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Independence Day



Independence Day, also referred to as the Fourth of July or July Fourth, is a federal holiday in the United States commemorating the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.

The Continental Congress declared that the thirteen American colonies regarded themselves as a new nation, the United States of America, and were no longer part of the British Empire. The Congress actually voted to declare independence two days earlier, on July 2.

During the American Revolution, the legal separation of the Thirteen Colonies from Great Britain in 1776 actually occurred on July 2, when the Second Continental Congress voted to approve a resolution of independence that had been proposed in June by Richard Henry Lee of Virginia declaring the United States independent from Great Britain rule. After voting for independence, Congress turned its attention to the Declaration of Independence, a

statement explaining this decision, which had been prepared by a Committee of Five, with Thomas Jefferson as its principal author. Congress debated and revised the wording of the Declaration, finally approving it two days later on July 4. A day earlier, John Adams had written to his wife Abigail:

The second day of July, 1776, will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more.

Adams's prediction was off by two days. From the outset, Americans celebrated independence on July 4, the date shown on the much-publicized Declaration of Independence, rather than on July 2, the date the resolution of independence was approved in a closed ses-

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sion of Congress.

Historians have long disputed whether members of Congress signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, even though Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and Benjamin Franklin all later wrote that they had signed it on that day. Most historians have concluded that the Declaration was signed nearly a month after its adoption, on August 2, 1776, and not on July 4 as is commonly believed.

DATA MASTER: Karen Deffenbaugh

Inverted Tulips



Tulip is one of the world's most easily recognized and loved flowers. The meanings of tulips coupled with the immediately identifiable shape of their colorful blooms make them a comfortable flower choice. They are not too elegant, too romantic, too big, too small, or too bright; the tulip is always just right. They are like a favorite pair of jeans or your mom's fresh-baked cookies in that the meanings of tulips express genuine coziness and comfort in all of the right ways.

The tulip originated centuries ago in Persia and Turkey, where it played a significant role in the art and

culture of the time. Most likely commenting on the Turkish tradition of wearing tulips in one's turban, Europeans mistakenly gave tulips their name, which comes from the Persian word meaning turban. As Europeans began taking to tulips, the flower's popularity spread quickly, particularly in the Netherlands where a phenomenon dubbed tulip mania set in at one point during the 17th century. Tulips became so highly-prized that prices were sent soaring and markets crashing. Tulips are now grown throughout the world, but people still identify cultivated varieties as "Dutch tulips."

The meaning of tulips is generally perfect love. Like many flowers, different colors of tulips also often carry their own significance. Red tulips are most strongly associated with true love, while purple symbolizes royalty. The meaning of yellow tulips has evolved somewhat, from once representing hopeless love to now being a common expression for cheerful thoughts and sunshine. White tulips are used to claim worthiness or to send a message of forgiveness. Variegated tulips, once among the most popular varieties due to their striking color patterns, represent beautiful eyes.

With all of the sentiments and meanings of tulips, it's not surprising that their popularity continues to endure. The wide range of colors and varieties available allows them to be used for many occasions. In addition to being a favorite for cut flower arrangements, tulips can also be given as a potted plant. The growing and caring for of tulip bulb gardens and plants is a rewarding pastime for many flower lovers. As one of the world's most beloved flowers, a gift of tulips is a sure delight, enchanting in its beauty and simplicity.

The pretty flower Inverted Tulip, abounds in the Zagros mountain range. It is found in Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari province as well as in the western and southern provinces of Iran, according to Tehran-based English newspaper Iran Daily.

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Inverted tulip was taken to Austria for the first time by a European tourist in 1576 and Europeans became familiar with this beautiful flower. In the 19th century, its cultivation spread to the Netherlands.

The flower sprouts on the plains of Iran from the middle of March. The full bloom of this flower is spectacular, as it creates a red and green carpet.

During this period, a lot of travelers visit areas where this wonderful flower blooms. In fact, many festivals of inverted tulips are held every year in the provinces where they grow.

However, the flower's lifespan is short and endangered by overgrazing and its use as medicine. It is picked in large amounts for feeding livestock. Experts believe expansion of farming in the area where inverted tulips grow also threatens the flower.

Other Iranian flowers

Being a vast land with diverse climatic conditions, Iran is one of the largest producers of ornamental flowers in the world.

Reports indicate Iran ranks 17th in the world in terms of total area under cultivation of decorative flowers.

Roses, fritillaria, poppy and pittosporum are indigenous species of the country while cactus, calendula, carnation, forsythia, hyacinth, iris, zinnia, daisies, orchids and sunflowers are also grown here.

Iran is probably one of the most intense flower growing countries. Since ancient times, Iranians have had a custom of presenting flowers as gifts on various occasions.

While selecting the flowers, they give utmost importance to the meaning conveyed by that particular flower.

Roses, tulips, alsteromeria, chrysanthemum, iris and orchids are very popular among Iranians.

DATA MASTER: Doug Stone

What Is A DAD?

Poet: Unknown

A dad is someone who wants to catch you before you fall but instead picks you up, brushes you off, and lets you try again.



A dad is someone who holds you when you cry, scolds you when you break the rules, shines with pride when you succeed, and has faith in you even when you fail...

A dad is someone who wants to keep you from making mistakes but instead lets you find your own way, even though his heart breaks in silence when you get hurt.



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"A"lways there.

"T"rustworthy.

"H"onoring.

"E"ver-loving.

"R"ighteous.

"S"upportive.

"You are my hero,
Dad You're my secure foundation.
When I think of you,
I'm filled with love And fond appreciation."

"You make me feel protected
I'm sheltered by your care.
You're always my true friend
When I need you, you're always there."

"You make me feel protected
I'm sheltered by your care.
You're always my true friend
When I need you, you're always there."

"You have a place of honor Deep within my heart.
You've been my superhero,
Dad, Right from the very start."
"I am glad you're my father
You're really the best.
As a dad, you're a fine one I'm so very blessed."

DATA MASTER: Alyssa Hollingsworth

How to treat sunburn

Your skin can burn if it gets too much sun without proper protection from sunscreen and clothes. To help heal and soothe stinging skin, it is important to begin treating sunburn as soon as you notice it. The first thing you should do is get out of the sun—and preferably indoors.

Once indoors, these dermatologists' tips can help relieve the discomfort:

1. **Take frequent cool baths or showers to help relieve the pain.** As soon as you get out of the bathtub or shower, gently pat yourself dry, but leave a little water on your skin. Then, apply a moisturizer to help trap the water in your skin. This can help ease the dryness.
2. **Use a moisturizer that contains aloe vera or soy to help soothe sunburned skin.** If a particular area feels especially uncomfortable, you may want to apply a hydrocortisone cream that you can buy without a prescription. Do not treat sunburn with "-caine" products (such as benzocaine), as these may irritate the skin or cause an allergic reaction.
3. **Consider taking aspirin or ibuprofen to help reduce any swelling, redness and discomfort.**
4. **Drink extra water.** A sunburn draws fluid to the skin's surface and away from the rest of the body. Drinking extra water when you are sunburned helps prevent dehydration.
5. **If your skin blisters, allow the blisters to heal.** Blistering skin means you have a second-degree sunburn. You should not pop the blisters, as blisters form to help your skin heal and protect you from infection.
6. **Take extra care to protect sunburned skin while it heals.** Wear clothing that covers your skin when outdoors. Tightly-woven fabrics work best. When you hold the fabric up to a bright light, you shouldn't see any light coming through.

Although it may seem like a temporary condition, sunburn—a result of skin receiving too much exposure from the sun's ultraviolet (UV) rays—can cause long-lasting damage to the skin. This damage increases a person's risk for getting skin cancer, making it critical to protect the skin from the sun.

For questions about your sunburn or to learn how to better protect your skin from the sun, see a board-certified dermatologist.

Data Master: Eric Peachey

This Month in History: June

June 17

June 17, 1972 - Following a seemingly routine burglary, five men were arrested at the National Democratic Headquarters in the Watergate complex in Washington, D.C. However, subsequent investigations revealed the burglars were actually agents hired by the Committee for the Re-election of President Richard Nixon. A long chain of events then followed in which the president and top aides became involved in an extensive cover-up of this and other White House sanctioned illegal activities, eventually leading to the resignation of President Nixon on August 9, 1974.

Birthdays - Russian composer Igor Stravinsky (1882-1971) was born near St. Petersburg. Among his best known works, the ballets *The Firebird* (1910), *Petrushka* (1911) and *The Rite of Spring* (1913), and the choral work *Symphony of Psalms* (1930).

June 18

June 18, 1812 - After much debate, the U.S. Senate voted 19 to 13 in favor of a declaration of war against Great Britain, prompted by Britain's violation of America's rights on the high seas and British incitement of Indian warfare on the Western frontier. The next day, President James Madison officially proclaimed the U.S. to be in a state of war. The War of 1812 lasted over two years and ended with the signing of the Treaty of Ghent in Belgium on December 24, 1814.

June 18, 1815 - On the fields near Waterloo in central Belgium, 72,000 French troops, led by Napoleon, suffered a crushing military defeat from a combined Allied army of 113,000 British, Dutch, Belgian, and Prussian troops. Thus ended 23 years of warfare between France and the other powers of Europe. Napoleon was then sent into exile on the island of St. Helena off the coast of Africa. On May 5, 1821, the former vain-glorious Emperor died alone on the tiny island, abandoned by everyone.

June 18, 1983 - Dr. Sally Ride, a 32-year-old physicist and pilot, became the first American woman in space, beginning a six-day mission aboard the space shuttle *Challenger*, launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida.

Birthdays - British explorer George Mallory (1886-1924) was born in Mobberley, Cheshire, England. When asked why he wanted to climb Mount Everest, the highest mountain in the world, he simply answered, "Because it is there." He disappeared while climbing through the mists toward its summit on the morning of June 8, 1924. His body, perfectly preserved due to the cold conditions, was discovered by climbers in 1999, just 600 meters (2,030 feet) from the summit.

June 19

June 19, 1953 - Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were executed by electrocution at Sing Sing Prison in New York. They had been found guilty of providing vital information on the atomic bomb to the Soviet Union during 1944-45. They were the first U.S. civilians to be sentenced to death for espionage and were also the only married couple ever executed together in the U.S.

Birthdays - Baseball great Lou Gehrig (1903-1941) was born in New York City. He played in 2,130 consecutive games and seven World Series for the New York Yankees and had a lifetime batting average of .340. He contracted the degenerative muscle disease amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, now called 'Lou Gehrig's disease,' and died on June 2, 1941.

June 20

June 20, 1782 - The U.S. Congress officially adopted the Great Seal of the United States of America.

