

LAUGHS & LIFTS

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**VOLUME 204
SEPTEMBER 2025**



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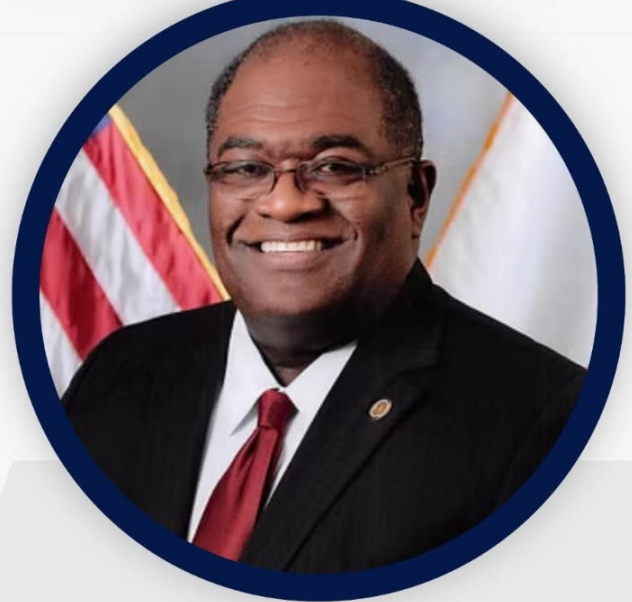
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FORWARD
WITH WARD
AS
OZARK MAYOR**Paid Political Advertising by Ward for Mayor, P.O. Box 40, Ozark, Alabama 36361**FROM THE BADGE TO THE MAYOR OFFICE**

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I am truly humbled and honored to have been elected as your next Mayor. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for your trust, your confidence, and your support. This victory belongs not just to me, but to all of us who believe in the future of our community.

I want to thank my family, my campaign team, our volunteers, and every supporter who knocked on doors, made phone calls, shared ideas, and offered encouragement along the way. Your hard work and dedication made this possible.

I also want to recognize and thank Mr. Blankenship for his passion and commitment to our city. Campaigns are never easy, and they helped shine a light on important issues that we must continue to work together to address.

As Mayor, I promise to lead with openness, integrity, and a genuine desire to serve all of our citizens—whether you voted for me or not. Together, we will focus on making our community stronger, safer, and more prosperous, while preserving the values and spirit that make it such a great place to call home.

Thank you again for giving me the privilege to serve. I am excited for all that lies ahead, and I look forward to working side by side with each of you.

With gratitude,

Charles Ward

Mayor-Elect

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I just saw a grandpa help a youngster who was staring into his phone, to cross the street.

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Sunday, September 7th at 10 A.M. and 5 P.M.
Monday, September 8th at 6:30 P.M.
Tuesday, September 9th at 6:30 P.M.
Wednesday, September 10th at 6:30 P.M.

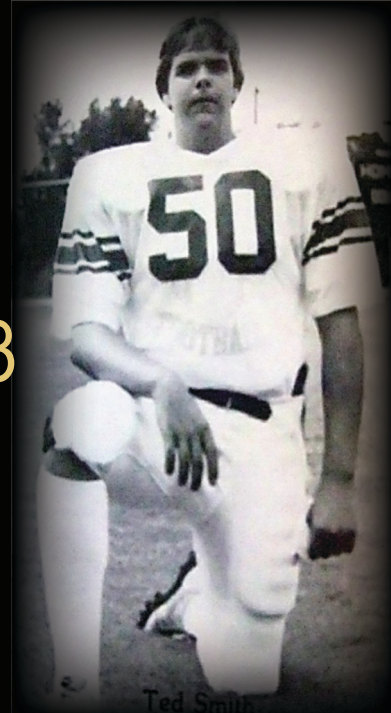

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I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.



As summer winds down and we step into September, Laughs & Lifts is here to brighten your days with a fresh dose of joy and inspiration. This month, we celebrate the power of laughter and kindness—the two best remedies for life's ups and downs. September is a month marked by significant moments in history that remind us of resilience and hope. We reflect on the somber remembrance of 9/11, a day that forever changed our world and showcased the unity and bravery of ordinary people rising to extraordinary challenges. At the same time, we celebrate the present as communities across the nation continue to rebuild, grow, and stand strong together.

