

Allendale Lifelong Learners

February 2023

Allendale
Charter Township est. 1849

In this issue:

- All Things Michigan
- Calendar of events
- Rambling Thoughts
- Just to Warm your heart

Did you Know?



PLEASE, PLEASE!!! Sign up for the listed activities, but if you sign up, show up!! Or let me know that you can't make it. You're getting so much better at this, and it sure does help for seating at our events. Thanks for understanding!

Call or text Kathy at 616-843-0572 or Tasha 616-202-1547 or email khanes@allendale-twp.org

For information on the Allendale Lifelong Learners or to sign up for any of the activities listed in this newsletter.

VOLUNTARY MEMBERSHIP DUES—\$20.00

Thank you to all who have paid their dues for 2023. I have a complete list if you aren't sure if you paid.

Dues are \$20.00 per person and can be paid in cash or a check made out to Allendale Lifelong Learners. Typically these **dues are collected September through December and are applied to the coming year.** You can pay anytime during the year. These dues go to help pay for some extras throughout the year. Door prizes, cards, newsletters and special events are just some of the things your dues help to cover the cost of. Plus it gets you member pricing on trips and other events. So when you see \$\$/\$\$, the first price is for members and the second is for non members. **Dues paid after September 1 will be applied to the following year.** As always, if you have any questions, please give me a call (Kathy, 616-843-0572). Thank you!!

Senior Citizen Golden Age Pass—If you are 60 years or older and would like FREE admission to all school sponsored activities and sporting events, stop by the Allendale Public School District office, 10505 Learning Lane. These are free to residents over 60 that live in the school district. Passes cannot be used for play-off events and some Theatre performances, but will get you free admission to regular season games and activities.



Are you looking for some extra trips? Suitcase Dreams is an affordable option that we have booked with and enjoyed. Visit their website at: www.suitcasedreams.com. Or call Julie at 231-519-1389. You can also email her at suitcasedreamstravel@gmail.com.

I would encourage you to check them out—mention you're with the Lifelong Learners too!

There are overnight trips to Memphis and Cape Cod, plus added ones to Branson, The Smokies and more. You deal directly with Suitcase Dreams for booking these trips, and I highly recommend them! Paper copy information will be available at luncheons also.

Coming up...SAVE THE DATE!

- Our costs have increased for some of our activities. Please double check the prices listed. Costs of activities and events are posted at Member/non-member rates. Thanks for understanding.
- **Mystery Trips 2023**—Save these dates for 2023 Mystery Trips:
 - Wednesday, April 19
 - Wednesday, June 21
 - Wednesday, August 16
 - Wednesday, October 18
- **Monday Movies at Noon!** We are partnering with the library to bring back movies for all to enjoy. The following Monday Movie dates are: March 6, March 13, April 3, April 17, May 1 and May 15. You can check what movies are showing on the library's website: <http://www.allendalelibrary.org/>
- **Wednesday, March 14**—Canines and Cops. Join us at the town hall as we watch our canine deputies in action. FREE!
- **Wednesday, March 29 at 11:30 PM**—Lunch and Learn at Allendale Town Hall. Historians from the Jenison Historical Museum will join us for this potluck style gathering.
- **Whitecaps day games in 2023:** Friday, May 12 and Wednesday, July 26. Save the dates!
- Day trips to **Frankenmuth on Wednesday, May 17** and Shipshewana to see the newest stage performance (The Home Game) at the **Blue Gate on Wednesday, September 20.**



A Little Bit of this and that...



Give me a sense of humor, Lord—Give me the grace to see a joke.
To get some humor out of life and pass it on to other folk!

- What does it mean when you take an IQ test and it comes back negative??? Asking for a friend!
- I can't even imagine the self control required to work at a bubble wrap factory!
- If I don't go to the doctor, he can't find anything wrong with me. That's how I stay healthy!
- I may look okay, but deep down I don't remember any of my passwords!
- Common sense is not a gift, it's punishment. Because you have to deal with everyone who doesn't have it...
- Scientists have discovered how trees communicate with each other...they bark!
- After all the eating I did over the holidays, I'm happy to report that my socks still fit!
- Bob sang so poorly that he was asked to please sing Tenor...Tenor eleven miles away!
- I have my very own built in alarm clock. It's called a Bladder and it does not have a snooze button!
- Be wary of half-truths...You may get the wrong half!
- When I was out running today, I heard someone clapping & I started feeling so happy and proud until I realized it was just my thighs slapping together.
- I'm so happy I don't have a fake image to maintain. What you see is what you get. Some days I'm amazing, other days I'm a wreck, but everyday I'm me!
- My wife says I have only two faults. I don't listen and some other stuff she was rambling on about...
- If I could say one good thing about my wife's cooking, she sure broke that dog from begging at the table!
- I got gas today for \$1.29. Unfortunately, it was at Taco Bell!
- If I plan just right, one hot flash can defrost the whole car!
- Ban pre-shredded cheese. Make America 'grate' again!
- A man who cooks is attractive. A man who does the dishes is irresistible!
- Every family has one weird relative. If you don't know who it is, then it's probably you!
- No, I don't do snapchat or tiktok. But, I can write in cursive, do math without a calculator and tell time on a clock with hands.
- When does hibernation start? Because I am 100% participating in that this year!
- I hate having a messy house. Not enough to actually clean it, but enough to give it a really disgusted stare from my seat on the couch.
- Has anyone else reached that age where you gain weight if you breathe, or is it just me?
- A pirate walks into a bar with a paper towel on his head. The bartender asks, "Hey, what's with the paper towel?" The pirate says, 'Argh, I've got a bounty on me head!"
- Sometimes you just have to hand it to short people...because they can't reach it.



