

The McJunkin Messenger

News To Help You Save Time And Money

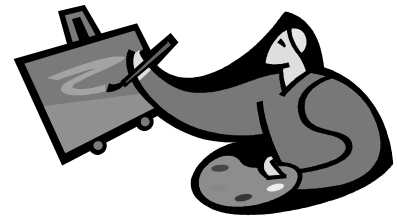
May 2010

The Power Of A Mother's Kiss

When American-born painter Benjamin West (1738-1820) was seven, he was put in charge of his infant niece while his mother and sister went for a walk. As the baby lay in the cradle, Benjamin fanned flies away from her – and the baby laughed. Grabbing paper and a pen, Benjamin set to work trying to capture the baby's charms. As he finished, his mother and sister returned.

Benjamin, caught off-guard, tried to hide his drawing so as not to upset his mother. But instead, his suspicious behavior drew her attention. "What have you been doing?" she asked.

Benjamin begged his mother not to be upset and handed her the paper. She looked at it and said to her daughter, "I declare, he has made a likeness of Sally." Then she smiled and gave Benjamin a kiss.



The following year a cousin sent a box of pencils, paints, and canvas. Benjamin disappeared one morning with the supplies, forgetting all about school. His mother, upset that he was neglecting his schooling, found him in the attic and was about to scold him when her eyes fell on the compositions he had created. Instead of reprimanding him, she picked him up, covered him in kisses, and promised to explain to his father what had kept him from his studies.

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Later, the famous artist was often heard to say, "It was my mother's kisses that made me an artist."

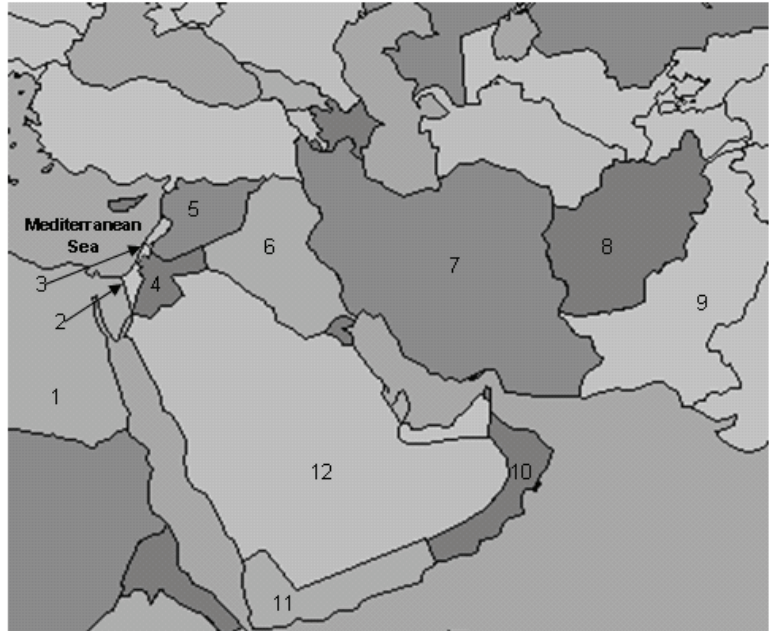
Thank a mom on May 9 – Mother's Day!

Keith

Can You Name These Countries?

Cover the answers below and see how many of these countries you can name. Use the Mediterranean Sea as your landmark.

1. Egypt
2. Israel
3. Lebanon
4. Jordan
5. Syria
6. Iraq
7. Iran
8. Afghanistan
9. Pakistan
10. Oman
11. Yemen
12. Saudi Arabia



How To Go Far In Life

How far you go in life depends on you being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving, and tolerant of the weak and the strong. Because someday in life you will have been all of these.

– George Washington Carver

De-clutter Your Psychic Space

Your office and attic aren't the only places in need of periodic cleaning and organizing.

The stuff you carry around in your head – and heart – does more than take up mental space; it can stop you from being content. Here are some ways you can de-clutter your insides:

Let go of grudges. Why carry a grudge to the grave? Put the past behind you. Try writing a letter to the person you're angry with. You don't have to send it, but just putting the incident down in black and white (or pastel-colored ink, if that's your style) can help you get past it.

