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TIDBITS® SAYS...

## FAREWELL TO JANUARY

by Kathy Wolfe

This week, *Tidbits* bids farewell to the first month of 2026 with these facts about the month of January.

- The month of January is named after the ancient Roman god Janus, the god of time, beginnings, transitions, passages, and endings. His image is two-headed, symbolizing his supposed ability to see into the past with one face and into the future with the other.
- In the original Roman calendar, there was no January. March was the first month of the year, and the calendar consisted of just 10 months – six 30-day months and four 31-day months. Rome's second king, Numa Pompilius, gave the calendar an overhaul during the 7th century B.C., adding 50 days and taking a day from each of the 10 months, creating two new winter months, Ianuarius to honor Janus, as a symbol of new beginnings, and Februiarius to pay tribute to the Roman purification festival of Februa.
- The Gregorian calendar, which we have followed since 1582, was adjusted to 365.2425 days, the time it takes for the Earth to travel around the sun. But not everyone switched to the adjustment, including Eastern Orthodox churches. Because they follow the older Julian calendar, established by Julius Caesar, while much of the world has stowed away their Christmas decorations, the Eastern Orthodox are celebrating Christmas on January 7.
- The garnet gemstone is the birthstone of the month of January. The garnet is one of the oldest known gems, with necklaces discovered in the tombs and mummies of the Ancient Egyptians. The stone is symbolic of many things – constancy (due to its enduring nature), courage, strength, and protection. Some medieval kings wore garnets as protection during battle. During the Middle Ages,

Continued on page 2

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Farewell To January (continued)

the clergy esteemed garnets as symbols of Christ's blood and sacrifice.

• The first U.S. President Inauguration Day took place in 1789 to swear in George Washington as the nation's first president. The ceremony was held on April 30, 1789, on the balcony of the Federal Hall, the capitol building of the United States, in New York City, then the nation's capital. Inaugurations were held in Philadelphia, which had become named the nation's capital, in 1793 and 1797, then moved to Washington, D.C., the new capital, in 1801. Beginning in 1793, Inauguration Day was moved to March 4 (or March 5 if the 4th fell on a Sunday), and this date remained in place through the 1933 inauguration, the first of four ceremonies for Franklin D. Roosevelt. The 20th amendment of the U.S. Constitution moved Inauguration Day to January 20 as a measure to reduce the "lame-duck" period between presidents.

• Patents for many everyday items were issued during the month of January, including the pop-up toaster in 1929. An envelope-making machine received a patent in January 1849, and a machine for making ice cream cones received its rights in 1924. A process for the manufacture of gasoline was approved in 1913, and E.G. Otis was issued a patent in 1861 for an "improvement in a hoisting apparatus," namely, an elevator. The game of Monopoly received its patent in January 1935.

• In the Northern Hemisphere, January is usually the coldest month, but the opposite is true in the Southern Hemisphere, where it is the second month of the summer and the hemisphere's warmest month.

• When you've had an "epiphany," you've had a moment of sudden insight, something has been shown to your mind, in other words, "the light went on." The word itself means "manifestation." In terms of the month of January, January 6 is celebrated as Epiphany, also known as Three Kings' Day. It's a holiday that commemorates the revelation of Jesus as the Christ to the three Magi, wise men who had traveled from the "East," perhaps Arabia, Persia, or India. According to eighth-century writings, their names were Melchior, Caspar, and Balthazar.

• Twelfth Night refers to Epiphany Eve, January 5, the "last day of Christmastide," celebrated by many with a Twelfth Night cake, a rich fruit cake soaked in brandy and covered with a layer of hard icing. It's topped with sugar figures, fancy sculptures, and decorative piping. A large, dried bean is baked inside the cake and whoever receives that piece is declared the ruler over the evening's festivities. A recipe for the cake from an 1865 cookbook calls for 18 eggs!

• For those who follow astrology, two zodiac signs are within the month of January, Capricorn the goat and Aquarius the water-bearer. According to the stars, those born between December 22 and January 19 under Capricorn are ambitious, self-disciplined, reliable, trustworthy, stable, and frugal. Aquarians born between January 20

and February 18 are creative individuals who are deep thinkers who spend a lot of time working through challenges. Astrologers call them introverts who are not great communicators.

• There are some rather obscure observances during January, such as National Pie Day on January 23. It's been a celebration of delicious pastries since the 1970s when a Boulder, Colorado teacher named Charlie Papazian declared that day, his birthday, as National Pie Day. It's become more official since it's sponsored by the American Pie Council. That's not Papazian's only accomplishment. He's more noted as laying the groundwork for today's brewing of craft beers. In 1979, he founded the Association of Brewers and established the Great American Beer Festival. Papazian has penned seven books about micro-brewing, including "The Complete Joy of Home Brewing," now in its 25th reprinting.

• Wouldn't you think that National Whipped Cream Day would coincide with National Pie Day? Not so. This unusual observance falls on January 5, the birthday of Aaron "Bunny" Lapin, the inventor of Reddi-Wip. During the late 1800s, whipped cream became a popular choice in desserts, primarily due to the invention of a steam-powered mixer that simplified the process of whipping cream. But it was Lapin's invention in 1948 that transformed the industry. He created sweetened whipped cream that could be propelled through a canister's nozzle by nitrous oxide, with contents pressurized up to 100 pounds per square inch.

• There's an official term for that feeling of being down or melancholy during the month of January following all the holiday rush. It's the "January Blues." So say "Hello, February!" with a happy, upbeat attitude for new beginnings!

## - TIDBITS —

### NUGGET OF KNOWLEDGE

In a survey about New Year's resolutions, 62% of those evaluated say they feel pressured to set resolutions. Of those surveyed, 48% say improving physical fitness is the top priority, with 36% citing improved mental health. Although 80% of respondents felt confident in their ability to keep the resolutions, just 20% responded that they hold themselves accountable.

## SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

### Reading and Writing for Relaxation

If ever there was a time to turn off the television -- especially during the evening news hour -- this is it. Between the stress and anxiety of current events that we can do nothing about and the shocking mistakes we see being made (not to mention the resulting disrupted sleep and rising blood pressure), we can easily just press the off button on the remote.

But what shall we do with our free time, once we have silenced the noise? We can read ...

"Homework for Grown-Ups: Everything You Learned at School and Promptly Forgot," by Elizabeth Foley and Beth Coates, is a trip down memory lane of all the facts and tidbits you used to know. The topics are covered in bite-size sections and include English language and literature, math, home economics, history, science and much more. Still wonder if you should use "that" or "which" in a sentence? Or you don't remember the answer when your grandchild asks, "What's the difference between a parallelogram and a rhombus?" Or if you need a refresher about rock, paper, scissors, the book will remind you. At the end of each section is a quiz with answers in the back of the book. If you read a few pages every day, you'll find it addicting!

And we can write ...

When is the last time you wrote someone a letter? Not an email, not a text message, not a letter typed on the computer and printed out, but a handwritten letter on nice stationery with a matching envelope. And yes, they still make such things, sold in sets. While you're shopping for stationery, consider buying a journal. If you make a habit of writing, without a daily dose of bad news, you'll likely find yourself much more relaxed -- and happy!

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**Shortcuts** by Jeff Harris

# WARMING UP TO THE COLD

**BREAK THE ICE**

Can you help this ice cube reach his sweetheart?

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Scientists estimate that the average temperature in the universe is 2.7° K (-270.45° C, -454.81° F).

The lowest temperature ever recorded on Earth, -89.2° C (-128.6° F), was measured in Antarctica in 1983.

In 2003, scientists at MIT cooled sodium gas to within half a billionth of a degree above absolute zero. It is one of the lowest temperatures ever recorded.

"Cryogenic" refrigerators are special refrigerators that are capable of creating temperatures as low as -270° C (-454° F).

Which is faster, heat or cold? Heat. You can catch a cold.

What did the police officer say to the fleeing ice cube? Freeze!

Fresh snow is a great insulator. On cold days, the ground below the snow is usually warmer than the air above.

