

JULY 2023

PENNLINES

Buried Treasures

Pickers, Collectors Thrive on Thrill of the Hunt

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ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH – IN PENNSYLVANIA

BACKYARD BARBECUE FUN

INSIDE!
BAD NEWS FOR HUNTERS



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 But don't forget to take photos!



ON THE COVER

Chad Horner, a member of Dubois-based United Electric Cooperative, collects vintage items to keep happy memories alive.

PHOTO BY
 JILL M. ERCOLINO

Rural Road Safety a Must for Pennsylvanians



AS FARMERS RETURNED TO THEIR fields in the spring and continue to navigate heavy machinery on and around rural roads through the harvest, Pennsylvania Farm Bureau urges the public to continue to be on the lookout for and use patience when passing farm equipment.

Farmers acknowledge that getting stuck behind a slow piece of machinery can be frustrating, but attempting to pass without using caution can be deadly. Far too often, Pennsylvanians are killed in car accidents on rural roads. Car accidents are the top cause of death for people between the ages of 1 and 54 in the United States. In Pennsylvania alone, there were 26,686 crashes on rural roads in 2022, which resulted in 429 fatalities. Of those accidents, 112 involved farm equipment; those resulted in seven fatalities and 18 serious injuries.

The truth is, most of these accidents are avoidable if you observe safe driving tips, such as obeying the speed limit, maintaining a safe following distance, staying alert and — most important — putting down cellphones while driving.

When it comes to navigating around farm equipment, here are some things to know:

Farm equipment that travels at speeds less than 25 mph is required to have a “slow-moving vehicle” emblem (an orange triangle with red outline) on the back of the equipment. Farmers don’t want to be an inconvenience and will pull over to let motorists pass when it is safe to do. However, the farmer must be mindful of uneven road surfaces that could result in a rollover.

If drivers see the slow-moving vehicle emblem, it is a sign to slow down immediately. It takes 5 seconds to close the length of a football field, if a vehicle is driving 55 mph and a tractor is moving at 15 mph. Drivers should be alert that farmers may turn into an unexpected place, such as a field, and may be making a wide left turn if the equipment pulls to the right.

Always be sure the oncoming lane is clear before passing large equipment and never pass in a no-passing zone or within 100 feet of any intersection.

Following a tractor for 2 miles at 20 mph only takes 6 minutes of your time, so if we can all be patient, we can avoid becoming another statistic and ensure we all make it home to our loved ones this summer.

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau is the state’s largest farm organization, representing farms of every size and commodity across Pennsylvania. 📍

CHRIS HOFFMAN
PRESIDENT, PENNSYLVANIA FARM BUREAU

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Penn Lines Online provides an email link to *Penn Lines* editorial staff, information on advertising, and an archive of past issues.



For the Man Who Gives Everything and Expects Nothing

If you're anything like my dad, you give your family everything. Your name, your time, your values — the people in your life know they can depend on you for practically anything. In exchange for imparting all of this energy and experience, you expect nothing in return.

The point? You deserve to treat yourself once in a while. You do so much for the people you care about. Now it's time to focus on you for just a few minutes. That's where the Men's Due Volta Watch comes in. This astonishing innovation provides a digital readout that's powered by a precise quartz engine, combining both analog and digital timekeeping.

Outfitted with a stopwatch, alarm, a.m./p.m. settings, and day, date and month complications, this timepiece stands out from the crowd. With its large face and handsome, masculine design, this watch is perfect for the back nine and the happy hour afterwards. Water-resistant up to 3 ATM, this timepiece won't wimp out if you have a run-in with a water hazard.

Other hybrid watches can sell for thousands of dollars, but because we've built more than 1 million watches, we know how to create real value. That's why we can offer this timepiece for just \$59! If you're not completely satisfied with this watch, return it for a full refund.

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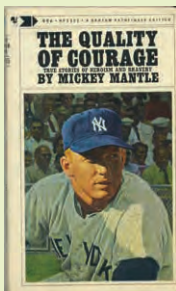
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THE QUALITY OF COURAGE

My father was a Mickey Mantle fan, so naturally I was a Mickey Mantle fan. I was too young to ever see the Yankee great play, but I did hear plenty of stories about "The Mick" growing up. He was my father's idol, a prodigious power hitter who fought through pain and injury to lead his team to seven World Series championships.



My dad was understandably dismayed when he learned his mom had thrown out his shoebox full of Mickey Mantle baseball cards when he was off fighting in the Vietnam War. Last year, I even felt his pain when one of Mantle's cards went for more than \$12 million. Oh, Grandma.

What did stick around the house was an old paperback book by Mantle, called "The Quality of Courage." As a kid, I read that book over and over, inspired by the tales of human bravery. From the ballfield to the battlefield, Mantle narrates a series of stories about heart and courage, and what it takes to overcome the odds.

In my life, I've witnessed courage in a child standing up to a bully, a colleague facing a life-threatening illness, and fellow soldiers serving in combat. From the simple to the grand, acts of courage always stop me in my tracks. Courage is something that makes you pay attention. Mantle understood that.

This past month, I was paying attention to Branden Bauer, a journeyman lineman from DuBois-based United Electric Cooperative. Bauer was speaking to a group of electric cooperative workers about an accident that cost him both of his arms. In January 2021, he made contact with a high-voltage line while on the job. The incident nearly cost Bauer his life, but to see him today, telling his story, is to see a man full of life.

Bauer has battled through rounds of medical treatments and therapy, including the fitting of prosthetic arms. While he continues to work on his recovery, Bauer is back on the job, conducting safety talks in the hope that he can prevent a similar accident from happening to someone else. Recently, he and his wife also welcomed their second child.

Bauer's story is remarkable, but what struck me in listening to it is the courage it has taken him to fight his way back and tell it. It's what Mantle calls "the guts to hang in there." It's the quality of courage.

PETER A. FITZGERALD
EDITOR



DEER DISEASE ON RISE: The Pennsylvania Game Commission reports chronic wasting disease, which is fatal to deer and elk, is on the upswing in Pennsylvania. Hardest-hit areas include Bedford, Blair, Franklin, Fulton and Huntingdon counties.

BAD NEWS FOR HUNTERS

Chronic wasting disease numbers continue to climb

Reports of chronic wasting disease (CWD), a neurological disease that is always fatal for deer and elk that contract it, increased during the 2022-23 hunting season, the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) reports.

Since July 1, 2022, the PGC has collected nearly 11,000 samples to test for CWD, with 7,000 of those being from deer harvested by hunters. Of those, more than 400 wild deer tested positive, 243 of which were harvested by hunters. Those numbers are up from the previous surveillance periods, the state says.

Most of the CWD-positive deer were found in Bedford, Blair, Franklin, Fulton and Huntingdon counties. These regions have produced nearly 90% of Pennsylvania's positives since the disease was first detected here in 2012.

To monitor the disease's spread, 32 deer in Bedford and Fulton counties have been fitted with ear tags and GPS collars. Anyone who finds or harvests a tagged deer is asked to call the number on the tag so samples can be collected.

For more information, go to pgc.pa.gov/cwd.

SAY WHAT?

From yinz to youse guys: Pittsburgh, Philly accents ranked among favorites

Although Pittsburgh and Philadelphia are on opposite sides of the Commonwealth and have their share of differences, people outside the country ranked their residents' accents among the top 10 favorites in the United States.

Pittsburgh came in fourth, while Philadelphia was ranked seventh by Wordtips, an online word-search tool.

The No. 1 favorite American accent in the report was the Cajun accent in New Orleans, followed by those in Mississippi and Hawaii. The lowest-ranked accent was from California, followed closely by accents in Maine, New Jersey and New York.

SOMETHING'S FISHY

Angler reels in record-setting catfish in Lancaster County

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) has certified a new state record for the biggest flathead catfish caught in Pennsylvania.

The 66-pound monster was caught by Michael Wherley of Franklin County, who was fishing on the Susquehanna

River in Lancaster County on May 14.

A PFBC waterways conservation officer certified the catfish weighed 66 pounds, 6 ounces, beating the previous record of 56 pounds, 3 ounces. The fish was 50.25 inches long with a girth of 35 inches.

After certification, the fish was released back into the river.

DIGGING UP HISTORY

Work to unearth POW camp in York County continues

Volunteers are working with archaeologists in an attempt to uncover more of the footprint of a Revolutionary War POW camp in York County's Springettsbury Township.

Evidence of the Camp Security site was found last year. It is believed to be the last undeveloped Revolutionary War prison camp in the United States. The camp held British prisoners of war between summer 1781 and spring 1783.

The land where the POW camp is located is owned by the township, which is in the early stages of developing a master plan for the site.

RARE FIND?

Pa. researchers say they've tracked down 'iconic' woodpecker

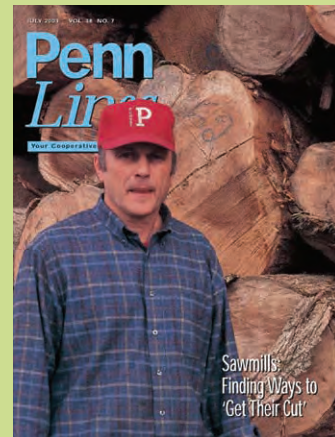
Researchers from the National Aviary in Pittsburgh, working in a Louisiana swamp forest, report they have captured trail-camera images of an ivory-billed woodpecker, which they've deemed an "iconic species."

The last confirmed sighting of the bird was in 1944, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was on the verge of declaring extinct.

The grainy footage, however, is raising questions about the findings, published in the journal *Ecology and Evolution* in May. Skeptics say pileated and red-headed woodpeckers, among other species, can look a lot like ivory bills from a distance or from certain angles.

