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Slices of life

Life's queue

My family and I are amusement park geeks. Always have been.

Non-amusement park aficionados see the long lines as a deterrent. Why spend so much time in line just waiting for the 90 seconds of roller coaster wonderment?

Seems like a waste. Admittedly, there is a lot of waiting time while in the parks. Downtime. Standing-in-line time. Ho-hum time. Fidget time. Mom, I'm bored time. Dad, I've got to go real bad time.

People who don't appreciate the parks, or places like them, point out the long waits as reason enough to avoid the magic altogether.

That logic used to cause me to pause (often while waiting in line), but then I realized: isn't most of life about waiting?

Waiting for the park to open. Waiting in line for the biggest rollercoaster.

Waiting for the wedding. The births. The birthdays. The holidays. Vacation. The family get-togethers. For graduation. For the new job. For retirement.



By **JILL PERTLER**
Columnist

Waiting for lunch or dinner. Waiting for the water to boil. Waiting for the garden to grow or the flowers to bloom.

Waiting for the next really big moment, or even the not-so-big moments. Standing in the proverbial queue.

Isn't that life? The majority of the time, day in, day out?

Aren't we just waiting for The Next Big Thing, or maybe even just waiting for the bathroom?

This, honestly, caused me to gulp. And ponder. And really, really think.

We're all standing in a queue of one sort or another. It's inevitable. We can't ride the rollercoaster every hour of every day of our life.

So we stand (or sit or lie) and we wait. But does waiting have to be simply just that?

I don't think so. Therein lies the key.

Waiting in line (in the true or proverbial sense) is a life truth we all experience daily. In rush-hour traffic. At the airport and the grocery store. While on hold with the cell phone company. Waiting for the coffee to brew or the shower water to get hot. Time spent driving to work or pumping gas. Even at home, while waiting for the bathroom.

Standing in the queue is a reality for all us - whether it's at a theme park or inside our own home.

Waiting is a part daily existence. It is inevitable and unavoidable. It is commonplace.

What we do while waiting, however, doesn't have to be.

Waiting can be meaningless or meaningful. I propose we attempt to make it the latter.

And it doesn't have to be anything monumental or life-changing. It can be as inconsequential as putting together a mental grocery list. Or, better yet, a mental gratitude list. Maybe you hum a little tune or repeat a positive mantra or prayer. Maybe you just take a moment or two to focus on the peace within your own being.

If you are standing in a line with others you can tell a joke or play 20-questions or a hearty game of "I spy with my little eye."

Bottom line, you can be present and do whatever you can to enjoy the moment - with yourself or with others. You can find fun in what appears to be the absence of it. You can discover and create meaning in what seems to be the absence of it. You can corral peace and contentment anytime, anywhere, while simply waiting for the next big moment. Your next big moment.

Even if that moment is waiting for the coffee to brew.

It might not be as exciting as a roller coaster, but it can be just as satisfying.

Am I right? Ponder that. But not for long. There are lots of other, bigger life truths worthy of your time and consideration - while waiting in line, of course.

Jill Pertler is an award-winning syndicated columnist, published playwright and author. Don't miss a slice; follow the Slices of Life page on Facebook.

Weekly connection

The outrageous joy of being a Christian

All throughout my life I have had the privilege of knowing some of the most joyful people that one could ever hope to meet. Now when I talk about joyfulness, I'm not necessarily saying that a person has to be bubbling over with laughter all day long, every day. I'm talking about someone who realizes they are blessed and has a certain peace about them that is unmistakable. Being full of joy doesn't mean one is "happy-happy-happy all the time-time-time," as I like to say. It means that there is a confidence that one has in one's heart that keeps them close to God where one's foundation and security are. Joy is the result of what a person knows not necessarily what a person feels.

