

In this issue

- [1. Reflections](#)
- [2. FYI](#)
- [3. Joke 1](#)
- [4. Reviews](#)
- [5. TV alert](#)
- [6. Joke 2](#)
- [7. Clips/Websites](#)
- [8. Technology tip](#)
- [9. Joke 3](#)
- [10. A quote I like](#)
- [11. Thought for the day](#)
- [12. Advance planning department](#)

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: bjnbc@aol.com and put SUBSCRIPTION in the subject line.

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Had a blast at our friend Annemarie Brown's birthday. To see all the pictures, as well as the accompanying videos, please click [Here](#)



(2) Enjoyed again to the last play of SART's fabulous 2018, SANDERS FAMILY CHRISTMAS (pictured in the top photo with most of the cast) and getting to see Lucas Gregg, an old friend, with his girlfriend (bottom photo).



(3) We were joined at the play by our friends Brian and Carole Biro, and we went out afterward for a tasty dinner at Well Bread Bakery in Weaverville.

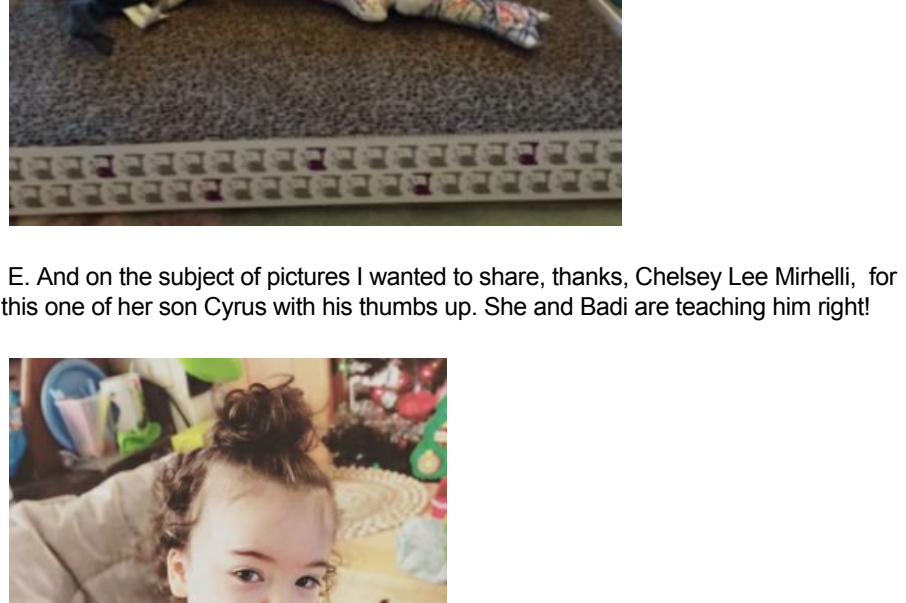


B. WPM/FM invites you to listen to the BLAINESWORLD show from Wednesday, Dec. 26, 2018 ... The guests were: Tebbe Davies (left), artist, poet, historian and tour guide in the first half; for more information: tebbearts@gmail.com; and James Navé (right), poet, publisher and producer in the second half; for more information: jamescarlnave@gmail.com ... to listen to the broadcast, click: [Here](#) ... to view via Facebook Live, click: [Here](#)

