

January 2016 Issue 90

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Wiregrass Region Edition

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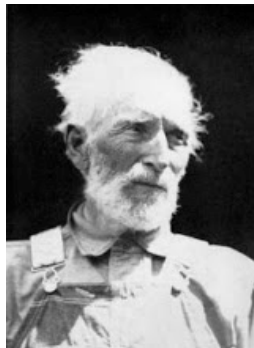
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WHO WAS COOTER BROWN

According to the internet, for what that is worth, "Cooter Brown" was a biracial man (Half Cherokee, Half Black) who lived in south Louisiana on a small plot of land given to him by an old Cajun fur trapper. Cooter lived alone in the old Cajun's shack. When the civil war broke out, Cooter didn't want to choose sides, because he didn't know who might win. He didn't like people much and was fearful of either side. Because of this, Cooter, who was a heavy drinker anyway, began drinking all the



time. Cooter always dressed like an Indian so as to confirm the fact that he was an Indian and not a Negro. And as such, he was a free man. Whenever soldiers (Yanks or Rebels) showed-up in the area they would always find him drunk. Oftentimes he'd offer the soldiers a drink. Word began to spread about the crazy, drunken Indian named Cooter Brown. By the time the war ended, Cooter couldn't stop drinking if he had wanted to. One night his shack caught fire and burned completely to the ground. When locals investigated the burned site the next day there was nothing that remained of Cooter's body. They surmised that old Cooter had so much alcohol in him that he had just burned up. Since then Cooter Brown has been synonymous with inebriety."

Dear Pastor, I liked your sermon on Sunday. Especially when it was finished. Ralph, Age 11

Husband: Don't put that money in your mouth. There are germs on it.
Wife: Don't be silly. Even a germ can't live on the money you make.

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Laughs and Lifts is published on or near the first of every month and is distributed throughout the Wiregrass Region of Alabama and mailed to subscribers anywhere in the world. You can also read the current edition online at

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While Laughs and Lifts tries very hard to ensure the accuracy of the information in our clients advertisements and our publication in general, we are not responsible for vendor availability, typographic errors or omissions.

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Did you ever hear the tale of the Indian chief who found a snake rattle dying



from the cold at the top of a mountain? The snake pleaded with the chief to carry him down the mountain so he could get warm and recover and live. The good hearted chief took pity and took the snake down the mountain. There the snake gave him a deadly bite. The chief asked the rattler how he could do such an evil thing. The rattler replied "you knew I was a rattle snake when you picked me up"! Morale: compassion should not outweigh common sense.

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29: 11

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Two Lunatics

Two crazy men were talking to each other.

Crazy man A: My sister's pregnant and I really need to know if it's a boy or a girl.

Crazy man B: Why do you need to know?

Crazy man A: Because I need to know if I will be an uncle or an aunt.

Like these two lunatics, many people are confused and they don't even know it.

Saying "I'm offended" is basically telling the world you can't control your own emotions so everyone else should do it for you.

A man walks into the hospital and tells the desk nurse, "I want to see the eye-ear doctor." "There is no such doctor," she tells him. "Perhaps you would like to see someone else?" "No, I need to see an eye-ear doctor," he says. "But there is no such doctor," she replies. "We have doctors for the eyes and doctors for the ear, nose and throat, but no eye-ear doctor." No help. He repeats, "I want to see the eye-ear doctor." They go around like this for a few minutes and then the nurse says, "Sir, there is no eye-ear doctor, but if there were one, why would you want to see him?" "Because," he replies, "I keep hearing one thing and seeing another."

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.
James 1: 1-2

After much convincing from my husband, I finally agreed to call an old family friend to sing her happy birthday. It was only after I finished singing, that the voice at the other end of the line informed me, that it was the wrong number. "Oh I'm sorry" I said, embarrassed. "It's ok", the voice said "you can use all of the practice you can get!"

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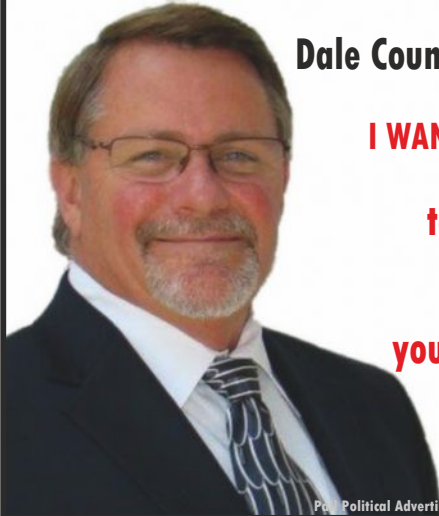
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Answers On Page 30

Bubba walks into a bar in Atlanta, orders 3 glasses of beer and sits in the back of the room, drinking a sip out of each one in turn. When he finishes, he comes back to the bar counter and orders 3 more. The bartender asks him, "You know, beer goes flat after I fill it in the glass; it would taste better if you buy one at a time."

Bubba replies, "Well, you see, I have two brothers. One is in the Army, the other in Marines and I'm here in Atlanta. When they left home, we promised that we'll drink this way to remember the days when we drank together." The bartender admits this is a nice custom and leaves it there. Bubba became a regular in the bar and would always drink the same way. He'd order 3 beers and drink them in turn. One day, he came in and ordered only 2 beers. All the other regulars notice and fall silent. When he comes back to the bar for the second round, the bartender says, "I don't want to intrude on your grief, but I wanted to offer my sincere condolences on your great loss."

Bubba looked confused for a moment, and then he laughs.... "Oh, no," He said, "Everyone's fine; both my brothers are alive. The only thing is I just quit drinking"!!!

