

MAY 2024

From our classmates:

Bev Murphy Wells: “Howard Dudgeon should write a book; such interesting collections! Sorry to hear about some of our dear graduates and their health challenges. Praying for each one! Love the pictures of the bluebonnets! Beautiful time of the year!

All the neighbors on my street gathered at one of the driveways and viewed the eclipse. We only got about 57% of it but it was still exciting. Saw a total eclipse in 2017 in Indiana. Anything about space is exciting! Every time a space shuttle takes off at the Kennedy Space Center, I try to watch it take off and then I head outside and on a clear night, sometimes I can see some of it, long way off but can still see a little of it. One is scheduled for the 17th, sometimes it gets delayed to wee hours of the morning and usually I miss the delays that are delayed to 2 -3 am. There’s always a recorded viewing on the news the next day though. People from all over come to see the launches, and sometimes meet one of the astronauts.”

The Total Eclipse Recap

- *David Dibb*

“My sister lives in Kerrville, TX, which, early on, was touted as being a prime eclipse viewing location along the path of "totality". Typically, on any given day, chances of rain here in the Hill Country (think, "Willie Nelson") are slim to none. But the Weather Man had other plans and began forecasting clouds and possible rain for Eclipse Day over most of this part of Texas. But we chose to make the 1300-mile trip because we could touch base with family in Macon GA, and Pensacola FL, along the way, as well as hopefully have a unique eclipse experience. In last month's Crier, you posted some beautiful bluebonnet pictures. They were an added incentive for me to head to Texas to watch the eclipse. Even though it was late in the season for bluebonnets when we arrived, I was not disappointed. Many had gone to seed, but there were still a bunch left for us to enjoy. We got here in time for the panorama of bluebonnets and other wildflowers along I-10 and backroads,



and the cloudy skies provided some colorful sunsets.



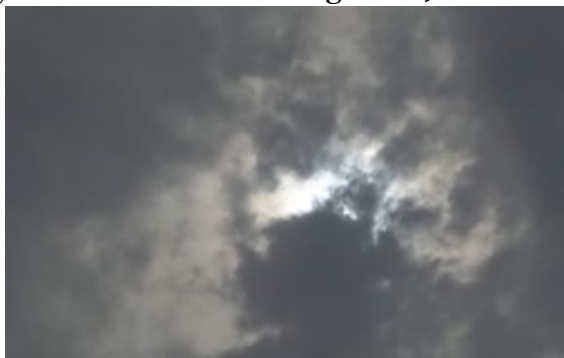
Eclipse Monday dawned cloudy, as predicted, but every few minutes the sun broke through. We were able to view the progress of the eclipse incrementally, every 10 or 20 minutes, and saw it (through ISO-approved glasses) at 10%, 25%, 50%, and 90% coverage. I took one picture with the glasses over the camera lens.



And then, total darkness. It got eerily quiet and night-time dark for the expected 4 minutes.



And in the darkness, the clouds parted just enough to get a clear look at the sun totally covered (which you can do without the glasses).



Pretty soon, it was all over. And today (Tuesday), it is clear and sunny. What else would you expect in the Texas Hill Country?

After about a week with my sister in Kerrville, we had pretty well cleaned out her fridge, so it was time to head back East on I-10 toward Florida and South Carolina. Besides, every morning I had begun having lengthy sneezing attacks, and figured I had become allergic to something around her house. When we hit I-10, we were greeted by a bright carpet of yellow wildflowers. They continued on and on, usually on both sides of the road and down the median and lasted all the way to Katy. That's 200 miles!! I did find one exit that led to a side road where I got a pretty good picture, but it would have taken an aerial shot to really do justice to that vast expanse of yellow. No one seemed to know what they were called. We knew bluebonnets, Indian paintbrush, and verbena, but they were just "those yellow flowers". Google solved a couple of mysteries. They are **amarum**, commonly known as "yellow sneezeweed". Y'all enjoy!" *-David Dibb*



Updates:

Linda Phelps McKee- Linda's kidneys have awakened and she is not having to endure dialysis. Oh, happy day!!! She will be able to get the dialysis port removed but that must be scheduled with the hospital. This was wonderful news that she received on April 25. Thanks for all the prayers...Linda truly feels it was the prayers that made this possible.

Clara Sue Griffis Arnsdorff: Clara Sue who lives in Bellevue, NE reports they are fine after the Nebraska storms. She lives about 30 miles away from Elkhorn, NE that was hit so badly. Clara only got a smattering of rain, nor did she lose electricity. Whew! Bullet dodged.

May Birthdays:

2	Terrell Reagan
5	Carol Leskin Allen
11	Carol Adams Roberts
13	Tom Kittlitz
23	Janene Loftis Jett
	David Ditto

What I have learned: *1998 publication in Ann Landers column*

At age 16, I learned that mothers always know best, and sometimes fathers know best, too.

At age 20, I learned that crime doesn't pay, even if it is done well.

At age 25, I learned that a new baby keeps the mother from having an 8-hour day and the father from having an 8-hour night.

At age 30, I learned that strength is the charm of a man and charm is the strength of woman.

At age 35, I learned that the future is not what you inherit but what you create.

At age 40, I learned that the secret of happy living is not to do what you LIKE, but to like what you do.

At age 45, I learned that life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you respond to it.

