

FREE



A GOOD NEIGHBOR NEWS

"STRENGTHENING OUR LOCAL ECONOMY"

JULY 2012

www.agoodneighbornews.com

VOL. 4 • NO. 1

INSIDE THE TEA ROOM



by Brenda Dwyer ©

The other day I went out to the back of the house where the grass was, once upon a time, a dreamy dark green ... but then it turned kind of yellow and now it is definitely brown. I wondered for a moment why God hadn't allowed the rain to fall enough this year to keep it that lush green we all love to smell and mow ... but I only wondered for a moment. You see, with time comes wisdom and I have learned to not dwell on the things that I cannot change and I have also learned that sometimes you find unexpected blessing when you embrace the very things that you are hesitant to. Take the cactus that has been in my life for over 8 years now. It was once just a tiny prickly thing that pretty much pricked me every time I watered it. Surprise, surprise. I al-

CONTINUED TO 7

A GOOD NEIGHBOR NEWS

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CURRENT READERSHIP:
36,000 AND GROWING!

Dancing WITH Angels



by Brenda Dwyer ©

It was the best dream I have ever had ... sweet words floated upon the air, falling ever so lightly upon my ears. I could hear soft laughter as it danced away with the wind. Small children played on a jungle gym not far from me and I could see their mothers; alert, attentive, even anxious as they would swing and run and climb. A beautiful rose garden stretched for quite a way in front of me and the scent of roses filled the air. Sirens wailed from somewhere far away painting another touch of reality to the day. Such an odd mix of emotion ran through my heart. These babes - some just beginning to toddle around - represented renewal and the sirens, now fading, represented the possible end of breath, the finality of this life. Daisy, my furry friend of over 8 years now, pawed at my leg and I moved to sit down on the ground



beside her. I realized how alive I felt ... I mean really alive and very present in the moment. It was one of those moments that I could almost feel the rush of angels' wings here and there surrounding me as I immersed myself in the serenity. Then, something happened that I hope I never forget. I was playing with Daisy when time seemed to slow to a crawl. Two little feet wearing glittery red shoes and white ankle socks were suddenly standing just to the side of Daisy. When I looked up to see who they belonged to, a child that couldn't have been more than three years old was standing straight with fingers interlaced in front of her. All of a sudden she bent down and put her chubby little hands on her knees and looked as though she were going to say something to Daisy. She didn't, so I thought for sure she would ask me about my little friend - perhaps she

wanted to pet her. It turns out that's not what brought her over to where we were. She wanted to know if she could play with the angels too. I was taken aback like I've never been before. I just looked at her; her big eyes looked so full of admiration and hope and happiness that I felt myself freeze within the moment and something just "clicked" inside of me. I looked around longing to see what she could see or had seen. The wind had died down ... it was more of a gentle off and on breeze now; teasing my bare shoulders. I looked back at the little girl and told her, "why of course!", she could absolutely play with the angels too and then watched as she flung herself into what I can only describe as a ballerina's pirouette and turned time and again on the ground with her arms extended and the biggest smile on her face. Giggles again filled the air

and I could hear her speak into the air as she danced ... "Jesus, be mine." "Jesus, I love you too, so much." "I will ... forever." "Love only grows ..." and then she danced away from us and her voice got softer and softer until I couldn't hear her any longer. I looked back down at Daisy who seemed totally unaffected - and then I looked to where I had last seen the child but she was nowhere in sight. A stronger wind tickled my cheek and sent my hair flying out behind me as the sun peeked out from behind a puffy white cloud and kissed my face. I awoke smelling roses and I smiled with thankfulness for such a beautiful beginning to the day. Say what you will but I believe that if you are just STILL ... you too will feel what I feel ... you too will know what I know.

TALK ACROSS THE FENCE

I try so hard to stay positive all of the time and for me, (not a naturally positive person), it is a true effort. Every single day I feel as though I fail at so many things. I stumble foolishly through the day sometimes in a reactionary mode

that seems to take on a life of its own and I weep from the struggle of it all ... trying to be a good example to those around me, trying to be diligent in this uphill spiritual battle that I always seem to be immersed in. There are so many

positive things that color each day ... so much beauty in the smallest of things ... a child smiling up to their mother, someone peddling aimlessly on their bike, a couple holding hands as their dog of 18 years pads along in front, a soft

and unexpected cool breeze on a hot day, a flower reaching as if to touch the heavens, an act of random kindness from a stranger, a cloud that brings a sudden rush of

CONTINUED TO 2

LOOK INSIDE

CLASSIFIEDS PG 15

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A JOURNEY OF REINVENTION

by Stephanie Salisbury

It's incredible how, when we don't pay attention to what we're imbibing day after day, it catches up with us. Sometimes just switching out a few glasses of soda for water, or making sure to drink a small glass of water once an hour throughout the day, can make all the difference in the world to our health and well-being. You can go from a darkened haze to a healthy glow in just a few moments' time.

The same is true with a dehydrated spirit. This world is completely overwhelming, that's no secret. With our busy schedules, our fears and concerns, and our stress levels, we tend to push aside

the things that really matter for the crisis of the moment. The symptoms of spiritual dehydration are more detrimental than physical dehydration, though. We find ourselves hunched over in tears because we're unable to handle the pressure. We're heartbroken, lonely, vengeful, bitter, and full of rage. We're inaccessible, self-centered, and prideful. We constantly fight for power and control over any and every situation, refusing to humble ourselves. We let people less fortunate than ourselves down because we explain away their circumstances without trying to help. We fill ourselves with "Spiritual Soda" like pithy

bumper stickers referring to God, or we pop in to church each week to check it off our list, but at the end of the day? We're still thirsty. We have to figure out what soul-watering nourishment we're lacking and dive in.

Prayer isn't just telling God what you want and waiting for it. It's a conversation -- you talk to God and God talks back. Sometimes the dehydration is so bad you can't hear this or feel it anymore at all, if you ever did. It's okay. There's a cure for that.

Reading the bible isn't just flipping from page to page, memorizing scriptures, or pointing your finger randomly in the middle of a chapter and verse, hoping God will speak the words you're desperate to hear. It's a way of life, a habit you pursue. You learn in context, with different translations, commentaries, and concordances. Sometimes the dehydration is so bad, you try to read and you can't get more than one chapter in before your mind wanders and you can't focus. It's okay. There's a cure for that.

