Curiosity Corner: Dibstones

Question: Where does the word "dibs" come from? For example, one might say, "I got dibs on that!" (Asked by a curious and faithful column reader.)

Reply: The word "dibs" commonly implies a right of priority or claiming precedence. My familiarity with it comes from playing marbles have to "jury-rig" your "juryin my younger days. "I got mast." dibs" meant that you estab-

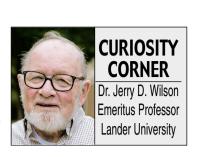
"dibstones." An early writing you might jerry-rig somein 1895 refers to it as "a thing to keep your kitchen game of dibs." Dibstones was chair from wobbling. a game similar to jacks and played with marble-like old England, was a house "dibs," which were sheep builder who constructed knuckle bones. It is unclear shoddy, poorly built homes how dibs became associated out of inferior materials. with a child's way of claim- Such "jerry-built" structures ing right of priority. Perhaps were probably a bit more there was a "dibs" rule in the lasting than if they were dibstones game.

claim two or more marbles jury is still out. knocked out of the ring by a single shot — laying claim to "If I want your opinion, I'll a right or privilege. But, give it to you." – Al Capone whatever the origin, just remember that "a little dib'll Send your questions to Dr.

origins, let's consider one Lander that is near and dear to me: Greenwood, SC 29649. or jury-rigged (or jerry-rigged), email jerry@curiosity-corand jerry-built.

First, let's look at "jury- will appear in the Curiosity rigged." The term might infer Corner. For Curiosity Corner tampering with a jury, but background, more often, we use it to refer www.curiosity-corner.net. to makeshift repairs made only with tools and materials at hand. Jury-rig is an old nautical term coming from "jury-mast." It refers to a temporary mast to hold the sail (and the rigging) lost in a storm or battle. It may have been short for "injury-mast," and as a verb, you would





June 29, 2019

"Jerry-rigged" is thought lished the right to shoot next. to simply be a misspelling of It is believed that the term "jury-rigged" and is often comes from the game of used instead. For example,

A "jerry-builder," in jolly "jerry-rigged," but not by Another associated term is much. How the "jerry" got "dubs," which is used to mixed in is unknown. The

C.P.S. (Curious Postscript):

Curious about something? Jerry D. Wilson, College of While on the topic of word Science and Mathematics. University, ner.net. Selected questions



The Clinton Presbyterian Community joined together on June 21 for the Alzheimer's Association's Longest Day. The longest day of the year is set aside as an opportunity to stand up to the darkness of Alzheimer's and honor all those affected. Money was raised at the Community during the "Rock to End Alzheimer's" events which included a rock-a-thon, henna tattoos, putt putt and a raffle.

Coffman receives degree

Devon Coffman of Gray Court,

Commencement exercises on May 3-4, at the McCamish Pavilion.

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from the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta. Coffman was among approximately 3,800 undergraduate and graduate students who received degrees during Georgia Tech's 257th

has earned a Bachelor of Science in research universities, the Georgia Physics and Bachelor of Science in Institute of Technology is in the busi-Materials Science and Engineering ness of creating the next idea and the next technology.

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Local students named to President's List at **Clemson University** Local students have been Emily E. Wessinger, Animal and

named to the President's List at Clemson University for the spring 2019 semester.

They are: Clinton - Shakiyl Y. Smiley, Industrial Engineering

Biological Sciences; Thor I. Brockman, Capo, Early Childhood Construction Science Education; Josie Louise Management; Ashlee Lydia C. Martzin, Nursing; Harlan, Biological Sciences James G. Otovic, Political Science; Elizabeth G. Stephens,

Veterinary Science

Kinards - Marylee R. Brehmer, Biological Sciences; Olivia N. Moore, Biological Sciences

Laurens - Ryan Lazarus Anderson, Economics; Cal P. Fountain Inn - Kevin E. Ayala, Bedenbaugh, History; George Biological Sciences; Thor I. Lewis Compton III, Computer Environmental and Natural Engineering; Samantha Taylor Resources; Noah S. Fuller, and Hollingsworth, Communication; Graham, English; Callie Marie

> Mountville - Isaiah Cole Prince, Biological Sciences

To be named to the President's Gray Court - Jessica F. Blakely, List, a student must achieve a 4.0 Animal and Veterinary Science; (all As) grade-point average.

UA awards McLeod

mencement May 3-5.

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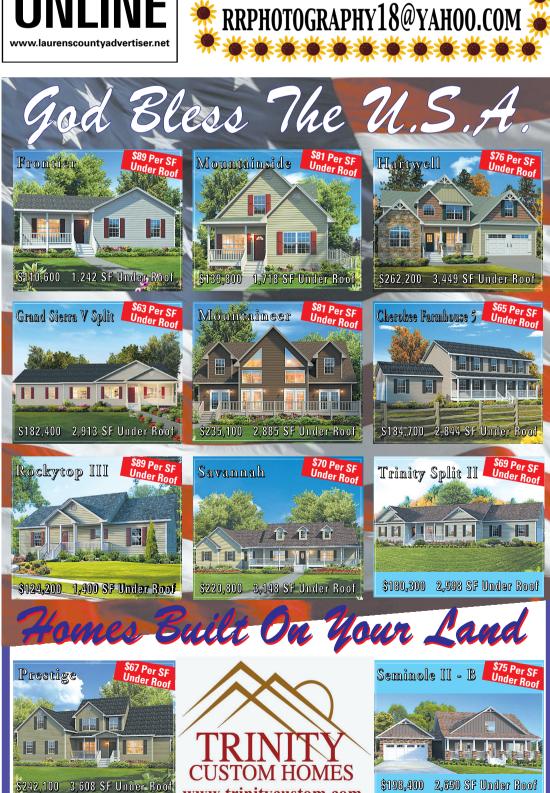


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