Still, the study's authors contend the evidence suggests the "intermittent but repeated presence" of birds that look and behave like ivory-billed woodpeckers in the swamp. 📷

TIME LINES



JULY 2003

Twenty years ago this month, *Penn Lines* was celebrating Pennsylvania's hardwoods and the rural sawmills – many of them small, family-owned operations – that produce them. At the time, the state's mills were sawing more than 1 billion feet of board, employing more than 90,000 workers and contributing more than \$5 billion to the state's economy each year.



HAVE A BLAST!

Great eats and fireworks go hand in hand. And the Brockway Old-Fashioned Fourth of July in Jefferson County (brockwayfourth.com), a multi-day event, has a little bit of both. Want the fun without the travel? Lots of other holiday events are planned statewide. Browse the web for festivities in your area.

CELEBRATE THE CCC

Take a day trip to Clinton County, where folks at North Bend's Hyner Run State Park will be celebrating the 90th anniversary of the Civilian Conservation Corps with free events from 3 to 9:30 p.m. Saturday, July 15. Learn more at events.dcnr.pa.gov.



GO ON AN ARTISTIC JOURNEY

Works by 108 regional artists – all living within 100 miles of Williamsport in Lycoming County – are being celebrated at the 100 Miles Regional Juried Exhibition through July 20 at The Gallery at Penn College. Learn more a pct.edu/gallery.

MAKE A DISCOVERY

Discover Presque Isle is a weeklong event, July 24-30, that invites you to ... well ... discover Presque Isle, a 3,000-plus-acre state park in Erie County. Live music, bonfires and a food truck festival are among the planned events. Learn more at discoverpi.com.





BURIED TREASURES

Pickers, Collectors Thrive on Thrill of the Hunt

JILL M. ERCOLINO

MERLE HELSEL WALKS OVER TO the jukebox, jam-packed with 45s, and punches in No. E5: Steppenwolf's "Magic Carpet Ride" — his favorite. Janelle, his wife of 50 years, pops the top on an orange soda pulled from an old coin-operated cooler.

"We do love our soda," she says, smiling.

Close your eyes, girl ... look inside, girl ... let the sound take you away.

With music and soft drinks flowing, it's hard not to be happy in this place, an unassuming outbuilding next to the couple's Bedford County home.

On the outside, it looks like any other garage, but on the inside, the Helsels have created a space — a cross between a vintage fun shack and a pristine, technicolor mini-museum — where the 1950s jukebox, a Seeburg Select-O-Matic 100, is one of many irreplaceable objects on display.

Nearing capacity, the space was built especially for the couple's finds, which range from mint-condition signs to cars and span 15 years of searching and buying, says Merle, a director for New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative (REC). Janelle, a former teacher, also worked at the co-op for 15 years.

QUITE A COLLECTION: Merle and Janelle Helsel embrace the past in this space at their Bedford County home where they house their vintage collectibles, including rare cars, signs and toys. Merle is a director for New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative.

"We keep managing to find room for things," Helsel says with a laugh. "It's a small town, so when people know you collect, they call you. Things just have a way of finding their way to me."

Still picking

Many of those items have come from Bedford native Branden Davis, a professional picker who doesn't mind getting a little dirty or taking a calculated risk to supply dealers and collectors like the Helsels with pieces of the past.

"You never know what each day is going to bring," says Davis, who buys estates and "freestyles" — a form of cold-calling — to find collectibles. "When you're on the



road, you look for clues on people's property and stop and knock. That's just how you have to do it."

When Davis started in the antiques business 15 years ago, the general public didn't know much about his line of work. Then, "American Pickers" came along and gave audiences a glimpse at the other side of collecting: the finder's side.

The long-running reality series premiered in 2010 and, at the time, featured the exploits of two likeable, antique-hunting friends, Mike Wolfe and Frank Fritz. The pair often went on freestyling adventures on the country's back roads, looking for rarities — and deals — mostly in piles of filthy, forgotten junk.

Pennsylvania, steeped in history and scattered with untouched barns, sheds and automobile graveyards, has been a popular stop for the "American Pickers" crew over the years. Last February, an excavation and demolition company in Blair County, parts of which are serviced by REA Energy Cooperative and Valley REC, was featured on the show.

The goal of any pick is to unearth wanted objects — gasoline and oil memorabilia are particularly hot right

now, Davis says — negotiate a fair price with the seller and then turn the pieces around for a profit.

Full-time picking, however, is not as easy as TV shows may make it seem, he says.

Hard, dirty work

While Davis is his own boss, he is constantly on the search for items to add to his clients' collections and fill his booth at Thirteen Pines Trading Co., the antiques co-op in Bedford he founded and has since sold to a friend. Picking, he says, is hard, dirty work, often done in cramped spaces, like attics, basements, sheds and crawlspaces.

The job requires patience and diligence, too, because a good pick and a pay day are never guaranteed.

"You get one good one out of every 10," Davis says, "but if you don't go, you might be missing out. And once you get there, you can't stop because you don't know what's in the next pile. It could be a whole box of silver coins.

"Picking," he adds, "gets in your blood. When I sold my business, I thought we'd move south, but here we are: still picking."

Phone calls, references and connections, built over years



ROOM FOR MORE?: Merle and Janelle Helsel constructed a two-room building next to their Bedford County home just to house their collection of rarities, gathered over the past 15 years.

in the business, lead Davis to finds and picking locations. Recently, he visited a house in Johnstown scheduled for demolition. Crouched in the dusty attic, sorting through mounds of clutter, he came across a pile of Halloween costumes from the 1940s and 1950s, all in original, unopened boxes.

While it was a worthwhile trip, his best pick happened four years ago at a long-shuttered, family-owned gas station near Bedford.

"It was like they locked the door one day and never came back," Davis says. "Everything in that building was amazing. It was a one-of-a-kind experience."

One of his discoveries — a rare, life-size cut-out of a big-bellied school crossing guard, branded for 7UP — wound up in the Helsels' collection.

"I walked into a little closet, and there it was," Davis says. "It had a sheet hanging over it, and when I pulled it off, I couldn't believe what I was seeing. That was probably one of my best finds, and if I hadn't gone in that closet, I would have missed it."

A little bit of everything

The whimsical cut-out has a place of honor in Merle and Janelle Helsel's fun shack, where automobiles and related memorabilia fill much of the building.

In between, the shelves, floors and walls are covered with a little bit of everything else: his mother's waffle iron; her father's ice skates; a pinball machine with actual pins, not bumpers; a tin dollhouse and kitchen appliances; phone booths with working dial phones and local phone books, circa the days when phone numbers had letters and numbers; and signs — lots of signs.

Helsel, a retired attorney and bank executive, likes tinkering with mechanical things and has restored many items back to working order, including the vintage pay phones and soda machines they own.

The pair's collection also includes a 400-year-old suit of armor, brought to the U.S. from Germany at the end of World War II and purchased from a neighbor; an unusual self-winding clock; and a Regina music box, made in the 1800s and discovered by chance in an Altoona antiques shop.

"We find things when we're not even looking," Janelle says, "and everything has a story behind it."

The building that houses the collection has two rooms. Janelle quilts in the smaller one, surrounded by vintage toys, family keepsakes and a cornucopia of other collectibles. The larger space — Merle's space — is anchored in the middle with a restored Texaco gas pump island that he tracked down on eBay and brought home



PROFESSIONAL PICKER: Branden Davis, a professional picker who lives in Bedford, buys estates and "freestyles" to find collectibles for clients like Merle and Janelle Helsel.



GOOD TIMES: These pinball machines are just a few of the things you'll find in Chad Horner's collection. A member of United Electric Cooperative, Horner is a part-time picker and collector who finds some of his items through the *Penn Lines* classified ads.

from another Altoona — Altoona, Fla. The island, watched over by a life-size attendant, has two pumps, an air regulator and a windshield washing station.

And then there are Helsel's treasured cars: a 1926 Durant Star, manufactured by a co-founder of General Motors; a 1963 Dodge Polara 500, which was his first car; and a 1996 Dodge Viper that he found in Ohio and has just 8,000 miles on the odometer.

The couple, who met while growing up near New Enterprise, say they created the space to keep the past alive.

"I love old things and things that remind me of my youth," Helsel says. "I hate to see them disappear."

Fellow collector Chad Horner, a member of Dubois-based United Electric Cooperative, feels the same. "Some people hunt," he says. "I collect junk. It's my escape from reality."

Keeping memories alive

But Horner, a part-time picker and collector, doesn't bring just anything home. Like Helsel, he has a fondness for cars and related memorabilia. So much so, he's recreated a vintage gas station on his family farm in Jefferson County. It's similar to the one he used to frequent with his dad as a child.

Horner says he looked forward to hanging out with his father's friends in the evenings and listening to their stories. He also learned a lot about local history from

the men, and their tales have stuck with him — even influencing his collections.

"Punxsutawney had four or five different breweries," Horner says. "Plus, the oil business started here. There were small oil companies in Oil City and Franklin that were only in existence for a few years before the larger companies bought them out. I love finding that stuff."

He'll travel to add to his collection. Horner also buys estates and places a classified ad in *Penn Lines* each summer seeking vintage advertising items, such as signs, thermometers and clocks. He found one of his favorite gas pumps that way from a fellow *Penn Lines* reader.

The search for collectibles never gets old, Horner says. "For me," he adds, "it's all about the thrill of the hunt, but I do have financial limits — limits that keep me in good check with my wife."

Today, Horner is passing his love of history and collecting on to his three kids, Rachel, 11, Abigail, 9, and Nicholas, 7, who love getting up early on weekends to explore flea markets with him. They bring home coins, rocks and pencils, and Horner hopes one day those objects stir fond memories like the items in his own collection.

"You want to hang onto the days of your childhood," he says, "and these things help keep those memories alive." 📷



MAKING MEMORIES: Chad Horner, a Jefferson County native, shares his love of collecting with his family, including his wife, Jessica, and three children — Abigail, 9, Rachel, 11, and Nicholas, 7.

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Did you know?

