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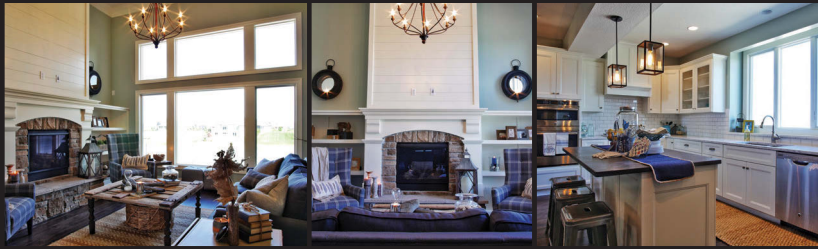
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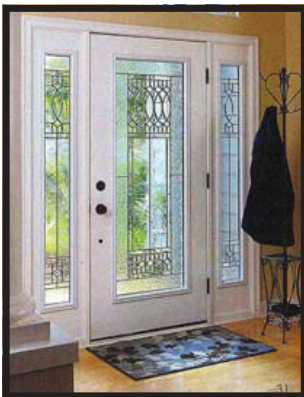
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Publisher Ron Baumgartner
rbaumgartner@the-papers.com

Publications Manager Vicky Howell
vhowell@the-papers.com

Executive Editor Sue Rawlinson
srawlinson@the-papers.com

Editor-in-Chief Jeri Seely
jseely@the-papers.com

Director of Marketing Kip Schumm
kschumm@the-papers.com

Account Executives

Rebecca Boone rboone@the-papers.com
Kelly Detrick kdetrick@the-papers.com

Business Manager Collette Knepp
cknepp@the-papers.com

Director of Circulation Jerry Straka
jstraka@the-papers.com

Graphic Designer Mary Lester
mlester@the-papers.com

Marketing Assistants

Darlene Eichelberger, Tamera Sims

Contributing Photographer

Leaha Meinika

Contributing Writers

Ray Balogh, Beth Behrendt, Lauren Caggiano,
Steve Penhollow, Kayleen Reusser, Shannon Rooney,
Barb Sieminski, Julie Young

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PO Box 188 • 206 South Main St. • Milford, IN 46542
800.733.4111/Fax 800.886.3796

Editorial, Ext. 2491 • Advertising, Ext. 2362
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welcome!



Sue Rawlinson

It's the month of love. And I love bacon.

Remember the days when all bacon-lover clubs were overjoyed to learn about the trendy no-carb diets? You know, when we discovered the new dieting rage that encouraged us to pig-out like famished carnivores—because as long as we didn't consume carbs, we were still being healthy? Later, potato chips... bring on my best bestie, bacon!

Yeah, so that diet wasn't very healthy. And unfortunately, I was never part of a bacon-lovers club. And I didn't eat bacon all that often, but I do love, love, love the scent of a kitchen cookin' away the breakfast staple and I do love to indulge in its fatty yumminess now and then.

But since the no-carb-diet-days, we've learned so much, haven't we? Good health is more than just whether or not we eat too many cookies and Valentine's chocolates (or bacon). It's much, much bigger.

It's not just about avoiding one type of food. It's about *healthy living*. It's what we put in our mouths, certainly, but it's also about our activity levels. Our happiness. Our stress levels. Our homes. And it's even how organized we are with life.

These all play into the journey for good health.

And isn't February just a great time of year to explore being healthy and feeling hearty at home? It's an ideal season to investigate and bring to fruition what makes you (and your family) feel cozy. It's creating a home that invites and encourages good health. That houses good times and celebrations and is a haven to details that delight. From small, charming touches in your décor to top trends in the kitchen, it all factors into good living. It even includes a home's green thumb to house living houseplants to provide clean air and added vitality.

That's why we put together this issue with healthy living in mind. Explore making your own home gym, learn what the must-haves are for every hearty kitchen, learn the trends and discover ideas for having a winning party this football season with your family. It's all here, in the February issue of HOME Living.

May your February be warm, hearty and cozy—and may this Valentine's Day bring about extra love in your home.

And if you ever start a bacon club, count me in. 🏠

Sue



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Devil's Ivy

By Kayleen Reusser

Hunter's robe, ivy arum, money plant, silver vine, Solomon Islands ivy, taro vine—the plant more commonly known as devil's ivy has a multitude of colorful, exotic names. Its most common name of devil's ivy is applicable because it is almost impossible to kill. However, it provides abundant ground cover, a boon to gardeners.



Name: Epipremnum aureum

Fun Fact: Prolific growth with minimum care

Why We Love It: Devil's ivy vines can grow 20-40 feet outdoors, providing helpful ground cover; indoor vines cause a dramatic effect, draping over a hanging basket.