"Absolute zero" is a theoretical temperature at which nearly all molecular motion ceases. Absolute zero is 0° on the Kelvin scale (0° K equals -273.15° C or -459.67° F).

When two objects are in contact, heat from the warmer object will always flow into the colder object.

As an object cools, it shrinks in size because the molecules within it become less energetic and more organized.

Knock, knock. Who's there? Ice. Ice, who? Bless you.

**COLD STORAGE**

When a liquid changes into a gas, it absorbs a large amount of heat. Refrigerators create a cycle where a chemical called a "refrigerant" is changed from a liquid to a gas and then back to a liquid. As the liquid changes to a gas, it absorbs the heat from nearby objects (like your milk and eggs), making them cooler.

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ARTIST  
of the week



Gary Allan



Gary Allan's career is built on the kind of honesty that can't be polished or pretended. Born Gary Allan Herzberg on December 5, 1967, in La Mirada, California, he grew up surrounded by country music thanks to his mother, who took him to honky-tonks and taught him to play guitar while he was still a child. By his teens, Allan was already performing on stage, absorbing the Bakersfield sound—raw, twangy, and unapologetically real—that would later define his music.

Unlike many Nashville hopefuls, Allan arrived with an edge. His baritone voice carries a weathered quality, as if it's lived the stories it tells, and his music often leans toward heartbreak, resilience, and survival rather than easy optimism. He broke through in the mid-1990s with *Used Heart for Sale* (1996), quickly establishing himself as a traditionalist with a modern bite. Songs like "Her Man" and "Right Where I Need to Be" showcased his ability to balance classic country roots with contemporary songwriting.

Gary Allan's career took a deeper, more personal turn following the tragic death of his wife, Angela, in 2004. Instead of shying away from pain, Allan let it shape his work. Albums like *Set You Free* (2013) reflect grief, endurance, and the slow work of healing, resonating strongly with fans who hear their own struggles in his voice. His music became not just entertainment, but companionship for those navigating loss and hard truths.

Throughout his career, Allan has stayed true to his sound—steeped in tradition, sharpened by life experience, and delivered without pretense. With multiple platinum albums and a loyal fan base, Gary Allan stands as one of country music's most authentic voices: an artist who proves that sometimes the quietest songs, sung with the most sincerity, are the ones that linger the longest.

Fun Fact

Gary Allan's distinctive, gravelly voice isn't the result of studio effects—it's completely natural, shaped by years of live barroom performances and a lifelong love of traditional country, making his sound instantly recognizable within just a few notes.



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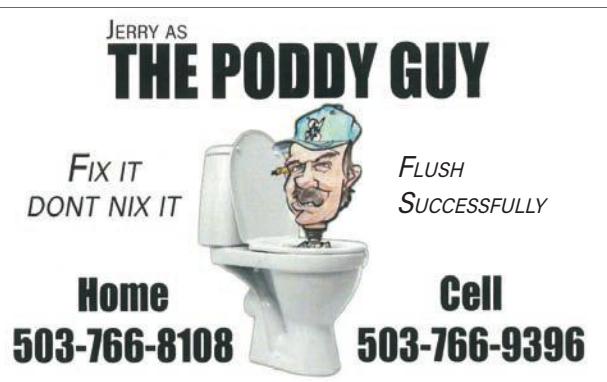
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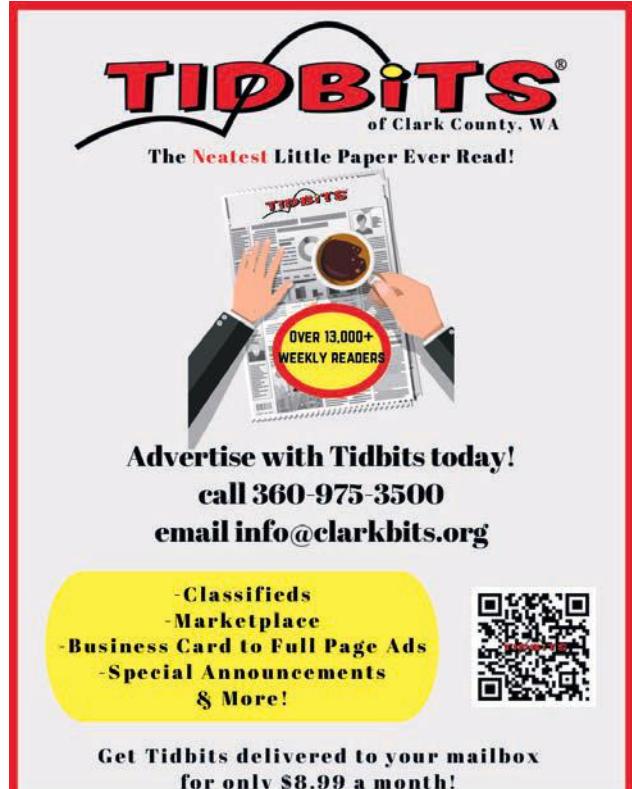
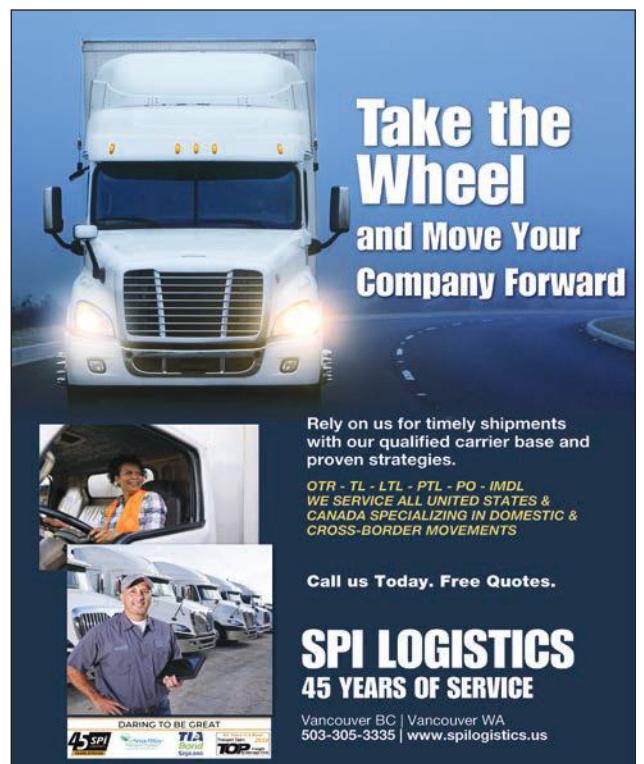


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The emperor Charlemagne tried his hand at introducing a new calendar using all Germanic names for the months during his 8th-century reign. He dubbed January "Wintarmanoth," or, "cold month." His reform was not widespread or well-known and didn't last beyond his time.



## Holidays & Observances This Week

- 1/25 World Leprosy Day
- 1/26 National Peanut Brittle Day
- 1/27 Holocaust Memorial Day
- 1/28 National Pediatrician Day
- 1/29 Seeing Eye Dog Day
- 1/30 Croissant Day
- 1/31 Fruitcake Toss Day

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— Harriet Tubman

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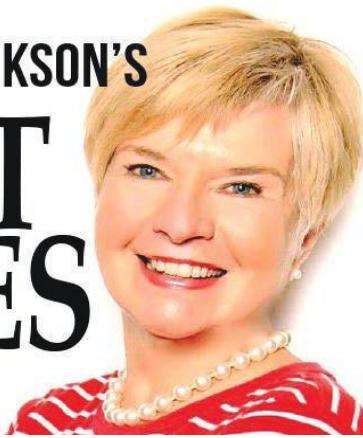
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3. MEDICAL TERMS: What is a common name for lateral epicondylitis?
4. MOVIES: The "Back to the Future II" characters travel forward in time to which year?
5. LITERATURE: What color is the badge of courage in Stephen Crane's novel about the Civil War?
6. GAMES: How many points is the center red bullseye on a dartboard worth?
7. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of floating otters called?
8. AD SLOGANS: Which car company used the slogan "Drive your dreams"?
9. TELEVISION: What is husband Darrin's profession in the "Bewitched" sitcom?
10. SCIENCE: What part of the brain controls hunger?



