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TIDBITS® CONSIDERS LOVE AFFAIRS

by Janet Spencer

Biologists agree that life's main purpose is to find a mate and leave DNA behind before dying. Here are some examples of outrageously weird ways some creatures accomplish this feat.

MATING MAYHEM

- A species of Australian insect-eating marsupial mouse called Antechinus has developed slightly unusual mating habits. The female mates with as many partners as she can find. Her brood is born in the spring, at the height of the insect hatching season. Every single one of her babies is likely to have a different father. She gives birth to three times as many babies as she can possibly support. Only the strongest survive, hidden in her pouch for an inordinately long time (in mouse terms). The others perish.
- The female Suriname toad transfers her eggs to the male for fertilization. The male then deposits the fertilized eggs on the female's back. Her skin grows over and around the eggs, surrounding each one in a protective bubble like baby bees in a honeycomb. Up to 100 eggs will incubate this way until they reach maturity several months later. They depart from their mother as fully formed miniature adult toads, whereupon Mom sheds her pockmarked skin and goes in search of a new mate.
- The animal kingdom is divided into two parts: vertebrates (which have a spine) and invertebrates (no spine). The smallest vertebrate on the planet is the male anglerfish. The female anglerfish sports a delicious-looking glowing blob that dangles tantalizingly in front of her teeth, luring in prey. The male, however, isn't so lucky. His only job is to find a female and latch onto her, where he becomes permanently affixed to her body. He survives off her juices like a parasite, eventually losing every part of his body except those required to fertilize the eggs she releases. Over time, he shrinks to the point where the female out-weighs him by 500,000 times. The male remains

Continued on page 2



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Love Affairs (continued)

welded to her "until death do you part." The female may sport a collection of suiters in this way, which is necessary because she releases sheets of egg sacks 30 feet long. It's estimated that only 1% of male anglerfish find a mate.

- The mustache toad of China grows a row of ten or 20 thorny spikes on its top lip every mating season. These lances, made of keratin, are formidable weapons when fighting for the right to mate with the fair maiden toad. It's been estimated that 100% of male mustache toads are injured, though rarely killed, during the fencing matches of mating season. Once mating has been accomplished, the male toad glues the collection of eggs to the underside of a damp, shady nook, where he guards them with his life as the mother toad goes off to pursue other mates.
- Both male and female jumping spiders have ultraviolet patches on their heads and forelegs that fluoresce green and blue, indicating willingness to approach each other to mate. When researchers covered these patches, no mating occurred.
- Off the coast of California lives a singing fish. The male toadfish builds a nice nest on the sea floor and then manipulates its swim bladder to "sing" a song to woo the ladies. However, there are two different types of male toadfish. The large Alpha toadfish does all the singing and nest-building. The smaller Sneaker toadfish hides nearby. When the Alpha male's song attracts a female, she lays her eggs in his nest. While the Alpha dude is distracted, the puny Sneaker fish dashes in, fertilizes the eggs, and makes a speedy getaway. Clueless Alpha guy then spends weeks guarding the fish eggs that aren't even his, while the female goes on her way in search of a different singing fish to mate with.
- The pearlfish got its name due to a very peculiar mating method. The male pearlfish darts inside a mollusk, where it uses its swim bladder to create a vibrating song. The shells of the mollusk act as an amplifier, sending the mating call out into the ocean. When a female pearlfish shows up, she swims away after having her eggs fertilized – but the male remains inside the mollusk, where it dies. The mollusk, finding this irritating, coats the dead pearlfish with the same substance that it uses to coat grains of sand and other annoyances. Therefore, some surprised diners cut into their mollusks hoping for pearls, and find instead a pearl-covered pearlfish.
- Land snails are hermaphrodites, both male and female, meaning that either snail in a mating pair can fertilize the other's eggs. Both are equipped with "love darts" which they use to stab their partner, inserting a packet from an antenna-like projection on their face under the skin of their partner. Some snail species shoot single darts, while some shoot multiple darts, and still others use a single dart to jab their mate repeatedly.
- When whales and other bony fish die, they drift to the sea floor, where they are colonized and consumed by bone-eating worms. These worms appear to take root in the bones of the fallen, dismantling them gradually through filaments that penetrate deeply into the bones. Scientists were curious when they discovered that every single specimen they examined was female. Where did the male bone-eating worms hang out? Not until they dissected some of the lady worms did they discover that the men are hanging out inside the long, tube-like bodies of the women. In fact, each female hosted up to a hundred different males inside her, each one microscopically small, measuring 100,000 times smaller than their mates. Each male continuously fertilizes whatever eggs the female is producing. Unable to eat, they soon die and are replaced by other males who continue the work.
- It's well known that many insect species, such as ants, termites, and some species of bees, congregate in communities that revolve around the amazing egg-laying capacity of their queen. Less well known is the fact that communities of pistol shrimp operate in the identical manner. The queen shrimp, the largest member of the community, is completely serviced by the resident King shrimp, while being fed and tended to by the myriad servant shrimps that surround her. All of this occurs inside their chosen undersea kingdom, consisting of a large sponge. The pistol shrimp's method of procuring food for the Queen and the colony is to possess spring-loaded claws that launch seawater at the rate of 105 feet per second, which heats the stream of water to 8,000°F sending out a shockwave that kills prey instantly. Pistol shrimp also communicate by snapping their claws, warning the community of threats.

- TIPBITS -
NUGGET OF KNOWLEDGE

The male nursery web spider wraps a bug in silk and presents it to a potential partner for her to eat. Sometimes, though, he will wrap an empty husk if he got hungry and ate the gift, and sometimes he wraps a dead leaf or twig hoping it will suffice.

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TIPBITS GOES LONG.....

Hermaphrodite sea slugs have a protracted battle when mating. Each slug can be either male or female, and the battle is over which one has to carry the eggs, a chore with they both wish to avoid. Alas, the loser is the one who is first stabbed with the lance of fertilization, thereby forced into motherhood.



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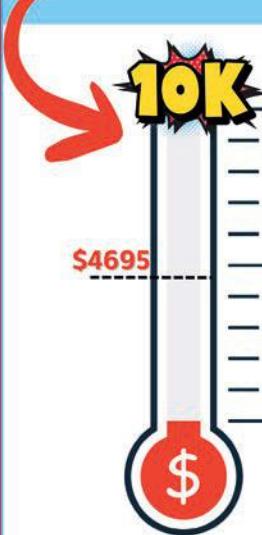


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ARTIST
of the week



John Conlee



John Conlee has always sounded like a man who's lived a few lives before he ever stepped up to a microphone. Born in rural Kentucky in 1946, he grew up surrounded by coal dust, hard work, and stories that didn't need embellishment—just honesty. That grounding became the backbone of his music, earning him the reputation as country's most relatable storyteller.

Before Nashville came calling, Conlee worked as a mortician, radio DJ, and even a construction worker—jobs that quietly sharpened his understanding of real people and real heartbreak. When he finally broke through in the late 1970s, his songs didn't chase trends; they reflected kitchens, living rooms, and front porches across America. His breakthrough hit, "Rose Colored Glasses," introduced a voice that felt less like a performance and more like a confession.

Throughout the '80s, Conlee became a steady presence on the country charts with songs like "Backside of Thirty," "Friday Night Blues," and "Common Man." His baritone—warm, world-weary, and unmistakably sincere—gave weight to lyrics about aging, disappointment, love, and quiet resilience. He didn't sing about heroes; he sang about neighbors. Though he never chased the spotlight, John Conlee's influence runs deep. His songs remain touchstones for listeners who value truth over polish and substance over flash. In a genre built on storytelling, Conlee stands as proof that the most powerful stories are often the simplest ones—told by someone who's actually lived them.

FUN FACT

Before he ever became a country hitmaker, John Conlee worked as a licensed mortician—a job that gave him a calm, steady presence and a deep understanding of people at their most vulnerable, which later shaped the emotional honesty in his music.