Spending time with a spiritual mentor isn't just sitting at a coffeehouse picking their brain about your problems and expecting them to solve it all in one sitting by giving cookie-cutter answers. It is watching someone whose way of life you are moved by, seeing how their relationship with God and with other people works, learning over time to incorporate new things into your own life that will bring you closer to God and to others. Sometimes the dehydration is so bad, you just can't wrap your brain around everything they do all at once, and you can't picture yourself living exactly like they do. Don't worry. It's okay. There's a cure for that.

"Ask and it shall be given to you, seek and you shall find, knock and the door will be opened for you." --Matthew 7:7 The cure is in the asking, the seeking, the knocking. He told us we would never thirst again if we drank from Him. It doesn't mean we won't have problems anymore, or that we won't feel overwhelmed sometimes, or we won't experience sadness, despair, loneliness, or anger. It means that He will hydrate us with His words and His spirit.

Jesus said, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink." John 7:37

The cure to physical dehydration is to drink some water. The cure to spiritual dehydration is equally as simple.

DOUBLE VISION



by Melissa Brazile

Perseverance. It's a word that I often despise, because it usually means a lot of hard work, many unknowns, and the reward is frequently much later than I would choose. I don't mind the hard work. I'll work hard with the best of 'em. The parts about perseverance that I struggle with are the unknowns and the fact that the payoff comes later than I wish it would.

Perseverance has been a much needed virtue in my household since twins have entered the picture. Think about it. Teaching two children, simultaneously, to feed themselves (without getting food all over themselves and the floor around them as I work with the other child), to use manners (without one demanding their

way and screaming impatiently while I work with the other child), to share with siblings or friends (without crying or pushing first). And then there's potty training (ugh...). Trying to potty train 2 kids at the same time took a LOT of perseverance. But...we made it, and boy does it pay off when I'm no longer spending \$100 on diapers every month.

Perseverance came in handy again a few weeks ago when my sweet babies learned to ride their bikes.

I had been debating about possibly getting Grady and Karli tricycles for Christmas because I knew they would have so much fun riding together. Unfortun-

CONTINUED TO 13

TALK ACROSS THE FENCE



CONTINUED FROM PG 1

shade from the hot sun; countless things bless my day. Who am I to grumble? Who am I to be upset? There are those that we may love that are entrenched in some kind of struggle -- it is not our struggle so who are we to mutter with bitter words? Shouldn't we instead be constantly on guard, constantly aware of spreading love, encouragement, kindness, a simple smile, a soft touch? We live in a world in which we are now spinning ourselves into a frenzy trying so hard to hurry here and there. We are

missing out on LIFE. We weren't born into this world to be on a constant rush into self-gratification ... we were born into this world to spread love, to show love, to be love ... we are to honor that which is in each one of us thereby honoring our creator. Isn't it time we slow down and escape from the madness around us? Isn't it time we turned our frowns upside down and reach out to bless others? Shouldn't we stop pursuing the things that will rot and fall away

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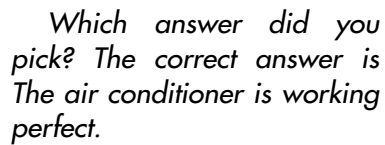
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There are some air conditioners that are designed to work at different loads - they can change cooling capacity and work efficiently in different temperature extremes; you may want to consider this type of system to keep you comfortable in all scenarios.



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Okay, so there I was mind-
ing my own business, licking my
paws and lazily daydreaming
when I heard a dull rustle just
beyond where I was sitting. I
knew Brittle was just steps away
from me lying in the grass taking
her first nap of the day. I tilted
my head slightly to the left just in
time to see a pointed nose peek-
ing through the long fronds and
it was advancing at a very slow
pace. I knew in an instant who
it was! I was excited to see my
old friend and I ran to "hug" him
along his side. I couldn't wait for
Brittle to wake up so that I could
introduce the two of them ... but
then mischievousness crept into
my bones and I came up with a
little plan. Repose and I winked at
each other as he crept ever closer
to where my little Brittle was.
Two more strides forward of the

[illegible]

INEVITABILITY...

Picture a Wolf... do you see it with a pack? The initial thought of a Wolf is one of a lone creature, that while it will run temporarily with a pack, it doesn't require them to survive. Some people... myself included, are just like the Wolf. I love my friends and family, I love the time that I spend with them... but sometimes the longing for solitude pulls me away. Some feel that by being this way, I'm being selfish and I don't care about their feelings. This simply isn't true. There is not one among us that hasn't at times, wished for some "alone time" and some peace and quiet. Human nature calls us to group together, it's bred into us, it's a defensive measure honed over thousands of years. I realize that fact, and while it makes perfect sense to me, I still choose to turn away from the group and venture out on my own. Yes, I need fellowship... yes; I need contact with like minded individuals, but at the end of the day, the wolf in me will eventually turn away from the pack and run in my own direction. Don't worry though... I always find my way back.

FROM OUR KITCHEN

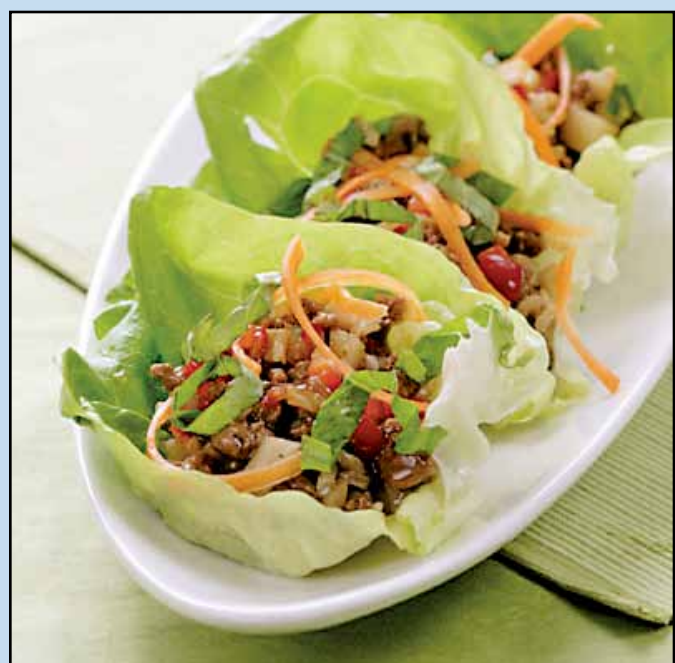
TOTAL TIME: 30 min **SERVES:** 4

- 1/2 cup(s) water
- 1/2 cup(s) instant brown rice
- 2 teaspoon(s) sesame oil
- 1 pound(s) 93%-lean ground turkey
- 1 tablespoon(s) minced fresh ginger
- 1 large red bell pepper, finely diced
- 1 cup(s) water chestnuts, rinsed and chopped
- 1/2 cup(s) reduced-sodium chicken broth

