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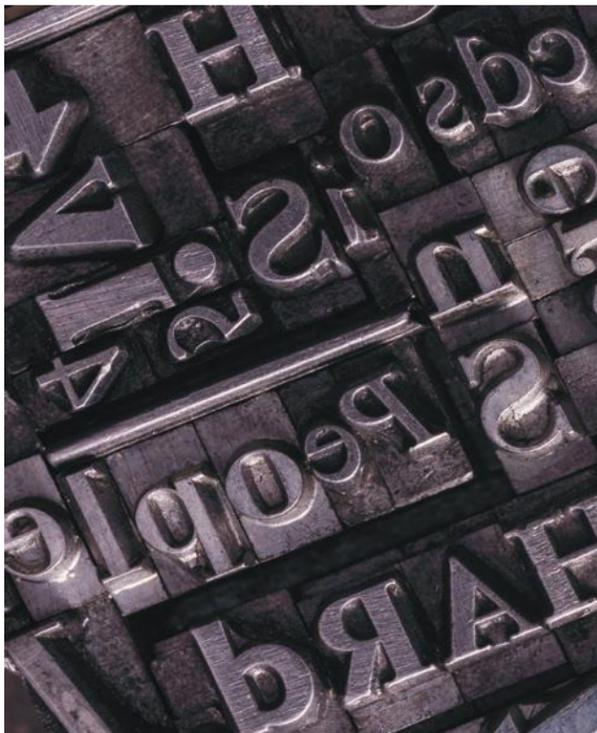
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**TIDBITS® CELEBRATES THE PRINTING PRESS**  
by Janet Spencer

Johannes Gutenberg, inspired by the contraptions called the screw press used to crush grapes and olives, invented the printing press in the 1440s. In doing so, he had a huge impact on the development of not only human culture but also our language. Come along with *Tidbits* as we celebrate the printing press!

- Before Gutenberg's press, books were handwritten at the rate of several pages per day. The Gutenberg design could print 3,600 pages per day.
- The first printing press was located in Mainz, Germany, but only 40 years later, there were presses in an estimated 110 cities throughout Europe, expanding to 270 cities by the year 1500.
- In the thousand years prior to Gutenberg, it's been estimated that there were perhaps 30,000 to 50,000 books created worldwide, all of which were copied by hand. Most were owned either by clergy or royalty. In the 50 years following the first successful operational printing press, there were an estimated 20 million books. Within the next century, the output increased by tenfold. The introduction of the printing press ushered in a new era of mass communication, permanently altering the structure of society while also shaping the language.
- Because of the printing press, information and ideas spread quickly. The press made education widely available. Previously only rich people could afford books, but now everyone could. The literacy rate skyrocketed. The printing press enabled the scientific and industrial revolutions by making it easy to share and store knowledge. It also had an amazing impact on the English language.
- If you wonder why there are so many weird spellings in English, an early English printer named William Caxton is largely to blame. Caxton was one of the first people in England to own a printing press in the mid-1400s. He de-

Continued on page 2

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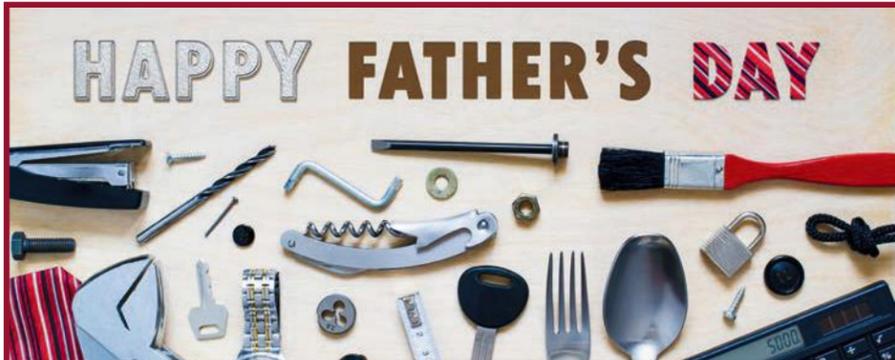
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The Printing Press (continued)

cided to translate all the books in foreign languages into English. The problem was that there were many English dialects with no set rules for spelling or pronouncing any particular word. Caxton winged it. He chose the dialect used by royalty, the courts, and the educated, known as "the King's English."

- A further issue is that Caxton brought in helpers from Belgium, and they added their own spelling quirks to the process. The English spelled it "gost" but in Belgium they spelled it "ghost" so Bibles spoke of "the holy ghost" instead of "the holy gost."
- This was all happening in the mid-1400s when English was quickly evolving because of the influence of many other languages. The printing press, however, tended to set a now-archaic method of spelling in stone.
- The printing press gave the English language a number of common words and phrases:
  - Casting is the process of shaping metal by melting it down and then pouring it into a mold. Each letter of type was made through this casting process, which was called "typesetting," indicating the art of making many identical copies from the same mold.
  - The printing press used metal stamps created in a foundry. Each stamp, called a "sort," was "sorted" into its correct slot in the cabinet that held all of the stamps. If a printer didn't have enough of a particular letter sort to complete his page, he was literally "out of sorts." The printer then could not print the page, which would be highly annoying.
  - The lowercase letters b, d, p, and q look almost identical when flipped over. Consider that the printer, when lining up the letters in preparation for printing a page, would be creating a mirror image of the page to be printed. All these nearly identical letters were hard to keep track of, meaning a printer must "mind their p's and q's."
  - All of these individual pieces of type were kept in a "type case" with capital letters being stored in the "upper case" and the smaller letters being stored in the "lower case."
  - If a printer consistently needed a specific set of letters, for instance to use the name of an advertiser in nearly every edition of a publication, they would fuse those letters in a single unit to avoid having to set those letters up individually every time. This was called a "logotype," later shortened to "logo." The word "logo" comes from the Greek word meaning "word."
  - When the carefully arranged letters were pressed into the paper, the printer literally wanted to "make a good impression." The word springs from the Latin "imprimere" meaning "to stamp" or "to press upon."

- Typesetters picked up each individual letter and set them, in order, into a tray called a composing stick. They had to arrange everything backwards so the writing would be correct after being printed. If they put the composing stick into the press the wrong way, the words would be backwards or upside down on the page. This led to the phrase "getting the wrong end of the stick."
- If a book had been painstakingly set in type and the required number of copies printed off, the printer might be concerned that more copies would be needed later if the book sold well. The printer needed to deconstruct each page because there was a limited number of letters available in the type case. The risk of later having to reconstruct that book, letter by letter, was frightful. Therefore, the printer would make an impression of the type on the page on a piece of thick, damp paper similar to paper mache. When this paper dried, it became stiff enough to yield an accurate impression of the page when run through the press. This image was called a "stereotype."
- The French thought the "kachunk kachunk" of a revolving printing press sounded like "cliché, cliché." It's from the French "clicher" meaning "to click" and refers to the sound the metal plates made when striking the paper.
- Designers and printers know that "leading" refers to the space between sentences. Originally there were thin bars of lead metal in place to guide placement, and these bars were adjustable depending on how much open space the printer wanted on the page.
- A new printing method called Linotype was invented in 1884. This involved having the operator use a keyboard to enter text which was then impressed into a mold. Then molten lead was poured into the mold. Linotype gave us the phrase "hot off the press" not because the paper was warm or the machine was hot but because the printing was done through a process called "hot metal printing."
- The invention in 1814 of the steam-powered rotary press allowed 1,100 impressions to be made per hour, which more than doubled to 2,400 by 1818. This made publishing newspapers and periodicals so cheap and easy that the entire industry was condensed into a single word: "the press."

