

Notes from the vineyard

AMANDA CONKOL | COLUMNIST

Somewhere over the rainbow

IVA WALKER | COLUMNIST

Puppy Tails

MIALIE T. SZYMANSKI | CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

I've written a number of articles about how great the weather has been this year but I really hadn't thought about all of the crazy temperatures we've had until we started harvesting. Usually harvest season starts around the last week in September for us but with the warmer temperatures this past winter the harvest began this past week. Unfortunately with the late frost in September we were unable to produce a crop this year so we have been working with other grape growers from all areas to make up for what we lost.

So what does harvesting actually mean? The basic and easiest definition is "picking grapes". Although after picking over 3 tons of grapes to date, I wish that was all I had to do for harvest season. As I mentioned in last week's article, if you get a chance to visit some wineries in the next few weeks, I highly encourage you to drive slowly past the vineyards and make note of how each winery is harvesting. Many of the small wineries are harvesting the grapes the old fashioned way - by hand. To me harvesting by hand is so exciting; spending countless hours smelling the sweet smell of grapes with a pair of pruners in hand as each bunch of grapes is cut. Nothing in the world can beat that smell (okay, maybe walking into the Hershey Chocolate plant would beat the smell) but there still is nothing better than picking fruit.

Depending on how many acres of grapes a winery has, some wineries use a mechanical harvester. The easiest way to describe a harvester is essentially a large tractor that shakes each trellis so the grapes drop into a bucket that is laid close to the ground. Usually a team of pickers is needed to

follow behind the tractor to tidy up what is left, and then all grapes are hauled to the winery to be pressed.

Once the grapes are picked another piece of equipment is used to take the grapes off of the stems and crushes them to make it easier to press them. This next step is called the "destemming/crushing" process - adequately named, if I may say so. The destemmer spins each bunch of grapes so the grapes fall off of the stems and they pass through a set of rollers which crush the grapes and help break down the skins for pressing. Once the grapes are put through this process, they are ready to be pressed. In many cases, the grapes are placed in a press and a heavy weight slowly presses the grapes down to produce grape juice. There are other presses, such as a bladder press which inflates a large "balloon" inside the press and presses the grapes against the outer edge and presses the juice out of the grapes. This is done at different times for reds and whites, whites are pressed immediately, while reds are crushed and destemmed and then left to sit on the skins for a week or so, which is what gives red wine its color.

So now that the grapes have been picked, destemmed, crushed and pressed, they are moved to tank for a couple days to allow the sediment to drop out. After all this the fermentation process starts, which we'll get into next week.

Amanda is the Co-Owner of Candlelight Winery located at 11325 Center Road, Garrettsville. For more information on other winery topics, please visit www.candlelightwinery.com

One of the news personalities this morning on WKSU announced as part of the coverage--news or business, presumably--that the "in" colors for the next season (You were just waiting for someone to tell you how to structure your next spring wardrobe, weren't you?) were going to be "Tender Shoots" (a sort of bright yellow-green) --that's for women--and, for men, "Tidal Foam" (a light khaki with accents of green). Where do they get this stuff???

Keep in mind that this is the Pantone Fashion Color Report for spring, 2013, and you'll just have to struggle along with your tacky old garments in "Tangerine Tango", which was the top pick for this year. Heaven forbid that you should have to pick out your own favorites without somebody to point out whether or not you're being "cool".

Frankly, I think that they're taking a chance with both of them because green is not a real easy shade to work with sometimes. The wrong shade with an awkward complexion and some poor soul could wind up looking like either "the Incredible Hulk" or a hunk of kelp.

There are ten colors in all, in each list--women and men--with some shades showing up on both. "Grayed Jade" (This seems sort of a dangerous reference to the aging population), "Emerald", "Poppy Red", "Linen" (Safe every time), "Dusk Blue" and "Monaco Blue" hit the Daily Double by appearing as the preferred colors for both men and women, while the ladies can distinguish themselves by waltzing around in some little swishy number made in "African Violet" (My Grandma used to be real good with these; somehow, I doubt that she'd have ever appeared in a swishy garment of any sort) or "Nectarine" (Related to this year's "Tangerine Tango"?). "Lemon Zest" (Are you getting the citrus vibe?). Gentlemen can play it safe with "Alloy"--a medium-light gray, bordering on metallic--or go all out in "Vibrant Orange" (sort of like my car) or "Sunflower". Who! The "Real men wear pink" thing doesn't even come close!

Now if you ARE determined to remain *au courant* in all your wardrobe selections, you'll just have to weed out all of those hanger-bound items in "Honeysuckle" (2011) or "Turquoise" (2010) or "Mimosa" (2009) or "Blue Iris" and head to the mall to get with it on the color front. This is all rather reminiscent of what used to be the mantra for the automobile industry (May still be, for all I know), that is to say, "Planned Obsolescence". In order to NOT be hopelessly out-of-date, one is required to possess--and display--the very latest thing-a-majig, device or color, purchasing it on credit, if need be, so that everyone will know who's who and what's what in style...and that you are right there on the cutting edge.

I think that Apple has captured some of that. Witness the long lines outside the Apple Stores whenever a new model of anything they make comes out--after various leaks and peeks and such have stirred up the consuming public. Gotta have the newest whiz-bang feature! Gotta have it RIGHT NOW!

Well, you can have your very own 10-card set of color swatches from Pantone (Not to be confused with pannetone, the traditional Milanese Christmas bread with citron and raisins). There is one women's set and one men's set and they can be obtained by sending the nice fashion arbitrators at Pantone (Maybe the name has something to do with "pan" meaning "all" and "tone"--referring to color) a mere \$99.50 per set. What a steal! You can have a handy reference guide for the spring and summer of 2013 as you completely empty out your closet to start all over fresh with what they call "dynamic brights" and "novel neutrals" What? You don't do that?

