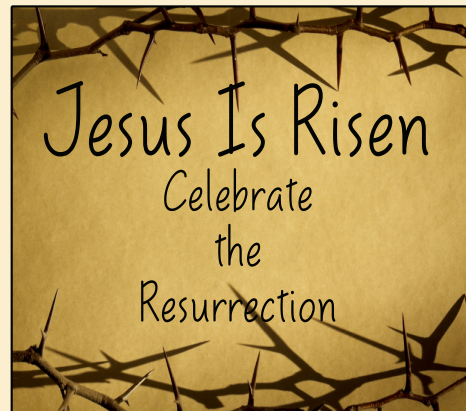


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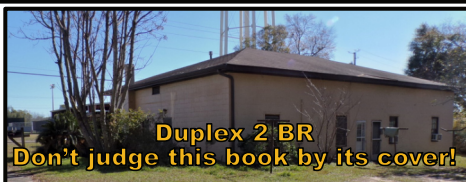
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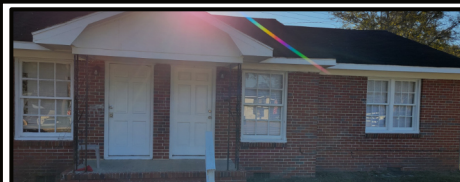


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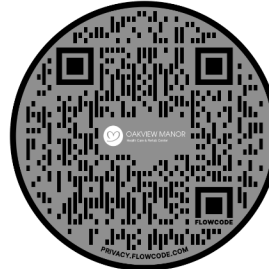
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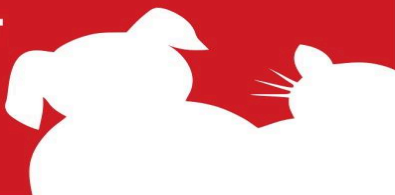
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We are honored to welcome
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Wally Olson was born and raised in Dale County, the son of Gary and Alice Olson. He is married to Brandy Olson, and together they have two daughters, Emma Claire and Ellie Grace.

With a deep commitment to public service, Wally dedicated 28 years to the Dale County Sheriff's Office, serving 16 of those years as Sheriff. Following his retirement, he transitioned into a new role as a Security Analyst for M1 Support Services at Fort Novosel.

Wally firmly believes in the importance of community engagement and public service, striving to make a lasting impact Through his work. Wally is grateful for the opportunity to be able to be apart of Fuqua Bankston Funeral Home and feels he will be contributing to his community by helping those who have been impacted by the loss of a loved one.

He will continue his service at Fort Novosel while also assisting us as a Funeral Assistant.

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*You sure do, J.C.,
Your eyes are going,
your knees are going
and your back is
going!*



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Contributors:

Wallace Kennedy, Jr.

Hayes Wise, "Wise Words"

Tric Parrish, "Aunt T's Kitchen"

Dee Gilbert,

"Claybank Master Gardeners"



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Ephesians 6:10-18

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. **11** Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. **12** For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against

the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. **13** Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. **14** Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, **15** and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. **16** In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. **17** Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. **18** And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.



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Faith says, "Even Though..."

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We so very much enjoy your magazine
Thank You,
Ronnie S. ~ Clinton, IA.

We enjoy reading Laughs & Lifts. Here's money for our subscription.
Thanks,
Tom & Judy G. - Enterprise, AL

Thank you Roger!
I enjoy your Laughs and Lifts, magazine so much. It's the highlight of every month when it arrives! Donna T. ~ Lake Mystic, FL.

I love your magazine! A lot of good advice, laugh out loud jokes, and the inspiration America needs. Just look at where we are in 2025. Let's get back to common sense and Courtesy.
Thank You,
Mary T. ~ Panama City, FL.

