

FREE



A GOOD NEIGHBOR NEWS

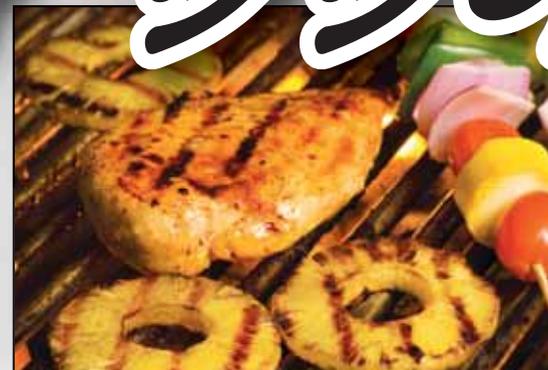
"STRENGTHENING OUR LOCAL ECONOMY"

MAY 2011

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all Things BBQ



by Brenda Dwyer

I can smell it in the air ... smoky streams drift through the air and tantalize my nostrils and set my mouth to watering. Even though, at our house, it is a smell that is familiar all year long – it just seems to be deeper, stronger and more confident in the spring and summer months. What in the world am I talking about? BBQ! I LOVE BBQ!

Think Texas or Kansas City BBQ ... before today I could have imagined long vacations there just soaking up the flavor of a long history of BBQ contests won and techniques championed. BBQ is an art and there aren't too many other places that I've been to where it is quite as evident. It is a culinary skill and one that men and women gravitate towards mastering. (Watch out Texas & Kansas ... I hear tell that BBQ is about to hit the Midwest in a VERY big way!)

I have been to tables where entire families were lined up waiting to judge new sauces

that one of their kin had created. Red and white checkered tablecloths decorate long tables made of plywood and saw horses and little children run around portraying the excitement that everyone feels. Men stand around plying each other with recipes of sauces and secret techniques while women ready the tables and drinks and look after the children. It is the only event (that I've witnessed) in this current era that seems to remain true to the 60's and it's really kind of adorable! Don't get me wrong, there are plenty of women that take up their BBQ spatulas and work their magic. Men beware ... women have been masters of their kitchens for hundreds and thousands of years ...

BBQ is just one more recipe to be added to their precious cookbooks.

BBQ is one of those terms that conjure up all kinds of

imagery. Oh the stories we could all tell. I have attended BBQs where vast amounts of beer were poured on huge amounts of beef, pork, and chicken and yet everything still managed to taste wonderful when it was ready to eat. (Who knew?!) I have also been to BBQs where competition was in full force and the BATTLE OF THE SAUCE raged on into the wee hours of the next morning. BBQ can



be something you do to cook the meat for dinner or it can be an event. However it applies in your life; there is one word that I ALWAYS associ-

ate with BBQ ... FUN! There is more fun to be had at BBQs than anything else period. I remember moments at the lake (I must have been about 10 years old) soaking up the sun and sitting by the grill as my father prepared sumptuous dinners for us. A decade ago there were long, lazy days in Saugatuk watching the waves lap up against my moored boat as the scent from the grill (dockside) played havoc

with my hungry tummy. More recently, I think of all of the nights Bob has carefully seasoned and prepared meat for the grill at home as I sit back admiring his careful calculations. Each memory brings with it the realization that BBQs are a blessing that just keep on giving long after the last bone is stripped of its final piece of meat.

Our nation hosts hundreds of BBQ competitions each

year. Every year a National Champion is awarded around \$40,000 in cash and prizes; that's nothing to shake your ash tool at! Isn't it amazing? Think of it, if you can master the art of BBQ you could make a living out of it with sponsorships, product lines, etc.

As you can, by now, imagine I have been to hundreds, if not thousands of BBQs all over the country. What have I learned? I have learned that the greatest grillers in the country all believe in one thing ... it's all in the equipment you use. The grill, itself, is KEY. Think about that steakhouse flavor that we all love so much and wish we could imitate. Well, you can. What are you using to grill on? Think golf ... the right clubs make all of the difference in the world. The right clubs combined with talent can create champions. Think of a mechanic ... the right tools combined with know-how can have you off and driving

Mm Mm Good!

It's almost here ... farmer's markets will start popping up like little daisies ... lining the streets with fresh produce and flowers! There is a farmer's market every year in Holland, MI. that I just love to frequent. It is

quite large in size and the Michigan berries, apples and peaches that you find there just can't be beat! You certainly don't have to travel to Michigan to find great produce though ... many of our little towns and cities within

comfortable driving distance dish up delectable offerings every year as well. If you find yourself with a bit of time on your hands, an inquisitive mind and a taste for an adventure which will certainly lead to a new experi-

ence ... check out one of our local farmer's markets; it's a little slice of happy just waiting to be served up!



LOOK INSIDE FOR VALUABLE COUPONS FROM THESE MERCHANTS

SALISBURY'S STAKE

by Stephanie J. Salisbury

When I was born, my mother fed me, changed my diapers, wiped my spit-up, sang to me, drove me around in the car until I fell asleep, then checked on me every five seconds while I slept.

When I was a toddler, my mother taught me boundaries and the definition of the word 'no', read to me, colored with me, watched "Mr. Rogers Neighborhood" with me, and taught me to say my prayers at night.

When I was in elementary school, my mother made breakfast every day, drove me to school, baked cookies and cupcakes as room mother for every special event, took me trick-or-treating, collected Indian beads with me, picked mushrooms with me, took me to church, helped me with homework, and taught me to be strong.

When I was in middle school, my mother nursed me through the shock of a new school, helped me solidify my beliefs, taught me how to deal with heartbreak, let me have a million friends over whenever I wanted, and encouraged me to find my path in life when I got baptized.

When I was in high school, my mother taught me how to stay beautiful on the inside when people were making fun of the outside, showed me how to shave my legs without cutting myself, kept me informed about everything I should know when dating, let me drive her car even though it raised her blood pressure and took me to get my driver's license anyway, did my hair and makeup and took a hundred pictures before prom, saw every choir concert even when I didn't have a solo, and encouraged me to study and keep my grades up so I could get scholarships and go to college.

