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“The Little Green Paper”

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Happy New Year

2020

From

Community Options



Hi, I am European Mole and I am the animal of the
Year 2020. I wish you a very happy 2020 year with
many joyful and successful years to come.

From trash bag to loving family

Rachel and Jim Van Eerden went on a trip to Ecuador with their two eldest kids and took a tour of an orphanage for children with special needs. While they were on the tour, Rachel saw a baby with Down Syndrome and fell in love at first sight. The baby, whom the family named Eddie, had been found by a carpenter who saw a trash bag moving next to the dumpster outside his workshop.

Even though the Van Eerdens already had ten children, they knew they were meant to adopt Eddie. The adoption took five years, but the Van Eerdens persevered. After three trips to Ecuador for court hearings, the couple finally brought him home. "We have a lot of children. And our hands are full," Rachel said. "Why would we want to take in a child with special needs? Of course there are sacrifices, but what Eddie pours into each of us far outweighs any sacrifice."

Rachel told the Greensboro News & Record, "He's truly blessed our lives. He's taught us more of what our lives are about — reaching out and loving people."

DATA MASTER: Steven Burdick

She asked the man who raised her to adopt her

Some of the most moving adoption stories happen when teenagers honor the people who raised them by asking to be adopted. Misty Nicole Knight asked a family member to record her, before giving Ryan Farrell a gift. She told him to read the attached note out loud.




Farrell sat down and began reading the note from Knight. "I just want you to know that you're the most amazing man I've ever met. You've raised me my whole life, from putting my hair into tight Princess Leia buns, to forging my signature like in fifth grade, and jamming out to alternative music." He read, "I cannot imagine not having you in my life. I'm so grateful to be able to call you Dad. You are probably wondering what this letter is for. Well, open the present already. It's okay to cry."

Farrell tore the paper off and opened the box, where he found a Batman versus Superman onesie in his size. He got so excited about it, he almost missed the adoption papers underneath. When he finally got to the papers, he stood up and said, "Wow, it's a petition for adoption." He wiped away tears as he hugged his daughter.

"God, I've been wanting to do that forever," he said.

DATA MASTER: Steven Burdick



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She asked to be adopted at her graduation party

Joe Losco had been Lauren Hernandez's unofficial dad for 17 years when she decided to make it official. Hernandez invited her family and friends to her high school graduation party in Plainfield, Illinois. At the party, she gave Losco a wrapped box, which he opened to find a picture frame with a poem inside.

He read the poem to himself, and then leaned over and hugged Hernandez. Her mom yelled, "You did it, baby!" Then he took something else out of the box — a stack of adoption papers. He immediately sank down to the ground, where he wept with emotion. Hernandez leaned down and put her arms around him.

Hernandez told CBS2, "I never doubted that he was my dad. The fact that it's going to be official makes me happy." Losco said, "I've wanted nothing more than to be her dad from day one. Growing up, I came from a separated family. I always had it in my mind that I would never want other kids to go through that."

DATA MASTER: Steven Burdick



Surprising Facts About Winter Weather

Whether you enjoy bundling up in your coziest gear or are already counting down the days until spring, here are some facts about what's happening outdoors this time of year.

1. IT SOMETIMES SNOWS WHERE YOU LEAST EXPECT IT.

You wouldn't be shocked to see snow on the ground of Siberia or Minnesota when traveling to those places during the winter months. But northern areas don't have a monopoly on snowfall—the white stuff has been known to touch down everywhere from the Sahara Desert to Hawaii. Even the driest place on Earth isn't immune. In 2011, the Atacama Desert in Chile received nearly 32 inches of snow thanks to a rare cold front from Antarctica.

2. SNOWFLAKES COME IN ALL SIZES.

The average snowflake ranges from a size slightly smaller than a penny to the width of a human hair. But according to some unverified sources they can grow much larger. Witnesses of a snowstorm in Fort Keogh, Montana in 1887 claimed to see milk-pan sized crystals fall from the sky. If true that would make them the largest snowflakes ever spotted, at around 15 inches wide.

3. A LITTLE WATER CAN ADD UP TO A LOT OF SNOW.

The air doesn't need to be super moist to produce impressive amounts of snow. Unlike plain rainfall, a bank of fluffy snow contains lots of air that adds to its bulk. That's why what would have been an inch of rain in the summer equals about 10 inches of snow in the colder months.

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4. YOU CAN HEAR THUNDERSNOW WHEN THE CONDITIONS ARE RIGHT.

If you've ever heard the unmistakable rumble of thunder in the middle of a snowstorm, that's not your ears playing tricks on you. It's likely thundersnow, a rare winter weather phenomenon that's most common near lakes. When relatively warm columns of air rise from the ground and form turbulent storm clouds in the sky in the winter, there's potential for thundersnow. A few more factors are still necessary for it to occur, namely air that's warmer than the cloud cover above it and wind that pushes the warm air upwards. Even then it's entirely possible to miss thundersnow when it happens right over your head: Lightning is harder to see in the winter and the snow sometimes dampens the thunderous sound.

5. SNOW FALLS AT 1 TO 6 FEET PER SECOND.

At least in the case of snowflakes with broad structures, which act as parachutes. Snow that falls in the form of pellet-like graupel travels to Earth at a much faster rate.

DATA MASTER: Karen Deffenbaugh

Kid uses "Make A Wish" on entire school



Javier Amos, 9, was recently diagnosed with leukemia and was granted a wish from the "Make A Wish Foundation," the organization famous for connecting ill children with their favorite heroes.

Amos, however, decided to use his wish to ask for a pizza party—including zoo animals, bouncy castles, laser tag, and other games—for his entire school. The "Make A Wish" foundation did just that, coming to his elementary school in South Dakota for two hours one Friday as his thankful classmates cheered his kindness and proudly held signs with his name on it.

DATA MASTER: Eric Peachey

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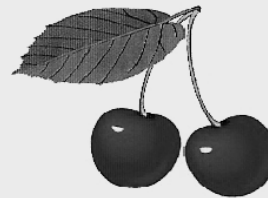
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Neighbors celebrate second Halloween so that mom doesn't break promise to her son



When blogger Laura Mazza had to travel for work the day before Halloween, she promised her young son that she would be back in time to go trick-or-treating. After a series of cancelled flights, she realized that wouldn't be the case. Heartbroken, she asked in a local parents' group whether or not anyone had left their decorations up and wouldn't mind handing out candy to her and her son the day after the holiday. To her surprise, the response was phenomenal, with some neighbors even dressing up once again just to make her son's day special. As she wrote on her Instagram afterwards, "they [her neighbors] taught me that in motherhood, you're never alone, because other mothers will always have your back!"

DATA MASTER: Eric Peachey

Firemen chauffeur newly-weds to their party



While newlyweds Justin Stone and Maria Leonardi were taking pictures after tying the knot, their ride to the afterparty—a trolley parked outside—caught on fire. After the fire department was called, and the flames were put out, the crew realized that the newlyweds would be left without a lift to their reception. In response, they offered to drive the couple inside their fire truck. While neither bride nor groom had ever travelled by fire truck before, they graciously accepted—and the day was saved, again.

DATA MASTER: Eric Peachey

In order to satisfy a contractual lien, the contents of two storage units numbered 18 and 29 leased by Christene and Mathew Sammarco 4009 CR 360 Eucha OK 74342 will be sold thirty days after this printing. The units are located at Lock & Leave storage LLC, 35095 S. Hwy 82, Vinita OK. 918-782-8083.

4-year-old spends his allowance on feeding the Homeless



When 4-year-old Austin Perine of Birmingham, Alabama, learned that there were people in the world who were both homeless and hungry, he decided to do something about it. Donning a cape and going by "President Austin," he asked his parents to take all the money they would spend on his toys and instead buy chicken sandwiches for him to hand out to the homeless. As he did, he gave each recipient a piece of advice: "Don't forget to show love."

DATA MASTER: Eric Peachey

Neighborhood celebrates Christmas early for dying neighbor



When 2-year-old Brody Allen was told he only had weeks to live due to a brain cancer diagnosis, his parents knew he would never make it to his favorite holiday—Christmas. So the couple decided to begin decorating their yard and home as if it was the Christmas season, giving Brody one last winter wonderland. Soon, however, their neighbors got in on the fun as well, and eventually the entire neighborhood was decorated as if it was Christmas—in September—for young Brody.

DATA MASTER: Eric Peachey

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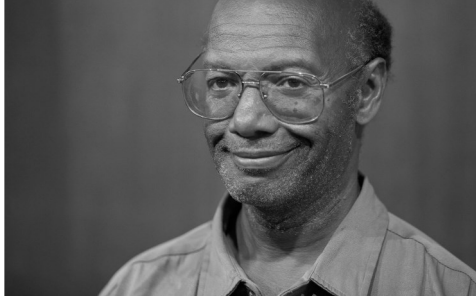
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One good turn deserves another



Boston court clerk Glen James had a run of bad luck in 2005 which led to his losing his job and then his home. Not wanting to be a burden on his relatives, he spent seven years living on the street and in shelters. Then he found a backpack containing travellers' cheques and cash amounting to more than \$40,000 (£28,000).