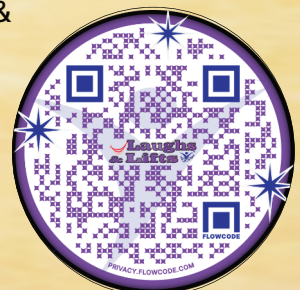
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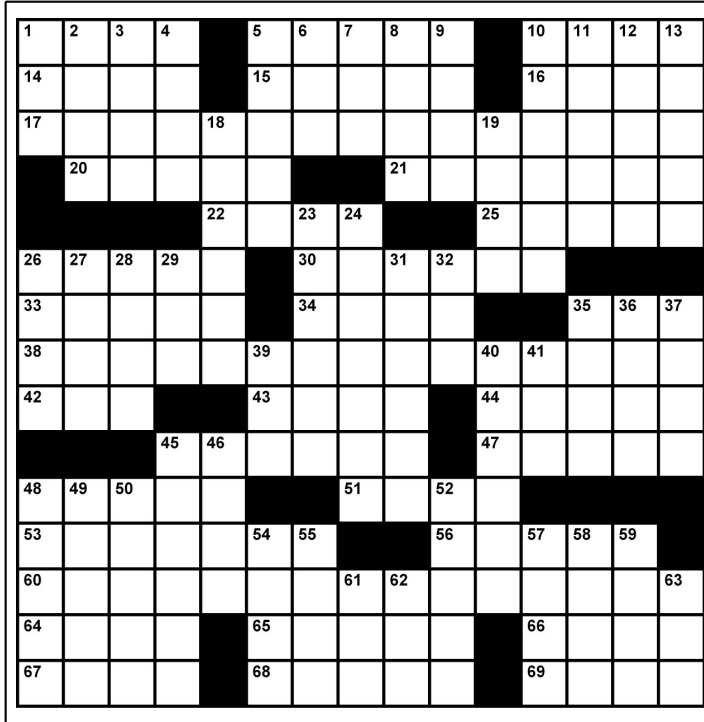
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Across

1. Book part
5. "Cut it out!"
10. Five-time U.S. Open champ
14. Almond
15. Auspices
16. All-night party
17. Gardening guy?
20. Boreal forest
21. Old Germans
22. ___ and aahs
25. Dentist's direction
26. "Blue ___"
30. Opens
33. Brilliance
34. Denials
35. Eerie gift
38. Romantic guy?
42. Haw partner
43. Ricelike pasta
44. Diminished by
45. More lively
47. Sportscaster Musburger
48. Ski trail
51. "Get ___!"
53. Profound
56. Contradict
60. 1991 Tinka Menkes film
64. Took advantage of
65. Zeno, notably
66. Assortment
67. Sea slitherers
68. Old Roman port
69. Don't believe it

Down

1. Affranchise
2. Genuine
3. Zone
4. Film maker
5. Chocolate source
6. "A rat!"

7. "Give it ___!"

8. Sort carefully

9. To be, to Brutus

10. Free

11. Radioactive element

12. A plant of the rose family

13. Shield figure

18. Rabbitlike rodent

19. Engine sound

23. Driven

24. Big bore

26. "Little Women" woman

27. Yearn

28. Hypothetical form of matter

29. Symbol of strength

31. Earlier

32. Wednesday tree?

35. Coastal raptor

36. Bowl over

37. "Check this out!"

39. "___ any drop to drink." - Coleridge

40. Insignia

41. Cause of inflation?

45. Mounts

46. ___ Station

48. Arouse

49. Sign on a plane facility

50. Brace

52. Banana variant

54. C-worthy

55. New newts

57. Come into view

58. Deeply

59. Cut, maybe

61. "i" lid

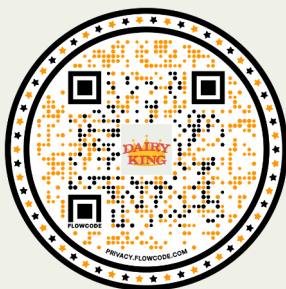
62. "Rocky ___"

63. Scale note

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AUNT T'S KITCHEN

HONEY MUSTARD

Yield: about 1 cup

Ingredients:

- 1/4 cup plus 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- 1/4 cup honey
- 1/4 cup cider vinegar
- 1 1/2 teaspoons kosher salt
- 1/4 cup plus 2 tablespoons vegetable oil, like soy, peanut, or corn



Directions:

In a medium bowl, whisk together the mustard, honey, vinegar, & salt. Gradually whisk in the oil to make a creamy dressing. Use immediately or store in the refrigerator, covered, for up to 3 days.

CAESAR

Yield: 1 cup

Ingredients:

- 3/4 cup mayonnaise
- 2 tablespoons anchovy paste
- 2 tablespoons minced garlic
- 2 tablespoons freshly squeezed lemon juice
- Freshly ground black pepper



Directions:

Whisk the mayonnaise, anchovy paste & garlic together in a small bowl. Whisk in the lemon juice, 2 teaspoons water and a few grinds of pepper until blended.

ITALIAN VINAIGRETTE

Yield: 1 cup

Ingredients:

- 1/4 cup red wine vinegar
- 2 tablespoons Dijon mustard
- 2 teaspoons dried Italian herbs
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 3/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil



Directions:

Whisk together the vinegar, mustard, herbs & a generous pinch of salt in a small bowl. Gradually whisk in the oil, starting with a few drops & then adding the rest in a steady stream to make a smooth, slightly thick dressing. Whisk in a couple turns of freshly ground black pepper.

