

PODCAST Episode 345

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SPEAKERS

Lis Malone, Steve Barclay, Riane LaPaire, Ryan Fleury, Rob Mineault

R Rob Mineault 00:07
welcome to another episode of AT Banter.

S Steve Barclay 00:25
Banter.

R Rob Mineault 00:31
Wow, one banter. I was waiting for the other one to drop.


S Steve Barclay 00:34
y'all only get one banter this time and this is the good news show. I'll get perky in a minute.


R Rob Mineault 00:40
Sorry, are you on on strike?

S Steve Barclay 00:44
I am not sagging, but I am ... well ...


R Rob Mineault 00:46
Well, I think we're all sagging


well, I think we're all sagging...

 **Steve Barclay** 00:49
I'm over 50. So that's expected.


 **Rob Mineault** 00:54
This is of course the podcast where we normally talk with that get some members of the disability community to educate and inspire better conversation about disability.


 **Steve Barclay** 01:08
But no, not tonight. Screw those guys.


 **Rob Mineault** 01:12
However I am Rob Mineault. And joining me today is Ryan Fleury.

 **Ryan Fleury** 01:20
Boo.

 **Rob Mineault** 01:22
And Miss Lis Malone

 **Steve Barclay** 01:23
Not the Halloween show.

 **Lis Malone** 01:24
Who?

 **Steve Barclay** 01:29
Not a show about owls.



R Rob Mineault 01:35
This is going great already. And Steve Barclay.

S Steve Barclay 01:39
It's me! and this is the good news show!

R Rob Mineault 01:42
That's yeah, that's right. This is the good news show. Now, I don't even have to tell people what the heck we're doing today. Because why the heck are we doing a good news show? And what is the good news show? Let's set this up.


S Steve Barclay 01:56
Well, it's a show with with news that's like, good.


R Rob Mineault 02:03
Yes, yes. Well, this was just this is an idea that was born out of COVID. And we, we got sick of talking about COVID in the first month and a half. There was nothing to talk about, and no one to talk to. So we're just talking amongst ourselves. And all we were talking about was COVID. So we got sick of that. And we came up with this idea of doing a show that was just about good news. And we thought we are overdue for one of these puppies. Because I don't know if you've watched the news lately, but it all sucks.

R Ryan Fleury 02:37
Depends what you're watching.

S Steve Barclay 02:39
Yeah, he's pretty much right. If you want good news, you actively have to seek good news because you're right, the algorithm. As soon as you start looking for bad news is gonna go Hey, this dude likes bad news. Let's give this dude bad news.


R Ryan Fleury 03:03
Good news doesn't sell. Nobody's looking for good news. And I'm sure when each of us were looking for stories, you know, sure. It's as simple as a Google search and you'll find a bunch of sites but it turned on the TV and there may be one good news story in a one hour news episode. Right? So it's always at the end. It doesn't sell.


 Steve Barclay 03:24
They make you sit and wait for it.


 Lis Malone 03:25
Yeah, that's because they don't want to end it with, you know, family of four killed as they were going on their dream vacation as they drive off the cliff, you know?


 Rob Mineault 04:01
But hey, but that is not the only reason that there's some good news because we have a very special guest with us to help us with this episode. Joining us once again, Miss Riane Lapaire.











 Riane LaPaire 04:19
Hello, thanks for having me.

 Rob Mineault 04:21
Or as we like to call her, the Belle from NNELS.


 Ryan Fleury 04:23
I see what you did there. Well done.

 Rob Mineault 04:43
So you know before we get started, why don't let's just talk really quickly about NNELS because just in case people are listening in who are not familiar with NNELS, what the heck do you guys do over there?


 Riane LaPaire 04:56
So we're owned and sustained by Canadian public libraries. But we also work with international partners, libraries, readers and publishers, particularly Canadian ones, to make books and accessible formats available to anyone in Canada who has a print disability. And then among that, we also do lots of work through our federal grant funding, to work with publishers to kind of work towards that born accessible model. And get, at the end of the day, get more books in the hands of people who want to read them.


-  Rob Mineault 05:37
Excellent. Well done. See, that wasn't so hard. It all came back. Work is like riding a bike. It just comes back to you as soon as you come back to it.
-  Steve Barclay 05:49
Except that it's always uphill.
-  Riane LaPaire 05:50
Yeah, I turned on my computer for the first time in like five days.
-  Rob Mineault 05:54
Yeah. So you you've been on vacation. Is that right?
-  Riane LaPaire 05:56
Yeah.
-  Steve Barclay 05:59
Tomorrow's my last work day before vacation.
-  Riane LaPaire 06:01
Right. Oh, what are you doing this year?
-  Steve Barclay 06:05
Fishing for two weeks. I'm back for a week. And then I'm out camping for a week.
-  Riane LaPaire 06:12
Amazing. We camped in North Dakota. It was 36 degrees. Oh, it was Badlands. And it was hot. And grasshopper metropolis. Really? Yeah.
-  Steve Barclay 06:28


Wow. They're tasty.


 Riane LaPaire 06:31
There were quite a few but I didn't eat any.


 Steve Barclay 06:35
I think you are supposed to candy them.


 Rob Mineault 06:38
I think so. I think or chocolate cover them.


 Ryan Fleury 06:41
So this is our good news show. We're already talking about eating grasshoppers.

 Steve Barclay 06:45
News you can eat!

 Rob Mineault 06:50
That may come in handy at some point - we might as a society, we may be eating bugs soon.
Good news, Rob. Good news. Good news.

 Steve Barclay 07:06
Let's get started. Let's, let's talk some good news. Give us give us a piece of good news, sir. Oh, gosh. Let me see. Let me see. There's been a number of pieces of news submitted.

 Lis Malone 07:22
Somebody's snoring.

 Riane LaPaire 07:26
I was wondering if it was someone's dog.