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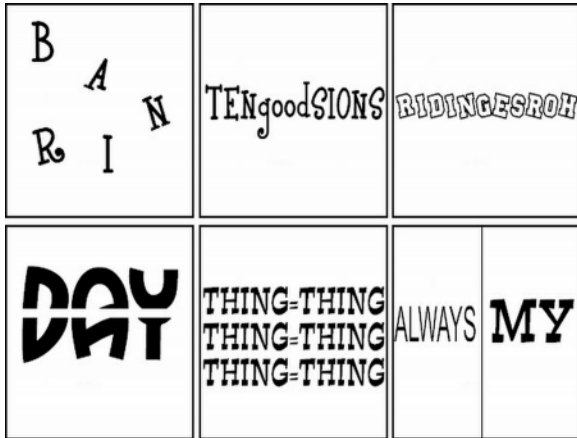
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The biggest lie I tell myself is, "I don't need to write that down; I'll remember it."

BAMBOOZABLES

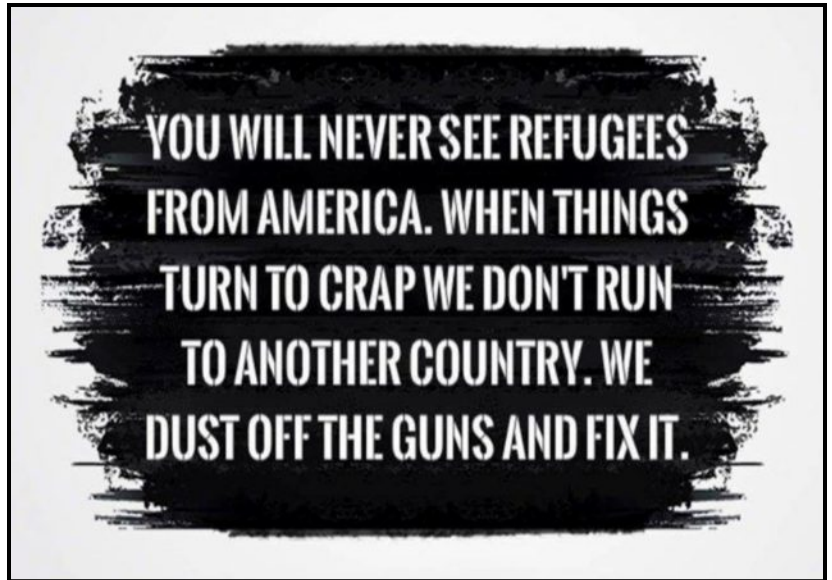


Answers On Page 30

This was written on the tomb of an Anglican Bishop (1100 A.D.) in the Crypts of Westminster Abbey.

"When I was young and free and my imagination had no limits, I dreamed of changing the world. As I grew older and wiser, I discovered the world would not change, so I shortened my sights somewhat and decided to change only my country. But it too seemed immoveable. As I grew into my twilight years, in one last desperate attempt, I settled for changing my family, those closest to me, but alas they would have none of it. And now as I lay on my deathbed, I realize:

If I had only changed myself first, then by example I might have changed my family. From their inspiration and encouragement, I would then have been able to better my country and who knows. I may have even changed the world."



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JANUARY 2016

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THE THREE ENVELOPES

The CEO had resigned in disgrace, and was leaving his office holding a box of this things when the new CEO arrived to take over. The outgoing executive told his replacement that it was a tough job, and if she needed help, there were three envelopes in the top drawer of the desk that would help her -- "but only open these if you run up against a problem you don't think you can solve," the beaten man said. The new CEO calmed things down and everything went fine, until the company hit a snag -- just before the annual Board meeting. She heard rumors that the Board was unhappy with her performance and, not sure what to do, she opened her desk drawer and pulled out the first envelope. The message inside read, "Blame your predecessor."



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When I finish eating something I have to show my hands to my dog...
like I'm a blackjack dealer.

The new CEO went to the Board meeting and tactfully laid the blame on the previous CEO. Sure enough, within weeks, sales picked up and the problems were soon behind her.

About a year later, the company was again experiencing a dip in sales and a product recall. Sure enough, it was right before a Board meeting, so she opened the second envelope. The message read, "Reorganize." The company's troubles were forgotten at the Board meeting as the CEO laid out her plan to streamline operations.

Sure enough, the next year the company again was starting to falter just before the annual Board meeting, so the CEO went to her office, closed the door, and opened the third envelope.

The message said, "Prepare three envelopes...."

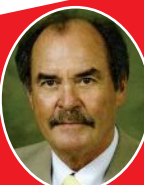
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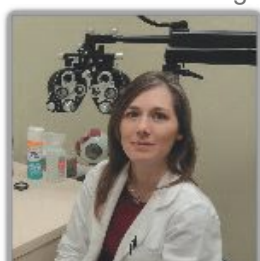
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JANUARY 2016

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Happy New Year!

Are you ready for something new?

By:

Wallace Kennedy, Jr.

My friends, having great expectations for the New Year, seeing and experiencing God's glory in new ways that

we have never experienced before. This is what Paul did... but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the [heavenly] prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Philippians 3:13-14 Let us prepare ourselves and make room for the new. Adding God's new blessings to our old problems would be like pouring new wine into old bottles. Leave every disappointment, hurt, pain and failure in the past and empty ourselves of the emotional drama, unforgiveness, hatred and ill feelings we fostered in 2015. Let us also rid ourselves of every negative thing we have allowed to weigh us down in 2015 and make room for what God has in store for us in 2016. "God wants to enlarge our territory this New Year"

Ask God to enlarge your territory for greater access to the many promises He has given us in our covenant relationship with Him. Also ask God to come into your heart and recreate your life in His image. He will enlarge your territory, but you must be willing to let Him fill every area of your life up with His presence. Give your cares to God, and He will prosper you in 2016, in every area of your life. 1 Chronicles 4:9-10 There was a man named Jabez who was more honorable than any of his brothers. His mother named him Jabez[a] because his birth had been so painful. 10 He was the one who prayed to the God of Israel, "Oh, that you would bless me and expand my territory! Please be with me in all that I do, and keep me from all trouble and pain!" And God granted him his request.

