

DID YOU KNOW...?

Did American and German forces fight together during World War II?

By Jack Bagley didyouknowcolumn@gmail.com

So how did you do?

Last week, of course, was the annual April Fool's edition of the column, with three totally false items inserted to see if you're really paying attention. The correct answers are:

1. George Bernard Shaw did not write a play called Closed for Remodeling. It's a long-standing urban legend, one which never actually happened.
2. The vomitorium in a Roman place had nothing to do with upchucking or being drunk. In ancient Latin, the vomitorium was simply the entrance hall of an amphitheater.
3. Sugar in a child's diet has no effect on whether they're hyperactive or not. It does have an effect on their weight and overall health, but studies have shown there's no impact from sugar on a child's behavior.

I hope you were successful in seeking out the three phony balonies. Now, on to this week's selection, all of which (as far as I can tell) are accurate!

Did you know ...

... a lake in Australia is a bright pink? Lake Hillier, located on Middle Island in the Recherche Archipelago in Western Australia, is a bright pink in color, and scientists aren't exactly sure why. Resembling nothing more than a huge collection of Pepto Bismol™, the lake's unnatural hue is thought to possibly be caused by high salinity and certain kinds of algae and bacteria. And despite the color, the lake is perfectly safe to swim in. The salt content means you'd probably float rather easily, too. (Just what I've always wanted to do, float in Pepto Bismol.)

... the first electric traffic signal was installed in Cleveland, Ohio? Installed on August 5, 1914, the signal was placed at the corner of Euclid Avenue and East 105th Street. It was based on a design by James Hoge (1866-1926) under a patent called a "Municipal Traffic Control System." (And the process of putting traffic cops out of work began.)

... a famous criminal was also a poet? Bonnie Parker (1910-1934), one half of the infamous bank robbery pair Bonnie and Clyde, also wrote a collection of poems called Poetry From Life's Other Side. Parker wrote the book in 1932 while jailed. She also wrote a poem called "The Story of Bonnie and Clyde" shortly before she and her partner, Clyde Barrow (1909-1934), were killed by law enforcement officers in an ambush in Louisiana on May 23, 1934.

... during World War II, American and German forces fought together? Once, anyway. On May 4, 1945, as the war in Europe was winding down, American forces were tasked with freeing high-ranking French prisoners of war from a castle in Austria. The castle was guarded by fanatical units of the SS and Gestapo, and the Americans were aided by German Wehrmacht troops under the command of Major Josef Gangl (1910-1945). Meeting under a flag of truce, Gangl and the commander of a U.S. tank battalion, Captain John C. Lee (1918-1973), planned to attack the castle and free the prisoners. During the fight against the SS, Gangl was killed trying to help former French Prime Minister Paul Reynaud (1878-1966) out of the line of fire. More than 100 SS men were taken prisoner as the French captives were freed. Lee was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and the Silver Star for his efforts at the castle.

... the dollar sign is placed before numbers rather than after them for a reason? We say, "I owe you ten dollars," but would write, "I owe you \$10.00" The reason we put the dollar sign before the digits is to prevent forgery – it would be very easy to put more numbers in front if we wrote it, "I owe you 10.00\$." (Makes sense to me!)

... the British Parliament has an unusual procedure to follow whenever the monarch opens a session? Before King Charles III (born 1947) gives his traditional speech at the opening of Parliament, one member of the House of Commons is ceremonially held prisoner at Buckingham Palace. Once His Majesty has finished the speech and safely returned to the Palace, the "hostage" member is released. The tradition was started to ensure the safe return of a monarch from a potentially hostile Parliament. Lest you think this is silly, note that inside the monarch's dressing room, a copy of the execution warrant for King Charles I (1600-1649) is posted. (Just so the king doesn't get any funny ideas, I would imagine.)

... a single red blood cell makes a full circuit of the human body in about one minute? The average human body has about one to one and a half gallons of blood, and the human heart pumps at a rate of about one to one and a half gallons per minute. Thus, one single corpuscle makes a complete circuit of the body in about a minute. (Not exactly breaking the sound barrier but pretty darned fast in any event.)

