

Weekly Bargain Bulletin

WBB

January 2, 2026

Edition 2802

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New Year's Clearance Sale Page 2

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by Terry and Kim Kovel

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Tell 'em you saw it in the Weekly Bargain Bulletin



Outdoor Opportunities

By **COL (Ret.) Grey D. Berrier II**

Sharing a Few Additional Flintlock Tips to Counter Black Powder's Biggest Enemy

I'm sure you've heard the expression, "Keep Your Powder Dry!"

Many people probably think it's just another way of saying, "Be Prepared!" However, it has a much more significant scientific and historical basis. You see, true black powder that is employed as the propelling charge in the barrel of a flintlock rifle and as the priming charge in the flashpan is very hygroscopic. Hygroscopic is the scientific term for a substance's physical property of readily attracting and holding water molecules from the surrounding environment. The bottom line is black powder readily absorbs moisture from the air and becomes useless when damp or wet (it won't ignite properly), thus the very appropriate saying, "Keep Your Powder Dry!" from back in the day when flintlock ignition was the primary means for firing military and sporting rifles.

This is the reason armies back in the day of flintlock rifles went into "Winter Quarters" and there were very few military engagements from late Fall through Spring. An example of this during the American Revolution was the Continental Army under General George Washington going into "Winter Quarters" at Valley Forge on December 19, 1777 and not marching out until June 19, 1778. Unfortunately, flintlock hunters in Pennsylvania do not have the luxury of "Winter Quarters," since the current PA statewide late flintlock deer season runs from December 26, 2025 until January 19, 2026. Thus, those individuals who choose to hunt with these "primitive weapons" must constantly do battle against black powder's inherent hygroscopic properties, if they want their firearms to consistently ignite at the critical moment when they are taking aim at a deer. Allow me to share a few of the tips I've learned over the years to battle moisture.

1. After loading the propelling charge and patched roundball down the barrel of my flintlock rifle, I always seal the octagon barrel's muzzle with pieces of electrical tape. This keeps snow, rain, and moist air from entering the barrel. The massive hot gases created by the black powder's ignition when you pull the trigger blow the tape off the end of the barrel well before the patched roundball leaves the muzzle, thus it does not impede accuracy at all. (I also tape the barrels of my centerfire/rimfire rifles when hunting.)

2. Many hunters employ a lock cover to keep out snow and rain after they load the priming charge in their flashpans. Often called a "Cow's knee" or "Calf's knee,"

these leather lock covers were often originally made from skinned-out, tanned leather pieces of a cow or calf's leg and then treated with fat, wax, or oil to make them waterproof. I have also seen some modern lock covers made out of neoprene (the material wetsuits are made from). The trick is the lock cover needs to be easily removable when it comes time to take a shot. In addition to a lock cover, if you look at historical paintings, you see the "arm pit carry" of a flintlock rifle was prevalent to enable the storm flap of one's woolen or buckskin outer garment to keep one's powder dry. It still works today to move through the woods with the lock under your dry arm pit.

3. Condensation is black powder's nemesis and significant variations in temperature once your flintlock is loaded can potentially cause condensation. Keep in mind, a flintlock rifle is considered "unloaded" for transportation or storage purposes, if the priming charge is removed from the flashpan. Once I load my flintlock rifle and start hunting with it, it never comes back inside a heated building (home, camp, etc.). I empty the flashpan and the cold flintlock with loaded propelling charge is secured in an unheated, locked structure to avoid condensation contaminating the black powder. I have repeated this process for up to three weeks during the flintlock season and the rifle immediately fired with a fresh priming charge when called upon. It may be overkill, but I seal the vent hole with half of a round toothpick to keep air from reaching the propelling charge when it is between hunts. If you don't have an unheated location to safely store your flintlock, you're forced to discharge your rifle at the end of each day and then properly clean it.

4. In spite of your best efforts on damp days, the priming powder in your flashpan can turn to "soup" from its hygroscopic properties. That is why it is prudent to check it regularly and replace it, if it appears degraded. If I'm really concerned about dampness and I'm either hunting from a blind or in a tree stand, sometimes I won't even prime my flashpan until I hear or see a deer in the distance that may offer a shot. I just received the tip this Fall from a friend and fellow flintlock hunter, Larry Fedor, to apply a small amount of beeswax from a toilet bowl ring with a tiny popsicle stick around the outside edge of the closed frizzen after priming the pan to completely seal it. I'll let you know how that works out. Here's hoping you "Keep Your Powder Dry" and have a truly blessed 2026!

