



MONAST
LAW OFFICE

Workers' COMPanion

APRIL 2021

www.monastlaw.com | 614-334-4649 | 5000 Arlington Centre Blvd. Bldg 2, Suite 2117, Upper Arlington, OH 43220-2913

OUR OWN GIFTS AND TALENTS

LESSONS FROM 'DIRTY HARRY'

If there's one movie line that I quote the most often, it would probably be "a man's got to know his limitations." It's from the movie "Magnum Force," probably better known as one of the "Dirty Harry" movies. Clint Eastwood's Harry Callahan is the one who says the line.

At first, I kind of just said it in some instances as a joke. Maybe I would mutter it to myself on a busy day when the paperwork just wouldn't stop stacking up on my desk. Arms spread wide, and with an exasperated sigh, I would just insist, "a man's GOT to know his limitations." However, that line has continued to stick with me over the years, and I've realized that it has a lot more depth to it than it seems to at first.

You might have grown up hearing that you could be whatever you wanted to be in life, but the fact is that that's just not true. I mean, I'll never be a talented athlete like Tom Brady or LeBron James — very few people have that life cut out for them! However, I do think Scripture points to the fact that we all have talents and gifts that we can use to help one another. In the body, we might be an armpit or a big toe, but we all have something valuable that we can offer the world.

Out of everyone in my family, I'm the only one who went on to get a law degree. In fact, I'm one of the only ones who went to a four-year university at all. That's not to say that my parents didn't have anything of value to offer the world or that my siblings could be doing more with their lives. Neither of my parents had any education beyond high school, but they were some of the wisest people I've known. One of my brothers didn't get much education after high school either, but he started working for Whirlpool and used his skills to work his way to being the second-in-charge. He now oversees over 1,300 employees.

"IN THE BODY, WE MIGHT BE AN ARMPIT OR A BIG TOE, BUT WE ALL HAVE SOMETHING VALUABLE THAT WE CAN OFFER THE WORLD."



All that's to say, everyone has their own set of talents and limitations. I can't be everything to everybody. There are people out there who know way more than I do about certain things and are way better at doing certain things than I am. Rather than try to measure up to their knowledge or abilities, I can acknowledge them and go to them for advice and counsel on the things they're good at. I hope that my gifts and talents would similarly be of use to them.

The biggest block to accepting my talents, as well as my limitations, has always been the six inches between my ears. It can be aggravating and uncomfortable when you wrestle with limitations, but I've learned that you can't grow without facing those challenges. Strangely, once I accept that I have to accept my limitations, I feel freer than I ever did before.

- Jim Monast

3 SAFE APRIL FOOLS' PRANKS YOUR KIDS WILL LOVE

Ditch the Danger and Plan Family-Friendly Fun

Every year, a prankster makes headlines on April Fools' Day for taking their joke too far. In 2001, a DJ in England famously broadcast that he'd spotted a replica of the Titanic floating off the coast. Hundreds of people scrambled to the spot, and their combined weight actually caused a cliff to collapse into the ocean! Luckily no one was hurt, but a Montana man who played a different joke years later wasn't so lucky. He donned a Sasquatch outfit and leapt from the forest to scare travelers. Unfortunately, he traumatized two teens so much that they lost control of their car and ran him over.

If you're a prankster, you can probably understand what drove the radio DJ and Sasquatch to their doom. It's easy to go down the April Fools' rabbit hole and plan a prank that's too elaborate for adults, let alone your kids. But don't worry — the internet is full of funny ways to introduce your little ones to the holiday safely. Instead of concocting a potentially harmful prank, try one of these harmless jokes instead, courtesy of Parenting magazine.

1. The Undrinkable Juice You know what looks a lot like grape juice? Grape jello! To baffle your toddler (or even your 10-year-old), make a batch of jello and let it set in a juice glass. When they try to drink it later, enjoy the hilarity that ensues.

2. Rocks — It's What's for Dinner! If you want to confuse and horrify your kids, scatter chocolate rock candy (treats that look like real rocks) in the backyard before dinner. Then, when it's time to eat, head outside and chow down on a handful of "rocks." Your kids' faces will be priceless! (Visit Nuts.com to score this candy for \$8.99 per pound.)

