



# LAUGHTER & GIFTS



VOLUME 193  
SEPTEMBER 2024

RED  OAK

Printing &  
Publishing Services

**Find These Hidden June Icons**

This month Laughs & Lifts is giving away \$50  
To one of our readers.

Playing and entering is easy and fun!

Search the ads in this edition  
looking for the Hidden objects pictured below:

**FOLLOW THESE DIRECTIONS:****NO PHONE ENTRIES WILL BE TAKEN**

We have hidden the 8 July icons pictured above in 8 ads.

Find all 8 icons for July and Enter for a chance to win **\$50 CASH!**

Mail or Email the names of the 8 business' in which you found the Icons  
along with your N,A, & #

T0: Parrish Publishing PO Box 681 Ozark, AL 36361

Email to Roger@laughsandlifts.com with subject or attn: line: **ICONS**

**No phone calls please.**

Drawing will be held on the 15th of the month.

**TO FIND OUT IF YOU HAVE WON, READ THE NEXT EDITION OF LAUGHS AND LIFTS.  
THE WINNER WILL BE NAMED AND POSTED THERE. THE WINNER WILL HAVE UNTIL THE  
15TH OF THE MONTH TO CALL AND CLAIM THEIR PRIZE! PRIZE MUST BE PICKED UP IN  
PERSON BY THE WINNER BY THE LAST WEEK DAY OF THE MONTH!**

**CALL BEFORE COMING TO CLAIM YOUR PRIZE**

Have fun & thank you for supporting  
the advertisers in Laughs & Lifts.

**If you think**

**farmers**

**are price gouging,**

**try farming!**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO:**

**PAULA JOSEPH  
OF OZARK**

**WHO FOUND THE HIDDEN OBJECTS IN THE  
AUGUST EDITION OF LAUGHS & LIFTS.**

Making friends is more an act of discovery than manufacturing.

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I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.



IT WORKS!



# Laughs & Lifts Delivers...

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LAUGHSANDLIFTS.COM



**Wednesday  
September 11**

**Starts at  
10:30 A.M.**

# **PATRIOT DAY**

## **HONORING ALL FIRST RESPONDERS**

**JOIN US FOR OUR 9/11  
APPRECIATION PROGRAM,  
FOLLOWED BY A LUNCH AT  
11 A.M. TO HONOR OUR  
FIRST RESPONDERS.**

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**Fuqua Bankston  
Funeral Home**

**"We Make It Personal"**

**508 Faust Ave. • Ozark, AL 36360  
334-774-4551 • [fuquabankston.com](http://fuquabankston.com)**



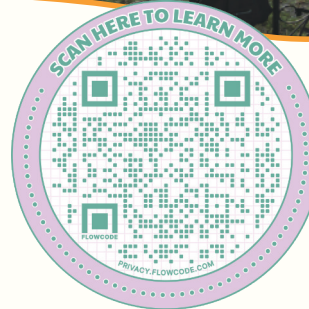
## Rough Landing

A career Army officer I once met was jump-master for his unit and was taking up a few soldiers for a drop. The flight was pretty rough, and after a while, the jump-master called off the jump because of high winds. As the plane headed back to base, and the pilot pulled off an unusually smooth landing, two of the neophytes got airsick.

"How come you could take that rough flight, but you couldn't handle the smooth landing?" asked the jump-master.

"Well, sir," one soldier explained, "We've always jumped out of planes. We've never actually landed before."

## Honoring The Memory of Your Loved One



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~ Susan Langley, owner

Marble & Granite Monuments • Bronze Memorials  
Mausoleums • Cemetery Work

# INGRAM

## MEMORIAL

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WWW.INGRAMMEMORIAL.COM

When a ventriloquist uses a different dummy, the show is still run by the same person.

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[www.ozarkselfstorageal.com](http://www.ozarkselfstorageal.com)

# FIRST MONTH IS HALF OFF!

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5' x 5'	12' x 12'
10' x 10'	12' x 15'
10' x 11'	20' x 20'
10' x 12'	

**Come see us for your rental truck needs!**



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Leasing  
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"A worldly man is one who's plans all stop at the grave." - William McDonnald

## Logan's Crappie Fishing Charters

Lake Eufaula • Eufaula, AL

Eddie Logan, Guide

**334-733-0741**



Crappie can be caught all year, scan to see our recent fishing trip results.



Gladys, I  
could be a  
really good  
dancer except  
for two  
things.





# Rick's Rent-A-Hubby

## Handyman Services, LLC

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**334-432-0578**



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Rent A Hubby

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"I can do what your husband can't or won't do."

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[rp.handyman services@yahoo.com](mailto:rp.handyman services@yahoo.com)

**SUDOKO 1**

		1					2	6
7						4		
8			6				7	
1					6			
		5		1		6		
	6				9	3		8
					1		5	7
3					8			
				4		2	8	

**SUDOKU 2**

				6		3		
	1		3		4		6	
	9	6						
					9		5	7
					1	6		
4			2		3	1		
	3					8		
2		9	5					4
7								

Seen on a billboard along a highway: "Caution: Objects in the mirror may have flunked driver's education."

I know JC.  
Those  
two feet can  
sure get in  
your way!



# LOBO

## AUTO SERVICE & REPAIR

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**Engine Build / Rebuild**  
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**Skipperville, AL**

**334-500-2553**   **John Danford, Mechanic**





**A man was the oldest of 7 children,** so he had to quit school..

.... and work to help support his younger brothers and sisters. He never learned to read, so when he married and started a checking account, he signed his checks simply "XX".