**God Bless, Be Safe,
and Great Outdoors!**

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DC Auctions AY002409

DOUBLE TAKE

By Mark Szorady



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JAN. 3: Veterans and Friends Monthly Breakfast, 8am-11am, All Veterans Free with Military ID; American Legion Post 343, 134 N. Jefferson St., New Castle

JAN. 4: Worship with us! 10:45am service, potluck lunch to follow (bring a dish to share), all welcome; Barnstone Ministries, 251 S. Stateline Rd., Pulaski 16143

JAN. 8: New Castle Prays, 6:30pm; this month 2nd Thursday, all other 1st Thursday; YMCA, 20 W. Washington St.; 724-771-0822

JAN. 10: All you can eat Breakfast, 8am-10am, donation adult \$9.00, child 4-12 \$6.00, 3 and under free; Savannah Methodist Church, 84 Savannah Gardner Rd., New Castle 16143

JAN.-FEB: No Drive-Thru Food Giveaway at Cascade Galeria Plaza, N.O.W. Project will resume March 2026

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POST AN EVENT: •Free Event: 20 words, no charge, use ad blank pg. 13, mail in/drop off. Free events over 20 words are fully paid events. •Paid Event: 20 words \$6.00, over 20 words: +25¢ each additional word. Call WBB 724-654-5529 Mon.-Tues. 10am-5pm, use card. Deadline: 5pm Tues.

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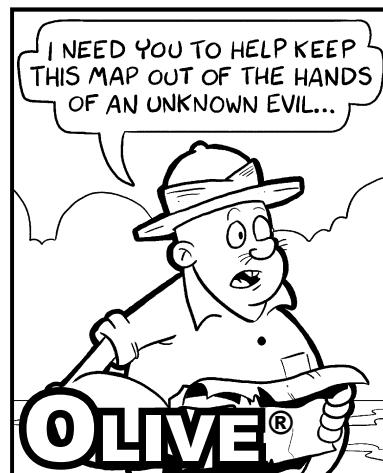
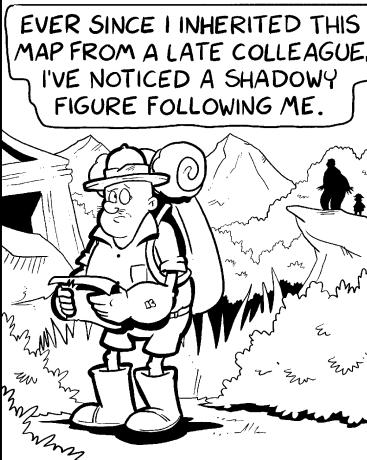
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TRIVIA TEST ?

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. GEOGRAPHY: What body of water lies between Ukraine and Russia?
2. SLOGANS: Which company uses the advertising slogan "Think Different"?
3. MOVIES: Which actor plays himself in the movie "Zombieland"?
4. HISTORY: Which U.S. president authorized the Indian Removal Act, which forcibly relocated Native Americans?
5. BIOLOGY: How do plants take in oxygen and carbon dioxide?
6. TELEVISION: What's the name of the bar in "The Simpsons"?
7. MUSIC: Which pop singer refers to her fans as "little monsters"?

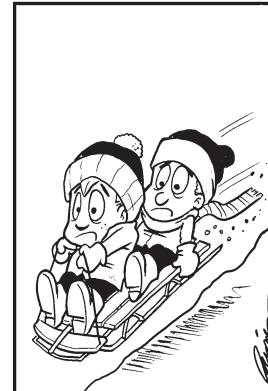
8. ANATOMY: Where is the deltoid muscle in the human body?
9. FOOD & DRINK: What is the primary ingredient in the Greek dish moussaka?
10. LITERATURE: Who wrote the children's book "Where the Wild Things Are"?

*****ANSWERS*****

1. Sea of Azov.
2. Apple.
3. Bill Murray.
4. Andrew Jackson.
5. Tiny pores on the underside of leaves called stomata.
6. Moe's Tavern.
7. Lady Gaga.
8. Shoulder.
9. Eggplant.
10. Maurice Sendak.

