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Greetings,

I have discovered an important fact in my life, it is easier to deal with adversity if you inject a little humor. Here we go.... *Due to the quarantine, I will only be sharing inside jokes this year.*

As we all know, 2020 has been a challenging year for all. We are no exception. At the time of this writing, we are considered non-essential and required to shut down. That will NOT be happening unless forced to by the authorities. You and I know we are essential, but our opinions apparently do not count.

I'd tell you a Coronavirus joke, but you'll need to wait two weeks to see if you got it.

We are operating short handed again. I had Terri back working remotely but she had to bail on us at the last minute. Noel decided to retire from tax prep after last year and Chris went on to pursue other avenues. Your patience will be greatly appreciated.

The World Health Organization announced that dogs cannot contract Covid-19. Dogs previously held in quarantine can now be released. In short, WHO let the dogs out.

Speaking of dogs, Teddy is our official greeter and loves his job. As you may know, he is very large. He's just a large "Teddy" Bear. He is harmless. Fear not.

The grocery stores in France look like tornadoes hit them. All that is left is de brie.

We are encouraging drop offs again this year. As much as I enjoy catching up with folks this time of year, our time is limited. We are looking at preparing 1,800 returns this year with a limited staff. Drop off speeds the process for all. By the way, If you absolutely need an appointment, I will not have appointment hours from March 27th on, so plan ahead.

I hate it when people ask me where I will be in 5 years. I do not have 2020 vision.

Please remember to write notes for us regarding changes during the year and any questions for next year. Again, my crystal ball is sometimes fuzzy when it comes to recalling earlier discussions.

I noticed that the cover of my ironing board was wrinkled and laughed at the irony. Then I laughed again because of the word "Irony."

When you drop off information for us after hours, please use the mail slot in the door. The black mailbox belongs to our Snow Leopard neighbors. Please do not share your info with them.

There is a strange new trend at our office. People are putting names on food in the fridge. Today I had a sandwich named Gloria.

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By now most of you know we moved the office and separated from Block. Our new office is actually our old office in Boyes Hot Springs. If you need further info you can call us at 939-8259 or check our website: www.wjeffspencercpa.com The separation from Block was quite ugly with Block destroying our computer network. It took me three weeks to get the systems running enough to meet the July 15th, 2020 deadline. Given that, we may ask you for information that we should have, but do not.

Do you know what the Kids from 2020 B.C. have in common with the Kids today? Both had tablets.

What is different this year are the tax laws. The virus caused several tax law changes. Most changes will help us, but some won't. The biggest change relates to the stimulus payment we received earlier in the year. That payment was an advance of your 2020 refund. Based on your 2020 income, we will need to calculate whether you qualified for the stimulus payment. If you received one and do not qualify based on 2020 income, you will need to repay the payment. If you did not receive one and qualify for it, you will receive it in your 2020 refund.

Did you know that your chances of survival during this pandemic depends on the common sense of others? Be afraid, be very afraid.

Along that line, if you need an extension, please let us know. Do not assume we will file one for you. Given the change, we will not know if you went to Block (or somewhere else) to get your returns done unless you let us know you are coming. Do not ASS-U-ME. By the way, you will most likely receive some sort of communication from Block. The reports of my retirement are premature. We are still here.

What do you call panic-buying of sausage and cheese in Germany? A Wurst Kase scenario.

Another time to panic is when you receive a letter from the government. Please avoid the urge to take a picture of the letter and send it to us. Pictures seldom are legible enough to read. Please scan and email the letter, snail mail it to us, drop it off, or fax it to us.

Why do they call it the Novel coronavirus? It is a long story....

Another thing that can be long is the waiting time to get ahold of me. As I previously wrote, we are short-handed. I receive an ungodly number of emails and phone calls a day. I do what I can to provide quick turn around time but I am not always successful. If your information is in house, I will probably wait to call you back when I have your return in front of me. Your patience and cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Finland has closed their borders. No one will be crossing the finish line this year.

Our finish line is April 15th so far. This is subject to change. This year we will not have a cut-off date. Please get your info to us as soon as possible. I would rather surprise you by getting your returns done than disappoint you by not doing so. We will do our best to complete your returns.

Wishing you a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jeff", is located at the bottom of the page.