

FREE



A GOOD NEIGHBOR NEWS

"STRENGTHENING OUR LOCAL ECONOMY"

JULY 2011

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CURIOSITY & INTRIGUE



What is up with the bees this year? The carpenter bees at home are so curious this year! They buzz here and there and then hover. They almost remind me of a scene out of a UFO movie I saw years ago ... what do they want? Ha ha! I love their antics. If I move, they move ... if I stop, they stop. They seem to be harmless enough although their sheer size is rather intimidating. When I have the water hose spraying plants in the gardens they love to come and hover just above the spray – in the mist. I haven't "googled" the reason for their fascination with all things people-related this year because I like the intrigue and mystery that surrounds them. As long as they don't expect to be invited inside for tea I don't mind them hanging around so much. I do, however, wish they would stop trying to carve cute little holes into my wood posts; that's a bit rude and annoying. :)



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SIMPLY Delicious!



by Brenda Dwyer

This past weekend found me outside mowing the grass. I know, shocking right?! I was joyfully making all of my beautiful little curves in the grass and enjoying the swallows swooping here and there in front of and behind me to partake of the smorgasbord that was created for them with each pass. A perfect breeze was blowing and I was feeling peaceful & happy. When I finished the front yard I began plotting my course for the rest of the yard. Soon I found myself behind our pathway garden. As the garden has matured, it becomes increasingly difficult to see into it. Who knows what animal may be lurking within until you actually enter; deer have been known to travel through as well as birds, rabbits, our chickens and Cody with her brood. So ... there I was mowing (on a riding mower that is fairly loud) when all of a sudden something came hurling itself out of the garden and right up to the mower. Its times like these that you realize just how

fast your brain can process information because I thought "OMG ... what is it? Oh, it's a puppy! Wow ... it's not even afraid of the mower!" It looked to be about 3 or 4 months old ... a German shepherd mix. I immediately shut the mower blades off and swooped up the (about 20 lb.) pup into my lap (she already had her front paws planted firmly on deck and there was no mistaking her intention to "come aboard"). She was friendly, playful and had the most amazing eyes! "Who do you belong to girl?" I asked ... as if she would simply respond. No one came immediately to claim her so we spent about a half hour in the front yard playing and chasing each other. She was a welcome break in my day! I love surprises and she was no exception! She would follow me then stop abruptly if I looked her way. Everything about her was "new" to me. She wasn't like our three dogs ... she seemed more keen and aware. Perhaps it was just her puppy curiosity – the likes of which we haven't had in our home for quite

a while now. It wasn't long before my ears picked up on a "come hither" whistle and I knew our time had come to an end. Her short visit into my life reminded me once again how wonderful it is to meet a new "friend" even if they pass through your life in a wisp of time. I glory in these moments and cherish them in my heart. Off I went to follow the whistle and she fell into line right behind me. That whistle led us to a young man that sure looked happy to see her! I told him she had happened into our yard and then I asked him if she was a German shepherd. He told me she is a German Shepherd/Great Dane/St. Bernard mix. Well, that explains her huge paws! It was good to see that someone so caring and obviously adoring owned her. They seem to be a great match. Well, back to mowing I went feeling even happier than when I started! Some occurrences in our lives are simply delicious and this was one of them.

FLUFFY STUFF

I was, once again, reminded of how much I love my two little balls of fluff and my one gigantic one when that little stranger happened into our yard last weekend; my oldest came bounding into my life nearly 8 years ago. There is no other way to describe it. There I was, sitting with my legs crossed over one another on the floor, holding one of her siblings in my lap when she came stumbling out of "nowhere" and made several hilarious attempts to jump up onto my knee. I was immediately intrigued & smitten. She pounced on my heart with

that single action and she has not succeeded that place in my heart to anyone or



anything since. Over the years, with all of the furry friends that have passed through my life, it has almost always played out the same ... I didn't choose; I was chosen. However, when I married Bob, my big boy (not Bob ... our Mastiff) came slobbering his way into my heart. Every time he shakes that huge head of his and slings more "snarf" all over for me to clean up I have to mentally take note all over again

Continued to Page 14

INSIDE THE TEAROOM



Healing

by Brenda Dwyer

Bruised, broken, crying; she sat cowered in the corner of the bathroom trying to be as still as possible. If she whimpered or made any noise whatsoever that he was able to hear she knew it would aggravate his already highly agitated state. He never said he was sorry; not once. She wondered where her children were huddled ... he never would strike them but he never hid his anger from them either. She hat-

ed that they witnessed this side of their father. She wondered how it would affect all of them in the years ahead – how it was affecting them now and yet she felt powerless to do anything about it. He would stay gone for hours at a time and she could never (would never) ask him where he had been – she knew it could cost her, her life. He would come home angry (from what?!) and take it out on her. It didn't matter where she was in the house or the yard ... didn't matter what she was doing – she was his punching bag. For years she kept it all inside, prayed, waited ... but what was she waiting on? She couldn't have friends and spending time with her family involved sidestepping

his manipulation. She was allowed to attend church and she attended as often as was possible; whenever those doors were open or an event was scheduled. Life today is immeasurably different than life was then. Back then I couldn't even see past the day on my own ... only in my faith in God did I determine a future, a promise ... hope. We as a people are so utterly imperfect and we all do things that hurt others. Now that so many years separate me from that time in my life I want to share something I've learned:

Some of us are open with our abuse; others of us are masters at disguising it. It is easy for us to understand how physical, emotional or spiritual abuse is so damaging when it is blatant and leaves deep scars and yet the little abuses ... the insults, the arguments, the gossiping, the name calling that many people do on a regular basis cut just as deep and are just as scarring. If we determine ourselves to lead a more gentle life and to be happy every morning despite our circumstances we would be amazed at how abuses; both big and small would become a stranger to us all.

A GOOD NEIGHBOR NEWS

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SALISBURY'S STAKE

by Stephanie J. Salisbury

I love fireworks. LOVE them. The sensory input every fourth of July is, for me, an experience that never grows old. With each crackling, sizzling boom racing toward the sky, blossoming into a momentary masterpiece, then disappearing, I become more and more giddy. I like to say my favorites are the purple and green combinations, but then I really like the reds, the oranges, the sparkly popcorn ones that drip further and further down the sky, and the super-loud flashing ka-BOOMS. Yes, I am a five-year-old at heart. No, I don't think that's a bad thing.

I've realized at my age that there are so many things about my daily life that get me down. I'm coming off of one of the most emotionally and physically stressful months I've ever had, one where I could have easily allowed myself to sink into a deep depression. It's at times such as these that I have to give myself permission to regress, to attempt to see things with a child-like innocence, or else this life would get the best of me.

Instead of rushing through traffic going five miles over the speed limit because it's faster, but not fast enough to get pulled over, making cell phone calls to multi-task my commute time, and pulling up at a drive-through window for my dinner, what if I just took a step back? Just took a breath and gave myself permission to stop the ridiculous hurry? What if I unplugged for a day – took the home phone off the hook, turned the computer and the television off, silenced the cell phone and took a walk? Not a power-walk for exercise, not a dog-walk where I have to pick up after my pets, but a real walk where I just went my own pace, lingered at places that in-

terested me, and soaked in the world around me?