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Amber Waves
by Dave T. Phipps



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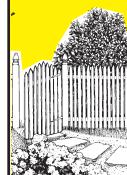
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Still Apply

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CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: X equals O

CGURTTH YRFWGJX ZRLRUGJH
YHROQTGJL AWXOXF XY CGL
PROHT ZRZZRIF PGOW YIGAAHTF:
ZRJROHH YRG.T.

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CryptoQuip
Answer
— Friederich Nietzsche
There is also always some
addresses in love. But
there is always some
water mammals with flippers:
Bizarre fashion magazine
featuring photos of big
water mammals with flippers:
Manatee Fair.

CryptogQuote
Answer

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Heating Pellets



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Black Oil Sunflower

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Ear Corn, Suet Cakes, Wildlife Feed



STRAW, Pine Shavings,
Bedding Pellets, Heated Waterers

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Resolution: travel to new
places

Unscramble the letters to
find a New Year's item:
wen yesra lositureno

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PA041687

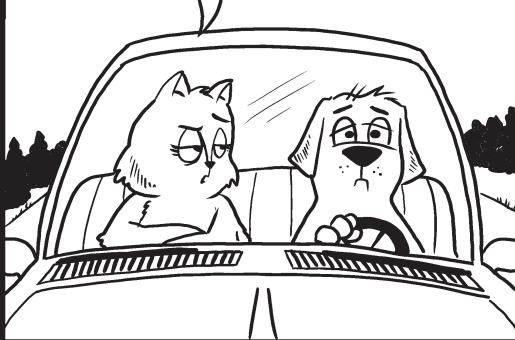


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Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

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

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Maximum Heat Output -
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Potential Time Run on Low, 30 hrs.
Emissions - .55 g/hr.
Firebox Volume - 2.91 cubic feet.
CO - .62 g/min.
Blower Available

KUMA

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Heat Output - 82,000 BTU
Wood Length - 18".
Heating Capacity 2400-3000 sq. ft.
Burn Time - 12 hrs.
Potential Time Run on Low, 30 hrs.
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CO Emissions - 1.11 g/min.
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Strange But True

by Lucie Winborne

- In many skating competitions, judges can deduct a point if they consider a skater's costume to be overly garish or provocative.
- The German word "kummerspeck" refers to excess weight gained from emotional overeating. Its literal translation is "grief bacon."
- Bedding was such a luxury in the Middle Ages that blankets and sheets were written into people's wills.
- The goblin shark has a jaw that shoots outward to grab prey in what scientists have called "slingshot feeding." It can deploy that jaw at 10.1 feet per second. ©2026 King Features

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1) Established, 2) Pass, 3) Jeremiah, 4) Moving forward, 5) 7th, 6) Wisdom

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Wishing Everyone a
HAPPY NEW YEAR



Weekly Sudoku

by Linda Thistle

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

Puzzle Difficulty: ♦ Moderate

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine. Answers on page 8.

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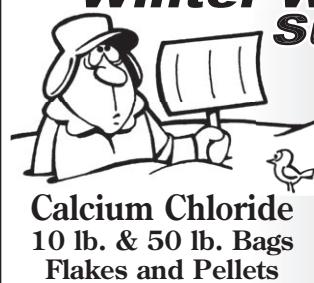
Even Exchange Answers

1. Patch, Pitch
2. Would, World
3. Barber, Berber
4. Model, Motel
5. Warren, Warden
6. Humor, Rumor
7. Faster, Fasten
8. Stream, Scream
9. Greet, Great
10. Stick, Stuck

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Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



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9	4	1 = 13
+	-	
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3	60	
3	7	
+	+	
+	+	
2	56	
+	5	
8	56	

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B A Y R X O W L N U H U R L O
T S N I A T R U C Q P C O O H
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Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: AUTOMATED TELEPHONE CALL

