

# Home&Garden

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### HOME OF THE WEEK



# Three levels, endless views

The house itself is a work of art at The Cliffs at Walnut Cove

Peter and Marty Vexter turned what was to be their vacation home into a full-time residence. PHOTOS BY MATT BURKHARTASHEVILLE CITIZEN TIMES

#### Angela Nicholas

Special to Asheville Citizen Times  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Peter and Marty Vexter turned what was to be their vacation home into a full-time residence shortly after they built it, leaving behind 30 years of cold Chicago weather for more temperate four seasons and remarkable views of the Western North Carolina mountains.

“About five years ago we shoveled 85 inches of snow,” Peter said. “We needed a Plan B, and it was not going to be Florida.”

When the couple visited their son Billy, who was running track at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, they located and purchased a lot in the Arden community southeast of Asheville. They employed Todd Young of Young & Young Architects from Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, and builder Dan Collins of Glennwood Custom Homes, in Hendersonville, and began a building process that took close to

See **WALNUT COVE**, Page 3D



The openness of this main level allows a full span view of a kitchen on the second level.

#### NOMINATE A HOME

To nominate your house or that of a friend for Home of the Week, contact Bruce Steele at [bsteale@citizen-times.com](mailto:bsteale@citizen-times.com). Include your telephone number and a telephone number for the homeowner, if not you.



A contemporary fireplace centers the main living space that flows into a cozy sitting area then into the kitchen and dining space.

# Which son are we in the ‘Prodigal Son’ parable?



**Devotional**  
Tim McConnell  
Columnist

It will soon be the season for reunions and homecomings — people coming back to the places where they began life, where the surroundings are still familiar and the faces welcoming. These can be the times and places where we renew and refresh ourselves in the past memories that have helped to shape us into who we are.

As the son of a Methodist minister, we moved around quite often as I grew up. About 25 years ago, Debbie and I spent some time traveling around South Georgia looking for the little towns and the country churches in which my family had lived and served.

So many things had changed: Roads had been paved, houses torn down, people we had known had passed away, and some churches and parsonages no longer existed. Yet in the middle of all the unfamiliar surroundings, from time to time a landmark would appear that would stir a memory. A connection would be made — a connection that would span the years of separation. And I would experience a sense of coming home, even if for a brief moment.

Although we realize that things may be different from the last homecoming, whether in faraway places or if you have always lived in one place, homecoming can be enjoyable. We see new faces and changes in the look of the community and church, yet the passing of time within our own lives does not diminish

the joy and excitement of coming home!

I believe God places within each of us that joy and excitement that can have a spiritual application. We can enjoy the joining together of our hearts and spirits in love and fellowship, while presenting ourselves to God our Heavenly Father in a spiritual homecoming.

In Luke 15, Jesus gives us three parables: the lost sheep, the lost coin and the lost son. I would like for us to focus on the last parable, of the two sons — in particular, the one who stayed at home with his father. Verses 25-32 tell us of the reaction of the older son to the homecoming of his brother.

I think a spiritual homecoming is what the parable of the prodigal son is all about. But the response of the other son has much to teach us and cannot be ignored. What if one of us has been away for a while but comes home to a family member who is angry, resentful and jealous? How would that make us feel?

I’m sure the younger son felt the anger of his brother and wished things were different, but according to the story the most important thing in the mind of the prodigal son was the forgiving reception he received from his father.

What is this reaction that the elder brother had, what caused it, and is it possible for this kind of reaction to be evident in our lives today?

The younger son asked for and received his inheritance from his father. He chose to leave home and change his life. The important idea here is not only did the son leave his physical home, but he rejected the spiritual presence and fellowship of his family.

But you remember that when he hit

bottom, came to the end of himself, he wanted his family, his home, his father; so, he repented and headed home. Homecoming was on his mind, making things right with his father was top priority.

When he got home, he was greeted by his father, forgiven, a ring placed on his finger, new clothes, and a party was planned. Here’s where we meet the un-Christ-like attitude of the older son.

Jesus told this story to the tax collectors and the sinners, the outcast of this society. But he also was speaking to the Pharisees and scribes who were grumbling about how Jesus ate with and hung around with the tax collectors and sinners.

Luke is clear as he wrote the words of Jesus that the father in the story is God, the younger brother is a repentant sinner, and the older brother represents the attitude of the Pharisees toward other people.

The older son heard the party going on honoring his brother and was angry. He was angry because all this time he had stayed at home working and carrying on his father’s work. He had done all the right things to please his father, yet here was his brother who had wasted all his resources being celebrated and honored by the entire family.

The older son was angry at his father and at his brother and resentful toward everyone in the house. The older son felt cheated and that he had been wronged by his father. His father came and pleaded with him to come and celebrate the return of his younger brother, but he refused.

Even when his father said, “You have been faithful to me and an excellent

worker. You have followed my wishes. You have a place in my family. But you must understand that your brother was dead spiritually, but now has been resurrected, he was lost out in the world, he is your brother, but now has come back home. I wish you would rejoice and celebrate his salvation with me.”

Jesus talks about not judging one another and about the speck in your brother’s eye while you have a log in yours (Matthew 7:1-3). Paul speaks about not letting our attitudes become a stumbling block to other people (Romans 14:13). And that we should rejoice with those who rejoice.

When the shepherd when out and found his lost sheep, he returned and told his friends, “Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost.” There is rejoicing in heaven when a person experiences a spiritual homecoming. We should celebrate also.

Let’s examine ourselves; allow the Holy Spirit to speak to us about which son does our life look like. Are we the son who needs to come home? Maybe we were separated from God, but we have made that turn in our lives and have experienced homecoming.

But we may look more like the older son, comfortable in our faith walk, working away in the church yet with a critical attitude toward those who are different from us; those who have taken a different path.

Both sons needed to come home, because homecoming is for everyone.

*This is the opinion of the Rev. Tim McConnell, assistant pastor of Long’s Chapel United Methodist Church in Lake Junaluska. Contact him at 828-456-3993 or [pastortimmc.blogspot.com](mailto:pastortimmc.blogspot.com).*

# How can an interfaith marriage work with one nonbeliever?



**Highland Views**  
Chris Highland  
Columnist

When I met my wife, Carol, we were carrying the cross. Seriously. It was an ecumenical Good Friday service at a large downtown church. We joined other ministers in hauling a big cross into the sanctuary before leading the service.

I was about to “follow Jesus out the door” of the church (and religion) while retaining my position as an interfaith chaplain on the streets. Carol held an advocacy position with a nonprofit, working with immigrants from many countries living in a low-income neighborhood.

I visited her where she worked, and she came to see my tiny office tucked behind the organ pipes in the same church where we carried the cross.

A mutual respect developed ... as well as a professional and personal attraction.

That was about 2000. We grew close, lived together for a few years, and in 2005 I moved to a small cabin on an island in Washington state to work the land and write a few books. Carol had taken a new job as the director of an interfaith council with responsibilities that spanned the San Francisco Bay Area.

In 2008, I returned to California to marry Carol at a Zen Buddhist center with celebrant friends who were Buddhist, Jewish, Christian and Wiccan. Carol’s parents, Janet and Charlie, reaffirmed their vows that day — their 50th anniversary. As it happens, my sister and her husband share the same wedding date.