Rather than keep what would be a life-changing wind-fall, James handed it all to police. They returned it to the grateful owner and the story of the "good Samaritan" was reported in the local press.

Reading about James's good deed, stranger Ethan Whittington set up a GoFundMe page to raise a reward. Donations flooded in from around the world, eventually raising more than \$100,000 - enough for James to get his life back on track.

Speaking to the press, James said that it was "nice to have some money in my pocket" and that even if he had been desperate, he wouldn't have kept so much as a penny of the cash he found.

DATA MASTER: Doug WM Stone

The true meaning of charity



Welshman Dan Black was badly injured in a cycling accident. In 2013 he was raising money to fund a stem cell operation that might help him to walk again. Then he heard about five year-old Brecon Vaughan, who suffers from cerebral palsy and had only ever walked with the aid of a frame.

Brecon's parents were raising funds for a procedure called selective dorsal rhizotomy to help their son walk unaided.

Black gave the entire £22,000 he had raised to Brecon, who flew to America for the procedure and today walks to school and plays with friends – thanks to the remarkable generosity of this 27-year-old stranger.

"I wanted to help someone whose life could get better," Black said at the time. "Hearing that Brecon was finally walking was lovely. It made giving the money away worth it."

DATA MASTER: Doug WM Stone

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Warm welcome for cold pups



David Simonian was passing the Hott Spott café in Mytilene on the Greek island of Lesbos one night when he noticed a remarkable sight. Lit by the lights of a Christmas tree, four stray dogs were sleeping on the warm seats of the empty eatery. The photo he took went viral. Here's why.


As a waiter later explained, since the financial crisis caused widespread unemployment in Greece, many people can no longer afford to feed their pets. Large numbers of tame dogs roam the streets. The café's owners couldn't bear to see them shivering through cold nights alone at Christmas, so they let them in.

"When the café closes at 3am, the dogs come in to sleep," the waiter explained. "The customers don't mind. Every night there's a dog on the couch."

DATA MASTER: Doug WM Stone

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A Spirited Aunt

My Aunt Kay passed away this week after a long illness. I'd known her since I was eight. She was my step dad's sister, his last living sibling. She used to take me to church with her and have me spend the night at her house often when I was between ages 12 to 14. She was a great cook, baker, funny, vivacious, and spiritual woman with a wonderful heart, a terrific redhead who I would like to remember the way she was before she got so sick. I hadn't seen her in years because she lived in Georgia and I couldn't get back there.

She used to spend so much time with me on the phone praying with me when I was a kid. She had beautiful eyes and a face that just lit up with her smile.

Several hours before I got the call she was in the process of dying, a cardinal was hanging out in this tree outside my window by my computer.

I was pretty depressed when I got the call but I know my sadness is partly because I'll just miss her so much. She was in pain for so long and now she is free.

Baking up a storm, I'm sure!

Not long after I got off the phone with my mom who told me Aunt Kay was in the process of passing away, the cardinal flew away.

DATA MASTER: Heather Conn

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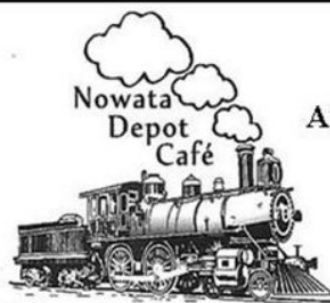
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Claremore Nursing Home - Employee of the Month



Employee Of The Month... Samantha Walker voted Employee of the Month by the residents. She was born in San Antonio, TX on November 15th. She has been a CNA here for 10 years. She has two daughters but no longer married. Her hobbies are fishing and swimming but really likes doing anything with her girls. Not many people knows she likes to paint and draw. We all know she loves to mow but only with a push mower. "I love the fact that Claremore Nursing Home feels like home and we work as a team."

If you would like to join, "Samantha Walker" as a Certified Nurse Aide, please apply in person. Now taking applications for Certified Nurse Aides both days and nights. Must pass a background check. New pay scale for CNA's.

"They may forget your name, but they will never forget how you made them feel."

Maya Angelou

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My Miracle Journey



I would like to share my miracle story with others to help inspire them and give them hope it's a way of me paying forward.

My name is Carina Imbrogno and I was born in 1974 in Buenos Aires, Argentina to Italian immigrants. I was born with a rare genetic disorder called Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome kyphoscoliosis type, but it was not diagnosed until 2015. This illness caused me to have severe scoliosis kyphosis since the age of two. I am the youngest of eight children. We were four girls and four boys. My oldest sister died from Leukemia as a toddler. I grew up with a very difficult father. I realized years later that my father was always ashamed of me because of the way I looked. Growing up I was also bullied and teased by other kids due to my very prominent rib hump. Having many surgeries and wearing orthopedic braces wasn't easy!

I began wearing orthopedic braces and body casts from the age 2 to the age of 11 and then again as an adult. I had my first open back surgery at 10 years old. My spine was collapsing so fast I was having trouble breathing. The doctors explained to us that I needed emergency open back surgery because my ribs were collapsing on my lungs making it difficult to breathe. I had a curve of 89 degrees and another curve of 56 degrees. Doctors explained to us that I have a deadly type of kyphoscoliosis and without surgery I would die. I had surgery and had a rod put in to stop my spine from curving any further.

Unfortunately I had complications. A few days after being sent home from the hospital I developed a very high fever. I went to see the doctor and he discovered I had a massive infection from the surgery. I almost died from this infection which left me hospitalized for three months. Fortunately the infection finally healed but over time the rod that was put in as a child began giving me problems. By the time I was 18 the rod had somehow moved out of place and doctors think it was causing my migraine headaches. I finally had to go for another surgery to remove part of the rod. My migraine headaches finally went away. However I struggled with my severe and painful rib hump and was always fearful that I would never find anyone because of the way I

looked.

In 1996 I was accepted to go to school at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City to study textile design. I graduated in 2000 with a grade point average of 3.8. My art teacher Susan Rietman who I am very close to always supported me in my work and motivated me to believe in myself. Shortly after I graduated I met someone and got married but, sadly found myself in an abusive relationship. After I separated from my abusive husband I was diagnosed with endometriosis. I had five abdominal surgeries for this illness which resulted in more complications. It was a very painful illness to endure. During this time I had a dream of God telling me that I would go through many difficulties but I wouldn't die and He would always be with me. In late 2004 I had a surgery to correct my prominent rib hump but it was unsuccessful and caused my spine to collapse at a fast rate. I have a very rare and aggressive type of kyphoscoliosis. The doctors told me they couldn't help and that I would end up in a wheelchair and then die. I remained bedridden and highly medicated to stay alive. By 2006 I had a side curve of 115 degrees and a concave curve of 120 degrees. I felt hopeless and very scared. No doctor would touch me because my condition was so severe and complex and I only had State insurance which doesn't cover a \$500,000 plus surgery.

One night I had a dream of a white light-filled Being who put His hand through me and straighten my spine. Afterwards in my dream I stood up and walked away. Two weeks later I found the doctor who saved my life. My oldest sister Ana took me to Texas where this doctor was able to correct my collapsed spine and rib hump. I have two rods and 26 screws holding my spine and had nine ribs cut and reduced in size to minimize the rib hump. I grew five inches from the surgery. This was a miracle for me. The success of my operation was called a miracle by Dr. Shelekov and his entire team who preformed the operation. I am forever grateful for what he did for me. Unfortunately he passed away two years later.

After the spinal surgery I was doing so well that I was able to take a trip to Argentina to see my parents. I especially wanted to see my mother who hadn't believed I was well. Unfortunately a couple of years after my surgery I started to suffer from severe depression and anxiety. I had never felt this way before. The doctors eventually discovered I had ovarian failure and was going into early menopause. There were no medications I could tolerate due to the many side effects and sensitivities I have. At this point I was 33 years old. I was living in my brother's basement at this time and my unmedicated depression and anxiety got so bad that I spent four years feeling hopeless and bed ridden. The one person who gave me hope was Father Frank who

visited me. In 2013 I went to the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota where they discovered I had pelvic floor muscle dysfunction which added to my IBS making it hard to go to the bathroom.

Amidst of all this suffering one day in 2013 I got a letter in the mail saying I was next on the list to rent a small apartment for people with disabilities in Stamford, CT. The news made me so happy because I had waited for eight years for this opportunity, but at the same time I was scared due to my many health issues. By October of 2014 I was so ill that I wasn't able to drink or eat and weighed only 92 pounds. I remember calling my college professor Susan Rietman who advised me to come to Mount Sinai where they were able to find a treatment that I could tolerate. Another miracle. I spent my 40th birthday in Mount Sinai hospital. At this time I was praying to God and I promised Him if He saved my life once again I would start drawing and painting since art was always something I wanted to do. After a few weeks I began feeling better but just a few days after being discharged from the hospital I came down with a pulmonary embolism and once again landed in the hospital. Doctors warned me if the blood thinners didn't work I could die. I was petrified but I kept thinking about my dream with God and somehow I knew I was going to be okay.

