

FREE



# A GOOD NEIGHBOR NEWS

"STRENGTHENING OUR LOCAL ECONOMY"

APRIL 2012

www.agoodneighbornews.com

VOL. 3 • NO. 10

## INSIDE THE TEA ROOM



by Brenda Dwyer ©

There are many things that happen in life that can really just kick you in the teeth – if you let them. I can't even begin to count the number of times people have tried their best to knock me down, kick me, spit on me and ridicule me – and I wish I was speaking figuratively but I'm not. From very early in my life it seemed that the things that made me unique, the very things that set me apart from the mainstream were easy targets for ridicule ... as far as others were concerned. I can't remember ever letting it "get" to me. I don't let people who are full of hatred and indifference "get comfortable under my skin". People who may have a negative reaction to a positive person are simply suffering

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## A GOOD NEIGHBOR NEWS

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CURRENT READERSHIP:  
36,000 AND GROWING!



by Brenda Dwyer ©

Mr. Frost greeted me again this morning and before I knew it I heard myself emit a big ol' (audible) sigh. The older I get the more my body craves to stay under the blankets when it's cold outside. After rubbing my eyes several times (in an attempt to correct the vision before me) I had to concede that it was going to be another less-than-desirable, cold morning. After slipping on my favorite leopard booties I was off to see the pups and try (in the process) to keep from waking my hubby. The "three musketeers" were all bright-eyed and bushy-tailed and greeted me with a symphonic attempt at a doggy tune (!). I thanked them for their morning song and opened the door hoping that we would get lucky again and not have any skunks out there in the still dark twilight. While they were out investigating the wet, cold grass I was off to fill food dishes and water bowls. I dashed outside to feed the cats and wish them a happy, lazy day – I greeted Goldy & Rusty and asked them to please crow a little softer then back inside I went and waited for the choir to return. Once inside and minding their breakfast I went back thru the house and took one final look out of the kitchen window. Yes, he was still there and it didn't look like he planned on going anywhere soon. Perhaps Mr. Sun will chase him off (hopefully sooner than later). Back to the bedroom and off with

the leopard then on to the ... I stopped suddenly. I was missing something – but what? I stood there for a second with a leopard bootie still in my hand when it dawned on me; I had done it again. Just yesterday I made a deal with myself that I would start slowing down and taking in more of the day. I rush through my mornings as if my derriere was on fire. I long for a slower pace, a softer start to the day – especially because of the significance of each new day (to me). Rushing thru the morning is almost like someone giving me a present– they are all excited – they know that I'm going to just love what's inside and yet I hurriedly rush right past them promising to open it later. How tragic. I pulled the bootie in my hand back on and picked up the other one and placed it back on my right foot. I can do this ... I can stop here, rewind, and get off on the "right" foot this morning. What did I want to do first? So many options were right at my side on my nightstand – a new magazine waiting to be read, my iPad (filled with enough apps and games to keep me busy for days on end), a book I had dog-eared and was about half way through ... and my Bible. There was one "right" choice in my mind ... clear as a bell ... Bible first. I picked up the leather bound book, soft & supple – the gold edged pages invited me in and Proverbs opened up. I have no idea how many times I have read the

book of Proverbs in my life but I do know that every time I do; I marvel at the wisdom within. As I'm reading I find myself wondering if my children have ever read through Proverbs and if they have, I wonder how it blessed them. Once I was ready to lay my Bible aside everything else on the table had lost its appeal. I walked back through the house and sat at the living room window looking out. Cars zoomed past out on our county road. I was so glad I had taken this chance to slow down and relax, so very thankful I wasn't out there in the morning rush as I am most mornings. The grandfather clock alerted me in its beautiful melodic way that it was 6AM. I could make out two of the cats out on the lawn and just about at that same time they caught sight of me and came bounding up onto the porch. Within seconds there were little paws tapping the glass trying to entice me to play – so I did. I made trails on the window with my finger and they followed batting their little feet here and there. They are adorable – even at their age – they haven't lost the joy from their youth. They still find pleasure in the simple things. A lesson learned. No matter how old I get, I too can be filled with the joy from my youth. If we had a tire swing in the yard I would have been running out to hop on it! I turned around in my chair and faced the interior of the room. The grand fireplace

stood before me. The man who built that fireplace (years ago) passed away in the process. I whispered "you did a magnificent job"! If I hadn't stopped this morning and made myself slow down I would have missed these things – these things that although simple in nature bring great reward. I can remember a day when my days were spent "closing the deal", "climbing the ladder" and reaping the "trophy" of my accomplishments. Now my life has evolved into its current state and I realize that once again I am driven by my work; feeling a responsibility for the people who work for us, our beloved customers and everyone that I deal with on a daily/weekly/monthly basis. My dad used to tell me to always strive to be the best "me" possible. Well, I am sure I fall short of that on an hourly basis (just ask Bob) but I do try. I love what I do now but after this morning I think part of being a better "me" is to slow down and be more mindful of the morning. Wow, all of this self-analysis has left me feeling sleepy. Hm, perhaps Cody is onto something ... she is outside the window working on her first catnap of the day. Time to go get my chenille blanket and curl up and try it out ... I glance at the clock, it's 6:27 ... that gives me 33 minutes of pure bliss to enjoy. What a beautiful way to start the day. :)

LOOK INSIDE

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DROP WITH A COP PG 11

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**INSIDE THE TEA ROOM**

*CONTINUED FROM PG 1*

from an inadequacy on their part that has nothing to do with their intended targets. When I was just four years old my grandmother told me something that stuck with me over the years, she said "Brenda, God created all of us and yet some of us just aren't aware of it yet - those children that hurt your feelings, well darlin', ... they just don't realize how special they are." I knew exactly what she meant; those kids seemed to be hurting deep inside (I could see it in their eyes ... their fear was evident) and they seemed to want to spread that hurt around. Most of the time when I was teased it was by people that didn't even know me. I was so shy back then that (looking back I can see) I was an easy target for bullies. Bullies never pick on people "bigger" than themselves - they always seek out the "under dog". It hurts my heart to hear that "bullying" has become a significant prob-

lem with today's youth. I don't find it surprising in the least. Our society today is a magnified reflection of the average family; dysfunctional and adrift. I don't claim that as an attack on anyone's family - only as an observation. We have somehow lost sight of accountability as a standard and instead view it as a politically incorrect, Neanderthal weapon. Tsk tsk. When will we realize that we have taken a wrong turn and right ourselves? Childhood bullies may be at the forefront of the news today but adult bullies are just as horrific to witness - including those who claim their bullying is righteous (perhaps they need to renew their relationship with God). What is the solution? Stand up. Confront your fears and put that bully in their place - child or adult they need to realize that they are specially created by God; they are loved ... and where there is love - there is no room for hatred.