A YOUNG MISSIONARY ON HIS FIRST TERM IN AFRICA WAS READING HIS BIBLE IN A CLEARING WHEN A LION CAME UP AND LAID DOWN BESIDE HIM. AS HE QUIETLY PRAYED FOR DELIVERANCE, ANOTHER LION CAME OUT OF THE BUSH AND LAID DOWN BY HIS OTHER SIDE. CONVINCED THAT THIS WAS A TEST OF HIS FAITH, HE RETURNED TO READING HIS BIBLE. AS SOON AS HE DID, THE TWO LIONS POUNCED ON HIM AND DEVOURED HIM. MORAL: DON'T TRY TO READ BETWEEN THE LIONS.



Community Opportunities

- **Ripple Effect**—6561 Lake Michigan Drive. The proceeds are used to support mission work in our community and abroad. They are in need of volunteers to help sort store donations and to work in the store. If you are interested in helping, please stop by and let them know.
- **Love INC**—Volunteers are needed for this ministry as they continue to supply help to the needy in our community. You can work in their "New to You" store or in the office. Contact them directly at 895-5629 for more information or email– info@allendalelove.org
- **Allendale American Legion**—We meet every second Monday of the month at Life Stream Church. Door A, Room 119. Sea, air, and land stories are told at 6:30 pm, meeting at 7:00pm. If you are a Veteran, come by and check us out.
- **Engine House #5**—This local museum is looking for docents who have a passion for sharing history! Contact Jeff Blum, at 616.304.1084 or jblum@wcgrp.com for details.

For a small amount of perspective, imagine you were born in 1900. When you are 14, World War I starts, and ends on your 18th birthday with 22 million people killed. Later in the year, a Spanish Flu epidemic hit the planet and runs until you are 20. Fifty million people die from it in those two years. Yes...50 million!

When you're 29 the Great Depression begins. Unemployment hits 25%, global GDP drops 27%. That runs until you are 33. The country nearly collapses, along with the world economy. When you turn 39, World War II starts. You aren't even over the hill yet.

When you are 41, the United States is fully pulled into WWII. Between your 39th and 45th birthday, 75 million people perish in the war and the Holocaust kills twelve million. As you approach 52, the Korean War starts and five million perish.

Approaching your 62nd birthday you have the Cuban Missile Crisis, a tipping point in the Cold War. Life on our planet, as we know it, could well have ended. Great Leaders prevented that from happening.

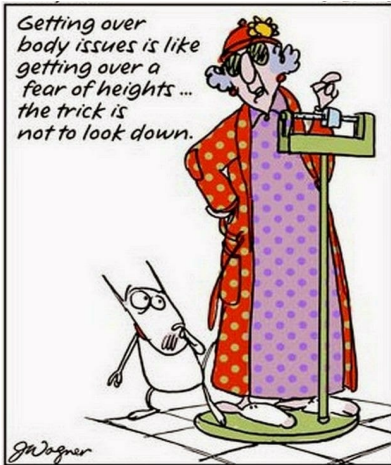
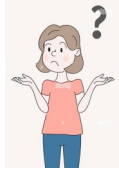
When you're 64 the Vietnam War begins and it doesn't end until you turn 75. Four million people died in that conflict.

A kid in 1985 didn't think their 85 year old grandparent understood how hard school was. Yet those grandparents, and now great grandparents, survived through everything listed above.

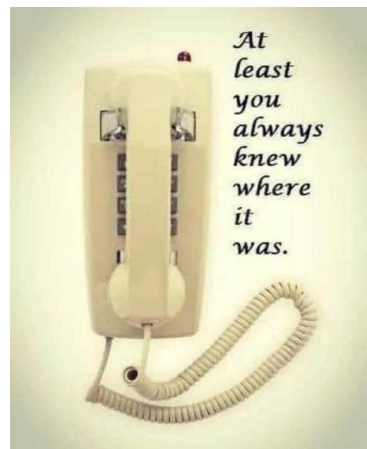
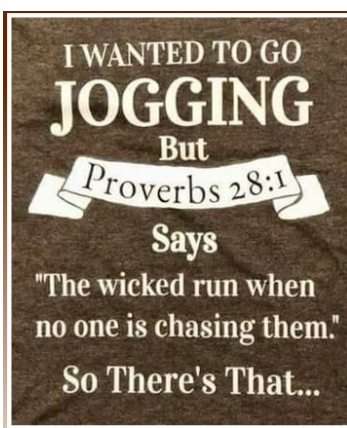
As we keep things in perspective, there are always going to be storms in life. But none of those storms last. This too shall pass...