A year before when I watched a movie called Heaven is For Real I was introduced to the artist Akiane Kramarik's life and work. This child prodigy inspired me to do art, especially to paint. Her story about meeting God helped me to see and believe that my dreams where for real.

As soon as I was better a close friend of mine David Anderson helped financially to buy art supplies to start my art. He always believed in me even when I doubted. I began to teach myself how to draw and paint. I am mostly self taught in fine arts. I should mention that for me learning is a true challenge because I have Attention Deficit Disorder and Retention Deficit Disorder, two challenging learning disabilities. I've discovered that I am able to learn best hands on. So for the past four years I've been drawing and painting in different mediums such as gouache, dyes, watercolors, color pencil, graphite, acrylics, oils and pastels. Because of my disabilities and limitations I work a lot from photographs.

I started doing portraits after I began volunteering in a daycare doing arts and crafts with children once a week. They inspire me to draw and paint them. I also draw and paint animals. I also love to paint animals, including people's pets. I work with a lot of details so my work looks highly realistic. I have a true passion

for what I do. I have entered over 10 juried exhibits where my work was accepted in all the shows. In January of 2017 I won third place at the Stamford Art Association. I entered the very first portrait I ever did which was of my mother, who sadly I'm losing to Alzheimer's disease. Winning with the portrait of my mother meant so much to me. I went on to win first place with the portrait of Jaden in graphite at the Rowayton Art center. And I won third place with a graphite portrait of Melissa. My accomplishments have made me work ever harder. My story was published in a Spanish newspaper called La Voz and most recently it was published in English and Spanish in a magazine called Latin Colors.. You can go to the following link, Carina Imbrogno, Artist and Champion of Life – Liber-Art, <https://caimbrogno.wixsite.com/mysite>.

I'm very grateful for the connections I've made through Instagram. I got very inspired by a friend on Instagram by the name of Richard Macwee who is based in Scotland and is an amazing wildlife artist. His work inspired me to continue drawing animals. I also feel very grateful and blessed to have migrated with my family to the USA where my life has been saved so many times. My goal is to eventually teach what I know and to keep getting better and better at what I do. I am open to trying different techniques. I have my studio in my small living room but I hope one day have a studio away from my apartment.

DATA MASTER: Nikki Hamilton



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Random Acts of Kindness

1. Spare Change

A homeless man who offered a woman his last pennies to get home when she lost her purse is “overwhelmed” after she raised more than £21,000 to help him.

Dominique slept rough on the streets to raise money for homeless man Robbie after he offered to give her his last £3 for a taxi home. “He is shocked by the amount of support this has received. He doesn’t want any publicity, he’s just a nice bloke who would help anyone.”

2. Touchdown

10 year old Jacob Steiner is a mentally disabled 10 year old on the Oakland Cougars football team. After playing all season, his coach arranged this;

Together with the coach of the Logan Township Lions they arranged for young Jacob to feel what it is like to score a touchdown.

3. Feed A Stranger

In this Qdoba restaurant in Kentucky, this server was surprised by a disabled woman’s request on bringing her food. She asked him if he could feed her and he did without hesitation. Afterwards he commented he was sure that anyone in his place would have done the same.

4. Police Ties

A police officer stopped this man for speeding when the man explained that he had been looking for his friend who knows how to tie a tie, couldn’t find him and now he was late for his presentation. The officer not only lets him off without a ticket, but also ties his tie for him.

5. New Shoes

New Mexico police officer Mark Gurule found a homeless man in a parking lot, drying his wet socks. Rather than move him along or arrest him for loitering, the officer simply left and came back with a pair of brand new shoes for the man with some thick socks and even handed him some money for food.

6. Taco Bell

Lieutenant Colonel Robert Risdon was looking to get some food at a Taco Bell in Alabama when he saw two boys raising money for their family. He invited them to dinner and they couldn’t be happier. The younger brother even said “I want to be just like you when I grow up.” and then saluted him.

7. Skin Head

Delaney Clements and Cameron Renfro are two BFFs who were dealt some serious news, when Delaney was diagnosed with Nueroblastoma. As Cameron’s friend began to lose her hair she shaved her own head in soli-

arity. This was when she was expelled from school for violating the dress code. She was told to “come back when you have hair.”

After facebook blew up in outrage the school board apologized and let Cameron come back.

8. America of Tomorrow

Grocery store employee Brandon Rallins didn’t hesitate to escort an elderly woman to her car. This small act of kindness was witnessed by Bo Graff and he was compelled to record it. Graff went on to say; “This is how America should be! And hopefully this is the America of tomorrow!!”

9. Say a Little Prayer

At this Dutch Bros in Vancouver, the baristas were working fast to serve their customers. When 19 year old Pierce Dunn noticed that the woman sat in the drive thru was terribly upset. When probed he discovered that she had just lost her husband of 37 and the three workers dropped everything and reached out to her, sharing a prayer. The photo was taken by a woman in the drive thru queue.

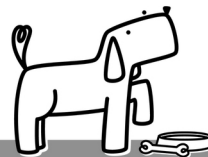
10. Mind The Gap

In 2014 a man getting on to the subway in Perth, Australia, didn’t ‘mind the gap’. He accidentally stepped right in it, getting stuck. Luckily a commuter acted quickly and alerted the driver. However the man could not pull his leg back out. Luckily for him everyone around came together in solidarity pushing against the train, tilting the huge wagon until he was able to pull himself free.

DATA MASTER: Eric Peachey

“You cannot do a kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson



Trail of tears

9 STATES
 ALABAMA
 ARKANSAS
 GEORGIA
 ILLINOIS
 KENTUCKY
 MISSOURI
 NORTH CAROLINA
 OKLAHOMA
 TENNESSEE

TRAIL OF TEARS

The forced relocation during the 1830s of Eastern Woodlands Indians of the Southeast region of the United States to Indian Territory west of the Mississippi River.

SUPPORTED BY PRESIDENT ANDREW JACKSON CONGRESS PASSED THE INDIAN REMOVAL ACT OF 1830

MAJOR TRIBAL NATIONS 5
 CHEROKEE
 CREEK
 CHICKASAW
 CHOCTAW
 SEMINOLE

5045 MILES OF TRAILS OVER LAND AND WATER



- A REMOVAL CAMPS**
 After being forcibly removed from their homes in Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, and North Carolina, most Cherokee are moved into 11 removal camps—10 in Tennessee and one in Alabama. There they await the start of an 800-mile journey.
- B FORT CASS**
August 23 – December 5, 1838
 At present-day Charleston, Tennessee, 10 detachments totaling 9,302 Cherokee are marched from Fort Cass toward Indian Territory.
- C BLYTHE FERRY**
 In Meigs County, Tennessee, nine detachments with more than 9,000 Indians cross the Tennessee River.
- D ROSS'S LANDING**
June 6 – 17, 1838
 Near present-day Chattanooga, Tennessee, three detachments are forced to leave their homeland for Indian Territory.
- E VANN'S PLANTATION**
September 1838
 At present-day Wolftever Creek, Tennessee, two detachments totalling 1,642 Cherokee leave for Indian Territory.
- F BENGÉ ROUTE**
September 28, 1838
 Cherokee leader John Bengé escorts 1,079 Cherokee toward present-day Stilwell, Oklahoma.
- G BELL ROUTE**
October 11, 1838
 John Bell of the Treaty Party leads 660 Cherokee from Fort Cass to present-day Evansville, Arkansas.
- H WATER DETACHMENTS**
 Cherokee removals from Ross's Landing and Fort Cass include four water routes that prove to be punishing for the Indians: 3,103 depart but only 2,273 arrive at Mrs. Webber's Plantation, Fort Coffee, Lee's Creek, and Illinois Campground.
- I TAHLEQUAH, OKLAHOMA**
October 19, 1841
 The Cherokee National Council designates Tahlequah as the capital of the Cherokee Nation.
- J TRAIL'S END**
March 24, 1839
 The last detachment arrives in Indian Territory. The Cherokee are promised subsistence rations through March 1, 1840, in compliance with the Treaty of New Echota.



Source: National Park Service © Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.

In the 1830's the government of the United States mandated emigration of the Woodland indians, Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Creek, and Seminole, known as five civilized tribes, from their homelands to move West what is now called Oklahoma. Due to hardships endured by native americans the emigration was called Trail of Tears.

Due to exposure to harsh weather conditions, starvation, and diseases such as smallpox, typhus, measles, influenza, bubonic plagues, cholera, malaria, tuberculosis, mumps, yellow fever, whooping cough and syphilis approximately 4,000 out of 16,000 members of Cherokees 2,500 members of choctaw died.

One reason for the tension between state of Georgia and the Cherokee people was the discovery of gold near Dahlonega, Georgia, in 1829. This discovery resulted in Georgia gold rush, the first gold rush in U.S. history. Gold speculators began trespassing on Cherokee lands and pressure began to mount on the Georgia government to fulfill the promises of the compact of 1802.

