

Times Plain Dealer readers are encouraged to write letters to the editor to be printed on the Perspective Page in each edition. Letters to the Editor must be addressed to Times Plain Dealer, 214 N. Elm, Cresco, Iowa, 52136 or emailed to tpdeditor@crescotimes.com by Friday at 5 p.m., and they must be signed. Letters to the Editor must not contain any false statements or statements that may defame another person. Letters to the Editor must not contain vulgar language or language generally unacceptable to most family members, including, but not limited to, profanity. Letters may be edited by the Times Plain Dealer for spelling, grammar, punctuation and length. They must not be of a self-promoting or "thank you" nature (that is considered advertising, and we charge for that). The Times Plain Dealer reserves the right not to publish a letter at our discretion. Posting of any advertisement shall not be considered an endorsement of the advertiser, or of the product or service involved.



On The Edge

History Lesson

Feb. 23, 1945: The famous flag-raising at Iwo Jima was caught by photographer Louis Lowery.

Feb. 24, 1836: Texan Colonel William Travis sends a desperate plea for help for the besieged defenders of the Alamo.

Feb. 25, 1964: Cassius Clay, 22, shocks the odds-makers by dethroning world heavyweight boxing champ Sonny Liston in a seventh round technical knockout.

Feb. 26, 1993: A bomb explodes in the parking garage beneath the World Trade Center in NYC, where six people died and 1,000 were injured.

Feb. 27, 1980: "I Will Survive" wins the first—and last—Grammy ever awarded for Best Disco Recording.

Feb. 28, 1965: Agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms raid the Branch Davidian cult compound in Waco, Texas, prompting a gun battle in which four agents and six cult members are killed.

March 2, 1962: Wilt Chamberlain scores 100 points for the Philadelphia Warriors during a game against the New York Knicks at Hershey Sports Arena in Hershey, Pennsylvania.

Let's Celebrate!

- Feb. 18: Ash Wednesday
- Feb. 19: Chocolate Mint Day
- Feb. 20: Love Your Pet Day
- Feb. 21: Sticky Bun Day
- Feb. 22: Walk the Dog Day
- Feb. 24: Tortilla Chip Day
- Feb. 25: Clam Chowder Day

What's Cookin'?

Italian for Supper... Cacio E Pepe

- 2 tsp. whole black peppercorns
- 5 cups water
- Kosher salt
- 12 oz. spaghetti or tonnarelli
- 2 1/2 c. pecorino cheese, finely grated (about 5 oz.)

Directions

Heat a large, high-sided, stainless steel skillet over medium-high heat. Toast peppercorns, stirring occasionally, until fragrant, 2 to 3 minutes. Let cool slightly.

Transfer to a mortar and pestle and crush until fine crumbs form (or transfer to a resealable bag and crush with a heavy skillet or rolling pin).

Fill same skillet with water; generously season with salt. Add spaghetti and cook, stirring occasionally, until al dente according to package directions. There will be liquid left in skillet that will help create the sauce.

Remove from heat. Stir in crushed peppercorns until well combined. Gradually add cheese (about 2 Tbsp. at a time), tossing frequently with tongs and adding up to 1/4 cup hot water if needed, until a glossy sauce forms.

Recipe Courtesy of Delish.com

Quote of the Week

"Accept the fact that some days you are the pegeon and some days you are the statue". -Unknown

Helpful Hints

Opening bananas from the bottom is easier.

Just squeeze the black tip and it pops open for easy peeling.

Monkey's know what they're doing..

Hip Hip Horray for Jokes!

Q: What do you call a Hippo with a runny nose?
A: a Hipposnotamous.

Iowa Fun Fact

Did you know? Iowa is the only state in the United States with both its eastern and western borders formed entirely by rivers (the Mississippi and Missouri rivers, respectively).

My wife thinks a car for her husband is a good trade



Al Batt
Battin' for the Good Times

"How many miles do you have on your car?"

I told him. It was a substantial number.

"It's almost broken in," I added in a feeble attempt at cleverness.

The man chewed on that for a moment before saying, "It's almost broken."

That was unfair. It's a dependable car. The good kind of dependable. I've had a dependably bad car. Each time I shoved a key into the ignition, I was pleasantly surprised when the engine started with no smoke signals detected. I read its dashboard carefully to see if any idiot lights were glowing to warn me of pending

automotive doom.

They don't make cars like they used to. That's true. That's the reason we put more miles on cars today.

The only bad habit my current chariot has is that it cares enough to keep a light on for me—the TPMS (Tire Pressure Monitoring System). This light on the dash is a yellow horseshoe with an exclamation point indicating at least one tire is under-inflated, or that a sensor is malfunctioning. I've checked the tires and they're full of air. It may not be the best air, but they're filled with it. A common cause of the dreaded, shining TPMS in colder weather is the natural contraction of air. I've been fixing to have the sensors checked. Like everything in our world, those things run on batteries that insist on dying. The sensors are reset when I drive the car and the light disappears. I celebrate the idiot light's departure because flats make me tired.