Sometimes

my mind is like the
Bermuda Triangle...
stuff goes in and is
never seen or
heard of again!



**As the year comes
to an end, I urge
you to take care of
yourself and avoid
accidents because
spare parts for old
models like you are
no longer in stock.**



Here is information on area businesses and individuals who provide classes or events for your needs.

- **SNAP FITNESS**—If you are members of a Medicare health plan, you may have access to the SilverSneakers® Fitness Program. Stop in and see for yourself or visit the website www.silversneakers.com/snap/
- **Silver and Fit** is a program that promotes exercise for the healthy, aging population. If interested, reach out to our professional staff at **Northern PT of Allendale at 616-895-4050** to get set up on your individualized programming.
- **PICKLE BALL-Every Wednesday and Friday from 9:30 to 11:30** at the new and improved Pickle Ball courts in the township park in summer and at Life Stream (6561 Lake Michigan Drive) in winter. Not sure if you like to play? Stop by and check it out. There are many friendly people there to help! Equipment is provided.
- **Walking Fit—Tuesdays at 5:30 PM**—Enjoy some social interaction and exercise out in the natural elements. Every Tuesday from 5:30 to 6:30PM Meet at Life Stream Church, 6451 Lake Michigan Drive.

Rambling Thoughts

10 Things You'll Never Hear A Man Say...

1. Does this hunter's outfit make me look fat?
2. Do you think he's prettier than me?
3. My wife never listens to me.
4. I'll have the light vinaigrette salad and a diet soda.
5. Why don't we go to the men's room and freshen up?
6. No, I didn't see the game last night; I was watching The Bachelor.
7. Who left the toilet seat up?
8. I've got my father's thighs!
9. Who wants to go to Target with me?
10. Have you seen my dry shampoo?



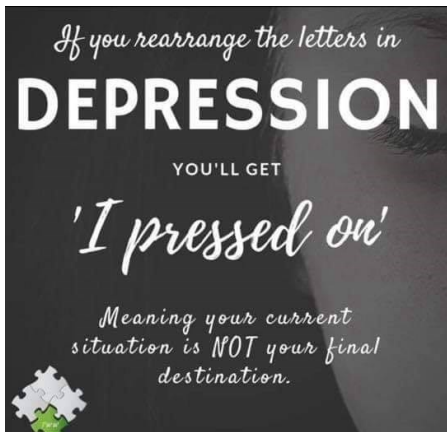
It's that time! Fire Cider Time An oxymel that makes a great staple in everyone's Autumn & Winter medicine cabinet. Traditionally fire cider consists of 5 ingredients - fresh ginger, onion, garlic, horse radish and hot peppers - suspended in apple cider vinegar. You can get creative by adding other ingredients such as citrus, rosemary, cinnamon, and star anise! Combine all the ingredients in an air tight container. Allow to sit at least a month (and up to 6 weeks) in a dark cool space. Shake daily. After a month strain out the solids and reserve the liquid. Add honey to taste (traditionally 1 part honey to 4 parts vinegar). Store in the fridge for up to a year and take a shot anytime you feel a cold/flu coming on.



This chart comparing the size and population differences between Russia and Bangladesh are totally crazy. Russia is about 115 times bigger than Bangladesh. However, the population of Bangladesh is significantly more than Russia's population.



Sometimes the bad days seem to take over...this page is intended to give you hope, make you smile and let you know you are not alone. I'm not a mental health professional, but want to support those who struggle with being okay!



I did not accomplish everything on my to-do list.

I got one thing done.

Do things for people not because of who they are, or what they do in return, but because of who you are.

Not.

by Erin Hanson

You are not your age,
Nor the size of clothes you wear,
You are not a weight,
Or the colour of your hair.
You are not your name,
Or the dimples in your cheeks,
You are all the books you read,
And all the words you speak,
You are your croaky morning voice,
And the smiles you try to hide,
You're the sweetness in your laughter,
And every tear you've cried,
You're the songs you sing so loudly,
When you know you're all alone,
You're the places that you've been to,
And the one that you call home,
You're the things that you believe in,
And the people that you love,
You're the photos in your bedroom,
And the future you dream of,
You're made of so much beauty,
But it seems that you forgot,
When you decided that you were defined,
By all the things you're not.



