

## ***JimsJournal.net - Your Home News***

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July 2020

### **Cultivate Creativity**

Dear Friend,

I'm hoping this July newsletter feels a bit whimsical, yet wise. After so many weeks of people finding solutions to succeed at work in an unforeseen situation, coming up with ideas to keep families entertained at home, and remembering long-forgotten homegrown tips our grandparents followed to grow their own food, it would be a shame to let all that new knowledge slip away.

So, this newsletter has suggestions for how to cultivate creativity, how to apply those hours recently spent online to defeat online "phishers" and much more.

Above all else, this year taught us to make a house a home and I'd love to help you make yours perfect. If you have been waiting until the recent pandemic showed signs of lifting to make the decision to buy or sell, or just invest in the home you already have with some thoughtful renovations, I hope we can sit down and talk... Let's come up with a plan this summer so you can take the right steps to achieving your dream home.

Jim Urban

#### **INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

- The Patient Mother
- Ghost Ship Identified
- No "Phishing" Allowed
- Seismic Shifts
- Cultivate Creativity
- Small Business Survival
- Volunteers Wanted
- Unlock Innovation
- An Elephant Never Forgets

### **The Patient Mother**

A woman walked into a grocery store with her three-year-old daughter in the seat of a shopping cart. As they passed the cookie section, the little girl asked for cookies, and her mother told her no.

The little girl immediately began to whine and fuss, kicking her legs in irritation.

The mother said quietly, *"Now, Monica, we just have half of the aisles left to go through; don't be upset. It won't be long."*

Soon they came to the candy aisle, and the little girl began to beg for candy. When her mother said she couldn't have any, the little girl began to cry. The mother patiently responded with *"There, there, Monica— only two more aisles to go, and then we'll be checking out."*

When they got to the checkout, the little girl immediately started clamoring for gum, and she threw a loud tantrum when her mother refused. With a deep sigh, the mother said, *"Monica, we'll be through this checkout lane in five minutes, and then you can go home and have a comfy nap."*

A man followed them out to the parking lot and stopped the woman to compliment her: *"I couldn't help noticing how patient you were with little Monica,"* he said.

The mother laughed. *"My little girl's name is Tammy. I'm Monica."*

## Fun Day Monday June

According to Today, what was the most searched recipe in March/April 2020?

A. Banana Bread

Congratulations to Dave & Diane Meyer who won a \$25 donation to a charity of their choice.

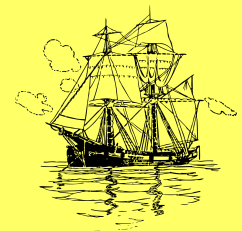
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## Ghost Ship Identified

Every 20 years or so, the remains of a 50-foot shipwreck are exposed on a Maine beach in the wake of strong storms, only to be buried again by more harsh weather. It's a mystery that has frustrated locals wanting to know more about the ghost ship. According to the *CNN* website, the ship was first spotted in 1958, then reappeared in 1978, 2007, 2013, and 2018. Some pieces of the ship were saved, and now the mystery has been cleared up.

A marine archaeologist sent pieces of the wreck to the Cornell University Tree-Ring Laboratory, where the timber was matched in a tree-ring index to a probable date of 1753. With that data, the archaeologist studied historical records and linked it to a sloop called *Defiance*, built in 1754 and wrecked near the Maine location in 1769. *Defiance* sailed out of Salem, Massachusetts, with a cargo of flour, pork, and other goods. Crewed by four men, the ship hit a fierce storm and was forced onto the beach. Although the sloop was a total loss, all four men survived.

The identification is significant because *Defiance* is one of the few examples of a pre-Revolutionary War ship built in New England. Scientists also hope to use the information to measure the impact of sea level rise and storm activity.



# No Phishing Allowed

We have all spent extra hours online over the past few months and you're probably being extra careful with your personal information. However, determined criminals can "phish" for information.

The *Norton* website shares these clues to help you spot a scam and keep your data safe:

- **Carefully consider requests for personal information:** Government agencies and legitimate organizations won't ask for your Social Security number, passwords, or other private details via email.
- **Avoid untrustworthy links:** You can determine where a link is actually going by hovering your mouse over it and looking at the website address, or the URL. Many times you'll be able to tell that it's not a legitimate online destination. On the other hand, some scammers can create very realistic looking destination URLs, so be cautious and delete the link in case of any doubt.
- **Grammatical Mistakes:** Errors in spelling, punctuation and grammar are telltale clues of a phishing attempt. Again, delete the message immediately.
- **Generic Greetings:** "Dear sir or madam," or "To whom it may concern," means that the sender has no idea who you are. That doesn't mean it is an attempt at phishing, but you should probably take a closer look at the correspondence.
- **Requests for Instant Action:** Phishing scams will insist that you respond immediately. Don't panic; just delete the message.



## Need to find a Business who gives Exceptional Service?

Jim can help with his 5 Star Referral Center

Just Go To:

[Denver5StarReferralCenter.com](http://Denver5StarReferralCenter.com)

In the search engine type in the type of business you are looking for to see the list of businesses Jim refers to his family, friends & clients.

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*"Science is fun. Science is curiosity. We all have natural curiosity. Science is a process of investigating. It's posing questions and coming up with a method. It's delving in."*

**-Sally Ride**

# Seismic Shifts

COVID-19 made an impact on people all over the world, but curiously, it's reduced our impact on the planet. *The New York Times* reports that self-quarantining has had an observable effect on seismic activity beneath city streets.

