

VOLUME 208 JANUARY 2026

**FUN & UPLIFTING TO READ  
NOTHING LIKE IT...ANYWHERE  
ENJOY & SHARE**

LAUGHTER IS LIKE A WINDSHIELD WIPER.  
IT DOESN'T STOP THE RAIN,  
BUT IT ALLOWS US  
TO KEEP GOING!

RED OAK JOURNAL

"New year, new gear,  
old treasures in here!  
Pawn, Sell, Buy, Or Trade



**POCKET PAWN**  
421 Andrews • Ozark, AL  
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Published By:

**RED OAK**  
Printing &  
Publishing Services



Our minister announced that the cost to attend a special social event would be six dollars per person.

"However, if you're over 65," he said, "the price will be only \$5.50."

From the back of the congregation, a woman's voice rang out, "Do you really think I'd give you that information for only 50 Cents.

# Happy New Year

*From the Holman Funeral Home  
Family*



Ted Smith, Jr.



Ann Sullivan



W. M. "Bill" Sullivan, Jr.

“Fresh start” without pressure

The new year doesn’t erase your love or your loss—but it can be a time to honor both. At Holman Funeral Home every service is shaped around the unique life being remembered, whether simple, traditional, or fully personalized. If you’re ready to talk about how you’d like to be remembered—or how to honor someone dear—we’re here to help you explore every option with care.

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**It's a great day for a steak!**

**"Polar bears can't jump."  
Black bears**

I'd just come out of the shop with a meat and potato pie, large chips, mushy peas & a jumbo sausage. A poor homeless man sat there and said 'I've not eaten for two days.' I told him, 'I wish I had your will power...'

A fat girl served me in McDonald's at lunch time. She said 'Sorry about the wait.' I said, 'Don't worry, you'll find a way to lose it eventually...'

A man walks into a florist's and says: "I'd like some flowers please." "Certainly, sir. What did you have in mind?" "I'm not sure." "Perhaps I could help." suggested the florist. What exactly have you done?"

### Presidential Quotes

Worry is the interest paid by those who borrow trouble.  
George Washington

Give me six hours to chop down a tree and I will spend the first four sharpening the axe.  
Abraham Lincoln

Freedom prospers when religion is vibrant and the rule of law under God is acknowledged.  
Ronald Reagan

Government always finds a need for whatever money it gets.  
Ronald Reagan

### Signs You Probably Have Never Seen

In a restaurant window:  
"Eat now, pay waiter."

Sign on a retail store door in Stevens Point, WI: "PUSH. If it doesn't open, PULL. If it still doesn't open, WE ARE CLOSED."

Sign in school near clock:  
"Time will pass; will you?"

Outside a country shop:  
"We buy junk and sell antiques."

In a Maine restaurant:  
"Open 7 days a week and weekends."

# Grief Support and Community

As our community turns the page to a new year, we remain committed to serving every family with respect, honesty, and care. Now, after the rush of the holidays, January often brings a quiet moment to reflect on the people who have shaped our lives. At Fuqua Bankston Funeral Home, our calling is to walk beside your family with compassion, clarity, and care—today, tomorrow, and whenever you need us. If you are facing a loss or simply have questions about planning ahead, our doors and our hearts are open.”



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**John Cawley  
Managing  
Funeral Director**



**Remember Their Name**

Those of us who worked at the front desk of a convention hotel in Williamsburg, Va., prided ourselves on making the guests feel special. When someone arrived at reception, credit card in hand, we would sneak a peek at it and address him by name.

Once during a particularly busy check-in, one of our guests presented a corporate credit card. "Welcome to Williamsburg, Mr. Bell," the desk clerk said. "Oh, please," the man replied, "call me Taco."

**A** man was sent to prison for 20 years. He was so

bored while in there; he found an ant and decided to teach it tricks - like beg, play dead, roll over, jump hair etc. He served his time and was released. He took his ant with him in a matchbox. The first place he went was to a bar. He sat down, took out the matchbox and emptied out the ant. He then said to the guy beside him, "you are not gonna believe what this ant can do". He showed him all the tricks and the guy was impressed. He told him that he could make a fortune with the ant. The guy with the ant was excited and called the bartender over and said "you see that ant?" The bartender put his finger on the ant, twisted it and said "sorry sir it won't happen again."

I'm not sure which shop in town did this masterpiece



**At his 102rd birthday** party, MR. C. was asked if he planned to be around for his 103rd.

"I certainly do," he replied. "Statistics show that very few people die between the ages of 102 and 103."

"Just tell me what you need, and I'll see to it that something ought to be done!"

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#### Cloud 8

Two angels are talking on Cloud #8 when one says, "Well yes, I'm happy but, I COULD be happier."

## Explosion

A terrific explosion occurs in a gunpowder factory, and once all the mess has been cleared up, and inquiry begins.

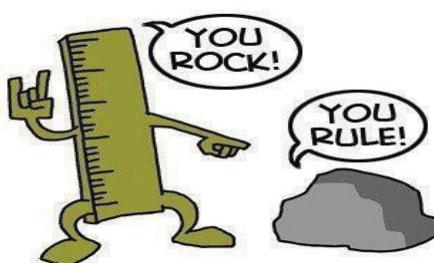
One of the few survivors is pulled up to make a statement. "Okay Simpson," says the investigator, "you were near the scene, what happened?"

"Well, it's like this. Old Charley Higgins was in the mixing room, and I saw him take a cigarette out of his pocket and light up."

"He was smoking in the mixing room?" the investigator said in stunned horror, "How long had he been with the company?" "About 20 years, sir"

"20 years in the company, then he goes and strikes a match in the mixing room, I'd have thought it would have been the last thing he'd have done."

"It was, sir."



**An idea about obstacles**  
ancient times, a king had a boulder placed on a roadway.

Then he hid himself and watched to see if anyone would remove the huge rock. Some of the king's wealthiest merchants and courtiers came by and simply walked around it. Many loudly blamed the king for not keeping the roads clear, but none did anything about

getting the big stone out of the way. Then a peasant came along carrying a load of vegetables. On approaching the boulder, the peasant laid down his burden and tried to move the stone to the side of the road. After much pushing and straining, he finally succeeded. As the peasant picked up his load of vegetables, he noticed a purse laying on the road where the boulder had been. The purse contained many gold coins and a note from the king indicating that the gold was for the person who removed the boulder from the roadway. The peasant learned what many others never understand. Every obstacle presents an opportunity to improve one's condition.