I realize that this life is filled with tragedy, disappointment, disillusionment, sadness, and irritation. But sometimes what I fail to realize is that it is also filled with joy, blessings, excitement, adventure, and great satisfaction. Sometimes I find myself digging deeply to find such things, but perhaps I'm trying too hard. Perhaps I'm trying so hard, I'm stepping right over them and finding only more disappointment.

My best friend has two sons, and when we visit, Milo and Ethan and I ... we play HARD! We run around the house, have piggyback rides, fly them through the air, dress up like superheroes – it is FUN. But what stands out the most is, whatever they enjoy doing, they want to do it again. And again. And again.

It's how I feel about fireworks. I don't want there to be a grand finale. I just want the fireworks to continue, again, and again, and again, all night long, and then start over at dusk the next night. It is because of the simplicity of my joy in that moment.

I need to find more moments like this in my daily life: playing fetch with my dogs, holding my husband's hand on the sofa while we watch our favorite television show, hearing my sister's voice on the phone after a long, hard day at work, eating dinner with my parents on their deck in the sunshine, seeing my kids smile at whatever makes them happy that day, watching an ant carry his dinner home on his back, staring out the window at a rabbit who doesn't know I'm looking...

And watching fireworks as many times a year as I possibly can.

CHILD'S PLAY



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THE CORNER OFFICE

A word from Bob Dwyer, Jr.



Speaking as one who depends on “true” summers and “true” winters to provide for my family I can say that the weather we’ve been having this year has been a test of my ability to think outside of the box. We have had a healthy season in spite of the weather and I

am thankful for it but being the kind of guy I am I still worry. Brenda has repeatedly tried to reassure me and encourage me to grow my faith. I do hear her; I’m just not so easily changed. Well, as things would have it I have found that God does indeed work in mysterious ways. All of a sudden I am repeatedly hearing of the challenges of others and I realize that my concerns over our company pale in comparison. Lately I have been welcomed into people’s homes to see what we can agree upon for their HVAC needs only to find that they are gravely ill or have recently lost a loved one ... some are caregivers for their

elderly parents or abandoned grandchildren, others are struggling still to climb out of a financial hole that was created when they lost their jobs 3 or 4 years ago. All of a sudden the only thing I feel is: who am I to worry? Who am I to complain? What is so terrible in my life that would warrant my constant state of uneasiness? I have a wonderful family, a wife I treasure and a business that is busy enough to provide for all of my employees. My hope is that all of us will have a prosperous year and may our concerns, whatever they might be, seem less heavy.

THE CAT’S MEOW



by Brenda Dwyer

Yesterday I woke up thinking, “Today was created for leisure”. I had every intention of just grazing in the grass and watching the world go by. At my age, I should have realized that around here that is basically impossible. About two hours into my lazy slumber Precious happened over to me complaining of a problem with her paw. It seems she stepped on a pine needle the wrong way

and suffered a tiny jab that was just enough to be irritating (to me anyway). I told her to just keep licking it so that her saliva could help to heal it and this seemed to assuage the situation and off she went. Just as I was about to drift off into lovely little dreams of mice and men I was startled out of my nap by a very loud cockle doodle do ... yea, right in my ear. I opened one eye and looked up to see Goldie standing over me with one eye glaring at me and his feathers all blown up around his head. “What is your problem?” I asked him (trying to keep my tone reasonable). Well, long story short it seems that Henni Penny flew up into the tree and refused to come down when called. He had tried to be considerate of my nap until he watched as she finally reached the very top of the tree and was perched precariously on one

little branch ... that’s when he “let loose” ... right in my ear. I couldn’t believe my ears! He was having a fit because his hen wanted some time off? I told him to get lost and raked him with my claws (now don’t go getting all huffy ... I’m an old gal and these young ‘uns need to get their priorities straight). Goldie did not see it coming but was immediately distraught that I had taken such an action and apologized profusely. Well, the rest of the day was uneventful and word got around the yard that it would be best if no one bothered me (those clucking hens!!). First thing today Cleo’s new baby Samantha came up to me and said “Grammy did you sleep well yesterday?” “I missed you sooo much!” and off she went ... today is definitely not a nap day ... I don’t want to miss a thing.

THE MEMORY BANK

By Bill Raybuck

Middlebury... Small, quaint... quiet? I grew up here, and while I left for a while to join the Navy, I somehow found my way back in 1998. Since that time, I’ve watched the town change. Some changes were for the better, while others hurt us all. The economy and national deficit took an R.V. and Manufactured Housing County, and brought it to its knees. Some Companies bounced back, while others closed their doors forever... Middlebury wasn’t safe from the fall, and in my eyes, is still recovering. We’ve had small business come and go, and some continue to hold their heads above water. I think back to when “lunch time” in Middlebury was the most congested place in the area when all these factories were humming, and yet, while the through traffic still fills the streets... it’s simply not the same. Events fill the void lately, bringing in people to shop and mingle down our city streets. This area is rich in tradition, and having a diverse community keeps the tourists on their toes.

But whatever happened to “Block Parties”... streets shut down, children and adults alike enjoying each other’s company? Has this world eroded to a point where we stick to our own, basically shut-ins, devoid of any emotion or feeling of friendship? Think back... remember when no one was a stranger, when nothing kept us from seeking the joys and freedoms we enjoy as Americans? It’s in all of us to rekindle that fire that use to burn, yet now, sits smoldering in a perpetual slumber just waiting to be awakened.

I realize that Money makes the world go around... that there are Bills to pay, and children to raise, but at the end of the day, “I’d rather be poor and happy, with friends galore, then rolling in cash, and still wanting more”.

This 'n That



CLEANING TIPS FOR THE BATHROOM

- Bars of soap too small to use effectively can be pressed into the sides of new bars softened by recent use.
- Shower curtains can be renovated by being washed, on gentle cycle, with a pint of white vinegar.
- If you have more than one bath to clean, keep separate cleaning supplies in each bathroom, that way you can clean the bath at a moments notice.
- To clean tubs and showers use a product that contains phosphoric acid, their is no scrubbing involved.
- Buildup on shower doors: Wipe with lemon oil. Removes buildup and keeps doors protected longer from future buildup.
- Removing mildew from shower or bath: 3 parts bleach and 1 part water -- put in spray bottle. Spray on mildew areas and it will virtually disappear.