Planting:

Although devil's ivy is hardy enough to be repotted outside in temperate climates in the U.S., it is usually grown as a houseplant. Choose a warm, not hot, location near a bright window out of direct sunlight. Devil's ivy thrives in room temperatures of between 60 and 80 degrees away from drafty windows and locations accessible to air vents or radiators. While in its native habitat, devil's ivy vines can grow 20-40 feet, indoor vines rarely exceed eight feet. Devil's ivy can be repotted in spring using general purpose potting soil and a slightly larger pot.

To maintain a plant's size, repot it into the same pot or one of similar size. Clip lengthy stems to about one-third of their length. Trim roots to keep the plant from growing larger. If the plant loses

a few leaves after trimming its roots, don't worry. The process is normal and it will soon recover. Outdoors, devil's ivy can be grown in deep shade. Select a location carefully as devil's ivy spreads as a ground cover and will climb trees, although tendrils may not be strong enough to maintain an attachment to a tree when the leaves become large and heavy. Pinching the growing tips occasionally will keep a devil's ivy plant bushy. Keep plants in check by watering the vines during dry spells and cutting them back when they threaten to overgrow an area. Mature leaves grown outdoors reach 18 inches.

After the Bloom:

If the leaves of devil's ivy turn yellow, it could mean the plant lacks sufficient light. Allow vines to drape over a hanging basket placed near a window. Note: Vines can be trained to climb around a window by attaching them to support hooks on a window frame. Another possibility for yellowing leaves can be excessive moisture. To prevent this, allow top two inches of soil to dry, then fill the pot with water. After moisture drains through, empty the saucer under the pot.

As for feed, apply a houseplant fertilizer every two weeks in spring, summer and fall. Cold months require less care—feed only once a month to give the plant a rest.

Warning: Devil's ivy is poisonous to cats and humans, so keep out of reach. 🏠

Fort Wayne's

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The 2017 Fort Wayne Home & Garden Show is being held at the War Memorial Coliseum Thursday thru Sunday, March 2-5!

The March issue of Home Living will be handed out to the thousands of attendees again this year. A presence in this magazine can only enhance your marketing efforts.

To place your ad in our special section, contact us now. Deadline is Fri., Feb. 10!

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Beechwood + Ivory

By Sue Rawlinson

Photos by HOME Team



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February is a time of both cozy warmth and orderly cleanliness. Sound like a strange combo? While somewhat of a paradox, they truly fit together with beautiful ease. Both are earthy colors, and both represent quiet, peace and pleasantness. So find a fluffy, cozy ivory blanket and complement it with items in a gray beechwood. What a great pair for this month of indoor tranquility—and all inspired by the calming colors of nature.

Enjoy a snapshot of HOME Living's February "Color It" home interior picks. Chosen just for you—from retailers in your backyard.



Bernhaus Furniture, Berne
260.589.8324, bernhausfurniture.com

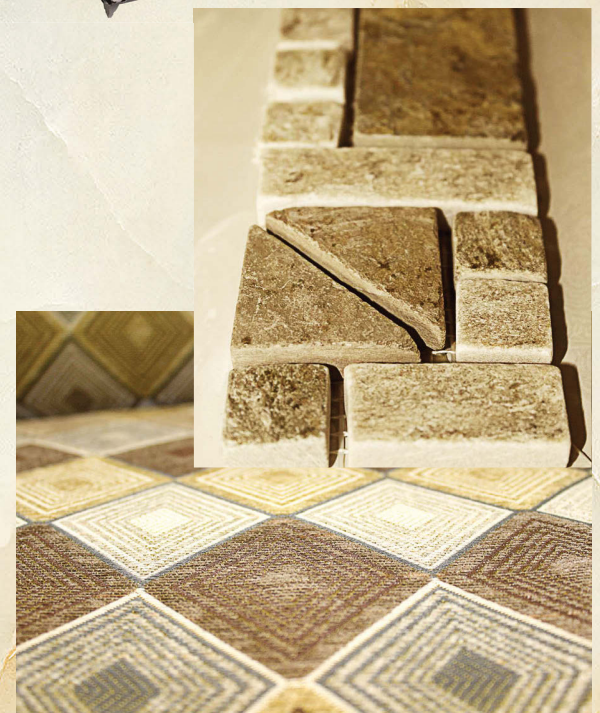
Kitchens Plus Country Store, Wabash
260.563.6317, kitchenspluscountrystore.com



OFD Total Home, Fort Wayne
260.487.6336, ofdtotalhome.com



Thomas Leffers Art, Fort Wayne
260.705.8270, thomasleffersart.com



Sanborn's For Your Home, Angola
260.665.9799, sanbornsforyourhomeangola.com

Kitchen Trends: Everything and the Kitchen Sink (and Faucet)

By Beth Behrendt

Probably one of (if not THE) most used features in the kitchen is the sink. And lucky for homeowners today, sink and faucet treatments are highly functional and stylish.

Looking to upgrade these everyday workhorses? Or are you lucky enough to be designing a new kitchen from the ground up? Trends in faucet and sink designs are offering all sorts of new styles and improved functions.