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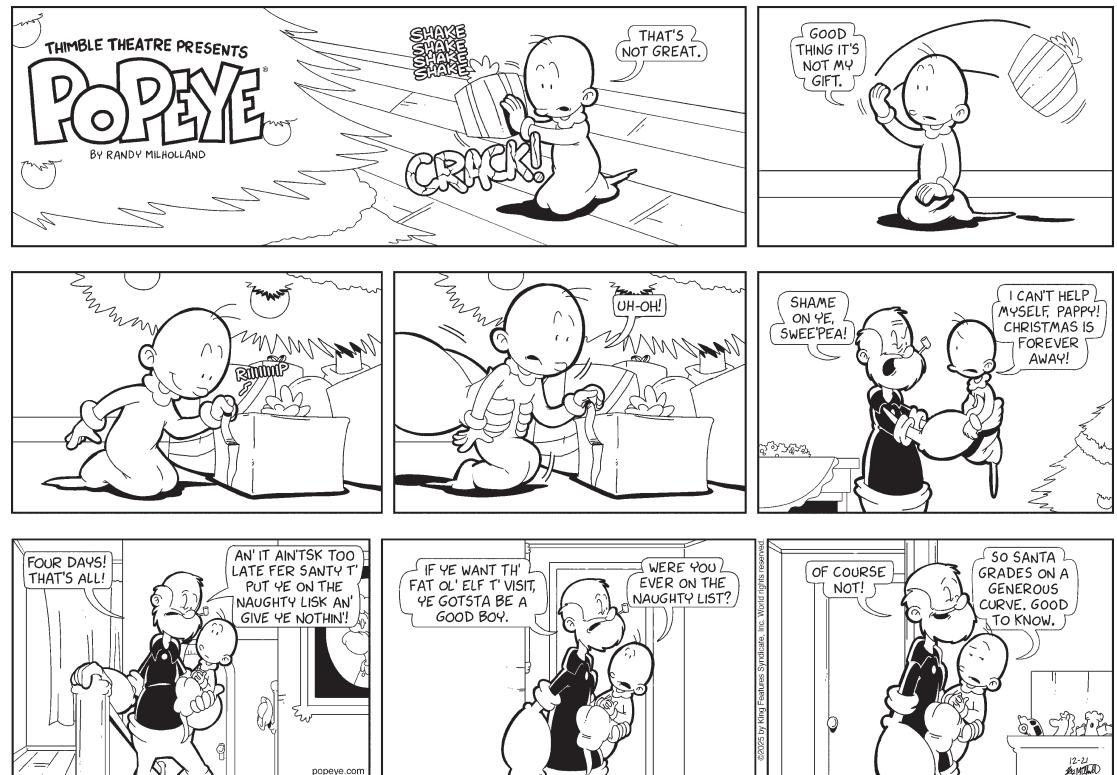
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Tuesday Deadlines: WBB Office 5:00pm; Ad Drop Box: Shipping Depot 3:30pm, Pet Parlor 4:00pm

• Phone Number/Price = 1 word each Prepaid Ads Only: • Website/Email = 4+ words each

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Drain thoroughly, then set pan over a low heat and shake pan to drive off any excess moisture.

Mash thoroughly with the butter until smooth, then season generously with salt and pepper and serve with a garnish of coriander. TF25C407

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Strange But True

by Lucie Winborne

- Thomas Jefferson hated banks and believed they were more dangerous than armies.
- One study claimed that men who kiss their wives every morning before leaving for work live five years longer than those who don't.
- Heinz Ketchup has a "speed limit" of .028 miles per hour, set by the company as an indicator of the product's consistency.
- Thought for the Day: "A strong nation, like a strong person, can afford to be gentle, firm, thoughtful and restrained. It can afford to extend a helping hand to others. It's a weak nation, like a weak person, that must behave with bluster and boasting and rashness and other signs of insecurity." - Jimmy Carter

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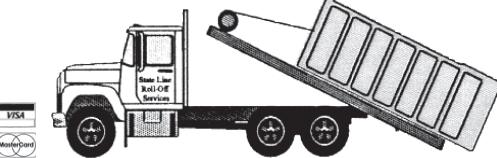
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Our Daily Bread

The Hand of God

My own hand laid the foundations of the earth, and my right hand spread out the heavens. Isaiah 48:13
READ Isaiah 48:12-19

In 1939, with the recent outbreak of war for Britain, King George VI sought in his Christmas Day radio broadcast to encourage citizens of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth to put their trust in God. Quoting a poem that his mother found precious, he said: "Go out into the darkness, and put your hand into the Hand of God. / That shall be to you better than light, and safer than a known way." He didn't know what the new year would bring, but he trusted God to "guide and uphold" them in the anxious days ahead.

The image of God's hand appears in many places in the Bible, including in the book of Isaiah. Through this prophet, God called His people to trust that He as their Creator, "the first and . . . the last" (Isaiah 48:12), would remain involved with them. As He says, "My own hand laid the foundations of the earth, and my right hand spread out the heavens" (v. 13). They should put their trust in Him and not look to those less powerful. After all, He's their "Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel" (v. 17).