Eventually he started his own business, which immediately prospered.

He soon was a very rich man. One day, he got a call from his bank. "Mr. Schwartz," said the banker, "I need to ask you about this check. We weren't sure you had really signed it. All these years you've been signing your checks 'XX', but we just got one that was signed with three XXX's..."

Mr. Schwartz answered, "No problem, my friend. It's just that since I've become so wealthy, my wife thought I ought to have a middle name."

A smile - is a sign of joy.

A hug - is a sign of love.

A laugh - is a sign of happiness.

And a friend like me??  
That's just a sign of good taste!!

We'll be friends until we are old and senile.  
Then we'll be new friends.

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- OIL CHANGES
- ALIGNMENTS
- A/C CHECKS
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**4017 Andrews Ave.**  
**Ozark, AL 36360**



## Find the 10 differences in the two pictures.



A blonde woman walks into an auto parts store and the parts man asks how she is doing and what can he do for her. She replies, "Fine, I need a seven-ten cap for my car." The man asks, "A seven-ten cap? Where does it go, I've never heard of such a thing?" The blonde angrily replies, "It goes on top of the engine and don't think just because I'm blonde I don't know

what I'm talking about!!" Perplexed, the parts man asks if she would draw him a picture and maybe help him out in figuring out what it is she needs.

Reader: Draw the number 710 in the middle of the paper and draw a circle around the whole number. Now turn the paper upside down.

Turn the despair of being alone into the wonder of being alone with God.

## It's Chainsaw Season

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Laughs and Lifts Magazine

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Laughs and Lifts provides laughter in clean jokes & cartoons, witty and wise one liners, encouragement through uplifting articles based on God's word and teachings of Christ Jesus, and entertainment with Sudoku, Recipes, Puzzles & More.

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P.O. Box 681 • Ozark, AL 36361

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Contributors:

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Tric Glenn, "Aunt T's Kitchen"

Dee Gilbert, "Claybank Master Gardeners"



@ Laughs and Lifts Magazine

## "Can I change funeral homes?"

...After making pre-arrangements?

### Question:

I have already pre-arranged my funeral services with another funeral home, can I change funeral homes?

### Answer:

Yes, you can.

However, the money has to stay wherever the money was deposited until after the death occurs. Once the death occurs, the money can be transferred. You can also change the beneficiary. If you are dealing with an insurance company you simply need to contact the insurance company and tell them that you switched funeral homes. They will change that on their records.



Brought to you by:

Fuqua Bankston Funeral Home

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[www.fuquabankstonfuneralhome.com](http://www.fuquabankstonfuneralhome.com)



Ask  
John Cawley  
(Funeral Director)  
(334) 774-4551

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I've been a  
proud State  
Farm Agent for  
almost 7 years!

I went to  
Auburn for  
undergrad &  
grad school  
(Go Tigers!)

My favorite part  
of my job is  
serving my  
community!

I love hiking,  
fishing, baking,  
travelling, and  
volunteering in  
my free time!

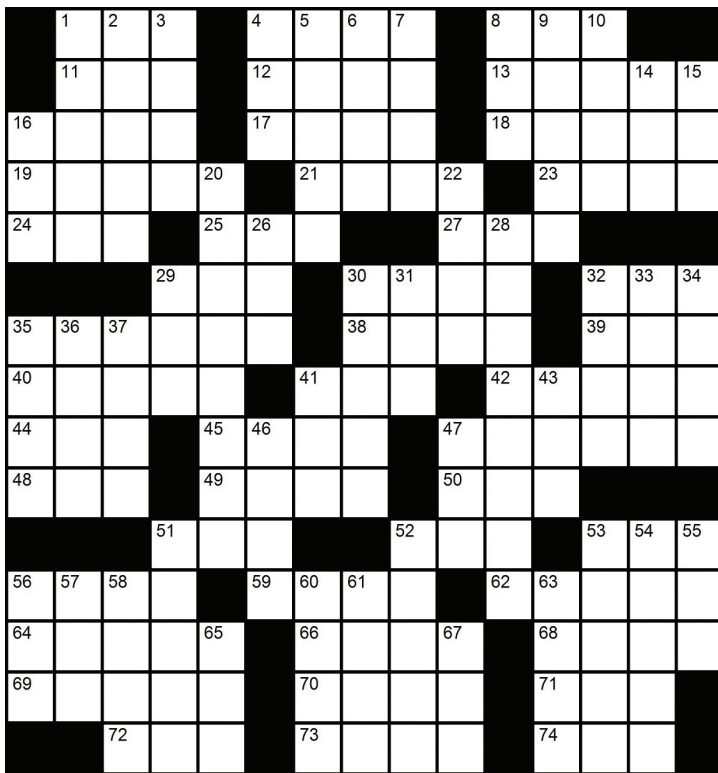
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**Across**

- 1 Took a chair  
 4 Prayer word  
 8 Fall month (Abbr.)  
 11 Pastry dessert  
 12 Soft drink  
 13 Army unit  
 16 Aspect  
 17 Embraces  
 18 \_\_\_\_ firma  
 19 Tabloid twosomes  
 21 Harvest  
 23 Lawn starter  
 24 Checkers color  
 25 Sunburn  
 27 Allow  
 29 Cooking utensil  
 30 Daze  
 32 Acme  
 35 Recollection  
 38 \_\_\_\_ stick  
 39 Eggs  
 40 Computer message  
 41 Cook in fat  
 42 Restore  
 44 Evil-doing  
 45 Great Lakes lake  
 47 Coals  
 48 Pigpen  
 49 Carryall  
 50 Toss  
 51 It's a free country  
 52 Worse than a cold  
 53 "C' \_\_\_\_ la vie!"  
 56 Gape  
 59 Facts and figures  
 62 Public row  
 64 Build  
 66 Ladder part  
 68 Met solo  
 69 Moth-eaten  
 70 Ancient Andean  
 71 Get \_\_\_\_ of  
 72 Barbie's beau  
 73 Calendar parts  
 74 Envision