Happy New Year

It's always better to forget what you feel and remember what one is worth...

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Well our worst fears have been confirmed this morning, my wife is allergic to our Springer Spaniel. I know this isn't a re-homing site, but could someone please find it in their heart to help me out? Her name is Janet and she's 43!!



**DID YOU
KNOW?
Judge Judy
Makes
\$45 Million
a year?**



Q: What did one math book say to the other?
A: Man I got a lot of problems!

JANUARY 2016

11

Laughs and Lifts.com

Aunt T's Kitchen

CREAMY CHICKEN GNOCCHI

Ingredients

- 1 pound boneless skinless chicken breasts, cut into 1/2-inch pieces
- 1/3 cup butter, divided
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1 medium carrot, shredded
- 1 celery rib, chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1/3 cup all-purpose flour
- 3-1/2 cups 2% milk
- 1-1/2 cups heavy whipping cream
- 1 tablespoon reduced-sodium chicken bouillon granules
- 1/4 teaspoon coarsely ground pepper
- 1 package (16 ounces) potato gnocchi
- 1/2 cup chopped fresh spinach



Directions

1. In a Dutch oven, brown chicken in 2 tablespoons butter. Remove and keep warm. In the same pan, saute the onion, carrot, celery and garlic in remaining butter until tender.
2. Whisk in flour until blended; gradually stir in the milk, cream, bouillon and pepper. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cook and stir for 2 minutes or until thickened.
3. Add the gnocchi and spinach; cook for 3-4 minutes or until spinach is wilted. Add the chicken. Cover and simmer for 10 minutes or until heated through (do not boil). **Yield:** 8 servings (2 quarts).

ARTICHOKE & BACON CAULIFLOWER

Ingredients

- 1 large head cauliflower, broken into florets
- 2 cans (14-1/2 ounces each) chicken broth
- 1/2 cup heavy whipping cream

SOUPS

- 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon pepper
- 1 can (14 ounces) water-packed artichoke hearts, rinsed, drained and coarsely chopped
- 1/3 cup shredded Asiago cheese or Parmesan cheese
- 6 pieces bacon strips, cooked and crumbled



Directions

1. In a large saucepan, combine cauliflower and broth; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 10-15 minutes or until cauliflower is tender.
2. Cool slightly. In a blender, process soup in batches until smooth. Return all to the pan. Stir in the cream, nutmeg, salt and pepper; heat through. Serve with artichoke hearts, cheese and bacon. **Yield:** 6 servings.

ITALIAN SAUSAGE & BEAN

Ingredients

- 1 pound bulk hot Italian sausage
- 2 cans (15-1/2 ounces each) great northern beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 package (16 ounces) coleslaw mix
- 1 jar (24 ounces) garlic and herb spaghetti sauce
- 3 cups water

Directions

1. In a Dutch oven, cook sausage over medium heat until no longer pink; drain. Stir in the remaining ingredients. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer, uncovered, for 16-20 minutes or until flavors are blended. **Yield:** 6 servings (2 quarts).

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SOUPS

RAVIOLI & SPINACH

Ingredients

- 2 cartons (32 ounces each) chicken broth
- 1/4 teaspoon onion powder
- Dash pepper
- 1 package (9 ounces) refrigerated small cheese ravioli
- 4 cups coarsely chopped fresh spinach (4 ounces)
- 3 cups shredded cooked chicken
- Grated Parmesan cheese, optional

Directions

1. In a large saucepan, combine the broth, onion powder and pepper; bring to a boil. Add ravioli; cook, uncovered, for 7-10 minutes or until tender. Add spinach and chicken during the last 3 minutes of cooking. If desired, serve with cheese. **Yield:** 6 servings.

HAM AND CORN

Ingredients

- 2 cans (14-1/2 ounces each) chicken broth
- 2 cups fresh or frozen corn
- 1 cup half-and-half cream
- 1/3 cup chopped onion
- 1/3 cup chopped sweet red pepper
- 1/4 cup plus 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup cold water
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1 cup diced fully cooked ham
- Snipped fresh dill, optional



Aunt T's Kitchen

Directions

1. Combine the broth, corn, cream, onion and red pepper in a large saucepan. Bring to a boil. Combine the flour, water, salt & pepper until smooth; gradually stir into pan. Bring to a boil; cook and stir for 2 minutes or until thickened. Stir in ham.
2. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 10-15 minutes or until vegetables are tender. Garnish servings with dill. **Yield:** 7 servings

CHEESE BROCCOLI

Ingredients

- 2 cups sliced fresh carrots
- 2 cups broccoli florets
- 1 cup sliced celery
- 1-1/2 cups chopped onion
- 1/2 cup butter
- 3/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 can (10-1/2 Oz.) condensed chicken broth
- 4 cups whole milk
- 1/2 pound process cheese (Velveeta), cubed



Directions

1. In a large saucepan, bring 2 quarts water to a boil. Add carrots, broccoli and celery; cover and boil for 5 minutes. Drain and set aside.
2. In the same saucepan, saute onion in butter. Add flour and stir to make smooth paste. Gradually add chicken broth and milk. Cook until mixture thickens, about 8-10 minutes. Add vegetables; heat until tender. Add cheese; heat until cheese is melted. **Yield:** 6-8 servings (2 quarts).

