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WORD OF THE MONTH

RIGMAROLE: NOUN (RIG-MUH-ROHL)
Something long, tedious, and complicated.

Mr. Scott went through the usual social rigmaroles at the party.



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Back to School Safety

by Alberta Health Services



Alberta Health Services EMS would like to remind parents and students of some basic safety tips as the school year begins again this fall. Pedestrians and motorists both have an important role to play – road safety is a shared responsibility.

Motorists

- Distracted driving carries a \$300 fine and three demerit points in Alberta. Avoid the use of mobile devices or engaging in any other behavior that diverts your attention away from driving.
- Give right-of-way to pedestrians who have activated overhead crossing lights, or who are waiting to cross from a street corner.
- Other than parked cars, it is illegal to pass another vehicle in a school or playground zone during posted hours.

Around School Buses

- Flashing amber lights mean a bus is slowing down to stop – motorists should do likewise.
- No matter which direction you are coming from, stop when approaching a school bus with activated flashing red lights – unless the bus is on the opposite side of a divided highway from you.

- Driver courtesy goes a long way. By simply being alert and cautious when approaching a school bus, you are contributing to school bus safety.

Pedestrians

- Cross only at marked crosswalks, or street corners that have clear visibility from all directions.
- Make eye contact with all drivers before crossing the street and keep distractions to a minimum.
- When activating overhead crossing lights, pause before stepping off the curb to ensure motorists in both directions have come to a complete stop.
- Stay within the crosswalk lines.
- Obey pedestrian lights at intersections. Cross the street only when you see the 'walk' sign and only when all cars have come to a complete stop.
- If you are with young children or pets, hold your child's hand firmly and keep a solid grip on leashes when crossing.
- Remember: Children learn by observing. By demonstrating safe crossing habits, you can reduce the chances of your child being involved in a preventable auto/pedestrian collision.



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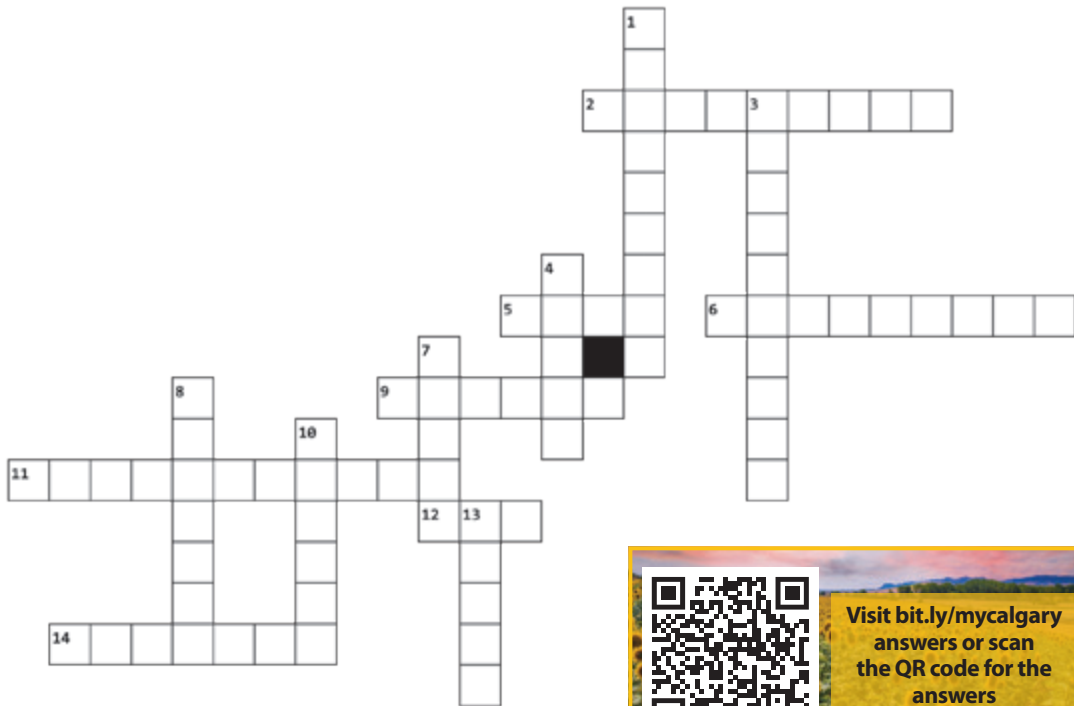
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September Crossword



