

OUR HOMETOWN

AUG 2026

LIVE WELL & THRIVE

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WILLIAMS
Insurance Advisors

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PACKED>>> FOR THE FUTURE



PROTECT & GUARD

BY DAVID WILLIAMS

August has a way of making time visible. Sunscreen shares an aisle with sharpened pencils. Towels still dry on porch railings while backpacks return to their hooks. Between the last swim of summer and the first school morning, a new season begins.

Children return carrying folders, pencils, and lunches packed by someone who woke early enough to cut the fruit. But they also carry another backpack, one no one can see.

It holds the afternoon they learned to float, the scraped knee they survived, the friendship that surprised them, and the small act of courage no one noticed. It may carry a conversation with a grandparent that made little sense then but could mean everything years later. These moments will never appear on a report card, yet they shape the person returning to school.

International Youth Day, observed on August 12, places young people where they already belong, not waiting at the edge of the world for their turn, but living within it, interpreting, questioning, and changing what they see. Their ideas may still be taking shape, but unfinished does not mean insignificant.

August asks us to **notice growth as it is happening.**

Growth itself rarely announces its arrival. The child who once reached for your hand may now walk ahead. The teenager who seemed not to be listening may repeat your words years later. The student who left school uncertain in May may return in August with confidence earned far from a classroom.

Perhaps that is why we take so many photographs this time of year. We pose children on front steps, capture new shoes and fresh haircuts, and ask them to smile even when they are nervous. **World Photography Day on August 19** gives a name to that instinct. We take the picture because we know this version of them will not last.

A photograph cannot stop time. It can only ask time to leave something behind

August also encourages us to **preserve more than appearances.**

Take the picture, but also ask what happened that summer. Remember the story they keep repeating. Listen when they describe what frightened them, who mattered, or what made them proud. The most valuable memories reveal who someone was becoming.

While back-to-school season turns our attention to preparation - we buy supplies, organize schedules, and make sure everyone knows where to be - readiness is more than having the correct items in the correct backpack. It is also knowing there is somewhere safe to return when the day becomes difficult.

Perhaps the most important preparation is **creating the kind of foundation that makes growth possible.**

Steady routines, honest conversations, familiar places, and people who remain present as life changes. They give us confidence to take the next step, even when we cannot see the entire road ahead.

Years from now, the backpack may be forgotten in a closet. What will remain are the lessons gathered, the memories preserved, and the invisible support that made growth possible.

“**AUGUST**
first asks us to pay
attention to change
while it is happening.”



We cannot keep summer, childhood, or any season from passing. We can only pay attention while it is here, carry its lessons forward, and care for the future still waiting to unfold.



SMALL ESSENTIALS. LASTING IMPACT

BY David Williams

#AGENTS OF CHANGE

At Williams Insurance Advisors, we believe thriving communities are built through compassion, generosity, and people coming together to support one another. That's why we're honored to partner with The Care Cabinet, a Christ-centered nonprofit committed to meeting the everyday needs of students and families in local schools.

The Care Cabinet works alongside schools to provide welcoming spaces stocked with essential items students may need throughout the school day. From hygiene products and socks to snacks, backpacks, and school supplies, these resources help ensure every child has the

opportunity to learn with confidence, comfort, and dignity.

While these necessities may seem small, their impact is life changing. When a child feels cared for, supported, and valued, they are better positioned to succeed both inside and outside the classroom. Through its ongoing work, The Care Cabinet reminds students and families that they are seen, loved, and never have to face challenges alone.

This month, for every referral we receive for a no-obligation insurance quote, Williams Insurance Advisors will donate \$15 to The Care Cabinet to help provide essential supplies for local students.

Together, we can make a lasting difference by bringing hope, encouragement, and practical support to children in our community one referral, one family, and one act of kindness at a time.

JOIN US: dlwins.com/community

YOU'RE APPRECIATED!

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GET REWARDED!

- + For each **QUOTED FRIEND** you send our way, get...
- + A **\$15 DONATION** to a worthy cause!
- + **1** entry for our **LUXURY PRIZE** Quarterly drawing!
- + **AND 1** entry for our **LUXURY PRIZE** yearly drawing!!!



To recommend someone now, visit us at:
dlwins.com/rewards

SOLVE THIS RIDDLE to win \$50!

I wear a crown of golden rays,
And stand above the garden maze.
I follow daylight as it flies,
Then bow my head when summer dies.

What am I?

Submit your answer by **Aug 31st** at:
ourhometownmag.org/riddle

A Slice of Peach of Mind

Are you
ready to
crumble?

BY GUILLERMO URDANETA

Buttery graham crust, silky cheesecake, cinnamon-peach filling, and a crisp brown-sugar crumble in every bite. With

National Peach Pie Day on **August 24**, grab a fork and bake yourself some serious peach of mind.



Ingredients

Crust

- **1½ cups** graham-cracker crumbs
- **6 tbsp** unsalted butter, melted
- **2 tbsp** sugar

Peach Filling

- **3 cups** peeled, diced peaches
- **½ cup** brown sugar
- **1 tsp** cinnamon
- **1 tbsp** cornstarch
- **1 tbsp** lemon juice

Cheesecake

- **24 oz** cream cheese, softened
- **¾ cup** sugar
- **¾ cup** sour cream
- **1 tsp** vanilla
- **3 large** eggs

Crumble Topping

- **½ cup** all-purpose flour
- **⅓ cup** brown sugar
- **½ tsp** cinnamon
- **4 tbsp** cold butter, cubed

Preparation

- 1.** Preheat oven to 325°F. Mix the crust ingredients, press into a greased 9-inch springform pan, and bake for 8 minutes.
- 2.** Cook the peach filling over medium heat until thickened, about 5 to 7 minutes. Cool.
- 3.** Beat the cheesecake ingredients until smooth, adding the eggs last.
- 4.** Layer half the batter, the peach filling, and the remaining batter over the crust.
- 5.** Mix the crumble ingredients and sprinkle on top.
- 6.** Bake for 55 to 65 minutes. Cool, then refrigerate for at least 4 hours.

Creamy. Cinnamon-kissed. Crumble-loaded.

WHY DID BIXBY LET HIM IN?

- A.** He looked friendly.
- B.** He smelled like brisket.
- C.** He said, "Good boy."
- D.** All of the above.

LOYAL TO YOU. FRIENDLY TO EVERYONE.

Bixby has never met a stranger he didn't like. That is part of his charm but a terrible security strategy.

AUGUST 26 IS
INTERNATIONAL DOG DAY.

**LOVE THE DOG.
COVER THE REST.**



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