

PrimeLifeTimes

Informative . Engaging . Positive

For Active Lifestyles



by Les Woodrum

Above: Seagull at Thunder Hole with the Otter Cliffs in the background.

COASTAL MAINE and Acadia National Park are crown gems of the North Atlantic coast. From rocky seashores, lighthouses, mountain lakes, forests, and quaint seaside fishing villages to the most fantastic sunrises you will ever see, this is a must-see destination. Acadia National Park is in northeastern Maine. It's a short drive from Portland or Bangor, Maine. The 47,000-acre park is located on Desert Island. Besides Acadia National Park, the island has nu-

merous towns and fishing villages. My home base for this trip was Bar Harbor, Maine. You could see Nova Scotia from our hotel room. Acadia National Park is the fifth smallest National Park, but the fifth most visited National Park in the Country. The normal entry fee or National Parks pass is required for entry, but a timed entry pass was not required to enter the park. However, if you want to drive to the top of Cadillac Mountain, you do need to make a reservation. Sunrise and sunset times go quickly. I did not know about

the timed entry requirement for Cadillac Mountain until about a week prior to my visit. The park and neighboring communities also have strict limits on RV vehicle size and parking. Acadia features the *Park Loop Road*. It is a 27-mile road that will take you to within walking distance of the sites along the seashore. Where the road travels along the seashore, the road is one-way. On the one-way section, you can park almost anywhere along the right side of the road. The road turns and takes you through the lakes, forests, and mountain views. This section is a two-lane road. There is also a 45-mile network of trails called "Carriage Roads." These trails are strictly for hiking and biking. Acadia was a summer playground for the ultra-rich in the early 1900's. John D. Rockefeller provided funding to build the carriage roads. Another highlight of Acadia and Desert Island is all the quaint harbor towns. Bar Harbor is adjacent to Acadia. There are blocks of shops and stores that offer a unique variety of anything you are looking for. When in Maine, one should have a love of lobster and seafood. I had lobster for almost every meal. Because of bad weather and tornadoes at O'Hare, our flight home was canceled, and our trip

Please see Acadia on page A-15

Left: Jordan Pond in the interior of the park with mountains and lush forests in the background.
Right: Early morning in downtown Bar Harbor.



LIFESTYLES

Mark & Friends

Mirror, Mirror: Finding Freedom and Practical Faith in the Perfect Law

Have you ever wondered why it is so easy to listen to an inspiring message or read a challenging Bible passage, only to completely forget the truth of it the moment life gets busy?

Western culture often teaches us to consume information passively, yet the Gospel demands an entirely different approach—one where our daily actions consistently match the truths we claim to believe.

On a recent segment of Mark & Friends (aired Friday, July 3), Mark was joined by Pastor Rick Mulkins, retired Judge Chris Donnelly, Deanne, and a room of other friends for a continued study through James, chapter 1. The group sat down to reflect on a powerful truth from James 1:22—“Do not merely listen to the word and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.” This timeless verse took on a fresh meaning as the panel compared hearing God’s Word to looking into a mirror, noting that the ultimate goal of Scripture is not simple awareness, but deep personal transformation.

The Bible acts as a mirror, showing us exactly where our lives need to better reflect Christ. True deception occurs when people look closely at their reflection, walk away, and immediately forget what they look like. To illustrate this, Judge Donnelly shared how frequently people view themselves as the exception to the rule, choosing to step outside of boundaries and quickly finding themselves in legal or spiritual bondage. Conviction is not meant to condemn us, but rather to serve as permission to repent and walk back into alignment with God.

Ultimately, our lives are a matter of daily stewardship. True faith is expressed through our actions—including how we guard our speech, care for widows and orphans, and remain unstained by the world. Following Jesus is not simply about an empty, formal religion; it is about a vibrant, personal relationship with him.

Using the group’s discussion as a template, we can envision a clear blueprint for remaining an-



chored and living out what we have heard:

Embrace Guardrails Over Bondage. Stop viewing God’s commands as burdensome or restrictive. Just like guardrails on a dangerous mountain road, his perfect law is designed to protect you from the enemy, keep you safe, and lead you into true freedom.

Tighten the Rein on Your Tongue. Recognize that your everyday speech is a primary indicator of your spiritual health. Commit to using words that honor Christ, build others up, and accurately reflect your internal faith to the surrounding world.

Look After Those in Need. Move your faith from personal consumption into practical, hands-on service. Actively seek out ways to love and care for widows, orphans, or any lonely neighbors who are currently carrying heavy burdens. ♦

For the full conversation and for a full archive of Mark & Friends, visit www.greatnewsradio.org.

Trivia Quiz

See answers on A-15

1. Who formalized the use of zero, using it in astronomical calculations?

2. What famous American established the Canadian postal system and has appeared on Canadian postal stamps?

3. Where did the philosopher Plato get his name, and what does it mean?

4. Who founded Apple Computers (later Apple) in San Cupertino, California, in 1976? Hint: Steve Jobs, Steve Wozniak, and their partner _____.

5. What was abolitionist and liberator Harriet Tubman’s original name?

6. What profession did actor Harrison Ford practice before (and after) becoming a famous actor?

FRIDAY EDITION OF

MARK & FRIENDS!

GREAT FRIENDS. GREAT CONVERSATION. GREAT RADIO!

1. GOOD VIBES & GREAT COMPANY!

It's Friday... let's make it a good one!

Always laughs with friends!

Great sharing & learning!

2. ON THE AIR & LOVING IT!

Come join us!

You never know what we'll talk about next!

That's what makes it fun!

3. REAL PEOPLE. REAL TALK.

I never thought about that verse that way!

Great question!

I just came to listen...

Tune in Friday's at 7:32 am, re-aired at 7:32 pm.

HAVE A FANTASTIC WEEKEND!

MARK & FRIENDS

WHERE FRIENDS COME TOGETHER FOR GREAT CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER.

ON THE AIR Every Friday

ALL WELCOME All voices, all ages

REAL & RELATABLE Encouraging & uplifting

FAITH • FRIENDSHIP • ENCOURAGEMENT • GREAT MUSIC • LAUGHTER

CALL FOR DETAILS & FOR JOINING US NEXT!

LIFESTYLES

BE PART OF

GOSPEL

ENCOUNTER

2026

Join Daniel Nalley and the Gospel Encounter team for:

EVANGELISM TRAINING

PRAYER WALKS

CAMPUS OUTREACH

OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE YOUR FAITH

THROUGHOUT AUGUST IN CHAMPAIGN-URBANA

LISTEN TO GREAT NEWS RADIO FOR UPDATES AND DETAILS:

89.3 FM | 102.5 FM | 107.3 FM

Join Daniel Nalley and the Gospel Encounter 2026 team for

- Evangelism Training

• Prayer Walks
- Campus Outreach

• Opportunities to Share Your Faith

Throughout August in Champaign-Urbana.

We understand that not everyone can participate in person; but everyone can pray! If you can't attend because of health concerns, mobility challenges, transportation issues, or other limitations, please consider joining us in prayer as Gospel Encounter shares the hope of Jesus Christ throughout Champaign-Urbana.

Helping people know and follow Jesus Christ.

Edward Jones®

> edwardjones.com | Member SIPC

College or retirement?
Find out how to
prepare for both.

Darrold A Kennedy, ChFC®, AAMS®

Financial Advisor

306 S Neil St

Champaign, IL 61820

217-398-6562

EJB-19325-A-E-DA-4 AECSPAD 29373926



The Perseids meteor shower peak on the nights of **August 12 through 13**, 2026 is likely to be among the best in a decade because the peak coincides almost exactly with the **new moon**. There will be little to no moonlight to interfere with viewing.

Best viewing is from late evening on **August 12 through dawn on August 13**. The highest rates of meteors generally appear after midnight and before dawn. Under dark rural skies you could see dozens of meteors per hour, with occasional bright fireballs. Drive away from city lights, and you should get an excellent show.

The **August 12** new moon creates the month's darkest skies. This will be the best time to view the Milky Way, hunting faint star clusters, observing the Andromeda Galaxy, and watching the Perseids. There should also be superb dark skies **August 10–16**.

August 28's full moon will be the traditional **Sturgeon Moon**. Moonrise will be near sunset, and the moon will remain visible most of the night. Lunar photography opportunities will be excellent. Also on August 28, there will be a partial lunar eclipse, visible from much of North America, including the Midwest. During the eclipse, part of the moon will pass through Earth's shadow, creating a noticeable dark *bite* on the lunar disk. Unlike for a solar eclipse, you don't need any special equipment to view a lunar eclipse.

Planets worth watching this month include **Saturn**, which will be among the most prominent planets of the late-summer sky. It rises earlier each night and remains visible most of the night. A small telescope will reveal its rings.

To see **Jupiter and Venus**, look in the eastern sky, just before sunrise. These two bright planets should be among the easiest celestial objects to spot and might provide several attractive conjunctions with the crescent moon during August.

Mars, though less impressive than during opposition years, should still be visible in our evening sky.

Among August's finest spectacles is the Milky Way, our galaxy. Best viewing should be toward the south around 10 p.m. to midnight. The bright star clouds of the galactic center will be in the direction of constellations Sagittarius and Scorpius. Dark rifts and star clouds become obvious from dark rural locations. Many lifelong Midwesterners have been astonished at how dramatic the Milky Way appears, away from town lights.