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# Shortcuts

by jeff harris

Extra! Extra! Read All About The **Newspaper**

VOL XXIV NUMBER 22 CELEBRATING OUR 8TH YEAR TODAY 2008

This cartoon needs to be recycled.

One of the first newspapers in the world was the "Acta Diurna," which was first posted in Rome more than 2,000 years ago. It was designed to inform the public about important events and government decisions. Thousands of years later, newspapers continue to perform this valuable function, in addition to providing us with editorial opinions, entertainment, employment information and advertising.

### That's Old News

The first printed newspaper in the world was the "Dibao," which was printed in China during the 8th century.

Many of the first regularly published newspapers, such as the German "Relation aller Fürnemmen und gedenckwürdigen Historien," and the Dutch "Courante uyt Italien, Duytslandt, &c," were produced in Europe during the early 1600s.

### Start Spreadin' The News

The invention of the printing press by Johannes Gutenberg in the mid-1400s made newspapers easier to produce and more affordable.

Starting in the 1830s, advances in printing and papermaking led to the creation of the "penny press." These affordable newspapers expanded readership by making it possible for common people to purchase and read the newspaper.

### Hot Off The Presses

Can you spot all six differences between these two scenes?

Why do elephants make good reporters? Because they have a nose for news.

### Word Search

Can you find the hidden words? Search carefully because some words are backward or diagonal.

REPORTER	SCOOP	READ
CARTOON	EXTRA	LEAD
RECYCLE	STORY	FLAG
PUBLISH	PRINT	TEXT
LETTER	PRESS	BOB
PHOTO	NEWS	INK

STARS IN THE SKY  
 S E E E E O N E F E E T R  
 E X I T O P L O W X L E E  
 R T A T L U O U T S C F A  
 P U R E E B B R I T Y L D  
 S A A L T L A S T A C A R  
 C D O N E I N F R E E G  
 O W I B U S N S T O R Y E  
 O R O T O H P K I T E N T  
 P L A N S B O T T O M U P

In 1690, "Publick Occurrences, Both Forreign and Domestick" became the first newspaper published in the American Colonies.

Cartoons are very popular components of most newspapers. Cartoons have been used to educate and entertain readers for hundreds of years.

What do you use to iron a newspaper? A printing press.

Why was the news carrier fired? Because he couldn't deliver.

The name of a newspaper, located at the top of the front page, is called the "flag."

In most countries, the government has some control over what newspapers are allowed to print and in many countries the government has total control.

This edition of Shortcuts is sponsored by the Pied Paper.

I seem to have quite a following.

What do you get if you read a newspaper during a thunderstorm? A news flash.

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For more information on newspapers, check out these books: "EXTRA! EXTRA!: The Who, What, Where, When and Why of Newspapers" by Linda Granfield (Orchard) or "Deadline!: From News to Newspaper" by Gail Gibbons (HarperCollins).



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## ARTIST of the week



**Alan Jackson**



Pic from Alan Jackson Website

### Artist Highlights

**Born: October 17, 1958**

- Alan's debut album, *Here in the Real World*, was released on February 27, 1990.
- First artist to sign with Arista Nashville Records.
- With over 60 million albums sold and more than 35 No. 1 hits, Alan Jackson is one of the best-selling artists in country music history.
- Inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2017.
- Alan's blend of bluegrass, gospel, and honky-tonk helped keep country music anchored during decades of change.

Alan Eugene Jackson was born on October 17, 1958, in the small town of Newnan, Georgia, where the roads were dusty, the churches were full, and country music flowed from every radio like morning sunlight. Raised in a modest home built around his grandfather's toolshed, Jackson's childhood was steeped in traditional values and the kind of simple, honest living that would one day define his music.

Unlike many artists who chase fame early, Alan was a late bloomer in the music world. He didn't start writing songs seriously until he was in his twenties. Before that, he worked odd jobs, including in the mailroom of The Nashville Network (TNN), slowly building connections and studying the craft of country songwriting.

His big break came with the help of Glen Campbell, who passed Jackson's demo to industry executives. That set off a journey that would soon make Alan Jackson a pillar of the genre. In 1989, he signed with Arista Nashville as their first artist, and by 1990, his debut album *Here in the Real World* was redefining what "neo-traditional country" meant—honest, heartfelt, and rooted in classic influences.

What set Alan apart wasn't just his towering height or signature mustache—it was his music's emotional depth and lyrical clarity. Songs like "Chattahoochee," "Remember When," "Drive (For Daddy Gene)," and "Where Were You (When the World Stopped Turning)" weren't just hits; they were personal anthems for millions of Americans.

Jackson's music always walked the line between commercial success and artistic integrity. He pushed back against trends that diluted traditional country sounds, most notably with his album *Like Red on a Rose*, which showed he could experiment without losing his identity. His blend of bluegrass, gospel, and honky-tonk helped keep country music anchored during decades of change.

With over 60 million albums sold and more than 35 No. 1 hits, Alan Jackson is one of the best-selling artists in country music history. Yet, despite his fame, he remained a devoted family man, married to his high school sweetheart Denise since 1979, and a father to three daughters.

Alan was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2017, a recognition that cemented what fans had known for years: that Jackson wasn't just playing country music—he was country music.

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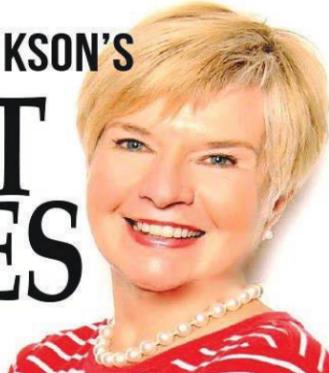
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**DONNA ERICKSON'S BEST BITES**



## Dad Will Flip Over 'Pancakes for Pop'

Father's Day is just around the corner on June 15, and what better way for Dad to greet his day than with a platter of pancakes that the kids have monogrammed with an imprint Dad will never forget? The lettering is simple and fun to do. A few refrigerator magnet ABCs or letters cut out of poster board are all you need for stencils so that you can compose a name or a word on a plateful of pancakes. After kids sift powdered sugar over the letters, the reveal is the dramatic moment. But shhh! It's a secret. Save the surprise for Dad!

Here's my easy-to-prepare pancake recipe that wins kudos from friends and family every time I make it. Every pancake is light, fluffy, and ready for fresh fruit, syrup, and your favorite toppings. Grate some lemon zest into the batter for zip, or toss in some brown sugar for a sweeter taste. Any way you like it, Dad will, too.