CLEANING TIPS FOR THE LAUNDRY ROOM

- To remove perspiration stains in clothing, soak in warm vinegar and water.
- Microwaves can be used to emergency disinfect clothes, such as a child’s cap that another kid has put on, as long as they have absolutely NO metal in the zippers, buttons, rivets etc. ALWAYS place a cup of cold water next to the article to absorb the heat and microwave on high until the water is steaming.
- Removing mildew stains from clothes: Begin by brushing of mold outdoors so you don’t scatter mildew spores in the house. On washable fabrics, pretreat by rubbing detergent into the dampened stain. Then, launder the items in hot water, detergent and chlorine bleach, if it is safe for the fabric. If the stain remains, sponge it with hydrogen peroxide, rinse and launder. If the item isn’t bleach-safe, soak it in an oxygen bleach that is safe for colors, then wash it. Take non-washable fabrics to the dry cleaner and tell them what the stain is.
- Urine Stains: For washable fabrics that can be bleached... pre-soak them in cold water for at least thirty minutes. Launder these fabrics in hot water using detergent and chlorine bleach according to the directions on the bleach container. For washable, non-bleachable items, sponge the stained area with a solution of equal parts of household ammonia and water then launder the item in warm water and detergent. Rinse it well. For non-washable items, sponge just the stained area with clear water to which a few drops of ammonia have been added. Then, sponge with clear water only.
- Gray Dingies: One cause of the gray dingies is overloading the washing machine. When you do this, the clothes cannot move freely, resulting in poor washing and unremovable soil. To estimate the right-sized load, place dry, unfolded clothes in the washer loosely until it is about three-quarters full. Another cause is using non-phosphate detergents, particularly the granular type. If you’re using a non-phosphate detergent, use the hottest water possible and dissolve the detergent in the water before adding the clothes. If you have hard water, you might want to add about a third to a half cup of packaged water softener along with the detergent.

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From Our Kitchen

BLUEBERRY STUFFED FRENCH TOAST

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 loaf French bread cut into 1" cubes (approx. 5 cups)
- 8 oz. cream cheese cut into 1" cubes
- ½ cup fresh blueberries
- ¼ cup Stonewall Kitchens Wild Maine Blueberry Jam
- 6 large eggs, slightly beaten
- 1/3 cup maple syrup

- 1 cup milk

BLUEBERRY SYRUP:

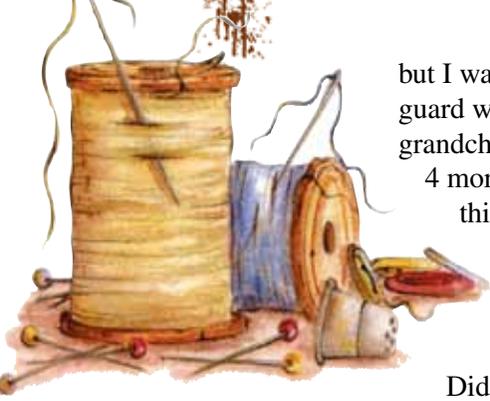
- ½ cup Stonewall Kitchens Wild Maine Blueberry Jam
- 2 T water
- 1 T butter
- Dash of cinnamon

DIRECTIONS

1. Grease a deep-dish pie pan. Place half of the French bread cubes in the bottom of the prepared pie dish.
2. Equally distribute the cream cheese cubes, fresh blueberries and Wild Maine Blueberry Jam over the top of the bread cubes. Top with remaining bread cubes.
3. In a medium size bowl combine eggs, maple syrup and milk. Whisk until uniform. Pour over bread mixture. Place in refrigerator several hours or preferably overnight.
4. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Bake covered with foil for 30 minutes. Remove foil and continue to bake approximately 15-30 minutes more or until the casserole is set and the top is golden.
5. Combine syrup ingredients in a small sauce pan over medium heat until bubbly. Serve the casserole hot with the syrup drizzled over each serving.

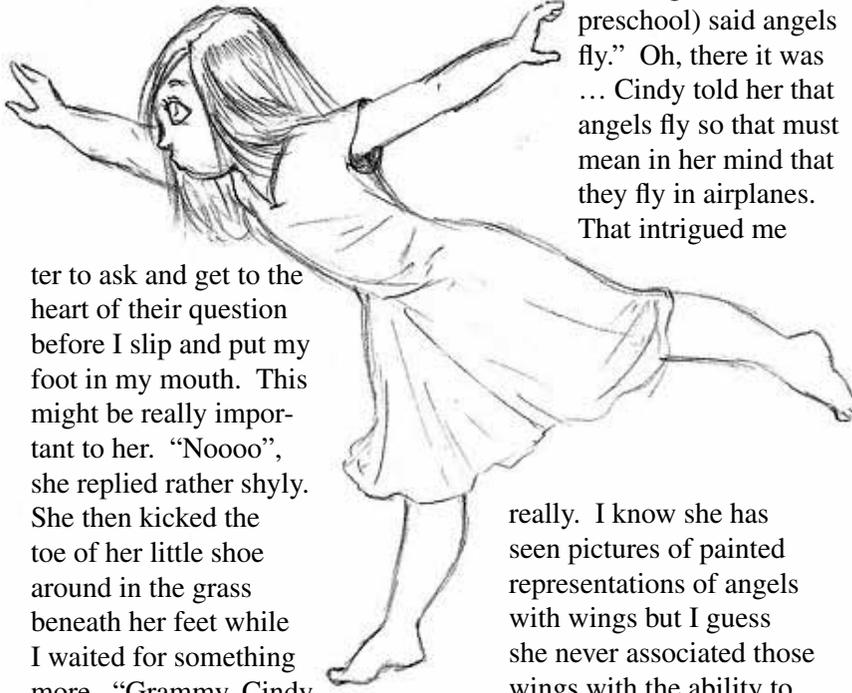
Grandmas

by Brenda Dwyer



but I was totally caught off guard with this one). With 7 grandchildren of my own and 4 more of Bob's you would think that eventually (one day) I will have heard it all. Not so. "What exactly do you mean sweetheart?"

Did you see an angel flying an airplane?" (What?! I had to ask! Who knows these days what these little ones think they see). I have found over the years it is always bet-



(a little girl in her preschool) said angels fly." Oh, there it was ... Cindy told her that angels fly so that must mean in her mind that they fly in airplanes. That intrigued me

really. I know she has seen pictures of painted representations of angels with wings but I guess she never associated those wings with the ability to

fly. In her little mind you had to be in an airplane to be able to fly. "What do you think, sweets?" She thought a moment and decided that not only could they fly in airplanes but they could fly with their wings too and off she bounded towards the house with arms outstretched and her eyes skyward – zig-zagging back and forth. "Look Grammy ... I'm a flying angel zoom zoom zoooooomm!" I, too, looked heavenward and thought about my dad (the pilot) ... and wondered: what would he have answered?