**SALISBURY'S STAKE**

by Stephanie J. Salisbury

Spring has sprung, my friends. And, shortly thereafter, it was smacked down into submission by some evil, evil frost. It looks to be peeking its head up from beneath the cold ground, however, and getting ready to swing right back into gear.

I love fresh beginnings. I'm one of those people who like to make lists, to plan, to pare things down, to clean and organize and simplify. I hold a yard sale every year with my mother, wherein we gather all of the things we've accumulated over the past year that we have no real use for, slap on the price tags, and sit back and wait for the money to roll in. My dad finds this amusing, as we then spend the money on new things we don't need that will likely make their way into the following year's sale. (He's not really a cynic, he just plays one on TV.)

I think that's why I like spring so much. I love to see the snow

melting, though this year didn't bring much of that. I like to watch the greenery popping up from the bleakness, shrubs bursting into color, flowers blooming and shooting open with all their gala. It makes me remember that nothing is permanent. It doesn't matter what I'm experiencing right now, it's happening in its own time and, soon, there will be a time for something new and different.

Ecclesiastes 3 says it so very well:

- 1 There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:
- 2 a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot,
- 3 a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build,
- 4 a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance,

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## THE CORNER OFFICE

A word from Bob Dwyer, Jr.



If you don't know what the headline means; I'm comparing



two of the best ceramic cookers manufactured today. This is not the first time I'm touching on this subject, I'm revisiting this subject because I get calls and shoppers visiting the store who ask which grill; is better the Primo or the Egg? These are both great grills but I prefer the Primo over the Egg. When Brenda and I add a product to our store we research and compare products. We want the best for our customers so we chose the Primo. Before all the eggheads start getting upset let me say the Green Egg is a great grill and cooks just as well as the Primo. But cooking is not the problem I have with the Egg ... I just see more benefits with Primo.

## Primo or Green Egg

The oval design of the Primo offers more options such as zoned cooking up to three different temperatures at the same time - this is not available on the Egg - standard adjustable cooking grates are an option you pay for with the Egg. The Primo XL Grill area is 25" X 19" Th grill area on the Egg is 24". The Primo offers the largest grill cooking area when you add all cooking racks for a total of 680 sq inches. Let me add this ... someone can make custom racks for either grill and change those dimensions. The Primo comes fully assembled the Egg must be assembled (this is a huge inconvenience for many people). The grill weighs about 200 lbs.; trying to fasten the top and install parts is not easy. Now for my BIG problem (and this is just personal for me you mayor may not care), when Ed Fisher first opened the Big Green Egg store in Atlanta in 1974, he sold Kamados made of fire-clay, which were based on the same design and material used for thousands of years. He sold these grills to hard working American people. They paid a premium price for a good product. Ed's marketing and grill was and still is a great American success story. His marketing efforts made his grill the largest selling ceramic grill available, anyone who knows ceramic grills knows the Big Green Egg; as a matter of fact from a business standpoint Brenda and I would most likely sell more grills and make more money if we sold the Big Green Egg.... however it's not always about profit and making money;

sometimes it's about something else. That problem I mentioned with the Big Green Egg is after becoming a success on the wages paid to hard working American workers they took those jobs from American workers. (the same people they want to buy their products) and sent production to Monterrey, Mexico. Now



Ed Fisher claims he did this so he could build a better grill but I find it hard to believe American workers can't build a good product, after all, Primo builds a great grill in Georgia ... Made in the USA. I also know Mexico is not requiring the same standards for ceramics that's required in the USA. My guess is that production went South of the border because it's cheaper to send production to Mexico and that would result in more profits. Now there is nothing wrong with making a profit I just find something wrong with wanting to sell hard working American people a product

CONTINUED TO 4

## THE CAT'S MEOW



by Brenda Dwyer ☺

That does it! I am going on vacation! I don't know why I didn't think of this sooner. The critters around here are driving me nuts! When you get to be my age you deserve to be able to relax, rejuvenate, refresh and lay in the sun licking your paws until your tongue is numb if you want to. But no ... the chickens, the kittens, Cleo and Brittle have stepped on my last nerve with their silly antics. The chickens have been eating from our food bowls since I was still wet behind

the ears. I remember my mother, Sydney, telling me to share with the chickens because they were faithful friends that could be very helpful at times. I never did understand the value of the chickens as a kitten but as I grew I was impressed by their ability to ward off some of our strongest foes. Chickens can fly for quite a distance and our roosters have talons that can slice right through flesh as though it were butter. Well, this entire week has been filled with Brittle knocking the chickens off of the crate where Brenda puts our food out. I have reprimanded her three times in as many days and I am going to wring her neck if I don't get a break from this place soon. A few years back I made my way over to Celia's yard (it's not the name her humans refer to her by but it is her respected name) and we had quite a visit. I didn't come back to the yard for more

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## THIS 'N THAT

### ORGANIZING YOUR OFFICE SPACE

- Clean out each desk drawer, to free up even more valuable storage space.
- Clear off the top of your desk, then wipe off the surface of the desktop.
- Keep essential items on your desktop (computer, phone, fax, card file).
- If you work with more than one person create an in box for each person.
- Have a master to-do list for each day at your desk.
- Pre-Sort the mail. To-File, To-Read, To-Contact (write or call).
- Use a variety of containers to organize office supplies, paper clips and pens.
- Use a variety of desktop organizers or trays to organize papers that come across your desk.
- Create a separate drawer for personal paperwork, items, etc.
- Use storage boxes to store dated files.
- Purchase Magazine boxes to store booklets, magazines, catalogs you want to keep.
- Create a file for magazine articles or scan them into your computer.
- Filing system should be simple, easy and manageable.
- Color-coding your files makes it faster to find information.
- Do not over stuff folders. It may be time to toss some of the information in the folder .
- Never overload filing drawer. It will make it difficult to retrieve information in the drawers.
- Sub-divide larger files with interior file folders.
- Tab hanging file folders in the front.

