

Jim's Journal.net - Your Home News

News To Help You Save Time And Money

March 2019

Seeing Green

Dear Friend,

We are well into 2019 and can see the shape that the year is taking— I hope yours is turning out to be a great one! This month's newsletter is full of fresh, fun information for you to enjoy as we move into Spring, including:

- A look to the past with buried treasure found in England.
- A look to the future with lasers used in medical treatment.
- A look to the camera with helpful suggestions for the perfect family portrait.

Also, with St. Patrick's day right around the corner, you might need to look into catching a leprechaun... just in case you have one in your home.

Speaking of which, if you, or any leprechauns in your life have been thinking about a move, please give me a call so I can help you with buying or selling.

Kind regards,

Jim Urban

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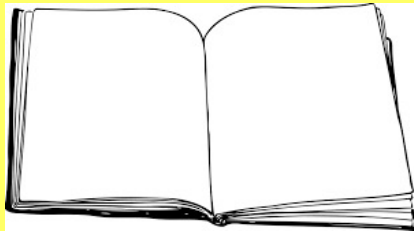
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All The Right Answers

After being held up at his part-time job, a student named Ethan arrived late for his final math exam. As Ethan was usually a responsible student, his professor allowed him to take the test home. In exchange, Ethan promised to complete the test using only the notes that the other students had been allowed to utilize for the test in the classroom.

When he got back to the dorm and took a closer look at the packet, Ethan realized that the exam consisted of only seven math problems. He made quick work of the five problems on the first page and, feeling pretty proud of himself, turned to the remaining two problems. Hour after hour he worked, diligently trying to solve these seemingly impossible last two problems, but he kept hitting a wall.

He stayed up late into Friday night, then started at it again on Saturday morning. He devoted the rest of his weekend to working out the solutions to both problems. Mentally exhausted but feeling quite satisfied with his work, he slipped the test under his professor's office door just in time for Monday's deadline.



That evening, he received a phone call from his professor: "I can't believe it! You solved the last two problems on the test!"

Confused, Ethan asked, "Wasn't I supposed to complete the entire exam?"

"No!" the professor said. "I told the rest of the students in the class that these last two problems had never been solved. I provided them simply as brainteasers, never intending for someone to actually solve them!"

As Ethan learned that day: if you don't know what's impossible, you can accomplish anything.

March Quiz Question

Q: What is the only U.S. State with a Spanish motto?

February Question

Q: How many bones are in the adult, human body?

A: 206

Lasers As Medical Treatment

What if you could shoot a laser out of your body? The concept isn't as crazy as it sounds. Two Harvard physicists have manipulated human cells to produce a concentrated beam of light, similar to a laser.

The scientists took cells from a human kidney and engineered them to produce molecules of green fluorescent protein (GFP), which naturally enables jellyfish to glow. Then, they positioned the cells between two very tiny mirrors, and targeted them with bursts of low-energy blue light. In response, the cells produced a beam of concentrated light, similar to a laser.

The scientists who worked on the project reported that the minuscule lasers could ultimately prove useful in enabling humans to control electronic implants in their brain, and may one day be used to destroy cancer cells—from the inside.

How To Trap a Leprechaun

Have you ever tried to catch a leprechaun?

Leprechauns are notoriously mischievous, but the growing tradition of building a leprechaun trap with the kids in your life is an inexpensive (and fun!) project that can be completed in an afternoon with materials that you probably already have around your house.

Here are a few basic ideas to get you started...

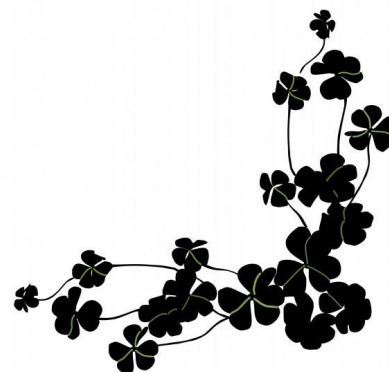
- **Containers:** You'll want to provide an assortment of empty boxes so kids have a few choices when it's time to build their leprechaun traps. Stash aside empty shoe boxes, cereal boxes, a few tin cans, empty tissue boxes, or any other sturdy containers that appeal to you and can hold an average sized leprechaun.
- **Construction Supplies:** Pull together basic construction supplies such as twigs, chopsticks, straws, paper towel rolls, pipe cleaners, or any other household items that a child can use as building materials.
- **Bait:** Leprechauns are known to fall for shiny items. Bait your trap with "gold" coins, shiny pennies, balls of tinfoil, marbles, or any other small, sparkling lure.
- **The Trap:** Have fun making plans with the kids for how you're going to trap the leprechaun— will you construct a small gate, have a box fall on them, or some other brilliant idea? Enlisting the help of an older child can lead to some creative designs!

There are all sorts of fun extras that you can add once your basic trap is set. Consider sprinkling a little glitter, leaving a note out for the leprechaun, or luring him in with a sweet treat.

Of course, you probably won't get to catch the little imp, but a few bites missing from a cookie would definitely confirm that he'd dropped by for a visit!

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"A best friend is like a four-leaf clover— hard to find and lucky to have." ~Anonymous

Only an Empty Cup Can Be Filled

A young lady who was finishing up her master's degree in philosophy traveled to Indonesia for a semester abroad. The trip included personalized teaching from a local sage.

Eager to begin, the student walked into the meeting hall and immediately began to tell her new teacher all that she had learned over the past two years, and how excited she was to put it all to use.