When I was in college, my mother called me all the time, wrote me letters, sent care packages with little treats I loved and groceries I needed, visited whenever she could, and came to my graduation to watch me turn my tassel and start my "real life".

When I went through the heartbreak of divorce, my mother held me in her arms like I was a little girl again, loved me unconditionally, helped me to get a grip on my life, and prayed for me constantly.

When my first novel was published, my mom bought three copies.

When I bought my first home, my mother helped me move in and decorate it.

When I found the true love of my life, my mother let me get married in her back yard even though it meant 135 people would be using her bathroom all night long.

When I come over to her house, my mother instantly makes tea and tries to feed me something.

When I have a yard sale in the summer, my mother stays with me for two days, helps me set it up, and runs it while I'm at work.

When I need to cry, I call my mother.

When I need to laugh, I call my mother.

When I need advice, I call my mother.

When I need to vent, I call my mother.

When I need someone to tell me what to do, I call my mother.

When I need someone just to love me without telling me what to do, I call my mother.

When, years from now, someone asks me how I became the person I became, survived the trials I survived, or from where I gleaned my inspiration, I'll smile and say, "My Mother".

Dedicated to Avaline Doree Stowe – I love you with all my heart!

Inside the Tearoom



Healing

by Brenda Dwyer

There is lonely then there is alone. Lonely is the quiet before the storm, alone is the aftermath. Lonely doesn't seem as ominous because you can be surrounded by throngs of people and yet still be lonely. Well, perhaps not as ominous, but every ounce of loneliness bears with it two ounces of sadness. Alone, on the other hand may not be desirable for most but is pure blessing for

others. There are many times in this life that I have wanted to be alone; to retreat into solitude and enjoy some bit of space all to myself. Alone is hard to do when you have little children running around usurping your time and attention. Alone is not easily accomplished if you have allowed your life to become too full and demanding. I have a friend who recently divorced. She didn't see it coming ... no one saw it coming. Her husband of 30+ years announced that he was in love with someone else. How does that happen? "Oh, I'm sorry

darling ... while you were out to market I fell in love." Isn't love a process? Doesn't love take time? Well how in the world did he squeeze it in when he was always the same loving husband he always had been? She says there were no signs ... no lack of attention or intimacy ... no harsh words spoken or new cologne purchased. Now two who became one are now split. She feels the sharpness of the separation of what once was. She was abandoned and the greatest trust she knew has been broken. I have to admire her though ... it is a recent thing in her life and she has already taken steps of faith to rebuild/recreate and redecorate her life. I have always been amazed by people that show such inner strength. Her entire attitude has been one based on a faith-based life ... as far as she is concerned ... there is no true definition of "alone" ... because the Lord has always and will always be with her.

A GOOD NEIGHBOR NEWS

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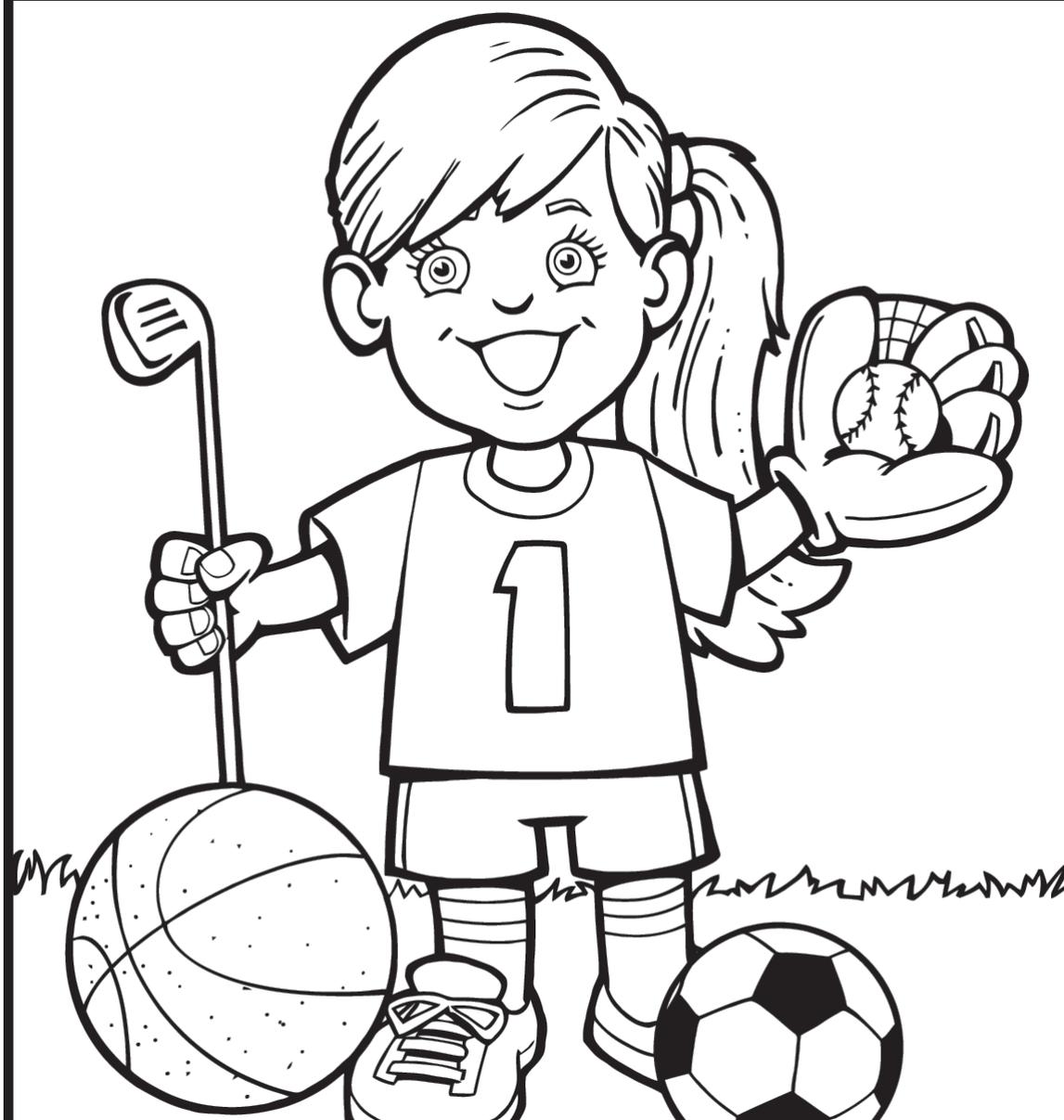


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The Corner Office

A word from Bob Dwyer, Jr.



