

I Need A Pencil



DEBBIE GIBSON

I've got a thing for writing instruments. Be it a pencil, or a pen, I have certain criteria those implements must meet. A good pencil must have a sturdy lead. Accuse me of pressing down too hard, if you will, but nothing is more annoying than a wobbly piece of lead that doesn't recognize the seriousness of the business at hand. Good pencils will also sharpen when asked to do so. No fancy papered pencils. No foil wrapped pencils. No rubbery pencils with googly eyes and fuzzy hair. No mechanical pencils, for the lead in those is designed to break. I will also pull out my own cap eraser if the first attempt at erasure leaves a charcoal-colored mark on my paper. As for pens, the ink must flow, it must not be so large a barrel that I need two hands to hold it. It must be comfortable enough to hold for long lengths of time. The tip must be firm and not able to be squashed like an overripe peach, and the narrower the nib, the better I like it.

I should have prefaced that previous paragraph by saying that I am calculating ways to keep pencils in my classroom this coming school year. I bought four gross of pencils last year, and by SOL time we were lucky to find a piece of pencil with no eraser. I usually found those in the swept up fluff from the hallway. Actually, that is why I always walk with my eyes on the floor. I'm a pencil-seeking missile, and rarely miss my target. I thought about buying a certain color of pencil and having my name put on them. Embossing costs extra. Then, I thought I might buy some plastic flowers and colored duct tape from the Dollar Store and adorn each pencil as a flower so it would be easily spotted, but the eraser would be hard to find and they'd pluck my blossoms. I know they would. I toyed with the idea of exchanging the pencil for something of value from the student. I figured that would go over like a lead balloon. These were the imagined conversations:

"Here's you a pencil and fine cap eraser. Top quality. Trust me. I know. Now, give me your shoe. No wait! Don't take your shoe off. What do you

mean you don't wear socks in the summer? Give me your phone." "My PHONE! For a pencil? I'd rather write with my own blood." "Well then, give me your glasses. No, wait! If you give me your glasses, you won't be able to see what you're going to write with my precious pencil. Just give me your lunch money."

"Lunch money? What if I forget to get it back? I'll starve! I'll weigh less at the end of the year than I did at the beginning; and my mom is not going to like this one bit."

"OK. OK. Keep your lunch money. How about giving me your coat?"

"My COAT? It's always freezing in here, Ms. Deb, and I don't get hot flashes like you do. I don't have to fan myself. In fact, I'd have to curl up in a ball like a wintering black bear if I gave you my coat. No way."

"OK. Stay bundled up for the arctic blast that is known as second period. Give me your homemade slime in exchange for one of my pristine writing instruments."

"My SLIME? No way! I need that slime to distract me from life and all of its hardships. I MADE that slime and I bought the glitter I put in it. It's like the evidence that I have been here and existed. Quick, think of something else."

"How about, how about...the Little Debbie raisin crême pie in your lunch box?"

"I was going to eat that in just a minute. A kid gets hungry between breakfast and lunch."

"OK, class will soon be over if we continue this conversation, so will you just swear an oath to me that if I give you a fine, fine pencil and a cap eraser, you will love, honor and cherish said pencil until it will no longer sharpen in the sharpener?"

"Gosh, I don't want to marry it, Ms. Deb. Gee whiz!"

No, none of those ideas will work for me or my students. I've just decided to buy six gross of pencils and about half that many cap erasers. I'll announce the first day of school that if anyone is need of fine writing implement topped with the greatest eraser in the world, to see me. I'll give them out like hugs. That should work.

Rueben



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Support Group For Female Survivors Of Sexual Assault

Women survivors of sexual assault are invited to attend regular support group meetings or individual support if you prefer. Survivors meet in a safe environment with other women who have had similar experiences. Clinch Valley Community Action, Inc. Family Crisis Services knows and understands what a survivor is going through. The fact that you are alive and reading this means that you are incredibly strong, courageous and intelligent. We are here to aid in the recovery process with individual support sessions. Please call and let us help. We are a confidential service. For information, call Ranetta Davis (276) 889-8206 or Haley Slade at (276) 988-5583.