- 2 tablespoon(s) hoisin sauce
- 1 teaspoon(s) five-spice powder
- 1/2 teaspoon(s) salt
- 2 head(s) Boston lettuce, leaves separated
- 1/2 cup(s) chopped fresh herbs, such as cilantro, basil, mint and/or chives
- 1 large carrot, shredded

1. Bring water to a boil in a small saucepan. Add rice; reduce heat to low, cover and cook for 5 minutes. Remove from the heat.
2. Meanwhile, heat oil in a large nonstick pan over medium-high heat. Add turkey and ginger; cook, crumbling with a wooden spoon, until the turkey is cooked through, about 6 minutes. Stir in the cooked rice, bell pepper, water chestnuts, broth, hoisin sauce, five-spice powder and salt; cook until heated through, about 1 minute.
3. To serve, spoon portions of the turkey mixture into lettuce leaves, top with herbs and carrot and roll into wraps.

FIVE-SPICE TURKEY AND LETTUCE



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I dipped my fingers into the vibrant pool of water in front of me and swirled them around as I sat upon the lush bank and took in the plants that gently caressed the sides of this beautiful body of water as well as the plants that were thriving in the water itself. I looked to where the water "began" and watched as it fell in gentle torrents over a wall of rock and came splashing below into a babbling brook that led to the pool where I was seated. It was breathtaking and in an instant I was transported into a state of relaxation; one of which I had become a stranger to due to the fast and demanding schedules we keep. The first thing I thought was "WOW, how beautiful!" I think my second thought was "I never want to leave this place." And finally, "I would love to have this at our house." Little Koi playfully kissed my fingers as they were intent on finding their next meal. Everything about this place was enchanting and serene, restful and so vividly stunning that my eyes were satiated with the view. There was nowhere else I wanted to be, nothing else I wanted to be doing. I wanted to take in every little nuance and lock it into my brain so that I could recall it in the future when I was feeling stressed ... or at least for as long

as it would take Wayne (Wayne Miller, owner of Premier Aquascapes) to create a respite like this on our property. Wayne's work is extraordinary! I asked Wayne what led him into water features and he said simply "his love of water". He knows his craft ... is working at mastering it and I would say he has already arrived ... he has unbelievable vision. I can attest to that vision because I invited Wayne out to our property to look at what I would consider some very challenging areas. As we walked I asked him what his thoughts were regarding three specific areas that could really use some help. I asked about the garden located immediately in front of our home and he offered up a few options that were simple, inexpensive and yet would definitely give the front of the house a huge "WOW" impact. We then strolled along to my pathway garden and our eyes fell upon the pitiful little pond that has been neglected so long - but no worries - Wayne had a remedy that I could clearly picture in my mind and it would transform the entire garden scape in such a way that I felt excitement at the prospect bubbling up inside of me. In the same venue we took the curved path that led to what used to be the piece de la

resistance in the garden ... the waterfall - but now it is overgrown with trees and tall grasses that had, left unattended, re-propagated at will and obviously convinced the daises to do the same. My bottom lip began to quiver and so I bit down on it so it would go un-noticed and once again Wayne took over and explained how with just a little work, this waterfall could be so much more and after seeing his work, I have to say; I am a believer. The final place I asked about was the area right outside my chapel - I dream of connecting a bronze sculpture that we have on one side of the lawn to the other side of the yard where the chapel stands with the pathway garden just beyond. After talking to Wayne, I don't believe I will ever pull down our driveway again and not see the vision he blessed me with that day. I am eager for Bob and I to realize that vision one bit at a time until it is complete and real. Here's the point I'm trying to make ... I have seen Wayne's work and I have taken Wayne out to a barren land and asked what he could "see" there as he reached into the "land of possibility".



If you have ever dreamed of having a water feature incorporated into your landscape - do yourself a huge favor and call Wayne Miller of Premiere Aquascapes. He is a true visionary. Whether you're thinking of a huge, complex project or a small, simple and serene feature ... Premiere Aquascapes is the place to go to turn your dream into reality. YOU WON'T BE DISAPPOINTED.



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A WORLD OF WONDERS

VACATION

by Monica Clark

We did it! Yes, we actually did it! We took a vacation! No alarm clocks. No schedules. No housework. No mulling over work at home. The Clarks have left the building.

What is it about a vacation that so refreshes the soul? Is it new places? New people? Becoming unbound from the shackles of routine? Exercising the freedom from responsibility? Whatever it is, I like it. I really like it!

First, there is the anticipation of vacation. Isn't that half the fun? Packing and repacking the suitcase. Trying to decide just how many pairs of shoes to take along. In my experience, one can never have enough shoes. Sandals? Yes. Dress shoes? Yeah, we might go out. Heels or flats, hmmm, better take them both. Comfortable walking shoes? Definitely. Oh, and extra sneakers in case the comfy shoes get wet. (This happens to me all the time. I cannot visit a large body of water without getting my shoes wet. I don't understand it. There I am standing above what is surely the waterline, when in rolls a big breaker. Oopsy, time to dig out another pair of shoes!)

Then there's the weather dilemma. How do you know what to pack? It might be cold. It might be hot. Hmm. Pack, unpack, fold, roll, unroll, flatten – I do it all many times before we actually leave the house. I love having the suitcase open and waiting. The very sight of it is fraught with possibility. It makes me happy just tossing things into the suitcase as I think of them. Toiletries? Check. Everything zippered up in Ziploc bags. Take the hair dryer or not? If I don't take it, I'll need it. If I do take it, it'll just be dead weight in the luggage, but better safe than sorry. Okay, take out the extra sneakers for now. I can always wear my sandals.

Let's see, jeans, socks, blouses, t-shirts, a skirt, a sweatshirt, oops, almost forgot the underwear. Our friend Slagle has a wonderful theory involving underwear and travel. Right before a big trip he heads to the store and buys all new underwear. Then, he packs his old underwear and wears that on vacation. At the end of each day, he throws it away. It's a win-win situation, less dirty laundry on the trip and brand new underwear at home! It's an awesome plan! It's also a good way to judge whether or not you are ready for a vacation. Underwear looking a little ragged? It's time to go!