All things Michigan

From the later 1800's through the 1950's the west side of Grand Rapids was peppered with railroad towers and crossing shanties. In fact, only a couple streets DIDN'T have one all the way from the downtown river crossings to Fuller Station at Ann Street. The primary duty of the attendant was to stop traffic as the trains passed by waving a flag, presenting a stop sign on a pole or by manually lowering gates. The job kept them busier than it sounds as we not only had more trains, but we also had passenger trains and more switching activity, as far more businesses in town were being served by the railroads.

Continuing north, there was also a tower or shanty at Sixth, Seventh, Ninth, Eleventh, Leonard, Crosby, Webster, Richmond and Ann Street, with Myrtle the only street through here without one. (Eighth and Tenth Streets didn't cross the tracks.) The tower at Ninth Street as seen in my third photo was still intact in 1981, and the Webster crossing shanty with flagman was still in use in 1980, two years after I took the fourth photo. Note how nicely the crossing guard is dressed, too!

A little south of here, after crossing the Grand River on what's now the pedestrian "Blue Bridge," the GR&I/Pennsylvania trains passed by towers and a few shanties at Front, Mt. Vernon, Scribner, Summer and Winter. There was a handcar stored in a separate shed at Winter Avenue, too. Meanwhile, after the Pere Marquette/C&O crossed the river they encountered towers or shanties at Front, Butterworth, Watson and Fulton St. From here the two rail lines ran parallel as they headed north with towers at Lake Michigan Drive, Bridge and Second Streets, which brings us back to Third Street where we started in the photos. There was a GR&I freight house office at First Street, so I'm guessing that doubled as a flagman abode. The Bridge Street tower was the tallest by far, and still stands today after being restored a few years ago. The Lake Shore and Michigan Southern came in from the southwest, too, with towers at Straight, Earle, and their own separate tower at Butterworth.

So, what's that, about 27 in all? And that's just the west side. There were as many or more on the east side too, but they were so scattered it would take forever to round them all up. Although more and more flashing signals and gates were added over the years, it's interesting that these railroads still had some manned crossings as late as 1980, as the east-west Grand Trunk railroad had automated wig wag signals and flashing lights as early as the early 1920's.



Ready to brush up on your Michigan etymology? Here are some of Michigan's most unusual names, what they mean, and where they came from.

Ontonagon—

Pronunciation: aan·tuh·naa·gn

The Ontonagon River, and the Michigan village and county named after it, may not be the most well-known name on its own, given its location in the far north-west corner of the Upper Peninsula. It is better known as part of the Porcupine Mountains area, otherwise known as the "Porkies." The Ontonagon river which flows into Lake Superior was a known landmark in the early days of Michigan's history, as the largest river flowing into southern Lake Superior. Its name is derived from the Ojibwe language, but the precise word and meaning is debated. The name may be derived from "noojitoon ziibi" meaning "hunting river," "nintonaganing" meaning "the place of my dish," or "onagon," meaning "dish" or "bowl."

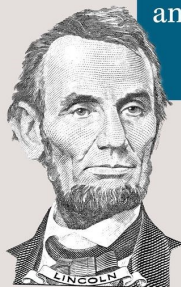
Snowshoeing and cross country skiing conditions are coming to Ottawa County!



As soon as conditions allow, Pigeon Creek and Hemlock Crossing Parks will again be renting equipment. Getting prepared for us means getting that equipment ready. Getting prepared for you means knowing where to go to get up-to-date information. As you start thinking about coming out, you'll want to get familiar with our "Winter Recreation" (miottawa.org/winter-rec) and "Trail Conditions" (miottawa.org/trails) pages. Check in often to get updates on the status of these popular winter destinations. While exactly when will be up to Mother Nature, we are looking forward to seeing you skiing, snowshoeing, and sledding soon!

GOOD NEWBORN BABY NAMES

ADRIAN
MONROE
CHELSEA
JACKSON
LELAND
JOE LOUIS
ALLEN PARK
MOUNT PLEASANT
THE STRAITS OF MACKINAC



**ABRAHAM
LINCOLN**

delivered an
anti-slavery speech
in Kalamazoo
in 1857.

@GANDERNEWSROOM

**SPEED
LIMIT
65** On February 3, 1956 highway speed limits of 65 miles per hour by day and 55 by night went into effect in Michigan. Prior to this motorists could determine what was safe and reasonable.