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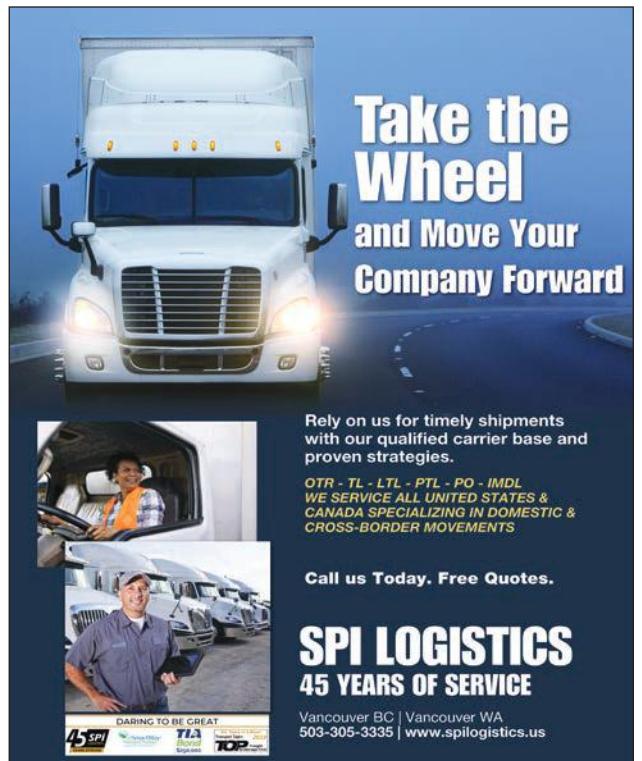
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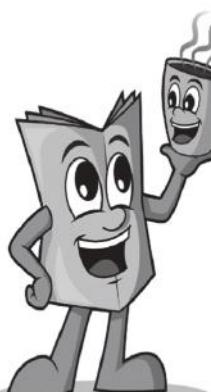
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FACT**

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**CELEBRITY
BIRTHDAYS**



Lisa Marie Presley 2/1/1968
Christie Brinkley 2/2/1953
Morgan Fairchild 2/3/1950
Alice Cooper 2/4/1948
Barbara Hershey 2/5/1948
Tom Brokaw 2/6/1940
James Spader 2/7/1960

TIDBITS

Holidays & Observances This Week

- 2/1 American Heart Month
- 2/2 Play Your Ukulele Day
- 2/3 Dump Your Significant Jerk Week
- 2/4 Halfway point of winter
- 2/5 National School Counselling Week
- 2/6 Pay a Compliment Day
- 2/7 Send a Card to a Friend Day

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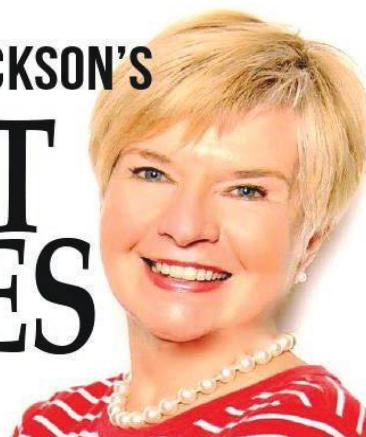
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Bake Valentine's Dog Treats

Much to the disappointment of my snack-starved son, who had just bounded into the house after a 5-mile run, the note on the kitchen counter by the metal cooling rack read: "Dog biscuits! Sorry, not for you. -- Mom." The tempting treats may have looked and smelled like peanut-butter cookies, but they were hard as a rock and ready for our canine friends to enjoy.

Bake a batch of these crunchy dog biscuits with your kids for Valentine's Day doggie gifts. This simple recipe goes together in minutes, and young kids will have an easy and satisfying time rolling out or patting down the pliable dough to create shapes with cute cookie cutters. You'll need:

- 2 cups whole-wheat flour
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1 cup peanut butter at room temperature
- 1 cup whole milk
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- All-purpose flour for rolling the dough

After you set the oven to 375 F, here's how to get the kids involved: Let one child measure and combine the flour, baking powder and salt in a large mixing bowl.

Another child may measure and stir the peanut butter and milk together in a smaller mixing bowl. It will take 1-2 minutes until the mixture is smooth. Slowly pour it into the dry ingredients and stir until well-combined.

Sprinkle flour on the counter. Knead the dough a few times until it is easy to roll out into a 1/4-inch rectangle with a lightly floured rolling pin. Cut with cookie cutters in fun shapes such as a fire hydrant, a bone, a kitty, a heart, or X's and O's. Then transfer to greased (or parchment-paper-covered) cookie sheets.

Bake 20 minutes, or until edges are lightly browned. Let cool. Divide into gift bags, tie with red ribbon and a Valentine tag, and deliver to neighborhood dog friends on Valentine's Day.

Cook's Note: A 1-1/2-inch, heart-shaped cookie cutter makes six dozen Valentine biscuits.

"The Grandkids Are Coming!" Tip: If you have preschool grandkids, make the dough in advance of their arrival. When it's time to shape and bake, sprinkle flour on the counter, give each child a chunk of dough, and show

them how to pat the portions flat with their clean hands. Cut out shapes with the cookie cutters and set them on the cookie sheets for you to bake.



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1. GAMES: What color is Sonic the Hedgehog in the video game?
2. GEOGRAPHY: What is the former name of the U.S. Virgin Islands?
3. MOVIES: What are the colors of the striped sweater Freddy Krueger wears in "A Nightmare on Elm Street"?
4. MEDICAL TERMS: What is a more common name for pneumothorax?
5. HISTORY: By which name is Martha Jane Canary more commonly known?
6. TELEVISION: What is Hawkeye Pierce's real first name in the "M*A*S*H" series?
7. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of larks called?
8. AD SLOGANS: Which car company uses the ad slogan "Driven by passion"?
9. MYTHOLOGY: What is the head of the Egyptian god of death, Anubis?
10. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the currency of Japan?



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Why You Say It



'Pipe Dream'

Should you come up with a really novel idea or plan, chances are that those who first hear of it will pooh-pooh it as a 'pipe dream.'

In its earliest decades, the pipe dream was so far out that it seldom made contact with reality. That's because it was produced by opium, brought to England and Europe by merchants who penetrated the Orient and began peddling the stuff yielded by some kinds of poppies.

Pipe dreams influenced several notable literary figures, with Samuel T. Coleridge being high on the list. But by and large, fantasies produced by opium were that and nothing more.

Excerpts taken from the book written by Webb Garrison

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GRIN & BEAR IT Wagner



"You've got to stop putting your foot in your mouth, Senator!"

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

* Actor Paul Newman once said he was tired of people asking him to remove his sunglasses so they could see his famous blue eyes, confessing that his stock response was, "I would take off my sunglasses, madam, but my pants would fall down."

* Six million pounds of space dust settle on Earth every year.

* The Bahamas once boasted an undersea post office, Sea Floor Bahamas, established in 1939, which allowed mail to be posted with a unique "Sea Floor" postmark, which became a hit with stamp collectors until the office closed in 1942.

* Many birds' feathers weigh more than their bones.

* Astronauts on Mars won't just make plans based on temperature, but will also need to consider tau, the level of particulate matter in the atmosphere. High tau levels will block sunlight to solar-powered rovers.

* A coyote can hear a mouse moving under a foot of snow.

* Since 1971, Lake Superior State University in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, has issued permits to unicorn hunters.

* The 1967 Outer Space Treaty forbids any nation from trying to own the moon.

* Pelé is the only soccer player to ever be a part of three different World Cup winning teams.

* "Beauty and the Beast" was the first animated film to be nominated for Best Picture. It lost to "The Silence of the Lambs."

* Wisconsin is known as the Badger State because the area's lead miners used to spend winters in tunnels burrowed into hills -- like badgers.

* Honey hunters in Mozambique use special calls to recruit the services of birds known as honeyguides, which lead the hunters to bees' nests.

