

Friday Follies 06/21/02

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Hey!

It's summertime!!! Scraps on the walk, in one of her 100 favorite spots.

Maggie in her favorite spot, Bob in his...

And our garden in its early stages.

Well three cars purchased thus far this summer....can you believe that? JP had to replaced his after his wreck, Jessica had to replace hers after her wreck, and Jeremy just needed a new vehicle. Jeremy is staying with us this summer and saving his money to go back to Colorado Mountain College in the Fall and begin his new major, Resort Management. It is nice to have him home for awhile. He plans to live and work in Steamboat Springs, Colorado while going to school. (Tara, look after him!) You should hear him talk about snowboarding to work at Keystone every morning last year. Really cool. And his major will help ensure that he gets to do that kind of thing for quite some time!

Jessica has decided instead of spending mega-bucks for out of state tuition to attend the College of Charleston next fall, she will just stay put. She loves Virginia Beach and plans to continue her studies at Old Dominion University where I received my masters. It is nice to have her around, too.

Jessica and Jeremy in 1987

Jessica and Jeremy 2002

We went to see George Jones in concert last week along with Brad Paisley, Lorrie Morgan, and Sammy Kershaw. (Hey, Ralph. Are George and Garth still your clients?) It was a great show! George is personal friends of one of my best friends, and he donated the show and the proceeds to their family foundation, The Charmarie Sims Foundation. They were very pleased as many said they would not make \$ on it, especially since it was the first time they had tried something like this. Guess what! They spent \$11,000 on ads, etc., and netted over \$40,000. They have already started expanding their plans for next year's event. These same friends have just put up a new web-site showing their race car. (What a hobby!) It is very sharp! If you get a second, look it up at kandwracing.com

Monday night we went to the Tides baseball game, and when we looked up at one of the sky boxes, there was Governor Warner. Later, JP got him to sign a baseball for a friend who was with us at the game celebrating his 56th birthday. Well, that started it...every kid in the stands pulled out their baseball and approached him. He looked at me and said, "What? Is this baseball night?" I just laughed and said, "Well, actually, Mark, it is!" He spent the next 45 minutes autographing baseballs. Really cute.

Congratulations are in order for Michelle Lyons, one of my very dear friends who landed the national travel account for NASA a few years ago. Yesterday, she e-mailed me that "Last night we had our company meeting and they blew me away by naming an 'Award' after me, 'The Michele Lyons Career Leadership Service Award.' I about fell out. I'm so stunned that I still can't believe it. Plus we won office of the Year!!!" Michelle has had, as have all travel agents, a very hard time since September 11th, so this was especially sweet.

Some of you may know Michelle's father, Admiral Lyons. He was in charge of the entire Pacific Fleet before he retired a few years back. What an interesting man he is.

And I thought I would include a few photos from an impromptu back yard cook-out we had a couple of weeks ago. We had bought a new "chimenea"(spelling?) for the deck and didn't have enough time to assemble it before the party. I told JP to, " Just leave it and the tools on the deck, and while guests are sitting there talking, I'll bet they pitch in and put the thing together--sorta like a game. People love something to work on like that." Well, sure enough, they did.

Here is the work in progress...

And here is the finished product.
Shep, Wendy, Robert, and "Big Mike"

What fun they had.

Now every time they come to our house, they will look at it and remember the fun they had putting it together.

Unfortunately, we lost another good friend this month. Donna Rowe was a beautiful, intelligent, classy, fun-loving 42 year old, executive vice president and commercial lender for a bank here in Virginia Beach. She and Tom were married about the same time JP and I were. Actually, she became ill around the first of this year, and it has been a long, hard spring for Tom and loved ones. Chad, Marta, and Morgan, I just wanted to say that your eulogies were astounding and beautiful tributes to a beautiful lady. Donna will be missed by all who knew her smiling face.

On a final note...I finished the Follies earlier in the week, but when I saw this photo on the front page of the *Virginian Pilot* this morning, I had to include it.

The most unbelievable fire I have ever seen. I have not heard from my nephew, Allen, since he left for Colorado two weeks ago. Please pray for our firefighters in Colorado, California, Montana, New Mexico, Arizona, and now, also in South Carolina.

Allen had some of the most unbelievable stories when he returned from Montana last year. He said the air was so dry and the wind so high, that these "Monster Fires" would shoot sparks, which were actually embers that reacted much like grenades, as far as a quarter of a mile ahead and would immediately start new fires. Last summer, one of his fellow firefighters got trapped in one of these "in between" areas. When the fires crept closer, he realized he had no way out, so he dug a trench and covered himself up with the dirt. There was no way to escape. The fire engulfed him, and even though as soon as they could rescue him and carry him to an emergency facility, he died soon after.

Pray for our firefighters.

Remember, life is short...we need to make it a good one.
Grow in peace and wisdom.
Your Friday Friend,

Judi Godsey

PS. NOTE OF CAUTION... 20 employees were fired from The New York Times here in Norfolk for sending lewd and indecent e-mails. (To my knowledge, none of the 20 were on our list - even though some of the attorneys who represent the company were!) I have asked each and every one of you on this list to tell me if these "Follies" place you in jeopardy, or even if they offend you. Please understand that they are intended to be light-hearted and are not mean-spirited in any way. If you are ever offended, do not hesitate to ask to be taken off the Friday list.

PSS. If you send a joke and I don't use it, it is because it has been used before, and I try not to repeat. Remember, I have been sending these since August of 1997. You tend to go through huge numbers of jokes that way.

Disclaimer: When anyone asks if I type all of these jokes, the answer is, "No!" I cut and paste one evening during the week (30 minutes, TOPS). I don't have time to sit, read, and retype jokes all day! If you would like to see a small portion of what I actually do, look up our homepage at www.chcs.pvt.k12.va.us and check out the Soundings section, a publication I produce four times a year which pretty much recaps most of what I am involved in.

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