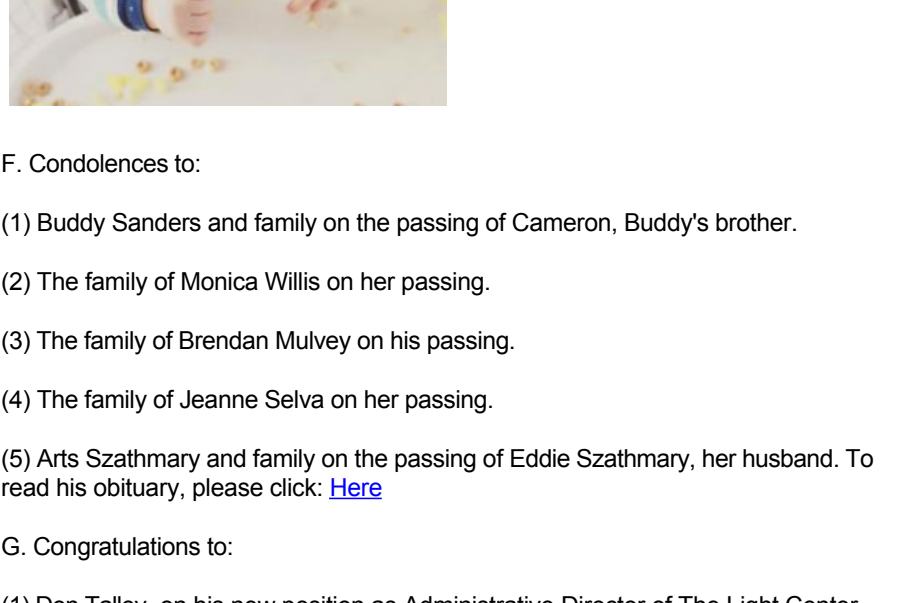


C. During the week, I:

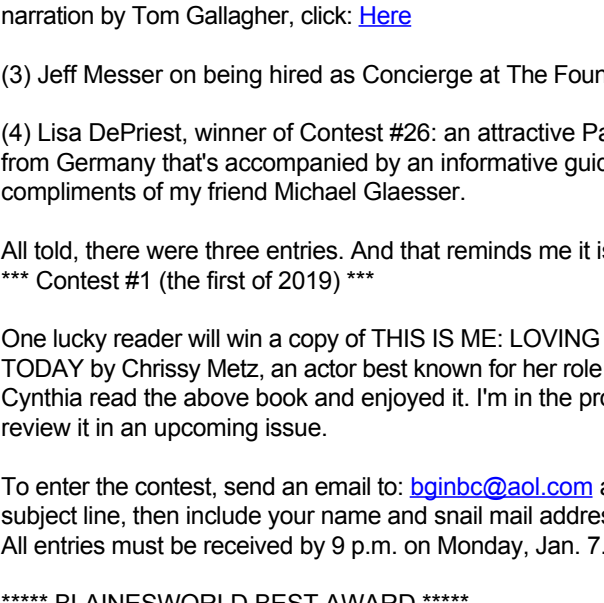
(1) Solved all the world's problems with a hearty breakfast at Five Points Restaurant in Asheville with, Fr: Tom Gallagher, Marvin Sadovsky and Brian Biro.



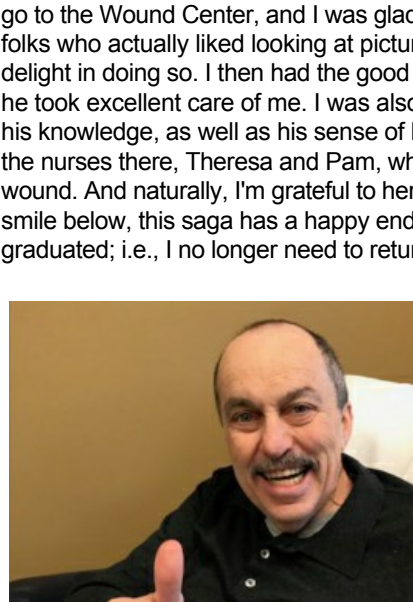
(2) Then did the same thing over lunch with Rodney Smith at one of my favorite eateries in the area: Rise 'n Shine Cafe.



D. Here's a picture of Lovey, Cynthia's cat ... just because.



E. And on the subject of pictures I wanted to share, thanks, Chelsey Lee Mirheli, for this one of her son Cyrus with his thumbs up. She and Badi are teaching him right!



