

the Local Voice

TLV#466
FREE
May/June 2025



ROUNDABOUT OXFORD

**LOCAL ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, EVENTS, FOOD,
DRINKS, PUZZLES, TRIVIA, GAMES & MORE**

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the Local Voice™

TLV Issue #466 • May/June 2025 • Oxford, Ole Miss, & North Mississippi • Read at Maximum Volume

Michael Farris Smith Launches New Book May 27 at Square Books

Lay Your Armor Down tells a dark Southern tale

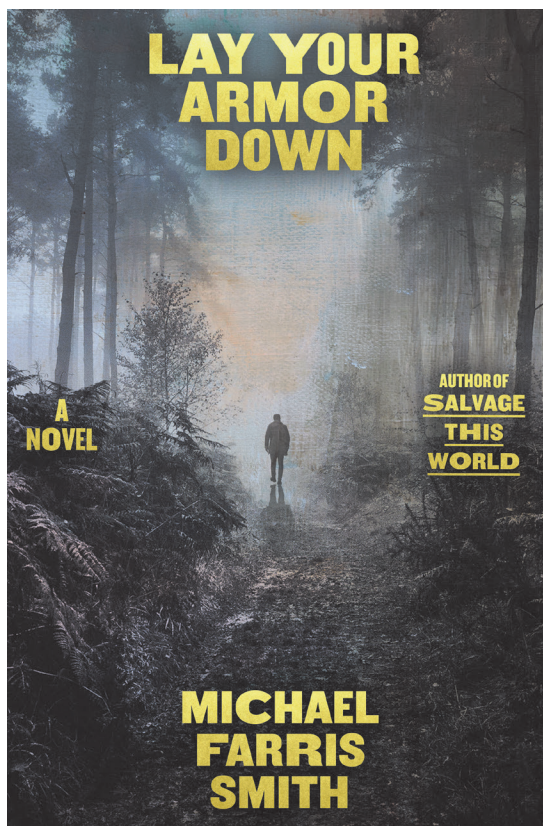
Acclaimed Oxford writer Michael Farris Smith launches his eighth novel *Lay Your Armor Down* on Tuesday, May 27, at Off Square Books, where he will be in conversation with John T Edge.

Smith will also take questions from the audience and sign copies of the book, which will be available in-store and anywhere else books are sold. Signed and personalized copies will also be available.

In his latest, Smith delivers a haunting, lyrical exploration of several broken individuals bound by violence, memory, and the desperate hope for redemption. Rich in Southern gothic atmosphere, the story begins with an elderly woman, deep in the throes of dementia, wandering barefoot through the woods with a headful of fragmented memories. Meanwhile, the disturbing discovery of a carnage scene develops in a rural church cellar by two men—Keal, a dream-ridden drifter, and Burdean, a strict enforcer. Then unexpectedly, a mute, mysterious wide-eyed girl with strange abilities appears.

Dementia-plagued Wanetah is at the core of the novel, as her confused and disjointed mutterings are given depth and empathy, and not particularly looked down on as a mere medical condition. Wanetah's erosion drums up a sense of obligation to those she comes in contact with—particularly Cara, a woman riddled with grief since her daughter's death. Cara is drawn to her in a way that begins to relieve her emotional crisis.

As the characters become swept into a whirlwind of danger, with violent men in pursuit, they are forced to reconcile with their own haunted pasts. They all find themselves connected to the fragile child and gradually fading woman, as each is forced to decide whether to keep bearing the burden of their past, or to at long last lay their armor down.



by Davis Coen

Square Books called Smith's newest "an engrossing level of experience not usually encountered in a novel."

And Wright Thompson, a Clarksdale, Mississippi, native and senior writer for *ESPN Magazine* said, "Michael Farris Smith possesses a conductor's mastery and a lead singer's swagger, and *Lay Your Armor Down* demands that you pay attention."

The book launch starts at 5:30 pm and will include a conversation between the author and local writer John T Edge. The event is free and open to the public.

Michael Farris Smith is an award-winning writer whose novels have appeared on Best of the Year lists with *Esquire*, *NPR*, *Southern Living*, *Garden & Gun*, *Oprah Magazine*, *Book Riot*, and numerous other outlets, and have been named Indie Next, Barnes & Noble Discover, and Amazon Best of the Month selections. As a screenwriter, he scripted the feature-film adaptations of his novels *Desperation Road* and *The Fighter*, titled for the screen as *Rumble Through the Dark*. With his band MFS & The Smokes, Smith wrote and released the record *Lostville*, which was produced by Grammy nominee Jimbo Mathus. He lives in Oxford, Mississippi, with his wife and daughters.



Quack's

Sports Bar

Sandwiches
Hot Dogs
Happy Hour
Brunch
Late Nite Food

City
GROCERY
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VISHWESH
Bon Voyage Celebration
Thursday, May 22

5-7 PM • NO COVER

Just Booze, Bites, & See-Ya-Soons

COME ONE, COME ALL
SHARE A TOAST TO
This Man
This Myth
This Quitter-His-Quitter

VISHWESH
Bon Voyage Celebration
THURSDAY MAY 22 2025

5-7pm
NO COVER
JUST BOOZE, BITES, & SEE-YA-SOONS
SHOW THIS LEGEND SOME LOVE
Donations to Giving Kitchen in Chef's name are encouraged

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7am-1pm Weekdays
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Dinner 5:30-10pm Monday-Thursday
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Happy Hour 4-6PM Daily



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Moe's Original

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Monday

\$2 domestic bottles

Tuesday

TRIVIA NIGHT

starts at 7 pm

\$25 High Noon Buckets

Wednesday

COMEDY NIGHT

Thursday

BINGO NIGHT 8 pm

\$5 Bushwackers 7 pm-till

Sunday

KIDS EAT FREE

12 & UNDER - STARTS @6PM

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HAPPY HOUR

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Open

**SUNDAY
FUNDAY**
EVERY WEEK

THE PREAKNESS MAY 17 WATCH AT THE LIBRARY

OLE MISS BASEBALL

VS. AUBURN MAY 15 @ 6:30 PM, MAY 16 @ 7 PM,
MAY 17 @ 1:30 PM (Oxford)

