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Theatrical release poster, 1946 RKO Radio Pictures Inc.
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TIDBITS® VIEWS SOME FAVORITE CHRISTMAS MOVIES

by Janet Spencer

'Tis the season to remember some of our favorite Christmas movies! *Tidbits* walks down memory lane this week with these facts.

- It was a typical morning in the life of writer Philip Van Doren in 1938, when he had an idea for a story while he was shaving. His brainstorm was the tale of a man considering suicide who is visited by his guardian angel who shows the man the worth of his life. Van Doren worked on the story over the next five years, and in 1943, he mailed it out to friends as his annual Christmas card, using the title "The Greatest Gift." A copy of the story found its way to an agent at RKO Pictures, and Van Doren was paid \$10,000 for the film rights. The title was changed to "It's a Wonderful Life," and it was released in 1946 with Jimmy Stewart in the role of George Bailey, a banker in the small town of Bedford Falls facing a breakdown. The entire plot takes place on Christmas Eve with Clarence the angel saving Bailey in order to earn his wings. The movie was filmed at RKO's movie ranch near Encino, California, where four acres was transformed into the small town. Being filmed during the middle of a scorching heat wave necessitated the invention of a new type of fake snow composed of soap flakes and fire extinguisher foam. In previous films, painted corn flakes were used for winter scenes, but the crunching sound resulted in multiple scenes having to be redone. "It's a Wonderful Life" has become one of the world's most beloved Christmas movies, but although it was nominated for five Academy

Continued on page 2

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Christmas Movies (continued)

Awards, it didn't win a single one. It was considered a failure at the box office and recorded a loss of \$525,000.

- The movie was called "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation," but there are no scenes that take place on Christmas Day. The movie ends with the celebration of Christmas Eve with the whole Griswold family participating, including Mrs. Griswold's cousin Catherine and her socially-awkward husband Cousin Eddie, who has been out of work for seven years. Clark Griswold, played by Chevy Chase, longs for the perfect Christmas, and adorns his house with 25,000 lights, which cause a temporary citywide power shortage when lit. During the filming, as Aunt Bethany and Uncle Lewis arrived, there was an earthquake as the scene was being shot, and if you look closely, you can see that the camera shook as they walked in the door.
- The 2004 movie "The Polar Express" was originally intended by director Robert Zemeckis to be a live-action film, but when he learned that costs of live-action would creep close to \$1 billion instead of the budgeted \$160 million, he opted for motion-capture footage that was turned into animation. Actors performed in a black box theater, with the footage converted to digital. The story of children riding a magical train to the North Pole on Christmas Eve was written by Chris Van Allsburg, the same author who penned "Jumanji." Besides his main role as the train's conductor, actor Tom Hanks played five other roles in the film. Lead singer of Aerosmith, Steven Tyler played two characters in "The Polar Express."
- Although the famous song "White Christmas" is featured in the 1954 movie of the same name, the tune sung by crooner Bing Crosby actually had its debut in the 1942 film "Holiday Inn," winning the Oscar for Best Original Song that year. There was a new version of the song for 1954's "White Christmas," the highest-grossing film of the year. It still ranks among the top 100 popular movies of all time.
- All 17 songs in the movie "White Christmas" were written by Russian-born composer Irving Berlin, who wrote an estimated 1,500 songs before his death in 1989 at age 101. Rosemary Clooney, aunt of actor George Clooney, starred opposite Bing Crosby.
- Charles Dickens' masterpiece, "A Christmas Carol," has been adapted into film well over 100 times, both in animated and live-action form. The first to tell the story of the miserable miser Ebenezer Scrooge was a British short silent film in 1901, footage that has been preserved nearly 125 years. The 1935 film "Scrooge" starred a British actor, Seymour Hicks, in the title role. In 1951, Scottish actor Alastair Sim took on the role of the stingy businessman visited by three spirits. Oscar-winning actor George C. Scott's 1984 portrayal of Scrooge is one of the favorite representations of the story. Kelsey Grammer and Patrick Stewart have also tackled the famous role. There have been numerous animated versions of "A Christmas Carol," including the 1999 computer-animated film with Jim Carrey voicing Scrooge. Favorite cartoon character adaptations have included Mickey Mouse, Bugs Bunny, Mr. Magoo, Yosemite Sam, and the Flintstones.
- "The Muppet Christmas Carol," produced in 1992, was the directorial debut of Brian Henson, son of Muppets creator Jim Henson. It was the first major Muppet project following Jim's death in 1990. Actor Michael Caine claims that the role of Scrooge was one his favorite parts of his entire career. Kermit the Frog played Scrooge's clerk Bob Cratchit, and Miss Piggy, of course, was featured as Mrs. Cratchit. After Jim Henson's death, Kermit's role was handed to Steve Whitmire, who was exceptionally nervous about taking over fulfilling the hole left by Henson. The day before Whitmire was to step in, he had a dream of meeting Henson and relaying how nervous he was. In his dream, Whitmire was assured by Henson that all would go well, giving the new Kermit the confidence to continue.
- 1988's "Die Hard" is considered one of the greatest action films of all times, but is it really a Christmas movie? Fans of the film say absolutely, since it takes place on the evening of the office Christmas party of the hero's ex-wife. The film is perhaps Bruce Willis' most famous role, in which he portrays New York cop John McClane, who gets mixed up in the terrorist takeover of a Los Angeles skyscraper, while there in an attempt to win back his wife. Although we can't imagine anyone other than Willis in the role, it was offered to several other box office stars first, including Sylvester Stallone, Richard Gere, Clint Eastwood, Harrison Ford, Mel Gibson, Don Johnson, and Al Pacino. Willis received \$5 million for the role. When filming began, the ending had not even been finalized and was only determined in the last 10 days of filming.



If your old sweaters have holes or have seen better days, consider transforming them into mittens, scarves, or throw pillows rather than tossing them out.

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Smith-Reynolds American Legion Post #14 Announces Annual Christmas Tree Sale to Support Veterans

Vancouver, WA – November 3rd, 2025 – Smith-Reynolds American Legion Post #14 is excited to announce its Christmas Tree Sale, kicking off on November 30th. The sale will run through the holiday season, offering a variety of beautiful, fresh-cut Christmas trees to help you celebrate the season.



Saturdays- 10 AM to 6 PM
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Weekdays: 3 PM – 7 PM



Located at **4607 NE St. James Rd, Vancouver**, this event not only provides festive trees for your holiday celebrations but also supports local veterans and their families. Proceeds from the tree sale will directly benefit programs and services for those who have served our country.

“By purchasing a Christmas tree from us, you’re helping make a difference in the lives of our veterans,” said John Wallace - Post Commander. “We invite the community to join us this holiday season, creating lasting memories, and supporting our heroes.” Bring your family and friends and enjoy a warm holiday atmosphere while supporting a great cause.

For more information about the Christmas Tree Sale or other events at Smith-Reynolds American Legion Post #14, please visit [#post#14christmastreesale](#) or call (360) 696-2579.

Join us in spreading holiday cheer while honoring those who have served. Together, we can make this season truly special!