**Husband's note on refrigerator for wife:**

Someone from the Gyna Colleges called.  
They said the Pabst beer is normal.  
I didn't know you liked beer.

**DRUG CARTELS ANNOUNCE THAT, DUE TO SUPPLY CHAIN ISSUES, IT IS RAISING PRICES AND LAYING OFF AT LEAST 100 U.S. POLITICIANS!**

When speaking to your children, say what you mean, mean what you say, but don't be mean when you say it.

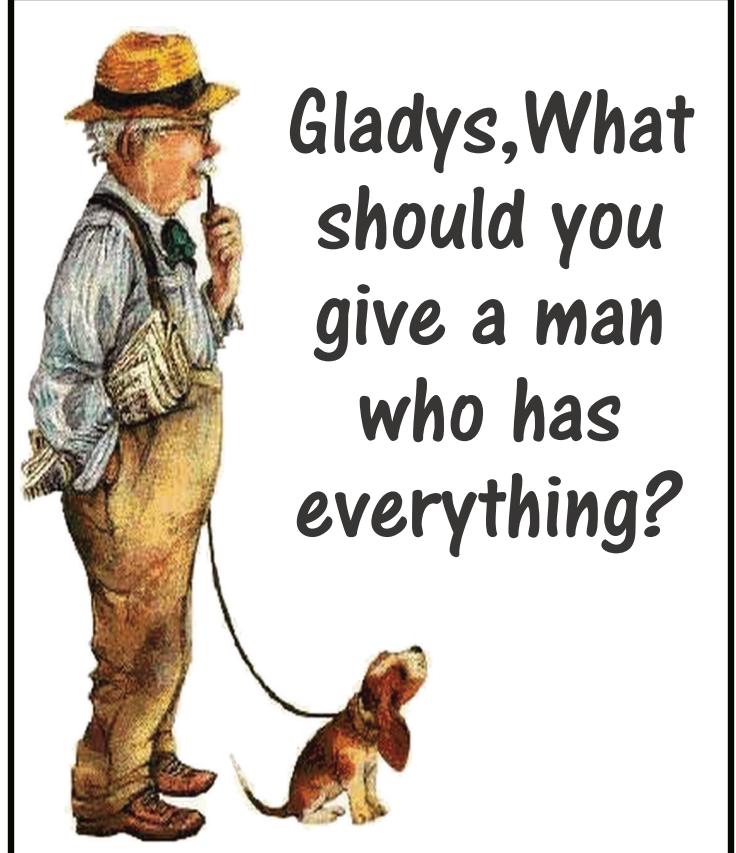
**Six Retired Floridians...**

Six retired Floridians were playing poker in the condo clubhouse when Meyerwitz loses \$500 on a single hand, clutches his chest and drops dead at the table. Showing respect for their fallen comrade, the other five continue playing standing up. Finkelstein looks around and asks, "So, who's gonna tell the wife?" They draw straws. Goldberg picks the short one. They tell him to be discreet, be gentle, don't make a bad situation any worse.

"Discreet? I'm the most discreet man you'll ever meet. Discretion is my middle name. Leave it to me." Goldberg goes over to the Meyerwitz apartment and knocks on the door.

The wife answers and asks what he wants.

Goldberg declares, "Your husband just lost \$500 and is afraid to come home." The wife says, "Tell him to drop dead!" "I'll go tell him," says Goldberg.



# Honoring the Memory of Your Loved One



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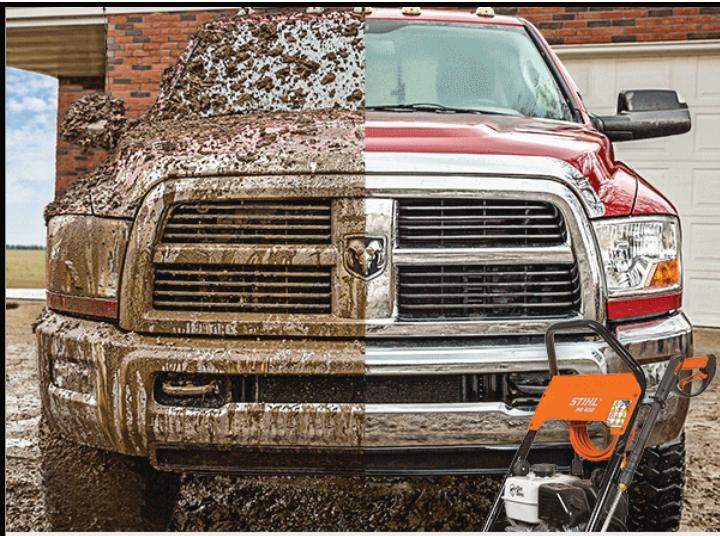


May every day of your life together be worse than the next.



Otis Redding was tragically killed in a plane crash, December 10, 1967. He was just 26 years old. Tragically, the crash also claimed the lives of four members of his young backing band, The Bar-Kays. Only trumpet player Ben Cauley survived the icy waters. Just three days before the crash, Otis had finished recording a new song that was a departure from his usual style. He never got to hear the final version of "(Sittin' On) The Dock of the Bay," which would go on to become his signature hit and the first posthumous #1 single in history. .





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👉 **IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE WAY YOU WERE  
BORN... TRY BEING BORN AGAIN**

**2Corinthians 5:17**

**Woman: Do you love me? Man: Yes, dear.  
Woman: Would you die for me?**

**Man: No... mine is an undying love.**



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were at a convention together and were sharing a large suite on the top of a 75-story skyscraper. After a long day of meetings they were shocked to hear that the elevators in their hotel were broken and they would have to climb 75 flights of stairs to get to their room. Bill said to Jim and Scott, let's break the monotony of this unpleasant task by concentrating on something interesting. I'll tell jokes for 25 flights, and Jim can sing songs for 25 flights, and Scott can tell sad stories the rest of the way. At the 26th floor Bill stopped telling jokes and Jim began to sing. At the 51st floor Jim stopped singing and Scott began to tell sad stories. "I will tell my saddest story first," he said. "I left the room key in the car!"

