From: **Blainesworld** bginbc-aol.com@shared1.ccsend.com
Subject: BLAINESWORLD 1563 I Don't Miss Sec. 1B
Date: August 23, 2026 at 3:43 PM
To: hank@hankeder.com

B

BLAINESWORLD

You're reading BLAINESWORLD, my weekly blog featuring jokes, usually not too risqué and often in Sections 5, 8, and 11, along with contests, reviews of shows, movies and books, quotes, and whatever else caught my attention during the week. Feel free to share it with 437 of your closest friends and relatives.

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#1563
8.24.2026

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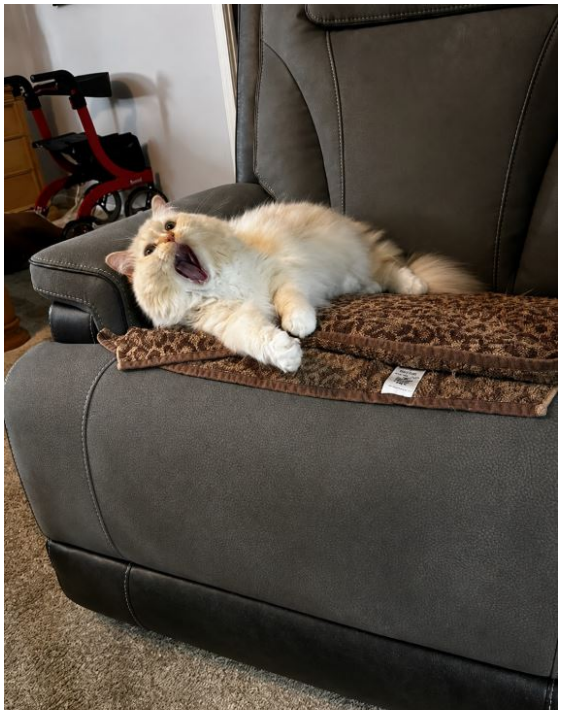
1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, Bodhi, and I spent a lovely afternoon in Black Mountain where we dined outside at Foothills Grange. Our hotdogs were oh-so delicious, and as can be seen, the view couldn't be beat.

B. Bodhi has been giving some serious thought to auditioning for "America's Got Talent" as one-half of a ventriloquism team. The other half, our friend Jennifer Conlon, can be seen holding him.

To see their very first routine, click:
Bodhi's podcast.

C. Kismet, meanwhile, has been busy at home, guarding Cynthia's new recliner. He loves it!



D. I got to see one excellent play ...

EVIEW: “Raining on Sunny Street” | Connection After the Storm
By Blaine Greenfield | BLAINESWORLD Chief Encouragement Officer
Asheville High School | August 21-22, 2026

I attended an invited dress rehearsal prior to opening night.

MY RECOMMENDATION: Don't miss the World Premiere of “Raining on Sunny Street,” an exciting and deeply moving new play written and directed by Asheville native Sofia Costanzo. It is a must-see for anybody who lived through Hurricane Helene, knows somebody who did or simply wants to be reminded of what can happen when a community comes together in a time of crisis.

Costanzo, a 2023 Asheville High School graduate who now studies drama at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, was in New York when Helene struck Western North Carolina. Unable to come home to help, she found another way to respond. She began creating art. What started as a song eventually grew into a play, shaped in part by interviews with local residents affected by the storm.

“Raining on Sunny Street” follows a diverse neighborhood whose residents are forced to depend on one another after Helene. The characters aren't intended to portray specific individuals. Instead, they're the kinds of people many of us will recognize as our neighbors, friends or perhaps even ourselves. Through difficult moments as well as unexpected acts of kindness, we see how a disaster that caused so much destruction also brought people together.

The ensemble cast is excellent. Every performer is believable, and that's especially important in a play like this. You need to feel that these are real people experiencing something that actually happened. And you do.

For the rest of this review, click:
https://conta.cc/4xfQ5da.

With the talented folks who brought “Raining on Sunny Street” to life.