F. Condolences to:

- (1) Buddy Sanders and family on the passing of Cameron, Buddy's brother.
- (2) The family of Monica Willis on her passing.
- (3) The family of Brendan Mulvey on his passing.
- (4) The family of Jeanne Selva on her passing.
- (5) Arts Szathmary and family on the passing of Eddie Szathmary, her husband. To read his obituary, please click: [Here](#)

G. Congratulations to:

- (1) Don Talley on his new position as Administrative Director of The Light Center.
- (2) Marvin Sadovsky on the fact that his book, THE BULLIED, FAT, STUTTERING KID, is now available online. If you'd like to catch this fantastic book that has a fine narration by Tom Gallagher, click: [Here](#)
- (3) Jeff Messer on being hired as Congerize at The Foundry Hotel.
- (4) Lisa DePriest, winner of Contest #26: an attractive Panorama Weimar calendar from Germany that's accompanied by an informative guidebook from the area--compliments of my friend Michael Glaesser.

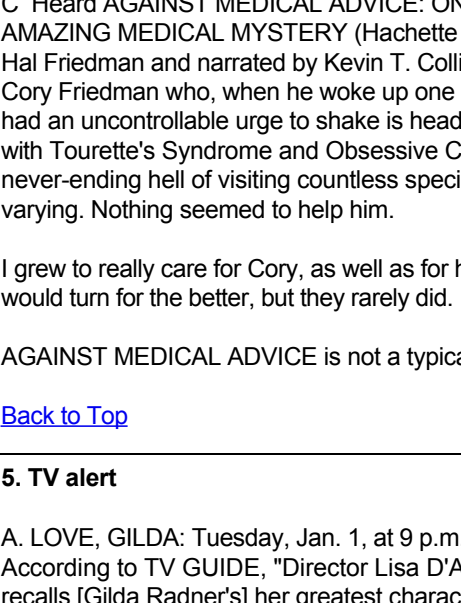
All told, there were three entries. And that reminds me it is now time to introduce ...
*** Contest #1 (the first of 2019) ***

One lucky reader will win a copy of THIS IS ME: LOVING THE PERSON YOU ARE TODAY by Chrissy Metz, an actor best known for her role in THIS IS US. Note: Cynthia read the above book and enjoyed it. I'm in the process of listening to it and will review it in an upcoming issue.

To enter the contest, send an email to: bjnbc@aol.com and put CONTEST #1 in the subject line, then include your name and snail mail address in the body of the email. ... All entries must be received by 9 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 7.

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

This week, it goes to the Wound Treatment Center Hospital at Mission Hospital. ... In case you missed the news, I was stung by a wasp several weeks ago. The result was a blister that was perhaps the biggest the doctors had ever seen. (If you want to read the gory details and/or see pictures, you can do so by clicking: [Here](#).) ... The blister failed to respond to treatment and, in fact, even got larger. So it was suggested that I go to the Wound Center, and I was glad that I did. ... For starters, they were the only folks who actually looked at pictures of my blister and actually seemed to take delight in doing so. I then had the good fortune to be seen by Dr. David Humphrey, and he took excellent care of me. I was also impressed by his knowledge, as well as his sense of humor. ... In addition, I'm appreciative of two of the nurses there, Theresa and Pam, who taught Cynthia how to take care of my wound. And naturally, I'm grateful to her for then doing so. ... As can be seen by my smile below, this saga has a happy ending. That's me after I read the news that I had graduated; i.e., I no longer need to return.



[Back to Top](#)

2. FYI

Learning a New Hobby Has Never Been Easier
by Alexandra Samuel

I was 13 when I first learned to knit...a little. I tried again at 18, and then in my late 20s, and then again as a new mom in my 30s. With each attempt I'd shell out for needles and some nice yarn. But I never made it further than a few sad rows of misshapen loops before I gave up, daunted by my own poor eye-hand coordination and the expense of taking up a new hobby that required not only raw ingredients, but expert guidance.

About a year ago, I decided it was time for my once-a-decade knitting experiment. I stopped in at my local yarn store to pick up some yarn and a pair of knitting needles. The friendly clerk who helped me select beginner-friendly options took a moment to jot down a quick note that would help me get started: an index card with the URL of her favorite YouTube knitting videos.