**Carol Hovis, teaching in Asheville.** CHRIS HIGHLAND

June 23 is my dear wife’s 56th birthday. It seems fitting to honor her with a few words, not only because she’s my wife, but because her years of service and her great talents should be recognized (shamelessly biased here). I also think our marriage might offer some insights into the joys and challenges of an interfaith/intersecular relationship.

I asked Carol if she could describe a thread or a stream that runs through her years of ministry. “Relationships” and “inclusion” have been central, she says.

“As I reflect upon my life thus far, every chapter is founded upon significant connections with friends, family, colleagues, mentors. They root and ground me as I keep uncovering the depths of who I am.”

In terms of inclusivity, she says, “Ever since I can recall, I have had an in-

ner sense of ‘knowing’ that all persons are invited and included in the great scheme of life.”

I asked her to explain how a person of deep faith can live in a committed relationship with someone who doesn’t believe the way she does (I have a certain personal interest in her response).

“What’s important to me is depth and authenticity and commitment to treating all sentient beings with respect and dignity,” she replies. “Whether or not Chris believes in a Supreme Being or the certainty of an afterlife, these are not requirements for our relationship to be authentic, committed and have depth. His beliefs are simply not deal-breakers for the love and bond we share.”

She goes on to say that our common bond is love, respect, joy of the outdoors and family, as well as sharing in a good

movie or story, tasty food and travel.

In other words, keeping life simple in a complex world.

We support each other’s gifts and skills, joy in assisting others in meaningful, creative ways. Carol responds, “We also admire in each other the talents we seek to deepen in ourselves — Chris’ writing and teaching, Carol’s networking and bridge-building.”

As you can tell, this is all very personal, and our marriage is far from perfect (whatever a “perfect” relationship is imagined to be). One thing to emphasize is that we do not “tolerate” each other’s beliefs or lack of beliefs. We certainly have disagreements, but we often share similar views of the good and bad in our world.

Though I don’t often attend church with her, I do go to hear her speak as a guest minister now and then (I’ve even been known to read a scripture verse in a service). She has accompanied me to lend support when I lecture or give book readings.

If you are in an interfaith or intersecular relationship, it may help to know that, like any marriage, it takes work, but it can be fulfilling and encouraging. On a foundation of love and laughter (with healthy tears), there are creative ways of handling conflicts that can be quite different than two believers or two nonbelievers may encounter.

Where we once carried a cross together in a church, we might now carry each other’s materials for a service or class, carry a pack down a trail or carry in the groceries. Living life together, faith or no faith, is as good as it gets.

*Chris Highland served as a Protestant minister and interfaith chaplain for nearly 30 years. He is a teacher, writer, free-thinker and humanist celebrant. Chris and his wife, Carol, a Presbyterian minister, live in Asheville. Learn more at [chighland.com](http://chighland.com).*

## RELIGION CALENDAR

Submit your event at least two weeks in advance online at [events.citizen-times.com](http://events.citizen-times.com). Click on “Add your event” to submit details.

### June 24

**Lake Junaluska’s Summer Worship Series featuring Bishop Paul L. Leland:** 10:45 a.m.-noon, Stuart Auditorium, 20 Chapel Drive. Theme is “Stories on the Lakeshore.” Sundays to Aug. 5. [www.lakejunaluska.com](http://www.lakejunaluska.com).

**“Backyard Camp Out” Vacation Bible School:** 6-8:30 p.m. June 24-27, New-bridge Baptist Church, 199 Elkwood Ave., Asheville. For age 2-sixth grade. Campfire stories, games, crafts, music, snacks, and dinner. Call 828-254-7262 to register.

**Celtic service:** 5:30-6:30 p.m., Trinity Episcopal Church, 60 Church St., Asheville.

ville. Benjamin Smith on cello.

**Vacation Bible School:** 6-8:30 p.m., Groce United Methodist, 954 Tunnel Road, Asheville. Theme is Babylon: Daniel’s Courage in Captivity! Free meal at 5:30 p.m. Call 828-298-7647 to register. For age 4-fifth grade.

**Hymn sing and ice cream social:** 6-7:30 p.m., Calvary Presbyterian Church, 44 Circle St., Asheville. Free. 828-778-0063.

### June 25

**SeniorSalt Impact Hymn Sing:** 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Billy Graham Training Center at The Cove, 1 Porters Cove Road, Asheville. <http://thecove.org/>.

**Grief Share Ministry:** 5 p.m. Mondays through August at Newbridge Baptist Church, 199 Elkwood Ave., Asheville. Biblical, Christ-centered, compassion-

ate program to help hurting people deal with grief. 828-254-7262.

### June 28

**Celtic Christianity presentation:** 7-8:30 p.m., Mills River Presbyterian Church, 10 Presbyterian Church Road, Mills River. History of Celtic Christianity followed by a travel tour of Scotland presentation. Free Scottish desserts.

**Vacation Bible School-Canton:** 6 p.m. June 28-30 and 10 a.m. July 1, West Canton Baptist Church, 75 Lowe St., Canton (off Old Clyde Road). 828-648-5561.

### June 30

**Asheville Interfaith meeting:** 4-7 p.m., Ferguson Auditorium on A-B Tech Campus, 340 Victoria Road, Asheville. Video introduction to Hinduism and Islam

followed by open discussion by leaders of these faith communities. Suggested \$2 donation with proceeds going to MANNA.

### July 1

**Lake Junaluska’s Summer Worship Series featuring Rev. Dr. Michael Williams:** 10:45 a.m.-noon, Stuart Auditorium, 20 Chapel Drive. Sundays to Aug. 5. [www.lakejunaluska.com](http://www.lakejunaluska.com).

**Secular Sanctuary:** 4-6 p.m., The Block off Biltmore, 39 S. Market St., Asheville. A new gathering of Freethinkers to celebrate curiosity and common sense in community. [www.secularsanctuary.com](http://www.secularsanctuary.com).

**“Festival of American Hymns” program:** 8:30 and 11 a.m., Brevard-Davidson River Presbyterian Church, 249 E. Main St., Brevard. 828-884-2645.

# Walnut Cove

Continued from Page 1D

three years from the planning stage to finish.

After traveling back and forth a few times, the couple said they loved their new home and the “active nature of the mountains” so much, they sold their home in Chicago.

This contemporary, three-story 7,500-square-foot structure sits on 1.52 acres in the gated community of The Cliffs at Walnut Cove. The couple lives in the four-bedroom, six-bath home with their now 14-week-old lagotto romagnolo puppy, Booker, a hypoallergenic Italian truffle dog.

Designed like the unique pieces of local art placed selectively on each level, the house has so many custom features it is itself a work of art. The design includes heated tiled floors in some areas, limestone accents, dry stacked native stone, cedar shakes, stucco and wood.

Twenty-two tons of steel was required due to the cantilevered nature of the home, providing a “rock solid” structure that can resist mountain winds and weather, Peter said.

The front of the house is set back, so a bridge-like water feature was created to flow in cascading waterfalls from the left side of the bridgeway, recirculating underneath to a pool on the right, providing a spectacular entrance to the home.

Upon entry, the home features an open floorplan and walls of windows with mitered joints to maximize views from the 2,500-foot elevation. A contemporary fireplace centers the main living space that flows into a cozy sitting area then into the kitchen and dining space.