Thought for the Day: "Imperfection is beauty, madness is genius, and it's better to be absolutely ridiculous than absolutely boring." -- Marilyn Monroe

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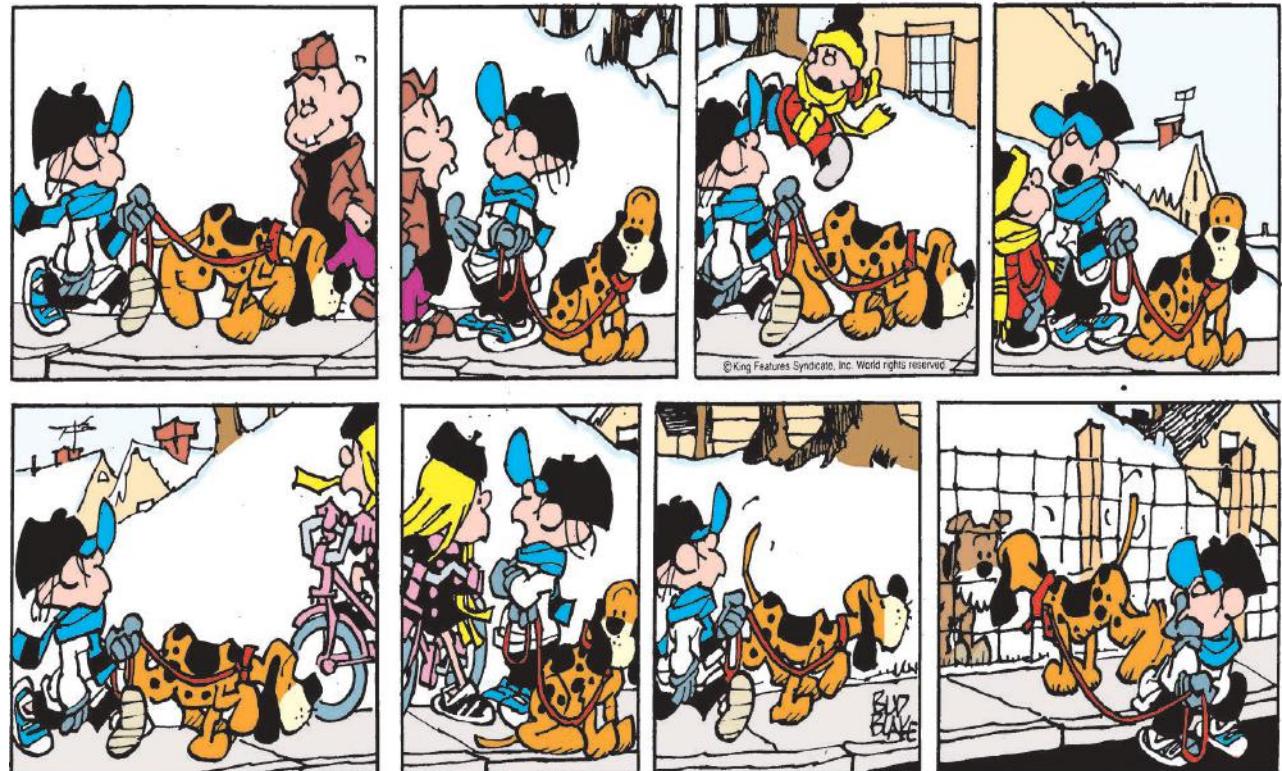
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The Spats

by BUD BLAKE



by Jeff Pickering

Amber Waves

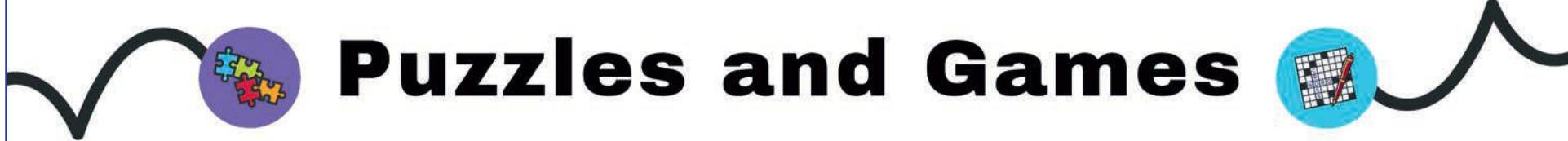


by Dave T. Phipps

Out on a Limb



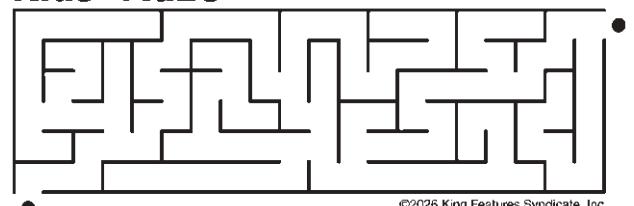
by Gary Kopervas



Puzzles and Games



Kids' Maze



Laugh a bit with **TIDBITS**

Q: What happens to a chipmunk during mating season?

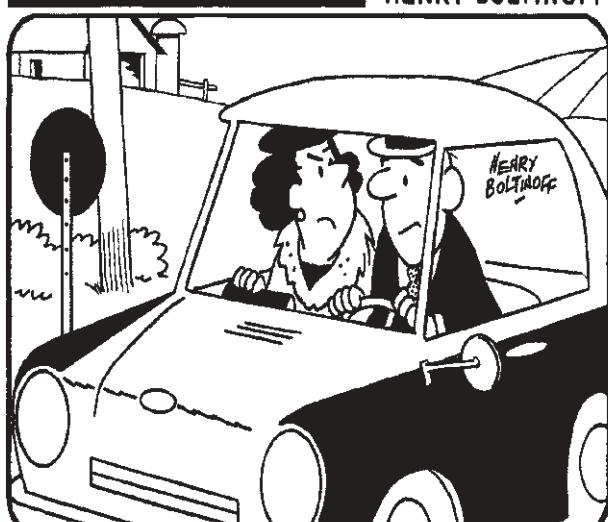
A: They get kinda squirrelly!

TIDBITS
WORD POWER
Unscramble this word:
PHRASEGORPS

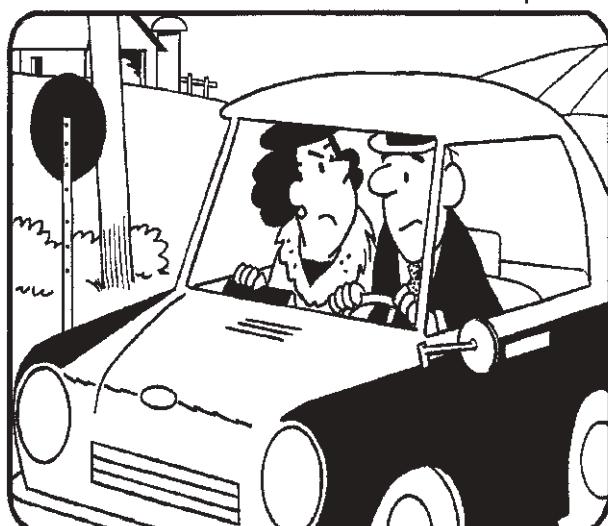
This ordinary sort of insect actually woos a mate with a selection of over 400 different songs and calls.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

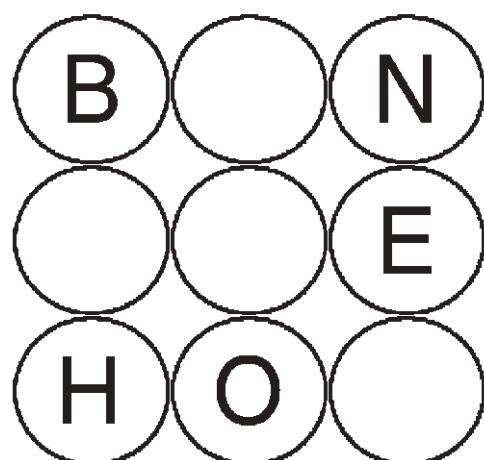


Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Side mirror is moved. 2. grille is different. 3. sign is taller. 4. door handle is different. 5. fence is different. 6. Headrest is added.

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.

