

Kids Korner



From left, Joel, Anna, and Vince Gilbert show off their 4-H projects.

4-H Family Likes Hands-On Projects

DAVE LEFEVER
Lancaster Farming Staff
YORK SPRINGS (Adams Co.) — The Gilbert kids enjoy putting things together.

Vince, 16, and Joel, 14, have been building rockets ever since they joined 4-H as elementary school students.

Anna, 9, is in the 4-H sewing club and recently finished her first skirt.

Vince and Joel plan to enter their rockets at the Pennsylvania Farm Show in January. Anna is also considering taking the skirt she made.

Vince has had a winning streak with his rockets ever since he began showing them at the South Mountain Fair eight years ago.

The rocket shown on the picture is a guided missile that won first place at both the South Mountain Fair and the Farm Show two years ago.

Joel's rocket is a Star Destroyer, modeled after the one in the Star Wars movie.

Vince said that the rockets are equipped with motors that blast them high into the sky.

It's important to have plenty of open space around the area the rockets are launched, he said.

Each rocket is equipped with a parachute. If the parachute is working properly, it will open as the rocket descends to provide a soft landing.

Once, a parachute failed to open and caused one of his rockets to be damaged from a hard landing, Vince said.

Either way, the used-up rocket motor must be replaced after each flight before the rocket can fly again.

Success in rocket competitions depends on how well the rocket was put together and painted, and on attention to details such as sanding the fins for smoothness, Vince said.

Besides his 4-H rocket projects, younger brother Joel also shows market lambs at the South Mountain Fair. He has won the award for showmanship several times, including his first time showing as a 3rd grader and this year as an 8th grader.

The brothers have also been involved in various other building projects.

One of them was a parade float

based on the flying escape vehicle featured in the animated movie Chicken Run.

Vince said he worked with his father to build the float, a major project.

"It gets stressful when you're getting close to the parade (time) and don't have it done yet," he said.

Their hard work paid off, with the float winning first place in the New Oxford parade and second place at Dillsburg.

Vince, Joel, and Anna are the children of James and Elaine Gilbert, York Springs. They attend school in the Bermudian Springs District.

Their parents have played a big part in encouraging their interests.

Elaine is a substitute teacher and volunteer in many organizations, including 4-H. She is a leader in Anna's 4-H sewing club.

James was the first to fuel his sons' interest in rocketry and in building things.

Projects done together as a family include picking and selling red raspberries from a large patch grown on their 20-acre farm.

Smart Stuff

with Twig Walkingstick



Dear Twig: What can we do with our old Christmas tree besides throw it away?

There's a lot you can do with an old Christmas tree, assuming it's real, not artificial. Artificial Christmas trees aren't thrown away unless they're neon pink.

For starters, you can use it to shelter wildlife. Tie it to a pole or stake, maybe near a bird feeder. Or throw it on a brush pile or into a corner of your yard. Birds and rabbits will find it. They'll hide there out of the cold and wind. The needles may even stay green until spring.

Fish can use old Christmas trees, too. Sink the trees in a pond or lake, weighed down with, say, cinder blocks. Small fish will hide there from big fish. They'll get to grow into big fish, too (and will try to catch small fish, who will hide in old Christmas trees, etc.)

Some cities gather and recycle old Christmas trees. They grind them into wood chips for mulching plants. You can also cut off the branches yourself and lay them on flowerbeds for protection in winter. Then, in summer, use the trunk to stake bean or pea plants.

Recycling old Christmas trees, however it's done, cuts waste, takes creativity, and helps the environment. All those things, of course, are gifts.

Twig



The Ohio State University, College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences

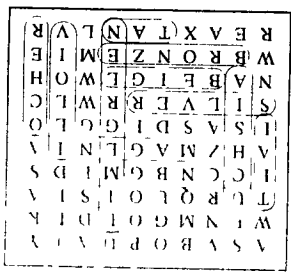
SEEK AND FIND

FIND THESE WORDS IN THE PUZZLE BELOW.

- | | | |
|---------|------------|-----------|
| BEIGE | LIME GREEN | TAN |
| BRONZE | MAGENTA | TEAL |
| FUCHSIA | OCHEP | TURQUOISE |
| GOLD | SILVER | VIOLET |

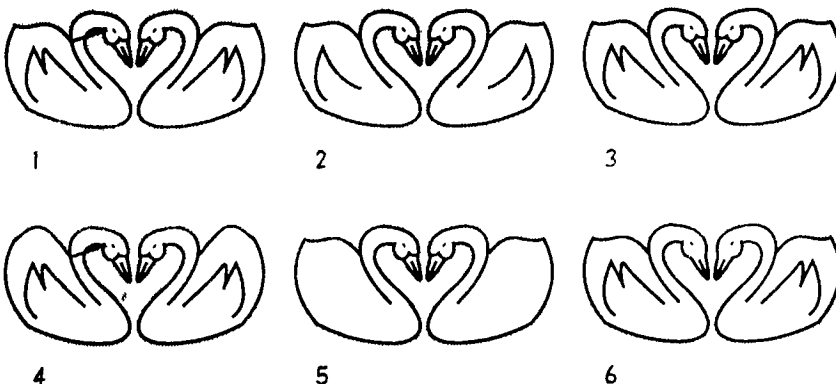
THE WORDS READ UP, DOWN AND ACROSS.

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



FIND THE TWINS

WHICH TWO ARE EXACTLY ALIKE?



ANSWER ONE AND THREE