## **What Happened in Texas?**

A cowboy rode into town and stopped at a saloon for a drink. Unfortunately, the locals had a habit of picking on strangers. So when he finished his drink, he found his horse had been stolen. He went back into the bar, handily flipped his gun into the air, caught it above his head and fired a shot into the ceiling. "WHICH ONE OF YOU SIDEWINDERS STOLE MY HOSS?" he yelled.

No one answered.

"ALL RIGHT, I'M GONNA HAVE ANOTHA' BEER, AND IF MY HOSS AIN'T BACK OUTSIDE BY THE TIME I FINISH, I'M GONNA DO WHAT I DONE IN TEXAS! AND I DON'T LIKE TO HAVE TO DO WHAT I DONE IN TEXAS!"

Some of the locals shifted restlessly. The cowboy had another beer, walked outside, and his horse was back! He saddled up and started to ride out of town. The bartender wandered out of the bar and asked, "Say partner, before you go...what happened in Texas?"

The cowboy turned back and said, "I had to walk home."



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**Though, of course, you do have to stay 'til the bidder end.**

**I bought an off-road vehicle in a blind auction.**

**Got it delivered ... it was a canoe.**



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@ RogerParrish LaughsandLifts

# AUNT T'S KITCHEN

## SOUTHWEST PORK STEW

### Ingredients

- 1 (16-ounce) jar Salsa Verde
- 2 cups Reduced-Sodium Chicken Broth
- 1 (15-ounce) can Black Beans (drained and rinsed)
- 1 (15-ounce) can Tomatoes (fire-roasted diced)
- 1 pound Smoked Pork (shredded, without sauce)
- 1 teaspoon Ground Cumin
- Kosher Salt (and freshly ground black pepper)

### Directions

1. Cook salsa verde in a large saucepan over medium-high heat, stirring occasionally, 2 minutes. Stir in chicken broth and next 4 ingredients, and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium, and simmer, stirring occasionally, 10 minutes. Season with salt and pepper, and serve immediately.



## POTATO, LEEK, AND ROASTED GARLIC

### Ingredients

- 3 small garlic heads roasted
- 1 Tbsp. olive oil
- 1 1/2 tsp. kosher salt
- 2 Tbsp. unsalted butter
- 3 cups leeks, trimmed, washed, and thinly sliced
- 3 cups Yukon Gold potatoes, peeled and chopped
- 6 cups chicken broth
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- Freshly ground black pepper, fresh thyme leaves, and croutons, for topping



### Directions

1. Melt butter in a large saucepan over medium. Add leeks, and cook, stirring occasionally, until starting to soften, about 3 minutes. Add potatoes and 1/2 teaspoon of the salt, and cook, stirring occasionally, about 2 minutes. Add chicken broth; bring to a boil over medium-high. Reduce heat to medium, and vigorously simmer, stirring occasionally, until potatoes are very soft, about 18 minutes. Add roasted garlic using immersion blender, process until smooth.
2. Place mayonnaise in a medium bowl, and gradually pour 1 cup of the potato mixture into bowl, whisking constantly until smooth. Pour mayonnaise mixture back into pot along with

# SOUP'S ON

remaining 1/2 teaspoon salt; blend until smooth. Top with pepper, thyme, and croutons, and serve immediately.

## TENNESSEE ONION

### Ingredients

- 1/4 cup (2 oz.) unsalted butter, cubed
- 3 lb. sweet onions (about 4 large), thinly sliced (about 9 cups)
- 2 1/2 tsp. seasoned salt
- 2 tsp. dried Italian seasoning
- 1 tsp. dry mustard
- 1 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 2 tsp. apple cider vinegar
- 5 cups chicken broth
- 12 (1/2-in.-thick) slices baguette, plus more for serving
- 3/4 cup Cheddar cheese, shredded
- 3/4 cup smoked Gouda cheese, shredded



### Directions

1. Step 1 Heat butter in a large Dutch oven over medium-high until melted. Add onions, seasoned salt, Italian seasoning, and mustard; stir to coat onions in butter and seasonings. Cook, stirring occasionally, until onions are translucent, 5 to 7 minutes. Cover, reduce heat to medium-low, and cook, stirring occasionally, until onions are very soft, 25 to 30 minutes. Step 2) Stir in Worcestershire and apple cider vinegar; increase heat to medium-high. Cook, uncovered, stirring often, until onions are light golden brown, about 10 minutes. (The onions will release liquid.)
2. Step 3 Add broth; cook, scraping up browned bits from bottom of Dutch oven; bring to a boil over high, stirring occasionally. Reduce heat to medium and simmer, undisturbed, for 10 minutes. Remove from heat.
3. Step 4: Preheat oven to broil with rack about 8 inches from heat source. Ladle soup into 6 (8- to 10-ounce) broiler-proof bowls or crocks, and place bowls on a rimmed baking sheet. Top each bowl with 2 baguette slices, 2 tablespoons Cheddar, and 2 tablespoons Gouda. Broil in preheated oven until cheese is bubbly and bread is browned in places, 2 to 4 minutes..

# AUNT T'S KITCHEN

## Coconut-Curry Butternut Squash

### Ingredients

- 1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 teaspoon curry powder
- 1/2 teaspoon cumin
- 1/4 teaspoon chili powder
- 1/8 teaspoon cinnamon
- 2 yellow onions, sliced
- 1 large butternut squash, peeled and seeded, cubed
- 1 1/2 teaspoons kosher salt
- 1 (13.5-oz.) can coconut milk
- Water as needed
- 1/2 teaspoon apple cider vinegar



### Directions

1. Heat oil in a Dutch oven over medium heat. Add spices and stir until spices color the oil and become fragrant, about 1 minute. Add onion and cook over medium heat until soft and translucent, about 8 minutes. Add butternut squash, salt, coconut milk, and enough water to just cover the squash. Bring to a boil and then reduce to a simmer.
2. Allow to cook until squash is very soft, about 40 minutes.
3. Allow squash to cool slightly before using an immersion blender to puree the soup.
4. Finally, stir the apple cider vinegar into the pureed soup.