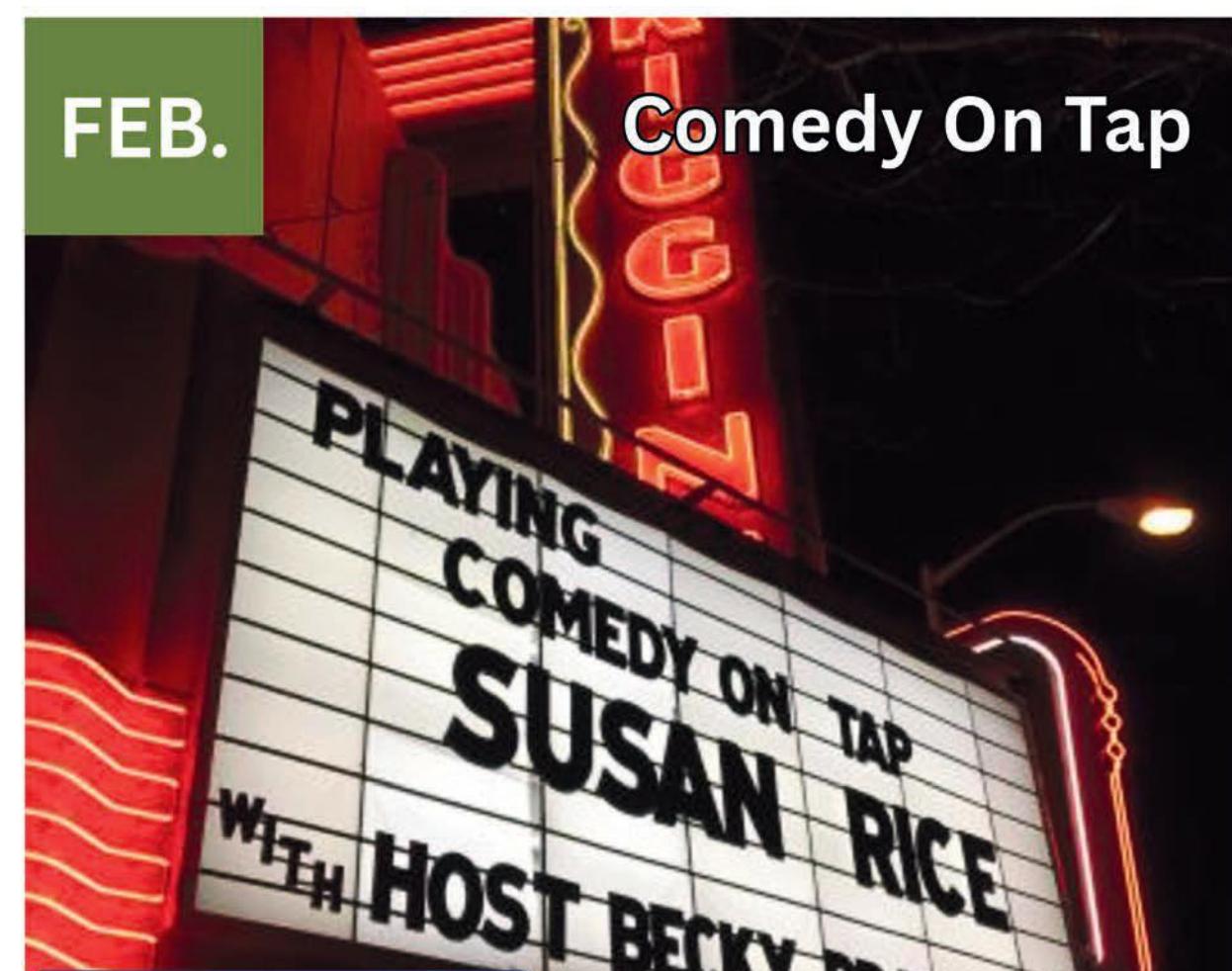
Clue: K equals L

VTTFAVX L YEH1 KGVXTO

EBTVPAK BG HEB L KLOXT

I EVC GS YTLB, L YLV FTHKLOTF

"CVAST'P BGG PIGO B."



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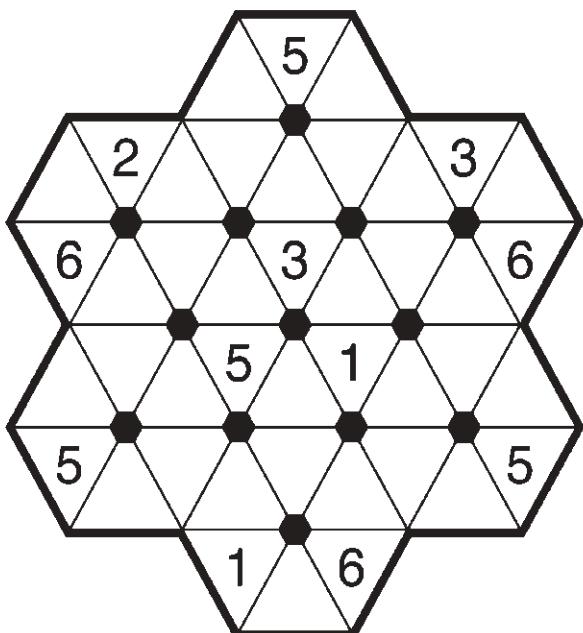
Puzzles and Games



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: ♦

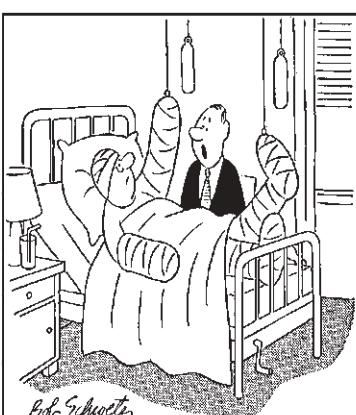
♦ Easy ♦♦ Medium ♦♦♦ Difficult

MAGIC MAZE • SEA SHELL TYPES

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

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

Abalone Conch Fig Melongina
 Auger Cone Frog Nautilus
 Babylon Cowrie Helmet Umbonium
 Bonnet Drupe Limpet



"I wondered why you never returned

my _____."

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!

Plan

DANAGE

Cache

RHOAD

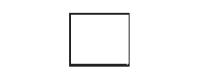
Glow

LEGAM

Brisk

DRAIP

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. Young female horse	— I — — —	Foolishness	— O — — —
2. Restaurant server	— — I — — —	Mr. Mitty or Cronkite	— — L — — —
3. Serena Williams' tool	— A — — —	Spaceship	— O — — —
4. Sluggish creature	— S — — —	Fabric	— C — — —
5. Code inventor	— — R — —	Mickey or Minnie	— — U — —
6. Alternate route	— — T — —	Wolf down	— — V — —
7. Boxer Sonny	— — — O — —	Eavesdrop	— — — E — —
8. Groucho's quiet kin	— — — O — —	Angelic instruments	— — — S — —
9. Deep red gem	— — — — O —	Harvest	— — — — R —
10. Alf or ET	— — — — I —	Steve or Woody	— — — — L —

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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!

TIDBITS

presents
TRIVIA NEWSFRONT

1. This animal announces his intentions by gifting his beloved a rock.
2. The male bower bird gifts his lady love items that are exclusively this color.
3. This Australian marsupial is pretty much perpetually pregnant.
4. This fleet-footed African ungulate attracts the ladies by sticking out his tongue.
5. This creature from Madagascar coats his tail with his scent and waves it around as advertisement.

STICKELERS (sic.)

What is the last number in this logical number sequence?

45 99 198 1089 10890 20691 ?