Best Nights of August 2026 and What to See

Aug. 10–16	Darkest skies of the month
Aug. 12–13	Perseid meteor shower peak
Aug. 12	New Moon
Aug. 20–25	Excellent planetary observation
Aug. 27–28	Full Sturgeon Moon
Aug. 28	Partial lunar eclipse



"It's a lot like home"

• 24 Hour Staffing

• 3 Delicious Meals a Day

• All Inclusive Pricing

• Transportation Services

• Weekly Housekeeping & Laundry Services

Prairie Winds of Urbana

A Certified Supportive Living Facility:
Affordable for All Incomes

Managed by Gardant Management Solutions

217-344-6400

www.prairiewinds-slf.com • 1905 Prairie Winds Drive • Urbana, IL 61802

PEOPLE & PLACES

Index of Advertisers

Cinric Painting	A-16
Creekside Terrace	A-9
Edward Jones	A-3
EuroMotors	A-7
Franklin Wealth Advisors.....	A-13
Great News Media	A-16
Immanuel Senior Residences.....	A-7
Insurance Partners	A-4
Mark & Friends	A-2
Market Place Shopping Center	A-10
Physicians Mutual Dental Insurance...	A-10
Prairie Winds	A-3
Rossville Family Restaurant	A-4
Sunset Funeral Home.....	A-11



The PrimeLife Times
a publication of the Great News Media Group

Proud member of NAMPA
www.maturepublishers.com

Publisher
Mark Burns
mark@primelifetimes.com

Editor in Chief
Nick Brzozowski
nick@primelifetimes.com

Copyeditor
Rob Siedenburb
rob@primelifetimes.com

Graphic Design
Kelli Roos
kelli.roos@gmail.com

Office Manager
Karen Harrison
staff@primelifetimes.com

Account Representative
Holly Burns
holly@primelifetimes.com

Proofreader
Jim Miller
jpmiller61874@yahoo.com

Editorial Intern
Samuel Carroll
scarroll@isionline.org

Editorial Intern
Esther Aardsma
eaardsma@proton.me

Find us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/PrimeLifeTimes

Content in this newspaper may not be used or republished without consent of either the author or the PrimeLife Times.

PrimeLife Times is published by the Great News Media Group and is freely distributed at the end of each month to grocery stores, banks, hospitals, doctors’ offices, restaurants, pharmacies, and various other businesses.

If you prefer a subscription, go to primelifetimes.com/subscribe/ to request a yearly subscription.

Neither the advertiser nor the publisher is responsible or liable for misinformation, misprints, typographical errors, etc., contained herein. PrimeLife Times reserves the right to accept or reject all news and advertising copy which, in the sole judgement and discretion of the publisher and/or editor, is not suitable or deemed appropriate for publication. Articles and monthly column titles belong to the authors.

Office
Great News Radio/Media/PrimeLife Times
PO Box 550
Fisher IL, 61843

(217) 367-7777
www.primelifetimes.com
www.greatnewsradio.org

Remember When Same-Day Delivery Really Wasn’t Unusual?

by Steve Vogel

Just read there’s a renaissance in door-to-door salesmanship and that people can make really good money doing it. Who knew?

Yes, “knocking” (as they call it) suffered serious collapse in the last century’s final decades, as fewer women stayed home during the day and online shopping blossomed around the clock.

But then the very Internet that had narrowed house-to-house sales actually reinvigorated them for certain products. Consumers, crushed in an info overload, welcomed quick, face-to-face answers. Then a pandemic left sequestered people starved for human contact, prompting them to open their doors—at least a crack. Meanwhile do-not-call legislation restricting telephone sales was reopening more door-knocking opportunities.

When I was a kid, two door-to-door salesmen could be counted on each month to visit our remote farmhouse along a dusty gravel road. One was the *Watkins Man*.

Our farmyard received few visitors, so when the Watkins Man pulled up in his black sedan, it was a significant event announced by our two barking border collies.

The ever-polite, middle-aged man, always wearing a suit, tie, and classic fedora, would stride up the sloping sidewalk to the back door, lugging a heavy valise, usually not having to ring the doorbell before Mom and I would appear, with me standing behind her skirt.

“Good afternoon, ma’am,” he’d say, tipping his hat, and offering me a short roll of sugar candy, shaped like small coins. That got the door open. “Anything I can interest you in today?”

He’d then fold open his multilevel sample case, display a variety of products, and launch into a minute-long litany of stuff one might need: “The very best vanilla for your delicious baked goods,



cinnamon, cloves, black pepper, concentrate for your son’s fruit drinks, baking powder, extract of lemon and other delicious flavors—perhaps our famous liniment for what ails you? Medicinal salves, fly spray, vegetable oil soap—pure enough to eat! A lovely rosewater perfume, perhaps.”

My mother would patiently listen, already fully decided about what she would purchase, which was usually nothing. Maybe an occasional bottle of vanilla.

I’ve often thought about how it was a tough way to make a buck, driving country roads, a half mile between farmhouses, where you might sell a few dollars’ worth of merchandise, or maybe nothing at all, after eluding an angry yard dog.

The Fuller Brush Man got even fewer sales at our house. Brushes—toothbrushes, hairbrushes, paintbrushes, shaving brushes, makeup brushes—and a variety of floor mops were instantly available in his sedan, all for sale. Imagine the convenience. No waiting for Amazon to deliver something the next day!

The company’s founder, Alfred Fuller, advised salesmen to wear shoes one size too big so they could easily slip them off for a quick entrance to a household for a demonstration of the newest product.

Lots of famous people got a start selling for Fuller Brush: people like Billy Graham and Pee-wee Herman. No word on whether they took Mr. Fuller’s advice about shoes.

These days, it’s solar panels, pest control, and home security systems that are hot items for door-to-door sales. Bigger ticket items, most with monthly payments involved.

It won’t surprise you to know there are high-tuition seminars available that will teach you how to make large dollars going door-to-door.

One sample tip: Be looking at your smartphone when the door opens, and don’t crack a smile until you meet the customer’s eyes. An early smile seems insincere. ♦

This is an excerpt from Steve Vogel’s new memoir, Broadcast Live: 71 true stories, including some I’d just as soon forget, available in hard-cover, e-book and audio book formats at www.stevevogelauthor.com.

	CARRETERAS	Kah-rah TĀ-rahs	ROADS
Hola	una calle sin salida	OO-nah	a dead-end street
你好	una salida	OO-nah sah-LEE-dah	an exit
Hello	un carril	oon kah-RREEL	a lane
Bonjour	una autopista	OO-nah ow-toh-PEE-stah	a freeway or Interstate highway
	una carretera	OO-nah kah-rreh-TĀ-rah	a major road (between towns)
	una calle	OO-nah KAH-yā	a street
	la carretera general	lah kah-rreh-TĀ-rah hehn-ā-RAHL	the main road

Doug Ryherd
doug.ryherd@best-coverage.com

INSURANCE PARTNERS, INC.

401K . Roth/IRA . Life . Auto. Home . Business . Annuities

901 S Spring St.
Springfield, IL 62704

217-544-8644
www.best-coverage.com

ROSSVILLE
(IL)
FAMILY RESTAURANT

Good for 10% off any meal purchase
Rossville Family restaurant
715 S. Chicago St. Rossville, IL.

Clip N Save **217-748-6201** **Expires 8/31/26**

1 coupon per visit. Not to be combined with any other offer.

LIFESTYLES

Hola

你好

Hello

Bonjour

el parabrisas the windshield
ehl pah-rah-BREE-sahs

el espejo lateral the outside rearview mirror
ehl eh-SPĀ-hoh lah-teh-RAHL

el capó hood
ehl KAH-poh

el faro the headlight
ehl FAH-roh

el maletero license plate
ehl mah-leh-TĀ-roh

la placa trunk
lah PLAH-kah

el parachoques the bumper
ehl pah-rah-CHOH-kā

la luz trasera the taillight
lah loos trah-SĀ-rah

el tubo de escape exhaust
ehl TOO-boh dā eh-SKAH-pā

el neumático the tire
ehl neh-oo-MAH-tee-koh

el retrovisor rearview mirror
ehl reh-troh-vee-SOHR

el motor engine
ehl moh-TOHR

la rueda the wheel
lah RWEH-dah

la puerta the door
lah PWEHR-tah

la manilla de la puerta the door handle
lah mah-nee-yah dā lah PWEHR-tah

More Car Words

un gato a jack oon GAH-toh	el salpicadero dashboard ehl sahl-pee-kah-DĀ-roh	la caja de cambios gear box (transmission) ehl sahl-pee-kah-DĀ-roh
el freno brake ehl FRĀ-noh	el embrague clutch ehl ehm-BRAH-gā	el asiento delantero / trasero front / back seat ehl ah-SYEHN-toh deh-lahn-TEHR-oh / trah-SEHR-oh
el volante steering wheel ehl voh-LAHN-tā	el acelerador accelerator ehl ah-seh-leh-rah-DOHR	una pieza de repuesto / recambio a spare part OO-nah PYĀ-sah dā reh-PLAH-soh / reh-KAHM-byoh
la batería battery lah bah-teh-REE-ah	un limpiaparabrisas windshield wiper oon leem-pyah-pah-rah-BREE-sahs	el cinturón de seguridad seatbelt ehl seen-too-ROHN dā sā-goo-ree-DAHD

Poetry Corner

Why Does Poetry Resonate?

by Esther Aardsma

When contemplating how to write *good* poetry, it can be a helpful step to consider the *why*. Why write poetry? What motivates a poet to capture flowery words in a written format? Can the motivation of writing affect the final poem?

Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs is a famous theory on motivation. A pyramid with five levels represents an individual’s progression of need—Maslow postulated that the individual cannot satisfy the needs on the top of the pyramid without first having the needs on the bottom of the pyramid met. Maslow placed physiological needs (e.g., food, water, shelter, air) on the bottom of his pyramid and the need for safety (e.g., health, property, consistent employment) above that. In the middle of his pyramid, he placed the need for love and belonging—relational needs for connection. On the fourth level from the bottom, he placed the need for self-esteem (e.g., individualization, confidence, and recognition), and on the top he placed self-actualization—the individual’s seeking of purpose and personal fulfillment.

Though Maslow’s model has areas that are controversial (for instance, is religion something that is really on the top of the pyramid as Maslow suggested? Or does it come before other needs?), it is a useful model of motivation for the discussion of

why a poet might write poetry.

At first glance, poetry-writing would fall in the final category (self-actualization) at the top of the pyramid. Isn’t writing flowery words something that someone does only when all other needs have been met? Isn’t creativity something an individual pursues as a development of inner purpose and potential?

