OFFICE: 249 Jasper Street • Largo • FL 33770 • (727) 585-2850



ecember 2023

Issue 10

Happy Howl-idays!
Thanks to Alana Korol-Tisland and Gigi of Regency Heights for submitting this great photo from last year's Christmas card!



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HOA OFFICERS

Vice President	Cheryl Doty	519-751-8408			
		24.5.542.0020			
Secretary	Tricia Lasisomphone	315-542-8928			
Activities Directorin search of					
Park Office	72	7-582-2850			
	72				
Shangri La Star Newsletter by Lisa VachonShangri La Star 2023@gmail.com					

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES:

1st – Joyce Cutlip, Lot 65 Birthday

5th – Jan & Eereit Northcut, Lot 148 Anniversary

15th – Cecile Belanger, Lot 157 Birthday

22nd – Serena Libby, Lot 14 Birthday

23rd – Nancy Havens, Lot 5 Birthday



GREETINGS FROM THE MANAGEMENT OFFICE

(nothing for December)















MESSAGE FROM OUR HOA PRESIDENT

reetings to All! December is upon us. I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving.



We are having an HOA meeting to vote for our HOA board on December 7th at 6 p.m., come and vote.

We will be having a Holiday brunch on December 16th from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., all are welcome. Please put all complaints in the blue complaint box next to the HOA Message board. This will streamline complaints and responses.

Enjoy the Holidays and as always, we will be better! Cheryl "CC" Doty

TRANSPORTATION FOR SENIORS



eighborly Transportation is available for adults 60 and older. The offer door-to-door service, courteous drivers, and wheelchair accessible buses. Transportation is available to: Medical appointments within Pinellas County, Group outings of 6 or more participants for shopping, dining out, or other fun outings.

All medical appointments must be within 10 miles of your home, and the trip scheduled at least two business days in advance. Special events require at least 5 days advanced notice. There is no charge for services – donations are accepted. You must register with Neighborly prior to scheduling a ride. Visit neighborly.org or call: (727) 573-9444 for more information - Business Hours: 8am-5pm, Monday - Friday

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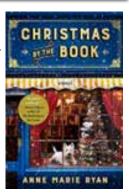


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SHANGRI-LA SECOND SATURDAY BOOK CLUB

isa Vachon will be hosting a monthly book club on the 2nd Saturday of each month at the clubhouse. December's meeting will be on Saturday, December 9th at 10 a.m. Come and Join us for coffee, tea and great books!! If you need help getting any books that are chosen please let Lisa or CC know. We will be reading one book a month and at each meeting we will choose a new book to read. December's book will be Christmas by the Book by Anne Marie Ryan.



ACTIVITIES



ecember 9th, 10 a.m. Book Club at the clubhouse.

December 16th, 11a.m. until 1 p.m. Brunch at the clubhouse.



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JOKE

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KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOR

Bruce and Lisa Vachon, Lot 144, moved to Shangri-La in 2019. Lisa states "we wanted to move away from winter weather." Deciding on Tampa Bay the best area for finding jobs, they looked through online ads and purchased their mobile home "sight unseen".



Lisa was born March 21, 1969, in Holyoke, Massachusetts. The youngest daughter, she has an older sister who is deceased. Lisa grew up in Granby, Massachusetts, and graduated Granby Jr.-Sr. high school in 1987. More than a decade later, with the encouragement of her husband Bruce, she entered and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from Westfield State University, Westfield, MA in 1999. She went on to receive her Master's Degree in Accounting & Tax from American International College in Springfield, MA in 2002. She is licensed in both Florida and Massachusetts as a Certified Public Accountant and is self-employed.

Lisa met Bruce in April 1994. They married on June 1, 1996, where Lisa became the stepmother to three young boys; Michael, Christopher and Corey who all reside in Massachusetts. Lisa and Bruce are also Meemaw and Pawpaw to six grandchildren: Madison, Lochlan, Everly, Anthony, Eva and Aleister. They are soon to be great-grandparents as Madison is due to have her first baby in January 2024.