In addition to remembering the past, September brings a change of seasons and a natural opportunity for renewed energy and optimism. It's a time when families come together to enjoy cooler days, back-to-school moments, and the simple pleasures of life. For many, it also means the return of one of the most cherished traditions—Friday night high school football games, where communities gather to cheer on local teams and celebrate the spirit of youth and competition. Saturdays bring the

excitement of college football, stirring up passion and pride as teams battle for glory on the field.

In a world that often feels rushed and heavy, it's vital to pause and find moments that uplift our spirits, whether through a clever joke, a heartwarming story, or the warmth of a shared smile. Our September edition is packed with family-friendly jokes, puzzles, and uplifting articles designed to spark laughter and light. This issue reminds us that humor brings us together, bridges generations, and helps us face challenges with courage and grace. We also celebrate the quiet strength found in everyday acts of kindness and the simple joys that make life rich and meaningful.

At Laughs & Lifts, we believe joy is a gift worth sharing. So, grab your favorite treat, gather your loved ones, and dive into this issue filled with laughter, light, and love. Here's to a September full of smiles, hope, and the kind of laughter that truly lifts the soul.

Keep laughing& keep lifting each other up!

Roger Parrish

"If we knew what it was we were doing, it would not be called research, would it?"

- Albert Einstein

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NOTE FROM THE PUBLISHER

Almost every day readers tell me how much they love Laughs and Lifts, & how this "little magazine" touched their lives. I want to thank you, the reader and advertisers, for making Laughs and Lifts successful. God Bless You All.

"Nobody wants a God who declines to deal with evil. They just want a God who declines to deal with their evil"

- Greg Gilbert

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in about
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"Every society gets the kind of criminal it deserves. What is equally true is that every community gets the the kind of law enforcement it insists on."

~ Robert Kennedy



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Good things become bad when we love them more than God.

*Well, J.C.,
I guess they will
have to finish
construction on
Ross Clark Circle
in the dark.*



The first time Yogi Berra was catching with Ted Williams at bat, the first pitch is thrown and the umpire calls "Ball!"

Yogi glares at him angrily. Second pitch, same thing: "Ball!"

Yogi growls, "That was a strike!"

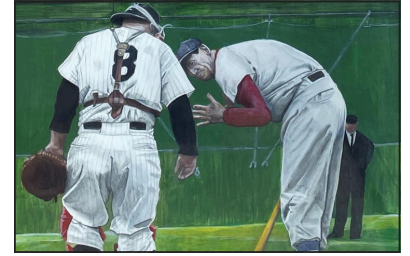
Third pitch, again: "Ball!"

This time, Yogi jumps up in the umpire's face, shouting, "That was a strike!!"

Instead of ejecting him, the umpire calmly asks, "Did Mr. Williams swing at the ball?"

"Yogi admits, "No."

"Then it was a ball," the ump says. "Play ball!"



A hospital corpsman and I were getting an elderly retired master chief petty officer out of his wheelchair, when I noticed the man had a tattoo on his knee. "What's that?" I asked, unable to make out the design.

"It's a banjo," he said sheepishly. "I'm from Alabama."

A young man called his mother and announced excitedly that he had just met the woman of his dreams. Now what should he do?

His mother had an idea: "Why don't you send her flowers, and on the card invite her to your apartment for a home-cooked meal?"

He thought this was a great strategy, and a week later, the woman came to dinner. His mother called the next day to see how things had gone.

"I was totally humiliated," he moaned. "She insisted on washing the dishes."

"What's wrong with that?" asked his mother.

"We hadn't started eating yet."



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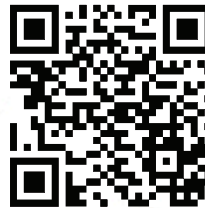
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A JEWISH FATHER'S CONCERN

A Jewish father was concerned about his son who was about a year away from his Bar Mitzvah but was sorely lacking in his knowledge of the Jewish faith. To remedy this he sent his son to Israel to experience his heritage.

A year later the young man returned home. "Father, thank you for sending me to the land of our Fathers," the son said. "It was wonderful and enlightening, however, I must confess that while in Israel I converted to Christianity."

"Oy vey," replied the father, "what have I done." So in the tradition of the patriarchs, he went to his best friend and sought his advice and solace. "It is amazing that you should come to me," stated his friend. "I too sent my son to Israel and he returned a Christian."

So in the tradition of the patriarchs, they went to the Rabbi. "It is amazing that you should come to me," stated the Rabbi, "I too sent my son to Israel and he returned a Christian. What is happening to our sons? Brothers, we must take this to the Lord," said the Rabbi. They fell to their knees and began to wail and pour out their hearts to the Almighty.