S

Steve Barclay 07:29

I didn't think the mic could pick that up. But yeah, Daisy is snoring under my feet right now. People can go to sleep by my my voice and the gentle sounds of Daisy snoring under my legs. Okay, I'm not I'm not 100% sure that this is a good news story, but I'm gonna I'm gonna go with it. I'm gonna go with it. The title is, and this is from The Good News Network. Love those guys. If you need a breath of fresh air, any day of the week, go to goodnewsnetwork.org and do some reading because they are the best compiler of good news that I've ever run across. So this one is titled "13 foot sawfish spotted farther north than any in decades"

R

Riane LaPaire 08:42

So how is that not good news? Well, I mean, other than the fact that this giant shark with a saw for a face is out there. like I mean, who wants to run into that in the water. But I mean, the fact that the there's endangered species coming back and repopulating is incredibly great news.

S

Steve Barclay 09:03

Let's let's start with the article.

R

Riane LaPaire 09:06

Oh, yeah, sorry, I got excited.

L

Lis Malone 09:08

And then and then you can cut Steve down.

S

Steve Barclay 09:10

I will just blow it out of the water. Okay, with some students hoping to be able to teach them about the habits of sharks, a scientist in Florida, landed 13 feet of jagged faced hope up from the depths of Cedar Kay. A mature female sawfish, a bizarre relative of the ray with a chainsaw for a nose called a rostrum and an animal that almost went extinct in the US. Once widespread in the US southeast, sawfish numbers plummeted due to a variety of factors. They were the first Native freshwater fish to be put on the endangered species list. The tagging will allow biologists to track the animal for 10 years to see where it spends its time. Grubbs and his colleague were encouraged to see that the animal was female and that she had mating scars, she was reproducing. Sawfish nurseries tend to be found in the calm waters under and around mangrove trees like near Tampa Bay, south of Cedar Kay where the three juveniles were recently found at a place called Rattlesnake Kay. Both Cedar and Rattlesnake Kays would have had plenty of sawfish at the turn of the 20th century, and the belief is forming that they are returning to old haunts as part of a slow, steady recovery. Grubbs told Newsweek that he believes the population is recovering after the ESL listing as well as additional measures like

increasing protection for mangroves and a ban on gill nets, which the sawfish rostrums were famous for getting trapped in. Yeah, it's nice to see them coming back. But, you know, we gotta we gotta make sure that their environment is good. And we got to stop driving gas powered cars and flying everywhere.

R

Rob Mineault 10:56

But here's, here's what I took away from this article. So so first of all, I read this, I read the article, and I looked at the picture this thing, this thing is ugly. I've never seen a sawfish before. I find it really interesting. There's swordfish, and they're sawfish. But it's got to be a real drag to be a sawfish. Because, first of all, you're called the sawfish. And there are such things as mating scars. Now, that's alarming.

S

Steve Barclay 11:27

Right? Yeah, that's definitely alarming. Like. Oh, yeah, I met this girl the other night, but, man she had mating scars. It's like she didn't see my blades. I don't know how to feel about that.

R

Rob Mineault 11:39

Yeah, I don't know. So that's that could be why they died in the first place. We maybe that didn't have anything to do with it. Just the fact that you have mating scars.

S

Steve Barclay 11:48

Like that's that's taking the I mean, that's well beyond stretch marks at this point, right?

R

Rob Mineault 11:55

Yeah. Anybody else? Anyone else got anything? Sawfish, anyone ever seen a sawfish?

R

Riane LaPaire 12:01

No, but they're super cool. I mean, yeah, we want to run into one

R

Rob Mineault 12:06

They do literally look like, their whole back end. Like they do look like a saw.

S

Steve Barclay 12:11

But yeah, they literally look like they've got a chainsaw on the front of the face. Yes, it's crazy.

R Rob Mineault 12:17
Yeah, it is crazy. See the ocean is crazy.

R Riane LaPaire 12:21
Also like how cool is it that the like the marine ecologist last name is Grubbs. It is just like the perfect last name to be in the ecology field.

R Rob Mineault 12:33
Why he went into it. Yeah, what else?

S Steve Barclay 12:36
What else do you do? Does anybody want to be operated on by Dr. Grubbs? I don't think so.

R Rob Mineault 12:44
It's true. It's true. All right. What's next?

L Lis Malone 12:48
Let's apologize to all the people out there with the name Grubbs. Just a joke. No offense to them.

R Rob Mineault 12:56
That's right. I'm sure that you have the fine person and have a great career.

L Lis Malone 13:01
I had a teacher named Grubman. So, yeah, he was a he was a fine man.

R Rob Mineault 13:06
Sure, you guys probably totally like slammed Grubman behind his back though.

L

Lis Malone 13:13

Oh, yeah, exactly.

R

Rob Mineault 13:15

So I thought. Okay, what's the next Steve?

S

Steve Barclay 13:19

Oh, gosh. Let me see. The title again, this is from Good News Network. And this is "a woman who lost eye as a baby, wears glitter eyeballs to own her difference." Rachel Mehta was just 18 months old when her doctor spotted a white glow in her eye, which led to her retinoblastoma diagnosis. The cancer was so advanced, doctors made the choice to remove her eye in a two hour operation. But far from donning an eyepatch and feeling sorry for herself, she filled a prosthetic eye with glitter to create an unforgettable persona and now helps others on their difference. Rachel grew up without any concern for the missing eye but after surgery in her 20s made the prosthetic eye more apparent. She began to lose her confidence a little. As an eventual remedy, she began to look for fun or creative prosthetics rather than like a quirky piece of jewelry to transform her disability into a bit of bling. "They're full bling" said Rachel from Portland, Oregon who has more than 20 fake eyes. "I just get to focus on being me rather than looking normal. Wendy Rachel, who hadn't thought to wear glitter, glittery or glow in the dark eyeballs met a little girl who also had been diagnosed with retinal blastoma. I knew I never wanted her to feel the way I was feeling about myself. I thought Why am I allowing myself to feel that way?" She said that's when she got the idea to find someone who would make her a gold eye instead of regular looking prosthetics since there was no movement in her eye anyway, and it always was quickly noticed it was fake. "I had a gold crystal one and one with holographic mirror" she said. "I had a brand new one made for my bachelorette party that looks like turquoise stone." Rachel set up a Facebook group called "one eyed and wonderful" and began connecting with others who had one I like her, as well as hosting fundraisers to buy fun fake eyes for people who wanted them. She also helps raise awareness for Retinal Blastoma and children and helps educate people on the early signs of the disease. She set up the fun I find with her ocularist Christina King, and between them has helped fund 43 eyes. "For every \$500 raised we get one prosthetic made," she said I want others to see they're not alone. And it's something to be proud of own the fact that you're different." Love this story. Yeah, absolutely love it. I love her owning her presentation of herself and being empowered by it. That's a fantastic story.