TOWN OF MIDDLEBURY 2012 PARK AND RECREATION ACTIVITY GUIDE

Park Office 574-3283 • Town Hall 574-825-1499

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Website: 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 maintain 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

SPECIAL EVENTS

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

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.

"THE UNKNOWN RESTAURANT CRITIC"

by The Unknown
Restaurant Critic

Elkhart County is blessed with many fine restaurants, so my wife and I have taken it upon ourselves to visit as many as possible and report our findings to you. It's a rough job but someone has to do it. The restaurants do not know who we are and are not notified prior to a visit so that we can get an authentic experience of their hospitality, food and surroundings.

The first restaurant we visited was Lucchese's, located at 655 County Road 17, in Elkhart. It is in a shopping center and has plenty of parking conveniently located in front of the establishment. When coming from the south it is difficult getting into the parking lot because of the restricted entrance directly out front. We recommend turning west at the stop light on the south end of the shopping center to get easier access and avoid the goofy front entrance.

The décor of the restaurant is pleasant and not overdone. It is clean and well organized. Tables and booths are both available depending on your mood. Linen napkins add a touch of class that is appreciated and there is a fine list of wines for those who are connoisseurs. The waiters and waitresses were very attentive and made us feel welcome. This is a restaurant that lets its food do its talking.

I ordered the Chicken Marsala and my wife ordered the Spinach and Mushroom Lasagna. The chicken was so tender that a fork could cut it and it was served on a bed of pasta along with mushrooms and in a sauce that was exceptional. The Lasagna was worth writing home about, with a homemade flavor that made you want more. All this was served with complimentary Italian bread that we could dip in Olive oil and spices.

After dinner we had coffee and were presented with a

choice of desserts. We shared a piece of Turtle Cheese cake that was drizzled with chocolate and whip cream on the side. We are looking forward to having another piece some day.

The only disappointment was the Italian dressing on a tossed salad. It was bland and had little taste which is surprising in a restaurant specializing in Italian food.

There is one other problem with this kind of food. When eating it you must first determine if you are a slob. The delicious sauces managed to splatter all over the front of my nice new shirt. That shirt will always be a favorite from now on. Each spot will remind us of that wonderful dinner.

Prices were in the mid-range and our two dinners cost around fifty dollars. The best compliment I can give is that I intend to go back for more. We highly recommend Lucchese's to you for a fine experience.

PULPIT IN THE WOODS

HEAT

by Pastor Steve Ellis

One of the joys of life is a warm summer evening, sitting on the front porch, watching traffic go by. It is usually a pleasant experience but as of late it has been difficult because of the extreme heat. I have found that just sitting in the shade when the temperature it is over ninety degrees can cause me to sweat. It doesn't require any activity on my part other than just existing. I have found myself dripping wet from perspiration while just sitting.

I have two grandsons who are visiting and as anyone can tell you, grandchildren are not interested in just sitting. There is baseball to play, walks to take, fishing, and a list of things that need to be done

in order to keep them entertained. That is not the problem. The problem is doing them in the heat. Just thinking about it makes me sweat.

I think that the Lord has a sense of humor since he puts grandparents into this situation. We want to see our grandkids and do things with them, so we wait for summer to get here, and then it's too hot to do any of the things we planned. I think there is some humor in there somewhere.

This heat is a constant reminder of how we might feel without the presence of the Lord in our lives. Things get hot, very hot, and there is no relief in sight without the Lord. In fact things get too hot for us to handle many times in our life and the Lord has to step in and cool it

down a bit. The Lord offers us relief from all the taxing problems of this world and a cool, calm place to rest and catch our breath in the stifling heat. Every time strife occurs, it causes friction for us and thus heat. Over and over again, the heat rises in our little corner of the world, because of the friction we cause between ourselves and others around us until we need relief. God offers us relief from the problems of this world when they threaten to stifle us in their heat and the stress that comes.

The next time you find yourself in a, too hot to handle situation, just look to the Lord for answers and the cool relief offered. It's better than any air conditioner. Enjoy your walk outside.

AS I SEE IT...

by Uncle Bill

The inner workings of a clock are intricate, each piece dependent upon the other to achieve one goal... the telling of time. The inner workings of us as humans are even more intricate. Each thing is dependent upon something else to accomplish even the simplest of goals. The greatest machine ever

built, and every one of us has our very own. Some will break down, and some will even cease to run, so it's up to us as the user of these fine tuned machines, to keep them running at their very best. Sometimes the computer has issues, or as I refer to it, the brain. It's up to us to keep it updated and challenged, to make sure that it continues to

learn. Other times the body of the machine shows wear and tear, and it's up to us to decide if we take the time to repair its image, or call it "character". As I see it, we all have this wonderful opportunity to showcase our machines ability, and show others what we're really capable of.

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 Curves - 118 E. Vistula
 Eby's Family Fun - 14583 State Road 120
 Fluid Fun Canoe & Kayak Sales - 609 N. Division Street
 J & J Lawn & Garden - 19976 CR 6
 Kruse Farm Supply - 19904 CR 6
 Rob's Barber Shop - 120 W. Vistula
 Rodgers Auto LLC - 302 Chestnut Street
 Spectrum Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning Co. -
 (574) 848-5804 (Mobil Merchant)

MIDDLEBURY:

Affairs to Remember Bridal Shop - 113 E. Warren Street
 Amis Chiropractic - 611 Wayne Street
 Awnings Unlimited 825-9768 "We've got you covered!"
 Backroad Crafts - 11262 CR 116
 Bill's Collision Service - 13024 US 20
 Cargo Plus Sales - 304 N. Main
 Cell Phones Plus / Verizon Wireless - 851 US 20 Suite 5
 Classee Vinyl Window LLC - 59323 CR 35
 Country Wood Creations - 11565 CR 116
 Crystal Valley Computers - 830 S. Main Street Suite A
 Crystal Valley Furniture & Floor Covering - 201 S. Main
 Crystal Valley Power Equipment - 11720W 250N
 Dairy Queen - 416 N. Main
 Dirk's Quality Automotive - 108 W. Wayne Street
 Fay Schwartz Attorney - 103 N Brown Street
 Fox RV, Inc. - 13431 CR 22
 Grand Rental Station - 131 Orpha Drive
 Healthy Pets - 851 US 20
 Hochstetler Roofing - 56781 CR 43
 Hoosier Tae Kwon Do, Inc. - 106 Wayne Street
 Indiana RV Connection - 503 N. Main
 Irontate 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
 Montieth Tire - 132 Orpha Drive Suite B
 Mr. Appliance of Elkhart County - 53855 SR 13
 Old Creamery Antiques - 333 N. Main
 Rullis Italian Restaurant - 851 US 20 Suite 2
 Shady Lane Welding - 56322 County Road 35
 The Cinnamon Stick - 102 S. Main Street
 The Getaway Tanning & Hair Salon - 426-1 N. Main Street
 The Market Place - 511 S. Main
 The Out Post RV - 57756 CR 37
 Unique Finds Resale Shop - 304 N. Main
 Varns & Hoover - 101 S. Main Street
 Village Inn Restaurant - 107 S. Main Street