... about 65% of all adult Americans are overweight or obese? (I'll let you figure out which percentage you're a part of.)

... credit card companies have a name for people who pay their bill off each month? You may have thought that it makes you popular with the company to do that, but it's exactly the opposite – if you pay your bill in full each month, they call you a "deadbeat." That's because the company does not make any money from the interest rate they charge on the use of the card. (I have a name for the people who keep calling me about my balance, but since this is a family newspaper, I can't say it.)

Now ... you know!



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Lanier County News

Visit a church of your choice every Sunday with your family.

- **Camon Temple First Born Church Of The Living God, Inc.**
Pastor: Madine Camon, Th.M.
72 Davis Avenue-Lakeland
Tues. & Thurs 6 PM
1st & 3rd Sundays. 11 AM
- **Camp Creek Missionary Baptist**
Intersection Hwy 122 & Hwy 168
Clinch County
- **Evan's Temple Holiness Church**
46 Davis Ave. - Lakeland
229-482-8049
- **Everlasting House of Prayer Deliverance Center in Temple of Love**
806 E Davis Ave. - Lakeland
229-482-9550
- **First Baptist Church**
15 Main Street - Lakeland
229-482-3401
Sunday School 9:45 AM
Sunday Morning Service . 11:00 AM
Sunday Night Service 6:00 PM
Wed. Night 7:00 PM
- **Gateway of Heaven**
803 E Peeler Ave. - Lakeland
229-482-1156
- **Greater Bethel A.M.E**
139 S. Oak St.- Lakeland
229-482-9414
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Off of Hwy 168-Lakeland
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67 S Oak Street - Lakeland
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- **Knight Memorial Baptist Church**
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229-482-2687
- **Lakeland Church of Christ**
622 E. Main Street-Lakeland
229-482-2692
- **Lakeland United Methodist Church**
80 West Main St. - Lakeland
229-482-3574
- **Lovejoy Community Church**
23 Lovejoy Rd - Lakeland
229-482-2169
Sunday School 10:00 AM
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Sunday Night Service 6:00 PM
Wed. Night Bible Study ... 7:00 PM
(Children's Programs available at all service times. Teens program during Sunday School and Night service & Wed. night service.)
- **New Bryant Missionary Baptist**
Pastor: Jasper B. Daniels
79 S. Mill Street - Lakeland
229-482-2784
- **New Life Church**
104 W Thigpen Ave
Lakeland, GA
- **New Life Church of God of Stockton**
516 W. Highway 84
Stockton, GA 31649
Pastor: Dwaine Crummey
(229) 242-7001
Sunday Morning - 10:30 a.m.
Children's Church - 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Night - 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday Night - 7 p.m.
- **New Life Ministries**
104 W Thigpen Ave
Lakeland, GA
- **New Hopewell Missionary Baptist**
124 W Main St. • Lakeland
229-482-3237
- **Oak Grove Freewill Baptist Church**
Oak Grove Church Lane
Lakeland, GA • 912-422-4212
- **Oak Street Church of Christ**
Pastor: Bro. Joseph Ingram
Sunday School 9:45 AM
Sunday Morning Service ..11:00 AM
Tuesday Bible Study 6:30 PM
- **Pearly Gates Apostolic Church**
1326 South Mill Street
Lakeland, GA 31635
Bishop and Pastor Odie Cook
- 229-305-8550
Sunday School- 10 a.m.
Sunday Morning Service- 11 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study- 6:30 p.m.
- **Ray City Church of God**
515 Main St - Ray City
229-455-5689
- **Refuge Temple Seventh Day Adventist**
605 E Washington Ave.
Lakeland, GA
229-482-9550
229-563-5934
- **Shiloh #2 Baptist Church**
70 Davis Street - Lakeland
229-292-5953
- **Southside Baptist Church**
326 S Hwy 221 - Lakeland
229-482-2280
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2530 Garner Road • Ray City
229-455-5554
- **St. Lewis Baptist Church**
Route 1, Hwy 135
Lakeland, GA • 229-482-2188
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- cell phones
- disk & floppy drives
- video cassette recorders (VCRS)
- laptops
- test equipment
- modems
- circuit boards
- typewriters
- cables

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