SEC TOURNAMENT MAY 20-MAY 25 (Hoover, Alabama)



**CONGRATULATIONS
REBEL SOFTBALL!**

VS. GRAND CANYON

MAY 16 @ 9 PM, MAY 17 @ TBA (Tuscon, Arizona)



**WATCH LIVE
AT THE
LIBRARY!**

NCAA BASEBALL REGIONALS: MAY 30-JUNE 2

**JOEY BORETTI
EXPERIENCE**

MAY 16 & 17

LIVE AT THE LIBRARY



NCAA BASEBALL SUPER REGIONALS: JUNE 6-9



TY TAYLOR

FRI-SAT MAY 23 & 24

LIVE AT THE LIBRARY

PGA CHAMPIONSHIP MAY 15-18 FOLLOW AT THE LIBRARY



**HALF DOLLAR
RODEO**

MAY 30 & 31

LIVE AT THE LIBRARY

NBA & NHL PLAYOFFS WATCH LIVE AT THE LIBRARY



ROUNDABOUT OXFORD®

FEATURED WEEKLY EVENTS

Mondays

- Quack's: MARIO KART

Tuesdays

- Moe's: TRIVIA NIGHT (7 pm)
- Old Armory Pavilion: Oxford Community Market (3:30–6 pm)
- Quack's: KARAOKE (9 pm)

Wednesdays

- Circle & Square: TRIVIA NIGHT (7 pm)
- Funkys: LADIES' NIGHT
- Moe's Penny: OPEN MIC COMEDY (9 pm)
- Square Books, Jr.: STORYTIME (10 am)

Thursdays

- Moe's: BINGO (8 pm)
- Old Henry: LIVE BAND (7:30–10 pm)

Fridays

- Old Henry: DUELING PIANOS (8 pm-midnight)
- Rafters: DJ DRUMM (9 pm)

Saturdays

- Old Henry: DUELING PIANOS (8 pm-midnight)
- Rafters: DJ DRUMM (9 pm)
- Square Books, Jr.: STORYTIME (10 am)

Weekend Brunch

- Big Bad Breakfast: Sat & Sun: 8 am–2:30 pm
- Kingswood: Sat & Sun 9 am–2 pm
- Quack's: Friday noon–3 pm; Sat–Sun: 11 am–3 pm
- Saint Leo: Sat & Sun: 10:30 am–3 pm
- SoLa: Sunday: 10:30 am–1:30 pm
- Tallahatchie Gourmet: Sat & Sun 11:30 am–3 pm

LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT & EVENTS

THURSDAY 5.15.2025

Swayze Field: OLE MISS BASEBALL vs. AUBURN (6:30 pm)

► Plein Air (Taylor): KUDZU KINGS (free; 6:30 pm)

► Proud Larry's: LIVE THACKER-OKE

with THE YALOBUSHWHACKERS (8 pm)

Lafayette County & Oxford Public Library: Afterschool Zone: Relax with Legos (3:45 pm)

FRIDAY 5.16.2025

Swayze Field: OLE MISS BASEBALL vs. AUBURN (7 pm)

► Booth's BBQ: HUNT & THE HOWLERS (6–9 pm)

► The Library: BORETTI EXPERIENCE (9 pm)

► Quack's: LIVE DJ

► Rafters on the Water: CLASS ACT/MARK HEAFNER (7–10 pm)

Lafayette County & Oxford Public Library: Storytime (10:30 am); Afterschool Zone: Relax with Legos (3:45 pm)

Proud Larry's: BOGUE CHITTO (9:30 pm; free)

SATURDAY 5.17.2025 - Armed Forces Day

Destination Oxford Car Show (on the Square 8 am–2 pm)

*in case of rain, show will move to June 14

Swayze Field: OLE MISS BASEBALL vs. AUBURN (1:30 pm)

► Booth's BBQ: CRAWFISH

► Funkys: CRAWFISH

► The Library: BORETTI EXPERIENCE (9 pm)

► Rafters on the Water: HUNT & THE HOWLERS (1–4 pm),

HANK PARKS (7–10 pm)

Proud Larry's: HANNAWARD PASS (8:30 pm)

SUNDAY 5.18.2025

► Booth's BBQ: CRAWFISH

► The Powerhouse: ANUBIS IMPROV presents Level 2 Showcase (7 pm)

► Rafters on the Water: JOSH REVELL (1–4 pm), JASON WIGINTON (5–8 pm)

MONDAY 5.19.2025

The Growler: Mahjong Mondays (6–8 pm)

Lafayette County & Oxford Public Library: Afterschool Zone: Summer Bucket Lists (3:45 pm)



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TUESDAY 5.20.2025

Lafayette County & Oxford Public Library: Baby Storytime (9:30 am); Afterschool Zone: Summer Bucket Lists (3:45 pm)

WEDNESDAY 5.21.2025

Lafayette County & Oxford Public Library: Baby Storytime (9:30 am); Afterschool Zone: Summer Bucket Lists (3:45 pm)

The Powerhouse: BIG BAD BUSINESS Workshop - Public Speaking for Your Small Business (6–8 pm)

THURSDAY 5.22.2025

► The Old Henry: World Championship Old Time Piano Playing Contest & Festival Tune-ups Party (7 pm)

► Snackbar: VISHWESH Bon Voyage Celebration (5–7 pm)

Lafayette County & Oxford Public Library: Afterschool Zone (3:45 pm)

FRIDAY 5.23.2025

► The Library: TY TAYLOR (9 pm)

