

Don't feed food scraps to the family pets

As people leave the holiday tables still laden with food, there may be a great temptation to share some tidbits of the feast with the family dog or cat. While the SPCA of Luzerne County urges all people to remember their animals with a treat on that special day, it is important to offer foods that are not harmful.

Excessive amounts of poultry or poultry fat can be very hard to digest and cause intestinal upset. Some animals may even develop allergic reactions to foods they are not accustomed to eating.

Poultry bones are especially dangerous as they are quite brittle. They can splinter and pierce an

internal organ of a dog or cat, causing serious damage or even death.

String or twine used to truss poultry should be disposed of carefully since the aroma and flavor on the twine may be appealing to an animal and if it is ingested, it can cause serious internal problems.

Poultry bones, twine and scraps should be wrapped and discarded in animal-proof containers. Attention should also be paid to outdoor waste receptacles, which will surely attract raccoons and other midnight visitors if the lids are not secure.

Please make sure that the animals can enjoy the holiday by feeding them with care.

VA Hotline established

The Veterans Administration has inaugurated a special toll-free telephone information hotline for former prisoners of war, according to S.W. Melidosian, director of the Philadelphia VA Regional Office and Insurance Center.

The hotline has been established for ex-POW's to inform the VA if they feel they are not being recognized as ex-POW's at VA medical centers or regional offices, or if they feel their treatment is not consistent with the intent of the Prisoners of War Health Care Bene-

fits Act of 1981.

The Act broadened VA's authority to provide health care for ex-POW's and also liberalized rules for determining whether certain medical conditions can be considered service-connected.

The 24-hour toll-free number, 800-821-8139, is available to over 93,000 ex-POW's nationwide, and will be staffed by a select group of POW specialists from the Washington, D.C., regional office during regular business hours (8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. EST).



Future nurses

Wilkes-Barre General Hospital recently hosted 18 youngsters from Harveys Lake Brownie Troop 652. The girls, who were given "future doctor" and "future nurse" caps to wear, toured pediatrics, the Emergency Department, Radiology, the Operating Room and Obstetrics. Troop leaders Andrea Picchi and Pat Sandstrom were present, along with chaperone mothers Laura Avery, Margaret Dershimer, Barbara Rogers and Sandra

Simons. Shown here are the girls who attended. From left, first row, Leighanna Sutt, Heather Picchi, Jill Smigielski, Michele Sandstrom, Stephanie Faerber and Shannon Avery. Second row, Jennifer Wallace, Tanya Bixby, Billie Jo Simons, Christy Shamus, Tracey Halowich, Julie Kusche, Autumn Tolbert, Lesley Rogers. Third row, Tara Rittenhouse, Gretchen Nersheimer, Michael Avery (guest), Jennifer Sandstrom.

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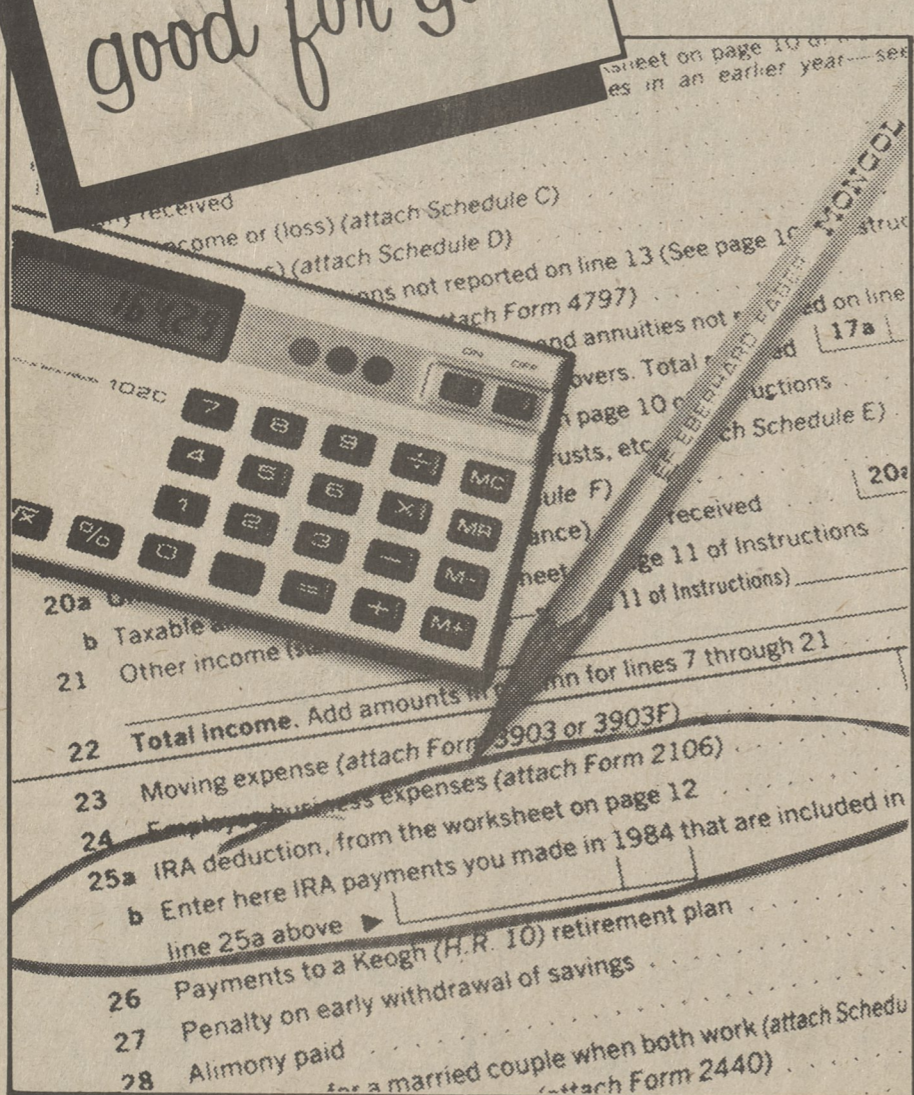
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