There's a special job for each child in your family, from cracking the eggs to flipping the pancakes on the griddle.

**HEARTY PANCAKES**  
(Makes 30 medium-sized pancakes)  
In a medium bowl, one child may stir the wet ingredients of 12 tablespoons melted butter, 1 cup sour cream, and 2 cups milk.  
In a second bowl, another child can measure dry ingredients in twos! Stir together 4 cups all-purpose flour, 2 teaspoons baking soda, and 2 tablespoons baking powder. Add a teaspoon of salt.  
In a large third bowl, beat 8 large eggs with a whisk. Add wet ingredients and stir together. Add dry ingredients and stir until combined. An adult should

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heat the pan and pour 1/4 cupfuls onto the hot greased griddle. Cook the pancakes until golden brown.  
For Father's Day fun, set toy alphabet letters or stencils on each pancake to make a word like "DAD," and sift powdered sugar on top. Remove stencils and serve.



Donna Erickson creates relationships and community through food and fun. Find more to nourish and delight you at [www.donnaerickson.com](http://www.donnaerickson.com).

**TIPBITS**

## NUGGET OF KNOWLEDGE

As a goldsmith, Gutenberg was familiar with metals. He crafted the metal type out of an alloy of tin, lead, and antimony which was very durable and gave clear impressions. The same recipe for metal type is still used today.



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**1 THESSALONIANS 4:11**

*Peasant with a Stick by Vincent van Gogh (1881)*

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**The Monsters Among Us**

Just when you think you've seen it all and that you're basically shockproof, along comes something that makes you wonder how people can do the things they do.

Take the guy who collected years of VA benefits belonging to his uncle. As bad as that is, it's only the tip of the iceberg. The criminal was the caregiver for his uncle, who had severe physical disabilities and was often locked in the garage without access to food or a bathroom.

The criminal pocketed the over \$9,000 per month in disability compensation, as well as the Social Security the uncle received. Then, when the uncle died, the thief didn't let anyone know, telling relatives the uncle went to live in a nursing home. That left him free to continue to collect the money and spend it on a lavish lifestyle, vacations, reptiles and, apparently, shotguns -- despite being a convicted felon who could not own guns.

When the scheme fell apart, after relatives started hunting for the nursing home and their family member, police found the body of the uncle in a garbage can in the shed in the backyard. He'd been dead for probably five years.

Can you imagine? I can't.

There are questions, of course.

How was a convicted felon given custodial rights over a disabled veteran, not only his care but his finances? Was the felon not investigated as a fiduciary to manage all that money, with requirements to send reports and answer questions about the veteran?

Where was the family who hadn't seen or talked to their relative since 2018? Did they not visit or at least call on the phone?

Did the VA not check the veteran in person at least once? Were there no mandatory physical exams to verify that the disability level and benefits were still appropriate? No calls on the phone?

Several balls were dropped during this veteran's life, by family, by neighbors, by the VA. I cannot believe no one checked on him.

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**June 25, 2025 marks the 75th Anniversary of the start of the Korean War.  
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share their legacy.**

June 2025

**25**

**Please join us in remembering the Veterans who have served in the  
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**SENIOR  
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by Matilda Charles

**Summer Heat Safety**

Before we know it, we'll need to move into hot weather mode and take steps to stay healthy and safe in the heat.

For me, most important is keeping the house cool, since that's where I spend most of my time. The air conditioning will be set at 76 to 78 degrees, depending on the humidity.

Very soon I'll need to put up the insulated sun-blocking blackout drapes on the sunny side of the living room where the afternoon heat can bake the outside wall. Each morning I'll close those drapes before the sun moves around to that side of the house.

Next on my daily list will be to fill my water bottles -- a half-dozen 8-ounce bottles that I can periodically grab during the day. With the little bottles, it's easy to keep track of how much hydration I'm getting.

But we can't always stay home. If you have to go out in the heat, wear light, loose clothing and a hat with a wide brim.

Ask your doctor to clarify what your water intake should be during the summer.

Keep an eye on the weather news so you'll know what to expect.

Ask your town if they've set up any cooling centers, or head to the library or mall during the hottest part of the day.

Keep track of how you feel in the summer heat. If you have weakness, nausea, dizziness or headache, it could be heat exhaustion or even lead to heat stroke. Get help -- don't delay.

If you're afraid to run the air conditioner for fear it will increase your electric bill, see if you can get some financial help from LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program) at 866-674-6327. Churches and town halls are other possible sources of assistance.

For more tips on how to stay safe in the summer heat, see [www.ready.gov/heat](http://www.ready.gov/heat).

**TIPBITS QUOTE**

“We became, after the arrival of the printing press, in general more attentive; more attuned to contemplative ways of thinking.” – Nicholas G. Carr

**Trivia test** by Fifi Rodriguez

1. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What are male bees called?
2. TELEVISION: Which TV streaming network plans to host a new series based on the “Harry Potter” books?
3. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: How many months have 31 days?
4. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Who was the first president to appear on television?
5. MATH: What is the Roman numeral MMXXV in Arabic numbers?
6. MOVIES: What is the name of the spaceship in the movie “Alien”?
7. LITERATURE: “Nicholas Nickleby” is a novel written by which author?
8. AD SLOGANS: Which airline uses the slogan “Fly the Friendly Skies”?
9. ACRONYMS: What phrase does the real estate acronym DTI stand for?
10. FOOD & DRINK: What are the seeds of a pomegranate called?

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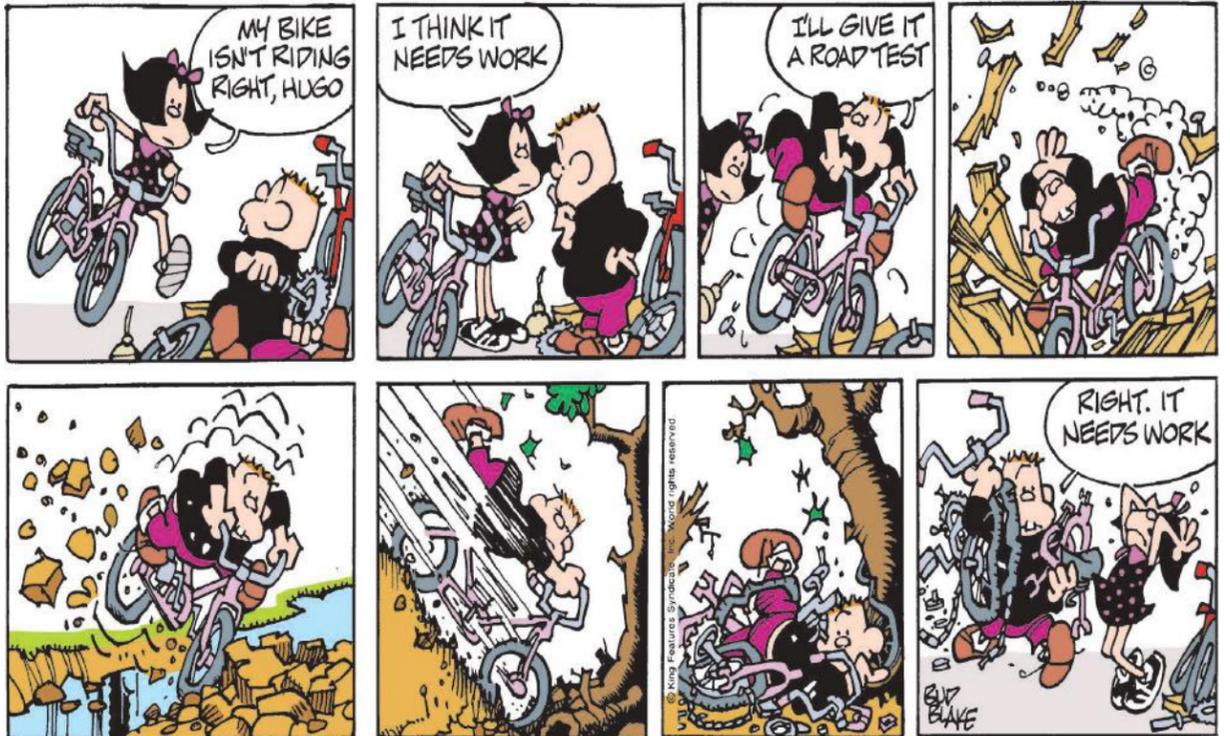
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## GRIN and BEAR IT