SALAD DRESSINGS

GREEN GODDESS

Yield: About 2 cups

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup plain whole-milk yogurt
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1 tightly packed cup fresh basil leaves
- 1 tightly packed cup fresh dill, tough stems removed
- 1 tightly packed cup fresh parsley leaves
- 1/2 cup fresh chives (about 1 small bunch), roughly chopped
- 1 clove garlic
- 1 teaspoon lemon zest, plus 3 tablespoons freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon sherry vinegar
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper



Directions:

1. Add the yogurt, mayonnaise, basil, dill, parsley, chives, garlic, lemon zest, juice, vinegar, 1 teaspoon kosher salt and 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper to a blender.
2. Puree until smooth, scraping down the sides with a rubber spatula as needed. Season with salt and pepper to taste.
3. Refrigerate in an airtight container for up to 5 days; stir well before using.

THOUSAND ISLAND

Yield: 1 1/4 cups

Ingredients:

- 1/2 clove garlic, minced
- 1/4 teaspoon kosher salt plus more to taste
- 3/4 cup prepared or homemade mayonnaise
- 1/4 cup bottled chili sauce
- 2 tablespoons ketchup
- 1 1/2 tablespoons minced onion
- 2 teaspoons sweet pickle relish
- 1/2 hard-cooked large egg, pushed through a sieve or finely chopped freshly ground black pepper



Directions:

Make a paste with the garlic and 1/4 teaspoon of the salt by crushing them with the side of a chef's knife. In a small mixing bowl, whisk together the garlic, mayonnaise, chili sauce, ketchup, onion, relish and egg until combined. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Use now or store covered in the refrigerator for up to 2 days.

AUNT T'S KITCHEN

RANCH

Yield: about 1 1/3 cups

Ingredients:

- 2 cloves garlic
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 cup prepared or homemade mayonnaise
- 1/4 to 1/3 cup buttermilk, plus more as needed
- 2 tablespoons minced fresh chives
- 2 tablespoons minced flat-leaf parsley leaves
- 1 teaspoon white wine vinegar
- 1 scallion, trimmed and thinly sliced
- Freshly ground black pepper



Directions:

Mash the garlic and salt into a paste with the side of a chef's knife. In a medium bowl, whisk together the garlic paste, mayonnaise, 1/4 cup buttermilk, chives, parsley, vinegar, scallions and pepper to taste. If the sauce is very thick, thin the dressing with a couple tablespoons more of the buttermilk. Use immediately or store covered, in the refrigerator, for up to 3 days.

SUNSHINE

Yield 1 1/2 cups

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup plain Greek yogurt
- 1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 1/4 cup Dijon mustard
- 3 to 4 tablespoons honey, to taste
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 2 tablespoons apple cider vinegar
- 1 clove garlic, 1/2 teaspoon fine sea salt
- 10 twists of freshly ground black pepper

Directions

In a 2-cup liquid measuring cup or bowl, combine all of the ingredients as listed. Whisk until blended.

Betty Crocker is a brand and **fictional character** used in advertising campaigns for food and recipes. The character was created by the Washburn-Crosby Company in 1921 to give a personalized response to consumer product questions.



SALAD DRESSINGS

Taste, and season with additional pepper if necessary.

This dressing is intentionally bold, but if it tastes too tart for your liking, whisk in another tablespoon of honey.

Store leftover salad dressing in the refrigerator, covered, for 10 to 14 days.

AVOCADO GODDESS

Yield: 6-8

Ingredients

- 1/3 cup mayonnaise
- 3 tablespoons finely chopped fresh mixed herbs
- such as basil, parsley and/or tarragon
- 2 teaspoons freshly squeezed lime juice
- 1 ripe avocado, chopped
- 1 scallion, thinly sliced
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper



Directions:

1. Put the mayonnaise, herbs, lime juice, avocado, scallion, 1 teaspoon salt and a few grinds of pepper in a blender.
2. Puree until smooth. Adjust the seasoning with additional salt and pepper.
3. Store the dressing in the refrigerator in a tightly sealed container for up to 2 days.