Birthdays - American military hero and actor Audie Murphy (1924-

1971) was born in Kingston, Texas. He was the most decorated American soldier of World War II, awarded 37 medals and decorations, including the Medal of Honor for single-handedly turning back a German infantry company by climbing on a burning U.S. tank destroyer and firing its .50-cal. machine gun, killing 50 Germans. He later became an actor in western and war movies and made 45 films including; *The Red Badge of Courage* (1951), *Destry* (1954), and *To Hell and Back* (1955), based on his autobiography. He died May 28, 1971, in a plane crash near Roanoke, Virginia.

June 21

June 21, 1964 - Three white civil rights workers - James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner - left Meridian, Mississippi, at 9 a.m. to investigate a church burning. They were expected back by 4 p.m. When they failed to return, a search was begun. Their murdered bodies were discovered on August 4th. Birthdays - French philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre (1905-1980) was born in Paris. Dubbed the "father of existentialism," in 1964, he rejected the Nobel Prize for Literature when it was awarded to him.

Birthdays - Britain's Prince William (William Arthur Philip Louis) was born in London, June 21, 1982.

June 22

June 22, 1918 - A Michigan Central Railroad troop train struck the rear of the Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus train in Ivanhoe, Indiana. Fifty-three circus performers were killed. Of the circus animals not killed, most were maimed and had to be destroyed. The performers, of whom only three could be identified, were buried in a mass grave.

June 22, 1941 - Starting at 3:15 am, some 3.2 million German soldiers plunged headlong into Russia across an 1800-mile front, in a major turning point of World War II. At 7 am that morning, a proclamation from Hitler to the German people announced, "At this moment a march is taking place that, for its extent, compares with the greatest the world has ever seen..."

June 23

June 23, 1865 - The last formal surrender of Confederate troops occurred as Cherokee leader and Confederate Brigadier General Watie surrendered his battalion comprised of American Indians in the Oklahoma Territory.

June 24

June 24, 1948 - Soviet Russia began a blockade of Berlin. Two days later the Allies responded with an emergency airlift to relieve two million isolated West Berliners. During the Berlin Airlift, American and British planes flew about 278,000 flights, delivering 2.3 million tons of food, coal and medical supplies. A plane landed in Berlin every minute from eleven Allied staging areas in West Germany. The Russians lifted their blockade of Berlin on May 12, 1949, however the airlift continued until September 30th.

June 24, 2010 - Labor Party deputy Julia Gillard became Australia's first female Prime Minister. She was born in Wales and had moved to Australia as a child. She worked as a lawyer before entering politics.

Birthdays - Boxing champ Jack Dempsey (1895-1983) was born in Manassa, Colorado. Dubbed "The Manassa Mauler," he reigned as world heavyweight champion from 1919 to 1926. Following his boxing career, he became a successful New York restaurant operator.

June 25

June 25, 1862 - During the American Civil War, the Seven Days Campaign began as Confederate General Robert E. Lee launched a series of assaults to prevent a Union attack on Richmond, Virginia. The Campaign included battles at Oak Grove, Gaine's Mills, Garnett's Farm, Golding's Farm, Savage's Station, White Oak Swamp and Malvern Hill, resulting in over 36,000 casualties on both sides. Despite losing the final assault at Malvern Hill, the Confederates succeeded in preventing the Union Army from taking Richmond.

June 25, 1876 - General George A. Custer, leading 250 men, attacked an encampment of Sioux Indians near Little Bighorn River in Montana. Custer and his men were then attacked by 2000-4000 Indian braves. Only one scout and a single horse survived 'Custer's Last Stand' on the Little Bighorn Battlefield. News of the humiliating defeat infuriated Americans and led to all out war. Within a year, the Sioux Indians were a broken and defeated nation.

June 25, 1950 - The Korean War began as North Korean troops, led by Russian-built tanks, crossed the 38th parallel and launched a full scale invasion of South Korea. Five days later, U.S. ground forces entered the conflict, which lasted until July 27, 1953, when an armistice was signed at Panmunjom, formally dividing the country at the 38th parallel into North and South Korea.

June 25, 1990 - The U.S. Supreme Court ruled (5-4) that it was unconstitutional for any state to require, without providing other options, a minor to notify both parents before obtaining an abortion.

June 25, 1991 - Following the collapse of Soviet rule in Eastern Europe, the republics of Croatia and Slovenia declared their independence from Yugoslavia. Ethnic rivalries between Serbians and Croats soon erupted. In 1992, fighting erupted in Bosnia-Herzegovina between Serbians and ethnic Muslims. A campaign of terrorism and genocide, termed 'ethnic cleansing,' was started by the Serbs against the Muslims. At least two million people became refugees, and about 200,000 were missing and presumed dead. Violence in the region raged on through 1995 despite economic sanctions and the efforts of U.N. peacekeeping forces in the area.

Birthdays - British satirist George Orwell (1903-1950) was born at Montihari in Bengal (as Eric Arthur Blair). He is best known for two works of fiction Animal Farm (1944), and 1984 (1949).

June 26

June 26, 1893 - Illinois Gov. John P. Altgeld issued a controversial pardon for three anarchists convicted after the Haymarket Riot. The riot had occurred in Chicago in May of 1886, after 180 police officers advanced on 1,300 persons listening to speeches by labor activists and anarchists. A bomb was thrown. Seven police were killed and over 50 wounded. Four anarchists were then charged with conspiracy to kill, convicted and hanged while another committed suicide in jail. Three others were given lengthy jail terms, then pardoned by Gov. Altgeld in a move that likely cost him his political career.

June 26, 1945 - The United Nations Charter was signed in San Francisco by 50 nations. The Charter was ratified on October 24, 1945.

Birthdays - American author Pearl Buck (1892-1973) was born in Hillsboro, West Virginia. She became a noted authority on China and wrote books including The Good Earth which revealed the mysterious Chinese culture to Western readers. She received a Nobel Prize in 1938 for her many books.

Birthdays - Champion athlete Mildred "Babe" Didrikson (1914-1952) was born in Port Arthur, Texas. Nicknamed after baseball legend Babe Ruth, she won two gold medals at the 1932 Olympics, setting world records in the javelin throw and high hurdle. She then took up golf, winning the 1946 U.S. Women's Amateur Tournament. In 1947, she won 17 straight golf championships and became the first American winner of the British Ladies' Amateur Tournament. As a pro golfer, she won the U.S. Women's Open in 1950 and 1954. She also excelled in softball, baseball, swimming, figure skating, bil-

iards, and even football. In 1950, she was named 'woman athlete of the first half of the 20th century' by the Associated Press. She died of cancer at age 42.

June 27

Birthdays - American musician Mildred J. Hill (1859-1916) was born in Louisville, Kentucky. She composed the melody for what is now the world's most often sung song, Happy Birthday to You.

June 28

June 28, 1862 - During the American Civil War, the siege of the Confederate city of Vicksburg began as Admiral David Farragut succeeded in taking a fleet past the Mississippi River stronghold. The siege continued over a year.

June 28, 1914 - Archduke Francis Ferdinand, Crown Prince of Austria and his wife were assassinated at Sarajevo, touching off a conflict between the Austro-Hungarian government and Serbia that escalated into World War I.

June 28, 1919 - The signing of the Treaty of Versailles formally ended World War I. According to the terms, Germany was assessed sole blame for the war, forced give up Alsace-Lorraine and overseas colonies, and pay reparations of \$15 Billion. The treaty also prohibited German rearmament.

Birthdays - Flemish painter and diplomat Peter Paul Rubens (1577-1640) was born in Siegen, Westphalia, Germany. Regarded as the greatest of Flemish painters, he was considered the master artist of his day. He was also skilled in science and politics and spoke seven languages. Among his masterpieces; Le Coup de Lance and The Descent from the Cross.

(Continued on page 8)

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Getting to know the Lutherans

Forgive—If someone does something terrible to you are you required to forgive him, even if he does not ask or wish your forgiveness? We know that when we confess and ask for forgiveness God is merciful and forgives us.. Forgiving the other person is the first step in our healing process. On the other hand, holding the rage inside hurts you. Yet you can't seem to let it go because something inside screams that this was not right and that you can never pretend that it is all ok.

Forgiveness is not a feeling but a fact. Jesus' last quoted sentence to Judas began, "Friend." In his agony on the cross, we can't say that he "felt" like forgiving his tormenters. Our ability to forgive comes from our being forgiven and truly believing that it is not because of ourselves, but because of God's love for us in Christ Jesus.

He gave (and we now also give) forgiveness as a gift, leaving it to others to receive and rejoice in the gift or to scorn and despise it. There is no spiritual change without forgiveness--and if nothing changes afterward, feel free to "shake the dust off your sandals" and commit the offending party to the Lord.

Don't worry about a "requirement" to forgive. Consider and rejoice in the forgiveness you have received. Then you will be ever more willing to share this joy with others.

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This Month in History: June

(Continued from page 6)

Birthday - Philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778) was born in Geneva, Switzerland. His book *The Social Contract* stated that no laws are binding unless agreed upon by the people, a concept that deeply affected the French. In his novel *Emile* he challenged harsh child-rearing methods of his day and argued that young people should be given freedom to enjoy sunlight, exercise and play. "Man is born free," he wrote in *The Social Contract*, "and everywhere he is in chains."

Birthday - German-American physicist Maria Goeppert Mayer (1906-1972) was born in Kattowitz, Germany. She participated in the secret Manhattan Project, the building of the first atomic bomb. She later became the first American woman to win the Nobel Prize, sharing the 1963 prize for physics for works explaining atomic nuclei, known as the nuclear shell theory.

June 29

June 29, 1972 - The U.S. Supreme Court ruled (5-4) that capital punishment was a violation of the Eighth Amendment prohibiting "cruel and unusual punishment." The decision spared the lives of 600 individuals then sitting on death row. Four years later, in another ruling, the Court reversed itself and determined the death penalty was not cruel and unusual punishment. On October 4, 1976, the ban was lifted on the death penalty in cases involving murder.

Birthday - Social worker Julia Lathrop (1858-1932) was born in Rockford, Illinois. She fought to establish child labor laws and was instrumental in establishing the first juvenile court in the U.S. In 1912, President Taft named her to head the newly created Children's Bureau. In 1925, she became a member of the Child Welfare Committee of the League of Nations.

Birthday - American surgeon William Mayo (1861-1939) was born

in LeSeuer, Minnesota. He was one of the Mayo brothers, pioneers of the concept of the group clinic, bringing together specialists from a number of medical fields to better perform diagnoses and treatment. The Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, became an internationally known medical center.

June 30

June 30, 1971 - The 26th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was enacted, granting the right to vote in all federal, state and local elections to American citizens 18 years or older. The U.S. thus gained an additional 11 million voters. The minimum voting age in most states had been 21.

June 30, 1997 - In Hong Kong, the flag of the British Crown Colony was officially lowered at midnight and replaced by a new flag representing China's sovereignty and the official transfer of power.