Our Dear Heavenly Father, we thank Thee for this food. Feed our souls on the Bread of Life and help us do our part in kind words and loving deeds. In Jesus' name, Amen

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**HAVE SOME FUN FINDING
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IN THE PHOTO BELOW**



**A careless word may kindle strife,
A cruel word may wreck a life;
A timely word may lessen stress,
A loving word may heal and bless.**



A guy was in court charged with parking in a restricted area. The judge asked him if he had anything to say in his defense. "They shouldn't put up such misleading notices," said the guy. "It said ` FINE FOR PARKING HERE ` ."

MELLOWING MOM

I have five siblings, three sisters and two brothers. One night I was chatting with my Mom about how she had changed as a mother from the first child to the last. She told me she had mellowed a lot over the years: "When your oldest sister coughed or sneezed, I called the ambulance. When your youngest brother swallowed a dime, I just told him it was coming out of his allowance."

RING AROUND THE ROSEY

The nursery rhyme Ring Around the Rosey is a rhyme about the plague. Infected people with the plague would get red circular sores ("Ring around the rosey..."), these sores would smell very badly so common folks would put flowers on their bodies somewhere (inconspicuously), so that it would cover the smell of the sores ("...a pocket full of poseys..."), People who died from the plague would be burned so as to reduce the possible spread of the disease ("...ashes, ashes, we all fall down!")

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When we are no longer able to change a situation, we are challenged to change ourselves.



PARK STATUES

If a statue in the park of a person on a horse has both front legs in the air, the person died in battle; if the horse has one front leg in the air, the

person died as a result of wounds received in battle; if the horse has all four legs on the ground, the person died of natural causes.

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When my wife is mad at me I tighten all the jar lids so she will have to talk to me.

JANUARY 2016

15

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Law Enforcement Appreciation Breakfast for Dale County Officers

On December 15, 2015, Dale Medical Center held a Law Enforcement Appreciation Breakfast. This event was organized to show appreciation to the men and women who put their lives in danger and express our gratitude for law enforcement officials' courageous endeavors to serve and protect the citizens of Dale County. Officers from the Ozark Police Department, Dale County Sheriff Office, and Alabama State Troopers, along with Pinkard, Newton, Midland City and Daleville Police Departments were all invited to attend.



The officers were served a full breakfast by employees of Dale Medical Center dressed in their seasonal "Elf" costumes wishing them a Merry Christmas. "We are living in very troubled times and we are thankful to have a dedicated group of our law enforcement professionals working to keep us safe. We felt it important to say thank you," said Vernon L. Johnson, Dale Medical Center CEO.

Annual Volunteer Christmas Lunch



The Providence Christian School Show Choir performed at our Dale Medical Center's Annual Volunteer Christmas Lunch. Our loyal and dedicated Pink Ladies and Hospice volunteers work very hard in helping to care for our patients throughout the year.. And we are so thankful to the students for helping us express our appreciation to them. Their performance left everyone smiling and set the tone for a great



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Dale County Youth Leadership Visit DMC



Great Day hosting the Dale County Youth Leadership Students at Dale Medical Center. Students were served lunch while Vernon Johnson, CEO shared what medical services are available in Dale County and healthcare career opportunities. Students then participated in a tour of some of the specialty areas within the hospital. Picture above with the students are Vernon Johnson, CEO and Lisa Rawlings, CNO

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The Tie

There is a pastor who loves God very much. He always asks God about everything. One day, he was getting ready to preach. He put on a blue shirt and began to ask God, 'God should I wear a yellow tie or an orange tie?' God replied, 'Son, I am your Father. Not your Mother!'

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For those of you who received a book from me for Christmas, they are due back to the library Tuesday.

WHAT TIME IS IT?

A man had been driving all night and by morning was still far from his destination. He decided to stop at the next city he came to and park somewhere quiet so he could get an hour or two of sleep. As luck would have it, the quiet place he chose happened to be on one of the city's major jogging routes.

No sooner had he settled back to snooze when there came a knocking on his window. He looked out and saw a jogger running in place.

"Yes?"

"Excuse me, sir," the jogger said, "do you have the time?"

The man looked at the car clock and answered, "8:15." The jogger said thanks and left.

The man settled back again, and was just dozing off when there was another knock on the window and another jogger.

"Excuse me, sir, do you have the time?"

"8:25!"

The jogger said thanks and left. Now the man could see other joggers passing by and he knew it was only a matter of time before another one disturbed him. To avoid the problem, he got out a pen and paper and put a sign in his window saying, "I do not know the time!" Once again he settled back to sleep.

He was just dozing off when there was another knock on the window. "Sir, sir? It's 8:45!"

While working as an airline customer-service agent, I got a call from a woman who wanted to know if she could take her dog on board. I told her the dog was welcome, as long as she paid a \$50 charge and provided her own kennel. I further explained that the kennel needed to be large enough for the dog to stand up, sit down, turn around and roll over. "I'll never be able to teach him all that by tomorrow!" the customer complained.

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Just for fun, next time you see a snooty, rich woman at the grocery store, ask her if she works there.

Reasons not to go to church

If you took the same excuses that people use for not going to church and apply them to other important areas of life you'd realize how inconsistent we can be in our logic. For example: Reasons Not To Wash

1. I was forced to as a child.
2. People who make soap are only after your money.
3. I wash on special occasions like Christmas and Easter.
4. People who wash are hypocrites-they think they are cleaner than everyone else.
5. There are so many different kinds of soap, I can't decide which one is best.
6. I used to wash, but it got boring so I stopped.
7. None of my friends wash.
8. The bathroom is never warm enough in the winter or cool enough in the summer.
9. I'll start washing when I get older and dirtier.