The act of poetry-writing can definitely be placed in the top level of the pyramid, with the vast majority of poems existing as a result of creative effort on a spiritual or self-development journey. But this restriction of poetry to a position of privilege doesn’t explain the existence of poems like Miklós Radnóti’s “Postcards,” which were found on his body after it was exhumed from a Nazi mass grave—Radnóti was a prisoner murdered during a Nazi death march.

Radnóti’s experience and poems give us insight into a defining attribute of poetry: Resonance in poetic form is found most easily by discussing *needs*. Poems are deeply human expressions, either exultation in the overflow of a met need, or a gut-wrenching cry from the scarcity and desperation of a need that is not met.

Accordingly, we see that an individual can write poetry no matter what needs are met or wanting.

The diagram is a pyramid divided into five horizontal sections, each with a title and a list of associated needs. From top to bottom: 1. Self-Actualization (spirituality, creativity, inner purpose and potential); 2. Self-Esteem (confidence, achievement, individualization, respect); 3. Connection Needs (love, belonging, friendship, family); 4. Safety Needs (security, employment, health, property); 5. Physiological Needs (air, food, water, shelter, sleep).

Consider Paul Celan’s “Death Fugue,” a poem that famously represents the Holocaust. Or Maya Angelou’s *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*. Many poems discuss the middle level on Maslow’s pyramid, the need for love and belonging. Perhaps the most famous love poems are Shakespeare’s Sonnet 18 (“Shall I compare thee to a summer’s day?”) and Elizabeth Barrett Browning’s “How Do I Love Thee?”

Poetry can be a journey of self-esteem (fourth level from the bottom of the pyramid model) in and of itself: To write something and then share it with others can be a terrifying, yet rewarding, experience toward personal confidence and achievement. Self-esteem and individualization can also be a poetic topic: Rudyard Kipling’s “If” outlines his advice to his son, John, for becoming a confident man. Emily Dickinson’s “The Soul selects her own Society” speaks on the value of independence, strength, and autonomous decisions.

Today’s takeaway? To write resonant poetry, look to your needs and the needs of humanity around you. Cry out in anguish over the lack you find, or sing in exultation over the abundance you have discovered. Or, as with David’s Psalms—do *both*. ♦

LIFESTYLES

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13					14					15				16
17					18					19				
20							21					22		
23					24	25	26			27	28			
29					30					31				
32				33		34		35	36		37			
				38	39					40				
		41	42				43				44	45	46	47
48								49		50		51		
52						53	54	55				56		
57						58				59	60			
61				62	63					64	65			
66							67					68		
	69						70					71		

©2026 TRIBUNE CONTENT AGENCY, INC.

- Across
- 1 Golfer's vehicle

5 Lingerie purchases

9 Lingerie purchase

13 21-Across in Spain

14 __ Raton, Florida

15 Buenos __

17 On the horizon

20 Permit

21 13-Across in France

22 Zip

23 Spy-fi org.

24 On the horizon

29 Counter attacker

30 Oft-redacted fig.

31 Burrito option

32 "I've __ better"

34 Mouth pieces?

37 Hosp. caregivers

38 On the horizon

41 Fish tacos fish, familiarly

43 Foil kin

44 Wound covering

48 One of five competitive figure skating disciplines

49 Grilled fish in kabayaki

51 In the style of

52 On the horizon

56 "Miracle Workers" channel

57 Fed. health law

58 "I knew it!"

59 Lessens

61 Classic film with a time-traveling DeLorean, and an apt description of 17-, 24-, 38-, and 52-Across

66 Cookies with a Sour Patch Kids flavor

67 Mystical glow

68 Fielder's need

69 Mangyshlak Peninsula's continent

70 More __ meets the eye

71 64-Down, for one
- 3 Go long?

4 Root in the Hawaiian dessert kulolo

5 Television network created by royal charter

6 Sushi topper

7 Feels sore

8 Thai skewers

9 Japanese title of respect

10 Actor Simu

11 Big name in endurance events

12 Stretches

16 Burrito option

18 Doesn't rent

19 "Radical Optimism" singer __ Lipa

25 Northern European capital

26 In reserve

27 Valley

28 Best Upset and Best Moment

33 Indira Gandhi's father

35 Soda

36 Trusty horse
- 39 Japanese soup

40 Suffix with ump-

41 Lash lengthener

42 Decorated fighter pilots

45 Form-fitting garment

46 Columbia Icefield province

47 Angela of "9-1-1"

48 Soul singer Bryson

50 "In __ of gifts ..."

53 Comedian Margaret

54 Patronize, as a restaurant

55 Casual agreement

60 Devices loaded with cash

62 Fish in an ornamental pond

63 LAX safety team

64 Young fig.

65 Booster

See Answers on A-15.

©2025 H. Schwadron. Dist. by Tribune Content Agency, LLC All Rights Reserved

Schwadron 4-2

"I do want to stop procrastinating, but not right now."

THE MIDDLETONS

BY RALPH DUNAGIN & DANA SUMMERS

MIDGE, I'M SHAKING OFF MY MIDLIFE FUNK.

OH, GOOD!

I'M GOING TO LIVE LIFE TO THE FULLEST!

"GO FOR THE GLORY!"

SQUEEZE ENJOYMENT OUT OF EVERY SECOND.

DO WE HAVE ANY ICE CREAM?

7-19

SV. SUMMERS

SCRABBLE

G R A M S

Hasbro and its logo, SCRABBLE®, associated logo, the design of the distinctive SCRABBLE brand game board, and the distinctive letter tile designs are trademarks of Hasbro in the United States and Canada. ©2024 Hasbro. All rights reserved. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

A1 O1 U1 G2 B3 T1 R1

A1 I1 Y4 K5 P3 N1 C3

A1 I1 U1 L1 D2 N1 M3

A1 I1 I1 M3 M3 N1 R1

RACK 1

RACK 2

RACK 3

RACK 4

Double Word Score

1st Letter Triple

PAR SCORE 145-155

BEST SCORE 222

FOUR RACK TOTAL

TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. Finally, 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official SCRABBLE® Players Dictionary, 5th Edition. SOLUTION TOMORROW

For more information on tournaments and clubs, email NASPA - North American SCRABBLE Players Association info@scrabbleplayers.org. Visit our website - www.scrabbleplayers.org. For puzzle inquiries contact scrgrams@gmail.com

12-25

Gasoline Alley

JIM SCANCARELLI

Mr. Wait! Be careful about answering the phone! There are so many SCAM LIKELY calls!

I'll try, Gertie! Let's see what this one's all about!

Hello, Mr. Wallet! How are you doing today?

Fine! Who is this?

What you're about to hear you'll not regret!

This is your lucky day, Mr. Wallace!

Who is this?

I'm the chief comptroller for MAC'S LIKELY LOANS!

Our motto is...you're LIKELY to need a fast loan - so call MAC'S LIKELY LOANS, fast!

Today only we offer you 35% interest on...

I don't need a loan! I need you to leave me ALONE!

How did you know it was likely a scam, Mr. Wait?

Simple! MAC'S spelled backward is SCAM!

© 2024 Tribune Content Agency, LLC All Rights Reserved

SCANCARELLI

See Answers on A-15.

LIFESTYLES



This Kingdom Will Not Kill Me
by Ilona Andrews

reviewed by Susan McKinney

Ilona Andrews is a husband/wife team of authors whose books I’ve been reading for over twenty years. Their writing is phenomenal, and I love their characters: real people with foibles like the rest of us. This is the first book of Andrews’s newest series.



Maggie is just like us. She works two jobs and lives a quiet life in her apartment. Her favorite books are the first two books of a fantasy series. (Book 3 never came out and the author was never heard from again.) She discovered this series when she was a teenager and has reread the series so many times, she practically has it memorized.

One morning she wakes up—and she is in the world of her favorite series. She is in the city of Kair Toren, and she is cold, naked, and wet from waking up in a mud puddle. She has to fight off a stelka, a local urban scavenger animal, who thinks she is dead. She knows this city and world so intimately that she immediately knows where she needs to go to get off the street. All she has are her wits and the expansive knowledge she has from reading the books so many times.

She thinks of her parents and misses them terribly. She wonders how they will handle her disappearance. Within minutes of waking, she makes the decision to do something about her situation. She recognizes a really bad guy walking down the street and decides to rob him. He fights back, and she dies when her body plunges into the river.

She awakens on an island in the river and immediately realizes that the knowledge of the books is not enough; there are things and people who are not in the books. This is a real place. She has no idea how she got here. She has no idea whether she will return to life each time she dies, or how many times she can die. She has no allies and no safe place—and she’s hungry and needs clothes. However, she did hang onto the bag of coins she stole, so she has money.

She has a photographic memory of the city map from the books and decides there is a place she can go to get clothes, food, and a good night’s sleep. Her only problem is that it is on the opposite side of the city from where she is hiding.

As she walks across the city, she starts to realize where she is in the timeline of the books and decides that there are people who are going to die who are good people. She is going to do something about it. If she doesn’t, the world will descend into a horrific civil war, and more good people will die because of the desires of an evil man.

This book was a whirlwind ride, and I cannot wait for the next one. The decisions Maggie makes will decide the fate of this city. Can she change its fate and stop the all-consuming civil war? ♦

Susan McKinney, librarian at St. Joseph Township–Swearingen Memorial Library, is an avid reader who enjoys mystery, suspense, fantasy and action novels.

Debunking Five Common Social Security Myths

by Darrold A. Kennedy



Social Security is often one of the most important income sources in retirement. Yet widespread myths about how it works can lead to confusion, unnecessary worry, and poor planning decisions. Here’s the truth behind five of the most common misconceptions.

Myth 1: Social Security is going broke. You’ve probably heard this one, but the full picture is more nuanced. According to the 2026 Social Security Board of Trustees Report, if Congress does nothing, the program will need to reduce benefits starting in 2032, paying roughly 78 cents for every dollar owed.

