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Subject: BLAINESWORLD 1525 (Sec. 9A spills the beans on the clips ahead.)
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B

BLAINESWORLD

You're reading BLAINESWORLD, a weekly blog published by Blaine Greenfield. It contains some jokes, hopefully, not toooo risqué (typically in Sections 5, 8 and 11); contests; reviews of shows, movies and books; quotes, etc. ... Please feel free to share it with 437 of your closest friends and relatives... And In the unlikely event that you or they are not already a subscriber, just click the following link to be added to the free mailing list:

[Here](#)

#1525
12.1.2025

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1. Reflections

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I had a terrific Thanksgiving dinner at the home of our friends Marcy and Tom Gallagher. We're so grateful to have them in our lives, along with all our other friends who were there.





B. We were fortunate to celebrate a recent "Ice Cream Sunday" at the home of our neighbor and friend Nancy Turner who was joined by her sister Carol. Hilltop Ice Cream Shop's ice cream was delicious as always. And as can be seen by the picture on the right, Bodhi also had a fun time with Bailey, Nancy's dog.



C. I hosted one BLAINESWORLD webcast this past week, featuring Neil Taft--Author, CARING GRANDPARENTS. It can be heard or seen by clicking: [Here](#)

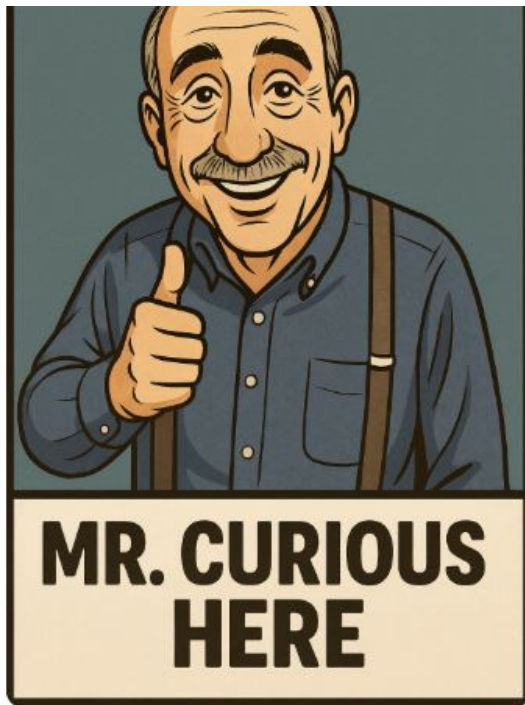


D. As you may have heard, I sold my Buick Electra when I was going to buy a Tesla. But when I decided to not buy the Tesla, we found ourselves with just one car.

We now want to buy a second car (but not an electric one) and, as such, are seeking your recommendations with respect to:

- (1) Any familiarity you might have with a Kia Seltos?
- (2) Any other cars you recommend in the compact SUV category? (Could even be the Buick Encore.)
- (3) Do you have any dealers you recommend, particularly in or around Asheville?





E. Condolences to Heather Schalk and family on the passing of Ronald W. Schalk, Heather's dad. For his obituary, click:

<https://tinyurl.com/rwvcfwfb>

F. Congratulations to:

- (1) Katie Jones and Adam Levine on the adoption of Miles Stanley Jones, their beautiful baby boy.
- (2) Nathan Owen on receiving his Master of Arts degree (with Distinction) from the University of Essex.
- (3) The Sublime Theater on being the recipient of a Grassroots Arts Program grant to help defray production expenses.

G. Announcing this week's

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

This week, it goes to both the cap (see below) and to ChatGPT.

Many years ago, I bought this cap for a trip to Russia, where I was advising small businesses. I remember it keeping me wonderfully warm.

Fast forward to my recent walks with Bodhi. It's been cold and windy, but I rediscovered the cap. Once again, it kept me cozy. The secret is that it pulls all the way down over my ears.

Cynthia wanted one too, but I had no idea where I originally bought it or even what it was called.

So I took a picture and asked ChatGPT two questions:

What kind of cap is this?
And where can I buy another one?

Within seconds, I had my answers.

ChatGPT explained that it's a fleece beanie with extended ear coverage, also known as: a fleece watch cap

a thermal fleece beanie
an ear-flap beanie (no flaps, just length)
a pull-down fleece hat
or a cold-weather fleece cap

To be sure it would cover Cynthia's ears too, it told me to look for terms like "extended ear coverage," "over-ear design," and "full ear protection."

Then it showed me example styles, recommended stores that carry caps like mine, and even suggested specific products.