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Christmas Cactus

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Now that your decorations and wrappings are finding their way back to their storage places, or possibly being repurposed for new events, it may be time to consider your plants. If your plants are like mine, they now need some attention and renewed TLC. If you received a Christmas cactus here are some ideas for how to care for it.

Christmas cactus are easy to care for, can be grown indoors, and can tolerate low light but will bloom better in bright light or a sunny window. In the summer they can be moved outdoors, but start them out in the shade while they adapt to prevent their leaves from sunburn. They like well-drained soil, so a soil mix for succulents works well for them. Water when the top half of the soil in the pot feels dry to the touch. Flabby stems tell you they are over-watered. When it is finished blooming, let it rest by withholding water for six weeks. Once the new growth appears, re-pot and top dress with fresh soil. Resume watering to keep the soil somewhat moist. Leaf sections that fall off or break off can be starts for

a new plant. Just put them in the soil with their pointed tips upward, and eventually they will grow!

Many plants and herbs have wonderful healing properties. Adding them to your salads with a bit of cut-up fruits and raw vegetables will give your immune system a huge boost. Studies with basil, for example, have shown that a small amount of black pepper along with these herbs helps make the micronutrients more available to your body. Be sure to wash everything gently in cold water before you use them.

If you have any questions about your yard plants, trees, shrubs, you can call the Master Gardener Help Line for more information (334) 703-8134.

There will be a Lunch and Learn held at the Alabama Cooperative Extension Office at 202 S. Hwy 231 on Feb. 4th, 2016 from 12:00 to 1:30. Bring along your bag lunch and learn about "Fuit and Nut Ttree Care".

Call 774-2329 for more information.



"The pessimist complains about the wind; The optimist expects it to change; The realist adjusts the sails."

WORD PICTURE PUZZLE



Answers on page 30

LUMBERJACK

A man comes up to the owner of a lumberjack business and says, "I need a job and I think I'm pretty good."

The owner replied, "Okay, show me what you can do, chop down that redwood over there."

The man said okay and left. Five minutes later

he came back and was done.

The owner was shocked and asked, "How did you chop that tree down so fast?"

The man said, "I got a lot of practice in the Sahara."

The owner replied, "You mean the Sahara desert?"

"Yes" he said, "or at least that's what they call it now."

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Your goals, minus your doubts, equal your reality.
~ Ralph Marston

JANUARY 2016

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How come "You're a Peach." Is a compliment and "You're Bananas." is an insult?

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My kids asked if they could do something and I said yes.. So now my wife has lowered my security clearance. I'm not authorized to make those decisions anymore.

**" Is this a really healthy place ?
" asked a tourist to a local man .
" Yes , of course , " the man replied .
" When I came here I could'nt say a word. I had hardly any hair on my head, I didn't have the strength to walk across a room , and I had to be lifted out of bed ."
" Gosh , this is truly a healthy place . How long have you been here ?"
" I was born here " replied the local man.**

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

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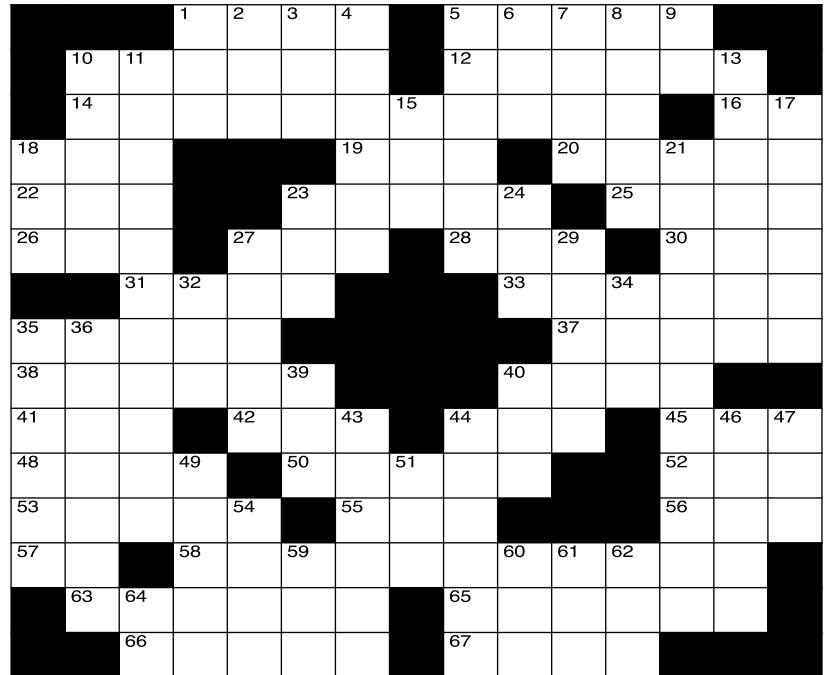
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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Color properties
- 5. Arabian greeting
- 10. Frozen spike
- 12. Levels
- 14. Tear down social stiffness
- 16. Rapper Hammer's initials
- 18. Midway between E and SE
- 19. Shooting marble
- 20. Edward __, British composer
- 22. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
- 23. Cygnus' brightest star
- 25. Goidelic language of Ireland
- 26. Midway between N and NE
- 27. Auditory organ
- 28. Last month (abbr.)
- 30. Indicated horsepower (abbr.)
- 31. Mediation council
- 33. Aussie crocodile hunter
- 35. Sylvan deity
- 37. Clears or tidies
- 38. In a way, emerges
- 40. Whimper
- 41. G. Gershwin's brother
- 42. Begetter
- 44. Seated