As they prayed the clouds above opened and a Mighty Voice stated "Amazing that you should come to Me. I, too, sent My Son to Israel....."

It's as hot as an oven outside, when I opened the front door I thought I was checking on the cornbread.

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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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@ RogerParrish LaughsandLifts



STRAWBERRY PRETZEL SALAD

Serving: 12

Yield: 17 x 11 inch salad

Ingredients

- 1 ½ cups crushed pretzels
- ¾ cup butter, melted
- 4 ½ tablespoons white sugar
- 2 (8 ounce) packages cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1 (8 ounce) container frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 2 cups boiling water
- 1 (6 ounce) package strawberry flavored Jell-O
- 1 (16 ounce) package frozen strawberries



Directions

Step 1 Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F

Step 2 Mix together pretzels, melted butter, and 4 1/2 tablespoons sugar in a medium bowl until well combined. Press into the bottom of a 9x13-inch dish.

Step 3 Press into the bottom of a 9x13 inch pan. Bake for 10 minutes, or until lightly toasted. Set aside to cool completely.

Step 4 In a medium bowl, beat the sugar and cream cheese until smooth.

Step 5 Fold in whipped topping and spread evenly over the cooled crust. Refrigerate until set, about 30 minutes.

Step 6 Stir together boiling water and gelatin mix in a second large bowl. Mix in frozen strawberries; stir until thawed.

Step 7 Pour over cream cheese mixture in the dish. Refrigerate until completely chilled, at least 1 hour.

WATERGATE SALAD

Servings: 8

Ingredients

- 1 (3.4 ounce) package instant pistachio pudding mix
- 1 (8 ounce) can crushed pineapple, with juice
- 1 cup miniature marshmallows
- ½ cup chopped walnuts
- 4 ounces frozen whipped topping, thawed



Directions

1. Combine crushed pineapple with juice, instant pudding mix, mini marshmallows, and walnuts in a large serving bowl. Mix until well combined.
2. Fold in whipped topping, then chill for 1 to 2 hours before serving.
3. When ready to serve, garnish with crushed pistachios and maraschino cherries.

THERE'S ALWAYS ROOM FOR JELLO

CHERRY SUPREME SALAD

Servings: 12

Yield: 1 - 7x11 inch salad

Ingredients

- 1 (3 ounce) package strawberry flavored Jell-O® gelatin
- 1 cup boiling water
- 1 (21 ounce) can cherry pie filling
- 1 (3 ounce) package lemon flavored Jell-O® gelatin
- ¾ cup boiling water
- ¼ cup lemon juice
- 1 (3 ounce) package cream cheese
- ⅓ cup mayonnaise
- 1 (8 ounce) can crushed pineapple, undrained
- 2 cups miniature marshmallows
- ½ cup whipped cream
- ½ cup chopped walnuts



Directions

Dissolve the strawberry gelatin in 1 cup of boiling water. Stir in the cherry pie filling, then spread the mixture into a 7x11 inch pan, and refrigerate until nearly set, about 45 minutes.

Dissolve the lemon gelatin in ¾ cup boiling water; stir in the lemon juice, and set aside. Mash the cream cheese in a separate bowl until soft, then stir in the mayonnaise. Pour the lemon gelatin into the cream cheese mixture and stir until smooth. Next, stir in the undrained pineapple. Finally, fold in the marshmallows and whipped cream.

Spread the pineapple mixture over the chilled cherry layer, and sprinkle with chopped walnuts. Chill in the refrigerator until fully set, about 2 hours.

ORANGE BUTTERMILK SALAD

Servings: 10

Yield: 10 servings

Ingredients

- 1 (20 ounce) can crushed pineapple, undrained
- 3 tablespoons white sugar
- 1 (6 ounce) package orange flavored Jell-O®
- 2 cups buttermilk
- 1 (8 ounce) container frozen whipped topping, thawed



Directions

Mix pineapple and sugar together in a medium saucepan, and bring to a low boil, stirring occasionally. Stir in gelatin until completely



dissolved, remove from heat, and cool to room temperature. Add buttermilk, and refrigerate 1 hour, or until partially set.

Gently fold in whipped topping. Pour mixture into a lightly oiled gelatin mold. Refrigerate 8 hours, or until completely set.