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
 Erv's Vac Shop - 906 Linway Drive
 From Scratch Pet Bakery - 107 W. Washington Street
 Goshen Antique Mall - 107 S. Main Street
 Goshen Farm & Lawn Center, Inc. - 2413 Lincolnway East
 Hoogies Sports House - 119 E. Lincoln Ave.
 Jenkins Automotive (NAPA Auto Parts) - 1028 Lincolnway E.
 Joselena Fashions & Alterations - 125 East Lincoln Ave

Maple City Hobbies - 102 S. Main
 Merle Norman - 125 S. Main Street
 Monteith Tire - 1021 N. Greene Rd
 Monteith Tire & Auto Service Center - 2613 Caragana Ct.
 North Side Appliance Inc. - 1920 Elkhart Road
 Once Upon A Child - 4024 Elkhart Road
 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



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 MERCHANTS THAT ARE DEDICATED TO YOU,
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 OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES!



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
 Red Wagon Toys - 225 Harrison Street
 Shipshe General Store - 420 N. Van Buren Street
 Shipshewana Harness & Supplies - 815 N. Van Buren Street
 Shipshe Pizza - 145 N. Village Drive
 Shipshe Rental Center - 0900 N. SR 5
 Shipshewana Fitness Center, LLC - 505 E. North Village Drive
 Simple Sounds, Inc. - 225 N. Harrison Street
 Splash Waterpark Resort - 800 S. VanBuren
 Wellspring Components LLC - 1085N 850W

ELKHART:

Bueters Sewing Center - 205 S. Main Street
 CD's Pool & Scuba - 23672 Old US Suite P
 Dapper Dog & Fancy Feline - 54595 CR 17
 Dumor Water Specialists - 4405 Wyland Dr.
 Hickory Meats & More, Inc. - 54595 CR 17
 Ink Cartridge Solutions - 1808 E. Bristol Street Suite G
 Insignia Promotions - 135 Easy Shopping Place
 Jenkins Automotive (NAPA Auto Parts) - 59045 CR 13
 Joshica's Planet Canine - 4411 Wyland Drive
 Martin's Pet & Garden Center - 116 W. Jackson Blvd.
 Paradise Pools - 655 CR 17 (Next to Lucchese's)
 Sautter's Floral & Greenhouse, Inc. - 1725 Toledo Road
 Sassi Tan - 56199 Parkway Ave Suite 10
 S-N-J's Heavenly Hair Salon - 23737 US 33 Suite F
 Spectrum Eyewear Gallery - Dr. David Britzke, O.D. - 56028
 Parkway Ave., Suite E
 Tip-n-Toe Nail Spa Parkway - 17 Plaza
 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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INSIDE THE TEA ROOM

CONTINUED FROM PG 1

most tossed it at one point then fell in love with the beauty of its design; the very things that once caused me pain, now filled my heart with happy. Now, I will admit that although I have a front yard that is more than happy to oblige me with a loud crunch, crunch, crunch as I trod across it ... I didn't want anyone to see what I was about to do next. I had decided that instead of letting this brown, matted down material strewn across our property get me down (and since I couldn't even consider "tossing" it) I would try to look at it from a different perspective. It was time to change my attitude. I sat down upon the hard earth and forced myself to be quiet. The wind blew softly against the matted brown mess that used to be dark green, vibrant grass and I listened. I heard a surprising tale of caution. Without "water" from God, we too, shall turn into a dried up substance void of color, void of vibrancy, void of the ability to bend with the wind and yet stand resilient. We too, run the risk of perishing amidst the flames. I was immediately thankful for the grass and the lessons therein and turned my face towards the heavens to thank my Father for once again blessing me with a lesson that refreshed my soul. I continued to sit on that grass for quite some time ... soaking up the revelation ... now, in my mind, it is beautiful.

TALK ACROSS THE FENCE

CONTINUED FROM PG 2

and instead pursue that which will last forever? Stop ... "smell the roses" and be thankful. You have one life here on this earth. Make it count. Leave a legacy of love, faith, and beauty that the future generations of your family can build on. It doesn't matter WHO we love in this life - we should love everyone ... what matters is HOW we love each other while we are here. It may be hard to stay positive day to day but fighting to do just that is the most worthy fight of all ... for each step you take with success is a step rich with reward. I just had a dear friend of mine inform me that her cancer is back. She has been cancer-free for eight years. When she hugged me she whispered in my ear, "no worries". When our hug broke and I looked into her eyes I saw a peace that can only come from God. Her face literally had a glow to it and I knew in an instant that it was "well with her soul". No matter what God's will for her is in this journey, she is okay with it. Praise God! I can't think of any better example of what being positive truly is ... even in the face of adversity we can stand in the shade of positivity for we know that all things are possible with God! What is there then to be negative about?



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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



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

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters in each word to spell something pertaining to the Fourth of July.

