

**Eric Baker**  
Estill County Extension  
Agent for Agriculture  
& Natural Resources

One of the last garden chores of the season is preparing our strawberry plants for winter. Strawberry plants have already set their buds for next spring's flowers and the crop can be lost unless you protect them from harsh winter conditions.

A fully dormant strawberry plant's flower buds can be damaged at temperatures below 15 degrees Fahrenheit.

# Winter Care For Strawberry Plants

In addition to flower bud damage, the alternate freezing and thawing of the soil that commonly occurs in winter and early spring can cause plant roots to break and the plants to be heaved right out of the ground.

Mulching strawberry plants will insulate them from extreme low temperatures, minimize soil heaving and decrease excessive drying (desiccation) of the plant crowns. But be sure to wait until plants are dormant before you pile on the mulch. Applying mulch too early can cause the crown of the plant to rot. Plants should be mulched before the temperature drops below 20 degrees Fahrenheit.

Several materials can be used for winter mulch, including clean (weed-free) straw, chopped cornstalks, hay, corn cobs or bark chips. Tree leaves and grass clippings are not recommended, since they tend to mat down

and smother the plants. About 2-3 inches of mulch, after settling, should provide adequate protection. This is a great use for those fall decorator straw bales.

Put a note on your garden calendar to uncover the plants in spring as new growth begins. Rake off most of the mulch as soon as the first new leaves develop. The new growth will probably look a little yellow at first but will green up with expo-

sure to light. Rake the mulch between the rows to provide weed control and a source of emergency cover in case frost threatens. Mulching around the plants will also help keep the berries clean.

For more information, contact the Estill County Extension Office at 723-4557.

*Educational programs of the Cooperative Extension Service serve all people regardless of race, color, age, sex, religion, disability or national origin.*



**Christmas in Riga, Latvia**

In 1510 in Riga, the capital of Latvia, the local Order of the Blackheads (a guild for unmarried merchants) set a pine tree in the town square on Christmas Eve. It was laden with candles, fruit, nuts and paper flowers, and young men and women sang and danced around it, and at the end the tree was set ablaze. Riga celebrates its heritage as the "birthplace" of the decorated Christmas tree with a colorful market in the town square, selling sausage, sauerkraut, potatoes and meat pies with Black Balsam, a traditional Latvian herbal liqueur.

Source: www.ferretingoutthefun.com

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**Ashton Rose killed his first deer on Saturday, December 12, 2015, during muzzle load season.**



**Josh Bingham with a great buck!**

## Wanderings from the Woods & Water

by **Jay Bicknell**  
CorridorHR@Gmail.Com



## A Phone Call Away

My love of the outdoors began at an early age. It all started when I bought my first pointer bird dog by the name of Jake. It's no coincidence my first born son is named Jake. The big, hard-charging pointer fueled my desire to be outdoors in God's AWESOME creation. Fast forward 25-30 years and my business keeps me outdoors a lot! My office these days consists of woods and water. My work requires me to be out in the woods all day. I am truly blessed to own a business that allows me to be out in God's creation.

To get to our work site you go to the middle of nowhere and take a right! Cell phone service is non-existent where we are working. I leave out when it's dark and get home when it's dark. I am pretty sure the road into the work site is an old wagon trail that just got black topped.

I have been spending a lot of hours away from my family. It might sound nuts but I miss my wife and kids something crazy every day. I know I will see them when I get home, but there are a lot of times I just want to call to hear their voice and tell them how much I love them. I want them to know how much they mean to me. I have no cell service so I can't call and talk to them.

No cell service got me to thinking about who always has service and is always ready to talk. Jesus always has service and is ready to hear from you. He is our Hightower on call 24/7, 365 days/week.

I will be the first to admit I am guilty of not talking to Him enough. I don't let Jesus know

enough how much I love him! How much he means to me and how much I love hearing His voice. I don't tell Him enough how thankful I am for all the blessings He has bestowed upon me. Without Him I am nothing. Without Him I have no column!

I am challenging you from this point on to talk more to Jesus. Seek to hear His voice. Spend time just giving Him praise. Always praise Him in the storms, because the storms are preparing you for something great.

If you don't know Jesus, I highly recommend you get to know Him. When everyone else abandons you He will be there. When your house is built on the Rock the storms of life will not wash you out to sea.

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**  
*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

Until next week, get out and enjoy God's creation!



*Gifts of the Spirit*  
Gifts are not always material. My father was an artist and loved nature. He painted many pictures of birds and other nature scenes. And that is a gift he passed on to me, a love for birds and nature. For that, I am grateful. Holiday greetings to you all!

E-mail: birdingbits@cfl.rr.com  
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## Stickeler's Puzzle

**STICKELERS** [sic]  
by Terry Stickels

Here's an alphabetic dedicated to brainteasers of all kinds. Remember, no word can begin with a zero.