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Providing Your Own Power During an Outage

How to sort the many choices in home generators

PAUL WESSLUND

IF YOU'RE WONDERING WHETHER TO buy a home generator in case of a power outage, you're not alone. Backup power sources have gotten so popular that manufacturers now offer a wide range of choices.

A good first step is to think about what you want a home generator to do. Do you just want to keep your phone

charged? Do you want to make sure food doesn't spoil? Do you want to have heat and air conditioning through an extended outage? Answering those questions will require you to know the wattage of the appliances you want to run so you know the capacity of the generator you need.

You might also ask if you really need a generator. The average U.S. home is without power about seven hours a year. Is that enough to justify the expense and attention?

Another part of your planning should be contacting your electric cooperative — there are 14 serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey — to get the staff's expert advice on the best and safest fit for your home.

Here's what to know about the four basic choices in home generators:

Portable generators are small enough that you might even take them on camping trips. The cost for these can vary — from more than \$2,000 to as low as \$400. Most should be able to run a refrigerator or a window air conditioner. Special attention to safety is required.

Generators should never be used indoors, not even in a garage. The carbon monoxide they produce can be deadly in minutes. The Consumer Product Safety Commission reports 85 people die each year from carbon monoxide poisoning caused by gasoline-powered portable generators.

Portable generators should be operated more than 20 feet from the house and connected only with outdoor extension cords matched to the wattage being used. Look for models with a carbon monoxide detector and automatic shut-off.

Appliances should be plugged in to the generator — but the generator should never be plugged into an outlet or your home's electrical

system. You should also spend the money to have an electrician install a transfer switch, which acts as a mini-circuit breaker to not only protect your appliances but also those working on the power lines.

Inverter generators are higher-tech versions of standard portable generators. The power they produce changes to match what the appliances are using, so although they are a little more expensive, they use fuel more efficiently and make less noise. The same safety guidelines apply to both inverter and standard portable generators.

Standby generators can cost \$7,000, plus installation, but they have the benefit of turning on automatically during a power outage and running your whole house. They're typically an outdoor unit that's connected to your home electrical system and runs on propane or natural gas. It must be installed by a professional electrician.

Power stations, also known as batteries, charge themselves while the power is on. They're not as powerful as some of the other options, and can be more expensive, but they're quiet, easy to operate, and some are designed to look good hanging on the wall. They can cost between \$400 and \$6,000. Often, power stations are paired with rooftop solar panels so that electricity from the sun can be available even at night.

With the increased intensity of storms and our reliance on electronic devices, power outages can be a bigger concern these days. Technology now gives you several choices if you want to make sure you're never without power. 📶

PAUL WESSLUND writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives.



A JOB FOR A PROFESSIONAL: Most standby generators are permanently mounted outside the home, then connected to the home's electrical system. Standby generators run on propane or natural gas, and must be installed by a professional electrician.

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Use Combination of Attic Vents and Foil for Year-Round Savings, Comfort

JAMES DULLEY

DEAR JIM: I was in my attic, and the heat was intense. Even the bedroom ceiling felt very warm under it. There's plenty attic-floor insulation. How can I cool it down? — **Sara B.**

DEAR SARA: That hot attic can increase your electric bills for air conditioning. Most people are not aware how hot their attic gets in the afternoon sun, up to 150 degrees. That heat does not just stay up there. It comes through the insulation to make the ceiling hot and your entire house warmer.

The heat that comes from a hot roof and attic is called radiant heat, and it's different from normal conductive heat, which thermal attic-floor insulation is used to block. Radiant heat — the method the sun uses to heat the Earth and why you feel warm under its rays even on a very cold day — will actually go right through the floor insulation.

As your attic starts to warm up in the morning, the thermal insulation on the floor blocks the heat from the warm air. However, as the underside of the roof gets hotter in the sun, it gives off more radiant heat, which can easily pass through the insulation.

This radiant heat not only heats up rooms and makes your air conditioner run longer, but it also makes you feel hotter. Often, this causes you to set the air-conditioner thermostat lower to feel comfortable, which further increases your electric bills in the summer.

The best methods to reduce this radiant heat are installing an aluminum-foil radiant barrier under the roof rafters and increasing attic ventilation. The foil blocks the radiant heat from the underside of the hot roof from reaching the attic floor. The added ventilation exhausts the hot attic air, too.

Attic radiant barrier foil is available at most home centers, or you can order it online. It comes in long rolls, often 4 feet wide. It is best to staple the foil up under the attic rafters to block the radiant heat before it gets into the attic area. If it is rolled out on the floor, it is susceptible to damage and heavy dust buildup, which reduces its effectiveness.

You can find insulation contractors to install it for you, but the cost of the foil from them, not including installation, may be marked up several times. It is an easy do-it-yourself project because the neatness of the installation doesn't impact its effectiveness. Just use a hand stapler and tack it up every several feet.

The least expensive type of attic foil is laminated to brown kraft paper for strength. If you install this, face the shiny side downward. The low-emissivity properties of the aluminum bottom surface block the heat more than the reflectivity from its top surface. For slightly more cost, double-sided foil reinforced with mesh is easier to handle.

The best type of attic ventilation to install is a continuous ridge vent. This exhausts the hottest air at the peak of the roof. Also, install inlet vents under the roof soffits to bring in cool outdoor air over the attic floor insulation. For a do-it-yourselfer, it may be easier to install a row of round roof vents. 🛠️



HOT IN HERE: Radiant heat makes your house warmer, and your electric bills soar in the summer. Fight back by installing an aluminum-foil radiant barrier under your roof rafters and increasing attic ventilation.

Have a question for Jim? Send inquiries to **JAMES DULLEY**, Penn Lines, 6906 Royalgreen Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45244 or visit dulley.com.

Scientific Discovery Stuns Doctors

Biblical Bush Relieves Joint Discomfort in as Little as 5 Days

Legendary “special herb” gives new life to old joints without clobbering you. So safe you can take it every day without worry.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 54 million Americans are suffering from joint discomfort.

This epidemic rise in aching joints has led to a search for alternative treatments—as many sufferers want relief without the harmful side effects of conventional “solutions.”

Leading the way from nature’s pharmacy is the new “King of Oils” that pioneering Florida MD and anti-aging specialist Dr. Al Sears calls “the most significant breakthrough I’ve ever found for easing joint discomfort.”

Biblical scholars treasured this “holy oil.” Ancient healers valued it more than gold for its medicinal properties. Marco Polo prized it as he blazed the Silk Road. And Ayurvedic practitioners, to this day, rely on it for healing and detoxification.

Yet what really caught Dr. Sears’ attention is how modern medical findings now prove this “King of Oils” can powerfully...

Deactivate 400 Agony-Causing Genes

If you want genuine, long-lasting relief for joint discomfort, you must address inflammation. Too much inflammation will wreak havoc on joints, break down cartilage and cause unending discomfort. This is why so many natural joint relief solutions try to stop one of the main inflammatory genes called COX-2.

But the truth is, there are hundreds of agony-causing genes like COX-2, 5-LOX, iNOS, TNF, Interleukin 1,6,8 and many more—and stopping just one of them won’t give you all the relief you need.

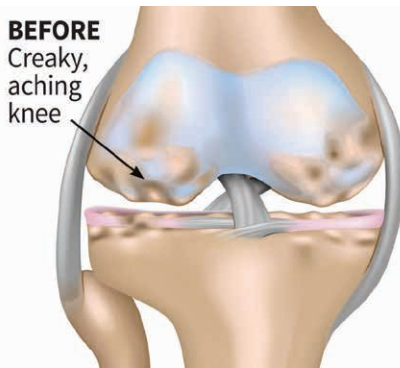
Doctors and scientists now confirm the “King of Oils”—Indian Frankincense—deactivates not one but 400 agony-causing genes. It does so by shutting down the inflammation command center called Nuclear Factor Kappa Beta.

NK-Kappa B is like a switch that can turn 400 inflammatory genes “on” or “off.” A study in Journal of Food Lipids reports that Indian Frankincense powerfully deactivates NF-Kappa B. This journal adds that Indian Frankincense is “so powerful it shuts down the pathway triggering aching joints.”

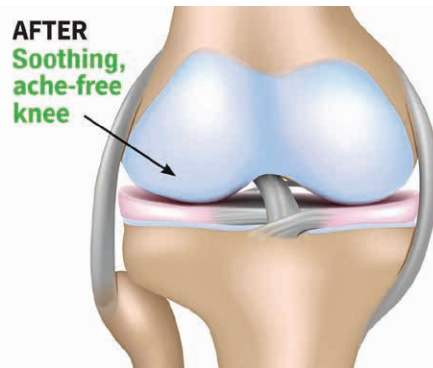
Relief That’s 10 Times Faster... and in Just 5 Days

Many joint sufferers prefer natural solutions but say they work too slowly. Take the best-seller glucosamine. Good as it is, the National Institutes of Health reports that glucosamine takes as long as eight weeks to work.

BEFORE
Creaky,
aching
knee



AFTER
Soothing,
ache-free
knee



*The active ingredient in **Mobilify** soothes aching joints in as little as 5 days*

Yet in a study published in the International Journal of Medical Sciences, 60 patients with stiff knees took 100 mg of Indian Frankincense or a placebo daily for 30 days. Remarkably, Indian Frankincense “significantly improved joint function and relieved discomfort in as early as five days.” That’s relief that is 10 times faster than glucosamine.

78% Better Relief Than the Most Popular Joint Solution

In another study, people suffering from discomfort took a formula containing Indian Frankincense and another natural substance or a popular man-made joint solution every day for 12 weeks.

The results? Stunning! At the end of the study, 64% of those taking the Indian Frankincense formula saw their joint discomfort go from moderate or severe to mild or no discomfort. Only 28% of those taking the placebo got the relief they wanted. So Indian Frankincense delivered relief at a 78% better clip than the popular man-made formula.