Even Exchange

by Donna Pettman

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9. Deep red gem	— — — — O —	Harvest	— — — — R —
10. Alf or ET	— — — — I —	Steve or Woody	— — — — L —



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Super Crossword

FILLED FOOD

ACROSS

1 "Thank U, Next" singer Grande
7 Yachts, e.g.
12 Keto dieter's nutrient calculation
20 Right-rear bowling target
21 Like Viking script
22 Call to have food delivered
23 Chief justice before William Rehnquist
25 Runaway
26 Fruity drink
27 Reclined
28 Actress Russo
30 Chaplin of "Game of Thrones"
31 Makeovers
33 Application to improve blood flow
39 Stew legume
41 Glazer of "Broad City"
42 Gold, in Italy
43 Person not getting deserved acclaim

48 Chilly tourist lodge
53 New Mexico art mecca
54 Old New York theater
55 Whirled
58 To a greater extent
59 Phased-out cartoon storekeeper
60 Greek cheese
61 Easels, e.g.
63 Susa's ancient land
64 Take care of
66 Bikers' association
70 Tunes for two
72 Permissible
73 Tiny bits
74 Curveball that breaks over the plate at the very last second
78 Wine vessel
81 Wrinkly tangelo
82 Joan of Arc" actress Sobieski
83 Acorn trees
85 Grassy tract
86 Wrecked
89 Santa — (some winds)
90 Agra dress

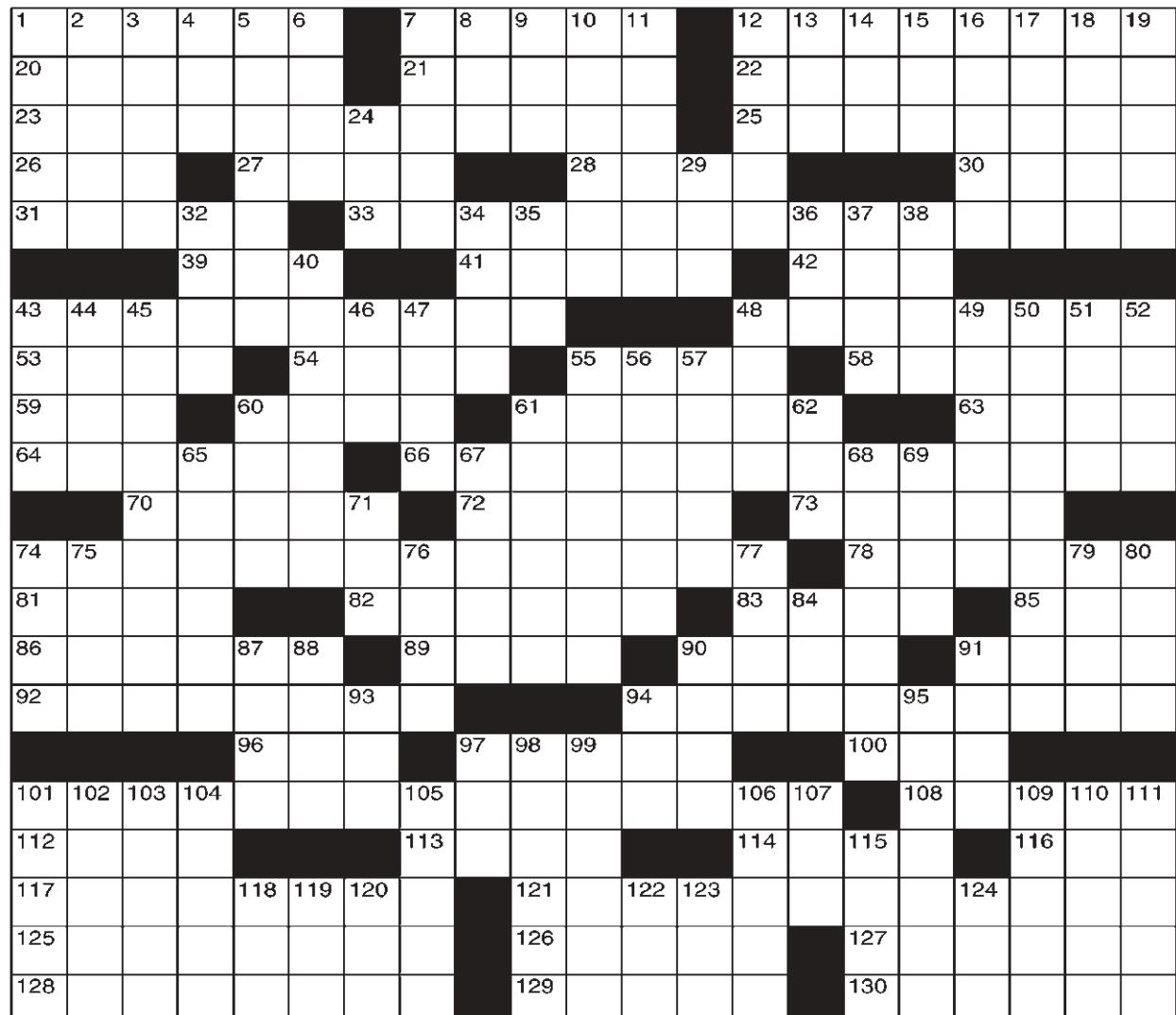
91 Feels ill
92 Hip-hop band
94 Thaw after winter
96 Roadhouse
97 Writer Wilde
100 "Fancy that!"
101 Pilot's heading indicator
108 Newton who was knighted
112 Met solo
113 Fishing rod
114 \$5 bills, slangily
116 H.S. lab class
117 "The Velvet Fog"
121 Its menu might include the ends of seven answers in this puzzle
125 Web pop-up, e.g.
126 Be of help to
127 King of pop
128 Salted-away sums of money
129 Mails in, e.g.
130 Isis' brother

DOWN

1 In combat
2 Novelist Charles

3 Way to mark losses
4 Fourth mo.
5 TV ratings name
6 Chlumsky of "Veep"
7 Musical Mars
8 "— Gang"
9 Filmmaker Lee
10 — del Fuego
11 TV part
12 Center points
13 Previous to
14 NFL goals
15 OK grade
16 Bow go-with
17 Turbine part
18 — Vista, Mexico
19 Purse piece
24 Pen brand
29 U.S. intel org.
32 Musical work
34 Like swamps
35 Gp. in the Arab League
36 Quadrennial games org.
37 City near Provo
38 NYC area near the Village
40 Go along with
43 37-Down's state
87 Funny Idle

44 Wine valley of California
45 Brief audio file
46 All the rage
47 Midterm, e.g.
48 "500" race
49 Mine vehicle
50 Prevaricates
51 Genesis twin
52 Bausch & —
55 Cheap cigars
56 St. Patrick's Day event
57 "I give up!"
60 Absconded
61 — Artois
62 — fi flick
65 — it out (fighting)
67 Mary-Kate of "Beastly"
68 Latching, e.g.
69 LGA info
71 Fa-la lineup
74 Aaron in "Hamilton"
75 Water, in Chihuahua
76 Get in return
77 Mimic a lion
79 Descended
80 Toward dawn
84 Actress Nicole — Parker
87 Funny Idle



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Moments in time THE HISTORY CHANNEL

* On Feb. 2, 1925, musher Gunnar Kaasen and his 13 dogs successfully delivered an antitoxin serum to Nome, Alaska, which was dealing with a widespread diphtheria outbreak, in a relay spanning 674 miles in five and a half days and in temperatures as low as 85 degrees below zero.

* On Feb. 3, 1780, Barnett Davenport murdered Caleb Mallory, in whose house he was a boarder, along with Mallory's wife, daughter-in-law and two grandchildren, in their home. One of post-Revolution America's most famous crimes, it contributed to a change in the way the country viewed lawbreakers.

* On Feb. 4, 1703, 47 samurai were forced to display the ultimate act of loyalty to the regional Japanese lord they had followed by committing seppuku -- ritually disemboweling themselves -- for the crime of killing the official who had ordered the forced suicide of said lord.

* On Feb. 5, 2003, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell gave a speech to the United Nations outlining America's case that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction and making an argument for the invasion that would take place the following month. Unfortunately, some of his talking points were either incorrect or misleading, and Powell later described the speech as a blot on his record.

* On Feb. 6, 1998, a judge reinstated schoolteacher Mary Kay Letourneau's suspended sentence and returned her to prison for seven years after she was caught violating a no-contact order with her former student, Vili Fualaau, when she was found in a parked car with the boy.

