



# Kids' Corner

## New Word

### FLOSS

to clean between one's teeth



HOW MANY SETS OF TEETH DO MAMMALS HAVE?

ANSWER: TWO

### How they SAY that in...

- ENGLISH:** Tooth
- SPANISH:** Diente
- ITALIAN:** Dente
- FRENCH:** Dent
- GERMAN:** Zahn

### GET THE PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: TOOTHBRUSH

### Did you know?

CHILDREN HAVE 20 DECIDUOUS TEETH, ALSO KNOWN AS PRIMARY TEETH. THEY WILL START TO FALL OUT AROUND AGE 6 TO MAKE ROOM FOR SECONDARY TEETH.

## Dental Crossword

1				2			
3						4	
5							
6							

### CLUES ACROSS

1. Snacks
3. Medical test (abbr.)
4. \_\_\_uoride: protects teeth
5. Some \_\_\_ going to the dentist.
6. Person who treats the conditions of the teeth and gums

### CLUES DOWN

1. Used for chewing
2. Part of a chair
4. String substance that cleans between teeth

Answers  
Across 1. Treats 3. Exam 4. Fl 5. Hole 6. Dentist  
Down 1. Teeth 2. Arm rest 4. Floss

## LEAGUE

Continued from Page B1

out. Everybody that signs up plays," said MCSL commissioner Dennis Lapin.

But the camaraderie and good times don't have to end because the ground is frozen and/or muddy. The MCSL has a five-team winter league that plays seven-inning games at the BucksMont Indoor Sports Center.

"We're getting older, but we've been adding new teams and new players. There are guys who hang around to see if a team is (shorthanded)," said Lapin,

who lives in East Norriton.

MCSL players have participated in indoor winter softball for six seasons. They used to have to travel to the playing venues of other leagues. Then, two years ago, they discovered there was a facility off North Penn Road in Hatfield Township, allowing them to form their own winter league, which has 65 players. Games are played between 9 a.m. and noon Tuesdays and Thursdays, January through March. The second week of the month, they go out to lunch at the

Hilltown Pub.

Those accustomed to the outdoor game have some adjustments to make for the quirks of the indoor game. For instance, balls that hit the roof are outs and balls off the side walls and netting are in play (it's not an out if you catch it off the wall).

Unlike the summer league, the winter league uses wood bats. To avoid potential injuries from collisions between fielders and baserunners, and because sliding is not allowed, there is a second set of home plates and first bases. The home plate used for balls and strikes is a carpet square. If a pitch hits the carpet, it's a strike. Balls and strikes are called by the catcher.

The playing surface at the BucksMont Indoor Sports Center is a composite material that players say plays like artificial turf.

"(Balls) skid once in awhile, but most of them bounce. The grounders come faster (than on an outdoor grass and dirt field), but you have better bounces," said Gordy Detweiler, the com-

missioner of the winter league.

They also use special indoor balls, which meet senior softball guidelines spelled out by the American Softball Association.

They do keep score, but safe/out and fair/foul calls are made on the honor system and standings are not kept. However, there is some good-natured trash talking that goes on.

"The reason I decided to be commissioner is to keep it a fun league. Some guys want a World Series, but I'm not having it," said Lapin.

Most of the players have played organized baseball at some point in their lives, according to Lapin, who played baseball until he was 46.

"It's more relaxing (than organized baseball). There's no pressure," said Bob Gaugler, a former five-time Perkiomen Twilight League Most Valuable Player.

Ron Rhoads travels from Douglassville in Berks County to play in Hatfield. The MCSL is one of several softball leagues he participates in. Fellow players call Rhoads "Rocket," and although he can shrug off teasing

remarks about his shades and "pajama pants," he seems ill at ease with a reporter hearing him being referred to by his nickname.

"We know our best (playing) years are behind us," he said.

"This facility is beautiful. There's nothing like it where I'm from," Rhoads said of the BucksMont Indoor Sports Center.

He's not even the player that travels the farthest distance. One is from Brigantine, N.J., Lapin said.

While some might call softball a kids' game, the men in the MCSL don't kid themselves about their age.

The league has a defibrillator, courtesy of league sponsor Univest. There has been one on-field death, which occurred in the summer league. According to Lapin, it was due to an aneurysm and there was nothing that could have been done to save the player.

During one recent game day, Lapin leaves the playing area to check on player Ken Strickland. Lapin said that Strickland gets shortness of breath after run-

ning hard. After momentarily taking a break, Strickland returns and is OK to play.

"You've got to be a mother," said a concerned Lapin.

Rhoads and Lapin are among a small handful of players who have recently had knee replacement surgery. They've used getting back into playing shape as motivation to go to physical therapy.

The average age of an MCSL player is 69.4 years, but four players are 80 and older. Harleysville resident Angelo J. Malizia is one of them, and he's been active in the winter league.

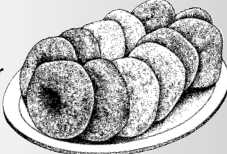
"It's competitive, and at the same time we don't go bananas. It's been a salvation. Baseball's always been a part of my life. I've been playing since I was 5 years old," said Malizia, 81, adding that he encourages his grandchildren to play ball and goes to their games because "it keeps them clean."

"I try to keep (teammates) inspired," he said of being one of the league's elder statesmen.

"If any seniors are having more fun than us, I'd like to meet them," said Detweiler.

## Fasnacht Donuts!

Enjoy our traditional recipe Fasnacht donuts. Made fresh on the premises - Plain, Powdered Sugar and Glazed. Order early.



### the Distelfink Bakery

Valley Forge & Allentown Roads • Lansdale • 215.368.3000  
Tuesday-Friday 6:30 to 6 • Saturday 6:30 to 5 • Sunday 6:30 to 2

## food for thought



Look for this new feature appearing every Thursday in the **GO** section of

**THE REPORTER**

*We've Got You Covered!*  
www.TheReporterOnline.com

To participate in this feature call  
Donna Jones at

**215-855-9750**



CHRIS STANLEY/THE REPORTER

**TOM CORCORAN** reaches for a bat after Manny London took batting practice during a recent game of the Montgomery County Senior Softball League at the BucksMont Indoor Sports Center in Hatfield Township.