## BLACKED-EYED PEA WITH HAM HOCKS

### Ingredients

- 1 Tbsp. olive oil
- 2 cups chopped yellow onion
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 tsp. ground cumin
- 2 lb. smoked ham hocks
- 1 lb. dried black-eyed peas
- 10 cups lower-sodium chicken broth
- 3 cups chopped stemmed collard greens
- 3/4 cup chopped celery
- 2 dried bay leaves
- 1 (8 1/2-oz.) pkg. precooked microwavable white rice
- 1 1/2 Tbsp. fresh thyme leaves
- 3/4 tsp. black pepper
- 1/2 tsp. kosher salt
- 1/4 tsp. cayenne pepper



### Directions

1. Heat olive oil in a large nonstick skillet over medium. Add onion; cook, stirring often, until translucent, but not brown, about 5 minutes. Add minced garlic and cumin; cook, stirring frequently, until garlic is fragrant, about 1

# SOUP'S ON

minute. Transfer mixture to a 6-quart slow cooker. Stir in ham hocks, black-eyed peas, chicken broth, collard greens, celery, and bay leaves. Cover and cook until ham hocks and peas are very tender, about 4 hours on HIGH or 7 to 8 hours on LOW.

2. Remove and discard bay leaves from soup. Use tongs to transfer ham hocks to a cutting board. Let stand until cool enough to handle, about 5 minutes. Remove and discard bones and skin; shred meat into bite-size pieces. Return shredded ham hocks to mixture in slow cooker, and stir to combine. Add rice; stir until heated through, about 1 minute. Mix in thyme, black pepper, salt, and cayenne. Serve hot.

## SWEET POTATO

### Ingredients

- 2 Tbsp. olive oil
- 1 1/2 cups chopped yellow onion
- 1 cup roughly chopped carrots
- 1 Tbsp. chopped garlic
- 3 lbs. sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into 1/2-inch cubes
- 2 lbs. Yukon Gold potatoes, peeled and cut into 1/2-inch cubes
- 1 1/2 tsp. kosher salt
- 1 tsp. black pepper
- 1 tsp. ground cumin
- 1/4 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 1/8 tsp. cayenne pepper
- 7 cups chicken stock
- 2 Tbsp. salted butter
- 1 cup finely chopped pecans TOASTED
- 1/2 cup plain yogurt
- 1/4 cup torn fresh flat-leaf parsley leaves



### Directions

1. Heat oil in a large Dutch oven over medium-high. Add onion and carrots, and cook, stirring, until softened, about 5 minutes.
2. Add garlic, and cook, stirring, until fragrant, 1 minute. Add sweet potatoes, Yukon Gold potatoes, salt, black pepper, cumin, cinnamon, and cayenne pepper, and cook, stirring, 1 minute. Add stock; bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium-low, and simmer until potatoes are very tender, about 30 minutes. Process soup in Dutch oven using an immersion blender until smooth.
3. Top servings with 2 tablespoons pecans, 1 tablespoon yogurt, and 1/2 tablespoon parsley.

Intelligence is like underwear. It's important that you have it, but not necessary that you show it off!



If someone has an issue with you and they're telling every one except you, They don't have a real issue with you, they just enjoy the attention they get from talking about you.



Most Couples Have Not Had Hundreds of Arguments. They've Had The Same Arguments Hundreds Of Times!

A man consults a therapist and states, "Doc, I'm suicidal. What should I do?"

The doctor replies, "Pay in advance."

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## Appointment Delay

Whenever my aunt went to the doctor, she would complain to me about the long delay she always endured. One day, when my aunt's name was finally called, she was asked to step on the scale.

"I need to get your weight today," said the nurse.

Without a moment's hesitation, my aunt replied, "One hour and 45 minutes!"

"Some parents have a hard time deciding on a name for the new baby, but others have rich relatives."

Don McElroy

Happiness  
Happiness can be thought, sought or caught,  
but never bought: the best way to keep happiness is to share it

## The Fortune Teller

After escaping from her overly controlling husband for the evening, Jennifer sneaked off to visit a fortune teller of some local repute. In a dark and hazy room, peering into a crystal ball, the mystic delivered grave news.

"There's no easy way to say this, so I'll just be blunt: Prepare yourself to be a widow. Your husband will die a violent and horrible death this year." Then the soothsayer looked up and locked eyes with Jennifer, who was visibly shaken at the news.

Jennifer stared back at the woman's lined face, then at the single flickering candle, then down at her hands. She took a few deep breaths to compose herself. She simply had to know. She looked back, deep into the fortune teller's gaze, steadied her voice, and asked her question: "Will I be acquitted?"

An old man was relaxing at his hundredth birthday party when a reporter went up to him. "Sir, what is the secret of your long life?" The man considered this for a moment, then replied "Every day at 9 PM I have a glass of port. Good for the heart I've heard." The reporter replied, "That's ALL?" The man smiled, "That, and canceling my voyage on the Titanic."