February 2023

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			1 NO Leadership team meeting NO Bunco	2 11 AM—Exercise at Love INC Groundhog Day	3	4 
5	6 8:30 AM—Breakfast Club at Murphy's. Join us as we celebrate your birthday this month.	7 5:30 PM—Walking Fit 2:00 PM—Knit/Crochet at the Township Library	8 12:00 Noon—Potluck Lunch. Bring table service and a dish to pass. Card Bingo after lunch.	9 11 AM—Exercise at Love INC	10	
12	13 	14 5:30 PM—Walking Fit 2:00 PM—Hand and Foot at the Allendale Township library.	15 11:30 AM—Lunch Bunch at Wendy's. Trivia for Prizes.	16 11 AM—Exercise at Love INC 5:00 PM—Supper club. Meet at the restaurant for dinner and fellowship.	17	18
19	20	21 5:30 PM—Walking Fit 2:00 PM—Knit/Crochet at the Township Library	22 12 Noon—Monthly luncheon. Meet at Main St. Pub and enjoy a delicious lunch and catch up with one another.	23 11 AM—Exercise at Love INC	24 5:00 PM—Fish Fry at Stable Inn	25
26	27	28 5:30 PM—Walking Fit 2:00 PM—Euchre at the Allendale Library.	March 1 10 AM—Leadership Team Meeting 5:30 PM—Bunco at the library	2	3	4 <div>Lifelong Learners Leadership Team Meeting: The first Wednesday of each month at 10:00AM at the Allendale Town Hall. No meeting this month.</div>

Thursdays at 11:00 AM—Exercise class!!! Join the group as we meet in the Love INC building, located at 6631 Lake Michigan Drive . Get fit and have fun!

Join our Walking Fit Class! Enjoy some social interaction and exercise out in the natural elements. Every Tuesday from 5:30-6:30pm. Meet in front of Life Stream Church • 6510 Lake Michigan Drive

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- **Monday, February 6 at 8:30 AM, Breakfast—**Join the group as we gather for breakfast at Murphy's restaurant in Allendale. Warm your heart and tummy with good food, fellowship and hot coffee! No need to call, just show up!
- **Tuesday, February 7 & 21 at 2:00,** Needlework at the library- Are you interested in giving back to the community? Do you have the talent to knit or crochet? Join us as we make scarves, hats, mittens or gloves for local schools. Not able to knit or crochet? Donations of yarn will be accepted too.
- **NO BUNCO THIS MONTH**
- **Wednesday, February 8, Potluck Luncheon at 12 noon—**Join us at the town hall for a lunch of goodies. Bring a dish to share (9x13 or equivalent) and your own table service. Or pay \$7/\$9 and omit the dish to pass. Drink is provided. We will play Card Bingo following lunch. Bring a white elephant gift that you don't need anymore and somebody else could use. We will add those items to our prize table for Bingo. Ideas: puzzle, book, dish, picture, knick-knacks, home crafted items, etc...
- **Tuesday, February 14 at 2:00 PM—Hand and Foot at the Library!!!—**We all know a version of this game, but follow our own house rules. FREE! You may bring snacks to share and water and pop will be provided.
- **Wednesday, February 15 at 11:30 AM—Lunch Bunch at Wendy's in Allendale!** Join the group as we visit the latest 'new to Allendale' lunch spot. Sure to be a fun time! Trivia prizes if we have over 15! Woohoo!
- **Thursday, February 16 at 5:00 PM—**Supper club at El Azteca in Allendale. Tasha will be there to welcome you and lead the fun! Free dessert if you have an anniversary this month and join us.
- **Wednesday, February 22 at 12 noon—**Monthly Luncheon at Main St. Pub with a visit with Allendale Township Clerk for an update on all the new things going on with elections in Michigan. Please RSVP so we know who is coming, as seating is limited.
- **Friday, February 24 at 5:00 PM—**Fish Fry Fridays are back. We'll start out at Stable Inn, Grand Haven. Please let me know if you plan to join us. PS: You don't have to order fish!
- **Tuesday, February 28 at 2:00 PM—**Euchre at the Library. Bring your friends or meet new friends as we play Euchre at the library. FREE! You may bring snacks to share and I'll provide water and pop.

Call or text Kathy at 616-843-0572 or Tasha 616-202-1547 or email khanes@allendale-twp.org.

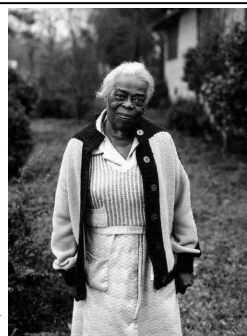
For information on the Allendale Lifelong Learners or to sign up for any of the activities listed in this newsletter.



Just to Warm your Heart...

Oseola McCarty was just five feet tall and weighed less than one hundred pounds. She quit school in the 6th grade when her grandmother that raised her became ill and needed care. "I would have gone back," she said, "But the people in my class had done gone on, and I was too big. I wanted to be with my class." Instead she worked. She washed clothes and she saved. "Every month I'd save the same and put it away. I was consistent." She saved more than she could ever need. So in 1995, in her late 80s, she donated \$300,000 to the University of Southern Mississippi, the college in her hometown, to finance a scholarship for low-income students.

In her words, "I wanted to share my wealth with the children," said Miss McCarty, whose only real regret is that she never went back to school. "I never minded work, but I was always so busy, busy. Maybe I can make it so the children don't have to work as hard as I did."