"We got that once-in-a-lifetime offer again!"

## TIGER



## Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

\* According to legend, and the official story from Nathan's, four immigrants held the first hot dog eating contest at Nathan's Famous stand on Coney Island on July 4, 1916, to prove who was the most patriotic.

\* Koala bears have no sweat glands, so they cool themselves by licking their arms and stretching out as they rest in trees.

\* Asbestos used to be a common sight on film sets. The carcinogenic mineral was a common substitute for snowflakes in film-making until shortly after World War II.

\* No matter how hot your summer day feels, you won't actually be able to cook an egg on a sidewalk. That's because you'd need a temperature of at least 158 F, and the highest recorded only reached 131 F. Besides that, concrete isn't a good heat conductor.

\* When it comes to wine, and Sauvignon Blanc in particular, a cat pee-like aroma is often indicative of a high-quality vintage.

\* Inazawa Grand Bowl bowling center in Japan is the world's largest bowling alley, with 116 lanes.

\* Mars' dust storms, the planet's defining weather feature, are the largest in the solar system and can last for months.

\* Despite producing 95% of the world's bourbon supply, Kentucky's official drink is milk.

\* A museum in Helsinki, Finland, has been infested with Loxosceles laeta, venomous recluse spiders, that originally came from South America. The spiders are extremely resistant to attempts to kill them, and no one knows who imported them.

\* The average person can only hear sounds up to 20 kHz, but a violin string can vibrate at frequencies of up to 100 kHz.

\* A male cheetah can cause a female cheetah to ovulate by barking at her.

\*\*\*

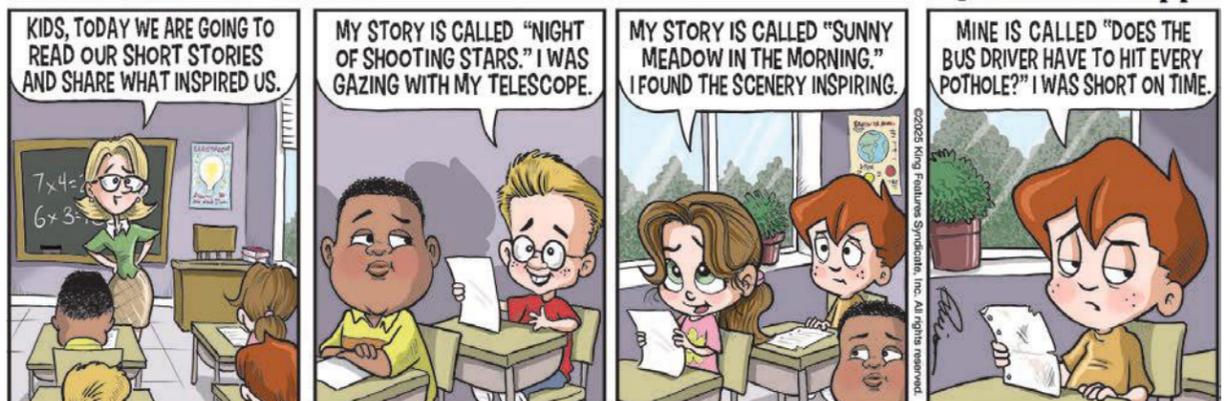
Thought for the Day: "Never limit yourself because of others' limited imagination; never limit others because of your own limited imagination." -- Mae Jemison