When one knows that God the creator is real and that He has not left us here on this planet without a plan, it brings



By **SCOTT CERNEK**
Columnist

a great deal of strength which in turn brings joy down deep in the heart. As a believer in Jesus Christ as the only begotten Son of God, who died and rose again so that I might have eternal life, I am confident that my Savior has placed a joy in my heart that is real. When I was a kid, all of my mom's siblings exuded such a joy in their lives. They were always laughing and teasing us kids in a fun way. They talked about the Lord as if He was right there in the room with us. You could just feel the love they had for family and for the Lord

in everything they did and spoke. The people we were with at church were also extremely joyful and it became contagious as I grew older and learned more about the work the Holy Spirit was doing in my life. Really, though, I can't think of anyone who has shared more joy than my own mother. Nothing has ever been able to shake her up. She has a peace and a trust in the Lord that is unshakable. My dad too, before he went home to heaven last January, was a man who really lived out his faith and trust in Christ and he lived with great joy throughout his life as well. He was free from the penalty of his sin because the Lord had taken it upon Himself on the cross and the result was a light heart and joyful spirit.

When Jesus walked on this earth with His disciples, I believe they were some of the

most joyous people that ever lived. I can see them walking the dusty roads together and laughing and sharing the joy of the Lord together every day as they went from town to town healing the sick and teaching about the joy of the Lord. There's a verse in the Old Testament book of Nehemiah 8:10. It is a very simple verse that reminds us that the joy of the Lord is our strength. He told the workers who were trying to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem that they were not to be sour and overwhelmed, but instead to live in the wisdom of the truth of a real God who was with them wherever they went. Until next week, stay joyful my friends.

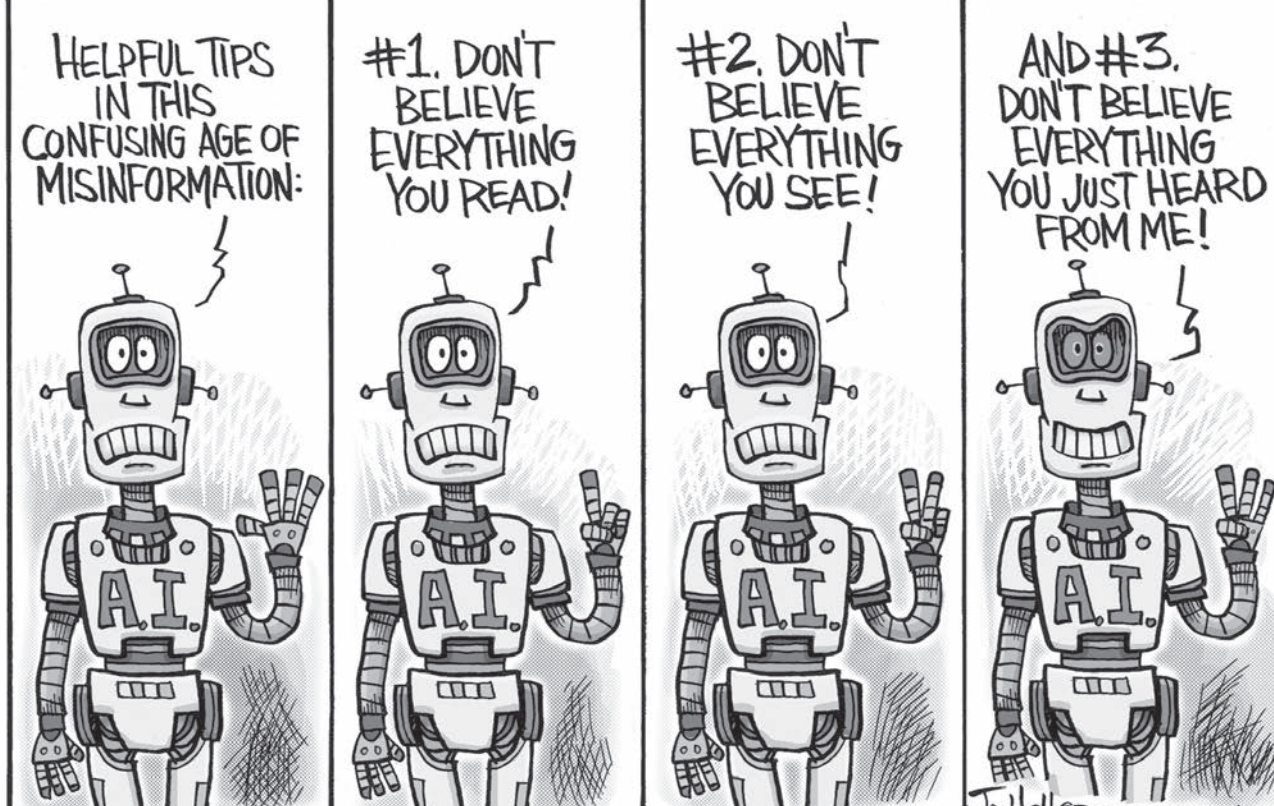
You can contact Pastor Scott Cernek at scottcernek@gmail.com or find him on Facebook and send a message. Thank you.