EEDROMF

ANSWER: Freedom

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

WORD SEARCH

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

APPROXIMATELY

- ARGUE
- ATLAS
- AVOID
- BLAME
- BORROWS
- BUILT
- CANNOT
- CHEEKS
- CORAL
- DIMLY
- DRINK
- DUSTY
- DYING
- EARLY
- FINDS
- FLOORS

FORCES

- HARNESS
- INSURE
- KNIGHT
- LAUGHS
- LAWNS
- LOYALTY
- MAIDS
- MAILS
- MOVIE
- OBTAINED
- PEACH
- PISTOL
- POETS
- RATES
- RESCUE
- RESIGN

REVEAL

- RIGID
- ROUGH
- SALADS
- SOLVING
- STABLE
- STALK
- STAYS
- STEAK
- STREAM
- STRIPES
- TASKS
- WARMLY
- WHEELBARROWS
- WINDS
- YOU'VE

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- ACROSS
1. EYE
5. "CAST AWAY" SETTING
9. AUCTIONEER'S WORD
14. CATCH
15. MUSICAL SIGN
16. CANCEL
17. ROBIN
19. AFRICAN LANGUAGE
20. MORAY, E.G.
21. WADING BIRDS
22. WITH AN EXCEPTIONALLY DRY HUMOR
23. SPOUSE'S MALE CHILD BY A FORMER MARRIAGE
25. BAKE, AS EGGS
26. BASIC UNIT OF MONEY IN ROMANIA
27. ___ GIN FIZZ
28. BLUBBER
31. PERSONIFIED
35. PARKINSON'S TREATMENT (HYPHENATED)
37. ALTERNATIVE TO A FENCE
38. PRESERVED, IN A WAY
40. BREWS
41. MONEY IN THE BANK, SAY
43. BURIAL
45. BIG APPLE ATTRACTION, WITH "THE"
46. EMCEE

48. "COMPRENDE?"
49. ACQUIESCE
51. ROLLER ___
55. PLYWOOD LAYER
57. EVENT ATTENDED BY CINDERELLA
58. "___ WE HAVING FUN YET?"
59. "GLADIATOR" SETTING
60. SAILBOAT WITH TWIN HULLS
62. LOCATED IN A SPECIFIC PLACE
63. ASSIST, IN A WAY
64. ONE TEASPOON, MAYBE
65. CANTANKEROUS
66. "___ #1!" (CONTRACTION)
67. HASENPFEFFER, E.G.

- DOWN
1. BADDIES
2. RECEIVE
3. BIG DIPPER
4. "CHICAGO" LYRICIST
5. FROZEN IN
6. ASSASSINATED
7. AMOUNT TO MAKE DO WITH
8. LIZARD, OLD-STYLE
9. MESSENGER OF GOD ARCHANGEL
10. BROADCASTING (HYPHENATED)
11. CUSHION INSIDE SHOE
12. "DARN IT!"

13. OVERABUNDANCE
18. STAGE ITEM
22. FIRST NAME?
24. BATTER'S POSITION
25. COLD SHOWER?
27. RESTRICT
29. AIRY
30. STRONG FIBER
31. MOSQUE V.I.P.
32. BARELY BEAT, WITH "OUT"
33. CLICKERS
34. COME TO MIND
36. WOMEN, SLANG
39. BARREN
42. FILAMENTOUS
44. CAMELOT, TO ARTHUR
47. "___ THE FIELDS WE GO"
50. "THE MAIDS" PLAYWRIGHT
51. HANDLE THE FOOD FOR A PARTY
52. DIVINATION DECK
53. CLEAR, AS A DISK
54. EXTEND, IN A WAY
55. GIGANTIC
56. ASHTABULA'S LAKE
57. HONEY
60. AVIARY SOUND
61. INFOMERCIALS, E.G.

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								66						

COMMUNITY EVENTS

HUMANE SOCIETY OF ELKHART COUNTY VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATION MEETING

The Humane Society of Elkhart County Volunteer Association will meet Tuesday, August 7, at 6:30 pm in the Education Room of the Humane Shelter, 54687 County Road 19, Bristol.

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

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

HUMANE SOCIETY OF ELKHART COUNTY DOG WASH FUNDRAISER

Monday, August 13

6:00 – 8:00 pm

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

Minimum Donation for dog wash: \$5.00 per dog

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

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

Call 848-4225 or web site www.elkharthumanesociety.org

PET TOE NAIL TRIM FUNDRAISER

The Humane Society of Elkhart County

Monday, August 13, 3:30 - 5:30 pm

Pet toe nail trims provided for a \$7 donation.

Proceeds to benefit The Humane Society of Elkhart County

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

The Humane Shelter at 848-4225

www.elkharthumanesociety.org

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*Are we heading into
another dog day summer?*

It's just around the corner... the soft warm breezes whisper of a very hot summer ahead. Are you ready? The winter thaw has taken us to Spring's doorstep so don't delay in making sure your comfort isn't compromised.

*We all want to feel cool and comfortable
in the Summer months...*

Let A Good Neighbor check/service your central air system this year! Your comfort is our top priority! Save your sweat for working out and when you're finished we can make sure that you cool down with a cool and responsive system! Let us keep you feeling dry and confident that your home will feel just the way you want it to - when you want it to.

No one wants to turn down the thermostat only to find that the A/C won't kick on. Having your A/C serviced on a regular basis is key... we can make it super easy for you with a annual service agreement! Why have one more thing on your plate to remember? We will make the maintenance of your A/C super simple for you. Give us a call!

*It's much too important
to take for granted.
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do it for your family!*



We take pride in our work. We've been in the heating & cooling business all of our lives ... our company is the third generation to pick up the reins and go forward with what our father and our grandfather established. We love what we do, we are passionate about it and we hope it reflects in our work and how we communicate with our customers.