"Clifford and I have been married almost 41 years and I have made his lunch every working day since day 1. On occasion I would join him on the job site and have lunch with him. He made the comment once that lunch tasted better when you share it with someone you love. Soon after that, while fixing his sandwich one night, I took a bite out of it before putting it away. When he got home (long before cell phones) he commented that someone took a bite out of his sandwich. I told him that since I couldn't join him for lunch, I took a bite so he knew I was joining him. I continue to do this frequently (unless it's tuna or pimento cheese) and he still says, 'saw you joined me for lunch today and it sure was good.'"

I asked a wise man, "Tell me sir, in which field could I make a great career?"



He said with a smile, "Be a good human being. There is a lot of opportunity in this area, and very little competition."

Meanwhile in Minnesota:

They name their snow plows and these are this year's winners.

- Betty Whiteout
- Ctrl Salt Delete
- The Big Leplowski
- Plowasaurus Rex
- Scoop Dogg
- Blizzard of Oz
- No More Mr. Ice Guy
- Edward Blizzardhands

Nothing lasts forever.

That means the hardships and the pain you are going through right now won't stay forever either. That means you will find a way to heal.

Remember, life has its seasons, one after another they arrive, and they leave. You may feel like you won't survive this season of pain, the struggles you are dealing with, but I assure you, you will. Like the seasons of life, your circumstances will change too.

And I hope that this period of change makes you realize your inner power, the incredible strength of your heart too.

The letters "ough" can be pronounced at least 8 different ways in English. How did that happen?!

Cough	→ off
Rough	→ uff
Through	→ ew
Though	→ oh
Bought	→ or
Drought	→ ow
Thorough	→ er
Hiccough	→ up

A wise man was asked "What is anger?" He gave a beautiful answer, "It is a punishment you give to yourself, for somebody else's mistakes."

Unknown



Time is like a river.

You cannot touch the same water twice, because the flow that has passed will never pass again. Enjoy every moment of your life.



One day the first grade teacher was reading the story of Chicken Little to her class. She came to the part of the story where Chicken Little tried to warn the farmer. She read, "and so Chicken Little went up to the farmer and said, "The sky is falling, the sky is falling!"

The teacher paused, then asked the class, "And what do you think that farmer said?"

One little girl raised her hand and said, "I think he said, 'Holy Cow! A talking Chicken!'"

The teacher was unable to teach for the next 10 minutes!

I know you thought the breaking was the most painful chapter. It wasn't. Turn the page. The next part is much longer. It's the healing. The rise. The comeback. It's the birth of the new you. And it's not easy. But you are strong and brave and worth it.



Just once I'd like to read a medication label that says:

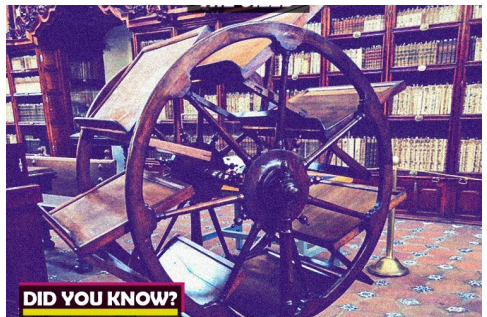
Warning! may cause permanent weight loss, increased energy and wrinkle removal.





DID YOU KNOW?

Just off the coast of Le Morne, on the island's southwest, Mauritius offers a spectacular illusion. Sand and silt on the ocean floor run off in a way that makes it look like they're pouring down a waterfall – or like the entire island is being sucked down a vast drain. It's really just the flow of underwater currents that create the dramatic image.



DID YOU KNOW?

This is a 300-year-old library tool that allows you to have 7 books open at once. The wheel was a tool for producing early encyclopedias and editions of classical works, "tasks that require having many books open simultaneously so that information from multiple sources can easily be collated. It was found in a library in Puebla, Mexico.

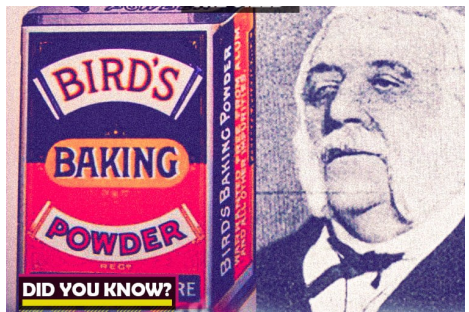


Did you know...that there are churches in the Allendale Community that will open their doors to indoor walking during the winter months during regular business hours? Check out Life Stream and Spring Valley and keep moving!!



DID YOU KNOW?

Nike had conditions before giving Michael Jordan a record contract: Either be rookie of the year, or average 20 points per game, or be an all-star, or sell \$4 million worth of shoes in a year. Jordan was rookie of the year, scored 28.2 points per game, named all-star, and Nike sold \$100 million worth of shoes in 1984-85.



DID YOU KNOW?