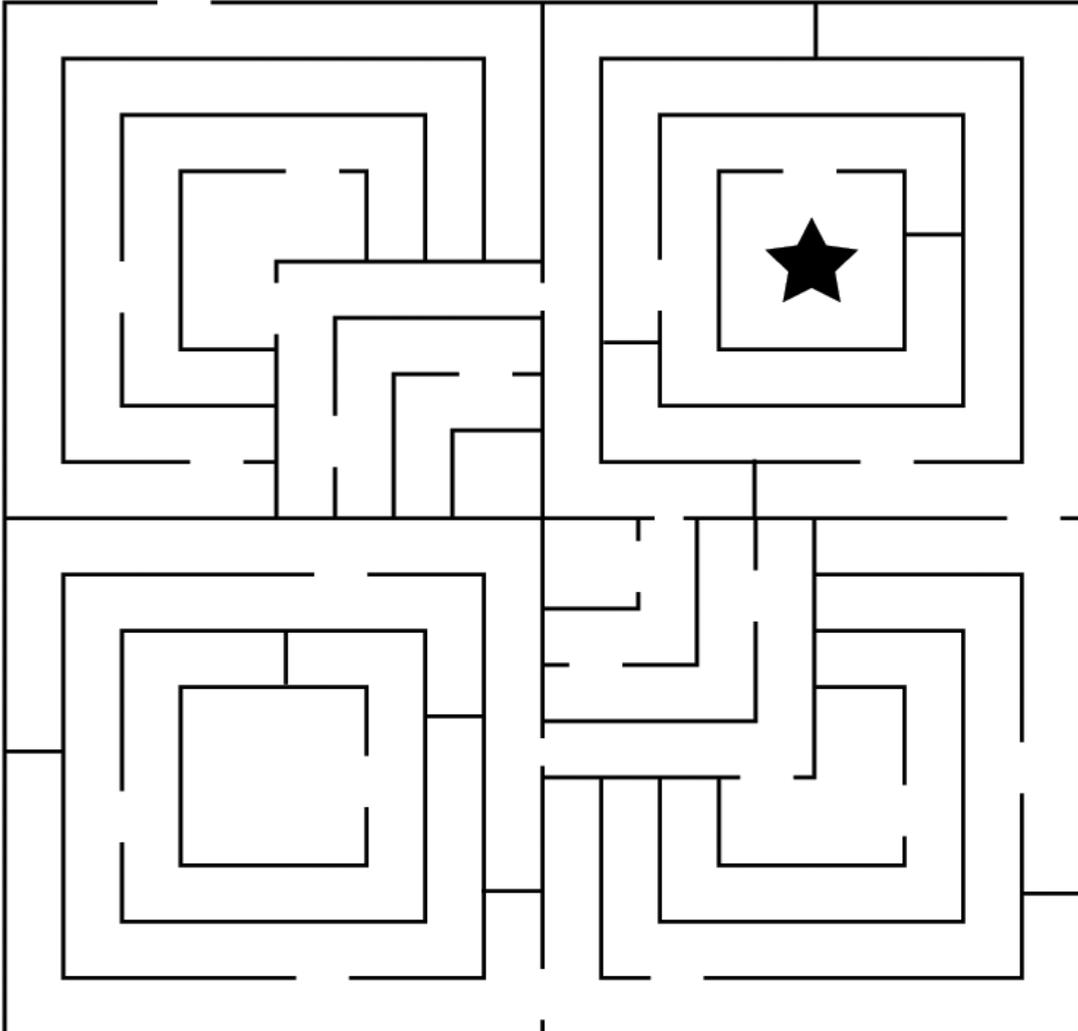
"Grammy, when I get to heaven will I be able to fly an airplane like the angels do?" (Hmm, I don't know about you

ter to ask and get to the heart of their question before I slip and put my foot in my mouth. This might be really important to her. "Noooo", she replied rather shyly. She then kicked the toe of her little shoe around in the grass beneath her feet while I waited for something more. "Grammy, Cindy

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DEAR MISTY

Dear Misty,
My husband and I have been married for just over 7 years. We have four animals in our home. Our problem is this: although my husband likes to control bragging rights on all of the animals he doesn't spend any time with them and he doesn't help with their care. I think I have seen him feed the dog one time since we've been married. The animals mean a lot to me and I love being so involved in their care. We don't have children so they are our next best thing. It's just irritating to keep hearing him brag as though he is responsible for their appearance, their good health, the tricks they have learned, etc. Every time I try to talk to him about this he just laughs it away as though I am making too much out of it and tells me (even in front of people) to lighten up. Who's right in this Adelle? I don't want to dishonor my husband but at the same time I feel that he dishonors me. Signed, Whooped Puppy

Dear Whooped Puppy,
Never fear my dear ... this is nothing new. Your husband, although perhaps not as considerate as he could be, is simply getting away with bad behavior because he's not been reeled in yet. Let's make no mistake about it; I am not condoning his behavior ... it is atrocious! However, let's realize for a moment that we all have our faults and even in the best marriages both parties would be able to create a list of things that irritate them about their spouse ... consider this ... opportunity knocks!

Take that man of yours by the hand and show him how fun it can be when the two of you use pet chores to heat up the home fire ... use your imagination! Trust me ... find a way to make it fun and rewarding and he'll soon be coming to get you when it's time for the pets to be fed or taken out. He will be a happier man and you, my dear, will no longer feel like a Whooped Puppy. Once he learns how wonderful it is to not just be bragging but to be able to back it up - he'll be a new man.

Dear Misty,
What ever happened to good girls? Sure, I had a lot of fun in my younger days with girls that knew the ropes but now I'm older and looking for something more permanent. I want a girl that I can trust for the long haul. Signed, Frustrated Frat Man

Dear Frustrated,
Are you kidding? You are simply reaping what you've sown. Why do you think poor behavior would be rewarded with something so wonderful? Do you feel that's what you deserve after a youth of "having fun with girls that knew the ropes"? Perhaps you should be more realistic and less idealistic. Improve your character ... haven't you heard; "birds of a feather flock together".

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WHO NEEDS SLEEP



When I woke up this morning I was feeling anything but good. I woke up exhausted. My time spent in bed was a match between me, my blanket and my pillows. It was one of those "I just can't get these things situated right" nights. I think back on the countless pillows, blankets and mattresses I have gone to war with throughout the years in the never-ending (thus far) quest for the perfect night's sleep and I am almost convinced that it has little to do with either one of those things. Here's my reasoning; there have been nights that I slept like a baby (reading those words make me wonder how that particular saying was ever accepted seeing how most babies I know keep their parents awake all night) in my same bed with my same blanket and pillows. What, I NEED to know, is the difference? Exhaustion doesn't seem to play a part in it ... whether or not I am exhausted when I fall asleep has no effect on how I wake up. Perhaps it has to do with stress. There have been times when my days were so full of joy that I went to bed content and with a full heart and woke up loving the day. However, there have been more nights that I fall asleep thinking about all of

the things I need to get finished in the morrow and sleep fitfully and wake up ... oh, exhausted. Well, there you have it ... all I needed to do was put it all together on paper to solve the great mystery. I will just have to readjust my life to fit into my new goal for uninterrupted, peaceful slumber every night. This will surely involve an overhaul of my work day (first and foremost) ... let's see ... perhaps I could break my day into segments. If I map out an itinerary and do my most convincing sales job ever I should be able to turn my 70 hour weeks into 20 hour weeks in no time. (Right ... and I should also be able to pull a genie out of a bottle). My friends tell me that insomnia is common at our age. That really ticks me off. I had had bouts of sleepless nights and aggravated sleep for most of my adult life so; personally, I am more inclined to believe it is stress related. The sad fact is that the only way to be less stressed is to work less hours but if I work less hours I cannot achieve my goals on time and if ...