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## A WORLD OF WONDERS

### WILL BRAKE FOR BANTIES

by Monica Clark

Ah, spring! The dainty snow-drop flowers unfurl. The crocus, daffodils and tulips bloom along with the magnificent magnolias and beautiful Bradford pears. A welcome burst of color decorates the landscape and the fields nearly glow with the fresh, bright greens of spring. Last month's warm spell certainly sped spring right along.

I can tell you the animals are flush with Spring Fever! On a drive up over a small hill outside of Howe—surprise—two young heifers frolicked in the road! Brad swerved easily to avoid the errant cattle and they gawked, watching us as Brad slowly backed the truck up. Suddenly skittish, the young cows turned and bolted down the road, literally kicking up their heels, as we carefully herded them back toward their enclosure. They raced by a drooping, winter-worn fencepost and—zip--scooted right under the electric fence that was supposed to contain them. We chuckled at their cleverness.

Last week in LaGrange a young, wild turkey sped all the way down the centerline of High Street, and today an arrogant Banty rooster meandered his way across the road in front of us on State Road 5. Brad braked hard and the tires slid on the sandy pavement. Whew! The Banty broke into a run and made it safely to the other side. Why did the chicken cross the road? I have no idea.

In years past, we've corralled cattle, thankfully, just missed hitting ducks, geese and guineas, and once helped round up and wrangle a small herd of ponies and a milk cow right in our subdivision. There is just something about spring travel. Even the critters get the bug.

The tourists return, too, like the swallows to Capistrano, with their silly hats, sandals and colorful shorts--the tourists, not the swallows! They wander through town with that particular glazed look people only get while on vacation. Their cares and worries of work sloughed off like an old coat. Like the young cattle, they sometimes need to be herded off the road, particularly in

Shipshewana. Overpowered by the sheer volume of sights and sounds to take in, some tourists forget the basics, such as looking both ways before walking out onto a major highway. Brakes slam, tires squeal, the tourists giggle and race across the road like a clutch of Banties.

Don't get me wrong. I love tourists. I especially love being a tourist! Visiting new places, exploring the local history and landscapes, poking around inside small shops and sampling the local cuisine, put me down for that! Add a little grandeur, too, while you're at it. Throw in a few mountain ranges or jagged seascapes. Add a castle or two, maybe a cathedral. That's the ticket!

Include some kind faces and helpful people, people proud of their village, town or city. Add hardworking farmers who will discuss the steady routine of milking a herd of dairy cows, sheep-shearing, or spring lambs; or perhaps a college student acting as a local guide to make ends meet. Let me wander off the beaten track, down quiet streets where people live out their lives. Take me to visit a house that's belonged to the same family for 600 years or to explore a historic village like Conner Prairie or Sauder Village.

I love the fact that so many of the tourists in LaGrange and Elkhart Counties avail themselves to the hospitality of local Amish families. The dinner table groans under the weight of all of that good, home-cooked food: chicken—roasted or fried, simmered beef, ham, mounds of mashed potatoes, corn, beans, salad, homemade noodles and gravy, loaves of yeasty bread, and let's not even get started on desserts. Well, okay, who can resist a good dessert: fruit pies, cream pies, cakes, puddings, ice cream...ahhhh! If you leave an Amish table hungry, you have no one to blame but yourself!

With the wonderful weather, and a good dose of Spring Fever, now is the perfect time to get bitten by the travel bug! Just remember--keep an eye on the road!

## THE MEMORY BANK

by Bill Raybuck

Spring time has come, and with it... allergies. I never had this problem until I hit about 35, and then when it happened, it hit with a vengeance. Going into work with swollen eyes sends a bad message, and I find it hard to explain to the occasional Police Officer who gives me that "raised eyebrow" look. When I was a kid, I ran through the fields and played with my neighborhood friends with no abandon. I belly crawled through the cornfields like a soldier on a mission. The best part was, other than the dirt and dirty clothes, I was fine. Those were some of the best times of my life. We all grew up and found our own ways, but to this day, I still remain in close contact with one of them. Joe was, and always will be like a brother to me. We did everything together... from late night runs to Taco Bell, to cruising in downtown Goshen when it was in its heyday. We use to sit down at the Raider Drive In and drink a pot of coffee and talk about life. We still meet for that occasional pot of coffee, except now it's someplace else, early in the morning and worked around our schedules. My Mom and Dad were always fond of him, and until the day they died, always asked about him, his brother and Mother. Remember your old neighborhoods? The fun you had when you were young? How about the smiles and waves from the neighbors as they drove by, or the conversations with them out in the yard on a beautiful summer day? I can remember leaving the front door unlocked and letting the cool night air blow through the screen door... how many of us would dare do that today? Times have changed, the world has changed, but inside of all of us there are memories of days gone by, where a mere thought can trigger a smile, and even laughter. Speaking of smiling and laughing, I have the honor of working beside my friend and brother Joe, at a Marked Men For Christ event coming up on April 13th - 15th in West Lafayette. While there... we will be serious, in prayer, and doing work for the Lord, but the ride down and subsequent ride back, is going to be fun! I've got a lifetime of memories to back up that guarantee!! I hope you all have a wonderful April, and keep making those deposits into your memory banks... the return is worth its weight in gold.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