R

Rob Mineault 15:57

Yeah, I know for sure. It's actually really interesting. Ocularist is a really interesting profession. I watched a video about it. And it is really fascinating because generally, normally with prosthetic eyes, like they're, they go above and beyond to really try to make it look as natural as possible. If you make any sort of mistake or it sits it's sitting wrong or anything like that. People can tell immediately with with eyes, it's very different than like a prosthetic leg or arm. People are generally you know, the opposite. They try to make it look as natural as possible. So

I really did get a kick out of this story that yeah, she's just doing her own thing. And she's not worried about it looking natural and trying to blend in. And she's, you know, just trying to make it her own and own the difference in it. Yeah, I agree, Steve, I loved it.

L

Lis Malone 16:53

I didn't know that prosthetic eyes could be changed, like with a lot of frequency, because I just know very little about it. But I was like, wow, that's actually very cool. If you can just kind of have like, you know, different sets and different options that you can put in and take out.

R

Ryan Fleury 17:09

I had a set of prosthetic eyes, they're called I think Sclera Lenses at the time. I don't know if what they're called now maybe they're slightly different than what this woman has. But over the years, and I think you know, they mentioned it on the Limitless podcast as well. But as you grow and age your eye sockets change, right, the size changed, skin loosens whatever. And so you do have to get refit every few years or maybe every 10/15 years. So the set I got back in the mid 90s wouldn't work for me now I'd be cross eyed and crooked and it would be an interesting experience to go out wearing them. But also there's no way in Canada you can get a set of prosthetic eyes for \$500. Not a chance. They were like \$3,000 a pair when I got mine in the 90s and I can only imagine what they are now. So you know I find it interesting that she's actually seeing an ocularist to get her eyes done professionally because they have to measure the you know the distance between your eyes you know top bottom with so on and so forth to make sure if you are getting actual eyes she's mean that everything is centered right that they actually look like eyes. But for 500 bucks I think that's the novelty I that's not the real eyes.

L

Lis Malone 18:45

They're very novelty like it really is like the one the picture I was able to see was it was her left eye all like silver glitter if I'm not mistaken.

R

Ryan Fleury 18:59

which is interesting, because I guess you know, maybe there is no reason why they couldn't do a real life because it is just paint that they used on the prosthetics that I had. You know they have an artist go in and whatever laser paint them or whoever they're done. So maybe these glitter eyes. You know what she said they were filled with glitter.

S

Steve Barclay 19:18

Yeah, they don't look like they're just painted. They look like they're filled.

L

Lis Malone 19:23

Like inside of the glass somehow.

R

Ryan Fleury 19:25

Yeah, we'll have to have her on the podcast.

S

Steve Barclay 19:27

Yeah, there you go. There is pretty cool stuff. I remember. I remember you talking about the process of getting a an artificial eye and how they had to basically squish a bunch of goop into your eye socket to mold to figure out the shape that they had to make the thing so that it would fit in inside your eye socket. And and that sounded really, really gooshie.

R

Ryan Fleury 19:56

it's basically like a clay. Yeah, yeah. And because I I still have my eyeballs even though they're shrunken down. These were like I said, these weren't the full eye. These were the, the lenses or prosthetics that sit actually on the eyes. So as I moved my eyes, you know, even though my eyes are closed, the prosthetics did hold them open to a certain extent. But as you turn your eyes left and right, you know, the prosthetics would move with your eyes. So they did actually look fairly natural. But yeah, the whole process is or was at that time where they prop your eye open, put a bit of freezing in there, fill your eye with goo and take them out, and you go back two weeks later, and they shape and make sure they're fitting comfortably. There's no sharp edges, and away you go. So I can't believe she said, like, 20 sets of eyes.

S

Steve Barclay 20:48

Well, I guess once they got the mold, they can, they can make as many as you as you want.

R

Ryan Fleury 20:53

And she's not doing it for cosmetic purposes, either. She's doing it as a kind of a symbol of her identity. Right?

R

Rob Mineault 21:00

Yeah, yeah, I think that has a lot to do with it. I think a lot of the time invested when you normally get prosthetic eyes, a lot of that is, you know, the process of getting them looking just right fitting just right. So when it's a novelty, none of that really matters.

R

Riane LaPaire 21:15

I wonder if the process has changed a little bit too, because I think about like, when I had

braces as a teenager, you know, we had the goop in the mouth and the whole deal to fit everything.

S

Steve Barclay 21:26

Yeah, I had that too.

R

Riane LaPaire 21:28

When like, my kid got braces and the whole retainer and everything. It was a series of X rays and measurements, and it was all like 3d printed. Yeah. And there was no goop involved. And I was like, What? What do you mean? Exactly. I'm like, I'm wondering if they can do the same thing for eyeballs now.

R

Ryan Fleury 21:50

Yeah, maybe want to have an ocularist on the show?

R

Rob Mineault 21:54

Actually, that'd be cool to hear. We can have this woman and her ocularist to teach us how to say it. That would be good. All right, what's next?

