

NFC

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at home Sunday with my Rams, which should be a good thing for the Hawks.

St. Louis Rams (4-12): Not trying to be negative, just realistic here, but my Rams have been awful for the past three years, so a four-win season seems about right. And

Penguin

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their missiles our way, they just might send ‘em toward Aviation Boulevard, where a lot of important stuff, top-secret stuff, was taking place.

Got home, and thankfully, nothing happened out West. Of course, both of the Towers ended up collapsing.

Went to New York City two years ago,

they don’t get to play the Raiders. Good luck to new coach Spagnuolo. Any chance the Rams will tank the season, play before a bunch of empty seats, and then decide to move back to L.A.? •

took a bus by the Towers’ site, but there was really not a lot to see. But I was awestruck as we passed the site.

Don’t forget the day. Don’t forget the innocent people who died. And don’t forget the first responders who went *up* into the Towers to try and save the innocents. Would you have run *up* the stairs of the Towers?

Online

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be targeted for a break-in)

Also, never use this type of information in your passwords.

One last – and serious – reminder: Sexual predators increasingly are using the Internet to target both child and adult victims by posing as peers or friends. Although software is available to help you track your children’s online activities, you can’t follow them 24/7. Have the “don’t talk with or email strangers”

discussion with your kids as soon as they start using computers.

These are only a few of the precautions you and your kids should take when using social networking sites to protect your personal information and prevent identity theft. For more tips, visit Visa Inc.’s free personal financial management site, Practical Money Skills for Life (www.practicalmoneyskills.com/security). •

Police Reports

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three months on victim’s credit card.

Violation of a court order report was taken at 1704 hours in the 100 block of West Sycamore Avenue.

One male adult was arrested at 1820 hours from Imperial Highway and Main Street for possession of less than an ounce of marijuana.

One male adult was arrested at 2245 hours at Aviation Boulevard and 111th St for driving under the influence of drugs and being under the influence of a controlled substance.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

One male juvenile was detained at 0104 hours in the 100 block of South Sepulveda for possession of a controlled substance

without a prescription.

One male adult was arrested at 0154 hours at Palm Avenue and Sepulveda Boulevard for vandalism.

One female adult was arrested at 2007 hours from California Street and Imperial Highway for one LASD and one LAPD misdemeanor traffic warrants.

One male adult was arrested at 2049 hours from Hughes Way and Sepulveda Boulevard for misdemeanor DUI.

One male adult was arrested at 2131 hours from El Segundo Boulevard and Nash Street for one Gardena P.D. and one LASD misdemeanor traffic warrants. •

Earthtalk

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rise, as have documented instances of panthers preying on livestock and pets. In response, the USFWS, the National Park Service and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission have drafted a landmark Florida Panther Response Plan, which guides game managers and law enforcement officials in handling such interactions in ways that ensure public safety while recognizing the need to preserve dwindling Florida Panther populations.

Readers can help by getting educated about the plight of the big cats and pressuring their elected officials to take action. Another way to help is by supporting wildlife groups working on the issue. Defenders of Wildlife’s “Adopt

a Panther” program, for one, puts donations into public education, preserving habitat and promoting sound transportation planning to prevent panther deaths on Florida’s roads and highways.

Contacts: Defenders of Wildlife, www.defenders.org; USFWS, www.fws.gov; Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, www.myfwc.com.

Send your environmental questions to: EarthTalk, P.O. Box 5098, Westport, CT 06881; earthtalk@emagazine.com. Read past columns at: www.emagazine.com/earthtalk/archives.php. EarthTalk is now a book! Details and order information at: www.emagazine.com/earthtalkbook. •

Curbside

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because he had an old one himself and hadn’t seen the RamBox-equipped truck yet. While I looked at the store’s tractor, he marveled at the Ram’s plush interior, innovative RamBox and sleek new design.

I mentioned how this version of the Ram had a Hemi with 390 horsepower and that the Hemi could shut off four of its eight cylinders to get better highway mileage. There’s also a smooth-shifting five-speed automatic. Bottom line is this truck gets slightly better fuel mileage than its predecessor, but not as good as the Ford I tested last week. But then there is a tremendous amount of beautiful, low-end torque. I love torque.

What’s Not

The tractor guy noticed right away that the RamBox’s cargo box itself was smaller than that in a traditional short-bed full-size

truck. Hey, if you need more cargo space buy this truck without the RamBox but, for me, the RamBox option would be the first thing I’d choose.