Recovery Program

Recovery Program every Thursday evening at Lebanon Community Fellowship Church. Supper starts at 6:00 p.m., Worship begins at 7:00 p.m., various open sharing groups start at 8:15 p.m. and all activities conclude around 9:30 p.m. Child care is available.

74th HHS Reunion

74th Honaker High School Reunion will be held June 29th, 12:00 p.m. at the Bonanza Restaurant in Lebanon, VA. Everyone welcome.

77th Annual Counts Family Reunion

The 77th Counts Family Reunion combined with the Sutherland/Dye Reunion will be held on Saturday, August 4, 2018 beginning at 10:00 a.m. The Reunion will be held at Sandlick Presbyterian Church in Birchleaf, VA. The church is at 159 Olney Levada Rd. off of Hwy. 80. All descendants of John Counts (17??-1803) of Glade Hollow, VA are invited to attend along with descendants of William B Sutherland and George Dye. Anyone having artifacts or photos are encouraged to bring them. There will be a covered dish dinner, so bring your favorite dish. For additional information visit www.countsfamilyreunion.org or email Gail Marney at gmarney@yahoo.com.

Meade Reunion

Meade Reunion Sunday, July 1 at N.C. Meade picnic shelter, 276-202-8118. Everyone welcome.

Patrick Family Reunion

The Bolden and Bertram Patrick Family Reunion will be held on Saturday, July 7th in the community room behind the Lebanon, VA Town Hall. All family and friends are urged to come and join us for a day of fun and fellowship. Please bring a covered dish, drinks, etc. Hope to see you there.

Community Movie Nights Begin July 4

By Heather Powers

The Russell County Prevention Coalition is getting ready for summer community movie nights and will participate in other events this summer.

During their regular monthly meeting held Thursday, the group noted that the movie Coco will be on the big screen at the Lebanon Middle School lawn after the July 4 fireworks.

On Aug. 3 there will be a showing of the movie Peter Rabbit in partnership with Shentel in Castlewood. The place is currently to be determined so watch for details to be released soon about this movie night.

The coalition will participate with the Mountain Movers cook out on July 16 at 6 p.m. at the Lebanon Farmers Market. This will be a time of food, games and fellowship for the community.

The coalition will also participate in special events at the Farmer's Market on June 30 and July 14.

Dylan Smith from Elite Grappling was present at the meeting to learn more about substance abuse prevention in Russell County.

Dylan provides alternative activities to youth through athletic training, MMA and wrestling skills building.

Appalachian Substance Abuse Coalition Chair Linda Austin also reported during the meeting that she often times shares what is happening in Russell County with other groups because the local efforts here are so inspiring.

She further noted that the ASAC Faith Community Initiative featuring Scott County will be at the Family Life Center at First Baptist Church in Weber City.

The next meeting of the Russell County Prevention Coalition is July 17 at 6 p.m. at the Russel County Conference Center.

All interested are welcome.

LHS Class Of 1978 40th Year Class Reunion

Where: Vincent's Vineyard, 2313 E. Main St., Lebanon, VA.

When: Saturday, August 11, 2018.

Time: Social Hour: 4:00 – 6:00 p.m., Dinner: 6:00 p.m.

Cost: \$28 per person/\$55 per couple.

Please make your reservation for Lebanon High School Class of 1978 Reunion by July 20, 2018. You can send payment to: Fred Adkins, 5802 Francis Marie Court, Summerville, NC 27358. Check out our Facebook page "Lebanon HS Class of 1978 40th Reunion".

VBS At Lebanon Memorial United Methodist Church

Lebanon Memorial United Methodist Church Vacation Bible School "Shipwrecked – Rescued by Jesus" will be July 9-13, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. For more information call 276-889-2721.

VBS At Bethel Baptist Church

Vacation Bible School, Splash Country will be held at Bethel Baptist Church, Lebanon, located beside RCC&TC, on July 8th thru 13th, 6:00-8:30 p.m. Everyone welcome.