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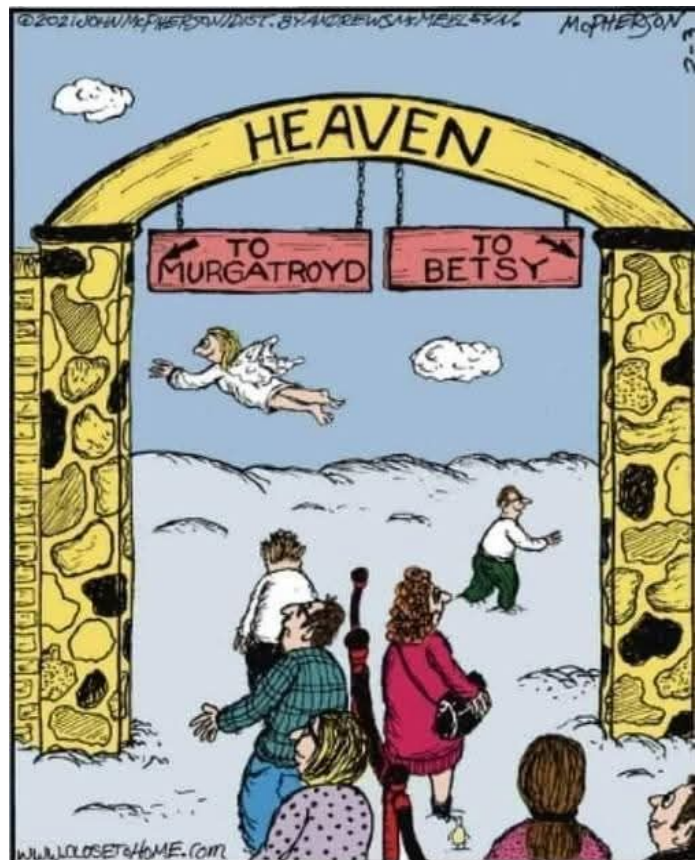
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A ventriloquist is on stage, cracking jokes, when he drops a blonde joke into the mix.

A blonde woman in the audience crosses her arms and stands up.

"Excuse me! How does my hair color have anything to do with my intelligence or worth as a person?"

The ventriloquist, looking flustered, immediately apologizes. "You're absolutely right. I won't tell any more blonde jokes."

The blonde waves him off. "Oh, I wasn't talking to you—I was talking to the little guy on your lap!"



Ed is torn between 2 women. One makes incredible waffles, the other writes beautiful poetry. Should he marry for batter or verse

Bobby, the owner at C & B Produce is selling watermelons.

The sign clearly reads \$3 each 3 for \$10

A young man walks up and buys one watermelon. "That'll be \$3," says Bobby. The young man buys another, then another—paying \$3 each. As he walks away, he grins and says, "Hey mister, I just bought three watermelons for \$9 instead of \$10! Maybe business isn't your strong suit." Bobby chuckles, shaking his head. "People are funny," he mumbles. "They keep buying three watermelons, thinking they're teaching me about business..."





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GOD'S IMMIGRATION SYSTEM

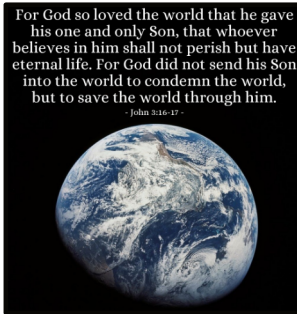
By Wallace Kennedy, Jr.

Have you ever considered that we all are "foreigners", and this world is not our home? Hebrews 13:14-15 For this world is not our permanent home; we are looking forward to a home yet to come. Therefore, let us offer through Jesus a continual sacrifice of praise to God, proclaiming our allegiance to his name.(NLT) This phrase emphasizes that believers are not fully at home in this world, but are considered temporary residents, looking forward to a heavenly home.

In our "forever-home", every one is invited, no matter their nationality, no matter the color of their skin, red, yellow, black and white, they are all precious in His sight. John 3:15-17 That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved

Yes, God's country (heaven) has a point of entry. In this world, the country we now live in has a "point of entry" that refers to a designated location: like an airport, seaport, or land border crossing, where individuals must officially enter a country and go through immigration checks to be admitted lawfully. Essentially, it's the place where someone is inspected by immigration authorities to determine if they can enter the country.

In God's country (heaven) the "point of entry", there is only one way: John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me. What must I do to be save? Romans 10:9-10 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.10 For with



the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

In God's country (heaven), Revelation 21:12 It had a massive and high wall, with twelve [large] gates, and at the gates [were stationed] twelve angels; and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were written. The only way in is through believing on and in Jesus Christ, He is our Redeemer. Jesus said: I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture John 10:9.