For those of you that have no idea what that headline means, I'm talking about ceramic outdoor grills (cookers). Ceramic grills are a popular item; they hold heat and retain moisture and flavor much

better than a standard grill. You really must see one to understand. These grills are nothing like the charcoal grills you are used to - so if your curiosity is peaked you can see or experience a ceramic cooker at our grill store. Now, back to the headline, for those of you that own or are thinking about one of these grills let's break down the differences between the two grills and see what we end up with.

Starting at the point of shipping:

#1 The Green Egg comes unassembled. The Primo comes assembled. Let's count this as one big plus for the Primo considering how extremely heavy these grills are due to their composition.

Ceramics:

#2 Both of these grills have good ceramics and I think both grills will do an equal job cooking as far as temperature. Let's call this a draw - both excellent.

What's Best: Big Green Egg or Primo?

Comfort:

#3 The height of the Green Egg in the cradle is a little short for the average person. The Primo is closer to standard counter height. One more for the Primo.

#4 The Green Egg is only offered in a round shape, the Primo comes round or oval and the design does make a difference in what you are hoping to accomplish. That's one more point for the Primo.

Functionality/Practicality/Efficiency:

#5 The Primo has split racks (two cooking racks) vs. the Green Egg which has a one piece rack - having the spilt rack gives the Primo some options you can not get with the Egg. That's yet another one for the primo.

#6 The Primo oval has a popular option not available on the egg, a divider to cook direct and indirect at the same time. Final point goes to Primo

When I was researching these grills I was really impressed with the Green Egg. Green Egg is tethered to a highly successful marketing promotion ... they really know how to sell the product and it is a good product, however, I believe the Primo offers more than the Green Egg.

One huge thing I couldn't get past with the Green Egg was that it's not made in the USA.

The company is headquartered in the USA but they manufacture the grill in Mexico. This bothers me because they do such a great job selling the grill to hard working Americans but choose to send production out of the country ... this take jobs and money away from the same people they want to purchase their product. When I think Grills I think hotdogs, hamburgers. I think the 4th of July, I think American. For me the Primo is the winner hands-down. I know a lot of people have and love the Big Green Egg and like I said it's a great grill ... I just think the Primo has more benefits. I know there are a lot of BGE owners gritting their teeth and not agreeing with me and I'm sorry about that; I'm just calling it like I see it. I do invite Big Green Egg owners and everyone else to stop in and chat about grills. Maybe while you're here we can exchange some grilling ideas. When I had to choose the products that A Good Neighbor would represent and supply to their neighbors I wanted products that I felt would offer the best quality and benefits. I stared with six manufactures of grills all of them made right here in the USA by companies of excellence that "set the bar" of standards very high for their competitors.

The Cat's Meow



by Brenda Dwyer

"Shhh, don't say a word! Do you see that?! MayMay do you?" and we're off. Another day full of excited whispers, whoopee. Oh, how very rude of me ... you have no idea what I'm going on and on about. I will tell you. I have a new great, great, great granddaughter who happens to be extremely inquisitive and loves to talk in excited whispers. She is the only drama queen ever to be born into my line and I place all of the blame solely on "the other side" of her heritage.

That is quite enough about that. Her name is Cleasure ... like treasure or pleasure only with a "C" and that was probably just the beginning of her problems. She is now 7 weeks old and everything ... I mean EVERY SINGLE THING in her day she discovers she remarks on as if it exists solely for her. Take today, for instance ... she hurries from one dandelion to another (there are only hundreds, if not thousands to investigate) and she has to say something about each one of them and Lord forbid we don't pay attention the first time she tells us (because then, she will have to start all over again). It's one thing to be excited but to be so little and to insist on whispering and then demanding attention - well, it's just about too much for this ol' gal. There are times I just want to sit on her or take her out back to the pen and let her get lost in the tall grasses therein. Now, don't get your tail feathers ruffled ... I wouldn't do it but I do

think of it now and again. Seeing how this is the first week her mama has let her wander just a few steps away I have no idea what to expect in the future. This has been the longest week of my entire life. Cleasure is an only child and there's something to be said for that - I just can't remember what. Just a few days before she came out to see the world for the first time I had gone to visit and I had told her about Poppie. Poppie was KING OF THE YARD here until the coyote took him. Well, there I go ... blaming it on the coyote ... I wasn't awake and no one else was around except for the other hens and roosters and those poor things are in such a state of shock I'm not sure we'll ever know for sure what happened. It's obvious he came down to protect one of his hens who was sitting on her nest because they were both

Continued to Page 5

This 'n That



WHITE SPOTS ON A WOOD SURFACE DUE TO MOISUTRE? Spread a thick layer of petroleum jelly over the spot, let sit for 48 hours then wipe off.

REMOVE LIPSTICK STAINS ON WASHABLE FABRICS with petroleum jelly. Rub stained area until stain is loosened then remove the substance and the stain with hair shampoo.

CUPBOARD KNOBS - drawer pulls that are loose; cut a washer from sand paper, place washer between drawer and knob (rough side towards drawer) then tighten the nut.

INK MARKS ON VINYL SURFACES can be lightened with cuticle remover. Apply & let set for a while. Some scrubbing may be necessary. Sometimes lemon juice and salt or rubbing alcohol or lighter fluid or toothpaste or a cut raw potato will remove the spot as well.

CLOVES can prevent molding in preserved jelly by placing several whole cloves on top of jelly in the jar.

TO KEEP FLIES AWAY FROM AROUND THE GARBAGE can place mothballs in the bottom of the garbage can (just a few). Odors will also diminish.

DO YOU HAPPEN TO HAVE A PAIR OF GOLF SHOES? Wear them to walk on your lawn, they open the soil so grass roots can grow stronger and receive water better.

TO ELIMINATE STATIC, mix one part fabric softener and 20 parts water, place in spritzer bottle and spray just a bit as needed.