STRAWBERRY FLUFF

Servings: 9

Yield: 8 to 10 servings

Ingredients

- 2 (3 ounce) packages strawberry flavored Jell-O®
- 1 (16 ounce) package cottage cheese
- 1 (8 ounce) container frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 1 (20 ounce) can crushed pineapple, drained



Directions

In a mixing bowl, combine the gelatin mix, cottage cheese, whipped topping and pineapple. Mix together well, refrigerate until chilled and serve.

PINEAPPLE PRETZEL SALAD

Servings: 18

Yield: 1 - 9x13 inch dish

Ingredients

- 2 cups crushed pretzels
- 1 cup butter, melted
- 1 (8 ounce) package cream cheese
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1 (8 ounce) container frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 2 (20 ounce) cans crushed pineapple
- ½ (3.4 ounce) package instant vanilla pudding mix



Directions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F

Place crushed pretzels in the bottom of a 9x13 inch baking dish. Pour melted butter carefully over top. Bake in preheated oven 10 minutes.

Cream together cream cheese and sugar. Fold in whipped topping. Spread over cooled crust. Combine pineapple and pudding mix. Spread over whipped topping layer. Chill until serving

THERE'S ALWAYS ROOM FOR JELLO

RED HOT APPLESAUCE JELL-O

Serve alongside a ham or turkey. Or as a refreshing holiday dessert.

Servings: 12

Ingredients

- ½ cup cinnamon red hot candies
- 1 cup water
- 1 (3 ounce) package cherry-flavored gelatin (such as JELL-O)
- 2 cups applesauce



Directions

1. Dissolve cinnamon candies in water in a saucepan over medium heat. Mix in gelatin and allow to dissolve; remove from heat and stir applesauce into mixture. Pour into a serving dish and refrigerate until set, about 2 hours.

CREAMSICLE ORANGE COOKIES

Servings: 24

Ingredients

- 15.25 ounces white cake mix 1 box
- 3 ounces orange jello 1 box
- 2 tablespoons orange zest
- 8 tablespoons salted butter softened
- 2 large eggs room temperature
- 11 ounces white chocolate chips



Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 350°F. Line two large baking sheets with parchment paper or a silicone baking mat. Set aside.
2. In a large mixing bowl or the bowl of a stand mixer, whisk together the white cake mix, orange gelatin powder and orange zest until fully combined.
3. Add the butter and eggs to the bowl. Use a hand mixer or stand mixer to beat the ingredients together just until combined, about 2 minutes, scraping down the sides and bottom of the bowl as needed.
4. Add the white chocolate chips and fold into the cookie dough.
5. Use a 1 ½ tablespoon cookie scoop to scoop out the dough, roll the dough into a ball and place on the prepared cookie sheet. Repeat with the remaining dough making sure to leave about 2 inches between each ball.
6. Bake the cookies for 10 to 13 minutes or until the edges are set. Remove the cookies from the oven and let cool for about 10 minutes on the baking sheet before removing to a cooling rack to finish cooling.

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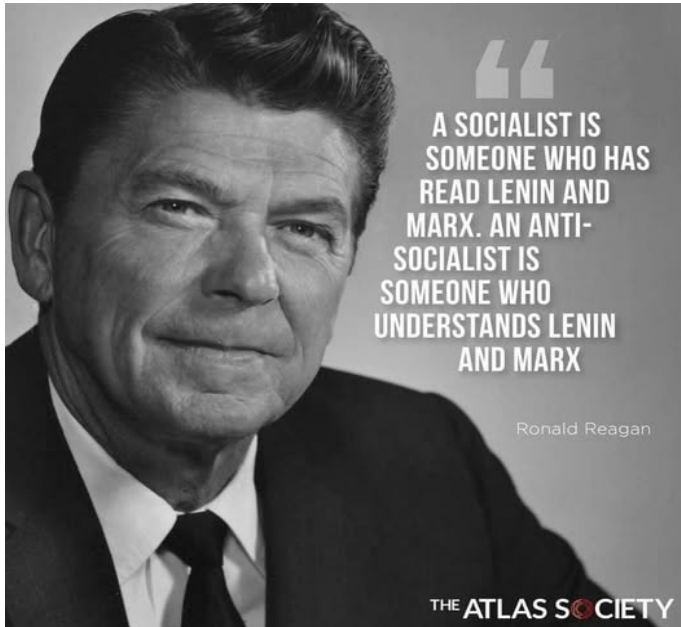
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Eighteen months ago, President Biden received and was reading a report that there were over 100,000 cattle guards in Colorado. The Colorado ranchers had protested his proposed changes in grazing policies, so he ordered the Secretary of the Interior to fire half of the "cattle" guards immediately! Before the Secretary of the Interior could respond and presumably try to straighten President Biden out on the matter, Vice-President Harris, intervened with a request that...before any "cattle" guards were fired, they be given six months of retraining. 'Times are hard,' said Harris, 'it's only fair to the cattle guards and their families be given six months of retraining! Is it any wonder why our country got into such bad shape.



