

COMING UP NEXT ON NEWSDEPTH...

IT'S TIME TO CHOOSE A NEW PRESIDENT!
NO - NOT FOR THE RED, WHITE, AND BLUE -
BUT FOR THE BLEU, BLANC, ET ROUGE!
WE'LL CHECK ELECTIONS IN PARIS.

HE MAY BE THE MOST RECOGNIZED RELIGIOUS FIGURE ON THE PLANET -
SO WHAT IS POPE FRANCIS DOING RUNNING A LAUNDROMAT IN ROME?
SOME FOLKS ARE CALLING IT A MIRACLE!

ALSO GETTING A MIRACLE OF SORTS -
THE YOUNG WOMEN OF NEW YORK CITY GIRL SCOUT TROOP 6000.
WE'LL TELL YOU WHY THERE'S NO OTHER TROOP LIKE THEIRS - IN THE WORLD...

AND NO MATTER WHICH CITY – WE'VE GOT A PLANETARY PROBLEM WITH PLASTIC
TRASH...
SO THESE 'INSECTS' ARE READY TO TAKE A BIG BITE, OUT OF OUR DEBRIS PROBLEM.

NEWSDEPTH IS NOW!

DONALD TRUMP PASSES THE 100-DAY MARK AS PRESIDENT, AND SKIPS DINNER!

HELLO, EVERYONE. I'M RICK JACKSON. THANKS FOR JOINING US.

LAST SATURDAY WAS PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP'S 100TH DAY IN OFFICE, A
MILESTONE THAT HE THAT HE NOTED IN HIS WEEKLY ADDRESS.

PRESIDENT TRUMP:

*"I TRULY BELIEVE THAT THE FIRST 100 DAYS OF MY ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN JUST
ABOUT MOST SUCCESSFUL IN OUR COUNTRY'S HISTORY."*

BUT PRESIDENT TRUMP OPTED OUT OF ATTENDING AN ANNUAL EVENT THAT'S BEEN
VISITED BY EVERY U.S. PRESIDENT FOR THE PAST 36 YEARS.

IT'S THE WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT'S DINNER - A WASHINGTON, D.C.
TRADITION –

HELD SINCE 1921, IT'S A GATHERING OF THE WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT'S
ASSOCIATION. A CORRESPONDENT IS A REPORTER WHO WRITES ABOUT A
PARTICULAR SUBJECT – IN THIS CASE, THE CORRESPONDENTS FOCUS IS ON THE
PRESIDENT; AND HIS ADMINISTRATION.

--SOT--

JEFF MASON

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENTS' ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT:

"TONIGHT LOOKS A LITTLE DIFFERENT, BUT THE VALUES THAT UNDERPIN THIS DINNER HAVE NOT CHANGED. IN FACT, I THINK THEY'VE BEEN REINFORCED. WE ARE HERE TO CELEBRATE GOOD JOURNALISM. WE ARE HERE TO CELEBRATE THE PRESS, NOT THE PRESIDENCY."

THE DINNER SERVES AS A SCHOLARSHIP BENEFIT FOR JOURNALISM STUDENTS, AND IN RECENT YEARS, A GOOD-NATURED ROAST OF THE SITTING PRESIDENT.

BUT INSTEAD OF GETTING ROASTED – PRESIDENT TRUMP WAS OFF RALLYING SUPPORTERS IN PENNSYLVANIA.

WHILE OUR NEW PRESIDENT REACHED A MILESTONE -- ACROSS THE GLOBE IN FRANCE, VOTERS WILL SOON DECIDE WHO WILL BE THE NEXT RESIDENT OF THE ÉLYSÉE PALACE. THAT'S THE FRENCH VERSION OF THE WHITE HOUSE, WHERE THE NEXT PRESIDENT OF FRANCE WILL LIVE.

VOTERS THERE HEAD INTO A RUN-OFF ELECTION THIS WEEK, CHOOSING BETWEEN EMMANUEL MACRON - AND MARINE LE PEN. THOSE TWO CANDIDATES WERE NARROWED FROM A POOL OF 11 CANDIDATES DURING THE FIRST ROUND OF VOTING IN APRIL.

BUT WHILE VOTERS WEIGH THEIR OPTIONS IN FRANCE, THEIR BOOT-SHAPED EUROPEAN NEIGHBOR, ITALY, CELEBRATED THE OPENING OF A LAUNDROMAT.

BUT THIS ISN'T JUST ANY LAUNDROMAT – FOR ONE, IT DOESN'T ACCEPT QUARTERS...OH, AND IT WAS OPENED BY THE POPE! AN INTERESTING NEW BUSINESS VENTURE FOR THE HEAD OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH? DELIA GALLAGHER IS IN ROME TO TELL US MORE.

INSIDE THIS FORMER HOSPITAL IN THE HEART OF ROME, POPE FRANCIS HAS SET UP A PLACE WHICH OFFERS A DIFFERENT KIND OF CARE- A FREE LAUNDROMAT FOR THE POOR.