**Down**

- 1 Malice  
 2 Assisted  
 3 Swarm  
 4 Fire residue  
 5 Grieve  
 6 Advantage  
 7 Space suit insignia  
 8 Baseball's Mel  
 9 Mountain peak  
 10 Ripped  
 14 Refinable rock  
 15 Writing tablet  
 16 Lady's man  
 20 Young actresses  
 22 Stop up, like a sink  
 26 One or more  
 28 Extra large  
 29 Luau food  
 30 Fling  
 31 Plaything  
 32 Musical chord  
 33 Terminated  
 34 Bears' hands  
 35 Disarray  
 36 Expel  
 37 Numerous  
 41 Healthy  
 43 Recede  
 46 Highway  
 47 Building extension  
 51 Male relative  
 52 Showy  
 53 Unnatural  
 54 Type of remark  
 55 Kind of party  
 56 Okay  
 57 Creative activity  
 58 Frail  
 60 Desert-like  
 61 Food fish  
 63 Autos  
 65 Half a score  
 67 Fuel

# Do you need some cash?



## Get a Loan TODAY!

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*More focused on where I'm going than who's not coming.*

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# AUNT T'S KITCHEN

## CRANBERRY WITH BROWNED BUTTER GLAZE

Yield about 4 1/2 dozen

### Ingredients

- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 1 cup sugar
- 3/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 large Nature's Yoke egg
- 2 tbsp orange juice
- 3 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/4 tsp baking soda
- 1/4 cup milk
- 2 1/2 cup coarsely chopped fresh or dried cranberries
- 1 cup white baking chips

### GLAZE

- 1/3 cup butter, cubed
- 2 cup confectioners' sugar
- 1 1/2 tsp vanilla extract
- 4 tbsp water

### Directions

1. Preheat oven to 375 F.
2. In a large bowl, cream butter and sugars until light and fluffy. Beat in egg and orange juice.
3. In another bowl, whisk flour, baking powder, salt and baking soda; add to creamed mixture alternately with milk. Stir in cranberries and baking chips.
4. Drop dough by level tablespoonfuls 1 inch apart onto greased baking sheets. Bake 10-12 minutes or until light brown. Remove from pans to wire racks to cool completely.
5. To make the brown butter glaze, melt butter over medium heat in a small heavy saucepan. Heat 5-7 minutes or until golden brown, stirring constantly. Remove from heat. Stir in confectioners sugar, vanilla and enough water to reach a drizzling



# COOKIES

6. consistency. Drizzle over cookies. Let stand until set.

## TOFFEE ALMOND SANDIES

Yield about 12 dozen

### Ingredients

- 1 cup butter, softened
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup confectioners' sugar
- 1 cup canola oil
- 2 large eggs, room temperature
- 1 teaspoon almond extract
- 3-1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup whole wheat flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon cream of tartar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 cups chopped almonds
- 1 package (8 ounces) milk chocolate English toffee bits
- Additional sugar

### Directions

1. In a large bowl, cream butter and sugars until light and fluffy, 5-7 minutes. Beat in the oil, eggs and extract. Combine the flours, baking soda, cream of tartar and salt; gradually add to creamed mixture and mix well. Stir in almonds and toffee bits.
2. Shape into 1-in. balls; roll in sugar. Place on ungreased baking sheets and flatten with a fork. Bake at 350° for 12-14 minutes or until lightly browned.



## S'MORE SANDWICH COOKIES

Yield about 2 dozen

### Ingredients

- 3/4 cup butter, softened
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 large egg, room temperature
- 2 tablespoons 2% milk





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Manager

774-2886

315 W Reynolds St • Ozark, Alabama 36360

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# AUNT T'S KITCHEN

- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1-1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1-1/4 cups graham cracker crumbs (about 20 squares)
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 2 cups semisweet chocolate chips
- 24 to 28 large marshmallows

## Directions

1. In a large bowl, cream butter and sugars until light and fluffy, 5-7 minutes. Beat in the egg, milk and vanilla. Combine the flour, graham cracker crumbs, baking soda, salt and cinnamon; gradually add to creamed mixture and mix well. Stir in chocolate chips.
2. Drop by tablespoonfuls 2 in. apart onto ungreased baking sheets. Bake at 375° until golden brown, 8-10 minutes. Remove to wire racks to cool.
3. Place 4 cookies bottom side up on a microwave-safe plate; top each with a marshmallow. Microwave, uncovered, on high until marshmallows begin to puff, 10-15 seconds (do not overcook). Top each with another cookie. Repeat.

## AMISH SUGAR COOKIES

Yield about 5 dozen

### Ingredients

- 1 cup butter, softened
- 1 cup canola oil
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup confectioners' sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 4-1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon cream of tartar

### Directions

1. Preheat oven to 375°. In a large bowl, beat the butter, oil and sugars. Beat in eggs until well blended. Beat in vanilla. Combine the flour, baking soda and cream of tartar; gradually add to creamed mixture.
2. Drop by small teaspoonfuls onto ungreased baking sheets. Bake until lightly browned, 8-10 minutes. Remove to wire racks to cool.