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From Our Kitchen

PEACH MELBA SHORTCAKES MADE WITH RASPBERRY PEACH CHAMPAGNE JAM

INGREDIENTS

- 3 T sugar
- 1 c cake flour
- C unbleached all-purpose flour
- 2 t cream of tartar
- 1 t baking soda
- ½ t salt

- pinch grated nutmeg
- 1 stick unsalted butter, chilled and cut into small pieces
- ¾ c light cream
- ¼ c STONEWALL KITCHEN Raspberry Peach Champagne Jam
- 1 c heavy cream
- 1 t vanilla extract
- 6 hole firm ripe peaches, peeled and poached or 2 (16 oz) cans juice-packed peach halves

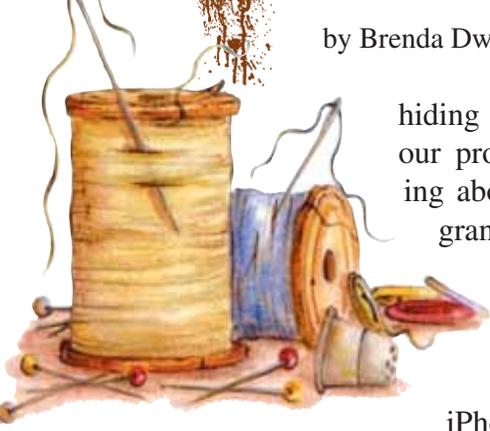
DIRECTIONS

1. PICK UP YOUR RASPBERRY PEACH CHAMPAGNE JAM AT 524 S. MAIN ST. in MIDDLEBURY, IN.
2. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Position rack in center of oven.
3. Combine 2 T of the sugar with flour, cream of tartar, baking soda, salt and nutmeg in a food processor. Process briefly to blend. Add butter and pulse until mixture resembles coarse meal. Pour in light cream and pulse just until mixture forms a soft dough. Do not overwork.
4. Roll dough on a floured surface, using a lightly floured rolling pin, to a thickness of ¼". Use a cookie cutter or shape by hand into circles about 3 to 3 ½" in diameter, gathering scraps and re-rolling as necessary. Place on cookie sheet and bake until shortcakes are golden brown, about 13 – 16 minutes. Remove pan from oven and let cool.
5. Combine heavy cream, vanilla and remaining tablespoon of sugar in a chilled bowl and beat into soft peaks. Remove pits, from peaches, if using fresh peaches, and cut each half in four sections.
6. Split shortcakes horizontally, and moisten cut sides with a little of the poaching liquid or juice from the can. Arrange peaches on the bottom half of each shortcake. Spoon 2 teaspoons of Raspberry Peach Champagne Jam over peaches, then a large dollop of whipped cream. Place lids on top and garnish each with a small dollop of cream.

Raspberry Peach Champagne Jam from STONEWALL KITCHEN is available at our new store located at 524 S. Main Street in Middlebury, IN . Come see our complete line of sauces, jams & pick up one of our complimentary recipe cards!

Grandmas

by Brenda Dwyer



hiding places we have on our property. I was thinking about the next time the grandkids are here for a visit ... if I can tear them away from their iPods, their Nintendo(s), iPhones or Wii for just a couple of minutes I could show them a really good time playing hide and seek. Now, this may seem "lame" to some but let me just tell

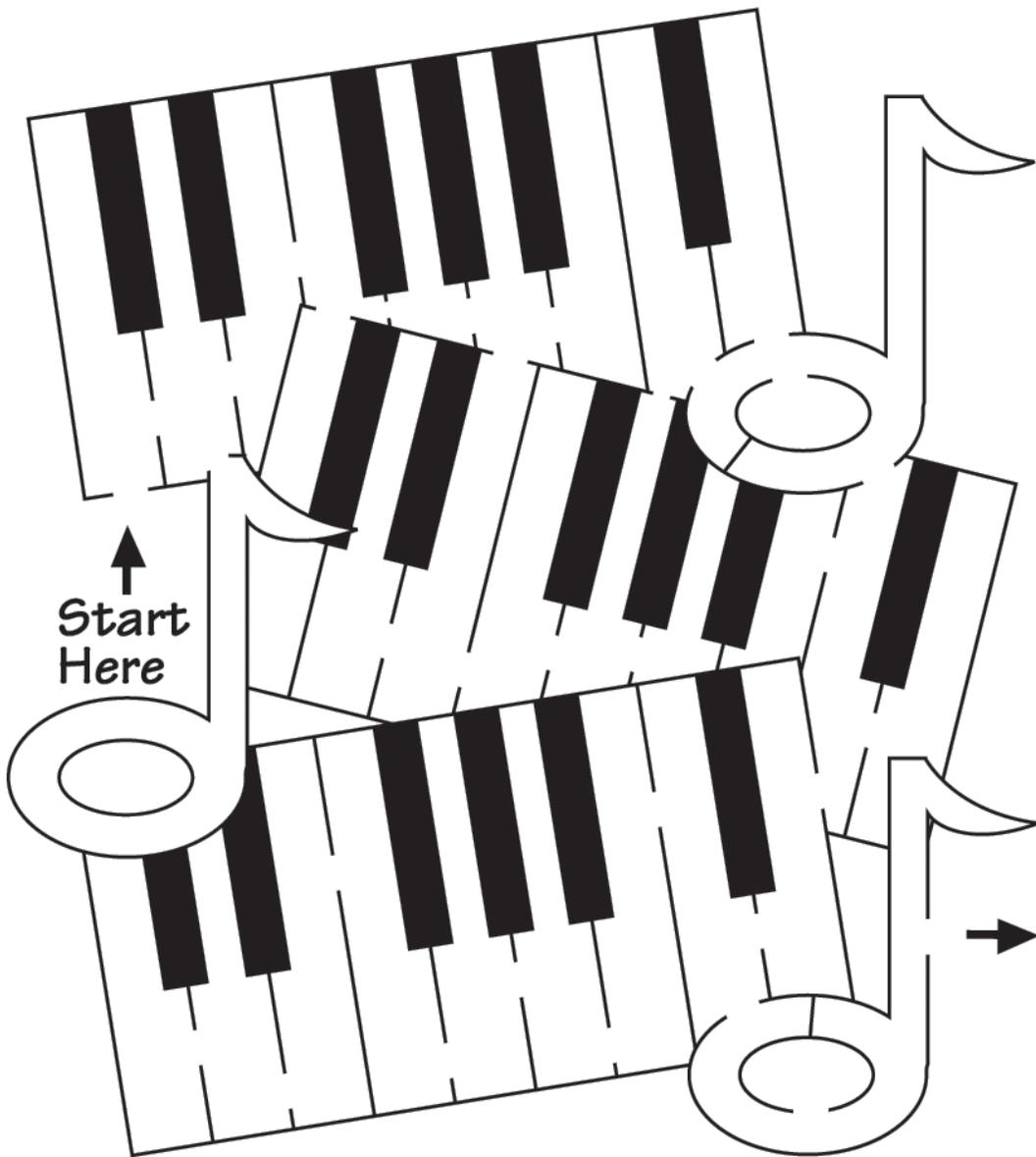
you that I am not talking about your ordinary "count to 100 and then come find me" game of hide and seek ... I am talking about hide and seek of a completely different caliber where strategy is key and the rewards are huge. I won't say much more about that here but let's just say that I was raised in a family where it was mandatory for a girl to use her brain to stay on top and not be defeated by two brothers. I scanned our entire property, pretty much as I do every spring, and stumbled upon a very special place that took my brain racing back to