CIRO AND ROSANNA, TWO OF THE ESTIMATED 7,000 HOMELESS IN ROME, HAVE BROUGHT THEIR CLOTHES HERE WHERE VOLUNTEERS DO THE WASHING FOR THEM. CIRO SAYS HE SLEEPS "WHEREVER HE IS." OFTEN IN A HOSPITAL OR ON A BENCH.

Ciro, Homeless man: "In the summer it's ok, in the winter - we're like popsicles, penguins" (Original Italian: "d'estate va bene, l'inverno - siamo come I ghiaccoli, come I penguintoday, BEFORE THE POPE'S LAUNDROMAT, HE SAYS HE WOULD WEAR HIS DIRTY CLOTHES UNTIL THEY WERE FALLING APART AND THEN THROW THEM AWAY.

Ciro, Homeless man: "For us, it's a very important thing. I want to thank Pope Francis, it's really an amazing gift." (Per noi, e' una cosa molto importante. Voglio ringraziare PF, veramente e' stato un dono stupendo.)

Delia Gallagher, CNN Reporter: "SO there are 6 washing machines and 6 dryers here as well as ironing facilities next door and the volunteers tell me that they can do about 16 loads of laundry in a day and what's important for them is that the name of the person gets on to their load of laundry so they can be sure once its washed, dried and ironed it gets back to the right person." THE LAUNDROMAT IS THE LATEST OF POPE FRANCIS'S PROJECTS FOR THE POOR IN ROME. HE HAS ALREADY OPENED A DORMITORY, FOR MEN AND WOMEN, AND SHOWERS, A BARBERSHOP AND MEDICAL FACILITIES AT THE VATICAN.

"the bodies of the poor are taken care of by someone and it's beautiful because PF really

understood that this is what they need." ("insomma, il corpo dei poveri viene preso in cura da qualcuno ed e molto bello perche PR ha capito molto bene quali sono le esignze, bisogni dei poveri.")

MASSIMILIANO, REMEMBERS ONE OF THE HOMELESS SMELLING HIS FRESHLY LAUNDERED CLOTHES.

Massimiliano, Volunteer: "He said, 'It reminds me of home,' - that's what we do here, this is a little like a family which helps people to feel at home." (Original Italian: "una persona che e venuta qui la prima volta a fare la lavatrice uscendo odorando I panni che profumavano ha detta ma io sento davvero profumo di casa, questa e un po una famiglia che aiuta a tutti a sentirsi a casa")

A HOME WHERE DOING THE LAUNDRY IS NOT A CHORE, BUT A GIFT FOR WHICH THEY ARE GRATEFUL.

OF COURSE, HOMELESSNESS ISN'T EXCLUSIVE TO ITALY. HERE IN THE U.S., MORE THAN A MILLION ADULTS RELY ON HOMELESS SHELTERS – AND UPWARDS OF 2 MILLION CHILDREN WILL BE HOMELESS AT SOME POINT THIS YEAR. AND, AS POPE FRANCIS SHOWS US, THE LITTLE THINGS CAN MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE FOR PEOPLE STRUGGLING WITH HOMELESSNESS.

IN WISCONSIN, A SEVENTH GRADER FOUND THIS OUT FIRSTHAND, WHEN SHE LEARNED THAT NOT EVERYONE GETS A BIRTHDAY PARTY. SHE DECIDED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT. THE CHARITY LIA HAILE STARTED HAS ALREADY BEEN RECOGNIZED BY LOCAL POLITICIANS – AND, NOW, WE'RE PRESENTING HER WITH THIS WEEK'S A-PLUS!

AT THE AGE OF 13, LIA HAILE--- HAS A UNIQUE HOBBY, WHICH INVOLVES PUTTING TOGETHER GIFT BASKETS, AND THROWING BIRTHDAY PARTIES... FOR KIDS WHO LIVE AT A HOMELESS SHELTER, CALLED HOPE HOUSE.

Lia Haile/Hopeful Hearts Club

"Five years ago I met a little boy in the shelter whose birthday it was the day that my mom and I were supposed to drop off donations, but I felt bad because we didn't have anything for him. So then after that I just kind of asked how I could get more involved or how he could have a birthday party and it just kind of spread from there."

SINCE THEN, LIA'S HOSTED MORE THAN 50 CELEBRATIONS FOR CHILDREN, AS PART OF HER "HOPEFUL HEARTS CLUB."

EACH KID GETS A CAKE, A SMALL GIFT, AND PARTY DECORATIONS.

Lia Haile/Hopeful Hearts Club

"The kid gets a stuffed animal"

PLUS, NEW ARRIVALS RECEIVE A WELCOME BAG...

WHICH INCLUDES A VARIETY OF DIFFERENT ITEMS, ALL OF WHICH HAVE BEEN DONATED THRU LIA'S FUNDRAISING EFFORTS.