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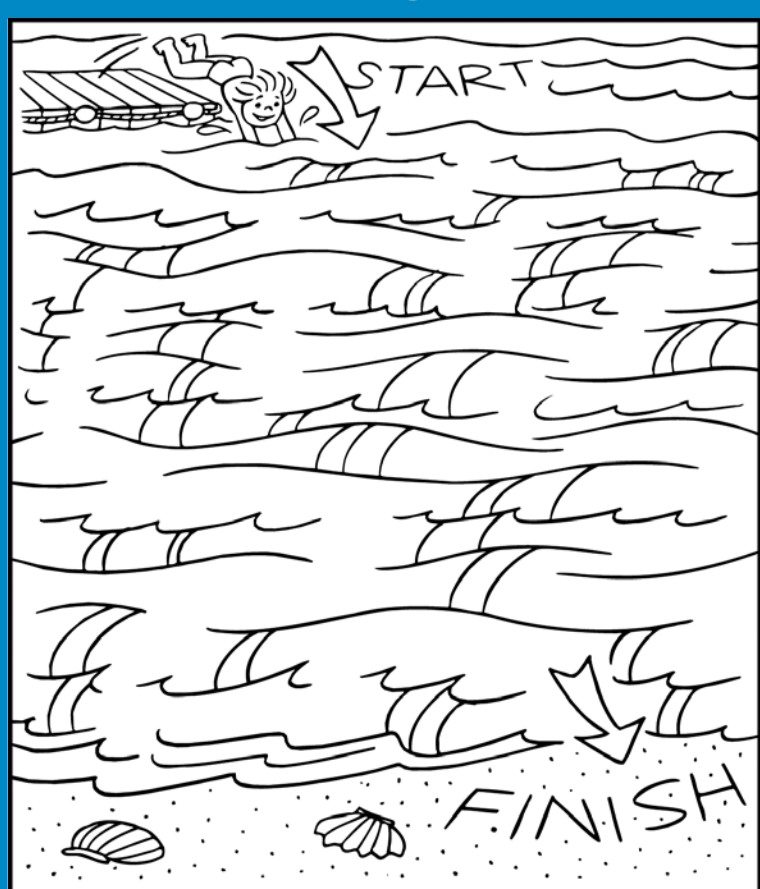
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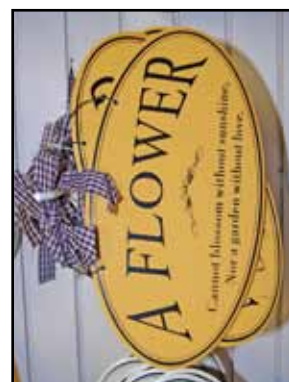
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DESTRI OF NOCHAM[©]



A GLOSSARY FOR THE STORYLINE "DESTRI OF NOCHAM" CAN BE FOUND ONLINE
@ www.agoodneighbornews.com

by Brenda Dwyer[©]

Naomii's soft lilt was drifting in and out. She felt bathed in comfort as she once did as a babe in her mother's arms. There was another sound she couldn't quite discern. A loud and demanding clap, clap, clap that sounded like the distinctive hooves of a Nutaln or possibly the strong muscled movement of the Sembit. It all felt so distant and yet closer than her own breath. Someone was calling her name ... beckoning to her to leave this shroud she felt almost smothered by. Her heart beat faster, her lungs took in quick, yet labored breathes and burned as though they were filled with fire. Her eyes opened and just as she was trying to assimilate the scene before her a Marven was upon her, lifting her upward in one sudden swoop. As her eyes fell upon the place she had just been

plucked from, Destri saw her lumpsh laying upon the knoll and immediately snapped out of her stupor and was fully alert. She cried for the Marven to return her to the knoll to retrieve her sacred parcel. A hovel mist was creeping over the land and there was no time to waste. Destri knew the mist could overtake them and bring the war to a fevered pitch. Once her lumpsh was safely back at her side, Destri clung to the back of the Marven as its great wings sent her sailing through the damp air. The Nutaln could be seen just behind the Sembits as they advanced upon the Odei. The Odei were now outnumbered and some were even retreating in the distance. Destri didn't want even one to escape - she knew if they were allowed to make it back they would breed with a new hatred. Destri made her way back to the Marvf that

had been constructed by Birash to house the injured and house rations for the weary. It had been used to assemble the leaders of the tribes that were fighting for Nocham and it served them well. The Quirx and the Scriptan were there and Destri beseeched them to call down their nesra to emblain those who were trying to escape; if it were determined later to be beneficial to abranze them then the final cost of all of this carnage might bear blessings for their future. Terzin entwined herself around Destri's leg and slowly snaked upwards to her neck. There was an instantaneous bolt of strength that riveted Destri's small body as she hears the news firsthand from Tamdar that Hangnar has requested a meeting with the Quoia. The vientcei move in.

BEHIND DREAM'S DOORS

by Brenda Luczek

As a wife, mother, teacher, nurse and friends, my life is full and I am grateful for the freedom to think, write and dream.

As a lover of words, to read the WORD and reflect upon God's loving heart and magnificent creative energy brings many thoughts and reelections. To put those reflections into a form of interpretative poetry has been a thirteen-year journey.

YES! We were created by unique design with a specific plan and purpose in mind. We fulfill the need of a personal, loving Father to have children to share the great gift of life with.

WHAT DOES GOD DREAM?

The earth, sun and the skies
Were all dreams
Hidden within my heart and eyes
Of the time you would walk with me

Sweet summer days of birth
When my glorious soft earth
Would yield to life
Come forth grasses green
And the scent of velvet flowers

I saw it all and called it to being
A gushing birth of color
And set in motion
All elements to sustain my vision



Species of animals
Dancing in my mind
Came prancing
As I called out:
"Come to Life"



My joy could not be contained
As I then thought of your name
Brought forth of
Clay and earth, my Adam

Oh, my son, my son
And daughter tender
Dressed in the robes of a queen
With rings of gold
About your ears and throat

How I reveled in your beauty
All glorious in your chamber
Of garden roses
Heavy with the scent of new wine

You are mine!
And I am yours!
One day to meet
Face to face

All revealed in one embrace

Gen. 1:1-2

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the Earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters."

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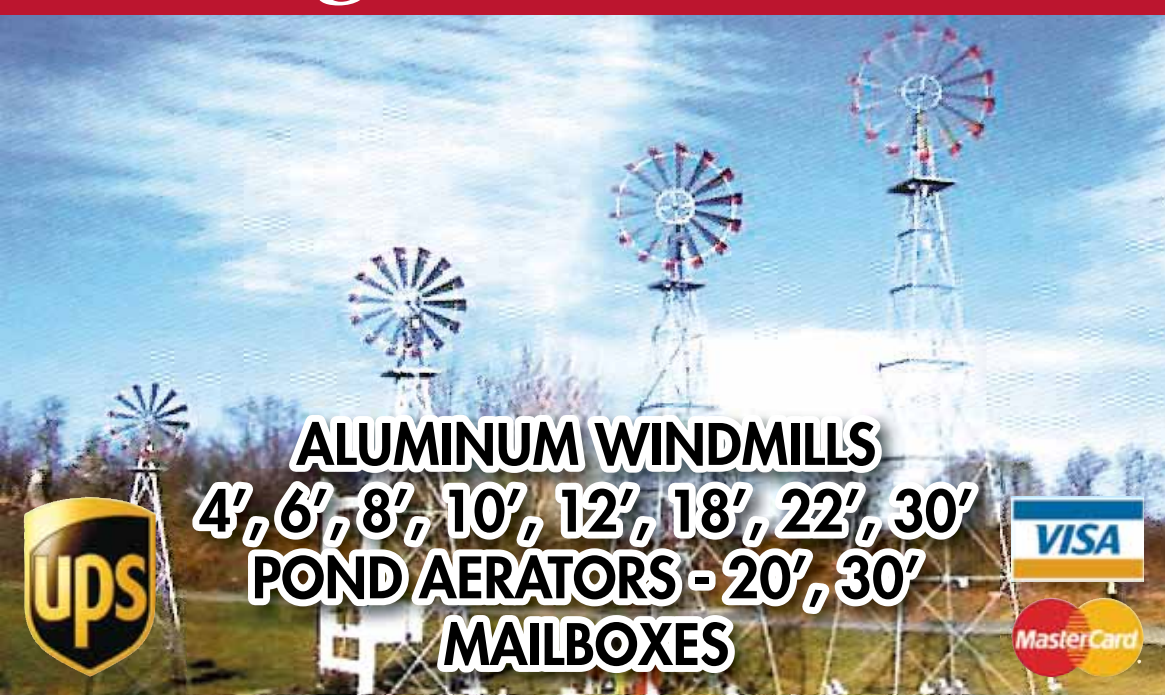
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DOUBLE VISION