Unload burdensome friends. Take an honest look at the people in your life. Break ties with those who don't support you, or who are incompatible with your values and goals.

Put the gavel away. Being judgmental only closes you off from learning something from others. Don't judge too quickly; listen first.

Be willing to be wrong. Don't be afraid to make the occasional mistake. When you do, acknowledge it. You can waste a lot of energy trying to keep up the façade that you're always right (or perfect).

Yes, You're A Multilinguist!

You speak other languages though you may not realize it. Check out these foreign terms that are quite common to us:

- ad hoc (Latin): impromptu, spur-of-the-moment.
- aficionado (Spanish): a fan or enthusiast.
- alma mater (Latin): literally, "nourishing mother," applied by students to former schools.
- angst (German): dread and anxiety.
- carte blanche (French): unrestricted authority or freedom.
- et cetera (Latin): "and the rest."
- mea culpa (Latin): literally, "I am to blame," an expression of responsibility or guilt.
- pro bono (Latin): without charge; free service.
- quid pro quo (Latin): an equal exchange of one good or service for another.
- verboten (German): forbidden, prohibited.
- versus (Latin): against.

What Is Armed Forces Day?

Armed Forces Day is a day to recognize, honor, and thank the men and women in all branches of the service who are protecting our country and our freedom. Observations may include parades; fireworks; air shows; open houses at military bases; collecting items for and mailing care packages to overseas military personnel; and something as simple as giving blood.

Over 30 countries observe this event; this year in the U.S. Armed Forces Day is May 15, and Canadian Forces Day is June 6.

Thank you!!

Mark and Ronda Stieber

Steve and Lollie Wark

who are already part of our Real Estate Family. I was fortunate to help them again. I'd like to thank them for their continued support.

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

Want More Energy In Your Workday?

Maintaining your energy level all day can be a challenge. Don't ignore physical or mental fatigue, but don't surrender to it, either. Try these tactics for recharging:

Move around. Take a walk, even if it's just a quick stroll around your office several times throughout the day. Getting your blood flowing speeds delivery of oxygen and nutrients to your body.

Take a deep breath. Several, actually. Sit up straight to open your chest cavity and get more oxygen into your lungs. Here's an exercise: Breathe out through your mouth completely. Then inhale through your nose for four seconds. Hold it in for seven seconds, and then exhale for a count of eight seconds. Do this four times to refresh yourself.

Drink sufficient fluids. Water, like air, delivers oxygen throughout your body. If you're dehydrated, you'll feel tired. Drink plenty of water or a low-calorie sports drink.

Get outside. Sunshine and fresh air can have a rejuvenating effect, along with the exercise benefits of taking a short walk.

Learn something new. Spend a few minutes with a book or on the Internet researching a subject that's of interest to you. You'll stimulate your mind and make new mental connections.

Computer Reality Warp

Many of us can't imagine life without computers. And many of us can't imagine using computers in real life vs. what we see on our movie screens. In the movies...

- A writer can type out a sentence the length of a Shakespearean soliloquy without once hitting the space bar.
- Anyone can infect a computer with a crippling virus simply by entering the words DOWNLOAD VIRUS on a keyboard.
- Good guys and bad guys alike can infiltrate any computer in the world. Even when it's turned off.
- A hacker can guess any password in two or three attempts.
- The most complex operation, involving massive amounts of data, can be accomplished in three seconds or less.

- Every laptop in the world has real-time video phone capabilities and the performance of a Cray supercomputer.
- Destroying the monitor prevents the entire computer from functioning.
- The hero can immediately use any computer he or she finds, no matter how specialized or advanced.
- The hero always finds the important email right away – it's always at the top of the inbox, and no one ever has to wade through spam.

April's Trivia Answer

Question: Containers of Loot - T = ease someone's mind

Answer: treasures, reassure

Sorry, there were no correct answers.

Please try again next month!

Does Generation Y = Generation Why?

