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Word of the Month

Syzygy: noun (si-zuh-jee)

**A nearly straight line-up of three celestial
bodies in a gravitational system.**

**During an eclipse, the Earth, moon, and
sun align to form a syzygy.**



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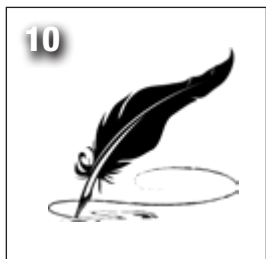
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August Crossword



Visit bit.ly/mycalgaryanswers or scan the QR code for the answers



Across

2. Described as a period of abnormally hot weather, August is a typical time for these extreme weather events.
4. *Everything Everywhere All at Once* stars _____ as Evelyn, a mother trying to save her daughter from the evil forces of Jobu Tupaki in every universe.
6. *I Barely Knew Her*; is the title of this new artist's first album.
7. Weeping _____, is a popular tree native to northern China, but is now found in many places in North America.
10. These freshwater fish have a deceptively colourful name and can be found in the Bow River.
11. This American artist released his album *Wishbone*, featuring the songs, "Vodka Cranberry" and "Eleven Eleven" in August of last year.
12. If you're out on the lake, you may see people participating in this relaxing water sport.

Down

1. In this popular card game, you and your partner need to accrue a total of 121 points to win, even better if you skunk your opponents.
3. This popular Broadway musical was recently performed here in Calgary, telling the story of Orpheus and Eurydice.
5. Anne Hathaway's character in *The Devil Wears Prada* wears this blue that "represents millions of dollars of countless jobs."
7. This award-winning horror film follows Julia Garner as she tries to find her 17 students that go missing in the middle of the night.
8. These public spaces often promote a summer reading challenge for young kids.
9. These cold, fruit-flavoured treats are well-loved on a hot summer day.

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Let's Canvas

the Situation

On August 21, 1911, Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa was stolen from the Louvre. It took twenty-eight months for the painting to be returned. Today, the Mona Lisa is valued so highly that most would simply call it priceless.



Support Victoria Fortuna and Her Family After a Tragic Highway Accident



In the early evening of February 8, 2026, the Fortuna family's life was forever altered by a devastating and senseless accident.

Victoria, a 21-year-old student at MacEwan University, and her father, Paul Fortuna, 53 years old, were the innocent victims of a horrific and tragic vehicle accident that occurred in Edmonton, Alberta. Sadly, her father, Paul, succumbed to his injuries at the scene, and Victoria has been left with catastrophic, life-threatening, and life-altering injuries. She is currently fighting for her life and receiving critical medical care at the University Hospital in Edmonton.

Donate to this GoFundMe by scanning the QR code to help ease the inconceivable financial hardship the Fortuna family is facing. The family is deeply grateful for the kindness, prayers, and support they have already received. Your generosity, through a donation or by sharing this GoFundMe, will allow them to focus on supporting their beloved Victoria through her long recovery journey. It takes a village and every donation counts.

Thank you for standing with them during this unimaginably difficult time.

Scan to donate or visit
gofund.me/31fdeef6f
Any help is appreciated ♥



Divorce and Family Businesses

by Christopher Bungay, Divorce Lawyer



In many divorces, one spouse owns and runs a business. Alberta divorce law recognizes this kind of business as “family property.” This means that, in most of these cases, a business is an asset that must be valued and divided between the spouses as part of the divorce process. This point raises an obvious question: How is the business divided between the spouses?

The percentage each spouse receives depends on the roles each spouse played during the marriage. For example, if mom stayed home and raised the children, and allowed dad to build and run the business, the result would likely be a 50/50 split. Practically, this makes sense because at least half of the company’s success was based upon mom’s domestic contributions.

However, there are other circumstances where the division might not be equal. Let’s say the wife (Mrs. Darnold), owned a successful dental clinic. Her husband, Mr. Darnold, also earned a significant income working full-time, outside the home. The couple had 3 children, and most of the child-care was performed by a live-in nanny.

In this situation, it is very possible that Mr. Darnold would not be entitled to a 50% share of his wife’s dental clinic. This is because Mr. Darnold did not make any contributions to the success of his wife’s business. It

would be unfair for Mr. Darnold to get half of something he had nothing to do with.