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ARTIST
of the week

K.T. Oslin

Kay Toinette Oslin was never meant to glide quietly through the world. Born on May 15, 1942, in Crossett, Arkansas, she grew up with an early and instinctive pull toward performance—a pull that eventually lifted her far beyond the expectations of her small-town childhood. Her path, however, was anything but typical for a future country music star.

Oslin spent her early adulthood not on southern stages but in New York City's bustling theater scene. After studying drama at Lamar University in Texas, she headed to Manhattan, where she performed in Broadway and off-Broadway productions throughout the 1960s and 70s, including Promises, Promises and Hello, Dolly! Like many performers in the city, she supplemented her theater work with commercial jingles, unknowingly laying the foundations for the vocal precision that would later define her recording career.

While she was honing her acting and singing craft, Oslin was also writing—quietly, privately, with a voice that was unconventional for the male-dominated country music industry of the time. Her lyrics were unapologetically adult, unapologetically female, and unapologetically honest. She wrote about desire, frustration, reinvention, and the inner worlds of women who were rarely centered in mainstream country songwriting. Her breakthrough arrived shockingly late by industry standards: she was in her mid-40s when the world finally caught up to her. After signing with RCA Records, Oslin released 80's Ladies in 1987, an album that distilled her humor, insight, and emotional directness into a sound that felt both familiar and daringly original. The title track became an anthem, celebrating the resilience and complexity of a generation of women who had lived, loved, and battled their way through a rapidly changing world. The song earned her a Grammy and opened the floodgates for a wave of success that would redefine country music's understanding of who could be a star—and when. The next few years were a creative blaze. Hits like "Hold Me," "Do Ya," and "Come Next Monday" showcased her storytelling depth and her ability to craft songs that were as catchy as they were nuanced. Oslin's voice—a warm, worldly alto—carried a kind of lived-in wisdom that stood apart from her contemporaries. She was not portraying life's complications; she was reporting from inside them.

Oslin's success was historic. In 1988, she became the first woman to win the CMA Award for Song of the Year for "80's Ladies," and her influence soon extended beyond the charts. Her late-in-life breakthrough gave hope to a generation of artists who didn't fit the industry's youthful mold, proving that artistry matures, deepens, and even flourishes with age.

Throughout the 1990s and 2000s, Oslin continued to write, record, and act, though health challenges—including a diagnosis of Parkinson's disease—eventually slowed her public output. Still, she remained a revered figure in Nashville, celebrated for her sharp wit, intelligence, and fiercely independent creative spirit. Her 2015 album, Simply, offered pared-down reinterpretations of her classic songs, revealing just how powerfully her writing could stand on its own.

K.T. Oslin died on December 21, 2020, but her legacy resonates in every songwriter who risks honesty over polish, every performer who blooms later than expected, and every woman who has ever heard one of her songs and thought, She's singing my life. She left behind a catalog of stories that expanded the emotional vocabulary of country music—and a reminder that artistic arrival has no expiration date.

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Jimmy Stewart enlisted in the Army Air Corps as soon as the United States entered World War II, flying 20 combat missions over Europe. "It's a Wonderful Life" was his first role after his return from his duties. He remained active in the military until 1968, attaining the rank of brigadier general.

Laugh a bit with TIDBITS

Q: How do Hallmark Christmas characters always know they're in love?

A: They find the perfect Christmas tree!

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CELEBRITY
BIRTHDAYS



Vanessa Hudgens 12/14/88

Don Johnson 12/15/49

Benjamin Bratt 12/16/63

Eugene Levy 12/17/46

Brad Pitt 12/18/63

Jake Gyllenhaal 12/19/80

Alan Parsons 12/20/48



Holidays & Observances This Week

12/14 Yoga Day

12/15 Bill of Rights Day

12/16 Zionism Day

12/17 "A Christmas Carol" Day

12/18 National Re-Gifting Day

12/19 National Ugly Christmas Sweater Day

12/20 National Sangria Day

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The Easiest Candy You’re Afraid to Make (But Should Try Anyway)

Have you ever had this candy? It goes by lots of names. Growing up in Oregon, we’d visit a candy shop in Cannon Beach that called it “seafoam.” My British mother called it “cinder toffee.” I’ve heard sponge toffee, golden crunchers, hokey pokey, fairy food, but “honeycomb candy” seems to be the most official moniker.

If you’ve ever watched honeycomb bubble up like a magic trick and thought, “Oh no, that looks dangerous, I’ll need adult supervision,” you’re not alone. This humble confection has a reputation for being fussy, fiery and fit only for professional chocolatiers wearing Kevlar gloves.

But here’s the truth: Honeycomb is gloriously simple, ridiculously inexpensive and one of the most impressive homemade holiday gifts you can whip up with nothing more than sugar, baking soda and 10 brave minutes.

Let’s walk through it together so you can make a batch with confidence, and maybe show off a little.

What Is Honeycomb, Exactly?

Honeycomb candy is a sweet, light-as-air caramel that expands dramatically when baking soda hits molten sugar. It tastes like caramel clouds with a satisfying shatter, and once you dip it in chocolate, you’ve created the world’s cheapest fancy-pants gourmet gift.

* A candy thermometer
Once the syrup hits 300 F, it keeps climbing -- so you’ll be moving quickly.

HOMEMADE HONEYCOMB CANDY

Yield: 1 (8x8) pan
Total Time: 20 minutes
1/3 cup water
1 cup sugar
1/3 cup light corn syrup (or honey or maple syrup)
2 1/2 teaspoons baking soda
1/4 teaspoon cream of tartar
Chocolate for dipping (optional but encouraged)
Line an 8-by-8-inch pan with parchment paper.
Pre-measure your baking soda mixed with cream of tartar, and keep them nearby.

Combine water, sugar and corn syrup in a medium saucepan over medium heat, stirring just until combined. Once it bubbles, stop stirring. Attach a candy thermometer and let it boil, undisturbed, to 300 F.

Remove from heat and quickly stir in baking soda, it will foam dramatically. Stir just until incorporated, then immediately pour into your prepared pan.

Let cool completely (about an hour). Break into pieces. Optional: dip or drizzle with melted chocolate. The recipe can be doubled to yield a 9-by-13-inch pan.

Tips for Success. Don’t refrigerate; it gets sticky. Store airtight to keep it crisp. Chocolate coating helps it last longer. And, of course: Don’t touch hot sugar.

Why This Makes a Fabulous Homemade Gift

Honeycomb looks impressive and tastes incredible yet takes only minutes to make. Package it in a tin with a bow and people will swear you have confectionery superpowers.

Don’t let honeycomb intimidate you. It’s kitchen alchemy -- simple ingredients transforming into something downright magical.



Crunchy, golden honeycomb candy looks fancy but comes together in minutes.