But that’s just one scenario. Congress could raise the combined payroll tax from 12.4% to 16.65%, which the trustees estimate would secure full benefits through 2100. Other options include eliminating the earnings cap subject to payroll tax or adjusting retirement ages. Lawmakers have tools to address this.

Myth 2: Social Security will cover all your retirement needs. Think of Social Security as a financial foundation, not the full building. According to the Social Security Administration, benefits replace only about 40% of pre-retirement income for a median earner. That means you’ll likely need to account for most of your retirement income yourself. Building a strong personal savings strategy now can help close that gap.

Myth 3: You lose benefits permanently if you keep working. Not true. Social Security does have an “earnings test” that can temporarily reduce benefits for people who claim early and keep working. If your earnings exceed a set annual cap—which changes each year—Social Security will withhold a portion of your benefits. But once you reach full retirement age, the Social Security Administration adjusts your monthly check higher to repay those withheld amounts over time.

Myth 4: An ex-spouse’s benefits come out of your own. If you were married for at least 10 years and are currently unmarried, your former spouse might be eligible to collect on your earnings record or you might be able to collect on theirs. Divorced spouse benefits can be up to 50% of the other person’s full retirement benefit. But those payments don’t affect yours. Your monthly benefit is not reduced by anything paid to an ex-spouse or even a current spouse.

Myth 5: Social Security benefits are no longer taxed. Recent legislation caused some confusion here. The One Big Beautiful Bill Act did not eliminate taxes on Social Security benefits. If your combined income exceeds certain thresholds, you’ll still owe taxes on a portion of your benefits.

The law also created a temporary deduction (available through 2028) for people 65 and older. Eligible taxpayers can deduct \$6,000 per qualifying filer if their modified adjusted gross income is \$75,000 or less for singles or \$150,000 or less for couples. The deduction phases out at \$175,000 for singles and \$250,000 for joint filers.

The more you understand Social Security, the more control you have over your retirement outcome. Grounding your decisions in facts rather than assumptions can make a meaningful difference in your long-term financial security. ♦

This Edward Jones article was provided to your local Edward Jones Branch financial advisor, Darrold A. Kennedy, AAMS: Edward Jones, 1912 Round Barn Road, Suite E, Champaign, IL 61821; phone (217) 398-6562; toll-free number (800) 203-5679; fax (888) 819-2146.

Immanuel Senior Residences

1415 EASTVIEW AVENUE • DANVILLE

Affordable housing with heart!

Most utilities, lifeline, and appliances included.

Rent is income-based 62+ and older.

Call 217-446-9770

for a tour!

TTY: 847-390-1460



Lutheran Social Services of Illinois



LSSI.org



50 East Springfield Avenue
Champaign, IL 61820
217-352-9300



www.myEuroMotors.com

We want your vehicle!
Get the best value for your trade-in!

LIFESTYLES

Nested in Trust

by Greg Williams

Psalm 91

“He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.” (v.1-4)

This Psalm provides both the prescription and the assurance of promise, bound together in a complete package. As the verse opens with “He that dwells,” it presents an invitation to all people, without exclusion. Yet, there is a condition that hinges on the word “dwells.” This word stems from a root meaning “to sit.” It describes a posture of comfort or relaxation, much as people adopt in their own home. Though the idea of relaxing in God’s presence is comforting, the depth of this “dwelling” goes even further.

The words rendered “dwelleth in the secret place”—literally “sitting in the secret place”—portray the idea of calm repose and reclining at rest, away from public view. It is a “secret place,” a private, intimate dwelling within the household where one retires from the noise of the day and the demands of life. We rarely invite others into our most personal spaces unless there is deep, established trust. The security described here is the result of a habit: quality time spent developing an intimate friendship with the Creator.

The promise deepens as the verse continues: “shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.” In the original context, “abide” implies “taking up lodging” or “moving in.” It mirrors the practice of the ancient priests who lived within the temple, existing in a state of perpetual proximity to God. This place is not intended for occasional visitors, but for those who become permanent residents in God’s presence.

This is where his love is proven faithful in our daily lives. He becomes our “refuge and fortress”—a defense against external adversities and a source of discernment to perceive the ill-intended schemes of others. By abiding in him, we find the strength to avoid entrapment and protection from the “noisome pestilence” of corruption.

The imagery of safety is beautifully illustrated: “He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust,” likening God’s favor to a mother bird protecting her young. When righteousness becomes our “common habitat,” we begin to understand God’s intimate concern for us as his children. When we embrace this truth, it serves as our “shield and buckler.” Though a shield protects against frontal assaults, the “buckler”—derived from a verb meaning “to surround”—refers to armor that protects a soldier on every side. With God as constant companion, not only are we prepared for direct attacks but we are also shielded from injuries by unseen enemies.

It has been said that “Our conscience is our confidence.” This Psalm underscores this reality for the who lives honorably as a friend of God. When you dwell in that secret place, you find safety, comfort, and the moral courage to face the world with a clear mind.

Take the instruction from this Psalm as you begin each day. Move beyond the routine habit of prayer and truly “take up lodging” in his presence. Let us learn to nest our confidence in the shadow of the Almighty. ♦

Copyright © Greg Williams. Psychiatrist Greg Williams, MD, who loves the Psalms, lives west of Chicago with his lovely university professor wife.



thoughts to ponder

by Tim Barber

FBS. Foggy Brain Syndrome. I looked it up, and it’s not a thing—just the creation of a foggy brain. It’s what I get when I read classical literature like *The Divine Comedy*, or, just recently, *The Federalist Papers*. I have a much greater respect for the intellect of the “common man” of the early 13 colonies. Vocabulary, sentence structure and length, and depth of arguments for the union of all states combine to give us many thoughts to ponder in our own times.

Those 85 essays by Alexander Hamilton (51 essays), James Madison (29), and John Jay (5) played a significant role in ratifying our constitution on June 21, 1788. It wasn’t until May 29, 1790, that all 13 states had signed on. Many of the very lengthy sentences in what I’ve read so far are too long for this article. Reading them two or three times clears up some of that brain fog. But they are worth understanding.

Here are two quotations that are easier to understand: “To be more safe, they (the citizens) at length become willing to run the risk of being less free.” (Essay #8 by Alexander Hamilton) “It is of the nature of war to increase the executive at the expense of the legislative authority.” (Also #8)

People continue to say that the bestselling book of all time (the Bible) is so difficult to understand (which I conclude represents the syndrome spoken of earlier) that they won’t read it. And so we drift away from our roots, those self-evident truths, quoted here:

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. . . .” Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776.

So, ask God for a clear mind of wisdom to understand his truth in the Bible, and so many other works of literature that can help us understand our times and speak intelligently to the issues of our own day. The fog will lift! ♦

Copyright © Tim Barber. Tim is a retired pastor in the Champaign-Urbana area: tbarber@illinois.edu.

SUDOKU

					9	3		
				2				
6	9		5	1			2	4
8					1			
1		9				6		3
			2					1
4	3			6	5		9	2
				8				
	5	7	9					

©2026 TRIBUNE CONTENT AGENCY, INC.
See Answers on A-15.

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

CREMY

RHAFW

SJUDTA

CONUEP

©2022 Tribune Content Agency, LLC
All Rights Reserved.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

What do you think?
Can I work at the bridal shop now?

I think you may need a little more practice.

WAS SHE AN EXPERT SEAMSTRESS?

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

©2026 TRIBUNE CONTENT AGENCY, LLC

BLISS

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT THERAPIST

7/15

©2026 Harry Bliss. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC All Rights Reserved

PEOPLE & PLACES

Musically Speaking

“Higher Ground,”
by Johnson Oatman, Jr.

by Roger L. Wisegarver

A person who has fallen short of his or her goals can be left with lasting regret. Imagine looking back to see that life has passed you by and you have not fully applied yourself, nor aimed high enough. Though such regrets are often associated with old age, they can be just as tragic among younger people who lack purpose, direction, or motivation.

Even faithful Christians experience seasons of spiritual dryness. Growth doesn’t happen automatically; a close walk with God requires continual renewal. Those who long to grow spiritually recognize the need to strengthen their faith and renew their aspirations.

One way this happens is when believers gather to hear God’s Word and sing hymns that encourage the heart. Few hymns express that longing more beautifully than “Higher Ground.” Its message calls us to seek a deeper fellowship with God and a higher plane of Christian living.

Johnson Oatman, Jr., wrote the lyrics in 1892, and Charles H. Gabriel later set them to music. Since its publication in 1898, “Higher Ground” has remained one of the best-loved gospel hymns.

Born in 1856 near Medford, New Jersey, Oatman joined the Methodist Episcopal Church at nineteen. His father was an accomplished singer, and Johnson loved sitting beside him, listening to the hymns of the church.

Although licensed to preach and later ordained, Oatman never served as a full-time pastor. He worked first in the family mercantile business and later, after his father’s death, in insurance. In 1892, he began writing gospel song lyrics, eventually producing thousands of hymn texts before his death in 1922.

Averaging four or five new texts each week, he earned little for his work, but his lyrics were in constant demand among the leading gospel composers of his day.

“Higher Ground” quickly became a favorite in revival meetings and evan-

gelistic crusades and remains popular today. Its theme reflects Paul’s words in Philippians 3:13–14: “Forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (KJV).

The hymn begins:
*I’m pressing on the upward way,
New heights I’m gaining every day;
Still praying as I’m onward bound,
“Lord, plant my feet on higher ground.”
Lord, lift me up and let me stand
By faith on heaven’s tableland,
A higher plane than I have found:
Lord, plant my feet on higher ground.*



Scripture teaches that becoming more like Christ is a lifelong journey, advancing step by step in faith and obedience. The key is maintaining a heartfelt desire to fulfill God’s purpose for our lives.

Are you pressing on the upward way each day, or have you become content where you are? If we are not growing stronger in our walk with Christ, we naturally begin to drift. Set your spiritual sights high—and keep pressing on to higher ground. ♦

Roger, Monticello, Illinois, resident, combines his interest in music and history: roger_wisegarver@msn.com.