With a lifetime powertrain warranty, the option of the RamBox and Chrysler’s love of rebates, cash back and deals a new Dodge Ram might be a really good choice for anyone looking for a truck, even if the old one is still running well.

Fact Sheet

Base Price: \$40,020

Price As Tested: \$46,720

Major Options: RamBox Cargo Management System, \$1,895; Sunroof, \$850; UConnect Video System, \$1,595

Engine: 5.9 Liter “Hemi” V8

Transmission: Five-Speed Automatic

Model Year: 2009

Gardening



HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF FALL’S HARVEST

(ARA) – Your vegetable garden has supplied your family with flavorful, nutritious fare throughout the summer. But the arrival of autumn doesn’t mean your days of enjoying your garden are over. If you plant now for the future and prepare for the coming season, it’s possible to enjoy a few last tasty morsels from your garden and ensure next spring’s landscape will be dazzling.

Here are a few tips to ensure your fall harvest is as fresh and fabulous as possible:

Plant a bit of fall flavor

Add a few short-season vegetables to your garden for fresh-from-the-field flavor this fall. Simply count the days from planting to the average first fall frost to determine how many growing days are left in your area. Select vegetables that will mature and can be harvested in that time. Leaf lettuce, spinach, mustard greens, radishes and carrots grow quickly, tolerate cool weather and are great additions to your fall cuisine.

Get these vegetables off to a good start with a side dressing of low nitrogen fertilizer like Milorganite. Incorporate it into the soil prior to planting or sprinkle a narrow band along the row of plants. “This organic nitrogen will provide needed nutrients without damaging the tender seedlings. It is safe to use on all your edible and ornamental plants,” says Melinda Myers, nationally known horticulturist and author.

Cover ‘em up

Protect tender vegetables like tomatoes and peppers from the first few fall frosts. Floating row covers, cloches and cold frames can protect tender plants from frost. Or harvest green tomatoes before the killing frost and finish ripening them indoors. Spread them out on heavy paper or wrap them in newspaper so the tomatoes don’t touch and store them in a 65-degree location. They will ripen over the next few weeks. Speed up the process by moving a few tomatoes to a bright, warm location a few days before they are needed. And don’t leave green tomatoes behind. They taste great fried or made into relish and other tasty treats.

Plant some spring color

A fall planting of daffodils, grape hyacinths and other long-lived bulbs can provide many springs of beauty. Prepare the soil and add a low nitrogen slow release fertilizer like Milorganite to the soil. “This organic source of nitrogen releases needed nutrients including phosphorous and potassium from the soil

without promoting unwanted fall growth,” according to Myers.

Give them a boost

Don’t forget about your trees. As the temperatures cool, and even after trees lose their leaves, tree roots are in their most active growth period. Fertilize trees in need of a nutrient boost about one month after the first killing frost but before the soil freezes. Use Milorganite to encourage balanced growth without the risk of damaging the roots. The organic source of nitrogen is slow release and stays in the soil. The non-staining iron is available to plants no matter the pH. So, you can give stressed trees a boost without encouraging excess growth or incurring root damage.

Prep your lawn for winter

Help your lawn recover from the heat and drought of summer and prepare it for winter with fall fertilization. University research has shown that fall fertilization is the most beneficial practice for home lawns. Less disease problems and slower weed growth mean your lawns -- not the pests -- benefit from the nutrients. Fall fertilization also helps lawns recover from the stresses of summer because it encourages deep roots and denser growth that can better compete with weeds, and tolerate disease and insects.

“Northern gardeners can follow the holiday schedule and fertilize Labor Day and Halloween. Southern gardeners should make their last fall fertilization at least 30 days before the lawn goes dormant or the average first killing frost to avoid winter kill,” recommends Myers. Use a low nitrogen slow release fertilizer, for best results.

Tuck them in for winter

A good, long drink and bit of winter protection goes a long way to help struggling and less hardy plants through the winter ahead. A blanket of evergreen boughs, straw or marsh hay applied after the ground freezes will prevent frost heaving and early sprouting, and increase the chance of winter survival for bulbs and perennials.

Windbreaks and mulch can reduce winter drying and death of broadleaf and other evergreens. Water these and other plantings thoroughly before the ground freezes to increase over wintering success.

Add a layer of wood chip mulch on the soil surrounding trees and shrubs to moderate soil temperatures, conserve moisture and reduce weed competition. Keep mulch off tree trunks and shrub stems. Courtesy of ARAcontent.com •