Across

2. Ernest _____'s *The Old Man and the Sea* was first published on September 1, 1952.
5. September's full moon is named after a plant also known as maize.
6. In September 1835, Charles Darwin, aboard the *HMS Beagle* arrived at the _____ Islands.
9. *The _____ Girls*, a sitcom about four older women living together in Miami, premiered on September 14, 1985.
11. Ice hockey forward, John Tavares, was born on September 20, 1990, in _____, Ontario.
12. This "Finger Lickin' Good" fast food restaurant opened its first franchise on September 24, 1952.
14. Starring Canadian actor, William _____, *Star Trek* premiered on September 8, 1966.

Down

1. The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame opened to the public on September 2, 1995, in _____, Ohio.
3. On September 19, 1893, this country became the first to grant all women the right to vote.
4. Canadian singer-songwriter Leonard _____ was born on September 21, 1934.
7. On September 4, 1888, George Eastman patented a roll-film camera and introduced this now-iconic brand name.
8. Canada beat the USA by 23 runs on September 25, 1844, in the first international _____ match.
10. On the first Monday of September, _____ Day is observed in Alberta.
13. Stars of *Bridget Jones's Diary*, Colin _____ and Hugh Grant, were both born in September 1960, just one day apart.

Understanding Why Some Men Struggle with Emotional Avoidance in Relationships

by Nancy Bergeron, R.Psych. | info@nancybergeron.ca

As a relationship counsellor many women ask me: “Why is my partner so emotionally unavailable?” or “Why won’t he open up to me?”. If you’re in a relationship with a man who seems emotionally distant, you’re not alone. Emotional avoidance is incredibly common among men (and women too). While it can feel confusing or painful in a relationship, it’s often rooted in early life experiences and cultural messages, not a lack of love or care.

1. Cultural and Social Conditioning

From a young age, many boys are taught to suppress their feelings. Messages like:

“Don’t cry.” “Man up.” “Be strong.” are often used to discourage boys from expressing emotions like sadness, fear, or vulnerability.

Over time, this social conditioning can lead men to associate emotional expression with weakness or failure. Vulnerability feels unsafe. Many men grow up believing they must always appear “in control,” which means avoiding emotions, both their own and others’.

2. Early Childhood Attachment Patterns

Many emotionally avoidant men learned, early in life, that emotional needs wouldn’t be met. Perhaps their caregivers were:

Emotionally distant. Critical or punishing when they expressed feelings. Overwhelmed and unavailable themselves.

As a result, these men developed an avoidant attachment style. They learned to cope by shutting down emotional needs, relying only on themselves, and avoiding dependence on others. In adult relationships, this can look like:

Withdrawing during conflict. Struggling to express affection or emotional presence. Feeling overwhelmed when their partner expresses strong emotions.

3. Fear of Shame and Vulnerability

Opening up emotionally requires risk. For many men,



emotional intimacy feels like stepping into unknown and possibly dangerous territory. They may fear:

Being judged. Saying the wrong thing. Being seen as “not enough”.

To protect themselves from the possibility of shame or rejection, they pull back emotionally. This doesn’t mean they don’t care. It means their nervous system is trying to protect them.

4. Lack of Emotional Awareness or Language

Many men simply haven’t been taught how to identify, name, or communicate their feelings. Emotional intelligence is a skill set, one that needs modelling and practice. Without that early modelling, men may not even recognize what they’re feeling, much less how to express it in a way that feels safe or clear.