This year, National Coffee Day falls on Sunday, September 29. Curiously, National Coffee Month is celebrated in August, so Coffee Day itself doesn’t even occur during Coffee Month. Only in America!

Coffee is a controversial beverage. Is it God’s gift to humankind—or a daily curse?

Coffee entered my life during my first four years in the Army. I drank so much that it upset my stomach and fueled a low-grade anxiety—but it kept me awake through long night watches. After leaving active duty and returning to college, I buckled down and swore off coffee.

That changed in the early years of this century when gastroenterologist Dr. Noura Sharabash diagnosed me with Metabolic Dysfunction–Associated Steatotic Liver Disease (MASLD). Her advice surprised me: “Drink coffee every day. Every single day.” I recaffeinated.

Research suggests she was onto something. Regular coffee consumption has been linked to a lower risk of chronic liver disease, including fatty liver, cirrhosis, and liver cancer. It might reduce inflammation, limit scar tissue formation, and help the liver repair itself. Beyond liver health, studies cited by Johns Hopkins associate coffee with reduced risks of Alzheimer’s disease, type 2 diabetes, heart disease, stroke, and certain cancers. Some research also suggests it can slow the progression of dementia.

Coffee’s benefits might stem from its complex mix of compounds, including chlorogenic acids and flavonoids, which have antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties. Along with providing a reliable energy boost, these compounds could help protect DNA from everyday wear and tear.

Even the leftovers have value. Critics point to the vast quantities of used coffee grounds sent to landfills—an estimated billion pounds annually, according to a recent University of Washington study. Yet those same grounds can enrich compost and improve soil. I put used grounds and earthworms into my compost pile and garden plot, where both help me produce fruits and vegetables. Waste, like fashion, is often a matter of perspective.

Coffee consumption has risen steadily in recent years, with more than two-thirds of Americans now drinking it. In fact, Americans consume more coffee than water, if you can believe it.

So, whether you celebrate National Coffee Month, National Coffee Day, or neither, consider sharing a cup of joe with a friend or family member. Remember, wherever you stand on coffee, it’s best to have solid grounds for your position. ♦

Copyright © Rob Siedenburger: rob@primelifetimes.com.

CREEKSID TERENCE

AFFORDABLE SENIOR APARTMENTS



Quiet country living

1-Bedroom units • Rent based on income
Social activities • Pet friendly • Smoke-free

Ask about move-in incentives

815-457-3535



512 Prairie Ln. • Cissna Park, Illinois

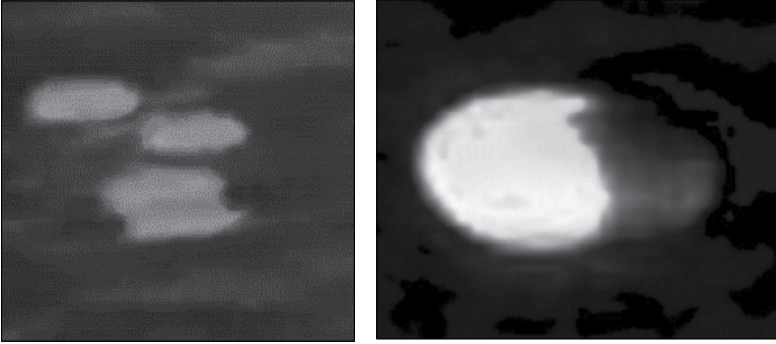
LIFESTYLES

If They Aren’t Alien Space Crafts, What Are They?

by Edward Lewis

Lately, Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs), Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAPs), aliens, and information disclosures are often in the news. The U.S. government began to openly post formerly classified images and information in May of 2026. I’ve personally seen ball lightning, and in my opinion, most of the recent pictures on the site, such as Figure 1 and most of the other UFO pictures we see, look like big plasmoids similar to ball lightning (BL) rather than alien craft. Some of my friends have been discussing these phenomena and opining that the government will soon release information about aliens. Some seem fearful. However, few people understand anything about BL and plasmoids or realize just how enormous they can be. **UFOs/UAPs Look Like Plasmoids.** See how similar Figure 1 looks to the plasmoid in Figure 2? Figure 2 is a picture of a microplasmoid first published in 2019.

Figure 1 (left): Four underwater plasmoids, likely derived from an infrared sensor aboard a U.S. military platform Credit: war.gov/UFO/. Figure 2 (right): The microscopic microplasmoid was moving very slowly on material, according to Bagdonovich.



Plasmoids Defy Physical Laws and Seem Otherworldly.

Plasmoids seem spooky and otherworldly because they represent a state of matter very different from ordinary matter, and for which different physical laws apply. These anomalies have been described in several articles for *PrimeLife Times* readers, including “Amazing Ball Lightning” (July 2024, p. 15) and “Plasmoids” (January 2026, p. 14). Many UFOs fly faster than sound, without creating sonic booms, and they exhibit very sharp turns at high speeds with no deceleration or curvature in their motion, as if they had no inertia. This plasmoid behavior violates the laws of Galileo and Newton. UFOs are large, so people don’t mentally associate them with BL. Plasmoids can be very big, very bright or dark, spherical, toroidal, split apart into smaller plasmoids, united to form bigger plasmoids, travel in groups or geometrical formations,

such as lines and rings (see Figures 3 and 4), change colors, emit beams, emit jets, shoot lightning bolts, explode, and simply disappear. When plasmoids contact ordinary atoms, they can cause the ordinary atoms to transmute to other elements and make atoms in solids flow as if molten. Shoulders wrote that the plasmoids’ existence violates the laws of quantum mechanics because coulomb repulsion should prevent the formation of such a tight bundle. Richard Feynman, a Nobel Prize winner, agreed. Writing about

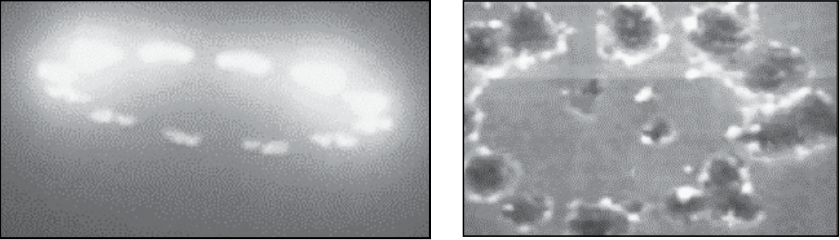


Figure 3 (left) A giant ring of plasmoids over Tijuana. Figure 4 (right) Imprint of microplasmoid about 40 micrometers wide. Credit: physicist Kenneth Shoulders.

micrometer-sized plasmoids, he wrote Shoulders: “When you were in my office, I could not see how 10^{10} or 10^{11} electrons could be kept in a ball in a vacuum without ions. . . . I must apologize, for it has come to my attention that it is indeed possible.” **Plasmoids Can Move Things.**

You might hear that UFOs transport things. Plasmoids such as BL and tornadoes have powerful magnetic and gravitational effects, such as transporting giant objects defying the “laws of gravity.” They transport metallic objects, such as cars, locomotives, and 90-ton big metal tanks, as well as nonmetallic items, such as trees, people, and horses, sometimes to far away locations, and at times with little or no injury. The movement isn’t due to the wind but apparently to a force similar to gravity. For example, in the late 1800s in France, Dr. Peltier reported that a tornado lifted big fir trees out of the ground, and “he felt a kind of pressure from above. He noticed an unusual smell of ozone; then he felt himself raised up, and this not by the wind, for it was calm, but as though by some invisible force.” ♦ Copyright ©, Edward Lewis, *scientificrevolutions.com*. Ed is a scientific researcher and freelance writer: e2023@fastmail.com.



Why you need dental insurance in retirement.

Medicare doesn’t pay for dental care.¹
That’s right. As good as Medicare is, it was never meant to cover everything. That means if you want protection, you need to purchase individual insurance.

Early detection can prevent small problems from becoming expensive ones.
The best way to prevent large dental bills is preventive care. The American Dental Association recommends checkups twice a year.

Previous dental work can wear out.
Your odds of having a dental problem only go up as you age.²

Treatment is expensive — especially the services people over 50 often need.
Unexpected bills like \$299 for a filling ... \$1,471 for a crown³ can be a real burden, especially if you’re on a fixed income.

When you’re comparing plans ...

- ▶ Look for coverage that helps pay for major services.
- ▶ Look for coverage with no deductibles.
- ▶ Shop for coverage with no annual maximum on cash benefits.

Simply put – without dental insurance, there may be an important gap in your healthcare coverage.

¹“Medicare & You,” Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 2025.² “Aging changes in teeth and gums”, medlineplus.gov, 4/17/2022. ³ FairHealth, Inc. National average dental fees. Data current as of July 2025; subject to change.

DENTAL Insurance

from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company, Inc.

Get your FREE Information Kit!
Call or Scan today
1-877-566-2517
Dental50plus.health/PrimeLife

SCAN ME!



Product/features not available in all states. Contact us for complete details about this insurance solicitation. To find a network provider, go to physiciansmutual.com/find-dentist. This specific offer not available in CO, KS, NY, OR - call 1-800-969-4781 or respond for a similar offer in your state. Certificate C254/B465, (ID: C254ID; PA: C254PA); Insurance Policy P154/B469 (GA: P154GA; OK: P154OK; TN: P154TN). 6371



MARKET PLACE SHOPPING CENTER

STOP SEARCHING, START EXPLORING

Market Place is a family-friendly destination, complete with a 600-seat Food Court, seven dining options, and a beautiful antique carousel and an outstanding destination for shopping, dining and entertainment.

2000 North Neil Street
Champaign, IL 61820
217-356-3928

PEOPLE & PLACES

“You Should Be Dancing”—The Bee Gees

by Randal C. Hill

A 1976 disco hit suggested to actor John Travolta that he should be dancing. To his good fortune, he listened.