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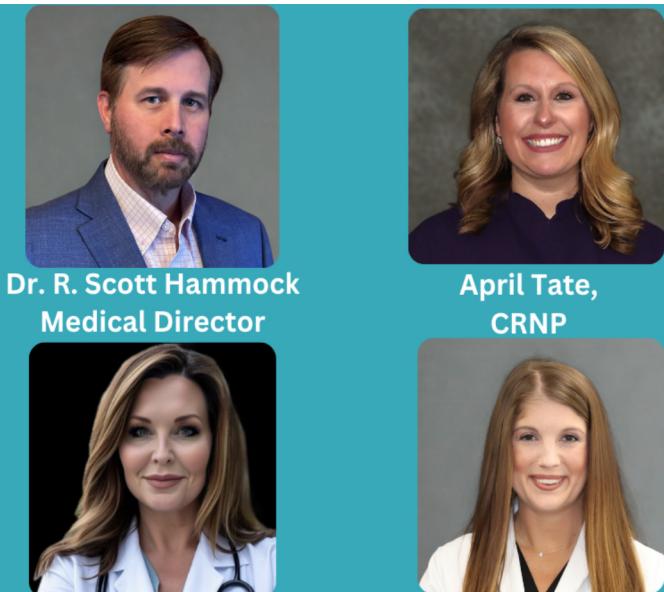
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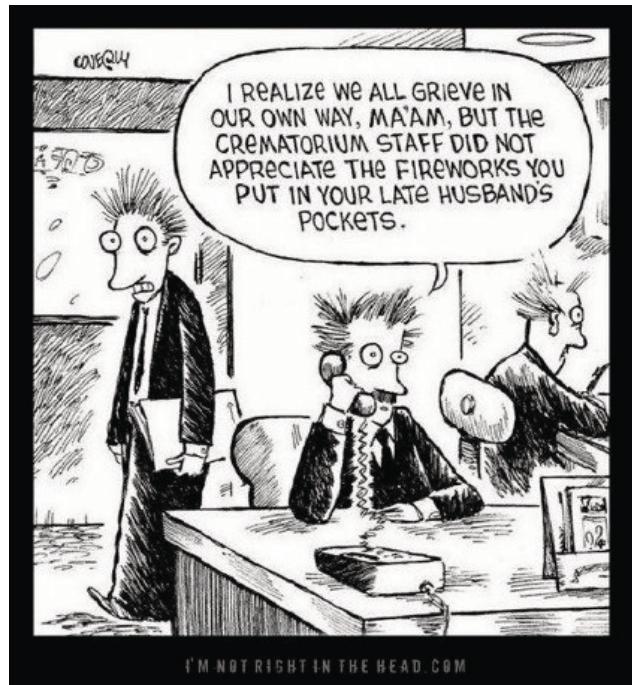
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# WACKIE WORDS

Solution on page 29

1 PERSON PERSONS PERSONS PERSONS	2 insult + injury	3 EVARELTO	4 (S T E A K) <sup>3</sup>
5 NO WAYS IT WAYS	6 ALL world	7 1 3 5 7 9 WHELMING	8 cccccccc
9 gettingitall	10 alai	11 CUS TOM	12 MAUD
13 T T +T 3T	14 RASINGINGIN	15 FAIRY WOLF DUCKLING	16 24 Hours



**A smile is contagious; just smile at someone and see their reaction.**

**He who feels that he is too small to make a difference has never been bitten by a mosquito.**



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# YOU THERE!

YES, YOU.  
(THE ONE READING THIS  
LAUGHS AND LIFTS  
RIGHT NOW.)

I WANT YOU TO DO SOMETHING...  
**SMILE.**  
(I'M SERIOUS)  
**SMILE!**

**SMILE BECAUSE YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL.**  
**BECAUSE YOU'RE AMAZING. BECAUSE**  
**YOU'RE UNIQUE. BECAUSE YOU CAN.**  
**BECAUSE TOMORROW IS A NEW DAY.**  
**BECAUSE SOMEONE LOVES YOU.**  
**SMILE BECAUSE YOU DESERVE TO.**

# RECONCILING BROKEN RELATIONSHIPS

By Wallace Kennedy, Jr.

Often people make promises to themselves for the start of the new year, "New Year's Resolutions." The focus is often things to improve ourselves. Common areas like: eating healthier and exercising, investing and saving money, self-improvement, and learning a new skill. The goal is to make plans to increase the likelihood of success and to be happier

with ourselves. I agree that it is helpful to set specific, realistic, and small goals, write them down, and break them into manageable steps.

I challenge all the readers to consider making this New Year, a year of "Reconciling Broken Relationships."

Think about these common relationships: marriages, best friends, co-workers, neighbors, churches that divide over personality conflicts, family members who ought to love and care for each other, instead there is in-fighting among them. Broken relationships are common, nothing new. It seems the only way to avoid the pain of broken relationships is to live alone on a remote island.

The problem will never be resolved by: Ignoring the problem, attacking the person, using manipulating tactics, involving the wrong people, controlling the conversation and not listening to the other person, the silent treatment, irritability, and failing to exercise the right time and tact. There is hope! The necessary repair work can be accomplished when we are willing to follow the Words and Principles of God.

Jesus says to us: "If a fellow believer hurts you, go and tell them - work it out between the two of you. If they listen, you've made a friend. Matthew 18:15 Paul gives us a course of action on how to respond to one another: Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Colossians 3:12 The verse is a command to actively choose and practice certain behaviors.

Believers are to "put on" these virtues as a response to their new identity in Christ.

Maybe it is not your fault, we do have the power and choice to be the mature believer and make the first step to restore the relationship. We are commanded to be at peace with everyone if it is possible. Equipping ourselves with the truth of God can be a change agent, if we apply Godly principles.

Remember in the process of reconciling with another person: First pray and ask God to help you. Proverbs 3:6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. 1

Corinthians 16:14 Do everything in love. Ephesians 4:32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Happy New Years!

May the God of all comfort and power, keep you in His care in the coming days, weeks, months and years.



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# Find the 10 differences

## **Answer on page 31**



I NEVER SAID I HATED YOU.  
I JUST SAID THAT IF YOU WERE ON FIRE,  
I MIGHT CONSIDER  
ROASTING MARSHMALLOWS.  
BIG DIFFERENCE.

I HAVE A PET WHO IS A CONTINUAL SOURCE OF PERSONAL ANNOYANCE AND IRRITATION. TRUTH BE TOLD, HE REALLY BOTHERS THE HECK OUT OF ME. I NAMED MY PET, "PEEVE.".

A successful man makes more money than his woman can spend.  
A successful woman is one who can find such a man.

The image features the company logo 'HAGLER HEATING & COOLING' in large, bold, white letters with a red underline, set against a blue background with a red swoosh. To the left is a QR code. Above the logo is a white service van with 'HAGLER' and 'HEATING & COOLING' printed on its side, along with the phone numbers '334-774-8050' and '334-687-4550'. The van is shown from a three-quarter front view. The text '24 - Hr Emergency Service' is at the top left, and 'Alabama Licenses HVAC # 00157 Refrigeration # 51409' is at the top right.

