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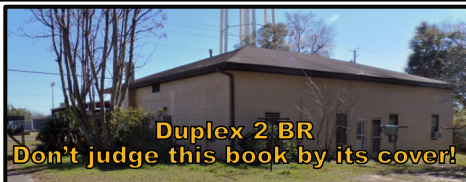
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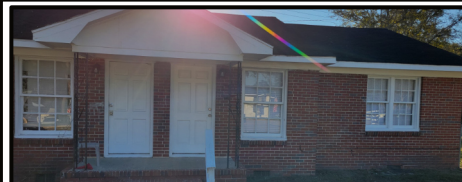


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"You can, you should, and if you're brave enough to start, you will."
- Stephen King

I Just Made You Half Owner!

A very successful businessman had a meeting with his new son-in-law. "I welcome you into the family!" said the man. "To show you how much we care for you, I am making you a 50-50 partner in my business. All you have to do is go to the factory everyday and learn the operation."

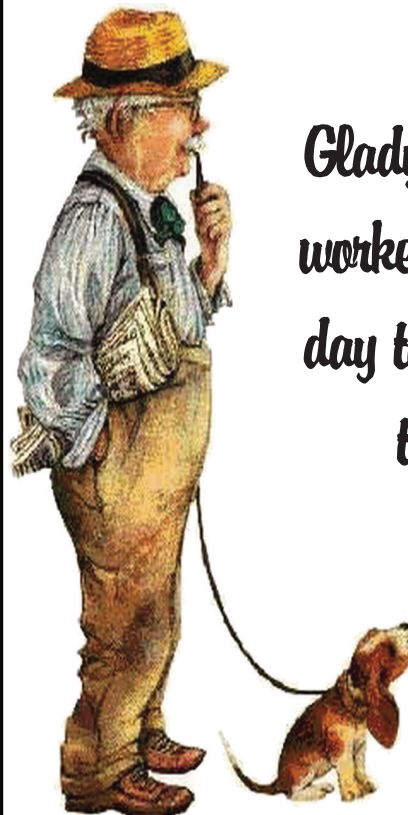
The son-in-law interrupted. "I hate factories. I can't stand the noise."

"I see," replied the father-in-law. "Well, then you'll work in the office and take charge of some of the operations."

"I hate office work," said the son-in-law. "I can't stand being stuck behind a desk."

"Wait a minute," said the father-in-law. "I just made you half owner of a money-making industry, but you don't like factories, and won't work in an office. What am I going to do with you?"

"Easy," said the son-in-law. "Buy me out."



*Gladys, my daddy
worked 12 hours a
day to put food on
the table.*

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That's A Good Thing

The young boy was spending a Sunday afternoon with his grandpa. Looking at pictures of his grandpa in his military uniform, the



boy asked, "Grandpa, did you ever kill anyone in the war?"

"No champ, I never did."

"That's a good thing."

"You're telling me," began grandpa, "I was the cook!"

Some modern Eskimos use a refrigerator to keep their food warm. Well, maybe not warm, but at room temperature. Leaving it out 'in the elements' could lead to freezer burned food.

He was a great man,
J.C., but he
sure was a
slow cook.



A young minister, in the first days of his first parish, was obliged to call upon the widow of an eccentric man who had just died. Standing before the open casket and consoling the widow, he said, "I know this must be a very hard blow, Mrs. Vernon. But we must remember that what we see here is the husk only, the shell. The nut has gone to heaven."

Heavy Baggage

My dear friend, a divorcee, never remarried, and her daughter wanted to know why. "The men I know would bring too much heavy baggage to the marriage and I simply don't want to put up with it," she explained. Taking her mother's hand in hers, my friend's daughter said sweetly, "I hate to break the news to you, Mom, but you're not exactly carry-on yourself."

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"Claybank Master Gardeners"



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A Chinese doctor moved to the U.S., but couldn't land a job at a hospital. So, he decided to open his own little clinic and hung a sign outside that read: "Get treatment for \$20 — If not cured, get \$100 back!"

One day, an American lawyer saw the sign and thought, "Easy money!" So he walked in.