Jim Brewer of Trinity Kitchen, Bath & Lighting said, "Brushed nickel is still our top selling finish for kitchen faucets. I think its popularity will continue for a while, especially with the new feature of spot resistant finishes on brushed nickel faucets."

Hands-free faucets are increasing in popularity, especially for cooks who worry about the spread of bacteria. Most touchless faucets allow for that feature to be used, or not—the lever is still available for folks who prefer a traditional faucet. A touchless soap dispenser can be installed as well.

"Almost all of the kitchen faucets we sell now are a high arc with a pull down spray," said Brewer. "Aesthetically, a single-hole installation is gaining in popularity. It's a nice clean look and very easy to clean around. I see square-shaped faucets becoming more popular as well."

Sinks for today's kitchen come in a wide variety of sizes, shapes and materials. "Stainless steel is still strong, but here in our showroom we sell a large number of the quartz

composite sinks," Brewer said. "Elkay is the brand of quartz sink we sell and they have come out with many new designs and colors this year."

Some home chefs are choosing large, single-basin sinks (over the traditional double sink) to make room for bulky pots and pans. Brewer presented an additional option as well.

"Another trend is the 'low divide' kitchen sink," he said. "Rather than having the middle divider in a sink come all the way up to the top, it may only be 3 inches or so high. This allows for easier cleaning of pots and pans. We offer this style in both stainless steel and quartz."

Sinks are also coming with a wide array of accessories like utensil trays and drying racks. Brewer offered, "One of the new stainless steel sinks we show is called the 'Ledge' sink by Lenova. It has a ledge (hence the name) that runs around the top of the sink. You can set accessories into this and they can slide back and forth. There is a cutting board, a colander and a roll up grid."

Many homeowners are also choosing to supplement the primary kitchen sink with a food preparation sink. These come in a variety of shapes and materials, as well, to complement the look of the main sink.

And yet, there's more. "One other item that we seem to be selling more and more of is a sink top switch for your garbage disposer. Island sink applications are increasing in popularity. It's nice to have your disposer switch on top of the island next to your sink, rather than installed inside a cabinet," Brewer said. 🏠



Resources:

Big C Lumber, Kendallville, 260.347.3050, bigclumber.com
Trinity Kitchen, Bath, & Lighting, 260.493.2574

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An Upbeat Variety of the 80's til Now

Mike and Angie Kahlenbecks' Cozy Cabin

By Lauren Caggiano

Photos by Leaha Meinika

Some people dream of their ideal home, while others make it happen. Mike and Angie Kahlenbeck are in the latter camp.

Since last spring, the Huntington couple has lived in a log cabin style home, which couldn't be any cozier. The home is unique in and of itself and reflects a lot of hard work and energy invested.

They had always dreamed of building a log home. They got serious about it and began to do some research. They learned of a supplier called Old Kentucky Home, which sells concrete molds of old logs. The molds are known for unique details, including peoples' initials, nails, bottle caps and weathered, 100-year-old wood patterns, giving them the look of true old logs. In other words, they have the look of a log without all of the maintenance.

Their vision for their abode was conjured up long before the first log was laid. It was a matter of putting in the time to sift through all the options out there.

"We toured a good number of other homes to understand what we liked and what we wanted to avoid," Mike said. "We knew we wanted rustic and we knew we wanted to incorporate the reclaimed wood. Once we got the design down, the details began to fall into place."

Their biggest challenge was envisioning the combinations they were selecting and designing, prior to seeing them implemented. It all worked out in the end, though.

"We were extremely fortunate that our vision, assembled on paper, turned out to be light years better than we could have imagined," said Mike.



That vision was carried in part by local builder Barkley Builders. According to Mike, the building process was a bit of an adventure.

"Josh Barkley raised many eyebrows during the process because our vision of rustic was more rustic than he had previously



Resources:

Barkley Builders, Ossian, 260.622.7674, barkleybuildersinc.com

Hitzer Stoves & Furnaces, 260.589.8536

Jack Laurie Flooring, 260.209.1682

Kitchens Plus (cabinetry), Wabash, 260.563.6317, kitchenspluscountrystore.com

Old Kentucky Logs, oldkentuckylogs.com

Studabaker Specialty Woodworks, Bluffton, 260.273.1326, studabakerwoodworks.com



In his words, “the character of each piece of reclaimed wood is confirmation that the work and investment was worth it. We have said many times; we wouldn’t change anything. It truly is a dream come true.” 🏠

built,” he said. “The idea of using so much used/reclaimed items was out of most of the subcontractors’ comfort zones.”

Speaking of reclaimed items, finding them was half the fun.

“It was fun to see all of the items that we had collected for years knowing someday that they may have a purpose; and then actually come to life and find a purpose,” he said. “We still have many items that are looking for purpose, but that is part of the fun of creating and decorating.”