Lifestyle expert Patti Diamond is the penny-pinching, party-planning, recipe developer and content creator of the website Divas On A Dime -- Where Frugal, Meets Fabulous! Visit Patti at www.divasonadime.com and join the conversation on Facebook at DivasOnADimeDot-Com. Email Patti at divapatti@divasonadime.com



1. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Who was the first left-handed president?
2. GEOGRAPHY: What country is home to the largest cave in the world?
3. MOVIES: Who is the voice of Buzz Lightyear in the “Toy Story” movies?
4. HISTORY: Who was the first emperor of Rome?
5. LITERATURE: In what city is James Joyce’s novel “Ulysses” set?
6. TELEVISION: What is the name of Data’s cat on “Star Trek: The Next Generation”?
7. ASTRONOMY: What is an exploding star called?
8. SCIENCE: What kind of cloud is associated with thunderstorms?
9. U.S. STATES: Which states have no sales tax?
10. ANATOMY: What is the function of the carotid arteries?



December is a great time to spread some holiday cheer! Here are some ways:

- Donate food, toys, books, or blankets to shelters and food banks.
- Donate blood.
- Send care packages or cards to deployed soldiers.
- Donate to a charity in someone's name.




Why This Candy Scares People (and Why It Shouldn’t)

The fear comes from two things: Sugar gets very hot (300 F -- the “hard crack” stage). And the moment you add baking soda, it erupts like a volcano. Cool, right?

But with the right setup and a little focus, everything stays controlled and delightful. Honeycomb is one of those recipes where organization matters more than skill. If you can make toast without burning the house down, you can make this.


Have these things ready to go before you begin.

- * Baking soda, measured and ready
- * A large pot (the mixture will triple in size)
- * A parchment-lined pan
- * A heatproof spatula



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‘Let One’s Hair Down’

For decades, Paris has been the fashion center of the western world. Customs and sayings that originate there often become more firmly-rooted in England and in America than in their native soil.

Noted entertainers and wives of wealthy nobleman have long vied with one another in creating new and elaborate hair styles. It was once considered a serious breach of etiquette to appear in public without a coiffeur that required hours of work. Only in the intimacy of private quarters did beauties of the Napoleonic era relax by letting their hair down.

Moves toward pulling out pins and unbinding tresses came to be associated with relaxation. So any time inhibitions are discarded, we still say that a male or female lets his or her hair down.

Excerpts taken from the book written by Webb Garrison

PUZZLES/GAMES



Kids' Maze

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

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Differences: 1. Mailbox is smaller. 2. Patch on sleeve is higher. 3. Mouth is open. 4. Roof is open. 5. Cap is different. 6. Mitten is missing.

WORD SPIRAL

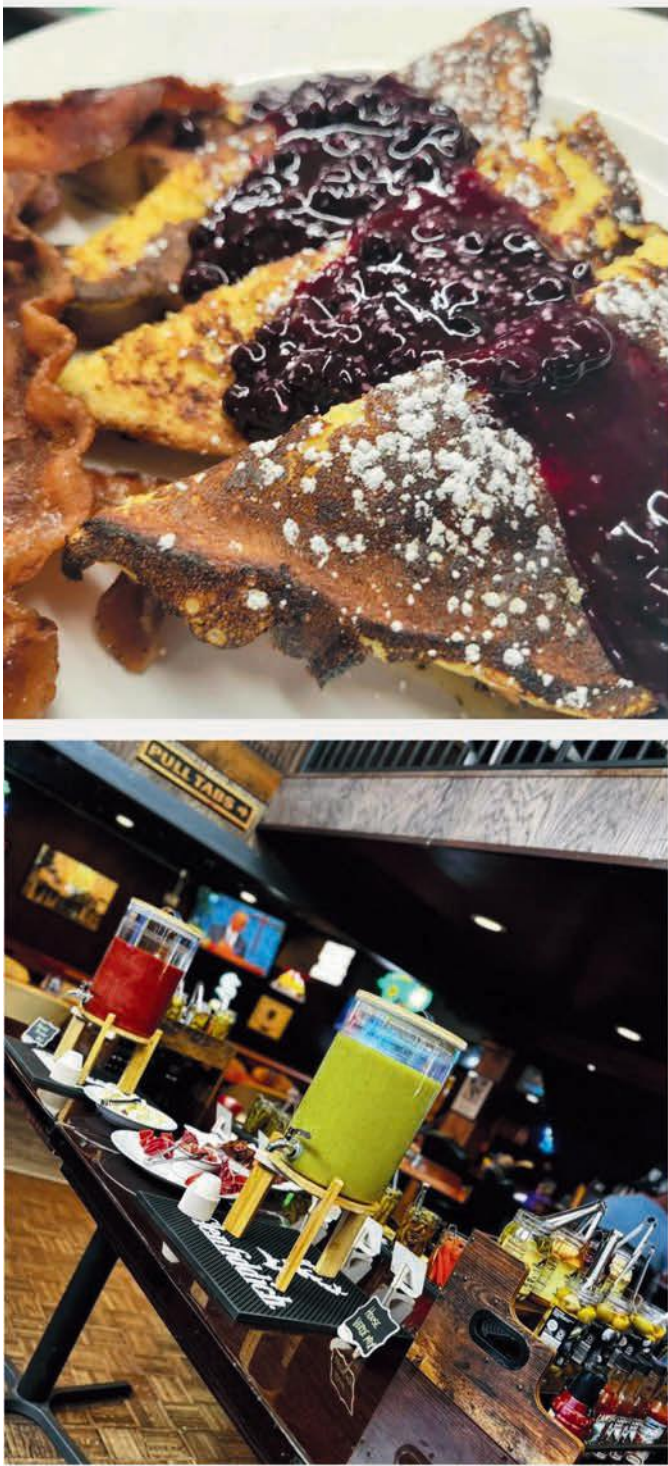
Fill in the missing letters to reveal the nine-letter word that starts at one of the four corners and moves clockwise around the perimeter before ending in the center.

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: U equals G

GH LPO FWXGWTW WTWELFPZL
QYP RNL R JYWL'TW HPOVZ N
QNJWE-QPEV ENTGVW, G
UOWRR LPO'EW UOXXL-FXW.



WT BRUNCH

SUNDAY MORNINGS

9am - 1pm

WASHOUGALRITO \$18

braised short rib, scrambled eggs, bacon, cheddar, black beans & ranchero sauce, in a grilled flour tortilla with home fries, sour cream, avocado cilantro sauce

BYO BREAKFAST \$15

bacon OR ham, 2 eggs, home fries, toast

MORNING TOTS \$15

tots, elk country gravy, shredded cheese, 2 runny eggs, ranchero sauce

CHIMICHURRI CHICKEN HASH \$17

grilled chicken, potatoes, bell peppers, onions, 2 runny eggs

FRENCH TOAST \$14

2 pieces of texas toast, 2 strips of bacon, huckleberry strawberry compote, butter & maple syrup

YOGURT \$9

greek yogurt, Sithean Acres honey, Bluebird Bakery granola

BREAKFAST FOR TWO \$60

for 2 people only.

your choice of 2 breakfast entrees plus your choice of 1 trip per person through the bloody mary bar or a bottle of bubbles. no substitutions please.

consuming undercooked eggs may increase your risk of foodborne illness

SIDES

ONE EGG YOUR WAY \$4

HOME FRIES \$4.5

BACON OR HAM \$5

FRUIT \$5

RUSTIC WHITE TOAST \$3.5

DRINKS

FRESH SQUEEZED OJ \$7

FRESH BREWED COFFEE \$4

MIMOSA \$8.5

your choice cranberry, grapefruit or fresh squeezed OJ

MADRAS \$9

tito's vodka, fresh squeezed OJ, splash of cranberry, served tall

BLOODY BEER \$6.5

coors light topped with our house-made mary mix

BLOODY MARY BAR \$15

a stonejax rimmed glass with your choice

Titos Vodka, Teremana Tequila or Aviation Gin.

take a trip through the bloody mary bar & build your bloody mary just the way you like it!