DATA MASTER: Karen Deffenbaugh



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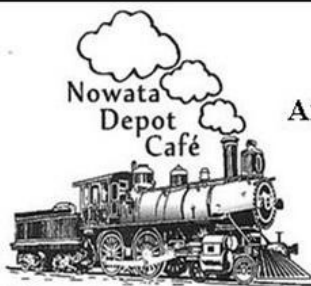
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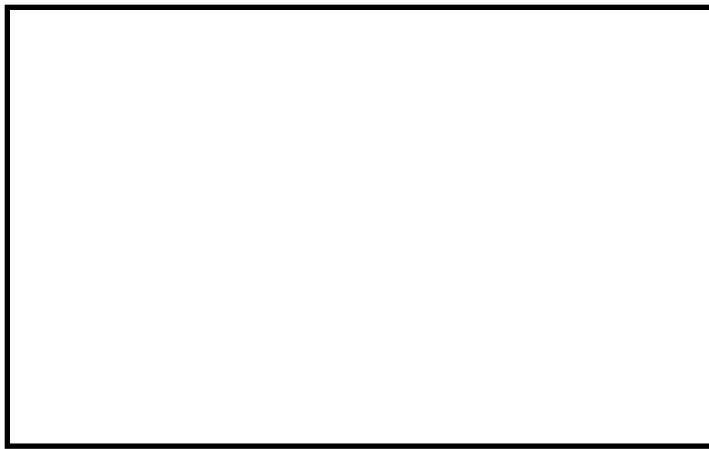


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A Piece of Bread

By Francois Coppee (Part Two of Two)



The young duke had a kind heart and was profoundly moved by this terrible story, told him by a man like himself, by a soldier whose uniform made him his equal. It was even fortunate for the phlegm of this dandy, that the night wind dried the tears which dimmed his eyes.

"Jean-Victor," said he, ceasing in his turn, by a delicate tact, to speak familiarly to the foundling, "if we survive this dreadful war, we will meet again, and I hope that I may be useful to you. But, in the meantime, as there is no bakery but the commissary, and as my ration of bread is twice too large for my delicate appetite,—it is understood, is it not?—we will share it like good comrades."

It was strong and hearty, the hand-clasp which followed: then, harassed and worn by their frequent watches and alarms, as night fell, they returned to the tavern, where twelve soldiers were sleeping on the straw; and throwing themselves down side by side, they were soon sleeping soundly.

Toward midnight Jean-Victor awoke, being hungry probably. The wind had scattered the clouds, and a ray of moonlight made its way into the room through a hole in the roof, lighting up the handsome blonde head of the young duke, who was sleeping like an Endymion. Still touched by the kindness of his comrade, Jean-Victor was gazing at him with admiration, when the sergeant of the platoon opened the door and called the five men who were to relieve the sentinels of the out-

posts. The duke was of the number, but he did not waken when his name was called.

"Hardimont, stand up!" repeated the non-commissioned officer.

"If you are willing, sergeant," said Jean-Victor rising, "I will take his duty, he is sleeping so soundly—and he is my comrade."

"As you please."

The five men left, and the snoring recommenced. But half an hour later the noise of near and rapid firing burst upon the night. In an instant every man was on his feet, and each with his hand on the chamber of his gun, stepped cautiously out, looking earnestly along the road, lying white in the moonlight.

"What time is it?" asked the duke. "I was to go on duty to-night."

"Jean-Victor went in your place."

At that moment a soldier was seen running toward them along the road.

"What is it?" they cried as he stopped, out of breath.

"The Prussians have attacked us, let us fall back to the redoubt."

"And your comrades?"

"They are coming—all but poor Jean-Victor."

"Where is he?" cried the duke.

"Shot through the head with a bullet—died without a word!—ough!"

* * * * *

One night last winter, the Duc de Hardimont left his

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club about two o'clock in the morning, with his neighbor, Count de Saulnes; the duke had lost some hundred louis, and had a slight headache.

"If you are willing, André," he said

to his companion, "we will go home on foot—I need the air."

"Just as you please, I am willing, although the walking may be bad."

They dismissed their coupés, turned up the collars of their overcoats, and set off toward the Madeleine. Suddenly an object rolled before the duke which he had struck with the toe of his boot; it was a large piece of bread spattered with mud.

Then to his amazement, Monsieur de Saulnes saw the Duc de Hardimont pick up the piece of bread, wipe it carefully with his handkerchief embroidered with his armorial bearings, and place it on a bench, in full view under the gaslight.

"What did you do that for?" asked the count, laughing heartily, "are you crazy?"

"It is in memory of a poor fellow who died for me," replied the duke in a voice which trembled slightly, "do not laugh, my friend, it offends me."

The End

DATA MASTER: Eric Peachey

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It's not the final score at all -
But did you do your best?

The ELIXIR OF LIFE

By Honore De Balzac

Part Four of Four



Then he heard indescribable rustlings, but he attributed them to the wind among the tree-tops. When he had bathed the right arm he felt himself rudely seized at the back of the neck by an arm, young and vigorous—the arm of his father! He gave a piercing cry, and dropped the phial, which fell on the floor and broke. The liquid flowed out.

The whole household rushed in, bearing torches. The cry had aroused and frightened them as if the trumpet of the last judgment had shaken the world. The room was crowded with people. The trembling throng saw Don Philippe, fainting, but held up by the powerful arm of his father, which clutched his neck. Then they saw a supernatural sight, the head of Don Juan, young and beautiful as an Antinoüs, a head with black hair, brilliant eyes and crimson lips, a head that moved in a blood-curdling manner without being able to stir the skeleton to which it belonged.

An old servant cried: "A miracle!"

And all the Spaniards repeated: "A miracle!"

Too pious to admit the possibility of magic, Doña Elvira sent for the Abbot of San Lucas. When the priest saw the miracle with his own eyes he resolved to profit by it, like a man of sense, and like an abbot who asked nothing better than to increase his revenues. Declaring that Don Juan must inevitably be canonized, he appointed his monastery for the ceremony of the apotheosis. The monastery, he said, should henceforth be called "San Juan de Lucas." At these words the head made a facetious grimace.

The taste of the Spaniards for this sort of solemnities is so well known that it should not be difficult to imagine the religious spectacle with which the abbey of San Lucas celebrated the translation of "the blessed Don Juan Belvidéro" in its church. A few days after the death of this illustrious nobleman, the miracle of his partial resurrection had been so thoroughly spread

from village to village throughout a circle of more than fifty leagues round San Lucas that it was as good as a play to see the curious people on the road. They came from all sides, drawn by the prospect of a "Te Deum" chanted by the light of burning torches. The ancient mosque of the monastery of San Lucas, a wonderful building, erected by the Moors, which for three hundred years had resounded with the name of Jesus Christ instead of Allah, could not hold the crowd which was gathered to view the ceremony. Packed together like ants, the hidalgos in velvet mantles and armed with their good swords stood round the pillars, unable to find room to bend their knees, which they never bent elsewhere. Charming peasant women, whose dresses set off the beautiful lines of their figures, gave their arms to white-haired old men. Youths with glowing eyes found themselves beside old women decked out in gala dress. There were couples trembling with pleasure, curious-fiancées, led thither by their sweethearts, newly married couples and frightened children, holding one another by the hand. All this throng was there, rich in colors, brilliant in contrast, laden with flowers, making a soft tumult in the silence of the night. The great doors of the church opened.

Those who, having come too late, were obliged to stay outside, saw in the distance, through the three open doors, a scene of which the tawdry decorations of our modern operas can give but a faint idea. Devotees and sinners, intent upon winning the favor of a new saint, lighted thousands of candles in his honor inside the vast church, and these scintillating lights gave a magical aspect to the edifice. The black arcades, the columns with their capitals, the recessed chapels glittering with gold and silver, the galleries, the Moorish fretwork, the most delicate features of this delicate carving, were all revealed in the dazzling brightness like the fantastic figures which are formed in a glowing fire. It

was a sea of light, surmounted at the end of the church by the gilded choir, where the high altar rose in glory, which rivaled the rising sun. But the magnificence of the golden lamps, the silver candlesticks, the banners, the tassels, the saints and the "ex voto" paled before the reliquary in which Don Juan lay. The body of the blasphemer was resplendent with gems, flowers, crystals, diamonds, gold, and plumes as white as the wings of a seraphim; it replaced a picture of Christ on the altar. Around him burned wax candles, which threw out waves of light. The good Abbot of San Lucas, clad in his pontifical robes, with his jeweled mitre, his surplice and his golden crozier reclined, king of the choir, in a large armchair, amid all his clergy, who were impassive men with silver hair, and who surrounded him like the confessing saints whom the painters group round the Lord. The precentor and the dignitaries of the order, decorated with the glittering insignia of their ecclesiastical vanities, came and went among the clouds of incense like planets revolving in the firmament. When the hour of triumph was come the chimes awoke the echoes of the countryside, and this immense assembly raised its voice to God in the first cry of praise which begins the "Te Deum."

Sublime exultation! There were voices pure and high, ecstatic women's voices, blended with the deep sonorous tones of the men, thousands of voices so powerful that they drowned the organ in spite of the bellowing of its pipes. The shrill notes of the choir-boys and the powerful rhythm of the basses inspired pretty thoughts of the combination of childhood and strength in this delightful concert of human voices blended in an outpouring of love.

"Te Deum laudamus!"

In the midst of this cathedral, black with kneeling men and women, the chant burst forth like a light which gleams suddenly in the night, and the silence was broken as by a peal of thunder. The voices rose with the clouds of incense which threw diaphanous, bluish veils over the quaint marvels of the architecture. All was richness, perfume, light and melody.

At the moment at which this symphony of love and gratitude rolled toward the altar, Don Juan, too polite not to express his thanks and too witty not to appreciate a jest, responded by a frightful laugh, and straightened up in his reliquary. But, the devil having given him a hint of the danger he ran of being taken for an ordinary man, for a saint, a Boniface or a Pantaléon, he interrupted this harmony of love by a shriek in which the thousand voices of hell joined. Earth lauded, heaven condemned. The church trembled on its ancient foundations.

"Te Deum laudamus!" sang the crowd.

"Go to the devil, brute beasts that you are! 'Carajos de-

SUDOKU PUZZLES

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1-9, without repeating any.

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monios!" Beasts! what idiots you are with your God!" And a torrent of curses rolled forth like a stream of burning lava at an eruption of Vesuvius.

"Deus sabaoth! sabaoth!" cried the Christians.

Then the living arm was thrust out of the reliquary and waved threateningly over the assembly with a gesture full of despair and irony.

"The saint is blessing us!" said the credulous old women, the children and the young maids.

It is thus that we are often deceived in our adorations. The superior man mocks those who compliment him, and compliments those whom he mocks in the depths of his heart.

When the Abbot, bowing low before the altar, chanted:

"Sancte Johannes, ora pro nobis!" he heard distinctly: "O coglione!"