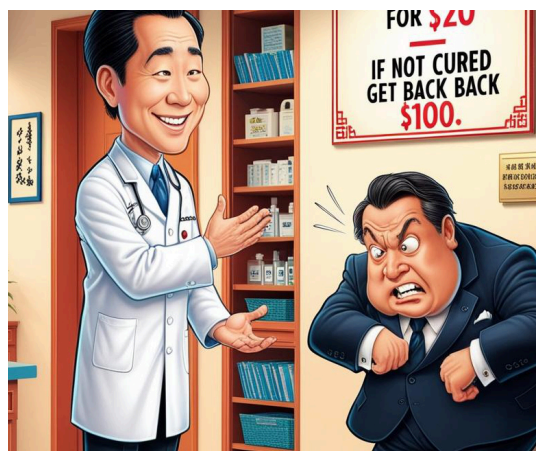
Lawyer: "Doc, I've lost my sense of taste."

Doctor: "Nurse, bring medicine from box No. 22. Put three drops in the patient's mouth."

Lawyer: "Ugh! That's kerosene!"

Doctor: "Congrats, your taste is back! That'll be \$20."

Continued on next page





Find 10 Differences



Solution on Page 24



FROM PAGE 8

Annoyed but not giving up, the lawyer returned a few days later.

Lawyer: "I've lost my memory. I can't remember a thing."

Doctor: "Nurse, bring medicine from box No. 22 and put three drops in his mouth."

Lawyer: "Hey — that's kerosene! You gave me this last time!"

Doctor: "Congrats, your memory's back! That'll be \$20."

Now fuming, the lawyer came back one last time, determined to win the \$100.

Lawyer: "Doc, my eyesight is so bad — I can't see a thing!"

Doctor: "I'm sorry, I don't have any medicine for that. Here's your \$100."

The doctor handed him a \$20 bill. Lawyer (squinting): "Hey, wait! This is only \$20, not \$100!"

Doctor: "Congrats, your eyesight's restored! That'll be \$20."

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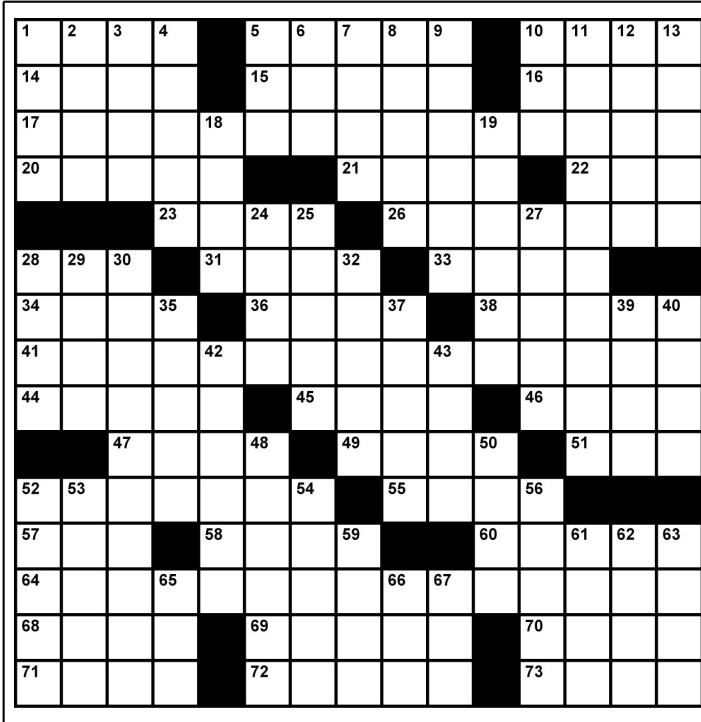
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Across