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

FYI, part 2

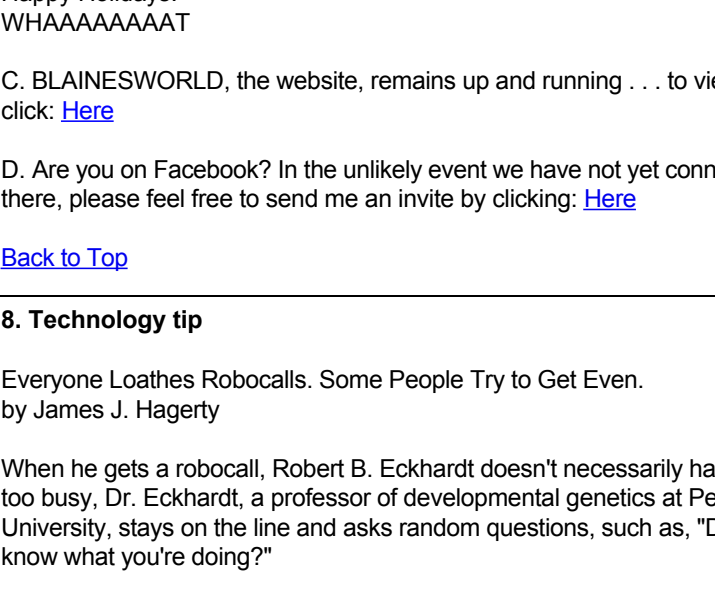
To read each of the following contributions in full, please click: [Here](#)

- (1) Kathy Byers: Your plumber looks enough like you to be your brother!!! (2) "Tony Ray" Fogleman: Why do political pundits start every other sentence with "Look"? (3) Sad Santas Confront Empty Malls: Do I Have Something in My Beard? (4) Hospitals Rush to Offer New Stroke Treatment. (5) The Relentless of Modern Parenting.

[Back to Top](#)

3. Joke 1

I hope you like my decorations on the left. They're also easier on the electric bill. (Thanks, Linda Williams, for sharing.)



[Back to Top](#)

4. Reviews

A. Thanks to the following friends who recommended that we see Mary Poppins Returns:

- (1) Natalie Kaye: Saw Mary Poppins returns. Loved it. Moved to tears several times. Great Feel Good movie. I think you would like it.
- (2) Mike Martinelli: I can't say enough about how wonderful Mary Poppins Returns ***1/2 is. It's a practically perfect sequel.
- (3) Mark Jones: I can't say enough about how good this movie is!! Go see it!! It pays homage to the original film in so many "practically perfect" ways. It has lots of great cameos from amazing actors, including two from the original film. Emily Blunt is the perfect choice to take the mantle from the beloved Julie Andrews! She commands the perfect grace and love! I admit, I was crying most of the film from sheer joy, and a couple of "heartstring tugging" moments. The costumes are stunning and colorful! The sets are nostalgic. It's the film to see this Holiday season!

B. So we took their advice and went with our friends Annemarie Brown, Marvin Sadovsky, Brian Biro and Carole Biro to all see it together.

Cynthia and I liked it, especially the second half. (The first half had too much animation with real characters, and I'm not a big fan of that.) ... Emily Blunt and Lin-Manuel are delightful in the leading roles. And there are some cute dance number and a memorable cameo appearance. My only disappointment: I would have liked Julie Andrews to have also made a cameo. Rated PG, though in my opinion, at 130 minutes, it's too long for young kids--and even older adults.

C. Heard AGAINST MEDICAL ADVICE: ONE FAMILY'S STRUGGLE WITH AN AMAZING MEDICAL MYSTERY (Hachette Audio), written by James Patterson and Hal Friedman and narrated by Kevin T. Collins. ... It is the fascinating, true story of Cory Friedman who, when he woke up one morning as a five-year-old, found that he had an uncontrollable urge to shake his head. Eventually, he was diagnosed with Tourette's Syndrome and Obsessive Compulsive disorder, and his life became a never-ending hell of visiting countless specialists and taking many drugs in widely varying. Nothing seemed to help him.

I grew to really care for Cory, as well as for his family. And I kept hoping that things would turn for the better, but they rarely did.

AGAINST MEDICAL ADVICE is not a typical Patterson novel. I urge you to read it.