Do you see where this is heading? I don't either so I am off to take a nap. I hear naps (at our age) are a very good thing. Thank you Martha Stewart!

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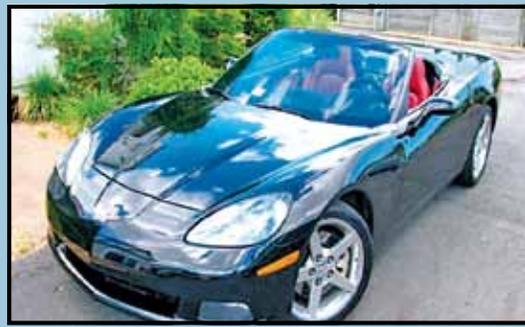

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CARS



One of the things I am most drawn to is cars, yes, cars. My son just called to tell me about his new car. It massages his back while he is

driving. It massages his passengers too. Its seats heat and cool. It automatically adjusts the sound system to its premium output dependent upon driving conditions and outside noise. It glides as if on air when running straight and drops itself into curves. It is an engineering masterpiece. It is German made. My car is American made. It has the ability to go fast, really fast. It may not talk to me like my son's car does to him, however, it can drift, slide and pace with the best of them. My car is full of options and has everything my little heart desires in a car. My car, I like to think, is an extension of my personality. I don't have the opportunity to travel any longer so every time I slide into my place behind the wheel I feel that I am on vacation ... she transports me both physically and metaphorically. I understand my son's passion for his car; my blood runs through his veins. Cars; ah ... just a little slice of dreamy.



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 J & J Lawn & Garden - 19976 CR 6
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 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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7 Eleven - 1000 S. Main Street
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 Goshen Farm & Lawn Center, Inc. - 2413 Lincolnway East
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 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
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 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
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Laura's Bakery - 1255 W. SR 120
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 R & S Carpet Cleaning - 7030N 575E
 The Gathering Place Restaurant - 407 3rd Street
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GARDEN GAB

by Brenda Dwyer
Weeds? What weeds? Where? I got so tickled with my gardens looking so pretty that I forgot about the back courtyard until ...

There I was; standing at the kitchen window looking out towards the back and wondering what in the world those mammoth plants (that were so tall they had reached the window sill) were doing in my back yard. Wow ... so embarrassing! There were about 50 of them back there! How did that happen? I mean, sure, I am a bit time-bankrupt (aren't we all) and I hadn't been to my kitchen window in a while. (Being so busy dictates eating on the "fly"). But still ... how dare they just try to squeeze in and take over like that?! Little, delicate violets pushed stubbornly through here and there but the full picture left much to be desired. This, I thought to myself, is a perfect repre-

sentation of me right now. If you look a little further than the front yard (a little deeper than the surface) you will notice all of the things that aren't so tidy

and pretty. ((sigh)) That's it ... once again my garden is my witness to a life that needs to slow down and recoup. I know this weekend is a holiday weekend but I am bound and determined (now, more than ever) to get my old jeans and t on ... gather up my favorite



pair of garden gloves, grab my trowel and a gallon of weed-b-gone and head for the great outdoors!

This man from Chicago had the look of James Dean. He was very much at home in his blue jeans and signature white T-shirt with the sleeves rolled up over muscular biceps. He wore his hair slicked back and a front curl would escape and lay close to his forehead. He loved his Harley and would wear his black and white Harley hat snug on his head when he would ride. Women thought he was very handsome and would try to catch his eye - but only one did - one night - at a dance club. She had long, dark brown (almost black) hair pulled back into a ponytail that hung to her waist. Snappy hazel eyes and a Rubenesque type figure. He fell in love with this woman even though she had two children from a previous marriage; the girl was just 3 and the boy was a year old. They got married and he supported his new found family but had no objections to his new wife working. In the 1950's it was unusual for a woman to be in the workplace but this woman was independent and had worked from an early age washing dishes or babysitting and later became a meat cutter and did packaging for a large grocery chain. Four years after their marriage they were blessed with their son. She later left her work and worked in his family business as a secretary and then, in later years, she became a postal carrier.

As in any marriage, they had good times and bad times but a strong bond grew between them and it kept

Continued to Page 11

TALK ACROSS THE FENCE



"It's garage sale time!" "Hooray for garage sales!" "I LOVE garage sales!" "There is NO way I could dress my kids like I do without good garage sales!" I hear these comments and so many more and recall a time in my life when I, too, would sit at the table on Wednesday nights after church and plan my attack (on garage sales) for the following weekend. I knew all of the "good" places to go. There were certain areas that you didn't even bother with (although now I have realized that there is NEVER a bad place to hunt for treasure) and other areas that you almost camped out at because you just KNEW that there would be great rewards for your commitment. When my children were small almost all of our household goods came from garage sales; our furniture, our clothes, our books, toys and bikes. Garage sales could beat out a great clearance rack any day of the week. The other thing I loved about garage sales was the ability to "dicker". I love a good deal and I love it even better when you can bargain it into a great

deal. After decades of years of being too busy it wasn't until this year that I have forced myself to stop and "browse" now and then at a garage sale here and there. I remember the thrill of the hunt, the endless stream of people and the little Kool-Aid and lemonade stands sprinkled here and there. Some things should never be relinquished to our past ... they should be part of our present - always; especially things that make us happy and satisfy us on so many levels. Yes, girlfriend, gather your pennies ... there is a wonderful sale out there somewhere that is sure to have something that has your name on it. Go have fun!



A QUIET STORY...

by Vivki

Back in the golden days women used to keep journals and tell stories of their lives and their family's lives. Those stories spoke to how they endured hardships or prospered. Those stories painted a picture of the joys and sorrows of everyday living. They were quiet, personal stories, and to some; fascinating stories. They justified their time on this earth; marked and written somewhere like a carving on a stone ... they would linger for years to come.

This is a story not unlike those; it is a quiet, personal story of a man and a woman that will travel from past to present.

The man grew up in Chicago. He was born in the late 1920's - just in time to see the end of the Roaring 20's and the beginning of gangsters, racism and prohibition. In his late teens he joined the Army; shortly after WWII. He left the army as a Sgt. and along with his parents and two younger brothers, he moved to a small town in southern Michigan. The town was growing and prospering so instead of solely doing roofing work they also did remodeling and ended up building many homes and businesses in the area. After many years, this man's parents retired and moved to Florida. Before they left they sold their business to their eldest son. This son became a licensed electrician (besides being a contractor). The middle son became a licensed plumber and the youngest son; a construction worker. They had now centered their market with the wealth of knowledge, certification & licensing they brought to the table.