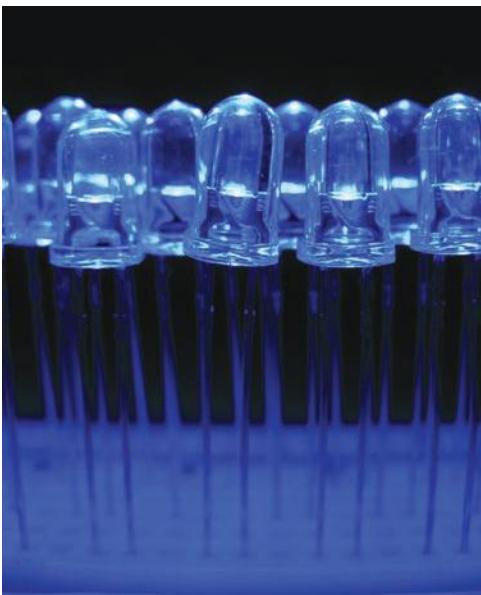
* On Feb. 7, 1984, Navy captain Bruce McCandless II became the first human to perform an untethered spacewalk while in orbit 170 miles above the earth, maneuvering freely with a jet pack of his own design after exiting the Challenger space shuttle.

* On Feb. 8, 1994, actor Jack Nicholson approached Robert Blank's car while they were stopped at a red light in North Hollywood, accused Blank of cutting him off in traffic, and then bashed Blank's roof and windshield with a golf club. Charges were dropped after Nicholson apologized and the two reached an undisclosed settlement that included a reported \$500,000 check from Nicholson.

Fun Fact

The ancient Roman festival of **Lupercalia** was conducted every year on February 15 by priests called **Luperi**. As a rite of fertility, the festival was associated with the god Faunus. Each ceremony included animal sacrifices, blood rites, and feasting. The priests would then run about the streets, slapping women with the skins of the sacrificed animals, which was said to increase their fertility.

Source: www.britannica.com

BLUE LIGHT

Blue LEDs. By Gussisaurio, Wikimedia Commons

- Light-emitting diodes, or LEDs, pervade our entire world. They are in our computers, phones, watches, billboards, TVs, and more. LED lights don't get their colored glow from plastic coverings, which protect the electronics. LED colors come from the electronics themselves.
- The world's first LED light was invented by GE in 1962. It glowed red. A few years later, Monsanto created a green LED. With only green and red LEDs available, their use was limited. What was needed was a blue LED in order to produce every color of the rainbow. Every electronic corporation chased blue light.
- A Japanese engineer named Shuji Nakamura worked for a small chemical company in Japan called Nichia. The company produced calcium phosphate used in fluorescent lights. When red and green LEDs were invented, the firm expanded into the manufacture of the semiconductors used in these diodes. By the late 1980s, the company, competing against larger corporations, needed a new product.
- In 1988, Nakamura went to the company's founder and asked for a laboratory and the funding to pursue blue light. The founder agreed. The boss knew that blue LEDs would transform the world of lighting. At the time, incandescent bulbs gave off more heat than light. LEDs emit light but no heat. But blue LEDs would need to be invented in order to have white LED lightbulbs.
- Nakamura's first move was to spend a year in Florida, where a friend worked in a lab that created the machines that made the crystals used in semiconductors. Because Nakamura was not allowed to use the company's state-of-the-art equipment, he learned to repair their damaged machines. When he returned to Japan, he built his own machine from the ground up.
- All research focused on using two minerals to produce blue light: zinc or gallium. The problem was that the crystals had to be 100% pure, which was nearly impossible. Nakamura tore down and rebuilt his crystal-building machine often. Then he hit pay dirt. The machines used in Florida sprayed atomized gallium into a vacuum, where it settled and crystallized. Nakamura's innovation was adding a stream of air that pushed the mist to the bottom. This resulted in a purity never before achieved, which made a pale blue light.
- Just then, his boss retired, and the reins were handed over to his son-in-law, who felt that pursuing blue LEDs was a waste. He ordered Nakamura to cease. Nakamura refused. In 1992, he was a presenter at a conference in St. Louis. Yet, his blue LED light was not powerful enough.

The Garden Bug

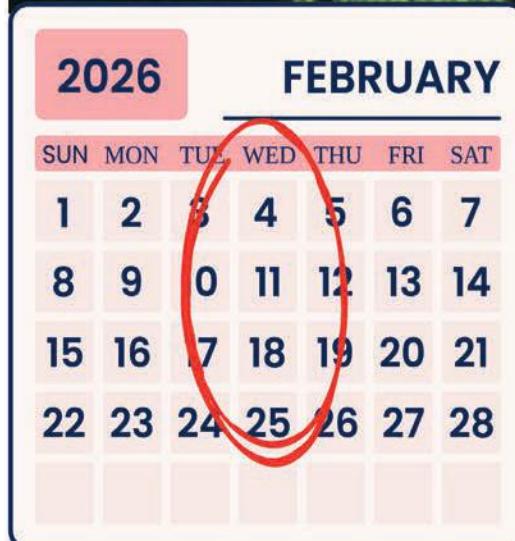
The rose variety **"Gertrude Jekyll"** was named "World's Favourite Rose" by the World Federation of Rose Societies at its May 2025 convention held in Fukuyama, Japan.

Rose enthusiasts all over the world love its vibrant pink color, its elegant shape, large blooms loaded with petals from late spring through fall, and its exquisite perfume.

A Gertrude Jekyll rose needs a minimum of 4 hours of sunlight per day during the growing season, well-draining soil and adequate air circulation around it.

— Brenda Weaver

Source: theflorajournal.international, www.bhg.com, www.worldrose.org

**Music Night at the Grant House**

He needed to boost output.

- His next breakthrough came when he experimented with a mineral mix previously overlooked: aluminum gallium nitride. This did the trick. The result was a bright glowing blue LED light—thirty years after the first red LED was invented. The announcement was made in 1992, and by 1994, Nichia was turning out a million blue LEDs per month. The company released the world's first white LED in 1996. Today, Nichia is one of the world's largest manufacturers of LED lights.
- Despite his heroic contribution, Nakamura was rewarded with a paltry salary increase. When he went to work for a U.S. firm, Nichia sued him, but he eventually won.
- Nakamura won the Nobel Prize in Physics in 2014. He now holds 208 patents and works at the University of California, where he invents the next generation of LED lights. In 2010, just 1% of residential lighting sales were LED. By 2022, that had risen to 50%. By the mid-2030s, nearly all lighting sales will be LED.

Recurring weekly on Wednesday**1101 Officers Row, Vancouver, WA 98661**www.willfulwine.com/VISIT/Events

1. Which artist had his first No. 1 chart-topper with "Mandy"?
2. Who was the first to release "Got My Mind Set on You"?
3. Name the artist who was born Charles Edwin Hatcher. Hint: "Contact" and "War."
4. Who released "Mad About You" in 1986?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "Risin' up, back on the street, Took my time, took my chances, Went the distance."

With Vocal

Grammy for Best Rock Performance by Duo or Group

the top of the chart for 15 weeks and was used as the theme song for "Rocky III" the same year. It then won a

5. "Eye of the Tiger" by Survivor, in 1982. The song was

4. Belinda Carlisle after she left The Go-Go's.

No. 1 hits.

3. Edwin Starr, "Contact" and "War" were Starr's only album.

2. James Ray, in 1962. George Harrison followed with a

be confused with Looking Glass' "Brandi" (You're a Fine Girl).

1. Barry Manilow, in 1974. Scott English wrote and

Manilow changed the song to "Mandy" so it wouldn't

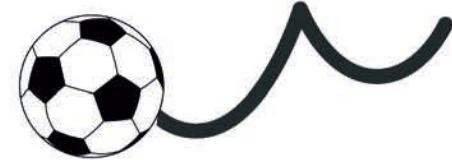
Answers

TIPBITS QUOTE

“The world is well supplied with spiders whose male ancestors died after mating. The world is bereft of spiders whose would-be ancestors never mated in the first place.” -Richard Dawkins



SPORTBITS



Sports Quiz

By Ryan A. Berenz

1. What Chicago White Sox player's 1990 Topps rookie card became coveted by collectors after an error led to a small number of cards being issued without his name printed on the front?

2. What British boxer knocked out Jake Paul, the social media influencer turned prizefighter, in the sixth round of a December 2025 bout in Miami, Florida?

3. William Walter "Pudge" Heffelfinger, considered the first professional football player, was paid how much to compete for the Allegheny Athletic Association in a November 1892 game vs. the Pittsburgh Athletic Club?

