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man for almost 20 years. But now that I'm out of prison, I can honestly say it was worth it.

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Mothers don't give up on their kids for taking the wrong They roads. iust keep praying there's a place turn 10 around before it's too ate.



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The Whole Truth

ISSUE 171

In a local restaurant a waitress offered the patron a cup of coffee. He refused, pointed a finger at her and said, "Young lady, don't you know that every single person who drinks coffee dies?" Flustered, she said, "Really?" Another customer said, "Hey, Mister. Don't scare the young lady like that. Everyone who does NOT drink coffee dies, too." "I know," said the first patron. I am studying to be a politician. Half truths, even if what I said is the whole truth, is good enough."

FAVORITE CHILD

I may not have been my Mother's favorite child, but i was the first one she thought of whenever the police knocked on the door.

Please don't be critical of me--I'll never be a saint. Temptation conquered, I regret; It really was Wet Paint!

(By Jean Aston Fulkes)

How Wide?

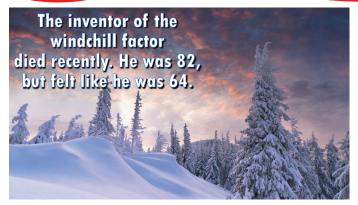
I used to work in an art supply store. We sold artists' canvas by the yard, and you could get it in either of two widths: 36 inches or 48 inches. Customer: "Can you please cut some canvas for me?" Me: "Certainly, what width?" Customer: (confused and slightly annoyed) "Scissors?"

You can't spell gravity without gravy... And you can't spill gravy without gravity!

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The Opposite of Déjà Vu

Deja-Vu is the feeling of having been in a specific situation or setting before. Jamais-Vu is the reverse. It is the feeling of seeing or sensing something for the first time, despite knowing that it's not the first time.

OCONOMOWOC

A couple from Texas were taking a cross country drive, taking in sites they couldn't get back home.

While driving through Wisconsin, they were often boggled by the place names, which peaked as they were approaching Oconomowoc.

The couple started arguing about the pronunciation of the town's name. They argued back and forth until they stopped for lunch, where they knew they could settle their bet as to how it was pronounced by asking a local.

When it was their turn the husband asked the young man behind the counter, "Before we order, could you please settle an argument for us?"

"I'll try," promised the local.

"Would you please pronounce where we are - very slowly?"

"Sure," said the blonde chap. He leaned over the counter and said, "Burrrrrgerrrrr Kiiiinnnng."



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PAGE 7



A Question Of Attitude: (there's a lesson in here...)

A three-year-old tried to move a table. After she had struggled long, her mother tried to discourage her attempts, saying, "Baby, you can't move that table. It's as big as you are." "Yes, I can," said the little girl, "I'm as big as it is."

The Ripple Effect (Author Unknown)

In 1855, A Sunday School teacher, a Mr. Kimball, led a Boston shoe clerk to give his life to Christ. The clerk, Dwight L. Moody, became an evangelist.

LAUGHS AND LIFTS

In England in 1879, Dwight L. Moody awakened evangelistic zeal in the heart of Fredrick B. Meyer, pastor of a small church.

F.B. Meyer, preaching to an American college campus, brought to Christ a student named J.Wilbur Chapman.

J.Wilbur Chapman, engaged to YMCA work, employed a former baseball player, Billy Sunday, to do evangelistic work.

Bill Sunday held a revival in Charlotte, N.C.A group of local men were so enthusiastic afterward that they planned another evangelistic campaign, ISSUE 171

bringing Mordecai Hamm to town to preach.

During Mordecai Hamm's revival, a young man named Billy Graham heard the Gospel and yielded his life to Christ.

Only Eternity will reveal the tremendous impact of that one Sunday School teacher, Mr. Kimball, who invested his life in the lives of others.

"God answers all prayers. Sometimes He answers, 'Yes,' sometimes He answers, 'No,' and sometimes the answer is, 'You gotta be kidding!"



my fridgé had a window! ~ Andrew Andérson



OVER HEARD IN THE ARK

10. "Did anyone think about bringing a couple of umbrellas?"

9. "Hey, there are more than two flies in here!"

8. "Wasn't someone supposed to put two shovels on board?"

7. "OK, who's the wise-guy who brought the mosquitoes on board?"

6. "Help! I need some Pepto for the elephants, QUICK!"

5. "Don't Make Me Pull This Ark Over And Come Back There!"

4. "No Ham, you cannot eat the Pig!"

3. "And whatever you do, DO NOT pull this plug out."

2. "Nice Doggie!"

AND THE NUMBER ONE THING

OVERHEARD ON NOAH'S ARK

I. "Are We There Yet?"



Sure we do... But I don't tell her about it.