I ended up ordering this one from Amazon:
2SBR 2SABERS Fleece Winter Warm Watch Cap – Men's Outdoor Cold Weather Skull Beanie Hat (Black)

Best of all. even though Black Friday was over, I still got it for half price!



2. Cynthia's Corner

What Kind of Dog Would You Be?

Sometimes it helps us to look at ourselves from a softer angle. Not through labels, roles, or expectations. Instead, through the spirit of a creature that simply is—a dog. Here's something for you to play with. A tiny quiz to show you if you were a dog, what kind of dog would you be. Have fun.

The Quiz

1. Your morning style:

- A. Up early, ready to go
- B. Slow start, need coffee
- C. Depends on the day
- D. Please wait until I wake up fully

2. Your social vibe:

- A. Love being around people
- B. A few close friends is perfect
- C. Enjoy crowds sometimes
- D. Prefer quiet and one to one time

3. Your ideal weekend:

- A. Outdoor adventures
- B. A good book or movie
- C. Exploring something new

- C. Exploring something new
- D. Naps. Many naps

4. When surprises happen:

- A. Excited
- B. Cautious
- C. Curious
- D. Why today

5. Your snacking style:

- A. Constantly hungry
- B. Grazing all day
- C. Only when it is something special
- D. Forget until reminded

Your Dog Breed Match

Count how many A, B, C, and D answers you chose.
Your strongest letter reveals the trio of dog breeds most like you.

And if your own dog doesn't appear here, keep in mind that this quiz reflects the dog you would be, not the beloved companion who already lives with you.

Mostly A: The High Energy Trio

Border Collie

Jack Russell Terrier

Australian Shepherd

Energetic. Driven. Ready for action. You thrive when moving, creating, solving, or exploring.

Mostly B: The Warm and Loyal Trio

Golden Retriever

Bernese Mountain Dog

Cocker Spaniel

Steady. Kind. Trustworthy. You bring comfort and connection wherever you go.

Mostly C: The Curious and Social Trio

Labrador Retriever

Beagle

Poodle

Flexible. Friendly. Engaged with the world. You enjoy variety and new experiences.

Mostly D: The Calm and Peaceful Trio

Basset Hound

Greyhound

Shih Tzu

Peaceful. Patient. Grounding. You help others slow down and breathe easier.

A Closing Thought

Dogs show up exactly as they are. They offer affection without overthinking. They bring joy without trying.

Maybe this quiz isn't really about dogs at all. Maybe it is about remembering the gentle truth that who we are—and how we move through life—is already enough.

If you'd like to share your results, I'd love to hear them.

Warmly,

Cynthia (Greenfield)

cgreenfield1001@aol.com



**Some dogs think. Others tinkle. This quiz
tells you which one you'd be.**

3. Invites

A. Announcing ...

***** CONTEST #14 *****

One lucky reader will win an autographed copy of my friend Mark Lund's excellent book, **CRITICAL LEADERSHIP PLAYBOOK: 10 HIGH STAKES SKILLS FROM THE ICU TO LEAD BOLDLY, BUILD THRIVING TEAMS, AND ACHIEVE WEALTH.**

To quote from the Amazon description:

Unlock the Secrets of High-Stakes Leadership and Transform Your Team. In a world where uncertainty reigns and pressure mounts, how do exceptional leaders not just survive, but thrive? How do they build teams that perform miracles under fire, innovate in the face of impossible odds, and consistently deliver extraordinary results?

This book is your ultimate guide to mastering the art of leadership in the most demanding environments. Drawing from over three decades of experience leading high-performing, cross-functional teams in life-or-death situations, Dr. Mark E. Lund distills the essence of extraordinary leadership into ten indispensable skills that will revolutionize how you lead.

This isn't just another leadership book—it's a battle-tested playbook for those who dare to lead when the stakes couldn't be higher.

To enter the contest, send an email to: bginbc@aol.com and put CONTEST #14 in the subject line. Include in the body of the email your name and mailing address, so that if you win, I can send you a copy of this book. Entries must be received on or before the 9 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 15.

Note: Four readers entered Contest #13. Diane Hinz was the winner: a copy of *IT'S A YOGA PARTY* by Nancy "Nitti" Gannon.

B. Want to be a guest on my *BLAINESWORLD* webcast? 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

seemingly 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 WEBCAST in the subject line. Include your email address and phone number. 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 blue shirt with, naturally, my thumb up.

You can also find me by clicking:
<https://www.facebook.com/blaine.greenfield.2025/>

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>

4. FYI

A. 22 Small Things That People Say Made Them Drastically Happier
[Here](#)



"[Playing piano] exercises a different part of my brain, reduces stress, and makes me happy to fill our house with music," one reader said.