Everyone in God's country (heaven), must be documented. In the King James Version of the Bible, Revelation 21:27 states that only those with names in the Lamb's Book of Life will enter Heaven. Believers can be confident that their names are written in the Book of Life because of their faith in Jesus.

The benefits of living in God's country (heaven): no more sickness or diseases, all tears are wiped away, no more dying, no more sin and (much, much more) everything we will ever need, and we will live in the presence of our Lord and King forever.

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I AM SAVED, Now What?

By Author: *Wallace Kennedy Jr.*

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MY SONG OF THE MONTH



FISHING IN THE SKY
BY
TRAVIS SMITH

SCAN WITH
YOUR
SMART PHONE
TO LISTEN

I LOVE BLONDS

A blonde, a brunette, and a redhead walk into a restaurant. They're having a great time, so they leave their waitress a massive tip.

Overjoyed, the waitress leans in and whispers, "I have a secret. In the

women's restroom, there's a magical mirror. If you tell it something true, you'll be rewarded. But if you lie... poof—you disappear."

Intrigued, the three women rush to the restroom. The brunette steps up first, smirking. "I think I'm the most beautiful person in this restaurant."

Poof! A million dollars appears in her hands.

The redhead, not to be outdone, confidently declares, "I think I'm the smartest person in this restaurant." Instantly, a Lamborghini key materializes in her purse.

Finally, the blonde, practically bouncing with excitement, steps up. "I think—" Poof! She's never seen again.



Time is the best teacher of all....but it kills all it's students.

Ralph

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— Albert Schweitzer —

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Duck Dynasty's Phil Robertson played football for Louisiana Tech in the 1960s.

He was the starting quarterback in 1966 and 1967. Future NFL star Terry Bradshaw was his backup. Phil would later say, "Terry Bradshaw and I played football together at Louisiana Tech back in the day. I always like to say that Terry went for the bucks and I went for the ducks. I'd say it worked out pretty well for both of us."

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One afternoon, a millionaire was riding in the back of his limousine when he saw two pathetic-looking men by the side of the road, eating grass. He ordered his driver to stop and got out to investigate. He asked the men, "Why are you eating grass?" "We don't have no money for food," the first man replied. "Then you must come with me to my house," insisted the millionaire. "But, sir, I got a wife and three kids here," said the man. "Bring them along!" replied the millionaire. The second man exclaimed, "I got a wife and six kids!" "Bring them as well!", the millionaire proclaimed as he headed back to his limo. They all climbed into the car, and once underway, one of the men expresses, "Sir, you are too kind. Thank you for taking all of us with you." The millionaire replied, "I'm most happy to do it. You'll love my place. The grass is almost a foot tall."

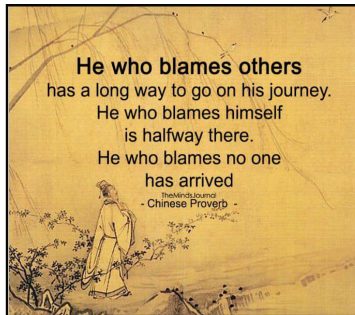


The Devil Made Me Do It

As I watch the news about the wrong doing by our civil servants being uncovered, I'm reminded of the '60s when Flip Wilson became a successful comedian with his meme, "the devil made me do it. People often blame others when they do wrong because a natural reaction kicks in allowing us to avoid taking responsibility for our actions. There are some exceptions, but most people experience negative emotions like guilt and shame when they do wrong. By pointing a finger at someone else, we can maintain our own positive ego and self-esteem. Some even blame God for allowing them to do wrong. "God, why did you let me do that?" Christians aren't immune from being tempted. So where does temptation come from? "And remember, when you are being tempted, do not say, "God is tempting me." God is never tempted to do wrong, and he never tempts

Wise Words

BY HAYES WISE



anyone else. Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death. So don't be misled, my dear brothers and sisters". (Jam 1:13-16).

There's a Chinese proverb that says, "The man who blames others, has a long way in his journey to go, The Man who blames himself, is halfway there. The Man who blames no one, has already arrived." While those are wise words we all will fail sometimes and need something more. Satan knows our desires and uses them to tempt us to focus on

our desires instead of God. God warns us to prepare ourselves. (Eph 6:11). What does God say when we fail? Don't blame the devil but confess our sins, and He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9).

It's been a bit of a strange day! First I found a hat full of money.
Then I was chased by an angry man with a guitar.

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A Child's Life Lesson

Every month Martin's parents took a trip to see Grandma and came home on the same train the next day. One day the child said to his parents: "I'm already grown up. Can I go to my grandma's alone?"