The sage listened. When the student paused for breath, the elderly man offered her a cup of tea.

"Yes, thank you," said the young lady. "And so then I spent a semester focusing on..."

The master brought in a second pot of tea while the young lady kept on talking. Suddenly, the student realized that her cup was overflowing, and the tea had spilled onto the floor. Still, the master kept pouring. "Sir, please stop!" cried the student. "My cup is already full — it can't possibly hold another drop!"

"Ah," said the master. "So we cannot add something to a container that is already full? Perhaps first we must empty the cup."

Suddenly, the young lady understood. Before she could learn anything new from this teacher, she had to create space for learning. Only an empty cup can be filled and only an open mind has room for new lessons.

Wise Orders

"Waiter, I've had a rough day," said Bob, sliding into his usual booth at the diner. "I'll take the meatloaf dinner and maybe some good advice."

Minutes later, the waiter returned with a hot plate, put it down in front of the man, and started to walk away.

"Hey," called Bob, "What about the good advice I asked for?"

The waiter looked back and said: "Don't eat the meatloaf."

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- Making the Move Easy On the Kids
- Five Big Mistakes Home Sellers Make
- How To Buy A House With Little (Or No) Money Down

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Take the Perfect Family Portrait

Portraits of your children as they grow up can become a treasured memory, but getting them taken can sometimes be a bit of a challenge. If you're determined to take just the right picture, try these for tips for portrait photography without tears:

A photo session first thing in the morning is easier on everyone. You can dress your kids appropriately and let them change into "play clothes" afterward, instead of forcing them to get cleaned up and changed later in the day, when they're more apt to be tired and cranky.

Have some variety. If you have more than one child, restrain the urge to dress them in matching outfits. A more picturesque option: dress them in different outfits of the same color.

Don't overdo things. Keep clothes and accessories simple. Remember that your focus should be on the child's face.

Plan ahead: get your child a haircut a few days before the portrait session, not that morning. If the cut turns out to be too short or severe, time will relax the look.

Have fun! Try to avoid a forced, insincere smile. Let your child's personality shine through.

Finding Buried Treasure

There is no pot of gold at the end of the rainbow... or is there? A treasure trove of 68,000 Celtic coins and jewelry that was buried between 30-50 B.C. on the island of Jersey in the English Channel was found by two amateur archaeologists.

According to the Smithsonian magazine website, metal detector enthusiasts Reg Mead and Richard Miles began searching for treasure after hearing about some silver Celtic coins that were found in an old pot near her Jersey home. The current owner of the field gave permission for the pair to search, but only once a year, and only after he had a chance to harvest his crops.

After 30 years of searching, Mead and Miles uncovered a chunk of earth containing the coins, then called in an archaeological team to bring them up. The findings turned out to consist of at least 68,000 coins, along with many heavy gold neck torcs, ancient glass beads, a leather purse, and a bag encrusted with silver and gold decoration. The treasure is valued at 10 million British pounds.



An Exciting Finish

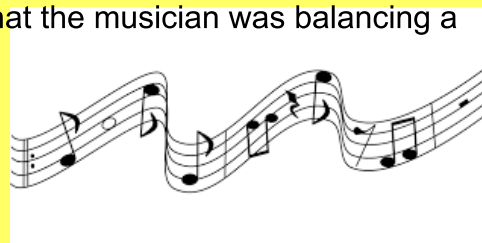
Two of the more experienced bass players performing Beethoven's Ninth Symphony knew from experience that at the end of the piece, the bassists play nothing for quite some time. Quietly, they decided to sneak off the stage for a quick snack at the lounge in the lobby. After quickly downing a sandwich and a soda, one of them checked his watch. "Uh-oh, we play in about two minutes."

"Don't worry." His friend ordered a second plate of fries. "I tied down the last page of the conductor's score, so they'll keep playing the same part over and over. No one will ever notice."

Taking the plate of fries with them, they tiptoed backstage and made their way back to their chairs. They slid by, mostly unnoticed, as the conductor struggled to untie his music score with one hand while still conducting the orchestra.

However, an usher at the rear of the auditorium noticed that the musician was balancing a plate of fries and whispered, "What's going on?"

The other usher answered, "Well, it's pretty exciting. It's the bottom of the Ninth, the score is tied, and the bassists are loaded!"



Follow the FORM

Innovative ideas may seem like they're born from pure creativity, but in actuality, they often succeed because sensible groundwork was methodically laid out ahead of time. To spark creative thinking, follow consultant Charles Day's acronym FORM:

F: Focus. Start by deciding what's important to you. What are you seeking to achieve? Identify the key goals of your vision so you have something to work toward.

O: Organization. Decide on a structure for developing and implementing ideas. Who needs to be involved with specific tasks? What jobs involve other people? How will you make decisions and keep forward momentum when working with those other people?

R: Resources. Gather what you'll need to implement your plans. This includes not just tools and materials, but individuals as well. Identify who and what you'll need to bring an idea to reality.

M: Measurement. Look to the end as you begin. Determine how you'll know whether you've succeeded or failed with your project. Goals should be specific and measurable, and they must be relevant to your vision.



Smart Advice for You and the People You Care About

When You Have a Thought about Living in a New Home



The 5 Biggest
Mistakes
Home Sellers
Make



Making the
Move Easy on
Kids



How to Stop
Wasting
Money on Rent



How Home
Sellers Price
Their Homes



How to Sell
Your Home for
the Most
Money



The 5 Biggest
Mistakes
Home Buyers
Make

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