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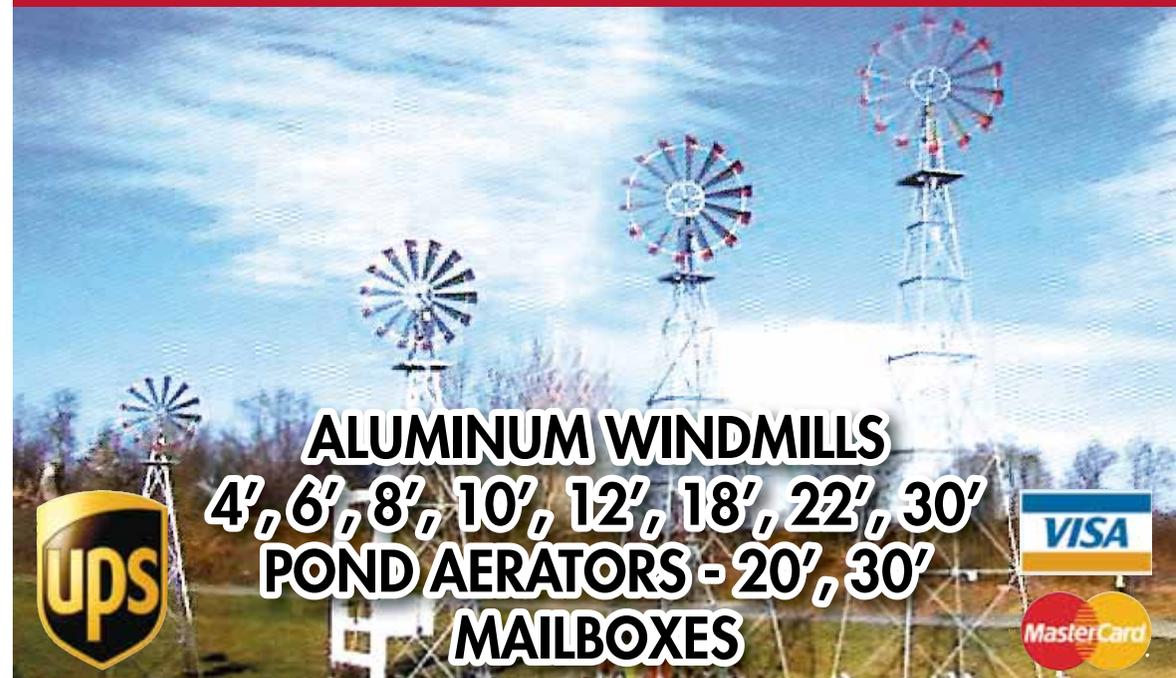
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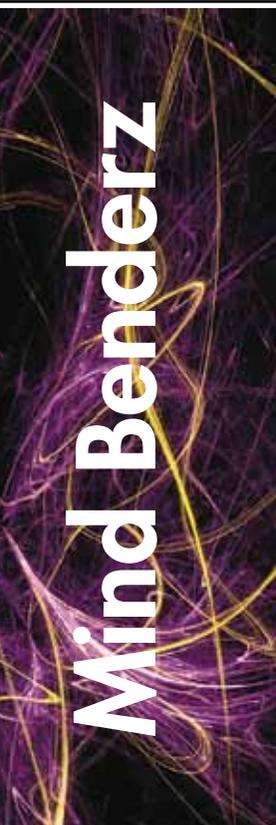


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 W I S D O M F D S W I S S D K

ACROSS

- The Holy Land
- Gibson, e.g.
- Irregular
- Treat rudely, in a way
- The Beatles hometown
- Withers from grief
- "Malcolm X" director
- Dresden's river
- "I, Claudius" role
- Arctic ____
- Order to attack, with "on"
- Flamingo, for one
- Deliver
- Its motto is "Industry"
- "Dig in!"
- U.S. helicopter squadron (acronym)
- Calf-length skirt
- Balaam's mount
- Cheque recipients
- Accustom to urban ways
- Gloomy
- Acquire
- Moray, e.g.
- Seat of White Pine County, Nev.
- ____ brat
- Agency to aid children in developing countries
- Drive
- Victorian, for one
- Chip dip
- Pepsi, e.g.
- Acceptances
- Decide to leave, with "out"
- Related maternally
- Self-centered
- Reduces to bits
- Oily skin disease
- Lilac, e.g.
- Extremely furtive

DOWN

- "White as a ghost"
- Each
- Embankments to prevent flooding
- "... ____ he drove out of sight"
- "Dear" one
- Hit the bottle
- False gods
- Atomic number 41
- Varied
- Death on the Nile cause, perhaps
- Fine dinnerware
- Inability to discriminate musical notes (2 wd)
- Eggs cooked ____ (2 wd)
- Getaway spots
- Hurting
- I, for one
- Bleaches
- Arab leader
- "Farewell, mon ami"
- Affecting the lungs
- Unspecified locale
- Monotony
- Hip bones
- Frost remover (pl.)
- Flammable substance
- Cover
- Catches sight of
- Big shot (2 wd)
- Consumed
- Building block
- Ancient colonnade
- "C' ____ la vie!"
- Aggravate
- Mr., in India

- | | | |
|----------|----------------|------------|
| AGAIN | DIARY | OPERATES |
| AGENT | DISAPPOINTMENT | ORCHARD |
| AHEAD | DOUGH | PARACHUTES |
| AMERICA | DOZEN | PLAYER |
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| BOXES | GREEKS | SLANT |
| CAGED | HEALS | STAIR |
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| CLOUD | ISRAEL | SURNAME |
| COATS | METER | SWISS |
| CREATIVE | MIRRORS | THIEF |
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WELCOME, SUMMER!

Whew! Hot enough for you? Summer, summer, summer! My favorite time of the year! I love the heat and the strong sunlight. I love the way the trees and shrubs dress themselves in a wild array of rich shades of green. I love how the Maples turn silver and flip their leaves over before the sudden summer storms, like a man standing up the collar of his overcoat. They brace for the wind, yet dance with wild abandon, limbs swaying as they reach up into the rain-swept sky.

The fields are beautiful, some green, some golden, as the crops begin to show their potential. Earth, emboldened by the plow, nurtures the tiny, unassuming seeds planted earlier in the spring. The world is wide awake. Kids and grownups find excuses to play outside.

Summer is Fun! It's swimming and beach towels, beach balls and baseball, burning sidewalks and bare feet on hot sand. Unwavering heat shimmers and mirages dance on taffy-soft asphalt highways. There are walks along country roads, visits to farmers' markets for real tomatoes, and town festivals with kettle corn, elephant ears, and chocolate ice cream melting on grubby little hands. It's a time for tart lemonade, sun tea over ice, sunglasses, flip-flops, thick slabs of juicy watermelon, grilled hotdogs, and fireworks!