Windows provide an overview of all of Walnut Cove, distant planes leaving the Asheville Airport and eagles, hawks and hummingbirds in flight. To draw the eye to the view without restricting it, the couple had a narrow perpendicular piece of blown glass framed in metal designed by a local glass artist.

The openness of this main level allows a full span view of granite countertops, custom cabinets, glass subway tile backsplash, a hooded vent over a gas stove and an atrium on the second level.

There is a breakfast terrace that faces east with the Pisgah Mountains on the horizon and the Blue Ridge Parkway to the north. Located just off the main room is a four-season room with folding German Nanawall doors. The sliding walls allow this room to be completely open to the outside, so the room was engineered independently to allow separate control of heat and air so as not to affect the rest of the house. Almost invisible screens can be lowered remotely so “you don’t have a red tail hawk fly in,” Peter said.

On this main level of the house is the master suite, where again glass fills the room with light only to be blocked when remotely controlled shades are lowered, mostly during the day to prevent sun fading. A bed designed for this space and built right in the room has a headboard of cabinets on back and faces the windows where the couple enjoys the nighttime sky.

A TV bench at the foot of the bed allows the television to be raised for watching and lowered to avoid obstructing the windows.

The master deck overlooks the 17th green of the golf course and puts the couple at eye level with hummingbirds. There is a small sitting room and a bathroom with a Jacuzzi tub, glassed-in steam shower, individual vanities and a large walk-in closet with lighted clothes rods on a timer.

Opaque glass double doors lead out of the room into a vestibule where, when left open, the sound of the waterfalls can be heard.

The backside of the house is staggered with decks that jut out from each level, providing views from varying angles. Careful consideration was given to each section of the house to determine the best design to capture views and lighting. There is a ground-level fire pit created to look like a metallic campfire and a back lawn of sewn wildflowers.

Beautifully stained wood accents the home throughout with custom cabinets and wood-framed glass doors of alder and flooring of rift-sawn white oak that provides a unique linear appearance. Ceiling heights range from 15 feet in main rooms and up to 25 feet in several atriums with wooden beams and/or customized wood-paneled or coffered ceilings.

Gracing all rooms is exquisite trim carpentry. An elevator provides an alternative to the stairs.

An entertainment room on the lower level features a leather ceiling, a glass-enclosed chilled wine cabinet and a second kitchen.

A highlight of this room is a 2,400-pound original 1924 cast iron red phone booth their designer found in High Point, much to Peter’s delight. A portion of ceiling



A ping pong table is on the third floor at Marty and Peter Vexter’s home at the Cliffs at Walnut Cove in Arden. PHOTOS BY MATT BURKHARTT/ASHEVILLE CITIZEN TIMES



Windows provide an overview of all of Walnut Cove, distant planes leaving the Asheville Airport and eagles, hawks and hummingbirds in flight.



The front of the house is set back, so a bridge-like water feature was created.



Marty Vexter and Peter Vexter at their home at the Cliffs at Walnut Cove in Arden with their dog Booker.

had to be raised for the dome roof. Rock display cases surround a large screen TV where more art from Asheville’s River Art District are featured including a glass flame personalized for Peter.

On this level are two bedrooms for their son and daughter and her spouse when they visit. There is also a step out lower level of the water feature the couple calls the cigar deck and a storage room that houses the nerve center of the house (audio, TV, sprinkler system controls, etc.)

The third level or bonus room that sits above the two double garages — one on main level and one on ground level — is the game room for ping-pong and a great place for competitive games, Marty said.

She had a bedroom designed with six bunkbeds for future grandchildren or visitors. There are also office spaces for Marty, who is retired, and Peter, who is transitioning out of his own specialty insurance brokerage.

Perhaps the most unique feature of this home is the fire pole that provides a 25-foot drop from the upper garage to the lower garage that has the appearance of a firehouse complete with yellow lines on the floor that make it look like trucks in a bay, fire-red cabinetry and firehouse garage doors. There is even a doggie wash for Booker. The garage is somewhat of a shrine to Peter’s history as a firefighter.

A London native, Peter began a life-long relationship with fire departments at age 18 when he went

through the academy to get a job with a London fire brigade, where he remained for eight years. Even after changing his career path to become an insurance broker for a worldwide company called Aon, where he met Marty, he served as a volunteer firefighter and EMT in Clarendon Hills, Illinois, for 20 years.

The couple lost many of their colleagues in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York and most years they return there for the remembrance events but have also established relationships with local fire departments now as well.

Due to his knowledge of structure fires, Peter insisted his home be fitted with a sprinkler system and was pleased that The Cliffs had the foresight to include fire hydrants in the community, with one located just outside his driveway.

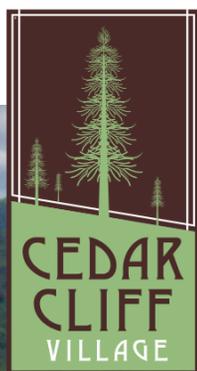
“You can get some damage from the water,” he said, “but it is easier to deal with than charred remains. People spend more money on granite counter tops than a sprinkler system.”

Having the sliding pole was Peter’s original dream, he said. The rest of the theme just evolved and provided a way for him to display his photos and memorabilia from his years as a firefighter. Now, he said, he is so pleased with the result, “I just cannot believe how well it has turned out and way beyond what I could have imagined.”

Reach freelance writer Angela Nicholas at [aknicholas28@gmail.com](mailto:aknicholas28@gmail.com).

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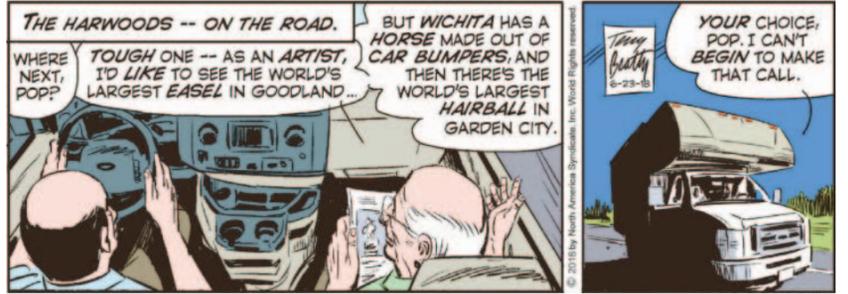
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**June 23, 2018**