If a fresh-faced batch of new graduates or interns gets hired at your workplace, don't dismiss them as naïve, spoiled, or indifferent – common misperceptions about Generation Y, loosely defined as people born in the 1980s and 1990s.

Diane Danielson, president of DWC Services, a professional development firm, says they have their good points. "Gen Y should be Gen Why? because they question everything," says Danielson. "They don't want to hear 'because we've always done it that way.' They want to look under every hood and tweak every process, which is not bad as that's what MBAs are trained to do."

In addition, Danielson says they've grown up in a world where technology changes constantly. "They expect things to change," she says. "I think this makes them more adaptable to whatever the future may hold."

Quote:

"Never lose sight of the fact that the most important yardstick of your success will be how you treat other people— your family, friends, coworkers, and even strangers you meet along the way."

— Barbara Bush



May : Scramble Trivia

Trivia: I will give you clues to two words. You must figure out the first word, then subtract a “T” from that word and rearrange the rest of the letters to get the second word. The words must be given in the correct order.

A group of seven musicians - T =Like a sharp slop
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 Good Luck!

Doing Your Job

“You don’t love me!” How many times have your kids laid that one on you? Someday when my children are old enough to understand the logic motivating a mother, I’ll tell them: I loved you enough to bug you about where you were going and what time you would get home.

I loved you enough to stand over you for two hours while you cleaned your bedroom, a job that would have taken me 15 minutes.

I loved you enough to ignore that every other mother did or said.

I loved you enough to accept you for what you are, not what I wanted you to be.

Most of all, I loved you enough to say NO when you hated me for it.

Some mothers don’t know when their job is finished. They figure the longer the kids hang around, the better parents they are.

I see children as kites. You spend a lifetime trying to get them off the ground. You run with them until you’re both breathless.... they crash... you add a longer tail. You patch and comfort, adjust and teach — and assure them that someday they will fly.

Finally they are airborne, but they need more string, and you keep letting it out. With each twist of the ball of twine, the kite becomes more distant. You know it won’t be long before that beautiful creature will snap the lifeline that bound you together and soar — free and alone. Only then do you know you did your job.

Thought Of the Month

There Is A Low Risk of A Major Home Price Declines In TEXAS

I thought my clients, associates, friends and family members who have homes in Texas would like to know about the “Good News”, regarding a new study from the Real Estate Center at Texas A&M University that was published in April by David S. Jones.

The report explains why our housing market in Texas has fared far better than other states during the recent economic downturn. It also suggests that our economy in Texas will continue to outpace the rest of the nation in the coming months.

Since Texas has a lower than national average housing costs we are able to generate a higher than national average economic growth rate. In other words we spend less for our housing expense in Texas which allows us to spend more on non-housing goods and services which attracts more people and business's to our state.

According to Dr. Ali Anari, a Center Research economist, Houston and Dallas consumers spent only 18.6 percent of their incomes on shelter in 2008. From 1987 to 2008 the percent of consumer income spent on housing in Houston has only gone up 1% while Dallas's share rose by only 2.2%.

As a comparison San Diego California residents spent 30.8% of their total income for housing in 2008 compared to 21.7% in 1987. This 9% increase contributed to their 38.9% decline in housing prices from 2007 to 2009.

Since more people and businesses are attracted to our state, Texas outperforms the United States in terms of job growth almost every year. As I tell clients who ask me about the trend of real estate prices, look to job creation. If jobs in Texas and more specifically, Houston are growing our real estate markets will be strong.

Job creation is what produces new households which allow young home buyers to purchase their first home. As more companies transfer higher paid workers to Texas, they are able to purchase homes in the move up and high end markets. Job stability allows those with jobs to keep them and stay in the homes they already own.

Since we have a steady supply jobs in Houston and in Texas overall, there are fewer distressed homes on the market which tend to pull down home values than in the bubble markets of California, Nevada, Arizona, and Florida.

We are lucky to live and work in Houston, Texas where we enjoy positive job growth, a low cost of living and stable home prices.

Have a great May and Happy birthday and Mother's Day to my mom, Vivian (McJunkin)
Fallis

Keith

The McJunkin Messenger

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