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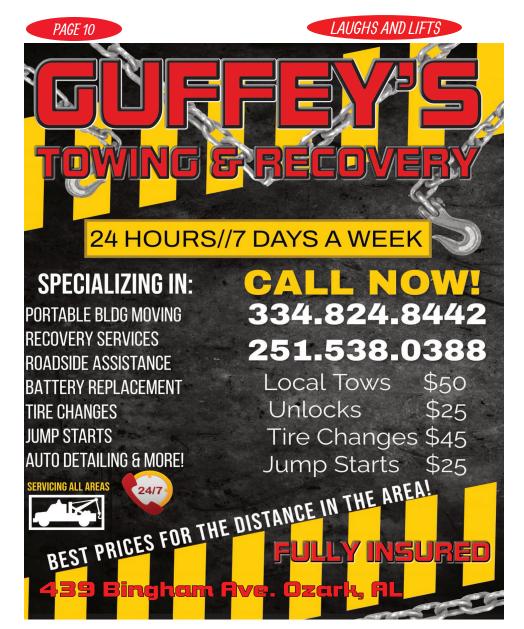
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"I don't have a girlfriend, but I do know a woman who'd be mad at me for saying that."







The Penrose triangle, also known as the Penrose tribar or the impossible tribar, is a triangular impossible object, an optical illusion consisting of an object which can be depicted in a perspective drawing, but cannot exist as a solid object. It was first created by the Swedish artist Oscar Reutersvärd in 1934. Independently from Reutersvärd, the triangle was devised and popularized in the 1950s by psychiatrist Lionel Penrose and his son. prominent Nobel Prizewinning mathematician Sir Roger Penrose, who described it as "impossibility in its purest form".







Growing up is not just a continual accumulation of new learning; you have to discard some of what you learned before.



PAGE 11

In everything give thanks: In spite of everything. During everything. Because of everything. Through everything. In the midst of everything. Always, in everything . . . Give thanks.

A Gift for Him

"What did you buy your husband for his birthday?" "Well, knowing he wanted a journal, I bought him one that locked since he's so particular about his notes." "And surely you bought something for yourself too?" "Oh, of course! I made myself

a duplicate key." I don't generally allow things to get to me, but I truly am sick and tired of finding my eggs and bread at the bottom of the bag when I get home from the

grocery store!! This is a commonsense thing and it happens time and time again! If it happens one more time, I'm going to stop using the selfcheckout!

What Is Gamophobia?

Do you fear commitment? Do you suffer from an extreme fear of getting married? Then you have gamophobia. Gamo is the Greek word for marriage.



Quick Jokes

We had made some changes in our lives. My husband had lost 50 pounds and after eight years of being a housewife, I had taken a job in a restaurant.

When I returned home after my first day at work, I gave my husband a big hug.

He seemed to cling to me longer than usual.

"Did you really miss me that much today, dear?" I asked.

"No," came the reply. "But you smell so much like pancakes, I hate to let you go."

My husband had run to the store with our daughters, Sarah (4) and Hannah (2) and on the way home he drove through a neighborhood looking for houses for sale. After a bit Sarah asked, "Daddy, what are we doing?" My husband said he was looking at the houses that were for sale. Sarah asked "Are you gonna buy a new house?" Dad replied "Maybe."

Then Sarah said with much concern, "But Dad, how will we get it HOME?!"

Teslas don't have that new car smell... they have that Elon Musk.





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Freedom From Anxiety By Wallace Kennedy, Jr

As we began this New Year, our previous experiences, and what awaits us in the future may cause a feeling of worry, nervousness, uneasiness, uncertainty about tomorrow, a feeling of fear, and dread.local cash



A new year brings lots of questions: Will our health hold? Will our marriage last? Will I be able to hang on to my job? Will I have enough resources to retire. Will I live to see the end of this year? Will the economy improve? Will there be a terrorist attack or some natural disaster that takes me or my loved ones?

Be encouraged, the Lord knows how you feel, and understands every struggle or adversity you may face. God is saying to you: I say this because I know what I am planning for you," says the Lord. "I have good plans for you, not plans to hurt you. I will give you hope and a good future. Jeremiah 29:11 (NCV)

The Creator of the universe comes to us and says, "Don't be afraid; don't be discouraged." What happens in this coming year is not left to chance. God is in charge, and he promises to stay close: "The LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." Matthew 28:20

God loves you and will provide what you need when you make Jesus your priority. Making Jesus your priority will help you renew and transform your mind.

As you enter a new year, remember that God's plans have always been to prosper His people. He can transform ordinary events and difficult trials into key moments that help his plans to prosper. He is not out to harm us, but the dark moments we experience can be part of the most important lessons to help us grow nearer to Him.

Our brother Paul says to us: Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. Philippians 4:6 KJV

Father God, our lives are in Your capable hands. We are forever grateful for the ways You refine us through the trials in our lives, creating the image of Your Son Jesus in us, and we give You all the praise, honor, and glory. Thank you Lord for peace which passeth all understanding, and keeps our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. You brought us through the past years, a Prepare us to be part of Your will, Your work in the New Year ahead. In Jesus name, Amen.

Happy New Years, and may the God of creation sustain us and keep us in His care!

It's hard to make a comeback when you haven't been anywhere.



Civilization

ISSUE 171

"Years ago, anthropologist Margaret Mead was asked by a student what she considered to be the first sign of civilization in a culture. The student expected Mead to talk about fishhooks or clay pots or grinding stones.

But no. Mead said that the first sign of civilization in an ancient culture was a femur (thighbone) that had been broken and then healed. Mead explained that in the animal kingdom, if you break your leg, you die. You cannot run from danger, get to the river for a drink or hunt for food. You are meat for prowling beasts. No animal survives a broken leg long enough for the bone to heal.