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

Shelter Website: [www.elkharthumanesociety.org](http://www.elkharthumanesociety.org)

## THE EASTER DRESS

by Bill Raybuck

Easter Sunday was coming fast, and she knew she knew she had a lot of things to get done before then. Most people lived by a schedule, but for her, her safety and sanity depended on it. She was the typical girl growing up ... she loved spending time with her friends, dressing up and talking about boys. One boy in particular always seemed to consume her thoughts. He was the typical kid ... he played sports, hung out with his friends and was always good for a laugh. Time brought them together, and after High School they married. She noticed a change in him right away ... he was jealous of all her relationships and she paid the price for it. Many times she lay on the floor; covered in blood and bruises and I was there watching the whole thing. The time he went after her with a gun and it jammed ... that was me. The night he beat her unconscious and she struggled to live ... I was with her, holding her. She talked to me often asking for strength and protection and I never left her side. Then one night in a fit of drunken rage he beat her to death. As she took her last breath I took her hand and helped her cross over into paradise. It was Easter and a celebration was taking place here. I clothed her in a beautiful Easter dress, her hair blowing in the wind, the bruises and scars gone from her body now. She asked me why her life turned out the way it did ... why she allowed herself to be hurt time and time again. I asked her why she chose to follow me ... why she prayed to me in those times of fear and danger. She replied, "Because I knew I'd end up here". I smiled, pulled her in and embraced her and whispered in her ear ... "I did too".

## THE WAY I SEE IT

CONTINUED FROM PG 4

let's just say I had to pause there for a second to wipe away the tears. My Grandma use to tell me about all the fatty foods they use to eat. During the depression

and when they could afford bacon, they would save the grease to spread on bread later for a sandwich. Gravy on everything, salt and pepper by the pound... yet they all lived to ripe old ages. Think back for a second... were the kids in your school developed anywhere near the way they are today? Steroids in the meat we consume, and all the preservatives added to our food have made our children develop soon-

er, yet has shortened their life span. I don't eat much red meat, and to be honest, I could go the rest of my life without a steak and be ok with it. I prefer chicken and fish, and love vegetables, but after dinner when the dishes are done and all is quiet... I hear the lonely cry of the Doritos, and I have to answer. I know... you're thinking, "But Bill, there's preservatives in chips too." Shhhh... let me dream for a little while.

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 Fluid Fun Canoe & Kayak Sales - 609 N. Division Street  
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 Crystal Valley Computers - 830 S. Main Street Suite A  
 Crystal Valley Furniture & Floor Covering - 201 S. Main  
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 Grand Rental Station - 131 Orpha Drive  
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 Hoosier Tae Kwon Do, Inc. - 106 Wayne Street  
 Indiana RV Connection - 503 N. Main  
 Irongate Self Storage - 53070 SR 13  
 Jenkins Automotive (NAPA Auto Parts) - 132 Orpha Drive  
 Jerry's Standard Service - 101 N. Main Street  
 Justrite Nails - 851 US 20  
 Long's Convenience Marathon - 995 US 20  
 Middlebury Hills Restaurant - 104 US 20 (Corner of SR13 &  
 US20)  
 Middlebury K.O.A. - 52867 SR 13  
 Monteith Tire - 132 Orpha Drive Suite B  
 Mr. Appliance of Elkhart County - 53855 SR 13  
 Old Creamery Antiques - 333 N. Main  
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 Village Inn Restaurant - 107 S. Main Street

### GOSHEN:

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

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

### SYRACUSE:

Dairy Queen - 700S. Huntington

### SHIPSHEWANA:

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

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

### HOWE:

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

### LAGRANGE:

Dale's Dependable Handyman Service - 2420S 250W

### LIGONIER:

Dairy Queen - 909 Lincolnway S.

### MISHAWAKA:

Once Upon A Child - 5936 Grape Road

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# PULPIT IN THE WOODS

## THE SPIDER'S TRAP

by Pastor Steve Ellis

I would like to thank Brenda Dwyer for giving me a chance to write this article. I hope you find my experiences interesting.

I love the out of doors. Whenever the weather allows it, you will find me walking in the woods or rocking on the front porch of my house on Main Street here in Middlebury. If it's out of doors, I am probably going to love it.

Just the other day the weather took a wonderful turn for the better and the temperature soared into the high seventies. The sun was out and flowers were blooming everywhere. The early arrival of spring caught everyone by surprise. I decided to sit on the porch and just watch the traffic go by. As I sat there enjoying the weather a flying bug came directly at me and bumped into my chest. As it hung there I brushed it off and noticed that it landed on the porch at my feet. My instinct was to push it away but I decided to watch instead.

As I sat there the bug walked around in circles as if it was confused. It made circle after circle until it seemed to gain its direction and headed off underneath our bay window. I thought to myself that it might be heading into a trap because underneath the window were spider webs. I had scarcely thought it when a very tiny little spider dropped down on top of the bug, wrapped a cord of its web around the bug's leg and jerked it off its feet. A battle followed with the tiny spider darting in at any vulnerable spot it could find and the bug trying to kick it away.

Well the end was inevitable and the tiny spider finally subdued the bigger bug. Lunch was served. As I sat there watching the drama play out I couldn't help but wonder what the bug must have felt while being trapped by that spider. Did it regret all that had led up to its fateful flight into me? Was there terror in its many eyes?

