

# BLAINES WORLD

#1190  
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## 1. Reflections

If you're reading this via Facebook or LinkedIn, please be advised that you will get it quicker if you get it via email. Another advantage: You'll never miss it that way because you may not have logged in for a day or two. And in the unlikely event you're not already a subscriber, all you need to do is send an email to: [bginbc@aol.com](mailto:bginbc@aol.com) and put SUBSCRIPTION in the subject line.

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A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Caught Parkway Playhouse's terrific production of A GENTLEMAN'S GUIDE TO LOVE AND MURDER. We loved both the story and the music, along with all the performances from the talented cast of 12. ... We could see why this hilarious show was such a Broadway hit in 2014, gaining ten Tony nominations and four wins.



(2) Afterward, we went nearby to Little Tokyo for a delicious dinner.





(3) And then enjoyed our ice cream at Babe's Pizza & Treats.



B. I had the pleasure of seeing ROBIN HOOD: QUEST FOR JUSTICE. This show has it all: a compelling story, plenty of swordfighting and many fantastic performances. I'm hopeful that y'all get to see the Montford Park Players' world premiere of this exciting drama. It runs through July 27 at the Hazel Robinson Amphitheatre. And you can't beat the ticket price: Free!

Note: To see pictures at full size, click this link: [Here](#) and then click the overall picture.



C. Catch my BLAINESWORLD show on WPVM, featuring interviews with Rodney Smith and Lau Magie, by clicking: [Here](#)

Note: Special thanks to Grail Moviehouse for sponsoring the above. To find out what's currently playing, please click: [Here](#)





D. Cynthia recently spent a few days in New Jersey to attend the bridal shower of Chloe Lipman, the lovely woman who will be getting married to her nephew Benjamin Litchman on September 1.



E. Congratulations to:

- (1) Seth Abbott and Michelle DeVylder on their marriage.
- (2) Casey Blake for winning first place for column writing in a competition sponsored by the National Society of Newspaper Columnists.
- (3) Jennifer O'Rear and JJ McCarson on their marriage.

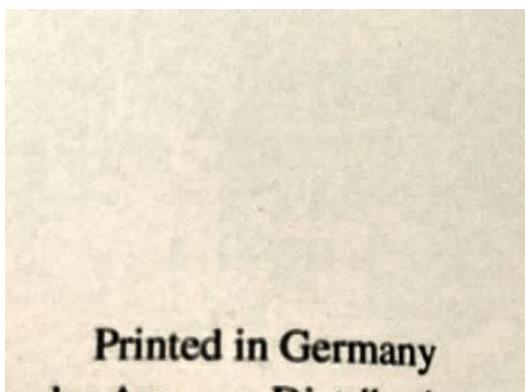
F. There's still time to enter ...

\*\*\*\*\* CONTEST #15 \*\*\*\*\*

One lucky reader will win an autographed copy of my latest book: **BLAINESWORLD BEST JOKES (VOLUME 2)**. You'll find 70 jokes for every year of my life.

To enter, send an email to: [bginbc@aol.com](mailto:bginbc@aol.com) and put CONTEST 15 in the subject line. All entries must be received by 9 p.m. on Mon., July 15.

Note: Thanks, Michael Glaeser, for ordering the book via Amazon, as well as for sending me the inside page that showed where his copy was printed. The copies I ordered were printed in Columbia, SC.



\*\*\*\*\* BLAINESWORLD BEST AWARD \*\*\*\*\*

This week, it goes to Garmin, the makers of the Vivofit. ... I'm a big fan of the Garmin Vivofit. I use it to keep track of my daily steps, as well as my sleep. (I find it surprisingly active.) ... Recently, after several years, it stopped working. I called the company and was fortunate to reach somebody in Customer Service by the name of Jake. ... He was both friendly and helpful and when he realized that my device could not be fixed, he sent me a brand new one. ... When I got it, I had some trouble syncing it to my cellphone, so I again called the company. Somebody else in Customer Service did an excellent job in walking me through what I needed to do. Within a few minutes, my Vivofit was back on my wrist--working as good as ever. ... Thanks, Garmin, for all the help that you provided. I'm also grateful that your manuals are all on line.

