

Laughs And Lifts



January 2022
Issue 161

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A Dazzle of Zebras

What do you have when you have a dazzle of zebras? You have a collection of 3 or more of the black and white striped mammals that belong to the horse family of the animal kingdom. A collection of zebras is also sometimes referred to as a "zeal" or "harem" of zebras. And now you know.

What About Now

My wife yelled from the bedroom asking, "Do you ever get a shooting pain across your body like someone's got a voodoo doll of you and they're stabbing it?" I replied, "No." She yelled back, "What about now?"

If the woman is always right, and a man is always wrong. Then, if a man tells a woman that she's right.



Is the man right or wrong?

Why do I have to press one for English when you're just going to transfer me to someone I can't understand anyway?

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I had a job offer from a large company and they offered to fly me out to the interview on business class.

During the return flight we were given gourmet brownies and cookies. Not hungry, I decided to save them for later, so I placed them in an airsickness courtesy bag.

After the plane landed, I got up to leave and a flight attendant approached me if I wanted her to dispose of the bag.

I said, "No thanks, I'm saving it for my kids."

A friend of mine always helps me with maps and diagrams, pointing out all the little symbols and what they mean... This guy is a legend.

The Number Everyone Hates

"I'm the number everyone hates," said 13.

"No way, I am the number everyone hates," replied 666.

"L-O-L," 2020 chuckled.

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**MY NEW
 BROTHER-IN-LAW**

A lady married her husband's brother after she became a widow.

A few days passed, a friend came to her house. Upon seeing the picture of her ex husband on the wall, the friend asked, "Who is that?" The lady replied, "Oh well, that's my brother-in-law."

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They're saying we can have gatherings of up to eight people without issues


I don't know eight people without issues.



"Worrying is carrying tomorrow's load with today's strength - carrying two days at once. It is moving into tomorrow ahead of time. Worrying does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow; it empties today of its strength."
- Corrie ten Boom



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"When you dig another out of their troubles, you find a place to bury your own."

I finally did it! I bought a pair of shoes with memory foam insoles. No more forgetting why I walked into the kitchen.

A Lesson in Kindness

The school teacher gave a pupil two apples. One was big the other was small. Then she said: "When your brother comes up and asks you for one of the apples which one are you going to give him?" The student thought about it for a minute then replied: "Are we talking about my little brother or my big brother?"



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monthly to uplift and entertain the reader.

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A reporter asked MJ if he thought the 90's Bulls could beat
Lebron's Lakers..

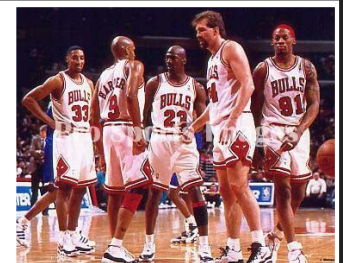
MJ says "Yes.."

By how much? asks the reporter

MJ says "2 or 3 points."

"Why such a close game?" asks the reporter.

MJ answers confidently, "Well most of us are almost 60 now."



The Molecular Structure Explanation

A 4-year old son was eating an apple in the back seat
of the car, when he asked, "Daddy, why is my apple
turning brown?"

"Because," his dad explained, "after you ate the skin
off, the meat of the apple came into contact with the
air, which caused it to oxidize, thus changing the
molecular structure and turning it into a different
color."

There was a long silence. Then the son asked softly,
"Daddy, are you talking to me?"



Find the 10 differences



For those of you who received a book from me for Christmas, they are due back to the library Tuesday.

The one who says it can't be done should never interrupt the one who is doing it.

Submarine Sandwich
Mikey: "I ate a submarine sandwich for lunch and I think I'm going to be sick."
Mother: "What makes you say that?"
Mikey: "It's starting to surface."

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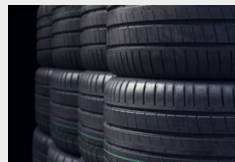
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STEAK HOUSE



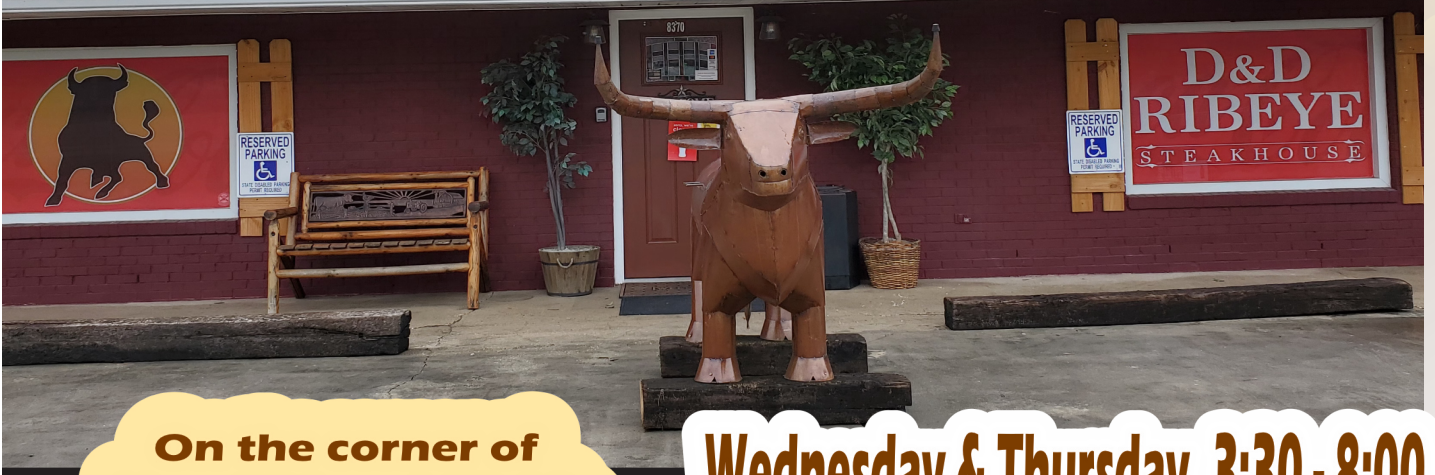
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New Year

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She found the blocks
In December
to finished the
sentence,
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John Cawley
Managing
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New Duty Station

Soon after being transferred to a new duty station, A Marine husband called home to tell his wife he would be late - again. He went on to say that dirty magazines had been discovered in the platoon's quarters and they had to discipline the whole squad. She launched into a tirade, arguing that many men had pictures hanging in their quarters at our previous post, so his new platoon should not be penalized for something trivial.