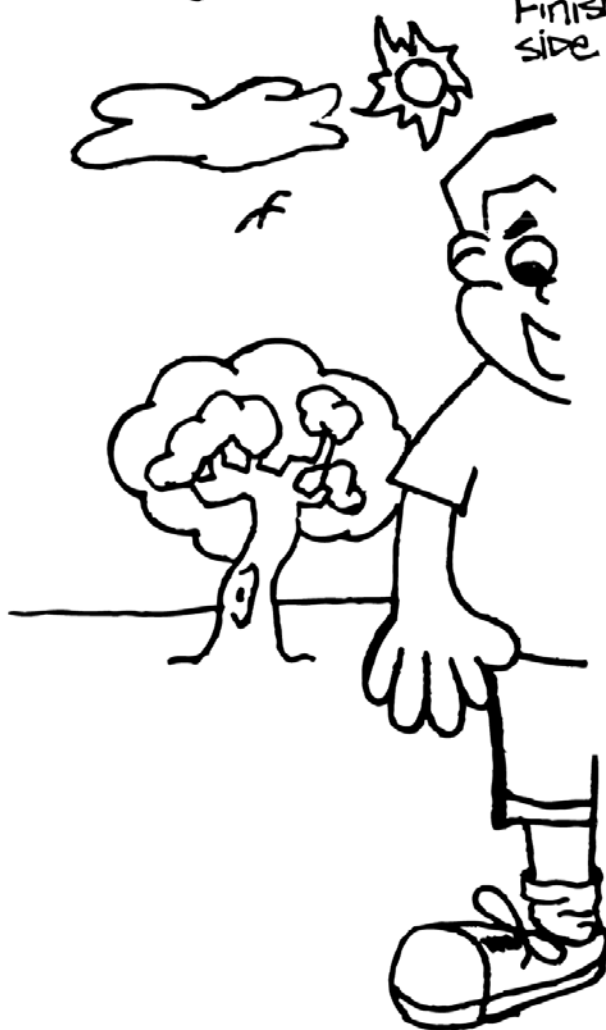
It seems to me that we humans have a lot in common with that bug. Evil in this world is everywhere in all forms and it intends to have us for lunch. All too often we go about our business pretending that it doesn't exist or just ignoring it only to find ourselves trapped. Unlike the bug in the spiders trap, we have someone who will cut us free, and even take our place. If you don't know who he is, you are just wandering around, waiting to be snared.

Enjoy your walk outside.

# KIDz KORNER

## U·B· THE· ARTIST

Finish the other side of the picture.



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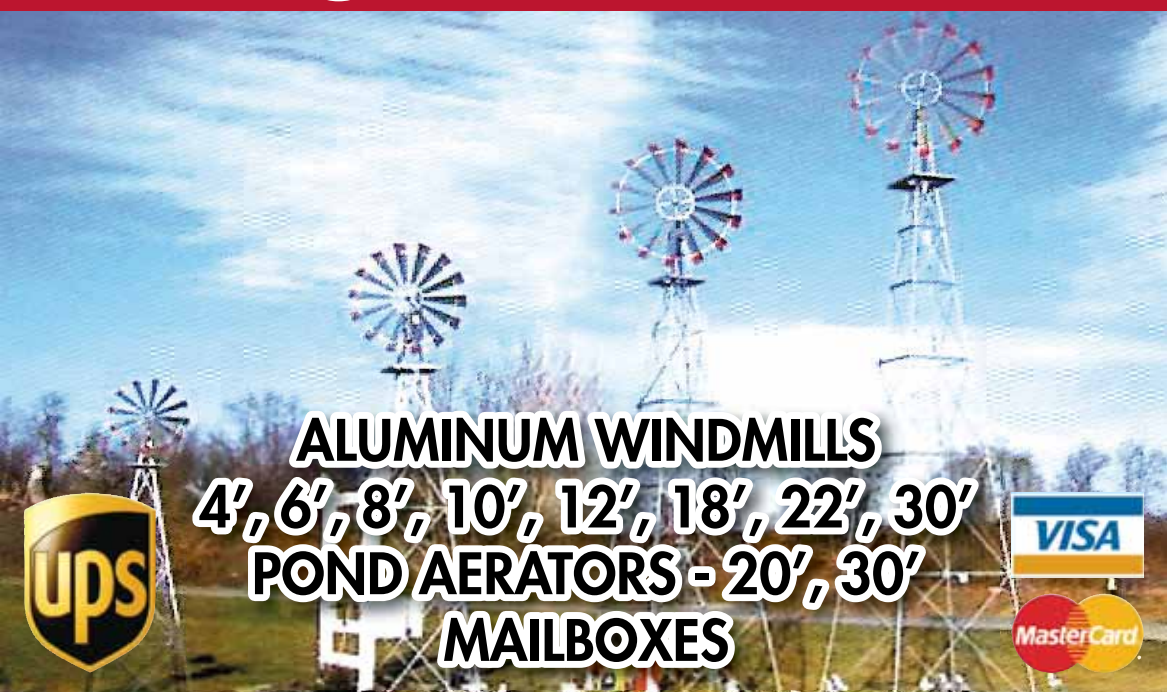
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# SUDOKU OBJECTIVE

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

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



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

## WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters in each word to spell something pertaining to elections.

**DEDPENTINNE**

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

ANSWER: Independent

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

# WORD SEARCH

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

- |               |         |         |
|---------------|---------|---------|
| BAIT          | GOLD    | SIGN    |
| BLEW          | GUNNED  | SITE    |
| BOLD          | GUNS    | SLOT    |
| BULB          | HALF    | SNAPS   |
| BUMPS         | IDEAS   | SOLO    |
| BUSY          | ISN'T   | STIR    |
| CHEW          | JOURNEY | STORM   |
| CLAW          | JULY    | STOUT   |
| CONGRATULATES | KNOW    | STUN    |
| CURVES        | METHOD  | TEST    |
| DIAL          | MILLS   | THAT    |
| EATS          | MOUTH   | THOU    |
| ENVY          | NOUN    | TOYS    |
| EVEN          | OAKS    | TRUCK   |
| EXIT          | PHASE   | UNCLE   |
| EYES          | PIGS    | UNIFORM |
| FADED         | PLAYER  | UNIT    |
| FALL          | REVOLT  | VIEW    |
| FATE          | RIOT    | WEEK    |
| FISH          | ROSE    | WELLS   |
| FOUR          | ROWS    | YELL    |
| FUEL          | SHADY   | YOGA    |
| GLAD          | SHUT    | YOURS   |

# CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- |                 |                     |                      |                              |                   |                                    |                             |                    |                   |                     |                                |                  |                                     |                            |                        |                               |                         |                  |                          |                         |             |                |               |             |   |                        |           |              |                            |                          |                       |                                      |                             |                              |             |                |                            |                         |  |                               |  |                  |                 |            |                        |          |                                    |         |                    |                      |                     |  |   |             |                          |               |                            |
|-----------------|---------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|---|------------------------|-----------|--------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------|----------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|--|-------------------------------|--|------------------|-----------------|------------|------------------------|----------|------------------------------------|---------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--|---|-------------|--------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>   | 1. MERCURY AND MARS | 49. MEXICAN AMERICAN | 14. DOUBLE-REED WOODWIND     |                   |                                    |                             |                    |                   |                     |                                |                  |                                     |                            |                        |                               |                         |                  |                          |                         |             |                |               |             |   |                        |           |              |                            |                          |                       |                                      |                             |                              |             |                |                            |                         |  |                               |  |                  |                 |            |                        |          |                                    |         |                    |                      |                     |  |   |             |                          |               |                            |
| 5. HALF A DOZEN | 8. BIRCH RELATIVE   | 13. ___-AMERICAN     | 14. THE "O" IN S.R.O.        | 15. 1/100TH RUPEE | 16. NEGATIVE VOTE                  | 18. CERTAIN TRIBUTE         | 19. RESERVE SUPPLY | 20. BAUXITE, E.G. | 22. CARIBBEAN, E.G. | 23. ADDIS ABABA'S LAND: ABBR.  | 24. BREASTPLATES | 26. ATLANTA-BASED STATION (ACRONYM) | 27. RECOMBINE AUDIO TRACKS | 29. BAD DAY FOR CAESAR | 30. MOZART'S "L___ DEL CAIRO" | 31. ONE STROKE OVER PAR | 33. YOUNG RAPTOR | 36. ___ BASEBALL (2 WDS) | 38. PUDDINGLIKE DESSERT | 40. "CIAO!" | 41. 30-DAY MO. | 42. BLOCKHEAD | 44. STAGGER | 48. "20,000 LEAGUES" HARPOONER ___ LAND | 51. VICTORIAN, FOR ONE | 52. ANGER | 53. APPETITE | 54. ADDITIONS TO USUAL PAY | 56. CATERPILLAR, FOR ONE | 58. MORSE CODE DEVICE | 58. SAVED ON SUPPER, PERHAPS (2 WDS) | 61. BARELY GETS, WITH "OUT" | 62. ON THE SAFE SIDE, AT SEA | 63. APPEARS | 64. ___ GESTAE | 65. AMOUNT TO MAKE DO WITH | 17. LOUD ELECTRIC HORNS | 21. SOMETHING DONE TO RESTORE A BROKEN CHAIR | 25. EXCELLENT IN ALL RESPECTS | 28. WADING BIRDS WITH LONG SLENDER DOWN-CURVED BILLS | 32. FAUST AUTHOR | 34. EVERLASTING | 35. EXPERT | 36. VICTIM OF HOMICIDE | 37. FOOD | 38. STRONG LIGHT BROWN PAPER (PL.) | 39. RUN | 43. COLDEST SEASON | 45. FLEA MARKET DEAL | 46. BREAKFAST ORDER | 47. CHARACTER PRECEDING A NUMBER (PL.) | 49. A PRIMARY SUBTRACTIVE COLOR FOR LIGHT (PL.) | 50. DENIALS | 55. ___-ALTAIC LANGUAGES | 57. ANIMATION | 59. BARELY GET, WITH "OUT" |
| <b>DOWN</b>     | 1. GOSSIP           | 2. RECENTLY (2 WDS)  | 3. UNIT OF APOTHECARY VOLUME | 4. HIT            | 5. HAVING MORE ROUGH PROTUBERANCES | 6. "___ SAY!" (CONTRACTION) | 7. WOOD SUGAR      | 8. ___-SKI        | 9. ___-TZU          | 10. DILATION OF HEART CHAMBERS | 11. CORE         | 12. KNOCK (HYPHENATED)              |                            |                        |                               |                         |                  |                          |                         |             |                |               |             |   |                        |           |              |                            |                          |                       |                                      |                             |                              |             |                |                            |                         |  |                               |  |                  |                 |            |                        |          |                                    |         |                    |                      |                     |  |   |             |                          |               |                            |

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11	12		
13					14					15					
16					17					18					
19								20	21			22			
23					24			25				26			
27					28			29				30			
					31			32			33	34	35		
					36					37					
38	39							40							
41								42	43			44	45	46	47
48								49				50		51	
52								53				54		55	
56								57				58	59		
60												61			62
63												64			65



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## TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY 2012 PARK AND RECREATION ACTIVITY GUIDE

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Email: [parks@middleburyin.com](mailto:parks@middleburyin.com)

Website: [www.middleburyin.org](http://www.middleburyin.org) • Check us out on Facebook

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

### PROGRAMS AT A GLANCE

Detailed descriptions of the programs below

#### APRIL

Thursday, 12th **Stewardship Day - Shrubs for Wildlife**  
6:30-8pm at Riverbend Park

Tuesday, 24th **Earth Day - Recycling Program**  
4:05pm at the Library

#### MAY

Thursday, 3rd **Stewardship Day - Garlic Mustard Pull**  
6:30-8:30pm at Riverbend Park