SHE HOPES TO INSPIRE OTHERS.

Lia Haile/Hopeful Hearts Club

"Feels really great to know that I'm able to positively help out in my community. And it's really great living in this community because everyone's very giving and very supportive."

FOR BRINGING BIRTHDAY JOY TO A LOCAL SHELTER, LIA HAILE GETS A VERY CELEBRATORY A PLUS!

BUT IT'S NOT ALL ABOUT CLEAN CLOTHES AND BIRTHDAY GIFTS – FOR THE HOMELESS – AND ESPECIALLY HOMELESS KIDS -- BREAKING THE CYCLE OF

POVERTY AND HOPELESSNESS IS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT. A GROUP OF GIRLS IN NEW YORK FOUND A WAY TO DO JUST THAT -- BY BECOMING THE FIRST TROOP OF HOMELESS GIRL SCOUTS.

[HOMELESS GIRL SCOUTS]

AS THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE GIRL SCOUTS – OR BOY SCOUTS – ARE WELL AWARE, YOU RACK UP MERIT BADGES BY LEARNING PRACTICAL NEW SKILLS.

AND, RIGHT NOW, ONE SCHOOL DISTRICT IS DEBATING WHETHER A SKILL THAT USED TO BE MANDATORY; IS STILL PRACTICAL IN THIS DAY AND AGE. CURSIVE HANDWRITING IS A DYING ART – AND THAT'S LEFT MANY TEACHERS AND SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS WONDERING IF IT'S STILL RELEVANT IN CLASSROOMS. UP NEXT, WE BRING YOU TO THE CENTER OF THE DEBATE IN THE CLASSROOMS OF GREECE, NEW YORK.

TEACHING CURSIVE HANDWRITING HAS BEEN ON THE DECLINE AND SOME SCHOOL DISTRICTS, LIKE GREECE, ARE DEBATING ON GETTING RID OF IT COMPLETELY - DUE TO COMMON CORE REQUIREMENTS.

JASON COONEY FROM THE GREECE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION SAYS THERE IS MORE FOCUS ON MATH, SCIENCE AND SOCIAL STUDIES.

Jason Cooney/President, Greece Teachers Association:

"Schools can certainly reinforce those things, but I don't think its something that can be a part of the day to day curriculum. There's just not enough time with everything else that's been put on the teacher's plate."

Jeannie McBride/Reporter:

"But some school districts in New York state still teach cursive handwriting as part of their curriculum, so students know more than just writing their name."

Matthew Frahm/Superintendent, Naples:

"We still teach cursive in the Naples-Central school district, but it has changed in recent years."

NAPLES CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT FOCUSES MORE ON TYPING AT THE ELEMENTARY LEVEL, BUT STILL TEACHES CURSIVE IN THE SECOND GRADE.

Matthew Frahm/Superintendent, Naples:

"I think ideally is that once you teach that skill it's something that you're using at a fairly regular basis."

NAPLES BELIEVES THAT CURSIVE IS SOMETHING EVERY STUDENT SHOULD LEARN. AND RESEARCH HAS ALSO SHOWN IT IMPROVES OVERALL BRAIN FUNCTION.

Matthew Frahm/Superintendent, Naples:

"It's really important for hand-eye coordination, for dexterity. The teaching of cursive really helps the hand writing process."

BUT OVERALL, THE NAPLES DISTRICT SEES CURSIVE AS AN IMPORTANT TRADITION.

ALTHOUGH WE TEND TO DO MORE TYPING THAN WRITING THESE DAYS, WE STILL SIGN OUR JOHN HANCOCK -- IN CURSIVE -- TO LEGAL DOCUMENTS. IN FACT, OUR FOUNDING FATHERS DID THIS WHEN THEY SIGNED THE DOCUMENT THAT BEGAN OUR COUNTRY – THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE. ONE OF THOSE SIGNERS WAS JOHN HANCOCK HIMSELF, WHO WROTE HIS NAME SO LARGE AND FANCY THAT “JOHN HANCOCK” BECAME SYNONYMOUS WITH A SIGNATURE!

HERE IN OHIO, SCHOOLS ARE NOT REQUIRED TO TEACH CURSIVE, BUT RECENTLY SOME LAWMAKERS TRIED TO CHANGE THAT – INTRODUCING LEGISLATION TO MAKE

WRITING IN CURSIVE MANDATORY. NOW WE WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU THINK: SHOULD LEARNING CURSIVE WRITING BE REQUIRED? TELL US YES OR NO BY GOING TO OUR WEBSITE AND CLICKING THE POLL BUTTON!