It can be said that the Kahlenbecks have made the home truly their own—and they wouldn’t want it any other way. Mike said he wanted to avoid a cookie cutter design and therefore that attitude is reflected in and outside the home with an array of custom features.

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Home Workout Rooms — No Sweat!

By Shannon Rooney

If you're struggling to get to the gym — or out of the house at all — this winter, you're not alone. Setting up a home workout area may be the trick to get your body moving. It doesn't take a ton of equipment or space. If you've got an extra room, or just part of a room, you've got enough to dedicate to exercise. With a little planning and some creativity, you can easily create a workout room that caters to your personal fitness interests. You'll be sweating in no time!

Step 1: Claim Your Space

In a perfect world, we'd all have a spacious extra room for exercise. But if you've got a 10x10- or 12x12-foot space, that will do too. The trick is to make the most of the room you've got. Guest rooms, offices and sun porches are all great places to set up workout areas. Ditto that corner in the basement. Just arrange your preferred workout equipment to delineate the space. If you have a separate room, consider sound-proofing to contain your workout noise.

Step 2: Equip Yourself

Your chosen equipment will depend on your fitness goals. But every good workout room has space for both cardio and strength exercises. In addition to a cardio machine, add some free weights and a yoga mat for floor exercises. Stability balls, foam rollers, and jump ropes are all simple pieces of equipment that offer a variety of exercise options. Start with a few key items and build your collection from there.



Step 3: Plan It Out

You're more likely to workout when it's easy to do so. Plan a well thought-out space that you enjoy and want to spend time in. You may want to add a wall-mounted TV with network access or a Blu-ray/DVD player to play your favorite workout programs. Wall mirrors are a great motivator and they help you maintain form during your workout. They also make a smaller workout area feel more spacious. Hook up some tunes with surround sound speakers with a dock so you can drop in your phone and go.

Step 4: Make Your Room Work

If space is tight, consider roll-away or foldable equipment, or, as you would with cabinetry, build up. Take advantage of unused space at the top of the room. Consider adding a specially designed bar in the doorway for pull-ups and abdominal exercises. Store smaller accessories, like yoga mats, bar bells or resistance bands on shelves or in cabinets along the walls. Use storage bins with tops to keep equipment dust free.

Step 5: Move it! Move it!

Your home gym won't work unless you do. Spend some time in your workout space and you'll quickly see what set-up or equipment is or isn't working for you. Maybe you do more floor exercises than treadmill running and a large, cushy floor mat should take precedence. Would a fan or air filter make the room more comfortable? Create a room that feels good and suits your preferences and you'll be moving it whatever the weather. 🏠

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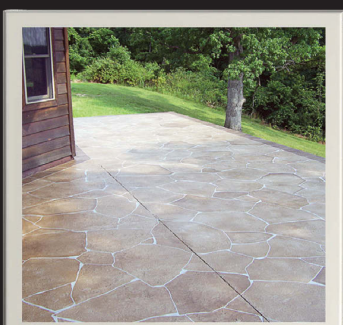
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Healthy houseplants

Keep your indoor garden growing

By Julie Young

Are you the kind of person who can make a cactus nervous? Have you been known to kill a philodendron? If you have trouble keeping your houseplants happy, healthy or even alive, there is plenty you can do to get growing again! Erv Hilty at ER Seed LLC in Monroe offers up his top tips to help houseplant owners turn their luck around.

- **Watch the water.** When it comes to houseplants, one problem tends to drown out all the rest: overwatering. “Plants don’t like to be overwatered,” Hilty said. “Although plant owners mean well, they can overwater to the point of destruction. “
While there are some varieties that require extra water, as a general rule, most houseplants prefer relatively dry conditions before their next drink. The best way to determine how often your plant needs to be watered is to put your finger in the dirt and feel it.
- **Lack of drainage.** Even though they are in enclosed containers, plants still need to breathe. They need an opportunity to shed excess water and for oxygen to circulate. If your pot does not have holes in the bottom and a drainage tray, then



line your container with an inch or two of pebbles to give your plants’ roots some ventilation and elbowroom. Good drainage will prevent root rot from occurring.

- **Let there be light...or not.** Plants need three things to grow well: water, drainage and the proper amount of light. A plant that requires full sun will not thrive in a room that only gets light for a couple of hours each day. Conversely, a plant that does not require a lot of light should not be placed on a windowsill where it will be exposed to too many rays. Before bringing your plant home, do your research as to what kind of light is right. Want more help with this? “You can also get a light meter to help you gauge how much light your plant needs,” Hilty said.
- **Look for easy to grow plants.** Let’s face it. Some plants are harder than others to grow. Many cacti need little in the way of care, while spider plants, philodendron, aloe and Chinese evergreen are great choices for new gardeners while African violets, the Swiss cheese plant and weeping fig may be options for experienced green thumbs.
- **Pay attention to the soil.** Different plants require different types of soil, so it is important to find the right type and make a smart investment. “Don’t buy the cheap kind,” Hilty said. “Sometimes it is not sterilized and can be full of all kinds of bacteria that is bad for your plants.”