Sam: So, have you made any New Year's resolutions for 2026?

Phil: Well, not yet. I'm still deciding if hibernation counts as a valid resolution!

### Getting a Taste of the 2026 Olympics in Italy

The 2026 Winter Olympics in Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy, will be in full swing on televisions and screens all across America starting on Feb. 6. I love how the cameras put viewers like us in the middle of the action, as if we're standing on the sidelines as a skier comes racing by. Amidst the thrills, there's one thing that we miss out on, which are the mouthwatering smells and tastes of the local food that gets enjoyed by spectators throughout the event.

So, this year, I decided to make the Olympics a "total" cultural experience and create a taste of Italy by preparing a panini (Italian for "sandwich"). But hold the pickles, lettuce and mayo! Italians are known to love their panini with a drizzle of olive oil, balsamic vinegar or pesto on the bread. They add good meat and cheese, then toast it on an electric grill. The heat intensifies the flavors and creates diagonal grill marks on the outside of the bread.

To create the same taste and effect, we make our panini on the stove with a basic grill pan and press them with a brick covered in tinfoil. If you don't have a brick, set another heavy skillet on top of the sandwich with soup cans to weight it down as it heats throughout.

To get you started, here's my simple, basic traditional recipe for 4-5 paninis that kids will love:

- 1 loaf of good Italian bread, such as ciabatta or focaccia
- Extra-virgin olive oil
- 20 fresh basil leaves
- 4 ounces thinly sliced prosciutto (optional)
- 4 ripe tomatoes, sliced
- 8 ounces fresh mozzarella cheese, sliced 1/4 inch thick

Slice bread for 4-5 paninis, then split each one in half horizontally. Drizzle bottom cut halves with olive oil and stack with basil, prosciutto, tomatoes and cheese. Top with bread.

Set panini on a heated, nonstick grill pan. Set bricks covered with tinfoil on top to compress the panini. Grill until cheese softens. Flip over and toast on second sides, again with the bricks on top.

Set on a plate and let yourself be transported to Italy as

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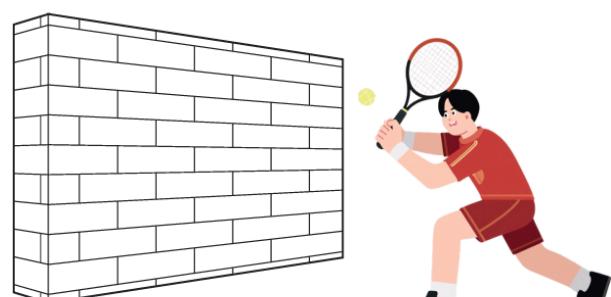
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### Why You Say It

#### 'Off The Wall'



Why do we sometimes say that a really unusual piece of art work or a ridiculous plan is "off the wall"?

Because a wall is essential to several popular games, notably squash and handball. In them, as well as in racquet ball, a bounce from the wall is influenced by speed, spin, and angle. Even a veteran player cannot always estimate what direction a ball will take.

Like a ball bouncing at a weird angle, a plan or an activity may be so unpredictable that it, too, is described as being "off the wall."

Excerpts taken from the book written by Webb Garrison

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## Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

\* The living room set of "The Addams Family" TV series was actually pink.

\* About 1,350 potentially active volcanoes presently exist on Earth, with the majority of them found along a 25,000-mile-long, horseshoe-shaped ribbon bordering the Pacific Ocean that's commonly known as the "Ring of Fire."

\* Chopsticks in Asia are about 2,000 years older than forks in Europe.

\* The color red appears in nearly every shot of Stanley Kubrick's 1980 horror classic "The Shining."

\* Michelangelo only signed one piece of art, the "Madonna della Pietà," and that was supposedly because he overheard his work credited to a rival and sneaked back to include his name on the sash across the Virgin Mary's chest.

\* People spend roughly 10% of their waking hours with their eyes closed. That's OK, we know you're just thinking.

\* No American president has been an only child.

\* In 1954, the mayor of the wine-growing town Chateauneuf-du-Pape in France issued a memorable decree that banned the "flying over, landing or taking off of flying saucers." It's unclear whether anyone ever considered how such an event should be handled should it defiantly occur.

\* Shaquille O'Neal missed 5,317 free throws over the course of his career.

\* Only three music companies are responsible for more than 80% of the music we listen to: Sony BMG, Warner Music Group and Universal Music Group.

\* Spiders, like humans, can have arachnophobia. Small wonder, since certain species regularly eat each other: for food, after mating and for other reasons scientists don't yet fully understand.

\*\*\*

Thought for the Day: "You can make positive deposits in your own economy every day by reading and listening to powerful, positive, life-changing content and by associating with encouraging and hope-building people."

-- Zig Ziglar

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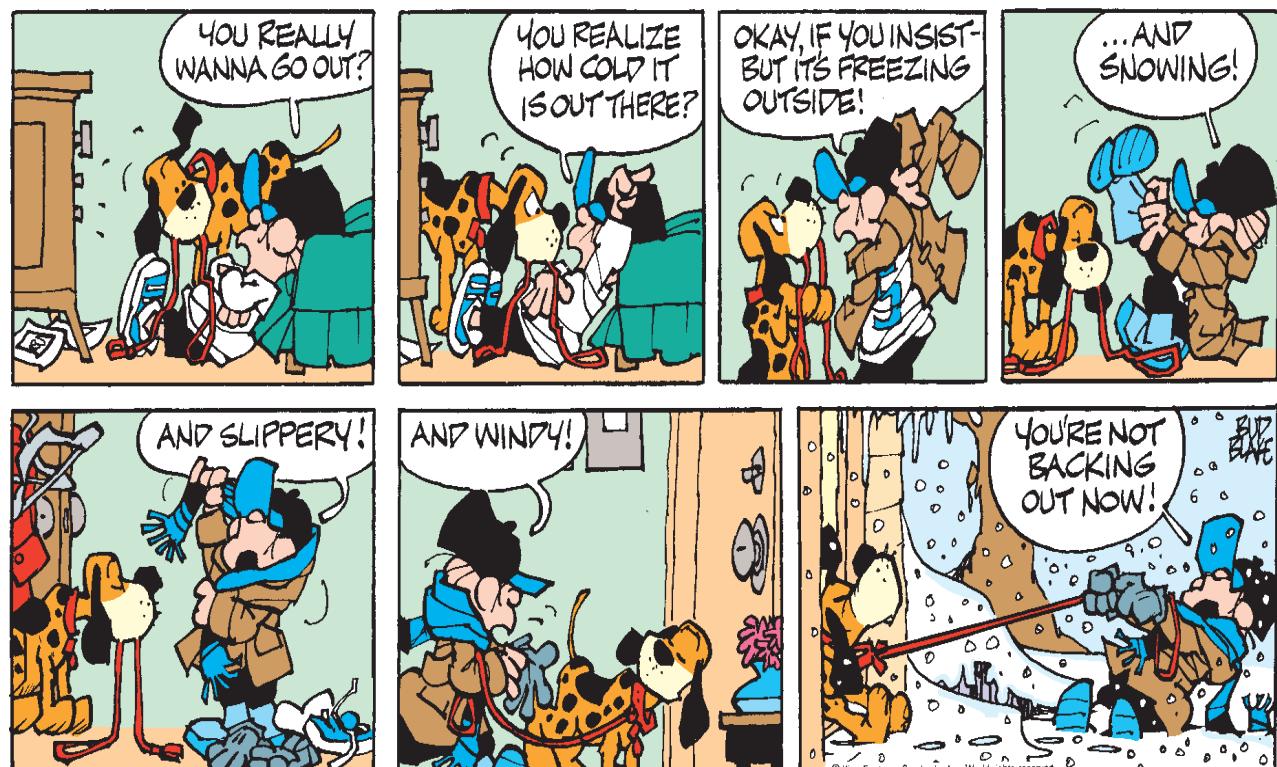
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## TIGER