It's very important to mention that the cherokee were one of the first, if not the first, major non-European ethnic group to become U.S. citizens in 1817 treaty with the government of the U.S. Andrew Jackson's indian removal policy ignored the constitutional rights of the cherokee and forbid them to leave their homelands regardless. Meanwhile, in Worcester V. Georgia (1832), the US supreme court chief justice John Marshall ruled that

“ the cherokee nation, then, is a distinct community occupying its own territory in which the laws of Georgia can have no force, and which the citizens of Georgia have no right to enter but with the assent of the cherokees themselves, or in conformity with treaties and with the acts of congress. The whole intercourse between the United States and this nation, is, by our constitution and laws vested in the government of the United States.”

President Jackson ignored the supreme court's ruling

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also.

The Cherokee Trail of Tears move was caused by enforcing the 1835 treaty of New Echota, an agreement signed under provisions of the Indian Removal Act of 1830. Neither the elected tribal leadership nor the majority of the Cherokee people had accepted this treaty.

The Trail of Tears is generally considered to be one of the most regrettable in American history. To commemorate the event, the U.S. Congress designated the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail in 1987. It stretches for 2,200 miles across nine states.

In 2004, Senator Sam Brownback, Republican from Kansas, introduced a joint resolution (Senate Joint Resolution 37) to offer an apology to all Native peoples on behalf of the United States for past ill-conceived policies by the United States government regarding Indian tribes. The United States Senate has yet to take action on the measure.

By: Breanna McDowell



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Funny stuff kids say in the classroom

During the Christmas/holiday classroom party, a boy comes up to me with a gift bag (obviously re-used) and says: "Here teacher...my mom got this present and she didn't want it and she called everyone in our family and they didn't want it either so she said to just bring it to school and give it to you!" I love how they tell the truth! If their parents only knew how much they really tell us

Mine happened at the beginning of this year. At one point all the students were doing their assignments and on task. It was a lovely few minutes! LOL Anyway, this one girl all of a sudden yelled out "I'm tired of this! Raise your hand if you want to go home!" Well, of course most of the class raised their hands and that lovely time was over. She reminds me, in some ways, of Junie B Jones and I think that comment is something she might say. I try to laugh them off (in my head) but oh, how sometimes it's really a challenge.

As Christmas approached, a boy announced that Santa Claus isn't real. One of my bright students tearfully said, "Ms. A., he's disrespecting my religious beliefs!"

Earlier this year I was approached by one of my kindergarteners in tears. I asked her what was wrong. "_____ just called me a baby!" I called the other little girl over and said, "Did you just call _____ a baby?" "No, no, no!" shouted the little girl. "I said 'Hey baby!' You know like the mom said to the dad when she calls him and wants him to come over for the night."

Student A didn't do her homework and told me that she couldn't because her mom made her go buy a new cat that night and she wanted to play with the cat instead and her mom said it was okay... This story checked out. A phone call later, mom says yes, she was too tired from playing with her cat so she didn't see the need for her to do her homework. She'll do it another time.

This was definitely a classic moment that I heard

through my cooperating teacher during my student teaching experience. I still laugh at the thought. While grading science tests for her third grade class, this teacher noticed a memorable response to one of the questions. It said: 'Please list the three states of matter...'. The reply was, "North Carolina, Virginia, and Kentucky." The three states THAT matter! HA!

I teach third grade. About a month ago we had a sick student who was out for a couple of weeks. I told my class that I would get some things for him, we would make some get well cards and send it all to the boy. I got some things from Wal-Mart and left them in my truck. I asked three of my boys to go to my truck (parked right outside our door) and get the items from the backseat. I gave one of the boys a list- model airplane, poster to color, crossword puzzle etc... When they came back into the room he was holding several sacks. I could see that one of the small sacks held a box of tampons. (I forgot they were back there.) My teaching partner was in my room and before I could do anything the boy took them out of the sack, held them up over his head and yells, "I guess this is the crossword puzzle." My co-teacher and I were both so red and trying not to laugh that I just said, "Uh-huh" and put the box back in the bag. His mom is an Assistant Principal on another campus. I emailed her to tell her the story and so that she would know if they were ever on the feminine product aisle and he asked for a crossword puzzle she would know what he meant. She thought it was too funny.

Many years ago, when I was teaching 5th grade, I was grading students' science homework papers. One of the questions was "Who developed the system of naming organisms?" or something like that. Anyway, the correct answer was supposed to be Carl Linnaeus. One of my students wrote 'Adam' for his answer. When I questioned him about it, he said he was referring to Adam in the Bible. He had learned in Sunday School that Adam had named all the animals in the Garden of Eden. Guess what? I counted his answer correct!

DATA MASTER: Breanna McDowell



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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

Big Cabin Senior Exercise Program—Fitness program for seniors held at the Big Cabin Baptist Church gym three times a week, Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from 10 to 11 a.m.

American Legion Post 178 in Grove, OK – Bingo every Saturday evening at 6pm. Family atmosphere. Contact Lee Cathy for any questions at: 901-487-9060

PRYOR DANCE—Every 1st. and 3rd. Thursday of the month. 6:15 pm—9 pm—Cost is \$5.00 per person, Double H Band will be playing. Cookies and Coffee will be serving. It's for seniors but all ages are welcome. Mayes County Nutrition Center 851 SE 9th Pryor (just east of 9th and Elliott intersection)

Nov 30, 2019 - Jan 11, 2020 Bixby's Winter Wonderland - The whole family is invited to experience Bixby's Winter Wonderland. Stroll through the illuminated Charley Young Event Park, decorated with holiday light displays. Then, lace on a pair of skates for a few laps around the ice skating rink. For a variety of magical holiday festivities, bring the family, friends and kids to Bixby's Winter Wonderland. Hours Monday: 5:30 pm - 9:00 pm Tuesday: 5:30 pm - 9:00 pm

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,

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

Hardship level: Moderate

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

By: Nikki Hamilton

Solutions are printed in page 36

Wednesday: 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm Thursday: 5:30 pm - 9:00 pm Friday: 4:00 pm - 9:00 pm Saturday: 2:00 pm - 9:00 pm Sunday: 2:00 pm - 9:00 pm Winter Break Hours: December 23-January 5: 4-9pm. Pricing General admission w/ skate rental: \$12. Military discount/ General admission w/o skate rental: \$10. Children (5 & under): \$8. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the pricing listed above, prices are subject to change without notice. Charley Young Event Park 50 West Dawes Bixby, OK 74008

Jan 8, 2020 ORU Golden Eagles vs North Dakota State - The ORU Golden Eagles women's basketball team strives for success on the court. Starts at 6pm. Watch the team work together toward shutting down their opponents while aiming for the basket. See the Golden Eagles shoot hoops and dribble circles around the North Dakota State Bison during a competitive match on their home turf at Tulsa Mabee Center. Mabee Center 7777 S Lewis Ave Tulsa, OK 74171 Phone: 918-495-6000

Jan 9, 2020 Rick Springfield in Concert - While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the pricing listed above, prices are subject to change without notice. \$29.50-49.50 Grammy Award winner Rick Springfield is the man responsible for the booming popularity of classic hit "Jessie's Girl." Snatch up tickets quick to see this well-known performer sing live at The Joint inside Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tulsa. Hear Springfield sing even more of his 17 US Top 40 hits from the Grand Event Center stage, including "Don't Talk to Strangers," "An Affair of the Heart," "I've Done Everything For You," "Love Somebody" and "Human Touch." Hours Starts at 8pm. Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tulsa 777 W Cherokee St Catoosa, OK 74015 Phone: 918-266-4352

Jan 10, 2020 River Spirit Casino Resort presents: Frank Caliendo - Share a night of laughs with Frank Caliendo as he brings his comedy to Paradise Cove at River Spirit Casino Resort in Tulsa. Known for his sketch comedy and celebrity impersonations, Caliendo first broke through to national recognition as a MadTV regular. He then worked several years predicting football games on Fox's NFL Sunday, produced his own sketch show Frank TV, and has appeared numerous times on the Bob & Tom Show. Hours Starts at 8pm. 8330 S Riverside Pkwy Tulsa, OK 74137 Phone: 918-995-8235

Jan 10, 2020 Full Moon Nature Hike - When the full moon makes its appearance in the night sky, take a hike through the Tulsa Botanic Garden. During the Full Moon Nature Hike, guests can wander through the 1.5 mile Cross Timbers Nature Trail to see prairie tallgrasses, oaks and hickories. Perhaps while taking in the greenery lit by the full moon, guests will hear the sounds of owls calling, armadillos rustling through the leaves or

coyotes howling in the distance. Experience nature at night with a self-guided hike through this Tulsa trail. Friday: 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm. Tulsa Botanic Garden 3900 Tulsa Botanic Dr Tulsa, OK 74127 Phone: 918-289-0330

Jan 10, 2020 Tulsa Oilers vs. Kansas City Mavericks - Cheer on the Tulsa Oilers as they take on the Kansas City Mavericks at the BOK Center in downtown Tulsa. Get in on the fast-paced hockey action as these two teams compete for control of the puck. Enjoy a snack and a cold beer while cheering on the team as they battle for victory on the ice. 7:05pm BOK Center 200 S Denver Ave Tulsa, OK 74145 Phone: 918-632-7825

