

# Auction To Benefit Birth Center

QUARRYVILLE (Lancaster Co.) — Birth Care and Family Health Services will conduct its 11th Annual Benefit Auction on Saturday, June 7 at The Hoffman Building, Solanco Fairgrounds, located on route 472 in Quarryville.

Preview with free coffee and donuts is from 8 to 8:30 a.m., with the auction from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Featured at the sale are a washing machine, quilts and wallhangings, oak and pine furniture, housewares, crafts, toys, tools, lawn furniture, trampoline, riding lawn mowers, manure spreader, swing set, mini-shed, run-in open shed, large summer glider, and playhouse. Pictures of selected items can be seen on the

at some place of frequent sitting. Perhaps it was the back of the driver's seat of one of the silage trucks, or maybe a tractor seat frame losing its cushioning foam.

Damage on another pair looked all too familiar, scattered holes of various sizes all up and down the front of a right pant leg. Welding fallout, no doubt, tiny sparks landing on denim fabric with enough heat to slightly burn the threads. (And, occasionally, the skin beneath.) After a couple of launderings, brushing against cows, handling straw bales, etc., the weakened fabric begins falling apart into real holes. Which require a real big patch to encompass the widespread area of wear-and-tear in one fell swoop.

Whipped off the pile quickly and back into a storage drawer were a couple of pairs on which a prior patch had merely come loose, probably stitched too close to the edge to resist the overtures of a broken door hinge. A couple of easy ones like that are a morale booster partway through this tedious job.

Time ran out before I even got to the work shirts suffering from three-corner-tear visits with protruding nails, zippers trashed on otherwise-sturdy thermal sweat-shirts, or workshirt minus buttons seemingly put on them for one-time use. And, I was ready to quit anyway, after finding two pairs of jeans with those dreaded rips in the fabric next to the zipper seams.

Those are enough to make you tear your hair out. Which, I suppose, could be considered just one more ripoff.

Website at [www.davidreed.com](http://www.davidreed.com). Information can be obtained by calling the Birth Center at (717) 786-4010 or (717) 786-5506.

Food is cooked on-site and free children's activities will occur throughout the day. Clowns will perform balloon art from 9 a.m. to noon. The day also includes children's barrel train, face painting, and horse and wagon rides.

Birth Care is a non-profit Midwifery Birth and Women's Health Care and Birth Center. Births are offered at the licensed Birth Center, at home, and in hospital.

Care at the birth center is provided by licensed certified nurse-midwives who combine natural childbirth services, advice in herbal supplements, and traditional western medical practices into a full range of normal pregnancy services. A physician is available for consultation and hospital transfers are provided when needed.

In addition to prenatal care, childbirth classes, labor and delivery services, and postpartum and newborn care, the nurse-midwives also provide normal gynecological care. Birth Care is one of the few locations in Lancaster County that participates in the federal Healthy Woman 50+ program where women who are aged 50 and older can receive free annual pap smears and breast exams.

Proceeds from the benefit auction subsidize care for families in need, patients without insurance, and the birth center's Christian ministry to crisis pregnancies.

## Two To Compete At Franklin County Pageant

MERCERSBURG (Franklin Co.) — Two contestants will compete for the Franklin County Dairy Princess title on June 7, 7 p.m., at the Lighthouse Restaurant, Chambersburg.

Contestants are Emily Grove, 19, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Grove, Shippensburg; and Rebecca Brake, 19, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Brake, Mercersburg.

Dinner reservations must be made by June 2. To reserve, call the Franklin County extension office (717) 263-9226.

Sure, it would be a lot easier to just pitch the pants. But farmers, or at least the one I mend for, go through a lot of jeans. Plus, rips and holes materialize often long before the sturdy denims are even close to being worn out. With farm commodity prices on the skids for months and farm milk prices at a 25-year low, sheer economics demands that "holey jeans" with reuse potential be transformed back into wearables.

Contemplating the size and location of some of the rips and tears, one wonders who the wearer managed to come away without bodily injuries. At the very least of the jeans gaps and gouges pose great possibility for draftiness and even potential embarrassment.

One large-scale, three-corner rip turned up recently in an almost-new pair of jeans, a 4x6-inch flap halted only by the reinforcement of a back pocket. This rather massive destruction in the seat area must have come from the grabby clutches of a sturdy piece of steel. My imagination can hear the ripping sound as the fabric gave way to a jagged edge of some piece of farm equipment or business end of a quarter-inch bolt.

A smattering of ragged small holes in the back of another pair, all located above and between the back pockets, hint of rough metal

## On Being a Farm Wife

(and other hazards)

Joyce Bupp



What a ripoff.

Some days, around here, that's all this farming profession seems to be.

If you don't believe that, come lend me a hand tackling the mountain of ripped-up farming garb and gear piled up at the sewing machine. The mending piles up, like the junk recently tackled in the attic, because on a scale of jobs to do, it's somewhere out there at about 9 on a scale of one to ten.

That's because a myriad of rip-off instigators lie stealthily in wait, threatening to attack at every step The Farmer takes around here. Result is that practically every laundry load of scruffy work clothes turns up more fodder for the ripped-off pile.

Mending jeans is a challenge because there is just no easy way to patch a ragged hole way down in the knee of a narrow, heavy-fabric, pant leg. A patch must be cut, temporarily pinned fast and then the pantleg wiggled and worked onto the sewing machine where the needle can access it. Or, the entire side seam must be ripped open, allowing better maneuverability, but necessitating additional ripoff as part of the job. A new sewing machine purchased a couple of years ago eases the task a little bit, because of its design, but patching pants is still grunt work.

It's also a painful endeavor. In the ripoff repair process, I inevitably end up with several straight-pin punctures and at least one ripped-off fingernail.

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