The husband calmly listened to my gripes and then explained, "Dirty magazines: the clips from their rifles had not been cleaned."

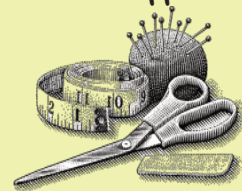
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Toilet Paper

A little old lady goes into the store to do some shopping. She is bewildered over the large selection of toilet paper. "Pardon me, sir," she says to the store manager, "but can you explain the differences in all these toilet papers?"



"Well," he replies pointing out one brand, "this is as soft as a baby's kiss. It's \$1.50 per roll." He grabs another and says, "This is nice and soft as a bunny, strong but gentle, and it's \$1.00 a roll."

Pointing to the bottom shelf he tells her, "We call that our No Name brand, and it's 20 cents per roll."

"Give me the No Name," she says.

She comes back about a week later, seeks out the manager and says, "Hey! I've got a name for your No Name toilet paper. I call it John Wayne."

"Why?" he asks.

"Because it's rough, it's tough and it don't take crap off anybody!"

SUDOKU

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							4	
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We have been
together so long,
I can't think of
anything
new to
talk
about!*

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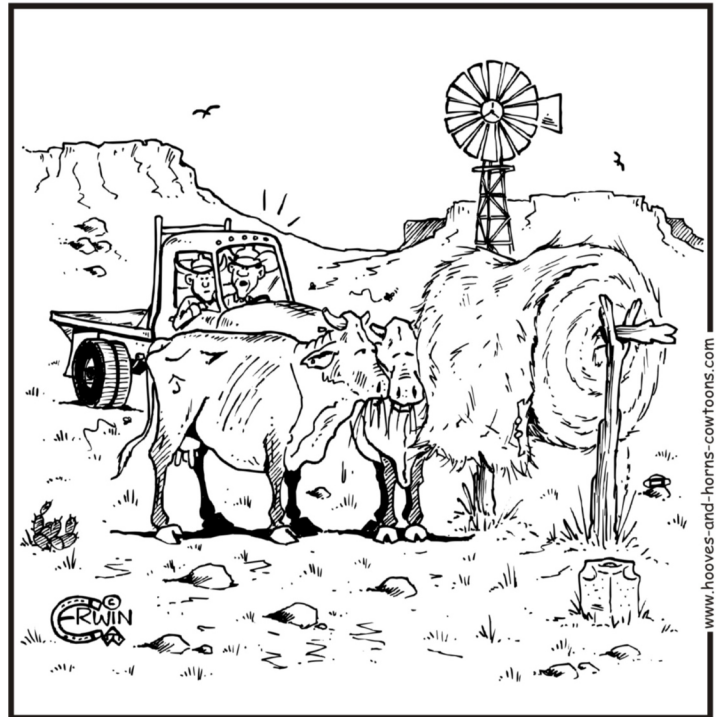
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Well J.C.
That's good.
Now you can
just listen to
me talk!



HOOVES & HORNS

BY A.W. ERWIN



"I came up with the idea while I wuz
in th'outhouse one day."

Due to recent cutbacks...The light at the end of the tunnel has
been turned off till further notice!

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Aunt T's Kitchen

MEXICAN CHICKEN

Ingredients:

- 3 boneless, skinless whole chicken breasts
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- One 28-ounce can whole or diced tomatoes, with juice
- 3 cups low-sodium chicken broth (more if you like the soup more liquid)
- One 15-ounce can black beans, drained and rinsed
- One 10-ounce can diced tomatoes with green chiles,
- 4 ounces tomato paste
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 red bell pepper, seeded and chopped
- 1 yellow bell pepper, seeded and chopped
- 1 canned chipotle pepper in adobo (you may add 2 to 3 if you like)
- 1/2 lime, juiced
- Fixings: avocado, sour cream, grated cheese, crushed tortilla chips and fresh cilantro leaves



Directions

1. Put the chicken in a slow cooker. Sprinkle on the chili powder, cumin and some salt and pepper. Add the

BABY IT'S GOLD OUTSIDE!!

CROCK POT SOUPS

tomatoes, chicken broth, black beans, tomatoes with chiles, tomato paste, onion, chipotle pepper and red and yellow peppers. Stir, place the lid on the slow cooker and cook for 5 hours on high or 8 hours on low.

2. Stir in the lime juice. Remove the chicken to a plate and use 2 forks to break it into chunks (or shred it finely). Return the chicken to the pot, taste and add more seasoning if necessary.

3. Serve piping hot in a bowl with avocado, sour cream, grated cheese, crushed tortilla chips and cilantro leaves on top!

SAUSAGE PUMPKIN

Ingredients

- 1 pound bulk pork sausage
- 1/3 cup chopped onion
- 2 cans (14-1/2 ounces each) chicken broth
- 1 can (15 ounces) pumpkin
- 1/2 cup maple syrup
- 1 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1 can (12 ounces) evaporated milk
- Optional: croutons or crackers



Directions

1. In a large skillet, cook sausage and onion until sausage is no longer pink; drain.

2. Transfer to a 4-qt. slow cooker. Add the broth, pumpkin, syrup, pie spice, garlic powder and nutmeg. Cover and cook on low until flavors are blended, 3-4 hours. Stir in milk; heat through. If desired, serve with croutons or crackers.