After a brief discussion, his parents accepted. They stood with him as he waited for the train to exit. They said goodbye to their son and gave him some tips through the window. Martin repeated to them:

"I know. I've been told this more than a thousand times."

As the train was about to leave, his father murmured in his ear: "Son if you feel bad or insecure, this is for you!" And he put something in his pocket.

Now Martin was alone, sitting on the train as he had wanted, without his parents for the first time.

He was admiring the landscape out

the window. Around him some unknowns pushed themselves in. They made a lot of noise. They got in and out of the train car. The conductor made some comments about him being alone. One person looked at him with eyes of sadness.

Martin was feeling more uneasy with every minute that passed. And now he was scared. He felt cornered and alone. He put his head down, and with

tears in his eyes, he remembered his dad had put something in his pocket. Trembling, he searched for what his father had given him. Upon finding the piece of paper he read it: "Son, I'm in the last train car!"



That's how God is, He lets His children go. He lets them try new things. But God is like the dad in the last car, always watching, in case they become afraid or in case they find obstacles and don't know what to do. He is always close enough to help when we ask Him to help.

**"At any given moment you have the power to say: this is not how the story is going to end."
"- Unknown**



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Claybank Master Gardeners April 2025

Now that the sneezin' and wheezing seezon (sorry, couldn't resist) has brought us to the end of our misery (there I go again) we are blessed with the amazing delights of spring flowers abloom everywhere. Forsythia, azaleas, wisteria (bridal wreath), blooming fruit trees and hydrangeas soon to come, what a glorious gift of eye candy! A reminder, do not fertilize or prune azaleas until the current blooming period has ended. If your soil is poor, remember to add a shovel of compost here and there, or soil from the woods, to bring some free nutritional boosters to your shrubs and flowers.



As you clean up your garden areas, please remember to leave some dead leaves, flower stems and weeds for the pollinators. Pollinators have been decimated in recent years from chemical sprays, and overzealous weed control. We need to encourage our pollinators to re-populate!

A note of warning: some unscrupulous entities have been sending around un-asked for "free seeds". **DO NOT PLANT THEM!!** Please bring them to the Extension Office near you and tell them they are seeds that came in the mail that you did not ask for. These seeds can wreak

much havoc with our fragile ecosystem bringing in diseases and attracting undesirable insects.

Dandelion greens, stems, flowers and roots are delicious in salad or in tea, or soup, as well as providing tremendous medicinal benefits. They are full of Vit A, and many other micronutrients which their deep root systems bring up from deep in the soil. YouTube or Google will provide abundant information and recipes for dandelions.

Fire ant bait such as Amdro is best sprinkled lightly around the perimeter of the ant hills when the temperature is 70° or above. The worker ants bring the queen ant closer to the surface then and will bring the bait to the queen.

The Claybank Master Gardeners Spring Plant Sale will be held April 26 at the Farmer's Market Pavillion in Ozark.

Claybank Master Gardeners meet monthly at Hoppergrass Restaurant, on the 2nd Wednesday. April 9th this month. Meetings start at 11AM, the buffet line is shorter at 10:30. Please call the Extension office at (334) 774-2329 to verify the time and place in case of unforeseen changes.

Dee Gilbert
Claybank Master Gardener



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"Think of how stupid the average person is and realize half of them are stupider than that." - George Carlin

I grew up living paycheck to paycheck...But through hard work, time and perseverance... I now live direct deposit to direct deposit!

Two female millennials walk into a smoothie shop. The server asks, "Are you two sisters?" They giggle and reply, "No, we aren't even Catholic."

How many telemarketers does it take to change a light bulb? Only one, but they have to do it while you're eating dinner.

"We have your son," said the kidnapper. "I don't have a son," says the woman. "Then who just asked for warm milk and made us cut the crust off his sandwiches?" "Oh God, you have my husband."

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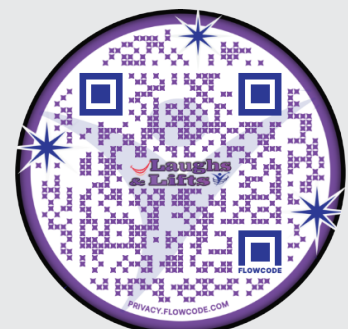
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A man was hired to paint a boat. With his paint, brushes, and a steady hand, he began coating the boat in a vibrant red, as the owner had requested. As he worked, he noticed a small hole in the hull, barely noticeable to the untrained eye. Without saying a word, he repaired it, considering it part of his job.



Once he finished painting, the owner paid him, and the man left, content with his day's work.