Saturday, 5th **FOMP Volunteer Day**  
9-11am at Krider Gardens

Friday, 18th **Fun Friday - Disc Golf**  
6-8pm at Memorial Park

#### JUNE

Saturday, 2nd **National Trails Day Bike Ride**  
9 am meet at Essenhaus

Thursday, 7th **Stewardship Day - Bird Garden**  
6:30-8:30pm at Krider Garden

Monday, 11th **Summer Fun Starts**

Friday, 15th **Fun Friday - Basket Ball Contest**  
6-8pm at East Park

#### SPECIAL EVENTS

Saturday, August 18th **Middlebury Riverfest**  
at Riverbend Park

#### APRIL

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

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

#### MAY

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

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

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

#### JUNE

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

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

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

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

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# TALK ACROSS THE FENCE

by Brenda Dwyer ©  
 This month launches a fundraiser – the one I mentioned in last month's paper. From April 23rd to June 23rd I, along with 10 other individuals will be participating in "DROP WITH A COP". Drop with a Cop is a fundraiser for Sam Grewe. We are committing to losing as much weight as possible within a 3 month time frame. Dominic Mattei, (owner of Atomic Fitness), is gifting the 11 participants with 24/7 gym memberships for the duration to aid us in our endeavor. (Thanks Dominic!) Please allow me to take a moment here to show you how things just "gel" sometimes. Gary Smith (Neen Smith's husband – yes, Neen of Middlebury Walks For A Cure) walked into our shop one day and mentioned that he had an epiphany as he read our sign. You see, he was on his way home from working out at Atomic Fitness and just as he was about to pass us he saw "We are praying for you Sam" flash up on the marquis out front. He was well aware of the needs of the Grewe family and had always hoped to help in some way. It suddenly dawned on him ... why not combine getting in shape with a fundraiser for Sam? What better motivation could there possibly be than to commit to a worthy cause and see it through? As he was talking, one of our employees, Bill Raybuck (and myself) totally agreed that it would be a wonderful thing to do – we even declared our willingness to

stop stuffing our faces with our favorite foods on Sam's behalf right then and there! Well, Gary went on his way and a small amount of time passed before we heard from him again. He was a busy man! We all know that Neen knows how to put together a fundraiser and next thing you know we even had t-shirts on the way! Neen is teaching Gary the "ropes" and Gary appears to be a quick study! Dominic really ignited our excitement when he committed to letting us all have extensive use of his gym. I would ask you all to please support this cause in any way you can. I don't personally know Sam, but I know if he were my child I would appreciate every act of kindness. There is no minimum amount for how much you can sponsor either of us for. We are asking for you to sponsor us per pound of weight loss. It would even be a great way to teach your children about giving. There will also be a Drop with a Cop account set up at First State Bank of Middlebury for those that would like to donate otherwise – just to support our efforts. 100% of all proceeds go directly to the Grewe family. The 11 participants are as follows:

Gary Smith – Middlebury Police Officer

Brenda Dwyer – Co Owner of A Good Neighbor, LLC and Chief Editor and Writer of A Good Neighbor News – please go to

CONTINUED TO 16

# DESTRI OF NOCHAM ©



A GLOSSARY FOR THE STORYLINE "DESTRI OF NOCHAM" CAN BE FOUND ONLINE @ [www.agoodneighbornews.com](http://www.agoodneighbornews.com)

by Brenda Dwyer ©  
 "CHA CHA CHA KIIIIII - A A A A A A A A A A A A - IIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIII" the war cry rang out in the icy stillness of the morning. All of the female and child nochis had been hidden in the Adainal; they would never be found there. Their scents had been covered by the diligence of the Lancenz. Destri waited and listened. This would be her final moment of peace before the waging of war. She concentrated on her breathing and hugged Terzin just a little bit tighter than was her custom. Terzin had been a worthy companion; many times throughout her young life Terzin had kept her from sure harm. Destri snuggled in and thought

of her mother; so much she still didn't understand ... so much more she wanted to discover, if only. Just as if to stir her from her disquieted thoughts the Vientcei were suddenly upon her. It was a reunion that caused Destri's heart to soar! Musciaon (the high priest of the Vientcei) had but one question that he begged her to answer ... he needed to know the females and children were safe. Destri assured him they were. He then bent down and put his finger under Destri's small chin ... "Child ... you too should be hidden". Destri smiled and responded, "I cry out from the beginning to the end for the heritage of my people ... I cry to the night and to all in the heavens

... I shout with a warrior's might, knowing my cries are heard and my people will be harbored under the wing of He who has protected us (in the Creaj) the most High!" Musciaon nodded and patted her on her head, "then into battle we will assail the assassin of our people – the thief who tried to steal our history." "We shall go side by side and I will clear a path for you as we progress." Destri knew in that moment – could see with absolute clarity – that she would win this battle and Hangnar would be killed with a vengeance and his final cry would be pathetic and without hope.

## THIS 'N THAT

CONTINUED FROM PG 3

- Return calls in batches. Leave specific messages and the time you called if the person you're trying to reach isn't available.
- Empty workspace of everything but the project you're working on to cut down on distractions.
- Keep an assortment of all-occasion cards and stamps in your desk.
- Keep takeout menus from favorite restaurants so you can order ahead and pick up dinner on your way home.
- When using more than one checking account, color coded checks are an easy way to identify each account.
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# DOUBLE VISION

by Melissa Brazile

I can count on 2 hands the number of times that our 2 1/2 year old twins have been apart from each other. There have been a couple one-child doctor visits and a couple Saturday morning meetings with daddy. Other than that, they have always been together. They eat together, play together, bathe together, sleep in the same room, sing each other to sleep, sit by each other on every ride in the van, go to the same Bible class, share nearly every illness, etc... They truly don't know what it's like to function without the other.

We have known that an important part of shaping our twins will be helping develop their individual identity and eventually building their confidence and security to be in the Lord, so they don't rely on each other for that. Consequently, about 6 months ago when my husband, Darin, was given 2 free tickets to a high school football game, he decided to take Grady. I had an event that I needed to make cupcakes for, so Karli and I gladly stayed home in our warm home and made cupcakes while the guys braved the cold to cheer on the football team. The kids had a good time, and though they frequently asked where the other child was, they made memories with daddy and mommy, separately. It was also fun for Darin and I to experience, really for the first time, what it would be like to only have one child (EASY!).