► The Old Henry: World Championship Old Time Piano Playing Contest & Festival After-hours Party (8 pm)

► The Powerhouse: ANUBIS IMPROV presents Half & Half (7 pm)

► Nutt Auditorium (University): Old-Time Piano Playing Contest & Festival (9 am–7 pm)

Lafayette County & Oxford Public Library: Storytime (10:30 am); Afterschool Zone: Summer Bucket Lists (3:45 pm)

Proud Larry's: THE PINKSHEETS, GOLDEN TEACHER SOCIETY



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LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT & EVENTS

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Send your events to **The Local Voice** for inclusion in **Roundabout Oxford®**: email Editor-in-Chief **Nature Humphries** at nature@thelocalvoice.net

SATURDAY 5.24.2025

- **Booth's BBQ: CRAWFISH**
- **Funkys: CRAWFISH**
- **The Library: TY TAYLOR** (9 pm)
- **Nutt Auditorium (University): Old-Time Piano Playing Contest & Festival** (8 am–7 pm)
- **The Old Henry: World Championship Old Time Piano Playing Contest & Festival After-hours Party** (8:30 pm)
- **Square Books, Jr.: Storytime Takeover - K-9 & The Oxford Police Department** (10 am)

SUNDAY 5.25.2025

- **Nutt Auditorium (University): Old-Time Piano Playing Contest & Festival** (9 am–2 pm)
- **The Old Henry: World Championship Old Time Piano Playing Contest & Festival Red, White & Blue Finale** (7 pm)

MONDAY 5.26.2025 - MEMORIAL DAY

TUESDAY 5.27.2025

- **Off Square Books: MICHAEL FARRIS SMITH in conversation with JOHN T. EDGE for *Lay Your Armor Down*** (5:30 pm)
Lafayette County & Oxford Public Library: Baby Storytime (9:30 am)

WEDNESDAY 5.28.2025

- Lafayette County & Oxford Public Library: Conversation Cafe: Prison Writes Initiative & Creative Arts Program w/ LOUIS BOURGEOIS & SALLY MCLELLAN (10 am)

There's A New Way To Leave Your Legacy

The Oxford Park Commission is making it easier than ever to support the places, programs, and projects that matter most to you. Whether you want to promote your brand by giving back to the community, promote your business by sponsoring community events and programs, sponsor a community event or program, or contribute to a meaningful initiative, there are many ways to get involved.

Your support makes a difference. Every contribution helps enhance our shared spaces, celebrate our history, and fund important projects that benefit all community members.

Join us in building a stronger, more connected community. Together, we can create a lasting impact for generations to come.

Scan the QR Code for more info



Email Emily Bryant at ekesler@oxfordparkcommission.com with any questions about See My Legacy

FRIDAY 5.30.2025

- **The Library: HALF DOLLAR RODEO** (9 pm)
Lafayette Co. & Ox. Public Library: Storytime with UM Museum (10:30 am)

SATURDAY 5.31.2025

- **The Library: HALF DOLLAR RODEO** (9 pm)
- Live Thrive Farms: YAC Spring Soiree** (ticketed fundraiser)
- Old Armory Pavilion: WOWE Summer Showcase Market & Festival** (11 am–4 pm)

SUNDAY 6.01.2025

- **The Grove (University): Summer Sunset Series w/ JOHN MOHEAD** (6 pm; bring a chair!)

WEDNESDAY 6.04.2025

- **Off Square Books: LAUREN RHODES & MARY MILLER for *Split the Baby*** (5:30 pm)
Lafayette County & Oxford Public Library: Open Mic Night (5:30 pm)

THURSDAY 6.05.2025

- **Off Square Books: ROBERT BUSBY & ACE ATKINS for *Bodock*** (5:30 pm)
Lafayette County & Oxford Public Library: Field Day Fun (10 am–noon)

FRIDAY 6.06.2025

- Cambridge Methodist Church (Abbeville): First Friday Poetry (poetry, music, refreshments, and fellowship, 6 pm)
- Lafayette Co. & Ox. Public Library: Petting Zoo (9:30–11:30 am); Farm Animal Storytime (10:30 am); Chapter Champs Bookclub (2 pm)
- Old Armory Pavilion: LINEN ON THE LAWN featuring THE SOULTONES & food trucks (6 pm)

SATURDAY 6.07.2025

- Lafayette County Arena: Jumping Jacks Fun Bash
- Proud Larry's: GUNBOAT


SUNDAY 6.08.2025

- **The Grove (University): Summer Sunset Series w/ SOUTHERN STUDIES** (6 pm; bring a chair!)

MONDAY 6.09.2025

- Lafayette County & Oxford Public Library: Tommy Terrific Art of Magic (10 am); Pokemon Playdate (2 pm)

TUESDAY 6.10.2025

- Lafayette County & Oxford Public Library: Baby Storytime (9:30 am); Art with Jan: Rainbow Sand Art Terrariums (10:30 am & 5:30 pm); Planetarium Party (2:30–6 pm) 

Anubis Improv's Half & Half Combines Theatre with Improv Comedy


Anubis Improv presents **Half & Half**, a compelling cross-disciplinary comedy show on **Friday, May 23 at 7 pm at The Powerhouse**. The show, presented in collaboration with the **Yoknapatawpha Arts**



Council, takes four two-character scripts and splits them in half, giving each character's sides to a different actor to memorize. On the night of the show, each actor is paired with an improviser who has no knowledge of the scenes. The actors must say their lines as written no matter how the improviser responds. The audience will see both halves of each of the scripts throughout the show and often enjoys trying to match them up.

"This show is a win-win in terms of comedic effect," says the show's producer and Anubis Improv founder **David Hamilton**. "Either the improviser responds in a way that makes sense to the scene, which is miraculous and compelling, or they respond in a way that makes no sense, which is hilarious!"