Thomas Lecocq, a seismologist at the Royal Observatory of Belgium in Brussels, measured the seismic noise beneath the city after Brussels established a lockdown in mid-March. He found that it had diminished quickly and significantly once Belgians and their cars were off the streets.

Other scientists around the world have followed his lead and detected similar declines. In Great Britain, one seismologist tracking activity from her suburban house observed a 20%–25% reduction in average weekly noise one week after the British commenced their lockdown.

In the center of London, another seismometer recorded a 30% drop. Similarly, noise levels in Los Angeles have declined more than 50% of normal, and the Paris Institute of Earth Physics has detected a 38% drop in average daytime seismic noise in the city. It seems that all our footsteps have more an impact than we realized.

## Free Reports!

- ☒ How Sellers Price Their Homes
- ☒ Making the Move Easy On the Kids
- ☒ Five Big Mistakes Home Sellers Make
- ☒ How To Buy A House With Little (Or No) Money Down

**Free Newsletter  
Subscription!**

**See Page 7**

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# Cultivate Creativity

The Lifelong Kindergarten group at the *MIT* Media Lab identified some guiding principles for cultivating creativity that can be adapted for life under social distancing:

- **Projects:** Many projects can be completed using the same tools. Just as children find new ways to construct Legos, employees can find new ways to synthesize ideas.
- **Passion:** Encourage co-workers to develop their own ideas for projects that will use their talents and hold their attention.
- **Peers:** Creativity flourishes when we connect and communicate. Use remote tools to seek out connections and maintain communication.

# Small Business Survival

Your favorite small businesses— the neighborhood bookstore, the family-owned coffee shop, your local grocery store— all worked hard to stay afloat during the COVID-19 pandemic. The *CNN* website shares these suggestions for making sure they continue to succeed:

**Buy gift cards for upcoming presents.** Most local businesses have gift cards for sale. Buying a few puts money in their bank accounts right away, even if the recipients don't use them right away.

**Shop locally, even online.** We've all grown used to online shopping. Check websites for local opportunities to order what you need instead of heading to an internet giant.

**Look for discounts.** Businesses trying to attract customers will offer discounts to entice consumers. Taking advantages of these discounts will help support them while helping you to stay within your budget.

**Skip the homecooked meal.** As stores begin to reopen, many restaurants are still delivering food. Order in to support local establishments as they spread their wings again.

**Tip generously.** Your tip may or may not directly benefit the store, but it will show your appreciation to delivery drivers and staff, which can result in higher morale and better retention, which businesses need now more than ever.

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## Volunteers Wanted

Feel like getting off the world for a while? You've got company! As the *U.S. News & World Report* states, some 12,000 people have applied to become astronauts following a call from NASA for volunteers. It's the second largest group of would-be spacefarers in the agency's history.

The hopefuls come from all 50 American states, as well as the District of Columbia and four U.S. territories. Those selected will probably travel to the International Space Station and pave the way for exploration of the moon and Mars.

The previous call for recruits drew a record 18,300 candidates, of which 12 were ultimately chosen. This time around NASA tightened its qualifications, requiring a master's degree in science, technology, engineering, or math. There are currently 48 active astronauts in the group.

# Unlock Innovation

Want to boost your creativity? It can enhance your career and your life. The *Forbes* website offers these techniques for jumpstarting your brain:

- **Say ‘Yes’:** Don’t shut down ideas too quickly. Even if they seem unrealistic or impractical, take a positive approach by saying, “Yes, and \_\_\_\_.” Ask follow-up questions to spur a deeper exploration of the issues. You may discover a way to bring a seemingly impossible idea to life.
- **Brainstorm:** It’s easy to limit your thinking, especially when resources are scarce. Don’t fall into that trap. Expand on your idea without worrying about how much it will cost or how much work it will take. It’s always possible to scale it down later, but in the long run you’ll generate more impressive plans and strategies.
- **Look for pain points:** Find out what’s bothering your partners or customers. Chances are you can come up with interesting ideas for solving their most pressing problems. To cite one well-known example, an entrepreneur created Netflix, which initially shipped DVDs to homes for as long as customers wanted to keep them, because he realized people didn’t like late fees. Removing that one pain point led to a mammoth business.

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## An Elephant Never Forgets

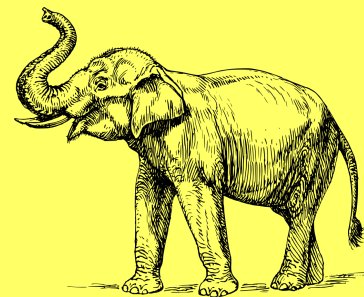
An elephant drinking from a stream spotted a tortoise lounging on the shore. He grabbed it with his trunk and flung it into the jungle.

A passing zebra asked, “*Why did you do that?*”

“*Forty years ago, that tortoise nipped my tail just for fun,*” the elephant said.

“*Wow, 40 years ago! How did you remember that?*”

“*I have turtle recall,*” replied the elephant.





# Smart Advice for You and the People You Care About

When You Have a Thought about Living in a New Home



The 5 Biggest  
Mistakes  
Home Sellers  
Make



Making the  
Move Easy on  
Kids



How to Stop  
Wasting  
Money on Rent



How Home  
Sellers Price  
Their Homes



How to Sell  
Your Home for  
the Most  
Money



The 5 Biggest  
Mistakes  
Home Buyers  
Make

**Avoid Buyer's Remorse and Seller's Regret –  
Get All Six Reports FREE!**

Simply text or call me at (303) 588-7000 and I'll get them to you right away.

I'm here to guide, lead and protect you and the  
people you care about.

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