E. And I hosted three podcasts that can be heard or viewed by clicking: www.blainesworld.net.

Left to right: 8.18.2026 - Michel Neray--Speaker, Storyteller, and Songwriter; 8.19.2026 - Teri Lyng & Lynn Roberts discuss pickleball in Asheville and, also, the Ballcrank Pickleball Club; and 8.20.2026 - Missy Bell, Film Director

F. Condolences to the family and friends of Warren Fluharty, a very talented interior decorator who became one of our first friends when we moved to Asheville.

G. Congratulations to:

(1) Rodney Richards on receiving a Global Book Award for his newest book," Knock. Open the door: A world citizen will answer."

(2) Karen Covington-Yow on her new position as an EverAfter Associate at Evergreen Community Charter School.

(3) Chad Lloyd on having served as a delegate to the 2026 Sons of the American Revolution National Congress.

H. REMINDER!

As you may recall, I'm seeking your feedback on how we can make this blog even better. I've therefore extended the deadline for completing the Reader Survey.

If you haven't completed it yet, please do so within the next two weeks. It will only take a few minutes.

I'd really appreciate hearing from you.

Just click:
Reader Survey.

I. Announcing this week's ....

****** BLAINESWORLD BEST AWARD *******
It goes to Quintessential Greenscapes LLC, owned and ably headed by Quinn Kinsella (below on the right). Also pictured (on the left): Jacob Conrad, the firm's foreman and arborist.

We have used Quintessential Greenscapes for the past few years and have been extremely pleased with the landscaping of our property. We think it looks great, and we receive lots of compliments on it.

In addition, both Quinn and Jacob are friendly, knowledgeable and a pleasure to work with.

For more information, click:
Quintessential Greenscapes.

2. Cynthia's Corner

What Tickles Your Funny Bone ... or Gives You Peace?

I started thinking about the little things that can make me laugh or give me an immediate sense of peace. Here are a few of mine:

1.Knowing my husband, Blaine, is close by and that we'll soon be together, watching TV and having a snack.

2. Watching a short clip of a baby trying to say "happiness" and instead saying "Happy Penis" over and over. This is a must watch for your funny bone:
Must watch clip!

3. Knowing where my cat and dog are, and knowing they are safe, fed, and have pooped.

4. Asking my neighbor where she hurts and hearing her reply, "Should I start at the top and work down, or at the bottom and work up?"

5. Telling a friend that I pictured her at my surgery as one of my angels, and seeing how much that meant to her.

So, what is it that we experience, love or fear? Or can we have both going on at the same time?

"A Course in Miracles" says it is either love or fear. But is it possible to face life's challenges and, at the very same time, have something tickle your funny bone or give you an immediate sense of peace?
I don't know.

Maybe we simply go back and forth between the two, over and over again.

What do you think?

Please share your thoughts with me. It really does make a difference. I think we need to keep talking with each other about questions like these.

Warmly,
Cynthia
cgreenfield1001@aol.com

3. Invites

A. Last chance to enter ...

******* CONTEST #24 *******

One lucky reader will win a copy of "My View From the Mountains" A Catskills Memoir" by Patti Posner.

To quote from the book's description on the back cover:
Much has been written about the Catskill Mountains resort experience as enjoyed by untold numbers of first- and second-generation Jews who, in the early part of the 20th century, had been shut out of many other resorts because of anti-Semitism. While the hotels were indeed as wonderful as many novels and histories describe them, this book is different. It tells a sometimes piercingly honest story of the family that ran the Brickman, one of the most successful Catskills resorts. It is a tale of blood ties as strained by a sometimes ruthless business, explosive secrets, sex and drugs. But this story also is about a deep familial love, hard work, commitment and a winding path to self-knowledge. Patti Posner, daughter of one of the two brothers who ran the hotel, reveals (and thus preserves) the day-to-day life and inner workings of this now vanished world of hospitality, along with the human story behind it all.

To enter, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put CONTEST 24 in the subject line. Include your name and address in the bottom of the email.