Add 3 cocktail shrimp \$3

now serving Sunday

Brunch

Every Sunday

9:00am - 1:00pm

Washougal Times is now serving Sunday Brunch! Come join us between 9am-1pm and enjoy a variety of breakfast items and drinks.

WASHOUGAL

TIMES

RESTAURANT & LOUNGE

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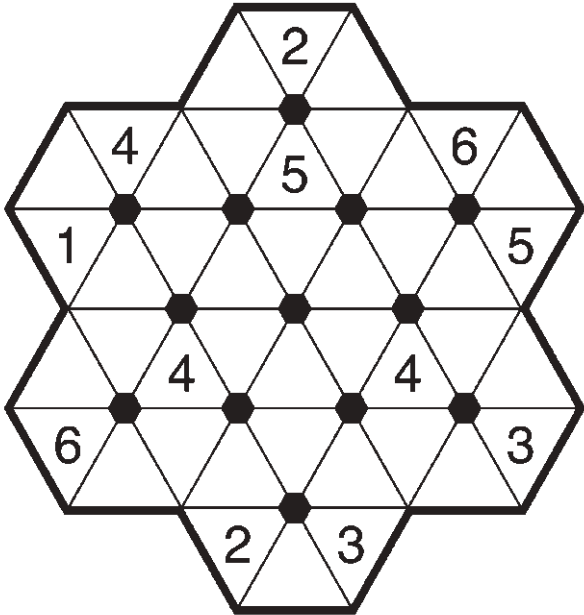
360-835-2488

PUZZLES/GAMES

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 ● — STICK

S T P L I E B X U Q N J G D Z
W T Q N B K H D M A X U R P M
J G D A R X V R E G G A W S S
Q N K M E I E L A N F D A X V
T E Q U A L C H S I F O M J H
F C L R D I Z A U K Y W U R P
O G N D S L S Z R L J H F D B
Z G I P N L X V I A T R Q O M
K F O B A A I H N W F D B Z Y
W P V P O H C T G R S Q O N L
K I H F E U C D C A Z X W V U

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
Unlisted clue hint: SCALY SWIMMERS

Big Chop Measuring Swagger
Bread Cue Pogo Swizzle
Candle Drum Popside Walking
Chap Fiddle Slap



"Here's a nice, practical gift for your child—
guaranteed to _____ in a couple
of hours."

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!

Booster
T O C K E R _____

Consume
O U D E R V _____

Intellect
N A B I R _____

Guide
C O R S E T _____

TODAY'S WORD



TIPBITS
WORD POWER
Unscramble this word:
OILSKNGLETN

The main character in Tim Burton's
"Nightmare before Christmas"

Wishing Well®

3	4	8	6	5	2	5	8	6	7	6	8	7
A	A	L	T	C	A	O	I	A	W	K	N	A
4	6	3	6	2	6	8	3	6	3	6	3	6
I	E	M	I	N	N	G	B	I	I	T	T	I
5	6	7	2	7	2	5	3	8	2	7	8	6
N	A	Y	A	O	L	S	I	E	Y	U	R	T
5	6	2	5	3	6	2	3	2	3	8	3	4
I	I	Z	D	O	V	E	N	T	P	A	A	D
7	5	2	6	2	4	7	3	5	8	3	5	2
T	E	H	E	O	O	I	Y	R	W	S	C	U
5	3	5	4	7	2	4	2	4	2	8	4	7
H	O	O	T	D	G	H	H	E	T	H	R	E
2	8	5	7	3	5	3	7	5	8	4	8	5
S	I	I	A	F	C	F	S	E	L	S	E	S

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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 movie features characters Walter Hobbs, Jovie, and Ming Ming?
2. Instead of an anticipated Christmas bonus to pay for a swimming pool, what did Clark Griswold receive from his company?
3. Name the actors who played the two con men in "Home Alone."
4. What actor was first offered the role of George Bailey in "It's a Wonderful Life" before Jimmy Stewart?
5. What Christmas movies featured Bernard the elf?

STICKELERS (sic)

Molly is four times as old as Milly.
Twenty years from now, Molly will
only be twice as old as Milly.

How old are they now?

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. Camelot wizard | M | _____ | German capital | B | _____ |
| 2. Parlor game | B | _____ | Starr drummer | R | _____ |
| 3. Leisurely walk | _____ | T | Manuscript spool | _____ | C |
| 4. Bird community | _____ | V | Beehive | _____ | P |
| 5. Plate metal | _____ | W | Annoy | _____ | S |
| 6. River beginning | M | _____ | Childhood | Y | _____ |
| 7. Portugal's largest | _____ | B | Boxer Sonny | _____ | T |
| 8. Belt location | _____ | A | Watch location | _____ | R |
| 9. Spaceship | _____ | _____ | Grandma's chair | _____ | R |
| 10. Holiday song | _____ | L | Chocolate alternative | _____ | B |



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LOVE doing laundry here!



15% off first
Wash & Fold
Service*



FREE
20 minute dry
with every New
Laundry card*

*Limit 1 per customer. Present coupon to attendant for redemption.

* On Dec. 15, 1945, Gen. Douglas MacArthur, in his capacity as Supreme Commander of Allied Powers in the Pacific, ended the role of Shintoism as Japan's established religion. Shintoism included the belief that the emperor was divine.

* On Dec. 16, 1998, President Bill Clinton announced his order of air strikes against Iraq, due to the country's refusal to cooperate with U.N. weapons inspectors. Key members of Congress did not support the decision, accusing Clinton of using the strikes to direct attention away from his impeachment proceedings.

* On Dec. 17, 2003, "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King," the final film in the trilogy based on J.R.R. Tolkien's beloved fantasy novels, debuted in theaters. A tremendous hit, it won 11 Academy Awards, and the trilogy became one of the highest-grossing franchises in cinema history.

* On Dec. 18, 1961, the Tokens' version of "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" became not just a No. 1 song, but a classic -- one of the most covered and most successful pop songs ever recorded. Sadly, a sequence of business arrangements that made millions of dollars for a handful of prominent U.S. music publishers yielded just a \$1,000 personal check from folksinger Pete Seeger to Solomon Linda, a South African performer who composed the tune.

* On Dec. 19, 1986, Michael Sergio, an actor and Mets fan who parachuted into Game Six of the 1986 World Series at New York's Shea Stadium, was fined \$500 and sentenced to 100 hours of community service for touching down on the infield with a "Let's Go Mets" banner to the cheering support of more than 55,000 spectators.