AND, WHILE WE'RE HERE, LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT LAST WEEK'S POLL – AND, BOY, WAS IT A CLOSE ONE! SO MANY OF YOU VOICED YOUR OPINION ON THIS – AND, IN THE END, IT CAME DOWN TO THE DUNKLEOSTEUS (DUNK-KLEE-AH-STE-US) AND THE BUCARDO – BUT, IN THE END, THE BIG-HORNED BUCARDO PREVAILED WITH 35% OF YOUR VOTE! AND THAT'S A GOOD THING! – I DON'T WANT TO SEE THE DUNKLEOSTEUS SWIMMING AROUND ME ANYTIME SOON!

AND NOW LET'S HEAR 'WHY' YOU VOTED THIS WAY - BY TAKING A PEEK INSIDE OUR INBOX!

JAKE FROM CHAGRIN FALLS INTERMEDIATE, VOTED FOR THE POLL WINNER, WRITING:

I VOTED FOR THE BUCARDO BECAUSE I HAVE ALWAYS HAD A LOVE FOR DEER-LIKE CREATURES. I LIKE MOOSE, I LIKE DEER, I LIKE BUCK, SO IT SHOULD MAKE SENSE WHY I CHOSE BUCARDO!

BUT JOSEPH FROM WILCOX ELEMENTARY WAS TEAM DUNKLEOSTEUS (DUNK-KLEE-AH-STEE-US), TELLING US:

"I VOTED FOR BRINGING BACK THE DUNKLEOSTEUS! EVEN THOUGH IT WAS A FEARED PREDATOR WHILE IT WAS ALIVE DOESN'T MEAN THAT IT SHOULD BE HATED. I THINK THAT BRINGING BACK THE DUNKLEOSTEUS WOULD UNLOCK SO MANY OTHER DOORS TO SCIENCE! PLUS IF THEY CAME BACK, NEWSDEPTH WOULD HAVE A LOT TO TALK ABOUT RELATED TO SCIENCE!"

THAT'S TRUE – IF WE CAN AVOID GETTING EATEN BY THE ANCIENT SHARK!

NATALEE FROM WILLIAM BRUCE ELEMENTARY DISAGREED, WRITING:

"I CHOSE THE PASSENGER PIGEON. MOST OF THE STUDENTS IN MY CLASS CHOSE THE DUNKLEOSTEUS. I DON'T THINK WE SHOULD BRING BACK ANY OF THE OTHER ANIMALS, BECAUSE THE OTHER ANIMALS COULD BE DANGEROUS AND THE PASSENGER PIGEON LOOKED HARMLESS."

NICK FROM ELMHURST ELEMENTARY MADE A DIFFERENT CHOICE – AND EVEN GAVE HIM A NICKNAME!

OKAY, IF I HAVE TO CHOOSE FROM THE EXTINCTION LIST...HMMMM? I'D PICK THE BDGB! AKA - BIG DUMB GIANT BEAVER! BUT ONE I LIKE, THAT IS NOT ON THE LIST, IS THE WOOLY MAMMOTH. I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN FASCINATED BY HOW COOL-LOOKING THEY ARE. THEN, OF COURSE ONE WHICH ISN'T MENTIONED, AND IT'S IN HONOR OF NEWS CAT, IS THE SABRE-TOOTH TIGER! THEY ARE, BY FAR, MY FAVORITE EXTINCT ANIMAL. HERE KITTY, KITTY, KITTY...

FINALLY, LAUREN FROM ROCK CREEK ELEMENTARY OPTED OUT OF THE POLL – AND MADE AN INTERESTING POINT:

I VOTED FOR NONE OF THEM! THIS IS BECAUSE NATURE ALREADY HAS ENOUGH INVASIVE SPECIES THAT IF YOU BROUGHT ANY OF THEM BACK THEY WOULD MESS UP THE FOOD CHAIN. SOME OF THEM LIVED HERE OVER 358–382 MILLION YEARS AGO

THEY WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO ADAPT.

THANKS LAUREN. THANKS ALSO TO JAKE, JOSEPH, NATALEE, AND NICK FOR YOUR BRILLIANT THOUGHTS – WE KNOW THEY'LL NEVER GO EXTINCT!

WHILE SOME SCIENTISTS ARE TACKLING EARTH-SHATTERING ISSUES, LIKE THE EXTINCTION OF ANIMAL SPECIES – OTHERS ARE WORKING ON SOLVING EVERYDAY ANNOYANCES.

AND, I'M SURE WE'VE ALL EXPERIENCED ONE SUCH ANNOYANCE...
YOU TIE YOUR SHOELACES AND GO FOR WALK... AND SOME HOW, YOUR SHOE LACES COME UNTIED.
SCIENTISTS DECIDED TO FIGURE OUT WHY THAT IS.
WAYNE FREEDMAN REPORTS.

YOU'VE BEEN THERE, YOU'VE DONE THIS...RETIED A SHOE ON WHICH, FOR REASONS UNKNOWN, A LACE HAS COME LOOSE.

FOR DR. OLIVER O'REILLY AT UC BERKELEY, FINALLY, ENOUGH WAS ENOUGH.

Dr. Oliver O'Reilly/UC Berkeley: "It is scientific curiosity."

