

From our graduates and friends:

Correction: Johanna, who wrote on behalf of **Sissie Blair Shandalow** in the December issue, is Sissie's youngest daughter—not her sister. Mary Sheffield is Sissie's only sister.

David Dibb has become quite the cook. Anita, David's wife, has some health issues that makes it difficult for her to be the "chief cook and bottle washer" now. Therefore, David has stepped up to the plate to take on all such tasks. He is great with our directory, great with writing/telling stories, and great in the kitchen, too. Wonder how many other hidden talents he will uncover? He recently sent me two pictures of his sugar cookies that I want to share with you. Yum, yum! They look wonderful!! David says of his new cooking experience:

Accidental Cookies - by David Dibb

"Since I took over the cooking chores more than 50 years into our marriage, I am now experiencing some of the enjoyment and mistakes that most of you ladies experienced decades ago as young wives and mothers. But I have something you did not have back then... the internet. There is hardly a problem or challenge in the kitchen that someone hasn't already posted the solution to on their website. Come to think of it, I guess you had Mom and Grandma, but I don't have that now, either.

The egg is one of the most amazing of God's creations. The yolk and the white work together or separately to accomplish a variety of different results. Even the inside membrane prevents all but the most distracted cook from ending up with shell particles in his project. I hear some folks even use the shells in their garden or coffee maker, but I'm not there yet.

My now-famous German Chocolate cake calls for egg whites, sugar, and butter and vanilla to be beat together. But while trying to watch a movie on TV and mix a cake, I cracked the eggs and dropped yolk and all in the bowl. Ooops! So I set it aside and started over. But what to do with a bowl of sugar, egg, vanilla, and butter? Obviously, you "ask Google". It popped up with several sugar cookie recipes, and for one of them, all I had to do was figure out how much flour to add.

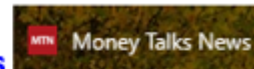
Those first "accidental cookies" turned out so well that I have now made several batches on purpose. I am my own biggest sugar cookie fan. And about a week ago, I found the cookie cutters and sprinkles Anita had stored in the back of a cabinet. Then the fun really started!



UPDATES:

David McPhail: Please make a note that a good phone number for David is **817-659-3480**

17 Beautiful Places to Retire according to Money Talks News



Greenville, SC	Homer, Alaska
Madison, WI	Eureka, CA
Gatlinburg, TN	Hilo, Hawaii
Moab, Utah	Dauphin Island, Alabama
Leavenworth, WA	Flagstaff, AZ
Eureka Springs, AR	Kodiak, Alaska
Bend, Oregon	Portland, Maine
Durango, Oregon	Bainbridge Island, WA
Savannah, GA	

January Birthdays:

4	Malissa Starnes Baugh Betty Craig Keeling
10	Betty Luedeker Gatlin
12	Nanci Stiteler Felice
16	Vince Tusa, Steve Brown
17	Ken Lipscomb
19	Betty Barrett Reaties
25	Don Busby Bernie Regian Pat Gabler Kemper
26	Don Clyde Blackburn

9 Things you should never do at home during a Thunderstorm:

- By Chris Kissell

When thunder rumbles, there are a few things you should immediately avoid doing in your home.

A clap of thunder means dangerous lightning is within 10 miles of you. And contrary to what you might think, being inside your home does not necessarily keep you safe. In fact, some seemingly harmless activities put you at risk of being struck by lightning inside the home.

- Showering
- Taking a bath
- Washing dishes in the sink
- Washing your hands

The source of danger in all these activities is the same: Plumbing. Lightning can make its way to you via your home's plumbing. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

"The risk of lightning traveling through plumbing might be less with plastic pipes than with metal pipes. However, it is best to avoid any contact with plumbing and running water during a lightning storm to reduce your risk of being struck." Others include:

- Talking on a corded phone is another activity you should avoid, as lightning can travel through the cord and phone and zap you.
- On the other hand, talking on a cellphone or a cordless phone will keep you safe as long as the phone is not attached to a charger plugged into an outlet.
- Avoid windows and doors.
- Stay off porches and balconies.
- Refrain from lying down on concrete floors or leaning against concrete walls. Lightning can travel through metal bars and wires inside the concrete.
- Avoid touching electronics or anything plugged into an electrical outlet, including computers, laptops, game systems, washers, dryers and stoves.

HUMOR



Remember when people used to have diaries and got mad when someone read them?

Now they put everything online and get mad when people don't.



TODAY I'M DOING NOTHING, BECAUSE I STARTED DOING IT YESTERDAY AND I WASN'T FINISHED



The fitness trainer asked me, "What kind of a squat are you accustomed to doing?"
I said, "Diddly."



A little something for everyone regarding the New Year.....

A bit of humor,... and then something serious:

Humorous:



And then

Something serious:

*At the sound of the tolling midnight bell
a brand new year will begin.*

*Let's raise our hopes in a confident toast,
to the promise it ushers in.*

*May your battles be few, your pleasures many,
your wishes and dreams fulfilled.*

*May your confidence stand in the face of loss
and give you the strength to rebuild.*

*May peace of heart fill all your days
may serenity grace your soul.*

*May tranquil moments bless your life
and keep your spirit whole.*

unknown

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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