This lack of emotional literacy can come across as:

“I don’t know what I’m feeling.” “I’m fine.” (when they’re clearly not). Defensiveness or silence during emotionally charged moments.

5. Modelling and Role Expectations

Most men were raised in environments where male role models modelled emotional detachment or stoicism. If their fathers, uncles, or coaches didn’t show emotional vulnerability—or worse, shamed it—they may not have any roadmap for what emotional availability looks like. In adulthood, many men feel emotionally “lost” and unsure how to engage on a deeper level.

6. Protective Coping from Past Wounds

If a man has experienced trauma, betrayal, or loss in the past, emotional avoidance may be a protective strategy. Avoiding closeness can feel like a way to prevent being hurt again. Unfortunately, what once served as protection can eventually become a barrier to healthy connection.

Book Suggestion: *The New Rules of Marriage: What You Need to Know to Make Love Work* by Terrance Real.

The Art of Finding Work: Jobseekers Need to Learn to 'Move On'

by Nick Kossovan

Everyone knows ghosting and rejection are inherent parts of job searching. Yet, job seekers waste vast amounts of energy and time lamenting what they can't control. There's a prevalent sense of entitlement that employers owe job seekers, which goes against the universal truth that nobody is owed anything, be it a job, to make a living, or even happiness.

Job searching, regardless of the economic climate, has always required resilience. The key to resilience is having realistic expectations, such as understanding that employers you don't work for don't owe you anything. Having a 'F*ck it!' mindset that empowers you to move on quickly is how you foster resilience.

Ghosted: You didn't get the job. Move on.

- You didn't hear from an employer after submitting your resume: There were candidates with more relevant experience and were a better cultural fit. Move on.
- When a networking attempt fails: A stranger isn't willing to drop everything to help you. Move on.
- Not taking down a job posting: Some people never take down their Christmas decorations. If a job can be left open for a significant amount of time, assume it isn't critical. Do you want a non-critical or non-essential job? Move on.

Thinking about how the hiring process should be won't get you a job.

Getting frustrated and angry at how an employer designed their hiring process won't get you a job.

Getting upset over being ghosted won't get you a job. It wasn't the employer who ghosted you; it was an employee whose behaviour doesn't speak for an entire company.

Life is too short to spend time and energy dwelling on "what could have been" and "whys." This is especially true regarding things out of your control, such as how an employer designs their hiring process or runs their business. The most common false belief I repeatedly see people hold, and which causes much of their

frustrations and anger, is that they can change other people's behaviour—as if it's their place to do so.

While it's natural to feel disheartened, it's crucial to understand that wallowing in the many disappointments you'll experience throughout your job search and believing you can control other people's behaviour hinders your progress.

When you invest your heart and soul into an application only to be met with silence or rejection, it's easy to spiral into self-doubt. Consider why you're giving a hiring manager—a stranger—influence over your self-esteem. Hence why I recommend embracing a 'F*ck it!' mindset as a defence against rejection eroding your confidence.

I've been rejected many times, more than I've been accepted. I've learned the hard way, a running theme throughout my life, that if I permit it to do so, repeated rejection triggers a cycle of negative thinking that paralyzes me, regardless of whether I'm searching for work, submitting my writing, or reaching out to someone hoping to form a relationship. Dwelling on past disappointments sabotages future opportunities.

There are many reasons why quickly moving on, as opposed to wallowing, playing the "I'm a victim!" card, getting angry, or venting on LinkedIn and other social media platforms—which is never a good look—benefits your job search.

There's no shortage of opportunities.

In several previous columns, I've mentioned that opportunities are all around you, with one caveat: they're attached to people. In 2024, employers are turning to their employees for referrals since job postings result in avalanches of applications, predominantly from job seekers who spray and pray. This underscores the importance of networking rather than applying to online job listings.