Well, you're going to be inundated with the top ten colors anyway, because the Pantone people work with just about any industry that makes anything involving color--the paint people (They must have the same writers coming up with names), the textile and apparel people, printing, packaging, graphic design, plastics, you name it, if it's got color, it probably has a connection with Pantone.

You have been warned!

Annd one! Annnnd two! Annnnnnd three! Annnnnnnnd... Doodle Dog huffed and puffed as he tried to nudge one last book onto the stack in the corner of the office. That pile was just a bit too high, however, so the floppy-eared puppy decided instead of that book being the last on this stack, it would be the first on that stack. That stack, that is, that hadn't been started yet. And there was no better place to start that stack than RIGHT THERE. Whew!

Doodle Dog nudged the last-book-now-first-book into place on the floor and quickly turned around to immediately get another book but the sudden movement made him dizzy and he decided this was as good a time as any to take a break! So instead Doodle Dog sat back for a minute to survey the work he had done. Rows and rows of stacks of books piled neatly along the wall. There must have been a dozen piles with just as many books in each pile, and just as many stories in each of the just-as-many books. Some were nice and light that Doodle Dog could carry gently in his mouth. Some were thick and heavy like the one Doodle Dog had to nudge across the floor with his nose or even heavier ones that he had to scoot backwards with his behind and stronger back paws! And others were so very, very stuffed with stories that they were quite fat, TOO fat for the determined Doodle Dog to do anything about--he'd have to leave those for the humans. The floppy-eared puppy thought of all his favorite kind of humans - the little children that lived down the street - and how they'd all carried their stacks of books on the big yellow bumblebee school bus. He bet those backpacks were very, very heavy too since they were stuffed with stories and all that stuff to learn. Some of the backpacks and bookbags seemed to be even bigger than the children trying to carry them! Doodle Dog knew how that felt - those stacks of books lining the walls were growing much taller than him with no signs of stopping.

With so many books piled up in stacks across the floor, one would think the bookcase on the other side of the office would be quite empty by now, but not so, not so at all! Doodle Dog loves books and books love Doodle Dog and that meant the bookcase had been quite overflowing to start. When the floppy-eared puppy decided to do a bit of fall cleaning, he had no idea just how much stuff there would be to be cleaned! Taking another breath, he looked over at the not-empty-at-all bookcase and tried to calculate how many more trips it would take across the floor and how many more stacks it would make along the wall to sort allllll those books. Doodle Dog decided it was easier just to keep sorting and pretty soon he'd made a few more piles with some more of the lighter books. The hardest part of the job was trying not to get distracted by all the pretty covers with all their enchanting stories inside! Doodle Dog found quite a few that he knew he'd want to hear all about later, so he put those ones in a special pile off to the side to remind him. Then there were some old favorites he knew he'd want to revisit and the especially special books like the one the writer and her dog had autographed just for him at the bookstore, so into the special pile went those ones and those ones too!

In addition to that special pile, all the piles were special in their own way because they were full of special books that were meant for special places. There was a mountain of all kinds of various books that would be sent to the local library for the townspeople to share; a tower of textbooks and other teaching materials that the school students might find useful; a stack of stories covered with brightly-colored shapes and fairy tale characters headed to the children's hospital to brighten a young patient's day; and one pile of thick, dusty books with old-fashioned leather covers that Doodle Dog thought the historical society would like to display for their visitors. Doodle Dog didn't want to give up any of his books since he loves them all, but he had plenty to share and he wanted everyone else to enjoy the books as much as he does. Besides, having an empty shelf or two meant he had room for some new book friends--Doodle Dog had heard one of the libraries was having a book sale soon... maybe he could wander over or get one of his favorite humans to pick up a new story treat for him!

All that hard work made him sleepy, so Doodle Dog curled up on the comfy rug in the middle of the floor surrounded by all the books and dreamed of the new places the books would go, the smiles they would bring to the new people who would have the chance to read them and, most of all, the overstuffed bookcases that would someday become of the little book seeds that started their own pile like the one the floppy-eared puppy had nudged on that stack, that stack right there.

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Kick off to The Browns Season
Friday, September 7
11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Wear your "Browns" attire and enjoy a tail gate party, food and live entertainment.
RSVP by September 3.

Farmer's Day Celebration
Wednesday, September 26
11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Enjoy fresh home grown veggies grilled to perfection with Live Entertainment.

Fire and Ice
Saturday, September 22
12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Heat up your taste buds and enjoy a variety of delicious flambé and then cool off watching Ohio's ice carving champion carve a sculpture.
RSVP by September 13.

RSVP
Don't miss out on the fun!

Fall is the most colorful season, and one of the most colorful places you'll ever find to live is right here at Independence Village. From the fun daily activities to the fine gourmet dining, you'll see why our residents are living lives to their fullest in a vibrant community that feels like home - because it is home.

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RONALD McDONALD'S MAGIC SHOW

FRIDAY, September 14th @ 7:30AM
COMMUNITY KICK-OFF BREAKFAST
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9:00AM GRAND PARADE
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CHILDRENS AMUSEMENT RIDES

Sunbeau Valley Farm Abilities
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ENTERTAINMENT • CRAFTS • FOOD BOOTHS
5:30PM HOT AIR BALLOON LIFT OFF (WEATHER PERMITTING)
FIREWORKS AT DUSK (WEATHER PERMITTING)

SUNDAY, September 16th - GATES OPEN AT 9AM
CLASSIC CAR SHOW • ANTIQUE TRACTOR SHOW
5:30PM HOT AIR BALLOON LIFT OFF (WEATHER PERMITTING)

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