In the 1939 film, "The Wiz-

ard of Oz," Dorothy (Judy Garland) tells the Scarecrow, "I think I'll miss you most of all" during her emotional farewell scene.

I will miss my trusty automobile.

My next car doesn't have to be new, but I prefer a car that doesn't carry a Bob Dole or Ross Perot bumper sticker. Friends tell me I'm buying someone else's problems when I buy a used car. I know that's a possibility. As Donald Rumsfeld, former Secretary of Defense, might have said while kicking the tires of a pre-owned vehicle, "As we know, there are known knowns; there are things we know we know. We also know there are known unknowns; that is to say we know there are some things we do not know. But there are also unknown unknowns—the ones we don't know we don't know."

I looked at a used car recently. The "check engine" light was the only thing in the car that worked.

~ Letters to the Editor ~

Dear Editor,

While the topic has faded from public discussion, the threat remains of another pandemic, à la COVID-19, spreading around the globe and leaving devastation in its wake.

To help prevent this possibility, our political leaders should support state and federal funding of cultivated-

meat research. The new protein is grown from livestock cells, without slaughter. Animal agriculture is a frequent cause of zoonotic diseases making the jump to humans.

While growing cultivated meat is now technologically feasible, it's too expensive to mass produce. Further study will fix this. Let's build facilities like the Tufts University

Center for Cellular Agriculture at schools across the country. I have no doubt that, working together, researchers can overcome the remaining scientific barriers to making cheap, slaughter-free meat. Among other things, this will be a significant boon for public health.

Jon Hochschartner
Granby, CT

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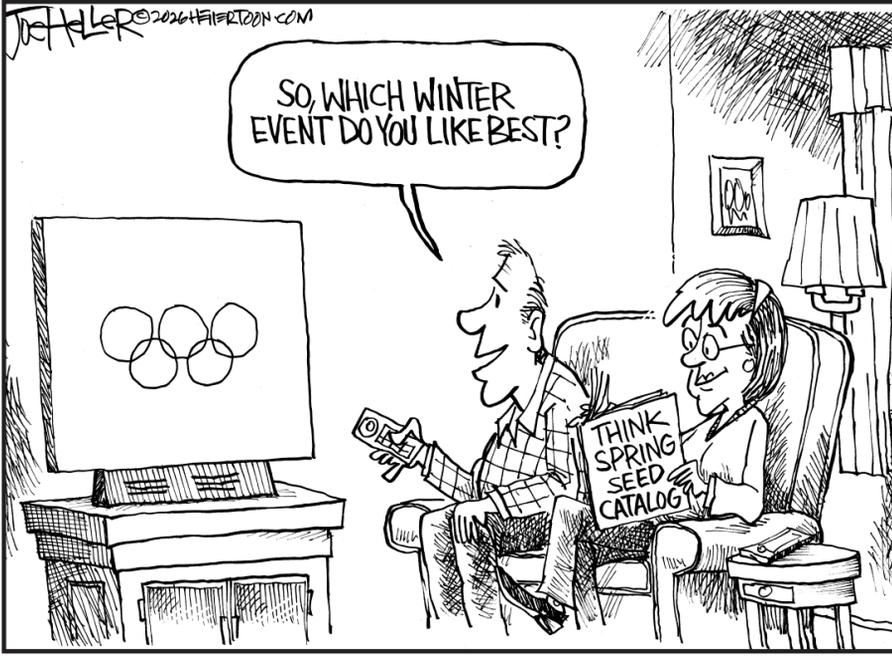
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Fake Spring



Patsy Bronner

Howard County Farm Wife

Confusion reigns. The news we see on the television and our smart phones may not be accurate, some of it is produced by artificial electronic brains. Our mail, through computer systems or documents we get in our postal box, can be deceitful. Crop yields configured by folks traipsing through planted fields or calculated from aerial infrared photography are not always accurate. The list goes on and on. It is quite a task to figure out what is true, even the seasons are a puzzle. Though we experience it, is sixty degrees in February real or is it fake spring?

Before the temperature outside hit fifty, I saw a fellow wearing shorts and flip flops. The sun was out and it felt exceptionally mild, but most of us

had not yet tossed aside our winter coats. Enjoying the warmer temperatures felt nice. It was a great reprieve from the record low cold conditions we had been experiencing, but far from balmy enough to boldly bare body parts. I had not yet considered shedding the base layer that keeps me comfy or the wooly socks inside durable full-coverage shoes.