S

Steve Barclay 22:08

Oh, gosh, okay. This, this is one of the ones that I dug up. This is from [yesmagazine.org](https://www.yesmagazine.org). The title is an "Unprecedented halving of child poverty -twice". As a historic drop in the child poverty rate over the past 25 years showed us exactly what to do when the pandemic had a bit of good data, we cut the child poverty by more than half then we did it again. Social safety net programs over the past quarter century were the largest drivers of an unprecedented 59% decline in child poverty between 1993 and 2009. Just prior to the COVID 19 pandemic, then child poverty plummeted by more than half again as pandemic relief programs put cash in people's hands between 2019 and 2021. So there's a chart that goes along with it. But in 1993, more than one in four children lived below the poverty line. So this is the share of families with children whose economic resources are below the supplemental poverty measure threshold. Whatever that means. In 2019, that number was reduced to one in 10. And 2021, that number was reduced to one in 20. So we've gone between 1993 from one in four kids being below the poverty line to one in 20 kids being below the poverty line. That's great news, because that -

R

Ryan Fleury 24:01

That WAS great news. It was no do you not watch the news and see what's happening locally?

S Steve Barclay 24:09
Are you talking about inflation?

R Ryan Fleury 24:11
Yes

S Steve Barclay 24:13
Yes, well, sure. But -

R Ryan Fleury 24:15
That WAS great news.

S Steve Barclay 24:16
But even even if you were to take that because I believe the the percentage change in well, actually, I don't know that those correlate. Even if we were to reverse this trend with the given current inflation, I don't think we would go back to those 2019 numbers. We've still made gains. Oh, we'll see. We'll see how this charts out come you know, when they when they released the 2023 numbers, but kids not living in poverty. I'm an entirely behind that.

R Ryan Fleury 24:52
Oh, absolutely.

R Rob Mineault 24:54
Right. Well, listen, they wouldn't be living in poverty if they'd go and get some jobs.

S Steve Barclay 25:01
Well, interestingly, a lot a lot of the states in the US are lowering the age where children can work. So there you go, you know, they can they can get out there and find themselves a job. You know, maybe there's some coal mines out there.

R Rob Mineault 25:14
Exactly. I'm sure. I'm sure we'll bring it back. Coal.

S Steve Barclay 25:16
So can we not have workhouses?

R Rob Mineault 25:20
I mean chimneys need to be swept.

R Ryan Fleury 25:23
And, you know, right now they're Hollywood's on strike. We need actors and script writers.
That's right.

S Steve Barclay 25:30
I thought that was and CGI now.

R Ryan Fleury 25:39
Okay, next, or does anyone else have anything to say about child poverty? Or child labor?

S Steve Barclay 25:46
Child labor I don't think that's what I don't think that's the takeaway here. Certainly.

R Riane LaPaire 25:57
I agree. It was good news for sure.

S Steve Barclay 25:59
Okay. Yay.

L Lis Malone 26:02
Yeah. All right.

S Steve Barclay 26:03
Let's see here. Who did "rescued lab chimpanzee amazed seeing open clay for the first time"?

Let's see here. who did rescued lab chimpanzee amazed seeing open sky for the first time ? That was you. So let's talk about rescued lab chimpanzee amazed seeing open sky for the first time. A former lab chimpanzee seeing open sky and feeling grass for the first time will warm even the coldest of hearts. Video shows the chimp vanilla walking around staring at the vast Florida blue sky in amazement while slowly taking in save the chimps sanctuary in Fort Pierce. The animal protection organization recently posted the heartwarming video of the 29 year old chimpanzee exploring her new island home. Vanilla, who spent most of her life in a New York Biomedical Research Laboratory, appears hesitant at first looking outside from a doorway. She then jumps up and down hugs another chimp before staring up at the sky with wide hopeful eyes to wait to the alpha male who's in charge of the chimps coaxed her out with open arms, Dan Matthews who saved the chimps told the New York Post. In the video, you see her going into his arms for hug he detailed. It is the first time she was outdoors with more than 10 feet of fence around her on all sides from top to bottom, he said, adding that Vanilla was clearly elated to have suddenly found freedom. The video shows Vanilla being guided by another chimpanzee as she explores the wide open spaces interacts with a group of chimps. Vanilla and her sister Sheikh were welcomed into the sanctuary after spending years in captivity at the Laboratory for experimental medicine and surgery in primates in Tuxedo, New York, which specialized in HIV and hepatitis research. Vanilla was born at the lab and was torn away from her mother shortly after birth Post reported. It was a horrible lab and protested by animal rights activists. For decades, Jane Goodall targeted the place as a hellhole. Matthew said the chimps there watched TV and never saw the light of day, Matthews told the outlet that the animals in the lab which has since shut down, lived in mesh cages that were cleaned by being closed down so workers didn't have to release the animals.

R

Ryan Fleury 26:10

That was me.

L

Lis Malone 28:17

Hey, that sounds like most Americans watch TV and they don't see the light of day.

S

Steve Barclay 28:22

And then they get hosed down without ever leaving the place. You know what I'm huge Jane Goodall fan, I've you know, followed followed her work and followed every special that I could see of the stuff that she shouldn't did with with chimpanzees. They're incredibly intelligent social creatures, so ridiculously close to humans in a lot of their manner and mannerisms, even to the point of using tools. They recently discovered a group of chimps that were using fire to cook food. I mean, these are these are advanced intelligent creatures, so for them to be held in cages is just awful.

R

Rob Mineault 29:10

It's a bummer.

- S** Steve Barclay 29:16
So nice to see Vanilla out in the wild.
- R** Rob Mineault 29:22
Really man that just that sounds like the plot of the next planet of the apes movie.
- S** Steve Barclay 29:32
Yeah, I think I think actually the next planet of the apes movie is about Twitter, isn't it? "You blew it up".
- R** Ryan Fleury 29:39
It's not Twitter anymore, it's called X.
- S** Steve Barclay 29:46
Is it though because apparently, Microsoft has the patent on X as a trademark. They have the trademark on X as for one of their projects, so apparently, he doesn't even own that. Like he's gonna be spending his time in court fighting with Microsoft over over that X.
- R** Rob Mineault 30:07
Assign Vanilla to CEO of Twitter and of all things internet.
- S** Steve Barclay 30:13
Vanilla could not do worse than Musk has.
- R** Ryan Fleury 30:17
No, no, nobody.
- S** Steve Barclay 30:20
If the two of them work together if they had kids, they'd be Vanilla Musk
- R** Riane LaPaire 30:29

Vanilla could do better.