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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Her mom first asked for world peace. Sarah swung her wand and proclaimed the request fulfilled.

Next, her mother requested for a cure for all ill children. Again, with a sweep of the pinwheel, Sarah obliged.

The mother, with a glance down at her rather ample curves, made her third wish, "I wish to have a trim figure again."

The miniature fairy godmother started waving her wand madly.

"I'll need more power for this!" she exclaimed.

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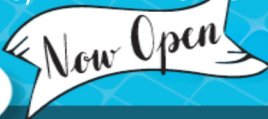
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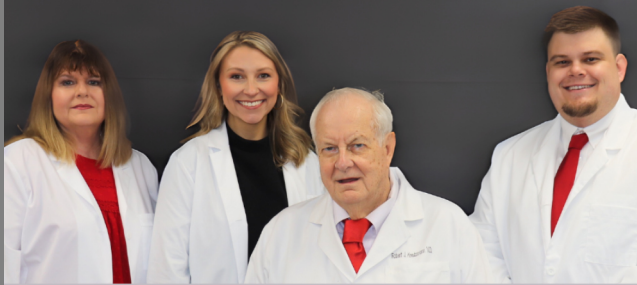


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DAY!

*Sunday
September 7th*

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By Wallace Kennedy, Jr.

Birthmarks are areas of discolored and/or raised skin that are apparent at birth or within a few weeks of birth. Birthmarks are made up of malformed pigment cells or blood vessels. Although the cause of birthmarks is not known, most of them are benign (noncancerous) and do not require treatment.

Our second birth, (accepting Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Savior) we no longer bare the "birthmark" of Adam. Anyone united with Jesus Christ, is created new, and gets a fresh start. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 2 Corinthians 5:17 ESV

We are not identified by outward appearance, religious paraphernalia, such as: wearing a cross, WWJD bracelets, Jesus bumper-stickers, or any other superficial items.

Now we bare the "birthmark" of Jesus, and people will know that we are His by our "birthmark":

Instead, Jesus tells us that we are known by our fruit: "By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?

Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree



bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them" (Matthew 7:16-20).

Our new "birthmark" is: The "fruit" that Jesus is talking about, "is the Fruit of the Spirit". Galatians 5:22-23 The Holy Spirit

produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

When you see the "golden arch" you can identify that building as a McDonalds restaurant. When we see the "apple" with a bite taken out, we know that is an Apple product. When we see the red circle with a solid red circle in the middle, we know that's Target. Just like those things, when people in the world see someone consistently displaying the Fruit of the Spirit regardless of the circumstances, they should be able to identify that person as a Christian. Believers need to be marked by the Fruit of the Spirit.

Have a great "Labor-Day celebration. And God bless you, pour out His love on you and keep you in His care.

ELECTION RESULTS 2025

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 want to say
 we eat out
 a lot, but
 I've noticed
 that when I
 call my kids
 for dinner,
 they run to
 the car.**

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THAT EXPLAINS IT!

I got my stomach by doing as many crunches as I can everyday; usually either Nestle or Captain.

A zookeeper is ordering new animals. As he fills out the forms, he types "two mongeese". That doesn't look quite right, so he tries two mongoose, and then two mongooses. Giving up, he types, "One mongoose, and while you're at it, send another one."

"The secret to a long life is to keep your heart light and you mind sharp."

Well, my hearts light, but my mind's on vacation



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Denver for
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get prices.

"Airfare to Denver
is \$300," the
cheery salesperson
replied.

"And what about
Salt Lake City?"
"We have a really
great rate to Salt
Lake—\$99," she
said "but there is a
stopover."

"Where?"

"In Denver," she
said

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"There are two kinds of
people who don't say much,
those who are quiet and
those who talk a lot."