Clinging to rejections, being ghosted, or whatever is frustrating you is wasting mental energy you could be using to speak to people who may be able to refer you to job openings where they work. Starting right now, shift your focus away from past disappointments—forget about them, what's done is done, you can't change the past—and focus on future possibilities aligned with your skills and aspirations and start making

GAMES & PUZZLES

Guess the School Tool!

1. In the early 1960s, the first one of these was created to assist with number manipulation.
2. Before rubber, tablets of wax and crustless bread were both used at one point to do the job of this school tool.
3. A semi-circular measurement tool that deals with angles.
4. An organizer typically characterized by its circular or D-shaped retainers.
5. The first of these vibrant, attention-drawing school tools was invented by Dr. Frank Hon in 1963.
6. Alphabetical reference books that are always being updated, named after the Latin word for "the act of speaking".



SCAN THE QR CODE FOR THE ANSWERS!



it a point to meet people, because you never know what opportunities they may be attached to.

Much of the hiring process is out of your control.

In the same way that you can't control the behaviour of others, you can't control how an employer hires. Many factors influence hiring decisions, notably internal politics and team dynamics. Instead of internalizing these setbacks, remind yourself of your skills, experiences, and past achievements.

Not quickly moving on is counterproductive.

Dwelling on why you were ghosted or didn't get the job—instances in which you'll never know the actual reason—drains your energy, energy better spent on proactive measures to enhance your candidacy for future roles.

The key to a successful job search is to keep moving forward and stay focused on what you can control, such as optimizing your LinkedIn profile—arguably the most critical tool in a job seeker's arsenal—resume, and expanding your network to take advantage of all the opportunities around you.

BRAIN GAMES

SUDOKU

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

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR THE SOLUTION



Creamy Beef Enchiladas

by Jennifer Puri

The idea of rolling tortillas around food originated in Aztec times but it was the Spanish Conquistadors who adopted the dish and added new ingredients like cheese, pork, and chicken.

Enchiladas, meaning “to season with chilies”, refers to stuffed corn tortillas that have been dipped in a chili sauce. A traditional Mexican dish, Enchiladas have a unique flavour and are a perfect combination of tortilla, meat, cheese, and sauce.

Smothered in sauce and baked, creamy beef enchiladas are filling and rich, so they are best paired with a simple bean salad or Mexican rice.

Prep Time: 20 minutes

Cook Time: 30 minutes

Bake Time: 30 minutes

Servings: 5 to 6

Ingredients:

- 1 ½ lbs lean ground beef
- 1 tbsp. canola oil
- ½ cup yellow onion, sliced
- 1 cup cooked and rinsed black beans
- 2 packets (24 gm each) hot and spicy taco seasoning
- 6 large flour tortillas
- 1 ½ tsp. powdered cumin
- ¼ cup all purpose flour
- 1 can diced green chili peppers
- 1 cup milk
- 2 cups light sour cream
- ½ cup low fat Greek yoghurt
- 2 cups Mexican shredded cheese

Directions:

1. Heat oil in a medium size pan, add onion and sauté until it turns a light brown. Then add the ground beef and brown about 3 to 4 minutes. Next add the taco seasoning and the black beans and continue to stir for 2 to 3 minutes.
2. Add the water and simmer the beef and bean mixture for about 20 minutes or until the liquid has dried up. Remove from heat and allow to cool.



3. Preheat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit.
4. Grease a large, rectangular oven-proof dish with butter. Place the tortillas on a flat surface and divide the cooled meat mixture between the tortillas. Fold the tortillas and place them in the baking dish seams side down.
5. Prepare the cream sauce by combining the flour, cumin, sour cream, milk, yoghurt, and chilies in a bowl. Then spoon the sauce over the tortillas and sprinkle the cheese over it. Cover with non-stick foil and bake in the oven for 30 to 40 minutes.
6. Garnish with chopped tomato, avocado, and coriander leaves, and serve with a salad, salsa, and sour cream if desired.

Bon Appétit!