"What is happening up there?" cried the superior, seeing the reliquary move.

"The saint is playing devil!" replied the Abbot.

At this the living head tore itself violently away from the dead body and fell upon the yellow pate of the priest.

"Remember, Doña Elvira!" cried the head, fastening its teeth in the head of the Abbot.

The latter gave a terrible shriek, which threw the crowd into a panic. The priests rushed to the assistance of their chief.

"Imbecile! Now say that there is a God!" cried the voice, just as the Abbot expired.

THE END

DATA MASTER: Nikki Hamilton

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TYPE OF BATS NATIVE TO OKLAHOMA



Bats are frequently viewed as scary and menacing, often seen adorning homes during Halloween or making appearances in horror movies. Despite their reputation, these flying mammals are small and shy. The bats of Oklahoma are small insect-eating bats called microbats. Some 22 different species of bats call Oklahoma home.

Insect-Eating Bats

All species of bats living in Oklahoma are insect eaters. These small bats are called microbats, as opposed to larger fruit-eating megabats. Insect-eating bats spend the day roosting in a dark spot, coming out at dusk to hunt insects. They love to munch on moths, mosquitoes and June bugs, and they're capable of consuming up to 3,000 mosquitoes in one night. These bats have small eyes and large ears, depending on echolocation to find their prey and get around. The little and big brown bats and Mexican free-tailed bats are the most common species in Oklahoma. Other species include the pallid, evening, hoary and silver-haired bats.

Mexican Free-Tailed Bat

The Mexican free-tailed bat, also called the Brazilian free-tailed bat, is a common and widespread species of bat in Oklahoma. They're only 3 or 4 inches long,



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with short brown fur. They have small eyes, larger, rounded ears and a distinctive, wrinkled upper lip. They get their name because of the small, thin tail extending from the back end of their bodies. In the winter, these bats migrate from Oklahoma to Mexico.

Little Brown Bat

These little bats have glossy fur in colors ranging from golden brown to dark brown. Their compact faces make them resemble mice with wings. They are only 3 to 4 inches long, with a wing-span of roughly 10 inches. These bats hibernate during the winter, from November to March or May. Little brown bats can eat half their body weight in insects and love to hunt swarms of bugs for easy pickings.

Big Brown Bat

While they have big in their name, big brown bats are usually only 5 inches long. They have a wingspan of a little better than a foot wide. Big brown bats have tan to milk chocolate bodies on top, and pink to buff colored bellies. Big brown bats' favorite food is beetles, but they will also eat flies, ants, wasps and dragonflies. Like little brown bats, they aren't migratory and will hibernate during the winter.

DATA MASTER: Doug Stone

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Up-Coming Events

TOPS #570 We meet 9am to 11am Monday morning at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Miami 2337 N. Main St. "Taking off pounds sensibly!"

TOPS #567 meet every Thursday at 10am 433 N Mississippi in Nowata.

TOPS #506 in Miami Heavenly Winds Worship Center meet every 6pm Monday evening. For more info call Susan Walls at 918-540-0570

Every 4th Saturday of the month Veteran's Support Group: Veterans for Veterans. Have you served in the military? Are you struggling with readjustment? Anxious about the future? Struggling to connect with friends and family? Struggling with school? WE CAN HELP! Free veterans support group at 10am every 4th Saturday of the month. The Landing 502 West Corner Fairland, Ok. For more information call Larry Boyd (918) 541-7592 or Cindy (918) 676-3228.

Food Truck Wednesdays —Every Wednesday, grab some tasty eats and gather on the grounds of Guthrie Green. During Food Truck Wednesdays, lunchtime transforms into a community-wide affair, with roaming food trucks posting up at this Tulsa park. While you dine on delicious food, be sure to enjoy the live

music and fresh air. Guthrie Green 111 E Brady St Tulsa, OK 74103 Phone: 918-574-2421
Jun 11, 2018 - Jun 23, 2018 Pinto World Championship Horse Show—Come to the Pinto World Championship Horse Show at Tulsa's Expo Square to witness the largest gathering of Pinto horses, ponies and miniatures on Earth. Exhibitors will compete in a wide range of disciplines including Western, English, driving, pleasure, halter, roping, speed events and trial. Just for fun, guests can also enjoy a costume class, dog show, ice cream social and cookout. Special events each night showcase the versatility and beauty of the Pinto. A large trade show will also be on the grounds featuring tack, gift items and more. There is no charge to watch the show or browse through the vendor booths, so come to the Pinto World Championship Horse Show to see these beautiful equines in action. Tulsa Expo Square 4145 E 21st St Tulsa, OK 74114 Phone: 405-491-0111
Jun 18, 2018 - Jun 22, 2018 Osage Hills Science Camp—Learn more about the great outdoors at the Osage Hills Science Camp. This series of summer day camps aims to help young people in grades 7-10 learn more about their environment with fun workshops in a beautiful setting at Osage Hills State Park in Pawhuska. Activities include exploring the forest, meadows and streams, along with geology workshops, orienteering and swim time in the park pool. Participants receive backpacks with items to be used for their studies. Snacks and beverages are provided, but participants must bring their own lunch. Enrollment is limited and registration is required. Children will only be released for pick up to an individual who is listed on the Pick Up Permission Roster. Science Camp instructors may ask this individual to present their photo ID prior to releasing the child to them. Osage Hills State Park 2131 Osage Hills Park Rd Pawhuska, OK 74056 Phone: 918-336-5635
Jun 21, 2018 - Jun 24, 2018 Muscogee Nation Festival—Each June, thousands of people gather at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Claude Cox Omniplex in the city of Okmulgee for a weekend filled with activities celebrating contemporary Muscogee life. This annual celebration includes cultural exhibitions, a golf tournament, concerts featuring local and national acts on Friday and Saturday night, arts and crafts, great food, a parade through historic downtown Okmulgee, senior citizen's activities, children's ac-

tivities and many more festivities for the entire family to enjoy. The Mvskoke Nation Festival began in 1974 as a celebration of Muscogee culture and heritage and has become a major family gathering for many Muscogee families. All activities are free and open to the public. This much-loved festival invites all people to experience the games, competitions and festival events during the month of June. Be a part of the largest and longest running festival in Okmulgee County. Claude Cox Omniplex 2950 Warrior Rd Okmulgee, OK 74447 Phone: 918-732-7995 918-732-7992
Jun 21, 2018 - Jun 24, 2018 Tulsa Drillers vs. Northwest Arkansas Naturals Gather your crew and head to ONEOK Field for a dose of Double-A baseball when the Tulsa Drillers take on the Northwest Arkansas Naturals for a four-game series. Grab a cold brew and a dog, then kick back and experience America's past time in the heart of downtown Tulsa. ONEOK Field 201 N Elgin Ave Tulsa, OK 74120 Phone: 918-744-5901 918-744-5998 Fax: 918-747-3267
Jun 21, 2018 - Jun 24, 2018 Green Corn Festival—Come to the Green Corn Festival for an old-fashioned, fun family festival held in downtown Bixby. The festival harkens back to days of family picnics, afternoons filled with bright summer sun and sipping lemonade with friends. Sign the kids up for frog or box turtle races, then watch as the Green Corn Parade makes its way through downtown. Other activities scheduled for the festival include an antique tractor pull, corn eating contest, watermelon seed spitting contest, balloon toss and more. Browse arts and crafts vendor booths and sample various foods from on-site vendors throughout the day. Stick around and enjoy live entertainment and more fun activities. Charley Young Park Bixby, OK 74008 Phone: 918-366-1408
Jun 22, 2018 - Jun 23, 2018 Jim Shoulders Round-Up Rodeo—Bring the family out for the Jim Shoulders Round-Up Rodeo, dedicated to the 16-time World Champion cowboy, Jim Shoulders, who made his home in Henryetta until his death in June 2007. This rodeo will include traditional rodeo events such as ranch bronc riding, bull riding, barrel racing, mutton bustin' and events geared toward up-and-coming youth rodeo stars. Grab your cowboy hat and head to the Jim Shoulders Round-Up Rodeo for two nights of fast-paced action. Historic Nichols Park Lake Road Henryetta, OK 74437 Phone: 918-652-3331 Fax: 918-652-3332
Jun 22, 2018 - Jun 24, 2018 Summer Jam—The 9th Annual Summer Jam will present the top solo artists and bands in the inspirational and Christian country music scene. Head to Freedom Church in Sapulpa for three nights of the best nationwide talent in the industry. 325 E Speer Ave Sapulpa, OK 74066 Phone: 918-688-9595
Jun 22, 2018 - Jun 24, 2018 Peoria Powwow—The 21st annual Peoria Powwow in Miami is a grand festival of Native American culture and dance. This American Indian event features a wide range of contest dancing, including gourd dancing and straight dancing, as well as grass, traditional

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and fancy dancing. Other categories of dance will also include cloth, buckskin, jingle and fancy shawl. Come to the Peoria Powwow in Miami and join the Master of Ceremonies as he or she leads visitors throughout the festival's various events. A traditional round dance will open each session and all participants will be in full regalia. The highly anticipated stomp dance will be hosted on Friday and Saturday nights as well as Sunday afternoon. Attend the Peoria Powwow and enjoy singing and more. Browse through booths filled with American Indian arts and craft vendors, enjoy free camping throughout the event and satisfy your appetite for tasty treats with plenty of food concessions. 60610 E 90 Rd Miami, OK 74354 Phone: 918-540-2535 Fax: 918-542-2538

Jun 23, 2018 Coweta Patriotic Festival—Gather up the family to celebrate the 4th of July early at Coweta's annual Patriotic Festival in June. Live music will warm up the crowd while kids slide down inflatables and race through blow-up obstacle courses. Food vendors, games and water canons will also be on site during this festive event to keep visitors well-fed and entertained leading up to the grand finale. Once the sun finally sets, take a seat on your blankets and lawn chairs to watch an exciting fireworks spectacle, capping off the patriotic holiday. 14705 S 305th E Ave Coweta, OK 74429 Phone: 918-486-2189

Jun 23, 2018 Tulsa Antique Advertising & Bottle Show—Come to Tulsa Expo Square to tour through a wide assortment of antiques at the Tulsa Antique Advertising & Bottle Show. Venture through booths from dealers across the country, featuring authentic advertising signs, bottles, jars, tin containers, toys and post cards. Vendors will also offer antique goods from old country stores, drug stores, barbershops, saloons, auto shops, oil and gas companies and other historical shops. This antique festival will include more than 225 tables full of antiques, collectibles and more, making it the largest antique advertising and bottle show in the southwestern United States. Tulsa Expo Square 4145 E 21 St Tulsa, OK 74114 Phone: 918-481-3820 918-663-3218