* On Dec. 20, 1880, a section of Broadway between Union Square and Madison Square was illuminated by Brush arc lamps, becoming one of the first electrically lighted streets in America and earning the nickname "The Great White Way."

On Dec. 21, 1913, the first modern crossword puzzle was published in the New York World, part of a set of what the paper called "mental exercises." Clues included "sunk in mud," "the fibre of the gomuti palm," and "such and nothing more."

Super Crossword

UNIVERSITY
SUBSTITUTES

ACROSS

1 Small, sticky sheets

8 Sentimental souvenir

16 Bit of aquatic flora

20 In hitting position, in baseball

21 Haphazardly

22 Ringing thing

23 Providence university founded to educate Dracula?

25 Not phony

26 Auld lang —

27 Wed. preceder

28 Stale

29 Passover bread

30 Pixieish type

32 Nicer than a Madison university?

38 Actress Anderson

41 Jeans, e.g.

42 Ridden horse

43 Located on a Somerville university's campus?

46 Pooh or Yogi

48 Encyclopedia unit: Abbr.

50 Clueless

51 Cruise of film

52 Mine metals

54 Baseball Hall of Famer Tony

56 Some Siouan people

58 Shakur of hip-hop

62 LAX stats

64 Little — ("Hairspray" girl)

65 Certain till bill

66 Title of a picture album featuring an Atlanta university?

70 Paella veggie

71 Singer Abdul

72 Org. offering tows

73 Inadequate leader of a Durham university?

80 Easter meat

83 Santa — (desert winds)

84 Tart garnish

85 Italian actress Sophia

86 NFL coach Don or Mike

88 Fort Knox bar

90 — deck (cruise ship part)

92 Cup edge

94 Actress Lena

95 Loud noise

96 Mega melee

98 Unable to escape from a New York university?

103 Routine

105 Animals of a region

106 Pretenses

107 Houston university attended for four complete years?

112 Tattoo fluid

113 Make ecstatic

114 "Way cool!"

115 Tazo drink

117 "Intolerance" star Lillian

120 TV imp

121 Simpson

122 Leave a New Haven university with no exit fee?

127 Kin of -trix

128 Able to do no wrong

129 Swiveled

130 Big name in private jets

131 Used a sieve on

132 Partner of Hutch

DOWN

1 Alehouses

2 Nashville's Grand Ole —

3 Wall builder, e.g.

4 Moist wipe

5 "Son of," in Arabic names

6 Successor of Roosevelt

7 Malty brew

8 Kit — bar

9 Biblical verb ending

10 Sooner than, in verse

11 — -Man (arcade game)

12 Hair nets

13 Past puberty

14 Organizing expert Marie

15 First-aid pro

16 Chafe

17 Golf great called "The Merry Mex"

18 Like many a bored person's eyes

19 Permit

24 Early car inits.

29 Subway system

31 Winter woe

33 Mil. missions

34 Fissure

35 The Yoko of "Dear Yoko"

36 "Beetle Bailey" dog

37 Troop gp.

38 Plane flier

39 "La, — to follow so"

40 Sternward

44 Dog in Oz

45 X-rated stuff

46 Actress Mary — Hurt

47 Actor Morales

49 Like loafers

53 Fix

55 Peru's capital

57 Went swiftly

59 Burst open, as corn

60 Lab gel

61 Very mean

63 Eye carefully

67 Lug

68 In addition

69 Gobbles up

70 Cali currency

73 Installed, as carpet

74 Totally wipe out

75 Document of English liberties

76 Metric mass, in brief

77 Give forth

78 Nixing mark

79 City in Oklahoma

80 Hawaiian dancers' garments

81 Wonderland girl

82 Long, thick heads of hair

87 Wishing to receive

89 Stale

91 Royal name of Norway

93 Sow or boar

97 Figure skater Midori

99 Arles assent

100 Wolf Blitzer's channel

101 Chiang — -shek

102 Rapa — (Easter Island)

104 No longer ill

105 Hat for Frank Sinatra

107 Mutinous sort

108 Former senator Lott

109 Spiteful sort

110 Home for a 93-Down

111 Messy stacks

116 Dismounted

118 Search for

119 Lamarr of "Algiers"

121 Mil. enlistees

122 Mentalist Geller

123 Khaki cousin

124 Certain till bill

125 Bouquets-to-order co.

126 Mendes of "Hitch"

1	2	3	4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15		16	17	18	19	
20								21									22				
23								24									25				
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43						44	45							46	47			48		49	
50					51						52	53				54	55				
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	103		104						105							106					
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113							114							115		116		117		118	119
120																					
127																					
130																					

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Fun Fact

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the top three states for growing and selling Christmas trees are Oregon, North Carolina and Michigan. The most popular kinds of trees sold are Fraser firs, Douglas firs, Balsam firs, Colorado Blue Spruce and Scotch Pine.

Sources: www.nass.usda.gov, forestry.about.com

UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATERS



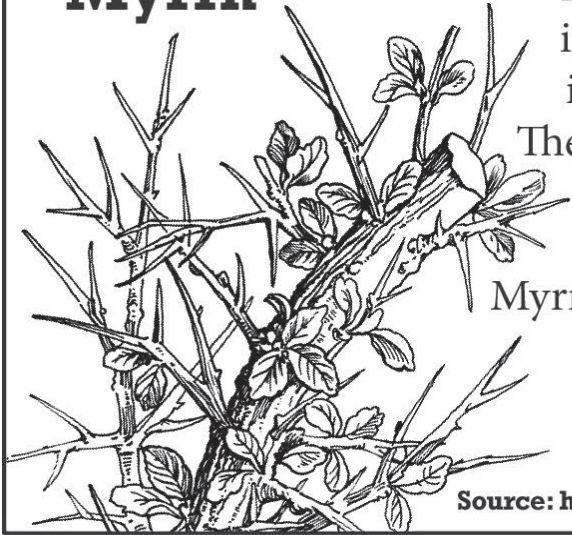
It's that time of year again, when we don our Christmas sweaters in the midst of holiday festivities. December 20 is officially National Ugly Christmas Sweater Day, the perfect time to dig out those unfashionable garments and celebrate!