Writers for the show include Oxonian **Bud Fanton**, Ole Miss PhD student **Kapani Kirkland**, New Orleans comedy veteran **Nick Napolitano**, and award-winning playwright **Chuck Smith**. Actors include Theatre Oxford veterans **Paula Stack** and **Jules Mikell**, UM Associate Professor of Theatre **Rory Ledbetter**, and Anubis graduate and former Half & Half writer **Dylan Kerr**. The improvisers are all Anubis Improv graduates and Oxford comedy veterans and include **Hannah Allen**, **Ruth Hogue**, **Connor King**, and **Alyssa Lee**.

Tickets are available at www.oxfordarts.com and will be on sale at the door if available. To learn more about Anubis Improv, visit anubisimrpov.com or on Facebook or Instagram @AnubisImprov. 



OXFORD'S FAVORITE MARGARITAS

HAPPY HOUR MONDAY–FRIDAY 3–6 PM

HALF-PRICE APPETIZERS • \$3 TACOS

\$6 HOUSE MARGARITAS • \$20 HOUSE MARGARITA PITCHERS

ALL DAY HAPPY HOUR EVERY TUESDAY



King Crossword

Here are some games to play, in your free time, to keep your mind sharp, and focused.

Solutions to puzzles are inside The Local Voice Digital Edition sent every Thursday to subscribers. Subscribe FREE at TheLocalVoice.net or scan this QR code to subscribe.



- 1. Who released "Hey There Lonely Boy"?
- 2. A cover of which Kinks song gave Kirsty MacColl her biggest success?
- 3. Who released "There's a Moon Out Tonight"?
- 4. Which artist wrote and released "Careless Whisper"?
- 5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "If the sky above you should turn dark and full of clouds, and that old north wind should begin to blow."

Answers

- 1. Ruby & the Romantics, in 1963. This was followed by Eddie Holman's "Hey There Lonely Girl," in 1969. Both songs have been covered by several others.
- 2. "Days," released by the Kinks in 1968. MacColl's 1989 cover was later used in a camcorder commercial, getting her even more success.
- 3. The Capris, in 1958. No one paid attention when the song was first released. Several years later, however, the song climbed the charts after a DJ played it on the air.
- 4. George Michael, in 1984.
- 5. "You've Got a Friend," by Carole King, in 1971. Legend says that King wrote the song in response to the James Taylor song "Fire and Rain," with its line about "lonely times when I could not find a friend." The song won a Grammy for Song of the Year.

MAGIC MAZE PLACE NAMES IN NORTHERN CANADA

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

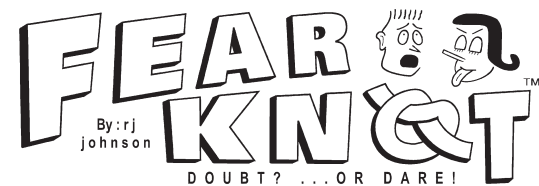
Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint:

Arviat Hay River Kinngait Rankin Inlet
Baker Lake Igloolik Kugluktuk Whitehorse
Dawson City Inuvik Nauyasat Yellowknife
Fort Smith Iqaluit Pond Inlet

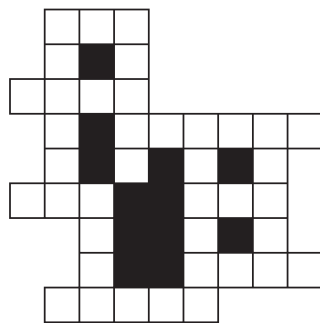
Wishing Well

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

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



AJR
NEIRJU
♥AGELR
ULET
NALEJG
PPE
♥ALER
IRPLE
GNA
REPUAL
♥TGRHI
EREP



Unscramble these twelve letter strings to form each into an ordinary word (ex. HAGNEC becomes CHANGE). Prepare to use only ONE word from any marked (♥) letter string as each unscrambles into more than one word (ex. ♥RATHE becomes HATER or EARTH or HEART). Fit each string's word either across or down to knot all twelve strings together.



the Local Voice PUZZLE PLAYGROUND



ACROSS

- 1 Spicy cured brisket
9 Competitive cowboy contests, informally
17 Roads: Abbr.
20 Trash-filled lots, e.g.
21 Distinctive feature of "DeVito"
22 "The Simpsons" barkeeper
23 2021 animated film featuring search-and-rescue dogs
25 Veneration
26 Light-splitting thing
27 Roman 901
28 That lady
29 Ticked off
31 Jillian of TV
32 High-end retail chain, informally
36 Shaq's sport
37 2022 Marvel film with Chris Hemsworth
43 Last part of some plays
46 It's close to Cedar Rapids
47 Ear: Prefix

- 48 2017 superhero film with Gal Gadot
52 Top of a "j"
53 Italian wine, for short
54 First-aid plants
55 — out a living
56 2013 superhero film with Henry Cavill
59 Goes bad
60 Navratilova of tennis
63 Texter's hugs
64 Previous to
65 2015 sci-fi film with a dinosaur theme
69 "NCIS" ailer
72 Brooch
73 Rescued person's cry
74 Like limes
75 2014 fantasy film with Angelina Jolie
81 Brit. mil. fliers
82 Old Aegean region
83 Ever and —
84 Pub potable
85 2019 animated musical film set in
Pride Rock
88 NBC show since '75

- 89 Lie out to tan
92 Just so
93 2018 space Western film with Alden Ehrenreich
98 Chicken — masala
99 Dessert with a cookie crust
100 Pic that may be on a pec
103 Slip up a bit
104 "That hurts!"
107 [not my typo]
108 Bluish purple
110 Skater Midori
111 What each of eight long answers in this puzzle was
117 Agent, briefly
118 Heighten
119 Ballot casters
120 Radio spots
121 Not crying
122 Fish that swims upright