when I was 8 years old. As I pulled back a deep wall of ivy from a thicket I noticed a pocket that had formed beneath. I decided I would set up a hidden nook for grandchildren there. It will be a nice little place for them to get away from it all now and then. Too bad the entrance isn't big enough for Bob to squeeze through ... it's barely big enough for me ... but my grandchildren will be quite impressed by it when they see it, of this, I am sure. It's funny what you might find when you least expect it. This particular hovel has taken years to form though

and once again I am inspired by Mother Nature's crafty ways. This past Sunday was mother's day and so I had a steady stream of calls all day long from my children and their children. My 4 year old granddaughter asked me if I knew when they would be coming to my house again. I told her I wasn't sure but the sooner the better because "Mimi has a new secret hiding place to show you when you get here!" She shrieked with happiness and her little imagination was off and running. Ah, there's much to be said for the great outdoors.

I was out piddling around in the yard just the other day and was just amazed, as I surveyed the yard, the amount of good

KIDz KORNER





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 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
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 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

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 Erv'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
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 JoJo's Pretzels - 205 N. Harrison Street 1st Floor (Mercantile)
 L & R Marine - 8435 W. US 20
 L.A. Enterprises - 8275W 050N
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 Lighthouse Christian Bookstore - 225 N. Harrison Street
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 R&S Floor to Wall - 9551W 750N
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 Shiphewana Harness & Supplies - 815 N. Van Buren Street
 Shipshe Pizza - 145 N. Village Drive
 Shipshe Rental Center - 0900 N. SR 5
 Shiphewana 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
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 Dumor Water Specialists - 4405 Wyland Dr.
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Garden Gab

by Brenda Dwyer
 Yippee! Shouts of giddy happiness ring out for all of nature to hear! Someone is coming to save my garden! I was just out in the garden on Saturday and it turned into a session of lamenting and prayer. The paths are so woeful ... the vines are already quickly taking over but in a haphazard way ... not an orderly way. The ponds are scum filled and the gazebo looks like I feel; tired and worn out. The garden clock hangs its head in shame and the hard-scape has scattered here and

there with the help of wild life and inquisitive cats. I need color! It rings loud and clear in my brain that I need color to punch this garden up and bring it back to life! I need annuals and perennials and lots of loud splashes of yellows, reds, deep purples, blues, whites, oranges and any other color we can muster up! I need the wagon painted, the weeds pulled, everything trimmed, bulbs split and transplanted so that in just a few months' time the definition of spectacular will be revealed for all to enjoy! Thank

you Lord for sending me someone who was willing to make our gardens beautiful again! I look forward to the days that I can don my garden jeans and gloves and head out there to work alongside of her ... for people like us, having our hands in the dirt and enjoying the fruits of our labor down the road is pure bliss. This year, the garden will be a reflection of her hard work and I am anxious to see just how beautiful it will be.

Talk Across The Fence

by Brenda Dwyer
 What is going on at 524 S. Main Street in Middlebury? I will tell you what. We have a new store! I know the front of our building simply states A

swap recipes and grilling techniques & secrets and get to taste some of the best BBQ ever! As the weather gets warmer I am sure our little crowd will grow and grow! We carry a full line

and signs for upcoming dates or give us a call. The class with Chris Marks is very limited as Chris likes to have more one-on-one time with his students. You must call to register within the

WALL KITCHEN sauces, jams & jellies (with complimentary recipe cards) ... we sell empty propane tanks, aprons, grilling accessories, flavored woods, and all things HVAC (parts/filters/etc), the entire line of LENNOX A/C and Furnaces ... other makes and models of furnaces and A/C systems and Indoor Air Quality products which include iQ Air (as seen on EXTREME MAKEOVER). Did I mention our "STAYCATION" line? Oh yes, we

Community Events

Middlebury Church of the Brethren will be hosting a Dan's Fish Fry on Saturday, May 14, 2011. Come and enjoy all the fish and chicken you care to eat with applesauce, coleslaw, beverage and your choice of dessert. Serving times are 3:30-7:30 p.m. Advance tickets are \$9.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children ages 6-12. Under 5 are free. Tickets will be available at the door, but will be 50 cents more. Carry-outs are available. Proceeds will benefit the Middlebury Food Pantry and the Middlebury Church of the Brethren Building Fund. The church is located at 507 Bristol Avenue in Middlebury. Call (574) 825-2955 for advance tickets.