CH	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM
<b>BROADCAST</b>	WLOS 13	News (HD)	News (HD)	Paid Program Sponsored.	Funniest Home Videos (R) (HD)	20/20 Investigative reporting on world news. (HD)	News	Ring of Honor Wrestling (HD)			
	WMYA 40	Comics (HD)	Funny (HD)	Feud (R) (HD)	Feud (R) (HD)	Don't (HD)	Don't (HD)	Sheriffs (HD)	Sheriffs (HD)	News	Ring of Honor Wrestling (HD)
	WYFF 4	News (HD)	News (HD)	Matter (N) (HD)	Inside (N) (HD)	Taken: Render (TV14) (N) (HD)	Dateline NBC Investigative features and profiles. (HD)				News
	WSPA 7	News (HD)	News (HD)	Andy (TVG)	Andy (TVG)	Ransom: The Client (TV14) (N) (HD)	48 Hours (TV14) (N) (HD)	48 Hours (TV14) (N) (HD)	FOX Carolina Ten O'clock News		News
	WHNS 21	Nature (N) (HD)	Paid Program	MLB Baseball: Seattle Mariners at Boston Red Sox from Fenway Park (Live)							Gordon (HD)
	WUNF 33	Welk (TVG)	Time (TVPG)	Time (TVPG)	Mid-somer (R)	NC Shorts (R)	Mysteries: All She Leaves Behind	Death in Paradise (TVPG) (HD)			Coroner
	WYCW 62	Whacked (HD)	Rules (HD)	Gold-bergs	Gold-bergs	American Ninja Warrior (HD)	Andy (TVG)	Andy (TVG)	News		Genesis Experience Don
	A&E	(5:00) Live PD: Live PD - 06.15.18 (TV14) (R) (HD)				Live PD: Rewind (TV14) (R) (HD)			Live PD: Live PD - 06.23.18 (TV14) (N) (HD)		
	AFC	(5:00) Local Origination Program									Local
	AMC	(5:30) "Jaws 2" (78, Thriller) ★★½ A police chief tracks a white shark. (HD)				"Jaws" (75, Thriller) A great white shark begins to menace the waters of a New England resort town. (PG) (HD)					"Jaws 2" (HD)
	ANPL	Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet (HD)	Dr. Jeff: Extra Dose (TVPG) (HD)			Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet (HD)	(01) Dodo Heroes (TVPG) (N) (HD)	Vet Gone Wild: Even Wilder (HD)			Dr. Jeff (HD)
	BET	2018 BETX Live (Saturday) (TV14) (N) (HD)				"Tyler Perry's Madea's Big Happy Family" (11) ★½ A woman must help her ill niece. (HD)					"Madea's Family Reunion" (HD)
	BRAVO	(5:20) "Little Fockers" (10) ★★ Impressing in-laws. (HD)				(26) "The Notebook" (04) A woman chooses between a man of whom her parents approve and her first love. (HD)					(28) "The Notebook" (04) (PG-13)
	COM	(5:00) "Men in Black" (97) (HD)				(20) "Blended" (14) ★★½ Two single parents and their children must share suite at African safari resort. (HD)					"Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story" (04) ★★ (HD)
	E!	"No Strings Attached" (11) Physical friendship. (HD)				"27 Dresses" (08) A perennial bridesmaid prepares to walk down the aisle once more. (HD)					"Bride Wars" (09) ★★ Wedding hostilities. (PG) (HD)
	FOOD	Diners (R) (HD)	Diners (R) (HD)	Diners (R) (HD)	Diners (R) (HD)	Diners (R) (HD)	Diners (R) (HD)	Diners (R) (HD)	Diners (R) (HD)	Diners (R) (HD)	Diners (R) (HD)
	FREE	"Maybe" (HD)	(35) "Mr. Deeds" (02, Comedy) A small-town guy inherits a fortune. (HD)			(40) "Just Go With It" (11, Comedy) ★★½ Man fakes split for lady, due to ring. (PG-13) (HD)					"Forgetting" (HD)
	FX	"Iron Man 3" (13, Action) Tony Stark must protect the loved ones who are most important to him. (PG-13) (HD)				"Guardians of the Galaxy" (14) Chris Pratt. Man forms team with quartet of misfits. (HD)					
	HALL	"All of My Heart: Inn Love" (HD)				"Love at First Dance" (18) Dancer instructs groom before wedding. (HD)					"Wedding March 4: Something Old, Something New" (18) (HD)
	HGTV	Fixer Upper (TVG) (R) (HD)	Upper (N) (HD)	Upper (R) (HD)	Fixer Upper (TVG) (R) (HD)	Fixer Upper (TVG) (R) (HD)	Fixer Upper (TVG) (R) (HD)	Beachfront Bargain Hunt: (N) (HD)			Seaside (HD)
	HIST	Pawn (R) (HD)	Pawn (R) (HD)	Pawn (R) (HD)	Pawn (R) (HD)	Pawn Stars: Pumped Up: Movie Night Boba Fett character prototype; Rick goes shopping in Los Angeles. (TVPG) (N) (HD)					
	INSP	Gun-smoke: Double Entry (HD)	Gun-smoke: Run, Sheep, Run (HD)			"Once Upon a Texas Train" (98) Willie Nelson. Train robbery plot. (PG)					Gun-smoke: Deputy Festus (HD)
	LIFE	"Psycho Ex-Girlfriend" (18) A woman wants ex-boyfriend back. (HD)				"Did I Kill My Mother?" ★★½ Cops believe daughter killed her mom. (HD)					"Prescription for Danger" Professional lady. (HD)
	NGC	Wicked Tuna (TV14) (R) (HD)	Wicked Tuna (TV14) (R) (HD)	Wicked Tuna: Twice Bitten (R) (HD)	Wicked Tuna (TV14) (R) (HD)	Wicked Tuna: End-game (R) (HD)	Wicked Tuna: End-game (R) (HD)	Wick Tuna (R)			
	OXYG	Dateline: Secrets Uncovered (HD)	The Price of Duty: Jerry Clark (HD)			Snapped: Virginia Turner (R) (HD)	Snapped: Shelly Arndt (TVPG) (HD)	Snapped: Janet Tyburski (R) (HD)			Snapped (HD)
	PARMT	"The Expendables" (R) (HD)	"The Expendables 2" (12, Action) ★★½ Expendables carry out revenge mission. (R) (HD)			"The Expendables 3" (14) New blood. (PG-13) (HD)					
	SYFY	"Placid 3" (HD)	"Priest" (11, Horror) Priest fights vampires to save niece. (PG-13) (HD)			"Gods of Egypt" (16, Adventure) ★★½ Man and god try to dethrone Set. (PG-13) (HD)					Futura (HD)
	TBS	Seinfeld (HD)	Seinfeld (HD)	Seinfeld (HD)	Seinfeld (HD)	Bang (HD)	Bang (HD)	Bang (HD)	Bang (HD)	Bang (HD)	Frontal (R) (HD)