3. Stinky Caramel 'Apples' Everyone loves caramel apples, but caramel-covered onions ... not so much. This April Fools' Day, swap the tasty fruit for its smelly vegetable counterpart and watch as everyone in the house falls for your trick!

These are just a few pranks you can have up your sleeve for April Fools' — or any day of the week. For even more hilarious ideas, check out the book "Pranklopedia: The Funniest, Grossest, Craziest, Not-Mean Pranks on the Planet!" from your local library.



The three black lines on school buses serve a purpose. The bottom line is the floor of the bus. The middle line is the seat line. The top black line is the top of the seats. These lines of the bus are reinforced, but they also let firefighters know where to cut in case of an accident. I love learning stuff like this. Old dog, new tricks.

I have wistful memories of riding school buses as a youngster. While I walked the couple miles to school each day (yeah, in the snow, uphill each way) in grade school, many

of us signed up for the after-school bowling league. I remember looking out the bus window each Wednesday afternoon as we went along, crossing the railroad tracks, seeing the supposedly "bottomless pond" where, legend had it that people had driven off the road and their cars sank, never to be found. After we moved to Upper Arlington, I regularly rode the bus to and from junior high, rain or shine.

My bus drivers were all big-hearted women who welcomed us kids and our boisterousness. We respected them and sometimes chuckled as they'd grind the gears while shifting.

CLIENT STORY: REBECCA PRICE

Maybe this explains the fondness I have for these ladies. I've written about a few of our bus driver clients before. As a kid, I never considered all they do and how many job hazards they face.

Our client Rebecca Price has many years under her belt with River Valley Local Schools. She's retiring soon after many years and lots of injuries!

We've handled her claims going back over 25 years, including her first "slip and fall" broken ankle, a hip fracture leading to hip replacement, and a fractured tailbone from falling on the bus. I think one of the most interesting ones was when she hit her back on the underside of the bus while pulling plastic that was stuck on the drive shaft. But the topper has to be the time she was training a new driver who hit the brakes when the light changed — the brakes grabbed and she fell on

the "dog house" (the engine cover that sits in the floor just as you get to the top of the bus steps), rolled down the steps, and hit her head. She really doesn't remember much of this one, but she must've been a sight! Fortunately, this didn't break bones, but it did cause bruises and sprains from head to toe!

We've been able to help Rebecca through each injury and even the settlements from the claims when the time came. It seems she's pretty happy with us, too, as she's sent other clients our way so we could help them.

These drivers offer welcome smiles to kiddos in the morning and at the end of the school day. They take our children and grandchildren safely, in all kinds of weather and all sorts of drama. They are friendly faces during the turbulent years of youth and adolescence. I'm glad we know Rebecca and so many others like her!

OREGON HEALTH CARE WORKERS ADMINISTER LEFTOVER COVID-19 VACCINES

IN THE MIDDLE OF TRAFFIC IN A SNOWSTORM

The COVID-19 vaccine rollout, while hoped by many to be the death knell of the pandemic, has not been without inefficiencies in getting those vaccines to the people who need them. However, that didn't stop Josephine County Public Health workers from administering vaccines in traffic in the middle of a snowstorm in western Oregon, just so they wouldn't go to waste.

The first two vaccines to have been approved for emergency distribution in the United States, the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, were seen by many as a godsend. However, the fact that they needed to be stored in extremely cold temperatures in order to remain viable for long periods of time makes transportation and distribution difficult sometimes.

Nevertheless, Michael Weber, the Josephine County Public Health director, and his team of about 20 county health care workers ensured that their leftover vaccines

found some willing arms. After a long day of administering vaccines throughout the area, Weber's team found themselves trapped in traffic in the middle of a snowstorm with six Moderna vaccine doses set to expire by the time they got back to Grants Pass, the county seat of Josephine County. So, instead of letting the vaccines expire, they found six drivers who were also stuck in traffic who were willing to take the doses.