Jan 10, 2020 - Jan 12, 2020 Winter Big Om Yoga Retreat - Relax and reach a sense of inner peace at the Winter Big Om Yoga Retreat. During this calming yoga retreat held at Sequoyah State Park & Lodge in Hulbert, immerse yourself in nature and disconnect from your normal routine. Share a hostel-style bunkhouse with 15 other retreat goers and bond over a fun weekend of yoga, workshops and hangouts with fellow yomies (yoga+homies). By the end of this adventurous and playful weekend, feel refreshed and recharged. Sequoyah State Park & Lodge 17131 Park 10 Hulbert, OK 74441 Phone: 918-605-8221

Jan 10, 2020 - Jan 26, 2020 Theatre Tulsa presents: The Music Man - The classic musical-comedy "The Music Man" is coming to Tulsa Performing Art Center. See the story of con man Harold Hill, who poses as a band director to "sell" instruments to unsuspecting Midwestern townfolk. Hill's plan hits a snag when he is found out – and falls in love – with a prim and proper piano teacher. Featuring the beloved hit "Til There Was You," this musical has memorable songs and a heartwarming story for all ages to enjoy. Pricing \$29-46 While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the pricing listed above, prices are subject to change without notice. Hours January 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25: 8pm January 12, 19, 25, 26: 2pm. Tulsa Performing Arts Center 110 E 2nd St Tulsa, OK 74103 Phone: 918-596-7111

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

Community Links of Chelsea

1100 Walnut/PO Box 85

Chelsea, OK. 74016

Ph: 918-789-2862

Fax: 918-789-5296

Email: links@links.community-options.net

DATA MASTERS: Steven Burdick and Eric Peachey





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Getting to know the Lutherans

A STATEMENT OF FAITH

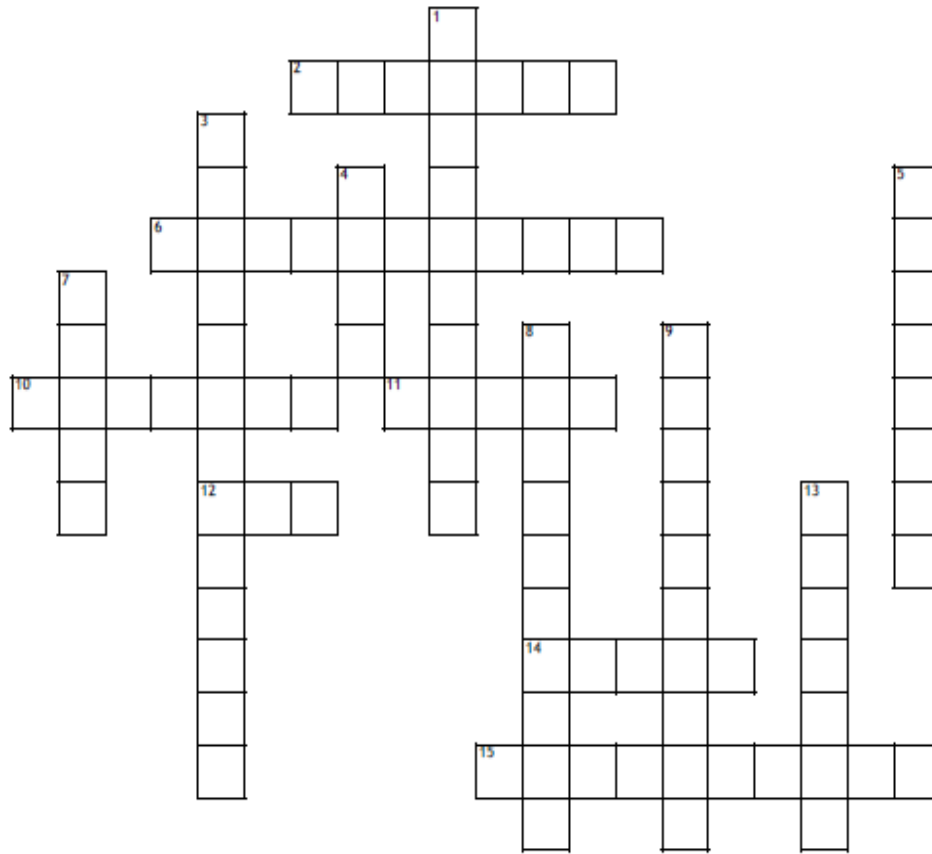
A Christian profession of faith begins with the statement: “I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.” What does this mean for us? I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason, and all my senses, and still preserves them; also clothing and shoes, meat and drink, house and home, wife and children, fields, cattle, and all my goods; that He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life; that He defends me against all danger, and guards and protects me from all evil; and all this is purely out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me; for all which it is my duty to thank and praise, to serve and obey Him.

This is most certainly true.

DATA MASTER: Heather Conn

<p>Messiah Lutheran Church 460 N. Wilson, Vinita, OK. Sunday School and Bible Class 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:00 a.m. 918-256-3223 Email: messiahvinita@aol.com</p>	<p>St. Paul Lutheran Church Washington and Pine, Fairland, OK. Sunday School and Bible Class 9:15 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. 918-676-3059 Email: stpaulluthch@aol.com</p>
<p>Bethlehem Lutheran Church 6911 West 380 Road, Adair, OK 74330 Worship 9:00 a.m. 918-785-2994 Sunday School and Bible Class 10:15 a.m.</p>	<p>Immanuel Lutheran Church 706 Rockwood Drive, Grove, OK. Worship 9:30 a.m. 918-786-4585 Website: www.lutheransonline.com/lo/Groveok</p>
<p>Mt. Olive Lutheran Church 2337 North Main, Miami, OK 74354 Worship 2:00 p.m. (918) 542-4681 Sunday School and Bible Class 3:00 p.m. Email: mtolive@cablone.net</p>	<p>Redeemer Lutheran Church 220 N. Seminole, Claremore, OK. Sunday School and Bible Class 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. 918-341-1429 Email: rluther@sbcglobal.net – Website www.rlcck.org</p>
<p><i>Guests are always welcome. See you Sunday at worship.</i></p>	<p>St. John Lutheran Church 607 SE 9th Street, Pryor, OK. Sunday School and Bible Class 9:15 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. 918-825-1926 Email: stjohncpyor@sbcglobal.net - Website: www.stjohncpyor.org</p>

Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 2. Presiding officer in a legislative body such as Britain's House of Commons or the US House of Representatives
- 6. State that has nothing to do with Thanksgiving Day!
- 10. An attractive item that has nothing of interest to a motorist
- 11. Silent type holding one piece of land to be mined
- 12. Adult female pig
- 14. Bad land to build on
- 15. IT is the abbreviation for information ...

Down

- 1. Copies many expressions introduced by footballers
- 3. Of the Senate and House of Representatives
- 4. Adult female horses
- 5. State of excitement after many expressions of gratitude
- 7. Organ that has nothing to do with emotion, despite the many expressions
- 8. Heartbroken
- 9. House of Lords and House of Commons
- 13. US Senate and House of Representatives building

By: Eric Peachey and Steve Burdick

Solution is printed in page 37

To share your story with us contact:
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Word Search Puzzle

U G S B H V E Q L O A L B X Z J I G Z A Q Y K E
 A E T G A P P R O P R I A T E D C O L N U V I G
 P T S L S Z M B Z U B Z V Y H T J F X D G G T O
 P A I R Z Z Y L L A C I D O I R E P S G Y M V N
 R R N J B J Y E W E D E R A E P P A S I D E F A
 O O U W R X N N N L H W W D X X W M V R R H C Q
 X C T R A H E T W M L S H S M T Z D O D N M N Q
 I E R L G C Z E V P L I D R Y U E P E E Z E S B
 M D O H G N I R O H W M T T K V P L X G M K P R
 A R P V A Y C P J H V P B C V R I E D R N X T I
 T E P X D L I R S N C L J G O C R W U E A Q C N
 E V O I O Y T I T R V I T B A U S N V G S I U C
 O O E U C E E S T Z X C R T N U G W K I H T D O
 V M T E I B M E C K P I E K K Z H H C O T K N M
 E O A V O I S L Y Y A T I F A C W W H U H M O P
 R V C I M R O P Z T C Y X S E B Y G H S W O C A
 D L I T L B C N E J E L U F E T N U C Y C P M N
 E K L A W B O S P J E O H H L F A H S Q C E P I
 L V E I Z T L C X H I N A I Y H A B E S B R A O
 I B D T A Y T Y O D K V G L T S D K O E U A Z N
 C L R I O H C H I V I H L X V Z J A X R H T O S
 A Y E N G C B S K O A R L M N K B Z W U P E B H
 T I V I D S N V R T A T V M S B H J P E S P B I
 E M O S O I A N E Y C I V X F N Z F A T H U A P

simplicity	CONDUCT	ENTERPRISE	INITIATIVE,
BEHAVIOR	appropriated	overdelicate	approbate
overdecorate	operate	approximateoverdelicate	overdelicateopportunists
opprobriates	disappeared	periodically	companionship
egregious	bribe	lynch	insidious
braggadocio	cosmeticize		