On July 4th, an armada of decorated pontoons motors around the lake, waiting for the fireworks to begin. Neighbors compete for the best display of fountains and Roman candles, smoke bombs, starburst rockets, and window-rattling firecrackers. Great stars of burning light fill the night sky and reflect off

the water. "Oooh's" and "Ahh's", laughter, and muffled conversations float in between the noisy explosions. Small children, sparklers in hand, draw great circles of magic light.

What do the resident flocks of geese think on the night of the 4th? Their babies are almost grown. In May they were adorably cute, fluffy little bundles of busy life. In June, they transformed into fuzzy, gray, odd-looking creatures. They grew clumsy, tripping over their own webbed feet, feathers sprouting in odd places. Now, they are small images of the parents they've paraded behind for months. What do they think of all the chaos and noise as they seek out the quiet backwaters, trying to find a place to wait out the colorful insanity out on the lake?

In the morning, they are back. Swimming in graceful lines, practicing their formations for the flight south in a few months. They are regal on the water, heads held stiff and high; quite unlike the ungainly waddling they do on shore.

I'll miss them when they are gone. Not the mess they leave in the yard, or the rampant squawking and hissing when one flock gets too close to another. No, I'll miss their liveliness and their loyalty to one another, the way they chatter and call out to each other on smooth summer nights when the stars seem close and the fireflies gleam and blink in the yard.

All too soon, the crickets will sing their song of summer's end, but for now, it's time to relax and enjoy the gifts of the season. Welcome, Summer!

A WORLD OF WONDERS

by Monica Clark

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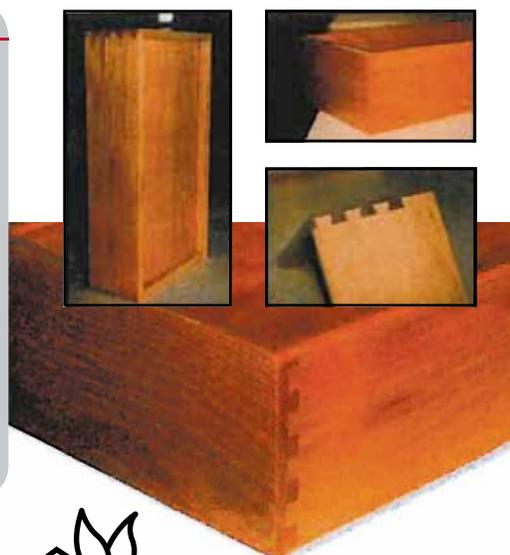
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A Good Neighbor News

FARM COUNTRY MOOS

by Loretta Miller

Part 2 of 2 • Continued from June

We will be hosting church services at our place pretty soon so we're doing our annual spring cleaning. There are usually 150 people (give or take) that attend a Sunday service at any given time. So it takes effort but well worth it in the long run with family, friends and cousins all meeting together for worship to our maker. I read a story once of a man that worked at a certain gas station in town. While he was working a man came up to him and said, "I'm thinking of buying a place in your small town to settle down and make a home." "I'd like your opinion on your town." "Is it a place a fellow like me, with a family, would like to live?" The gas station attendant looked at him and replied. "Tell me sir, what were the people like in the town you came from?" The man said, "Well, they were friendly, kind, helpful, and willing to go the second mile." The gas station attendant smiled and said, "Well sir, that's exactly the way the people are here." "Welcome to our town." Happily, the man went on his way. Later that same day another man came strolling into the gas station. The attendant greeted this person with a "hello, can I help you sir?" He said "yes I am searching for a

good place to make a home for my family and I was wondering if you could tell me if this is a good place to settle down?" The gas attendant looked at him and said, "Tell me sir, what were the people like in the town where you came from?" The man frowned at him and said, "Well, that's the reason we want to move. They are selfish, greedy, self-righteous and uncaring." The gas station attendant looked sadly at the man and said, "Well, I'm sorry sir, but I'm afraid that's exactly the way you will find the people in our little town. The man sorrowfully went on his way. Now tell me how can this be; he same town, the same people, the same day but a different answer? The way I understand this is human beings are human beings no matter where you find them or where they are. It's our own selves that make the decision on how we will accept them. Whether we shine or whether we cast a shadow. Let's bloom where we're planted and God will bless our efforts. Thought for the day: It's nice to have money but it's good to make sure that we haven't lost the things that money can't buy. Wishing God's many blessing to you all.

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A QUIET STORY...

Continued from Page 7

the marriage going. In the 1970's her mother passed away. In the 1980's the recession hit and the mortgage on homes hit upwards of 18% which caused his business to dissolve ... other than odd jobs he was able to get here and there. His reputation of quality construction work was well known and he ended up being a supervisor for buildings in South Bend and the surrounding area and even supervised the building of a large country club in Florida where famous people shook his hand; Prince Charles was among this group - he visited shortly after the club's opening. This man from Chicago has kept pictures of his accomplishments in volumes of photo albums and shows them often, with pride.

Shortly after he was back on his feet, his younger brother was diagnosed with cancer; he died within three months. His father passed away a few years before his younger brother so his mother came back up north to live with the security of her last two living sons. Shortly thereafter his youngest brother was diagnosed with Parkinson's. This man took it upon himself to help his youngest brother who was going through a divorce at that time but the ailing man was then kidnapped by his children and taken to upper Michigan and checked into a nursing home - and left. Since the ailing brother was, by then, in the final stages of Parkinson's and was having difficulty with his speech, he was hysterical - and as a result, was heavily sedated by the nurses - until his brother found him and took him home. This man took care of his youngest brother until he passed away. His mother, then in her 90's, needed care next. He would patiently fix her breakfast, lunch and dinner. He would help her get dressed and would comb her hair. She quietly passed in her sleep one night - he found her

there - looking as if she were still sleeping. All of his family is gone now but he still keeps busy with work, riding his bike 5 miles a day or walking (he always takes the same route).

He kept active after retiring because he was afraid that if he stood still he would shrivel up and die. When his wife turned 72 she had to retire from the post office. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary and tried to adjust to each other being home all of the time. There were more good days than bad days.

His wife had gotten an infection in her leg and he tenderly tried to help her take care of it. He would bathe the wound, put salve on it and bandage it but something was wrong. Her body built up fluids and her heart was being damaged from the infection in her blood. She was admitted to the hospital and had been there almost a week before the children were told. She was also diagnosed with a brain tumor; close to the brain stem. If the doctors operated it could make her a vegetable or she could even die on the operating table. She chose to not have the operation so her doctor told her to go home and enjoy what quality of life she had left. Since then the tumor has grown and dementia has set in. He patiently takes care of her because she is wheel chair bound and has lost the use of the right side of her body ... paralysis is slowly taking over her left side now. He has just recently asked for help; which he totally refused before. He is a proud man and thought he could take care of her himself ... his wife; his responsibility. Now his daughter and his niece come in every day and his granddaughter helps out in the mornings. He strives to make her comfortable and cooks all of her meals, does all of their laundry and every other domestic chore. Her dementia is worse and she says hurtful things sometimes that she would have never said before and it stings. You can see the hurt in his eyes and the frustration and sometimes even

anger, but he knows it is the disease. She is reminded that they are all doing the best they can because they love her ... we know this because you will occasionally see a tear slide down her face and she will tell you that she knows ... and how badly she hates what it is going on. He knows the end is near but he has honored his vows; through sickness and health. There's still love there ... you can see it in their eyes or when she tries to wiggle her toe up his pant leg while he is combing her hair. Their interaction is a testament to devotion and dedication. There will be a tough decision to make soon and it will hurt him dearly to make it. The empty house, not hearing her call his name, no tucking her in at night ... all of these things will remind him of his great loss. A caregiver has a rough job and it's not an easy job. It is a great sacrifice to give up your "self" to commit wholly to someone else to ensure that they receive the care they deserve until they pass.