Resources:

Copp Farm Supply, Columbia City, 260.244.6465, coppfarmssupply.com

E&R Seed LLC, 260.692.6827

Plant Center, 260.432.7370

Chef's Dream Kitchen

By Barb Sieminski

If building your dream kitchen has been a long-time item on your bucket list, this article was written for you.

Counters

Today's cool countertops come in many styles and colors—granite, marble and quartz are just a few of the selections available. With which should you upgrade?

Briana Niedens Leffers, president of Prestige Tile & Stone, found that just as she thinks one color is leading in the race, the next person through the door completely changes the running.

"We still see a good split between the 'cool' and 'warm' color palettes," said Leffers, "and the majority of countertops that we fabricate are still granite. Quartz is definitely a great material for many homeowners but we find that once the individuals are educated properly then they end up finding that they're drawn more to the natural stones versus the man-made. I feel there's just a beauty to the natural stones that can't be touched with any man-made material."

"Homeowners are more open to different types of stones, also, pending if they've been educated on what to expect 5-10 years down the road. We're very honest with everyone on what they should expect from the stores they're trying to decide on. But having said all that, granite isn't for everyone and there are times that we just can't get the look that someone's after with granite. Quartz is much easier to find 'that color' to bring the design together."

Appliance Must-Haves

Now, what to put ON those new countertops (and within cabinetry)? Appliance must-haves include blenders, slow cookers, stand mixers, coffee makers, espresso machines, food processors, wine coolers, toaster ovens, soda makers, jars and storage containers, tableware, a microwave and more.

Stock your new kitchen with a sharp set of knives, glass measuring cups, can and bottle openers, tongs, a sieve, baking pans, pot holders and hot pads, spatulas, and even Dutch ovens for those smoked barbecue beans, chicken fricassee and salted caramel popcorn.

Spice 'n Oil

You'll want to keep a good supply of vinegars, herbs and spices on hand, too. For these items, we turned to Lori



All photos Shutterstock.com

Berndt, president of The Olive Twist Inc. for her recommendations.

"Spices to stock a kitchen include basil, cinnamon, salt, thyme, chili powder and garlic powder," said Berndt, whose company also offers cooking classes.

"For a simple salad, vinaigrette olive oil and Balsamic work well. Olive oil only has a shelf life of 12-14 months from the crush date. The northern hemisphere crush is in November and the southern hemisphere crush is in May. So never purchase an Italian or any other northern hemisphere olive oil in October because it is almost 12 months old at that point and will become rancid shortly thereafter."

"We Americans have been misinformed when it comes to cooking with olive oil. If you purchase a good quality, fresh extra virgin olive oil it can withstand up to 450 degrees for up to one hour before it reduces in half by health benefits. Plain olive oil can only withstand up to 320 degrees for up to 15 minutes."

"For those who don't think they know how to incorporate a healthy extra virgin olive oil into their diet, just substitute the extra virgin olive oil in a recipe that calls for canola oil, vegetable oil, coconut oil or any other cooking oils. You use it the same to sauté, cook, bake or make salad dressing."

"Call us to explain how to substitute extra virgin olive oil for a solid stick of butter. We also carry savorys, soups and sweets." 🏠

Resources:

Big C Lumber, Kendallville, 260.347.3050, bigclumber.com

Classic Marble, Hoagland, 260.639.3872, classicmarbleandstone.com

Eagle Tile, Fort Wayne, 260.422.6100, eagletileonline.squarespace.com

F&M Tile, Fort Wayne, 260.483.6389, fandmtile.com

Prestige Tile & Stone, Fort Wayne, 260.471.0328, prestigetileandstone.com

The Olive Twist, 260.436.3866; 260.333.0866

Winning Super Bowl Party Ideas for the fam'

By Steve Penhollow

Super Bowl parties can be so modest that they would not be recognized as parties by most casual observers.

Some people are able to grab a bag of chips and a six-pack of beer and convince themselves that what ensues is a party.

Other people go all out.

The Super Bowl may be the one "holiday" of the year when both spouses are equally excited about decorating and preparing.

The stores this year are well stocked with Super Bowl-themed party products, from the expected (paper plates and napkins) to the unexpected (stadium-shaped serving trays, cupcakes stands and coolers; a photo booth kit for creating party souvenirs; football-shaped lanterns; referee-shaped drink koozies and referee-shaped inflatable punching bags).

If you don't mind spending a little money, the HGTV website recommends buying a \$60 football-themed crockpot.

This year, Women's Day magazine suggests having guests play Super Bowl TV Commercial Bingo, a version of the game that features brand names instead of letters and numbers. Free bingo cards answering to this description can be downloaded from the Style Me Pretty website. Blank bingo cards that are ready to be adorned with brand names of the host's choosing are downloadable from the Freelogy website.



