seemed (keeping in mind the way time flies) that Daisy appeared ... rather unexpectedly and yet she was a perfect fit from the first moment I laid eyes on her. I was smitten. I remember how cute she was. So little she stumbled instead of walked, she wobbled instead of sitting ... she was a sight to see! She didn't even weigh a pound; ounces of love; mere ounces.

Love is the cure-all. Love is breathtaking in its simplistic complexity. Love is what we all want more than anything and what we all wish we felt more than anything. Love is the universal rope that binds us all together. It comes in all forms, shapes, sizes ... it comes when we most expect it and least expect it ... it is all around us, in us and lives through us.

I know I am loved so what is there for me to grumble about? Why should any of us grumble? We are all loved ... every single one of us and if you haven't realized it yet then it's only because you haven't looked for it in the right place. It's as close as your heart and as near as a whispered word. The distractions of our busy-ness can keep us from realizing our potential in all things; work, love, life, attitude ... all of it. There will be things in all of our lives that will call us to pause and break it down, things that will beckon to us to keep it simple, and bid us to embrace the love that has been with us since our inception. Know this ... love ... it is as close as your heart and as near as a whispered word.

THE PINK GUITAR



by Brenda Dwyer

I have a bright pink guitar sitting in my dressing room. Every once in a while I pick it up and strum it but for the most part it just sits there. I hope to one day have the time to take guitar lessons so that I can play because if I learn to play then I can finally hear the beautiful tones, once again, that come from the guitar my dad built for me before he died. When I had my recording studio in Chicago, my engineer and I decided to put jazz guitar strings on the guitar my dad made and we used it in countless recordings – the sound from that instrument is spell-binding. Every musician that picked that guitar up fell in love with it and time and again different ones would ask me to sell it but, needless to say, it's not for sale. When I open the guitar case it is housed in and run my fingers across the strings I can see so clearly my father bent over his work table with clamps on the wood – molding it into the shape he desired it to be, sanding this, applying that ... working that instrument night after night until it became what it is today – a masterpiece. The day he put that first set of strings on it, tuned it and then sat down to play it I will never forget. His eyes got misty as his fingers deftly and tenderly strummed the strings. I could see in his shoulders that he was more relaxed than I had seen him in a long time ... it seemed as if he were somewhere else as he continued to play song after song. It wasn't long before we were both singing and laughing and almost crying. I'll always remember the look in his eyes (I could see straight to his heart that day) when he handed it over to me and verbalized his faith that someday I would learn to play and when I did ... to remember him and how much he loved our music; how much he loved me. I used to sing with my daddy from the time I was just a little thing – it was our father/daughter time and there was a lot of it considering how much he worked. Looking back I realize even more how special those times were to him for him to have made such a commitment. Well, I am determined this year to find a way to make time for guitar lessons with my pink guitar so that one day soon I can uncase the masterpiece and "make my daddy proud".



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FARM COUNTRY MOOS

by Loretta Miller
It looks like our snow is gone again for a spell. This morning it was absolutely beautiful with big fluffy flakes coming down on me and my coffee, and turning the world into a winter wonderland. I even caught myself singing Christmas carols and wondering what it would be like if it actually was Christmas again instead of the later part of February. We are selling corn out of our bins, so at 7:30 this morning we saw the big semi rumbling to a crawl as he turned into our driveway, and my husband shot up and out the door, calling over his shoulder that I don't need to come just right away. So quickly I got the breakfast trimmings done, washed the dirty dishes that had accumulated during the morning rush of packing four lunches, etc. sidled out the door leaving