Alfred Bird was born in Gloucestershire, England in 1811. He invented Baking Powder in 1843. Alfred's wife, Lady Bird, was allergic to egg and yeast. Bird had already formulated an egg free custard for his wife, so at his business of Alfred Bird & Sons sought to find a simple raising agent for making bread and pastries without the need for yeast.

Did you know...In the 1920's, carnivals would give cigars as prizes, thus creating the phrase, "close, but no cigar!"



1. What 5-letter word typed in all capital letters can be read the same upside down?
2. Forward, I am heavy; backward, I am not. What am I?
3. What is the longest word in the dictionary?
4. What gets bigger the more you take away?

As I was waiting in line behind a gentleman at Wendy's recently, I heard him ask for his senior discount. The girl at the register apologized and charged him less. When I asked the man what the discount was, he told me that seniors over age 55 get 10% off everything on the menu, every day. **(Remember—you need to ASK for your discount.)**

Being of 'that' age myself, I figured I might as well ask for the discount too. This incident prompted me to do some research, and I came across a list of restaurants, supermarkets, department stores, travel deals and other types of offers giving various discounts with different age requirements. I was actually surprised to see how many there are and how some of them start at the young age of 50. This list may not only be useful for you, but for your friends and family too.

I'm sure there are many other local places that offer a discount that could be added—including a military discount. The main thing is to remember to ask.

RESTAURANTS:

Applebee's: 15% off with Golden Apple Card (60+)
Arby's: 10% off (55 +)
Ben & Jerry's: 10% off (60+)
Bennigan's: discount varies by location (60+)
Big Boy: discount varies by location (60+)
Boston Market: 10% off (65+)
Burger King: 10% off (60+)

Chick-Fil-A: 10% off or free small drink or coffee (55+)

Chili's: 10% off (55+)

CiCi's Pizza: 10% off (60+)

Denny's: 10% off, 20% off for AARP members (55 +)

Dunkin' Donuts: 10% off or free coffee (55+)

Golden Corral: 10% off (60+)

Hardee's: \$0.33 beverages everyday (65+)

IHOP: 10% off (55+)

KFC: free small drink with any meal (55+)

Krispy Kreme: 10% off (50+)

Long John Silver's: various discounts at locations (55+)

McDonald's: discounts on coffee everyday (55+)

Sonic: 10% off or free beverage (60+)

Steak 'n Shake: 10% off every Monday & Tuesday (50+)

Subway: 10% off (60+)

Taco Bell : 5% off; free beverages for seniors (65+)

Village Inn: 10% off (60+)

Waffle House: 10% off every Monday (60+)

Wendy's: 10% off (55 +)

MISCELLANEOUS:

Great Clips: \$8 off hair cuts (60+)

Supercuts: \$8 off haircuts (60+)

U.S. National Parks: \$10 lifetime pass; 50% off additional services including camping (62+)



Laughter is good for the soul!

A Farm Kid Joins the Marines

Dear Ma and Pa,

I am well. Hope you are. Tell Brother Walt and Brother Elmer the Marine Corps beats working for old man Minch by a mile. Tell them to join up quick before all of the places are filled.

I was restless at first because you get to stay in bed till nearly 5 a.m. But I am getting so I like to sleep late. Tell Walt and Elmer all you do before breakfast is smooth your cot, and shine some things. No hogs to slop, feed to pitch, mash to mix, wood to split, fire to lay. Practically nothing.

Men got to shave but it is not so bad, there's warm water. Breakfast is strong on trimmings like fruit juice, cereal, eggs, bacon, etc., but kind of weak on chops, potatoes, ham, steak, fried eggplant, pie and other regular food, but tell Walt and Elmer you can always sit by the two city boys that live on coffee. Their food, plus yours, holds you until noon when you get fed again. It's no wonder these city boys can't walk much.

We go on "route marches," which the platoon sergeant says are long walks to harden us. If he thinks so, it's not my place to tell him different. A "route march" is about as far as to our mailbox at home. Then the city guys get sore feet and we all ride back in trucks.

The sergeant is like a school teacher. He nags a lot. The Captain is like the school board. Majors and colonels just ride around and frown. They don't bother you none.

This next will kill Walt and Elmer with laughing. I keep getting medals for shooting. I don't know why. The bulls-eye is near as big as a chipmunk head and don't move, and it ain't shooting at you like the Higgett boys at home. All you got to do is lie there all comfortable and hit it. You don't even load your own cartridges. They come in boxes.

Then we have what they call hand-to-hand combat training. You get to wrestle with them city boys. I have to be real careful though, they break real easy. It ain't like fighting with that ole bull at home. I'm about the best they got in this except for that Tug Jordan from over in Silver Lake. I only beat him once. He joined up the same time as me, but I'm only 5'6" and 130 pounds and he's 6'8" and near 300 pounds dry.

Be sure to tell Walt and Elmer to hurry and join before other fellers get onto this setup and come stampeding in.