1. Expert
5. Catch, in a way
10. Center of authority
14. Cuckoos
15. Impede
16. Bridge toll unit
17. Easy to pick up
20. Baffled
21. One of the Simpsons
22. Supply with ammo
23. Marriage, for one?
26. Raw liquors
28. "China Beach" setting
31. Capture
33. Lagerlöf's "The Wonderful Adventures of ____"
34. "Right away!"
36. Applications
38. Hotel posting
41. Ghost whisperer?
44. Money in the bank, say
45. Case
46. Peeved
47. "How ____ Mehta Got Kissed, Got Wild, and Got a Life" (Kaavya Viswanathan novel)
49. "My ____!"
51. This moment
52. Bathtub type
55. Jupiter, e.g.
57. Charlotte-to-Raleigh dir.
58. Frozen desserts
60. Karate moves
64. Sadly
68. Fill
69. Cookie Monster cohort
70. Call to a mate
71. 1914 battle line
72. Big Bertha's birthplace
73. Combine

Down

1. Apple variety
2. Condo, e.g.
3. Fixes, in a way
4. "Confessions" singer
5. Grassland
6. Balaam's mount
7. Attempt
8. As yet
9. Genetic material
10. Took a load off
11. Extreme fatigue
12. Notify
13. College units
18. Detective, at times
19. Clothing
24. Drawn tight
25. Arise
27. Sword lilies, for short
28. Astronaut's org.
29. Deadly biters
30. Small house, in London
32. End
35. Warms up
37. Turned sideways
39. 100 cents
40. Old World duck
42. Bologna home
43. Bog
48. Chinese fruit tree
50. "That hurt!"
52. Full of gossip
53. Son of Simon the Just
54. Noblemen
56. Bundle
59. Minus
61. Diamond Head locale
62. Some Olympians, nowadays
63. Eye affliction
65. "____ Town Too" (1981 hit)
66. Go for the gold
67. Appetite

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**I speak without a mouth
and hear without ears.
I have no body, but I
come alive with wind.**

What am I?



"If you are not content with what you have, you would not be satisfied if it were doubled."
Charles Spurgeon

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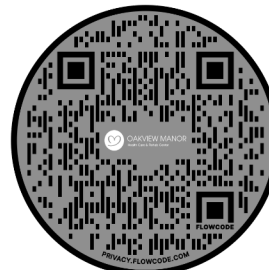
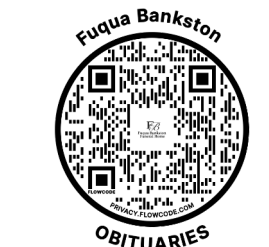
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EXAMPLES



AUNT T'S KITCHEN

CHICKEN SOUTH OF THE BORDER

SLOW COOKER CREAMY GREEN CHILE CHICKEN ENCHILADA SOUP

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 pounds boneless skinless chicken breasts
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon onion powder
- 1 tablespoon ground cumin
- 1 tablespoon chili powder, green chile powder if possible
- Kosher salt and fresh ground black pepper to taste
- 8 ounce diced green chiles
- 15 ounce can green enchilada sauce
- 4 cups low sodium chicken broth
- 2 15 ounce can cannellini beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 cup frozen corn
- 4 ounces low fat cream cheese room temperature
- 1 cup plain Greek yogurt 2% or whole milk Greek yogurt work best
- Shredded Monterey Jack cheese cilantro and avocado slices for toppings