4. Name the Basketball Hall of Famer, a member of the 1978 NBA champion Washington Bullets, who recorded exactly 50,000 NBA minutes played in a career spanning 1968-84.

5. What U.S. city has a drawbridge named after Japanese Baseball Hall of Famer and Pacific Coast League legend Lefty O'Doul?

6. What team finished the 2025 regular season with a 10-2 record but declined to play in any bowl game after not being selected to the College Football Playoff field?

7. Name the seven-time Formula 1 World Drivers' Championship winner who suffered severe brain trauma in a 2013 skiing accident in the French Alps.

TOYS & GAMES HASBRO



- Three Polish brothers moved to the U.S. from Poland shortly after World War I. Herman, Hillel, and Henry Hassenfeld supported themselves by purchasing leftover scraps of fabric from textile and clothing factories and turning them into other products, such as hat liners. This venture, begun in Providence, Rhode Island in 1923, eventually grew into one of the world's largest toy conglomerates.

- One of the things they made with the fabric scraps was liners for pencil boxes. They then began making pencil boxes, and later expanded into zippered pouches for school supplies. By 1926, they had formed a company called Hassenfeld Brothers Incorporated, with 8 members of the family being the only employees.

- Next, they also began making their own pencils, finding that pencil sales were steady and reliable. Pencil sales grew steadily over the next several decades, providing income to experiment with other products. They pioneered color-by-number art sets. They filled their zippered pencil pouches with basic school supplies, sold as a kit. By 1930 the firm had 200 employees and annual sales of \$500,000.

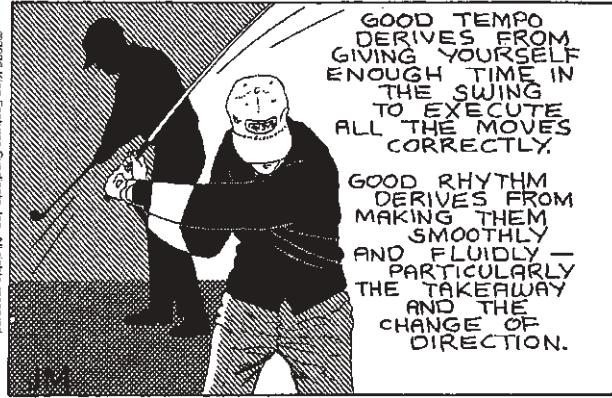
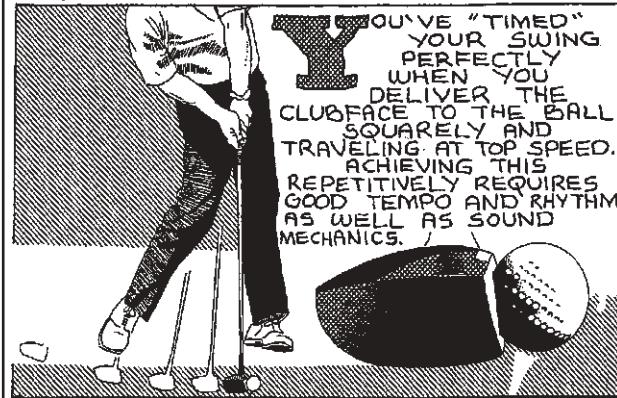
- By the late 1930s, the Hassenfeld Brothers experimented by expanding into toy sales. They added medical sets for junior doctors and nurses. Next came a play make-up kit for girls, followed by modelling clay and the ever-popular Play-Doh. However, the big explosion occurred after the release of Mr. Potato Head in 1952. This was the first toy ever marketed on television. Hassenfeld Brothers subsequently landed the license to distribute Disney merchandise.

- Led by a succession of Hassenfeld children and then grandchildren, the company continued to grow. Their single most popular product, introduced in 1964, was the entire G.I. Joe franchise. With the firm's popularity soaring, the Hassenfeld Brothers decided a name change was in order. In 1968, they shortened the firm's name to Hasbro.

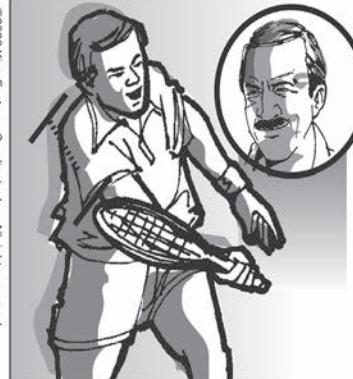
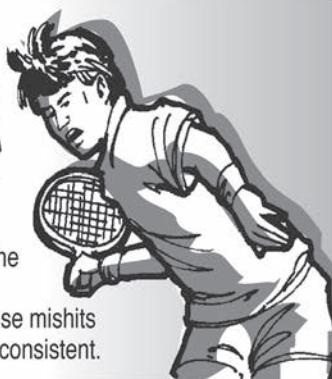
- By the 1980s, Hasbro was the nation's 6th best-selling toy maker, with revenues of \$225.4 million. In 1984 the firm acquired Milton Bradley, the nation's 5th best-selling toy maker. Next it acquired Parker Brothers. By now Hasbro surpassed Mattel to become the biggest toy company in the world.

- However, there were flops along the way. Lawn darts garnered negative publicity after several deaths. The

Are You a Golf or Tennis Pro? Sponsor a Cartoon!!

www.clarkbits.org/sponsor**Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS****STAN SMITH'S TENNIS CLASS****AVOID SWINGING ON THE VOLLEY**

One of the most common volley mistakes is to take the racket too far back as you prepare to hit. This will cause mishits and make your volley less consistent.

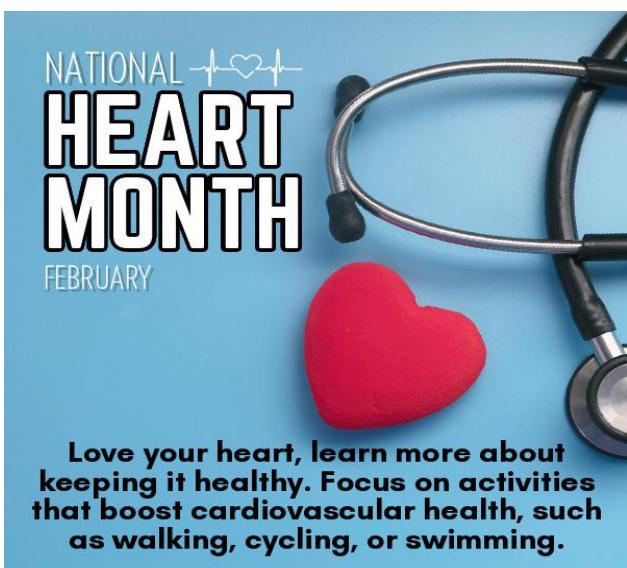


Remember, when hitting most volleys, except high ones, take a short backswing and a compact punch forward. The racket head should seldom go behind your shoulders.

product was yanked off the shelves. A squirt gun shaped like a hypodermic needle raised the ire of parents.

- One of their biggest mistakes was in trying to out-Barbie Mattel. In 1986, Hasbro introduced Jem, a fashion doll introduced as both a record producer and purple-haired rock musician. While Jem posted strong initial sales, her popularity quickly faded, and she was retired after only one year. In 1988, Hasbro introduced Maxie, a doll scaled to match Barbie's dimensions, allowing her to wear Barbie clothing. Maxie lasted two years. Hasbro never again tried to clone Barbie. However, they breathed new life into their G.I. Joe series by releasing sets of G.I. Joe figures that were only 3.5 inches tall.

- Today, Hasbro has gobbled up much of the competition. They distribute most of the biggest toys of our day: Tonka, Transformers, Sesame Street characters, Cabbage Patch, and many more. They pull in over \$6 billion in revenue each year, unsurpassed by any toy company on the planet.



INTERESTING SPORTS FACTS THAT HAPPENED IN FEBRUARY



1984: Wayne Gretzky set the NHL record with 11 short-handed goals in a season.

1972: Hank Aaron signed a record-setting contract with the Braves.

1990: James "Buster" Douglas famously knocked out undefeated heavyweight champion Mike Tyson in Tokyo

1966: Willie Mays signed the highest-paying baseball contract (\$130,000/year) at the time.

