

The Paper

OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

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TODAY'S VERSE

John 1:1-5 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

FACES OF MONTGOMERY

People who call our community their own.



One of our roving photographers caught Cameron and Cooper outside and having fun and the boys were nice enough to offer a smile! Got a great photo of your loved one? E-mail it to news@thepaper24-7.com along with the pertinent info (and your contact information so we can reach you if we have questions).

THREE THINGS You Should Know:

1 The Animal Welfare League is hosting a Trickin' Jeeps and Trunk or Treat at Pike Place! Dress up your jeep in a fun Halloween style Saturday, October 21 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. This event is open to the public and will include raffles, prizes and a food truck. Trunk or treat will be from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The cost is \$25 per jeep. This event is sponsored by Animal Welfare League, HCJC Lafayette and Jeeps of MoCo.

2 Who can resist a plate of lasagna; not this bear. It happened in Barkhamsted, CT at the home of Helena Houllis who was away at the time, but security cameras kept watch while she was out and automatically followed the brash bruin as it wandered into the kitchen. The bear went straight to the fridge, opened the freezer and absconded with the frozen, but tasty treat. As Miss Houllis put it to reporters at WWIT-TV, "We have seen a lot of bears in the last few years, but nothing ever like this."

3 Falls of the Ohio State Park will have a celebration of the 20th anniversary of the installation of the park's Lewis and Clark statue, sculpted by the late artist Carol Grende, Oct. 28, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Interpretive Center. The event will include presentations in the auditorium by Mandy Dick, a reenactor of William and George Rogers Clark's sister, Lucy Croghan, at 11 a.m.; by Filson Historical Society historian Jim Holmberg on the Falls' connection to the Lewis & Clark expedition at 1 p.m.; and by Phyllis Yaeger of the Lewis and Clark Expedition Commission on the history of "The Handshake" statue. Visit (on.IN.gov/falls-of-theohiosp) for more information.

BTN

By The Numbers, a look at what's in the news . . . by the numbers. These are just numbers, not suggestions that they mean more or less than what they are. We do not suggest that one number is connected to another. These are simply facts with no extraneous details, bias or slanted reporting. To borrow (and perhaps mangle a bit) a quote from legendary fictional detective Joe Friday, it's just the numbers, ma'am!

285 Percent

Instead of setting prices at 285% of Medicare rates, lawmakers instead tasked the Family and Social Services Administration to research where hospitals sat — though at least one national expert thought it was a good move.

10 Percent

"When hospitals received an unexpected 10% increase in Medicare payment rates, they did not reduce their prices," the presentation read, citing the National Bureau of Economic Research.

80 Percent

Trucks carry 80% of all freight tonnages within and through Indiana, according to the state's transportation department. But they must abide by strict weight restrictions: in total, they must weigh less than 80,000 pounds, must have less than 34,000 pounds on a set of tandem axles, and so on — in line with federal requirements. ISP also enforces federal per-tire weight regulations.

Less Than 1,000 Pounds

Each scale has three platforms so station attendants can measure weight in total and by axle group. Officers have discretion in taking action when vehicles are overweight. They may ask drivers to "correct" the load, and can offer warnings, citations and even impoundment — although state law protects vehicles that are overweight by less than 1,000 pounds.

47K to 277K Range

Officers diverted small percentages to the static scales over the five-year period, ranging from a pandemic-induced 47,000 (2% of screenings) to a pre-pandemic 277,000 (12% of screenings). They weighed more than 222,000 in 2022, still under 2018 totals and percentages.

30 Percent

The influx of billions of dollars in federal relief funneled through the state to Indiana's counties, cities and townships has increased the workload for the State Board of Accounts (SBOA) by 30%, as the entity audits local budgets and implements federal spending requirements.

\$5.7 Billion

For 35 days in late 2018 and 2019 when Trump was in the White House and Republicans held congressional majorities, Republicans shut the federal government down over a \$5.7 billion impasse on funding for the Mexican border wall, something Trump had repeatedly insisted that Mexico would pay for.

More Than \$1 Billion

The trucking industry pays the state of Indiana more than \$1 billion annually in registration fees, taxes and more, according to Langston — which he noted adds up to a significant portion of INDOT's budget. "It's logical that vehicles that are heavier maybe use up the road more quickly than a passenger vehicle, but there are a lot more passenger vehicles and trucks, and passenger vehicles drive a lot more miles than trucks," he added.