YOUNG SOLDIER WAS UP BEFORE HIS COMMANDING OFFICER FOR A REPRIMAND. AFTER GOING THROUGH A LIST OF HIS MISDEMEANORS THE CO SAYS, "AND ANOTHER THING, I DIDN'T SEE YOU IN CAMOUFLAGE PRACTICE THIS MORNING." "THANK YOU, SIR," THE SOLDIER REPLIED.

Man, I heard you almost caught your house on fire. What in the world happened?

Well, I was preparing to cook, & I just read the directions, 1<sup>st</sup>, Grease the bottom of the pan, I turned it over and greased the bottom and place on stove on high &.....



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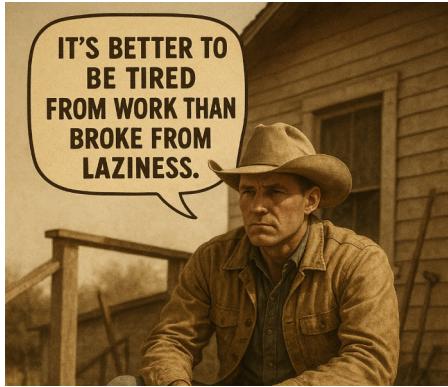
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**Politicians: People who, when they see the light at the end of the tunnel, order more tunnel.**



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**WHO'S LOST?**

The pilot was sitting in his seat and pulled out a .38 revolver. He placed it on top of the instrument panel, and then asked the navigator, "Do you know what I use this for?"

The navigator replied timidly, "No, what's it for?"

The pilot responded, "I use this on navigators who get me lost!"

The navigator proceeded to pull out a .45 and place it on his chart table.

The pilot asked, "What's that for?"

"To be honest sir," the navigator replied, "I'll know we're lost before you will."

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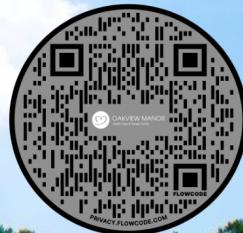
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An ungrateful man (woman) is like a hog eating apples under a tree- never looking up to see where they come from..

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Coupon Code: 318. \*Limit two sets of brake rotor rebates per VIN (one per axle). Purchase and installation must be at a participating U.S. GM Dealer. Rebate will be issued as a Visa<sup>®</sup> Gift Card. See [gillandchevroletservice.rebates.com](#) for details and rebate form, which must be submitted by 3/31/2026. Offer ends 2/28/2026.



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I see these postings occasionally where a company claims to be celebrating a "grand opening". They say they want to do "something special for you" by giving you a car, truck, boat or some such thing. They say all you have to do is type a symbol and click on a link and if it turns blue you will

be "competing for a chance to win". They're not giving you anything. Never click on something that's "free" or "too good to be true". Be highly skeptical of any high value giveaway. The vast majority of these promotions are scams. The main purpose of these fake giveaways is to collect and sell your personal info (phishing) and spread malware to you and others.

That being said, what really caught my attention on one of those giveaways was how much attention it drew. One of them indicated that 256,000 people liked it, 1.3 million people commented on it, and 16,500

# Wise Words

BY HAYES WISE



that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16). You can't buy escape from hell, it is a free gift from God. (Eph 2:8-9). If you confess you are a sinner and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (Rom 10:9-10). Don't listen to all the other gimmicks. Escape from hell is found in no one else, except Jesus Christ, there is no other name under heaven by which you can be saved. (Acts 4:13). Jesus "Gives A Way" to enter Heaven. (1 John 1:9)

"The one who says it cannot be done should never interrupt the one who is doing it."

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"A skeptic sees the handwriting on the wall but claims it's a forgery"

## Sudoku



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

## Advice To Your Daughters

1. Don't imagine you can change a man — unless he's in diapers.
2. What do you do if your boyfriend walks-out? You shut the door.
3. Never let your man's mind wander — it's too little to be out alone.
4. Go for younger men. You might as well — they never mature anyway.
5. Women don't make fools of men — most of them are the do-it-yourself types.
6. Best way to get a man to do something, is to suggest he is too old for it.
7. Love is blind, but marriage is a real eye-opener.
8. If you want a committed man, look in a mental hospital.
9. The children of Israel wandered around the desert for 40 years. Even in biblical times, men wouldn't ask for directions.
10. If he asks what sort of books you're interested in, tell him checkbooks.

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### CLAYBANK MASTER GARDENERS JANUARY 2026

#### GREETINGS GARDENERS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

May the year 2026 bring all of you a very blessed and fruitful New Year.

The summer and fall of 2025 brought the most extreme climate conditions in our corner of Alabama that this human has ever experienced, bringing extremely stressful conditions for both gardening and plant survival. After finding myself on the ground staring at the sky, and wondering what happened, I learned the drastic effects of dehydration and the utmost importance of drinking plenty of water with added electrolytes! An important life lesson! The long drought affected our fruit trees and some ornamental shrubs, because too little regular watering has caused much damage, even killing a few treasured rose bushes.

However, the abundant rainfall of several days answered many prayers! We love the wonderful blessings of winter's cooler days, making outside projects so much more enjoyable and endurable. It's also been a happy time of tidying up the garden beds, small or large, gathering free mulch from fallen leaves and pine needles (from our neighbors' trees) to spread lightly over the garden beds, which in turn provide moisture retention



and valuable organic nutrients that aerate and enrich the soil as they break down.

Most winter veggies as transplants can handle below freezing temperatures, such as broccoli, cabbages, celery, collards, garlic, kale, leeks, lettuce, rutabaga, spinach, and Swiss Chard.

Check online for your variety of any of these to learn how much cold tolerance they can take. My online search reveals that "Root vegetables like carrots and parsnips become sweeter after frost, and their roots can survive in the ground with mulch protection, even as low as 0° (according to Al).