## The Spats



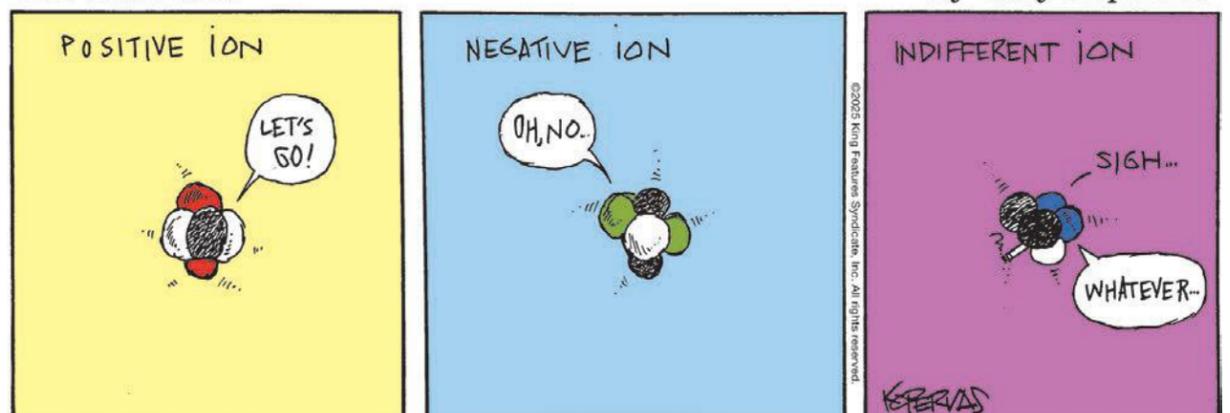
by Jeff Pickering

## Amber Waves



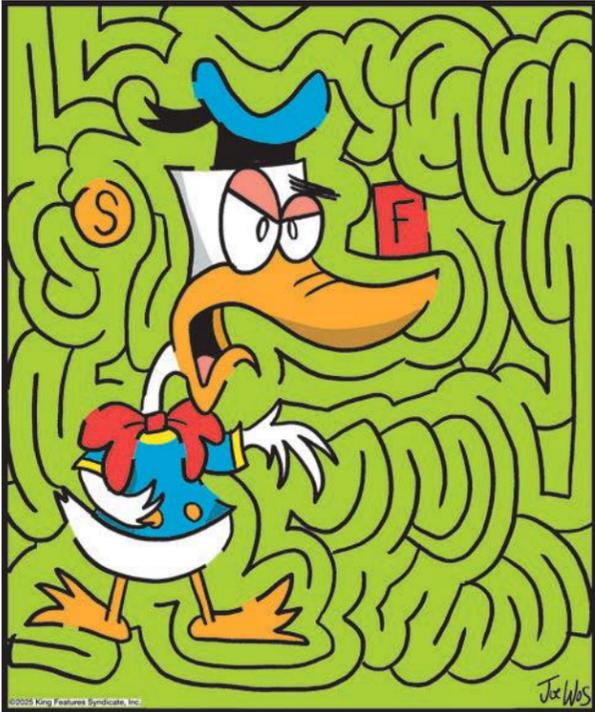
by Dave T. Phipps

## Out on a Limb



by Gary Kopervas

# PUZZLES / GAMES



**Kids' Maze**



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Laugh a bit with **TIDBITS**

Q: What do you call a cat that works at a printing shop?

A: A copy cat!

## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

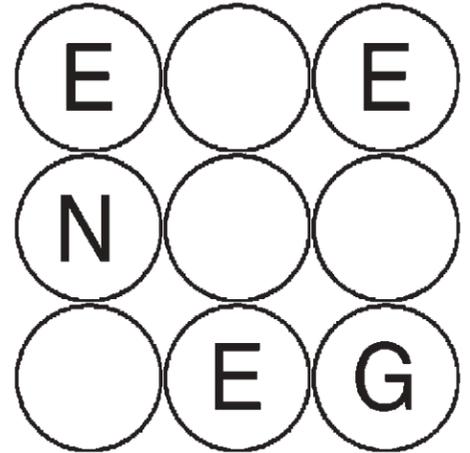


Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Club is longer. 2. Tree trunk is thinner. 3. Vest are missing from tree. 4. Cap is larger. 5. Cloud is larger. 6. Leaves neckline is different.

## 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: A equals C

YWBFJ JNNFXDE GLDIWSUJ  
WDBO WY YWWI JSAG LJ  
AGNIILP, AWBCO, CPXN LDI  
YNUL: AGNNJN-CNEELPJ.



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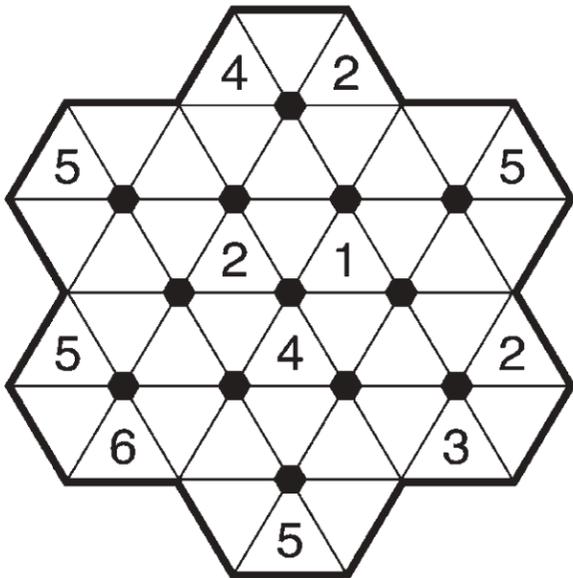
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# PUZZLES/GAMES

## 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 ● BEER FLAVOR DESCRIPTORS

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

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

- |            |          |         |         |
|------------|----------|---------|---------|
| Astringent | Caramel  | Heavy   | Roasted |
| Balanced   | Dark red | Leather | Smooth  |
| Bready     | Full     | Malty   | Wispy   |
| Brilliant  | Grainy   | Pine    |         |



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TIPBITS  
**WORD POWER**  
 Unscramble this word:  
 MELEVL

Most Gutenberg Bibles were printed on paper, but several were printed out of this type of parchment, made from lamb skin.

**Wishing Well**

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

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

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!

### TRIVIA NEWSFRONT

1. What percent of adults worldwide are literate?
2. How did Gutenberg improve the ink he used?
3. Italian printers preferred a type that was slanted like handwriting. What's it called today?
4. What did Gutenberg do for a living before he was the world's first printer?
5. What does the name Johannes Gutenberg mean in German?

## STICKELERS (sic)

by Terry Stickels

Friendly Finnish football fans find fun in fall sports besides football. For example, of all the outdoor sports (including fishing on frosty mornings), they enjoy fencing, even though it is an off-season activity and is held indoors. Fun for all!

How many times does the letter "F" appear in the above paragraph?

## 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!

Dismay  
**RADED**

Flurry  
**TUGS**

Drop  
**PLUMS**

Restrict  
**SCORNE**

**TODAY'S WORD**

## 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. Field gun        | ___ N ___ | Arizona's Grand  | ___ Y ___ |
| 2. Oasis attraction | ___ T ___ | Place a bet      | ___ G ___ |
| 3. Thread           | ___ T ___ | Planting season  | ___ P ___ |
| 4. Pavlova act      | ___ A ___ | Ammunition       | ___ U ___ |
| 5. Within reach     | ___ N ___ | Laurel's partner | ___ R ___ |
| 6. Knee or elbow    | ___ N ___ | Roof beam        | ___ S ___ |
| 7. Customer         | ___ N ___ | Walk a beat      | ___ L ___ |
| 8. Runway walker    | M ___     | Swiss song       | Y ___     |
| 9. Of late          | ___ C ___ | Confess          | ___ P ___ |
| 10. Gold digger     | ___ N ___ | Skinflint        | ___ S ___ |



"Pick up a gift for my wife's birthday, and make sure it's something \_\_\_\_\_ so she'll think I picked it out myself!"