The Daily Almanac

Sunrise/Sunset
RISE: 8:05 a.m.
SET: 6:58 p.m.



High/Low Temperatures
High: 66 °F
Low: 33 °F

Today is...

- National Croc Day
- National iPod Day
- National Horror Movie Day

What Happened On This Day

- **2001** Apple announces the first iPod Player. The iPod is the world's best-selling portable media player. Already 6 years after its initial launch, Apple announced that 100 million devices had been sold.
- **1998** Swatch Announces Internet Time. The Swiss watch company invented a new unit of time called the .beat, which corresponds to 1 minute and 26.4 seconds. Under the Internet Time system, a day is divided into 1000 .beats.
- **1983** Beirut Barracks Bombing. Two bombs exploded in front of American and French barracks during the Lebanese Civil War, killing about 300 French and American military personnel. Islamic Jihad took responsibility for the bombings.
- **Births On This Day**
- **1942** Michael Crichton American author, screenwriter, director, producer
- **1925** Johnny Carson American television host

- **Deaths On This Day**
- **1957** Christian Dior French fashion designer, founded S.A.
- **1921** John Boyd Dunlop Scottish businessman, co-founded Dunlop Rubber

HONEST HOOSIER

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INSIDE TODAY'S EDITION

Casey Williams.....A3
Classifieds.....A3
Carrie Classon.....A4

THE MONTGOMERY MINUTE

Say Cheese!

Are you a proud parent or grandparent? Got a great photo of your loved one? E-mail it to news@thepaper24-7.com along with the pertinent info (and your contact information so we can reach you if we have questions). C'mon, let's show off as many bright and smiling faces as we can and make clear exactly why Montgomery County is such a great place to raise a family!

TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Kindness is contagious - surround yourself with giving people. Today's health tip was brought to you by Dr. John Roberts. Catch his column each week in The Paper and online at www.thepaper24-7.com.



TODAY'S QUOTE

"There is something haunting in the light of the moon; it has all the dis-passionateness of a disembodied soul, and something of its inconceivable mystery."
-Joseph Conrad

TODAY'S JOKE

What sent the witch to the hospital?
A dizzy spell.

OBITUARIES
GLENN WILLIAMS III

The Paper appreciates all our customers. Today, we'd like to personally thank Heather Barnette for subscribing!



7 DAY FORECAST

36/66 FROSTY START, NICE	53/77 WINDY AND WARMER	61/75 SCTD SHOWERS	61/78 MILD, STRAY SHOWER	64/76 SCTD SHOWERS	62/76 SCTD SHOWERS	60/69 SCTD SHOWERS
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

OBITUARIES

Glenn Williams III

May 6, 1948, Friday, October 20, 2023

Glenn Williams III passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on Friday, October 20, 2023 in his home in Crawfordsville. Glenn was born on May 6, 1948 to Glenn and Dorothy (Walker) Williams in Indianapolis. He married Sharon Hartung on November 19, 1966, and they spent over 17 loving years together until her passing in 1984. Glenn then married Janet (Rose) Keller on August 10, 1985 at First Baptist Church.



Glenn graduated from Alamo High School, Class of 1966. He was a postal carrier in Crawfordsville for 37 years, retiring in 2003. After retirement, he continued working part time at Sears, Big R and Ace Hardware. Glenn was a longtime Mason with the Alamo Lodge. He enjoyed spending time with his children and grandchildren, especially watching their sports games. Glenn was an avid IU basketball and NASCAR fan. He was often found selling and socializing at the Croy Creek Market. Glenn organized the yearly food drive with USPS, including this past year. He was always active and keeping busy with friends, family or around the house.

Glenn is survived by his wife of 38 years, Janet; children, Stephanie Griswold of Attica, Stacey Williams of Lafayette, Matt Williams (Melissa) of Florida, Clint Williams (LeeAnn) of Lafayette, Marcia Fonseca (Larry Thomas) of Brazil, and Barbara Tyler (Tyler) of California; 16 grandchildren, Erin, Carly, Jarrett, Kelsey, Taylor, Derek, Izaak, Kimberly, Chad, Jacob, Kobe, Kinsey, Kole, Emma, AJ, Zach; 19 great grandchildren and another on the way; and a sister, Glenda Dale (Don) of Darlington.