Super Bowl Party craft ideas abound on the Internet. The Everyday Dishes website has instructions for making AstroTurf drink koozies and coasters. The Beneath My Heart blog has a football-themed ring toss game and A Little CLAIREification has a guide for making beverage tags with team logos on them.

The Delish website has 53 suggestions for Super Bowl finger foods including the visually astonishing snack chip dip dubbed "Pepperoni Football." The site offers other recipes for snacks shaped like footballs as well, including a bread bowl and cookie dough bites. For somewhat classier Super Bowl eats, visit Country Living magazine's list of 55 recipes for 2016. Nothing football-shaped, but there is a guide to making homemade goldfish crackers.

The Redbook website emulates Delish's earthier approach with recipes for football-shaped crispy rice treats, football-reminiscent pretzel rods, a pan of brownies decorated to look like a stadium and something called the "Jalapeno Popper Football Cheese Ball."

The Real Simple website suggests offering guests a potato bar with all the fixings. And Jennifer Sellers of the website How Stuff Works recommends a Super Bowl Potluck Party and a neighborhood tailgating party.

The possible pinnacle of Super Bowl crafting and noshing can be found at the website called A Cozy Kitchen. There, one will find instructions for creating an Edible Football Stadium.

The many-tiered and many-cuisined Edible Football Stadium requires strong enthusiasm in the kitchen and the crafting table and offers delights for the eyes and the palate.

Go team! 🏠

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Resources:

Bernhaus Furniture, Berne, 260.589.8324, bernhausfurniture.com

OFD Total Home, 260.487.6336

Sandpoint TV and Appliance Co., Fort Wayne, 260.478.1687,
sandpointtv.com



Best Sports Views ... from your living room

Looking for the best TV for watching football?

So we all love a good game. Hot food, cold beverages, great friends and your team-of-choice jersey on the bod' are all must-haves for a great football game experience. But what's the best TV to serve as the ultimate host?

We asked area experts for tips on choosing the very best television for optimum viewing and a fabulous fan experience with friends. Here's what we learned:

- **Size matters.** Experts suggest a screen size of 55 inches as a minimum.
- **Definitely choose high-def.** HDTV is the only way to go.
- **Clarity is crucial.** Look for a TV with screen resolution of 1080p or 4k.
- **Every second counts.** Experts can direct you to a TV with no motion lag or blur.
- **Hear the hits.** Loud, clear sound quality is a must! Feel immersed in the game itself with great sound.
- **No wash outs.** This means regardless of the angle from which your buddies watch the game, a wider viewing angle (along with the above-mentioned screen size and resolution) ensure optimum viewing—from anywhere in the room.
- **High contrast and deep black levels are also a necessity.** This keeps viewing picture-perfect, avoiding the picture looking washed out in bright light.
- **Lots of natural light?** If you're watching the game in a room with a lot of natural light, then no worries! Simply choose an LCD or LED TV. These are much brighter than plasma TVs, so it's easier to see all the action—even in a sunny room.

Want more expert advice? The pros at Sandpoint TV carry a huge selection of TVs—from LCD, LED, 3D and plasma flat panel products. Since 1961 they've been helping football fans have the best viewing experience! 🏠

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sandpointtv.com

Red Velvet Cupcakes



By Sue Rawlinson

If red velvet cake makes your sweetheart smile, give these cupcakes a try. These moist and delicious cupcakes are a huge hit in my house each February—I hope your valentines enjoy this tweaked-from-the-original version just as much.

Happy Valentine's Day, readers!

Red Velvet Cupcakes

Ingredients:

½ cup butter
1 ½ cup white sugar
2 eggs
1 cup buttermilk (buy this way or make your own)
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 ounce red food coloring
1 ½ teaspoon baking soda
1 tablespoon white vinegar
2 cups flour
1/3 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
1 teaspoon salt
Frosting (from a can or make your own cream cheese frosting—excellent with these cupcakes!)
Sprinkles, for fun

Directions

1. Set oven to 350 degrees.
2. Line muffin pan with 20 paper baking cups. Spray bottom of baking cups with non-stick spray.
3. In a large bowl, beat the butter and sugar with an electric mixer until fluffy.
4. Add the buttermilk, eggs, red food coloring and vanilla. Stir in the baking soda and vinegar.
5. Combine the flour, cocoa powder and salt. Stir mixture into the batter just until blended.
6. Spoon the batter into the prepared cups.
7. Bake in the preheated oven, 20 to 25 minutes.
8. Cool the pan on a wire rack. When cool, frost cupcakes with your desired frosting, top with heart-shaped sprinkles and be ready for your valentines to devour! 🏠