HELPFUL TIPS IN THIS CONFUSING AGE OF MISINFORMATION:

#1. DON'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU READ!

#2. DON'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU SEE!

AND #3. DON'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU JUST HEARD FROM ME!



JOE HELLER HEILERTON.CAN.2024

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LARGE LIVE PUBLIC AUCTION

SATURDAY, MARCH 9 • RUNNING TWO RINGS!
 Lunch by: Moni • 9 A.M. • Comfort Station Available
 LOCATION: Boone Co. Fairgrounds, 8847 IL Rt. 76, Belvidere, IL 61008.

COINS, VEHICLES, ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES, HOUSEHOLD, LOTS OF TOOLS, YARD & MISC. – DRESS FOR THE WEATHER!
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451855

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PRAIRIE GRANGE 47th ANNUAL CONSIGNMENT AUCTION

SATURDAY, APRIL 13 • 9:30 A.M. SHARP
 PRAIRIE GRANGE, SPONSOR • RUNNING 3 LINES!!!

LOCATION: Boone Co. Fairgrounds, 8847 IL Rt. 76, Belvidere, IL (1 mi. North of Belvidere, IL)
 NOTE: Check in times are as follows: Thursday, April 11 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Friday, April 12 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 NO SATURDAY MORNING ENTRIES! FOOD AVAILABLE ON GROUNDS BY GRANGERS!
 Bring your trucks & trailers & tell your friends! Always way too much to list!!
 No titled vehicles to be sold unless valid title in sellers name!

CONSIGNMENT FEES:	SALE AMOUNT	COMMISSION
Total Lot Sale	\$0-\$100	DONATION TO GRANGE
	\$101-\$3,000	25%
	\$3,001-\$5,000	20%
	\$5,001 and up	15%

\$10 deposit each required for the following items: tires, gas tanks, major appliances. \$50 deposit required on titled items, no sale fee on titled items, \$50. Buy back fee on non-titled items: \$10.
 For questions call sale manager Lyle Lee at 815-988-0249.

451930

FARM EQUIPMENT AUCTION

SATURDAY, MARCH 23 • 10 A.M.
 Paul J. Gitz Estate
 4118 S. Park Road, Freeport, IL

IHC TRACTORS & OTHERS: 1977 IHC 1486 Diesel Tractor with cab, wf, hyd, wts, 3 pt, 540-1000 PTO, 20.8-38 tires & axle duals; 1966 IHC 806 Diesel Tractor with Cab, wf, 3 pt, hyd, 18.4-38 tires, wts & duals; 1964 IHC 806 Diesel Tractor with wf, 3 pt, 540-1000 PTO, flat top fenders, 18.4-34 tires & duals; 1959 IHC 560 Diesel Tractor with flat top fenders, nf, hyd standard drawbar, 16.9-38 tires; 1953 IHC Super M with nf, 13-38 tires, pulley, standard drawbar, repaint, nice!; 1952 IHC Super C Tractor with nf, 10-36 tires; 1946 IHC B Farmall with nf, wts, 9-24 tires, PTO, 1946 IHC "A" Tractor with wf, wts, belly Mower, new 11.2-24 tires; 1949 IHC W-6 Standard Tractor with 16.9-30 tires, pulley, fenders; 1928 IHC Farmall Regular Tractor, nf, also extra set steel wheels fit this tractor, to be restored; 1929 McCormick-Deering 10-20, wf, PTO, to be restored; M.F. 1938 Case DC Tractor with fenders, nf, 13.6-38 tires, hyd, PTO, repaint, nice; M.F. 202 Work Bull Loader Tractor with rear wt, 16.9-24 tires, shuttle gear!; M.F. 300 Loader Tractor with 50A Loader, 7' Bucket, rear wts, flat fenders, 18.4-26 tires. All tractors are running and in clean condition.