He was preceded by his parents; first wife, Sharon; son, Aaron Keller; grandson, Jake; and sister, Sharon Bayless.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, October 26, 2023 at Sanders Shoemaker Funeral Care, 202 Bratton Road in Waynetown from 12 noon until the time of the service at 2:00 pm. Burial will follow at Waynetown Masonic Cemetery. In honor of Glenn's work with the USPS Food Drive, memorial donations may be made in his memory to FISH Food Pantry, PO Box 261, Crawfordsville, IN 47933. Share memories and condolences at www.SandersFuneralCare.com.

1st Place Team Finisheds With Commanding Lead

The first place team of Rhett Welliever, Bill Bone, Steve Snyder and John Welliever absolutely crushed it this week with a score of eleven-under-par. The second place team trailed by a good four strokes with a final score of seven-under-par and con-

sisted of Denny Wilson, Ed Bayless, John Lewis, Dale Wilson and Jack Foos.

Proxies went to Jeff Cohee and Greg Rister on holes two and seventeen, respectively. Longest drive of someone 80 years old or older was awarded to Dave Hart.

Witham Health Services Receives Beautiful Needlepoint Picture For Pediatric Office



Photo courtesy of Witham Health Services

The Boone County Senior Services Needlepoint group has been very busy with a special project for Witham Pediatrics. Fifteen very talented ladies from the group each stitched sections of the large needlepoint picture that depicts the nursery rhyme "There was an Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe". The finished piece with all its fine details and intricacies shows their passion for stitching and took several years to complete. It was actually started before COVID so that caused the project to be delayed. This spectacular piece of art is displayed in the Witham Pediatrics office waiting room. Witham patients, staff and visitors will be able to enjoy it for years. Thank you to the following ladies for sharing their talents. Celeste Berry, Linda Burkhart, Betty Carr, Sonya Carr, Charlotte Frandsen, Jane Hammock, Debbie Harmon, Patty Hughes, Jeanne James, MaryAnne Koehler, Diana Miller, Audrey Nordstrom, Becky Ohman, Arlene Quinn, Marlena Walton. To learn more about Witham Health Services go to www.witham.org.

Russellville Community Center Halloween Social

The Russellville Community Center Halloween Social will be Saturday, October 28. We will start serving the delicious evening meal at 5 p.m. This year the menu consists of chili, potato soup, coney, hot dogs, sloppy joes, fish, tenderloin, French fries, nachos & cheese, potato chips, homemade desserts, and

a variety of drinks. Registration for the masquerade is from 5:30 - 6:45 p.m. Categories for the costume prizes are: best Halloween Character, best character, animal, prettiest, ugliest, best couple or group, most original, and miscellaneous. There will be ten cash winners per category. There will

also be one \$50 grand prize winner and a \$25 reserve prize winner. Winners will be announced at 7 p.m.

This year the carnival games begin at 6 p.m. One ticket per game. Tickets are 50 cents. Professional photographer, Cathy Jones, will be on-site to take your little princes and prin-

cesses (and a few little monsters) pictures! Door prizes will be given away every hour and you do need to be present to win. The public is invited and encouraged to attend.

 If you have questions, please contact Darrell at 765-918-6312, Amanda at 765-367-3636, or Debbie at 765-307-0197.

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relax & enjoy

THE PAPER

Thanks for reading The Paper!



Photos courtesy of Toyota

2023 Simply Put, Toyota Prius Is Beautiful

It's sleek, fuel efficient, advanced beyond belief, and imminently practical, but absolutely nobody would call the Toyota Prius beautiful. Until now. Looking for ways to keep the hybrid Prius relevant in an EV world dominated by Tesla, designers went back to their clay models and design programs to create a Prius that looks like a Lamborghini sedan. That, and it's even better at being a Prius. Check our 2023 Limited edition for proof.

All that, and it still looks like a Prius with the slope nose and high hatch profile that's become familiar. But, it's so much more flaunting voluptuous fenders filled with 19" wheels, wings that separate the headlamps, and character lines that twist lower sills and rise into the sculptural bodysides. Sharp creates add tension to rear fenders too. Contrasting black roof panels and wide taillamps with drawn corners add

interest. Like an Italian supercar, you just want to stand and stare at all intricacies of the Prius' design. Environmentalists and family men deserve beauty too.