L

Lis Malone 30:32

That's the name of a Bed Bath and Bodyworks fragrance. Yeah, I actually have the room spray. I'm not kidding.

R

Ryan Fleury 30:45

That's the graphic for this week show. There you go.

S

Steve Barclay 30:48

Elon Musk. Yeah, make sure whatever you spray, you make little chimpanzee noises.

R

Riane LaPaire 30:57

The real question is, is does it smell like freedom?

L

Lis Malone 31:02

Yeah, that's right. I don't know. I'm too busy not seeing the light of day watching TV.

R

Rob Mineault 31:10

Okay, what do we got a couple left? What's next?

S


Steve Barclay 31:14

All right, this, this is mine. This is mine. And, you know, I like I like anything that involves lasers. You know, ever since Dr. Evil put lasers on sharks, I thought, wow, we need more lasers on things. And this one is titled is from Forbes. It's titled "self driving farm robot uses lasers to kill 100,000 weeds an hour, saving land and farmers from toxic herbicides". And that's that's pretty much the gist of the article. I don't think I need to read the whole thing. But basically, what they've done is they've got a technology now, where they have cameras on the bottom of these these big farm pieces of farm equipment. And they drive over top of a crop, they identify which plants are the plants are growing and which plants are weeds. And the weeds they zapped with a frickin laser. And they carry on, but they can do 100,000 weeds an hour. Previously, you would have had to have sprayed all kinds of toxic chemicals on top of that and you know specific toxic chemicals that were designed. So the plant was resistant to pesticides. And you know, they then they blast this pesticide or herbicide sorry, not pesticide herbicide on it and you know, the the weeds die off. But But then of course, that makes it into the food


chain. And you know, no matter how much you wash your food, you're probably not getting all of it off and you get to eat it. And so there's no eatin lasers. Plants, weeds dead plants alive. Laser. Love it.

 Lis Malone 32:59

Why don't we have a consumer version of this yet? Because my lawn has got many weeds.

 Steve Barclay 33:09

100% I bet you I bet you that there is a consumer version of this at some point in the near future. It'll be like a Roomba. It'll wander over your lawn, it'll trim it it'll go bright and blast your dandelions and you know, carry on.

 Riane LaPaire 33:23

I want like a Rosie from the Jetsons that does my vegetable garden for me.

 Ryan Fleury 33:32

Just go out with a laser pointer and go pew pew pew.

 Rob Mineault 33:36

Pew pew. Actually, that would be more fun. Actually, if you had like a little gun, a little laser like to shoot weeds out on your lawn. People would would enjoy doing that.

 Steve Barclay 33:50

Yeah, definitely. Which Which one was Rosie in the Jetsons?

 Rob Mineault 33:53

The robot?

 Riane LaPaire 33:54

The maid robot.

 Steve Barclay 33:55

Oh, the Robot Maid, okay.

R

Rob Mineault 33:59

Yeah, it's funny. I went to read that article. And I went to click on the Forbes and Forbes informed me that it didn't like the fact that I was using an ad blocker and disable my ad blocker before I could read the article. And that wasn't going to happen. So I just gleamed all of the information from the headline. But what struck me about it is just like, you could replace the word 'weeds' with 'people'. And very different outcome. Although maybe people are weeds to the earth.

S

Steve Barclay 34:31

Ooh, who I like, maybe that's what those probes are for.

R

Rob Mineault 34:36

There you go. No, but it's interesting. Like I don't know, what should we give be giving robots lasers? I, again, I gotta go back to speculative science fiction. Did they teach us nothing in the 80s robots with lasers, bad idea?

S

Steve Barclay 34:49

Well, these ones are just pointing at the ground though.

R

Rob Mineault 34:53

Until the uprising or we load AI into it.

R

Ryan Fleury 34:57

All the farm machines decide to take over.

R

Rob Mineault 35:04

Okay, so well that's so cool - robot lasers, excellent.

R

Riane LaPaire 35:09

Pesticide free gardens and fields. Amazing.

R Rob Mineault 35:13
Yeah. Great. Do we need to get rid of the herbicides for sure. Like, way we long overdue so anything that can help us clean things up a little bit we need that right now. So joking aside, robot with laser if it means less herbicides and pesticides, Sign me up.

R Riane LaPaire 35:35
My one question is the self driving vehicle. What is it powered by?

S Steve Barclay 35:47
It's good question.

R Riane LaPaire 35:49
Wait, good news here only right? Maybe I don't want to know the answer.

L Lis Malone 35:55
Oh, it's solar powered, of course. That's great.

S Steve Barclay 36:01
I don't know that it says but it's, I'm gonna go with electric. It's a rechargeable electric vehicle.

R Riane LaPaire 36:07
I'm gonna go solar panels.

L Lis Malone 36:13
I'm, I'm very confident it's solar. I'm feeling really good about that.

R Rob Mineault 36:18
It's powered by the blood of children.

L Lis Malone 36:22

Recycled oil from, you know, from the fast food restaurants.

R

Riane LaPaire 36:28

With that they would pollute the fields more.

S

Steve Barclay 36:32

Yeah, because that all goes into the atmosphere. It's all good. Yeah. What can we possibly do the atmosphere. So that's, that's a natural. That's a natural transition here to another story here. And this is one that I found on on its accompany their website is www.twelve.co. And they describe themselves as the carbon transformation company. We make the world's most critical chemicals, materials and fuels from air. With our revolutionary carbon transformation technology. We're reinventing what it means to be a chemical company in the climate era on a mission to eliminate global emissions and build a fossil free future. We make essential products from air. Carbon based compounds are the foundation of our modern world, they give you they give your favorite running shoes, their spring, they also give them their carbon footprint. The problem is, we get this carbon today from fossil fuels in the form of petrochemicals, we don't need fossil fuels to supply a central carbon products, we can extract them from co2. We make chemicals, materials and fuels with a proprietary co2 made carbon transformation technology that replicates photosynthesis. At industrial scale. Just like a plant in nature, it transforms co2 into useful products with just water and renewable energy as inputs and producing only water and oxygen as outputs. We're building a future with no fossil fuels, no new emissions, no trade offs, we can make 1000s of chemicals and fuel products from air that today are made from oil. So I stumbled across this one because they're also making jet fuel. So they're basically sucking co2 out of the air. They're combining it with water and power and creating jet fuel.