In addition, in a randomized, double blind, placebo controlled study, patients suffering from knee discomfort took Indian Frankincense or a placebo daily for eight weeks. Then the groups switched and got the opposite intervention. Every one of the patients taking Indian Frankincense got relief. That’s a 100% success rate—numbers unseen by typical solutions.

In addition, BMJ (formerly the British Medical Journal) reports that Indian Frankincense is safe for joint relief — so safe and natural you can take it every day.

Because of clinically proven results like this, Dr. Sears has made Indian Frankincense the centerpiece of a new natural joint relief formula called **Mobilify**.

Great Results for Knees, Hips, Shoulders and Joints

Joni D. says, “**Mobilify** really helps with soreness, stiffness and mild temporary pain. The day after taking it, I was completely back to normal—so fast.” Shirley M. adds, “Two weeks after taking **Mobilify**, I had no knee discomfort and could go up and down the staircase.” Larry M. says, “After a week and a half of taking **Mobilify**, the discomfort, stiffness and minor aches went away... it’s almost like being reborn.” And avid golfer Dennis H. says, “I can attest to **Mobilify** easing discomfort to enable me to pursue my golfing days. Definitely one pill that works for me out of the many I have tried.”

How to Get Mobilify

Right now, the only way to get this powerful, unique formula that clobbers creaking joints in as little as five days without clobbering you is with Dr. Sears’ breakthrough **Mobilify** formula. It is not available in stores.

To secure your bottle of this breakthrough natural joint discomfort reliever, buyers should call with Sears Health Hotline at **1-800-252-5274**. “The Hotline allows us to ship the product directly to customers.”

Dr. Sears believes in this product so much, he offers a 100% money-back guarantee on ever order. “Just send me back the bottle and any unused product within 90 days, and I’ll send you your money back,” said Dr. Sears.

The Hotline will be taking orders for the next 48 hours. After that, the phone number may be shut down to allow them to restock. Call **1-800-252-5274** to secure your limited supply of **Mobilify**. If you are not able to get through due to extremely high call volume, please try again! Call NOW to qualify for this limited time offer provided at a significant discount. To take advantage of this exclusive offer use Promo Code: **PLMB723** when you call.

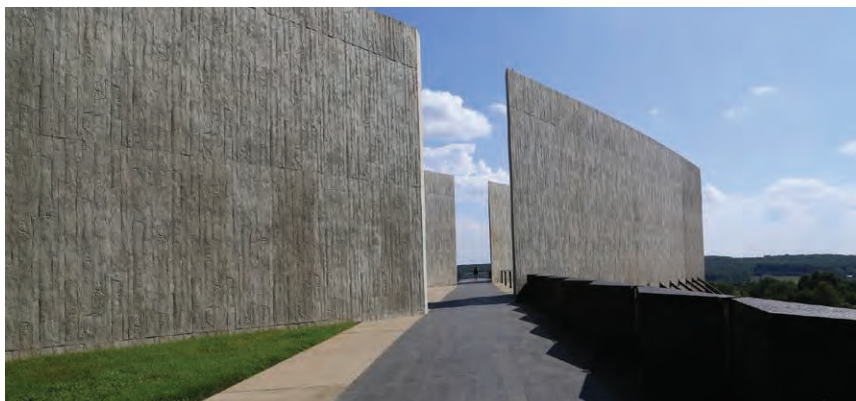
In & Around

Somerset Rural Electric Cooperative

You don't need to travel all the way to a city to find plenty to do. Somerset County, southeast of Pittsburgh, has no shortage of attractions, whether you're after fast-paced excitement or easy-going relaxation. It's also home to Somerset Rural Electric Cooperative, which serves more than 13,800 homes, farms and businesses across more than 1,800 miles of line.

Naturally, the cooperative provides electricity to numerous attractions throughout the county, such as Seven Springs Mountain Resort, Laurel Hill State Park and the Flight 93 National Memorial. Right across the street from the national memorial is Patriot Park, a haven that honors and recognizes the sacrifices of the service men and women who have served their country in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

For a faster pace, the Jennerstown



NEVER FORGET: Tall gray walls mark the Flight 93 National Memorial's Visitor Center Complex, which includes the Visitor Center, Learning Center, Flight Path Walkway and Flight Path Overlook. It is adjacent to the Memorial Plaza, which includes the Wall of Names listing those who died at the Somerset County crash site on Sept. 11, 2001.

Speedway pulls crowds from over a 100-mile radius every Saturday night, May through September. If that's a bit *too fast*, Mountain Ridge ATV Park offers 150 miles of trails and 40 miles of track across 3,000 acres in eastern Somerset County.

If all that travel makes you thirsty, the area has a plethora of breweries, wineries and distilleries to wet your whistle, such as Forbes Trail Brewing in Stoystown, Vin De Matrix Winery in

Rockwood, or Rusty Musket Distilling Co. in Boswell.



Main Office: Somerset, Pa.
Consumer-members served: 13,889
Website: somersetrec.com

Co-op Q&A

PLEASE EMAIL YOUR ANSWER and a photo of yourself to CommunityCorner@prea.com. Include your full name, the name of your cooperative and a daytime telephone number.

SEPTEMBER'S QUESTION

Getting kids up and out the door for school is a challenge, what's your go-to parenting trick?

Send your response by **MONDAY, JULY 17**, with "September 2023 Q&A" in the subject line.

OCTOBER'S QUESTION

Let's have some Halloween fun. What's the spookiest thing that's ever happened to you?

Send your response by **MONDAY, AUG. 21**, with "October 2023 Q&A" in the subject line.

JULY'S RESPONSES

You're having a Fourth of July family picnic. What has to be on the menu?



"Pasta salad. Specifically, Sue's Pasta Salad from Calliari's Bakery in DuBois. Calliari's is a local Italian favorite, and the pasta salad isn't made like any other – it must be experienced to be fully appreciated."

– AARON URBAN, UNITED ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



"My family loves to cook out for the Fourth of July. We order steaks from a local butcher to grill, and we always have a homemade pasta salad. And if we're lucky, someone will make an upside-down pineapple cake for dessert. That's my favorite sweet treat."

– KAYLA KING, REA ENERGY COOPERATIVE



"Turkey and filling is my favorite Fourth of July food, but for a picnic I have to go with smoked brisket and pasta salad because it is really good!"

– CONNER KAGARISE, NEW ENTERPRISE REC

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Closed Tuesday and Thursday

Let's Beat the Peak Together



AS A MEMBER OF REA Energy Cooperative, Inc. (REA), you know how to make smart energy choices that help you save money. But did you know that when you use electricity can be just as important as how much you use?

Throughout the day, energy use fluctuates based on consumer demand. Typically, most households use larger amounts of electricity in the morning when most people are getting ready for their day, and in the evenings when people return from work, cook dinner, wash clothes and watch television.

These times when people in our community are using more electricity at the same time are called "peak" hours. The cost for REA to provide power may be higher during these times because of the additional demand for electricity.

This summer, we are asking members to be mindful of their use of electricity by shifting electric consumption to the morning or later evening hours. By shifting your electric consumption to these times, you can help to keep wholesale power costs as low as possible, especially during the hottest days of summer.

Doing the "Electric Shift" is simple!

During hot and humid weekdays, shift your electric consumption to before 1 p.m. and after 6 p.m. by taking these simple steps:

- During summer months, raise the thermostat a few degrees during peak hours.
- Close your curtains and blinds to keep things cooler inside your home.
- Operate washers, dryers, dishwashers, stoves and other major appliances in the early morning or evening, but not during the middle of the day.
- Limit the number of times you open your refrigerator, freezer and exterior doors.
- Instead of using your oven, fire up the grill or use your microwave.
- Turn off lights and electronics when not in use. (Try to make this a daily habit, whether during peak or off-peak hours.)
- Run pool pumps at night.
- Use energy-efficient lightbulbs, such as LED lights.

By shifting some of your energy use to hours when demand is lower, also known as off-peak hours, you can save money on your energy bills and help keep rates lower for our community. So remember to do the "Electric Shift" during the hot days of summer. Another way you can help is by joining our load management water heater, dual fuel and electric thermal storage heater programs. Call 724-349-4800 to join today. 📞

STACY HILLIARD, CCC, CKAE
COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING MANAGER

Generational Farm Makes Hay When it Rains

KAYLA KING, MARKETING & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST

PERHAPS YOU HAVE HEARD THE adage, “Make hay when the sun shines,” but what happens when it’s gloomy? For many of us, 2020 was just that. With COVID-19, supply chain shortages and numerous small businesses permanently closing their doors, it was difficult to find the silver lining in that massive cloud. However, the owners of one small farm near Marion Center embraced the gloom and revitalized their business to new heights.

Lone Oak Farm has been run by the Simpson family for four generations. At the farm, located fewer than 4 miles off State Route 119 in Indiana County, the Simpsons have been raising dairy cows and producing goods since 1920. Today’s generation is spearheaded by four siblings, along with their parents, Dan and Linda, who currently own the 175-acre farm. With the farm being in the family for more than a century, many things have changed, but a lot has remained the same.

In a recent interview, Aaron Simpson, along with his wife and partner, Fallon, discussed the heritage of the farm, and what it’s like to be in the agriculture industry in 2023.

“My great-grandfather, Roy, started the farm with just 10 cows in a barn,” Aaron says. “The same glass pipelines that transported our milk in the 1960s are still being used today, and the ceiling beams in the new shop are from the original barn from the 1920s.”

He says his great-grandfather plowed the fields and milked the cows by hand. Today’s modern conveniences, such as auto-milkers, have made chores a little bit easier over the years.

“There are four siblings,” he continues. “Joni handles the

FALLON SIMPSON / LONE OAK FARM



LONE OAK FARM'S STORE

produce, cut flowers and the farm shares. Courtney will help anywhere it is needed. Cody handles the main farming and cows along with my father, and then there’s me. I help with the farming and manage the store.”

