

The McJunkin Messenger

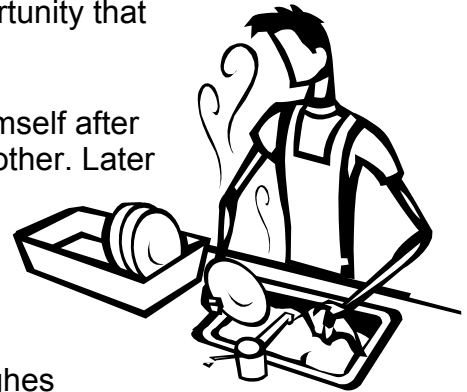
News To Help You Save Time And Money

November 2011

Go Ahead, Take a Chance!

Have you ever had an opportunity that seemed like a long shot slip through your fingers? The following story about the great poet and writer Langston Hughes is a good illustration of why you should take advantage of any opportunity that comes your way—no matter how small.

Mr. Hughes had grown up very insecure and unsure of himself after his mother and his father sent him to live with his grandmother. Later in his life, he was working as a busboy in a hotel. While Hughes was working there, Vachel Lindsay, a well-known poet of the day, stayed at the hotel. Lindsay was in town for a reading tour.



While the poet was eating his breakfast one morning, Hughes managed to get up the courage to approach Lindsay. Without saying a word, he laid copies of his poems on the table next to Lindsay's plate and left.

The next day Hughes picked up a newspaper and read that Lindsay had announced a great discovery: a significant new voice in poetry. The veteran poet had read some of the novice's poems at the reading the night before.

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Later, Hughes reported to work at the hotel for his shift, and when he did he was mobbed by photographers and reporters.

Hughes went on to live a life of great literary success. In his poetry, he used the rhythms of African-American music, particularly blues and jazz. Overcoming his insecurity also helped him experiment with rhythmic free verse, which set his poetry apart from all others of his day.

Keith

How November Got Its Name

November got its name from the Latin "*novembris mensis*," meaning "ninth month." Plutarch, a first-century Greek biographer and historian, attributed the change to the eleventh month to Numa Pompilius, a Roman king. "Many will have it that it was Numa who added the two months of Januarius and Februarius, for in the beginning they had a year of ten months." Numa supposedly also shortened November to 29 days; Julius Caesar returned it to 30 days.

Stand By For An Important Message

A prince had a curse put on him: he could only speak two words every year. But if he didn't speak for a whole year, he would then be able to speak four words the next year, and so on.

One day he met a princess named Josie and he instantly fell madly in love. He wanted to say, "Josie, my princess, I love you! Will you marry me?" but he knew that speaking only two words to her would confuse her. If he wanted her to fully understand what he had to say, he would have to wait.

And so he waited. Five years. In the fifth year, excited to finally present his question, he visited the princess, who hardly remembered him. He approached her respectfully and breathlessly asked, "JOSIE, MY PRINCESS, I LOVE YOU; WILL YOU MARRY ME?"

The surprised princess looked at him and said, "Pardon?"

Third Grade Vital For Cognitive Development

If you're a parent, you know how quickly children can grow and change. Neuroscientists studying brain development in children believe they've identified major changes occurring between the second and third grades, especially where arithmetic is involved.

As reported on the *Science News* website, two neuroscientists worked with about 90 children ages 7 to 9, scanning the kids' brains as they worked on math problems of varying levels of difficulty. They found that second-graders approached both easy problems ($1+2=3$) and more complex equations ($8+4=12$) using the same part of the brain. However, third-graders used more of their brains related to working memory when addressing the harder problems, a strategy that may reflect their greater confidence with simple problems.

The research could help teachers with math instruction and could provide scientists with important new clues regarding how and when the human brain develops as it grows.

A Look Under Antarctica

What lies buried beneath the snow and ice blanketing the continent of Antarctica? Scientists have a better picture of the landscape underneath the glaciers thanks to an international project called ICECAP (Investigating the Cryospheric Evolution of the Central Antarctic Plate).



beneath the ice covering.

The ICECAP team flew a refurbished 1942 DC-3 airplane equipped with ice-penetrating radar on the bottom of its fuselage.