R

Ryan Fleury 38:34

Okay, but how are they how are they powering themselves to do all this? Renewable Energy petrochemicals?

S

Steve Barclay 38:40

No, they're powered entirely with renewables.

R

Ryan Fleury 38:43

So they're carbon neutral.

S

Steve Barclay 38:45

They're carbon. No, they're carbon positive.



Ryan Fleury 38:48

Interesting.



Rob Mineault 38:49

Wow. Well, we need to get this.



Steve Barclay 38:53

This company can probably sell carbon offsets, in addition to producing jet fuel.



Rob Mineault 39:00

Wow, that's pretty crazy. Wow. Now that's some good news



Steve Barclay 39:07

We've got to get all of this carbon out of the atmosphere. So now, you know, thing things are getting kind of toasty around here. And this is a company that does it at industrial scale. That's super cool.



Rob Mineault 39:23

Cool. Yeah, to put that in the show notes. Go check them out.



Steve Barclay 39:32

Alright, who sent "boy stops at random house to leave a pep talk on stranger's doorbell cam"?



Riane LaPaire 39:40

Well, yeah, that was me.



Steve Barclay 39:42

Great, great story of this kid. A young boy was headed down a neighborhood sidewalk when he made a stop at a random house with a doorbell camera to leave a positive message of encouragement for a stranger. The video posted on YouTube by southwest news agency does not identify the boy or the location, but the youth is an American walking with a few friends in

the neighborhood. He looks directly at the camera with an earnestness and wisdom seemingly beyond his years. "You matter, all right? There's always going to be someone who cares about you. You're a good person. No matter what people say about you, you matter. I'm just trying to say something nice you matter man or girl, whatever you are, no matter you matter to someone. Just keep that in mind. Don't forget that." Then he went on with his day sauntering down the sidewalk with a small shopping bag presumably heading home and says watch the astonishing moment below - and it says video not available.

 Rob Mineault 40:46

I don't know if I saw this story before or something because I've seen this video and it is interesting although the the article isn't exactly right. Because what it sounds like is I think these kids were playing nicky nicky nine doors and all his buddies like ran off and left him on the stoop and then he left that message. What is nicky nicky nine doors?

 Riane LaPaire 41:18

Ding dong ditch.

 Rob Mineault 41:22

When kids ring the doorbell and run away.

 Lis Malone 41:25

Oh, yeah, ring and run.

 Rob Mineault 41:27

We never called it that, we called it -

 Ryan Fleury 41:29

Nicky nicky Niners?

 Lis Malone 41:31

Maybe up there, but here it's ring and run. What did you call it? Nicky nicky nine door?

 Riane LaPaire 41:40

In central Saskatchewan it was ding dong ditch.



Rob Mineault 41:44

I love that too. We should we should actually take a survey.



Riane LaPaire 41:48

In Northern Saskatchewan it's knock knock ginger.



Ryan Fleury 41:51

In Texas it's draw and shoot.



Rob Mineault 41:59

Ryan from left field with the darkness!



Ryan Fleury 42:04

Sorry.



Steve Barclay 42:06

Because I can't resist. I had to I had to google it. And and this dates back to something called Nickanan Night, sometimes called Hall Monday or Peasen Monday. It's a Cornish feast traditionally held during Shrovetide specifically on the Monday before Lent, sometimes called roguery night in West Cornwall, England, UK. This event was an excuse for local youths to undertake acts of minor vandalism and play practical jokes on neighbors and family. The name Nickanan may come from the practice of knocking on doors and running away which is known as Nicky Nicky nine doors in some parts of the English speaking world. The eating of pea soup and salt bacon was also associated with this date. So there you go. There you go.



Rob Mineault 42:55

Yeah. So But anyways, it was it is it? It was a nice message. See, but honestly, like I watched the video, I have to admit, it was very sweet. But there was part of me that was like this kid really also kind of comes off really smarmy. So I'm just like, I don't know if I saw this on my door doorbell cam. If I'd be like, I don't know if I buy this.



Riane LaPaire 43:23

There wasn't there was a moment where like one of his friends or supposed friends came back

there wasn't there was a moment where like, one of his friends or supposed friends came back to kind of get him and he's like, you know, like, beat it. Like I'm trying to leave an important message here. So it was kind of like okay, yeah, the slimy is not so slimy now.

R

Rob Mineault 43:40

Yeah, yeah, yeah, exactly. I think he pulled it off in the end and became sincere by the end of it.

L

Lis Malone 43:50

Didn't want to get busted.

R

Rob Mineault 43:52

Well, so But this also leads me to think that they must really impact nicky nicky nine doors these days. Like I don't even know I didn't even know that people still did it. But yeah, doorbell cams must really screw up people's game these days.

R

Riane LaPaire 44:06

Probably sure do.

R

Rob Mineault 44:10

Which also, like, made me think doorbell cams are so common now. This is again, this is one of these science fiction technologies that we grew up like all science fiction. That was that was totally a thing. Like we'd have video calls and we would have, you know, your cameras at the door so you can see people are coming to your door. And all this stuff is actually here. And we just we think nothing of it now, but really, it's pretty cool.

S

Steve Barclay 44:39

Where's my flying car, Rob?

R

Rob Mineault 44:41

I know. No flying cars yet.

S

Steve Barclay 44:43

But I want my frickin flying car. We got the rest of it. I'm 55 years old. I need a flying car.

L Lis Malone 44:50
There is a flying car.

S Steve Barclay 44:52
Well get it to me.

L Lis Malone 44:53
It's like now it's only like \$300,000

R Rob Mineault 44:57
Yeah, but isn't really a flying car.