The January Claybank Master Gardener meeting in Ozark will be only a business meeting for members, but please join us at 11 AM on Wednesday February 11th at Hoppergrass Restaurant, 129 S. East Ave., across the street from 3 Scoops Sandwich and Ice Cream Shoppe. Call the Dale County Extension office to verify meeting date and location at (334) 774-2329.

Dee Gilbert

Claybank Master Gardener



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### **Worries about a risk**

There is a story about a monastery in Europe perched high on a cliff several hundred feet in the air.

The only way to reach the monastery was to be suspended in a basket which was pulled to the top by several monks who pulled and tugged with all their strength. Obviously the ride up the steep cliff in that basket was terrifying. One tourist got exceedingly nervous about half-way up as he noticed that the rope by which he was suspended was old and frayed.

With a trembling voice he asked the monk who

was riding with him in the basket how often they changed the rope. The monk thought for a moment and answered brusquely, "Whenever it breaks."

### **Coyote Solution**

Environmentalists and the U.S. Forest Service were presenting an alternative to Wyoming ranchers for controlling the coyote population. It seems that after years of the ranchers using the tried and true method of shooting or trapping the predators, the environmentalists had a "more humane" solution to this issue. What they were proposing was for

the animals to be captured alive. The males would then be castrated and let loose again.

All of the ranchers thought about this amazing idea for a couple of minutes. Finally an old fellow wearing a big cowboy hat in the back of the conference room stood up, tipped his hat back and said; "Son, I don't think you understand our problem here... these coyotes ain't having sex with our sheep... they're eatin' 'em!"

The meeting never really got back to order.

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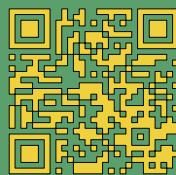


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## FASCINATING FACTS

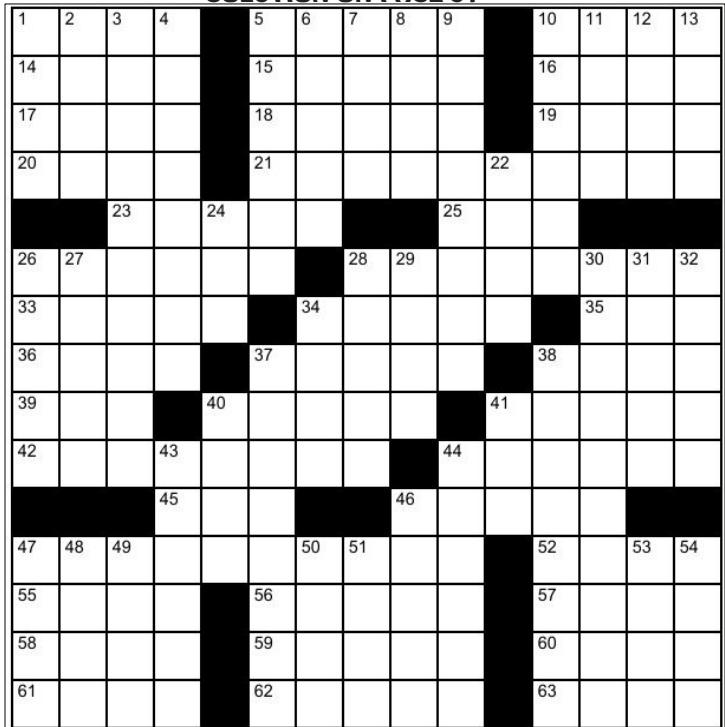
### **The Only Written Language Ever Invented by Just One Man**

Though he never learned to read and write English, Sequoyah singlehandedly brought literacy to the Cherokees. Fascinated by white men's books, this son of an Indian woman and a white trader dreamed of creating a written language. His breakthrough came when he divided all Cherokee sounds into 86 syllables, devising a symbol to represent each one. Inspired by the script in missionary Bibles, Sequoyah used it as the basis for his new alphabet, turning letters upside down or on their sides, sometimes adding curlicues. However intricate the designs, their function was simple, and Sequoyah taught his five-year-old daughter to read in less than a week. In 1821 a group of skeptical tribal chiefs also mastered the alphabet in seven days, then gave Sequoyah permission to teach the language to the whole tribe.

After his death in 1843, this Cherokee chieftain was honored in a way that made his name known far and wide: the towering redwood trees of California were named Sequoias.

# CROSSWORD

SOLUTION ON PAGE 31



## Across

1. Peter I, for one
5. Border plant
10. Call to a mate
14. Altar locale
15. Gibson garnish
16. Ice cream treat
17. Quarterback's option
18. Girder material
19. Comedienne
- Imogene
20. "Halt!"
21. Verse of four measures
23. Show fear
25. Dead letters?
26. Kind of cord
28. Chill out
33. Unrefined
34. Energize (with "up")
35. Block
36. Hourly charge
37. Stake
38. Look after
39. Chowed down
40. Neglected boy
41. Abstain
42. From the age of chivalry
44. Plow's trail
45. "Gosh!"
46. Heart line
47. Smelly pranks
52. Desire
55. Fashion designer Chanel
56. Circa
57. Showy flower
58. Unpleasant emanation
59. Hangman's knot
60. Air show stunt
61. Strengthen, with "up"
62. Dissuade
63. Kitty starter

## Down

1. Last call?
2. Cross words
3. Kind of press
4. Answer
5. Inexpensive lodging
6. Script direction
7. South Beach, for one
8. Suffix with theater
9. Darkroom apparatus
10. Click the OK button
11. Knee-slapper
12. Enough, for some
13. Academic period
22. Personal air
24. Is no longer
26. "Beat it!"
27. Go on and on
28. Watch
29. Square
30. Mental lapse
31. Ballroom dance
32. Fund
34. Buddhist leader
37. Range of frequencies
38. Tex-Mex staple
40. Nerdy one
41. PETA peeve
43. Slight, in a way
44. Encourage
46. Bullying, e.g.
47. Kilt wearer
48. Type of list
49. Desktop feature
50. Double-reed instrument
51. Kind of court
53. Congeal
54. Hoopla

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1. First person singular.
2. Add insult to injury.
3. Elevator out of order.
4. Cubed steak.
5. No two ways about it.
6. It's a small world after all.
7. The odds are overwhelming.
8. High seas.
9. Getting it all together.
10. Jai alai.
11. A break in custom.
12. Mad about you.
13. Teetotaler.
14. Singing in the rain.
15. The good, the bad, the ugly.
16. Call it a day.