For the majority of Lone Oak Farm’s existence, it was a traditional dairy farm, where the Simpsons sold their milk to large-scale processing plants. When falling milk prices made it harder to cover the costs of the farm’s operation, the Simpsons made the decision to open to the public. In 2016, the Simpson family took a leap of faith and started selling milk from the tank directly to consumers.

“Customers would come in with their own jugs to fill up with milk from our tanks,” Fallon says. “We also had our own produce and beef.”

In 2015, Joni started the market garden, a two-acre plot on the farm where fresh produce is grown. While you can shop for fresh produce in their store, you can also sign up to become a member of Lone Oak Farm’s Market Share Program.

“You can come every week or every other week (depending on which package you choose) and pick from the first of what’s available and the best that’s available,” Joni explains. “It’s market style, so you can pick out what you want.”

In 2017, Lone Oak Farm opened its first storefront to local customers. One of the popular items was Lone Oak’s handmade ice cream.

“The building was mainly used for dairy processing with a tiny little store in the front,” Fallon recalls. “We currently have 14 different flavors of ice cream that we rotate with each season.

“It’s all made with ethically sourced ingredients and produced in small batches,” she adds. “All our ice cream



STRONG AS OAK: Beans, the family dog, right, joins the Simpson family for a group photo. Pictured are, from left: Fallon, Aaron, Dan, Linda, Cody, Courtney and Joni.

is made right here at the farm from scratch with our own milk, and about 99% of the flavorings and toppings are also made here."

While Lone Oak Farm has the staples of vanilla, chocolate, and strawberry readily available for day-to-day purchase, Fallon also creates seasonal flavors, like dandelion, wild violet, and honey-lavender. Inspiration for the flavors and baked goods comes from Fallon's and Aaron's grandmothers, who also baked, and many of the recipes are from previous generations.

With business booming, the Simpsons decided to expand their storefront to accommodate more customers.

"We started building the larger store in 2019 and opened its doors in August 2020," Aaron explains. "We opened the addition during the pandemic, and sales boomed. Because of COVID-19, people were scared to go to the grocery stores. Our daily number of customers increased significantly for several months."

Better yet, the Simpsons say they retained many of those customers since 2020.

Gaining new customers was refreshing, and the Simpsons also found comfort in knowing they were reconnecting their community with its local farms.

"We strive to educate our customers about farm life, and where our food comes from," Aaron says. "For example, did you know milk changes color and flavor based on what the cows are eating?"

The farm's dairy cows are pasture raised. In the summers, they enjoy all-day grass grazing, and in the winters, they consume hay.

"People want to know where their food comes from," Fallon says. "When people come to our store, they can look outside and see the cows that the milk, cheese, ice cream and beef comes from."

The Lone Oak Farm store consists of the store front with delicious homemade bread and other baked goods, the kitchen, and a wonderful, covered deck for events that overlooks the pastures where the cows are raised. The products and events at the farm feature a variety of



FALLON SIMPSON / LONE OAK FARM

OAK OFFERINGS: Lone Oak Farm produces many products for sale at their store. Products include yogurt, ice cream, milk, spaghetti sauce, salad mix and baked goods.

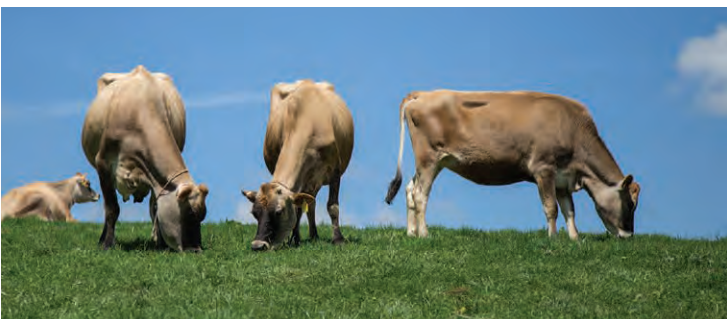
Pennsylvania small businesses.

Events are a big deal at Lone Oak Farm. The Simpsons invite the public to breakfasts on the porch, and "Summer Saturday Vendors" events are held once a month during the warmer months. They invite local food trucks, like Danny's Tacos, once a month when the weather permits. The big events for Lone Oak are the farm-to-table dinners and holiday vendor shows. Last year's holiday show hosted 22 local vendors and more than 800 shoppers. Customers can order goods for the holidays to pick up as well. Fallon says her favorite events are the ice cream socials, which feature Lone Oak Farm's handmade, small-batched ice cream flavors.

The Simpsons want to keep the future of Lone Oak Farm simple.

"It's hard to think too far into the future, and the future of agriculture in general," Fallon says. "Our (business) plans are normally set for 10 years in the future, and of course, we have our hopes and dreams of what we want to do. At this point, we're working on making everything as efficient as possible. We're making sure we are doing the best by our cows and the land. We just want to do the best we can so maybe our kids will want to be the fifth generation of Lone Oak Farm."

One thing is certain: Lone Oak Farm is bringing the public back to the farmlands, and even if there is actual rain, stopping by the Simpsons' store is like a ray of sunshine. We wish the Simpson family all the luck in the world! 🍀



FALLON SIMPSON / LONE OAK FARM

LONE OAK FARM'S CATTLE

Find more about Lone Oak Farm and the Simpson family by visiting their website: loneoakfarmpa.com

or visit their Facebook page:
facebook.com/loneoakfarmpa

Lone Oak Farm's Location:
**1606 Georgeville Road
Marion Center, PA 15759**

Lone Oak Farm Store Hours:
**Wednesday-Friday 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m.**

Local News

Local families had a blast at the Wilmore Sportsman's Club's Annual Children Trout Derby. The May 13 derby was free to children, 12 and under. Children were able to enjoy fishing with friends and family while spending time in the great outdoors. Wilmore is in Cambria County.



See more events at wilmoresportsmansclub.com

Right-of-Way Management/ Facility Construction News

REA Energy contractors will be completing tree trimming work in the following areas in July:

Contractor crews from Penn Line Tree Service will be trimming the rights of way of the Birtle substation and Summerhill substation, in addition to emergency maintenance areas.

Notification of work will be made to members in the areas affected. Contractors will perform all right-of-way work per REA Energy specifications. All contractor employees will carry employee identification cards, and their vehicles will display their company name.

If you have any questions, call 724-349-4800, or view the specifications at reaenergy.com.

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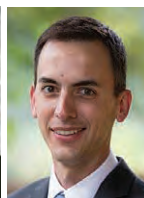
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REA Energy is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



72% of Lightning Fatalities

OCCUR JUNE THROUGH AUGUST

Take extra care when enjoying outdoor sporting events and activities when weather turns threatening. If you hear thunder, lightning is close enough to pose an immediate threat. That is why the National Weather Service advises: "When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!" Lightning can strike up to 10 miles away from rain, even if you don't see clouds.

Safe Electricity urges everyone to understand the importance of lightning awareness and how to stay safe. Learn more at SafeElectricity.org

**Safe
Electricity.org®**

Backyard Barbecue Fun

ANNE M. KIRCHNER

Summer evenings present an opportunity to invite friends over for a backyard barbecue. These events should be stress-free, allowing time for conversation and laughter. My family's annual Fourth of July outdoor party is a success when we follow simple guidelines.

We always make the main dish and dessert. Guests are asked to bring a side dish, beverage and lawn chair. This request ensures a variety of food options. It also guarantees seating for each person. We also discovered having an annual theme sparks creativity for dishes and decorations. The most important tip? Have fun! 🍷

ANNE M. KIRCHNER focuses her writing on human connections, travel and culinary arts, researching food origins, exploring cooking techniques, and creating new recipes.

PHOTOS BY ANNE M. KIRCHNER



BACON-WRAPPED BASIL CHICKEN

- 4 large boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- Salt and pepper
- 12 to 16 fresh basil leaves
- 8 slices bacon

Place one chicken breast between plastic wrap or parchment paper and pound it flat; set aside. Repeat the process with the remaining breasts then season all pieces with salt and pepper. Lay three or four basil leaves on each chicken breast. Roll each chicken breast then wrap the piece with two strips of bacon. Use wooden toothpicks to secure the roll. Place the chicken on the grill for 5 to 10 minutes. Turn the chicken and cook another 5 to 10 minutes. When done, the internal temperature should be 165 degrees, and the bacon should be fully cooked. Cut each chicken breast into 1-inch slices and serve on a platter. *Makes 4 servings.*



BEEF SHISH KEBABS

- 1½ pounds top sirloin
- ¼ cup orange juice
- ¼ cup Worcestershire sauce
- ¼ cup olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- ½ teaspoon black pepper
- ¼ teaspoon red pepper flakes
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 1 large green pepper
- 1 large yellow pepper
- 1 large red pepper
- 8 ounces cremini mushrooms, halved
- 1 large red onion

Cut the beef into 1-inch cubes and place in a bowl. Whisk together the orange juice, Worcestershire sauce, olive oil, garlic, black pepper, red pepper flakes and honey. Pour the sauce over the beef and marinate for 1 to 3 hours. Cut the bell peppers into square pieces, halve the mushrooms, and cut the onion into large slices. Thread the marinated beef, bell peppers, mushrooms and onions on to a skewer. If using wooden skewers, soak the sticks in water for 20 minutes before using. Grill the skewers for 3 to 5 minutes on each side. Let the skewers rest for 5 minutes before serving. *Makes 8 servings.*



LEMONADE BLUEBERRY PIE

- 1 can (6 ounces) frozen lemonade concentrate, thawed
- 2 cups vanilla ice cream, softened
- 1 container (8 ounces) frozen whipped cream topping, thawed
- 2 cups blueberries
- 1 graham cracker crust

Using an electric mixer, beat the lemonade concentrate in a mixing bowl on low speed for 30 seconds. Add the ice cream 1 cup at a time, beating until well blended. Stir in the whipped topping until smooth. Add the blueberries to the filling and gently stir to combine. Spoon the filling into the graham cracker crust. Freeze the pie for 4 hours or overnight. To serve, let the pie soften then slice into 8 pieces with a knife that has been immersed in warm water. Garnish with a lemon twist and a sprig of mint. *Makes 8 servings.*

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Rocky Mountain High – in Pennsylvania

STEVE PIATT

IN BENEZETTE, PA, THERE'S STILL a debate today over the spelling of the town's name; even the popular Benezett store and campground has dropped the last "e" and sells T-shirts to show it's no mistake on the sign.