In her spare time, Lisa enjoys crochet and cross stitch; and as an avid reader she participates in a couple of book clubs and has also started a book club here at Shangri-La called the 2nd Saturday of the Month Book Club. Recently, Lisa took over as editor of our Shangri-La monthly magazine.

Bruce was born January 25, 1962, in Springfield, Massachusetts. He is the youngest of six children. Bruce graduated in 1982 from Putnam Vocational High School in Springfield, MA. He enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corp. and worked in communications for 3 years. Upon discharge, Bruce worked at Old Colony Envelope Company in Westfield, MA for over 20 years. Due to medical issues he had to quit and was out of work for 7 years. After finally being cleared by







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his doctors, Bruce worked at St. Lukes Home, an assisted living facility, located in Springfield, MA as a building maintenance technician for 11 years. He retired in the summer of 2019 to move here to Shangri-La. He enjoys doing odd jobs as needed for people (good to know we have a handyman in our park!).

Bruce and Lisa enjoy fishing and camping together so they purchased 7 acres of land on a lake in The Berkshires of Massachusetts where they enjoy spending Memorial Day to Labor Day camping and fishing. Currently they are building a cottage there. "We love the outdoors at our camp and get to see and visit our families for the summer".

Thank you, Lisa and Bruce, for sharing your lives with us. We are lucky to have such warm and caring people in our community. *Thank you, Polly Pifer, for this interview. If you would like to be featured in the newsletter, please let us know.*

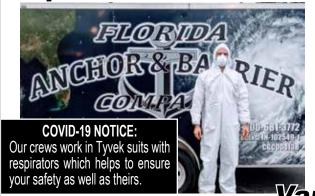


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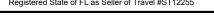
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RECIPE

If you've got a recipe you think we'll all like, please share. ShangriLaStar2023@gmail.com

Candy Cane Cookies

Ingredients:

- 2 sticks (227g) unsalted butter, at room temperature
- 1C (200g) sugar
- 1 ½t peppermint extract
- 1t vanilla extract
- 1t baking powder

To finish:

1 egg white 2T sparkling sugar



- ½t kosher salt
- 1 large egg
- 2 ³/₄ C (385g) all-purpose flour
- 1t liquid red food coloring

Make the dough:

Mix the butter, sugar, peppermint, vanilla, baking powder, and salt in the bowl. Beat until a paste forms and clings to the side of the bowl.

Scrape down the side of the bowl and beat in the egg until it is absorbed. Add the flour and beat until just combined and no more dry streaks of flour remain.

Color half the dough:

Divide and remove half the dough from the bowl. Carefully add the red food coloring to the remaining dough. Mix until the color is evenly distributed.

Chill the dough:

Pat each piece of dough into a disk, wrap in plastic wrap, and refrigerate for at least 3 hours or overnight.

When ready to bake, preheat the oven to 350°F:

Line a baking sheet with parchment paper or a silicon baking mat.

Shape the cookies:

- 1. The chilled dough should be firm, but still easy to shape straight from the fridge. If not, let it warm for just a few minutes until malleable. Don't let it warm too much or it will be too soft to work with again.
- 2. Pinch off a 1-inch round piece of the white dough and roll it out to a 5-inch rope. Do the same with a piece of the red dough (make sure the ropes are the same length).
- 3. Place the ropes next to each other and twist together. Transfer to the baking sheet and curve the top of the dough into a candy cane shape.
- 4. Repeat with the remaining dough, spacing the cookies about 2 inches apart.

Top the cookies with sparkling sugar:

Make the egg white wash by beating the egg white with 1 tablespoon of water until foamy. Brush the top of each cookie with the egg white wash and then sprinkle with the sugar.

Bake in the oven for 8 to 10 minutes or until the edges are just barely brown. Let cool on the baking sheet for 10 minutes before moving to a wire cooling rack.

These cookies will keep for a week or two in a sealed container at room temperature.

