



Joyful Journal

March 2024 NEWSLETTER

News From Your Mortgage Planner



*“Luck is what happens when
preparation meets opportunity.”*

— Seneca



February Highlights



< Addy and her field hockey team went to UC Davis for a weekend of play. The girls got the opportunity to briefly check out the campus including the Athletic facilities. The weather held out for play but we saw a lot of rain.

> UCHS
Softball Season
– Sam / JV
– Addy / Varsity



< While Addy and I were in the Sacramento area, Scott and Sam drove to the Phoenix area to visit with Scott's Dad and wife. They were able to see his Oregon State Beavers play spring baseball



March 10th is Fanny Pack Day



International Fanny Pack Day, celebrated on the second Saturday in March, goes beyond mere fashion trends. While the name might evoke images of quirky waist bags, the day carries a heartfelt purpose.

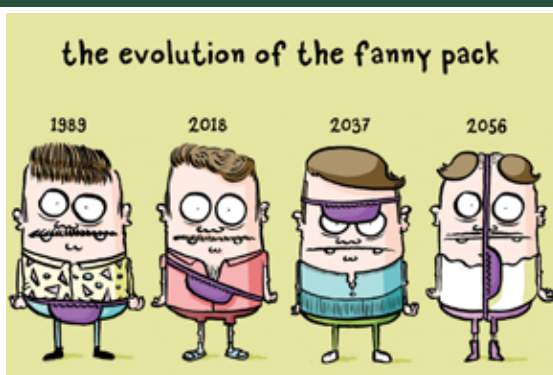
Invented by Nick Yates from Oregon, in 2007, this day emerged from an encounter with a homeless man. Moved by compassion, Yates shared the fruitcake from his fanny pack. Inspired, he initiated a charitable campaign to feed the needy. Thus, International Fanny Pack Day was born.

Fanny packs, popular since the 1980s, were practical pouches strapped around waists, safeguarding valuables. They waned in the 2000s but resurged in 2018, thanks to clothing designers. Whether you call it a waist bag, belt bag, or bum bag, these accessories blend style with utility.

So, on this day, let's honor the humble fanny pack, not just as a fashion statement, but as a symbol of compassion and hunger relief. Wear one, donate food, and make a difference!

*“Once a year,
go somewhere
you’ve never been
before.”*

— The Dalai Lama





The Love of Travel



Barcelona is a tapestry of culture, history, and beauty. It is Spain's Mediterranean port & captivating city on the northeastern coast, located 90 miles south of the French border.

The main attractions for visiting tend to be in the city center, especially around the Ramblas. The Ramblas form one of the most delightful aspects of the city, the broad, tree-lined center strips given over to a series of stalls and kiosks selling items such as flowers, pets, and books and newspapers.

The skyline of the modern city reflects the style of the present age, but Barcelona has always attracted distinguished and original architects. The work of the Catalan sculptor & architect Antoni Gaudí, whose huge and elaborate Expiatory Temple of the Holy Family (Sagrada Família) has become a symbol of the city itself. He is also known for designing Park Güell, which was originally the Güell family home & only later bequeathed to the state.



Antoni Gaudí: Sagrada Família

In Hans Christian Andersen's words, Barcelona is the "Paris of Spain". Its allure lies not only in its physical beauty but also in the stories etched into its streets, museums, and hearts. When in Spain, go visit Barcelona.



This happened in March



March Madness, the NCAA tournament, is held annually to determine the National Championship in Division I men's & women's basketball. It is also known as "The Big Dance".

It all started in 1939 when 8 teams came together – Oregon, Texas, Oklahoma, Utah State, Villanova, Brown, Wake Forest & Ohio State. Oregon won 46-33 over Ohio State.

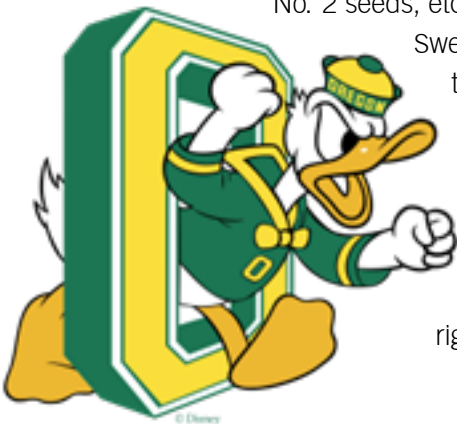
In 1951, the men's tournament was expanded to 16 teams and then 32 in 1975. 10 years later it doubled to 64 teams. A

play in game was added in 2001, increasing the team count to 65.

The 64 teams create four 16-team regions in which the top seeds play the bottom seeds (Ex. No. 1 seeds play the No. 16 seeds, No. 15 seeds play No. 2 seeds, etc.). The tournament plays down to the