The worst, coldest part of winter is most likely over. However, I expect this premature warmth to be temporary. My winter gear is going to stay within easy reach. Meteorologists tell us a mild stretch can rapidly reset with a cold snap. We are almost certain to face cold rain, maybe a rumble of thunder, possibly a winter mix, chilly winds, ice and snow, in the near future. If this year is anywhere near normal, the average last snowfall for Iowa happens in late March. I recall at least one early May event which yielded an eight-inch blanket of white.

I like the sunshine and unseasonable warmth of recent days; I try to hold back pessimistic thoughts of the damage

that might be happening to trees, shrubs, acres of alfalfa plants and other vegetation. False spring can trick them into opening the buds they worked so hard to create late last summer and fall, before winter arrived. When freezing weather returns, the delicate little leaves trying to unfurl and blossoms beginning to burst open, cannot withstand the lethal dose of frigid air.

Because everything in the ecosystem affects something else, weather-related setbacks of growing things can mess up pollination, crop harvests, and all the wildlife that depend on that source for food and shelter. Doctors claim extreme temperature changes can trigger headaches, sinus pressure, fatigue, joint pain, trouble sleeping, and moodiness in humans. To limit these very real symptoms, do the usual; drink plenty of water, get enough rest, eat a balanced diet, and wait for the weather to settle. Fake spring; the exciting, somewhat worrisome, pleasant, but possibly troublesome season – enjoy it if you can.

By Patsy Bronner

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Level: Intermediate

Yesterday's News . . .

25 Years Ago . . .

Times Plain Dealer of Feb. 21, 2001

CRESCO - Registered voters who live in the Howard-Winneshiok School District will decide on Feb. 27 if a Northeast Iowa Community College campus should be built in Cresco. At issue is a state income surtax to be charged to all state income tax payers in the school district. The surcharge for 2001, payable next year, would be six percent of the amount paid by residents in the school district. At issue is a state income surtax to be charged to all state income tax payers in the school district. The surcharge for 2001, payable next year, would be six percent of the amount paid by residents in the school district. Polls throughout the school district will open at noon and remain open until 8 p.m.

SPILLVILLE - An organ believed played by famous composer Anton Dvorak has been donated by Cyril Klimesh of Spillville to the Bily Clocks Museum in Spillville. The organ is now located in the Dvorak room on the second floor of the museum, which houses the famous Bily Clock collection.

CRESCO - A four percent increase in state aid to Iowa K-12 students for fiscal year 2001-02 has been announced by State Senator Betty Soukup of New Hampton. "This is a first step," said Soukup, who said the increase is a sign of commitment "to our children's education and to keeping Iowa the nation's leader in education." Soukup said the second step is to make Iowa "a more attractive place to teach. We are facing a wave of retirements at a time when Iowa teacher pay is 35th in the nation."

CRESCO - A slight drop in the tax levy for property owners in Cresco is proposed by the Cresco city Council for fiscal year 2001-02. The new budget will be the main order of business at the march 5 meeting of the city council with the public hearing scheduled at 7 p.m. in the council chambers. The proposed budget calls for a tax levy \$16.83 per \$1,000 in valuation. This is a decrease of six cents per \$1,000.

CRESCO - Featherlite Manufacturing, hundreds of its employees and countless others in Cresco and Howard County have lost a friend. Dale Earnhardt Sr., NASCAR's greatest driver, was killed on Sunday, Feb. 18, from injuries received when his race car slammed into the wall on the last lap of the Daytona 500. Earnhardt was a longtime support of Featherlite trailers and visited Cresco and the Featherlite plants here for the first time in 1994.

90 Years Ago . . .

Times Plain Dealer of Feb. 18, 1936

CRESCO - From January 22 until February 12, a total of 22 days, the thermometer registered above zero readings only three times. Lows varied from 30 below on Jan. 22 to minus 2 on Jan. 29. Golly gee whiz, that is cold!

CRESCO - During this period, the region experienced some of the worst snow storms in 60 years.

ELMA - The East Side Butcher shop in Elma was destroyed by fire on Tuesday.

CRESCO - The city plow, which has been doing such a commendable job of keeping the streets of Cresco cleared of snow, was disabled on Sunday and was laid up for repairs for two days.

CRESCO - The Cresco Fire Department observed the 50th anniversary of its founding. S. A. Hamilton, who organized the department in 1886, was honored at the annual banquet.

DAVIS CORNERS - Ed Bunge, our assessor, has been making his rounds by using a pair of snowshoes.

110 Years Ago . . .

The Howard County Times of Feb. 15, 1916

CRESCO - At the annual meeting of stockholders of the Cresco Opera House Company, after one year of operation, the secretary's financial report showed net income of \$1500, or seven and one-half percent on the capital stock, a very satisfactory and healthy condition.

CRESCO - An advertisement noted that automobiling is no longer a "rich man's game." You can now buy a Saxon Roadster for \$395. Wentworth & Burr, Cresco.