Unequal division of a family business also occurs in the following situation: where one spouse owned the business before the relationship began. In these circumstances, the financial worth of the company is broken down into two different time frames:

1. The business’ value before the marriage, and,
2. The business’ value after the marriage.

The non-business-owning spouse is only entitled to a portion of the after-marriage value of the business. The logic here is that, since the spouse had nothing to do with the business before the marriage, they should not get any share of the pre-marriage value. Conversely, the value of the business post-marriage is a family asset. Here, the spouse likely contributed in some way to the business after the marriage, and thus, they would be entitled to a portion of the business as part of the divorce.

It is important to note that dividing a business between spouses does not always mean the business ends. The company may carry on doing business after the divorce. However, in most cases, part of its value must be paid out to the non-business-owning spouse as part of the divorce process.

Tanghulu

by S. Law



Looking for a fun way to use your fruit? Try making tanghulu at home! This classic Chinese snack is easy to make and the perfect treat, check out the recipe below!

Ingredients

- Any fruit that can be pierced on a skewer.
- 1 cup of sugar
- 1/2 cup of water
- Wooden skewers

Directions

1. Wash and dry your fruit of choice, cut it into 1 to 2 inch pieces. For berries keep them whole.
2. With your wooden skewers, pierce the fruit, pushing each one down until your skewer is full, leaving enough room at the end for you to hold. Set aside.
3. Pour your sugar and water into a pot, making sure the pot is not too full.
4. Stir the water and sugar together until fully combined, then turn the heat on medium and cover with a lid.

Do not stir while the pot is heating! The water will prevent the sugar from burning, stirring only agitates the crystals making the mixture clumpy.

5. Once the sugar water begins to boil, you can remove the lid and let it cook.
6. You are waiting for the sugar to become golden in colour, do not stir with a spoon, but you can lift the pot above the heat and gently swirl the contents, so it cooks evenly.
7. Once you think the sugar is close to being done, prepare an ice bath in a large container that will fit your skewers.
8. When the sugar turns that golden shade, remove it from the heat immediately and begin carefully dipping your prepared skewers. The sugar will be very hot, so be careful not to burn yourself.
9. As soon as they have been dipped, place them into the ice bath so the sugar hardens, and you're done!
10. Enjoy your hard-earned treat with family and friends.

August's Reflection

by Michelle Macdonald, Letter Writing and Mail Club Enthusiast.

List your favourite hobbies. Pick one that gives you great fulfillment. Why is it so special to you?

Dear reader,

It has taken me some time to figure out who I am and which pastimes I need to feel truly content. My favourite hobbies are reading, gardening, camping, hiking, and jigsaw puzzles. To properly nourish our whole selves, I surmise we each need a combination of hobbies that embody various aspects of our lives. For example, we need something active to move our bodies, something to challenge and sharpen our minds, something social to connect us to others, and something peaceful to help us relax.

Gardening is particularly special to me, fulfilling both my active and relaxation needs. I have had a deep affinity for the outdoors and growing things since childhood, heavily influenced by my parents. My dad always tended to the vegetable garden, while my mom creatively landscaped their farm in Southern Ontario.

Working with the earth is a natural lesson in hard work and reward. One morning this spring, I was roaming the backyard with my hot cup of tea, impatiently wondering when my peas would finally begin to sprout. When I noticed a flash of green, I was elated. A single pea shoot was poking proudly out of the soil, and my heart was happy.

However, gardening also requires realistic expectations and acceptance of things entirely outside of our control. Since those peas sprouted, I've had to battle hungry birds and mischievous squirrels. Losing plants to hail, insects, and other pests is simply part of the deal.

Gardening in a climate with a short growing season requires flexibility. It forces me to accept that hours of hard work could be thwarted on any given day by Mother Nature. Honestly, if I hadn't learned to accept that reality, I likely would have quit by now! Yet, despite the frequent challenges, it remains deeply rewarding. Soon enough, I will be eating fresh peas, lettuce, herbs, raspberries, and other delicious food that I managed to nurture, protect, and keep alive.

Happy writing,

Michelle

Write It Forward



Now it's your turn to write it forward. Write a friend, neighbour, or family member about our monthly reflection.