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## BIRD BITS



- There are around 10,000 species of birds. About 75% of them are found in rainforests.
- All birds have several things in common: wings, feathers, beaks (or bills), and eggs.
- Like mammals, birds are warm-blooded and can generate their own heat from within.
- Birds are the descendants of dinosaurs, but not just any dinosaurs. Birds came from the suborder of dinosaurs called theropods, whose members often had hollow bones and three toes or claws on each limb.
- Birds are the only creatures with feathers, but they are not the only creatures that can fly (bats and bugs). Not all birds can fly (penguins, ostriches).
- Owls can rotate their head 270 degrees, which is necessary because they cannot move their tube-shaped eyes.
- African grey parrots have been taught up to 800 words and appear to understand their meaning, using them in the appropriate way.
- Chickens have over 200 distinct noises for communicating. Chickens provide humans with the largest source of animal protein.
- Downy woodpeckers can peck as fast as 16 times a second. A woodpecker can eat around 2,000 bugs per day.
- The phrase "eat like a bird" if taken literally would mean consuming twice your weight in food daily. A bird requires more food in proportion to its size than a baby or a cat.
- Crows and ravens have the biggest brain-to-body size ratio of any bird.
- The flamingo can only eat when its head is upside down. They are born grey but acquire their pink coloring from the beta-carotene in the shrimp they eat.
- The average hummingbird weighs about as much as a single sheet of paper. They are the only birds that can fly backwards.
- The smallest egg belongs to the hummingbird and is the size of a pea. The largest egg, from the ostrich, is the size of a cantaloupe. The ostrich is the largest and heaviest bird in the world. It can weigh up to 345 lbs and stand up to 9 feet tall.
- Hummingbirds have around 1,000 feathers, which is the densest collection of feathers-to-body size in the bird kingdom. A large tundra swan might have over 25,000 feathers. Emperor penguins have extremely tiny feathers, crowded in at about 60 per square inch and totaling around 80,000 on their body. Dark feathers are stronger and more resistant to wear than colorful feathers.
- The penguin is the only bird that can swim but cannot fly. Underwater, penguins can swim at 22 mph.
- The alpine swift can eat and sleep while aloft, often spending up to 200 days airborne without ever coming to earth.
- The bar-tailed godwit, a wading shorebird, holds the record for the longest non-stop flight of any bird, covering over 7,000 miles in eight days. Godwits migrate from Alaska and Siberia to Australia and New Zealand. The fairy tern holds the record for the longest migration of any bird, traveling over 9,000 miles each way, from Australia to the Arctic and back again. However, the tern stops along the way.
- The only bird that's known to be poisonous is the pitohui of Papua, New Guinea. This bird is similar in size and coloring to an oriole or robin. The poison is found in its skin and feathers.

*Happy 50th Anniversary*

**"Dani and Suzi Williams celebrated their 50th anniversary June 3, 2024.**

**They moved from Astoria, Oregon, to Washougal in August 2021. They love their Washougal neighbors and caring community.**

**We are proud to call Washougal home."**



\* When cooking meat, you have to take care. Here are two tips straight from my local butcher: First, let meats come to room temperature before cooking. It allows the meat to cook more evenly and you won't end up with a cold center and a burnt outside. Secondly, when your meat comes off the grill or out of the oven, give it time to rest before serving. This allows the juices to redistribute throughout the cut of meat, and you'll end up with juicy goodness in every bite.

\* "Depending on how you scoop it, you can end up with too much or too little flour. Here is a tip about getting the best amount every time. Give the flour a stir with a spoon and then lightly spoon it into a measuring cup. When it is heaped over, use a knife to level out the measure without tamping down." -- Y.E. in Arkansas

\* "Baking is a science as well as an art. It's about interaction of ingredients and what happens when they mix in certain ways. So this is not so much a tip as a caution. Make sure of your substitutions, and use the right amounts of things. Then your cakes will be light and fluffy and your pastry will be flaky and moist." -- B.G. in Pennsylvania

\* Berries are in season and there's no greater time to stock up. But don't feel like you have to make jam out of all the berries. Freeze in a single layer and transfer to a freezer-safe bag or container. They can be popped into muffins and quick breads, as well as eaten straight out of the bag for a delicious treat.

\* When searing meat on a stovetop, be sure your pan is oiled (if called for) and at temperature. Otherwise, it'll stick.

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# Sports Quiz

By Ryan A. Berenz

1. Name the Minnesota Vikings wide receiver who made a one-handed, 46-yard touchdown catch on the final play of the game to seal a 28-23 win over the Cleveland Browns in December 1980.
2. What two Seattle Mariners hit back-to-back home runs twice in the first inning in a 15-4 drubbing of the Chicago White Sox on May 2, 2002?
3. It took Wayne Gretzky 1,487 regular-season NHL games to score 894 career goals. How many regular-season games did it take Alex Ovechkin to score 895 goals?
4. What facility in England, which opened in 1907, is the world's first purpose-built motor racing circuit?
5. Name the prospect who received a prank phone call from someone claiming to be New Orleans Saints general manager Mickey Loomis during the 2025 NFL Draft.
6. Before becoming a pro wrestling superstar, he played 289 Minor League Baseball games with St. Louis Cardinals and Cincinnati Reds affiliates from 1971-74. Who is he?
7. Arsene Wenger managed what English football club to three Premier League titles and seven FA Cup championships from 1996-2018?

## SPORTS STORIES NEW RULES



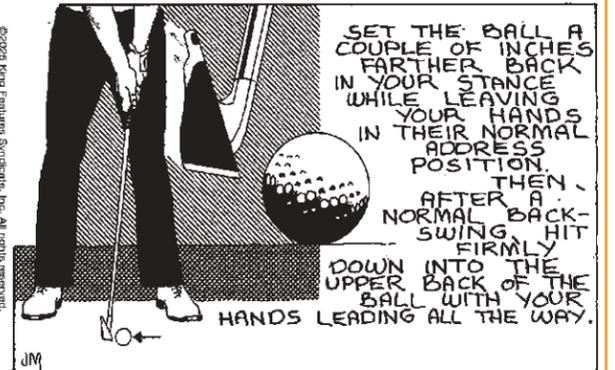
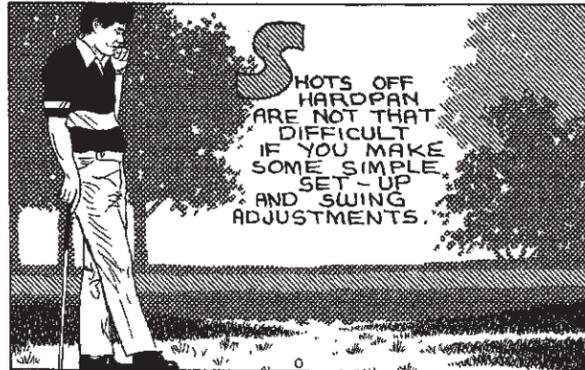
Morris Stroud, Yahoo.com.

- Occasionally as various sports have evolved, new situations have led to new rules. Here are the stories behind a few of them.
- In 1969, Morris Stroud was playing basketball for Clark Atlanta University in Georgia. Stroud, who stood 6'10" tall, was a pretty good basketball player, especially since he was easily able to reach up and slap the ball away from its trajectory towards the hoop. Stroud had no particular interest or skill at playing football.
- However, the coach of the Kansas City Chiefs drafted him for the football team strictly due to his height. From 1969 to 1974, Stroud proceeded to play tight end for the Chiefs. But there was an issue. Coach instructed him that any time the opposing team set up for a field goal, he was to immediately run for the goal post and try to swat that football away as it descended.
- Although he never actually succeeded at preventing a field goal using this method, he pulled the move so often that the commissioner finally announced that the maneuver would henceforth be illegal. The ruling is even named after him: "The Stroud Rule."
- During an amateur soccer game in England in the year 2000, the score was 18 to 1. A player on the losing team banked a ball off his head and it went straight over to the referee. The ref, thoroughly bored by the way the game was going, and perhaps feeling sorry for the losing team, deliberately bonked it right into the losing team's goal. He then went prancing around the field, celebrating the fact that he had just scored a point for the losing team. The

Continued on page 13

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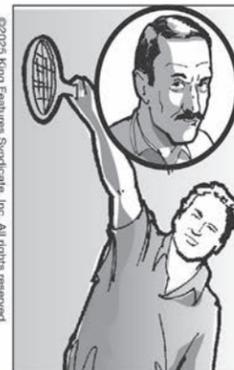
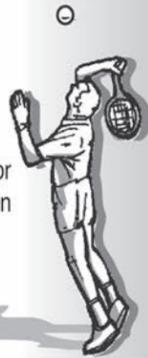
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- Here's a checklist for having a good kick:
- Bend your knees to help snap upward.
  - Toss the ball to your left side and slightly behind you.
  - Get sufficient racket-head speed on the swing.
  - Follow through down your side, not across your body.