## The Spats



## Amber Waves

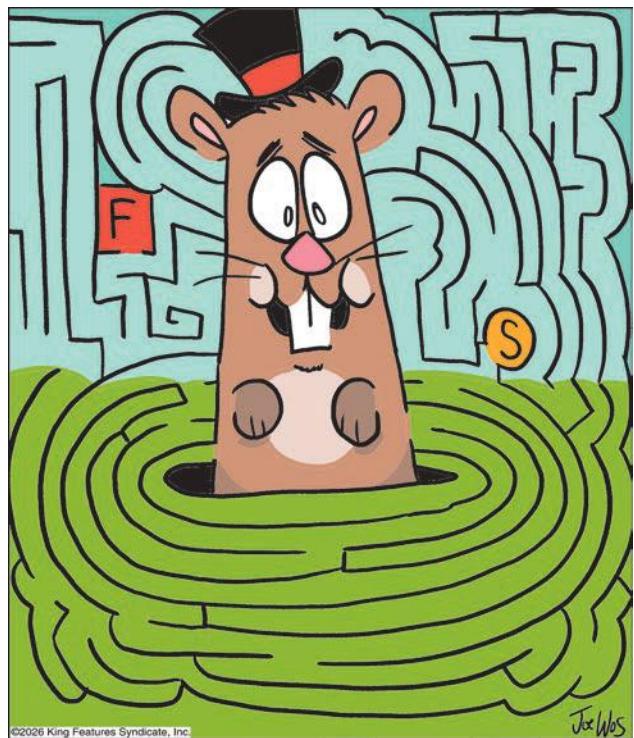


## Out on a Limb

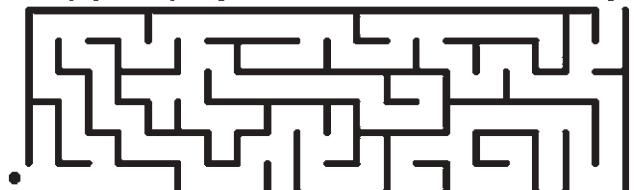




# Puzzles and Games



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**Kids' Maze**

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**Laugh a bit with TIDBITS**

Q: What do you call a person who can't keep their January diet resolutions?

A: A dessert-er

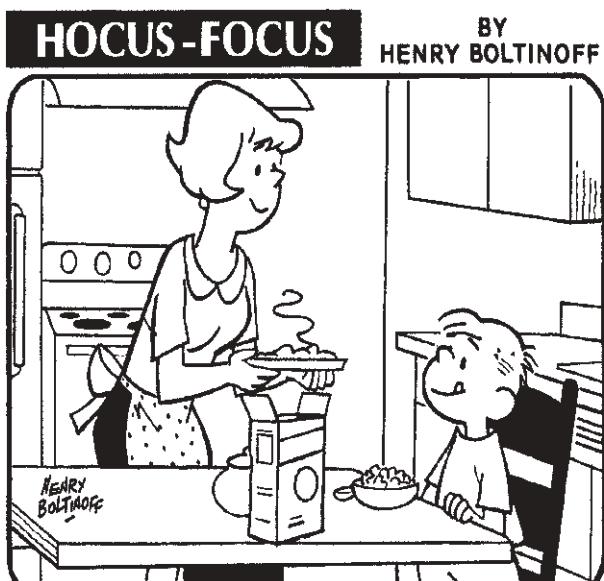
**TIDBITS® WORD POWER**  
Unscramble this word:  
**SGLNAAHUT**

The genus of the birth flower for the month of January, the snowdrop


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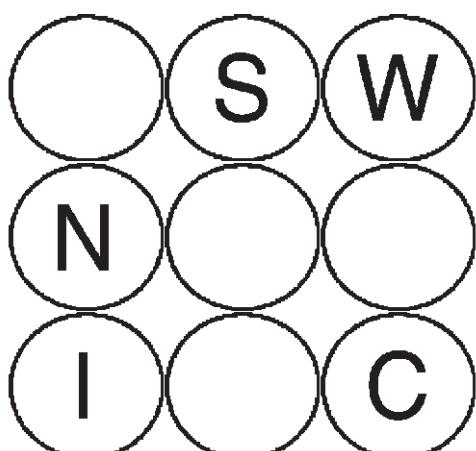
**ADVERTISE with Tidbits**[clarkbits.org/advertise](http://clarkbits.org/advertise)

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Back of chair is different. 2. Box is different. 3. Collar is missing. 4. Burner is missing. 5. Refrigerator handle is lower. 6. Stove hood is wider.

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**WORD SPIRAL**

Fill in the missing letters to reveal the nine-letter word that starts at one of the four corners and moves clockwise around the perimeter before ending in the center.

**CryptoQuip**

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

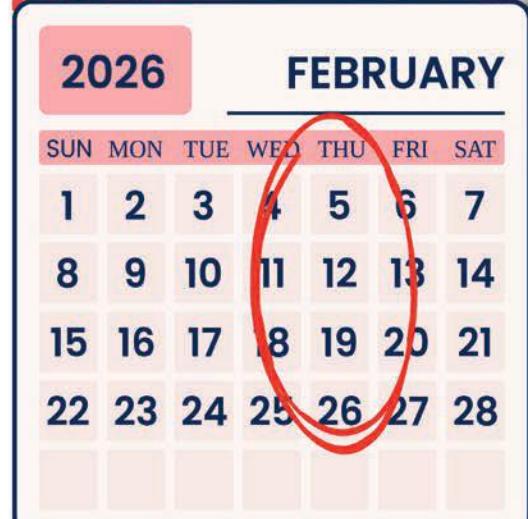
Clue: F equals P

FHEFRH JTEQRV GH LHYS

FYQVHAU DTHA JHRHIUOAC

GHLHYXCH IEAUXOAHYJ. ITEEJH

SEQY GEUURHJ DOJHRS!



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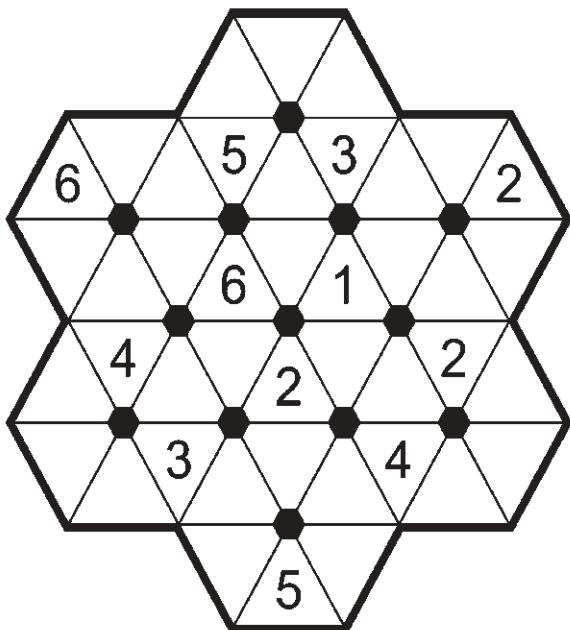
[www.kigginstheatre.com](http://www.kigginstheatre.com)



## Snowflakes

by Japheth Light

There are 13 black hexagons in the puzzle. Place the numbers 1 - 6 around each of them. No number can be repeated in any partial hexagon shape along the border of the puzzle.



DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Easy ♦♦ Medium ♦♦♦ Difficult

### MAGIC MAZE ● BEGINNING AND ENDING WITH "C"

EUROLJGCDAVSPN  
KIFCAXVISCQOLJH  
ECAVXTCVARIPNLJ  
HFDCBYAIXVTTCRP  
OMKOICDCLGIEIIDB  
CZXMLRIWOOBURRT  
YARIAYLMQSHOONC  
NLNCJPPLIAGMTLFD  
IICGATALYRXIAWV  
CTSROIICITLECCCCP  
ONLKJCITSUACIGF

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: SHE IS A STAND-UP —

Cadillac      Caustic      Classic      Critic  
Caloric      Celtic      Clinic      Cryptic  
Cardiac      Ceramic      Cognac      Cynic  
Catholic      Civic      Cosmic



### SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Sweet      MEALCAR

Cipher      DECO

Exclusive      INDIES

Clumsy      TIPEN

TODAY'S WORD



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## Weekly SUDOKU

8	1				7	3	6
	4	6				1	2
6				2		9	
	5	9			8	4	
3	4	5				1	
6		3	1	9	5	7	
4	6	9			1	7	
9	2	8		7		4	
	7						

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate      ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

**TIPBITS**  
presents

**TRIVIA NEWSFRONT**

1. What do we commemorate on the third Monday of every January?
2. The first atomic submarine was launched in January, 1954. What was the name of this craft?
3. Which famous scientist was awarded the US patent for an electric lamp in January, 1880?
4. What name is given to the full moon in January?
5. Alaska became a U.S. state on January 3 of what year?

**STICKELERS**  
by Terry Stickels

See how many anagrams you can find for the following words.

- 1) stimulate
- 2) percussion
- 3) aligned
- 4) gander

## Even Exchange

by Donna Pettman

Each numbered row contains two clues and two 6-letter answers. The two answers differ from each other by only one letter, which has already been inserted. For example, if you exchange the A from MASTER for an I, you get MISTER. Do not change the order of the letters.

1. Cartes du jour	— E — — —	Subtraction sign	— I — — —
2. Car bumper	— F — — —	Financier	— L — — —
3. Clothes stiffener	— T — — —	Look for	— E — — —
4. Throw like Nolan Ryan	— T — — —	Tweak	— N — — —
5. Cool and invigorating	— S — — —	Mason's block	— C — — —
6. He asked for "more"	— O — — —	Splinter	— S — — —
7. Gawk	— T — — —	Petrify	— C — — —
8. Hesitate	— A — — —	Strainer or sieve	— I — — —
9. Swap	— D — — —	Smidgeon	— C — — —
10. Racket	— N — — —	Composure	— P — — —



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## Super Crossword

### U.K. PLAY

#### ACROSS

1 Give a right to  
8 Eye narrowly  
14 Choir songs  
20 Dog collar attachments  
21 Ends of bridal paths  
22 See 1-Down  
23 Refrigerator, stove or dryer  
25 Warship fleet  
26 Over yonder  
27 Designer Gucci  
28 Lhasa — (little dogs)  
29 Mega Stuf cookies  
33 This second  
35 Legendary figure in a 1999 horror film  
39 Azaleas are members of it  
43 Not quite  
44 Dutch beer  
45 — the line (obeyed)  
47 Sturdy tree  
48 Slimy gunk  
51 Shaft of light  
52 Common allergy trigger  
55 Condiment spicier than its yellow cousin  
59 On — with (similar to)

#### 61 Big name in dog food

63 Born  
64 TV announcer Don  
65 Riddle  
68 Strep-treating doc  
69 Person giving out prizes  
71 Eight of their last names are featured in this puzzle  
76 Egg-hiding holidays  
77 Gridiron stats  
78 Punctual  
79 Sominex or Unisom rival  
80 Passing vote  
81 As many as  
82 Big lamb cut  
86 Common

#### 106 June bugs, by another name

110 Poetic "always"  
111 Yule songs  
112 Post-teen  
113 Squeaks (out)  
116 Ticked (off)  
118 Spring back  
120 Kentucky Derby venue  
126 "Little Women" author  
127 Wanness  
128 Cry upon getting there  
129 Joined (up)  
130 Baby hooters  
131 Vain person's lack

#### 11 Music genre for TLC

12 Chachi's last name on "Happy Days"  
13 Mao — tung  
14 Free TV ad, for short  
15 Drink inserts  
16 Target of antiperspirant  
17 Minimal  
18 Bordeaux wine  
19 Secret store  
24 Grads' event  
29 Fictional Scarlett  
30 Plan a new route for  
31 Cushy class  
32 Mel the Giant  
34 Jokester  
36 Solo  
37 Mosque officiant  
38 Streaming set-top box  
40 Viral misery  
41 Soft throws  
42 — out! (ump's call)  
46 "Death Be Not Proud" poet  
48 Avant-  
49 Mandate  
50 Smells  
53 Exhales wistfully  
54 Pack firmly

#### 56 Cleaning tool in a bucket

57 Muscle jerk  
58 More citrusy, say  
60 Mary Lou of gymnastics  
62 One suffering for a belief  
66 Atom studier Bohr  
67 Leb. neighbor  
68 911 gp.  
69 Susan of "Spring Fever"  
70 Nintendo console  
71 1974 dog film  
72 Artificial silk  
73 "Orange — New Black"  
74 Thoughts  
75 Taken with 80 "Two Guys and —"  
81 Operated  
83 In flames  
84 Courteous  
85 Midleg joints  
87 Sheriff Taylor's tyke  
88 Mess-free  
89 Take to court  
91 Jug handle  
92 Pa's pa

#### 97 Last letter '99 '16 Olympics site

100 Flowering  
101 Small dress size  
102 Cowboy's whoop  
104 — pot (sinus cleaner)  
105 Early tourney round  
106 Safin who won tennis' 2000 U.S. Open  
107 She sang the hit "Hello"  
108 New Mexico's state flower  
109 Brain protector  
114 — Stanley Gardner  
115 "Nae" sayer  
117 Red Muppet  
119 Inc., abroad  
120 U.S. Navy noncom  
121 Divs. of days  
122 Lyric verse  
123 Film director Craven  
124 Little peeve  
125 Hog hangout