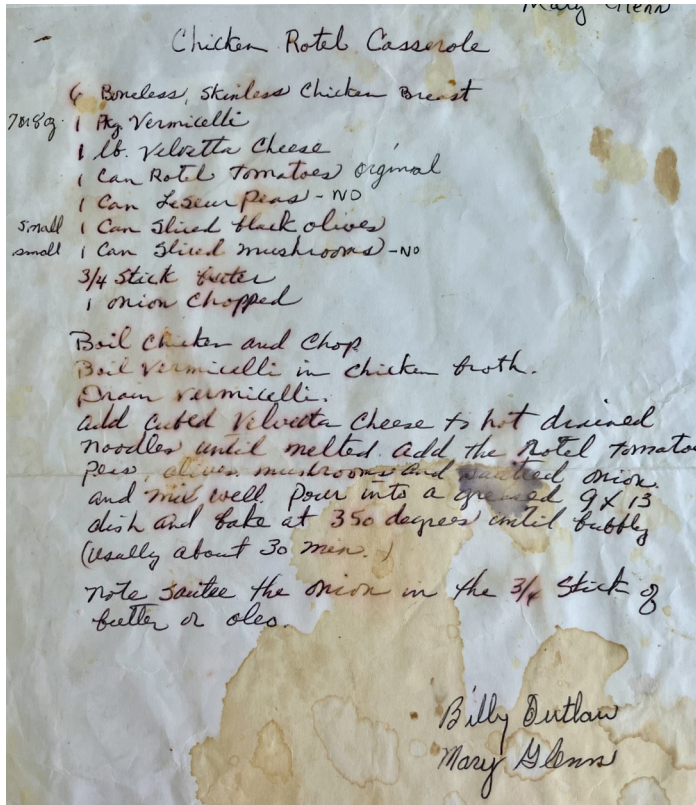
Instructions

1. Add the ingredients through the corn into the slow cooker, stir and cover with the lid. Set on low for approximately 6 hours, medium for 4 hours or high for 3 hours.
2. When the time is up remove the chicken breasts and let them cool for several minutes before shredding. Once shredded add the chicken back in.
3. Whisk in the cream cheese until it incorporated. Turn off the slow cooker and whisk in the Greek yogurt. Whisk immediately so that the yogurt doesn't curdle. Serve the soup topped with shredded cheese, cilantro and avocado slices.

ONE PAN MEXICAN CHICKEN AND RICE

Ingredients

- 3 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- 1/2 white onion, diced finely
- 1 pound boneless skinless chicken breasts, cut into bite sized pieces
- 1 teaspoon of kosher salt and freshly ground pepper to taste
- 2 cloves of garlic, minced
- 1 cup uncooked long grain white rice
- 1 (10 oz) can red enchilada sauce
- 1 (10 oz) can diced tomatoes and green chilies, undrained
- 1 cup water
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese or Mexican-blend cheese
- optional Toppings: sour cream, tomatoes, diced avocado, cilantro



MY AUNT MARY'S CHICKEN ROTEL CASSEROLE

Ingredients

- 6 Boneless, skinless chicken breast
- 1 Pkg Vermicelli
- 1 lb Velveeta cheese
- 1 can Rotel tomatoes original
- 1 can Leseur peas
- 1 small can black olives
- 1 small can sliced mushrooms
- 3/4 stick butter
- 1 onion chopped

Directions

1. Boil chicken and chop
2. Boil Vermicelli in chicken broth
3. Drain Vermicelli
4. Add cubed Velveeta cheese to hot drained noodles until melted
5. Add the Rotel tomatoes, peas, olives, mushrooms and sauteed onions and mix well.
6. Pour into a greased 9 x 13 dish and bake at 350 degrees until bubbly. (Usually about 30 minutes)
7. Note: Saute the onions in the 3/4 stick of butter or oleo.

Mary Scott Glenn

AUNT T'S KITCHEN

Instructions

1. In a large skillet (about 12-inch) or pan, sauté onions in two tablespoons of olive oil over medium heat. Season chicken with salt and pepper.
2. Once onions soften, increase the heat to medium high and add chicken to the pan.
3. Brown the chicken pieces and add the garlic. Cook for about 1 more minute.
4. Push chicken to one side of the pan and add additional tablespoon of olive oil to other side.
5. Add the uncooked rice in the olive oil and saute it for a couple of minutes.
6. Add the enchilada sauce, diced tomatoes, water and cumin. Stir to combine. Bring mixture to a boil then lower the heat to a simmer and cover the pan with a tight fitting lid.
7. Cook chicken and rice mixture covered for about 15 minutes or until rice is tender and the liquid is absorbed making sure to stir every once in a while.
8. Sprinkle cheese on top and cover with a lid, letting it sit for 1-2 minutes or until cheese has melted.
9. Top with desired toppings and eat!