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New Rules (continued)

goal was counted as good, and the final score of the game was officially listed as 18 to 2.

- The offending referee was subsequently suspended for interfering with the game. This led to the question, "Is a goal good if it ricochets off any part of the referee's body?" In the end, it was ruled that yes, even if a ball bounces off a referee, the goal should be counted as good.
- The way a baseball diamond is laid out, anyone on 2nd base, whether it's an umpire, the 2nd baseman, or a runner, is positioned directly behind the pitcher from the batter's point of view. This led to a conundrum.
- On August 9, 1950, the New York Giants were up against the Boston Braves. The Braves were up at bat and the Giants were in the field. The Braves 3rd baseman, Bob Elliot, was batting. But he had a hard time seeing the pitch coming at him because the 2nd base umpire was standing directly behind and beside the pitcher, making it difficult for the batter to see. So he paused the game while he asked the umpire if he could move a few feet away from 2nd base for the sake of visual clarity. The umpire did.
- However, Giants 2nd baseman, Eddie Stanky, seeing this transaction, suddenly got an idea. During every wind-up and pitch, he started jumping crazily around at 2nd base, waving his arms and shaking his legs. It was annoying, but the Braves won anyway.
- However, in subsequent games, Stanky continued his wild gyrations for every pitch thrown. During a game against the Philadelphia Phillies, the Phillies catcher cried foul and insisted to the umpire that this should be illegal. The umpire replied that there was no rule against it. Subsequently, however, the National League president agreed that the move was unsportsmanlike and instigated Rule 6.04, section C, which now states that deliberately distracting a batter is unsportsmanlike and prohibited.

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By Terry and Kim Kovel

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



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Barbara Bush	6/8/1925
Johnny Depp	6/9/1963
Judy Garland	6/10/1922
Gene Wilder	6/11/1933
Anne Frank	6/12/1929
Mary-Kate Olsen	6/13/1986
Boy George	6/14/1961



# SPIRIT & OPPORTUNITY



Artist's conception of MER rovers on Mars. By NASA/JPL/Cornell University, Maas Digital LLC - Public Domain, Wikimedia Commons.

- Mars is the only planet in our solar system that is inhabited entirely by robots.
- There have been ten successful missions to Mars ending with a craft on the surface of the planet. Of those, the most successful were NASA's Spirit and Opportunity rovers.
- Spirit and Opportunity were identical twin robots that rewrote our understanding of the geological history of Mars. They were each the size of a golf cart, traveling on six wheels, while carrying a lot of scientific equipment. They served in the role of robot field geologists.
- The two craft were launched a month apart, on June 10 and July 8, 2003. Spirit landed on Mars on January 4, 2004, and Opportunity followed on January 25. They landed on opposite sides of the planet, with each landing in a place that looked like it had a history of water in the area. Spirit landed in a crater that may have once held a lake at the bottom. Opportunity landed in a place where mineral deposits indicated the area had seen incursions of water over time.
- Both rovers provided abundant proof that Mars had a long history of water in its past.
- Each of these Rovers was expected to operate for 90 days. Both far exceeded expectations.
- Spirit functioned until it got stuck in soft sand in 2009. It expended much of its energy struggling to get free. By 2010, it no longer had enough energy to communicate with Earth. Its mission was declared over in 2011, having lasted 20 times longer than expected. It had sent back over 100,000 pictures and traveled 4.8 miles.
- Because of a planet-wide dust storm in 2018, Opportunity's solar-powered batteries lost much of their charge as the panels were covered with dust.
- On June 12, 2018, Opportunity entered hibernation. The storm on Mars lasted from June through October. Scientists hoped that wind storms would clear the panels, allowing the rover to recharge, but it didn't happen.
- Opportunity was operational on Mars for the equivalent of 14 years and 138 days, which was 57 times longer than expected.
- By June 10, 2018, when it last contacted NASA, Opportunity had sent back over 200,000 pictures. It had traveled a record-setting distance of 28.06 miles. Its mission is one of NASA's most successful ventures.
- On February 13, 2019, NASA officials declared that the Opportunity mission was complete, after the spacecraft had failed to respond to over 1,000 signals sent since August of 2018.
- One journalist, Jacob Margolis, tweeted his interpretation of the last data transmission sent by Opportunity on June 10, 2018, as "My battery is low and it's getting dark." The phrase plucked the heart strings of the public, who mourned the loss of the lonely little robot. However, Margolis had romanticized what amounted to bits of data sent by the craft: "Battery power: low. Current temperature: Dropping."
- Still, however, as NASA ended their attempts to contact the rover, the last data sent was the song "I'll Be Seeing You" as performed by noted blues singer Billie Holiday.
- Since the launch of Opportunity, there have been more successful missions to Mars. The Phoenix Mars Lander touched down in 2008, Curiosity landed in 2012, and InSight landed in 2018. Yet the accomplishments of Opportunity, the little rover with the big attitude, will never be forgotten.



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# ASPIRE

## LOGISTICS



1. Who wrote and released "We've Got Tonight"?
  2. Which group performs in costumes such as cowboy, soldier, construction worker, police officer and Indian chief?
  3. Baron von Richthofen was immortalized in which Royal Guardsmen songs?
  4. Which group released "Cloud Nine"?
  5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "Guess mine is not the first heart broken, My eyes are not the first to cry."
- 
- Answers
1. Bob Seger and the Silver Bullet Band in 1978. Because it was his mother's favorite song, Seger always includes it in live concerts in memory of her.
  2. The Village People. The groups "Y.M.C.A." was designated a "culturally, historically or aesthetically significant" song and was added to the National Recording Registry in 2020. It was inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame that same year.
  3. "Snoopy vs. the Red Baron" in 1966 and "Snoopy's Christmas" in 1967. Von Richthofen, aka the Red Baron, was a German Air Force flying ace during World War I.
  4. The Temptations, in 1968.
  5. "Hopelessly Devoted to You," by Olivia Newton-John, in 1978, in the film "Grease." The song received an Oscar nomination for Best Original Song and topped charts in numerous countries around the globe.