[Back to Top](#)

5. TV alert

A. LOVE, GILDA: Tuesday, Jan. 1, at 9 p.m. on CNN
According to TV GUIDE, "Director Lisa D'Apollito's adoring biographical portrait recalls [Gilda Radner's] her greatest characters (Roseanne Roseannadanna, Emily Litella, Lisa Loopner) while delving into Radner's journals and personal audio reflections for poignant insights into the life of this remarkable star, who died at 42 of ovarian cancer nearly 30 years ago."

B. MYTH BUSTERS JR.: Wednesday, Jan. 2, at 9 p.m. on Science Channel
Adam Savage takes his outrageous experiments to a new channel and to a new group (six brainy boys and girls, ages 12-15).

C. THE TITAN GAMES: Premieres on Thursday, Jan. 3, at 8 p.m. on NBC
Watch everyday people become heroes.

D. THE HOLLYWOOD WALK OF FAME HONORS: Friday, Jan. 4, at 9 p.m. on The CW
This special, hosted by Dean Cain, features Jennifer Garner, Dwayne Johnson and Mark Hamill getting new squares.

[Back to Top](#)

6. Joke 2

If you're like me you celebrate all holidays (a more food, fun and friends that way), MERRY CHRISTMAS! ... And if you want to put a bumper sticker on your donkey or car, consider something truthful along the lines of what I displayed many years ago: "My daughter was on school for the school bus four out of five times this past week." ... I was sooooo proud of her.

[Back to Top](#)

7. Clips/Websites

A. Check out these clips at your convenience:

- (1) Chuck Beattie: Call of the Wild: [Here](#)
- (2) Jeff Messer: Love Actually Honest Trailer: [Here](#)
- (3) Linda Williams: Taking percussion to the next level: [Here](#)
- (4) Ed Hackett: The Ed Sullivan Show First Appearance of The Beatles: [Here](#)
- (5) Louis Rosenthal: Biking with Beethoven: [Here](#)

B. Looking to express yourself in a funny and non-offensive way? Then check out the most popular GIFs at GIPYY by clicking: [Here](#)

Among the ones I like:
It's National Champagne Day!
Everything is Cooler in Slow Motion
Happy Holidays!
WHAAAAAAAT

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](#)

[Back to Top](#)

8. Technology tip

Everyone Loathes Robocalls. Some People Try to Get Even.
by James J. Hagerty

When he gets a robocall, Robert B. Eckhardt doesn't necessarily hang up. If he isn't too busy, Dr. Eckhardt, a professor of developmental genetics at Pennsylvania State University, stays on the line and asks random questions, such as, "Do your parents know what you're doing?"

If he can string the caller along for 10 minutes, Dr. Eckhardt considers it a minor victory in the war against telephone spam.

For the rest of this informative and oh-so-useful article, please click: [Here](#)

[Back to Top](#)

9. Joke 3

Question of the year ...

Note: In case you are reading this on your cellphone and can't read the caption, it is as follows: "Can we limit the government shutdown to just the White House?..." On second thought, I'd also like to see it extended to include Congress.

[Back to Top](#)

10. A quote I like

"An individual can make a difference. A team can make a miracle."--Motto of the Philadelphia Eagles, who lost their star quarterback and then won their first Super Bowl in 2018, defeating the heavily favored New England Patriots.

[Back to Top](#)

11. Thought for the day

Thanks, Stephen Forbus, for sharing the following video:
Maturity of a 6-year old

To view it please click: [Here](#)

Note: I liked the video, but think it should have been named: "The wisdom of the shopkeeper." Also, let me know if you can see the video if you're not on Facebook. If you can't, here's another version that you will be able to see: [Here](#)

[Back to Top](#)

12. Advance planning department

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

A. NC events

- (1) From my friend Chandler Smith: Howdy y'all! I'm looking for a few performers (with strong improv backgrounds) for a uniquely awesome gig in Pigeon Forge Tennessee.
- (2) Magic, Mirth & Meaning Show: RICKY D BOONE BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION.

B. PA/NJ event

NOISES OFF at Mercer County College's Kelsey Theatre.

PS. Make it a wonderful week!

[Back to Top](#)