

# Deep in the Mind of Dennis

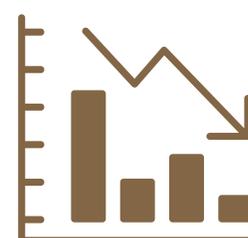
10 thoughts my wife Valerie might even find interesting...

1 Opening Day is fast approaching. I love the pitch clock idea. Make MLB watchable again. It's only a matter of time before the daylilies blossom. I'm ready. Kids hit the plant store this weekend. Plenty of carrot, heirloom tomato, artichoke, and watermelon seeds to go around. Beekeeping is the next frontier for me.



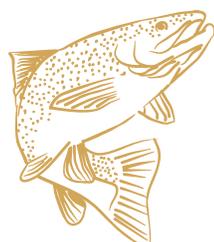
2 I could use a TB12 cleansing. If I were his publicist, I would ban him from Social Media and ask that he take a six month break and travel the world. He's hit the oversaturation point. He'll still be the greatest that ever lived when he returns (unless Mahomes has something to say about it...uh oh, I said it) and the spotlight will shine plenty bright once his Fox Sports deal kicks in next year. Hey Tom, "Less is More" at this point.

3 January 2023 had the largest number of announced layoffs since January 2009, 41% of which were in the Technology sector. (Source: Challenger, Gray, & Christmas)



4 The S&P rallied 6.2% in January 2023. There have been five other Januarys where the S&P rallied more than 5% in January after trading down in the prior year (-19.4% in 2022's case). In those five years, the S&P rallied more than 10% from February through year-end all five times.

5 WFH has not taken over yet. I still think there is a stabilization point that we have not reached. According to Kastle Systems, the week ending 1/25/23 saw more workers in major cities go to their offices than at any other time since the pandemic began. I wonder what caused the uptick? Layoffs, colder weather, COVID exhaustion...



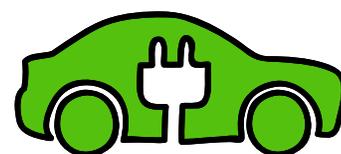
6 My Live it List (formerly known as Bucket List) now has Fly Fishing for brown trout in Montana on it after I ran across *A River Runs Through It* this weekend. I love the scene where the brothers bet whether their future brother in law will bring a can of worms to the next day's fishing destination.

7 Shelby started fencing in February. She is getting exposed to so many fun activities. We'll see what sticks. We are still trying to find the perfect mix of organized activities, family activities, and down time, just like most parents. I hope my passion for sports gets rejuvenated. The loss of amateurism in youth sports has taken a chunk of fun out of it for me.



8 2022 was the worst year for bonds since 1976. 2023 started off strong though with the index rallying 3.1%, its best January since 1988.

9 We made the jump to a more environmentally-friendly hybrid-plug in car. She likes it so far, although the technology has proved difficult. My quick thoughts on the short time she's owned it: 1) It's not a money saver. Electricity and gas costs are interchangeable, 2) I question



how beneficial it is for the environment as electricity needs certain energy sources to create it, 3) I get charging anxiety similar to when my phone is at 10% power, 4) Plug-ins and full electric have different chargers. The first Mall charge had its place in a Seinfeld episode until a nice man took pity. It was like Madelyn trying to plug a three prong into a two prong outlet. We'll keep you updated.



10 *The Millionaire Next Door* makes for a worthy graduation present. Lots of stories about the habits of those that have acquired wealth and are living comfortably now as a result of those good habits. It's not what you would expect. Stories about people repairing their well-worn shoes (versus buying a new pair), buying modest cars and keeping them for ten years, and developing their "healthy" relationship with money. It's a great reminder for younger generations that living below one's means is an important trait to develop.