1973: Shane Gould swam the first sub-17-minute 1,500m freestyle.

Eat, Sip & Savor Clark County



Business Spotlight

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Trap Door Brewing is officially expanding again, and this time they're going big (42,000-square-feet big). Groundbreaking starts this February 2026 at the corner of NE 119th and NE 112th (right by WinCo) for Prairie View Station.

This massive family-friendly food cart pod will feature 14 curated trucks, a glassy indoor taproom with 20+ drafts, and a full pizza kitchen.

Coming Fall 2026 to the Brush Prairie neighborhood!



Battle Ground's Indoor Farmers Market Opens March 27, 2026!

The market will be open Fridays from 2pm-7pm
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We are excited to welcome you back to the market!
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* "Keep cats indoors during very cold weather. They are particularly vulnerable to freezing. If you can leave the curtains drawn on a window where Kitty can look outside and sunbathe, she probably will be happy." -- M.R. in Washington

* This is some good advice given to me by my grandmother if you have lots of outdoor or feral cats in your area: Start your car with a bang -- on the hood, that is. When the overnight temperature dips, cats know to find someplace that is wind-shielded and off the ground, and sometimes, that means they will climb up into your engine area to hunker down. If your car starts, they can be hurt or even killed. Give the hood a knock to let a cat know to get out quick.

* Pet paws need extra care in the cold months, especially dogs that must be walked in icy and snowy conditions. Here's a great tip from Y.L. in New York: "I keep a small towel with me on my daily dog walks, but I also wash off my dog's paws with a warm washcloth when we return. Another thing I do is to rub petroleum jelly into her pads once a day. They really take a beating having to go out three times a day in salty, muddy, cold conditions. She won't wear doggie booties, so this works best for us."

* If you keep birds, a reminder: Never preheat pans on high heat, especially nonstick pans. They can let off a chemical that you or I cannot even detect, but can be a health hazard for your bird friend that is in the kitchen area. Don't keep birds in the kitchen when cooking.

* Spread a teaspoon of peanut butter thinly on a paper plate, then when the dog is busy with his treat, you can trim his nails. Or sometimes just having it nearby as a promised treat can do the trick to distract your pet. Good luck!

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

KOVELS
Antique Trader
By Terry and Kim Kovel

Pate-de-verre



The Daum glass factory of Nancy, France, is famous for its cameo glass, but that isn't the only kind it made. When Jean Daum founded the factory in 1875, he made cut and enameled glass. His sons Auguste and Antonin started an art glass department in 1885, adapting to the art glass movement and art nouveau style of the time. The company started making more ornate types of glass like cameo glass and pate-de-verre. These were very old techniques, but newly popular as they experienced a resurgence in the 19th century. Pate-de-verre was made in ancient Egypt. The term means "glass paste." It is made by combining ground glass with an adhesive and molding this mixture into forms. It proved to be a good fit for the art nouveau period, when designs drew inspiration from the natural world, especially flowers and plants. Glassworks like Daum made pate-de-verre pieces with three-dimensional flowers. They are often valuable today. This Daum vase made to look like a bunch of daffodils sold for \$2,125 at Heritage Auctions. For more collecting news, tips and resources, visit www.Kovels.com.



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Trouble Finding a Pet-Friendly Apartment? You're Not Alone

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I've been struggling to find an apartment that will accept pets. I have a parakeet named "Bert" and a big mutt of a dog named "George," and while some landlords are OK with a bird, they all draw the line at dogs. My current lease is not being renewed, and I only have a few weeks left to find a place. Why do so many landlords not allow pets? I'm so frustrated. -- Cary in Waltham, Massachusetts

DEAR CARY: Trying to find a rental property in or near a major city that accepts pets is a tough slog. Why has it become so? A number of factors are at play, but they all add up to the same thing: Landlords don't want the liability and maintenance issues that they assume pets cause in rental properties.

This attitude caused pet deposits to skyrocket -- \$300 to \$500 per pet in some cases -- and "pet rent" (additional fees each month from \$35 to over \$100) to become a thing at many properties. Other landlords simply banned pets altogether, making an exception only for service animals. For renters who aren't able to come up with the extra fees, the choices they have are stark: Either try to find another place, or give up their pets in order to find housing. This has hit elderly renters especially hard, and their beloved pets frequently end up in shelters.

What solutions are there? Short term, not many. There are still some deluded folks who ask, "Why don't pet owners just buy their own house?" But most of us know the answer to that. In Massachusetts, the MSPCA (Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) is supporting two pet-friendly housing bills, but any change will be slow to arrive.

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

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



**EMAIL YOUR PET'S PHOTO
 AND A SHORT DESCRIPTION
 TO PETBITS@CLARKBITS.ORG
 FOR A CHANCE OF YOUR PET
 BEING FEATURED**



MEET GUS!

This is Gus! He is an adorable 10 week old black Labrador. He lives with his new family in Battle Ground, WA. As a puppy, he's still learning all about his new surroundings, but loves to explore and play. He can't wait to meet new friends!

PET ADOPTION

Give a furry friend a forever home and adopt a pet today.

Popcorn
Animal ID: 174743

Artie
Animal ID: 173274

I can be nervous around new people. It just takes me a little while to get comfortable. But once I get to know you, I'm very loving.

It's recommended I meet any dogs or kids living in my new home before I'm adopted. I just want to make sure we all get along.

If there are kids in my new home, I prefer them to be older than 10 and would like to meet them before going home. An adoption counselor can tell you more.

I'm a thoughtful soul who likes to take my time getting to know new people - think of me as the cat equivalent of someone who reads all the reviews before trying a new restaurant. I might be tucked away in my favorite hiding spot when you first visit, doing my best impression of invisible (spoiler alert: it doesn't work). Fast movements and loud noises make me jump like I'm auditioning for a cartoon, but once I realize you're safe, I warm up beautifully. Fair warning: I'm not a huge fan of being picked up and might turn into a wiggling noodle, so a family that leaves me on the floor is easier for both of us!

Humane Society
FOR SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON
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Vancouver, WA 98684
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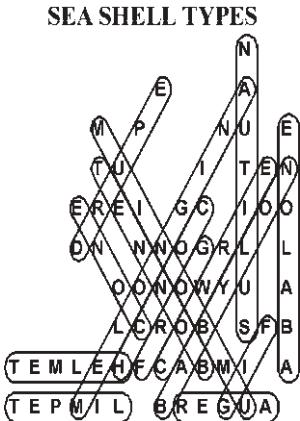
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ANSWERS

SEASHELL TYPES
Sports Quiz Answers
1. Frank Thomas.
2. Anthony Joshua.
3. \$500.
4. Elvin Hayes.
5. San Francisco.
6. The Notre Dame Fighting Irish.
7. Michael Schumacher.

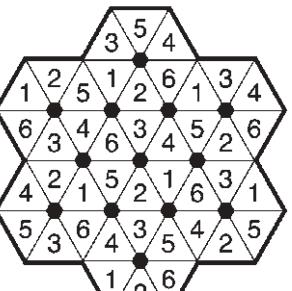
Trivia Answers
1. Blue.
2. The Danish West Indies.
3. Red and green.
4. Collapsed lung.
5. Calamity Jane, a sharpshooter in Western history.
6. Benjamin.
7. An exaltation.
8. Fiat Automobiles.
9. A jackal.
10. The yen.



Weekly SUDOKU
Answer

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

SNOWFLAKES
solution



Even Exchange
Donna M. Pettman

1. Filly, Folly
2. Waiter, Waiter
3. Racket, Rocket
4. Sloth, Cloth
5. Morse, Mouse

6. Detour, Devour
7. Liston, Listen
8. Harpo, Harps
9. Garnet, Garner
10. Alien, Allen

Word Spiral
Answer

HABANEROS

WORD POWER

ANSWER

GRASSHOPPER

CryptoQuip
answer

Needing a much longer utensil to cut a large hunk of meat, a man declared "Knife's too short."

TRIVIA NEWSFRONT ANSWERS

- Penguin
- Blue
- Kangaroo
- Impala
- Lemur

Super Crossword

Answers