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SPICED SWEET POTATO

Ingredients

- 2 pounds sweet potatoes (about 4 medium), peeled and chopped
- 1 large sweet onion, finely
- 1 medium sweet red pepper, chopped
- 1-1/2 teaspoons curry powder
- 1 teaspoon sea salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1/4 teaspoon ground allspice
- 1/4 teaspoon grated lemon zest
- 1/8 teaspoon coarsely ground pepper
- 6 cups reduced-sodium chicken broth
- Salted pumpkin seeds or pepitas, optional



Directions

1. In a 5-qt. slow cooker, combine the first 11 ingredients. Cook, covered, on low 6-8 hours or until vegetables are tender.
2. Puree soup using an immersion blender. Or, cool soup slightly and puree in batches in a blender; return to slow cooker and heat through. If desired, top servings with pumpkin seeds.

BEEF AND POTATO

Ingredients

- 1-1/2 pounds lean ground beef
- 3/4 cup chopped onion
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 2 cans (14-1/2 ounces each) reduced-sodium chicken broth, divided
- 5 medium potatoes, peeled and cubed
- 5 medium carrots, chopped
- 3 teaspoons dried basil
- 2 teaspoons dried parsley flakes
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 12 ounces reduced-fat process cheese (Velveeta), cubed
- 1-1/2 cups 2% milk
- 1/2 cup reduced-fat sour cream



Directions

1. In a large skillet, cook beef and onion over medium heat until meat is no longer pink; drain. Combine flour and 1 can broth until smooth. Add to beef mixture. Bring to a boil; cook and stir until thickened, about 2 minutes.
2. Transfer to a 5-qt. slow cooker. Stir in the potatoes, carrots, celery, seasonings and remaining broth. Cover and cook on low for 6-8 hours or until vegetables are tender.
3. Stir in cheese and milk. Cover and cook until cheese is melted, about 30 minutes longer. Just before serving, stir in sour cream.

CHICKEN AND KALE TORTELLINI

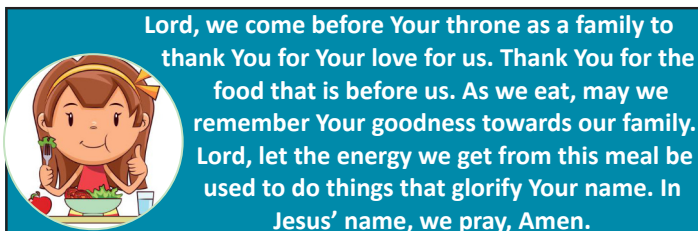
Ingredients

- 1 pound boneless skinless chicken breasts, cut into 1-1/4-inch cubes
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1-1/2 teaspoons Italian seasoning
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 6 cups chicken broth
- 1 package (20 oz) refrigerated cheese tortellini
- 1 can (15 oz) cannellini beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 jar (7-1/2 ounces) marinated quartered artichoke hearts, drained and coarsely chopped
- 4 cups coarsely chopped fresh kale (about 2 oz.)
- Shaved Parmesan cheese, optional



Directions

1. Place first 5 ingredients in a 5- or 6-qt. slow cooker. Cook, covered, on low 2-3 hours, until chicken is no longer pink.
2. Stir in tortellini, beans, artichoke hearts and kale. Cook, covered, on low about 30 minutes, until tortellini and kale are tender, stirring halfway through cook time. Serve immediately. If desired, top with cheese.



**Strive to Encourage
One Another**
Pastor Josh and Kayla Sims



Happy New Year!
Recently, I came across a post on social media that asked everyone to not claim the new year as “their year”. Instead let’s all walk through the year quietly together. I kind of chuckled when I read that post because I completely understand the sentiment. Collectively our world has been shaken and I know everyone looks to 2020 but honestly our world was changing well before then. The political unrest continues to ramp up, the economy continues to be unstable, and when we look at the world as a whole, confrontation abounds. However, there is Hope. I am hearing stories of underground churches flourishing. Churches that have been ravished by ISIS have rebuilt and people are being drawn to Jesus every day. Here in America, amongst the overwhelming stories of division little pockets of light are shining through. Why am I telling you this? Hebrews 3:12-14 says, “Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called ...today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end. Friends, can we heed the writer of Hebrews words? Can we strive to encourage one another? “Exhort one another every day, as long as it is called today.” Let us live for today and see those pockets of light become large areas of Light for Jesus in our world.

Faith Christian Center



Pastor Josh and Kayla Sims
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The Rarest Combination



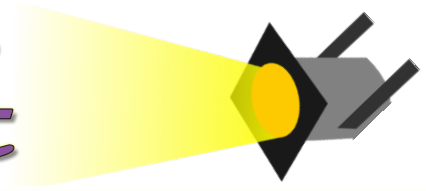
Someone being born with red hair and blue eyes is the rarest combination and occurs only 1% of the time

Find the 10 differences solution





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Staying Focused On What Matters Most

By: Wallace Kennedy, Jr.



When we think about the word "focused" we think about our eyes being fixed on an object, and also, the fact of having a clear and definite purpose.

The world around us are filled with many distractions, some of these distractions are worth our time and efforts, and some of them we can live without.

There will always be many distraction on our Christian journey, some created by our own doing, and some because of a common enemy that wants to keep us out of the will of God for our life.

One of the greatest privileges we have as Christians is a personal relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Spending some quiet alone time with Him, and enjoying His presence and fellowship is the most special time of a day.

First things first: We need to eliminate distractions. While we can't do away with everything, you can make an effort to reduce or get rid of as many distractions as possible:

- Set our clock to get up 30 minutes early, so we are not rushing our time in prayer, reading our Bible and meditating on what we read.
- Turning off notifications on your phone or turning your phone off altogether

- Closing the door to an isolated and quiet area in the house
- Letting relatives and friends know when you have your morning devotion, so they know not to distract you for a period of time.