GOOD NEIGHBOR HEATING & COOLING but inside is something that Bob and I have both wanted since we were young. Heating & Cooling is in Bob's blood;



nothing will ever change that but when you get to be our age, sometimes hard work allows you to stretch a little farther and realize a dream or two. That's what our little store is; a dream realized. There are cooking sauces, rubs, spices, jams, jellies and other delectable goodies just waiting to be sampled and appreciated. Saturdays are "tasting days" ... I love to watch the looks on peoples' faces when they taste some of the tiny crackers heaped with all sorts of delicacies that they've never experienced before. Their faces reflect my own - back when I first discovered the line of product that we are now honored to carry in our own little store. Saturdays are also grilling days here! The grills come out and we even invite anyone who wants to participate to bring their own grills (and their own meat) and have a parking lot tailgater's party! We

of flavored woods too ... the very thing you need to take your BBQ to the next level! In just a few days' time Chris Marks will arrive and treat us all to his wisdom of all things BBQ. Chris will be kicking off a series of grilling cooking classes we will be hosting throughout the year! He is a World Champion as well as an 8x National Grand Champion BBQ Chef. He is a TV personality and we are so blessed to have him coming here to share time and tips with us! As I stated previously, we will be hosting grilling cooking classes off and on throughout the year so watch our storefront

next 4 days or you'll miss out. Trust me ... to have a celebrity chef come to your little town to host a cooking class is HUGE! You don't want to miss out so call and register! The knowledge you gain will help you to "kick it up a notch" every time you grill from now on! Come on in and see our little store. We'd love to meet you! Now ... back to the store ... we have LIVE BAIT outside (24/7), ICE outside (during business hours), we have TEC, FIREMAGIC, PRIMO, BROILMASTER & AOG grills, we have a PROPANE STATION (during business hours), we have STONE-

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A WORLD OF WONDERS

by Monica Clark

MAY & MUSHROOMS

Ah, May, the month when children gaze longingly out classroom windows and the smell of fresh-cut grass calls, "Come outside and play!" The teacher's voice drones like the bees buzzing the dandelions on the hillside. Finally, the recess bell rings and the children burst outside to gallop and gambol across the playground like the spring colts in the surrounding meadows.

May is many things: mosquitoes, midges, Mayflies, but mostly, May is for mushrooms.

My first experience with the mighty Morel happened when my step-dad joined our family. Smart man that he is, he decided to take us camping because nothing bonds a family closer than 4 people living in a tent for a week!

Our new dad drove through the night, deep into the realm of the golden, sponge mushroom. We made it to...wait, I can't tell you where we went. Mushroom spots are more heavily guarded than secret government installations. Let's just say it was a little north of here...

We arrived just after sunrise and sharp shafts of rosy light streamed through the forest like sunbeams through the stained-glass windows of a great cathedral. A river of mist rose and rolled across a small lake. Clouds of it surged into a huge, stump-filled swamp. Startling white Birches loomed like ghosts. My brother, Shaun, and I were fascinated by their thin, papery bark. We passed small, green meadows where wild grasses were softened by the morning dew. There was so much to see, so much to take in, a complete sensory overload, and the trees...trees were everywhere!

Shaun and I had never been camping in the big woods before. Truth is we'd never been camping anywhere except the backyard. We found ourselves in a great forest, a Hansel and Gretel-type forest, a forest where we could actually get lost!

Dad parked the car near a clearing nestled at the foot of a tall hill. While Mom, Dad and I made camp, Shaun started his own long-standing tradition of disappearing as soon as the fishing gear was un-

packed. By the time the work was done, Shaun was back with a stringer full of fish. Mom fried them up in a cast iron skillet on our new Coleman stove. Food, any food, is always better in camp. Open a can of Pringles and you've stumbled onto ambrosia.

We set off after breakfast. Our Custom Cruiser Station Wagon bouncing along the rutted, dirt roads. The weather was unusually warm and wet that year and a bonanza of mushrooms bloomed.

"Look! There's one! There!" Dad called out. "And there! And there!"

We could see them from the road! Mushrooms were everywhere, sprinkled on the hills like spongy, gold nuggets. Six, seven, eight-inchers, mushrooms so big we knocked them over when we opened the car doors!

They seemed to sprout up right in front of us. We'd pick a bunch of 'shrooms, turn around, and there'd be more behind us. We hardly left the roadside before our bags were full.

There is something wondrous about mushrooms--especially the big ones! The intricate holes, delicate as fine lace; the tall, sturdy stalks; the earthy smell...the taste, the butter and flour, salt and pepper, the crisp, crunchy outside, the soft, juicy inside...

We ate until our bellies were full, then unzipped the tent and shuffled our poor, tired bodies inside. When I closed my eyes, mushrooms danced and trees swayed.

The night was dark, a whole new kind of dark, and full of strange sounds. A loon wailed a lonely cry out on the lake. A whippoorwill whistled shrilly from the brush. Twigs broke. Large, unknown creatures wandered near our camp, but tired and full, we just snuggled deeper into our sleeping bags and drifted off.

Many years have passed since that first May camping trip. I'm sorry to say we never found mushrooms like that again. We still go, hoping for another Mother Lode. The loons still wail and the whippoorwills still whistle but, somehow, the woods just don't seem as big.

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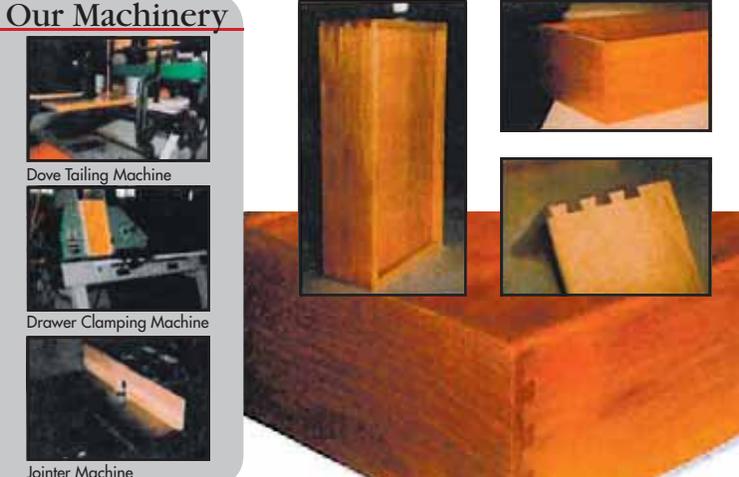
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FARM COUNTRY MOOS