Accidental Poisoning

by Emergency Health Services



Emergency Health Services (EHS) paramedics would like to remind parents and caregivers of precautions they can take to help prevent accidental childhood poisonings around the home. Ingesting prescription or over-the-counter medication is a frequent cause of accidental childhood poisonings. Other causes include ingesting or contact with household items such as dishwasher/laundry tablets, mouthwash, chemicals such as paints/solvents, cleaning products, and button batteries.

Storage

- Place all medications in locked containers and store in an area inaccessible to children.
- For easy identification, store all medications in their original packaging; do not mix multiple medications in a single bottle.
- Install child locks on all cabinets, or drawers where medications and button batteries are kept.

Safety tips

- Child-resistant medication bottles are not necessarily child-proof. They can still be opened by a child.

- Take extra precautions with medicines designed to appeal to children such as chewable vitamins or flavoured cough and cold syrups.
- Promptly dispose of any medications or toxic household products no longer in use.

Prevention

- Store household products, cleaning supplies, and cosmetics in locked cabinets or drawers.
- Install child latches on cabinets children might also access by climbing on counters or chairs.
- Label all plants in and around your home and garden.
- Antifreeze, windshield washer fluid, and pesticides are extremely poisonous. Even a small amount can cause serious illness if ingested.

Find poisoning information by calling the Poison and Drug Information Service (PADIS) at 1-800-332-1414.

In Case of a Poisoning Emergency, Call 9-1-1

Provide the name of the product ingested and, if it is safe to do so, a sample of the substance for EHS paramedics to inspect on their arrival.

Dating Safely: Recognizing the Red Flags of an Unsafe Relationship

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



Dating can be exciting. However, it's a time when we overlook warning signs because our attraction leads us to want to believe the best about someone. According to security expert and author Gavin de Becker in his bestselling book *The Gift of Fear*, our intuition is one of our greatest tools for recognizing danger. Learning to trust our instincts and identify red flags can help us avoid unhealthy or unsafe relationships before they become deeply established.

One of de Becker's central messages is that fear is not something to dismiss. It is valuable information. Many people who later experienced emotional abuse, coercion, or violence report that they had an uneasy feeling early on but talked themselves out of it. Rather than ignoring these feelings, de Becker encourages us to pay attention to them.

A common red flag is boundary violations. Healthy people respect your "no," your need for space, and your personal preferences. An unsafe person may repeatedly push your boundaries while disguising their persistence as affection or determination. One of de Becker's most important observations is that when someone ignores

a small "no," they are often testing whether they can ignore a larger one later.

Another warning sign is forced teaming. This occurs when someone creates an artificial sense of connection by speaking as though you are already a team. Statements such as "We're exactly alike," "No one understands me like you do," or "We're in this together" early in a relationship may be attempts to accelerate trust and intimacy before it has naturally developed.