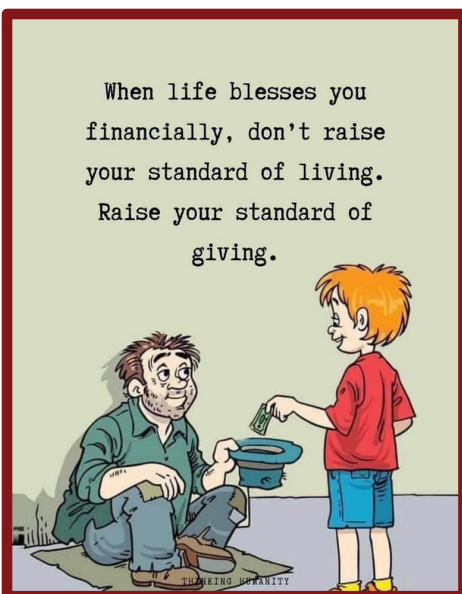
There is not a one-size-fit-all, nor a cookie cutter type solution. We all can be encouraged by the words of our brother Paul:

Philippians 3:12-16 I'm not saying that I have this all together, that I have it made. But I am well on my way, reaching out for Christ, who has so wondrously reached out for me. Friends, don't get me wrong: By no means do I count myself an expert in all of this, but I've got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward—to Jesus. I'm off and running, and I'm not turning back. So let's keep focused on that goal, those of us who want everything God has for us. If any of you have something else in mind, something less than total commitment, God will clear your blurred vision—you'll see it yet! Now that we're on the right track, let's stay on it. (MSG)

We cannot change what happened in 2021, However "Staying Focused On What Matters Most" will make a greater New Year in 2022.

May our Lord Jesus keep us all in His care.

Happy New Year



A man tells his doctor that his wife has laryngitis. The doctor said there was nothing he could do to cure it. The man said, "Cure it, I want to prolong it!"





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I have everything that I wanted as a teenager, only 60 years later. I don't have to go to school or work. I get an allowance every month. I have my own pad. I don't have a curfew. I have a driver's license and my own car, and I don't have acne. Life is great.

A DIM FLASHLIGHT?

When a flashlight grows dim or quits working, do you just throw it away? Of course not. You change the batteries.

When a person messes up or finds themselves in a dark place, do you cast them aside? Of course not! You help them change their batteries.

Some need AA...attention and affection; some need AAA...attention, affection, and acceptance; some need C....compassion; some need D... direction.

And if they still don't seem to shine...simply sit with them quietly and share your light.

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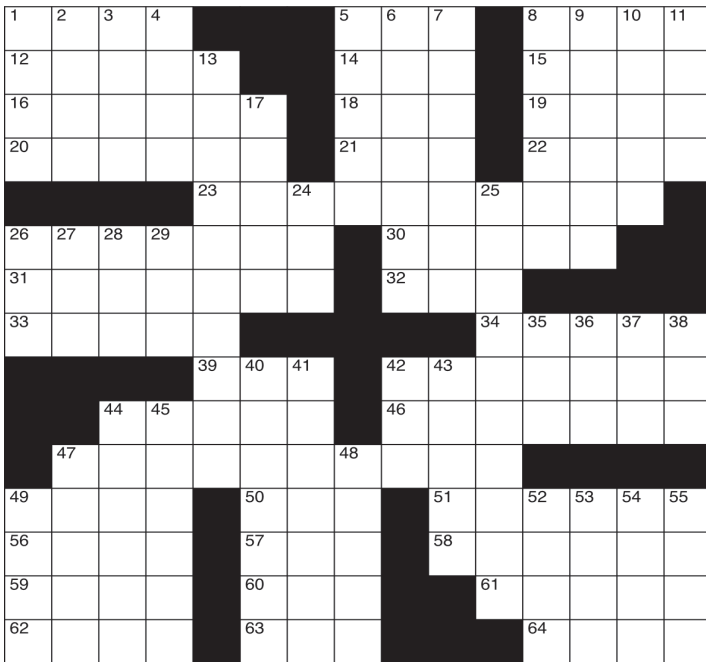


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How to speak Hillbilly

All of you guys = All ya'll
 Aluminum Foil = 10 full
 Peecans = Puhkhans
 Has a fever = running a tempachur
 That's my older sister's clothes = Hammy downs
 It's a chest of drawers = chester droors
 Sleepover = Spinninnanight
 It's a sneaker = Tennashu



CLUES ACROSS

1. Requests
5. Calendar month
8. Invests in little enterprises
12. Bird sound
14. S. American plant cultivated for tubers
15. Car
16. Bullfighter
18. Hill (Celtic)
19. Strong criticism
20. Detector
21. When you hope to get there
22. Having the skill to do something
23. Legendary MLB broadcaster
26. Vulcanite
30. C. Asian mountain range
31. In a way, healed
32. Midway between east and southeast
33. Small appendages of insects
34. ___ Greene, òBonanzaÓ actor
39. A place to bathe
42. Postal worker accessory
44. Classical music
46. A way of wrecking
47. Terminator
49. You eat three a day
50. Pointed end of a pen
51. NATO official (abbr.)
56. Genus of clams
57. BoxingÓs ÒG.O.A.T.Ó
58. A colorless, odorless gas used as fuel
59. Covered thinly with gold paint
60. Bachelor of Laws
61. Red fluorescent dye
62. Engineering group
63. Female sibling
64. Adjacent

CLUES DOWN

1. What a thespian does
2. Footwear
3. Adjust spacing between
4. Witnesses
5. Who shows excessive fondness
6. Distinct form of a plant
7. National capital
8. Hunting expedition
9. Related to medulla oblongata
10. European country
11. Cola
13. Excluded from use or mention
17. Speak
24. Bloodshot
25. Make better
26. Keyboard key
27. Type of degree
28. Paddle
29. Peacock network
35. Not young
36. Baseball stat
37. OneÓs grandmother
38. Breakfast food
40. Bathroom features
41. Disease-causing bacterium
42. NY ballplayer
43. Got up
44. Prophet
45. Part of the mouth
47. Unnatural
48. Acronym for brain science study
49. Three are famous
52. Languages spoken in Patagonia
53. Freedom from difficulty
54. Widely used OS
55. Many people pay it

The Three Unwritten Rules of Life

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

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SOLUTION ON PAGE 29

Claybank Master Gardeners January 2022

Greetings Gardeners!