The *Bee Gees* began as a singing family trio called the *Rattlesnakes* in 1958, when leader Barry was 12 and fraternal twins Maurice and Robin were nine. The music-loving lads developed a harmony so seamless they could have been the Everly Brothers—that is, had Americans Don and Phil been a trio who sang with an English accent.

With no musical training, the British siblings, who never wanted a career other than singing and writing songs, formally became the Bee Gees (“Brothers Gibb”) in 1963, when they signed their first recording contract with a small-time English label.

In 1967, after the Beatles-led British Invasion had eased a bit in America but was still strong, the Bee Gees signed a contract with Atco, a subsidiary of New York powerhouse Atlantic Records. For the next five years, the Gibb guys turned out hit after hit, segueing from orchestrated sophistication to *blue-eyed soul*. Then things went quiet for a while,

but eventually the hitmaking threesome returned to the Billboard record charts again. When the trio became reborn as disco artists, they trounced other bands who were likewise hustling to clamber aboard the lucrative disco bandwagon.

On “You Should Be Dancing,” everything on the nascent RSO Records label worked to rocket the Gibbs’ offering skyward. Their chart-topping anthem was fueled by disco thumps of hard-slammed conga drums, and the track was reined in just short of overload. “Dancing” also featured ear-candy hooks, synthesizer stings, blaring horns, well-placed guitar licks, and a brief, hard-rocking instrumental bridge to bind the work’s introduction and coda.

Barry had honed his newfound falsetto voice ten months earlier when he recorded an album track called “Baby, As You Turn Away.” Instantly at ease with this new approach to lead vocal chores for the act, Gibb had recently utilized his high-pitched wail on the group’s best-selling singles “Nights on Broadway” and “Fanny (Be Tender with My Love).”

“You Should Be Dancing” wasn’t a perfect song by any means. The lyrics seemed childlike, al-

most gibberish, and the boisterous chorus of “You Should Be Dancing” was offered up a total of five mind-numbing times as the song pounded along: *What you doin’ on your bed on your back? What you doin’ on your bed on your back? You should be dancing, yeah Dancing, yeah*

“You Should Be Dancing” was a year old when it became a centerpiece of “Saturday Night Fever,” the mega-hit movie (and resulting soundtrack) that featured, in its most iconic segment, John Travolta dancing as Brooklynite Tony Manero. For a few fleeting but majestic moments, Manero’s life as a paint-store salesman was transformed when, with the local disco as his temporary stage, he became a human peacock on the dance floor.

Travolta had requested—insisted, actually—that “You Should Be Dancing” be used for this performance, as that’s the only song he had been practicing to.

Good choice, John! ♦

Copyright © Randal C. Hill. Used by permission. Randal writes at his Bandon, Oregon, home. He welcomes comments at wryterhill@msn.com.

Hola 你好 Hello Bonjour	ACCIDENTES	ahk-sĭ-DEN-tās	ACCIDENTS
	una colisión	OO-nah	a car crash
	un accidente en cadena	ahk-see-DEHN-tā ehn kah-DĀ-nah	a pile-up (multicar)
	huellas de un patinazo	WĀ-yahs dā oon pah-tee-NAH-soh	skid marks
	el coche patinó en el hielo	ehl KOH-chā pah-tee-NOH ehn ehl YĀ-loh	the car skidded on the ice
	perder control de	pair-DAIR kohn-TROHL dā	to lose control of
	atropellar	ah-troh-pā-YAHR	to run over
	La atropelló un camión.	lah ah-troh-pā-YOH ehn oon kah-MYOHN	A truck ran over her.
	ir a exceso de velocidad	eehr ah ehk-SEH-so dā vā-loh-see-DAHD	to speed

Plan Ahead to Give Your Family
Peace of Mind

Learn about the financial and emotional
benefits of pre-planning your final wishes.

Call an expert today at
(217) 442-2874.



sunsetfuneralhome.com



In Danville and surrounding areas
Tammy Hopper
Family Service Advisor



In Champaign and Mahomet
Tamara Piper
Family Service Advisor

PEOPLE & PLACES

Travel in Our Senior Years: Worth the Effort

by Marvin Weinbaum

A reader asked this:

My wife and I recently returned from a two-week trip to Paris and cities in Belgium and the Netherlands. We hadn't traveled since before Covid, and she really wanted to break out again. Plus, her love affair with Paris has only grown. I'm now 82—ten years older than her—and have pretty much lost interest in traveling, so I was reluctant about taking the trip, but she really wanted to see Paris again, so we went.

We hit the worst heatwave ever in that city. On the first night, I pulled a muscle in my leg, tripping over some furniture in the dark hotel room. Then, on the next night, I reinjured the same leg stepping off a train. I spent much of the vacation lying around our hotel room; luckily it was air-conditioned. The highlight of the trip for me was flying in business-class. We returned only a week ago. I'm not even fully healed, and she's already talking about our next trip. I'm very conflicted. Do you have any advice?

Dear Reader,

Your problem is a common one, which does not make it any easier to resolve. Age matters.

First, I'm sorry that enjoyment of your trip was hampered by injury. Bad things happen. As we age, the bad things seem to happen with greater frequency and urgency. Future travel planning should take unexpected events into account.

Next, I think you should feel good that you took the trip to please your wife. Making sacrifices for our loved ones is noteworthy and commendable.

That said, let's explore the variables that accom-

pany your decision about future travel. Maybe examining the issues can help in your decision-making.

Destinations

The challenges for senior travelers are real. Aging bodies are less forgiving than they once were. Long flights can leave us stiff and exhausted. Jet lag lingers longer. Health concerns require more planning. Destinations with poor medical support should be reconsidered. Mobility issues might need to be accommodated. Cancellation policies for flights and hotel bookings, once an afterthought, might become a necessity. As a rule of thumb, the farther from home, the greater the challenges.

Communication

Like all complex issues that involve more than one person, communication is key. Isolate and clearly articulate your concerns. Label them. Talking about them candidly and objectively helps clarify them and moves us closer to compromise and resolution. Speak your mind and practice listening to your partner. Try to balance each concern with a corresponding solution. For example, you can minimize worry about lost luggage and travel delays by taking only nonstop flights.

Technology

Technology presents another hurdle. Airline apps, electronic boarding passes, online check-ins, and digital hotel keys can leave even experienced travelers overwhelmed. What once required a paper ticket and a suitcase now sometimes feels like a graduate course in technology. Find support for these challenges.

Comfort and Finances

These two issues are linked and essential if you are to maximize the enjoyment of your travels. The amount of discretionary income matters. If pos-

sible, take international (long) flights in business class; book hotel accommodations in comfortable, air-conditioned hotels; arrange livery transportation to and from airports, etc. Adjust your plans to match your finances, putting a premium on safety and comfort. Budget thoughtfully.

Why Bother

Delayed flights, missed connections, lost luggage, and unfamiliar transportation systems can test anyone's patience. Seniors might feel these disruptions more acutely because they require extra energy and flexibility to resolve. So, why bother?

Travel keeps us curious. It introduces us to new cultures, foods, customs, and perspectives. Learning how to navigate a foreign subway system or ordering lunch in another language exercises the brain and rewards our efforts.

Travel also reminds us that we are still capable. Successfully planning and completing a trip reinforces confidence. It provides tangible evidence that we can embrace new experiences. It creates memories and deepens relationships.

The key might be adjusting expectations. Many seniors discover that slower travel is better travel. Instead of trying to see everything, focus on seeing enough. Build in rest days. Choose comfort and quality over quantity.

The goal is no longer to prove how much ground we can cover. It is to savor new experiences and value who and where we are.

Safe travels. ♦

Marvin Weinbaum is a senior life coach and columnist. He writes about aging with purpose, dignity, curiosity, and resilience, translating insight into practical guidance for everyday life. Send your questions to marvin@coachweinbaum.com.

Reframing Risk as We Age

by Cynthia Germain

We all understand the instinct to keep people safe, especially as they age. Safety feels responsible and caring. But there's an important question we don't always stop to ask: safe from what, exactly?

A concept gaining traction in aging and healthcare circles is called *Dignity of Risk*, and it challenges us to look more closely at how we support older adults, particularly those living with frailty, disability, or cognitive change.

At its core, Dignity of Risk recognizes that a meaningful life includes choice, autonomy, and yes, some level of risk. It affirms that older adults have the right to make decisions about their own lives, even when those decisions don't eliminate possible hazards.

In the United States, we see pieces of this philosophy woven throughout many programs and initiatives. Age-Friendly Health Systems encourage care teams to focus on what matters to each person. Community-based wellness programs support independence and engagement. Person-centered care models emphasize choice, voice, and respect. All of these are related. They point in the same direction. What's different and notable about the Dignity of Risk initiative is that it directly names the tension between safety and dignity—and then addresses it head-on.

I've struggled with this, both as a healthcare administrator working alongside families, and as a

caregiver myself. I've sat in meetings where everyone wanted the safest option, even when it meant taking something deeply meaningful away. And I've been the family member lying awake at night, replaying decisions, wondering whether allowing more independence also meant taking on more risk than felt comfortable.

What I've learned, on both sides, is that our fear often shows up before the older adult's voice does. And unless we're intentional, safety can quietly become the only idea in the room.

Frailty is often misunderstood. It doesn't mean someone has lost reasoning or values. It means the person might have less physical or cognitive reserve and might therefore experience consequences more quickly. Too often, frailty triggers a cascade of *noes*: don't walk outside alone; don't cook anymore; don't climb the stairs; don't stay at home. I've seen how quickly those noes add up and how shrinking someone's world, even gradually, can affect confidence, mood, and identity.

Dignity of Risk asks us to pause and reframe: What matters most to this person and how can we support that safely, rather than eliminating it entirely? This concept also requires honesty about whose fear is driving decisions. Families carry love, responsibility, and fear all at once. Providers carry duty and liability. I've felt the weight of both, wanting to protect someone, while also knowing that too much protection can take something irreplaceable away.