The next morning, however, the owner returned, holding a check far more generous than what was owed for the painting. Surprised, the painter asked, "Sir, you've already paid me for the paint job. What is this for?"

The owner smiled and said, "This isn't for the painting. It's for fixing the hole in the boat.

The painter, puzzled, replied, "But that was such a small thing; certainly not worth this amount."

"My friend, you don't understand," the owner began. "When I asked you to paint the boat, I didn't even know about the hole myself. After you finished and the paint dried, my children took the boat out on a fishing trip without telling me. I was away, and when I got home, I was horrified to realize they had gone out in a boat with a hole in the hull."

The painter listened intently as the man continued, his voice now thick with emotion.

"I was terrified, thinking they might never return. But when they came back safely, I rushed to check the boat and found that you had repaired the hole. You didn't just fix a boat—you saved my children's lives. That's something I can never fully repay."

The painter stood silent, absorbing the weight of the man's words. The owner added softly, "Sometimes, the smallest gestures can have the greatest impact. What seemed insignificant to you meant the world to me."

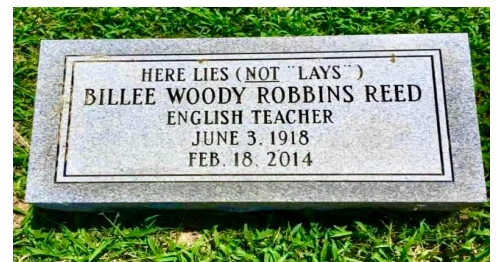
In life, we may unknowingly fix many "holes" for others—offering help, mending hearts, or simply being there when needed. We often don't realize how much those small actions can mean to someone else. You never know when your quiet kindness might save a life. Keep helping, keep caring, for the world needs more boat painters.

When you see this in the magazine, scan with your phone. There's more to see!!



It could be a video, a text, a website, a menu, a song, contact info, social media or more.

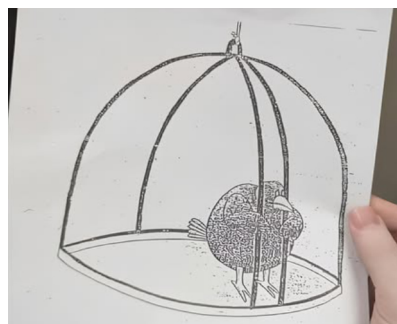
**I wish pets
lived longer
and life
wasn't so
expensive
and sweets
didn't make
me fat
and people
were all nice**



FIND THE DIFFERENCE SOLUTION



**Don't be
like this bird.**



**"Dreaming is the
beginning of getting
what you want."
- Annette White**

Young Husband (in the early morning):
"It must be time to get up."

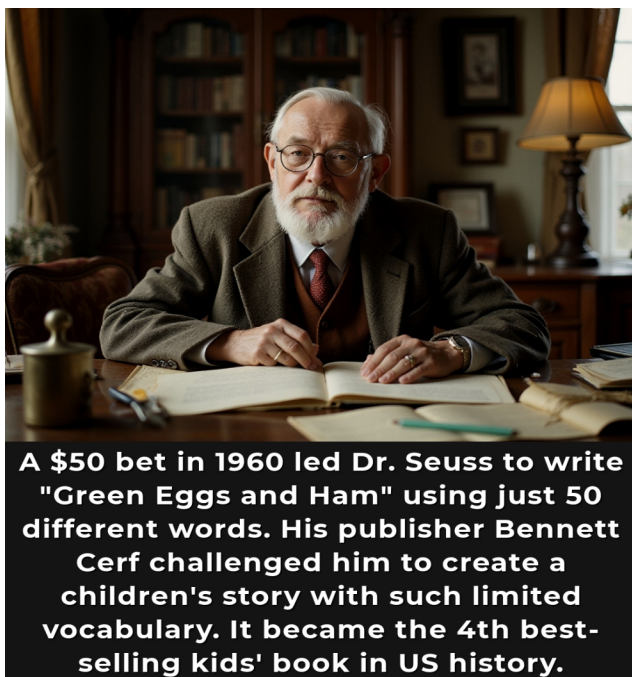
Wife: "Why do you say that?"

Husband: "Baby's fallen asleep."



ANGRY WIFE'S NOTE TO HUSBAND:

"Your dinner is in the recipe book on page 34 and the ingredients are at the store"



Did you and your wife take turns driving on your 1000 mile road trip?

Yeah, it would've been impossible to drive the whole way in a straight line.