by Loretta Miller

"You're a good girl Sherlyn", I said to my young daughter as I rubbed her back to try to get her to wake up from her sleepy state. She really didn't feel like packing 4 lunches this morning, I observed; (who does really ... so early in the morning?) My 10 year old daughter pulled herself out of her chair to begin her morning. My mind raced back about 25 years ago. My own dad would sometimes encourage me with those words. In our (Amish) culture we are not a people known for our "physically" affectionate

ways. We are more of a reserved people in that way. But I could always feel my parents' love for me in my growing-up years. They showed us through their dedication to us. There were 10 of us kids in the family. Oh, the fun we would have! I never felt deprived even when there was no major outward show of affection. My dad was always there when we needed him and I recall my mom cooking us the best meals we could want; simple, but delicious. Our dilapidated farm house was definitely showing its age but we never lacked anything we really

needed. Sometimes I let my mind travel back (during those rare occasions I have some solitude - which is usually in the bathtub). I distinctively recall my older sister and I chasing after each other with a broom on Saturdays when we were supposed to be cleaning house. Sometimes we'd spend more time arguing about who threw what toy in whose room than the time it took to clean the room and get it over with. But, in spite of our sibling rivalry back then, we're as close as two sisters could be. We were probably too much alike. Seems like the more

two people are alike the less they get along. Maybe that is why they say opposites attract. When we end up with a partner for marriage we find we're often opposite of each other. One talks, the other listens and so forth. One likes to go places, the other likes to stay home. One is a morning person, the other a night owl. I guess we find we need each other to keep us grounded. Anyway, after breakfast my dad would get out his big worn bible and read a chapter to us kids, who sometimes weren't too alert. He usually read in German, so that's where I learned

most of my German language. The chapters where Jesus died on the cross for our sins so we have eternal hope were especially dear to him. Isn't it wonderful that we don't have to be perfect to enter heaven? By grace we are saved, through his atoning blood. Then after that there were morning prayers in which he called one child's name and that child was expected to recite the Lord's Prayer out loud. Then our day would begin. Another thing that stands out is in the fall of the year when we'd fill our big silo with corn from the fields, we'd put it in the silage cutter and up it went into the big silo. I would feel pretty big when my dad gave me my own team of horses to drive to and fro from the field pulling a load of corn. But the best part of the day was the full course meal my mom would prepare for the silo filling crew of about half a dozen men or so (or were there more?). She'd start cooking as soon as the morning chores were done. We milked quite a few cows at that time. I recall she'd always spend most of the day in the kitchen, and be washing dishes 'til about 2:30PM in the afternoons. It was in ways like that, that made us kids feel loved. I hope I can convey that same message to my kids even though I'm only human

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When Momma Went Home

by Janice Pritchard

Her chair sits in the same place it always sat, with her nail file, box of tissue and the TV remote control neatly lined up on her side table. The Bible she read every day (as long as her eyes would let her) is missing – we made sure she has it with her. Her walker is poised beside her chair ready for use, and the cushion with the quilted cover (which she made) waits for her. But she won't be coming home... Mom went to her real "home" in April. She was just 4 days shy of her 90th birthday.

My Mom, affectionately known as "tough old bird", "old woman" and "Granny" as well as "Mom" and "Grandma", was quite a woman. She began her life in the "hollers"

of Kentucky, the oldest of 4 children born to poor dirt farmers. I suppose that's what made her so tough. She and my Dad eloped to Tennessee to get married before he went to the Army. When Dad finished his service time, it was back to Kentucky to farm. And along came two more boys. One boy died (crib death). Times were financially tough, so they came to Elkhart where Dad got a job in a paper mill. Then I came along, and a few years later, my sister joined us.

With Dad working long hours to keep us in clothes and put food on the table, Mom ruled us kids with an iron... willow switch. She knew where we were all the time and if she checked, we had better be where we said we were go-

ing or we paid the price. Mom nursed us when we were sick; she fussed over our accomplishments. And she loved us – that fact we never doubted. Mom loved us – good or bad – all through our lives. There's nothing quite like a mother's love. When she had to go to the hospital the last time, even through all the pain and medication, she looked up at me and said, "Why aren't you at work? You're going to mess around here with me and lose your job!" Still trying to watch out for me!

After the hospital, Mom spent the next week at a nursing home. She could hear us and sometimes managed to say something, but she wasn't able to fight off the terrible infection that was overtak-

ing her body. Abiding by her wishes, we had her transferred to a hospice facility and began what is called comfort care. The last time that I was sure she was still able to hear me, I whispered in her ear, "When you get to the other side, tell Daddy and Bill (my late husband) I love them and give them both a big hug for me." She smiled. I knew she was ready to go home. And three days later, she did.

Right after Mom breathed her last breath, I headed outside with my cell phone to call my daughter. As I opened the door at the hospice house, I saw a sight that took my breath away. It was so wonderful I called my brothers to the door to see. As we watched through our tears, a beautiful bluebird

with its red breast looked our way, flew to my brother David's car, then to my car, then to my brother Kenny's car. The bird then looked toward us again, and flew away. Even through our tears, we all looked at each other and broke into smiles.

You see, Mom loved spring. Many times over the last couple of years she said she hoped the good Lord called her home in the spring. She absolutely loved the sight of the first flowers and all the colorful birds that came back from their winter homes. She would call me almost every day to tell me what flowers were up and blooming and what birds were at her feeders. And bluebirds were her favorite.

FARM COUNTRY MOOS

and fail often. God has blessed us with 5 daughters and 4 sons; ages 1 year to 14 years old. We milk 46 cows on our dairy farm at this point and work the fields with our horses. They sure do get lazy and spoiled during the winter months. But we all need a break sometimes, right? But back to my 10 year old, packing lunches. My 3 oldest girls rotate jobs every week so there is always one who helps me in the house during chore time.

Their job in the morning consists of packing lunches, putting the clean, air dried dishes back in the cupboard from the evening before, and sweeping throughout the house. I will usually do laundry (every other morning) or do odds and ends around the house. I also try to get a warm breakfast on the table by the time they come in from milking cows. At 8:10 the 4 scholars leave the house to go to school with the pony and cart. If

Continued from Page 10

the weather is foul they take the enclosed single buggy. It's about 1 1/2 miles to the school. They're back by 3:15PM. Summer vacation is almost here. Yeah. God's blessing to everyone. If life hands you scraps make a patchwork quilt.