CREAMY CHIPOTLE CHICKEN

Ingredients

- 1 lb. chicken (I used 2 boneless chicken breasts)
- 1.5 cups stock
- 1/2 cup heavy cream
- 1-3 chipotles in adobo chopped and seeds removed
- 1 garlic clove minced
- 1/2 small onion finely chopped
- 2 tablespoons flour (optional)
- 1/2 teaspoon Mexican oregano
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1/4 teaspoon salt (plus more to taste)
- freshly cracked black pepper
- freshly chopped cilantro (optional)



Instructions

1. Slice the chicken breasts in half lengthwise.
2. Season the chicken well with salt and pepper. Heat up 2 tablespoons of butter in a skillet or saucepan. Cook the chicken for a few minutes on both sides.
3. Once the chicken is lightly browned on both sides remove from the pan, setting aside. Note: there's a final simmer coming up so I'm not too worried about cooking the chicken all the way through just yet.
4. Add onion to the pan. There will probably be enough butter leftover to cook it, but if not feel free to add more. Cook the onion for a few minutes until softened. Add a minced garlic clove and briefly cook, then add 2 tablespoons of flour. Stir well for a couple minutes.
5. Add to the pan Mexican oregano, salt, and black pepper. Note: I usually scrape out the seeds of the

CHICKEN SOUTH OF THE BORDER

chipotles as they tend to harden over time, but this is optional.

6. Bring this mixture up to temp and then add it all to a blender or food processor, combining well. Return the mixture to the same pan and drizzle heavy cream, stirring regularly to combine well. Gently bring this creamy mixture up to a simmer. Give it a final taste for seasoning.
7. Once the creamy chipotle sauce is gently simmering you can add the chicken pieces back to the pan. Give them enough time in the pan to come back to temp and fully cook through.
8. Serve immediately with your choice of garnish.. For quick meals simply plop the chicken over some cooked white rice and drench it with the delicious creamy chipotle sauce. Enjoy!!

*Bless the food
before us,*

*the family
beside us,*

*and the love
between us.*

Amen.



piggly wiggly.

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- Carrie Fisher

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**EXERCISE**

One of my friends hates exercise. To her, getting up in the morning is a moving violation.

The only exercise she get is pushing her luck, stretching the truth, and jumping to conclusions.

Although, she has been known to carry a grudge.

LONG SPEECH

A man giving a moving long-winded speech finally says, "I'm sorry I talked so long. I left my watch at home."

A voice from the crowd says, "There's a calendar behind you."

WORD PLAY

My girlfriend is fed up of my constant wordplay jokes.

I asked her, "What should I do to stop my addiction?"

She said, "Hey, whatever means necessary." "No, no it doesn't," I said.



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but can't cure cancer...

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you have to
eat your words,
chew your ego,
swallow your
pride and
accept your
mistakes.
It's not
giving up.
It's called
growing up.

REBUS PUZZLE

Rebuses use pictures or symbols to convey sounds or words, often requiring lateral thinking to decipher. **Solution on page 29**

WINEEE	HOUSE	T A H W M U S T
a t r i l r a i t l t r a i l i t a r l	S O U P	N V
thought but thought thought	H O U R	I U
dead dead dead dead	A W A Y	π%

Ours may become the first civilization destroyed , not by the powers of our enemies, but by the ignorance of our teachers and the dangerous nonsense they are are teaching our children.

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WHY DO BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE

By Wallace Kennedy, Jr.



The question of why God allows bad things to happen to good people is a complex theological and philosophical one, without a single, universally accepted answer. There are a lot of facets and reasons why things happen to us. The mind and ways of God exceeds our understanding of what God is doing.

Psalms 119:71 It is good for me that I have been afflicted, That I may learn Your statutes.

Can you recall a time when God redeemed a trial or affliction you were going through by bringing you closer to Christ? Have you ever been sure you were right, only to realize you were dead wrong? Surely, we all can relate to those two questions. When God reveals the truth of His Word to us, we can proudly resist or humbly change our ways: Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. **2 Corinthians 7:10**

“Why Do Bad Things Happen To Good People”:

- Suffering can be a catalyst for spiritual growth, a test of faith, or a means to develop compassion for others.
- Suffering can be an opportunity to learn, grow, and develop resilience, empathy, and compassion.