IT IS APPLICABLE TO ANYONE ON THE PLANET WHO WEARS SHOES. WHY MUST THEIR LACES COME UNTIED?

nats of group talking

CALL IT THE NUISANCE THAT LED TO CURIOSITY...AND FINALLY INTENSE INVESTIGATION BY DR. O'REILLY AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERING GRADUATE STUDENTS CHRISTINE GREGG AND CHRISTOPHER DAILY-DIAMOND.

IF THE QUESTION SOUNDS SIMPLE, CONSIDER THE FACTORS.

Dr. Oliver O'Reilly/UC Berkeley: "Your walking stride, your shoelace material..."

Christine Gregg/Student: "How is it tied?"

Christopher Daily-Diamond/Student: "We have friction. We have the side. We have the shape, how it's tied."

Christine Gregg/Student: "What's the material of the lace? What are your shoes made out of?"

THE TEAM SPENT MORE THAN TWO YEARS STUDYING THIS, 'DYNAMIC UNTYING' AS THEY CALLED IT. TESTING DIFFERENT VARIETIES OF THE TYPICAL BOW KNOT IN BOTH THE WEAK AND STRONG CONFIGURATIONS.

Christopher Daily-Diamond/Student: "Not all work has to be Nobel Prize Worthy. Some of the best work even goes unrecognized."

CHRISTINE WALKED AND RAN COUNTLESS MILES ON BERKELEY STREETS... THEN EVEN MORE ON A TREADMILL, WHERE, WITH A SLOW MOTION CAMERA THEY CAPTURED AND DUPLICATED THIS....THE FORCES THAT SLOWLY BREAK PULL EVEN THE STRONGEST KNOTS TO FAILURE. SO, NO. THIS IS NOT A A MATTER OF HUMAN ERROR. IT'S PHYSICS...WITH POSSIBLE FUTURE APPLICATIONS THAT MIGHT EVEN HELP US UNDERSTAND DNA.

photographer: "Is there a formula for this?"

Dr. Oliver O'Reilly/UC Berkeley: "No."

Wayne Freedman/Reporting: "you might be wondering how many millions of dollars this cost taxpayers of california . Well it turns out all of these investigators are already employees of the state of california. all of the equipment they used they borrowed. So the cost? Dare we say it?"

Christopher Daily-Diamond/Student: "On a shoestring."

EARTH-SHAKING?

NO. BUT SOMEDAY THIS RESEARCH MAY INFLUENCE HOW YOU WALK ON IT.

THANKS, WAYNE.

OK, SO, WITH YOUR LACES SECURELY FASTENED, YOU'RE RUNNING AROUND GETTING SOME EXERCISE – AND, MAYBE YOU GET A BIT PARCHED. WHAT COULD BE BETTER FOR REACHING FOR A NICE, HEALTHY GLASS OF JUICE? AFTER ALL, IT'S MADE FROM FRUIT, RIGHT? WELL, THAT MIGHT NOT BE ALL THAT'S IN YOUR GLASS! JAMES DINAN EXPLAINS!

A GLASS OF ORANGE JUICE IS NOT ONLY A GREAT START TO YOUR DAY, IT ALSO PROVIDES HEALTHY DOSES OF VITAMIN C AND POTASSIUM. OTHER STORE-BOUGHT JUICES HAVE STRONG AMOUNTS OF CALCIUM, WHICH KEEP YOUR BONES HEALTHY.

BUT MANY FRUIT JUICES CONTAIN A DECENT AMOUNT OF SUGAR AND CALORIES, WHICH IS NOT GOOD FOR THOSE WATCHING THEIR WEIGHT OR BLOOD SUGAR. FOR INSTANCE, AN EIGHT-OUNCE CUP OF ORANGE JUICE HAS 21 GRAMS OF SUGAR AND 112 CALORIES.

COMPARE THAT TO AN ACTUAL ORANGE, WHICH HAS JUST 12 GRAMS OF SUGAR AND 62 CALORIES.

FRUIT JUICE ALSO LACKS THE FIBER TYPICALLY FOUND IN FRESH FRUIT.

SO WHAT CAN YOU DO TO MAKE SURE YOUR FRUIT JUICE IS THE REAL DEAL?

LOOK FOR 100 PERCENT FRUIT JUICE WITH NO SUGAR ADDED. AND LIMIT YOUR JUICE INTAKE TO ONE EIGHT-OUNCE GLASS A DAY.

AS YOU HEARD, THE BEST JUICE IS THE STUFF THAT'S MADE ONLY WITH PURE FRUIT AND VEGETABLES. BUT, EVEN BETTER, IS PICKING UP A PIECE OF FRUIT - OR A VEGETABLE ITSELF! WELL, WHATEVER FORM YOU'RE ENJOYING THEM IN, ALL THE FRUITS AND VEGGIES WE LOVE WERE GROWN FOR US, BY FARMER.