A broken femur that has healed is evidence that someone has taken time to stay with the one who fell, has bound up the wound, has carried the person to safety and has tended the person through recovery. Helping someone else through difficulty is where civilization starts, Mead said." We are at our best when we serve others. Be civilized.



I wanted to make bread but I couldn't remember all the ingredients I kneaded



ALAN STRICKLAND, TIRE TECH 334-766-1547 Office: 334-733-3197



The only difference between a rut and a grave is the depth.



PAGE 14 4 women asked me out yesterday!!

Yes, I heard that you entered the wrong restroom!

LAUGHS AND LIFTS



The workers in a large office were making secret plans to stage a big office party for the 70-year old cleaning woman who had spent the better part of her life with the company. Somehow the secret leaked out and the woman got wind of it.

Much perturbed, she rushed to the office manager. "Please sir," she cried, "Do not let them do it! Do not let them do it!" "Oh, come now, Mrs. Smith, you must not be so modest. After all, they simply want to show how much you are appreciated." "Appreciated, my foot," exclaimed the woman.

"I am not going to clean up after a mess like that!"

Beware of "spin." Case in point:

A group of doctors and a group of lawyers got together to play a softball game. The doctors won the game, but they lost the public relations war. Here's how the lawyers reported the game: "The lawyers powered their way to a second place finish, while the doctors managed to finish next to last." THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN Communism and socialism, Except in the means of Achieving the same ultimate END: Communism proposes to ENSLAVE MEN BY FORCE, Socialism—by vote. It is Merely the difference between Murder and Suicide.

a white the

ISSUE 171

Rand

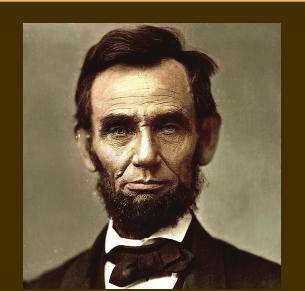


A West Virginia state trooper, stopped a woman for going 15 miles over the speed limit. After he handed her a ticket, she asked him, "Don't you give out warnings?" "Yes, ma'am," he replied. "They're all up and down the road. They say, 'Speed Limit 55."

Nobody told me that when you get a husband the ears are sold separately.







We the people are the rightful masters of both Congress and the courts., not to overthrow the Constitution but to overthrow the men who pervert the Constitution. Abraham Lincoln

Laughs & Lifts Subscriptions Are Great Christmas Gifts

PAGE 15

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ISSUE 171



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A wise man once said, :Forget it, I'm going fishing!' and he lived happily ever after.



PAGE 17

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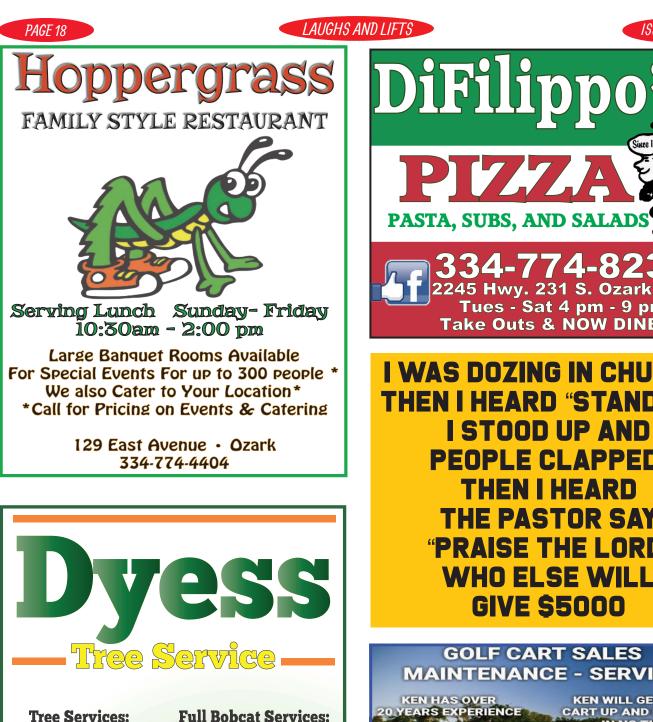
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Take Outs & NOW DINE IN

I WAS DOZING IN CHURCH, THEN I HEARD "STAND UP". **I STOOD UP AND PEOPLE CLAPPED.** THEN I HEARD THE PASTOR SAY **"PRAISE THE LORD,** WHO ELSE WILL **GIVE \$5000**

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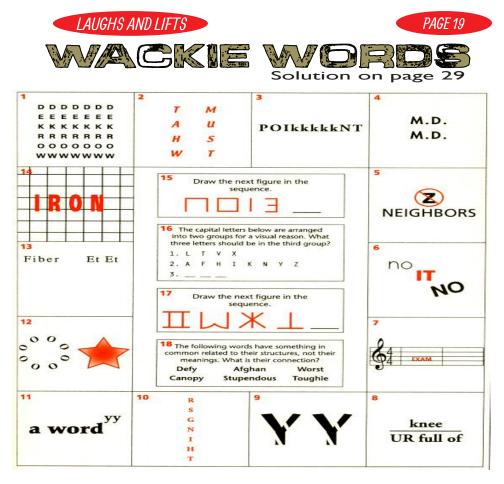
Why is Monday so far from Friday and yet Friday is so close to Monday?