- Christmas sweaters haven't always been the tacky, goofy garments we associate with ugly sweaters of today, adorned with pom-poms, lights, bells, reindeer, and even hanging ornaments. In the 1950s, they were pullovers produced with the name "Jingle Bell Sweaters," and often featuring traditional Nordic and Fair Isle designs, cable-knit, snowflakes, and angels. There were patterns for crafters to create their own hand-knit woolens. Crooner Andy Williams sported a Christmas sweater on his variety show as he sang carols to his audience.
- During the 1960s and 1970s, bold psychedelic designs took over, with sunglass-wearing Santas, and brilliant dazzling colors. In the big-hair days of the '80s, glitter, sequins, pom-poms, and disco themes prevailed. The sweaters' status was boosted by the 1989 film "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation," which featured Chevy Chase wearing a festive eyesore. Ugly Christmas sweaters were a regular fixture at office parties.
- The 1990s brought a downslide in the popularity of ugly sweaters, something that only grandmas wore, and they disappeared from the fashion world. But in 2001, the movie "Bridget Jones' Diary" brought about a revival of the sweater when actor Colin Firth in the role of Mr. Darcy wears a hideous Christmas sweater featuring a giant red-nosed reindeer. Bridget herself was horrified, but the sweater launched the ugly ones back into vogue.
- In 2002, a Canadian retirement home employee noticed residents wearing Christmas sweaters during the holidays, and as he was complimenting them on their apparel, he was really thinking of tracking down vintage sweaters and inviting friends to join in the fun. That year, Chris Boyd and his friend Justin Birch hosted the first known ugly Christmas sweater party, urging others to attend "the most cheesy, most feel-good party imaginable," wearing the ugliest sweater they could find. That initial gathering of 30 guests grew in four years to a size that required renting a venue at the local university, and by the fifth year grew to the venue of a massive Vancouver ballroom with 1,200 people in attendance. Boyd and Birch even published a book on the subject, "Ugly Christmas Sweater Party Book: The Definitive Guide to Getting Your Ugly On."
- Even the top fashion giants have gotten into the act, pairing cashmere with beading and gaudy designs. The shelves of high-end stores like Nordstrom fill their

shelves with designer alpine sweaters from Dolce and Gabanna, Ralph Lauren, and Stella McCartney.

- Every year since 2009, talk show host Jimmy Fallon has held the "12 Days of Christmas Sweaters" giveaway, with an audience member selected at random to receive an ingenious creation of his program's costume department over the span of 12 nights. The imaginative garments have included such features as an iPad centerpiece highlighting a roaring fireplace video, and a giant snow globe that actually blew fake snow.
- Social media has boosted the appeal of ugly sweaters as users post their ugliest sweaters on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter (X). There are ugly sweater 5K runs, bar crawls, parties, and contests. A winning sweater might include LED lights, tinsel, hanging ornaments, jewels, 3-D elements, pom-poms, or a sweater with a 1950s vintage design.

The Garden Bug Myrrh



Myrrh trees grow in the very hot, very dry regions of the Arabian Peninsula, Somalia and Ethiopia. The resin of the myrrh tree has a long and ancient history as a valuable substance in many cultures. To harvest it, the tree itself is wounded repeatedly to cause its resin to "bleed" out, then harden. These secretions are then collected and used to make perfume, incense, flavoring for food and as medicine. Myrrh can be grown in warm, arid parts of the U.S. such as southern California, Arizona, Texas, and Florida.

- Brenda Weaver

Source: healthyplants.com/Myrrh



CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE



The 2025 holiday season is here!
Outlaw Country Radio is collecting new, unwrapped toys for local Camas/Washougal families in need through December 20th.



WISH LIST

- New stuffed animals, toys
- New family games
- New unwrapped blankets

Visit Washougal Times Restaurant & Lounge to leave your donation.
1826 E St, Washougal, WA 98671



1. Name the artist who released "If I Can't Have You."
2. Which male artist wrote and released "This Is It" in 1979.
3. Who had a No. 1 hit on the Adult Contemporary chart with "It Might Be You"?
4. Which group released "When I See You Smile"?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "Listen to me, baby, you got to understand, You're old enough to know the makings of a man."

Answers

1. Yvonne Elliman, on the soundtrack to "Saturday Night Fever" in 1977 and then her "Night Flight" album the following year. The song had been written by the Bee Gees, and they followed with their own version.
2. Kenny Loggins. The song only went to No. 11 but ended up with a Grammy for Best Male Pop Vocal in 1981. For two years it was used as the theme music for basketball tournaments.
3. Stephen Bishop, in 1982. In 1995 Roberta Flack's cover version was used in the film "Waiting to Exhale."
- The song was then used for the closing credits of "The Pretty One" in 2013.
4. Bad English, in 1989.
5. "Lightin' Strikes," by Lou Christie, in 1965. The song topped the charts in both the U.S. and Canada. It was Christie's only No. 1 hit.





Sports Quiz

By Ryan A. Berenz

1. Who became the first Japanese male player to win one of golf's major tournaments when he won the Masters in 2021?
2. At the 2000 Sydney Olympics, Eric Moussambani, a swimmer from Equatorial Guinea, won his heat in the 100-meter freestyle despite recording the slowest time in Olympic history. (His only two competitors were disqualified.) What nickname did the media give him?
3. Baseball Hall of Famer Joe Cronin, a player, manager, executive and former president of the American League, has his No. 4 retired by what Major League team?
4. Hockey Hall of Famer Babe Siebert drowned in August 1939 at age 35, just weeks before he was to take over as the new head coach of what NHL team?
5. What stunt did actor Michael Sergio pull off during Game 6 of the 1986 World Series?
6. A bridge in West Virginia is named after what boxer and longtime Fayetteville police chief? (Hint: He was Muhammad Ali's first professional opponent.)
7. Thai billionaire Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha, who died in a helicopter crash in 2018, was the owner of which English Premier League football club?

SPORTS STORIES FIGURE SKATING



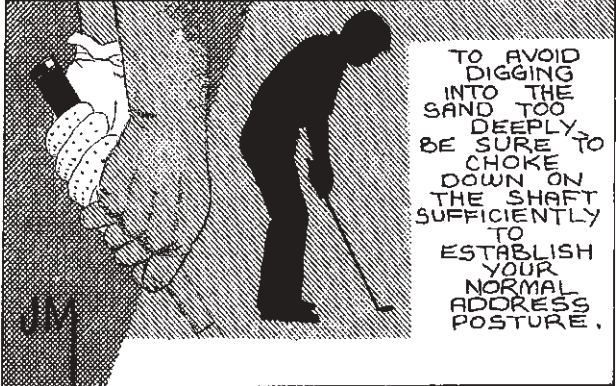
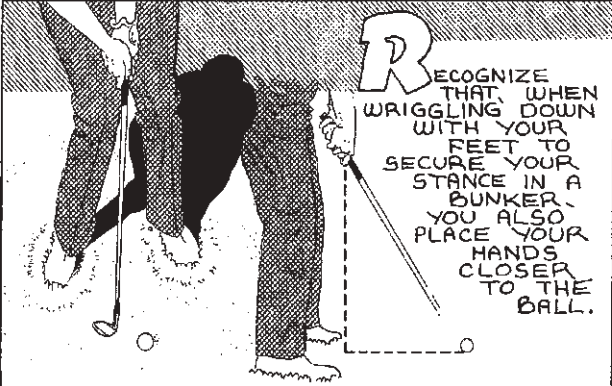
Strap on your skates and follow along as *Tidbits* presents these facts on the sport of figure skating.