HERE TO FILL US IN ABOUT THE OHIOANS KEEPING OUR DINNER PLATES FULL IS KNOW OHIO'S MARY FECTEAU.

MARY, I CAN HEAR HER STOMACH GROWLING FROM HERE!

MARY:

BOY, IS ANYONE ELSE HUNGRY? IT'S GETTING CLOSE TO LUNCH TIME...AND, THANKFULLY, I'VE GOT LOTS OF DELICIOUS OPTIONS! BUT DO YOU EVER THINK ABOUT YOUR FOOD – I MEAN REEEAALLY THINK ABOUT IT. ALMOST EVERYTHING WE EAT WAS GROWN FOR US BY A FARMER! AND IT'S NOT JUST OUR FOOD --- SOMETIMES FARMERS HAD A HAND IN THE CLOTHES ON OUR BACK AND THE FUEL IN OUR TANKS!

MAYBE SOME OF YOU LIVE ON – OR NEAR – A FARM! THAT WOULDN'T BE TOO SURPRISING, BECAUSE GUESS WHAT OHIO'S NUMBER ONE INDUSTRY IS? I HOPE YOU GUESSED FARMING – BECAUSE IT'S FARMING. BUT WHEN WE TALK ABOUT FARMING AS AN INDUSTRY, WE TEND TO CALL IT AGRICULTURE. THAT'S JUST A FANCY WORD FOR ALL THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF FARMING – FROM RAISING ANIMALS TO GROWING CROPS. BUT FARMING IS ALSO ONE OF OHIO'S OLDEST PROFESSIONS.

BEFORE OHIO EVEN OFFICIALLY EXISTED – THE PEOPLE WHO LIVED HERE MADE THEIR LIVING FARMING. OHIO'S NATIVE AMERICANS GREW CORN, BEANS, AND ALL KINDS OF VEGGIES, LIKE SQUASH, SWEET POTATOES, AND CABBAGE! AND THE FIRST EUROPEAN SETTLERS IN OHIO ALSO TOOK UP THE TRADE! BEFORE THE 1800'S,

THERE WAS NO KROGER OR GIANT EAGLE -- IF YOU WANTED TO EAT SOMETHING -- YOU HAD TO GROW IT YOURSELF AND THAT'S EXACTLY HOW THE FIRST OHIOANS FED THEIR FAMILIES. THEY RAISED WHEAT, CORN, AND OTHER GRAIN CROPS. BY 1849, OHIO PRODUCED MORE CORN THAN ANY OTHER STATE, AND THAT'S STILL ONE OF OUR TOP CROPS TODAY!

BUT OUR NUMBER ONE CROP IS THE SOYBEAN! SOYBEANS AND CORN ARE NUMBER 1 AND 2 BECAUSE THEY'RE SO VERSATILE. EVEN IF YOU DON'T SEE THESE GUYS ON YOUR DINNER PLATES, THEY CAN BE USED TO FEED ANIMALS, OR USED TO MAKE BIOFUEL, SWEETENERS, AND COOKING OILS. AND WE'RE COMING UP WITH NEW WAYS TO USE THEM EVERY DAY -- LIKE IN PLASTICS AND BUILDING MATERIALS. OF COURSE, HERE IN OHIO WE ALSO HAVE PLENTY OF DAIRY FARMS, HOG FARMS, AND CHICKEN FARMS TOO!

IF YOU'VE DRIVEN AROUND OUR STATE, CHANCES ARE YOU'VE SEEN ONE OF THESE FARMS IN ACTION. BUT, SADLY, THE NUMBER OF FARMS IN OUR STATE IS ON THE DECLINE. BY THE EARLY 1900'S, A MOST OHIOANS WERE LIVING IN URBAN AREAS. AND TODAY, FARMERS, AS A GROUP, ARE GETTING OLDER AND OLDER -- MOST FARM OWNERS IN OHIO ARE OVER 65 YEARS OLD. AND YOUNGER GENERATIONS AREN'T EMBRACING THIS WAY OF LIFE -- THAT'S BAD NEWS FOR US, BECAUSE, WITHOUT FARMS, WE HAVE NO LOCAL FOOD SOURCE!

BECAUSE THIS WAY OF LIFE IS SLOWLY FADING, THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE STARTING HONORING FARMS THAT HAVE CONTINUED TO OPERATE. THE CENTURY FARM PROGRAM IS MEANT TO RECOGNIZE THE MANY CONTRIBUTIONS OF FAMILY FARMS THAT HAVE BEEN AROUND FOR OVER 100 YEARS! IN 100 YEARS YOU CAN GROW A LOT OF FOOD.

AND WE CAN DO OUR PART TOO. A GREAT WAY TO SUPPORT OHIO FARMERS IS TO HEAD TO A FARMER'S MARKET. THERE, YOU CAN MEET THE FARMERS THAT GROW YOUR FRUITS AND VEGGIES -- AND BUY FOOD DIRECTLY FROM THEM! MY FAVORITE THING TO BUY FROM MY LOCAL FARMER'S MARKET IS OHIO'S OFFICIAL STATE FRUIT: THE TOMATO!