It's like riding in a sci-fi concept car from the 1980s, but much more practical. Flatscreen gauges are set far back beneath the windshield and a wide dash top screen for infotainment are as in Toyota's bZ4X electric crossover, but a high console with flick-wrist gear selector lends a sportier feel. You feel like you're down inside this car. Sof-Tex vegan leather seats are both comfortable and easy to wipe clean, but are heated/ventilated in front and heated in back.

Our Limited adds luxuries like JBL audio, twin-panel glass roof, and heated steering wheel. Connect devices wirelessly with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto. Charge phones wirelessly too.

2023 Toyota Prius Limited Five-passenger, FWD Sedan

Powertrain: 2.0-liter I4, Li-ion batteries
Output: 194hp (combined)
Suspension f/r: Ind/Ind
Wheels f/r: 19"/19" alloy
Brakes f/r: regen disc/disc
0-60 mph: 7.2s.
Fuel economy: 52/52 mpg city/hwy
Assembly: Aichi, Japan
Base/as-tested price: \$27,450/\$38,019

Safety is enhanced by automatic emergency braking, lane keep assist, blind spot warning, and safe exit assist that keeps passengers from stepping into traffic. Owners will want for little.

Beneath that sexy bodywork is a hybrid system employing a 2.0-liter

LIKES

- Sculptural style
- Hybrid MPG's
- Cossetting interior

four-cylinder engine, lithium-ion batteries, and regenerative braking to deliver a peppy 194 horsepower and 52/52-MPG city/highway. That's about 70 more horsepower than the previous generation. Beyond fuel economy to embarrass earlier models, it zips from 0-60 mph in 7.2 seconds. Step up to the plug-in version for 44 miles all-electric range and 0-60 in 6.6 seconds. It's got lungs to match its looks.

All comparisons to Lamborghini end with the car's handling, but the lower and wider stance makes this the best-handling Prius ever. Weight from the batteries is low in the chassis for the best balance, enhanced by a four-wheel independent suspension. Electric power

DISLIKES

- Non-opening sunroof
- Vague steering
- Whiny transmission

steering can feel vague, but I suspect almost nobody buys a Prius for a spirited weekend drive through the country. It's much happier whisking through city streets and slugging down Interstates on holiday, but it won't embarrass itself in the twisties either.

You no longer have to be a computer programmer, environmentalist, or frugal grandma to own a Prius (though, you'd be smart to buy one if you are). It's become a car that art teachers, travelers, and automotive enthusiasts can also embrace. You may buy it because it's beautiful, but will fall in love with the easy technology, roomy trunk, and stupid ridiculous fuel economy – all without a plug (unless you



CASEY WILLIAMS
Auto Reviews

want one, because there's a Prius with that too).

So, what does this science-soaked art project cost? The base Prius starts at \$27,450, but came to \$38,019 all-in. Compare that to the Honda Accord Hybrid, Hyundai Elantra Hybrid, and Kia Niro Hybrid.

Storm Forward!

Send comments to Casey at AutoCasey@aol.com; follow him on YouTube @AutoCasey.

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Expanding Child Care In Indiana



SPENCER DEERY
Guest Columnist

This year, the Interim Committee on Public Health, Behavioral Health and Human Services was asked to study

many topics, including the need for child care throughout Indiana.

As a member of the committee, I participated in its final meeting of the year Wednesday, where we approved a report with proposals to address child care gaps throughout the state.

This is an infrastructure issue that is vital to our economy and workforce. A lack of access to affordable and high-quality child care can put families, employers and their customers in difficult positions. Finding ways to increase child care affordability and availability throughout the state should be one of the General Assembly's highest priorities.

During Wednesday's meeting, the committee unanimously passed a final report that makes several recommendations. These include addressing the shortfall of early child care workers by making employees hired by a licensed child care facility eligible for subsidies under the Child Care and Development Fund and On My Way Pre-Kindergarten program, designating child care credentials as a tuition-free option under the Workforce Ready Grant, and reducing the age requirement for working alone with infants and toddlers from 21 to 18.

Suggestions also include requiring the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration to publish a monthly dashboard with information about existing child care subsidies and for the Indiana Economic

Development Corporation to provide updates to the General Assembly on funds dedicated to supporting child care efforts through READI Grants and other programs.