CryptoQuote Puzzles

Title: Success vs Value **Quote From:** Einstein

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
																			L		P				

F K Q X B F F B M C T B I C U I U X B V
S **S S**
 L A T T C L L M A F K U F J C K F K Q F B
 M C T B I C U I U X B V **V**
 P U E A C

Title: Imagination vs knowledge **Quote From:** Einstein

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
							T		G																

I **I** **I** **I** **I**
 T R X U T J X K T Y J T M R Y H Z T R Q Y H K X J K
K
 K C X J G J Y E P Z A U Z

Title: Speaking vs action **Quote From:** Ralph waldo emerson

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
																			K			Y			

W **S** **S** **S**
 Y D X H W J P M J K Q B X I K K J E J P M
W
 H D X H V U X Z Z J H D B X A Y D X H W J P
S
 K X W

Title: Women success and failure **Quote From:** Amelia earhart

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
		E			S																		C		

W **F**
 C M Z I Q Z X U N L O P S M B I R I B P N W H Q D
 N W I P J M D I N Z M B I D F M B P N W O Q
F **C** **F**
 Z I Q S M B E M Z L O B O V F I S I O N U
 V X N N W I P O F U M D I N Z M B I Q M N M B H I
W **C**
 N P C W I Q N W I P E B O U W

Animals Helping and Rescuing Humans

Beluga Whale Story

Yang Yun was free diving when she discovered, at the bottom of an arctic pool, that her legs cramped up and she couldn't move.



She said, "I began to choke and sank even lower and I thought that was it for me — I was dead. Until I felt this incredible force under me driving me to the surface." A Beluga whale saw what was happening and lifted her to safety.



Oscar The Cat

This is Oscar, a cat that lived in a nursing home. He could sense when someone was going to die, and he would sit quietly on their bed during their final moments.



One surviving family member of a resident that passed with Oscar by his side said, "Oscar's presence gave a sense of completion and contentment. Oscar brought a special serenity to the room. What's more peaceful than

a purring cat? What sound more beautiful to fill one's ears when leaving this life?"



George The Dog

Five children were playing with this Jack Russell Terrier when some stray pit bulls attacked them. "George tried to protect us by barking and rushing at them," said one of the children about the attack. George was bitten several times and died of his wounds. But he was given an award for his actions.



Oi The Dog

This Staffordshire bull terrier saved his mommy and daddy. Patricia Adshead was in her house, making tea, when masked men wielding machetes entered. They sliced Patricia's husband through his hand and went for her. That's when Oi, the family dog, attacked the attackers. He was sadly hit with the machete, but still managed to chase them out of the house. He later died.



DATA MASTER Karen Deffenbaugh

Test Your Knowledge of Idioms and Proverbs

Idioms

1. Chase your tail
 - a. take action that is ineffectual and does not lead to progress
 - b. To drive or force out
 - c. Spending a lot of time and energy doing a lot of things but actually achieving too little
 - d. The act of going after or in the tracks of another
2. One trick pony
 - a. General intelligence or mental power
 - b. A person with only one talent or area of expertise
 - c. Any of several ancient units of weight
 - d. The natural endowments of a person
3. Wouldn't hurt a fly
 - a. A person with that is inoffensive and harmless
 - b. Lacking capacity or intent to injure
 - c. Not hurt ful or injurious, innoxious, ceremonies, are harmless in themselves
 - d. To be gentle
4. A penny for your thoughts
 - a. The action of using one's mind to produce thoughts
 - b. Supposing
 - c. Tell me what you're thinking
 - d. Judging
5. To play the devils advocate
 - a. To reason, to invent and offer reason's to support or overthrow a proposition opinion or measure, as , a in favor of a measure, argues against it
 - b. To persuade by reason's as to argue a man into different opinion.
 - c. To dispute to reason with
 - d. To argue against an idea for the sake of debate
6. The elephant in the room
 - a. In geometry, a proposition in which some operation or construction is required as to divide a line or an angle to let fall a perpendicular
 - b. An obvious problem that people don't want to talk about
 - c. In logic a preposition that appears neither absolutely true nor false and consequently may be asserted either in the affirmative or negative.

Proverbs

1. A drowning man will clutch at a straw
 - a. Hard to do deal with, manage, or overcome
 - b. Hard to do, carry out
 - c. When someone is in a difficult situation she/ he will take any available opportunity to improve it
 - d. Hard to understand
2. A fool and his money are soon parted
 - a. Having or showing a lack of good sense, judgement
 - b. Foolish people don't know how to hold on to their money
 - c. To be unreasonable
 - d. Conceived or made without regard for reason or reality
3. A journey of thousand miles begins with a single step
 - a. A usually assigned piece of work often to be finished within a certain time
 - b. Something hard or unpleasant that has to be done
 - c. To assign a task to
 - d. Howsoever big a task is, it starts with a small step
4. A leopard can't change its spots
 - a. A person can't change its innate character
 - b. To make different in some particular
 - c. To make a different position, course, or direction to
 - d. To replace with another
5. All good things come to an end
 - a. The fact or state of having been affected by or gained
 - b. Knowledge throughout direct observation or participation
 - c. The length of such participation
 - b. Good experiences eventually come to an end
6. All that glitters isn't good
 - a. Things that look good outwardly may not be as valuable or good
 - b. Of a favorable character or tendency
 - c. Free from injury or disease
 - d. Commercially sound

By Breanna McDowell Solution in Page 34

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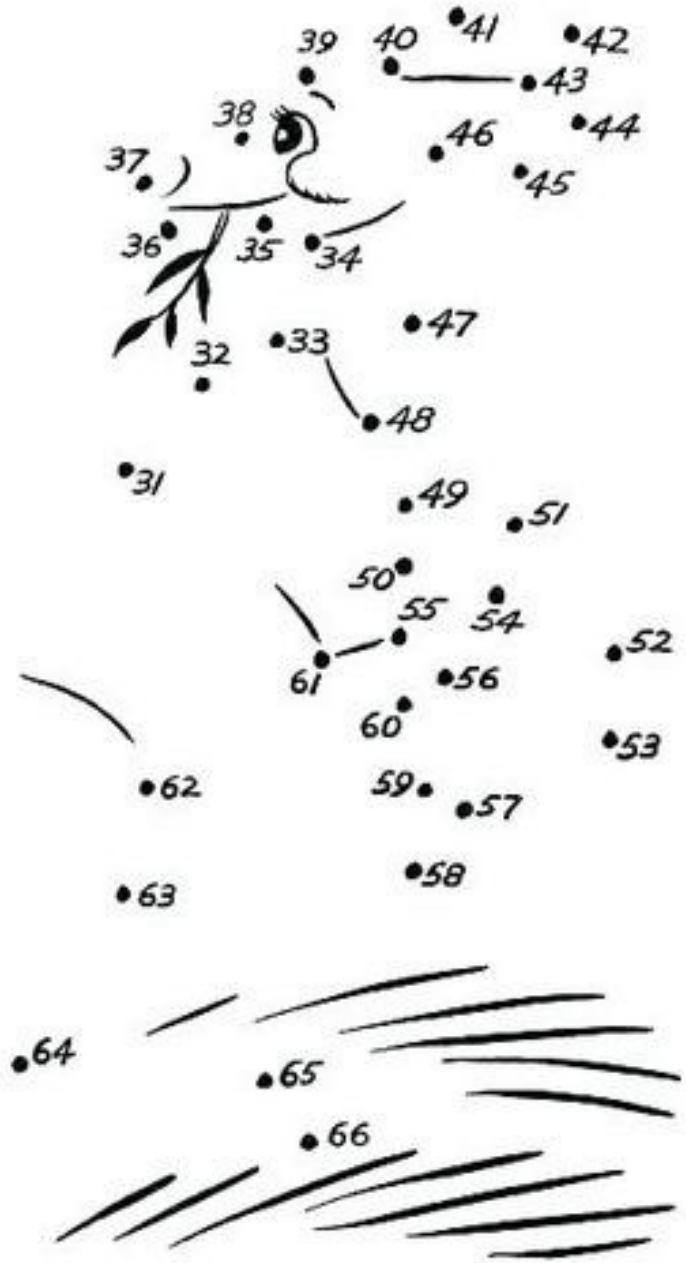
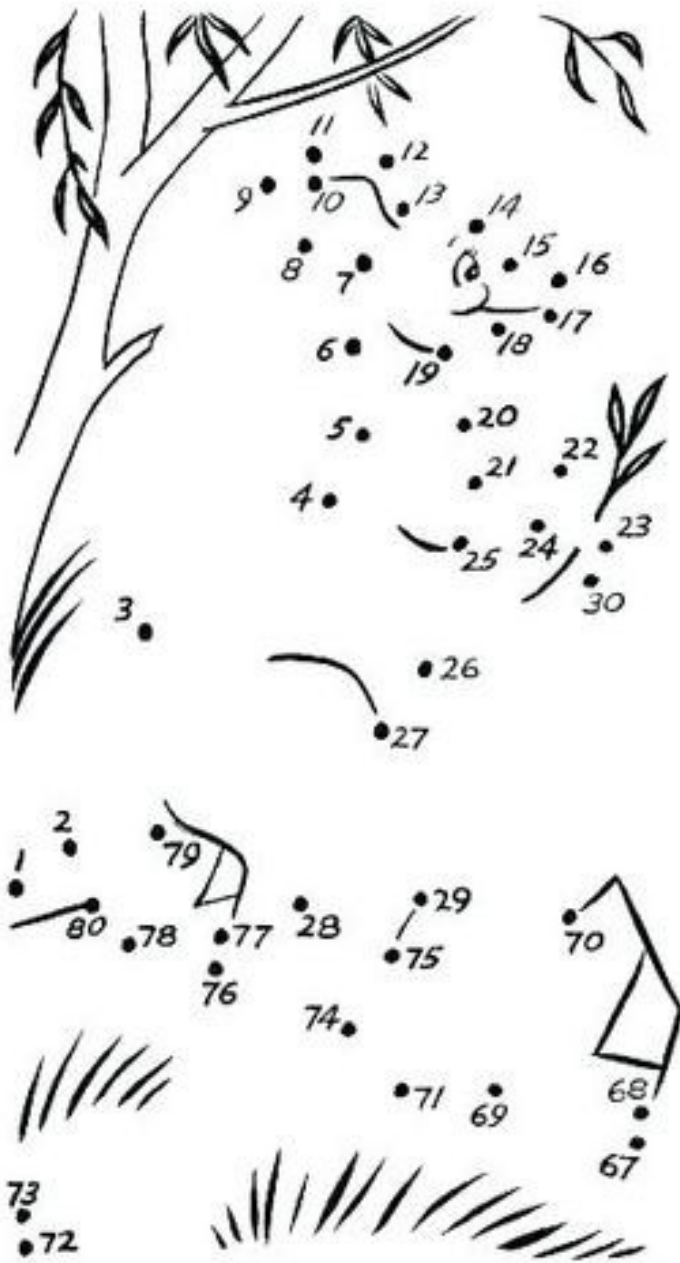
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Dot Picture Puzzle (Connect dots to complete the picture)