## SCOTTISH SHORTBREAD

Yield 4 dozen

### Ingredients

- 2 cups butter, softened
- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 4 to 4-1/2 cups all-purpose flour

### Directions

1. Preheat oven to 325°. Cream butter and brown sugar until light and fluffy, 5-7 minutes. Add 3-3/4 cups flour; mix well. Turn dough onto a floured surface; knead for 5 minutes, adding enough remaining flour to form a soft dough.



# COOKIES

2. On a sheet of parchment, roll dough to a 16x9-inch rectangle. Transfer to a baking sheet, and cut into 3x1-in. strips. Prick each cookie multiple times with a fork. Refrigerate at least 30 minutes or overnight.
3. Separate cookies and place 1 in. apart on ungreased baking sheets. Bake until cookies are lightly browned, 20-25 minutes. Transfer to wire racks to cool completely.

## PECAN MELTAWAYS

Yield 4 dozen

### Ingredients

- 1 cup butter, softened
- 1/2 cup confectioners' sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2-1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 3/4 cup chopped pecans
- Additional confectioners' sugar

### Directions

1. In a large bowl, cream butter and confectioners' sugar until light and fluffy, 5-7 minutes. Beat in vanilla. Combine flour and salt; gradually add to creamed mixture and mix well. Stir in pecans. Refrigerate until chilled.
2. Preheat oven to 350°. Roll into 1-in. balls and place on ungreased baking sheets. Bake 10-12 minutes or until set. Roll warm cookies in additional confectioners' sugar; cool completely on wire racks. Roll cooled cookies again in confectioners' sugar.



## COFFEE SHORTBREAD

Yield about 2 1/2 dozen

### Ingredients

- 1 cup butter, softened
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 2 tablespoons instant coffee granules
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup semisweet chocolate chips
- 2 teaspoons shortening, divided
- 1/2 cup white baking chips

### Directions

1. Preheat oven to 300°. In a large bowl, cream butter, sugars, coffee granules and salt until light and fluffy, 5-7 minutes; gradually beat flour into creamed mixture.
2. On a lightly floured surface, roll dough to 1/4-in. thickness. Cut with floured 2-in. cookie cutters. Place 2 in. apart on ungreased baking sheets.
3. Bake 20-22 minutes or until set. Remove to wire racks to cool completely. In a microwave, melt chocolate chips and 1 teaspoon shortening; stir until smooth. Repeat with baking chips and remaining shortening. Drizzle over cookies; refrigerate until set. Store between pieces of waxed paper in an airtight container.



# Gilland



3071 S. US Hwy. 231  
Ozark, AL  
334 • 774 • 9030  
7:30 am – 5:30 pm  
Mon. – Fri.

[www.gillandchevrolet.com/service](http://www.gillandchevrolet.com/service)

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Expires

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10-05-2024



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09-30-2024

Offer Disclosure



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The boss ordered one of his men to dig a hole eight feet deep. After the job was completed the boss returned and explained an error had been made and the hole wouldn't be needed. "Fill 'er up," he ordered.

The worker did as he'd been told. But he ran

into a problem. He couldn't get all the dirt packed back into the hole without leaving a mound on top. He went to the office and explained his problem.

The boss snorted. "Honestly! The kind of help you get these days! There's obviously only one thing to do. You'll have to dig that hole deeper!"

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# SUDOKU

Easy

		4	1					5
		7	8	3	2	6		
3	9		7			8		
6			9	8		1		
8		1	2		7			4
	4	9		1	3			2
	1		3		8	2	9	6
7		3						
				6	1	4		7

Medium

9	5	4					3	7	2
			9	4					5
									4
	2	3		7	8				
					2	8	5		
6		8					2	3	
7		2		5			4		
4	1				9	2			8
		6			4				



# D&D RIBEYE

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to keep us healthy,  
to teach our children,  
to build our roads  
and build and repair  
our homes and vehicles!



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- ✓ RN on-call service 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- ✓ Care and hygiene services provided by Home Health Aides
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God Bless you all. Roger Parrish, Publisher



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We could learn a lot from crayons--some are sharp, some are pretty, some are dull, and some have weird names, but they all have to live in the same box.