DOWN

- 1 Pig in a kids' TV series
2 Spin — (do some tale-telling)
3 Attach, as a coat lining
4 Dosage qlys.
5 Gad about
6 Craft

- 7 "Laura" lyricist Johnny
8 Brand of infant formula
9 Tax rate fig.
10 Rally cheer
11 Unlock, to a bard
12 Cup edges
13 "Conversely," to a texter
14 Foo Fighters guitarist Grohl
15 Manning of the gridiron
16 Purchase in excess
17 Little bit of medicine
18 Wet wipe
19 Fruit core bit
24 Car for a VIP
30 Filmdom's McKellen
32 "The Maltese Falcon" genre
33 Athletic shoe brand
34 An inert gas
35 Wood cutter
36 Food preservative abbr.
37 Ocean motions
38 Goes fast, old-style
39 Zip, in Spain
40 Brand of rodenticide

- 41 Latin jazz great Puente
42 Muddy up
43 Clued in
44 Palette option
45 Govt.-issued bond
49 Erode (away)
50 Cajun veggie
51 1986 Series winners
53 — Z (the gamut)
56 Non-PC computers
57 Origami feature
58 Apply turf to
60 Local bond, for short
61 "That so?"
62 Takeaway logic game
65 Brand of peanut butter
66 Ending for silver or stem
67 Ellipsoidal
68 Mortgage deal, for short
69 "Zip your lip!"
70 Pickling need
71 Theater part
72 Writer's tool
74 Fine sweet wine
75 Swarm
76 Marked with comments
77 Suckers

- 78 Is unable to
79 Idris of "The Dark Tower"
80 Close at hand
82 "Are you — out?"
85 "There's gold in them — hills!"
86 At this spot
87 Siouan people
89 Group of vessels for serving rice wine
90 D.C.'s home
91 Binary base
94 Approves of
95 Middling
96 Livens (up)
97 Stir to laughter
100 Private teacher
101 States boldly
102 Curt
103 Pre-euro coin
104 Community rec center
105 Sharif of film
106 In fine health
108 A lot
109 In re
112 Purpose
113 "Norma —"
114 "Butter" K-pop group
115 The, in Arles
116 Arthur of "Maude"

SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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20									21									22		
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Solutions to puzzles are inside **The Local Voice Digital Edition** sent every Thursday to subscribers. Subscribe **FREE** at **TheLocalVoice.net** or scan this QR code and have our digital edition sent to you.

by Helene
Hovanec

RIDDLE SEARCH – 19 FRUITS

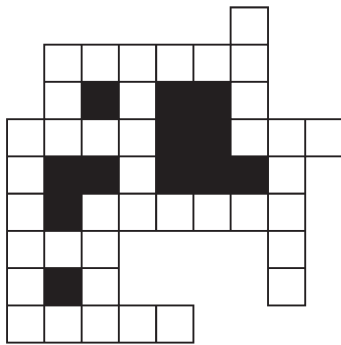
Look up, down, and diagonally, both forward and backward to find every word on the list. Circle each one as you find it. When all the words are circled, take the UNUSED letters and write them on the blanks below. Go from left to right and top to bottom to find the answer to this riddle: **Why did the strawberry cry on Mother's Day?**

[illegible]

Riddle answer: _ _ _ _ _
_ _ _ _ _.

FEAR KNIGHT
By: rj johnson
DOUBT? ...OR DARE!

YHA
LAYCRI
OMCEA
♥ RBDA
RHALBE
URE
TMHY
ANDLE
♥ RAB
SYBIHO
HIPDA
EMHL



Unscramble these twelve letter strings to form each into an ordinary word (ex. **HAGNEC** becomes **CHANGE**). Prepare to use only ONE word from any marked (♥) letter string as each unscrambles into more than one word (ex. ♥**RATHE** becomes **HATER** or **EARTH** or **HEART**). Fit each string's word either across or down to knot all twelve strings together.

Five Spot™

Shortest Distance?

B	U	R	M	A

Word with road or shave

Wall art

Area under contro

The ship of the desert

Local weather

South American
country

Solve each row by replacing one letter from the answer above or below and scrambling to make a new word. When complete, the top and bottom words will have no letters in common.

FiveSpot is a trademark of Michael McLinden

02510

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. Do away with | — — — — V — | Isolated and distant | — — — — T — |
| 2. Greek philosopher | — — — A — — | Mickey Mouse's pet | — — — U — — |
| 3. Stopwatch | — I — — — — | Circus performer | — A — — — — |
| 4. Bonding cement | — — — — — R | Corporeal | — — — — — L |
| 5. Peter Pan's friend | — E — — — — | Breezy | — I — — — — |
| 6. Twist one's ankle | — P — — — — — | Run through a sieve | — T — — — — — |
| 7. Fossil resin | A — — — — — | Leftover charcoal | E — — — — — |
| 8. Culinary instructions | — — — — — P — | Read out loud | — — — — — T — |
| 9. Penny metal | — — — P — — — — | James Fenimore _____ | — — — O — — — — |
| 0. Dense | — — — — — C — | Ponder | — — — — — N — |



"Here comes Mom... and boy, is she _____!"

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!

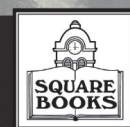
Mercy
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Charm
LAUREL

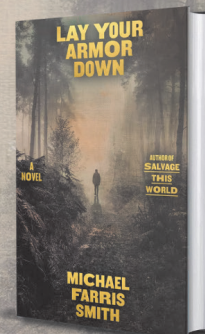
Accept
BADIE

Assign
TALLO

TODAY'S WORD



Tuesday, May 27
5.30pm @ Off Square Books



Michael Farris Smith

in conversation with **John T Edge**

for more upcoming events: www.squarebooks.com

the Local Voice PUZZLE PLAYGROUND

SUDOKU

	5					6		
6							5	
8		1				7		
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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!