- 45. Old world, new
- 48. Girls
- 50. "Song of triumph"
- 52. A covering for the head
- 53. Attack
- 55. Norwegian krone
- 56. Coach Parseghian
- 57. No good
- 58. Task that is simple
- 63. A way to move on
- 65. In a way, advanced
- 66. Loses weight
- 67. Shift sails

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Go quickly
- 2. Fiddler crabs
- 3. Cervid
- 4. Gundog
- 5. Gushed forth
- 6. Caliph
- 7. Shoe cord
- 8. Give extreme unction to
- 9. Of I
- 10. "A Doll's House" author
- 11. Documents certifying authority
- 13. Drunk
- 15. Principal ethnic group of China
- 17. Crinkled fabrics
- 18. Longest division of geological time

- 21. Pancake
- 23. Small pat
- 24. A garden plot
- 27. Strayed
- 29. Surgical instrument
- 32. No. French river
- 34. Modern
- 35. Now called Ho Chi Minh City
- 36. Set into a specific format
- 39. Exhaust
- 40. Individual
- 43. Moves rhythmically to music
- 44. D. Lamour "Road" picture costume
- 46. Having earlike appendages
- 47. Certified public accountant
- 49. Outermost part of a flower
- 51. Supplement with difficulty
- 54. Plains Indian tent (alt. sp.)
- 59. Electronic warfare-support measures
- 60. Displaying a fairylike aspect
- 61. Taxi
- 62. They __
- 64. Syrian pound

Sometimes I roll my eyes out loud.

JANUARY 2016

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**The Penny
(Author Unknown)
[Edited]**

Several years ago, a friend of mine and her husband were invited to spend the weekend at the husband's employer's home. My friend, Arlene, was nervous about the weekend. The first day and evening went well and Arlene was delighted. The husband's employer was quite generous as a host and took them to the finest restaurants. Arlene knew she would never have the opportunity to indulge in this kind of extravagance again, so was enjoying herself immensely. As the three of them were about to enter an exclusive restaurant that evening, the boss was walking slightly ahead of Arlene and her husband. He stopped suddenly, looking down on the pavement for a long, silent moment. Arlene wondered if she was supposed to pass him. There was nothing on the ground except a single darkened penny that someone had dropped and a few cigarette butts.

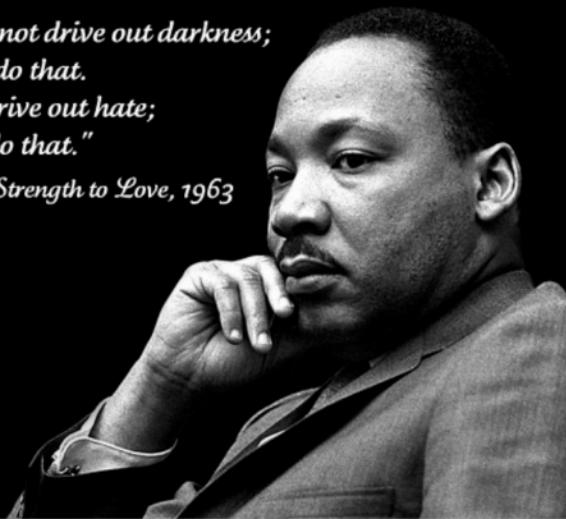
Still silent, the man reached down and picked up the penny. He held it up and smiled, then put it in his pocket as if he had found a great treasure. How absurd! What need did this man have for a single penny? Why would he even take the time to stop and pick it up? Throughout dinner the entire scene nagged at her. Finally, she could stand it no longer. She causally mentioned that her daughter once had a coin collection, and asked if the penny he had found had been of some value. A smile crept across the man's face as he reached into his pocket for the penny and held it out for her to see. She had seen many pennies before! What was the point of this? "Look at it." He said. "Read what it says." She read the words "United States of America." "No, not that; read further." "One cent?" "No, keep reading." "In God we Trust?" "Yes!" "And?" "And if I trust in God, the name of God is holy, even on a coin.

Whenever I find a coin I see that inscription. It is written on every single United States coin, but we never seem to notice it! God drops a message right in front of me telling me to trust Him? Who am I to pass it by? When I see a coin, I pray, I stop to see if my trust IS in God at that moment. I pick the coin up as a response to God; that I do trust in Him. For a short time, at least, I cherish it as if it were gold. I think it is God's way of starting a conversation with me. Lucky for me, God is patient and pennies are plentiful! When I was out shopping today, I found a penny on the sidewalk. I stopped and picked it up and realized that I had been worrying and fretting in my mind about things I cannot change. I read the words, "In God We Trust," and had to laugh. Yes, God, I get the message. It seems that I have been finding an inordinate number of pennies in the last few months, but then, pennies are plentiful! And God is patient... May you find your penny today and be reminded that it is 'In God We Trust'



Nonviolence means avoiding not only external physical violence but also internal violence of spirit. You not only refuse to shoot a man, but you refuse to hate him.
Martin Luther King, Jr.

*"Darkness cannot drive out darkness;
only light can do that.
Hate cannot drive out hate;
only love can do that."
-Strength to Love, 1963*



The other day I held the door open for a clown.
It was a nice jester.



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Every time I look back in my life it causes me to look ahead, to the realization that the LORD is always one step ahead of me!! I look back at things that I had planned for my life to see that they were not accomplished, but that something better is in its place. The bible talks plainly about God ordering the steps of a good man, or righteous man. The bible also makes a declaration that "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE". Contradiction you might say? "But GOD" There is another scripture to interject here which says "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Corinthians 5; 21). That scripture for God ordering your steps is found in Psalm 37:23 that says "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in His way." Take the time this New Year to Delight yourself in the LORD, so that you can look back in your life to see that He is one step ahead of YOU !