At age 50, I learned that a dog is man's best friend and man's dogma can be his worst enemy.

At age 55, I learned that little decisions should be made with my head and big decisions with my heart.

At age 60, I learned that you can give without loving, but you can never love without giving.

At age 65, I learned that to enjoy a long life, one should eat what he wants after he has eaten what he should.

At age 70, I learned that life is not a matter of holding good cards but playing a poor hand well.

At age 75, I learned that as long as you think you are green, you will continue to grow... and as soon as you think you are ripe, you are rotten.

At age 80, I learned that to love and be loved is the greatest joy in the world.

7 Reasons to Declutter your Home in Retirement: *by Kathleen Coxwell – Nov 21, 2023*

1 **Your heirs do not want to do it**- You did not want to do it with your parents' things and your children and heirs feel the same way about your things.

2 **Consider what you want to leave behind**- You might want to make notes about certain items and put with the things you do wish to leave behind- for instance: how much you paid for something...the history of a particular item, etc.

3 **Paring down stuff can enhance your life now.**

4 **Clutter is dangerous as you age**- slips and falls are most dangerous to the elderly.

5 **Too much stuff can cause stress.**

6 **Clutter blocks sleep**

7 **Storing stuff is expensive**- have you ever figured out how much more money you might have each month if you were not paying for storage on things that have been stored for years?

For more details: [7 Reasons To Declutter Your Home in Retirement \(msn.com\)](https://www.msn.com)



DID YOU KNOW?

Howard Dudgeon Trivia:

“When Mark White was governor, he had a barbecue for Baylor administrators at the governor’s mansion before the Baylor Texas game. He stood at the gate of the mansion and greeted everyone by name. I assume Baylor had provided pictures and names. Anyway, he greeted me by name. Several years later I was having lunch at DiMaria’s in east Waco. Mark White came in with some friends and saw me. He shook my hand and called me by name. He had no reason to remember me or my name.

It would be interesting to know if our classmates have met any famous people. I have never met anyone famous.”

Sidenote: It would be interesting, Howard. So...if you are one of the lucky ones who has met a famous person, tell us all about it.

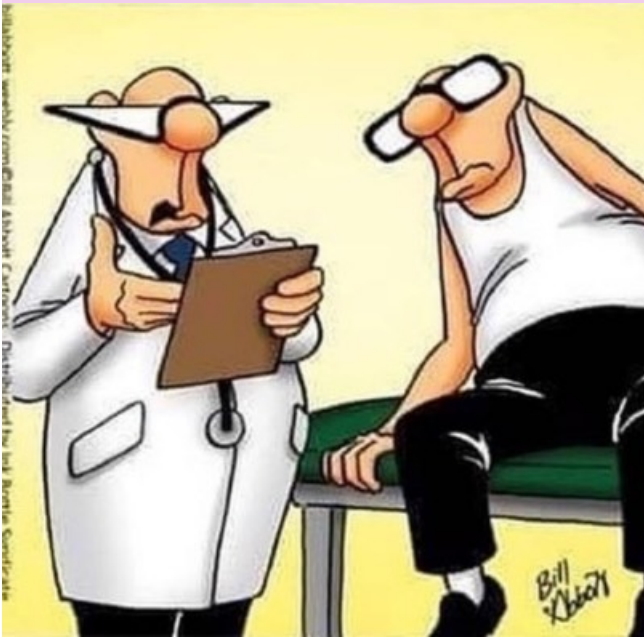
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PICTURES:

Jim Monnig with his newest granddaughter, Cate Cannon, who is ten months old. There is no telling what Jim said to Cate to get this response, but I am sure it was quite amusing according to Cate's expression. Jim has a way of amusing and delighting all of us with his tales. He is still delinquent in providing me a story about almost killing Randy Turner, but Jim promised me it will be coming soon.



Medical humor for seniors:



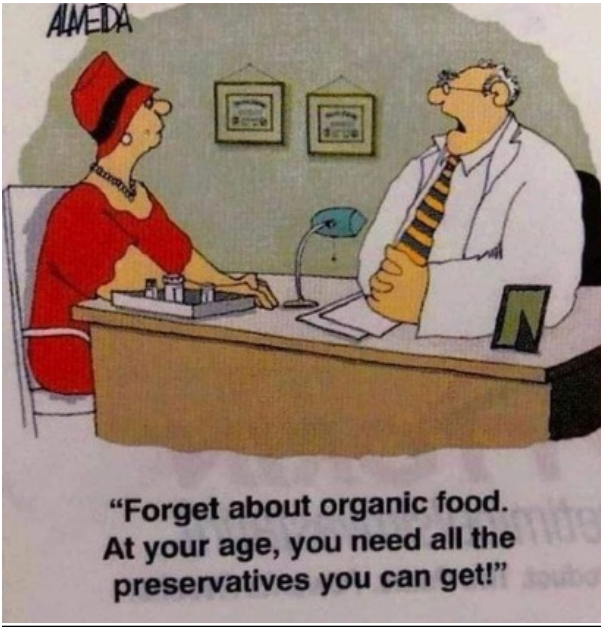
“High sodium, high cholesterol, lots of toxins - your blood test is remarkably similar to a potato chip.”



Posted by Ted N.

Don't be embarrassed. You think you're the first guy whose wife shoved the remote up his ass?





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