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First Sunday of Advent		Jan & Ee Lot 148
10	Cornhole 5:00pm	Shufflebo Bingo at
17	Cornhole 5:00pm	Shufflebo Bingo at
24	Cornhole 5:00pm	Shufflebo Bingo at
Christmas Eve	Christmas	
31 New Year's Eve		

Shangri La

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			Joyce Cutlip, Lot 65 Birthday	2
oard 10:00am 7 p.m. reit Northcut, Anniversary	6	7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	8	9
12 oard 10:00am 7 p.m.	13	14	15 Cecile Belanger, Lot 157 Birthday	16
19 oard 10:00am 7 p.m.	20	21	Serena Libby, Lot 14 Birthday First Day of Winter	Nancy Havens, Lot 5 Birthday
26 oard 10:00am 7 p.m.	27	28	29	30











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December Monthly Holidays

- Art and Architecture Month
- Egg Nog Month
- Handwashing Awareness Month
- Hi Neighbor Month
- Learn a Foreign Language Month
- Made in America Month
- National Drunk and Drugged Driving (3D) Prevention Month
- National Fruit Cake Month
- National Identity Theft Prevention and Awareness Month
- National Pear Month
- Procrastination Awareness Month
- Read a New Book Month
- Root Vegetables Month
- Safe Toys and Gifts Month
- Sign Up for Summer Camp Month
- Stress-Free Family Holiday Month
- Tomato and Winter Squash Month
- Tropical Fruits Month
- Universal Human Rights Month
- World AIDS Awareness Month
- Write a Friend Month

Weekly

- Hanukkah* (changes yearly and lasts for 8 days)
- National Handwashing Awareness Week (first week)
- National Influenza Vaccination Week* (typically first week)
- Tolerance Week (first full week)
- Human Rights Week (second week)

Daily

- December 23: Festivus, National Roots Day, National Pfeffernüsse Day
- December 24: Christmas Eve, National Egg Nog Day
- December 25: Christmas Day, National Pumpkin Pie Day
- December 26: National Whiners Day, Boxing Day, National Candy Cane Day
- December 27: National Fruitcake Day, Make Cut-Out Snowflakes Day





Do we really want to have the Midas touch?

In modern times, the name Midas is associated with someone who has such good luck that everything seems to go his or her way—and they become rich without even trying. But the original meaning of the King Midas story was very different.



Midas was the king of Phrygia, according to Edith Hamilton's classic book Mythology. Phrygia was the land of roses, and Midas maintained large, beautiful rose gardens near his palace.

One day, the old man Silenus wandered off from Bacchus' caravan because he was intoxicated. The rotund and aging drunkard was found passed out in a bower of roses near the palace. The servants, having a little fun, bound him with garlands of flowers and crowned him with a wreath of roses and took him stumbling and looking ridiculous to King Midas as a great joke.

Midas welcomed Silenus and entertained him for two days. Then the king led the old man back to Bacchus, the god of wine and intoxication, where he belonged. Bacchus was so glad to get Silenus back that he told Midas that whatever wish he made would come true.

Without giving the matter any thought, Midas immediately wished that whatever he touched would turn to gold. Bacchus, being a god, of course, immediately saw the folly of the king's wish, but granted it anyway.

Then Midas sat down at his table to take his dinner, but as he lifted his food to his lips he saw that it had become a lump of metal. Frightened, and beginning to suffer from hunger and thirst, he was forced to hurry off to Bacchus again and beg him to take the favor he had been granted back. Bacchus instructed the king to wash in the source of the river Pactolus and he would lose the fatal gift. The king did so, and that is why, they say, that gold was found in the bed of that river.

And what are we to take from this tale? Midas was not able to profit from his riches because he had committed a folly, which was just as fatal as sin. Even though the poor king meant no harm, he had failed to use his intelligence, and because of that he faced certain doom, had he not begged the gods to rid him of what he had asked for.

The story tells us that failing to use our intelligence can bring us to ruin just as quickly as wrongdoing. That being intoxicated with the so-called "riches" of our world can bring us down quickly, and the best course of action is to stop and think about the consequences of what we are about to ask or wish for.

On giving

Giving frees us from the familiar territory of our own needs by opening our mind to the unexplained worlds occupied by the needs of others.