TRUCKS AND LIVESTOCK TRAILER: 1986 Ford F350 Pickup XLT 4x4, flat bed, goose neck hitch, high mileage, not running; 1974 Chevrolet C-30 Ambulance Truck; 16' Cattle Trailer Bumper Hitch; 1968 IHC 1890 Grain Truck, not running; 1967 IHC 1700 Grain Truck, not running.

FARM MACHINERY: IHC 6-16" Bottom 3 pt. Plow with Harrow; Top Air 40' Trailer Sprayer, 600 gal; IHC 1450 Cadet with deck; IHC 1250 Mix Mill; Fox Forage Blower; J.D. 200 gl. Trailer Sprayer; 2 Fox 3000 Forage Harvester's with Corn & Hay Heads; Flow-EZ Bu. Gravity Box with 1074 Gear, nice; JD 953 gear with flair box & hoist; Glencoe 9 shank Chisel Plow with drag; 60' 8" Auger with elec. Motor; IHC #490-20' hyd. Fold Disk with flex Harrow; IHC-6R. Front Cultivator; IHC-4R. Front Cultivator; Gehl 72 Green Chopper; 16' Green Chop Wagon; Kewanee 22' Flat Fold Cultimulcher; 24' 4 Section Harrow & cart; IHC 55T Baler with motor; IHC 4 cylinder Ind. Motor; Knight 410 Tandem axle Spreader with dual apron, hyd. Gate, 2 beaters; IHC Cyclo Planter parts; IHC 55T Baler, PTO; JD Rotary Hoe; Cart with End gate Seeder; 18' Flat rack & Gear; Hesston #10 Stacker; Woods 214 Bat Wing Mower, parts; Cattle Squeeze Chute; 20+ Assort. Pipe Gates; Water Tanks.

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NOTE: This is a large Estate with many farm related items and tools. A nice lineup of IHC Tractors to be offered. Paul lived on the family Sesquicentennial farm his entire life, and was the original owner of many of the tractors to be sold. He had a special passion for Farmall tractors. Be sure to see the pictures on the websites. Lunch stand and portable toilet on grounds.

TERMS: Cash or check with picture ID required. All equipment sold in AS-IS condition. No exceptions. Number system to be used. Check website for directions to farm.

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Please **VOTE**

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FOR OGLE COUNTY CORONER

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Supporting Christie Cox for Coroner

I was initially supporting Christie Cox for Coroner simply because I've known her for many years and always found her to be a person of integrity. I recently sat down with Christie to discuss some of my concerns about the Coroner's office, namely that their budget has doubled since I left office in 2018 and, even beyond that growth, they were significantly over their original budget several of those years. I came away from that meeting confident that Christie shares my philosophy of needing to be fiscally conservative while maintaining great service to her constituents. When she is elected, she will run the office like a business, taking a hard look at office practices and spending to eliminate any waste and enhance productivity. Ogle County needs and deserves this kind of conservative leadership. I hope everyone will join me in voting for Christie Cox for Ogle County Coroner on March 19th!

John Coffman
Former Ogle County Treasurer (2000 - 2018)

Paid for by John Coffman

451950

Community Worship Service
Wednesday, March 13 at 6:30 p.m.

Palm Sunday
Sunday, March 24 at 10:30 a.m.

Maundy Service
Thursday, March 28 at 7 p.m.

Easter Service
Sunday, March 31 at 10:30 a.m.

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451469

Game on!

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

Level: Advanced

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

Level: Intermediate

SUDOKU

Fun by the Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test! **Here's How It Works:** Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