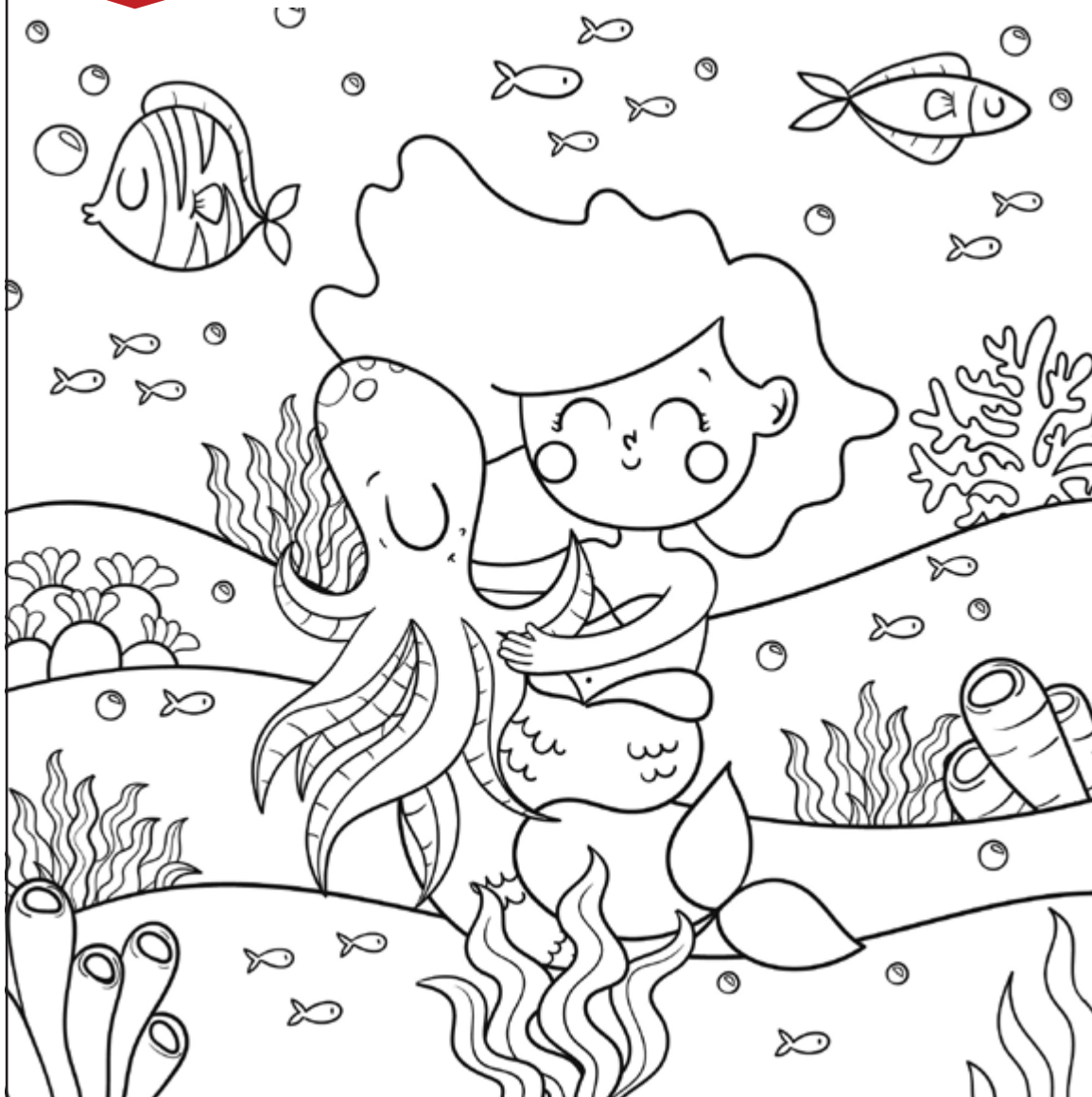
Becker also describes the danger of love bombing, where a person overwhelms you with attention, gifts, praise, or declarations of love very early in dating. While genuine affection develops gradually, love bombing often creates pressure to reciprocate feelings that have not had time to develop authentically.

Another tactic he identifies is charm versus genuineness. Genuine people do not need to work hard to convince you they are good people. Excessive charm, flattery, and polished behaviour can sometimes be used to lower your guard. As de Becker notes, charm is often a strategy intended to persuade, while genuine kindness expects nothing in return.

Watch for loan sharking, another concept from *The Gift of Fear*. This occurs when someone does favours, buys gifts, or provides help that you did not ask for, then expects gratitude, access, attention, or compliance in return. Healthy generosity is freely given without creating a sense of obligation.

Becker also discusses typecasting, a manipulation tactic where someone makes a subtle negative comment in order to provoke you into proving them wrong. For example, "You're probably too busy to talk," or "You seem like someone who wouldn't give people a chance." The goal is often to influence your behaviour by triggering a need to defend yourself.

The most important lesson from *The Gift of Fear* is simple: trust your instincts. If you feel pressured, confused, manipulated, or unsafe, you do not need to justify those feelings. Your intuition exists to protect you. Healthy relationships feel respectful, safe, and consistent. When something feels off, listen to that inner voice, it recognizes danger before your conscious mind can explain it.





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March	26	3	1	\$2,300,000	\$2,100,000
February	26	1	1	\$2,198,000	\$2,200,000
January	26	1	0	\$0	\$0
December	25	0	2	\$1,334,500	\$1,239,000
November	25	2	1	\$1,948,000	\$1,883,000
October	25	1	6	\$2,900,000	\$2,711,875
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