S Steve Barclay 44:59
Give me somebody with \$300,000.

R Rob Mineault 45:02
So wait, man, I just want to rant for a second though because even if they do develop a flying car, there's the problem with cities and districts and stuff. They're so slow to adapt technology. Like, you know, these electric scooters that you're seeing all over the place these days. Great. But there's really no regulation behind them. They haven't figured out or they do need a license for these things. Are they a bike? Are they a car? Like those things go pretty fast - can you ride them on the sidewalk? Like there's no bylaws around these things, it's like the Wild West.

S Steve Barclay 45:36
No, no, there are. Like if it's a street legal scooter that can do over like 30 I don't think you can be drive them on the sidewalk. Which is not to say people don't, because I watched it happen the other day. But yeah, but you know, you're not supposed to.

R Rob Mineault 45:55
And even electric bikes, like those kind of fall in this weird gray area between it's a bike but it's also a motor vehicle like I can kind of get going pretty good. So what is it and I feel like flying cars would be the same but they wouldn't we wouldn't have any rules or regulations until late

in the game. So you'd have people flying around in their flying cars, creating all kinds of chaos.

S

Steve Barclay 46:22

We could do we could do an entire flying car episode because I've got I've got plans, plans for how this is all going to work. But you got to have you gotta have an air traffic control system that's tracking every single car from its from its from its departure point to its arrival point. And it has to schedule when it can land at its arrival point because you're only going to have so many places that they can land to right so there's got to be AI air traffic control systems specifically for flying cars. And then it'll all

R

Rob Mineault 46:57

Oh yeah, we'll see. Which makes it really easy for AI to kill off a bunch of us off all in one day. One hour. Like okay, let's crash all these MFers into each other.

R

Riane LaPaire 47:09

The right human could do that too.

S

Steve Barclay 47:11

True. That's true.

R

Rob Mineault 47:13

A disgruntled employee. Taking it taking it down a notch. Okay, listen, we're running late.

S

Steve Barclay 47:27

Okay, we are but there's only one article left and then there's one sidetrack that I'm going to take off this article because it came up on a tab on the side from our partners and when I read the headline, we're going to want to look into this. So first off, let's start off with the main story here. "An espresso a day could keep Alzheimer's at bay by preventing tau clumping" Oh, sorry. I should go back. This is again, goodnewsnetwork.org. These guys are awesome. Whether you enjoy it in a latte, Americano, or even an espresso coffee, it provides an ultra concentrated jolt of caffeine - but it might do even more for one's alertness over the long run according to new research. Laboratory tests show espresso compounds can inhibit tau protein aggregation, which is one of the processes believed to be involved in the onset of Alzheimer's disease. Although the exact mechanism that causes dementia are still unclear, a protein called tau plays a significant role in healthy people. Tau proteins help stabilize structures in the brain. But when certain diseases develop, the proteins can clump together into fibrils. It's believed the tangles are one of the key causes of dementia slowing thinking and memory skills. Some researchers propose that preventing this aggregation could alleviate symptoms. So, Mara Pina DiOnofrio

and colleagues at Verona University in Italy, where they drink a lot of espresso want to see if compounds in the coffee could prevent tau clumping and lab experiments. The researchers pulled espresso shots from storebought beans and characterized their chemical makeup using nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy. Oh, cool. So many big words. They chose caffeine and Tri-gondoline, both alkaloids along with the flavonoid. Why am I reading this? This is there's so many there's so many chemicals here. Okay. So, bromine, a compound also found in chocolate to focus in - okay, so the longer the short of it is drink espresso. So let me let me, before we run too long, what was your story Lis? Did I miss one of your stories?

L Lis Malone 49:52
Check the email.











S Steve Barclay 49:54
All right, here we go. "Sam Kaplan, 72, graduates from a Georgia College with his 99 year old mother cheering him on". The last time the septuagenarian had to hit the books for classes with them was in the 1960s. More than 50 years after graduating high school, a 72 year old recently earned a undergraduate degree and turned his tassel. On May 11, Sam Kaplan became the first of the seven siblings to earn a bachelor's degree after receiving his diploma in Cinema and Media Arts from Georgetown Gwinnett College in Lawrenceville, Georgia. According to NBC affiliate, Kaplan's 99 year old mother cheered on her son from the crowd as he crossed the stage for his graduation ceremony. "She's very excited", the new graduate remarked about his mother. "She's excited, happy and proud." Back this up - really? Media? Like the guy 72 years old. How many movies is this guy probably seen, and he's getting a degree in Media?? Come on. All of us could have studied for 72 years worth of media and gotten a degree.

L Lis Malone 51:08
Do we need to change this show from good news, exclamation point to good news, question mark?

R Ryan Fleury 51:17
That's a good idea.

R Rob Mineault 51:21
I mean, that's interesting. I mean, I don't know.

L Lis Malone 51:23
I love how we're all debating whether or not these are good news stories.

-  Rob Mineault 51:29
Good news for him, for sure. For sure. I just I don't know how useful a Media degree is. I'm just trying to think of myself. Like if I'm 72, do I want a bachelor's degree? I mean, what for?
-  Riane LaPaire 51:40
You're first in his family of seven.
-  Rob Mineault 51:42
Okay, well, maybe.
-  Riane LaPaire 51:44
Maybe.
-  Steve Barclay 51:45
What does a bachelor's degree in media actually allow you to do?
-  Rob Mineault 51:49
Nothing.
-  Steve Barclay 51:53
You can be a barista now.
-  Lis Malone 51:54
Maybe it was that he got to give his 99 year old mother the gift of having one of her seven children be a college graduate before she before she leaves this mortal coil.
-  Steve Barclay 52:06
That's very true.
-  Ryan Fleury 52:17

It was probably more like "is that my son"?

L

Lis Malone 52:21

Oh, my gosh.

R

Rob Mineault 52:22

"Is this the movies?" Unless she drinks a lot of espresso.

S

Steve Barclay 52:35

Couldn't one of you have gone in for criminology? I mean, I'm not going to take anything away from this guy going back to the classroom at that age. I went back, I went back in my 40s for a marketing program. And I think I took like a marketing course. And I did very well.