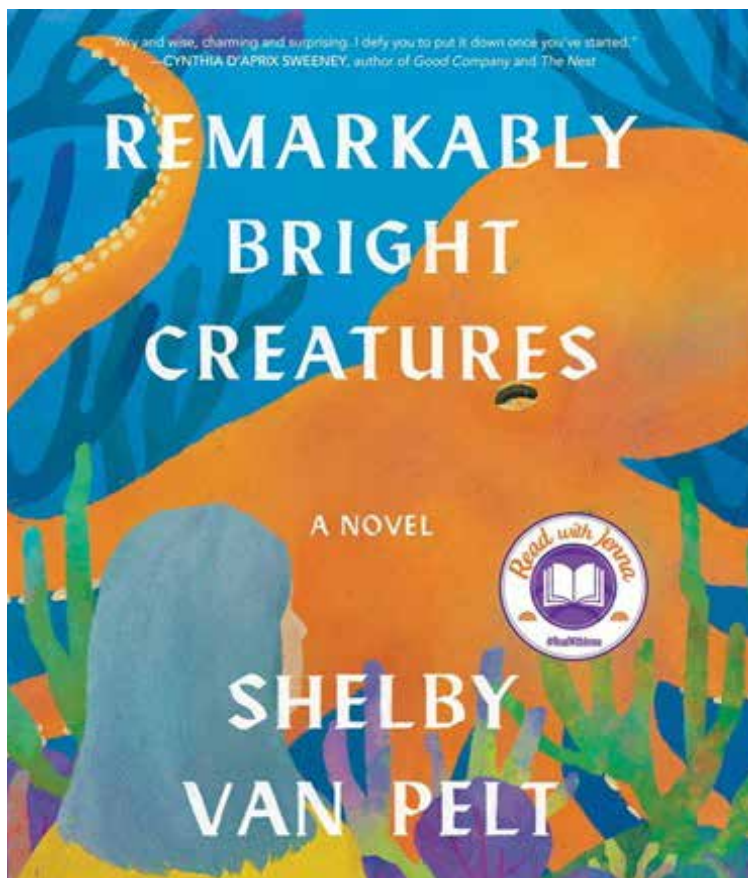
Sweet 16 (final 16 teams), Elite Eight and then the winner of each region meets in the Final 4 each year.

Each year basketball fans complete their March madness brackets, join betting pools and attempt to pick the winner and earn some cash and/or bragging rights!





March Book Review



Last year I joined a book club again as I had forgot how much I loved reading for fun. The girls are finally at an age where I have the time to read (or listen) to a book just because and my book club is great for having me read books I might not have otherwise picked up. Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelvy Van Pelt is one of those books. I don't think I would have

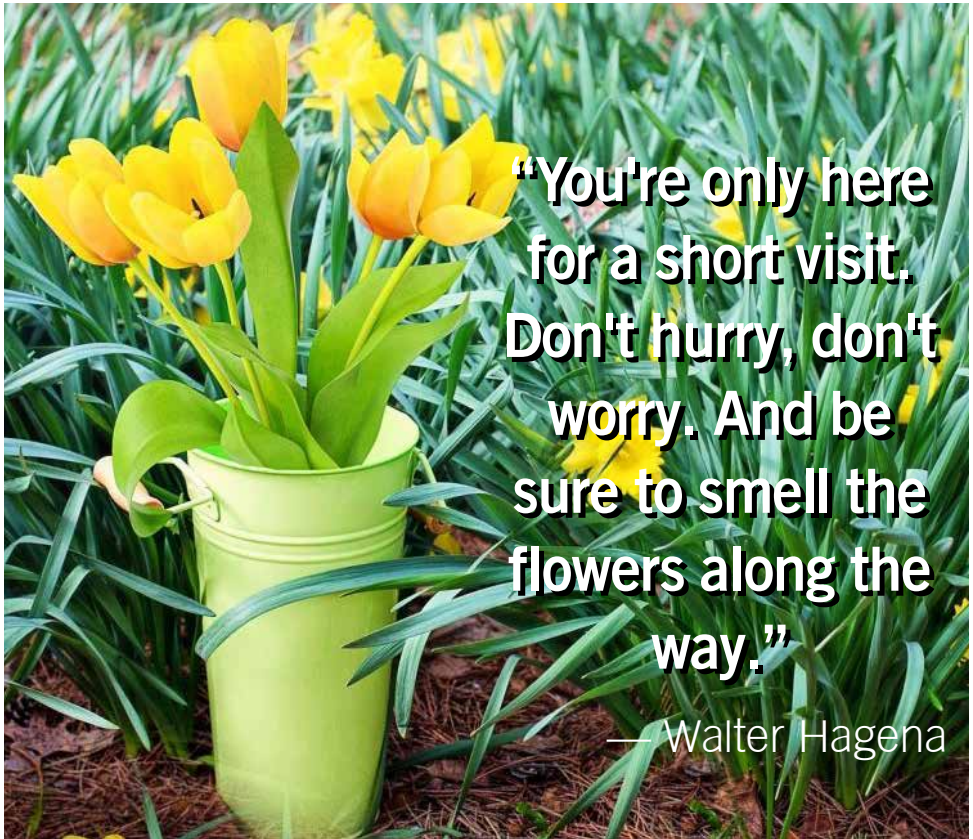
gravitated to a book with the main character a giant Pacific octopus, but I LOVED this book. Set in the Northwest was just a plus for me. The book explores the themes of friendship, loneliness, and hope. A widow works at the aquarium at night and forms a relationship with Marcellus and learns the truth about her missing son. It is beautifully written, one of those feel-good books when it's over. And I had no idea how smart Octopus are. I would recommend this book.

"We shouldn't teach great books... we should teach a love of reading."

— TB.F. Skinner



Leap Year is Here.



“You're only here for a short visit. Don't hurry, don't worry. And be sure to smell the flowers along the way.”

— Walter Hagen



Angela Weathers; Mortgage Loan Originator, NMLS #1493846 is licensed in CA DRE #02110076, CO #100524266, FL #LO81711, WA #MLO-1493846, TX #149384, MS #1493846, OR #1493846, TN #1493846, MI #1493846 & AZ #LO-1043117

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Swanson Lending
C/O Alphagraphics
7373 Engineer Rd #D
San Diego, CA 92111
Phone: 858-688-5259
Angela@SwansonLending.com