#### DOWN

#### 1 With 22-Across, film "nightmare" locale

90 Universal donor blood type, in brief

#### 2 Teachers' gp.

93 Shark feature

#### 3 — Mahal

94 Ending for alp or salt

#### 4 Equal: Prefix

95 Architect I.M. —

#### 5 Walloped

96 Red Sea canal

#### 6 Foliage bit

98 Get there

#### 7 Barcelona's land, to natives

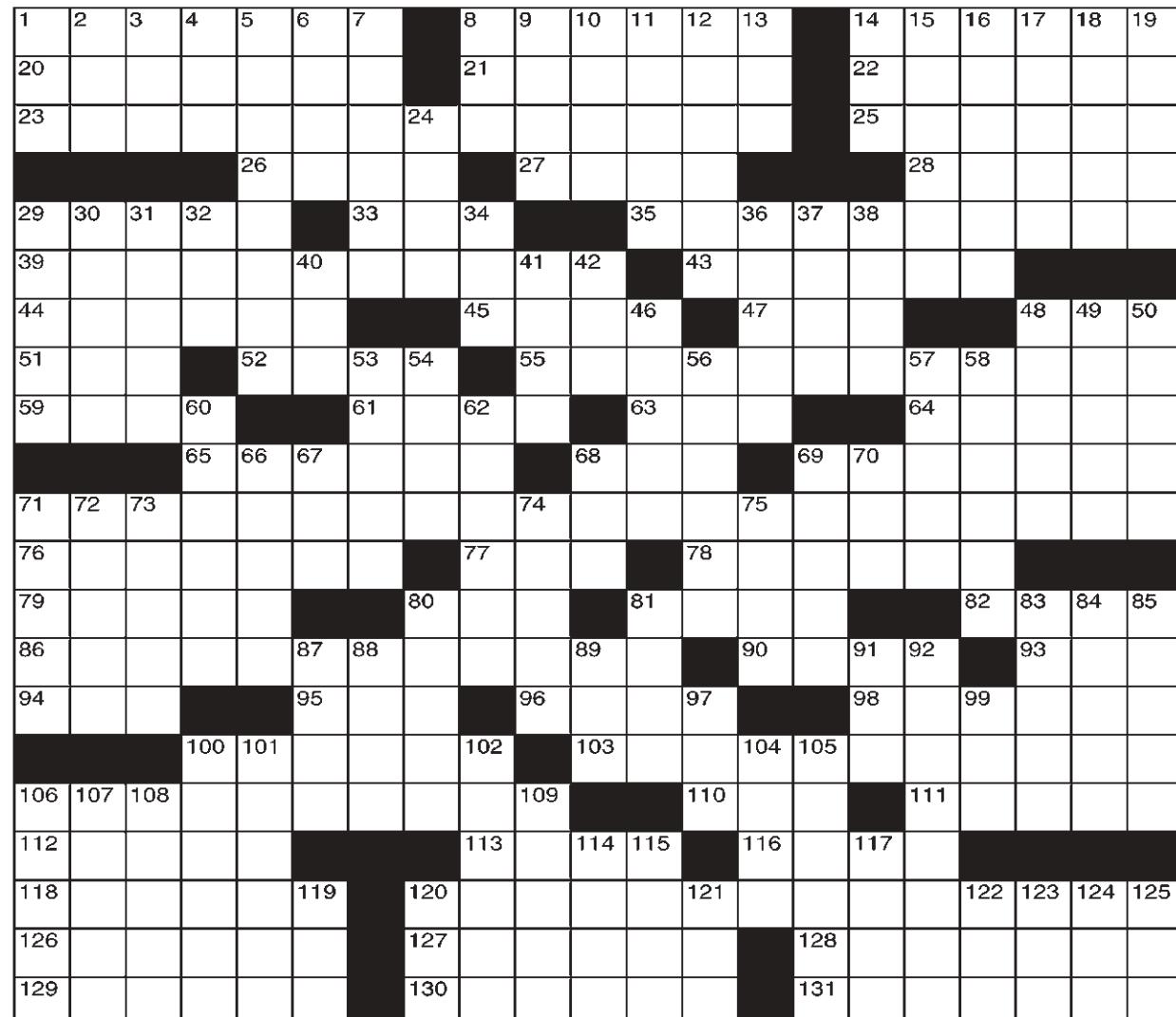
100 Hive house

#### 8 Bud

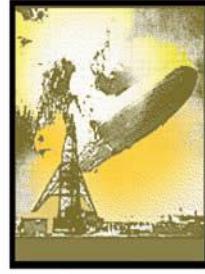
103 Suburb of Minneapolis

#### 9 Director Kazan

10 Plus others: Abbr.



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# Moments in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

\* On Jan. 26, 1875, a gang of men likely led by Pinkerton Detective Agency staff, who mistakenly believed that outlaws Frank and Jesse James were holed up in their family home, raided the house, leaving their mother, Zerelda James, permanently maimed and their 9-year-old half-brother, Archie Samuel, dead from an exploded flare meant to flush the brothers out.

\* On Jan. 27, 1970, John Lennon composed and recorded "Instant Karma," his third solo single prior to the Beatles' official breakup, in one day. Though he remarked that he "wrote it for breakfast, recorded it for lunch, and we're putting it out for dinner," the song was actually released to the public almost two weeks later.

\* On Jan. 28, 1777, poet, playwright and British General John Burgoyne submitted a plan to the British government that would isolate New England from the other colonies, which involved an invasion of 8,000 British troops from Canada moving south through New York and taking the Americans by surprise. Its failure that autumn launched severe criticism, and soon after Burgoyne retired from active service.

\* On Jan. 29, 1929, The Seeing Eye, America's first school designed to train guide dogs for the visually impaired, opened in Tennessee. For the benefit of skeptical reporters, co-founder Morris Frank showcased his own dog, Buddy, on busy New York streets.

\* On Jan. 30, 1994, American speed skater Dan Jansen set a new world record of 35.76 at the World Sprint Championships in Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

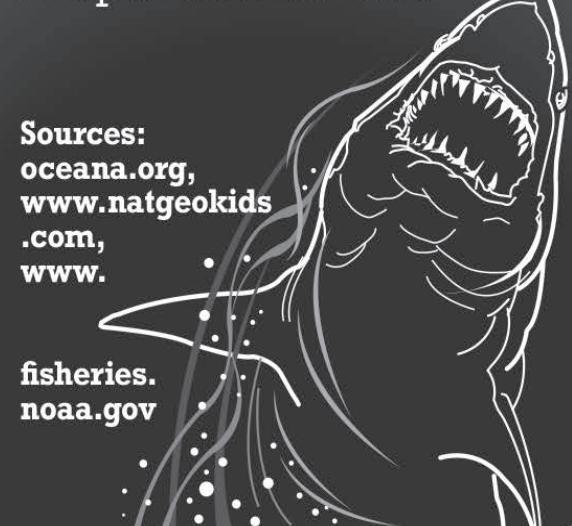
\* On Jan. 31, 1961, a chimp named Ham became the first hominid in space, after a 16.5-minute suborbital flight, paving the way for the first human in space three months later.

\* On Feb. 1, 1917, Germany returned to the policy of unrestricted submarine warfare it had suspended in response to pressure from America and other neutral countries. The previous day, German chancellor Theobald Bethmann Hollweg had announced that "the destructive designs of our opponents cannot be expressed more strongly. We have been challenged to fight to the end. We accept the challenge. We stake everything, and we shall be victorious."

## Fun Fact

Great white sharks are the largest predatory fish on our planet, growing as long as 20 feet and weighing as much as 4,000 pounds. The mouth of a great white is equipped with a set of 300 sharp, triangular teeth arranged in up to seven rows.

Sources:  
[oceana.org](http://oceana.org),  
[www.natgeokids.com](http://www.natgeokids.com),  
[www.noaa.gov](http://www.noaa.gov)



## DAYS OF THE WEEK

- Sunday**
- Monday**
- Tuesday**
- Wednesday**
- Thursday**
- Friday**
- Saturday**

*Tidbits* invites you to begin your day with these facts about whatever day it might be!

- Our names for the days of the week have influences from the ancient Romans, Anglo-Saxons, and the old Norse. The Romans chose names of celestial bodies, such as Sunday being the “Day of Sun” and Monday as “Day of the Moon.” The Old English word “Mondaeg” also translates “day of the moon.” The Japanese word for Monday, “getsuyobi,” means exactly the same thing, “day of the moon.”
- How about Monday in various languages? The Polish say “Poniedziałek,” which literally means “after Sunday.” The Czechs say Pazartesi, while the folks in Iceland call Monday “Manudagur.” The Hebrew people refer to Monday as “Yom Sheni.”
- The Anglo-Saxon god of war, Tiw, was honored with the day we call Tuesday. That culture’s king of the gods was Woden, and the Old English word “Wodnesdaeg” has been modified to our Wednesday.
- The Romans named Thursday after Jupiter, their god of sky and thunder, using the Latin “dies Jovis,” or “day of Jupiter, but the Norse people’s god of thunder, lightning, and storms was Thor, leading to our name of Thursday.
- The Norse goddess of home, marriage, and fertility, Frigga, gives us our designation for Friday, although the Romans called it Venus’s Day after their ancient goddess of love.
- The planet Saturn is the source of Saturday. To the Romans, Saturn was associated with agriculture, wealth, fun, and feasting. To the Hebrews, Saturday is “Shabbat,” the Jewish day of rest and the holiest day of the week, a family day when no labor is conducted.
- The days of the week have made their way into some of our favorite music over the decades. Kris Kristofferson had a hit with “Sunday Mornin’ Coming Down” in 1970 and Maroon 5 had success with “Sunday Morning” in 2004. In 1966, The Mamas & The Papas recorded “Monday, Monday,” a song that composer John Phillips says he wrote in 20 minutes, telling the story of a dislike of Mondays because the person he loved left him on that day. The Carpenters released “Rainy Days and Mondays” in 1971, recorded just a few weeks before Karen Carpenter’s 21st birthday.
- “Ruby Tuesday” became the Rolling Stones’ fourth U.S. #1 hit in 1967. It’s a song written primarily by Keith Richards, whose girlfriend of two years had recently broken up with him. “Tuesday Afternoon” by the English symphonic rock band The Moody Blues was actually written on a Tuesday afternoon as the composer sat in the middle of field on a lovely spring day.