Ageism can sneak in here too—the assumption that being older automatically means being inca-

pable of making informed choices. Dignity of Risk pushes back on that and reminds us that capacity is not all-or-nothing, and that support does not have to mean control. This isn't about being reckless or ignoring real hazards. It's about balance. A dignity-centered approach.

- Starts with what matters to the person.
- Invites conversation, not directives.
- Weighs risks alongside benefits.
- Looks for ways to reduce harm without removing meaning.
- Respects informed choice, even when it makes us uncomfortable.
- Sometimes means allowing someone to take a walk, continue cooking, or live alone, with proper supports in place, because living fully matters as much as living safely.

One of the strengths of this initiative is that it gives language to something many of us feel instinctively but struggle to defend in our systems that are risk-averse by design. By naming *Dignity of Risk*, it becomes something we can talk about openly and plan for intentionally. And that matters, especially as communities like ours continue to grapple with how to support aging well, aging at home, and aging with dignity. Because a life without all risk might be safer on paper, but it might not feel like much of a life at all. ♦

Cynthia Germain has an MBA and is extremely knowledgeable in the field of aging and non-profit community-based organizations and meaningful services.

LIFESTYLES

SEVENTIES FLASHBACK

Nothing Could Go Wrong!

by Randal C. Hill

At Disneyland one afternoon, as he observed speaking automaton Abraham Lincoln, sci-fi writer Michael Crichton wondered what would happen if such a machine broke down? Thus, was planted the seed for 1973's now-classic "Westworld" movie.

In the script that Crichton created and directed, well-heeled guests paid a daily fee of \$1,000 (\$7,500 in today's cash) to Delos, a company that ran an adult-fantasy resort consisting of (as did Disneyland) three parks—in Crichton's case, Romanworld, Medievalworld, and Westworld.

Each setting in the interactive playground featured life-like robots with whom guests could indulge all their fantasies, no matter how ignoble or dangerous those reveries might be. There was nothing to worry about, Delos officials told customers; everything had been designed with their utmost safety in mind.

Chicago chums John Blane (James Brolin) and Peter Martin (Richard Benjamin) visit the resort. Opting for Westworld, they become cow-



boys who stroll through an 1880s frontier town with six-shooters (harmless to guests but not robots) astride their hips. The two visit a saloon, where a bully Gunslinger (Yul Brynner) goads Peter into a fight. Martin shoots him, and the bad-die's blood-spewing body thuds to the floor. The next day, Peter would kill him again.

It is all part of the fun fantasy. For a while.

The "bang-bang-you're-dead" concept,

however, comes to an end later when a robot snake unexpectedly attacks Blane for real. In the park's underground control center, operations rapidly break down, and the supervisory team becomes trapped. Soon the automatons are rampaging through the resorts, wantonly slaughtering the overwhelmed and helpless guests.

By now, the Gunslinger has already murdered John Blane, and the evil robot has Peter in his sights as a deadly game of cat-and-mouse drives the story to its intense conclusion.

"Most of the situations in the film are cliches," Crichton admitted later. "They are incidents out of hundreds of old movies."

In his script, the best-selling author and screen-writer sought to emphasize corporate greed by having Delos operators initially resist halting operations. "There is a very specific scene where people discuss whether or not to shut down the resort," Crichton said. "I think the movie was as much about that decision as anything." Film fans, however, seemed to pay little attention to that part of the tale.

"Westworld" was shot in various locales—in California's arid Mohave Desert, throughout the gardens of the sprawling Harold Lloyd Estate in Beverly Hills, and on MGM sound stages.

"Westworld," made in 30 days and on a low budget, became MGM's top-grossing release of 1973. It also proved to be groundbreaking in many ways. With pixelated photography that simulated the Gunslinger's point of view, it became the first movie to utilize digital image processing and computer-generated imagery. Also, years before personal computers and the Internet became commonplace, "Westworld" explored the concepts of intelligent machines, computer viruses, and artificial sentience.

Crichton's "theme park gone haywire" in "Westworld" set the stage for his later "Jurassic Park" novel, which begat seven Jurassic Park films over the years. ♦

Copyright © Randal C. Hill. Used by permission. Randal writes at his Bandon, Oregon, home. He welcomes emailed questions and comments at wryterhill@msn.com.



FRANKLIN

WEALTH ADVISORS, INC.

Integrity. Wisdom. Thrift.

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.”

Jeremiah 29:11 ESV

Let us help you discover and implement the LORD’s plans for you.

Serving Clients Seeking Temporal Relevance & Eternal Significance

TIM FRANKLIN CFP®, CWS®, AIF®, CKA®
BEN FRANKLIN CFP®, RCPA, CWS®, EA, AIF®, MPAS®, CKA®



(217) 337-7526

website: franklinwealthadvisors.com
email: tim@franklinwa.com

Registered Representative offering securities through CFD Investments, Inc.
A Registered Broker/Dealer Member FINRA/SIPC
Investment Advisor Representative offering Advisory services through
Creative Financial Designs, Inc., A Registered Investment Advisor.
Franklin Wealth Advisors is not affiliated with CFD Companies.

LIFESTYLES

PrimeLife Poets

Poem for the Troubled Soul—
The Sweet and Tender Mercies of God

by Judy Hawn

To know God is to know his sweet and
tender mercies.
As sweet as a glorious field of flowers.
As sweet as the fruit from fruit tree boughs.
As sweet as the breeze when the sun shines bright.
As sweet as the stars on a clear summer's night.
As sweet as a long and peaceful rest.
As sweet as the sunrise and sunset.
As sweet as the rose is at its best.

So many are his sweetest gifts:
Look anywhere and you will see
The gifts God made for you and me,
For us to live with, in the shade,
Of his all-encompassing love.

We thank you, Father, for these gifts.
The number of them can't be guessed.
For every star up in the sky
Is yet another gift we spy,
A home of glory given us;
Why must we so much fight and fuss?

Let's come together peacefully,
To love our dear Lord gratefully,
For all the beauty he's bestowed,
Our duty to him must be told.
And give to him our gracious praise
That his dear gifts last all our days.
Obey his laws to harmonize,
Under the great dome of the skies.

Come join us in this love affair,
With God and all he has to share.
Don't doubt the good he has for us.
It's in the babble of the brooks
And in the rainbow of the sky
And in the answer to the question "why?"
It is love! *It is love! It is love!*
Sweet and gentle, sweet and gentle—
Love. Love. Love.

Open your eyes, and you will see
The myriad gifts given you and me:
The mother's love that is so dear,
The father's strength that holds us near,
Good food which we so happily eat—
And nuts from trees are quite a treat!
The honey from the buzzy bees.
The songs of love we sing with ease.

So much is what God gives to us,
We really mustn't fight and fuss.
It's Satan causes grief and strife.
He lies and tells us things aren't right
And would have us to believe
Our loving God aims to deceive;
That all he wants is fame and glory.
So Satan lies and thus destroys
All the faith we have in God,
Our one true Father up above.

So close your ears, don't listen when
Satan spins his lies to sin.
They'll bring you down, near to your grave,
Unhappy, twisted, so depraved.
You'll think the best to be your death,
And only there you'll find your rest.

That's not from God; do not be fooled:
God loves us and with kindness rules.
His laws are few, just only ten,
By which to make our boys men—
And make our girls to love them so,
For all their faithfulness would show.
And children would be raised the best,
With faithful parents they could rest
At ease and have the strength to be
All that they'd ever care to be.

So turn to Father and repent
Of all the sins in life you've spent.
Dishonoring all God has to give.
Pray for his love so you can live
In happiness, gladness, joy, and peace,
And spread his love from west to east!

Oh, what a wonderful world we'd make,
If all our sins we would forsake,
And ask for God's forgiveness so
This whole world would come aglow,
Of all the Spirit's fruits he'd give
To those of us who choose to live.

Holy Father, it's you we praise,
Giving thanks for all our days:
Praise forevermore.

Amen. ♦

Copyright © Judy Hawn. Judy lives and writes
poetry in Monticello, Illinois: jafhawn@gmail.com.

Hospital Doors

by Esther Aardsma

In here we're all the same:
We all want answers;
We all want time.
Silk no different from rags—

Tears are no less salt.
Fear is no less pain.
Hope no less piercing;
Sorrow no less rain.

These doors: the great equalizer
Reducing us to the *same*. ♦



Laughing Matters



Q: Name a rock group of four guys who don't sing or play any instruments.

A: Mount Rushmore.

Q: How much does a rainbow weigh?

A: Not much; they're really light.

I wasn't planning on getting a brain transplant today, but I changed my mind.

It's true that hard work never killed anybody, but I figure, why take the chance?
—Ronald Reagan

The only thing we flat-earth-ers have to fear is sphere itself.

A lot of kneeling will keep you in good standing.

LIFESTYLES

Acadia

continued from A-1

was extended. The Bangor airport does not have a lot of options when flights are canceled. I was able to get a flight home two days later. Finding a rental car was a chore. Everything worked out, so we got another whole day to explore. We decided to just do some freestyling by heading out to see more lighthouses and harbor towns. It was a very foggy day, and we got lost a few times because our GPS would lose signal. We would find our way back to a fishing village to regain the GPS.

In Bangor, we found the former home of Steven King. Viewing the gargoyles on his fence and seeing a bizarre sculpture in his yard can be eerie.

The one technique needed at Acadia is patience. Earlier, I mentioned that this park is the fifth most visited in the entire National Park system. I would set up a shot and then sometimes wait 15 minutes or more for the people to exit my shot.

One must also be patient when climbing around the rocky seashores. The shorelines are very rugged. It was quite treacherous to maneuver these rocky shores, but well worth it. Very few Maine beaches provide ocean access. The ocean water during our June visit was 46°.

Northeastern coastal Maine, and especially Desert Island and Acadia, is a scenic wonderland for artists and photographers that should be on everyone’s bucket list of vacation destinations.

Do you want to learn more about your digital camera or Photoshop? I offer classes each semester at Danville Area Community College. There are two-night and four-night classes offered each semester in Basic Digital



Sunrise and the schooner “Margaret Todd” at Bar Harbor. This ship offers two cruises throughout each day.

