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From Aggravated Assault to Dental Drama

Runaway 'Dentist' Dodges Detection

While TikTok may be a go-to app for funny videos, it's probably not the best way to find a new dentist.

Last year, Texas-based "dentist" Nikki Calloway used TikTok to generate buzz for her business, ISmilez Cosmetic Designz. The campaign attracted new patients, including one who scheduled an appointment after receiving a \$1,350 quote from Calloway to have 16 teeth removed, replaced, and a bridge added. There was only one problem: "Nikki Calloway" wasn't a licensed dentist. In reality, she was Juanetta Solomon, a notorious local felon with a long history of crime. The botched dental surgery left the patient dizzy, bleeding, and with a tooth that fell out shortly afterward — and prompted Solomon to go on the run from the law.

According to authorities, Solomon had operated her "dentistry" office while out on bond for a weapons charge. Her past

offenses include assault with a deadly weapon, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, and unlawful carrying of a weapon by a felon — and that was just in 2023 and 2024! In one infamous case, she was accused of shooting at her boyfriend's former girlfriend. Her record also includes a December 2016 conviction for the delivery of a controlled substance.

"Juanetta Solomon is the definition of a career habitual offender," commented Andy Kahan, director of victim services and advocacy at Crime Stoppers of Houston, in a story on Katy Magazine Online. "She's been in prison multiple times in different counties, so it's no surprise she is once again wanted. Her latest offense is extremely brutal, pretending to be a dentist [and] causing undue pain and stress on individuals, so the quicker we get her back in custody, the less anyone has to suffer as a result of her criminal conduct."



Law enforcement was still attempting to capture Solomon at the time of this writing. Her bizarre turn as a "dentist" serves as a chilling reminder that Google and a little research — not social media — are the best tools to determine whether your chosen provider is a professional or someone destined for prison.



Secrets From a Divorce Lawyer

Top Tips to Strengthen Your Marriage Before It's Too Late

Jan. 25 is Opposite Day. Since I spend most of my time helping people exit their marriages, I decided the most appropriate "opposite" I could offer is my tips on how to keep a marriage together. Really, it's not as crazy as it sounds. When a client comes in for a divorce, one of the things we end up talking about is what they would have needed to stay married and what final event was the thing that ended their marriage. So, without further ado, here is a divorce attorney giving you five steps that you can take to help keep your marriage together.

No. 1 — Prioritize quality time together.

Life comes at us hard and heavy. Anything that is not a priority ends up eventually dropping off our calendars for good. Make a regular date with your partner a priority. That means saying "no" to other demands that interfere. It also means that if you always go out on Friday night, and you have an unavoidable conflict, you make time to go out on Thursday instead, rather than just scrapping the date for that week. Make a list of fun things to do together and hit every item on the list.

No. 2 — Have meaningful conversations.

It is important to go over your calendars together and schedule when things are going to happen, but healthy communication goes beyond logistics or small talk. Make sure that you have deep conversation about what matters as well. Talk about your aspirations, challenges, and personal goals. Share your thoughts on parenting, discipline, and the future you envision for your family. Don't shy away from topics like frustrations, dreams, or worries. When both partners feel heard and understood, it fosters a greater sense of connection.

No. 3 — Discuss major financial decisions together.

Disagreements over how much effort is put into earning money or how to spend it are some of the most common causes of divorce. If you are considering a major purchase or a change in job make sure that you discuss it with your spouse ahead of time. How much is a major purchase? That's a good discussion to have too. Significant purchases or investments should be a joint decision even if you've divided financial responsibilities. Transparency in financial matters builds trust, while "surprise" expenses lead to resentment. If you and your spouse have agreed to keep separate finances, revisit the issue occasionally and make sure that you are both still okay with who is responsible for what expense and how much disposable income you both have.



No. 4 — Stand by your partner.

If someone is talking trash about your spouse, they are trashing you, too. Your spouse needs to know that you are there for them and that you are on their side. This is especially true if the person criticizing them is a member of your family. Whether your spouse is there to hear the criticism or not, defend them as you would defend yourself. In a healthy marriage, spouses should have each other's backs. This doesn't mean ignoring valid concerns. It's about showing loyalty to your partner. When you show support for each other, it strengthens your bond and lets them know they can count on you.