	TCM	"Cahill: US Marshal" (73) ★★ Marshal's son heads for trouble. (PG) (HD)				"The Carey Treatment" (72) James Coburn. Medical misdeed. (PG) (HD)					"The Young Doctors" (61) ★★½ Doctors battle. (NR)
	TDC	Expedition Unknown (TVPG) (HD)	Expedition Unknown (TVPG) (HD)	Expedition Unknown (TVPG) (HD)	Expedition Unknown (TVPG) (HD)	Expedition Unknown (TVPG) (HD)	Expedition Unknown (TVPG) (HD)	Expedition Unknown (TVPG) (HD)	Expedition Unknown (TVPG) (HD)	Expedition Unknown (TVPG) (HD)	Exp Unknwn
	TLC	Atlanta (R) (HD)	Atlanta (R) (HD)	Say Yes to the Dress: Atlanta (HD)	Say Yes to the Dress: Atlanta (HD)	THAT Wedding: Flashy vs. Classy					Atlanta (R) (HD)
	TNT	"Ocean's Thirteen" (07) Crew exacts revenge on a Vegas kingpin. (HD)				"The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part 2" (15) ★★½ Attempt to liberate citizens of Panem. (PG-13) (HD)					"Live" (HD)
	TVL	Golden (TVPG) (HD)	Golden (TVPG) (HD)	Loves Ray. (HD)	Loves Ray. (HD)	Loves Ray. (HD)	Everybody Loves Raymond (HD)	Loves Ray. (HD)	Mom (HD)	Mom (HD)	Queens (HD)
	USA	NCIS: Enemies Domestic (HD)	NCIS: Homesick (TVPG) (HD)	NCIS: Stop the Bleeding (HD)	NCIS: Charade (TVPG) (HD)	NCIS: Return to Sender (HD)					Queen (R) (HD)
	WGN	Man (HD)	Man (HD)	Man (HD)	Man (HD)	Man (HD)	Man (HD)	Man (HD)	Man (HD)	Man (HD)	Man (HD)
	<b>NEWS</b>										
	CNBC	The Deed Old Friend. (R) (HD)	Undercover Boss: Donatos (HD)	Undercover Boss (TVPG) (HD)	Undercover Boss (TV14) (HD)	Undercover Boss (TVPG) (HD)	Undercover Boss (TV14) (HD)	Undercover Boss (TVPG) (HD)	Undr. Boss		
	FNC	(5:00) America's News HQ (HD)	Fox Report with Jon Scott (HD)	Watters' World (N) (HD)	Justice with Judge Jeanine (HD)	The Greg Gutfeld Show (N) (HD)	Watters' (HD)				
	CNN	Smerconish (N) (HD)	The Axe Files with David Axelrod	Champions for Change (N) (HD)	Anthony Bourdain Parts: Peru (HD)	Anthony Bourdain Parts (R) (HD)	Pts Unknwn				
	CSPAN	Washington	Commun (HD)	Washington This Week Hearings, speeches and political events. (R) (HD)		Public Affairs Events Public affairs events are presented. (R) (HD)					
	<b>KIDS</b>										
	DISN	"The Incredibles" (04) A former superhero returns to work. (PG) (HD)				2018 Radio Disney Music Awards (TVPG) (N) (HD)	2018 Radio Disney Music (R) (HD)	BUNK'D (HD)	BUNK'D (HD)		
	NICK	Loud House (HD)	Loud House (HD)	Loud House (HD)	Henry (R) (HD)	Nicky (N) (HD)	Star Falls (HD)	Full House (HD)	Full House (HD)	Full House (HD)	Friends (HD)
	TOON	Gumball (R) (HD)	Gumball (R) (HD)	Gumball (R) (HD)	Gumball (R) (HD)	Cleve. (HD)	Fam Guy (HD)	Rick Morty (R) (HD)	Rick Morty (R) (HD)	Fam Guy (N) (HD)	Dragon (N) (HD)
	<b>MUSIC</b>										
	CMTV	"Cool Runnings" (93) ★★½ Jamaican bobsledder. (HD)				"The Mighty Ducks" (92, Comedy) Emilio Estevez. A lawyer coaches hockey misfits. (HD)					"Cool Runnings" (93) ★★½ Jamaican bobsledder. (HD)
	MTV	"Easy A" (10, Comedy) ★★½ A teen uses a lie to her advantage. (PG-13)				"The Longest Yard" (05, Comedy) Adam Sandler. Convicts play guards in football game. (PG-13)					"Bad Teacher" Awful instructor. (HD)
	VH1	"Love Don't Cost a Thing" (HD)				"Think Like a Man" (12) Four couples manipulate each other using a popular relationship advice book. (HD)					"Friday After Next" (02) ★★½ Ice Cube. Moving out. (HD)
	<b>PREMIUM</b>										
	ENCORE	"Mission: Impossible II" ★★½ (HD)				(20) "2012" (09, Action) ★★½ Man must save his family from catastrophic, natural disasters around world. (HD)					Spartacus: Vengeance (HD)
	HBO	(55) "The Hitman's Bodyguard" (17, Comedy) Escorting assassin. (HD)				"Kingsman: The Golden Circle" (17, Action) Spies unite to battle crime syndicate. (R) (HD)					Succession: Lifeboats (TVMA) (HD)
	HBO2	"Harry Potter Goblet Fire" (HD)				(15) "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix" (07, Fantasy) Dumbledore's Army. (HD)					"Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince" (09) ★★½ Enemy's origin. (HD)
	MAX	"The Last of the Mohicans" (HD)				C.B. Strike (TVMA) (R) (HD)	"George A. Romero's Land of the Dead" (05) (HD)	(35) "Dawn of the Dead" (04) Zombies in mall. (HD)			C.B. Strike (R) (HD)
	SHOW	The Affair (TVMA) (R) (HD)				"Ghost in the Shell" (17) Woman becomes perfect soldier. (PG-13) (HD)					"Love Means Zero" (17) ★★½ Tennis coach. (NR)
	SHOW2	(5:30) "Apollo 13" (95, Drama) An explosion aboard a spacecraft. (HD)				"Erik Griffin: AmERiKan" (HD)					"68 Kill" Robbery gone awry. (HD)
	STARZ	(19) "Race to Witch Mountain" (09) ★★½ Maniaids rare kids. (PG) (HD)				"Independence Day" (96) Will Smith. Alien spacecrafts destroy entire cities. (PG-13) (HD)					(28) Wrong Man (TVMA) (R) (HD)
	SUN	M*A*S*H (HD)	M*A*S*H (HD)	M*A*S*H (HD)	M*A*S*H (HD)	M*A*S*H (HD)	M*A*S*H (HD)	M*A*S*H (HD)	M*A*S*H (HD)	M*A*S*H (HD)	M*A*S*H (HD)
	TMC	(5:00) "25th Hour" (03) (R) (HD)				(15) "RoboCop" (87) A slain officer becomes a super-cyborg. (R) (HD)					"Maniac" (13, Horror) ★★½ Mannequin store. (NR) (HD)