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## WACKIE WORDS

ANSWERS ON PAGE 24

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411 LOAD	S N CL O T AIR	MY HOUSE RANGE
10SCVOLS	MTR STATE	IPOISEV



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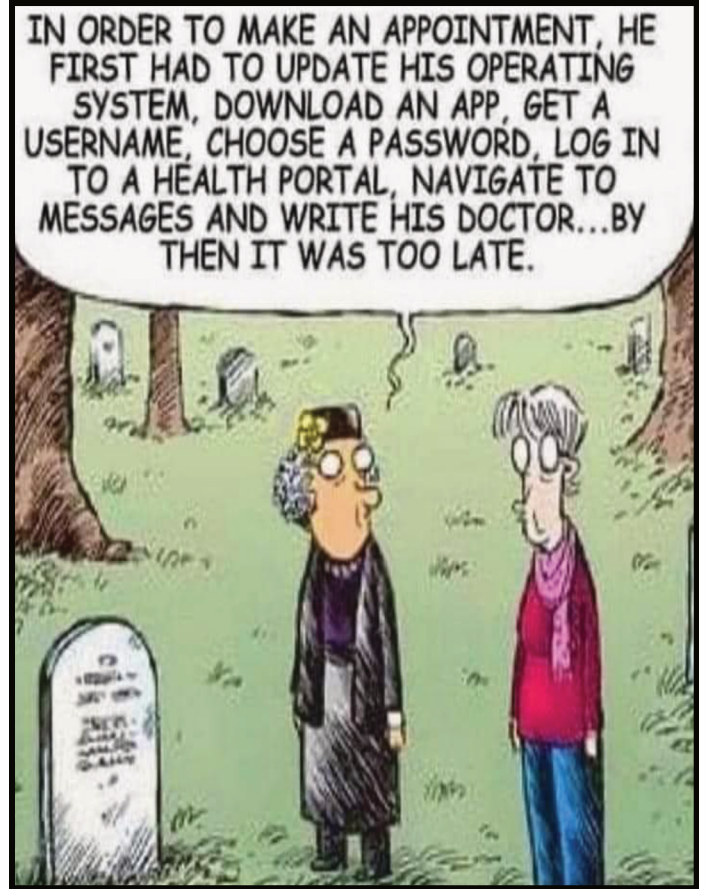
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**My imaginary friend has filed a restraining order on me.**

## Gentleness Is Love's Humility

By Wallace Kennedy, Jr

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, GENTLENESS, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

GENTLENESS is not to be misunderstood as weakness or a willingness to let others always have their way. Instead, this is the supernatural ability in the Spirit's power not to demand control or be extreme in our responses. Rather, we can submit to God's control over whatever situation we are in.

Biblical GENTLENESS is "strength under control," in fact, the Greek word translated in Galatians 5:23 "GENTLENESS" came from a term that was used of a wild horse that had become obedient to the bit and bridle. It was therefore not the lack of power, but great power under the control of a master.

Often times we may feel like if we are being GENTLE, we are allowing people to use or take advantage of us, this is NOT true. Christianity does not mean being soft spoken, weak, easily intimidated, it is strength under control and the Holy Spirit will help us to do this.



Paul says to us: [Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test! 2 Corinthians 13:5 \(ESV\)](#)

Consider the following when doing a self-examination: Am I being down to earth (humility), having a quiet ego (humility), being quick to let things go (forgiveness), having a soft and supportive demeanor (kindness), and being oriented toward others (kindness). Does this describe you?

Listen my friend, "Fruit" grows out of life, the life of the Spirit (Galatians 5:25). The Spirit produces living fruit. The virtues of the fruit of the Spirit grow out of fellowship with God. Fruit grows as a branch from a vine (John 15:5). The Holy Spirit produces the fruit of Christlikeness. The fruit of the Spirit naturally flows from walking in the Spirit (Galatians 5:16).

We are created in the likeness and image of God, for His purpose, and we are to abide in Him and produce Spiritual Fruit.

God bless you and keep you in His care!

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## Shrinking Congregation

A group of women were talking together. One woman said "Our congregation is sometimes down to 30 or 40 on a Sunday." Another said: "That's

nothing. Sometimes our congregation is down to six or seven."

A maiden lady in her 70's added her bit: "Why it's so bad in our church on Sundays that when the minister says 'dearly beloved' it makes me blush."

A burglar entered the house of a Quaker and proceeded to rob it. The Quaker heard the noise and took his shotgun downstairs. Upon finding the burglar he aimed his gun and said gently, "Friend, I mean thee no harm, but thou standest where I am about to shoot."

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 are made in  
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So are are  
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### Bad Snow Storm!

During a terrible storm, all the highway signs were covered with snow. The following spring, the state decided to raise all the signs twelve inches at a cost of six million dollars. “That’s an outrageous price!” said a local farmer,

“but I guess we’re lucky the state handled it instead of the federal government.” “Why’s that?”

“Because knowing the federal government, they’d decided to lower the highways.”

---

**“Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier.”  
- Mother Teresa**

---

A college student challenged a senior citizen, saying it was impossible for their generation to understand his. “You grew up in a different world,” the student said. “Today we have television, jet planes, space travel, nuclear energy, computers...”

Taking advantage of a pause in the student’s litany, the geezer said, “You’re right. We didn’t have those things when we were young; so we invented them! What are you doing for the next generation??”

### DO YOU KNOW...

Q. Why do men's clothes have buttons on the right while women's clothes have buttons on the left?

A. When buttons were invented, they were very expensive and worn primarily by the rich. Since most people are right-handed, it is easier to

push buttons on the right through holes on the left. Because wealthy women were dressed by maids, dressmakers put the buttons on the maid's right! And that's where women's buttons have remained since.

Q. Why do ships and aircraft use 'mayday' as their call for help?

A. This comes from the French word m'aidez - meaning 'help me' - and is pronounced approximately, 'mayday.'

Q. Why are zero scores in tennis called 'love'?

A. In France , where tennis became popular, round zero on the scoreboard looked like an egg and was called 'l'oeuf,' which is French for 'egg.' When tennis was introduced in the US , Americans (mis)pronounced it 'love.'

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Did you ever notice that musicians play and doctors practice but the rest of us work for a living!

## PRAY FOR AMERICA AT 7:14

Let's pray for America each morning at 7:14 and each evening at 7:14 until the November elections .

Why 7:14? 2nd Chronicles 7:14 is our guide for this prayer. "If my people, who are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

May God bless America.

## WOODED RAVINE

One fine day, Jim and Bob are out golfing. Jim slices his ball deep into a wooded ravine. He grabs his 8-iron and proceeds down the embankment into the ravine in search of his ball.