Photography and Photoshop. Contact the DACC Community Education Office at (217) 554-1667 for information. ♦

Les Woodrum has been a photographer for 50 years, working as educator, scientific photographer, corporate photographer, commercial photographer, and photo lab manager. Email him at lesw@woodrum-media.com.

WORDSMITH’S WORKSHOP

by Rob Siedenburg

The rosemary plant (*Salvia rosmarinus*, formerly *Rosmarinus officinalis*) has been valued for centuries as both culinary herb and medicinal plant. Native to the Mediterranean region, it is now grown worldwide. This winter-hardy perennial grows into a fragrant evergreen shrub, with needle-like leaves and purple, blue, white, or pink flowers. A member of the mint family, rosemary is well known for its distinctive aroma and has even been used in perfumes.

Many people use rosemary in teas and cooking, and some studies suggest it supports health. A 2020 Japanese study found that four weeks of rosemary supplementation improved mental energy and sleep

quality in men with mood disturbances. Other research has reported improvements in memory, learning, and academic performance. Researchers are also investigating whether rosemary compounds such as carnosic acid can help protect the brain from free-radical damage and have potential positive applications in neurodegenerative diseases.

Despite these potential benefits, use rosemary with caution: It can interact with medications by affecting blood clotting, blood sugar, and blood pressure. Large doses can cause serious side effects, such as vomiting and pulmonary complications. Culinary amounts are generally considered safe, but concentrated supplements and oils require care.

Beyond its culinary and medicinal uses, rosemary has an intriguing linguistic history. The Greek name *dendrolivano* means “tree incense,” alluding to the herb’s fragrance. Our English word, however, comes from the Latin *ros marinus*, mean-

ing “mist of the sea,” possibly a reference to rosemary’s coastal Mediterranean habitat.

The Irish even had a rosemary color for the Connemara pony, though I have never discovered exactly what that color looked like. Mist of the Sea sounds a fine Irish color name, though, doesn’t it?

British speakers eventually associated the word *rosemary* with the Virgin Mary and imagined it meant “rose of Mary,” though as noted, its true roots lie elsewhere. Even so, the connection became part of the plant’s folklore and cultural identity.

Rosemary’s fragrance, usefulness, medicinal tradition, and rich linguistic history help explain why it has been treasured for so many centuries. ♦
Copyright © Rob Siedenburg. When not writing these articles, Rob teaches a Bible study, gardens, and works with students who want to learn English.

Trivia Quiz Answers (see page A-2)

- Indian scholar **Aryabhatta** (fifth century AD) first introduced the concept of zero through his decimal system and place value, but he did not develop a symbol for zero. Indian astronomer Brahmagupta (seventh century AD) formalized zero as a number and developed mathematical rules for its use. He treated zero as a placeholder and defined its arithmetic properties, such as adding and subtracting zero. Early Babylonians, Mayans, and Greeks also had a concept of zero, but did not formalize its use. Our symbol for zero (0) gradually developed from the dot early Indian mathematicians used to indicate the value of zero. (It is rumored that when Brahmagupta first introduced the concept of zero at a mathematical conference, the response was, “Thanks for nothing.”) Hey, that’s a joke!
- Benjamin Franklin**
- It was a nickname his wrestling coach, Ariston of Argos, apparently gave him by accident. Instead of his real name, Aristocles, which means best report, or greatest glory, Ariston called him Plato, which means broad-shouldered. The nickname stuck.
- Steve Jobs, Steve Wozniak, and **Ronald Wayne**
- Araminta Ross**
- Master carpenter and woodworker.** A brilliant man, Ford was self-taught, using books borrowed from the Encino library. He met George Lucas while he was installing a wooden floor at the home of screenwriter and filmmaker Francis Ford Coppola. Harrison continued to work as a carpenter all during the filming of the Star Wars movies. Once when working with a well-known female Russian architect, Harrison told her he wanted to move a structural member half an inch. The architect reportedly agreed, replying, “There’s no limit for better.”

Puzzle Answers

C	A	R	T		B	R	A	S		S	L	I	P	
A	G	U	A		B	O	C	A		A	I	R	E	S
R	E	N	R	O	C	E	H	T	D	N	U	O	R	A
A	L	L	O	W			E	A	U			N	I	L
C	I	A		N	O	O	S	Y	A	D	E	M	O	S
A	N	T		S	S	N				A	S	A	D	A
S	E	E	N		L	I	P	S		L	P	N	S	
				E	M	O	C	O	T	T	E	Y		
	M	A	H	I			E	P	E	E		S	C	A
P	A	I	R	S				E	E	L			A	L
E	S	R	U	O	C	E	U	D	N	I		T	B	S
A	C	A			H	A	H			E	A	S	E	S
B	A	C	K	T	O	T	H	E	F	U	T	U	R	E
O	R	E	O	S		A	U	R	A		M	I	T	T
	A	S	I	A		T	H	A	N		S	T	A	T

Crossword puzzle on A-6

Jumble on A-8

Jumbles: MERCY WHARF ADJUST POUNCE
Answers: Was she an expert seamstress? — NOT “SEW” MUCH

Sudoku on A-8

5	8	2	6	4	9	3	1	7
7	4	1	8	2	3	9	5	6
6	9	3	5	1	7	8	2	4
8	6	5	3	7	1	2	4	9
1	2	9	4	5	8	6	7	3
3	7	4	2	9	6	5	8	1
4	3	8	1	6	5	7	9	2
9	1	6	7	8	2	4	3	5
2	5	7	9	3	4	1	6	8

Scrabble Grams on A-6

SCRABBLE GRAMS SOLUTION												
O ₁	U ₁	T ₁	B ₃	R ₁	A ₁	G ₂	RACK 1 = 60					
P ₃	A ₁	N ₁	I ₁	C ₃	K ₅	Y ₄	RACK 2 = 86					
M ₃	A ₁	U ₁	D ₂	L ₁	I ₁	N ₁	RACK 3 = 60					
M ₃	I ₁	N ₁	I ₁	M ₃	A ₁		RACK 4 = 16					
PAR SCORE 145-155							TOTAL 222					
Hasbro and its logo, SCRABBLE®, associated logo, the design of the distinctive SCRABBLE brand game board, and the distinctive letter tile designs are trademarks of Hasbro in the United States and Canada. ©2024 Hasbro. All rights reserved. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC.												

LIFESTYLES

Rural Memories

Patches

Growing up on the farm, we wore patched clothing—but only for chores. Never to school, and certainly not to church. We wore our newest blue jeans to school. For some reason we called them overalls, though we also had bib overalls and coveralls. Dad often wore bib overalls because of the convenient bib pockets. Their weakness was the shallow side pockets: Things had a habit of falling out. Blue jeans had deeper pockets, though the back pockets were little more than pieces of cloth sewn onto the seat, lacking the pouch found in side pockets.

Our jeans often shrank so much after the first washing that we had to lie on the bed to fasten them. Once they became old, worn, and patched, however, they were wonderfully comfortable—and done shrinking. Almost nothing was wasted. When a pair of jeans became too worn to repair, the best remaining fabric was cut up to use as patches.

Years later, kids began wearing patched jeans to school. The patches were colorful and decorative, often sewn onto perfectly good denim. They were fashion statements rather than repairs, and the trend didn't last long.

The next trend had more staying power. People began paying extra for jeans that were intentionally cut, ripped, and frayed. Whether rebellion against traditional dress standards or simply a new fashion, distressed jeans have remained popular for decades. Today, though, I rarely see patches, even on work clothes.

At one college I attended, SAGA Food Service provided meals and enforced a strict dining hall dress code. Blue jeans were never permitted. Even that policy represented a relaxation from earlier years, when male students wore suits and ties, and female students also dressed formally for the evening



meal. The standard differed sharply from what students wore to class but was rigorously enforced.

I don't miss wearing a suit to dinner in a college dining hall, but I do miss the respect we showed teachers, classmates, and institutions by not wearing ragged, torn, or patched jeans to school. At the time, worn and patched clothing often signaled poverty or a working-class background.

What I still don't get is paying good money for jeans that look as though they lost a fight with a barbed-wire fence. We spent our childhood trying to make clothes last longer. Today, people buy jeans that arrive pre-worn, pre-torn, and sometimes even pre-patched—as if skipping straight to the memories without doing the chores.

Fashion, I suppose, runs in cycles. If my mother or father had seen a pair of those store-bought ripped jeans, I would have gotten a knowing shake of the head. Then one of them would have reached for a patch and quietly repaired what much of the Western world now considers high fashion. ♦

Copyright © Rob Siedenburg. Rob grew up on the farm. Though he left the farm, the farm never left him. He now farms a very small garden in town.



RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL • CABINET REFINISHING



WE LOVE TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY

1110 Carrol Street, Pawnee, IL 62558
cinricpainting.com • (217) 498-1322

WOW!
LOOK AT THE COVERAGE!

FAMILY OF STATIONS

Beardstown	93.5 FM
Bloomington	90.3 FM
Bloomington	104.7 FM
Carlville	90.1 FM
Central Illinois	89.7 FM
Central Illinois	107.3 FM
Central Illinois	1370 AM
Clinton	97.1 FM
*Decatur	100.1 FM
East Central IL	89.3 FM
East Central IL	102.5 FM
Jacksonville	93.5 FM
Keokuk, IA	90.9 FM
Lincoln	100.1 FM
Lincoln	105.3 FM
Macomb	96.7 FM
Macomb	89.7 FM
Petersburg	88.1 FM
Springfield	105.3 FM
Urbana	103.9 FM
White Hall	88.3 FM

STREAM ONLINE

greatnewsradio.org

wluj.org

21 Frequencies

3.5 Million Listeners

to be Reached

GREAT NEWS MEDIA

Email: staff@greatnewsradio.org

To request a program guide: 217-367-7777

*coming soon

WGNN

GREAT NEWS RADIO