Oxford Community Market
Every Tuesday 3-6:30 PM
Old Armory Pavilion • 1801 University Ave.

SAMANTHA HALEY
ARTIST

artbysamanthahaley@gmail.com
artbysamanthahaley

Mediums available for commission:
colored pencil, water color, oil paint,
digital, and graphite pencil.



TV Super Crossword

ROUGH JOURNEY
AHEAD

ACROSS

- 1 Neighbor of Croatia
7 Pakistan's largest city
14 Rajiv or Indira
20 For only the price of production
21 Rarely used golf club
22 Aleve rival
23 Spectators' loud cheers
25 Sizable sofas
26 Angled
27 Southeast Kansas city
28 River islet
30 Beginner's painting class
31 Sousaphone, e.g.
33 Loaf flavored with a certain fragrant herb
39 Incorporates gradually
43 Hitter Griffey
44 Having a basic knowledge of arithmetic
45 "The Wild Wild West" actor
47 São — (largest of the Cape Verdes)

48 Actress

- Jessica
49 — parmigiana
50 Hi- — image
51 Golfer's peg
54 Vote in favor
55 Clarinetist Shaw
58 Wander
62 Temporary, as a committee
63 Creator of Oz
65 Neighbor of Croatia
66 Acquiesce, figuratively
71 Virgil epic
72 Noted Deco master
73 Paper opinion pieces
74 Many a song by Journey or Chicago
77 Eight x five
78 Knight's title
81 Suffix with journal
82 Alley- —
83 Flatware item
85 Ho-hum thing
86 Hurl
89 Site-to-site transfer of data
93 "Glass half full" attitude

96 JFK posting

- 97 Deprived of parental care
98 It's east of Croatan Sound
101 "The devil — the details"
102 Cure- — (panaceas)
103 Alabama-to-Illinois dir.
104 Per unit
106 Pound pen
110 Popular video-sharing service
113 Apt thing to drive on while pondering this puzzle's theme?
118 Villa
119 Fine-food fan
120 Turn to ice
121 "Get —" (John Travolta film)
122 Chooses
123 Hurlled

DOWN

- 1 Fishhook part
2 Siouan tribe member
3 Read hastily
4 The Rhine flows into it

5 Thermal or lateral lead-in

- 6 Initially
7 Germany's Helmut
8 Lend — (pay attention)
9 — center (community facility)
10 Make public
11 — -Magnon
12 "— I supposed to know?"
13 Darjeeling or pekoe
14 Gallivant
15 Darth Vader, in boyhood
16 CNN political commentator Ana
17 U.S. capital's vicinity
18 Allude to
19 Not alfresco
24 Drink mixer
29 Fact
32 Atop, to poets
34 Gumbo vegetable
35 Fasten shut
36 Terminus
37 Vocalist Sumac
38 Ask earnestly
39 Ask earnestly
40 Golf target

41 "SOS" band

- 42 Tyro
46 Born, on a society page
50 Lively frolic
51 Sousaphone, e.g.
52 Oklahoma city
53 Self-help writer LeShan
55 Go off script
56 Old Valerie Harper role
57 "Mazel —!"
58 Ill-mannered
59 Up until now
60 "I Am Woman" singer Helen
61 Mined metals
62 Supermodel Wek
63 Minstrel poet
64 Social insect
66 Some antique autos
67 In time past
68 Gather in
69 Depend on
70 Mo. in spring
71 Exist
75 Unlace, e.g.
76 Having vulgar interests
77 To and —
78 Imminently
79 "Dies —" (hymn)

80 Comic Foxx

- 83 Salty Greek cheese
84 Neighbor of Yemen
85 Boils a little
86 Wild West sheriff's badge
87 Med. plan
88 Comic actor Mayall
89 Minister's study: Abbr.
90 "Love Story" novelist Segal
91 Switch to second gear, maybe
92 Chi preceder
93 Speechifies
94 Buff up
95 Chat with
99 Steal
100 John of lawn tractors
105 Fruit drinks
107 Wows
108 Stare
109 Stared at
111 Ex-Giant Mel
112 Lock go-with
114 Crooner Damone
115 Here, in Arles
116 Fizzling thing
117 Miracle- —

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the Local Voice™

TLV Issue #466 • May/June 2025 • Oxford, Ole Miss, & North Mississippi • Read at Maximum Volume

Local Election is June 3, 2025 Interviews with the Ward 1 Candidates

On Tuesday, June 3, the **City of Oxford** will hold elections for city government. However, all offices are running unopposed except for **Ward 1 Alderman**, which has three candidates running for the position: **Erin Smith** (Independent), **Drew Stevens** (Independent), and **Dr. Bill Mayo** (Republican). **The Local Voice** is proud to publish Q&As with all the candidates to help local voters make an informed decision. Please vote wisely for our community on Tuesday, June 3,

Erin Smith

Tell us a little bit about yourself, your background, and your work history.

I've called Oxford home for the past 23 years, and throughout my life, I've been driven by a deep commitment to service and community. I'm the founding executive director of CASA of North Mississippi, a nonprofit I launched in 2018 to advocate for abused and neglected children in our local court systems. What began in one county has now expanded to three, serving hundreds of children with trained, compassionate volunteers. I graduated from the University of Mississippi with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and earned my Masters of Science in Nonprofit Administration from Louisiana State University. My career has been built on listening to others, creating solutions, and working collaboratively to make meaningful, lasting change. I believe leadership starts with showing up and doing the work and that's exactly what I've spent my life doing.

Why do you want to become Alderman for Ward 1 in Oxford?