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Sometimes you get the best light from burning bridges. ~ Don Henley

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A Ripple In History

We watched season one of the series on "The House Of David". It covered the period from his youth to the slaying of Goliath. We know David as a flawed but repentant man and leader, a husband, father, and friend. His period as King of Israel is called "The Golden Age" due to Israel's unity and prosperity. While the Bible doesn't explicitly declare one king as the "greatest," figures like David, Solomon, and Hezekiah are often cited as exemplary rulers. David is praised for uniting Israel and establishing Jerusalem as the capital. He had the honor of being the "apple of God's eye". (Psa 17:8).

But there is someone that played a big part in David's life that we don't hear much about. It started with Hannah. She poured herself out to God, desperate and humble. Hannah's prayer was her deep longing for a child and her unyielding

Wise Words

BY HAYES WISE

faith in God's ability to grant her petition. In her prayer, she vows to dedicate her son to the service of the Lord, which she did. Little did anyone know, Hannah's prayers would change the course of history. (1 Samuel). Her son, Samuel, would change the landscape of faith forever. He was used by God to destroy Israel's enemies and he was the one that God used to anoint

David as king of Israel.

In essence, the concept of a "ripple effect" into eternity reflects the understanding that our choices and actions have lasting consequences, both in this life and in the life to come. (Pro 27:17). The Bible encourages us to live responsible, making choices that honor God and create a positive impact on the world around us. Like Hannah, your actions today will have a ripple effect on history and into eternity. Live wisely.

"It is curious that physical courage should be so common in the world and moral courage so rare." -Mark Twain

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Failure is only the opportunity to begin again more intelligently. ~ Henry Ford

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Level: Intermediate

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BARRELS OF OIL.... When the first oil wells were drilled they had made no provision for storing the liquid so they used water barrels. That is why, to this day, we speak of barrels of oil rather than gallons.

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Claybank Master Gardeners September 2025

Gardeners take heart, the heat and humidity that kept us inside while our weeds grew frighteningly tall, damaged our tomatoes, and fried our flowers will soon depart! See the side bar for optimal temperature range for growing tomatoes. The cooler temperatures following Hurricane Erin may give our tomatoes a chance to develop fruit again. This is also a good time to prepare for fall plantings, clean out the beds, toss out the spent plants and refresh the soil with well-aged composted manure or new potting mix.



I have had wonderful results from using compost "tea". A couple scoops of aged compost in a half-barrel of water, left to soak for three or four or more days, will kill off any pathogens and pests and make the tea a highly absorbable natural nutrient boost to your plants. I have seen plants that have lost their leaves regrow new ones after watering with compost tea.

Remember to rotate your plants to avoid the buildup of nematodes or other root attacking pests. If you are wondering if you have nematodes, do this: Pull up a plant, rinse off the roots and examine them for root knots, bumpy knobs in the roots. Bumpy knots are a good indicator of nematode infestation. Some gardeners have found that after growing French marigolds and/or cauliflower, cabbage, broccoli, or

Osaka or Kodiak mustard greens, and then mixing their greens into the soil will deter nematode growth. Another method is to cover the soil under a plastic sheet for 3 to 5 sunny days to kill unwanted disease-carrying pathogens.

Dates to remember:

Lunch and Learn by Chuck & Becky McManus on August 27th. Topic will be on seed propagation, at the Dale County Library.

*The Claybank Master Gardeners will meet Wednesday Sept 10th at Hoppergrass Restaurant in Ozark, 129 S. East Ave, across from 3 Scoops Ice Cream & Sandwich Shop. 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 new faces, whether you are a gardener or a "wannabe"!

What seeds to plant in late August and September?

According to the SOW App you can now start these seeds: beets, Brussels sprouts, carrots, cauliflower, kale, Mexican kohlrabi, lettuce, tarragon (mint marigold), mustard, oregano, parsley, parsnips, rosemary, snap beans, and thyme. Start your seeds in the shade in a moist soilless mix of peat moss, perlite and vermiculite, then when you see the second set of leaves growing, transplant into the garden or pot with fresh potting mix.

Happy gardening!
Dee Gilbert
Claybank Master Gardener



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Dont mess with old people...Life in prison isn't that much of a deterrent.

Mixed Advice

Two friends met on the street
after not having seen each
other for some time. One of
them was on crutches.

"Hello!" said the other man.

"Why are you on crutches?"

"Car accident," said the man
on crutches.

"When did that happen?"

"Oh, about six weeks ago."

"And you still have to be on
crutches?"