Whatever we face as we look toward the new year, we can follow the encouragement of King George and the prophet Isaiah and place our hope and trust in God. Then, for us too, our peace will be like the river, our "well-being like the waves of the sea" (v. 18). By Amy Boucher Pye

REFLECT & PRAY

As you consider the new year, what situations or relationships could you entrust to God? How does the image of His hand speak to you?

All-powerful God,
You created the heavens and the earth
and yet You cherish me. I place my trust in You.

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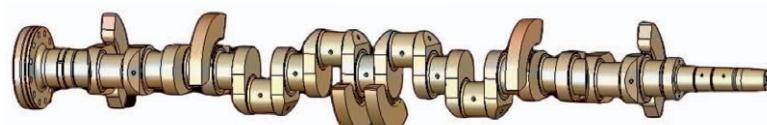
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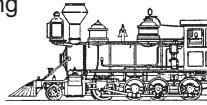
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DEAR PAW'S CORNER:
I've made a resolution that I hope will resonate with many of your readers. My cat, "Gerard," is 6 years old and has become very overweight. I can barely pick him up! Since October, I have been working

with Gerard's veterinarian to manage his weight, and things are turning around. I hope that this year, readers will focus on their pets' whole health. Not just checkups, but everyday choices that will give their pets, like my cat, a longer, healthier life.

— Carly B. in Youngstown, Ohio

DEAR CARLY: That is a fantastic resolution. Focusing on our pets' well-being not only benefits them, but positively affects our lives as well.

Weight management alone has so many pluses. Keeping dogs and cats at a healthy weight reduces their risks for diabetes, heart disease, arthritis and some cancers. It also helps them move faster and play more because their energy levels leap up. It can lead to an overall longer lifespan — so they're part of your family for many years to come.

Working with a vet is ideal. They can offer impactful advice on ways to help your pet lose weight, and set a target weight for the type and size of pet. They can prescribe medications to help with anxiety and other issues that might be causing a cat or dog to eat more than they should. And they have a ton of information on keeping your pet healthy and safe, beyond weight management.

With more than half of dogs and cats in the U.S. now classified as overweight, making a resolution to get your pet to a healthy weight is one of the best things a pet owner can do right now. ©2026 King Features

Scott Twp. VFD

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S'more Ideas to Start a New Year of Family Fun

The art of a roast is simple. Put a marshmallow on a stick and rotate it slowly over coals, just long enough to turn the white outside a toasty golden brown. But as all experienced marshmallow roasters know, if you leave it one second too long, the lusciousness instantly turns charcoal black. Patience is the key — a good lesson for rookie roasters of any age.

Warming up around a campfire, fire pit or grill to roast marshmallows for tasty

s'mores is a great way to begin the practice of doing simple things that make big memories with family and friends in 2026. Plan the get-together soon with a challenge to create a new recipe. To get you started, here are some tasty twists and combinations inspired by recipes from Hershey:

Peanut Butter S'mores: Spread a thin layer of peanut butter on half of a graham cracker and top with a piece from a milk-chocolate bar, a toasted marshmallow and half of a graham cracker. Vary by adding banana slices.

Apricot Coconut S'mores: Spread a thick layer of apricot jam on half of a cinnamon graham cracker, and top with half of a milk-chocolate bar and a sprinkle of toasted coconut. Top with a piece from a milk-chocolate bar, a toasted marshmallow and half of another cinnamon graham cracker.

Black Forest S'mores: Spread a thin layer of cherry pie filling on half of a chocolate graham cracker topped with a piece from a dark-chocolate bar.

Extra Idea: Make s'mores indoors in the microwave. On a small saucer, place a piece of a milk-chocolate bar on top of half of a graham cracker. Add one large marshmallow or several mini marshmallows.

Cook in your microwave on high for about 10-15 seconds, or until marshmallows puff and grow.

An adult should remove the plate from the microwave, top with the other half of the graham cracker and gently press down on the gooey marshmallow. Let cool a bit so that the snack isn't too hot.

Note: If you don't have a microwave, a toaster oven works fine, too. Cook the layered cracker, chocolate and marshmallow on the tray at 350 F until the marshmallow begins to brown. Remove and top with the other cracker half. Six s'mores will fit on most trays.

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Now Here's A Tip
by JoAnn Derson

- Just in time for soup season (and my new year's resolutions), here's a great fat swap: Drain and rinse two cups of white beans and puree with a cup of no-sodium vegetable broth. You can use this as a thickener in place of heavy cream for soups and stews.