No. 5 — Take care of your own mental health.

While this may not seem like marriage advice, self-care is crucial for a strong relationship. Neglecting your personal well-being adds to issues such as anxiety, depression, and burnout, all of which make it hard to really take care of your marriage. Prioritizing self-care by managing stress, pursuing hobbies, and maintaining physical health can enhance the emotional and mental stability you bring into your relationship.

-Ruby Bolton

Babies Delivered Via Mail?

How America’s Youngest Were Once Mailed to Grandma’s

Oh, the good old days of 1913, when the U.S. Post Office decided to let just about anything — and we mean anything — go through the mail. Imagine a time when sending eggs, bricks, and even your college laundry via post was the norm. When the U.S. Post Office first began offering parcel service, one of the first packages sent was a brindle English bulldog!

But of course, it gets stranger. The initial days of the Parcel Post service saw creative shipping solutions, including more than one instance of a surprise opossum delivery in Flushing, Queens. Then, parents short on cash or time decided to do something truly questionable: shipping their own children.



In those early days, some parents took the phrase “special delivery” to a new level by mailing their kids! Just a few weeks after the service began, one Ohio couple decided their 8-month-old son, James, needed to visit Grandma and figured the mail was the best way to get him there. Weighing in just under the 11-pound limit, baby James cost a mere 15 cents to mail. Talk about a budget-friendly travel option!

If it’s any consolation, parents didn’t hand off these pint-sized parcels to strangers. In most cases, the local mail carriers in these rural communities were well-known to the families

and trusted with these precious deliveries. Take 5-year-old May Pierstorff, who was mailed about 75 miles to her grandparents. Or 3-year-old Maude Smith, who traveled from Caney to Jackson, Kentucky, with snacks in hand and a shipping label sewn to her dress.

It wasn’t until after several instances and a good deal of head-scratching by the postal authorities that regulations tightened up. Parents could no longer avoid train ticket costs by handing their kids to the local postal carrier.

Today, thankfully, we have more sensible travel options for our kids. The days of slapping stamps on their clothing and waving as they disappear with the mail are long gone. But the stories we have from those early days of mail mischief are sure to remind us that thrifty parents will go to any lengths to save a few dimes!

Unpack America’s Quirkiest State Laws

From Forbidden Fortune Telling to Sandwich Shop Silence

Every state has its own bizarre laws, and while they make for a fun read, the fact is that these rules were once created to address some specific “problem!” From unusual dress codes for hot dog vendors in Florida to bizarre regulations about fighting birds in Indiana, every state has its share of head-scratchers. Let’s take a stroll through six of the wackiest laws — you can’t make this stuff up!

Quiet Hours for Sandwich Lovers

In Arkansas, think twice before honking your horn at a sandwich shop after 9 p.m. This law might have stemmed from one too many late-night sandwich cravings disturbing the peace. So, keep your sandwich enthusiasm to a respectable volume!

Dress Code for Hot Dog Vendors

In Florida, hot dog vendors must think twice about skimpy wardrobes as a marketing tactic. Dressing provocatively is

a no-go, as it’s considered a serious traffic hazard. So, those planning to sell hot dogs should keep their attire conservative to avoid stirring up more than just appetites.

Fight Back Birds in Indiana

In Indiana, you can only throw a rock at a bird if you’re defending yourself. Hopefully, you’ll never find yourself in such a peculiar predicament (or Hitchcockian nightmare), but it’s good to know the law’s got your back — just in case.

No Clairvoyance in Cedar Rapids

Fancy yourself a fortune teller in Cedar Rapids, Iowa? Think again. Practices like palm reading or phrenology are off limits, preserving the town’s focus on the tangible here and now rather than the mystical future.

Grease Is the Word in North Carolina

In North Carolina, stealing over \$1,000 of used restaurant grease is a felony.