"Well, my doctor says I could
get along without them. My
lawyer says I can't."

HOT OFF THE PRESS:

As the paper goes through the
rotary printing press friction
causes it to heat up. Therefore, if
you grab the paper right off the
press it's hot. The expression
means to get immediate
information.

Forgetful George

"George is so forgetful," the sales manager complained to his
secretary. "It's a wonder he can sell anything. I asked him to pick
me up some sandwiches on his way back from lunch but I'm not
sure he'll even remember to come back."

Just then the door flew open and in bounced George. "You'll never
guess what happened!" he shouted. "While I was at lunch, I met Old
Man Brown, who hasn't bought anything from us for five years. Well,
we got to talking and he gave me a half-million-dollar order!"

"See," sighed the sales manager to his secretary. "I told you he'd
forget the sandwiches."

DINNER PARTY

A man and his wife attended a dinner party at the
home of their friends. Near the end of the meal, the
wife reprimanded her husband. "That's the third time
you've gone for dessert," she scolded. "The hostess
must think you're selfish and an absolute pig."

"I don't think so," he said. "I've been telling her it's for
you."

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Education is a progressive discovery of our own ignorance. ~ Will Durant



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 PHOTO ALBUMS, I REALIZE THAT THEY DIDN'T
 CARE EITHER.

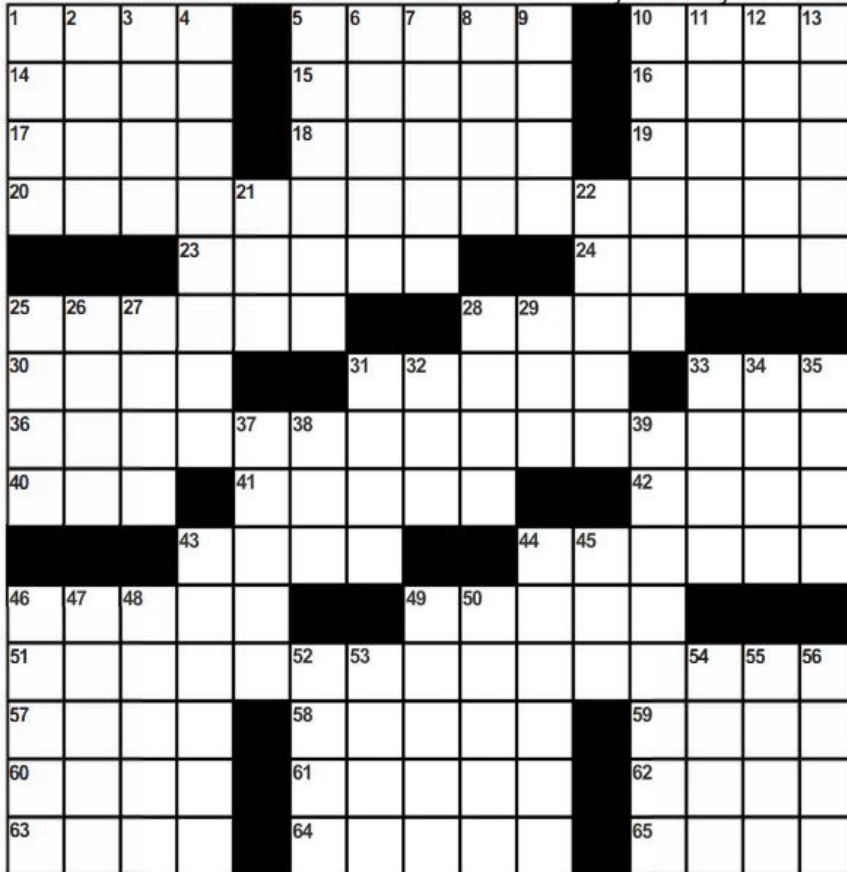


ACROSS - - - - - %

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 1) Weep | 40) Infamous abductors |
| 5) C-shaped carpentry gadget | 41) Violently releaselava |
| 10) _ spumante | 42) Fury |
| 14) Length x width, for a rectangle | 43) It's for two only |
| 15) Bear and Berra | 44) Swiped |
| 16) Booted up? | 46) Battle reminders |
| 17) Examine hastily | 49) More like a puppy dog |
| 18) Airborne annoyances | 51) Something apartment renters can't get |
| 19) Cornbread concoction | 57) Bone-dry |
| 20) What wrestlers practice? | 58) Up to |
| 23) Nit layer | 59) Goopy food |
| 24) Musical ensemble of eight | 60) Put up, as a picture |
| 25) What most humans are | 61) "Rolling in the Deep" chanteuse |
| 28) Electric power measure | 62) Humerus neighbor |
| 30) It may include the sniffles | 63) _ gin fizz |
| 31) Hardly original | 64) Pharmacist's dispensations |
| 33) Add the audio | 65) Argus' hundred |
| 36) Charlemagne's domain | |

PRESENT LAUGHTER?