SOMETIMES IT'S FUN FOR CITY FOLK LIKE ME TO TALK TO FARMERS AT FARMER'S MARKETS AND MAYBE GET SOME TIPS FOR MY OWN SAD, SUFFERING GARDEN. IT'S A GOOD THING OHIOANS TODAY DON'T NEED TO GROW THEIR OWN FOOD LIKE THEY HUNDREDS OF YEARS AGO! WITH MY BLACK THUMB OF DEATH, I'D PROBABLY STARVE. SPEAKING OF...LUNCH TIME!

THANKS, MARY! GO GET YOURSELF SOME LUNCH!

AS MARY SAID, FARMER'S MARKETS ARE A GREAT WAY TO GET THE FRESHEST PRODUCE -- BUT, EVEN IF A FARMER'S MARKET ISN'T AVAILABLE, YOU CAN ALWAYS MAKE A QUICK TRIP TO THE GROCERY STORE!

WELL, NOT ALWAYS...IN FACT, SOME PEOPLE LIVE IN AREAS THAT ARE REFERRED TO AS "FOOD DESERTS." A FOOD DESSERT IS A REGION IN WHICH RESIDENTS DON'T HAVE ACCESS TO FRESH FRUIT, VEGETABLES, AND OTHER HEALTHY FOOD -- THEY CAN BE IN BIG CITIES, OR IN RURAL TOWNS.

HERE IN OHIO, ONE WELL-KNOWN FOOD DESERT IS VINTON COUNTY, WHERE SOME RESIDENTS HAVE TO DRIVE MORE THAN AN HOUR TO BUY FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES. BUT, SOON, THAT WILL CHANGE! MARISA OBERLE, FROM OUR PARTNERS AT WOUB, HAS MORE IN THIS WEEK'S BUCKEYE BEAT.

FRESH MEAT, PRODUCE AND DAIRY IS COMING BACK TO VINTON COUNTY...

I wanna congratulate everybody in Vinton county on what today means it's a real new beginning it's a beginning that will bring healthy food back to Vinton county

THREE YEARS AGO THE COUNTY'S ONLY GROCERY STORE CHECKED OUT...

MEANING PEOPLE LIKE VINTON COUNTY RESIDENT RHODA PRICE HAVE HAD TO MAKE CHOICES ABOUT THINGS MOST OF US TAKE FOR GRANTED...

how would you like to drive 10 miles one way at least, and I found out today some people drive 25 miles, one way to get one of these to eat and enjoy or would you stay home and take a potassium>

BUT STARTING IN AUGUST RESIDENTS WON'T BE FORCED TO MAKE THOSE DECISIONS ANYMORE...

CAMPBELL'S MARKET PLANS TO OPEN A 12,000 SQUARE FOOT STORE NEXT TO VINTON COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL...

AND VINTON COUNTY RESIDENTS LIKE PRICE ARE EXCITED...

i think people are going to ban together

A NEW GROCERY STORE IS GREAT NEWS FOR VINTON COUNTY, BUT NOT SUCH GREAT NEWS? THE PLASTIC BAGS IT WILL BRING TO THE AREA. WHEN WE VISITED A RECYCLING PLANT A COUPLE WEEKS AGO, WE LEARNED THAT PLASTIC BAGS COULD NOT BE PROCESSED THERE – AND IN THAT SAME EPISODE, WE LEARNED THAT PLASTIC POLLUTION IS A BIG PROBLEM FOR OUR OCEANS. SO WHAT'S TO BE DONE WITH THESE BAGS AFTER YOU'VE EMPTIED YOUR GROCERIES? HERE WITH A POSSIBLE SOLUTION IS MARGARET THOMPSON!

MARGARET:

PLASTIC BAGS COME IN HANDY WHEN YOUR CARRYING GROCERIES OR LINING A TRASHCAN, BUT DID YOU KNOW EACH YEAR IT IS ESTIMATED THAT WE USE AND TOSS OUT ONE TRILLION OF THEM?

THAT'S A TON OF BAGS AND EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE THIN, THEY TAKE A VERY VERY LONG TIME TO BREAKDOWN – LIKE 500 YEARS. THAT'S A LOT OF TIME IN A LANDFILL BECAUSE RECYCLING PLANTS DON'T CARE TO BOTHER WITH THESE TYPES OF BAGS. IT'S CHEAPER TO MAKE THEM NEW THAN TO RECYCLE THEM.

PLASTIC BAGS DON'T DECOMPOSE BECAUSE THE LITTLE MICRO-ORGANISMS THAT BREAK THINGS DOWN IN THE GROUND, DON'T RECOGNIZE THEM AS FOOD. AT LEAST THAT HAS SEEMED TO BE THE CASE UNTIL RECENTLY.