The aircraft flew in a fan-shaped pattern across the East Antarctic Aurora Subglacial Basin, using the radar to peer

The findings revealed a deep trench hundreds of kilometers long, with fjord-like features cut by vast sheets of ice that flowed across the continent long ago. As reported by the *BBC News* website, the researchers hope their findings will improve understanding of Antarctica's past and its future, especially in light of climate change potentially warming our world.

See An Interesting Home?

No need to wonder about the price. No need to call a high-pressure sales agent who will just make you feel obligated. My computers can send you the information quickly and easily, for any house, listed or sold, anywhere in town.

Just ask me! It's all part of my free, no-obligation HomeFinder Service.

Leave the address on my voicemail, anytime, 24 hours a day, and I'll fax, mail or e-mail all the information to you on that listing within 24 hours.



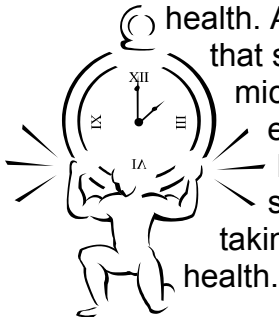
Sadie Hawkins Day, Nov. 12

Sadie Hawkins Day was introduced by Al Capp in his Li'l Abner comic strip on November 15, 1938. In the strip, the mayor of the hillbilly town of Dogpatch, was desperate to marry off his homely daughter, Sadie Hawkins. He devised an annual event -- a foot race in which the unmarried women in town would chase the eligible males, and any man who was caught would have to marry his pursuer. Sadie caught her man -- and the idea caught the fancy of Capp's readers. Within two years, more than 200 colleges were holding Sadie Hawkins Day events. Participants wore Dogpatch-style rags, ran races, and held mock weddings. Capp never specified a particular date for the holiday, but it always took place in November. Girl-ask-boy Sadie Hawkins Day dances were the rage for the next 40 years in high schools and colleges. Today, the celebration is toned down from the antics of the 1930's. The dances are usually held on the Saturday closest to November 9th, and are often known by other, less colorful names, such as "Winter Formal."



Short-Term Stress May Be Good For You

Medical experts have been saying for years that chronic stress can damage your health. A new study, though, by researchers at Ohio State University indicates that short-term stress can actually boost the immune system. The study, in mice, suggests that intense stress, lasting no more than a few hours, encourages the immune cells to protect the body from such threats as bacteria or viruses. And the immune response remains strong for several weeks to several months after the stressful incident. So maybe taking an exam or having a fender-bender may actually improve your health.



October Word Scramble Answer

Word Scramble: ucnoytmim ot olerenuvt tkae ni imet ouyr

Answer: take time to volunteer in your community

Congratulations to *Clyde Courtney* . Your name was selected at random from all of the correct quiz entries and you'll receive Lowe's \$30 gift card

Humor In Their Genes

Humor was a family business for the Marx Brothers. They traveled the country with their parents as part of a vaudeville act, playing the role of “children” until they were 20. Their mother always insisted they be charged half-fare and routinely told everyone she met that her children were only 13 years old.

One day a railroad conductor came to her seat and demanded full fare. Mrs. Marx informed him that her sons were 13. The conductor replied sarcastically, “Well, one of your 13-year-olds is in the washroom shaving, and another one of them is in the club car smoking a cigar.”

The Marx mother just shook her head and replied, “They grow up so fast.”

Poppies For The Troops November 11

Remembrance Day, or Veterans Day, is the day red poppies are worn in honor of the members of our armed forces who sacrificed their lives for their country.

It is celebrated each year on the anniversary of the signing of the Armistice that ended World War I. The major hostilities of World War I were formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918 when the Germans signed the Armistice.

The red poppy has become a familiar emblem of fallen soldiers due to the poem *In Flanders Fields*. These poppies bloomed across some of the worst battlefields of Flanders in World War I, and their brilliant red became a symbol of the blood spilt in the war.

WELCOME NEW CLIENTS

Here are some of the new clients who became members of our “Real Estate Family” this past month. I’d like to welcome you and wish you all the best!

Michael and Shari Smith

Sandie Mullins

We love giving recognition to our new friends and our wonderful existing clients who are kind enough to introduce their friends and relatives to us.

Do What You Love? Love What You Do?