She smiles with her mouth but not her eyes, she's real sweet like splenda....Fake, I've met mosquitoes more trustworthy.

### Two College Girls Working As Waitresses

"What's the usual tip?" A diner asked Bella. "Well," said Isabella, "this is my first day, but Sue said that, if I got five dollars out of you, I'd be doing great." "Is that so?" growled the customer. "In that case, here's twenty dollars." "Thanks. I'll put it in my college fund," Bella said "By the way, what are you studying?" asked the customer. Bella replied, "Applied psychology."

Some things are better left unsaid, which I generally realize after I have said them.

### MY FIANCÉ IS AN ATHEIST

A young girl came home from a date looking sad. She told her mother: "Charles proposed to me a few minutes ago."

"Then why are you so sad?" her mother asked.

"Because he also mentioned he was an atheist."

Mom, he doesn't believe there's hell!"

Her mother replied, "Marry him anyway. Between the two of us, we'll show him how wrong he is."

### SHell

A man was driving to work when a truck ran a stop sign, hit his car broadside, and knocked him cold. Passersby pulled him from the wreck and revived him. He began a terrific struggle and had to be tranquilized by the medics. Later, when he was calm, they asked him why he struggled so. He said, "I remember the impact, then nothing. I woke up on a concrete slab in front of a huge, flashing 'Shell' sign...and somebody was standing in front of the 'S'!"

I'VE MADE SOME PRETTY QUESTIONABLE CHOICES IN LIFE, BUT NEVER ONCE WORN PAJAMA PANTS TO WALMART.



You claim I'm barking at nothing, yet we haven't had a single intruder. Do the math.



**How Kids Work**

"I don't think my mom knows much about children."



"Why do you say that?"

"Because she always puts me to bed when I am wide awake and gets me up when I am sleepy."

**You might be a nurse if...**

~ It doesn't bother you to eat a candy bar with one hand while performing digital stimulation on your patient with the other hand.

~ You've had a patient with a nose ring, a brow ring and twelve earrings say, "I'm afraid of shots." ~ You've ever bet on someone's blood alcohol level.

~ You plan your next meal while performing gastric lavage.

~ You believe every waiting room should have a Valium salt lick.

~ You have your weekends off planned a year in advance.

**A**n extraordinarily handsome fellow decided he had the responsibility to marry an extraordinarily beautiful woman so they could produce gorgeous children beyond compare. With that as his mission he began to search for the perfect woman.

Shortly thereafter he met a man who had three stunning, gorgeous daughters that positively took his breath away. So he explained his mission to the man and asked for permission to marry one of them.

"Well," the man simply replied, "they're all lookin' to get married, so you came to the right place. Why don't you look 'em over and pick the one you want?"

The fellow was ecstatic, and decided to take each one out to dinner to size them all up. The first night he dated the first daughter. The next day the man asked for the fellow's opinion. "Well," said the fellow, "she's just a wee bit -- not that you can hardly notice -- pigeon-toed."

The man nodded and suggested the fellow date one of the other

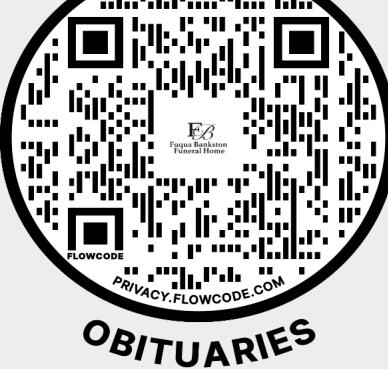
girls; so the fellow went out with the second daughter. The next day, the man again asked how things went. "Well," the fellow replied, "she's just a wee bit -- not that you can hardly tell -- cross-eyed." The man nodded and suggested he date the third girl to see if things might be better. So he did. The next morning the fellow rushed in exclaiming, "She's perfect, just perfect!"

She's the one I want to marry." The man gave his blessing, so the couple was wed immediately. Months later their first baby was born. When the fellow visited the nursery he was horrified: the baby was the ugliest, most pathetic baby you can imagine. He rushed to his father-in-law and asked how such a thing could happen considering the beauty of the parents. "Well," explained the man, "she was just a wee bit -- not that you could hardly tell -- pregnant when you met her."

# OBITUARIES



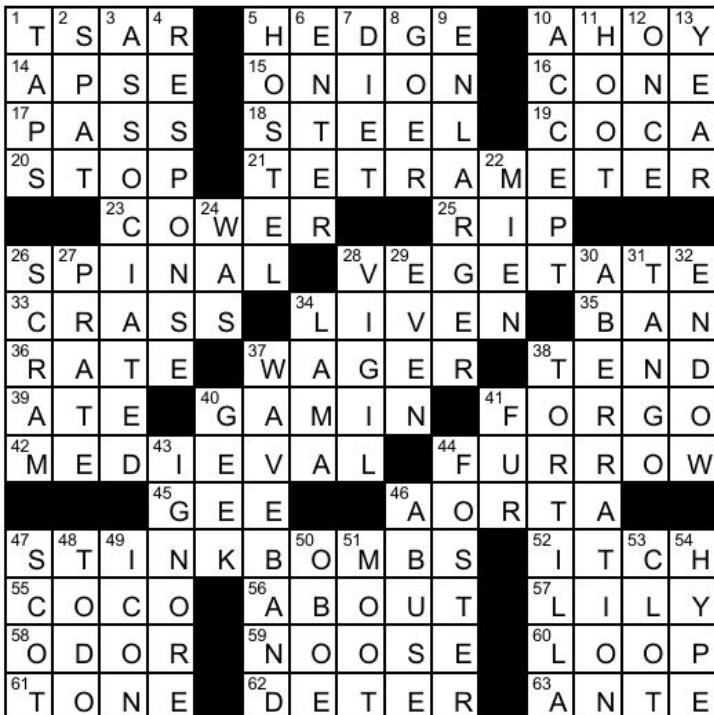
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