— Barbara Bush

The habit of giving only enhances the desire to give.

— Walt Whitman



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We have taken steps to limit exposure to the virus by making our customers aware that there is no need to have any contact with our employees if you choose to do so. Our business falls under the state's guidelines as "Essential Business".

We want to build a great relationship with you. Call today for your Free Inspection. (800) 377-7885

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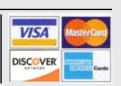
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ACROSS

- 1. It comes in a loaf
- 6. Cobras
- 10. Play parts
- 14. Spooky
- 15. Not the whole
- 16. The central part
- 17. American symbol
- 18. Request
- 19. Hint
- 20. Wealth and success
- 22. Peel
- 23. Rock
- 24. Little kisses
- 25. Pear type
- 29. Retaliated
- 31. Arithmetic mean
- 33. Resident
- 37. Befall
- 38. Born here
- 39. Expunction
- 41. Expunges
- 42. Thin
- 44. Filth
- 45. Select by voting
- 48. Transfer
- 50. Teller of untruths
- 51. Devastation
- 56. Put words
- 57. In the center of
- 58. Insignia
- 59. TTT
- 60. Rubber wheel
- 61. Drama set to classical music
- 62. Makes a mistake
- 63. Cards with one symbol
- 64. Adjust again



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DOWN

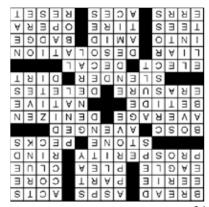
- 1. Toot
- 2. Backside
- 3. Therefore
- 4. Afflicts
- 5. Ocean trenches
- 6. Give permission
- 7. Containing salt
- 8. Make-believe
- 9. Remain
- 10. Licensed
- 11. Infant's illness
- 12. Torso

- 13. Sows
- 21. Knickknack holder
- 24. Prison-related
- 25. Ruth, baseball
- legend
- 26. Not under
- 27. Bristle
- 28. Move back and forth 49. Work hard
- 30. Universal
- 32. No longer a child
- 34. Tubular pasta
- 35. Always
- 36. Bird home

- 40. Confined to certain
- regions
- 41. Deciphers
- 43. Craving
- 45. Gentry
- 46. Protective covering
- 47. Consumer of food
- 51. Information
- 52. Adhesive strip
- 53. Mid-month days
- 54. Beast
- 55. Tidy



December Crossword



A few Christmas questions

: What do elves learn in school?
A: The Elf-abet!

O: If athletes get athletes foot, what do astronauts get?

A: Missletoe!

Q: What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire?

A: Frostbite.

Q: Why was Santa's little helper depressed?

A: Because he had low elf esteem.

Q: Why does Santa have 3 gardens?

A: So he can ho-ho-ho.

Q: Where do polar bears vote?

A: The North Poll.

Q: What do you get when you cross an archer with a gift-wrapper?

A: Ribbon hood.

Q: What kind of bird can write?

A: A PENguin.

Q: What do you call a cat on the beach at Christmas time?

A: Sandy Claus!

Q: How do sheep in Mexico say Merry Christmas?

A: Fleece Navidad!

Q: Why does Santa's sled get such good mileage?

A: Because it has long-distance runners on each side.

Q: What do you call a bunch of grandmasters of chess bragging about their games in a hotel lobby?

A: Chess nuts boasting in an open foyer!

Q: What did the ghosts say to Santa Claus?

A: We'll have a boo Christmas without you.

Q: If Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus had a child, what would he be called?

A: A subordinate Claus. — from AhaJokes.com



FLORIDA ANCHOR AND BARRIER COMPANY

To our valued customers:

During the current times we wanted to let you know that we are taking as many precautions as we can to ensure not only our workers safety but yours as well. We check workers' temperatures each morning and have limited the amount of contact our crews have with each other. Our crews work in Tyvek suits with respirators which helps to ensure your safety as well as theirs.

As a company, we want your business and there is no need for any contact if you so choose. Our business is deemed an "Essential Business" and we are here for you when you need us. You can schedule your inspection by calling 1-800-681-3772.