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## 2. FYI

Thanks, Jean Holmes, for putting this informative article on my radar screen:  
Americans slashed their charitable deductions by \$54 billion after Republican tax-code overhaul  
by Leslie Albrecht

New data on Americans' tax returns adds to the growing body of evidence that charities are taking a hit as a result of Trump's overhaul of the tax system - and it could be worse than some predicted.

Taxpayers have itemized \$54 billion less in charitable contributions so far this tax season compared to the previous year, according to new IRS stats.

To read the rest of the article, please click: [Here](#)

FYI, part 2

To read each of the following contributions in full, please click: [Here](#)

Thanks to all those who wrote nice notes about our new home in Fairview, NC, including Barbara Firestone, Ilene Logelin, Terry Broughton, Flori Pate, Karen Gunderson, Lynda Shuler, Art Mayhew, Cathy De Troia, and Francie and Jeff Sabell among others.

Note: You can read what they wrote by clicking the above link. In addition, you can see a video of our home by clicking: [Here](#)

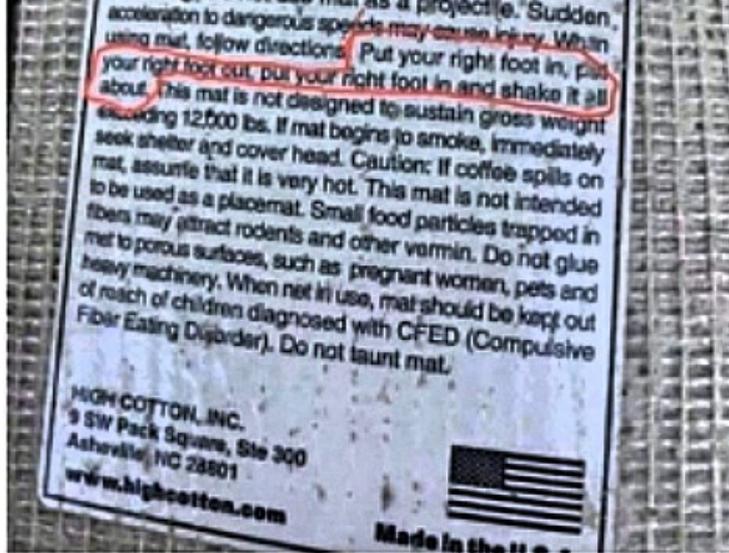
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## 3. Joke 1

Best product label ever. Make sure you read the entire thing. It's a hoot. ... Comes from a real company called High Cotton. I assume there's a reason for that name. (Thanks, Mary Jo Leonard, for sharing.)





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#### 4. Reviews

A. Saw WILD ROSE, a drama with music about a woman who wants to become a country music star, but has to deal with the fact that she was recently released from prison. She also had to take care of her two young children. ... Jessie Buckley was excellent in the leading role. In particular, I liked it whenever she sang, though I wish there had been more songs. ... And Sophie Okonedo caught my attention whenever she was on screen. ... The film dragged in the beginning but picked up in the second half and had a very satisfying conclusion. ... I only wish that the Glasgow accents had been easier to understand. Rated R, but appropriate for mature teenagers.

B. Ilene Logelin: I just saw PAVAROTTI at the Fine Arts Theater and loved it!. I didn't think I would like it because I'm not an opera fan, but I was pleasantly surprised at how much I enjoyed it. You should check it out.

C. Heard CRONKITE'S WAR: HIS WORLD WAR II LETTERS HOME (Tantor Audio), written by Walter Cronkite IV and Maurice Isserman and narrated by Michael Prichard. ... The book contains many of the famous newscaster's letters to his wife Betsy during the time they were separated because of his job as a war correspondent. I enjoyed listening to them, though some of them seemed to say much the same thing. ... The best part was how they showed Cronkite's love for his wife. ... I would have enjoyed Betsy's return letters, but unfortunately, they have not been saved. ... Prichard's narration was excellent, though I would have loved it if Cronkite had done this when he was alive.

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#### 5. TV alert

A. CADDYSHACK: Newly available via Netflix  
Bill Murray, Chevy Chase and Rodney Dangerfield rule in this golf comedy classic.