The hundreds of thousands of folks who visit the tiny town each year don't get caught up in the squabble. They are there to see elk. After all, this is Elk County.

And rarely, if ever, are they disappointed.

Pennsylvania's expanding elk herd — estimated at more than 1,400 these days — has a range that includes not only Elk County, but also portions of Cameron, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, McKean and Potter counties. The animal's resurgence in the Keystone State began back in 1913 with the first shipment of 50 elk from Yellowstone National Park, but that was just the beginning. It has, since then, taken a concerted effort by the Pennsylvania Game Commission and other state agencies, the nonprofit Keystone Elk Country Alliance (KECA), the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and more to restore the majestic animals here in Pennsylvania.

Today, the elk herd serves as an economic engine in a historically depressed region, known from a tourism marketing standpoint as the "Pennsylvania Wilds." Visitors pour into the area, staying at bed-and-breakfasts, cabins, private rentals and lodges, many of which didn't exist before the arrival of the elk. Private and nearby state park campgrounds are filled to capacity, notably during the fall mating season when the bull



elk are showing off at their bugling best, but also during the popular Elk Expo, set for July 29-30 this year at the sprawling Elk Country Visitor Center on a hill above Benezette (or Benezett, if you prefer).

The visitor center is a success story of its own, an ambitious \$12 million public-private partnership between the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and KECA. There's a focus on education at the 8,400-square-foot center, with programs, interactive displays and prime elk viewing areas outside.

The center opened in 2010 and, now managed by KECA, sees more than a half million visitors annually. While fall is prime time for bugling bulls, there's never a bad time to visit, as elk feed in surrounding fields and even graze casually in town in an area that's not open to elk hunting.

But there is, in fact, an elk hunt every year, conducted through a popular lottery system where the winners are drawn during the Elk Expo. The odds are long, but not Powerball astronomical; I've actually tagged along on a friend's hunt after he was drawn for a bull tag. This year, 144 tags will be available — 65 antlered, 79 antlerless — across the general, archery and late seasons in designated hunting zones.

The elk permit drawing is the highlight of the expo, but make no mistake: Pennsylvania's elk country,

from Benezette and beyond, is a year-round destination for visitors looking to observe Rocky Mountain elk without a trip out West.

By the late 1870s, elk had become extinct in the Keystone State, and that first shipment from Yellowstone some four decades later was just the first step in the effort to restore the animals to the landscape. An additional 22 came from a Monroe County preserve, and two years later, the game commission purchased 95 more elk from Yellowstone, which were released into six counties.

Still, Pennsylvania's elk numbers didn't climb dramatically until the state kicked its efforts up a notch, improving habitat for the animals and acquiring additional land — notably the Winslow Hill area — to allow additional research and reduce conflicts with farmers.

Public awareness soared as elk became a common sight and interest in drawing a coveted elk-hunting permit skyrocketed.

Challenges such as chronic wasting disease remain, but Pennsylvania's elk herd is a success story that's worth shouting out loud.

Maybe bugling about it would be better. 📞

STEVE PIATT is a veteran newspaper editor and outdoor writer who along with his wife, Paula, has hunted and fished across North America. He is most at home on the water and in the fields of the Keystone State. He lives in Bradford County.

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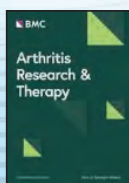
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Family Reunions and the Great Mayo Debate

MITCHELL KYD

IT'S JULY, AND PRIME FAMILY-REUNION season. As a kid, that annual gathering was a highlight of the summer. It was a day of freedom when you could count on slipping out from under your parents' radar for an afternoon while kicking up a little dust with all the second cousins you saw only once a year. Of course, the reunion also included a passel of picnic aunts, who covered the tables with all of your favorite, homemade delights.

You could be sure Aunt Margaret would bring a batch of gooey brownies with walnuts; Aunt Mary brought brownies without them. There was never any trouble knowing whose batch was whose because they always arrived in the same familiar basket or tray, another hallmark of continuity in the family tradition.

Even the potato salads had their signature looks. In the annual competition of who made the best, the cooks battled for the title, tweaking and testing every year in the scramble to recreate the kind that Grandma used to make. The struggle raged on, but the debate was never settled. Was it some extra dollop of mayonnaise or that tangy impostor Miracle Whip that was the crucial ingredient? There were those who knew but delighted in not telling why the outcome would never be the same. It was Grandma's secret, and wannabes would never find it in a jar. She cooked that egg-rich dressing fresh from scratch.

I suspect every family reunion also brings out the guy who calls himself the "out-law" uncle because he married into the group. He's secretly adored because he brings his own brand of crazy into the family mix and always has a joke. "You know the difference between in-laws and out-laws, don't you?" he baits. "Out-laws are wanted." He's also master of bad puns. "Man'naze a lot of kids here this year," he says with a fake southern accent. "But I relish these family picnics. It's a great time to ketchup."

How did we all survive it? The food was all kept cold in clunky, metal coolers that weighed a ton because they

were powered by a big block of ice that was bought from a place called cold storage. And yet, I don't remember a single report of food poisoning from the reunion spread that was available all afternoon for grazing. The most popular picnic weapon was always within reach, too — the ice pick — but I don't remember anyone suffering the bite of that sharp, pointy object.

Every reunion included a peanut scramble without a thought that anyone might have nut allergies. The kids all played on rickety park swings with metal seats and rusting chains. We wore out sneakers as we raced around the kid-powered merry-go-round until centrifugal force flung cousins off into the weeds — smallest kids first. We all came

running back to grab hold and jump on again, mostly without tears, and never once with a broken bone.

As kids, we ruled the picnic park with impunity. We were wild things and fearless. We were superheroes without thoughts of falling, being bored or getting snatched by strangers.

At some point, someone must have hired a professional photographer for the reunion because I inherited a framed, panoramic print of three generations. My second

cousins and I are all who remain, but it warms my heart to revisit that photo and recall those family faces.

In every family, someone is the glue who holds that tribe together. Without the glue, the edges of our ties start to fray and unravel until reunions only exist as memories and old family photos. Unless someone else steps up...

After these years of isolation, now might be a great year to become the glue. Pick a date, name the place and order some deli trays, if that's your go-to. Zoom those distant ones, if needed, but share your stories. Stories connect a family. They are one of the best gifts we can leave behind. 📷

YVONNE BUTTS-MITCHELL celebrates the joys and poignant moments of rural living under the pen name Mitchell Kyd. Her stories from the Path Valley Hotel were hatched by encounters with contractors, critters and creepy crawlies while rehabbing the family cabin after its 17-year stint as a giant closet.



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A Constant Battle

State Tests New Plan of Attack to Manage Invasive Species

KATHY HACKLEMAN

Penn Lines Contributor



CLAVELACK RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

A CONSTANT HAZARD: Trees affected by emerald ash borers, like the ones here, can fall from outside the right-of-way onto cooperative electric lines.

IT'S DIFFICULT TO QUANTIFY THE damage caused by invasive species — the plants, insects, pathogens, and animals that threaten the economy, agriculture, and public health.

In Pennsylvania, the damage has not only resulted in lost revenue at timber, nursery and farm operations, but has also marred outdoor activities. There's incidental damage, too, when a damaged tree falls on a building or power line.

Officials are focusing on what state agencies can do to help. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) recently released findings from the first Pennsylvania Invasive Species Impacts Survey by the Governor's Invasive Species Council.

DEP officials report a regional invasive species management pilot program is rolling out this summer with representatives from local and state governments, industries, and academia addressing the growing number of invasive species. The pilot program includes 13 northwest counties where the council and the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts will remove invasive species and stress education. (To learn more, see the sidebar on page 28.)

While the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) cooperates with other agencies to limit invasives, its focus is on those that impact agriculture or interstate commerce, spokesperson Shannon Powers says.

"Invasives, always a challenge, have become more of an issue as warmer winters and wetter areas make Pennsylvania a more attractive habitat to species that previously wouldn't have thrived here," Powers reports.

Pennsylvania has significant differences in climate and topography, which is why the council is recommending a regional approach to control invasives. However, individuals can also help.

Powers' advice: "When camping or traveling, be aware you can inadvertently spread an invasive species. If you are a gardener, be aware you may be planting something that may take over your or your neighbor's property."

The Raystown invasion

Glenn Werner, forester for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Raystown Lake, echoes the importance of education. He says most of the invasive species in the region have been inadvertently transported in by humans.

The Corps of Engineers oversees 8,300 surface acres of water and 21,000 acres of surrounding land in Huntingdon County, where Valley Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) is headquartered. The lake is also the site of the Raystown Hydroelectric Plant, operated by Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc., which supplies power to the 14 rural electric cooperatives in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

"Invasives have always been problematic for us," Werner explains. "We have invasive aquatic pests, aquatic

vegetation, terrestrial pests and terrestrial vegetation."

One species of concern is hydrilla, an underwater noxious weed that threatens native aquatic plants and fish populations. More than 200 surface acres of water have been treated with herbicides, and another treatment is planned this summer.