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- ### Holidays & Observances This Week
- 6/8 National Taco Day
  - 6/9 Donald Duck Day
  - 6/9 Ballpoint Pen Day
  - 6/11 National Corn on the Cob Day
  - 6/12 Red Rose Day
  - 6/13 National Weed Your Garden Day
  - 6/14 Flag Day

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**CPR and first aid for dogs**

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: Several years ago, my family's dog "Aker" passed away when his heart stopped. We were never sure why this happened, and I was just a kid. But I've always wondered if it was possible to perform CPR on a pet if this happens in the future. I adopted a puppy recently and I want to be able to help him whenever he's hurt or injured. -- Becca R. in Boulder, Colorado

DEAR BECCA: You can perform CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) on a pet whose heart has stopped -- in fact, you can even get training on pet CPR and first aid through the Red Cross.

The process for pet CPR is very similar to that of human CPR. If a dog or cat becomes ill and collapses, you first check for breathing and heartbeat -- look to see if their chest is moving, and place your hand on their chest to feel for a heartbeat. If there is no heartbeat or breathing, place the pet on their right side and perform chest compressions directly over their heart at a rate of 100-120 compressions per minute. Give rescue breaths every 30 compressions. Keep performing CPR until they begin to breathe on their own, or until you reach the emergency vet clinic.

Those instructions don't reveal some key factors, like: What if a dog is barrel-chested? How do you give rescue breaths to a large dog? Pet CPR and first-aid training will answer those questions, and help you feel confident that you can provide immediate care for illness, shock or injury until your pet can get to the vet for advanced care. Send your tips, comments or questions to ask@pawscorner.com.

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



**The month of June is all about pets!**



- 6/10** World Pet Memorial Day
- 6/17** National Take Your Cat to Work Day
- 6/18** Veterinary Appreciation Day
- 6/20** Take Your Dog to Work Day
- 6/22** National Pet Choking Prevention Day

- All month long awareness:
- National Foster a Pet Month
  - National Pet Preparedness Month
  - National Adopt a Cat Month



**National Adopt a Cat Month**

If you are looking to adopt, check out these local organizations!

- Animal Shelters:**  
**Humane Society for Southwest Washington (HSSW)**  
 This organization is the main animal shelter for Clark County, contracted by the county to provide shelter services. They also serve as the county's dog warden.
- Lewis Clark Animal Shelter**  
 While not directly in Clark County (it's in Lewiston), they offer services to surrounding communities, including parts of Clark County.
- Rescue Organizations:**  
**Second Chance Companions-** A 501(c)(3) non-profit that has rescued thousands of animals in Southwest Washington and the Portland Metro area.
- Furry Friends-** A no-kill organization focused on rescuing and adopting out cats.
- Other Rescues-** The Chewy.com list includes other rescue organizations like Wonderland Dogs, Chapple Hill Cat Services, Northwest Bird Rescue, The Woof Project Rescue, and more.

**Spay or Neuter your pet!**

- 🐾 Prevent overpopulation
- 🐾 Lower cancer risk
- 🐾 Reduce aggression
- 🐾 Increase life span



EMAIL YOUR PET'S PHOTO AND A SHORT DESCRIPTION TO [PETBITS@CLARKBITS.ORG](mailto:PETBITS@CLARKBITS.ORG) FOR A CHANCE OF YOUR PET BEING FEATURED



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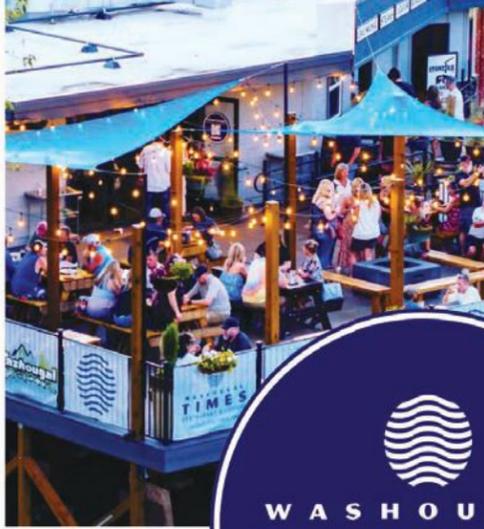
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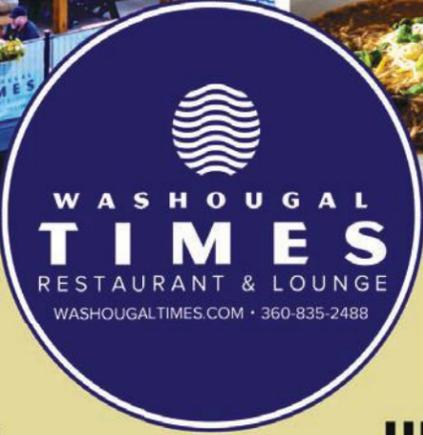
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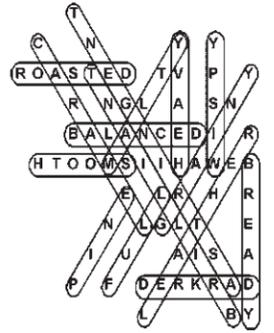
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## ANSWERS

- Sports Quiz Answers**
- Ahmad Rashad.
  - Bret Boone and Mike Cameron.
  - 1,487.
  - Brooklands.
  - University of Colorado quarterback Shedeur Sanders.
  - Randy Poffo, better known as "Macho Man" Randy Savage.
  - Arsenal.

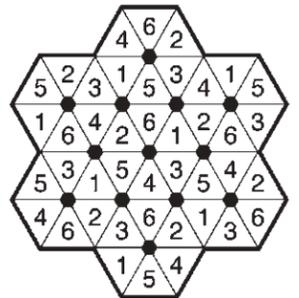
### BEER FLAVOR DESCRIPTORS



- Trivia Answers**
- Drones.
  - HBO Max.
  - Seven: January, March, May, July, August, October and December.
  - Franklin D. Roosevelt.
  - 2025.
  - Nostromo.
  - Charles Dickens.
  - United Airlines.
  - Debt-to-income ratio.
  - Arils.

### SNOWFLAKES

solution



### SCRAMBLERS

solution

- Dread
- Gust;
- Slump;
- Censor

Today's Word  
**USELESS**

### Even Exchange

answers

- Cannon, Canyon
- Water, Wager
- String, Spring
- Ballet, Bullet
- Handy, Hardy
- Joint, Joist
- Patron, Patrol
- Model, Yodel
- Recent, Repent
- Miner, Miser

### Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

### TRIVIA NEWSFRONT ANSWERS

- 80%
- Switched from water-based to oil-based ink
- Italics
- Goldsmith
- "John Goodtown"

### WORD POWER

ANSWER

VELLUM

### CryptoQuip

answer

Folks seeking handouts only of food such as cheddar, colby, brie and feta: cheese-beggars.

### Word Spiral Answer

EAGERNESS

### Stickelers Answer

Seventeen times. Did you count the "F" in the word "of"? It also needs to be counted twice in the word "off."

### Super Crossword

Answers

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

## TIDBITS GOES LONG.....

Gutenberg went heavily into debt to develop his printing press. The same year the Bibles were completed, his financier confiscated all his equipment and used it to make himself rich. Gutenberg died in poverty.