Your loving daughter,

Alice

USMC



- Remember, guitars have been picked on all their lives and they still play beautiful music. Don't fret the small stuff!
- She danced like nobody was watching. But people were watching and she looked like bees were attacking her.
- Why is everyone at the gym asking me why I'm sitting still on the stationary bike? I'm going downhill, dude, mind your business!
- Netflix needs to stop asking if I'm still watching and start asking if I switched the laundry over yet!
- Do you know the difference between an Hippo and a Zippo? One is really heavy and the other is a little lighter!
- I used to make fun of my parents for going to bed at 9:30. Now I wonder how they stayed up so late!
- As I watch this generation try to rewrite history, one thing I'm sure of...it will be misspelled and have no punctuation!
- I have been working really hard to expand my skill set as I get older. And I can honestly report that I have completely mastered the ability to forget what I am doing while I am doing it!
- My wife asks me to remind her of stuff. That way, if she forgets something, it's my fault.
- Did you hear about the semi-truck carrying Ramen Noodles that crashed? The estimated loss to company? \$38.00!
- A dentist married a manicurist; they fought tooth and nail!
- Someone asked me what I did this weekend, like I'm some sort of mountain climber! I'm 70 years old...I was on a heating pad eating nachos!
- I'm at that delusional age where I think everyone my age looks way older than I do!
- You never appreciate what you have until it's gone...Toilet paper is a good example!
- The fastest land mammal is a toddler who's been asked what's in their mouth!
- You knowhow they throw the ball into the crowd after they win the game? That's not allowed in bowling. I know that now.



Rooneyisms - Too good not to share!!

I've learned.... That the best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person.

I've learned.... That when you're in love, it shows.

I've learned.... That just one person saying to me, 'You've made my day!' makes my day.

I've learned.... That having a child fall asleep in your arms is one of the most peaceful feelings in the world.

I've learned.... That being kind is more important than being right.

I've learned.... That you should never say no to a gift from a child.

I've learned.... That I can always pray for someone when I don't have the strength to help him in some other way.

I've learned.... That no matter how serious your life requires you to be, everyone needs a friend to act goofy with.

I've learned.... That sometimes all a person needs is a hand to hold and a heart to understand.

I've learned.... That simple walks with my father around the block on summer nights when I was a child did wonders for me as an adult.

I've learned.... That life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes.

I've learned.... That we should be glad God doesn't give us every thing we ask for.

I've learned.... That money doesn't buy class.

I've learned.... That it's those small daily happenings that make life so spectacular.

I've learned.... That under everyone's hard shell is someone who wants to be appreciated and loved.

I've learned.... That to ignore the facts does not change the facts.

I've learned.... That when you plan to get even with someone, you are only letting that person continue to hurt you.

I've learned.... That love, not time, heals all wounds.

I've learned.... That the easiest way for me to grow as a person is to surround myself with people smarter than I am.

I've learned.... That everyone you meet deserves to be greeted with a smile..

I've learned.... That no one is perfect until you fall in love with them.

I've learned... That life is tough, but I'm tougher.

I've learned.... That opportunities are never lost; someone will take the ones you miss.

I've learned.... That when you harbor bitterness, happiness will dock elsewhere.

I've learned.... That I wish I could have told my Mom that I love her one more time before she passed away.

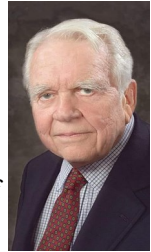
I've learned.... That one should keep his words both soft and tender, because tomorrow he may have to eat them.

I've learned.... That a smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks.

I've learned.... That when your newly born grandchild holds your little finger in his little fist, that you're hooked for life.

I've learned.... That everyone wants to live on top of the mountain, but all the happiness and growth occurs while you're climbing it.

I've learned.... That the less time I have to work with, the more things I get done.



**CHECK
THIS
OUT!**

Each month I will feature a local event or activity that might be of interest to you. Please share if you know of an upcoming event that I can include here.



A West Michigan tradition! In our 78th year, the Grand Rapids Boat Show is launching into an era where we will be showing our broadest array of power boats ever...5 acres of them, especially for the Great Lakes! The array of Motor Yachts, Cruisers, Runabouts, Fishing Boats, and Ski and Surf Inboards is exceptional. Pontoon Boats continue to excel in new designs, features and cruising abilities. Last summer you saw all the boats on the water, well now is your chance to board them and check them out! Boaters, this is your Show!

Wednesday, February 15: 2pm – 8pm

Thursday, February 16: 12pm – 8pm

Friday, February 17: 12pm – 9pm

Saturday, February 18: 10am – 9pm

Sunday, February 19: 10am – 5pm

Admission: Adults: \$12 Children 6-14: \$5

While we won't be attending this show as a group, we thought this might be a good event to share in case you care to visit. For more information follow this link—

<https://showspan.com/GRB/>

4. A hole

3. Smiles, because there is a mile between each 's'.

2. A ton.

1. SWIMS