I admire this quiet man and his dedication to his wife for I am his daughter and have witnessed his devotion firsthand because I stand by his side as we take care of my mother. We have laughed at our own antics; we have shared in her smiles and the wiping away of her tears. We hide our frustrations and our own fears for she needs our strength as she faces this last battle for breath. We will love her always (even knowing the end is near). We will love her even after she passes. The love that will have once flowed through her heart to ours will now be imparted to ours and will be a legacy to our children and theirs.

This is a quiet story we are willing to share, because we know that there are more quiet stories out there.

God bless all caregivers and their dedication to those they tend to; it is a hard job but the comfort you give to your loved one is the reward in the end.

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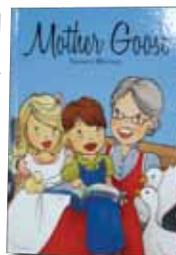
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At times we wish we could cover up, hide or even make disappear; events or moments. Sometimes a moment can forever alter our paths and force us into an uncertain future.

Yet, think about that for a moment ... the future is always uncertain – regardless of our best intents or plans. We do not have control over time. We do, however, have control over how we react to altered paths, people, or lives that aren't positioned exactly where we thought they would be ... could be.

We can stall out, act out or we can determine to be still and listen. We CAN turn a negative event into a positive outcome. We CAN cause a hard heart to soften. We CAN take action and change that which we are not comfortable with in our lives – but we dare not do any of it alone lest we falter and end up in a worse mess than that which we are trying to effect change in. If we do not pause we end up doing more damage as opposed to damage control. I would advise that we should all seek time with the

Lord when we are totally, completely and absolutely alone. There is nothing more important than uninterrupted, quiet, attentive time with God. It is such a simple recipe for success. Time with the Lord is the only precious "gold" you will ever need to endure, to thrive, to succeed. You will realize soon enough that life is a journey of lessons learned. It has many meandering paths and one straight one. There will be many hills and valleys to conquer and yet with each and every one you will gain strength and the fortitude to continue. Should you fall, don't fret; look to the Lord to pick you back up and set you on your way. Determine to succeed. Develop your faith and rely on it. Grow the love in your heart and be steadfast in it. Be the person you wish everyone else was. Live your life ... whatever it is now ... whatever it may be and may you glorify the Lord in all you do.

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

HUMANE SOCIETY OF ELKHART COUNTY VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATION MEETING

The Humane Society of Elkhart County Volunteer Association will meet Tuesday, July 5, 2011, at 7:00 pm in room #406 at the Elkhart Public Library, 300 S. Second Street, Elkhart.

Any adult interested in volunteering at the Shelter or with various fundraising projects, adopt-a-pet events or educational programs is invited to attend this monthly meeting.

For more information, contact Bernice Simms, Chairman, at 264-7264.

Website: www.elkharthumane-society.org

HUMANE SOCIETY OF ELKHART COUNTY DOG WASH FUNDRAISER

Date: Monday, July 11th

Time: 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Location: Martin's Paw Mart, Cobblestone Crossing, 4100 E. Bristol Street, Elkhart

Minimum Donation for dog wash: \$5.00 per dog

Toe nail trims will also be available for an additional donation.

Volunteers from the Humane Society of Elkhart County will be washing dogs with all proceeds used for the care and feeding of the animals at the Shelter.

For more information: Call 848-4225 or web site www.elkharthumanesociety.org

PET TOE NAIL TRIM FUNDRAISER

Sponsored by: The Humane Society of Elkhart County

Date/Time: Monday, July 11, 3:30 -5:30 pm

Description: Pet toe nail trims provided for a donation. Proceeds to benefit The Humane Society of Elkhart County

Location: Martins Pet & Garden, 116 W. Jackson Street, Elkhart

For more information call: The Humane Shelter at 848-4225

Shelter Website: www.elkharthumanesociety.org

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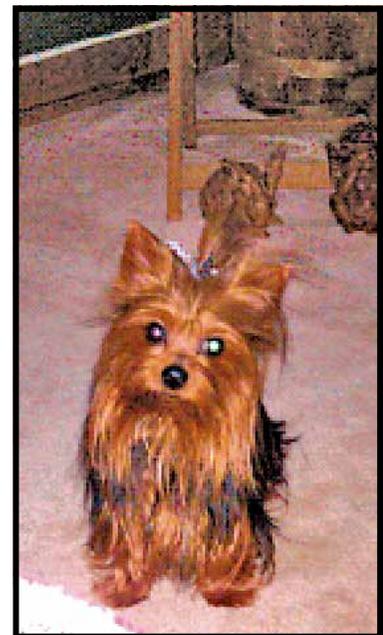
Continued from Page 1



of why he's worth it. Between the "snarf" and the unstoppable shedding ... he is just the most endearing of all! ((sigh)) Okay, not really endearing ... but he is

worth every bit of trouble. His heart is bigger than his 200 lb. body. My tiny baby is almost 2 years old now and doesn't know how to be anything but happy; one dose of this little one and your heart just beams! She was a year old when I acquired her. Her daddy got drafted into the NFL and she needed a home because he had to go away to camp and didn't want to stress her out with so much time away. She was so sad the first day but quickly adjusted and grabbed us all by the heartstrings. I couldn't have asked for a better fit for our family ... and especially the other dogs. The way the three of them interact with each other is magical. They help to keep me young at heart – and more active than I would be if I didn't have them. No matter how our pets enter into our lives – they

sure know how to make themselves a part of our lives that we couldn't imagine being without. Well, time to get back to work. I hope you have fluffy friends that bring you joy too!



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50	I	M	P	E	L					52	E	R	A			54	S	A	L	S	A							
55	C	O	L	A						56	N	O	D	S			58	O	P	T								
59	E	N	A	T	E					61	E	G	O	T	I	S	T	I	C									
64	R	I	C	E	S					65	S	E	B	O	R	R	H	E	A									
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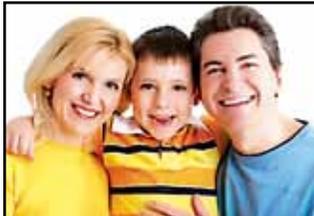
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