While the committee has concluded its meetings this year, I look forward to continued discussion and hopefully action on this topic during the 2024 legislative session so we can open more avenues to get Hoosiers into the workforce and attain better jobs.

Divesting Hoosier Assets from China

In an increasingly dangerous world, the Chinese Communist Party is working against America's interests on a variety of fronts. Despite China's track record of human rights abuses, unfair trade practices and foreign aggression, Indiana had over \$1 billion of Hoosiers' hard-earned money invested in Chinese Communist Party interests at the beginning of 2023.

That is why I supported a new law that required the Indiana Public Retirement System (INPRS) to divest from Chinese investments. This law requires INPRS to divest from 75% of any holdings within four years and 100% within five years, but the state was already divested from nearly 82% of Chinese investments in July.

I am pleased INPRS is working ahead of schedule on this important initiative. Divesting from China is yet another way Indiana is working to be responsible with taxpayer dollars. As your state senator, I will continue to take a stand on issues that impact not only Hoosiers but all Americans.

Volunteers Needed For De-Trash the Wabash

The Tippecanoe County Partnership for Water

Quality is looking for volunteers for its De-Trash the Wabash event from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Oct. 21, starting at Tapawingo Park.

Volunteers will help pick up trash along the banks of the Wabash River in several locations in Tippecanoe County.

Gloves, trash bags and trash grabbers will be provided.

Addiction Recovery Grant Opportunity Available

The Tippecanoe Regional Opioid Settlement Community Committee has opened a grant for funding from the Opioid Settlement Funds for organizations working in opioid addiction recovery services.

Applications can be submitted now through 4 p.m. Oct. 31.

21st Century Scholars Enrollment Now Open

Enrollment for the 21st Century Scholars Program, which pays up to 100% of tuition at Indiana public colleges, is now open through June 30 to Hoosier students in seventh or eighth grade.

Thanks to a new law, students who qualify for free and reduced-price lunch are automatically enrolled and do not need to complete an application. However, students must meet other requirements to maintain their scholarship eligibility upon high school graduation and through college.

Families who meet income eligibility requirements and don't receive free and reduced-price lunch will still need to apply.

- Spencer Deery is an Indiana State Senator serving District 23 which includes Fountain, Parke, Vermillion, Warren and portions of Montgomery and Tippecanoe counties.

Norovirus Knowledge; Gut-Wrenching Details



JOHN R. ROBERTS, M.D.
Montgomery Medicine

Stomach flu has been making the rounds lately. I have to start by dispelling a common misconception people have that all types of "flu" are the same. "Stomach flu" is not caused by the same viruses that cause respiratory illnesses. Flu shots, given this time of year to help prevent respiratory influenza, will not help protect you from viruses affecting the gastrointestinal tract.

Noroviruses are the number one cause of acute viral gastroenteritis in the United States with an estimated 21 million cases per year. These annual infections lead to 70,000 hospitalizations and 800 deaths. The name norovirus is derived from a virus that was first identified as the cause of an outbreak of illness in a school in Norwalk, Ohio in 1968.

Noroviruses are a very sturdy group of viruses, able to withstand freezing and temperatures as high as 140 degrees Fahrenheit. They can survive steaming when cooking shellfish, and are even resistant to the levels of chlorine found in municipal drinking water.

Typical symptoms of norovirus infection include the sudden onset of nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and abdominal pain/cramping. Diarrhea is particularly common in children. These symptoms can lead to dehydration, especially in the young and elderly.

Noroviruses are the

most common pathogen responsible for outbreaks of gastrointestinal illness on cruise ships. The viruses are highly contagious and also spread rapidly in close quarters such as day cares, schools, nursing homes, hospitals, and restaurants. The vomit and diarrhea of norovirus sufferers can contain billions of viruses. Ingesting as few as 100 of these viruses can result in illness.

The virus is spread through exposure to the vomit and stool of an infected person and also through contact with contaminated surfaces or clothing/linens. Contaminated food (particularly shellfish) and water can also cause infection. Spread of the virus in schools and daycares is particularly common through shared toys, books, and utensils. Infected persons who prepare food also are a common source of outbreaks.