Jun 23, 2018 Totem Pole BBQ & Music Fest—Enjoy barbecue, music and sunny summer weather at the To-

tem Pole BBQ & Music Fest in Chelsea. This fun-filled family event features a great barbecue dinner, craft vendors, live entertainment and activities for children. Refreshments and dessert will also be available. Located off historic Route 66 north of Claremore, the nine-acre Totem Pole Park includes Ed Galloway's 90-ft totem pole structure, an eleven-sided "Fiddle House," and a museum where artifacts made by Ed Galloway and visuals of the park development are on display. Come to Totem Pole BBQ & Music Fest, bring a blanket or chair and enjoy an afternoon with friends and family. Totem Pole Park 21300 Hwy 28A E Chelsea, OK 74016 Phone: 918-283-8035

Jun 23, 2018 - Jun 24, 2018 Kidsfest—The sounds and feel of an old-time circus come alive again at Kidsfest. With jugglers, games, pony rides and more, Bartlesville's Woolaroc springs to life in an action-packed weekend featuring endless family fun. Oilman Frank Phillips, known locally as "Uncle Frank," established Woolaroc in 1925 as his country retreat and loved the circus so much he brought it to Bartlesville each year. This wonderful summer event commemorates this Oklahoma summer tradition with games, entertainment and more fun than you would think possible. Woolaroc Museum & Wildlife Preserve 1925 Woolaroc Ranch Rd Bartlesville, OK 74003 Phone: 918-336-0307 Fax: 918-336-0084

Jun 24, 2018 Michael Jackson Tribute—Celebrate the King of Pop at the second annual Michael Jackson Tribute in Tulsa. Come to the Vanguard in the Tulsa Arts District for an evening of film screenings and DJ sets, along with auctions of rare collectibles and MJ-themed art by local artists. Test your knowledge during the Michael Jackson trivia contest, where you'll have a chance to score tickets to see Tito Jackson live in Tulsa. The evening will wrap up with a dazzling performance by Michael Jackson tribute artist, Daron Wilson. Come experience the magic Michael Jackson brought to the world during this can't-miss event in Tulsa. The



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Jun 24, 2018 Tulsa Athletic vs Demize NPSL—Put on your green and yellow, and cheer the Athletic team to victory in downtown Tulsa. In their first season in 2013, the Tulsa Athletic National Premier Soccer League division team had a great record and advanced to the Conference Semi-Finals, coming out on top as the South Central Conference Champions. Come see them play and be a part of a crowd that averages the highest home game attendance in the NPSL as the Tulsa Athletic take on the Demize NPSL. 1875 S Boulder Ave Tulsa, OK 74120 Phone: 918-584-8167

Jun 26, 2018 Family Fishing Clinic—Introduce the kids to the art of fishing at a free Family Fishing Clinic in Oklahoma. Held in Jenks, this family-friendly fishing clinic features the basics of the sport, starting with fish identification. Teach the kids how to tie knots, use equipment and cast lines from the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation experts. All bait, rods and lines will be provided during this free fishing event. Zebco Casting Pond 300 Aquarium Dr Jenks, OK 74037 Phone: 405-521-3821

Jun 26, 2018 - Jun 30, 2018 Commerce Days—

Commerce Days welcomes everyone out for a week filled with fun. Throughout the week, musicians like The RidgeRunnerzz Band and the Jeff Tatum Band will deliver exciting live performances sure to entertain the crowd. While listening to music, be sure to munch on food provided by local vendors. Then, take the kids over to the carnival and arts & crafts booths for an evening packed with family-friendly activities. Sill Park Route 66 and Mickey Mantle Blvd Commerce, OK 74339 Phone: 918-675-4373

June 23, 2018—June 24, 2018 ARRL FIELD DAY 2018—Participate in your local ARRL Field Day June 23-24, 2018. Mayes County Amateur Radio Club 2018 Field Day Whitaker Park, Pryor, OK. Located East of Hwy 69 on Park Street. June 23rd, 10 AM Meeting Time. Steve Donnel Phone: 706-401-2056 website: <http://www.qsl.net/mcarc/>

Do You have an event that you would like to share ?

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Ph: 918-789-2862
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DATA MASTER: Cody Welch



JUNE Word Search




A	m	e	r	i	c	a	s	e	x	c	u	s	e	s	k
w	h	e	n	a	t	A	h	m	y	C	A	e	s	o	p
l	o	s	e	l	h	b	o	e	b	a	F	o	r	c	e
w	e	l	f	l	e	r	r	d	e	s	t	r	o	y	a
o	s	o	i	-	m	a	t	v	c	u	a	A	w	w	r
u	L	u	r	c	d	h	-	A	a	a	a	n	a	i	e
r	i	r	s	o	f	a	l	e	u	l	n	y	r	l	v
f	n	s	t	n	a	m	i	s	s	t	d	d	s	l	i
r	c	e	k	q	l	f	v	c	e	y	d	e	e	l	c
e	o	l	e	u	t	r	e	h	a	p	o	s	r	t	t
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o	i	s	m	i	f	n	u	u	r	v	s	o	m	a	i
m	t	w	i	n	r	d	t	s	u	e	i	y	a	n	e
s	s	r	e	g	o	s	b	e	t	r	d	e	k	t	s
o	l	n	s	v	m	j	r	t	h	e	e	d	e	i	s

In war truth is the first Casualty. Aeschylus
Any excuse will serve a tyrant. Aesop

Abraham Lincoln
America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves.
I destroy my enemies when I make them my friends.
Force is all-conquering, but its victories are short-lived.

You may find solution at <http://links.qitg.net/word-search/volume-19-issue-12>

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The Rabbit in the Moon



Every night the Old Man in the Moon looks down on Earth to see how his animals and people are doing. He smiles to see them resting after a hard day's work. He winks at sleeping children. He hovers over rivers and lakes, lighting the waves and the shore. Then he sails on to other lands.

One night long ago, the Old Man lingered in the sky over a forest in Japan. The animals below seemed to him to live in peace and harmony. Suddenly he spotted a monkey, a fox and a rabbit who were living side by side. The Old Man began to wonder about these animals that he knew only by sight. After a while he began to long to know them better.

"Which of these friends is the kindest creature?" he asked himself as he watched the rabbit dash across the fields. "I wonder which is most generous?" he said softly as he watched the monkey swing from a tree. "I wonder what they are truly like," he said as he watched the fox paw at the forest floor to make his bed. "I need to know more about my creatures." The Old Man floated a while longer, but finally his curiosity got the best of him. "I must go and see for myself," he said, and because the Old Man in the Moon is a magical creature, he was able to transform himself into a poor beggar. In this disguise he floated down to Earth.

He walked through the forest until he came to the
(Continued on Page 22)

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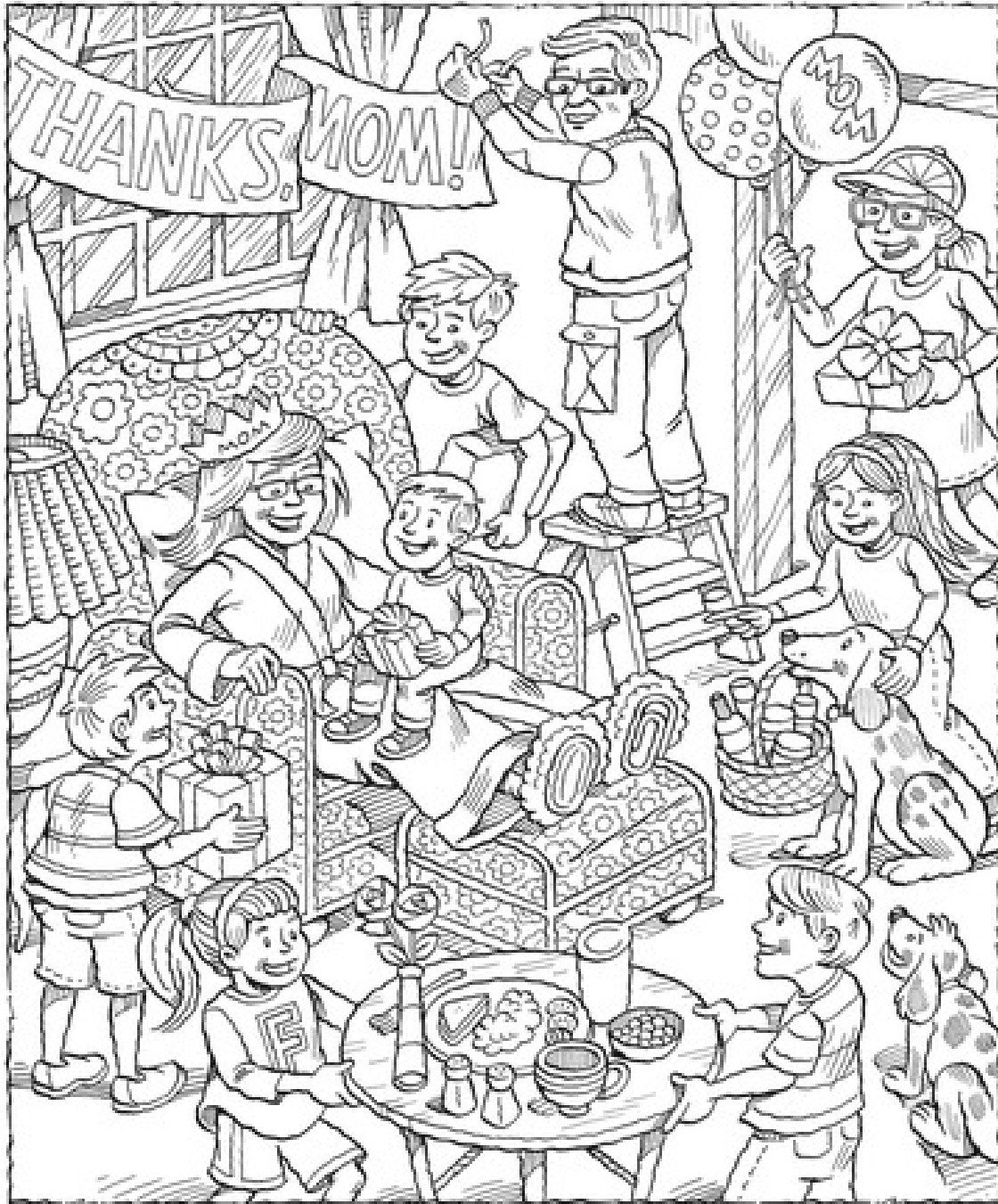
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Hidden Picture


By David Helton

As a Mother's Day surprise, this family decided to give Mom a great big "Thank You!" Can you find the things hidden in the picture? Color it when you're done.



-  PAPER CLIP
-  SPOON
-  TELESCOPE
-  FEATHER
-  BANANA
-  ENVELOPE
-  RING
-  TURTLENECK SOCK
-  CANDLE
-  CATERPILLAR
-  LEMON WEDGE
-  FILE FOLDER
-  LEAF
-  UMBRELLA
-  LEAF
-  BOW TIE
-  BELL
-  FRIED EGG

See if you can find the given objects in the picture.