Only in My Town!!

I went to the gas station to get a drink and as I walk up, I noticed these 2 Police Officers watching a woman smoking while pumping her gas. I saw her and thought, is this lady stupid, crazy, or tweeking, especially with the Officers standing RIGHT there. It's a sure bet she was TWEEKING. Anyway, I minded my own business and went in. As I was paying I heard someone screaming!! Man, I'm talking violent death screams!! I looked up and saw the woman's arm was on fire!! She was swinging her arm, running around going nuts!! When I got my drink and walked out the door the Officers had the woman on the ground putting the fire out!! Then they put handcuffs on her and threw her in the patrol car.... was thinking, arrested?? I was thinking, Shouldn't she be in an ambulance, not a patrol car?? Being the nosey person I am, I asked the Officer what they were arresting her for....The Officer looked at me, dead serious, and said, "WAVING A FIRE ARM IN PUBLIC!"

Mothers don't give up on their kids for taking the wrong roads. They just keep praying there's a place to turn around before it's too late.



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Do you need to get rid of unwanted junk after the holidays? Put it in Amazon boxes and leave it on your front porch.



PAGE 20 PAUL HARVEY'S LETTER TO HIS GRANDCHILDREN

We tried so hard to make things better for our kids that we made them worse. For my grandchildren, I'd like better.

I'd really like for them to know about hand me down clothes and homemade ice cream and leftover meat loaf sandwiches.. I really would.

I hope you learn humility by being humiliated, and that you learn honesty by being cheated.

I hope you learn to make your own bed and mow the lawn and wash the car.

And I really hope nobody gives you a brand new car when you are sixteen.

It will be good if at least one time you can see puppies born and your old dog put to sleep.

I hope you get a black eye fighting for something you believe in.

I hope you have to share a bedroom with your younger brother/sister. And it's all right if you have to draw a line down the middle of the room, but when he wants to crawl under the covers with you because he's scared, I hope you let him.

When you want to see a movie and your little brother/sister wants to tag along, I hope you'll let him/her.

I hope you have to walk uphill to school with your friends and that you live in a town where you can do it safely.

On rainy days when you have to catch a ride, I hope you don't ask your driver to drop you two blocks away so you won't be seen riding with someone as uncool as your Mom.

If you want a slingshot, I hope your Dad teaches you how to make one instead of buying one.

I hope you learn to dig in the dirt and read books.

When you learn to use computers, I hope you also learn to add and subtract in your head.

I hope you get teased by your friends when you have your first crush on a boy / girl, and



ISSUE 171

when you talk back to your mother that you learn what ivory soap tastes like.

May you skin your knee climbing a mountain, burn your hand on a stove and stick your tongue on a frozen flagpole.

I don't care if you try a beer once, but I hope you don't like it...And if a friend offers you dope or a joint, I hope you realize he/she is not your friend.

I sure hope you make time to sit on a porch with your Grandma/Grandpa and go fishing with your Uncle.

May you feel sorrow at a funeral and joy during the holidays.

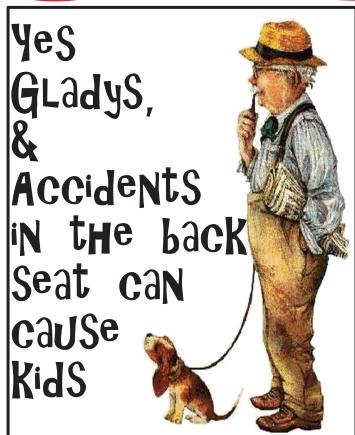
I hope your mother punishes you when you throw a baseball through your neighbor's window and that she hugs you and kisses you at Christmas time when you give her a plaster mold of your hand.

These things I wish for you - tough times and disappointment, hard work and happiness. To me, it's the only way to appreciate life.









My wife just called me and said, "Three of the girls in my office just got some flowers for the holidays.They're are absolutely gorgeous!"

I replied."That's probably why they got the flowers."

An American, a Frenchman, a Spaniard, and a German were all attending a Zoom meeting with their supervisor, who asked..."Can everyone see me ok"? To which they answered... "Yes", "Oui" "Si" "Ja"

The police came to my house last night, sowing me a picture: "Is this your husband ma'am?" "Yes." "I'm afraid it looks like he's been hit by a bus." "I know, but he's good with the children."



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MILITARY THANK YOU 10% OFF

I'm 74 years old and just found out that it is "Cold as Hail, not hell.



CHEESY LASAGNA SOUP

Ingredients

- 8 ounces whole-milk ricotta cheese (about 1 cup)
- 2 ounces Parmesan cheese, finely grated (about 1¼ cups)
 ½ teaspoon ground nutmeg



- 1 ¼ teaspoons kosher salt, divided
 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 pound ground chuck
- 1 medium-size yellow onion, chopped (about 1 cup)
- 3 medium garlic cloves, finely chopped (about 1 Tbsp.)
- 2 (15-oz.) cans diced tomatoes
- 6 cups chicken stock
- 1 ½ tablespoons granulated sugar
- 8 ounces uncooked lasagna noodles, broken into 1½- to 2inch pieces
- 1 tablespoon red wine vinegar
- 4 ounces low-moisture mozzarella cheese, shredded (about 1 cup)
- ¼ cup small basil leaves

Directions

- 1. Stir together ricotta, Parmesan, nutmeg, and ¼ teaspoon of the salt in a medium bowl. Cover and refrigerate until ready to serve.
- 2. Heat oil in a large Dutch oven over medium-high. Add ground chuck. Cook, stirring and breaking up into pieces, until browned and just cooked through, about 3 minutes.