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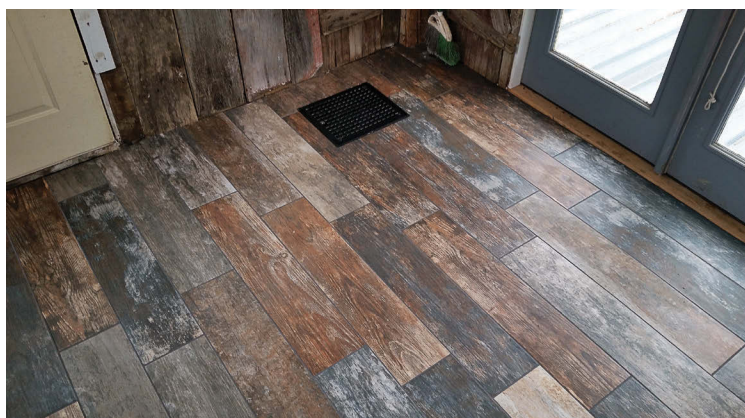
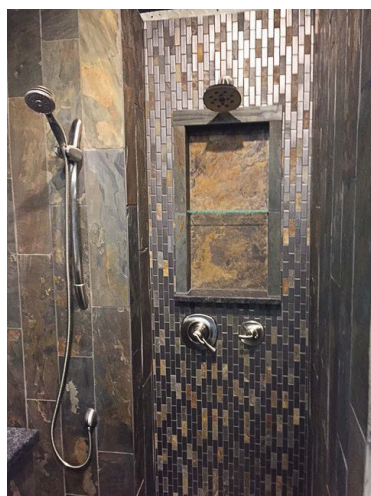




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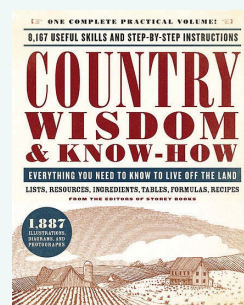
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HOME community | books

February Picks

By Steve Penhollow

April may be the cruelest month, as T.S. Elliot wrote, but February tends to be when winter does its worst. Here are a few books that should help you reap the rewards of hunkering down.



Country Wisdom & Know-How: Everything You Need to Know to Live Off the Land

by Editors of Storey Publishing's Country Wisdom Bulletins

Black Dog & Leventhal \$19.99

ISBN-10: 0316276960

ISBN-13: 0316276962

In this day and age, most people have probably traded paper reference guides for online resources. Every so often, however, a reference guide comes along that everyone, regardless of digital devotion, will want to put on his or her shelf. "Country Wisdom & Know-How: A Practical Guide to Living off the Land" is just such a reference guide. Even though the book is geared toward people who prefer to rough it, there is plenty here to delight and satisfy city mouse and country mouse alike. The latest edition of this tome features instructions on how to tackle hundreds of tasks and crafts in and around the home, including building a bird feeder, making yogurt, weaving a basket, building stone walls, restoring hardwood floors and making homemade bath products. There are also sections on caring for horses, cats and dogs and on building a still. Nathalie Atkinson of the National Post described this as "a sort of Farmer's Almanac meets Whole Earth compendium of 1,887 useful skills for city slickers who dream of living off the land for more than just a weekend."



Home Organization Tear Outs for the Whole Family: Get Everyone Mobilized to Organize Your Home with 100 Printed Forms, Lists, Schedules and Directions

by Kristi Dominguez

Page Street Publishing \$19.99

ISBN-10: 1624142850; ISBN-13: 978-1624142857

There are hundreds of books about organization and reducing clutter available, but few are quite like Kristi Dominguez's new book. True to its title, "Home Organization Tear Outs for the Whole Family: Get Everyone Mobilized to Organize Your Home with 100 Printed Forms, Lists, Schedules and Directions" doesn't just point you in the right direction, it provides the maps to get there. The book is composed of beautiful designed "tear-outs"—pages that are meant to be read, removed, used and reused. Dominguez, founder of the blog I Should Be Mopping the Floor, provides the reader with interactive blueprints for organizing every area of the home and streamlining every aspect of home management. 🏠

February Calendar

By Ray Balogh

2 FORT WAYNE: World Wetlands Day Hike

Celebrate World Wetlands Day with a wetland hike. Boots recommended. Free admission, all ages. 1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m. Thursday, Aboite Branch Library, 5630 Coventry Lane. 260.478.2515
info@lrwp.org, lrwp.org.

2-5 FORT WAYNE: RV and Camping Show

RVs, travel trailers, motor homes, fifth wheels, toy haulers. Special financing and clearance specials. Free admission. Parking \$5 main lot, \$8 preferred lot. Noon-9 p.m. Thursday through Saturday; noon-5 p.m. Sunday, Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, 4000 Parnell Ave. 260.482.9502, memorialcoliseum.com.



5 DECATUR: Monthly Flea Market

Hot food available, sponsored by the Adams County Coin Club. 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday, Riverside Center, 231 E. Monroe St. (Highway 224 East). Contact Carla at 260.517.8182, facebook.com/decaturingianafleamarket.