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Twist of Fate	A List As Long As My Arm
Musical Chairs	Ball Is In Your Court
Apples To Oranges	

When I was a boy my dad gave me money to go downtown and pay the electric bill but instead I bought raffle tickets for a chance to win a new truck. I told my dad when I got home and he whip me good. But the next morning, in the driveway sat a brand new truck. We all held each other and cried, especially me because it was the truck from the power company there to turn off the lights. I got another whipping.

I just saw a man who's nose was so long...I just know he could smell Sunday dinner cooking on Wednesday

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Eugene Hideaway Bridges on stage at 10:45 am - 11:45 am	Catalyst on stage at 3:45 pm - 4:45 pm
Mark Muleman Massey on stage at 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	Big Al & The Heavyweights on stage at 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm
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This event would not be possible without the support of our wonderful sponsors:
 City of Ozark, Alabama State Council of the Arts (This event made possible partly by a grant from the AL State Council of the Arts), Dale Medical Center, Hagler Heating & Cooling (AL License HVAC 00157 & Refrigeration 21489), The Commercial Bank of Ozark, Sanders Electrical & Plumbing Contractors, Inc., Microtel, Muller Communications, Wiregrass Music & Art Association, and Ozark-Dale County Economic Development Corporation

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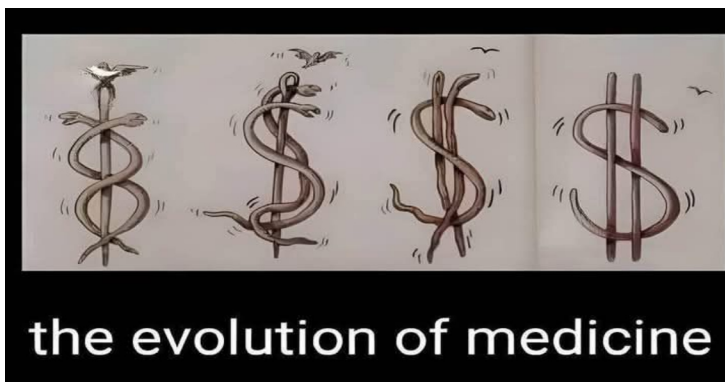
One of my neighbors
owns several cats.
On a recent visit she
introduced them to me.
“That’s Astrophe,
that’s Erpillar,
that’s Aract that’s Aloqu”
and that’s Amaran
I said “Those are
odd names.”
She replied, “Oh those
are their last names,
their first names are cat.”



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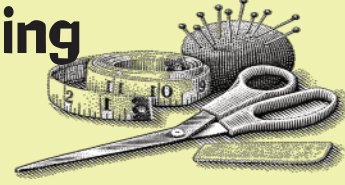
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“You know, everybody's ignorant, just on different subjects.”
 — Will Rogers

The “Dead Horse Theory”

is a satirical metaphor that illustrates how some individuals, institutions, or nations handle obvious, unsolvable problems. Instead of accepting reality, they cling to justifying their actions.

The core idea is simple: if you realize you're riding a dead horse, the most sensible thing to do is dismount



and move on.

However, in practice, the opposite often happens. Instead of abandoning the dead horse, people take actions such as:

- Buying a new saddle for the horse.
- Improving the horse's diet, despite it being dead.
- Changing the rider instead of addressing the real problem.
- Firing the horse caretaker and hiring someone new, hoping for a different outcome.
- Holding meetings to discuss ways to increase the dead horse's speed.
- Creating committees or task forces to analyze the dead horse problem from every angle. These groups work for months, compile reports, and ultimately conclude the obvious: the horse is dead.
- Justifying efforts by comparing the horse to other similarly dead horses, concluding that the issue was a lack of training.
- Proposing training programs for the horse, which means increasing the budget.
- Redefining the concept of “dead” to convince themselves the horse still has potential.

The Lesson:

This theory highlights how many people and organizations prefer to deny reality, wasting time, resources, and effort on ineffective solutions instead of acknowledging the problem from the start and making smarter, more effective decisions.

END OF THE LINE CELEBRATION

MAY 31, 2025 | BLUE SPRINGS STATE PARK

FOOD - ENTERTAINMENT - PRIZES - FREE ENTRY

After nearly 2 years of construction, more than 2,100 miles of fiber, and nearly 4,000 members connected, Pea River's fiber optic broadband network is finally finished!

Join us at Blue Springs State Park next month to commemorate this historic achievement. Help us celebrate community and connection just steps away from where Pea River energized its first electric lines in 1939.



Historical marker near Blue Springs State Park