The brush is quite thick, but Jim searches diligently and suddenly he spots something shiny. As he gets closer, he realizes that the shiny object is in fact an 8-iron in the hands of a skeleton lying near an old golf ball.

Jim calls out to his golfing partner in an

agitated voice, "Hey Bob, come here, I got trouble down here."

Bob comes running over to the edge of the ravine and calls out, "What's the matter Jim?"

Jim shouts back, "Throw me my 7-iron! You can't get out of here with an 8-iron."

**It is not what you gather but what you scatter that tells what kind of life you have lived.**



## "Wise Words"

By: Hayes Wise

### Joy In The Lord

One of my favorite praise songs is "He Has Made Me Glad". Here's a sample of the lyrics. "I will enter His gates with thanksgiving in my heart, I will enter His courts with praise. I will say this is the day that the Lord has made, I will rejoice for He has made me glad." Close on the heels of this song is "This Is The Day". It comes from Psalm 118:24, "This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it."

You don't hear much about the book of Habakkuk, but it really needs to be read and preached on today. What's it about? Habakkuk's personal struggle to believe that God is good when there is so much tragedy and evil in the world. He encourages believers to wait on the Lord,

expecting that God will indeed work out all things for our good (Rom 8:28). The book of Habakkuk offers us a picture of a prideful people being humbled, while the righteous live by faith in God (Hab 2:4). It reminds us that while God may seem silent and uninvolved in our world, He always has a plan to deal with evil and always works out justice. (John 5:17-18). God has a plan for each of us. (Jer 29:11). The prophet looked back at the past and saw what great things God had done for them. He chose to see and triumph in the Lord. Even when the vines and the fig-trees are gone. Even when we are empty and poor. When all is gone, God is not gone. We can sit down in the loss of our "things" and still praise the Lord! The knowledge of our salvation, our eternal home in heaven, and the graces and comforts of God's Spirit will fill us with joy in the Lord. (Hab 3:17-18).

You become more reflective in mid-life. You start pondering the "big" questions -- what is life, why am I here...how much Healthy Choice ice cream can I eat before it's no longer a healthy choice?

### IF I HAD MY CHILD

If I had my child to raise again

I'd build self esteem first and the house later.

I'd finger paint more and finger point less.

I'd do less correcting and more connecting.

I'd take my eyes off my watch and watch more with my eyes.

I would care to know less and know to care more.

I'd take hikes and fly more kites.

I'd stop playing seriously and seriously play.

I would run through fields & gaze at more stars.

I'd do more hugging and less tugging.

**I was struggling to get my wife's attention?  
So I simply sat down and looked comfortable.  
That did the trick.**

**I DON'T HAVE A "DAD BOB"!!!  
I HAVE A FATHER FIGURE!**

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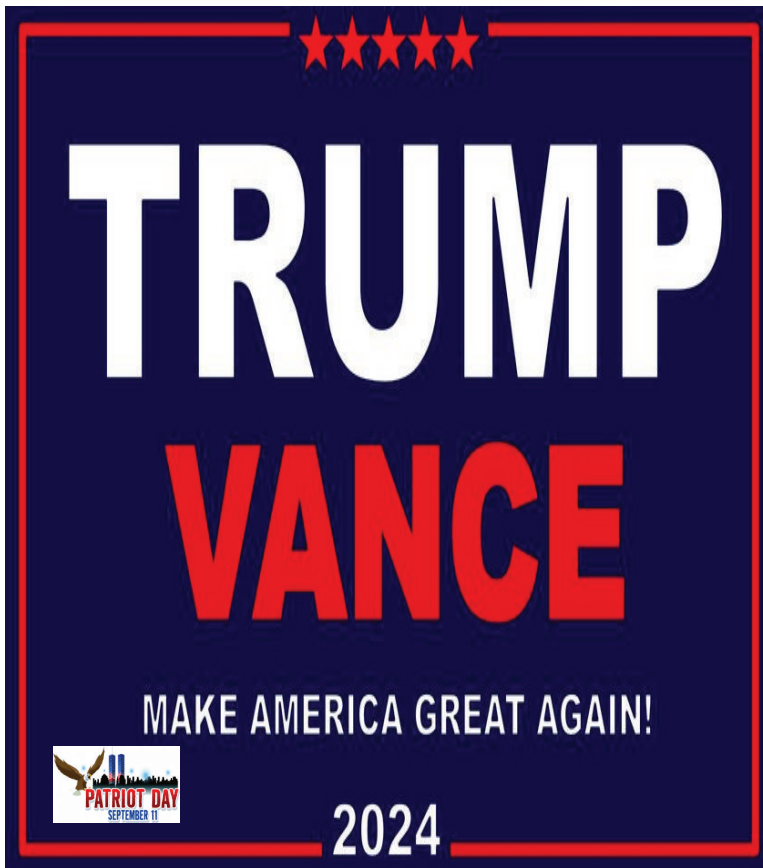
## Thomas Edison

In the early 20th Century, Thomas Edison was spreading the word about electricity.

Once, while vacationing out West, he stopped at the Sioux reservation. Edison was shocked to learn that there was no indoor plumbing, and that he would have to use an outhouse. In fact, he was told, the Sioux had to use the outhouse regardless of the weather.

To help the Sioux, Edison installed lights in the outhouse. With this kind act, he became the first person to wire a head for a reservation!

**A GOOD WOMAN IS BY YOUR SIDE DURING BAD TIMES TO TELL YOU THAT NONE OF THIS WOULD'VE HAPPENED IF YOU HAD JUST LISTENED TO HER.**



Appreciate all that you have, no matter how small. For there will always be someone who dreams of what you have.