**The Garden Bug**

## Top gardening apps

<p>Apps for planning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planter</li> <li>• iScape</li> <li>• Gardenize</li> <li>• Gardroid</li> </ul>	<p>Apps for plant care:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planta</li> <li>• From Seed to Spoon</li> <li>• Garden Manager</li> <li>• Moon and Garden</li> </ul>
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– Brenda Weaver  
Source: [gardentherapy.ca](http://gardentherapy.ca)



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• Simon & Garfunkel released their debut album “Wednesday Morning, 3 A.M.” in 1964. A 1977 country song by Johnny Cash, “A Wednesday Car,” wondered about the quality of cars made on different days of the week, with the idea that cars made on Wednesday are better because workers are more focused than on Monday or Friday.

• David Bowie wrote “Thursday’s Child” after being inspired by the autobiography of singer Eartha Kitt. Bowie also recorded a song about Friday in 1973, “Friday on My Mind,” while Van Morrison sang about “Friday’s Child” in 1971.

• Elton John gave permission for those who felt weary from the week’s pressure to cut loose with 1973’s “Saturday Night’s All Right for Fighting,” while the group Chicago had a more peaceful view of the upcoming weekend with “Saturday in the Park,” a hit that mentions “the 4th of July,” that was actually written on the 4th of July.



1. Name The Kingston Trio song about the Boston subway.
2. Which group wrote and released “Baby Come Back”?
3. Name the artist who released “Don’t It Make My Brown Eyes Blue.”
4. Who released “Man of the World”?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: “All my bags are packed, I’m ready to go, I’m standing here outside your door.”

• “Leaving On a Jet Plane,” by John Denver, in 1966. A year later, Peter, Paul and Mary followed with a cover song, calling it “Baby I Hate to Go.” The title was changed to “Leaving on a Jet Plane,” by John Denver, in 1969.

• “Fleetwood Mac,” in 1969. The title was changed to “Leaving on a Jet Plane,” by John Denver, in 1966.

• “I.M.T.A.,” also known as “The MTA Song,” MTA is short for Metropolitan Transit Authority. Originally written as a campaign song in 1949 (Steiner/Hawes), the song was a hit in 1977. The song was released on their “At Large” album.

• “Leaving on a Jet Plane,” by John Denver, in 1966. The title was changed to “Leaving on a Jet Plane,” by John Denver, in 1969.

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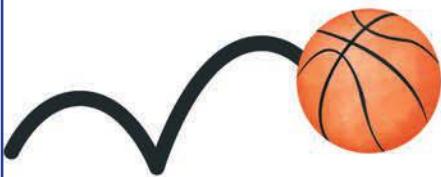
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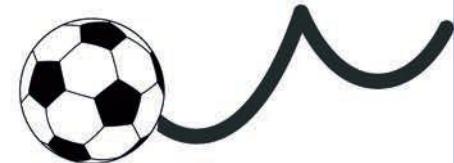
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# SPORTBITS



## Sports Quiz

By Ryan A. Berenz

1. Which World Golf Hall of Famer became the first female to shoot lower than 300 in a 72-hole tournament when she won the 1947 U.S. Women's Open with a 295 score?

2. The San Diego Sockers, New York Arrows and Baltimore Blast were among the most successful teams in what arena soccer league that played from 1978 to 1992?

3. Which U.S. state's legislature passed Act 130, commonly called the 1936 Sunday Sports Law, which permitted professional sports to be played on Sundays?

4. He was selected by the San Francisco 49ers with the final pick of the 2022 NFL Draft. His young brother played college football for Florida State, Nebraska and Nevada. Who are they?

5. Name the pitcher who won the National League Cy Young Award with the Philadelphia Phillies in 1987 and won a World Series title with the Minnesota Twins in 1991.

6. The Women's Basketball Hall of Fame opened in 1999 in which U.S. city?

7. Which two college football teams have played for the Land of Lincoln Trophy (a bronze stovepipe hat) since 2009?

### TOYS & GAMES ETCH-A-SKETCH



spinmaster.com

One of the world's favorite toys, the Etch-A-Sketch, was introduced in America in 1960, but was not invented in the U.S. Follow along as *Tidbits* explores the origins of this classic.

- Andre Cassagnes was an electrician in France in the 1950s. Assigned to a contract in a factory that manufactured an embossed wall covering, he was installing a light fixture in the building. The manufacturing process used an aluminum powder that had spattered onto the light switch plate. Cassagnes made some pencil marks on the cover and discovered that his pencil scraping showed up on the other side of the plate's protective decal.

- Using the principle of electrostatic charge, along with aluminum powder mixed with tiny beads to prevent clumping, and a stylus, Cassagnes devised a drawing toy that didn't need pencil and paper, one that caused artwork to disappear with an upside-down shake. The original design featured a joystick rather than the two knobs that are familiar, but he later modified it to the knobs that moved a stylus that scraped away the powder. A quick shake of the Etch-A-Sketch redistributes the aluminum powder, leaving a fresh slate. The left knob creates a horizontal line, and the right knob is for the vertical. Using both at once results in diagonal, circular, and other more complicated lines.

- Cassagnes called his invention "L'Ecran Magique," which translates "The Magic Screen." Several French manufacturers passed up the opportunity, believing that Cassagnes wanted too much money. He sold the rights for the toy to the American firm Ohio Art Company, who ran a contest to name their new asset.

- Ohio Art launched the Etch-A-Sketch just in time for the Christmas, 1960 season. It was released with a price tag of \$2.99 (about \$32 in today's money). Over 600,000 units were sold the first year.

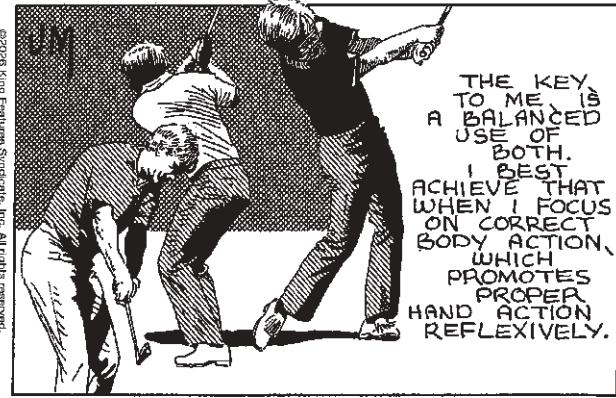
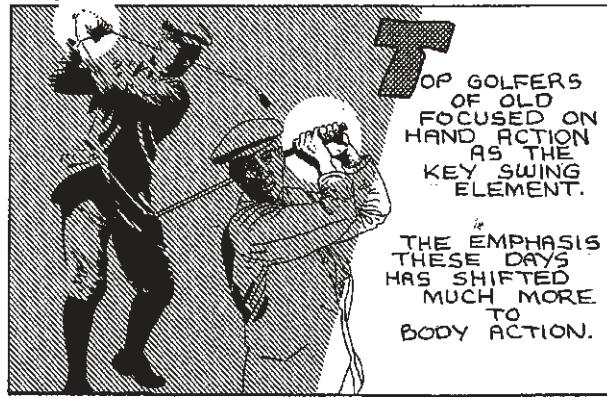
- Although the Etch-A-Sketch debuted with its signature red color, there have been some variations over the years. In 1971, Ohio Art offered "Cool Blue" and "Hot Pink," and for the toy's 25th anniversary model, the company unveiled a silver Etch-A-Sketch with jeweled drawing knobs and a hand-carved signature at the top. This limited edition set buyers back \$3,750. Other special editions have included Hello Kitty and Marvel themes. There are also mini versions that attach to a keychain.