B. Want to be a guest on my BLAINESWORLD podcast? It can now be seen on YouTube or you can listen to it on your favorite podcast player.

I typically feature guests involved with theater, non-profit organizations, authors, performers or who are just downright interesting.

Even if you've been a guest before, I'd welcome the opportunity to speak with you again. I now tape via Zoom, usually in the early evening.

If you want to join me, let me know. Send an email to: bginbc@aol.com, if interested, and put PODCAST GUES in the subject line. And for more information, click:
https://www.blainesworld.net/.

C. I'm back on Facebook after having been hacked. If we are not currently friends there (or if we lost contact because of the hack), please friend me by looking up: Blaine Greenfield. You'll see a picture of me in a black shirt with, naturally, my thumb up.

D. Are you interested in shows, movies, TV, etc.? ... If so, I encourage you to join a group I've formed on Facebook that's called Entertainment. To do so, all you need to do is follow the instructions when you click:
https://www.facebook.com/groups/245515070390413

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4. FYI

A. Here's Why You Should Choose The Stairs Over The Elevator

B. What's the difference between Diet Coke and Coke Zero?

C. How to ask people for help landing a job and actually get a response

D. Doctor Warns Against Using This 'Useless' Washing Machine Setting

E. How Often Should You Rotate Your Tires?

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5. Joke 1

Back then it was a game. Now it's a schedule. (Thanks to Jonathan Berg for sharing this meme.)

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6. Reviews

A. Films

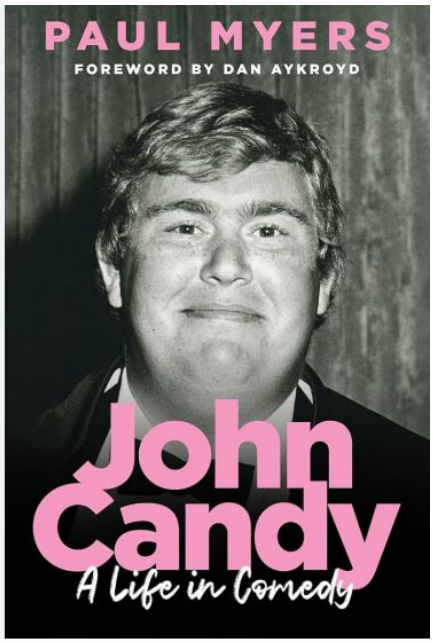
(1) “Tony” follows 19-year-old Anthony Bourdain during a formative summer in Provincetown, where a restaurant job helps set him on the path toward becoming the celebrated chef and writer we came to know. Dominic Sessa stars as Bourdain, with Antonio Banderas as Ciro and Emilia Jones as Nancy. Sessa is very good in the leading role, and Banderas is especially memorable. I liked the film more than Cynthia did, but we both thought the acting was excellent. Rated R. At AMC River Hills 10.

(2) “Normal” stars Bob Odenkirk as a small-town sheriff who finds himself caught up in a violent conspiracy after a bank robbery uncovers something much bigger. Henry Winkler and Lena Headey co-star. Despite generally good reviews, I didn't like it. I found the violence excessive and the story just didn't hold my interest. Rated R. On HBO Max.

B. Book

“John Candy: A Life in Comedy” by Paul Myers is an affectionate and entertaining biography of the much-loved star of such films as “Planes, Trains and Automobiles,” “Uncle Buck,” “Splash” and “Only the Lonely.” Drawing on interviews with Candy’s friends and colleagues, Myers gives us a revealing look at both the gifted comedian and the kind, generous man behind the laughs. I heard the audiobook, narrated by David Bendena, who does an excellent job bringing Candy’s story to life with warmth and enthusiasm. I very much enjoyed it. Published by Tantor Media.

Note: After Candy died in 1994 at just 43, his close friend Dan Aykroyd delivered the eulogy at his funeral. The original wasn't recorded, but years later Aykroyd recorded his words again for the documentary “John Candy: I Like Me,” including this touching description: “There's a word in our language we don't hear much anymore, but it applies to Candy. The word is ‘grand.’ He was a grand man.” I'm glad I came across the following clip. It's funny, touching and a wonderful reminder of just how loved Candy was. Watch it here: Candy eulogy.