Are you thinking about adding some fruit trees or flowering shrubs to your yard? January and February are the best months to plant trees and shrubs, because they are in the dormant stage, and the plants will use these months to develop new underground roots without using up their energy toward leafy growth. Dig a hole twice as large as the shrub or tree, and plant it at the same level as it is in the pot. Be sure to water daily for the first week or two, then water every 2 or 3 days for the few couple of months, then every 7-14 days until the roots are established. Of course if you have **clay soil** that does not drain well, make sure to add **compost, or well-composted manure** or **gypsum** to loosen the clay particles in the large hole before adding your tree or shrub. Even better is to add compost to the area where you will plant a season or two ahead of planting, to give the clay ample time to loosen up.

**You can still plant seeds for January if the soil temperature is at 35° for these plants: lettuce, onions, parsnip, and spinach. At 40° you can plant beets, broccoli, collards, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, Swiss chard, parsley, radishes, and turnips.

**Taking the Master Gardener class taught me way more than I ever expected, and it was so much fun meeting other folks in the area with interests and experiences that continue to educate me. Starting February 3, 2022 the course is being offered both in person at the Houston County Extension Office and online through Zoom. See details on the poster with this column.

The *Claybank Master Gardeners* meet **every 2nd Wednesday** of the month, with masks and socially distanced, **at 11AM at Hoppergrass Restaurant in Ozark, 129 S. East Ave. across from Milky Moos.** (But please first call the **Dale County Extension Office at (334) 774-2329** to verify in case of changes). In January, we will meet on **Wednesday the 12th**. We welcome newcomers, so come buy lunch if you wish and join us.

Dee Gilbert, Claybank Master Gardener



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JAN 2022
Page 21

REBUS FOR YOU!

Solve these visual word puzzles by looking for clues in the placement, color, or number of words. Have fun!

1. Injury + Insult	2. Weather Bit
3. yourballcourt	4. B Cat & ga
5. T B Bush A E	6. 1. Blame 2. Blame 3. Blame
7. belly	8. ri poorch
9. mce mce mce	10. MONSTER!

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Find the hidden objects



- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

"To fall in love with God is the greatest of all romances, to seek Him, the greatest of all adventures, to find him, the greatest human achievement." ~ Augustine

Never be a prisoner of your past. It was just a lesson, not a life sentence. You don't have to be the best, but you should always try your best.

I used to care what people thought of me until I realized that I can't pay my bills with their opinions.



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**You have to make the
decision to let go of the past if
you want to move forward.**

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The year is 2024 and the United States has just elected the first woman, An Ariton High School and University of Alabama graduate, as President of the United States, Susan Baker. A few days after the election the president-elect calls her father and says, 'So, Dad, I assume you will be coming to my inauguration?' 'I don't think so. It's a 30 hour drive, your mother isn't as young as she used to be, and my arthritis is acting up again.' 'Don't worry about it, Dad, I'll send Air Force One to pick you up and take you home. And a limousine will pick you up at your door.' 'I don't know. Everybody will be so fancy. What would your mother wear?' Oh Dad, replies Susan, 'I'll make sure she has a wonderful gown custom-made by the best designer in New York .' 'Honey,' Dad complains, 'you know I can't eat those rich foods you and your friends like to eat.' The President-to-be responds, 'Don't worry Dad. The entire affair is going to be handled by the best caterer in New York , I'll ensure your meals are salt free Dad, I really want you to come. So Dad reluctantly agrees and on January 20, 2025, Susan Baker is being sworn in as President of the United States. In the front row sits the new president's Dad and Mom. Dad noticing the senator sitting next to him leans over and whispers, 'You see that woman over there with her hand on the Bible, becoming President of the United States.' The Senator whispers back, 'Yes I do.' Her Dad says proudly, 'Her brother played football at The University of Alabama.'

**I hate it when people don't know the difference between
"your" and "you're". There so stupid.**

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**JAN 2022
Page 23**

GET ORGANIZED WORD SEARCH

L T B G T C L E A N U L E B A M I T T E
 E W E A T T I U H D L R F L D H G G D F
 B O Z R V Y I B Y V A Z I C C L B H L I
 A E I A S B R O L D S D O S S T C I E L
 L Z R G D T A E T R O S H R I Y V A I I
 N I O E T Y N M C E M D O N A T E N H N
 C N G P A T R E O Y T S G O L Y N C V G
 M A E M A U G S M Z C A P W E K V E K M
 U G T C V L T S L N U L N P G I K I H E
 M R A B B F P S G A G V E I K S E D Y G
 E O C W D S S H H D N I K S D D P R K A
 T G I T O D E T A O K O S A R R V D T B
 S Y L G W O Y R S B U K I S Z E O A F R
 Y D C V R B C T O H E S Y S A A W O I A
 S F B L C Z E B S H E T E I S Y G A C G
 E A D D M S U W C A C L I H N E M P R T
 R N U H O V E U G E B O V Z O H F B K D
 B L H L O L L K C Z R N R I E L S O N T
 I T C C S L O M P B O L T L N F D U R N
 L S G G L V E F B D R R V N R G R E T P

WORDS

ALPHABETIZE
 ASSIGNMENTS
 CATEGORIZE
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Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

Solution on page 29

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A six-year-old comes crying to his mother because his little sister pulled his hair. "Don't be angry," the mother says, "your little sister doesn't realize that pulling hair hurts."

A short while later, there's more crying, and the mother goes to investigate. This time the sister is bawling and her brother says, "She knows now."

RING AROUND THE ROSEY

The nursery rhyme Ring Around the Rosey is a rhyme about the plague. Infected people with the plague would get red circular sores ("Ring around the rosey..."), these sores would smell very badly so common folks would put flowers on their bodies somewhere (inconspicuously), so that it would cover the smell of the sores ("...a pocket full of poseys..."), People who died from the plague would be burned so as to reduce the possible spread of the disease ("...ashes, ashes, we all fall down!")