I am running for Alderman of Ward 1 because I believe in the power of community-driven change and the importance of listening to every voice. From a young age, I've been inspired to make a difference, and now, more than ever, I am committed to serving the place we all call home. Ward 1 is where I've built my life, and I care deeply about what happens here. I want to protect the character of our neighborhoods, ensure our voices are heard, and help shape Oxford's future with intention. With years of experience working alongside city leaders, advocating for others, and navigating complex systems, I know how to turn ideas into action. To me, this election isn't about politics; it's about serving people and creating a city that reflects our shared values.

What work or service have you done that is beneficial to being Ward 1's Alderman?

I bring a wide range of experience that directly translates to effective public service. As the Founding Executive Director of CASA of North Mississippi, I've built a nonprofit from the ground up. Over the years I have had to manage complex budgets, secure funding, and lead impactful community initiatives. I've served on the City of Oxford Historic Preservation Commission and currently serve on the Oxford Planning Commission, giving me a deep understanding of how our city functions—from growth and zoning to long-term planning. As previous Election Commissioner for Lafayette County, I helped ensure fair and transparent elections. I also serve as Vice Chair of the Oxford-Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, which keeps me closely connected to our local businesses, nonprofits,

and leaders. These roles have allowed me to advocate, problem-solve, and build consensus, which are skills that are essential to serving as Alderman. I know how Oxford works because I've been working for Oxford my entire professional career. I'm prepared to represent Ward 1 with integrity, experience, and a strong commitment to the people who call it home.

What are the major issues facing Oxford in the next four years?

It's hard to predict every challenge ahead without being in the role, but two issues already stand out to me: our city's growth and local housing affordability. These are common in thriving small towns like Oxford, especially when so many people want to live here. Growth is a good thing, but it can spiral out of anyone's control if growth is improperly managed. With rapid expansion comes growing pains: infrastructure strain, increased traffic, supply and demand pressures, and the need for sustainable planning. The real challenge isn't growth itself but how we handle it. We must ensure our roads, utilities, and public services keep pace, and that those who work here, our teachers, first responders, service workers, can also afford to live here. I'm committed to fostering thoughtful development that protects the character of our neighborhoods while embracing opportunity. Oxford is growing, and so are our possibilities. We have to make sure that progress works for everyone.

What issues are Oxford facing that need more attention by the city government?

One thing I've learned through years of service is that what feels like an issue to me might not be an issue to my neighbor—or vice versa. We live in an incredible town, but no matter how great a place is, transparency and communication can always improve. While meetings, minutes, and city updates are available to the public, not everyone knows where to look or has the time to dig for information. I do think the city has made progress in explaining major projects more clearly, and that effort has helped residents better understand and engage with what's happening around them. But we can still do more. Communication should be proactive, not reactive. If someone in Ward 1—or anywhere in Oxford—has a concern, I want them to know I'm here to listen. I'll have an open-door policy, and I'll work to ensure residents feel heard. Some problems are quick fixes, others take time—but if they're not brought to the forefront, they can't be solved at all.

If you could change anything about Oxford, what would you change?

Oxford is fortunate to have engaged citizens and leaders who care deeply about our community, and in many ways, that connection is already strong. But there's always room to build



Erin Smith

Conversation Café
Prison Writes Initiative and Creative Arts Program

Join us for coffee and pastries and learn about this program and new books from leaders Louis Bourgeois and Sally McLellan.

Books will be available for purchase and signing.

Be sure to check out the exhibit in the library foyer all month long!

Sponsored by
The Friends of Lafayette County
& Oxford Public Library

Wednesday, May 28, 2025 * 10:00 am

LAFAYETTE COUNTY & OXFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY
401 Bramlett Blvd., Oxford, MS 662-234-5751
A branch of First Regional Library www.firstregional.org

**FREE SUMMER MEALS
FOR EVERY KID**

OPEN TO GENERAL PUBLIC,
NO RESIDENCE OR SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

SUMMER MEAL PROGRAM

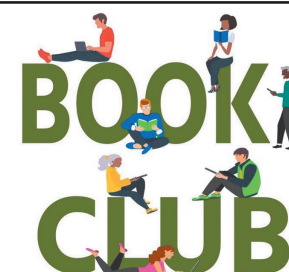
Breakfast and lunch FREE to anyone under the age of 18!

Every weekday from June 2nd - July 18th **Closed July 4th**

Central Elementary School - 409 Washington Ave - Oxford, Mississippi
Breakfast: 7 am - 9 am Lunch: 10:30 am - 1 pm

Free for Children. Adults Prices: \$2.00 for Breakfast, \$4.00 for Lunch

Open to the public. You do not have to reside in the Oxford School District or prove residency.
Children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by an adult.



Check-It-Out

Book Club & Book Swap

Meet new people, share what you're reading, get ideas for your to-be-read list, and swap up to three books at this book club for adults.
Second Thursday of Each Month at 11:00 am

FOR AGES 18 & UP

LAFAYETTE COUNTY & OXFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY
401 Bramlett Blvd., Oxford, MS 662-234-5751
A branch of First Regional Library www.firstregional.org

TAP ROOM



TRIVIA

FOR SALE: 2013 John Deere 25 Horsepower diesel tractor with front loader, backhoe, and bushhog. \$19,500. Call **662-416-3281**.


in that foundation. Some residents feel informed and involved, while others feel left out of the conversation. I want to help close that gap. If I could change anything, it would be to create more consistent and accessible channels for dialogue between residents and city leadership. That means open forums, clear communication, and making it easier for people to understand how decisions are made—and how they can be part of shaping them. I'm committed to fostering a culture of collaboration, where every voice is valued and every concern is met with respect. My goal is to ensure our city grows with care and consideration, guided by transparency, service, and integrity. Oxford is full of passionate, thoughtful people. Let's build on what's already working and create an even stronger connection between the community and those who serve it.

Are there any functions of city government that you would change, improve, or eliminate?

