

FFA members win wildlife contest

ELVERSON - Four members of the Twin Valley Chapter FFA entered the Berks-Lancaster County FFA Wildlife Management Contest at the Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area recently. As a team they placed first, over all other teams. Individually they placed as follows: Henry Ramsay -second; Keith Kurtz-third; Martin Miller -fourth; and Brett Strough -sixth.

This contest required participants to identify such things as various wildlife foods, including seeds of plants, insects, and tree species. Tracks of common

Pennsylvania birds and animals were identified. A written test on wildlife management was also given. Contestants had to identify the calls of 10 birds. One portion of the contest involved the identification of wildlife signs, including animal fur, hair, feathers, scat, gnawings, and rubbings. A habitat evaluation portion of the contest involved determining which species of wildlife were best suited to a particular habitat, and how a wildlife habitat could be improved.

The contest is designed to increase the students awareness of his en-

vironment as it relates in wildlife. It is directly related to classroom instruction in wildlife management and forestry.

Celery Rounds

Wash and dry two perfect stalks of celery. Fill with any cream cheese filling and press together. Wrap tightly in wax paper and chill. Cut in one-half inch slices and place on rounds of buttered brown bread.

Forest fire crew hosts open house

Members of The Lancaster Forest Fire Crew will celebrate their Anniversary with a three - phased event on Saturday, November 11.

The first activity of the day will be a Public Open House at The Fort Holbrook Fire Base, home station of the unit, from two to five p.m. Visitors to the Station during the Open House, will find a small shop, public picnic area, mini-museum, communications and research offices and library, the fire chiefs residence furnished in antiques, many pre-dating civil war, and the motor pool which is being reduced in size and scope due to financial difficulties. A nearby fire trail will be shown as recommended for woodland owners for pre-need fire protection and emergency access, and permits short family hikes.

The second event of the day will be a banquet program at the Civic Center in Washington Boro, with a Family Style Roast Beef Dinner served by the ladies auxiliary of The Goodwill Fire Company of Washington Boro. The banquet will include the annual awards program, and announcing the Young Person of The Year and the Family of The Year as well as the units Outstanding Service Award. Master of Ceremonies for the Banquet Program will be Stephen J. Cummings, of Highville, who is founder and fire chief of the organization. The

Banquet Program is limited to advance reservations.

The third phase of the day-long activities will be a birthday party for forest fire crew members and their guests, in the Ward Room at The Fort Holbrook Fire Base, later in the evening.

Chairman of the birthday party event is Jere J. Gibson of Millersville.

General Chairman for the Anniversary Activities is Brent Thomas of Manheim, who is Assistant Fire Chief of the resource protection organization.



On being a farm wife

-And other hazards

By JOYCE BUPP

A "welcome rug" rests inside our front door. Its name is "Benedict Arnold," because it turned traitor on me.

Once striped in assorted bright colors, the fading and tattered relic greets the muddied, wet feet of farmers, children, visitors and the occasional cat that sneaks into the house.

During blustery Winter nights, I shove the rug against the crack below the door to fend off feet-chilling drafts. Rich uses it for pretend fields when planting imaginary farms with his toy machinery.

That rug had always been considered a faithful household friend and helper.

I picked it up one afternoon last week to shake and straighten it. From beneath its cushiony softness slithered a snake.

A SNAKE!
From my lips escaped a squeal that would've done justice to a sow calling her litter. And as I dove into the closet for a broom, all ten

inches of the surprise visitor side-winded toward the front door.

Shoving the door open, I watched the giant reptile wiggle onto the cement porch and take refuge under a broken cinder block that happened to be there.

Hoping this character was just the harmless milk snake I thought it was - and not a dangerous copperhead which it very much resembles - I left Patty keeping an eye on the little friend and scouted up a bucket.

We maneuvered Mr. Snake (or was it Mrs. - we forgot to look) into the bucket and carried him to the field. To our delight, and obviously to his relief as well, he promptly disappeared.

As we turned to leave the field, I fell into a groundhog hole.

Do you suppose they make "unwelcome rugs," just in case our guest was the frontrunner for a family reunion?

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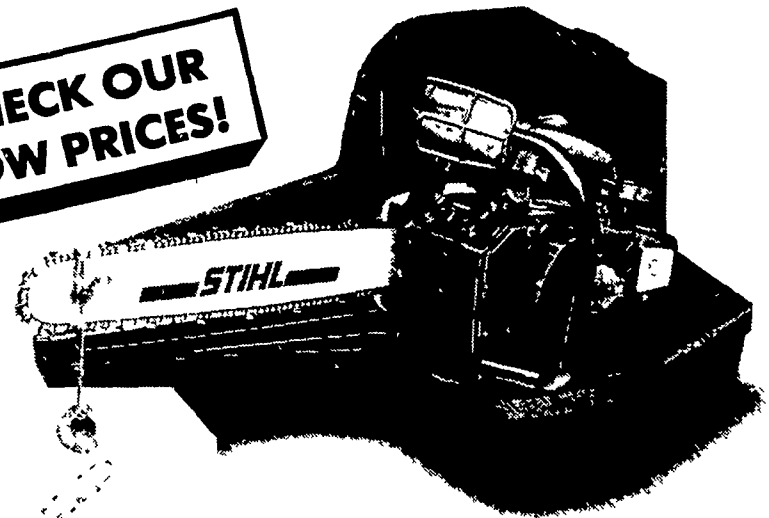
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