About two weeks ago, Darin was again offered 2 free tickets to a nearby college baseball game by a friend in our church. Darin threw out the idea that maybe he could take Grady again and have a "boy's day." We both agreed that was a great idea, realizing we hadn't done any 1-on-1 time since the football game about 6 months ago.

Well, about four days before the game, Darin got the tickets and showed them to Grady, telling him for the first time that they were going to a baseball game together. Grady asked if he could hold the tickets...and he pretty much held them until the game on Sunday. He spent 4 days dreaming about a day with Daddy and talking about his innocent anticipation of such an exciting event. "Mommy, Daddy and I are going to a baseball game!" "Mommy, did you know that me and Daddy are taking these baseball cards (that's what he called the tickets) to a baseball game?!" After Karli heard the news, she kept asking me if we were going to make cupcakes while the boys were gone. She had connected the dots that when Grady got to go somewhere fun with Daddy, it must mean that she and I got to make cupcakes, based on her one other experience. I assured her that we would be doing



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# FARM COUNTRY MOOS

by Loretta Miller  
Hi everyone! I wonder how everyone is enjoying this sunny weather. I absolutely love mowing the lawn but my daughters do too so they usually get first dibbs with that. I'll mow a few times this year though. There is just nothing more relaxing than that. I mean all you have to do is walk behind the mower and let your mind drift. When I was a little girl I used to make up stories and talk through story after story while I was mowing the lawn. My imagination was huge. I wanted to grow up so fast. Everything looked so fun. I'm thankful that God gave me such a happy childhood. We lived in an old, old house but my mother kept it cleaned and painted and I thought nothing of

it. But the more we have been given the more we should give away, then more is expected of us. But I don't think we have to pull things out of the air to do to make our lives count. I think that God will show us what is expected of us. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. He will intervene if he chooses to. So I like to put my trust in him and I'm also thankful for so many compassionate, understanding friends and community who give us more time, more space, and love us as we are, we are so far from perfect. I really oughta have a sign upon my heart, don't judge me yet there's an unfinished part, he loves me as I am and he helps me when I pray remember he's the potter I'm the clay, he's still working

on me. We have a friend who drops by a couple times a week. He drives a truck, and lives about 20 minutes north of us. He will be 97 years old in July. He lost his wife in Feb. 2011. They had been married around 68 years or so. He told me once he never gave her a boughten card for birthdays etc. He always wrote her a poem and gave her that. He showed me a whole box of typed out poems that he made up for her for every occasion on the calendar. I thought that was the sweetest thing. But anyway, he says the secret to his longevity is staying active. Also he says to stay positive and not let things get you down which is too often man's natural inclination. God's blessings to you all, Loretta

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9	6	4	7	1	2	3	5	8
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# TALK ACROSS THE FENCE SALISBURY'S STAKE

CONTINUED FROM PG 11

www.agoodneighbornews.com to sign up to sponsor me (or any of us) or drop by 524 S. Main Street and sign up there!

William (Bill) Raybuck – Operations Manager at A Good Neighbor Heating & Cooling

Rich Troyer – Pastor (and Sam's uncle)

Britta Copeland – when asked why she chose to participate her response was, "The reason I am doing Drop with a Cop is to help raise money for the Grewe family to assist in getting their life back on track." "Sam is such a strong and amazing kid and I'm grateful I have this opportunity to give back to the family that has inspired so many. I am looking forward to April 23rd to begin losing so that Sam can continue Winning." (Well said Britta!)

Scott Tilley – Pastor

Jerry Bontrager – Sam's grandpa

Brian Templeton – Maintenance Engineer

Dave Perkins – 5th grade teacher

Matt Gage – Syndicate employee

Please support us with your donations, your prayer and your well wishes. Encouragement is strongly encouraged!! We want you to hold us accountable and help us to stay on track with our goal! Sam, if you're reading this ... all I can say is you have endured much and the rewards are already awe-inspiring! You are so young and yet you have moved a community to love more and to give more and to be better for it. We are thankful for your fight, your courage and your relentless pursuit of your goals! "We will lose, to help Sam win!"

CONTINUED FROM PG 2

5 a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,

6 a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away,

7 a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak,

8 a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.

Spring reminds me that, though I've been through the bleak winter of heartbreak and emptiness, there is always a time of beauty and joy and renewal ahead. God gives us fresh grace and mercy for each day, even though we're undeserving, and for that, I am eternally grateful.

# DOUBLE VISION

CONTINUED FROM PG 13

something fun and special while the boys were gone, though I still didn't know what that was.

Sunday came, and after worship service, the boys headed to the big game – 2 hats, 2 baseball gloves, and 2 tickets. We girls headed to the sand playground down at the lake with our buckets, shovels, and wagon. Karli and I played all afternoon together, building castles, digging out caves, and making friends with all the boys and girls who wanted to share our toys. We pet some puppies that walked by on the trail (Karli is an animal lover) and we finished off the afternoon with an ice cream. I made a special effort to really try to listen to her and to be attentive to her...and it was a special day because it was just the 2 of us.

The boys came home in the late afternoon and if I thought Grady had been excited before the game, it was nothing com-

pared to the glow he had after the game. Speaking at 100 miles a minute, Grady told me how Daddy had shown him that the "big boys" hit the ball and run around the bases and how the boys in the outfield run and chase the ball down. He had gotten his picture taken with the mascot, and Daddy even bought him a hot dog and M&Ms. Grady spent the rest of the day (and many days following) literally acting out the baseball game, and it was apparent that he wouldn't forget this day for a long time.

Sunday evening, after the kids went to sleep, I resolved to try not to let it be 6 more months before we did a 1-on-1 day again. It had been special to all 4 of us. Then, I grabbed the 2 baseball tickets that Grady had carried around in such anticipation...and I tucked them into his baby book.

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