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The Tabbt in the Moon (Continued from Page 19)

clearing where the monkey, fox and rabbit lived. When the creatures saw him, they looked up at him with bright shining eyes.

"Good day, sir," the rabbit said. "How do you do?"

"Welcome to our forest," said the monkey, and the fox bowed low.

"Oh, friends," the Old Man said, leaning heavily on his walking stick, "I am not doing well. I am old and poor, and I am very hungry. Do you think you could help me?"

"Of course we'll help," the monkey chattered.

"We always help our friends," the fox agreed.

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"We'll fetch some food for you," the rabbit added, and without a moment's hesitation, the three ran off, each one in search of food to offer the poor beggar. The Old Man sat down and leaned against a tree. Looking up into his sky, he smiled. "These are good animals," he said to himself, "and I am curious to see who is most generous."

Before long the monkey returned, carrying an arm-load of fruit. "Here you are," the monkey said. "The bananas and berries are delicious. And take these oranges too, and these pears. I hope you will enjoy my gift," and he lay his fruit before the beggar.

"Thank you, my friend. You are kind," the beggar said, and before he had finished speaking, the fox raced into the clearing. He carried a fat, fresh fish

between his teeth, and this he laid before the beggar. Again he bowed.

"My friend," the fox said, "I offer you a fresh fish to ease your hunger. I hope this will satisfy you."

"You also are kind," said the Old Man. "I never knew how kind the forest animals were."

"Of course we are kind," the monkey said proudly.

"And we are skilled at finding food," the fox added.

Now all three sat waiting for the rabbit to return.

Meanwhile, the rabbit dashed this way and that through the forest, but no matter how he tried, he could not find food for the beggar. At long last he returned to the clearing.

"Friend," the monkey cried, "you have returned!"

"I have," the rabbit said sadly, "but I must ask you to do me a favor, dear friends. Please, Brother Monkey, will you gather firewood for me? And Brother Fox, with this firewood will you build a big fire?"

The monkey and the fox ran off at once to do as their friend asked, and the beggar sat quietly by, watching in wonder.

When the fire was blazing, the rabbit turned to the beggar. "I have nothing to offer you but myself," he said.

"I am going to jump into the fire, and when I am roasted, please feast upon me. I cannot bear to see you go hungry." Rabbit bent his knees, preparing to jump into the fire.

The beggar at once threw away his stick and cast off his cloak. He stood straight and tall and proud, and the animals, seeing this strange transformation, began to shake with fear.

"Don't be afraid," the Old Man said. "You see, Rabbit, I am more than a beggar, and I have seen that you are more than generous. Your kindness is beyond price, but you must understand, I wish you no harm. I do not want you to sacrifice yourself for my comfort. I will take you home with me, where I can watch over you and make sure you are never harmed."

The Old Man in the Moon lifted the rabbit into his arms and carried him up to the moon. The monkey and the fox watched in amazement, but they were grateful, for they wished their friend no harm.

If you look carefully at the moon when it is full and bright, you will see the rabbit living there in peace, resting in the Old Man's arms, helping him to watch over us all.

The second book collection of wonderful tales from "Tell Me a Story" is now available for \$14.95, plus \$2 for postage and handling. Send your orders to "The Spectacular Gift," in care of Andrews & McMeel, P.O. Box 419242, Kansas City, Mo. 64141; or call (800) 642-6480. Be sure to indicate your newspaper's name on your order. Allow three to four weeks for delivery.

DATA MASTER: Karen Deffenbaugh

Summer Vacation Safety



As the warm weather approaches and thoughts turn to getting away for a few days, being safe while on summer vacation helps ensure that you and your loved ones only have good memories of your time away from home. There are many things you can do to keep yourself, your family and your valuables safe.

Summer Vacation Safety Starts Before You Leave Home

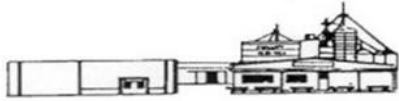
- Make copies of all of your credit cards, important identification information, including your medical insurance cards, and your traveler's checks. Take one copy with you (pack it separately from the cards themselves) and leave one copy at home.
- Take only a little cash with you. Bring most of your money in the form of traveler's checks or plan to use your credit cards while on vacation.
- Never put your home address on your luggage tags. Write your phone number instead.
- Make sure all of the doors and windows to your home are secured and locked. If your home has an alarm system, arm it when you leave for your vacation.
- Never post your travel plans on social networks such as Facebook, MySpace or Twitter.
- Have your mail held at the post office and your newspaper delivery put on hold or ask a family member, a trusted friend or neighbor to pick those items up for you.
- Set automatic timers to turn your lights and a radio on and off.

Protect Your Valuables and Yourself

- Park your car in areas that are well lit and as close to your destination as possible.
- Always close all of the windows and lock the car doors. Keep all valuables out of view by locking them in the trunk, tucking them under the seat or placing on the floor and covering them with a blanket.
- Never leave your wallet, pocketbook or checkbook



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in the car. Always keep them with you.

- If you are driving and become lost, do not stop on the side of the road to check the map. Drive to a brightly lit, public place to do so.
- Never leave your car unattended with the motor running.
- If you are going out sightseeing, ask at the hotel front desk if there are any areas you should avoid.
- Only take the cash you need for the day with you. Leave the rest, and all other valuables, locked in the hotel or motel safe.
- Never display large amounts of cash when making a purchase. The money you keep with you should be in small denominations.
- When you check into your room, make a mental note of the locations of the stairs and fire exits.

Protection from the Sun

- Whether you are traveling to a tropical beach or a snow-covered mountain, there are things you can do to keep your skin and eyes safe from the dangers of the sun.
- Use a broad spectrum sunscreen that protects against both UV-A and UV-B radiation from the sun. It should have an SPF rating of 15 or higher. Apply the sunscreen 15-30 minutes before going out in the sun and reapply it often. Always reapply the sunscreen after swimming or any physical activity.
- According to the American Optometric Association you should wear sunglasses whenever you are outside in the sun. The minimum requirements for proper protection for your eyes are sunglasses that screen out 75 to 90 percent of visible light and block at least 99 percent of UV-A and UV-B radiation from the sun's rays.
- If you are taking any medications, check with your doctor or pharmacist to make sure that they do not cause photosensitivity, which makes you more susceptible to skin damage from the ultraviolet light of the sun.

Water Safety

- Only swim at beaches that are supervised by life-guards.
- Even if there are life guards on duty, never leave a child unattended at a beach or pool.
- If you are swimming in the ocean and are caught in a rip tide or a current, call for help and swim diagonally across it or with it until you get free. Never try to get free of the current by swimming against it.
- Whenever you are on a boat wear a life jacket that is Coast Guard approved.
- If you have been drinking any alcoholic beverages, stay out of the water. Do not operate a boat, jet ski or any other type of water craft.

Relax and Have Fun

By following summer vacation safety tips and procedures, you reduce the chances of having your good times spoiled. Knowing you are doing everything you need to do to ensure your safety and the safety of your loved ones gives you peace of mind as you relax and have fun.

DATA MASTER: Tino Hensley



GOOD TIME STORIES

Old Warwick



There is an old proverb that says that “Many hands make light work.” In other words, large tasks or jobs can become smaller and easier to accomplish when divided among many people. When people work together in a positive and encouraging environment, the sky really is the limit to the things that can be done. This is true for every work and job setting, the family unit, sports teams, etc. Helen Keller once said, “Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much.” The important thing is that each member of the group feels important and that their thoughts, opinions, ideas, and contributions are important and worthwhile to their group.

There are times when as leaders, we need to take the time to encourage, inspire, and uplift the individuals that we are working with. A good leader will lead by example by working with their group, sometimes side by side and not in a dictatorship-type of role. Positive motivation and incentive are some of the biggest keys to healthy teamwork.

Today’s Story illustrates this concept of teamwork beautifully...

Many, many years ago, a man became lost while driving his car through the countryside. Foolishly, he tried to read his map as he was driving and soon drove off the road and landed in a ditch. Luckily, he wasn’t hurt but his car was securely stuck in some deep mud. He decided to look for help. After a short distance, he spotted a farmhouse and decided to ask someone for assistance.

The man soon met the farmer and told him of his predicament. Pointing out to his field, the farmer said, see that old mule out there? The man looked at the old, haggard and frayed mule then looked back to the farmer. The farmer said, “Yep, old Warwick there can do the job!”

The man shrugged his shoulders and thought to himself, I have nothing to lose, so the two men and War-

wick made their way back to the ditch.

The farmer hitched up old Warwick to the car, snapped the reins and yelled out, “Pull, Henry! Pull, Nellie! Pull, Ted! Pull, Franklin! Pull, Warwick!”

Then, with minimal effort, the aged mule popped the car from the murky sludge, the car was free!

The man stood in amazement. He thanked the farmer, patted the mule, then asked, “Why did you call out all those other names before you called out Warwick?”

The farmer just smiled and said, “Old Warwick is almost blind. As long as he believes that he is part of a team, he doesn’t mind pulling.”

“A GOOD LEADER inspires others with confidence in him...a GREAT LEADER inspires them with a confidence in themselves.” ~ Unknown

DATA MASTER: Steve Burdick





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Hidden Letters



Franklin has lots of good friends. Today he is taking a walk with Bear, Beaver and Hawk.

The letters in the word FRIEND are hidden in this picture. Circle the letters as you find them.

Search and Find



Bear is Franklin's very best friend. Bear likes to eat honey. Bees make honey.

Can you find all ten bees in this picture? Circle the bees as you find them.

Find the ten differences between the two pictures.



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Ticks (Tick Bites)



Tick facts

- Ticks are scientifically classified as Arachnida (a classification that includes spiders). The fossil record suggests ticks have been around at least 90 million years.
- Most tick bites do not transmit harmful microbes.
- There are a variety of tick-borne diseases.
- There is a wide range of symptoms that usually develop days to weeks after the tick bite. The symptoms depend on the particular microbe that is transmitted.
- For all tick bites, local cleansing and antibiotic cream may be applied.
- There are safe and effective methods for the removal of all types of ticks.

What are ticks? What do ticks look like?