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SOLUTION

1. Adding insult to injury.	2. A bit under the weather.
3. The ball is in your court.	4. Let the cat out of the bag.
5. Beat around the bush.	6. No one to blame.
7. Yellow belly.	8. Take from the rich and give to the poor.
9. Three blind mice.	10. A green eyed monster.

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First rule of cleaning while listening to music:
The toilet brush is never the microphone.

Laughs
and Lifts.com

JAN 2022
Page 25

Looking Old

Have You Ever Been Guilty Of Looking At Others Your Own Age And Thinking, "surely I Can't Look That Old." Well... You'll Love This One.

My Name Is Alice Smith And I Was Sitting In The Waiting Room For My First Appointment With A New Dentist. I Noticed His DDS Diploma, Which Bore His Full Name.

Suddenly, I Remembered A Tall, Handsome, Dark-haired Boy With The Same Name Had Been In My High School Class Some 50-odd Years Ago. Could He Be The Same Guy That I Had A Secret Crush On, Way Back Then? Upon Seeing Him, However, I Quickly Discarded Any Such Thought.

This Balding, Gray-haired Man With The Deeply Lined Face Was Way Too Old To have Been My Classmate. After He Examined My Teeth, I Asked Him If He Had Attended Morgan Park High School "yes. Yes, I Did. I'm A Mustang," He Gleamed With Pride.

"when Did You Graduate?" I Asked.

He Answered, "in 1966. Why Do You Ask?"

"you Were In My Class!", I Exclaimed.

He Looked At Me Closely. Then, That Ugly, Old, Bald Wrinkled, Fat, Gray, Decrepit, So in So, Asked, "what Did You Teach?"

The Sparrow

Once upon a time there was a non-conforming sparrow who decided not to fly south for the winter. However, soon the weather turned so cold that he reluctantly decided to fly south. In a short time ice began to form on his wings and he fell to Earth in a barnyard, nearly frozen solid. A cow passed by where he had fallen, and crapped on the little sparrow. The sparrow thought it was the end, but the manure warmed him and defrosted his wings!

Warm and happy, able to breath, he started to sing.

Just then a large cat came by, and hearing the chirping he investigated the sounds. The cat cleared away the manure, found the chirping bird, and promptly ate him.

The Moral of the Story:

Everyone who craps on you is not necessarily your enemy Everyone who gets you out of crap is not necessarily your friend.

And if you're warm and happy in a pile of crap, you might just want to keep your mouth shut.

The 99 Club

I heard a story about a very wealthy king who lived long ago. Even though his life was filled with luxuries, he was not happy or content. One day the king met a poor man who was very happy and joyous. The king asked, "You appear to be a very poor man... how are you so happy?" The poor man said, "Your majesty, my family and I don't need much. We have enough food to fill our bellies, a roof over our heads, and each other to keep us happy."

The king was not satisfied with the man's answer, so later that day he sought advice from one of his trusted advisers. The adviser said, "It's obvious that man has not become part of the 99 Club." The king asked, "What is the 99 Club?" The adviser replied, "To understand it, just place 99 gold coins in a bag and leave it on the man's doorstep."

After a long day in the fields, the man saw the bag on his doorstep. He took it inside and let out a great shout of joy when he discovered the bag was filled with gold coins. After counting it several times, he wondered, "What could've happened to the last gold coin? Who would leave just 99 coins!" After becoming exhausted looking everywhere for the last coin, he decided to work harder than ever to earn a gold coin to complete his collection. From that day on, the man's life was changed. He became overworked and grumpy. He was upset with his family for not helping him achieve his goal to earn the one-hundredth gold coin. All he could think about was the coin he longed for.

After witnessing the dramatic transformation, the king's adviser said, "Your majesty, the man is now part of the 99 Club, which is made of people who have more than enough, but are never content, because they're always striving for the one extra thing that will make them happy."

Charles Spurgeon said it best, "It is not how much we have, but how much we enjoy, that makes happiness."

Dead Horse

The tribal wisdom of the Dakota Indians, passed on from generation to generation, says that "When you discover that you are riding a dead horse, the best strategy is to dismount."

However, in government more advanced strategies are often employed, such as:

1. Buying a stronger whip.
 2. Changing riders.
 3. Appointing a committee to study the horse.
 4. Arranging to visit other countries to see how other cultures ride dead horses.
 5. Lowering the standards so that dead horses can be included.
 6. Reclassifying the dead horse as living-impaired.
 7. Hiring outside contractors to ride the dead horse.
 8. Harnessing several dead horses together to increase speed.
 9. Providing additional funding and/or training to increase the dead horse's performance.
 10. Doing a productivity study to see if lighter riders would improve the dead horse's performance.
 11. Declaring that as the dead horse does not have to be fed, it is less costly, carries lower overhead and therefore contributes substantially more to the bottom line of the economy than do some other horses.
 12. Rewriting the expected performance requirements for all horses.
- And, of course...
13. Promoting the dead horse to a supervisory position

Insults, When They had Class

"He has all the virtues I dislike and none of the vices I admire." -- Winston Churchill

"I have never killed a man, but I have read many obituaries with great pleasure" -- Clarence Darrow

"I've had a perfectly wonderful evening. But this wasn't it." -- Groucho Marx

"He has no enemies, but is intensely disliked by his friends." -- Oscar Wilde

"I feel so miserable without you; it's almost like having you here." -- Stephen Bishop

"He is a self-made man and worships his creator." -- John Bright

"I've just learned about his illness. Let's hope it's nothing trivial." -- Irvin S Cobb

"He is not only dull himself; he is the cause of dullness in others." -- Samuel Johnson

