

Newark Mayor Cory Booker, who has garnered national attention for his passionate defense of New Jersey's largest city, is taking his act to the "Tonight Show." Host Conan O'Brien has been engaged in a playful feud with Booker since Sept. 23 and scheduled the 40-year-old mayor as a guest on his show Friday.

The exchange began last month when O'Brien poked fun at Booker's new health care plan for gritty Newark — long an icon for urban decay — saying it consisted of a bus ticket out of town. Booker fought back with a humorous response on YouTube in which he "banned" the 46-year-old redhead from Newark Liberty International Airport.

The back-and-forth continued until Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, the nation's top diplomat, playfully broke up the spat Oct. 8.

"I look forward to our summit," O'Brien said in a statement. "My apologies for bumping Brad Pitt."

Political experts have lauded Booker's use of new media such as YouTube, where his response to O'Brien has been viewed more than 176,000 times, and Twitter, where he has 826,000 followers.

The "Tonight Show" averages about 2.6 million viewers. This kind of exposure is extremely rare for someone that's not a senator, governor or presidential candidate," said Joe Trippi, a political consultant who managed Democrat Howard Dean's Internet-driven presidential campaign in 2004. "This shows how savvy Cory Booker is about new media and how it can be used to leverage mainstream and old media."

as they rode on an attached wagon.

"I like showing the little kids how to honk the horn," Bryan said. "There's a horn in the cart that you press with your foot."

Parents snapped photographs as Allison took youngsters through the patch to help them pick out their pumpkins.

Each year, a large portion of the pumpkin profits get socked away for the children's college education fund, Mrs. Noble said. In the past, some have helped offset the family's youth hockey expenses.

Besides the monetary benefits, learning how to communicate with customers is another skill the siblings acquire by running the stand.

Each May, the Nobles spend about two full days hand planting about 20 different varieties of pumpkins using seeds they ordered months in advance.

As the plants grow during the summer, family members

the pumpkins grow," Mrs. Noble said. "Pumpkins don't grow in weeds. During the summer, we're out on our hands and knees twice a day weeding."

Harvesting requires carefully separating the pumpkins from their vines, loading them onto trucks and then unloading at two roadside stands. Besides the Canton stand, the family operates a second stand off Irish Settlement Road, Heuvelton.

Last year's crop yielded about 6,000 pumpkins, but this year's cool, rainy summer resulted in a smaller harvest that ripened about 10 days later than usual, Mr. Noble said.

"The bees didn't get around as much to pollinate. Pumpkins like sun, and they were slow to ripen," according to Mr. Noble, who grew up on a Canton dairy farm and now works for the St. Lawrence County Highway Department.

He also blames deer and black bear for helping them-

Allison said her friends and many customers think the pumpkin patch is neat this time of year, but they don't understand what's involved.

"They get excited during the harvest, but they don't see the behind-the-scenes work, all the weeding and planting," Allison said.

Cultivating the pumpkin patch together also keep the family connected, Mrs. Noble said.

"It gets us outside together and keeps us active. Every year we seem to learn something new," she said.

Mrs. Noble, an administrative secretary in the student life department at St. Lawrence University, said the family plans to continue its pumpkin-selling business, at least for the next several years.

"We'll keep doing this until the kids are older," Mrs. Noble predicted. "Then my husband will have another project for us. He has farming in his blood."

Farmers Needed For Project

MADRID - St. Lawrence County received a Northeast SARE grant to recycle 20 tons of used ag plastics over the next year and is seeking farmers to participate in the project.

In exchange for preparing the plastics for recycling, the county will collect and bale the material at no cost to the farmer. Interested farmers are asked to attend a half-hour information session before the Cooperative Extension and American Dairy Association's Joint Annual Dinner at 7 p.m.

Thursday at the Madrid Community Center.

The information session will begin at 6:30 p.m. and provide an overview of the project and its timeline. Following the information session, participants will receive two complimentary meals at the Joint Annual Dinner, which will feature turkey and all the fixings.

Farmers are asked to register for the event by contacting Cooperative Extension at 379-9192. When registering, please inform staff that you will also attend the information ses-

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Massena," the DPW superintendent noted.

The state had agreed to pay for improvements to the water and sewer lines in areas where those lines conflicted

Nature Center IV

MASSENA - The Friends of the Nature Center at Robert Moses State Park in Massena will hold its monthly meeting at 6 p.m.

Oct. 20 at the Nature Center. This meeting is open not only to Friend's members, but all who are interested in the activities and plans of the Friends Group.

A review of new projects, plans for special events, fundraising and the future of the Nature Center will be discussed. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact the Nature Center at 315-764-5498 or www.nysparks.org.

More programs on the NYS Parks website, Robert Moses State Park, www.nysparks.org.

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