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7. TV Alert

A. "Jeopardy! Masters," Season 4 (ABC on Aug. 25 at 8 p.m., streaming the next day on Disney+/Hulu)
This stand-alone series pits six high-ranking former contestants against each other in a round-robin playoff format for a half-million-dollar grand prize (plus $100,000 to their favorite charity)/

B. "Freefall: A Reckoning for Boeing" (Netflix)
In this investigative follow-up to her 2022 documentary "Downfall: The Case Against Boeing," director Rory Kennedy returns with a fresh batch of alarming intel based on the testimony of a Boeing whistleblower.

C. "Novak Djokovic: The Wolf in Winter" (Prime Video)
his feature-length doc explores his childhood in a war-torn nation, the sacrifices his modest family made to support his playing and the passionate intensity that has made him both a polarizing figure and a great athlete.

D. "Rear Window" (TCM on Wednesday, Aug. 26, at 10:15 p.m.)
James Stewart, Grace Kelly, suspense, mystery, and Alfred Hitchcock at his best.

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8. Joke 2

We're looking for someone who can put things together. Experience preferred.

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9. Clips/Websites

A. The Turtles are arguably the greatest rock group of all time!

(1) Their recording of "Happy Together" proves it

(2) As you may know, I welcome clips of them and/or others singing this classic song. For example, this week, you can see The Nylons by clicking:
The Nylons' "Happy Together"

Note: Feel free to submit your choices for greatest recording artists, music, etc. I'll try to run what you send me in in section 8C (below).

B. Video of the week

Baby Moose Saved by Kind Strangers
Baby Moose
Thanks to Jonathan Berg for sharing.
C. And also check out these other clips at your convenience:

(1) Tina Turner – "The Best," one of my favorites
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GC5E8ie2pdM&list=RDEPhWR4d3FJQ&index=4

(2) Howard Smith Jr.: Hymns (8.23.2026):
https://www.facebook.com/hs.smith.73/videos/1523803609501873

(3) Neil Ratner Rock Doc: The Doors
https://www.facebook.com/reel/2117926019152451

(4) Thanks, Neil, for having me revisit The Doors' "Moonlight Drive." Your many fans and friends can do the same by clicking:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UJNEFz2bnKk

(5) Miley Cyrus - The Backyard Sessions - "Jolene"
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wOwblaKmyVw

D. Here's a website that you might want to check out:

Atlas Obscura is a fascinating guide to the world's hidden wonders, from ancient relics and unusual museums to roadside oddities and little-known natural attractions. It's a fun place to discover strange, surprising and fascinating places you probably never knew existed. To check it out, click:
https://www.atlasobscura.com/.

E. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:
https://www.blainesworld.net/.

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10. Technology Tip

Here's Why You Should Always Unplug Your Phone Charger After Use

Leaving your phone charger plugged in when you're not using it may seem harmless, but it can waste

electricity, shorten the charger's life, and even create safety risks. This article explains five good reasons to get into the habit of unplugging it. To read it, click:
Five good reasons.

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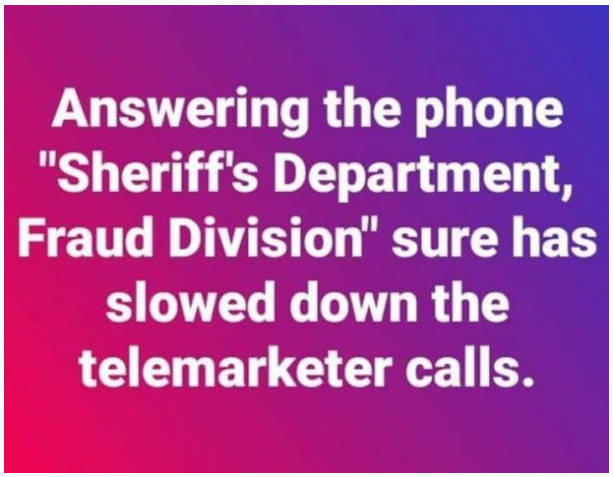
11. Joke 3

Worth a try! So is this one: "You're on the air, go ahead."