B. I LOVE YOU, NOW DIE, PARTS 1 AND 2: Available via HBO on Demand  
A texting suicide case captures national interest and raises difficult questions about technology, mental health and whether one teenager can be held responsible for the suicide of another.

C. VAPORIZED: AMERICA'S E-CIGARETTE ADDICTION: Mon, July 15, at 10 p.m.  
on CNBC  
An investigation of whether the multibillion-dollar industry is a blessing for adults trying to kick a smoking habit or a curse for teens being lured into a nicotine addiction.

D. THE UNEXPLAINED: Series premiere on Thurs., July 18, at 10 p.m. on History  
Host William Shatner sends scientists, historians, engineers and researchers around the globe to investigate the world's most fascinating and inexplicable mysteries.

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#### 6. Joke 2

This confirms what I always thought! (Thanks, Ginger Heskett, for sharing.)



The games get pretty crazy  
at English teachers' parties.

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## 7. Clips/Websites

A. Check out these clips at your convenience:

- (1) Mandy Moore performs "Invisible Ink": [Here](#)
- (2) Roberta Gurwood: Jeff Foxorthy gives fashion tips: [Here](#)
- (3) Ryan Niemiller: Comedian Knows As "Cripple Threat" Kills It!: [Here](#)
- (4) Doug Snipes: Larkin Poe performs "Black Betty" live at Sweetwater: [Here](#)
- (5) Tessa Martin: Another reason why Albert Pujols is an all-time great: [Here](#)

B. Big Think is a website where you can get shared ideas and insights from the most successful people around the world. To view it, please click: [Here](#)

Among recent posts:

Fruit juice may raise cancer risk, study finds. Here's why.  
What do mentors do? They introduce you to your future self.  
How to defeat moral grandstanders (and stay classy while doing it)  
How to boost your career in a ruthless job market

C. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click: [Here](#)

D. Are you on Facebook? In the unlikely event we have not yet connected as friends there, please feel free to send me an invite by clicking: [Here](#)

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## 8. Technology tip

Never spray or squirt any liquid onto any computer component. If a spray is needed, spray the liquid onto a cloth.

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## 9. Joke 3

My wife complained that my life revolving around Facebook has destroyed the way we communicate as a family ... so I blocked her! (Thanks, David Greenfield, for sharing.)





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## 10. Quotes I like

Thanks, Rip Torn (1931-2019), for making me laugh so often in your role as Artie, the producer on THE LARRY SANDERS show. ... I'm glad that you received one Emmy and a total of six nominations for your work on that series and that you were also nominated for an Oscar for your performance in CROSS CREEK. I also admired your work in such other films as DODGEBALL: A TRUE UNDERDOG STORY, THE INSIDER, DEFENDING YOUR LIFE and CROSS CREEK. ... For more information about Torn's life, please click: [Here](#)

And thanks, Ross Perot (1930-2019), for your impressive career as an American business magnate, billionaire, philanthropist and two-time candidate for president. Although you didn't win in either of those campaigns, your showings were among the strongest by a third party or independent candidate in U.S. history. ... I also admired how you advocated for a balanced budget and an end to the outsourcing of jobs, as well as your involvement in the Vietnam War POW/MIA issue. ... For more information about Perot's life, please click: [Here](#)

**"Garry Shandling always said to me, 'Don't get mad, get funny.' It changed my life."—Rip Torn**



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## 11. Thought for the day

My kind of philosophy--and one that I also try to follow with my Facebook posts, in my BLAINESWORLD blog, etc. (Thanks, Diana Moore, for sharing.)





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## **12. Advance planning department**

To read about each of the following events in full, please click: [Here](#)

### A. NC events

(1) Marc Cameron: Third Eye Production presents a 2010 Tony Award best play, Red by John Logan. (2) Abby Felder: CHARLOTTE'S WEB. (3) Kiesa Kay: A TALE OF TWO CHARLIES.

### B. PA/NJ event

Glenn Burd: The Plumstead Historical Society will hold its next meeting on Sunday, July 14, at 4:30 pm.

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**PS.** Make it a wonderful week!

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