- Trials and tribulations can provide opportunities to manifest God's power and demonstrate genuine faith to others.
- God may use difficult experiences to teach us valuable lessons and to help us heal from past hurts.
- Some believe that God is in control, and that even seemingly bad things are part of a larger plan that will ultimately lead to good.
- Some religious traditions, like Hinduism and Buddhism, explain suffering through the concept of karma, where actions have consequences, and suffering can be a result of past actions. **Galatians 6:7** Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.
- Living in a fallen world means we can encounter hardship, injustice, and various forms of evil, as these are seen as natural outcomes of the world's fallen state. This could manifest natural disasters, human conflict, personal struggles, and the prevalence of sin and wrongdoing in society.

Regardless of the reason for suffering, the focus should remain on trusting in God's love and goodness, even in the midst of difficult times. **Romans 8:28** And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. (NIV)

Blessings to everyone reading this article. May our Lord keep you in His care, may His face shine on you and be gracious to you; and may the Lord lift up his countenance on you and give you peace". Have a wonderful Mother's Day celebration.

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good heart?

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wrapped in a smart
mouth and a lil bit of
attitude.



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Thomas Sowell

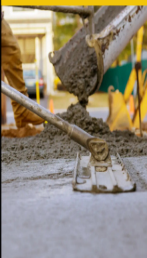
Ours may become the
first civilization
destroyed , not by the
powers of our
enemies, but by the
ignorance of our
teachers and the
dangerous nonsense
they are are teaching
our children.

Don't let anyone who hasn't been in your shoes tell you how to tie your laces.

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when people don't.

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The sad part of parenting is that you're raising the one thing that you don't want to live without, to be able to live without you.

I was heartbroken when my wife told me that my five-year-old was not my son; then she told me to pay more attention at kindergarten pickup.

Stephen King has a brother named Joe...
I'm not joking, but he is.

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- Doug Larson

Hoppergrass

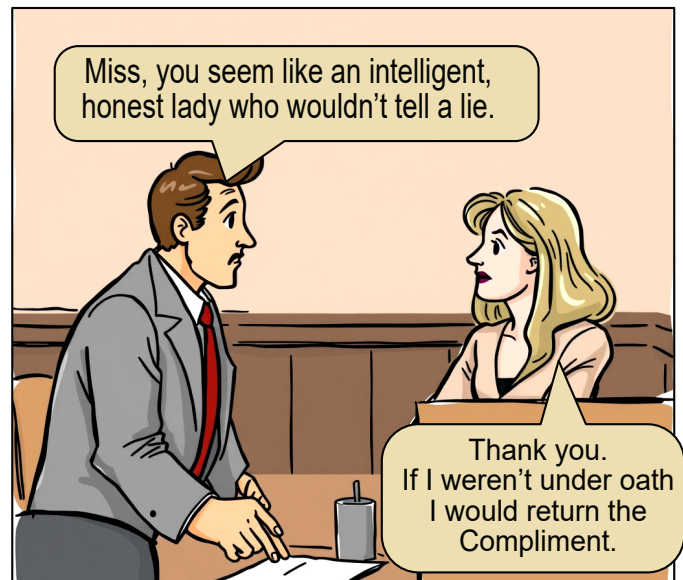
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I have cities, but no houses.
I have mountains, but no trees.
I have water, but no fish.

What am I?



Why Worry?

The Bible tells us there's a difference between our plans and God's. We are told not to boast about tomorrow because we don't have any guarantees what will happen (Pro 27:1). James speaks on the same theme, telling us that we are foolish for speaking confidently about what we will do tomorrow in business or life. Our life is "but a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes" (James 4:13-17). OK let's hear it all you worrywarts. Now you have to worry about vanishing and not waking up in the morning and all the things that won't get done. My wife has a pillow in the bedroom that says, "Give it to God and go to bed".

What better words could be in your head when you go to bed? Monday night I went to bed with a heart procedure the next day. I gave it to God and went to sleep. When I was being prepped one of the technicians asked me where I was from originally, I told him Blountstown. He

Wise Words

BY HAYES WISE

laughed and said "Get out of here, I'm from Grand Ridge". The other tech said, I want you to tell me the truth. Is there really a place called Two Egg?" I told him my Aunt Faybelle, that made the best lemon-meringue pie in the world, had lived there. They told me not to worry about the procedure and I told them I wasn't because God was in the room with me and was holding both of them and would be guiding the doctors. That I was guaranteed to wake up here, or

in glory. I had nothing to worry about.