"We are not looking to eradicate it because that's not possible, so we are looking at controlling and minimizing the effects," Werner says. "Hydrilla is spread through the transportation of boats, trailers, jet skis or equipment used in infected waters. The best way to slow the spread is for people to check boats and trailers when moving to a different body

"A significant portion of our budget goes to monitoring, reporting and treating them. It could be a never-ending workload if the money and manpower were available."



U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

TINY TERROR: Zebra mussels are tiny but can prove to be difficult to eradicate once they are in a body of water. Three were discovered at Raystown Lake, but regular monitoring has not found any others.



U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

WORRISOME WEED: Hydrilla is an underwater plant that is causing problems for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Raystown Lake.

of water to make sure no plant material is transferred.”

Education and vigilance are also critical in preventing the spread of the tiny (think fingernail-size) zebra mussel, which has been deemed among the worst aquatic invasive species in the United States.

“Zebra mussels are spread primarily on boat trailers, boat hulls and personal watercraft,” Werner says. “Zebra mussels have a significant detrimental impact on the food chain in an aquatic environment and can also clog intakes and propellers.”

Werner reports the most problematic invasive terrestrial plant species is mile-a-minute, a trailing vine that, as its name implies, grows rapidly (up to 6 inches daily).

“Mile-a-minute creates a dense mat that can choke out other vegetation,” he says. “It doesn’t have a significant use for wildlife habitat, and it’s not desirable for forage.”

Mile-a-minute is most often spread when soil is moved. Seeds can remain dormant for years, lying in wait for the opportunity to sprout under the right conditions. Raystown staff attempt to control it, but control is difficult due to its growth rate, prolific seed production and extended period of seed viability.

Terrestrial pests at Raystown include the emerald ash borer, hemlock woolly adelgid, spotted lanternfly and spongy moth (formerly known as the gypsy moth).

The spotted lanternfly, an invasive plant hopper, was confirmed at Raystown in 2021 at Ridenour Overlook. By 2022, the infestation had spread into the Seven Points Recreation area. Staff members are working with state agriculture officials to treat the pest with a focus on roads and access points at high-density sites.

Here again, education is key as humans can spread insects and egg masses.

“Anything you have — campers, tents, coolers, vehicles — within a quarantine zone should be inspected before you leave a quarantined area,” Werner notes, “and a good portion of the state is within the quarantined area.”

A constant battle

Emerald ash borers arrived in the Raystown Lake area several years ago.



U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

HITCHING A RIDE: A U.S. Army Corps of Engineers staffer surveys for hydrilla at Raystown Lake. The invasive species is typically transported into the area on equipment that has been in infested waters at other locations. This includes boats and jet skis.

“Emerald ash borer spread so quickly that by the time most people realized they had it, it was too late to treat,” he says. “We removed infested trees for public safety, and a lot of effort was put into educating people not to transport firewood in from other areas.

“At this point, emerald ash borer has pretty much wiped out the entire ash population at Raystown and adjacent lands.”

Continued on page 30

Regional Approach Seen as Solution to Invasive Species

As a result of its first survey on the impacts of invasive species in Pennsylvania, the Governor’s Invasive Species Council is proposing a new, state-funded initiative, the Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM) program.

A success in neighboring New York, PRISM would establish and fund local host organizations in six regions statewide. The goal would be to identify regional priorities and solutions to manage these destructive

species. The program would be administered by the state Department of Agriculture.

A small-scale version of PRISM is being tested in 13 northwestern counties this summer. Supported by \$210,000 in federal funds, the pilot will include on-the-ground projects and educational outreach.

To learn more about the survey and PRISM, visit agriculture.pa.gov and choose “Plants, Land & Water” from the menu at the top of the page.



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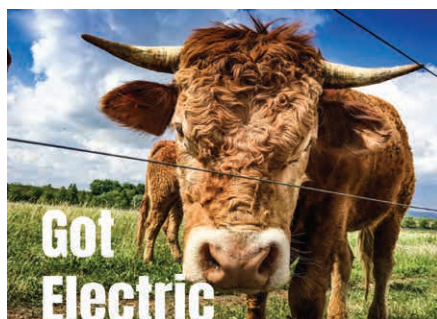


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Continued from page 28

Surveys are done on Raystown property annually for spongy moths, too, but the quantity of egg masses has not qualified for spraying since 2015.

“Spongy moths usually come in a cyclical outbreak,” Werner notes. “You hit a peak and then it dies off, but it eventually comes back. In 2015, we sprayed a third or more of Raystown due to a large outbreak.”

There are other invasive species being monitored.

“It’s a constant battle,” Werner says. “A significant portion of our budget goes to monitoring, reporting and treating them. It could be a never-ending workload if the money and manpower were available.”

While Corps of Engineers employees at Raystown are busy dealing with invasives, the same is not the case for staff at the Raystown Hydroelectric Plant, which provides approximately 3% of the electricity used annually by electric cooperatives. The plant’s staff keeps a watchful eye out for invasives, but none are currently causing operational issues.

Not all electric cooperatives are as lucky.

“The effect of the emerald ash borer is directly impacting our members,” reports Josh Baublitz, right-of-way program manager at Wysox-based Claverack REC. “Claverack has a rider on our monthly bills that goes for our accelerated ash program, which allows us to bring in additional crews beyond regular staffing to deal 100% with ash trees. The program began in January 2023 and is scheduled through 2024.”

He says 90% to 95% of Claverack REC’s outages are caused by ash trees falling from outside the right of way.

“Once a tree has failed, our linemen get involved,” Baublitz says. “My job is to try to remove those trees before it gets to the stage where they fall onto cooperative lines.”

Baublitz reports in one substation alone, 1,700 hazard (dead or dying) ash trees have been identified along the 220 miles of line.

‘It’s going to get better’

In addition to recording reports from members about possible hazard trees, the cooperative is using a third-party contractor to identify affected trees and load the information into a mapping system.

All of this costs money.

“Since I started at Claverack in 2018, our budget has nearly tripled for vegetation maintenance,” Baublitz says. “In 2023, dedicated crews will cost about \$700,000, and that doesn’t include the increases in the regular maintenance budget.”

However, he believes better days are ahead.

“I think we are either at the top of the curve or slightly before it,” he says. “It’s going to get better. It’s just a question of how fast the crews can cut versus how fast the trees can come down.” 🍷

PA. DEPT. OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES



PA. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

TROUBLEMAKERS: Invasive species come in all shapes and sizes in Pennsylvania, but share one thing in common: They’re capable of a lot of destruction. They include, clockwise from top right: the spotted lanternfly, multiflora rose and the emerald ash borer, which burrows into ash trees, causing them to die.



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KEYSTONE COIN & BULLION is buying and selling gold, silver, U.S. coins and currency. Large inventory for sale. We pay in CASH. Call Matt at 814-931-4810. www.keystonecoinbullion.com.

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NOLL'S FORESTRY SERVICES. Timber Sales, Appraisals, Management Plans, Land Sales, Hunting Leases, Wildlife Habitat Management. FREE Timber Land Recommendations. 30 years experience. Real estate agent. Visit www.nollsforestryservices.com. Call Ron, 724-422-5525.

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HEALTH INSURANCE

DO YOU HAVE THE BLUES regarding your health insurance? We cater to rural America's health insurance needs. For more information, call 800-628-7804. Call us regarding Medicare supplements, too.

HEATING & COOLING

GARY & SONS, INC. HEATING AND COOLING – It's not too late! Beat the heat this summer with new or improved air conditioning. Or be ready to save money on fuel oil, propane, or your electric bill this fall and winter without sacrificing comfort – add a heat pump! Heat pumps make heating systems 300% more energy efficient. Contact Gary & Sons, Inc. of Falls Creek, Pa., for a FREE estimate: 814-371-4885 or garysinc.com. Gary & Sons installs and services heating and cooling equipment, and hot water tanks, and cleans air ducts and dryer vents. PA4673.

HEATING & COOLING - GEOTHERMAL

SAVE UP TO 70% IN HEATING, COOLING AND HOT WATER COSTS with a geothermal comfort system from WaterFurnace using the free energy in your own yard. Benefits include energy savings, comfort, quiet, safe, reliable, and long life. For a dealer near you, visit www.waterfurnace.com or call 1-800-GEO-SAVE.

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COW, CALF PAIRS AND YEARLING HEIFERS for sale. Angus, Shorthorn, Hereford, and Charlois Crosses. All are from A.I. breeding and bred to top A.I. bulls. Maybe it's time to raise your own beef. Maple Row Farm, Brookville, Pa. 814-328-2318 or 814-771-0172.

LOG HOMES

OLD KENTUCKY LOGS. The look of authentic hand-hewn logs. Lightweight concrete siding for new or existing structures. O'Harah Concrete, Inc. Facebook, oharahs@yahoo.com, 814-653-8791.

MEATS

MCMULLEN PREMIUM BLACK ANGUS FREEZER BEEF, Ashville, Pa. Grass-fed and grain-finished with rich marbling. No growth-promoting hormones or antibiotics. Quarter, half and whole. \$3.00/lb. hanging weight plus processing; price subject to change. www.mcmullenbeef.com. 814-674-2332.

ANGUS FREEZER BEEF. \$2.50/lb. HANGING WEIGHT, plus processing. No antibiotics or hormones, grass-fed, grain-finished, excellent marbling. By the quarter, half or whole – discount for halves and multiple quarters. Allison Farmz, Alexandria, Pa. 814-669-4014.

MISCELLANEOUS

FOR SALE: BUCKETS, FORKS, THUMBS, grapple buckets and pallet forks for skid loaders, backhoes, and excavators. Tires for backhoes, rubber tire loaders and excavators also. Call 814-329-0118.

FOR SALE: 1950s WOODEN TELEPHONE BOOTH, 3-coin phone, everything works. Light, fan, excellent shape. Have keys, must see. \$1,100. Call Larry and will send pictures. 717-870-4690.