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Staying fit in old age keeps the brain sharp, study finds

study published in the journal Neurology suggests that keeping physically fit in old age can also keep the brain functioning normally.

"Our study suggests that being physically active in old age could keep



the brain fit," says study author Boukje M. van Gelder.

Physical activity can improve blood flow to the brain and in so doing reduce to

Physical activity can improve blood flow to the brain and in so doing reduce the risk of dementia, stroke and cognitive decline. Activity could stimulate the growth of nerve cells in the hippocampus, the region of the brain involved in memory function. This could help the brain prevent further deterioration, because there is a "reserve" of nerve cells available.

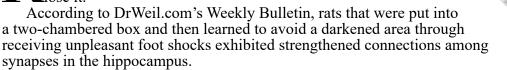
The study included data on 295 men between the ages of 70 and 90, born between 1900 and 1920. The study began in 1990, and the men were tracked for physical activity and mental agility over a 10-year period.

Researchers found:

- Men who reduced their physical activity by an hour or more were 2.6 times more likely to suffer cognitive decline than men who maintained their activity levels.
- Men who performed their physical activity at a lower intensity over a 10-year period were 3.6 times more likely to suffer cognitive decline than those who maintained intensity level.

Researchers prove learning keeps brain physically fit

Researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology have finally proved that when it comes to brainpower the lowdown is "use it or lose it."





Weil says that even though this learning/brain health connection has been suspected for decades—that this evidence actually shows the physical change in the brain when learning takes place.

This is an important piece of evidence that learning keeps the brain physically strong.

On kindness

One kind word can warm three winter months.

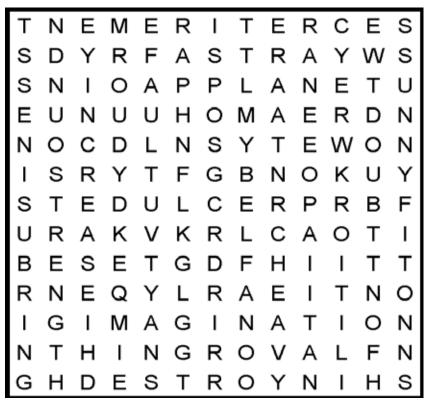
— Japanese proverb

On winter

In the depth of winter, I finally learned that within me there lay an invincible summer.

— Albert Camus

December Word Search



astray	early	imagination	read	strength
	energy	increase	retirement	sunny
beset				sweet
brain	fault	laid	secret	
bring	flavor		share	thing
business	fluid	notice	shiny	trot
	font	notify	sound	
destroy			spud	world
doubt	heavy	planet		
dream		preclude		young
				A .

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EVENTS & PROGRAMS

Ranch Mobile Park, Park-wide Yard Sale, Saturday, December 2nd, 8:00am - 2:00pm at 6800 - 150th Ave. N., Clearwater (Largo)

CRAFT FAIR 12/2/23 10 a.m. to Noon. AMERICANA COVE Clubhouse 7201 1st Street NE Saint Petersburg

CRAFT SHOW, BAKE SALE and RAFFLE. Saturday Dcember 2, 9-1. Southwind MHC, 795 Country Road 1. Palm Harbor, 440,227,5906

CRAFT SHOW/ Lunch. Saturday 12-02-2023, 9am- 1pm, AMBER GLADES Clubhouse, 3113 State Road 580, Safety Harbor



EVENTS & PROGRAMS

CRAFT SHOW/ Lunch. Saturday 12-02-2023, 9am- 1pm, AMBER GLADES Clubhouse, 3113 State Road 580, Safety Harbor

HELLO CANADIANS! Canadian Club Canadien Gulf Coast Florida, having survived COVID, is now regrowing to promote fellowship among Canadians in Pinellas County, and foster goodwill with American people. Join us; for our monthly lunch with informative speakers, weekly golf, MLB game, dinner/theater, museums, deep sea fishing. Your first lunch is FREE! For information, email: cccgcfl@galt.biz.