- Skates were first used in the Scandinavian countries centuries ago as a means of transportation, with skaters strapping the leg bones of large animals to their feet. The bones were sharpened and shaped so that people could glide across ice, cutting the time required to travel around a body of water. Metal skates were introduced during the 13th century.
- In the 18th and 19th centuries, skating evolved into a sport, with competitors required to trace elaborate geometric patterns and designs, or “figures,” on the ice. Circles, loops, and figure eights were carved with the blades’ edges, leading to the name figure skating. These exercises became known as “compulsory figures” in competitions.
- The sport progressed into jumps, spins, and choreography, and in the early 1990s, the compulsories were removed from competitions.
- During the mid-1800s, American ballet dancer and figure skater Jackson Haines blended the artistry of dance with the athleticism of skating, capturing the first U.S. National Figure Skating Championship title. Haines is considered the father of modern figure skating.
- Beginning in 1880, skaters invented several complicated jumps which were subsequently named after them. Norwegian skater Axel Paulsen devised the sport’s oldest and most difficult jump, one with a forward takeoff, requiring the skater to land backward on the outside edge of the skate, appropriately named the Axel.
- In 1909, Swedish skater Ulrich Salchow invented a jump in which the skater takes off from the back inside edge of one foot and lands on the back outside edge of the opposite foot. The Lutz, invented in 1913 by Alois Lutz of Austria, is a jump with the entrance from the skate’s back outside edge and a landing on the back outside edge of the opposite foot. It’s considered figure skating’s second-most difficult jump.
- There are three spin positions in figure skating – the upright spin, the sit spin (invented by Jackson Haines), and the camel spin. All can be either forward or backward. A flying spin combines a jump and a spin. The speed at which figure skaters spin is mind-boggling. They can reach six revolutions per second, which is more than 300 per minute! The record for the fastest spin was set in 2015 by a Polish-Canadian skater, Olivia Oliver, who achieved 342 revolutions per minute.
- Figure skating competitions were initially just for men. It wasn’t until 1902 at the World Championships that fe-

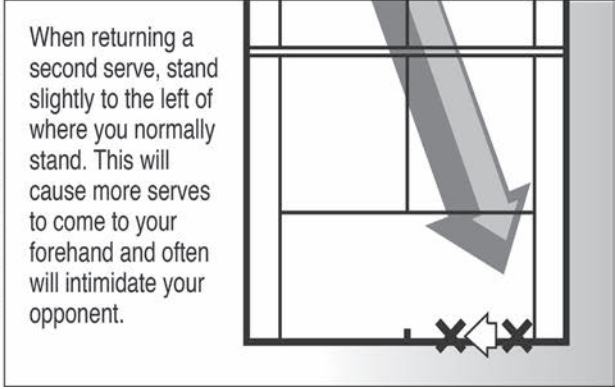
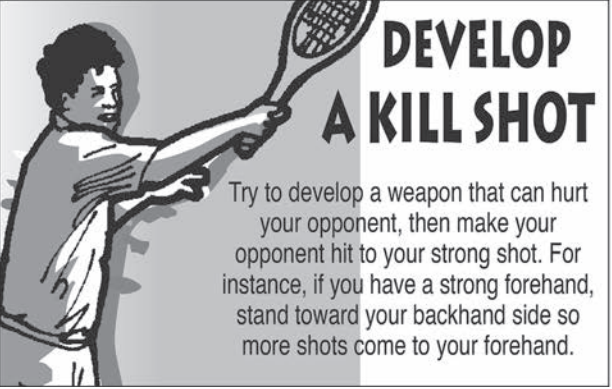
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STAN SMITH’S TENNIS CLASS



male British skater Madge Syers joined the competition, nabbing second place behind Ulrich Salchow. Although the formal Winter Olympic Games as we know them started in 1924 in Chamonix, France, Olympic Games were held in London in 1908, with figure skating featured for the first time. Oddly enough, the competition was held during the summer games inside an ice rink.

- That area where skaters sit and wait for their marks from the judges has an official term – the “kiss and cry area.” It can be the place for either celebrating success or lamenting over a poor performance.
- You might have noticed that skaters avoid fringe and feathers on their costumes. Any type of wardrobe malfunction, including glitter floating to the ice’s surface, a broken strap, or loss of a feather or any trim results in a deduction in score by the judges.



INTERESTING SPORTS FACTS THAT HAPPENED IN DECEMBER



On December 21, 1891, Dr. James Naismith invented and played the first game of basketball.



The first NFL Championship game was played in December 1933, where the Chicago Bears beat the New York Giants.



The 2016 MLS Cup final on December 10, 2016, was the first in league history to have no goals scored during regulation and overtime, with the Seattle Sounders winning 5-4 on penalties.



From 1947 to 1971, NHL games were played on Christmas Day, but the tradition was ended to give players a holiday break.



2002: Katie Hnida became the first woman to play in an NCAA Division I-A game.



2012: Johnny Manziel became the first freshman to win the Heisman Trophy.





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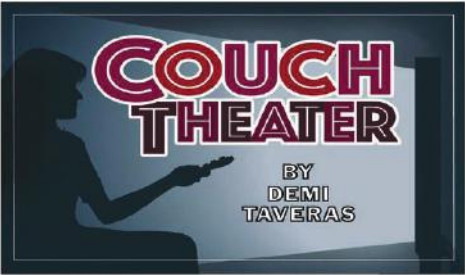


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“Jay Kelly” (R) -- This comedy-drama film directed by Noah Baumbach (“Marriage Story”) presents a very emotional and layered depiction of the life of a famous actor named Jay Kelly. George Clooney (“Wolfs”) stars as the world-renowned Jay -- a charismatic, suave man, the type of actor you see on screen and can’t take your eyes off of. Of course, behind every heartthrob who can deliver lines well, there usually lies some convoluted personal life that’s meant to be kept hidden from the world. And with Jay, it’s no different. Even though he lives a spectacular life and has a team (comprised of Adam Sandler and Laura Dern) that scrambles to leap over every obstacle Jay creates for himself, a deep loneliness and sadness emanate from him. This leaves us to wonder, is the life of being a famous actor worth the price? Clooney and Sandler have already received Golden Globe nominations for their performances in the film, which is out now to stream! (Netflix)



George Clooney, left, and Adam Sandler star in “Jay Kelly.” Courtesy of Netflix

“The Running Man” (R) -- If you’ve seen Edgar Wright’s “Baby Driver,” you know that Wright excels in creating action-packed blockbusters with a splash of comedy and incredulity. His latest release, starring Glen Powell (“Twisters”), is an adaptation of Stephen King’s 1982 novel “The Running Man,” and Wright does not hold back on the action! The film takes place in a near-future United States that is ruled by an authoritarian media network. The network’s most popular TV program is called “The Running Man,” where runners sign up to win \$1 billion if they can survive 30 days without getting killed by the network’s hunters. (Think “Squid Games” or “The Hunger Games.”) Powell plays a blue-collar man named Ben, who signs up with the purpose of buying medicine for his daughter. But once he’s thrown into the game, he realizes his actual purpose in the game is much larger than just escaping a few cold-blooded murderers. Available to rent on Dec. 16. (Apple TV+)

KOVELS® Antique Trader

By Terry and Kim Kovel

Baby New Year



Baby New Year can grow up fast! The baby pictured here is already shaving. Well, it’s probably not supposed to be Baby New Year, but being surrounded by a calendar, it’s an easy association to make. This baby was the mascot for Gillette’s safety razors, perhaps suggesting that they were both safe enough and easy enough for a baby to use, with the promise of baby-smooth skin, too. Inventor King C. Gillette was not the first to create a safety razor, but he came up with the disposable blade, and his company popularized them in the early 1900s. Note that the calendar is for 1909 -- a bit outdated for today’s use, but very appealing to a collector of antique advertising. It sold for \$295 at Morford’s Antique Advertising Auctions. Oh, and it’s not just a calendar; it’s a pocket mirror, too. They were a popular form of advertising in the early 20th century. These mirrors, like the Gillette one here, often had celluloid backs printed with the company’s name, logo or slogan. But despite the product it advertises, a mirror like this one, at 2 1/2 inches in diameter, probably wouldn’t be the best for shaving. For more collecting news, tips and resources, visit www.Kovels.com.