The incubation period from exposure to symptoms is between 24 and 48 hours. Most people are ill for one to two days, but they are contagious from the time they fall ill until at least three days after their symptoms subside and sometimes up to two weeks later. It is therefore very important to keep children out of school for at least three days following their improvement and for anyone doing food preparation to avoid work for that time period as well.

Treatment of norovirus infection is symptomatic – avoid dehydration and take medication for fever. Usually water is adequate the first day or so, but if the illness persists, we usually recommend taking an oral rehydration

solution like Pedialyte®. A simple recipe for rehydration solution is to add two level teaspoons of salt and eight heaping teaspoons of sugar to a two-liter bottle of water. Intake should be monitored, especially in children, who should take small sips rather than allowing them to gulp the fluid down.

The key to reducing the spread of norovirus is proper hygiene, particularly hand washing (which we all should be doing anyway). Anyone who has norovirus-like symptoms or is taking care of someone with suspected illness should wash their hands regularly for 20 seconds using warm water & soap. This is especially important after using the toilet or changing diapers as well as prior to preparing food. Vegetables, fruits, and shellfish should be thoroughly washed before cooking.

Any surfaces or items that have been in contact with an infected person should be cleaned with bleach water made by mixing one-part bleach with nine-parts water. The solution should be left in place for 10 – 20 minutes. Clothing or linens that have been in contact with an infected person should be washed in hot water for the maximum cycle length and dried in a dryer.

Most people get over norovirus illness without complications. If a person appears dehydrated, lethargic, or complains of severe abdominal pain, he or she should contact their medical provider.

- Dr. John Roberts is a retired member of the Franciscan Physician Network specializing in Family Medicine.

Lost Romanticism Or Seamless Communication?



CARRIE CLASSON
The Postscript

My sister sends a text, telling me she is making lasagna, and asks if I will bring a cake.

"Sounds great!" I readily agree. "When?"

There is no response.

I know we are celebrating my mother's birthday early, but I have no idea when, so I don't know when this cake will be needed. I could call my sister, but that sounds difficult. Will she be busy? She is a teacher, and she is busy a lot. She gets up early and seems to be in constant motion from the time she gets off work until she goes to bed. Since I'm not sure when that is (and I'm hoping it's early), I end up not calling. Instead, I wait to hear when my cake will be needed.

It seems like a silly way to live. But here we are.

I know young people hate to call. They text and instantly respond, and that seems to work well. When older people text, they tend to forget to check their messages, and balls get dropped. I'm guessing I'm not alone in this.

I like email. I am at my computer all day, and when I see I have

an email, I am on it like a seagull on a leftover dinner roll. I have an immediate distraction from trying to find a more interesting word than "follow." ("Abide" is more interesting, but does it work?) When I see that little notification, I am like Pavlov's dog. Pounce!

Recently, I installed a program that sends all my text messages to my computer. Now, I rarely miss a text, but I suspect I bug the heck out of whoever wrote to me.

They send a five-word text with no punctuation (obviously), and I reply from my keyboard, all 10 fingers flying, with punctuation and paragraph returns and asides and possibly a few parenthetical comments for good measure. I have no idea how long it takes to read this on their device. This is probably why I still don't know when to bring the cake.

It is a cliché to complain about how much we use our devices, and yet, here I go. I will often call someone on my daily walk. Perhaps we haven't chatted in a while. Perhaps I am a little tired, and talking will make the walk go faster. I always enjoy the chat, and I am always amazed at how fast the time goes by. Only later do I wonder what I missed

while I was talking.

When my phone stays in my bag, I am free to chat with the dogs and notice the flowers and smell the autumn air. My thoughts on my walks fly more freely than they do when I am indoors. They have more space. My best ideas bubble up on my walks. And all of that is missed when I am attached to my phone.

I would never want to go back to the time when long-distance calls cost money and letters were sent in the mail. You could argue it was romantic, and these obstacles to communication made us treasure communication more—and that might be true.

But sending an email to someone and knowing they will read it that day is a wonderful thing. Being able to chat with my mom and dad wherever I am in the world is a gift I do not take for granted.

Still, it's nothing like talking to someone face-to-face, and it never will be. It will never be as good as seeing my mom in person—preferably over cake.

Till next time,
Carrie

- Carrie Classon is a freelance writer and author and lives in New Mexico. Her columns appear each week.

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