FOR SALE: ROSENTHAL CHINA SET. SELB-PLOSSBERG Germany AIDA, pine needle pattern. Complete service for twelve, 94 pieces, pristine condition. Call 814-626-1348, leave message for information, pictures.

FOR SALE: WESTONE PANTERA LIMITED ELECTRIC GUITAR, Peavey Escort 2000 PA system, Fender Super Champ amp. Microphone stands and two microphones. Call 814-599-3287.

FOR SALE: MAHONING OUTDOOR FURNACE. \$3500. For more information, please call 814-948-9681.

MOTOR VEHICLES & BOATS

FOR SALE: 2014 FREEDOM ELITE 28' CLASS C MOTORHOME. E450, V10 gas motor. Sleeps 6+. One full-wall slide. 12,000 miles. Great condition. \$50,000 or best offer. Call 717-642-8849. Leave a message.

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TREES AND SHRUBS for all your landscaping needs. Rare, unusual, amazing. Bloomfield Nursery. 167 Sproul Mountain Road, Roaring Spring, PA 16673. 814-224-4508.

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ALMOST ANYTHING METAL can be powder coated: auto parts, lawn furniture, wheels, etc. Restores, protects, preserves. 1,200-degree manifold coating. Arthurs Powder Coating, 263 Sexton Road, Indiana, PA 15701. 724-349-3770.

REAL ESTATE

VIRGINIA'S EASTERN SHORE. Fishermen and beach lover's paradise. Access Chesapeake Bay or Atlantic Ocean within minutes. Waterside Village 3/4-acre homesites near marina from \$18,000 with fenced and locked RV/camper storage available. Beach access nearby. Waterfront sites available on bayside and seaside. Many free boat ramps within minutes. Low, low taxes. Kirkwoodontheshore.com. 757-678-7631.

LOOKING TO BUY OR SELL? Timberland Realty specializes in land, sporting properties, camps, cabins, farms, waterfront, exquisite second homes and timberland since 1987. Call our office at 716-962-9935 or agents by region - Western Pa.: Craig Wozniak, 412-559-4198, Ron Westover, 724-422-5525. Central Pa.: John Tallman, 717-921-2476. Brian Bullard, Managing Broker, 716-499-5608. Website: www.timberlandrealty.net.

REAL ESTATE

INTERESTED IN LEASING PROPERTY in the Canton, Pa., area for hunting. If you might be interested in leasing your property, please give me a call and ask for Robert. If there is no answer, leave a message. 570-344-5358.

109 + ACRES FARM, SOUTHERN SOMERSET COUNTY, PA. Modern farm house, 40' x 100' machine shed, and barn. Spring and well water. Great hunting and fishing. 5 miles from state game lands. Interested, call 814-267-5238.

RECIPES & FOOD

SPECIAL OFFER - BOTH COOKBOOKS FOR \$12. "Country Cooking" - \$5, including postage. "Recipes Remembered" - \$7, including postage. Both of these cookbooks are a collection of recipes from men and women of the electric co-ops of Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Payable to: Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association, P.O. Box 1266, Harrisburg, PA 17108. Write Attention: Cookbooks.

SHAKLEE

FREE SAMPLE Shaklee's Energy Tea. Combination red, green and white teas that are natural, delicious, refreshing, safe. For sample or more information on tea or other Shaklee Nutrition/Weight Loss Products: 814-392-4383 or www.pws.shaklee.com/sbarton.

TOOLS & EQUIPMENT

FOR SALE: DOUBLE-OTT FRICK SAWMILL. Sixteen-foot wood carriage. Four-head block and 52-inch saw. 671 Detroit diesel power unit. Eighteen-foot steel 4-strand live deck. 4-inch Miller edger, hanging slinging 30-inch cut-off saw. 360 Timberjack skidder. New tires with chains. Runs good, 45B Michigan high-lift. Tri Mountain Lumber. \$60,000. 724-455-3725.

MORRIS TOOL SHARPENING: I sharpen circular saw blades, chains, mower blades, planer blades and many other tools. Call 814-327-3656 for more information. Located in Schellsburg area.

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ARTHURS TRACTORS. Specializing in vintage Ford tractors, 30 years experience, online parts catalog/prices, Indiana, PA 15701. Contact us at 877-254-FORD (3673) or www.arthurstractors.com.

TRAVEL & TOURISM

NEW SMYRNA BEACH, Florida, oceanfront condo rental. Two bedroom, two bath, deck overlooking beach and pool. \$895/week or \$3,200/month, plus taxes and cleaning fees. No pets. Not available Jan. - Mar. Call 814-635-4332 or 814-979-8058.

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VAN RENTAL

15-PASSENGER VANS TO MINI-VANS to car rentals. Call Rent-A-Wreck in Erie. Locally owned for the last 37 years. Rent-A-Wreck, 814-833-9941.

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ANTIQUE AND CLASSIC American and foreign cars, motorcycles, trucks, Broncos, Blazers and Scouts. Any condition. Will buy entire car collections. krmiller1965@yahoo.com. 717-577-8206.

ANTIQUE AND CLASSIC motorcycles wanted. All makes and sizes. BSA, Norton, Triumph, Honda, Yamaha, Suzuki, Kawasaki, etc. krmiller1965@yahoo.com. 717-577-8206.

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Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Summer is a prime opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors. To reduce home energy use, avoid using your oven and use a grill instead. Not only will cooking outdoors eliminate the electricity used to power the stove, but it will also avoid raising the temperature inside your home, reducing the need for air conditioning or cooling.

You can also avoid using the oven with tasty no-bake recipes. Get creative in the kitchen (or the backyard) and find new ways to save energy!

Source: Dept. of
Energy



Am I Qualified?

JOHN KASUN

I HAVE NEVER BEEN AN impulsive person; however, my wife and I owned two vehicles that were 15 and 21 years old, respectively, and I thought we should consider looking for a new automobile. We found ourselves visiting several auto dealers recently, and I quickly learned a lot had changed since my last purchase. For example, the price now included an arm and a leg.

The actual buying process went better than past shopping experiences for an automobile. I seem to remember a lot of crying, yelling and begging, and that was just on the part of the salesperson. There was no pressure to buy. That, however, may have been because there were people outside the dealership waving fistfuls of dollars due to the shortage of available automobiles.

The sales rep did an excellent job of explaining the features of the car we chose, continually asking if we had any questions and stressing his willingness to explain any detail. I was puzzled by his excessive concern. How complicated could a car be? I got the impression the salesman — and the car — were interviewing me to see if I was suited to own the vehicle and if the car would be satisfied being owned by me. In some ways, I felt like I had gone to the dog shelter to adopt, and the dog was trying to decide if he liked me or would prefer to stay at the shelter.

Later that afternoon, my wife and I drove off the lot in our new car and headed home. Everything went smoothly, but I quickly realized how much different this car was than our older models, which probably explained the dictionary-sized instruction manual in the glove compartment.

My home sits on a circular drive, and as I pulled alongside my mailbox, the car was suddenly filled with screaming collision warnings as flashing lights lit up the entire dash. The built-in computer screen identified my mailbox and adjacent garbage can as possible collision threats. It took my wife and me a moment to grasp the

situation as I applied my full strength to the brake to make sure we didn't move an inch. I was sure we were seconds from a horrible crushing death.

As our hearts slowed and heads cleared, we realized it was the car's safety-sensor system at work. I slowly gained enough courage to ease up the drive. As we slowly entered the garage, the signals again blared and lights flashed, driving our hearts into overdrive once more. Due to recent remodeling, we had stored some furniture in the second bay of the garage to provide more work space in the house. Apparently, the car didn't like the crowded conditions and was voicing its disapproval of sharing the space with anything other than

a car of equal or higher value. We eased the car into position and shut it down, basking in the welcome silence. I was certain the car was not happy with its experience or its new home. I hoped after a night's rest it would feel better.

The next morning my wife and I needed to run some errands. As I started the car, I noticed it automatically turned on the rear camera. I was impressed it knew we were going to back out of the garage and not drive forward through the family room

wall. My joy and satisfaction quickly faded as I discovered I could not shift into reverse. For the next 15 minutes — with bells ringing and lights flashing — I sat in my garage reading the instruction manual to learn how to shift into reverse. The car had an electronic shift, and I had to push a button on the side of the lever and move it slightly forward to go in reverse. I am sitting in a car that cost me twice what I paid to build my first house, and I can't get it out of the garage without reading the directions. I felt like I was in a "Back to the Future" time warp with Doc and Marty. Maybe I am just not qualified to own a new car. 🚗

JOHN KASUN, a lifelong Pennsylvanian with more than 30 years of writing experience, looks for the humor in everyday life and then tells a story from that perspective. He is a member of Huntingdon-based Valley Rural Electric Cooperative.





MICHAEL E. MOATS • TRI-COUNTY REC

Have a Blast!

FIRE UP THE GRILL, break out the coolers and blast pretty lights across the night sky — what else would anyone do in July? Just make sure that when you tell your friends “hold my drink” that you go grab a camera, because we always want photos for the annual Rural Reflections contest. Winners in five categories (artistic, human, landscape, animal and editor’s choice) will receive \$75 each and runners-up will each receive \$25. 🍷



CAROLYN L. BLEDSOE • ADAMS EC



TERESA MCCONNELL • SOMERSET REC



AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHERS are encouraged to send photos for the 2023 “Rural Reflections” contest (no digital files) to: *Penn Lines* Photos, P.O. Box 1266, Harrisburg, PA 17108-1266. On the back of each photo, include your name, address, phone number and the name of the electric cooperative that serves your home, business or seasonal residence.

Remember: Our publication deadlines require us to work in advance, so send your seasonal photos in early. Photos that do not reflect any specific season may be sent at any time. Photos will be returned at the end of the contest year if a self-addressed, stamped envelope is included.

ADDRESS CHANGES:

For change of address, please contact your local electric cooperative. For cooperative contact information, please visit www.prea.com/member-cooperatives

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