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A man scolded his son for being so unruly and the child rebelled against his father. He got some of his clothes, his teddy bear, his piggy bank and proudly announced, "I'm running away from home!" The father calmly decided to look at the matter logically. "What if you get hungry?" he asked. "Then I'll come home and eat!," bravely declared the child. "And what if you run out of money?" "I will come home and get some!" readily replied the child. The man then made a final attempt, "What if your clothes get dirty?" "Then I'll come home and let mommy wash them," was the reply. The man shook his head and exclaimed, "This kid is not running away from home; he's going off to college."

I saw a wino eating grapes. I said "Whoa man, you'll have to wait."

JANUARY 2016

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JANUARY 2016

27

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I'm thankful for many things, but mostly that there were no camera phones when I was in high school.

FIND THE ICONS CONTEST RULES

We have hidden the 8 January icons pictured below in 8 ads.

Find all 8 icons & Enter for a chance to win **\$100 CASH**

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

TO: Parrish Publishing

PO Box 681 Ozark, AL 36361

Email to Roger@laughsandlifts.com

with subject or attn: line: JANUARY ICONS

NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

Drawing will be held on the 20th of the month.

One (1) email and one (1) regular mail are drawn & the winner is drawn from those 2.

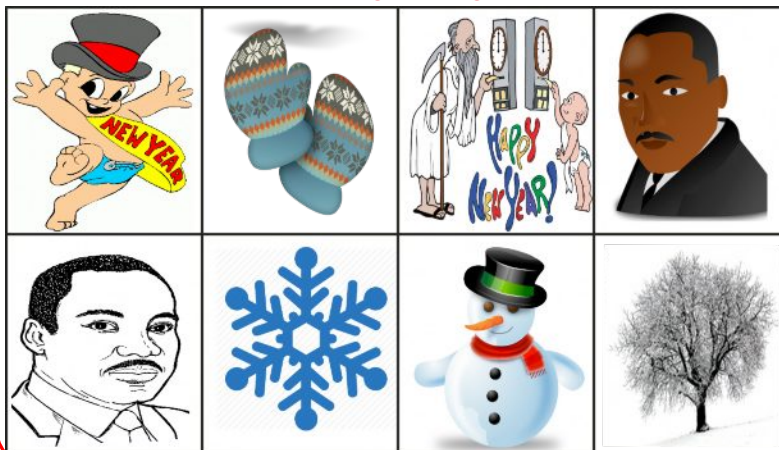
TO FIND OUT IF YOU HAVE WON

READ THE NEXT EDITION OF LAUGHS AND LIFTS.

THE WINNER WILL BE NAMED AND POSTED THERE.

THE WINNER WILL HAVE UNTIL THE 15TH OF THE MONTH TO CALL AND CLAIM THEIR PRIZE!

PRIZES MUST BE PICKED UP IN PERSON BY THE WINNER BY THE LAST WEEK DAY OF THE MONTH!



The December Icons Were in these ads:

Mixon Farms and Nursery

Faithworkz Disability

Smoking Skillet Cafe

Jenna Mack State Farm Agency

Harbin Jewelers

C&B Farm and Produce

Eyes of Ozark optical

Grocery Salvage

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Pd. for by Steve McKinnon, 841 N. Daleville Ave., Daleville,

Alaska is the only state that can be typed on one row of keys on a US keyboard.

"Beau"

by Jimmy Stewart

He never came to me when I would call
Unless I had a tennis ball, or he felt like it,
But mostly he didn't come at all.
When he was young he never learned to heel
Or sit or stay, He did things his way.
Discipline was not his bag
But when you were with him things sure didn't drag.
He'd dig up a rosebush just to spite me,
And when I'd grab him, he'd turn and bite me.
He bit lots of folks from day to day,
The delivery boy was his favorite prey.
The gas man wouldn't read our meter,
He said we owned a real man-eater.
He set the house on fire but the story's long to tell.
Suffice it to say that he survived
And the house survived as well.
On the evening walks, and Gloria took him,
He was always first out the door.
The Old One and I brought up the rear
Because our bones were sore.
He would charge up the street with Mom hanging on,
What a beautiful pair they were!
And if it was still light and the tourists were out,
They created a bit of a stir.
But every once in a while, he would stop in his tracks
And with a frown on his face look around.
It was just to make sure that the Old One was there
And would follow him where he was bound.
We are early-to-bedders at our house—
I guess I'm the first to retire.
And as I'd leave the room he'd look at me
And get up from his place by the fire.
He knew where the tennis balls were upstairs,
And I'd give him one for a while.
He would push it under the bed with his nose
And I'd fish it out with a smile.
And before very long He'd tire of the ball
And be asleep in his corner In no time at all.
And there were nights when I'd feel him
Climb upon our bed And lie between us, and I'd pat his head.
And there were nights when I'd feel this stare
And I'd wake up and he'd be sitting there
And I reach out my hand and stroke his hair.
And sometimes I'd feel him sigh and I think I know the reason
why. He would wake up at night and he would have this fear
Of the dark, of life, of lots of things,
And he'd be glad to have me near. And now he's dead.
And there are nights when I think I feel him
Climb upon our bed and lie between us, And I pat his head.
And there are nights when I think I feel that stare
And I reach out my hand to stroke his hair, But he's not there.
Oh, how I wish that wasn't so,
I'll always love a dog named Beau.

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What do you call male ballerinas?

JANUARY 2016

29

Laughs and Lifts.com

Don't knock the weather. If it didn't change once in a while, nine-tenths of the people couldn't start a conversation.



