



Smooth operator

Mary Ann Kopczynski of Fort Myers, Fla., says she likes Egyptian cotton sheets — but doesn't like how wrinkled they get in the dryer. Here's her neat trick:

"After they are dried, I put them on the mattress and then I get my steam iron out — and in a matter of minutes, I have the bottom sheet wrinkle-free. I then put the top sheet on, and iron it, and then the pillow cases. All done in a matter of minutes — no ironing board needed."

Have a tip?

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Canning's deep roots

Look beyond cucumbers for your fall preserves menu.

Sure, preserving summer's sexy tomatoes and peaches is delicious (and sustainable!), but canning has deeper roots. Take it from Spike Gjerde, chef-owner of Baltimore's farm-centric Woodberry Kitchen and Artifact Coffee. He will can more than 60,000 pounds of tomatoes this year but also plans to preserve about 70 other varieties of produce at his newest venture, Shoofly, a 5,000-square-foot diner-meets-preservation facility.

On this season's docket: apples,



pears and quince, post-frost cabbage and pre-frost veggies, including cauliflower, sunchokes, turnips and green tomatoes. His tips:

Keep it simple. "Keep things less busy in the jar, so you're creating building blocks for your pantry that can be used in a variety of ways. You can add in flavors later."

Branch out. Go beyond cucumbers, he says. "Pickled vegetables are true ingredients that can play a

meaningful role in our cooking, not just as a garnish."

Consider the source. Find a reputable recipe (he likes *The River Cottage Preserves Handbook*), because food safety is paramount. "The simplest way to can safely is to add vinegar to lower the pH somewhere below 4.5. Then pasteurize the can in a water bath. Kill everything, and make sure it stays dead."

— Kate Parham

APPS FOR ON THE ROAD

Cars and cellphones are generally a bad combination — but some apps can make driving safer, more efficient or more fun.

Here are four car-related apps (three of which are free) worth considering:

Waze. Lots of tools help you navigate. Waze lets users contribute real-time traffic information, construction updates and gas prices so you're as current as possible. "A critical mass of users makes it work," says Brad Spurrison, managing editor of the app website Appolicious.

iOnRoad. Driving safety is always most important. iOnRoad is an app that, mounted below the rearview mirror, emits an audiovisual alert if your car gets too close to the vehicle in front or swerves from the lane. Cost: \$4.99.



Gas Guru. Many apps help you track down cheap gas. Gas Guru goes a step further by providing information on restaurants, stores and other destinations close to the pump.

Kelly Blue Book. A safe and efficient ride starts with a smart buying decision. The famous Kelly Blue Book offers an app that lets you carry powerful information right onto the showroom floor: "You can know in an instant if what the salesperson is telling you is a good deal," Spurrison says.

— Jeff Wuorio

Autumn angles

Snapping pictures outdoors is great all year long, but in fall, the possibilities seem all the more endless. Foliage is wonderful, but as Richard Wiese, host of the TV series *Born to Explore*, says: "It's not all about looking 'up' to the trees. Look around, zoom in close, and get some action shots." He has a few simple tips:

Follow the sun. Shoot during the first and last hours of sun, sometimes referred to as the "magic hours," to bring out reds and golds.

Watch a tree. Take a shot from the same spot each day to create a time-lapse collage.

Branch out. It's not all about leaves! Head to a farmers market or pumpkin patch to capture color.

Tune in to *Born to Explore* on ABC stations. Check local listings.