The familiar saying, “Do what you love and the money will follow,” may remind us of the importance of having dreams and pursuing desires, but is it really practical career advice? After all, you may love to golf, but unless you’re better than 99.99% of the other golfers out there, there’s not much money in it. Here’s how to approach the whole do-what-you-love notion:

Decide what you want. What you choose to do for a living should be based on what kind

of life you want. If you dream of a life of wealth and luxury, a career as an artist (however much you love to draw) probably won't be very satisfying. Look for a strategy that will incorporate your interests without sacrificing your other life goals.

Learn your strengths. You may love playing the guitar, but are you really good enough to make a living at it? Be honest and realistic with yourself before committing yourself to a career that could be filled with frustration.

Understand secondary requirements. Every job and career includes some tasks that are less enjoyable than others. Movie stars have to deal with intrusive paparazzi; CEOs have to make tough decisions about layoffs and ethical dilemmas. Be sure you're prepared to handle any downside when you choose to follow your dream.

Remember that work is still work. Your career has to carry you through days and weeks when you don't really want to go to the office, or the studio, or wherever your job takes you. This is part of being realistic about your goals: Even the best jobs can seem like drudgery at times, and you'll have to stick with it even when the initial enjoyment fades.

Don't define yourself by your job. Your career choice doesn't have to restrict other life choices. Instead of seeking the perfect job, concentrate on finding satisfying work that allows you to enjoy your life as a whole. Remember that other old saying: "No one ever died wishing they'd spent more time at the office."

Everyday Abbreviations

Are you a little fuzzy on the meanings of some common abbreviations? Here are a few you might encounter, and their Latin roots:

e.g. (*exempli gratia*) means "for example"

i.e. (*id est*) means "that is," and is used before clarifying the meaning of a phrase

etc. (*et cetera*) means "and so forth"

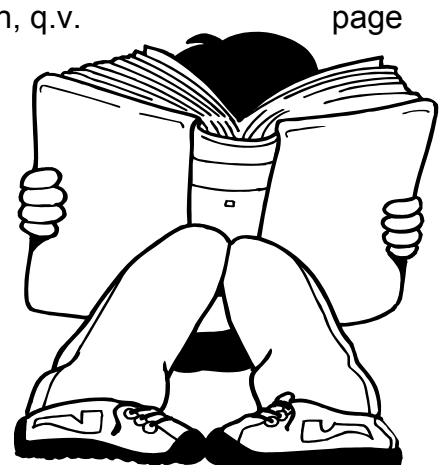
ibid. (*ibidem*) means "from the source previously cited"

q.v. (*quod vide*) means "look up this point elsewhere" as in, q.v.

10.

*You can tell whether a man is clever by his answers. You can tell whether a man is wise by his questions. —
Naguib Mahfouz*

The experiment was based on a test used to diagnose schizophrenia; patients suffering this mental illness tend to feel at times as if they're not in control of their actions and thus lack what scientists call "self-agency."



Young Adults Increasingly Moving in With Parents

Thursday, October 13, 2011 — Nearly 1 in 3 adults — or 30 percent — live with their relatives, according to a new study. The cohabitation is known as “doubling up,” and it has risen to levels not seen since the Great Depression, according to a survey of 3,000 home owners and renters conducted by Hanley Wood.

Recent U.S. Census data also showed an increase in “doubling up” among household, particularly among young adults who are opting to move back with their parents. About 5.9 million Americans aged 25-34 lived with their parents in 2010, which is a 25 percent increase compared to the years immediately preceding the recession. Men were found to be nearly twice as likely as women to live with their parents.

The Hanley Wood survey also found that renters and home owners are delaying new home purchases due to tougher mortgage qualifying standards and concerns over the economy and job security. Yet, the majority of home owners and renters say home ownership is important and they felt that now was a good time to buy with lower home prices.

Source: Realtor.org

November Word Scramble

*Unscramble all seven words, then
assemble words into the
correct order to create a phrase*

oermym eht rdeuditag thrae si eht fo

Everyone who faxes, emails or calls in the correct answer by the last day of this month will be entered into a drawing for a Lowe's \$30 gift card

Call 281.597.7300 and leave a message or email me at keith@mcjunkinhomes.com

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