New Pastor

Sulphur Springs United Methodist Church is proud to announce that effective July 1st, 2018 Patrick Kelly will be our new Pastor. Please come out and join us in welcoming him to our church family. Services will be as follows every Sunday:

Sunday school begins at 10:00 a.m. with Mike Campbell; and Preaching at 11:00 a.m. with Patrick Kelly.

Date Changed To July 14th For Yard/Hot Dog Sale

Yard/Hot Dog Sale at Emmanuel Baptist Church, Cleveland Rd., Lebanon, VA July 14, 2018, 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

If you would like to donate anything for the Sale please call Brenda Fleming at 889-2863, or Joyce Lawrence 889-3864/880-4230 for pick up or can leave at church.

All donations greatly appreciated. For more information about hot dog sale call Neomia Smith at 889-1105.

Honaker Independence Celebration

The Town of Honaker, along with the Honaker Lions Club, would like to invite everyone to this year's Celebration on Saturday, July 7th. All activities will be on the lot beside Pizza Plus on Rt. #67. Entertainment begins at 4:00 p.m. with Fireworks at 10:00 p.m. Vendor spaces are still available. For more information, call the Town Hall at 873-6556 or 873-7393 (evenings).

Revival

Revival at The Church of the Most High God, 18272 Hwy 58, Castlewood, VA, with Brother Donald Harding, Jr. still in progress thru through Saturday, June 30th at 6:30 p.m. nightly. Everyone welcome.

Singing At The Promise Land

Singing at The Promise Land, Belfast, VA Saturday, July 14th, 6:00 p.m. with Mike Upright, Phillips & Banks, and Chris Holder & Journey Home. No Admission Charge. For more information call 423-483-3031 or 276-880-1044 or www.promiseinfo.com. Bring a lawn chair. Tend provided and concessions available.

Four County Transit Closed July 4th

Four County Transit will be closed with no buses running on Wednesday, July 4, 2018. Regular route service will resume on Thursday, July 5, 2018.

Cleveland Independence Celebration

Town of Cleveland Annual Independence Day Celebration is on July 3, 2018 from 4pm to 11pm at Cleveland Recreation Center (Ballfield), Family Fun, Music, Activities, Parade, Food, Fireworks. We also have our 1st Annual Cleveland Baby & Miss Firecracker Pageant on July 2nd 2018 at 6:30pm. The entry fee is \$25 and due by June 28, 2018. Contact 276-889-4365 or visit www.clevelandva.com for more info.

TAKE A PIONEER ADVENTURE THROUGH VIRGINIA



Lebanon Elementary School's 21st Century Community Learning Center Summer Program

ALL Lebanon Elementary School Students are invited to attend free of charge

JUNE 13 TH -JULY 20 TH 8:30 AM-12:30 PM BREAKFAST AND LUNCH PROVIDED	OPENING DAY GAMES DAILY CHALLENGES PETTING ZOO STORY TELLERS HANDS-ON ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES WEEKLY FIELD TRIPS FREE PIONEER T-SHIRT
CLOSED JULY 4, 2018 FOR OBSERVANCE OF INDEPENDENCE DAY SIGN UP TODAY!	

For more information, contact:

Kristi Clark, 21st CCLC Site Coordinator at 276-889-6531 or kclark@russell.k12.va.us

Remote Area Medical (RAM) Massive Free Health Care Outreach

The Health Wagon with a host of community involvement will be providing a FREE massive health care outreach with Remote Area Medical (RAM) on July 20, 21, and 22 at the Wise County Fair Grounds in Wise, VA. Some of the many services that will be offered are complete eye exams, prescription glasses, dental fillings, extractions, cleanings, hearing exams, hearing aids, chest x-ray, ultrasounds, bone density, lab work, mammograms, pap smears, in addition to medical exams and exams to be provided by health care providers. These services will be provided for the uninsured, underinsured, and unemployed and those who cannot afford to pay. ALL services are FREE of charge. Registration will begin at 6:00am daily and services will be provided on a first come, first serve basis. For more information, call 276-328-8850.