**“Your Hometown Dentist”
Dr. Gaunt Asks...
What in the world?**

Happy New Year! I hope 2016 is your best yet!

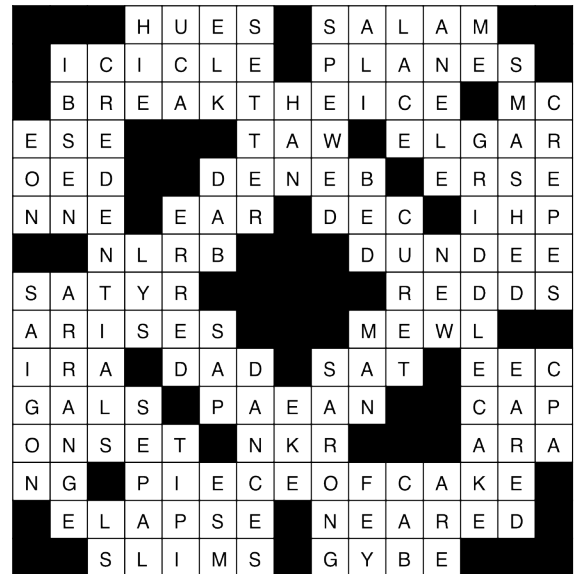
Holiday time brought forth a "what in the world" that I didn't expect..... What in the world are all those colored dots all over that person's house and this neighbor's trees? Well a super quick way to put up lights apparently this year was to shine hundreds of low intensity level laser dots from a source in front of it, and like a laser pointer, it stops on whatever is in the way, a house, tree, or even the blow up snowman that now looks as if it has a technicolor case of chicken pox!

Lasers are pretty amazing! In fact, over the next couple issues, I'll tell you about a few ways this light energy can be used in dentistry. It is amazing how some of this technology has transformed many aspects of medicine including dental medicine. For instance, we often encounter teeth that are either cavitated or broken to the point where the first available good tooth structure is too far below the gumline. Before now, that meant either visiting a specialist for a surgical procedure or if the patient did not want to do that, the tooth would be deemed non-restorable and removed.

A typical scenario might have been for us to examine the tooth on an initial visit, then refer the patient to a specialist who would surgically access and remove enough gum and bone structure that would allow enough healthy tooth structure to be exposed to put the edge of a new filling or crown on. Afterward, it would require several weeks of healing of the surgical site before I could get to the next step of the restorative process. Now, I use a specialized laser that accomplishes what we need to without lifting a scalpel! This means that we don't have a large surgical site that needs extended healing time. Also, I'm able in most cases to continue my treatment to restore the tooth that same visit. Using the laser also means that there's little to no bleeding, in fact, the patient can hardly notice where the laser surgery took place. This is just one, but a transformational procedure that is saving many teeth in our office. Lasers are becoming much more popular with dentists who get certified in their use, so you may want to ask your dentist if that is an option for you!

To your Health and Happiness,

Geoff Gaunt, DMD
dothancosmeticdentistry.com
334-673-7440



**BAMBOOZABLES
ANSWERS**

1. We are counting on you
2. A Friend in need
3. Stepmother
4. Caught in the moment
5. Divided highway
6. Season Tickets

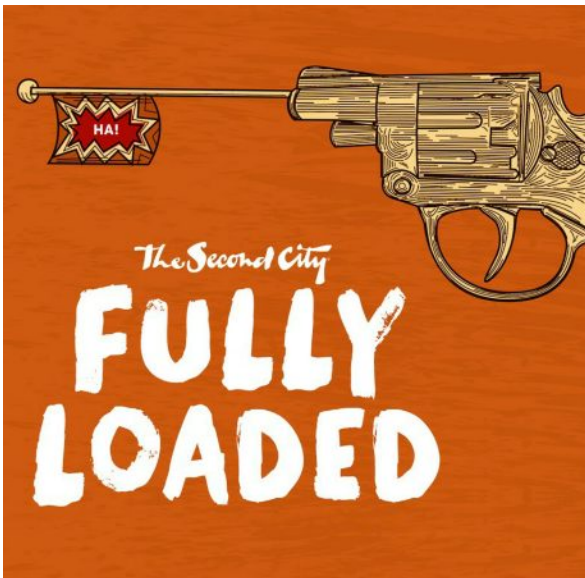
1. Scatter Brain
2. Good Intentions
3. Horseback Riding
4. Daybreak
5. All Things Being Equal
6. Always by my Side

WORD PICTURE ANSWERS

1. Point blank range
2. Walk in the Park
3. Tip of the Iceberg
4. Horsing around
5. 1 if by land 2 if by sea
6. He came out of nowhere

A teacher was finishing up a lesson on the joys of discovery and the importance of curiosity. "Where would we be today," she asked, "if no one had ever been curious?" One child quietly spoke up from the back of the room. "Still in the Garden of Eden?"

My doctor said I was paranoid... well, he didn't actually say it,
but I could tell he was thinking it.



On January 21, 2016 at 7 p.m., Chicago's legendary sketch and improv comedy theater performs at the Enterprise High School Performing Arts Center with The Second City: Fully Loaded. This irresistible new show features classic material made famous by Second City stars like Tina Fey, Stephen Colbert, Steve Carell, Gilda Radner and Bill Murray, as well as brand new scenes, songs and improv straight from their sold out shows in Chicago and Toronto. This must-see evening of comedy features some of Chicago's best and brightest in a special one night engagement. Fresh, fast and always spectacularly funny, The Second City is celebrating 55 years of producing cutting-edge satirical revues and continues to launch the careers of comedy superstars. **This show may contain mature content.**



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