Velda in charge and repeating (like a broken tape?) "Don't be late for school!" "Bye". They were about halfway done loading the truck when I got back there so I actually managed to help some. I was extra cautious though, of that mean little pulley on the bottom of the elevator connecting the whole contraption to the motor. The day before it has gotten its claws onto the hem of my dress and you guess it, rriiiipp... I pulled and tugged and it tore about four inches off the bottom of my dress. The dress is 9 1/2 years old already, but comfortable, nonetheless, so it's a sad day as the dress and I part company. My husband so kindly dislodged the missing piece and gave it back to me. On the way up the lane I hung it on a pile of scrap wire, flapping in the breeze, as a souvenir to re-

member it by. My kids had questions about my shrinking dress, which was understandable, but when my husband starting ribbing me about why my dress is so short I'd had enough. It met its fate. Excitement and haste, as well as worry, brooding, and monotony are most destructive to physical and mental health. Life is worth living as long as there is wrong to right, while there is one un-trodden tract. For intellect or will, and men are free to think and act, life is worth living still. Don't be too hard on yourself or if you messed up, we all do that, let's just continually try to better ourselves, one day at a time. God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can and the wisdom to know the difference.

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

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

1	T	2	A	3	B	4	L	5	A	6	T	7	A	8	P	9	E	10	C	11	W	12	T			
13	E	G	R	E	T	14	B	O	D	E	S	15	L	A	W											
16	C	H	A	T	T	17	E	L	M	O	R	T	18	G	A	G	E									
																		19	A	S	S	20	L	I	N	E
24	J	25	E	26	P	27	E	R	S	28	R	E	E	P	E	R	S									
29	A	N	O	A						30	K	A	R	T												
31	G	E	N	T	32	L	E	M	A	N	A	T	35	A	R	M	38	S								
41	I	42	N	43	D	44	E	P	E	N	D	45	E	46	N	47	C	E	D	A	Y					
48	N	E	E	D	E	R																				
50	T	U	B	E																						
55	O	R	A	N	56	G	E	F	R	E	E	S	T	A	T	E	59									
60	T	O	T																							
63	O	N	E																							

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

DOUBLE VISION

by Melissa Brazile

As it has so many times in the last 2 years, the thought struck me again today. The very words coming out of my mouth while disciplining my children are the very words that I need to live out in my own life.

We are blessed in so many ways with a loving family and a joy-filled home. Today, however, was one of the roughest we've had in a while. My sweet Karli and my precious Grady had been at each other's throats all morning long. When Karli wasn't screaming, she was hitting Grady...and when Grady wasn't crying from being hit, he was getting in his punches of retaliation. They are 2 year old twins. It happens. Usually it happens once (or twice), they're disciplined, and the behaviors change. But after a morning of

correcting and encouraging and distracting, and more correcting, and disciplining, and more correcting, and more disciplining, I felt like I'd said the words "God tells us to be kind to one another, to be gentle with each other, and to love each other" about a jillion times (to no avail with my kids). But after jillionth time I said it to them, I had one of those moments. The moments where I feel like God is speaking directly to me, Him as my Father, me as the child. "Melissa, just like you want and expect your children to treat people with kindness, gentleness, and love, I desire and expect the same from you."

It's so often easier for me to focus on living with the boldness we're told to have as Christians (Acts 19:8, Acts 28:31, Romans 15:15). Boldness seems to give me a little more room in my con-

science to say what I want and do what I think. As I write this, there is so much selfishness and ignorance wrapped up in that idea, and it seems the culture has seeped in to my interpretation of boldness. Be independent, be your own person, stand up for what you want and believe, seek success at all costs, the customer is always right, etc...etc...

Being "bold", at least for me, is easy. Being bold, in Christ, that's a whole other story. Today, I was reminded that, really, being bold in Christ is to be kind, gentle, and to love others. That's so much harder at times and sets such a powerful example when done appropriately. When I'm frustrated, or when I've been wronged, or when something hasn't gone the way I wanted it to, I'm still called to be kind, gentle, and to love others. Boy

have I failed at that in my lifetime. But I truly believe that we can make some of the BOLDEST statements...when we simply remember these 3 things. Be kind, be gentle, and show love. Paul says it well in Philemon 1:8-9, "Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do, I prefer to appeal to you on the basis of love."

Being bold is certainly one way to live, and I believe there is great value in boldness as God intended it to be used in spreading His Word, at times. But, for today, I'll remember the lesson I've tried imprinting on my children with great boldness..."God tells us to be kind to one another, to be gentle with each other, and to love each other." As my kids respond to me, "yes, Mama", I respond internally, "yes, Lord."

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