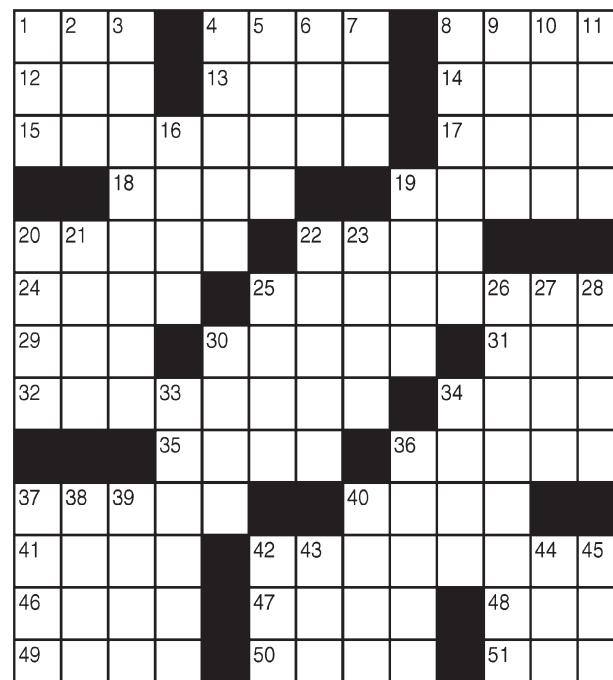
- To prevent candle wax from sticking to a candleholder, swipe the inside with a little olive oil. It'll do the trick!

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• "Cutting corn off the cob can be tricky business, but you only need to recruit the right equipment. The next time you're making corn for dinner, grab a Bundt pan. The corn gets set upright in the center and you cut down. The corn falls right into the pan on all sides." – A.S. in Texas

ACROSS

- 1 Ship's sail
- 4 Some TVs
- 8 Corned beef recipe
- 12 Terre Haute sch.
- 13 Greek vowel
- 14 Iso-
- 15 Flop
- 17 Pop's sister
- 18 Coated with gold
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- 35 Breaks down
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DOWN

- 1 Skippy rival
- 2 "This — stick- up!"
- 3 Sofia's land
- 4 Rummage
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- 6 — standstill
- 7 Plopped down
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- 9 Water color?
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- 16 Pot covers
- 19 Cigar remnant
- 20 "Holy cow!"
- 21 Entice
- 22 Secluded spots
- 23 Cooking fat
- 25 Move like a butterfly
- 26 Adventure
- 27 Now, in a memo
- 28 Society new- bies
- 30 Missing Gl
- 33 Curtains

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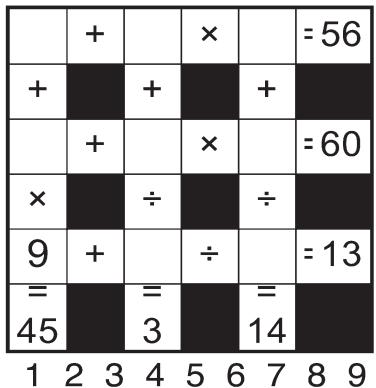
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THE NEIGHBORHOOD Link your local and friendly New Castle thrift store, weekly specials, stop in and find your next treasures, Tues. thru Sat. 9am-3pm. Come see us at 112 N. Liberty St., Mahoningtown across from Dollar General; 724-417-8555, Benefits Neighborhood Food Pantry 2-13

POST a Sale, Rummage Sale, Indoor Flea Market: 20 words: \$6.00, words after 20: additional 25¢ per word. Deadline: 5pm Tues.

Classified Service Directory

Service and Professional • Merchants and Businesses

CHILDREN'S GIFTS

NANA's Tuggin' Tags. Children's Cloth Books, Crinkle Books, Tag Toys & More, at Anchor Gift Shoppes, 4466 Mitchell Rd., New Castle, PA 16105. Wed.-Fri. 11-6, Sat. 10-3

CHILDREN'S SUPPLIES

PREGNANT? Child age 3 or under? Parenting Tips, Parenting Shop. Promises of Life, New Beginnings, New Castle, Slippery Rock, Mercer, Butler. Text: 724-951-2068