Using a slotted spoon, transfer beef to a small bowl lined with paper towels; set aside.

3. Do not wipe Dutch oven clean. Add onion to Dutch oven. Cook over medium-high, stirring occasionally, until softened and starting to caramelize, about 4 minutes. Add garlic. Cook, stirring constantly, until fragrant, about 1 minute. Stir in diced tomatoes and stock; bring to a boil over high. Stir in sugar and remaining 1 teaspoon salt. Add lasagna pieces. Cook, stirring occasionally, until noodles are just cooked through and almost al dente, about 8 minutes. Stir in browned beef. Remove from heat, and stir in vinegar. Divide soup evenly among 4 bowls; top with mozzarella and dollops of reserved ricotta mixture. Top bowls with basil leaves before serving.

OYSTER STEW

Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 clove garlic, crushed
- 2 shallots, minced
- ½ cup dry sherry or dry white wine
- 24 freshly shucked oysters, oyster liquor reserved
- 1 ½ cups whole milk
- 1 ½ cups heavy cream
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley
- sea salt to taste
- 1 pinch sweet paprika
- 1 cup oyster crackers

Directions

- 1. Stir butter and garlic in a stockpot over medium heat until butter begins to brown. Remove garlic and discard.
- 2. Stir shallots into browned butter. Cook and stir until translucent, 5 to 7 minutes.
- 3. Pour sherry over shallots in the stockpot and bring to a boil while scraping any browned bits off of the bottom of the pot. Simmer until liquid is reduced by half, 3 to 5 minutes.
- 4. Pour reserved oyster liquor, milk, and cream into the stockpot; bring mixture to a simmer. Reduce heat to medium-low and stir in oysters; cook until oyster edges begin to ruffle, about 3 minutes. Remove from heat.
- Stir in parsley; season with sea salt to taste. Ladle into bowls and garnish with sweet paprika and oyster crackers.
 Cook's Note:
- 7. If using canned oysters, drain the oysters over a bowl to collect the liquid. Use this liquid in place of oyster liquor.

If strees burned calories I'd be hanging from a charm braclet by now.





VEGETABLE BEEF SOUP

- Ingredients
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 2 pounds beef stew meat
- salt and pepper to taste
- 1/2 cup onion chopped
- 3 carrots peeled, halved and sliced
- 2 stalks celery sliced
- 2 teaspoons minced garlic
- 28 ounce can diced tomatoes do not drain
- 1 1/2 teaspoons Italian seasoning
- 1 bay leaf
- 7 cups beef broth
- 2 cups Russet potato peeled and cut into 1/2 inch pieces
- 1/2 cup frozen corn
- 1/2 cup frozen peas
- 3/4 cup frozen cut green beans
- 2 tablespoons chopped parsley

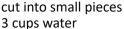
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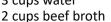
- 1. Heat the olive oil in a large pan over medium high heat. Season the stew meat with salt and pepper to taste.
- 2. Place half of the meat in the pan in a single layer. Cook for 3-4 minutes per side or until browned.
- 3. Repeat the process with the remaining beef. Place the meat on a plate and cover to keep warm.
- Add the onion, carrot and celery to the pan. Cook for 4-5 minutes or until softened. Add the garlic and cook for 30 seconds.
- 5. Add the beef back to the pot along with the tomatoes, Italian seasoning, bay leaf and beef broth. Bring to a low simmer.
- 6. Simmer for 60 minutes or until beef is tender.
- 7. Add the potatoes to the pot and cook for an additional 20 minutes or until tender.
- 8. Stir in the corn, peas and green beans. Cook for 5 minutes. Season the soup to taste with salt and pepper.
- 9. Discard bay leaf. Sprinkle with parsley and serve.

OLD BAY MARYLAND CRAB SOUP

INGREDIENTS

1 can (28 ounces) whole tomatoes,





- 1 cup frozen lima beans
- 1 cup frozen baby carrots (chopped)
- 1 cup frozen yellow sweet corn
- 2 tablespoons McCormick[®] Chopped Onions
- 1 tablespoon OLD BAY[®] Seasoning
- 1 pound lump crabmeat or imitation crabmeat

CABBAGE SOUP WITH SMOKED SAUSAGE

- Ingredients
- 1/2 tablespoon olive or vegetable oil
- 1 (16-ounce) package smoked Kielbasa sausage, cut into
- 1/4-inch slices
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 2 carrots, peeled and thinly sliced
- 1 medium sweet onion, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 small head green cabbage, chopped
- 1 (14.5-ounce) can chicken broth
- 1 1/2 cups water
- 1 chicken bouillon cube
- 2 medium potatoes, peeled and cut into 1/2-inch cubes
- 1 tablespoon packed brown sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon caraway seeds, optional
- 1/4 teaspoon dried thyme
- 1/3 cup heavy cream

Directions

Heat oil in a Dutch oven. Add sausage and cook until browned. Remove with a slotted spoon and set aside. Add butter to the grease in the Dutch oven and cook carrots and onion over medium-heat until soft. Add garlic and cook 1 minute.