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Great Gifts for Pets and Owners

Do you have a friend who owns pets, or a pet of your own that you'd like to join in the holiday cheer this Christmas? There are more products than ever for pets -- the challenge is finding the perfect gift from the many choices available. Here are a few items that have impressed me recently, and may make a perfect gift for the dog, cat or pet owner in your life.

Heated dog/cat bed: For older dogs and cats, a heated pad or bed provides welcome comfort for their aching joints, especially in winter.

Sturdy chew toys: Kong ruled the "indestructible" chew toy market for quite a while, but sturdy, creative chew toys are available from other brands as well. Know the size of the dog (toy, small, medium, large) before buying so you get the appropriate-sized toy for their jaws.

Scratch pads: Vertical or horizontal scratch pads for cats help them maintain their claws and relieve boredom -- without destroying furniture.

Cat tree: Help cats safely reach a higher plane of existence ... so they can stare out the window. Cat trees fight boredom and most include attached toys and scratch pads, creating an all-in-one activity center.

Window perch: Need to save space? Try a window perch or hammock instead of a cat tree. Most mount on the sill, so cats can lounge while staring at the fauna outside.

Gift cards: If you're not sure what a pet owner needs, then a gift card to an online or brick-and-mortar pet supply store is the way to go.

If you're short on cash but want to give a thoughtful gift: Offer to walk dogs or pet-sit. Help elderly pet owners care for their pets. Or, volunteer at a local shelter.

Send your tips, comments or questions to ask@pawscorner.com.

Just Like Cats & Dogs
by Dave T. Phipps

MY WIFE IS NOW UPSET WITH ME BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW WHY SHE'S UPSET. SHOULDN'T THAT BE AGAINST THE RULES?



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Scollie
Animal ID: 173340

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Gingerbread Bussy
Animal ID: 172903

I may look like a big, tough guy, but I'm still learning that the world can be a safe place, and I'd really appreciate a family who understands that trust takes time. I might need a few days (or even weeks) to fully relax, but I promise I'm worth the wait. Once I know you're my person, I'll start showing you my sweet side. If you're looking for a cat who will blossom with patience and kindness, I could be your perfect match.



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Eight Years in a Row!

Transport Topics 2025



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ANSWERS

- Sports Quiz Answers
1. Hideki Matsuyama.

2. “Eric the Eel.”

3. The Boston Red Sox.

4. The Montreal Canadiens.

5. He parachuted onto the field at the New York Mets’ Shea Stadium.

6. Tunney Hunsaker.

7. Leicester City F.C.
- Trivia Answers
1. James Garfield.

2. Vietnam.

3. Tim Allen.

4. Augustus.

5. Dublin, Ireland.

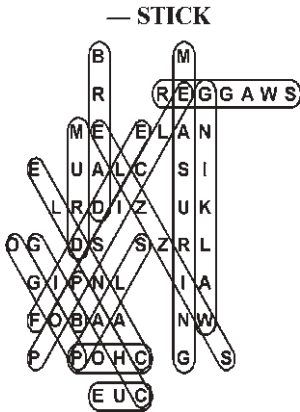
6. Spot.

7. A supernova.

8. Cumulonimbus.

9. Five states have no sales tax: Alaska, Delaware, Montana, New Hampshire and Oregon.

10. They supply oxygen-rich blood to the face, neck and brain.



Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

- Even Exchange answers
1. Merlin, Berlin

2. Bingo, Ringo

3. Stroll, Scroll

4. Aviary, Apiary

5. Pewler, Pesier

6. Mouth, Youth

7. Lisbon, Liston

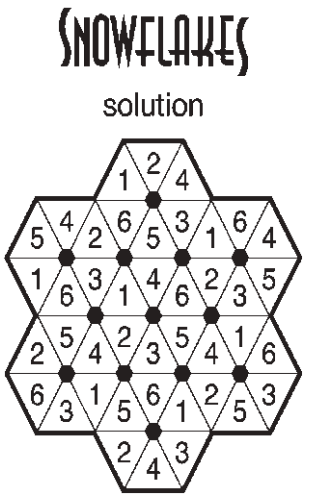
8. Waist, Wrist

9. Rocket, Rocker

10. Carol, Carob

- SCRAMBLERS solution
1. Rocket; 2. Devour;

3. Brain; 4. Escort
- Today's Word
- BREAK



WORD POWER

ANSWER

SKELLINGTON

CryptoQuip answer

If you believe everybody who says they've found a water-worn ravine, I guess you're gully-ble.

Word Spiral Answer

MACHINING

- TRIVIA NEWSFRONT ANSWERS
1. “Elf”

2. Enrollment in the Jelly of the Month Club

3. Joe Pesci and Daniel Stern

4. Cary Grant

5. “The Santa Clause” franchise

Super Crossword

Answers

POSTITS	KEEPSAKE	ALGA
UPTOBAT	ATRAN	BELL
BROWN	FORTHE	REAL
SYNE	TUE	MATZO
ELF	TOOGOOD	TODEDREW
PAMELA	PANTS	STEED
INATUFT	SSPOT	BEAR
LOST	TOM	ORES
OTOES	TUPAC	ETAS
TEN	PHOTOGRAPHIC	MEMORY
PEA	PAULA	AAA
LAMEDUKE	PRESIDENT	HAM
ANAS	LIME	LOREN
INGOT	LIDO	LIP
DIN	RIOT	LOCKED
HABIT	FAUNA	GUISES
RICETO	THEFINISH	INK
ELATE	RAD	TEA
BART	GETOUTOF	YALE
ETTE	INERRANT	PIVOTED
LEAR	STRAINED	STARSKY

Sticklers Answer

Molly is 40 and Milly is 10.

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UBER EATS

TIDBITS GOES LONG.....

“Miracle on 34th Street” has been produced twice – first in 1947 with 8-year-old Natalie Wood in the role of Susan Walker and again in 1994, with Mara Wilson in the same role. In the 1947 film, Macy’s in New York City hired Kris Kringle to play Santa, but in 1994, the department store refused to give permission to use its name, and the store was given the fictitious name Cole’s.