"He is simply a shiver looking for a spine to run up." -- Paul Keating

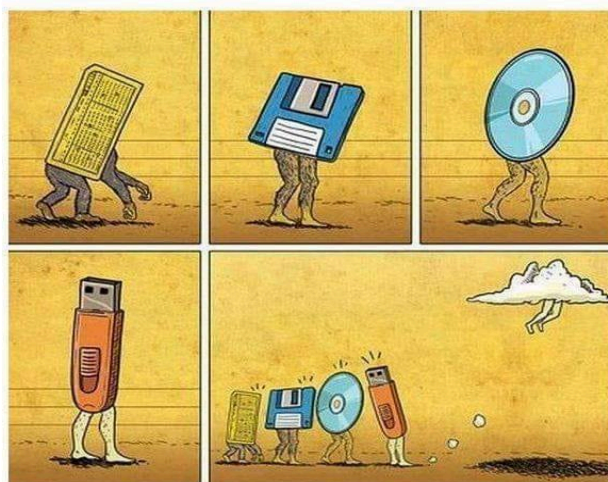
"He had delusions of adequacy." -- Walter Kerr

"His mother should have thrown him away and kept the stork." -- Mae W

"Some cause happiness wherever they go; others, whenever they go." -- Oscar Wilde

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restaurants in Japan
where American people
cook in front of you with
lawn chairs and a grill?**

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SOLUTION ON page 30

9	8	5	4		2	1	80	81
10	7						79	78
11		21		29		33		77
12				38				76
		23	24	39	40	65		
14				42				74
15		45		55		63		73
48	47						69	72
49	50	51	52		60	61	70	71

		11		9		1		
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		40	39	38	37			
17	20	41	42		44		46	81
		58	57	52	51			
61			56	53	50			79
	65			54			77	
		67		69		73		

THE THREE ENVELOPES

The CEO had resigned in disgrace, and was leaving his office holding a box of these things when the new CEO arrived to take over.

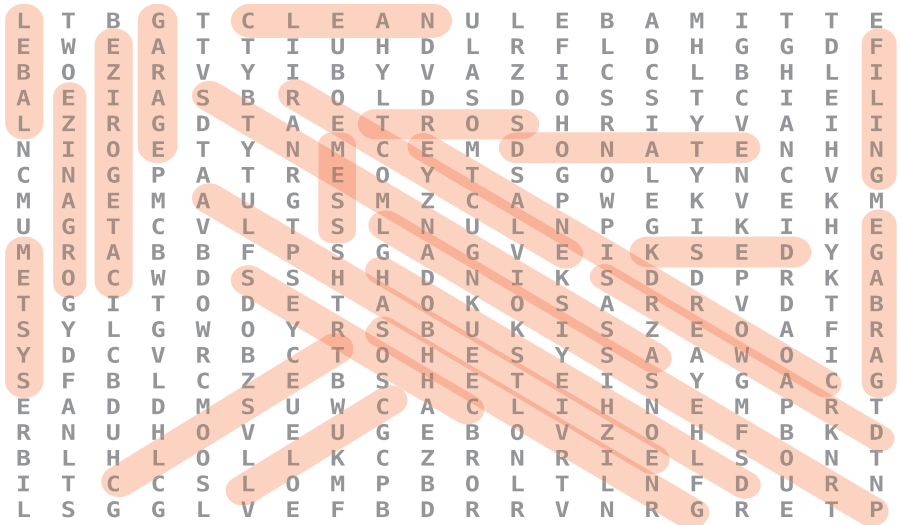
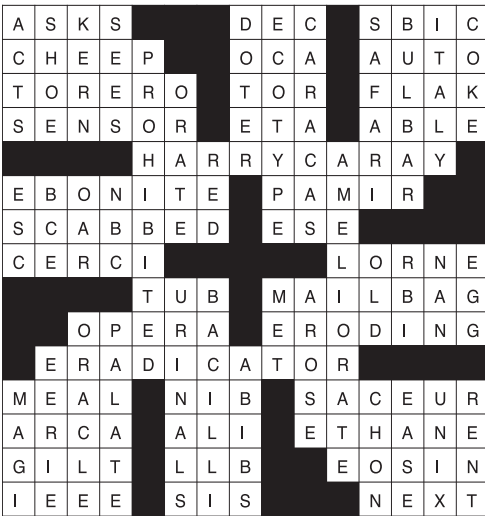
The outgoing executive told his replacement that it was a tough job, and if she needed help, there were three envelopes in the top drawer of the desk that would help her -- "but only open these if you run up against a problem you don't think you can solve," the beaten man said.

The new CEO calmed things down and everything went fine, until the company hit a snag -- just before the annual Board meeting. She heard rumors that the Board was unhappy with her performance and, not sure what to do, she opened her desk drawer and pulled out the first envelope. The message inside read, "Blame your predecessor."

The new CEO went to the Board meeting and tactfully laid the blame on the previous CEO. Sure enough, within weeks, sales picked up and the problems were soon behind her.

About a year later, the company was again experiencing a dip in sales and a product recall. Sure enough, it was right before a Board meeting, so she opened the second envelope. The message read, "Reorganize." The company's troubles were forgotten at the Board meeting as the CEO laid out her plan to streamline operations.

Sure enough, the next year the company again was starting to falter just before the annual Board meeting, so the CEO went to her office, closed the door, and opened the third envelope. The message said, "Prepare three envelopes...."



TREES IN THE WOODS

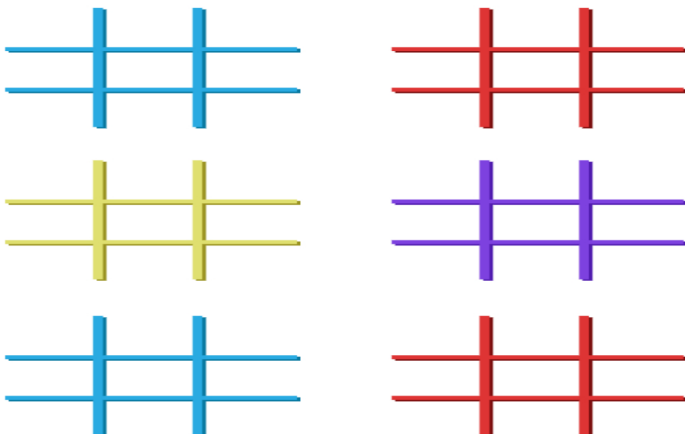
When we go out into the woods, and we look at trees, we see all these different trees. And some of them are bent, and some of them are straight, and some of them are evergreens, and some of them are whatever. And we look at the tree, and we allow it. We see why it is the way it is. We sort of understand that it didn't get enough light, and so it turned that way. And we don't get all emotional about it. We just allow it. We appreciate the tree.