Add cabbage and cook and stir for a minute or two, until the cabbage wilts some.

Add potatoes, chicken broth, water, bouillon cube, and brown sugar.

Bring to a simmer, cover and cook until potatoes are soft. Add sausage, black pepper, caraway seeds, thyme, and heavy cream. Bring to a simmer. Serve.



If you keep a baseball bat in your car also keep a baseball glove... Your lawyer will love you!







In 1917, Ernie Shore threw a "perfect game" 27 straight outs without allowing a base runner. He was only credited with a combined no-hitter because he pitched in relief of starter Babe Ruth, who was ejected after walking the first batter, and then punching the umpire.



One amendment! Shore only pitched to 26 batters. The runner that Babe walked was caught stealing.

"Wise Words"

ISSUE 171

By: Hayes Wise

BFF

For those that have been dragged into the world of social media you know that BFF stands for "Best Friend Forever". I personally think the term is used a little loosely. Over the years I've learned there are "fair weather friends" and "stormy weather friends". The first are there when the sun is shining, the second are there when the storms roll in. A time of hardship or crisis often reveals who our real friends are. When we're going through difficulties, we're often disappointed because certain people we thought of as friends don't come through for us. At other times, those we count as friends do something really extraordinary.

Almost 50 years ago I was living in the Philippines when my baby brother was killed back in the U.S. in an auto accident. Our friends came to our home to comfort us. One of them was my "BFF", Charlie. The military would fly me to California and back but I had to pay to and from there to Florida. I did not have the money for that and my "BFF" knew that. In a little while Charlie left. He returned and got me alone and gave me an envelope with the money to pay for my state-side travel. I found out much later that he borrowed the money. He has since passed but I'll never forget his kindness and sacrifice. He has a special place in my heart.

A Greek friend once told me that his Papa told him that he would be able to count his friends on one hand. True friendship is a valuable and rare commodity. We make many acquaintances as we pass through this life; but only a few become genuine friends. I've only had a handful of true friends. There is something special about long lasting, genuine friendship. However, there is only one eternal friend. We are told in the Bible that lesus desires to be our friend. Proverbs 18:24 describes a genuine friend."A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother." We are told He will "never leave us nor forsake us".

Do you know that friend? He is Jesus Christ. He's truly, your best friend forever, and forever and forever. Amen!









The Red Boat

A man was asked to paint a boat. He brought his paint and brushes and began to paint the boat a bright red, as the owner asked him.

While painting, he noticed a small hole in the hull, and quietly repaired it. When he finished painting, he received his money and left.

The next day, the owner of the boat came to the painter and presented him with a nice check, much higher than the payment for painting.

The painter was surprised and said "You've already paid me for painting the boat Sir!"

"But this is not for the paint job. It's for repairing the hole in the boat."

"Ah! But it was such a small service... certainly it's not worth paying me such a high amount for something so insignificant."

"My dear friend, you do not understand. Let me tell you what happened: When I asked you to paint the boat, I forgot to mention the hole. When the boat dried, my kids took the boat and went on a fishing trip. They did not know that there was a hole. I was not at home at that time. When I returned and noticed they had taken the boat, I was desperate because I remembered that the boat had a hole. Imagine my relief and joy when I saw them returning from fishing.

Then, I examined the boat and found that you had repaired the hole! You see, now, what you did? You saved the life of my children! I do not have enough money to pay your 'small' good deed."

So no matter who, when or how, continue to help, sustain, wipe tears, listen attentively, and carefully repair all the 'leaks' you find. You never know when one is in need of us, or when God holds a pleasant surprise for us to be helpful and important to someone.

Along the way, you may have repaired numerous 'boat holes' for several people without realizing how many lives you've save.

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They all laughed at me when I said I wanted to be a stand up comedian. Well, I went into the business, and no one's laughing now!_____







A TO-DO LIST ANYONE CAN ACCOMPLISH

Worried that you just can't get anything done? Anyone can accomplish this. Imagine your satisfaction as you check off four things on your To-Do List in just one day!

I) Make a To-Do List.

2) Check off the first thing on this To-Do List -after all, you did it.

3) Pause to realize you're already half-way through your To-Do List!

4) Celebrate your progress with a reward: chocolate, a nap, or taking the rest of the day off.

Remember, you can repeat this process anytime you need a lift!

(Wait... does that last item mean this is a 5item To-Do List? Woo hoo! Bonus accomplishment!)

CLAYBANK MASTER GARDENERS

Happy New Year Gardeners, Here's hoping your winter plants and veggie gardens are making it through the deep freezes and yo-yo weather cycles we're blessed with in Lower Alabama (LA). Remember to **uncover your plants to let the rains in** and then **air them out before recovering them** for the freezes (voice of experience speaking here). If you didn't know that December is a good time to plant flower seeds, you can still sow them in January. Lightly cover the seeds with pine straw or something to keep the birds from eating the seeds, and their root systems will have a great start by the time the hot weather gets going.

Plant collards, broccoli, alliums (onions, chives, garlic, etc.) kale, swiss chard, and hearty lettuces now, Potatoes that are in your pantry and growing "eyes" can be planted deeply, (cut each potato into 4 parts, each with an eye) and keep them covered with soil if they come to the surface. Cover with newspapers or cloth anchored down against the winds & frost yet to come.