11 FORT WAYNE: 29th Annual WMEE Baby Fair and Family Expo

Giveaways all day, fan favorite contest, McDonald's Diaper Dash, Kids Kingdom and more. Free admission. Parking \$5 main lot, \$8 preferred lot. 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, 4000 Parnell Ave. 260.482.9502, memorialcoliseum.com.



12 WABASH: Jim Brickman

Award-winning songwriter and pianist blends emotion and humor with music that touches the heart. Hits include "Angel Eyes," "Valentine," "If You Believe" and "Love of My Life." \$50/\$35/\$25. 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Honeywell Center, 275 W. Market St. 260.563.1102, honeywellcenter.org.

15 FORT WAYNE: "Short Hikes for Short Legs: Winter Birds of Eagle Marsh"

Learn about owls, eagles and herons. Boots recommended. Free admission, open to children 3-5 accompanied by responsible adult. 9 a.m.-10 a.m. Wednesday, Eagle Marsh barn, 6801 Engle Road. 260.478.2515, info@lrwp.org, lrwp.org.

16-19 FORT WAYNE: Boat Show

More than 56 marine dealers from Indiana and Michigan. \$10 adults; children 12 and under free. Parking \$5 main lot, \$8 preferred lot. 3 p.m.-9 p.m. Thursday and Friday; 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Saturday; 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, 4000 Parnell Ave. 260.482.9502, memorialcoliseum.com.



17-19 FORT WAYNE: Northern Indiana Golf Show

Stage demonstrations, demo driving range, skills challenges, door prizes, family activities. \$8 adults, children 5 and under free. Parking \$5 main lot, \$8 preferred lot. 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, 4000 Parnell Ave. 260.482.9502, memorialcoliseum.com.

19 WABASH: Northeast Indiana Premier Bridal Spectacular

Many vendors and consultants on hand to help you plan your special day. \$5. 1p.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, Honeywell Center, 275 W. Market St. 260.563.1102
honeywellcenter.org.

24-26 SYRACUSE: Christian Women's Retreat

Take a weekend for yourself to decompress and reassess at the "Let There Be Life" retreat. Space is limited for the popular retreat. Registration required. Friday evening through Sunday afternoon, Oakwood Resort, 702 E. Lake View Road. 574.457.7100, oakwoodresort.com.

25 FORT WAYNE: All Beethoven

Fort Wayne Philharmonic performs a variety of selections from the famed composer as part of its Masterworks series. \$69/\$52/\$32/\$19. 7:30 p.m. Saturday, 125 W. Jefferson Blvd. 800.745.3000, fwembassytheatre.org.

26 FORT WAYNE: 10th Annual Bridal Extravaganza

Vendors will be on hand to help design the ideal wedding. First 300 registered brides will receive a tote bag. \$12 in advance, \$15 day of show. Noon-4 p.m. Sunday, Grand Wayne Center, 120 W. Jefferson Blvd. 260.426.4100.



March 2-5 FORT WAYNE: 44th Annual Fort Wayne Home and Garden Show

More than 650 exhibitors, seminars, interactive and educational displays. \$10 adults, \$6 seniors 62 and over, children under 15 free. Parking \$5 main lot, \$8 preferred lot. 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Thursday, Friday; 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Saturday; 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, 4000 Parnell Ave. 260.482.9502
memorialcoliseum.com.

Anita Martin

Country Mill Cabinet Co.

By Lauren Caggiano

Photo by Leah Meinika

If there's one word that customers associate with Country Mill Cabinet Co. in LaOtto, Anita Martin believes it's 'legacy.' She and her husband are committed to carrying on the tradition her father began many years ago — and doing it to the best of their ability, for as long as they can. Expert craftsmanship is what has been the secret to their success. From complete kitchen remodels to new countertops, they do it all.

How does your company's rich history continue to shape it?

We have been a family-owned and -operated custom cabinetry business for 32 years. Our quality and attention to detail has not wavered; we never have wanted our quality to decline with growth. Our customer service and repeat business reminds us of how important that is.

What are ideal materials for countertops?

Granite and quartz are wonderful countertop options because they are a solid surface, and are virtually maintenance free. We are seeing a trend with quartz becoming very popular; it is not porous like granite so it never needs to be sealed. Quartz also resists scratching, staining and is heat resistant. The color options (of quartz) have really come a long way, too, which is a plus for our clients.

What is the advantage of custom cabinetry?

The advantage of custom cabinetry is that we can build the cabinetry specifically for your space. We build custom sizes to give you better use of space, not just generic sizes that then need fillers added. Custom cabinetry also allows you to achieve a more detailed look, which is not the case with box style cabinets. You also work with people who have been designing and building these quality wood pieces for many years; they are built for long lasting use and enjoyment.

I see you support Habitat for Humanity. Why is that important to you?

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