

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

Special thanks go out to all of our clients and friends who graciously referred our shop to their friends and neighbors last month! Our business is built based on the positive comments and referrals from people just like you. We just couldn't do it without you.

We'll pay \$20.00 Cash or a Free Regular Oil Change for Every Referral!

The Story Of Raggedy Ann And Andy

Raggedy Ann, beloved by children for nearly a century, first appeared as a faceless rag doll that artist and cartoonist Johnny Gruelle found in the family attic in the early 1900s. Gruelle painted a smiling face on the doll and gave it to his daughter, Marcella, who adopted Raggedy Ann as her constant playmate. In 1915, Gruelle submitted a drawing of Raggedy Ann to the U.S. Patent Office. When Marcella was a teenager, she died tragically from an infection. Her father dealt with his grief by writing down and collecting all the Raggedy Ann stories he had told his daughter when she was younger.

The first Raggedy Ann collection of stories, along with commercially produced Raggedy Ann dolls appeared in 1918. A year later, Gruelle patented Raggedy Andy, and for the next two decades, wrote and published a Raggedy Ann and Andy book nearly every year, as well as other children's adventure stories and fairy tales.



Monte Cristo Sandwiches

If you have leftover ham, here's a quick and delicious way to use it up:

- 2 slices of white bread
- 1 slice of ham
- 1 slice of Muenster cheese
- 1 egg
- 1/4 cup milk
- Butter

Beat eggs and milk together. Dip bread in mixture to coat both sides. In a large skillet, melt butter and put in bread in single layers. Cook on medium high heat until both sides are lightly browned. On one side of bread, add a slice of ham and cheese; cover with the other slice of bread. Cook at low heat until cheese has melted. These can be made ahead of time, wrapped in foil, and then reheated (in the foil) in the oven.

Good-For-You Golf

Golf is great exercise, but it can also create lower-back problems for those who don't take precautions. These tips from the American Chiropractic Association can help you perfect your swing without getting bent out of shape.

- Use clubs appropriate for your height and weight.
- Take lessons. Learn how to swing properly, so that at the end of the swing, you are standing up straight and your back is not twisted.
- Try using esthetics in your shoes. These custom-made inserts support the arch, absorb shock, and increase coordination.
- Use soft shoes or soft spikes rather than metal spikes to reduce stress on your back and allow for greater motion.
- Warm up before playing. Take a brisk walk and do some gentle stretches; then stretch again after the game.
- Pull, don't carry, your golf bag.
- Drink lots of water and avoid smoking and alcohol while you play, since these can dehydrate you and cause fatigue.

Homemade Play Dough

Did you know you can easily make your own play dough at home? Here's how:

Mix 3 cups flour, 1-1/2 cups salt, and 6 teaspoons of cream of tartar in a saucepan. Add 3 cups of cool water and 3 tablespoons of vegetable oil. Stir over medium heat for three to five minutes. When the mixture forms a ball in the center of the pot, remove from heat and let cool. Turn the dough onto a floured surface, divide into smaller balls, and knead a few drops of food coloring into each portion. Then store it in an airtight container in the refrigerator.

Storing Flower Bulbs

If your order of bulbs arrives at an inconvenient time and you can't plant them right away, gardening experts say you can store your bulbs in a dry, dark, cool place. The storage area should be between 50 and 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The vegetable compartment in the refrigerator works well, but keep bulbs away from fruit because a gas emitted by ripening fruit can ruin bulbs.

Put Valuables In Your Carry-On

Some travelers don't realize that any valuables in a lost suitcase will not be paid for by the airline. These include jewelry, cameras, business papers, laptop computers, and cash.

Put these items in your carry-on bag even though your bag will be heavier.

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