

Lawn & Garden Issue!

Plenty of guards but no inmates ▶ 3



Free

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**Next: Seniors
plus Mother's Day!**

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Her 10 tips to start a veggie garden

By **Cathy DeDe**

Chronicle Managing Editor

So, you want to try your hand at home gardening? Good! My husband and I have been doing it for several decades. Here's some of what we've learned: 10 basics for new gardeners.

1) Decide how big you want the garden to be. How much time to you want to spend there? How much do you want to plant? Find a sunny spot. Watch where the trees throw their shade. We



Nothing beats a warm, home-grown tomato picked right from your own garden. **These are 'Red Alerts.'** Chronicle photo/Cathy DeDe

think a minimum of 10 by 10 feet is a good starting place — big enough that you'll get enough veggies to make an impact on your menu, but not overwhelming. You can add on next year. Anything smaller — no insult, but it's really just a few plants growing, not a real garden garden. (Harumph.)

2) What do you want to grow? Who are you feeding? Picky kids, a family of two? Are you hoping to have enough to put some produce up for the

winter or is this to use now or share with neighbors?

Since our kids moved out, we've shifted from a tomato-heavy plan to "keepers" like potatoes, garlic and winter squash. Some obvious choices: Tomatoes, of course. Potatoes do well, especially if you have sandy soil. Basil is another easy one to grow. Cherry tomatoes are typically high yielding, fun and sweet, like candy in the garden. Snap peas, too — you can eat

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White-breasted nuthatch likes nuts & legumes. Scott Stoner photo

Draw more birds to your backyard

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Add Astorino to hopefuls who ate & politicked at Poopie's

By **Gordon Woodworth**

Chronicle News Editor

Republican candidate Rob Astorino told the Albany media last week that the race for governor of New York won't be decided by special interests. He said it will be decided by "the people at Poopie's Diner."

Add Mr. Astorino, the Westchester County Executive seeking to unseat Gov. Andrew Cuomo, to the long list of statewide and Congressional hopefuls of both

parties who have dined and politicked at Poopie's Diner on Lawrence Street in Glens Falls.

Now-U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, a Democrat, was here on her way to ousting Republican Congressman John Sweeney. Mr.

Sweeney was here, too, as were subsequent Congressmen Republican Chris Gibson and Democrat Scott Murphy.

Matt Doheny and Elise Stefanik — vying for the Republican Con-

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A powerful show by the able disabled

Founder **Ruthie Bletz-Clark** & 'APT' at Qby. High School. **Wow!** ▶ 27

By **David Cederstrom**

Chronicle Staff Writer

The Chronicle talked trees to several local nursery and tree care pros — which trees do well in this area, how to choose and how to go about planting a tree.

Tree trends: Fast growers

Pete Watkins of Watkins Garden Center said planting a shade tree used to be a long-term investment for the next generation, but now people often seek trees that will grow sizeable in their

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