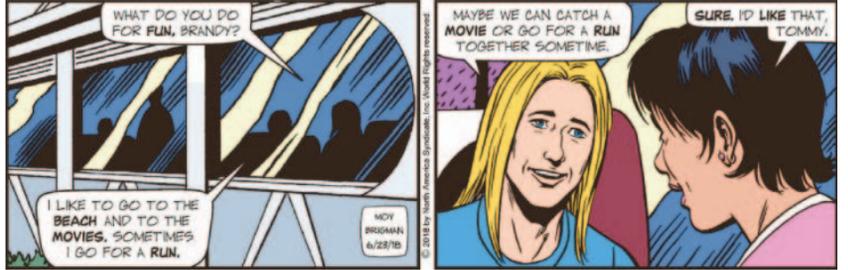
VISIT CITIZEN-TIMES.COM/TV FOR MORE TV LISTINGS PLUS ENTERTAINMENT HIGHLIGHTS. FIND TV LISTINGS FOR SPORTS EVENTS ON THE SCOREBOARD PAGE IN TODAY'S SPORTS.

REX MORGAN



Terry Beatty

MARY WORTH



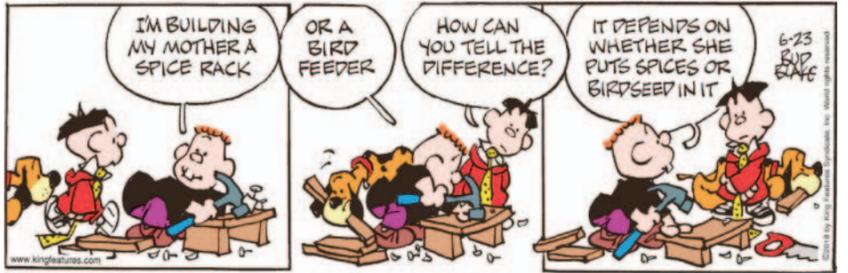
Karen Moy, June Brigman

JUMPSTART



Robb Armstrong

TIGER



Bud Blake

BREAKING CAT NEWS



Georgia Dunn

SHERMAN'S LAGOON



Jim Toomey

SNUFFY SMITH



John Rose

# Stepmother wants family taxi service to go out of business



**Dear Abby**  
Jeanne Phillips

**Dear Abby:** My husband and I have been married 2½ years. We have both been married before. I have a son, and he has three daughters. My son is married with two children. He works and is pretty self-sufficient. Two of my husband's daughters live in the same city we do. They are 26 and 28. They don't have cars or driver licenses and live with their mother, who is also car-less.

They often ask us for transportation. While I don't mind doing it once in a while, we are not a taxi service. Occasionally, they'll offer gas money. But my point is, every time the car is started and driven down the street, there is wear and tear on the vehicle. The girls don't step up when it's time to pay repair bills.

This is a constant argument between my husband and me, and I don't know what to do about it. I love my stepdaughters, but in my opinion, they are old enough to be more self-sufficient. Advice, please.

— *Desperate in Reno, Nev.*

**Dear Desperate:** You're right; the "girls" are old enough. The solution to your problem lies in helping them become independent. This is what you should discuss with their father. There is a public transportation system in your community, and they should be familiar with it. If for some reason that's not workable, perhaps their father could help them pay for driving lessons and/or a down payment on a used ve-

hicle of their own.

**Dear Abby:** My fiance told me that an old friend of mine whom I am close to has kissed him goodbye on the lips twice now. He said the last time she did it, it made him feel uncomfortable and guilty.

I have never seen her do this to anyone else, and to be honest, I was angry about it when he told me. I am the godmother of her child, and I feel awkward around her now. What should I do? Should I let her come to me, or tell her it has been brought to my attention?

— *In a Weird Spot in California*

**Dear Weird Spot:** Ideally, your fiance should ask her to stop kissing him on the mouth. However, if he's not up to doing that, tell your old friend your fiance mentioned that the last few times he has seen her, she kissed him on the mouth and it made him uncomfortable. Then tell her that when you heard about it, it made YOU uncomfortable, so please don't do it again.

**Dear Abby:** I was eating a Greek salad at a restaurant the other night, and I started to wonder about the polite way to eat olives with pits. I typically put the whole thing in my mouth, eat the flesh, then pull the pit out with my fingers and place it on a dish. I started wondering if it was rude to reach into my mouth and spit things out in a restaurant. What is the polite way to eat an olive in public?

— *It's the Pits in New York*

**Dear Pits:** According to etiquette experts the Post family, you have done nothing wrong. The key to disposing of an olive pit is to do it discreetly. (Shield the maneuver with your napkin to avoid offending your companion(s) if you're not alone.)

Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com).

## TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Saturday, June 23, the 174th day of 2018.

There are 191 days left in the year.

On this date in:

**1314:** During the First War of Scottish Independence, the two-day Battle of Bannockburn, resulting in victory for the forces of Robert the Bruce over the army of King Edward II, began near Stirling.

**1537:** Spanish explorer Pedro de Mendoza, the founder of Buenos Aires, died aboard his ship while heading back to Spain.

**1757:** Forces of the East India Company led by Robert Clive won the Battle of Plassey, which effectively marked the beginning of British colonial rule in India.

**1868:** Christopher Latham Sholes received a patent for his "Type-Writer," featuring a QWERTY keyboard; it was the first commercially successful typewriter.

**1892:** The Democratic national convention in Chicago nominated former President Grover Cleveland on the first ballot.

**1938:** The Civil Aeronautics Authority was established.

**1947:** The Senate joined the House in overriding President Harry S. Truman's veto of the Taft-Hartley Act, designed to limit the power of organized labor.

**Today's birthdays:** Singer **Diana Trask** is 78. Musical conductor **James Levine** is 75. Actor **Ted Shackelford** is 72. Actor **Bryan Brown** is 71. Supreme Court Justice **Clarence Thomas** is 70. Actor **Jim Metzler** is 67. "American Idol" ex-judge **Randy Jackson** is 62. Actress **Frances McDormand** is 61. Rock musician **Steve Shelley** (Sonic Youth) is 56. Actor **Paul La Greca** is 56. Writer-director **Joss Whedon** is 54. Rhythm and blues singer **Chico DeBarge** is 48. Actress **Selma Blair** is 46. Actor **Joel Edgerton** is 44. Rock singer **KT Tunstall** is 43. Actress **Emmanuelle Vaugier** is 42. Singer-songwriter **Jason Mraz** is 41. Football Hall of Famer **LaDainian Tomlinson** is 39. Actress **Melissa Rauch** is 38. Rock singer **Duffy** is 34.

**BLONDIE** DEAN YOUNG & JOHN MARSHALL

YOU'RE GOING TO RUN THREE MILES?! OH, YEAH! I'M ALL ABOUT HEALTH!

AND I'M ALSO ALL ABOUT THE NEW 'GUS'S GOOEY GOURMET STAND THAT JUST OPENED THREE MILES AWAY!

**BABY BLUES** JERRY SCOTT, RICK KIRKMAN

THIS HOME IS PROTECTED BY CLOSED-CIRCUIT CAMERAS

THIS HOME IS MONITORED BY ARMED PATROL

THIS HOUSE IS WATCHED BY A BIG FAT TATTLETALE

MO-O-O-M-M!

**FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE** LYNN JOHNSTON

BECAUSE I WAS SO PREOCCUPIED WITH ELIZABETH, GRANDMA KNEW YOU'D NEED EXTRA ATTENTION...

GRANDMA CARRIE TOOK ME TO THE PARK AN' WE PLAYED BALL, AN' WE WENT DOWNTOWN, AN' HAD ICE CREAM AN' THEN SHE TOOK ME TO...

YOUR MOM'S AMAZING, JOHN! SHE SPENT THE WHOLE DAY WITH MICHAEL, AND JUST SAID SHE'D LIKE TO SPEND THE WHOLE EVENING WITH THE BABY!

SN0GZ222

ZN222

**MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM** MIKE PETERS

OH NO!!

WHAT'S WRONG?

MY FACE IS HAVING A BAD HAIR DAY!

**ROSE IS ROSE** PAT BRADY & DON WIMMER

ONE DAY WE'LL BE OLD AND GRAY, LEANING ON THIS FENCE... AND STILL BRAGGING ABOUT OUR KIDS!

OUR KIDS... WILL BE ADULTS!

I'M NOT GOING TO THINK ABOUT IT, JIMBO.

I HAVEN'T GIVEN IT A SECOND THOUGHT.

**SALLY FORTH** MARCIULIANO & KEEFE

OKAY, BEFORE WE ALL GO TO THE TRYSTERO COMIC CON, I JUST... I JUST...