Promoting Mental Health in Children

by Alberta Health Services

Supporting your child's mental health is as important as good nutrition, sleep, and physical activity. Having good mental health allows your child to think clearly, develop socially, and learn new skills.

These tips can help your child develop confidence, self-esteem, and compassion for others.

Apologize When You're Wrong

When you make a mistake, apologize to your child. Saying you're sorry isn't enough. Sincere and simple apologies build trust and show respect for your child's feelings. Admit you were wrong, explain how it affected your child, and show that you're sorry. For example:

- "I shouldn't have said your idea was stupid. I know that hurt your feelings and embarrassed you. I'm ashamed I spoke to you that way. I'm sorry. I won't do it again."

Avoid explanations that sound like excuses or blame your child. For example:

- "I'm sorry I got mad, but you were really getting on my nerves."

Give Your Child Choices and Respect Their Wishes

When you can, give your child the chance to make their own choices that are meaningful to them and acceptable for you. If your child has a chance to make choices it helps them:

- Feel a Sense of Control
- Develop Self-Esteem
- Learn How to Solve Problems
- Take Responsibility for Their Choices

Ask Questions That Help Your Child Solve Problems on Their Own

It's tempting to take over and give a solution when you hear that your child has a problem. But this doesn't help your child find solutions on their own. Try asking questions that will help them solve problems. For example:

- "What do you think you can do about this?"
- "If you choose to do this, what do you think might happen?"

Encourage sharing and helping by giving your child tasks that are appropriate for their age, such as feeding



the family pet, getting the mail, helping with making their lunch, or making their bed. Together, you and your child can volunteer or help a neighbour. This builds self-confidence and compassion. It also teaches your child that what they do can make a difference in the lives of others.

Read Books and Stories Together

Even if your child can already read, they'll still love reading with you. Take turns reading out loud with your child. Reading aloud is a way to share something enjoyable and learn about other people. For example, stories can show us how people deal with common issues like making or losing friends, handling conflicts, or dealing with difficult emotions. Talk to your child about what they like to read. Ask your child's teacher or a librarian to recommend stories on themes that interest you and your child.

Be a Role Model

Your child will learn by watching and doing what you do. They learn how to look after themselves, build relationships, solve problems, handle emotions (feelings), and care for others by seeing how you respond.

Your emotions affect what you do and say. They affect your child too. For example, anger is a common human emotion. You may feel angry sometimes when your child whines, talks rudely, or doesn't do what you ask. If you react to anger by yelling, using harsh words, or calling them names, it affects your child. They'll also learn to do the same when they're angry.

What you do and say when you're angry is important to your relationship and to how your child learns to express their anger. When you practice managing your feelings in healthy ways, your child learns these skills too.



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A 'WICKET' DAY!

On September 25, 1844, the USA were totally stumped when Canada beat them by 23 runs in the first international cricket match. Played at St. George's Cricket Club in New York, it was a totally 'wicket' moment in Canadian sports history!

BUSINESS CLASSIFIEDS

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The David

As a symbol of the strength and independence of the Florentines, the statue of David was commissioned to be placed at the entrance of Palazzo Vecchio. On September 8, 1504, this marvellous piece was revealed to the city. Unsurprisingly, everyone loved it!





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May	25	5	5	\$1,788,888	\$1,760,000
April	25	3	2	\$1,572,500	\$1,582,500
March	25	4	4	\$1,412,500	\$1,402,500
February	25	4	5	\$1,495,000	\$1,510,000
January	25	3	3	\$1,185,000	\$1,157,500
December	24	3	2	\$1,624,500	\$1,574,450
November	24	1	3	\$1,595,000	\$1,492,500
October	24	4	3	\$2,998,000	\$2,970,000
September	24	5	4	\$1,463,950	\$1,452,500
August	24	5	3	\$1,395,000	\$1,395,000

To view more detailed information that comprise the above
MLS averages please visit elbv.mycalgary.com