**BRAIN**      Let A = 5  
**+ GAMES**    B = 7  
**TEASER**      N = 6

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**Stickeler's Answer on Page 11**

## Wishing Well®

5	8	6	3	8	4	6	4	8	6	2		
G	Y	S	J	O	U	W	N	U	E	F	E	B
4	6	5	7	8	2	7	6	4	2	6	3	4
X	E	L	Y	I	E	O	T	P	R	S	O	E
6	8	4	2	5	4	3	5	6	3	2	4	6
U	N	C	E	O	T	Y	R	C	F	A	E	C
7	3	4	6	3	4	8	4	6	7	2	4	8
U	R	D	E	O	H	A	O	S	H	S	N	L
7	2	5	6	4	3	4	3	5	3	2	8	3
A	O	I	S	O	M	R	P	O	E	N	L	T
5	3	8	5	2	7	2	8	7	2	7	2	7
U	S	Y	S	A	V	B	B	E	L	O	E	P
8	5	7	8	5	7	8	7	8	7	5	8	7
E	D	T	L	A	I	O	O	N	N	Y	G	S

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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## CryptoQuip

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

Clue: Y equals L

QEVK J UVJXWARXY QSHJK  
OVHSVD NSXO RJTAJY DWXUUYV,  
NSX TSXYP DJN NSX QVOV  
DEJIVP UN WEV UVYYV.

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## CryptoQuote

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each week the code letters are different.

HM'E WUU DHBTM MA  
TWFC W MDWHI AV  
MTAGBTME HV NAG TWFC  
W MCDKHIWU.  
- GISCDMWHI EAGDSC

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# Puzzle Answers

December 16, 2015

## Puzzles4Kids

Answer

What happened when Santa got a sore throat before Christmas?

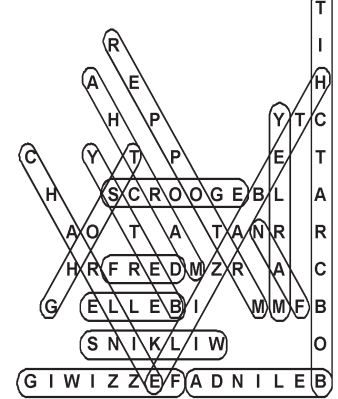
He had to have his tinsels taken out.

## Letter Box

Solution

L	H	A	N	E	O	I	C	G
N	C	I	L	G	H	A	E	O
E	O	G	A	C	I	L	H	N
A	G	H	O	N	E	C	L	I
C	N	E	I	L	G	H	O	A
O	I	L	C	H	A	N	G	E
I	L	C	E	O	N	G	A	H
G	E	N	H	A	L	O	I	C
H	A	O	G	I	C	E	N	L

## CHARACTERS FROM A CHRISTMAS CAROL



## CryptoQuip

answer

When a beautiful woman removes your facial stubble, you could say you were shaved by the belle.

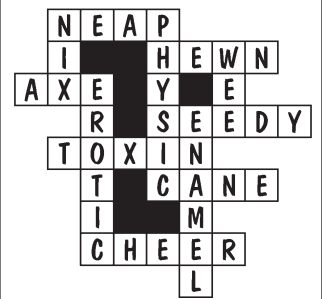
## CryptoQuote

answer

It's all right to have a train of thoughts if you have a terminal.  
- Uncertain source

## FEAR & KNIGHT

answer



## Even Exchange

Donna M. Pettman

- Grand, Gland
- Winter, Winner
- Appear, Appeal
- Peach, Poach
- Throb, Throw
- Banker, Barker
- Ellis, Elvis
- Sailor, Tailor
- Loner, Loser
- Nanny, Nancy

## Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

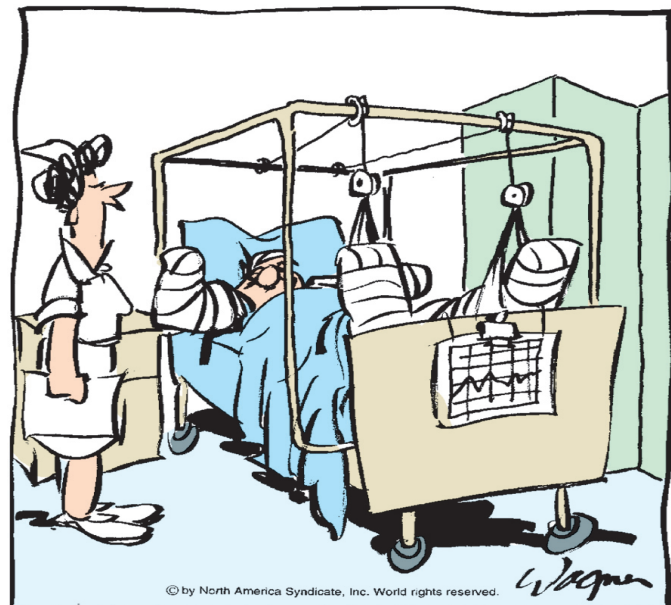
## King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

## GRIN and BEAR IT



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"Your wife says don't worry, she'll finish the Christmas decorations."

**Bible Trivia Answers**  
Casey's trivia book "Know It? ... or Not?" is available from BearManorMedia.com

**ANSWERS (1) New:**  
Shepherds; (5) House; (4) Micah; (3) Isaiah; (6) Egypt