I JUST NEED TO CHECK ON SOMETHING...

DID WE GET STUCK PAYING FOR HECHLE'S AND JECKLE'S TICKETS LIKE WE DID WITH THE KAUJU PARK?

TED, I DO NOT HAVE TIME FOR THIS! I FORGOT THAT STARLEE'S OUTFIT IN SEASON FOUR HAD PULSE-GUN EARRINGS. DO YOU KNOW HOW HEAVY OATMEAL CANS ARE GOING TO WEIGH ON MY EARLOBES?!

**GARFIELD** JIM DAVIS

...AND THEN THE CHIPMUNKS ATE MY SHOES...

WHILE I WAS STILL WEARING THEM!

I SEE BY YOUR EXPRESSION THAT YOU'VE BEEN VISITING WITH JON

**HAGAR THE HORRIBLE** CHRIS BROWNE

I TOLD MY SON I'D LIKE HIM TO FOLLOW IN MY FOOTSTEPS!

ISN'T HE TOO YOUNG TO GO TO THE TAVERN?

**FRED BASSET** ALEX GRAHAM

READY, FRED?

NOPE!

STEADY, FRED?

NOPE!

GO, FRED?

NOPE!

**NON SEQUITUR** WILEY

MY WIFE! MY ALTER-EGO! ...WHICH I GUESS IS OK, BUT IT STILL WEIRDS ME OUT EVERY TIME...

THE ADVENTURES OF CONUNDRUM-MAN

**PEANUTS** CHARLES SCHULZ

EVENTUALLY, THAT COULD WEAR OUT MY NOSE...

**SHOE** GARY BROOKINS & SUSIE MACNELLY

HOW FAR FROM HERE TO THE GREEN?

ABOUT 10 MORE SWEAR WORDS.

**ZITS** JERRY SCOTT, JIM BORGMAN

WE NEED TO PICK A SONG TO PLAY FOR THE AUDITION.

HOW MANY HAVE WE WRITTEN?

ABOUT SIXTY.

HOW MANY CAN WE PLAY ALL THE WAY THROUGH WITHOUT STOPPING TO ARGUE ABOUT SOMETHING?

ONE.

THEN WE'VE MADE OUR CHOICE.

NO WE HAVEN'T!

**THE FAMILY CIRCUS/BIL KEANE**

"Daddy, just skip ahead to where the bunny jumps over the fence onto the frog. That part's better."

**ASTROLOGY BY HOLIDAY MATHIS**

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** Indulge your theories. Investigate your intuitive hits. Follow your instincts. That's the way to tell the universe that you're ready to know more truth and see more beauty.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** To cross something off of your list — that's satisfaction. To enable another person to cross something off his or her list will be, oddly enough, even more satisfying.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** The reason you use lists is because you understand that it is mentally empowering to tackle a few items on a list while it is overwhelming to face the never-ending maintenance that life requires.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** The road is long. How can you keep your motivation strong through the entire journey? You probably can't. Dips are natural, and you shouldn't let them stop you. Reward yourself along the way so you'll have the gumption to make it.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** The work of "doing you" will change through the years. One era has certain requirements; another shows a different set of actions. Think about this today, because it's time to let go of a behavior that's holding you back.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** When it comes to your feelings today, resistance is futile. Turn toward it. It will be possible to process an emotion until it loses its charge and therefore its power over you.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Good fortune will definitely have a hand in what you do. The stroke of luck will come. This is nothing to wait around for though, of course, as luck runs on momentum. It will be carried by the wind of your movement.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** It is possible for certain things to be accomplished in the spirit of joy and fun, though it's the exception, not the rule. Everything you see, the roads, the vehicles, the buildings — they were all built through work and duty.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** It just might turn out that the very thing you were looking for was also trying to find you. However, even if this turns out to be the case, you'll only find out at the end of the search. Continue!

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** You'll like what you do and the feeling you get while you're doing it. The results are secondary, but they are still an essential part of the cycle. The results complete the wheel that keeps it all rolling down the road.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** You can feel great or terrible about yourself and still get the same amount accomplished. So don't worry so much about your self-esteem. Once you're in the flow of work, it's a nonissue.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** Someone is living vicariously through you. You may be fulfilling the wish of those who came before you, or living out what someone close to you, for whatever reason, could not.

**DILBERT** SCOTT ADAMS

MY NEW DEFENSE AGAINST EVERY ACCUSATION IS TO BE OFFENDED BY THE QUESTION.

THAT WORKS? DEPENDS HOW HARD I SELL IT.

WHY HAVEN'T YOU RETURNED ANY OF MY EMAILS?

HOW DARE YOU!

**DENNIS THE MENACE/HANK KETCHAM**

"WELL, IS IT TOO MUCH ...TO ASK FOR A ROOT BEER?"

**BEETLE BAILEY** MORT, GREG & BRIAN WALKER

HA! I HAVE A FULL HOUSE!!

GET TO WORK, SNORKEL!

JUST BECAUSE YOU WON ONE CARD GAME, IT DOESN'T LET YOU BE ME, BEETLE!

**PLUGGERS/GARY BROOKINS**

LET'S SEE ... I LOST THREE, FOUND FOUR ... THAT'S ONE UNDER PAR.

To a pluggers, a good round of golf is when you find more balls than you lose.

**LOLA** TODD CLARK

HEY, JOYCE, WHAT'S WITH THE GOAT?

THIS IS LESTER.

HE'S MY EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMAL.

HE'S EATING MY SPORTS SECTION.

AND THAT BRINGS ME PEACE.

**ANDY CAPP** REGGIE SMYTHE

I WAS TALKING TO DORIS. DID YOU KNOW BETTY HAS LEFT BERT FOR NOBBY REYNOLDS?

ALL YOU WOMEN DOIS GOSSIP ABOUT YOUR TERRIBLE FRIENDS.

THAT'S NOT TRUE.

WE OFTEN GOSSIP ABOUT OUR TERRIBLE HUSBANDS.

# Goats for rent: Will eat overgrown yards

## More ecologically beneficial than chemicals

**Brian Lee**  
Telegram & Gazette

LUNENBURG, Mass. — Fitchburg landlords Neil and Julie Brown said they used to have plenty of time to landscape their rental property.

But now, with two young children, the two-family property's yard had become an eyesore of overgrowth.

Also, Julie Brown said the last time they tried to do it themselves her husband developed poison ivy to the point his eye was swollen shut.

This time, the couple turned to a group of bearded "landscapers" with an insatiable appetite for their work.

They hired Central Mass Goat Rental of Lunenburg. Ten goats ate the overgrown weeds and vegetation from cut branches in seven days.

The three-year-old business has a roster of 23 goats it rents to flustered homeowners whose land has been overrun by invasive plants like poison ivy, poison oak, picker bushes, and bitter-sweet bushes, to name a few.

On the West Coast, goats have also been used to reduce wildfires.

The Browns said they developed an attachment to the goats, and they came to say goodbye the last day of the job Wednesday.

Their son, 4-year-old Matthew Brown, appeared to have a blast as he frolicked with the goats.

"I touched a goat," he exclaimed to his mother.