THESE LITTLE GUYS HAVE COME TO THE RESCUE! SCIENTISTS IN ENGLAND DISCOVERED THAT THE WAX MOTH CATERPILLAR ACTUALLY FINDS THE BAGS TO BE A TASTY TREAT.

THE CATERPILLARS ARE PRETTY COMMON ACROSS THE GLOBE. USUALLY THEY EAT THE WAX MADE BY BEES IN THEIR HIVES. SOME PEOPLE BUY THEM TO USE AS BAIT IN FISHING OR AS FOOD FOR THEIR PET GECKOS. BUT TODAY THEY ARE THE ONES DOING THE EATING.

SCIENTISTS MADE THE DISCOVERY AFTER A BEEKEEPER REMOVED SOME OF THE LARVA FROM ONE OF THEIR HIVES. THE BEEKEEPER TOSSED THE CATERPILLARS INTO A PLASTIC SHOPPING BAG AND NOTICED LATER THAT THE LITTLE GUYS ATE HOLES THROUGH IT.

SCIENTISTS IN THE LAB REPLICATED THE FINDINGS AND IN THEIR EXPERIMENT NOTICED THAT WITHIN 40 MINUTES OF THE CATERPILLARS CHOWING DOWN, HOLES APPEARED IN THE BAGS – BY 12 HOURS IT WAS A PRETTY SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE.

NOW THE RESEARCHERS ARE LOOKING AT THE SALIVA AND UNIQUE DIGESTION OF THE CATERPILLARS BECAUSE THEY AREN'T JUST CHEWING THE BAGS INTO BITS, THEY ARE ACTUALLY BREAKING APART THE CHEMICAL BONDS OF THE PLASTIC.

IT'S A SUPER COOL DISCOVERY. THESE LITTLE CATERPILLARS MIGHT JUST BRING A BIG SOLUTION TO OUR PROBLEM OF PLASTIC POLLUTION - ONE MUNCH AT A TIME.

THANKS, MARGARET. AND EARLIER THIS WEEK STAFF AT THE ANIMAL ADVENTURE PARK SOLVED ANOTHER PROBLEM. APRIL THE GIRAFFE'S WORLD-FAMOUS NEW BABY NEEDED A NAME!

MRS. SORIA'S 4TH GRADE CLASS AT GARFIELD ELEMENTARY EVEN WEIGHED IN, TELLING US:

"WE THINK APRIL THE GIRAFFE'S NAME SHOULD BE BACON BITS. WE THINK THIS BECAUSE BACON IS AWESOME AND EVERYONE LIKES IT – JUST LIKE THE NEW GIRAFFE!"

WELL, WE THINK THAT'S A GREAT NAME, BUT THE FOLKS AT PARK THAT APRIL CALLS HOME HAD OTHER IDEAS. THEY NAMED THEIR NEWEST ADDITION "TAJIRI" (TAH-JEER-EE).

STAFF AT ANIMAL ADVENTURE PARK SAY "TAJIRI" IS SWAHILI FOR "HOPE OR CONFIDENCE."

STAFFERS CALL HIM "TAJ" FOR SHORT.

WELL, OUR OWN BUNDLE OF JOY, NEWS CAT, DOESN'T REALLY HAVE A NICKNAME, BUT MAYBE WE COULD GIVE ONE A SHOT! HEY, NEWSY – WHAT'S ON THE DOCKET THIS WEEK?

[NEWS CAT INTRO]

OH, SORRY, NEWSY...NOT A FAN OF THE NEW NICKNAME? OK, OK, NEWSCAT IT IS -- NO NICKNAME! BUT I HEARD THIS WEEK'S PETTING ZOO HAS A BIT MORE CONTROVERSY THAN USUAL! CAN'T WAIT TO SEE WHAT IT'S ABOUT!

THIS WEEK NEWSCAT BRINGS US THE STORY OF A TUG OF WAR MATCH – OVER AN ELEPHANT! TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE DEBATE SURROUNDING THIS RESIDENT OF A CALIFORNIA ZOO, CLICK THE PETTING ZOO BUTTON ON OUR WEBSITE.

THANKS NEWSCAT!

AND, AS ALWAYS, WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU. AFTER YOU VOTE IN OUR POLL, WRITE TO US. SEND YOUR E-MAILS TO NEWSDEPTH AT IDEASTREAM.ORG - OR MAIL YOUR LETTERS TO 1375 EUCLID AVENUE, CLEVELAND, OHIO 44115.

YOUR LETTERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MONDAY AFTERNOON TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THE NEXT SHOW. YOU CAN ALSO TWEET AT US @ NEWSDEPTH OHIO.

WE'LL SEE YOU BACK HERE NEXT WEEK – FOR OUR FINAL SHOW OF THE - SEASON! - *INSERT SAD EMOJI HERE* -

I'M RICK JACKSON.
THANKS FOR WATCHING.