"Thought for the day;

When you were born you cried and the world rejoiced,

Live your life so that when you die, the world cries and you rejoice".

For Immediate Release

Shipshewana Kicks Off Visitor Season with Upcoming Events

Shipshewana, IN – LaGrange County Convention and Visitors Bureau and www.VisitShipshewana.org are pleased to announce these upcoming Cultural, Entertainment, Family, and Outdoor events in Shipshewana:

CULTURAL EVENTS

Shipshewana Quilt Festival Takes Place June 22-25: Registration has already begun for this four-day occasion that welcomes over 2,500 guests annually. This festival has been voted as one of the top 100 events in North America, as voted by the American Bus Association.

The quilt festival features workshops, displays, and keynote speaker Kaye England.

Quilt Festival attendees can purchase Shop Hop Passports: For only \$5, the passport will provide a tote for carrying goodies and entrance into eight local retailers. Purchase passports at any of the eight retailers. For a list of the retailers, visit www.ShipshewanaQuiltFest.com.

Barn Quilt Tour Launches June 21: Visitors will delight in ten stunning quilt patterns painted on barns woven throughout the county. Along the way, they will also discover other family-owned treasures located all across the area.

LaGrange County Residents: To participate in the Barn Quilt Tour, pick up an application at the LCCVB at 780 S. Van Buren Street, or at the LaGrange, Topoka, and Shipshewana libraries.

ENTERTAINMENT

"The Confession" Opens June 1: Based on books by nationally-acclaimed author Beverly Lewis, this musical drama, on stage only at the Blue Gate Theater, runs through December 3. A variety of ticket packages is offered.

The Oak Ridge Boys In Concert June 4: Come to the Blue Gate Theater to see up close and personal the legendary group who went double-platinum in the 1980s with their album, "Fancy Free." They'll feature both old songs like "Elvira" and "Bobby Sue" along with their new songs "Closer to Home and "Did I Make A Difference?"

FAMILY RECREATION

Annual Calf Day Celebrated at Cook's Bison Ranch June 11: Enjoy a day of family fun from 10 am to 3 pm. where the music is great, the food is delicious, and the buffalo still roam. Free wagon rides to see bison along with plenty of kids' activities. www.CooksBisonRanch.com

OUTDOOR

OPPORTUNITIES

Antique Market Happens June 4: **Continued to Page 15**



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Jared Gingerich, age 9 (winner of 7-9 age group)



Kendra Sandoval, age 12, (winner of 10-12 age group)

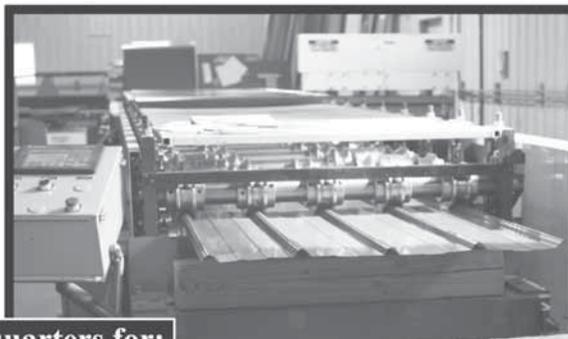


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Angie LeAnn Bontrager
Jolie Graber
Jesse Miller
Bethany Sandoval
Kara Gingerich
Josiah Sandoval
Brenda Glick
Jason Graber

Jasper Graber
Kari Sandoval
Charity Yoder
Johnathan Miller
Dorcas Miller
Julius Graber
Jeremy Yoder
Wayne Bontrager
Kari Miller
Emily Stutzman

We want to thank everyone for their participation and hope you had a lot of fun! Sharpen those coloring skills because next year things are bound to be even more exciting!

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All Things BBQ

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



in short order. Grilling is no different. Your sauce or rub recipe may be delicious but combined with the right grill you could be on your way to preparing meats worthy of championships.

Just think of it; who doesn't want to be the best when it comes to grilling? BBQ kings rule!



Well, seeing how I LOVE BBQ and seeing how "life is too short not to live it" ... I can't even begin to tell you how excited I am that this month we will have an 8x NATIONAL GRAND CHAMPION right here in Middlebury! His name is Chris Marks (yes, the same Chris Marks that you see on TV) and on May 17th he is coming to teach BBQ 101 ... a cooking class "how to" on Ribs & Chicken. Yippee! I could just jump up and down! It's one thing to watch your beloved prepare dinner for you in such a Neanderthal way but to have a National Grand Champion prepare it for you ... wow wee ka zow wee! I can't wait! We have people calling in from all over to verify that he's scheduled to be here. (This guy draws a lot of attention!) I, for one, just can't wait to taste the BBQ that night. I'm sure it will be one of my top BBQ memories of all time. (By the way, there are a few more openings for his class so give Janice or Jill a call at 574-825-1677 if you want to be included!)

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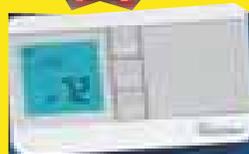
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From the Pulpit Mayday! Mayday! Come in Jesus! I need your help!

Have you ever felt this way before? I know I have; more times than I care to mention. The good news is that whenever we call on Him we are not disappointed for He is always with us. I can remember as a child how very scared I would be sometimes lying in my bed

in the dark. I felt so alone and all I could think of was that I wanted my mom or dad to come and sit by me and keep me safe. It's the same way now that I am past the half century mark. When I am afraid I call to Jesus for I can feel in my heart that He is near; watching over me.

His presence puts my spirit at ease and allows me to find rest. In all of life's troubles, trials, tribulations and even in its joys, celebration and triumphs HE IS WITH ME. He has proven His steadfastness time and again. Rescue is swift ... all you have to do is ask.



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35	R	E	P	R	E	H	E	N	S	36	I	B	L	E		
39	K	E	N	O	40	T	O	R	S	O	S					
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Continued from Page 10

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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 Shipshewana and other LaGrange County attractions, please go online to www.VisitShipshewana.org or call (800) 254-8090.

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