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Have You Heard of Z Day?



January 1st is the Z Day. People whose first or last name start with the letter Z must have it pretty rough. Most processes, systems and organizations use alphabetical sorting as standard, meaning they are always last no matter the place or occasion. Could get a bit annoying after a while, don't you think? Z Day was created to give those whose names begin with Z's a bit of a break. People with the letter Z can go first in line, get picked earlier, and stand in front instead of the back for a change.

The History Behind The Letter Z

The Semitic Symbol was the seventh letter, named Zayin, which meant "weapon" or "sword". It represented either the sound /z/ as in English and French, or possibly more like /dz/ as in Italian zeta, zero. The Greek form of Z was a close copy of the Phoenician Zayin and the Greek inscriptional form remained in this shape throughout history, as the Greeks called the letter Zeta. Latin, the origin of our current alphabet, had the letter Z in the earliest form of the alphabet before it was replaced by the letter G. The letter was replaced due to the "z" sound in Latin changing to "r" by rhotacism in the fifth century B.C.

How to Celebrate Z-Day

So how are you going to celebrate this holiday? Well, if you have any opportunities to put things in alphabetical order then go ahead and pop the Z's up front. This would be a simple task if you were a school teacher. Be a rebel and go for reverse alphabetical order if you want! Kids love opposite days like this. But maybe you don't really have a chance to put things in alphabetical order so you could draw some pictures of random Z-named things. Get really abstract and creative with your Z art and put it somewhere for the world to see. Or maybe you work with someone with a Z name and could treat them extra special today. Take your Z buddy out to lunch or help them out with their work today.

Maybe you could even buy something that starts with a Z like a Zenith watch or a Zune. There are plenty of different products out there that start with a Z! You could even go to a zoo if it's open and check out the zebras.

Now if only they'd let you ride one... Or you could catch your favorite zombie flick and try not to get the hunger for brains yourself. Heck, dress up as a zombie and give hugs to people with Z names! Or if you're really crazy you could tattoo a Z on your body and celebrate for the rest of your life! That would be the ultimate way to show your appreciation for this wonderful letter. It's all up to you really. Be creative! Show your appreciation to people and things that may not feel as loved because they have an uncommon letter in their name.

DATA MASTER: Steven Burdick

How about Nothing Day



January 16th is the Nothing Day. It has been commemorated since 1973. The day is literally about doing nothing at all, placing it in a similar vein to other such surreal non-occasions as an Un-Birthday or Buy Nothing Day. There is absolutely no purpose or intended structure for this pointless celebration.

The day was first proposed by the late American newspaper columnist Harold Coffin. Nothing Day was founded with the intent of eventual self-destruction, through satirically reigning in what Coffin considered a glut of recently established, useless commemorative days. Coffin's Nothing Organisation was simultaneously formed in order to raise awareness. Fittingly, the organisation has not yet held a single meeting. The continued official celebrations stand testament to Coffin's ultimate failure.

As it is all about expending no effort on celebrating absolutely nothing, Nothing Day can also be about celebrating life itself. The only limits on how the day is spent are the imagination and bank balance of the participant.

The day also raises some very interesting questions on a philosophical level. Can something worthwhile truly spring from nothing? Depending on your perspective, Coffin could either have been a latter-day David Hume or a quotable newspaper columnist slightly too clever for his own good.

DATA MASTER Steven Burdick



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CryptoQuote Puzzles Solution

Title: Success vs Value **Quote From:** Albert Einstein

Try not to become a man of success, but rather try to become a man of value.

Title: Imagination vs knowledge **Quote From:** Albert Einstein

Imagination is more important than knowledge.

Title: Speaking vs Action **Quote From:** Ralph Waldo Emerson

What you do speaks so loud that I cannot hear what you say.

Title: Women Success And Failure **Quote From:** Amelia Earhart

What you do speaks so loud that I cannot hear what you say.

By Steven Burdick and Eric Peachey

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Answers to Idioms and Proverbs Questions