By Timothy E. Parker

**DOWN**

- 1) Big blowout
- 2) BP Amoco's acquisition
- 3) Raised mark on the skin
- 4) Mrs. Hudson, to Sherlock Holmes
- 5) Swan constellation
- 6) Lengthy suit sizes
- 7) Obviously surprised
- 8) Big name in copiers, once
- 9) Whispered entreaty
- 10) Characteristic
- 11) Height-challenged
- 12) 1,000 kilograms
- 13) That is, in Latin
- 21) Lithium-battery link
- 22) Pole that may have many faces
- 25) Advil target
- 26) It turns Santa's suit black
- 27) Misfortunes
- 28) Desire
- 29) Drink by the yard
- 31) Censored material
- 32) Barely hit
- 33) Television tuner of old
- 34) Advocate forcefully
- 35) "It's _ real"
- 37) "Reduce, _ , recycle!"
- 38) It brings a smile to a miner's face
- 39) Postpone to a later date
- 43) Deepen, as a channel
- 44) Hair options
- 45) Util.
- 46) Former Iranian leaders
- 47) Great Barrier Reef makeup
- 48) Acid type
- 49) Quotes
- 50) Of some benefit
- 52) Campus meeting place
- 53) Reverse, as a mistake
- 54) A friend in war
- 55) "Jack of all trades, master of _"
- 56) Places to get muddled up

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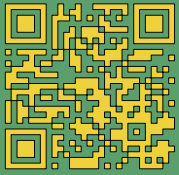
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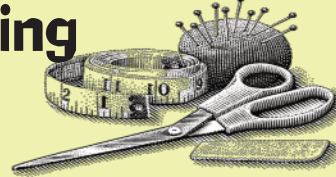
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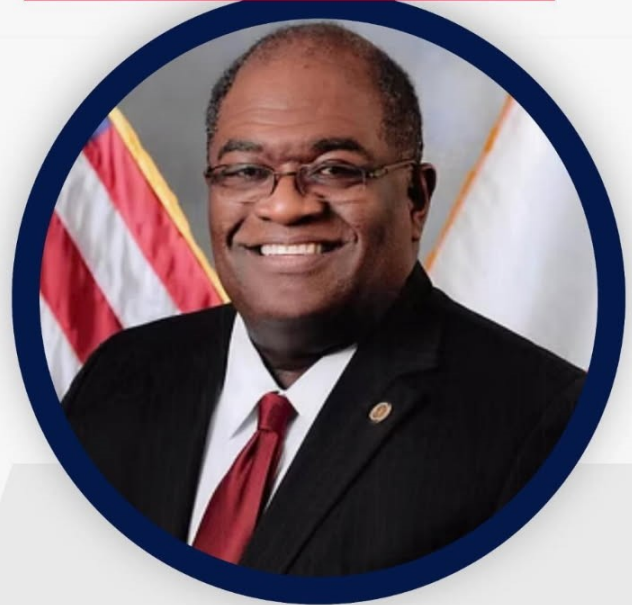
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Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I am truly humbled and honored to have been elected as your next Mayor. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for your trust, your confidence, and your support. This victory belongs not just to me, but to all of us who believe in the future of our community.

I want to thank my family, my campaign team, our volunteers, and every supporter who knocked on doors, made phone calls, shared ideas, and offered encouragement along the way. Your hard work and dedication made this possible.

I also want to recognize and thank Mr. Blankenship for his passion and commitment to our city. Campaigns are never easy, and they helped shine a light on important issues that we must continue to work together to address.

As Mayor, I promise to lead with openness, integrity, and a genuine desire to serve all of our citizens—whether you voted for me or not. Together, we will focus on making our community stronger, safer, and more prosperous, while preserving the values and spirit that make it such a great place to call home.

Thank you again for giving me the privilege to serve. I am excited for all that lies ahead, and I look forward to working side by side with each of you.

With gratitude,

Charles Ward

Mayor-Elect