Ticks are small arachnids. Ticks require blood meals to complete their complex life cycles. Ticks are scientifically classified as Arachnida (a classification that includes spiders). The fossil record suggests ticks have been around at least 90 million years. There are over 800 species of ticks throughout the world, but only two families of ticks, Ixodidae (hard ticks) and Argasidae (soft ticks), are known to transmit diseases or illness to humans. Hard ticks have a scutum, or hard plate, on their back while soft ticks do not. Ticks have a complex life cycle that includes eggs, larvae, nymphs, and adult male and female ticks. The larvae, nymphs (also termed seed ticks), and adults all need blood meals. Usually, the female adult (hard

tick) is the one causing the most bites as males usually die after mating. Ticks do not jump, fly, or drop. They simply reach out with their legs and grab or crawl onto a host. Although some larvae have preferred hosts, most ticks in the nymph or adult phase will attach a get a blood meal from several different kinds of animals, including humans. Except for a few species of larval ticks, the immature phases (larvae, nymphs) usually are even less selective about where they get a blood meal and are known to bite snakes, amphibians, birds, and mammals. Larvae are very small (about 1/32 of an inch with six legs), while nymphs are about 1/16-1/8 inch with eight legs and adults about 3/16-1/4 inch with eight legs. The complex life cycles are described in the last web citation below, and all of the web citations include pictures of various species of ticks. Although ticks will die eventually if they do not get a blood meal, many species can survive a year or more without a blood meal. The hard ticks tend to attach and feed for hours to days. Disease transmission usually occurs near the end of a meal, as the tick becomes full of blood. It may take hours before a hard tick transmits pathogens. Soft ticks usually feed for less than one hour. Disease transmission can occur in less than a minute with soft ticks. The bite of some of these soft ticks produces intensely painful reactions.

Ticks are transmitters (vectors) of diseases for humans and animals. Ticks can transmit disease to many hosts; some cause economic harm such as Texas fever (bovine babesiosis) in cattle that can kill up to 90% of yearling cows. Ticks act as vectors when microbes in

their saliva and mouth secretions get into the host's skin and blood. Ticks were understood to be vectors of disease in the mid-1800s, and as investigative methods improved (microscopes, culture techniques, tissue staining), more information showed the wide variety of diseases that could be transmitted by ticks.

There are many common names for various ticks (for example, dog tick, deer tick, and African tick), and these names appear in the scientific literature, too.

Most common names represent a genus of ticks. However, the common name "red" may be used by people to describe almost any tick that has had a blood meal.

What are the risk factors for tick bites?

People who go through grassy areas and woods are at higher risk for tick bites, especially during the months from April through September. People who travel through such areas out of necessity or for recreation are at higher risk than those that protect themselves with appropriate clothing and DEET-containing repellents (see prevention section below). In addition, people who have pets treated with flea and tick repellents decrease their risk of tick bites. People who live in areas surrounded by tall grassy areas or woods have a higher risk for tick bites, but the prevention section below describes ways to reduce risks.

What specialists treat tick bites?

Although most tick bites need no special treatment, occasionally such specialists in infectious disease, internal medicine, allergists, and/or individuals who have special training in treating such diseases as Lyme disease may be consulted.

What are tick bite symptoms and signs?

Unfortunately for the purpose of detection, the tick bite is usually painless and remains that way even after the tick stops the blood meal and falls off of the skin. Later, the bite site may develop

- itching,
- burning,
- redness or red spot, and
- rarely, localized intense pain like in the joints (some soft tick bites) in some individuals.

A few individuals may be sensitive or allergic to tick bites (tick saliva secretions) and develop

- rash near bite,
- shortness of breath,
- swelling,
- numbness, or
- paralysis (for example, neck stiffness).

However, the majority of individuals with tick bites develop no symptoms, and many people do not remember getting bitten.

Some immediate symptoms that infrequently or rarely develop during or immediately after a tick bite may be

- fever,
- shortness of breath,
- weakness and/or achiness,
- vomiting,
- swelling at the bite site and/or lymph nodes,
- weakness or paralysis,
- headache,
- confusion, or
- palpitations.

Individuals with these symptoms should be seen immediately by a doctor.

Recently, researchers have found that the tick bite (mainly the saliva produced by the lone star tick) has caused thousands of people to become allergic to red meat, termed a meat allergy (beef, pork, venison, and occasionally, milk). People can eat poultry (chicken, turkey) and have no allergic reactions. When they eat red meat, they develop swelling and hives. Some may develop anaphylaxis. The reaction is thought to be due to an alpha-gal antigen in the tick's gut and/or saliva that stimulates an immune response that results in an allergic reaction when red meat is consumed. Occasionally, a tick bite may become red, swollen with red streaks; these are signs that the bite has become infected.

What diseases do ticks transmit (act as vectors) to humans?

Although most tick bites do not transmit pathogens, some bites do. It is not possible to determine if a tick is carrying pathogens visually. The following is a list of all of the major tick-borne diseases, the usual tick vector(s), and the pathogen(s) the tick transmits that may occur in the United States.

- Tularemia -- *Dermacentor variabilis* (American dog tick; several species are also known as a wood tick) (hard tick) and *Amblyomma americanum* or lone star tick (hard tick) -- vectors for *Francisella tularensis* bacteria
- Anaplasmosis (human granulocytic anaplasmosis or HGA) -- *Ixodes* species (hard tick) -- vectors for *Anaplasma phagocytophilum* bacteria
- Colorado tick fever -- *Dermacentor andersoni* (hard tick) -- vectors for Coltivirus, a RNA virus
- Powassan encephalitis -- *Ixodes* species and *Dermacentor andersoni* (both hard ticks) -- vectors for Powassan encephalitis virus, an RNA arbovirus
- Babesiosis -- *Ixodes* species (hard ticks) -- vectors for *Babesia*, a protozoan
- Ehrlichiosis -- *Amblyomma americanum* or lone

star ticks; see photo below with "lone star" mark on the dorsal surface (hard ticks) -- vectors for Ehrlichia chaffeensis and Ehrlichia ewingii bacterial species









- Rocky Mountain spotted fever -- Dermacentor variabilis (American dog tick, see picture below) and Rocky Mountain wood tick (Dermacentor andersoni) (hard tick) are the primary vectors and occasionally the brown dog tick (Rhipicephalus sanguineus); Amblyomma cajennense (hard tick) is the vector in countries south of the U.S. -- vectors for Rickettsia bacteria
- Lyme disease -- Ixodes species including deer ticks or also known as black-legged ticks (hard ticks, see photo below) -- vectors for Borrelia species of bacteria
- Heartland virus -- a viral disease discovered in 2012 transmitted by Amblyomma americanum or lone star tick
- Tick-borne relapsing fever -- Ornithodoros moubata or African tick; see illustration below (soft tick) -- vectors for Borrelia species of bacteria
- Q fever -- Rhipicephalus sanguineus, Dermacentor andersoni (see photo below), and Amblyomma americanum (all three are hard ticks) -- vectors for Coxiella burnetii, a bacterium
- Southern tick-associated rash illness (STARI) -- Amblyomma americanum or lone star tick (hard tick) -- infectious agent not yet identified ac-

This list shows that some ticks (for example, Ixodes) can transmit more than one type of pathogenic microbe (virus, bacteria, and protozoa). It is possible to transmit more than one pathogen in a single tick bite, although this rarely occurs. Outbreaks of tick-related illnesses follow seasonal patterns (about April to September in the U.S.) as ticks evolve from larvae to adults.

What are the symptoms and signs of diseases transmitted by ticks?

There is a wide range of symptoms that usually develop days to weeks after the tick bite. The symptoms that become manifest depend on the particular microbe (pathogen) that is transmitted. For example, erythema migrans (a rash that is occasionally resembles a "bull's eye") is often the first sign of Lyme disease transmitted by a tick bite. Other symptoms can include weakness, nausea, fever, vomiting, palpitations, rash, joint pain, swelling, numbness, and confusion. This is not an all-inclusive list, and other symptoms and signs can develop depending on the pathogen transmitted by the tick bite. More than one disease may be transmitted with tick bites; for example; some individuals may be infected with Lyme disease and babesiosis at the same time.

DATA MASTER: Cody Welch

Ticks & Diseases Transmitted	
<p>American Dog Tick</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tularemia • Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever 	<p>Brown Dog Tick</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever • Q Fever
<p>Lone Star Tick</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southern Tick Rash Illness (STARI) • Heartland Virus • Tularemia • Ehrlichiosis • Q Fever 	<p>Rocky Mountain Wood Tick</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colorado Tick Fever • Powassan Encephalitis • Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever
<p>Deer Tick</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lyme Disease 	<p>Cayenne Tick</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever
<p>Ixodes Ticks (Multiple Species)</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lyme Disease • Babesiosis • Powassan Encephalitis • Anaplasmosis (HGA) 	<p>Soft Ticks</p> <p>African Tick</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tick-Borne Relapsing Fever

Rabbit and the Summer Sun

(A Native American Tale)

Once upon a time, summer came to the land, and with summer came the hot, shimmering sun. At first everyone enjoyed the sun's generous warmth, but after a while, all the animals began to complain, for the sun often stayed out for days at a time, giving no one a moment's rest.

"Will the sun never stop shining?" everyone asked, for the days seemed to last forever. Rivers and streams and lakes began to dry up. The animals grumbled and moaned. "Oh, it's hot," they sighed, as they moved more and more slowly. The crops withered under the endless heat.

Rabbit complained especially loudly. "It's far too hot!" he called to the sun. "Please, won't you take some time off?" But the sun stayed high in the sky, pouring its rays down upon the land, enjoying its chance to be the center of the world's attention.

"I'm going to stop this sun from shining!" Rabbit declared to the others. They rolled their eyes and sighed. They were accustomed to Rabbit's complaints and to his promises.

"What do you intend to do?" they asked.

"I'm going to shoot the sun," Rabbit said.

The others laughed. Beaver laughed, although he thought longingly of the time when the rivers would rise. And Deer laughed, though she too wished the sun would take a rest, and the birds cackled, and the coyotes howled, but the more the animals laughed, the more determined Rabbit became.

Soon he was practicing his aim, taking one arrow after another, stringing his bow, aiming at the sky.

"You'll never hit the sun from this distance," the others said. "You'll have to go to the sun's home in the east and wait until a time he is resting."

So Rabbit began to hop toward the east. As he hopped, he practiced his aim, fitting arrow to bow, squinting up at the sky. "Take this," he would cry, and then he would hop on, faster and faster, in spite of the exhausting heat. "I'll get you, sun," he shouted.

Now as Rabbit traveled, the sun watched and listened. He was confident. Who could shoot the sun, after all? He was hot and strong and powerful. Nobody could overcome him, and so, for all of Rabbit's boasts and promises, and for all his practicing, and for all his speed and anger, the sun was not worried.

At long last Rabbit reached the place where the sun rose. "I'll just wait here, and when the sun begins his journey, I'll aim and fire," he said.

Now the sun knew that he must trick Rabbit, and so he

devised a plan.

That night the sun finally took his rest, but the next morning, as Rabbit lay in wait for the sun to emerge and start his journey, the sun took a new route. He bounced into the sky, full of energy and fire, but by the time Rabbit saw him, it was too late. The sun was high overhead already.

"Never mind!" Rabbit shouted. "I'll get you another day!"