I'm still here so God's not through with me yet. "Can all your worries add a single moment to your life? Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need. So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today". (Mat 6:27-34). Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die." (John 11:25). Why worry?

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The boss was puzzled when one of his most reliable employees didn't show up for work and hadn't called in. With an urgent issue on his hands, he decided to call the employee's home.

The phone rang and was answered by a child's soft whisper: "Hello."

"Hi there," the boss said kindly.

"Is your Daddy home?"

"Yes," whispered the little voice.

"Can I speak with him?"

"No," came the quiet reply.

A bit surprised, the boss asked, "Is your Mommy there?"

"Yes," the child whispered.

"Can I talk to her?"

"No," the child replied again.

Now getting concerned, the boss asked, "Is anyone else there?"

"Yes," whispered the child, "a policeman."

The boss, now alarmed, asked, "May I speak with the policeman?"

"No, he's busy," came the whisper.

"Busy doing what?" the boss pressed.

"Talking to Mommy and Daddy and the fireman," the child said.

The boss was getting more worried by the second, especially when he heard a strange rumbling noise through the phone.

"What's that sound?" he asked.

"A helicopter," the child whispered.

Now truly alarmed, the boss said, "What's going on there?"

The child paused for a moment, then whispered back with a soft giggle, "The search team just landed the helicopter."

The boss, now completely baffled, asked, "What are they searching for?"

The little voice giggled even more and whispered, "Me!"



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a kid was Andy Zoff.
He was the fastest boy at
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Claybank Master Gardeners May 2025

Hopefully by the time this issue of *Laughs and Lifts* appears you will still have time to attend the "Tomato de Mayo" Lunch and Learn workshop on May 2nd at the Dale County Extension Office, 202 South Hwy 123, Suite D Ozark, AL. It will be held from Noon to 1 PM, bring for yourself a snack or sandwich if you wish. You will learn about growing tomatoes, safe food prep and snacks. The first 20 to pre-register will receive a free tomato transplant grown by Master Gardeners. Call (334) 774-2329 to register at the Extension Office.

If you miss the workshop but would like to learn more about growing tomatoes, you can call the Extension Office at the number given above and they will connect you with the right person.

The SOW app recommends the following seeds to start in your zone in May: Basil, Cantaloupe, Collards, Corn, Cucumbers, Mexican Kohlrabi, Lima beans, Tarragon (mint marigold), Oregano, Rosemary, Snap beans, Southern peas, Summer Squash, Thyme, Watermelon, and Winter Squash. Sweet potatoes can be grown easily from transplants. Beauregard, Jewel, O'Henry are some of the varieties that work well in our zone. For sweet potatoes, the ideal pH level is 6.2 to 6.5.



The SOW app is designed for Alabama, Kentucky, and North Carolina, but the zone will be different depending on your location. In north Dale County our zone is 8a. The app will calculate your zone for you.

Knowing your soil's pH is a game changer for good success in whatever you want to plant. Auburn University soil test kits are available at the Extension Office. It may take a couple of weeks or longer for Auburn to get the results back to you, so don't delay. Knowing what you need to amend your soil is important to provide the necessary nutrients for the crops you wish to grow.

The SOW app also gives information about when to grow transplants, potential insect issues and potential remedies, and so much more by just clicking on any one of the 50 types of vegetables or herbs you find listed. You can also add in any crops you wish that may not be listed.

The Claybank Master Gardeners Plant Sale is (or was, by the time you read this) April 26th at the Ozark Farmer's Market.

Claybank Master Gardeners meet monthly at Hoppergrass Restaurant, on the 2nd Wednesday; May 14th 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.



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"No," said the husband, "a 1979 Cadillac!"

DIED OWING

An elderly man took his little grandson for a walk around the local cemetery.