Idioms

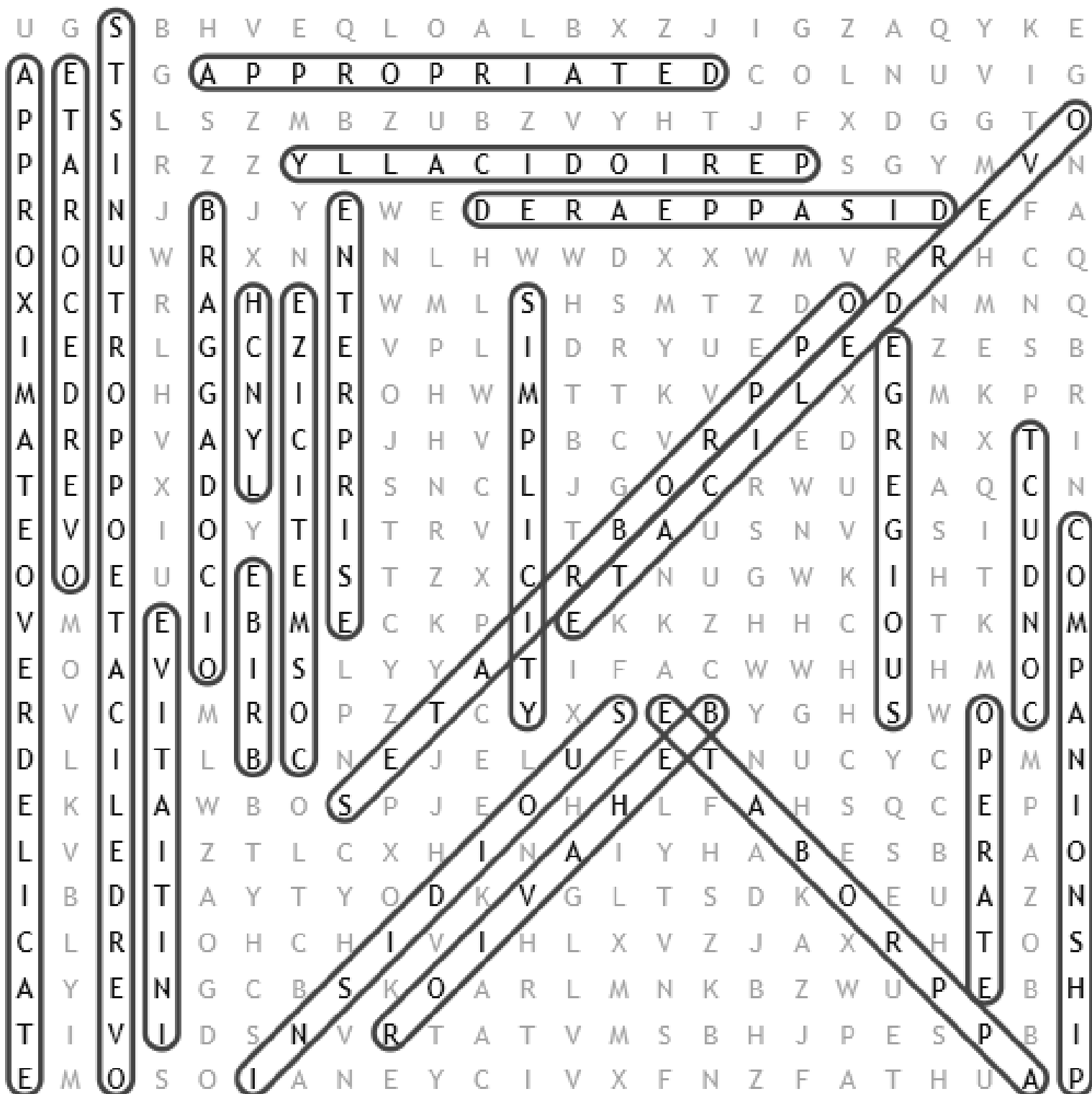
1. C
2. B
3. A
4. C
5. D
6. B

Proverbs

1. C
2. B
3. D
4. A
5. D
6. A

By Breanna McDowell

Word Search Puzzle Solution



By: Eric Peachey, and Steven Burdick

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Sudoku Puzzle Easy Solution

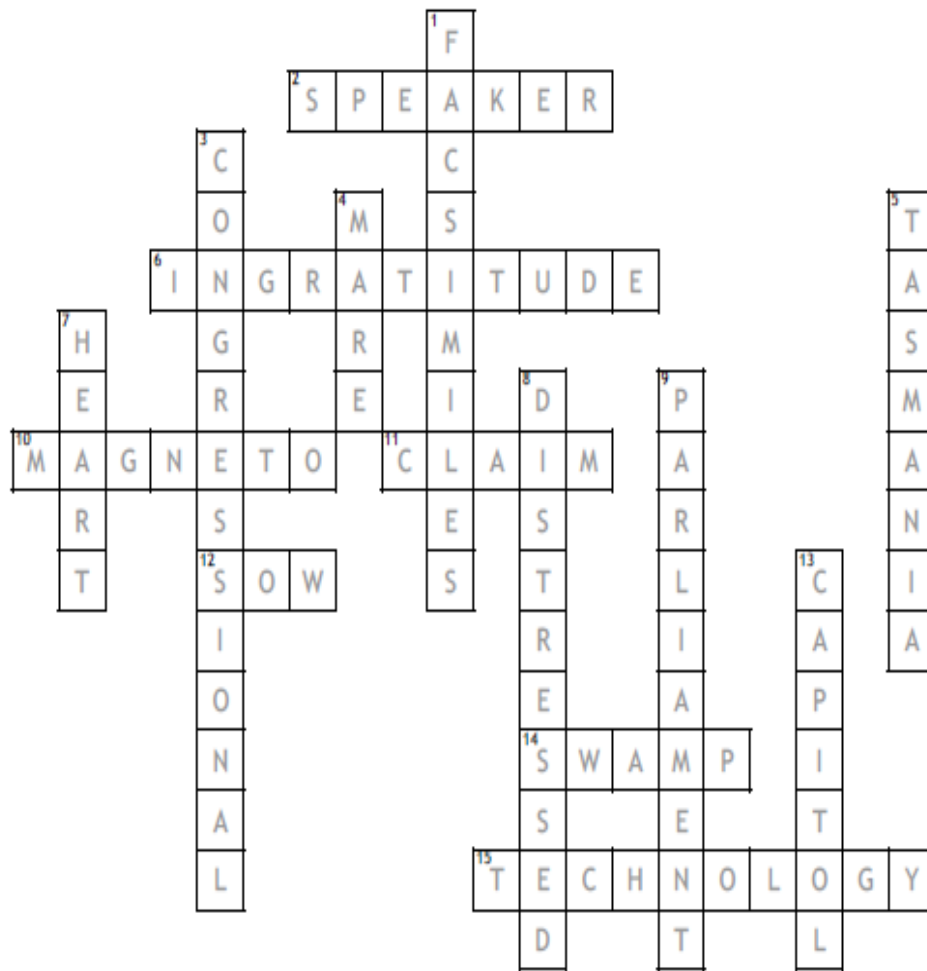
2	1	4	6	7	8	9	3	5
3	6	9	5	1	2	8	7	4
5	8	7	4	3	9	1	2	6
4	2	1	8	9	3	6	5	7
7	9	3	2	5	6	4	8	1
8	5	6	1	4	7	2	9	3
9	3	2	7	6	1	5	4	8
1	7	5	9	8	4	3	6	2
6	4	8	3	2	5	7	1	9

Sudoku Puzzle Moderate Solution

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

BY: Nikki Hamilton

Crossword Puzzle Solution



Across

2. Presiding officer in a legislative body such as Britain's House of Commons or the US House of Representatives
6. State that has nothing to do with Thanksgiving Day!
10. An attractive item that has nothing of interest to a motorist
11. Silent type holding one piece of land to be mined
12. Adult female pig
14. Bad land to build on
15. IT is the abbreviation for information ...

Down

1. Copies many expressions introduced by footballers
3. Of the Senate and House of Representatives
4. Adult female horses
5. State of excitement after many expressions of gratitude
7. Organ that has nothing to do with emotion, despite the many expressions
8. Heartbroken
9. House of Lords and House of Commons
13. US Senate and House of Representatives building

BY Eric Peachey and Steven Burdick

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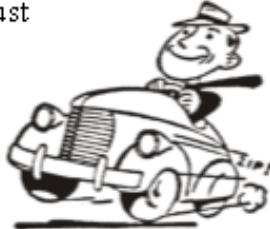
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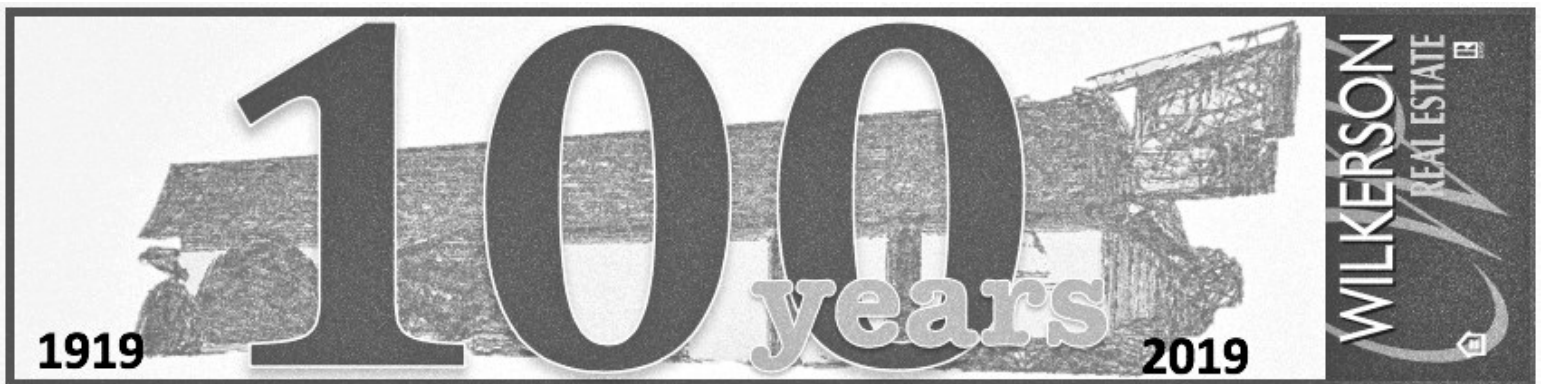
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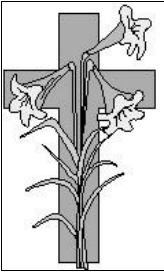
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Contents of this paper is compiled from available original sources.



JEWELS FROM THE WORD

The Abundance of Things

One of my New Year's Resolutions is to simplify. Same resolution for 10 years. Lately I have been trying really hard to get rid of stuff.

It is an ongoing battle, a struggle to keep what is necessary and let go of things that I don't need, I don't love, don't fit, that don't make me smile when I look at them.

I have a closet full of clothes, drawers full of stuff, cabinets full, pantry full, linen closet full. I have books and magazines everywhere, in bookshelves, in the bathroom, on the coffee table. I have 5 sets of dishes, 3 sets still packed away from our move 16 years ago.

I decluttered my clothes closet last year. When I unpacked my winter things this fall, most don't fit, some never did. Most are outdated and a few in need of repair. The struggle right now in the dead of winter is to mix and match the clothes I can wear so I can make it through this season without spending money on clothes. Now that I've lost weight I really need to buy clothes, but my closet is full. And a woman must have shoes. I have lots of shoes, some

Lavon Hightower Lewis To read more devotional, go to:
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of which don't fit and never have but "aren't these so cute?" Some of them need to be discarded but "I might wear them in the garden next spring."

Jesus said, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of things he possesses." Luke 12:15 NKJV

My possessions do not determine who I am. My life is more than what name brand of clothing I wear and the designer purse I carry. Have you ever thought that maybe hoarding stuff is a form of greed or covetousness? Yes, that was a staggering thought to me too. I guess it is time to start giving more of it away.

No wonder Jesus said it is more blessed to give than to receive. Acts 20:35

DATA MASTER: Heather Conn

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