Weber and four of his team members brought the doses and the necessary medical equipment for safely administering them around to several vehicles. They even had an ambulance on standby in case someone experienced a rare allergic reaction to the vaccine. While several people politely declined their offer to

receive a dose, in about 45 minutes, they had administered all six of the leftover vaccines.

The recipients were incredibly grateful. One of them jumped out of his car and stripped off his shirt, despite the blizzard, in order to receive the vaccine. As a fortunate coincidence, one of the women who received the vaccine was actually supposed to have received it that day but had missed her appointment.

While it's been a long, arduous process getting to where we are today in the vaccine rollout, it's comforting to know that all the while, there have been people involved who are making sure that no vaccine would go to waste on their watch.

SUDOKU

	2					6		5
1	7			5				
					9			
3				2			8	
			5				1	3
					4			2
		3		1	7		9	
8	4					7		1
			3	2				

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2
4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3
5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4
6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5
7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6
8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

ANSWER

NIBBLES WITH NUG

RHUBARB OAT BARS

Inspired by TasteOfHome.com

INGREDIENTS

- 1 1/2 cups fresh rhubarb, chopped
- 1 cup packed brown sugar, divided
- 1 tsp fresh lemon juice
- 4 tbsp water, divided
- 4 tsp cornstarch
- 1 cup old-fashioned oats
- 3/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup sweetened shredded coconut
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/3 cup butter, melted

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350 F and grease an 8-inch square baking dish.
2. In a medium saucepan, bring rhubarb, 1/2 cup brown sugar, lemon juice, and 3 tbsp water to a boil.
3. Reduce heat to medium and cook until rhubarb is tender (about 5 minutes).
4. In a small bowl, combine cornstarch and remaining water, stirring until smooth.
5. Gradually add to the rhubarb mixture, return to a boil, and cook until thickened. Remove from heat and set aside.
6. In a large bowl, combine oats, flour, coconut, salt, and remaining brown sugar. Stir in butter until mixture is crumbly.
7. Press half of the oat mixture into the prepared baking dish, spread rhubarb mixture on top, then sprinkle with remaining oat mixture.
8. Bake 25-30 minutes until golden brown. Cool completely before enjoying!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Lessons from 'Dirty Harry'
- 2 3 Safe April Fools' Pranks Your Kids Will Love
- 2 Client Success Story
- 3 COVID-19 Vaccines in the Middle of Traffic in a Snowstorm
- 3 Rhubarb Oat Bars
- 4 How Lulu the Pig Saved Her Owner From a Heart Attack

Man's Smartest Friend

LULU THE POT-BELLIED PIG'S CUNNING PLAN TO SAVE HER OWNER

According to animal experts, pigs are smarter than any other domestic animal, including cats and dogs. That may seem hard to believe, as you probably associate pigs with a pink, smelly animal that oinks and rolls around in the muck. However, the story of how Lulu the pot-bellied pig saved her owner's life might persuade you to reconsider.

Back in 1998 (otherwise this story would have certainly gone viral), Lulu the pig was a permanent fixture at Jo Ann and Jack Altsman's property in Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania. They had initially only taken Lulu from her original owner, the Altsmans' daughter, for a temporary stay, but they bonded with Lulu, and she was with them for much longer than expected.

On Aug. 4, Jo Ann suffered from a heart attack. Jack was out of town on a fishing trip, and even

though Jo Ann cried for help and even threw an alarm clock out the window, no one heard her cries from their somewhat secluded home. The family's dog, Bear, barked and barked to no avail. Lulu, however, knew Jo Ann needed help quickly and waddled into action.

Lulu made her way to the nearest road, scraping her skin in the process and leaving it torn and bleeding. Once she reached the road, she laid down as if to play dead. Soon after that, a passing driver saw Lulu and stopped to check on her. Once Lulu was sure she had the driver's attention, she got up and waddled back toward her home, leading the driver to where Jo Ann lay on the floor.

When the driver found Jo Ann, he immediately called 911, and emergency services took her to a



medical center for open-heart surgery. Had just 15 more minutes passed without help, Jo Ann would have died.

For her heroism, Lulu received the Tiffany gold hero's medal from the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and made multiple television appearances as her fame spread. Hopefully, she was smart enough to know just how much she was appreciated.