CONTINUED FROM PG 2

nately, every tricycle that they had tried up to this point was just a little too big for them and they couldn't quite reach the pedals. I remembered my neighbor once telling me that her girls could actually reach the pedals to the 12" bikes before they could reach tricycle pedals. So when I saw some little 12" bikes on sale at Walmart, just before Christmas, I gave the tricycles a second thought.

I realized that if my neighbor was right, my kids would have much more fun riding these little bikes with all their friends on our street than they would the little tricycles that we'd picked out for them. So we got the kids their very first set of bikes.

First of all, this was a moment for me. Sentimental thoughts ran through my head about how they were just babies not long ago and still sometimes feel like that to me. Surely MY babies weren't big enough to be on bikes yet, were they?! Secondly, I remembered back about getting my first bike. I'm not positive but I think it was somewhere around 2nd or 3rd grade. And I remember being so ecstatic about feeling like such a big kid. I could imagine my 2 year olds excitement would be much the same.

They received their bikes on Christmas morning, and much like I expected, they were excited and very curious about them. However, also much like I expected, they couldn't quite reach the pedals. I'd figured they would have to grow into the bikes still, but hopefully they would be able to ride them sooner than the tricycles.

So through the months of January and February, as the weather allowed, I spent many days bundled up outside with the kids trying to teach them to ride a bike. They were so excited and content just to sit on the bikes at first and pretend they were riding. As time went on, they had grown a little less enthusiastic about simply sitting on the bikes, so I encouraged them to pedal. I realized quickly that they didn't know what it means to pedal. And thus came another encounter with perseverance.

I hunched over, grabbed Grady's feet and the pedals they were sitting on and worked them around and around and around in a circle, talking to him about out we push and pull back with the balls of our feet. Over and over and over. Then, just when I would think my back was starting to strain from bending over, it was Karli's turn. So I'd grab her feet and the pedals they were sitting on and I'd work them around and around and around in a circle, talking to her about the same motion I'd spoken about with Grady. When my back couldn't take it



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CONTINUED TO 16

THE MEMORY BANK

by Bill Raybuck

Summer is here, and so is the heat. I can't be sure, but just the other day, it was so hot, I think I saw a sparrow burst into flames midflight. I'm sitting behind the desk typing this right now and I'm dreading getting into my car after work. Black leather interior sure looks nice, but the scalding and ensuing scars tend to make you a little cautious. We all have our ways to beat the heat; some will hit the beaches and spend the day in and out of the water, while others will sit in the shade sipping ice cold drinks, and fanning themselves. I guess I'm just old fashioned, I prefer to run

in from the heat, crank the a/c and turn on the ceiling fan. I think back to when I was a kid before central air conditioning... Remember the old window fans? They had expanding sides to fill your window, and all you had to do was lower the window down on top of it to hold it in place. Let me tell you the same thing I told my Dad when he pulled them out of the closet for another season of use... 'They don't do anything'. There's nothing worse than being hot, and having hot air blown on you. On more than one occasion, I laid awake, miserable from the humidity, and prayed for a shower just so the

temperature would drop. Being the youngest of three kids, and the only boy, I would always trail Dad as he did his various summer tasks. He'd joke with me and say that the heat made you grow. Looking back, I believed him at the time... now, standing at a whopping 5'6"... I clearly see I was misled. The memories made in our lives cover all seasons, but somehow summer comes in at the top for me. What's your favorite summer memory? What memories are you planning for this year? Whatever they may be, I wish you happiness, and may your "bank" be overflowing.



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DOUBLE VISION

CONTINUED FROM PG 10

any more, I'd hear Grady say "Again, please, Mommy." And you can imagine, the cycle continued. Minute after minute. Day after day. Week after week.

By the middle of March, when the weather started getting nicer and we were spending more time outside, I was starting to think that maybe I'd made the wrong decision. Maybe the kids just didn't have the motor skills at 2 1/2 years old to pedal those bikes. Or maybe they would have been able to reach the tricycle pedals by now. Maybe they're just not going to grow quite tall enough to reach the pedals to ride the bikes this spring and summer. They just weren't quite able to get it and my back was feeling it.

About that time, my husband and I went to an event with his family in Texas and left the kids with my parents for about 5 days. When we returned home with them, the first thing I noticed was that my children looked taller than when I'd last seen them. I really think they'd had a growth spurt while I was away. The first thing they noticed was their

bikes. They wanted to ride (be pushed around on) their beloved bikes that they'd missed for 5 whole days. Though we'd done it a hundred times, I didn't mind a bit. I'd missed the kids and was excited to play with them again.

To my surprise, Grady jumped on his bike and within minutes, he was pushing those pedals around like he'd been doing this for months. All by himself. I was thrilled. The next day, Karli was riding all by HERself. They had grown and I knew that was a large part of their success...just being a smidge taller made a big difference. But I also think that they just got the hang of it. Whatever it was, something clicked for both of them and I was a happy mom. I was getting to enjoy a few minutes of relax time every day while they happily practiced riding their bikes around and around, all by themselves.

In reality, it didn't take that long for them to ride their bikes. But in the middle of the back-breaking work, it's easy to question whether the cost is worth the outcome. Fortunately this time, it was.

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