Rabbit lay in wait, taking aim at the place the sun had risen that day, but naturally, the next time the sun rose, he chose a different route altogether. Once again he fooled Rabbit, and as he rose high in the sky, he blazed with delight at Rabbit's fury.

For many days the same thing happened. Rabbit would wait, his arrow ready, and the sun would choose a new path to travel. Day after day the sun bore down on the land, and everyone squinted and sweated, and the land grew drier still.

But the sun became proud and overconfident. One day he forgot to change paths, and so as Rabbit stood and waited, his arrow poised, the sun began to rise from his old spot. "There you are!" Rabbit shouted, and he took aim and fired.

Rabbit's arrow pierced the sun's belly, and as it did, hot, steaming liquid flowed out and poured over the land. Rabbit ran as fast as he could, just ahead of the steaming liquid.

"Run for your lives," Rabbit called to all the others, and everyone raced away. Rabbit tried to hide beneath the bushes and trees, but they too raced away from the frightening flood.

Just one bush stood firm. "Hide beneath me," the bush called, and Rabbit and all the other animals ducked beneath its canopy of leaves.

The streaming liquid rolled over the bush, singeing its once-green leaves, turning them scarlet. This is the plant called the burning bush, and every fall it turns scarlet in memory of that day, which ended with a welcome darkness descending and cooling the Earth. Rabbit's fur has remained singed ever since, too, to remind him of the day he shot the sun.

The sun changed its ways after that day. From then on, the sun peered slowly over the horizon each morning, and it continued to rise in the sky, but it did not linger there. Instead it cast its rays upon the Earth as it moved across the sky, journeying to the western edge of the world to give the animals and land a chance to rest.

DATA MASTER: Alyssa Hollingsworth

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This Adopted Woman Searched for Her Birth Mother for 33 Years. How They Met Again Will Warm Your Heart



Last year, Ohio changed its law to give adopted children access to their birth certificates. For Julie Mooney, the result was like unlocking the door to her past.

Alone in her kitchen, Julie Mooney cradles her cell phone. After 33 years of searching, Julie has finally obtained her birth certificate, located her birth mother, looked up her number, and begun dialing it. The 49-year-old mother of three has her finger poised over the final digit.

She sits there shaking, not knowing what to do.

Armed with a script of all the things she wants to say, Julie waits and waits and waits. When she finally gets

up the courage to hit the final number, the call goes to voice mail, so she hangs up. But now she has the sound of her birth mother's voice—old and broken—stuck in her head.

At 9 a.m. the next day, Julie calls again, only to get voice mail once more. But when she calls 30 minutes later, her birth mother's husband answers.

"My name is Julie," she says. "If you could please have Lyssa* call me, I have some questions. I got her number through Bible study." One hour later, the phone rings. This time, it is the woman she has been searching for.

"I appreciate you calling me back. My name is Julie,"

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she says. "I have something very personal and private to discuss with you. Is this a good time?"

The woman on the other end says yes, so Julie continues. "Well, recently Ohio passed a law that allowed me to have access to my own birth certificate, and I'm currently seeking medical records."

"I don't know what you're talking about," the woman responds.

"Well, if you have a moment, I'll discuss this further with you," Julie says. "But it's very personal."

"Fine," the older woman says, her voice hardening.

"My name is Julie, and I was born May 18, 1966, in Cleveland, Ohio, and I was placed for adoption," she says.

There is no response. So Julie reads off the script in front of her.

"Ohio law has recently given me access to my original birth certificate. The name Lyssa Marie Kappel* was listed as my birth mother, and that's what led me to you."

When this is met with silence, Julie waits for the line to disconnect. When it doesn't, she goes on.

"If I reached the wrong person, I apologize," says Julie, hoping to dissipate any building anxiety. "I also would like to thank my birth mother for the gift of my life, and if she ever had any doubts about placing me for adoption, she should put that at rest, because I was raised in a wonderful family. I had beautiful parents, and I have three beautiful daughters."

Lyssa begins to cry.

"That person would be me, but I never wanted to give you up," she says. "It was just a different world back then."

Julie had wondered if she'd ever hear that voice and the story it had to tell. When Ohio voted in March 2015 to loosen its closed adoption law, Julie became one of 400,000 adoptees who were finally granted access to their original birth certificates. "It's a very personal journey," says Betsie Norris, the executive director of Adoption Network Cleveland. "For each person, they have to make a choice about how much they want to know and what they want to pursue."

Norris, who was herself adopted in 1960, founded the organization as a support for birth parents, adoptive parents, and adoptees working to better understand the adoption process. "When I started searching, I felt like there was a common misperception out there that some people felt that if my adoptive parents had done a good-enough job, I wouldn't need to do this," says Norris. "I was a happy, whole, and healthy person, and I wanted to know the truth of my existence."

Julie felt the same way. She was born at 3:25 a.m. in Cleveland's Booth Memorial Hospital and weighed seven pounds and seven ounces. She spent the first six

weeks of her life at an orphanage, the Jones Home for Children.

When JoAnne and Paul Hancy saw her perfect little body for the first time, JoAnne said, "Now that's a baby." They took her home to the new four-bedroom split-level house they'd built in nearby Berea, Ohio, where she joined her older sister, Amy, adopted three years earlier. The couple raised the girls to understand and appreciate the importance of adoption as well as their adoptive parents' own roles.

"My kindergarten teacher called my mom one day and said, 'Congratulations! I don't know how you did it, but your daughter has the whole class wanting to be adopted,'" recalls Julie. "I just thought [adoption] was the greatest thing, and I made it seem like I was really special, and that's what my parents made it seem like."

Julie was 16 when she received her first information about her birth parents. JoAnne thought Julie was old enough to know more about her past and sought out Family and Children's Services to provide a document that detailed non-identifying biological characteristics for both of Julie's birth parents.

According to the records, her mother had been 22 years old, of Canadian and German descent, and raised in a strict religious family. Her father had been 23. He was a mechanic and had put aside his education to help out on the family farm. Their relationship had formed from a casual friendship, but they were unable to assume the responsibilities of parenthood.

"I was so intrigued with it, but I didn't want my mom to know how obsessed I was," says Julie. "As you get older, because it is a closed thing and you can't talk about it, you almost feel guilty for your adoptive parents if you show any interest."

After she presented the information to Julie, JoAnne hid the document in a metal lockbox on the shelf of her bedroom closet. When her parents left the house, Julie took it down to study it and discovered small white envelopes addressed to each of the girls.

Julie opened Amy's first. It contained a note card with the name that Paul and JoAnne believed had been Amy's given name at birth. Excited, Julie opened her own envelope. A different message was scrawled on hers: "To my knowledge, we do not know Julie's birth name."

She was crushed. But still wanting to respect her adoptive parents, Julie resealed the envelopes and put them back where she'd found them.

What little she knew fueled her imagination for years. "I always pictured my birth mother being blond," she says. "I remember we'd go to restaurants, and with every blond woman I'd think, That could be my mom."

(Continued on Page 39)

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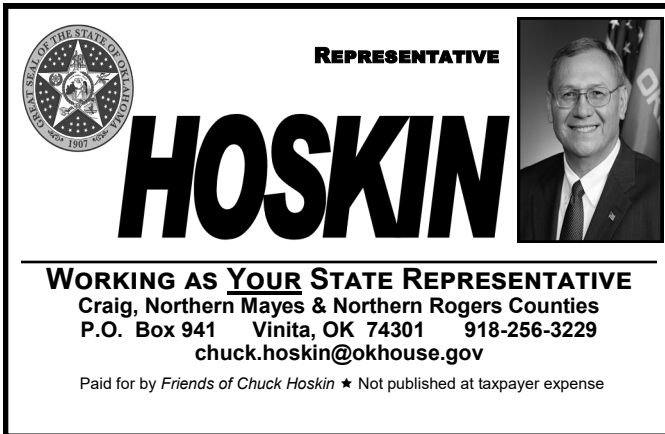
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This Adopted Woman Searched for Her Birth Mother for 33 Years. How They Met Again Will Warm Your Heart (Continued From Page 36)

Julie was able to put her curiosity on the shelf from time to time, but it was never completely out of sight. In 2009, she lost her adoptive mother to lung cancer. By then, cancer had also claimed her grandmother and both of her aunts.

Around the time of her mother's diagnosis, Julie had a mammogram and discovered a lump in her right breast. When asked for her medical history, Julie had to say she didn't know.

"It's like a stab in your identity," she says. "Having three daughters, I feel it's not fair we don't know our story."

The lump was benign, but her mother's death and her own lack of medical history spurred Julie to pick up the search for her birth mother.

A friend found a website where anonymous individuals, called birth angels, help people search for their birth families. That led to an angel named Marge,

who accessed the Ohio Birth Index, a registry for babies born on any given day in a given county. Knowing Julie was born in Cleveland, Marge narrowed the list to 44 women who had given birth within the city limits on May 18, 1966. Julie went through the names line by line, making note of all those listed without a father and with babies left unnamed, since those characteristics increased the possibility that the baby would be put up for adoption. She also looked for names indicating the German origin referenced in her non-identifying information. The name Kappel was among those listed. "I had a feeling that was my name," she says.

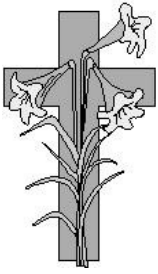
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JEWELS FROM THE WORD

DANIEL REPENTED

Daniel was one of four most prominent Jews in Babylon. He and the three Hebrew children--Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—obeyed the law even in a foreign country where they had

been carried captive. Through the lions' den and the fiery furnace, they prevailed and were admired by the king who promoted them, with Daniel rising to rank right under the king himself.

Daniel stayed loyal to his faith, yet served the king faithfully for many years. He kept the commandments of God, followed the guidelines of his religion and studiously read the Torah and prophets.

One day while Daniel was reading the scroll of the prophet Jeremiah, he discovered that Jeremiah had foretold the captivity of the Jews in Babylon and had predicted right down to the very year when the captivity would be over, which was very soon. Then Daniel did the only thing he knew how to do---he prayed.

The prayer of repentance in Daniel 9 is an example to us all.

Daniel prayed, "We have sinned. We have not obeyed Your voice. All Israel has transgressed Your law." Daniel identified himself with his people. Although he was probably the godliest man in the whole nation of Israel, he repented. He repented for himself and for all of Israel as their representative. Then he called on the God's mercy. "O my God, incline Your ear, for we do not present our supplications before You because of our righteous deeds, but because of Your great mercies." Daniel 9:18 New King James version.

That is not the typical Christian's prayer these days. What do we pray? "Lord, do you see those heathens who are killing unborn babies and promoting sex and violence? What are you going to do about it? We want justice. Get 'em, God."

Let's take a lesson from Daniel. Let's repent for our nation including ourselves, even if we are not personally guilty of the sins that have been committed. Father, have mercy on the United States. Forgive us for we have sinned.

Data Master: Doug Stone

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