Craft Sale 12/9/23 9AM -1PM at Ranch Mobile Park Clubhouse. Refreshments and food sale too

The Royal Canadian Legion Post 144 Pinellas County, having survived COVID, is regrowing to continue supporting local Veterans, providing social activities for new and existing Canadian Legion Members. Join us for our monthly Membership Meetings, Remembrance Ceremonies, VSO visits, raids, invasions, MLB dinner/theater. museums. game, etc. For information, email: info@ rclpost144.org.

EVENTS & PROGRAMS

HOLIDAY CRAFTS BIZAAR, Dec 16, 9-2, Pointe West Mobile Home Park, 12651 Seminole Blvd, Largo

Sunset Palms MHP Annual Community Yard Sales, Open Houses, Auction, Raffle. January 27th, Kitchen is open 8-2. Starts in the Clubhouse.

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ATTENTION RESIDENTS!

Did vou know this Emporium/ Classified listing reaches over 21,500 homes in Pinellas County? It goes into 60 community newsletters (just like this one) from Dunedin to St. Petersburg. This is a great market to sell items, advertise your next event, try and get help for a function, and many other things. Remember to think about this the next time you're planning something.

-Monthly Media Staff

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 Advertise BUY, SELL, TRADE ITEMS by sending copy & check to Monthly Media at 220 Bahama St, Venice, FL 34285. Ads over 10 words must be accompanied by \$.80 per extra word or publisher will edit.
 No mobile home sales, no professional products or services. SORRY: No ads accepted by phone or email. DEADLINE: 10th OF EACH MONTH.





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- 3. Mail it back to us at: Monthly Media | 220 Bahama St. Venice, FI 34285
- 4. Every month we draw new tickets for CASH PRIZES and mail winners a check! Every month is a new chance to win!

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Marion Hagen \$10	Ron Wyngarden Mobile Home Wash
Susan Craig \$10	The Plumbing Patrol
Robert Barsotti \$10	Battleline Termite & Pest Control
Larry Ensalaco \$10	Royal Enterprise
	Air Masters of Pinellas
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Duke Ganote \$10	Royal Enterprise
	Battleline Termite & Pest Control
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Gary Allen \$10	Rod Runners
Roxanne Wood \$10	Gulf Coast Pressure Washing
Arlene Hall \$10	Boss Electric
Delores Dwelis \$10	Air Masters of Pinellas

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Kimberley Richey	\$5 .	Boss Electric
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Only in L.A....

man and a woman met at a Hollywood party and began to get to know each other through the usual introductory chitchat.

"Are you in the business?" asked the woman.

"Yes," said the man. "I'm a stunt man. You know. I drive cars off bridges, I jump from cliffs, I fall out of airplanes...things like that."

"Wow!" said the woman. "How do you manage to stay alive?"

"I wait tables in Santa Monica," he said. As retold from Good Clean Jokes



Best excuses when caught sleeping at your desk

- 1. They told me at the blood bank this might happen.
- 2. This is just a 15 minute power-nap like they raved about in the last time-management course you sent me to.
- 3. Whew! Guess I left the top off the liquid paper.
- 4. I wasn't sleeping! I was meditating on the mission statement and envisioning a new paradigm!
- 5. This is one of the seven habits of highly effective people.
- 6. I was testing the keyboard for drool resistance.
- 7. Actually, I'm doing a "Stress Level Elimination Exercise Plan" (SLEEP) I learned at the last mandatory seminar you made me attend.
- 8. I was doing a highly specific yoga exercise to relieve work-related stress. Are you discriminatory about people who practice yoga.
- 9. Darn! Why did you interrupt me? I had almost figured out a solution to our biggest problem.
- 10. The coffee machine is broken...
- 11. Someone must've put decaf in the wrong pot.
- 12. Boy, that cold medicine I took last night just won't wear off.
- 13. Ah, the unique and unpredictable circadian rhythms of the workaholic.
- 14. Wasn't sleeping. Was trying to pick up contact lens without hands.
 - from JeffJustice.com

On success

To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children...to leave the world a better place...to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded.

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

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