CHURCHES

FIRST ALLIANCE
111 Mission Meade Dr., Rte. 18 N., Nesh. Twp. Sun.: 9:30am Sun School, 10:45am Worship; Wed.: 11:00am Prayer, 6:30pm Men's & Ladies' Bible Study, 6:30pm Youth Group; 724-654-4512 Pastor John McCready www.firstalliancecenc.org facebook@1stalliance

BARNSTONE MINISTRIES

Sun. Gathering 10:30am, Service 10:45am, 251 S. Stateline Rd., Pulaski 16143, off Rte. 422, turn across from BP, near PA/OH line. Pastor Albert Librizzi

CHURCHES

THE CHAPEL AT MERCER
Sunday Worship 10am, classes for kids 4-12; 300 S. Pitt St., Mercer 16137, 724-662-2950 Pastor David Robinson, Live: YouTube/Facebook

NEW WILMINGTON ALLIANCE CHURCH

Welcomes All! Services Sunday at 11am, special needs service available; 127 N. New Castle Rd., New Wilmington, Pastor James Ishler

LAKESIDE E.C.

CHURCH, 3203 Rt. 18, Transfer, 724-962-4222, Pastor Janor Bestwick Adult S.S. 9:30, Worship 10:45, Wed. Bible Study 6pm. Facebook live, lakesidechurchpa.org

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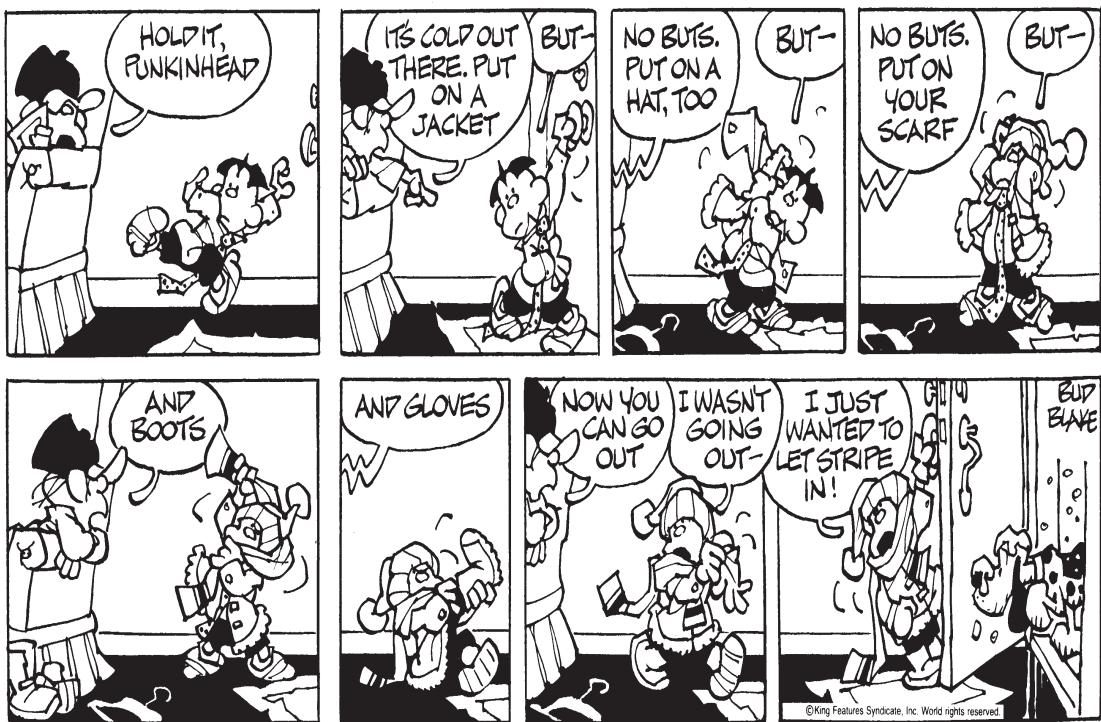
Classified Service

Directory: Starting at \$81.25 for a 13 week run. No changes. No artwork. Deadline: 5pm Tues. Call 724-654-5529

WASHER \$50; island \$25; stainless steel fridge \$100; baker's rack \$30; wooden tv stand \$50; 724-674-9395 1-2

by BUD BLAKE

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GMAPA UR WBQWHR RXTA
TWZJARR UJ BXIA. NSG
GMAPA UR WBRX WBQWHR
RXTA PAWRXJ UJ TWZJARR.
- EPUAZPUYM JUAGCRYMA

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