On the first day of school, a first-grader handed his teacher a note from his mother. The note read, 'The opinions expressed by this child are not necessarily those of his parents.'

While walking along the sidewalk in front of his church, our minister heard

the intoning of a prayer that nearly made his collar wilt. Apparently, his 5-year-old son and his playmates had found a dead robin. Feeling that proper burial should be performed, they had secured a small box and cotton batting, then dug a hole and made ready for the disposal of the deceased.

The minister's son was chosen to say the appropriate prayers and with sonorous dignity intoned his version of what he thought his father always said: 'Glory be unto the Faaather, and unto the Sonnn, and into the hole he goooses.' (I want this line used at my funeral!)

### FIND THE DIFFERENCES SOLUTION



After successfully getting their big line items approved in the congressional spending package, two lobbyists were celebrating at a Washington restaurant.

"You know," mused one, "it's a crying shame our grandchildren and great-grandchildren haven't been born yet so they can see the terrific things the government's doing with their money."



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## Sacrifice

A farmer runs into the pastor of his church after missing the morning service. "I'm sorry I missed you this morning", the pastor said.

"Well, Reverend", the farmer replied, "I had some hay to put up. I figured it was better to sit on a bale of hay thinking about God than to sit in church thinking about hay."

**I don't want to be a millionaire, I just want enough money to be able to stare off into the distance while pumping gas.**

**I call it an elevator, but my British friend calls it a lift. I guess we were just raised differently!**



This whole getting older thing is not cool at all!!.....found myself having to buy the large print edition of Alphabet Soup! ~ A. Anderson

## CLAYBANK MASTER GARDENERS

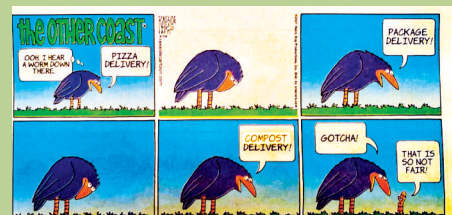
*Greetings Gardeners! September 2024*

At our August meeting we learned more about composting, and our upcoming September 11th meeting the topic will be "Water Quality & Changing Weather Patterns". This gardener is looking forward to this topic since this summer we had to rely heavily on drip irrigation via city water as well as rain water. Compost tea (water plus a scoopful of compost) does help balance the issues with using city water.

This gardener loves the Alabama Cooperative Extension System's free and informative SOW app. Besides other useful information about growing plants in our area, it tells us for our growing zone, which is 8a in northern Dale County, or 8b in southern Dale & Houston Counties, the following vegetables can still be planted in September: beets, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, collards, eggplant, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, lima beans, mustard greens, parsnips, peppers, snap peas, summer squash, turnips, white potatoes, and winter squash. Also, the following herbs: Mexican tarragon, oregano, parsley, rosemary and thyme. In the app, click on any of the plants listed to find

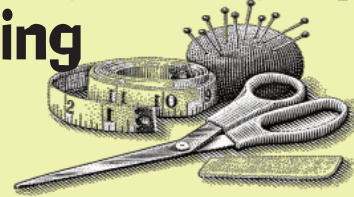
more information about that vegetable or herb, such as days to harvest, yield per plant, soil pH level needed, suggested varieties, nutrients, insect and disease and other handy notes (for example, "lettuce grown in drought conditions can have a bitter taste").

\*The Claybank Master Gardeners meet Wednesday Sept 11th at Hoppergrass Restaurant in Ozark, across the street from Three Scoops Ice Cream Shop at 129 S. East Ave. Call the Dale County Extension Office at (334) 774-2329 to verify the date. The meeting starts at 11 AM, but if you wish to buy lunch at the buffet, the line is shorter at 10:30. We welcome newcomers, and love to share gardening information and opportunities to get involved, whether you are a gardener or a "wannabe"!



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He didn't wipe his fingerprints off the knife.



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# GET ORGANIZED WORD SEARCH

**SOLUTION PAGE 30**

## WORDS

ALPHABETIZE  
ASSIGNMENTS  
CATEGORIZE  
CHORES  
CLEAN  
CLOSET  
COORDINATE  
CULL  
DESK  
DONATE  
DRAWERS  
FILING  
GARAGE  
GARBAGE  
HOUSEHOLD  
LABEL  
MESS  
ORGANIZE  
PROFESSIONAL  
RECYCLE  
SHELVING  
SORT  
SYSTEM

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

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

## Optometrist's Sign

"If you don't see what your looking for you've come to the right place."

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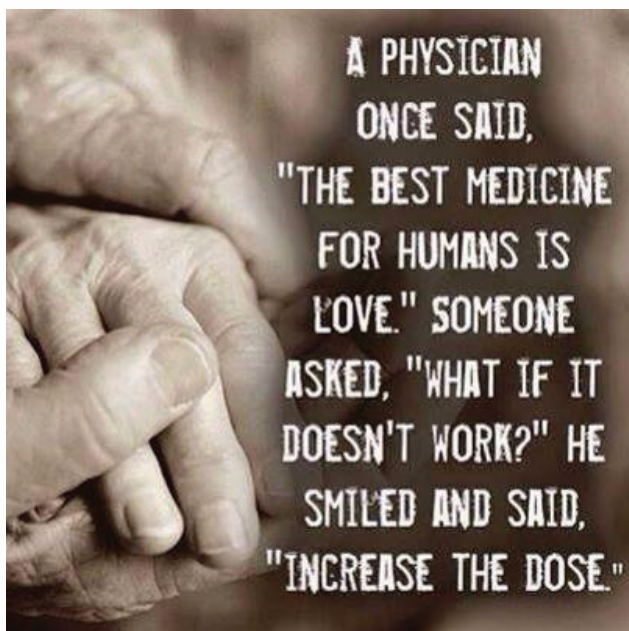


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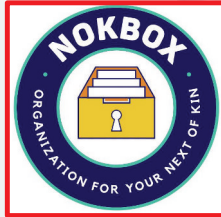
It has really been cloudy a lot lately. Kinda makes me feel less peppy.