B. Holiday scams 2025: These common shopping habits make you the easiest target
[Here](#)

C. 8 Appliances You Should Always Unplug When You're Not Using Them
[Here](#)

D. Purposeful LIVING Tied To Less Dementia
[Here](#)

E. What the Bottom Drawer of Your Oven Is Really For—and How to Use It Properly
[Here](#)

5. Joke 1

Funny how some things never change. ... And if you're like me and love any excuse for more food, fun, and friends, my hope was that you had a Happy Turkey Day!



6. Reviews

A. Movies

(1) ETERNITY at Cinemark Bistro

In this film, Joan (Elizabeth Olsen) finds herself in a whimsical after-life waiting room and must choose between Larry (Miles Teller) and Luke (Callum Turner) as the man she will spend eternity with. We found it good but not great, with strong performances and a clever premise that just doesn't soar fully. Rated PG-13.

(2) NIGHT ALWAYS COMES on Netflix

The film is the story of Lynette, a young woman scrambling to raise enough money in a single night to save her family from losing their home, and it features a very powerful performance from leading actor Vanessa Kirby, with Jennifer Jason Leigh as the mother delivering a quietly affecting turn as well. Sad, but moving. Rated R.

B. Book

JUST SHOW UP: AND OTHER ENDURING VALUES FROM BASEBALL'S IRON MAN by Cal Ripken Jr. and James Dale. HarperAudio

I recently listened to the audiobook of this book, narrated by Cal Ripken Jr. himself, and found it an excellent and uplifting read. Ripken draws from his legendary baseball career to share life lessons that go far beyond the diamond.

For example:

- * The value of consistency. "showing up" day after day, applies equally to your job, your relationships, or your hobby.
- * The idea that success and money are not the same. true achievement comes from purpose, character, and contribution, not just earnings.
- * The principle that practice doesn't make perfect, adjustment does. meaning life isn't about flawless repetition, but about learning, adapting, and improving.

What I loved is how the baseball stories (his streak of consecutive games, his father's lessons, and mentoring others) are used as metaphors for everyday life. The book isn't about baseball statistics, it's about how to live well, lead well, and persist.

I found it really good for anyone looking for practical wisdom, fresh inspiration, and an engaging voice. Highly recommended for baseball fans--and especially their children and grandchildren.

7. TV Alert

A. Paul Anka: His Way (HBO, HBO Max)

This inspiring documentary captures the seven-decade career of the singer-songwriter who launched from teen idol to chart-topping songwriter, and who's still touring at 84. Archival performances from legends including Buddy Holly, Frank Sinatra, Nina Simone and Aretha Franklin are thrilling to revisit, as is witnessing Anka keeping utterly current by collaborating with artists such as Drake and covering Nirvana's "Smells Like Teen Spirit."

B. Dancing With the Holidays (ABC on Dec. 2 at 8 p.m.)

ABC's first-ever Dancing With the Holidays transforms the ballroom with festive-themed routines and musical performances.

C. 16th Annual CMA Country Christmas, (ABC on Dec. 2 at 9 p.m.)

features performances by hosts Lauren Daigle and Jordan Davis and luminaries including Lady A, BeBe Winans and the Preservation Hall Jazz Band.

D. Christmas in Rockefeller Center (NBC on Dec. 3 at 8 p.m.)

Reba McEntire hosts the beloved annual two-hour special featuring star-studded performances and the illumination of the world's most famous Christmas tree.

E. Death by Lightning: Netflix

A wonderfully intense Michael Shannon breathes new life into one of the most bizarre chapters of American history in this highly anticipated limited series about the 1881 assassination of James Garfield, the 20th president of the United States.

8. Joke 2

They skipped the Magic Kingdom and went straight to the Tragic Kingdom.



**Two tourists were
driving to Disneyland.
The sign said:
Disneyland Left...
So they started crying
and headed home.**

9. Clips/Websites

A. Each week, I try to share a selection of clips that I think you'll enjoy. Of course, you'll find something from The Turtles. You'll also see some of my favorite videos of the week, as well as clips from my friends Howard Smith Jr. and Neil Ratner (aka Rock Doc). In addition, I've also included one of my all-time favorite songs and a variety of other treats. I usually try to limit the number of clips; however, this week I had so many good ones that I added a few extras.

And this one I especially didn't want you to miss:

Freshpet Holiday Feast

13 Dogs and 1 Cat Eating with Human Hands

[Here](#)

(Thanks to Jonathan Berg for sharing.)

Enjoy!

Note: Please keep sending me stuff for this and all the blog's other sections.

B. 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 Sean Biopcik performing it:

[Here](#)

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 8D (below).