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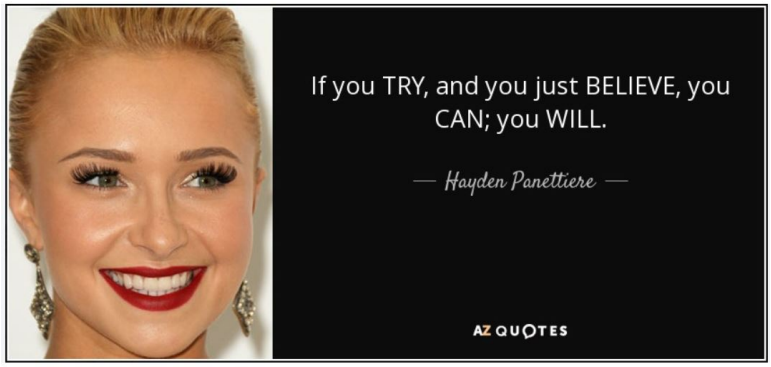
12. Two Quotes I Like

A. Thanks, Hayden Panettiere (1989-2026) for for your career as an American actress and singer. She starred on the NBC superhero series "Heroes," in the slasher horror franchise "Scream," in the ABC/CMT musical drama series "Nashville." and voiced in the video game series "Kingdom Hearts." For more information about her life, click:
https://www.nytimes.com/2026/08/17/arts/television/hayden-panettiere-dead.html?unlocked_article_code=1.7VA.AWVr.7AniljRkGWMN&smid=url-share.



B. Thanks, Tommy John (1943–2026), for your career as a Major League pitcher whose name became

synonymous with the revolutionary, career-saving elbow surgery he underwent in 1974. He pitched 26 seasons for six teams, winning 288 games. ... His legacy lives on every time “Tommy John surgery” saves another athlete’s career. ... After retiring as a player, John worked in broadcasting and managed in minor league baseball. Following the death of his son Taylor in 2010, he also became an advocate for suicide prevention. ... For more information about his life, click: https://www.nytimes.com/2026/08/16/sports/baseball/tommy-john-dead.html.

When they operate, I told them to put in a Koufax fastball. They did—but it was Mrs. Koufax's.

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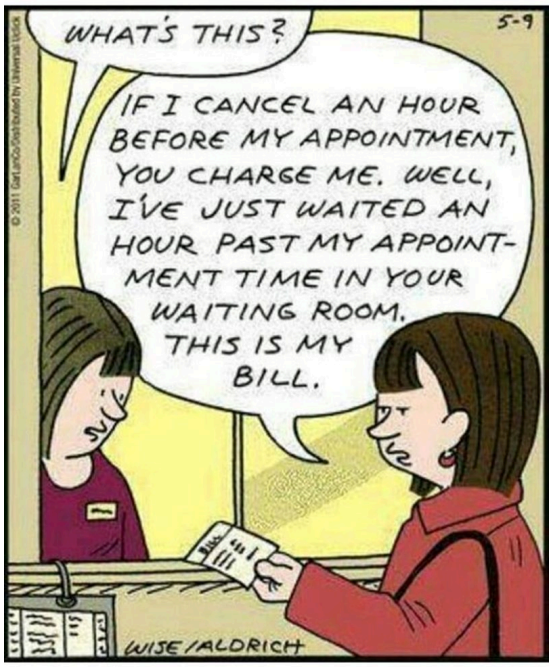
13. Thought For The Day

This reminds me of a recent doctor's appointment. A sign warned that patients arriving more than 15 minutes late would have to reschedule. I then waited more than an hour to see the doctor. Seems only fair that the rules should work both ways. (Thanks to Linda Williams for sharing this cartoon.)



PS. Make it a great week!

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