- The popularity of Etch-A-Sketch was revitalized in popularity when it was featured in a scene in the 1995

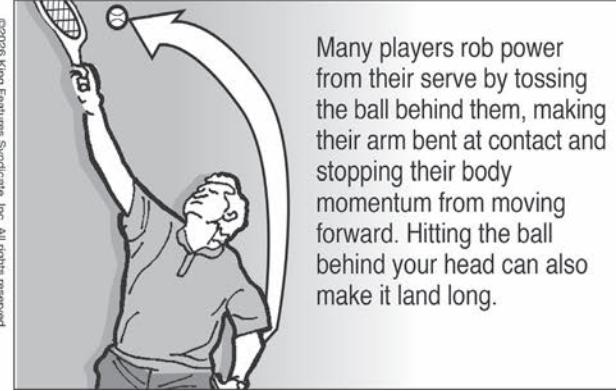
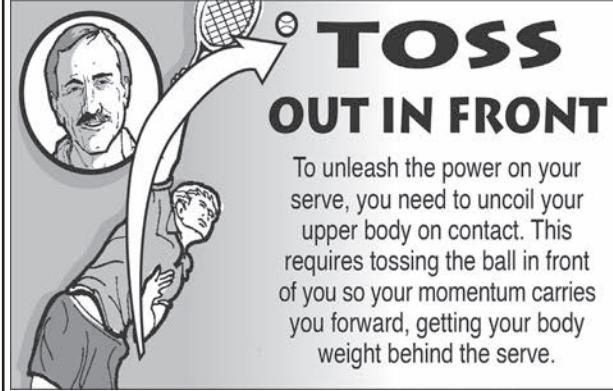
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### STAN SMITH'S TENNIS CLASS

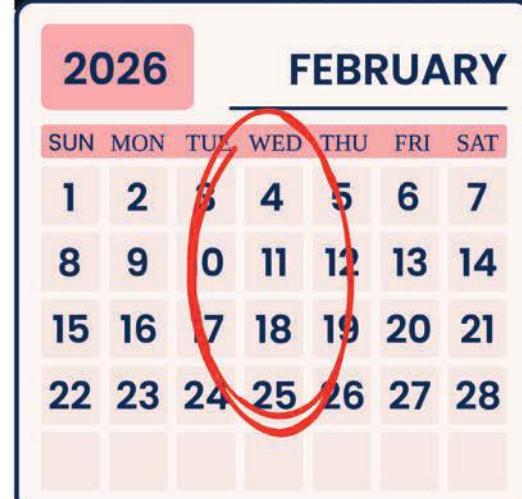


Disney Pixar movie "Toy Story," which provided a substantial boost in sales for the company. But by 1999, sales had declined again to the point that the company was in financial difficulty. Yet they were boosted again when the 1999 sequel "Toy Story 2" featured a scene with Andy's toy named "Etch," described by fellow toy Woody as having the "fastest knobs in the West."

- Some professional Etch-A-Sketch artists have made their drawings permanent. California artist Nicole Falzone, known as the "Monet of the Magic Screen," creates intricate portraits on an Etch-A-Sketch and preserves them by drilling holes in the back of the case, draining out the aluminum powder, and gluing the knobs in place.
- In France, the Etch-A-Sketch is still called "L'Ecran Magique," while in Germany, it's called "Zaubertafel," which translates "magic board."
- Sales of the toy have topped 100 million since its introduction.



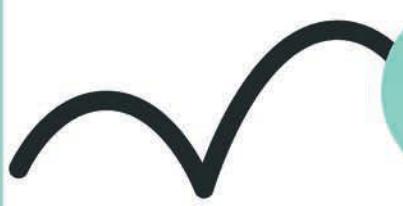
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Introducing our new Eat, Sip & Savor Clark County page! Discover restaurants, bakery cafes, bars and more all around Clark County - from Vancouver to Camas to Battle Ground and Ridgefield. Watch for features on these establishments and even coupons to redeem!



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\* This tip will change your life when peeling eggs: After you have hard-boiled your eggs, drain them and leave them in the pot. Put the lid on the pot and shake. Shake in all directions for up to a minute. The eggs practically slip right out of their shells. Just rinse and prep.

\* "I feed my kitty cat outside on the back porch, but she eats a little at a time, and whenever she took a break, the ants would be all over her food. Now I serve my little princess in a teacup and saucer I found at a thrift store. I put the food in the cup and then put a little water in the saucer. The teacup sits in the water on the saucer. The ants won't get the food ever, because they can't cross the water to get to it. Kitty is very happy now that she can take her time." -- O.W. in Arkansas

\* "To distinguish your keys, especially house keys that have similar stamps, simply paint the key head with different colors of nail polish. You could even add a very subtle dot of the matching polish on the key lock. Reapply as needed." -- S.L. in Oregon

\* Use a flat iron to iron your collar if it's rumpled. This also works to straighten out button holes that have crimped.

\* "To mark the end on a roll of tape, save your bread tabs. Stick it on the end and it will be ready and easy to start the next time you need tape. If it's a thick tape, you can use two clips -- one at either side of the tape. This way, it won't split on you." -- M.E. in Maryland

Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 1800 Pembroke Dr., Suite 300, Orlando, FL 32810.

# KOVELS®

Antique Trader

By Terry and Kim Kovel

## Ironstone Ceramics



If you're familiar with 19th-century ceramics, you probably know about ironstone. It was first made by English potter Miles Mason, who sold Chinese export porcelain and decided to make his own replacements for broken dishes. To make these replacements, he created a ceramic using slag from processing iron, which his son patented as ironstone in 1813. Heavy, durable and hard to chip, it was clearly different from porcelain, but quickly became a favorite for tableware. Many other potteries began making ironstone, especially in the Staffordshire district of England. Albion Pottery, also known as Bourne & Leigh, active from about 1892 to 1941, was one of them. The platter shown here, which sold for \$95 at DuMouchelles, is an example of their ironstone. The pattern's name, "Chinese," evokes Mason's original intention of making dishes to use with Chinese porcelain. Many popular ironstone patterns imitated East Asian designs. This Albion Pottery platter includes a landscape with buildings and a bridge with a figure, reminiscent of Nanking china or the design that inspired the famous Blue Willow pattern. A close look at the platter's border shows geometric patterns like the ones found on Chinese porcelain.

For more collecting news, tips and resources, visit [www.Kovels.com](http://www.Kovels.com).



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## Frosty Temps Result in Cold Paws

**DEAR PAW'S CORNER:** My cat "Fiero" is a robust outdoor cat who loves being outside all day and comes in at night. Recently, he came in limping a bit. I couldn't see any damage to his paws, but the pads felt really cold and he didn't like me touching them. Can cats' paws freeze in the cold? -- Fred S., Madison, Wisconsin

**DEAR FRED:** Yes, cats absolutely can be injured in cold weather. While they are more inclined to find a warm and cozy spot, away from ice and snow, cats are still at risk of frostbitten paw pads, cuts from jagged ice or salt, hypothermia and possible poisoning from licking ice melt off of their paws.

I suspect that Fiero's paw pads are frostbitten, and he may have gotten slightly hypothermic as well, especially if it was bitterly cold outside. Contact the veterinarian for guidance so that he recovers quickly from the injury.

While Fiero is happiest outside, you can create a space for him inside to watch birds and wildlife outdoors. Set up a window shelf that he can relax on while looking out of the window. Another option is to stream a "cat TV" channel. These increasingly popular live streams -- found mostly on YouTube -- are designed to draw cats' attention to twittering birds and curious squirrels on the screen.

Additionally, give him an outlet for his excess energy. Place scratch pads throughout the house so he can sharpen his claws without destroying the furniture. Try different cat toys to get him to chase and play.

For less-bitter-cold days outside, set up a covered shelter in a sunny spot next to your house for Fiero to rest in. This can reduce the risk of a cold injury.

Send your tips, comments or questions to [ask@pawscorn.com](mailto:ask@pawscorn.com).

**Just Like Cats & Dogs** by Dave T. Phipps

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