MARCH MADNESS WORD SEARCH

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

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

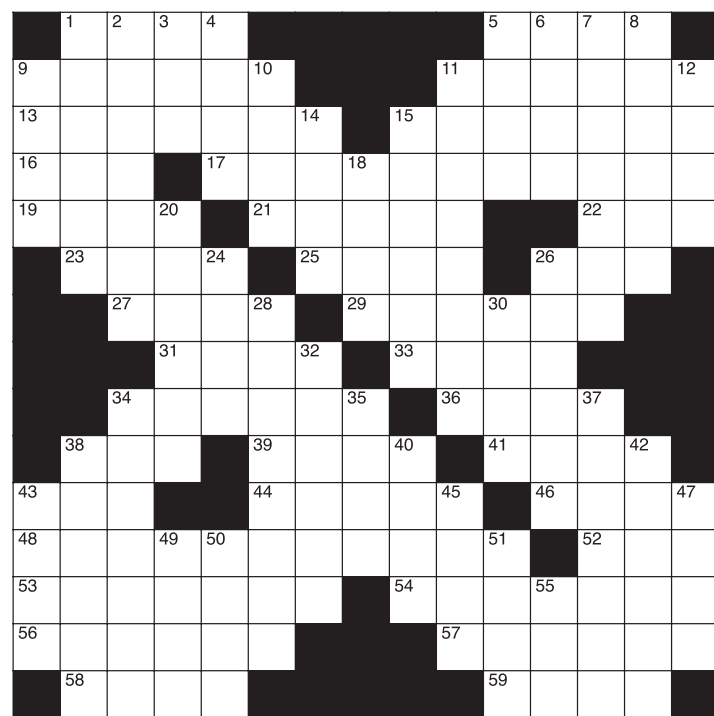
- BANK
- BASKETBALL
- CENTER
- COURT
- DEFENSE
- DRIBBLE
- FORWARD
- FOUL
- FREE THROW
- GUARD
- HOOPS
- LAYUP
- LINEUP
- NET
- OFFENSE
- OPEN
- OVERHEAD
- PALMING
- PASS
- REBOUNDED
- SHOOTER
- SIDELINES
- TRAVELING
- WALKING

CLUES ACROSS

1. Chaps
5. Currently fashionable
9. Collision
11. More slim
13. European city
15. Implicitly
16. The side of something that is sheltered from the wind
17. The Mount Rushmore State
19. Gold or silver wire cord
21. Muscles along insects' diaphragm
22. Trent Reznor's band
23. Sweet juicy gritty-textured fruit
25. Broken branch
26. Indicates ten
27. Expression of annoyance
29. Brings together
31. Ancient city in Thrace
33. Sailors' spirit
34. Looked into
36. Muckraking woman journalist Rheta
38. A type of cast
39. One's responsibility
41. Where golfers begin
43. Make a mistake
44. Semitic Sun god
46. Ancient Italian-Greek colony
48. Beheaded
52. A place to stay
53. Unwise
54. Most supernatural
56. "Dennis" is a famous one
57. Ointments
58. Exam
59. Leaked blood

CLUES DOWN

1. Baseball managers assemble it
2. Revised
3. Mountain is a popular kind
4. Takes to civil court
5. Pouches



6. A type of veil
7. Chants
8. Boston hoopster
9. Elongated appendage
10. Sailboat
11. 2017 Oscar-winning film
12. Actor Gosling
14. Monetary units
15. Assembly
18. Russian pop duo
20. Embellished with expressions
24. Infrequent
26. Temperature unit
28. Hydrophilic amino acid
30. Honk
32. Legislative body
34. Swinish
35. Russian assembly
37. Take over for
38. Put in advance
40. Satisfy
42. Felt
43. Dutch cheese
45. Witnesses
47. Strong insects
49. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
50. Ancient people of Scotland
51. Cheerless
55. Sick

⊙ * ☐ ☹ ☼ ☽ ☾ ☿ ♀ ♁ ♂ ♃ ♄ ♅ ♆ ♇ ♈ ♉ ♊ ♋ ♌ ♍ ♎ ♏ ♐ ♑ ♒ ♓

CRYPTO FUN

☐ ☹ ☼ ☽ ☾ ☿ ♀ ♁ ♂ ♃ ♄ ♅ ♆ ♇ ♈ ♉ ♊ ♋ ♌ ♍ ♎ ♏ ♐ ♑ ♒ ♓

Solve the code to discover words related to basketball.
 Each number corresponds to a letter.
 (Hint: 20 = T)

- A. 11 7 19 19**
Clue: Toss ball
- B. 11 1 21 12 20 19**
Clue: Score
- C. 4 1 24 14 20**
Clue: Playing area
- D. 2 7 19 15 9 20**
Clue: Hoop

Answers: A. pass B. points C. court D. basket

Riddle me this...

Riddle: I am always hungry, I must always be fed. The finger I lick will soon turn red. What am I?



Answer: Fire

Puzzle answers on page 5!

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