Some people are like those clouds. Once they are gone, it's a beautiful day.





# Are You Leaving a Scavenger Hunt for Your Next of Kin?



If something were to happen to you tomorrow, would your next of kin be prepared to manage your home, possessions, online accounts, assets, finances, and wishes?

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<https://www.thenokbox.com/RedOakPrinting>




---

"The short memories of the American voters is what keeps our politicians in office."  
~Will Rogers

---

One cool November morning, two hunters take their biggest buck ever.

As they struggled dragging the monster buck back to their pickup, they were stopped by a game warden.

He asked to see their hunting licenses.

Assured that all was in order, the game warden wished them a good day, but offered some advice...

"If you men would pull from the front legs, instead of the back legs, the buck will glide easier in the leaves instead of going against the grain of fur."

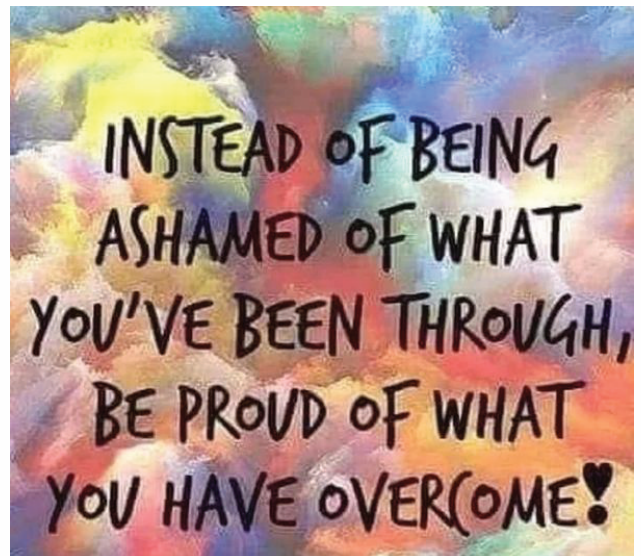
The hunters thanked the game warden and took his advice.

After about an hour of pulling the deer, the first hunter says to the other, "That game warden was a nice guy, and this deer is easier to pull."

The second hunter replies, "Yeah, but he wasn't all that smart..."

"We're getting further away from the truck." Credit to:

<https://www.facebook.com/turkeyhunteronline>



**NEVER FORGET THIS**  
**Jesus died over 2000 years ago.**  
**And yet He is not referred to as**  
**the "late Jesus",**  
**Not even by the heathens.**  
**He is not referred to in the past**  
**tense!**  
**He IS the Living God!**

# Word Search Solution



**WHAT MESSES OUR  
LIFE UP MOST IS  
THE EXPECTATION  
OF WHAT OUR LIFE  
IS SUPPOSED TO  
LOOK LIKE."**

**Never say you have  
failed until you have  
reached your last  
attempt, and never  
say it's your last  
attempt until you  
have succeeded..**

Dear God, fix me when I'm the problem and protect me when I'm not.

## Fun in Retirement

A few days ago my best friend from high school sent me a 'Viet Nam Veteran' cap. I never had one of these before, and I was pretty hyped about it, especially because my friend was considerate enough to take the time to send it to me.

Yesterday, I wore it when I went to Wal-Mart. There was nothing in particular that I needed at the world's largest retailer; but, since I retired, trips to Wally World to look at the Walmartians is always good for some comic relief. Besides, I always feel pretty normal after seeing some of the people that frequent the establishment. But, I digress...enough of my psychological fixations.

While standing in line to check out, the guy in front of me, probably in his early thirties, asked, "Are you a Viet Nam Vet?"

"No," I replied.

"Then why are you wearing that cap?"

"Because I couldn't find the one from the War of 1812." I thought it was a snappy retort.

"The War of 1812, huh?" the Walmartian queried, "When was that?"

## Little Johnny Is Telling Lies

A women is getting lunch ready when the phone rings.

"This is the middle school calling about your son Johnny. He's been caught telling unbelievable lies."

"I'll say he has," the woman replies, "I don't have a son."

**I met a man on the London bridge.  
He tipped his hat and drew his  
cane. In this riddle I told you his  
name. What is the man's name...**





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"There will always be death and taxes;  
however, death doesn't get worse every year."

## "Most Important Words"

The six most important words  
"I admit that I was wrong!"

The five most important words  
"You did a great job."

The four most important words  
"What do you think?"

The three most important words  
"May I help?"

The two most important words  
"Thank You!"

The most important word  
"We."

The least important word  
"I"

## COUPON HEAVEN

While handing a 25 cent-off coupon to the supermarket clerk at the checkout counter a woman inadvertently missed her hand, and the coupon slipped beneath the scale and was gone.

The checker looked distressed so the woman said, "That's OK, it's in coupon heaven now."

"Coupon heaven?" the checker said.

"Yes," the woman said, "That's where coupons go when they die."

"Only the redeemed ones!" said the checker.

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