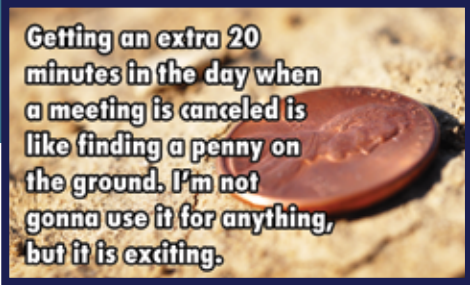
Yes, **used** grease! As biodiesel’s popularity rises, so does the value of this slippery commodity — so keep your hands away from the grimy fryer vats.

Oklahoma’s Animal Antics

And finally, in Oklahoma, you’d better not find yourself tripping a horse or wrestling a bear. Engaging in or even promoting these dangerous and unusual animal antics is illegal. It’s all fun and games until someone gets a bear hug they didn’t ask for!

So, next time you think you’ve heard it all, remember: The law books might have a few more surprises waiting for you.

TAKE A *BREAK*



CITRUS OLIVE OIL CAKE

Inspired by GimmeSomeOven.com



Ingredients

- 1 cup almond flour
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 2/3 cup medium-grind cornmeal
- 1 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp sea salt
- 3 eggs
- 3/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1/2 tsp almond extract
- Zest of 1 lemon, plus 2 tbsp juice
- Zest of 1 orange, plus 2 tbsp juice
- Powdered sugar, optional

Directions

- Heat oven to 350 F. Line the bottom of a 9-inch springform pan with parchment and lightly grease the sides with cooking spray.
- In a large mixing bowl, whisk almond flour, sugar, cornmeal, baking powder, and salt until combined.
- In another bowl, whisk eggs, olive oil, vanilla, almond extract, and lemon and orange zest and juice. Combine the wet ingredients with the dry ingredients.
- Pour batter into the springform pan. Bake for 35–40 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Let cool for 15 minutes.
- Run a knife gently around the edges of the cake, then remove the sides of the pan. If desired, dust cake with powdered sugar using a fine-mesh strainer.

SHINING THE LIGHT ON Lighthouse Parenting

A Balanced Approach to Raising Independent Children

Among the countless parenting styles out there, an approach called “lighthouse parenting” is a beacon for guiding children through life’s turbulent waters while giving them the space to navigate on their own. While it may sound ideal, is it the right parenting style for your kids?

What is lighthouse parenting?

Coined by Dr. Ken Ginsburg, a professor of pediatrics at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, lighthouse parenting is a philosophy detailed in his book “Raising Kids to Thrive.” This approach emphasizes a balance of nurturing and communicating with children while allowing them the freedom to grow independently. Just as a lighthouse guides without steering the ship itself, lighthouse parents offer direction and ensure safety without overly controlling their children’s lives.

It advocates for a balanced approach.

Lighthouse parenting positions itself in the sweet spot on the parenting spectrum — not as overbearing as helicopter parenting nor as detached as free-range parenting. It focuses on being emotionally present and available, providing a safe space for children to bring up issues and learn from their experiences. This method involves:

- Checking in Regularly:** Ensuring open lines of communication.
- Encouraging Autonomy:** Allowing kids the freedom to make decisions and learn from the outcomes.
- Promoting Resilience:** Supporting children as they navigate challenges, helping them to develop coping skills and independence.

Parents set boundaries and offer support.

Unlike authoritarian parenting, which might stifle a child’s sense of independence, lighthouse parenting encourages self-reliance through trust and minimal but firm boundaries. Parents provide the framework, trusting the kids to make good decisions. This method helps to build a robust support system where children know they have the safety net of their parents’ guidance when needed.

Keep the Light On

Adopting the lighthouse method involves unconditional love paired with expectations and boundaries. It’s about guiding children through the complexities of growing up without removing the essential experiences that teach them about life. Of course, no single parenting style is perfect for every child. How you reinforce lighthouse parenting depends entirely on your child’s needs and developmental trajectory. Ultimately, lighthouse parenting aims to prepare children to thrive independently, ensuring they know the way back to shore, no matter how far away they sail.