C. Video of the week

The Official "Get Well Soon!" Song (to share with anybody under the weather)

[Here](#)

D. And also check out these other clips at your convenience:

(1) 4 Non Blondes - What's Up, one of my favorites

[Here](#)

(2) Howard Smith Jr.: Hymns (11.30.2025):

[Here](#)

(3) Neil Ratner Rock Doc: Tina Turner

[Here](#)

(4) Thanks, Neil, for reminding me how terrific "Private Dancer" was. If your many fans and friends want to join me in revisiting it, they can do so by clicking:

[Here](#)

(5) Chuck Norris rocks

[Here](#)

(Thanks to JP Reavely for sharing)

(6) Freedom Flashmob at Boardwalk - Santa Cruz, CA - March 20, 2022 - Song by JON BATISTE

[Here](#)

(7) Funniest video ever

[Here](#)

(Thanks to Neil Taft for sharing.)

(8) Bee Gees Acapella Medley

[Here](#)

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

The Nicest Place on the Internet

In a world of online negativity, this is a breath of fresh air. It's a website that offers a continuous stream of real people giving you virtual hugs.

If you're feeling down or just need a reminder of the good in the world, a visit to this site is sure to lift your spirits.

To visit, just click:

[Here](#)

F. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running . . . to view it, please click:

[Here](#)

10. Technology Tip

If You Use Gmail, You're Going To Want To Turn Off This 1 Automatic Setting ASAP

Plus: a quick guide to the two-step process for opting out.

By Katherine Speller

Another day, another “feature” turned on in a load-bearing app that you might want to turn off.

For Gmail users, there is an automatic opt-in that may allow Google to use your emailed data (think: your personal and work messages, your attachments) to train its AI models, cybersecurity experts warn. If you don’t want this information shared, you need to adjust your settings.

“IMPORTANT message for everyone using Gmail. You have been automatically OPTED IN to allow Gmail to access all your private messages & attachments to train AI models,” Engineer Dave Jones shared on X_earlier this week. “You have to manually turn off Smart Features in the Setting menu in TWO locations.”

For the rest of this informative article, click: [Here](#)



11. Joke 3

Doctor said I'll live. I asked for a second opinion—plus a note excusing me from chores.



Apparently there are 2 types of flu.

**The harmless one that women
and children get, and the "near death"
version that men get.**

12. Two Quotes I Like

A. Thanks, Tom Stoppard (1937-2025), for your career as a Czech and English playwright and screenwriter. He was a playwright of the National Theatre; one of the most internationally performed dramatists of his generation; and critically compared with William Shakespeare and George Bernard Shaw. Stoppard was knighted for his contribution to theatre by Queen Elizabeth II in 1997 and awarded the Order of Merit in 2000. For more information about his life, click:

<https://www.thetimes.com/uk/obituaries/article/sir-tom-stoppard-obituary-death-2n5qlf6vm>



"I write fiction because it's a way of making statements I can disown, and I write plays because dialogue is the most respectable way of contradicting myself."--Tom Stoppard

B. Thanks, Michael Ray Richardson (1955-2025), for your career as an American professional basketball player and head coach. The fourth overall pick in the 1978 NBA draft, he played in the National Basketball Association for eight years with the New York Knicks, Golden State Warriors, and New Jersey Nets. He was a four-time NBA All-Star and two-time NBA All-Defensive First Team selection who led the league in steals in three seasons. In 1986, Richardson was the first active NBA player to be banned by the league for drug usage. For more information about his life, click:

https://www.espn.com/nba/story/_/id/46928693/former-nba-star-micheal-ray-richardson-dies-age-70



His reaction after the New York Knicks lost their fourth consecutive game: "The ship be sinking." And when asked how low it could go: "The sky's the limit." --Michael Ray Richardson

13. Thought For The Day

You'll like this one from podcaster Mel Robbins:

The "Let Them Theory: A Life-Changing Mindset Hack That 15 Million People Can't Stop Talking About"

Here's a short summary:

The “Let Them” theory by Mel Robbins is a simple mindset shift that encourages you to stop trying to control other people’s behavior and instead allow them to act exactly as they choose. When someone disappoints you, excludes you, behaves rudely, or simply does something you wish they wouldn’t, you respond by saying “let them” and release the urge to fix, chase, or manage the situation. The idea is that letting people be who they are reveals who truly belongs in your life, protects your peace, and frees up your energy for relationships and experiences that support your well-being.

To learn more about it, click to see Robbins' oh-so informative podcast on the subject:

[Here](#)

Or if you want to read more about it, click the following link to buy her book:

[Here](#)



PS. Make it a great week!

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