R

Ryan Fleury 53:01

I know. But what are you doing now?

S

Steve Barclay 53:05

Currently, same thing that I was doing.

R

Rob Mineault 53:15

Well, I mean, listen, we talked to Deborah Erickson last week, from The Blind Kitchen. She was talking about being in her 40s and going back to going to culinary school for the first time. She talked about that right about how she you know, it's a social situation to be with a bunch of 22 year olds.

S

Steve Barclay 53:33

Yeah. And imagine going back when you're 72. Holy, well, he probably was 68 if he if it was a four year, four year program, but true, you know, even so 68 going into colleges. That's, that's tough. Yeah.

L

Lis Malone 53:48

I mean, that's not really high on most people's list of what they want to do when they retire.

R

Rob Mineault 53:53

No, although I don't know. Like, I've often said that, you know, if I was if I was like, you know, really super rich and didn't have to work that's totally what I would have done, I would just been like, I'm just gonna go to school, go get some degrees for just kicks.

S

Steve Barclay 54:13

A little more of this to put it into context because she last saw her son in an academic setting in 1969 when he graduated high school in the decades after Kaplan criss crossed careers. According to the college's news release, he ran a cleaning service and later a telemarketing company. He also worked as a taxi driver in customer customer service for electronic wholesale distribution. Kaplan's college also revealed that the septuagenarian decided to enroll in school again for the first time in decades when he was 68 years old. "I was driving down 316 I heard on the radio that Georgia Gwinnett College was offering a degree that involved script writing, he explained my current seem to have developed automatic steering and I pulled off on Collins Hill Road Good. Five minutes later, I was registering for the fall semester."

L

Lis Malone 55:04

See, this worked out nicely. We need writers.

S

Steve Barclay 55:11

Yeah, so he walked straight into a strike. Good for him.

R

Ryan Fleury 55:18

There's the good news, question mark.

R

Riane LaPaire 55:24

I have no idea how you're gonna edit this.

R


Rob Mineault 55:28


I don't know either. This week, man. Well, that's nice. That's a nice story, too.


S


Steve Barclay 55:34


It's a nice story. Yeah. Good for him.


 Ryan Fleury 55:37
Indeed.


 Rob Mineault 55:39
You know, it'd be a fun writing exercise. And if we had to take all of those good news stories, and then combine everything, all the people from people and animals from all the stories and combine them into one story. Like one day Vanilla the monkey was driving the robot that destroys weeds down the street when she accidentally ran over a kid that had just left a message on a doorbell cam ... I don't know how we're going to work sawfish mating into it, but..


 Steve Barclay 56:13
But it's okay, because he hadn't drank an espresso And, you know, forgot.

 Rob Mineault 56:21
Oh, man. Well, is that it?

 Ryan Fleury 56:25
That's it. Time for dinner.

 Lis Malone 56:27
Yeah, sounds like all the good news we can handle.

 Rob Mineault 56:31
Well, this was fun. I'm glad we had the chance to do this again, because I think it's overdue and it's time that we did something silly, once again. It's been very serious over the last few months.

 Riane LaPaire 57:08
Okay, well, let's wrap this thing up. First of all Rianne, it was lovely to have you on again. Yeah, thanks so much for having me.

 Rob Mineault 57:19

Thanks for coming on and being silly with us for a while.

R Riane LaPaire 57:23
Anytime.

L Lis Malone 57:25
And hockey season in a few months.

R Riane LaPaire 57:28
I know, so excited!

R Rob Mineault 57:32
Yeah, listen, maybe we should we'll do a hockey Podcast. I'm not below ... above,


S Steve Barclay 57:45
I love that you had to turn that into a moral dilemma.


R Rob Mineault 57:53
Well, listen as somebody who got routinely face washed by hockey players as a child that's my view. Life McKenzie has a hard life.


S Steve Barclay 58:03
Rob, let's go find them. Now their knees are shot we can beat the crap out of them.


R Rob Mineault 58:11
All right. Riane, anything to plug before for we go yet? Plug NNELS.


R Riane LaPaire 58:21
I mean, yeah, definitely. Anyone who's looking for some books and accessible formats with that print disability in Canada, you can visit an www.nnels.ca


 Rob Mineault 58:31
There you go. We highly recommend it.


 Riane LaPaire 58:35
There's some good books there. Yeah. And if we don't have it, put in a request and we'll make it for you.


 Steve Barclay 58:43
Yeah. Nice.


 Rob Mineault 58:45
Hey, Lis?

 Lis Malone 58:47
Hey, Rob?

 Rob Mineault 58:48
Where can people find this?

 Lis Malone 58:51
They can find us www.atbanter.com

 Rob Mineault 58:53
Hey, they can also drop us an email if they so desire at cowbell@atbanter.com.

 Steve Barclay 59:08
And they can find us at all kinds of social media they can find us at - yeah, no, they can't find us anywhere.

 Rob Mineault 59:19

Wait, what did you say Facebook and Instagram?

L Lis Malone 59:22
And we're still on Twitter and -I

S Steve Barclay 59:26
I thought I thought it was X.

L Lis Malone 59:28
Yeah, I think it is X. I still have the Twitter icon.

R Rob Mineault 59:32
Yeah, me too. Until they get sued. Yeah, he's who knows who knows what's going on with him.

L Lis Malone 59:37
It's still tweeter. There's still a bird. It's tweeters.

R Rob Mineault 59:41
Yeah. Who knows how that's gonna play out. It's kind of entertaining to watch, I'll have to admit.

S Steve Barclay 59:45
It's like watching a live train wreck. Yeah, it is like Elon Musk's takeover of Twitter has been just an unmitigated disaster. Down 60% on advertising revenue, which is where they made all their money and, and they're still hemorrhaging advertisers because you know, what the hell is this thing anymore?

R Rob Mineault 1:00:10
True. Anyways, that is going to do it for us this week. Big thanks of course Riane for joining us, and we will see everybody with our regular scheduled programming next week.