The minute we get near humans, we lose all that. And we are constantly saying, "You are too this, or I'm too this." That judging mind comes in. And so I suggest we practice turning people into trees. Which means appreciating them just the way they are.

Remember, when we judge another, we do not define them, we define our self.

Me ___ You ___ Ties ___

Tic Tac Toe



BETTER MAKE UP YOUR MIND

A confused young man was in a difficult situation. He couldn't decide whether to marry Kathryn or Edith. Even though he tried as hard as he could, he was unable to make up his mind.

Not willing to give up either, he strung them along for far too long. This indecision continued until both young women got tired of the situation and left him for good. Moral of the story: You can't have your Kate and Edith too.

New Diet

Two women were shopping. When they started to discuss their home lives, one said, "Seems like all my boyfriend and I do anymore is fight. I've been so upset I've lost 20 pounds in two weeks."

"Why don't you just leave him then?" asked her friend.

"Not yet," the first replied, "I like to lose at least another 10 to 15 pounds first."

Union Bedtime Story

A Teamster Union President was sitting at his son's bedside getting ready to read him a bedtime story.

He starts out, "Once upon a time and a half..."

Numbrix Solution

9	8	5	4	3	2	1	80	81
10	7	6	27	28	31	32	79	78
11	20	21	26	29	30	33	34	77
12	19	22	25	38	37	36	35	76
13	18	23	24	39	40	65	66	75
14	17	44	43	42	41	64	67	74
15	16	45	54	55	56	63	68	73
48	47	46	53	58	57	62	69	72
49	50	51	52	59	60	61	70	71

13	12	11	10	9	8	1	2	3
14	23	24	27	28	7	6	5	4
15	22	25	26	29	30	31	32	33
16	21	40	39	38	37	36	35	34
17	20	41	42	43	44	45	46	81
18	19	58	57	52	51	48	47	80
61	60	59	56	53	50	49	78	79
62	65	66	55	54	71	72	77	76
63	64	67	68	69	70	73	74	75

Your Honor

A man wanted to be dismissed from jury duty, but none of his excuses worked. So on the day of the trial, he asked to approach the bench. "Your Honor," he said, "I must be excused from this trial because I am prejudiced against the defendant."

"Oh?" the judge asked.

"Yes!" the man replied. "I took one look at the man in the blue suit with those beady eyes and that dishonest face, and I thought, 'He's a crook! He's 100% guilty.' So, your Honor, I couldn't possibly be on this jury!"

The judge replied, "Get back in the jury box. You are just the kind of juror we are seeking--a good judge of character."

The man protested, "How can you say that?"

"Because," the judge said, "that man is the defendant's lawyer."

Why was there so much killing and trouble in the old west?

The people who designed the towns did not make the towns big enough!



CANADIAN WOMEN

The very young produce assistant told him that they sell only whole heads of lettuce. The man persisted and asked to see the manager.

The boy said he'd ask his manager about it. Walking into the back room, the boy said to his manager: 'Some old coot wants to buy half a head of lettuce.'

As he finished his sentence, he turned to suddenly find the man standing right behind him, so quickly he added, 'And this gentleman has kindly offered to buy the other half.'

The manager approved the deal, and the man went on his way.

Later, the manager said to the boy, 'I was impressed with the way you got yourself out of that situation earlier. We like people who think on their feet here. Where are you from, son?' 'Canada, sir,' the boy replied.

'Well, why did you leave Canada?' the manager asked.

The boy said, 'Sir, there's nothing but loose women and hockey players up there.'

'Really?' said the manager. 'My wife is from Canada.'

'Wow.' replied the boy. 'Who'd she play for?'

While Dining

At a hotel restaurant, a man sees an attractive woman sitting alone at the next table. Suddenly, she sneezes, and a glass eye comes flying out of her eye socket. It hurls by the man, and he snatches it from the air and hands it back to her. "This is so embarrassing," the woman says, and she pops her eye back in place. "I'm sorry to have disturbed you. Let me buy dinner to make it up to you. May I join you?" He nods. The woman is a stimulating conversationalist, stunningly pretty, and the man finds they have a lot in common. He gets her phone number and asks, "You are the most charming woman I've ever encountered. Are you this nice to every guy you meet?" "No," she replies. "You just happened to catch my eye."

Dad: I'm giving all your toys to the orphanage

Kid: Why are you doing that?

Dad: So you won't get bored there.



SIGN ME UP

Boudreaux was called up to the Louisiana National Guard. Because he was a smooth talker the CO put him in charge of explaining benefits to new recruits. After a week the CO noticed Boudreaux had a 100% sign up rate for supplemental insurance. Impressed, the CO sits in on one of Boudreaux's sessions.

"If you boys goes to a war and you gets yoself kilt, the gubmint pays you benefishary \$50,000. But if you gets the supplemental insurance, which only cost tirty dollas a month, the gubmint pays you benefishary \$400,000."

"Now, which group you tink the gubmint gonna send to war first?"

Two prison inmates in Illinois were standing in the cafeteria line getting lunch...

One inmate said to the other inmate, "When I was governor, the food was much better!"

"Trust no man with too much government power," wrote Jefferson. "Bind them with the chains of the Constitution."

Accept your past without regret, handle your present with confidence, and face your future without fear.



Women's Diagnostic Center



Wound Care



Mako Robotic Knee Surgery



Infusion Center



Senior Behavioral Care Unit



Troy Regional Medical Center is dedicated to providing remarkable care every day to Pike County communities and beyond. We strive to exceed national standards in quality, safety and patient satisfaction by investing in cutting-edge technology, equipment, modern facilities, physicians, specialty providers and staff to expand and enhance our services. Whenever you need us, we're here for you — 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.