With last year's high heat and long droughts, I learned that frequent watering and protection with shade cloth will help your fruit trees and veggies survive better. Extra Black Kow or other composted manure will also give them the nutrition they need.

Our next **CLAYBANK MASTER GARDENER** Meeting will be held at **Hoppergrass Restaurant in Ozark** on *Wednesday January 11th*, from 11:00. Come buy your meal, (the line is short at 10:30) and bring it into the meeting. **129 East Ave., across from Milky Moo's**. Visitors tell us they always learn something new, and learn from our experienced master gardeners. We would love to hear about your gardening experiences as well. Call the Extension office at (334) 774-2329to verify the meeting time at Hoppergrass.



Did you hear the rumor about butter? Never mind, I better not spread it.



<u>Across</u>

- **1** Difficult
- 5 Cruiser
- 9 Mediterranean island
- 14 Methane's lack
- 15 Stride
- **16** Neptune's realm
- 17 Calculated
- 19 Oak fruit
- 20 Flower holder
- 21 Singing voice
- 23 Recorded
- **26** Andy Capp's wife **27** Flying saucers,
- e.g.
- 31 Concluded
- 32 School group (Abbr.)
- **34** _____ split
- **36** NJ hoopsters
- 37 Concealed
- 38 Sore throat
- **39** Oklahoma city
- 40 Waiter's reward
- 42 Dads
- 46 Wild ox
- 47 Quiet
- 51 Last Frontier
- **53** Compass pt.
- 54 Continent
- 55 Canvas cover
- 56 Meadow
- 58 Accumulate
- 59 Detail
- 61 Grow crops
- 63 Cherish
- 66 Law officer
- 71 Romances
- 72 Trampled
- 73 Sprint
- **74** Minimal
- **75** Slangy assents
- 76 Goulash

Down

- 1 Garden tool
- 2 Commercials
- 3 Decompose

- 4 Golf clubs
- 5 Fitness centers

LAUGHS AND LIFTS

- 6 Abhor
- 7 Chill
- 8 Foot lever
- 9 Castle defense
- **10** Explanation
- **11** DiCaprio, to fans
- **12** Feather's partner
- **13** Cape ____, Mass. **18** "Spy vs. Spy"
 - magazine
- **22** Tennis shot
- 23 Large weight
- **24** Street sign abbr.
- **25** Favorite
- 26 Craze
- 28 Distant
- 29 Small bill
- 30 Tree solution
- **32** High degree
- 33 ____ Maria liqueur
- 35 Egyptian cobra
- 39 Inquire
- 40 Sunburn
- 41 Old silver dollar
- **42** Butter portion
- 43 Tenn. neighbor
- 44 Golfer's goal
- 45 Shoots for
- 46 Assent
- 47 Carpenter's tools48 Stars and Stripes
- land
- 49 Close relative
- 50 Owns
- 52 Barley brew
- 57 Vacant
- 58 Curve
- 60 Exam
- 61 Lay an egg
- 62 Helps
- 63 Completely
- 64 Buck's mate
- 65 Egg cells
- 67 Miner's find
- 68 Welcome

The worth of a life is not determined by a single failure or a solitary success!

- 69 Hotshot
- 70 Current

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PAGE 27

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How welcoming, how kind was Mike Leach?

Jeff Tyler of Wetumpka, AL contacted me to tell me a great story.

It's a story that reminds us of Coach Leach's patience, his keen memory and his interest in others.

I think you will enjoy this tale!

"Three years ago, I took my II-year-old son to a Mississippi State game.

Jackson wanted to see pre-game warmups, so we were practically the first fans in the stadium.

We took our upper level seats, and my son asked if he could walk down to the field level seats to watch warm-ups, and I let him.

Well, this kid somehow managed to convince a security guard that he was supposed to be on the field.

The next thing I saw was my son walking up to Coach Leach and fist bumping him.

"The two started talking, and a few minutes later Coach Leach was calling over a couple of his players. Now, my son was a center on his YMCA team- Coach Leach had his centers showing my son how to snap the ball! I was in the upper deck, totally dumbfounded that an SEC coach just spent time in pre-game showing some kid he'd never met how to snap a football. My kid comes back to our upper deck seats beaming with pride- I saw it as a memory of a lifetime.

ISSUE 171

"Two years later we went to another game- my son was again in the front row watching warm-ups.

A graduate assistant ran over and yelled, Are you Jackson?' and my son said, 'Yes!' The graduate assistant said, 'Coach Leach wants to see you,' and he took my son out on the field.

"Coach Leach asked my son if he'd been practicing, and then made him do several snaps.

Coach told him to keep working on it, gave him a football and sent him on his way.

I was in the stands dumbfounded that a coach remembered my son's name, remembered that day, and knew what spending five minutes of his time with a kid could mean."

Thanks, Jeff, for this wonderful story. I'm asking myself as I write this, "What other college football coach would do such a thing?", and the answer is, "Pretty much none."

If anyone wonders why Mike Leach was and is so loved, they need only listen to the story of the coach and 11-year-old Jackson Tyler.

Then we will all understand... In a snap.