As animal lovers, choosing goats "seemed like the right fit," said Julie Brown, who showed a reporter some "before" pictures of the property. One couldn't see to a fence to the back of the property in the photos. The goats made it visible.

She said her tenants enjoyed having the goats around. Several passersby and motorists stopped and smiled at the site of the goats on the urban street.

She also credited the company for being easy to work with. The job began with five goats, but midway through, its owner brought five others to increase the pace. She said she was told they are



**Jenna Sherwood from Central Mass Goat Rentals tends to one of the goats at a job site in Fitchburg, Mass. Ten goats ate the overgrown weeds and vegetation from cut branches in seven days. The three-year-old business has a roster of 23 goats it rents to flustered homeowners whose land has been overrun by invasive plants like poison ivy, poison oak, picker bushes and bitter-sweet bushes, to name a few. JIM MARABELLO/WORCESTER TELEGRAM & GAZETTE VIA AP**

competitive and would eat faster as a larger group.

Price quotes from the company depend on the size of the job.

Central Mass Goat Rental co-owner Tammy Hebert said five goats can clear about a quarter-acre of overgrowth in a week.

The goats are contained to a job site by an electric fence.

Hebert said she considers goats more ecologically beneficial than using chemicals, which sometimes has to be applied more than once. Cutting the plants is another option, but the homeowner is still left to figure out what to do with them, and burning is not a good option, she said.

Finding a landscaper who's willing to wade through poison ivy isn't easy, and is probably expensive, Hebert suggested.

Buying or renting equipment is yet another option, but this can be rough on the land, particularly when the weeds are so plentiful the ground can't be seen, she said.

Goats are ruminants that can break down the plants they consume. They have four stomachs and don't re-seed the vegetation, Hebert said.

"When they're on a job they're playing and interacting," Mrs. Hebert said. "They play King of the Hill. People will end up having a barbecue and invite friends over for the sheer entertainment of watching the goats."

The company is selective about its "hires."

"We can't have any screamers," Hebert said. "We have a nice quiet crowd. The only time they're loud is when they're running low on food. That's a sign for us the job is done. They start

getting 'hangry.' "

The company has been catering to residential owners because Hebert said she likes having a connection with the owner. However, this week the company will give an estimate at a baseball park.

When players hit foul balls to the outskirts of the park, they're unable to retrieve them through overgrowth, Hebert explained.

"The word is getting out, and there's been a lot of positive results and people have been happy," Hebert said. "It's a win-win for everyone. Being a vet tech (by trade), I want my animals to live a life where they can make an impact on people, because you can't help but fall in love with these guys. They're just so fun."

Hebert's background also allows her to keep maintenance costs low by taking care of most of their medical needs. She vaccinates and de-worms them herself.

Customers, she said, "are not going to be getting zoonotic diseases, but they should wash their hands after they interact with them, just like with any farm animal."

The company has grown steadily. During its first season it used four goats. By year two it began with nine, and it ended the season with 23, she said.

Hebert said she's not big into breeding.

"I feel like people just overdo it sometimes with the goats. Because each goat can have three, four, five kids. That's just too much. I'm not here for a dairy farm or anything like that. I'm not selling cheese. I'm not selling milk. I'm just sharing this amazing ability that they have. They really make a huge difference. So many people out there just can't keep up with the overgrowth and it's affecting the natural habitat of these plants."

Hebert started the business with her husband, Seth, a landscaper. This year they added fellow landscaper Dan Ahlman as a business partner. Hebert's friend, Jenna Sherwood, has also been helping.

"She and I are pretty much doing all the labor," Hebert said with a laugh. "I think the guys got burnt out."

## TAILGATE MARKET REPORT

# The bounty of summer: Where to find the best local produce

**Courtesy of ASAP**  
Special to Asheville Citizen Times  
USA TODAY NETWORK

The past week has been a turning point for produce farmers this season. It feels like everything has come in at once! There's still more produce to trickle in over the rest of June and through July, but this week sure was packed.

So what are some of the new things you can find this week?

McConnell Farms brought the first blackberries to market. Find them at Asheville City Market, West Asheville Tailgate Market and North Asheville Tailgate Market.

Blueberries perfect for pies, or just a bowl of berries and vanilla ice cream, are now in season. Find them from farms such as Full Sun Farm (North Asheville Tailgate Market and River Arts District Farmers Market).

Get your "garden egg" recipes ready, because Thatchmore Farm (West Asheville Tailgate Market and North Asheville Tailgate Market) brought the first eggplant of the season. ("Garden egg" is a name for eggplant in other parts of the world).

Ten Mile Farm (River Arts District Farmers Market and Asheville City Market) has shishitos now. These peppers are perfect for pan frying with a little oil and salt until they soften and blacken slightly. They're a great side dish for a light summer dinner.

Roman and haricot vert beans made their debut from Lee's One Fortune Farm (West Asheville Tailgate Market, Asheville City Market and East Asheville Tailgate Market). Saute, boil or steam these beans and add butter and salt after for an easy addition of protein to any meal.

Celery can now be found from Fiddler's Green (Asheville City Market) as well as early potatoes from a number of farmers. What else can this mean but potato salad?

Also, Aardvark Farm (River Arts District Farmers Market and Asheville City Market) has been bringing edible flowers to markets these past two weeks. Not only are they beautiful to look at, they're wonderful to eat! Add them to

salads to wow your dinner guests.

We're not yet in the height of tomato season, but there are tomatoes making their way to markets. Before the hearty heirlooms get here, try using these earlier tomatoes to make cucumber and tomato salad. It's a wonderful light, crisp summer dish, especially with fresh herbs added.

Area farmers tailgate markets take place throughout the region. As always, you can find information about farms, tailgate markets, and farm stands, including locations and hours, by visiting ASAP's online Local Food Guide at [appalachiangrown.org](http://appalachiangrown.org).

### WNC markets

Following are some of Western North Carolina's outdoor tailgate markets, according to ASAP. For a full list of tailgate and farmers markets across the region, listed by day of the week with links to locations and other details, visit the "Tailgate Markets by Day" page on ASAP's website, [appalachiangrown.org](http://appalachiangrown.org).

■ **Asheville City Market:** 8 a.m.-noon Saturdays.

■ **Asheville City Market South:** noon-4 p.m. Wednesdays.

■ **Black Mountain Tailgate Market:** 9 a.m.-noon Saturdays.

■ **East Asheville Tailgate Market:** 3-6 p.m. Fridays.

■ **Hot Springs Homegrown and Handmade Market:** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturdays.

■ **Mars Hill Farmers & Artisans Market:** 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturdays.

■ **North Asheville Tailgate Market:** 8 a.m.-noon Saturdays.

■ **Oakley Farmers Market:** 3:30-6:30 p.m. Thursdays.

■ **River Arts District Farmers Market:** 3-6 p.m. Wednesdays.

■ **Sundays on the Island, Marshall:** At noon Sundays.

■ **Weaverville Tailgate Market:** 2:30-6 p.m. Wednesdays.

■ **West Asheville Tailgate Market:** 3:30-6:30 p.m. Tuesdays.

■ **WNC Farmers Market:** 8 a.m.-6 p.m. daily.

■ **Yancey County Farmers Market:** Saturdays 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

**Asap's farm tour**

June 23-24, 2018

[asapconnections.org](http://asapconnections.org)