Pausing before one gravestone he said,

"There lies a very honest man. He died owing me 50 dollars, but he struggled to the end to pay off his debts, and if anyone has gone to heaven, he has."

They walked on a bit further and then came to another grave.

The old man pointed to the gravestone and said, "Now there's a different type of man altogether. He owed me 60 dollars and he died without ever trying to pay me back. If anyone has gone to hell, he has."

The little boy thought for a while and then said, "You know, Grandpa, you are very lucky."

"Why?" asked the old man in surprise.

"Well, whichever place you go to, you'll have some money to draw on."

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the river.****We need to go
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out why they're falling
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EASIEST QUIZ...**

1. How long did the Hundred Years War last?
2. Which country makes Panama hats?
3. Where do we get catgut?
4. In which month do Russians celebrate the October Revolution?
5. What is a camel's hair brush made of?
6. The Canary Islands in the Atlantic are named after what animal?
7. What was King George VI's first name?
8. What color is the purple finch?
9. What country do Chinese gooseberries come from?
10. How long did the Thirty Years War last?

PENCILS DOWN (Answers)

1. 116 years, from 1337 to 1453
2. Ecuador
3. From sheep and horses
4. November, since the Russian calendar was 13 days behind ours
5. Squirrel fur
6. The Latin name was Insularia Canaria - Island of the Dogs
7. Albert. He respected Queen Victoria's wish that no future King should be called Albert
8. Distinctly crimson
9. New Zealand
10. Thirty years, of course—from 1618 to 1648



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success?
Right decisions.**

**How do you make
right decisions?
Experience.**

**How do you gain
experience?
Wrong decisions.**

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single ant can live up
to 29 years?

Wow!
What about
a married one?



REBUS SOLUTION

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But on second thought

Greenhouse

Happy hour

What goes up
Must come down

I believe you

Trail mix

Left for dead

Split pea soup

Fade away

Green with envy

Pirate ship

A man went to his doctor for his annual checkup, looking a little worried. The first thing the doctor asked was if anything was bothering him.

"Well, Doc... to be honest, yes," the patient replied. "I've been getting so forgetful lately. I can't remember where I parked my car, whether I've already written that letter, or even where I'm going! And when I get there, I don't even know what I'm supposed to do! I'm at my wit's end, Doc. What can I do about it?"

The doctor paused for a moment, then smiled and said, "Simple. Pay me in advance."



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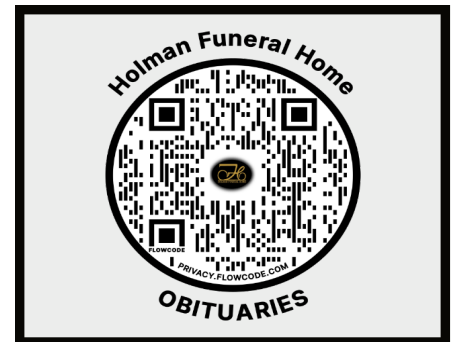
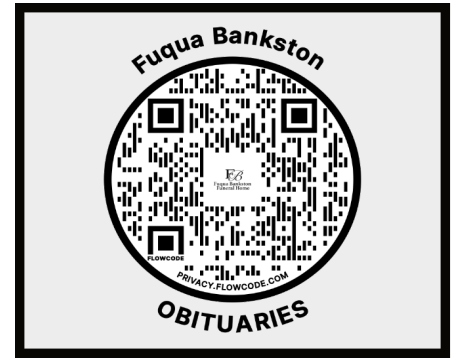


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The fitness instructor
asked me, "What kind of a squat are you
accustomed to doing?"
I told her . "Diddly."

OBITUARIES



A wise old southern preacher answered the question of "How do I know if I'm saved?"
He said " If you are, what you were, then you ain't !"

What do Alexander the Great
and Winnie the Pooh have in
common?

Same middle name.

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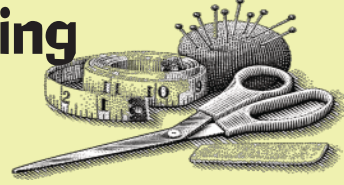
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Pea River
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Historical marker near Blue Springs State Park