*Picture courtesy Justin Ford/Getty Images



G M K M G I K B A R R O W E F A G Q	Arno
Q S W U D Q T U B W Z Y P B R B T I	Avon Barrow
LWBXWAQCTHAMESIBQT	Bug
F A N E G D N W L Z Q N J V T P U A	Clyde Danube
GRZNNWAUEYVNLWVYJH	Dee Dnieper
NTHSWIVBBRDLEZAVON	Don Elbe
JAGVQLHTREIERFRKZC	Kuban
ELBEIFEREJDOENIESQ	Liffey Loire
FEQFQNJCDAOWLQOGBE	Mur Oder
РВГНОХИҮОVЈВТГНТКИ	Rhine
NEUHOIYFPAREPEINDS	Rhone Seine
YORPLPFLVGMQUBONRA	Shannon Tagus
GDNVEGUIHLVEEHRKVQ	Thames
U	Tiber Tweed
RKFEATFRTVNNYYRSAK	Ural
EOGNUHAXURMJKDONBU	Vistula
IRALLLSZMMSUGATNUJ	Volga Warta
СОАNVSEAWUTСМРLҮКЈ	valta

1. All worked up

2. What goes up, must come down3. Case in point

4. Paradox5. Nosy neighbors

6. No two ways about it

7. Bar exam

- 8. You are full of baloney
- 9. Wisecracks

- 10. Things are looking up
- 11. A word to the wise
- 12. Ringo Starr 13. High-fiber diet
- 14. Gridiron

15. An upside-down A completes the sequence; turn the page upside down to see the letters E I O U. 16. E, M, and W should be in the third

row: The capital letters in the first row are formed with two strokes; the capital letters in the second row are formed with three strokes...

17. The next figure is: MM Starting with I, the sequence is each consecutive capital letter with its mirror image

attached to it.

18. Each word contains three consecutive letters of the alphabet.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCES SOLUTION



Working hard for something we don't care about is called stress. Working hard for something we love is called passion.



At the end of their date, a young man takes the girl back to her home. He decides to try for that first kiss.With an air of confidence, he leans with his hand against the wall and, smiling, he says to her, "Darling, how 'bout a good night kiss?"

Embarrassed, she replies, "Oh, I couldn't do that. My parents will see us!"

"Oh come on! Who's gonna see us at this hour?"

"No, please. I would just die of embarrassment if someone saw us." "Oh come on, there's nobody around, they're all sleeping!" "No way. It's just too risky!" "Oh please, please, I like you so much!!"

"No. I like you too, but I just can't!" "Oh yes you can. Please?"

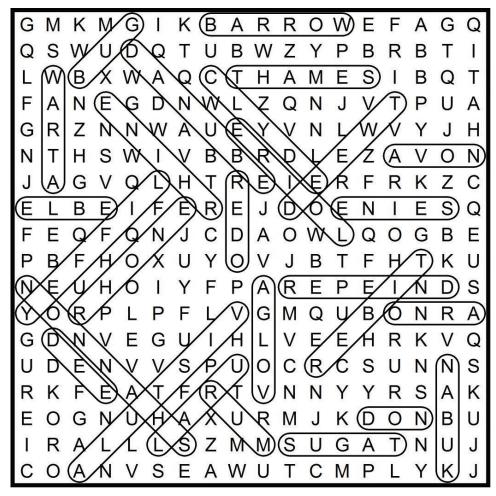
"NO, no. I just can't."

"Pleeeeease?..."

Out of the blue, the porch light goes on, and the girl's sister shows up in her pajamas, hair disheveled. In a sleepy voice the sister says: "Dad says to go ahead and give him a kiss. Or I can do it. Or if need be, he'll come down himself and do it. But for crying out loud tell him to take his hand off the intercom button!" LAUGHS AND LIFTS



WORD SEARCH SOLUTION



HAT HEADLINE

The Pope is visiting DC and President Trump takes him out for an afternoon on the Potomac ... sailing on the presidential yacht.

They're admiring the sights when, all of a sudden the Pope's hat (ecclesiastical skullcap) blows off his head and out into the water.

Secret service guys start to launch a boat, but President Trump waves them off, saying "Wait, wait. I'll take care of this. Don't worry."

President Trump then steps off the yacht onto the surface of the water and walks out to the Holy Father's little hat, bends over and picks it up, then walks back to the yacht and climbs aboard. He hands the hat to the Pope amid stunned silence.

The next morning, CNN News leads with the story, "Trump Can't Swim."



A man must be big enough to admit his mistakes, smart enough to profit from them, and strong enough to correct them. ~ John C. Maxwell

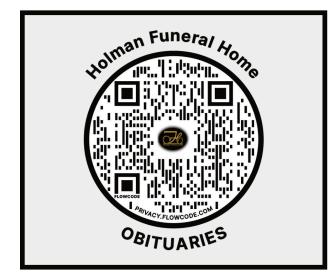


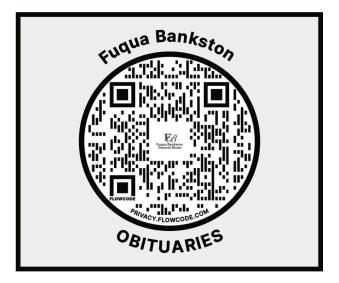






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