This is a tough question to fully answer without having served in the role yet, but I believe in the philosophy of "don't fix what's not broken, improve what can be better, and let go of what no longer works." Every system has room to grow. That's the value of bringing the right people to the table—together, we can identify what's working, what's not, and find real solutions. We've come a long way as a city, but there's always room for growth. This isn't about tearing down—it's about refining and strengthening how we work together to serve Oxford well.

Are there any other statements or information you would like the voters of Ward 1 to know?

Oxford is my home, and serving this community is where my heart is. *I'm not running for Alderman with an agenda—I'm running because I believe in people, in service, and in the power of compassionate leadership.* From non-profit work to city commissions, my life has been rooted

in showing up for others with a servant's heart. Commitment, that compassion, and that leadership are who I am—today, tomorrow, and for years to come. While this is a political office, for me, it's personal. It's about listening to your concerns, advocating for your needs, and doing the right thing even when it's not the easy thing. I want to be the kind of representative who returns your call, looks you in the eye, and follows through. I will lead with integrity, keep you informed, and always put the people of Ward 1 first. Together, we can build an even stronger Oxford—one grounded in trust, transparency, and a shared love for this place we all call home. 

Drew Stevens

Tell us a little about yourself, background, and work history:

I was born and raised in Natchez, Mississippi. After 12 years of Catholic School, I moved to Oxford in the late 1990s as a college freshman. I worked throughout my college career at The Gin and quickly found an affinity for Oxford's culture.

Upon graduating college, I traveled abroad for 11 months before moving back to Oxford in the early 2000s to work with John Currence's City Grocery Restaurant Group at the newly opened Bouré restaurant's original location on North Lamar. I met a young Jill Miley who had just graduated with a degree in accounting and a masters in tax. We married here and continued to grow the Currence brand: Jill opened the first Big Bad Breakfast in Midtown in 2008 serving as General Manager; and I opened SnackBar just next door with Currence and Vishwesh Bhatt, where I served as General Manager as well for nearly a decade.

In 2017, Jill and I "retired" from the restaurants. I then focused primarily on my residential real estate career where I devote at least 30% of my business to

working with first-time homeowners. Jill expanded her volunteer work in the Oxford Public Schools and also teaches a class at the University orienting freshman to the Oxford and Ole Miss community.

We both hold the strong belief that our Public Schools are a place where our community comes together for good. And that we are all stakeholders in the success of our shared community.

Our daughter Miley (12) and son Jack (11) are proud Oxford Chargers since their Pre-K days at Bramlett Elementary. We live at the end of the Combs Street cul de sac with our dog, Archie, and an unending faith in the Golden Rule.

Why do you want to be the Alderman for Ward 1 in Oxford?

Over the past five years I have sought to better understand how our city government functions—to fully appreciate our successes and challenges and the local history that preceded us. In an effort to be as informed a citizen as possible, I have either attended or streamed every city meeting possible since 2020. I've studied our board minutes going back to the 1950s and read every 100-page annual city audit of the past decade. While I expect to learn something new every day, I am informed and ready to work effectively on your behalf on day one.

I am your candidate for one simple reason: to serve the interests of our Ward 1 friends and neighbors. Our home. Jill and I have lived in Ward 1 for the past 25 years—beginning on North 11th Street, then moving across Lamar to the end of North 15th, and ultimately to our forever home here on Combs Street in the mid 2000s. We love this place. From Chaney's to Mama Jo's. Where else can you be within 2 miles of every public school in our district? Where else is home to 20 beautiful acres of Avent Park, North Lamar Halloween, Oxford Floral, Community Green, Handy Andy, Coach



Vote 

DREW STEVENS



WARD 1 ALDERMAN



WARD 1 ALDERMAN

Ward 1 has been home to our family for the past 25 years.

I met Jill in this Ward, we married here, have run two successful businesses here, became first-time homeowners here, and continue to raise our son and daughter here. Our entire life is in Beautiful Ward 1: our past, our present, and our future. We are all stakeholders in the success of our shared community.

I invite you to join our campaign to serve the interests of our Ward 1 neighbors. The decisions we make over the next four years will determine the culture of our children's hometown, and require a strong and independent voice dedicated to public service.

I am informed and ready to go on day one. With pride and purpose, I seek the privilege of your vote on **Tuesday, June 3, 2025**

Vision 

- Prioritize Ward 1 residents by communicating future city initiatives and development plans.
- Establish a monthly 'public input' agenda item and Neighborhood Alliance Representatives to enhance citizen engagement.
- Ensure fiscal responsibility and accountability of taxpayer dollars and development plans.
- Advocate for the economic well-being of Oxford's working families.
- Champion local businesses and entrepreneurs.
- Foster strategic partnerships to drive community growth.
- Support community-led efforts to reduce reckless driving.

Vote on **Tuesday, June 3rd** at Oxford Conference Center

drewstevens38655@gmail.com
phone: 662-316-5777

This message is approved and paid for by Drew Stevens, Candidate Ward 1 Alderman, Oxford.

Howell Activity Center, the Graduate, Molly Barr Trails, the Movies, Bowling, Chicory, Midtown and the Oxford Community Farmer's Markets, the Conference Center, Ammadelle, Volta, Good Day, our Public Library, the Swim Club, Southern Star Yoga, Jinsei, Sno-Biz, the Oil Shed, Cedar Oaks, the Skate Park, Pavilion, the OAC, Friday night Football, Autumn on Douglas Drive, our historic Churches, City Cemeteries, and Lisa Howorth's perennial front yard? We share a deep love and pride that we are a part of this place and its people. As your Ward 1 Alderman, I will be a strong and independent voice solely dedicated to representing and protecting your interests. Full stop.

What work or service have you done that is beneficial to being Ward 1's Alderman?

The combined three decades that Jill and I spent at the very top of our industry laid the foundation for a history of active engagement serving our Ward 1 community.

During our tenure we collectively hired over 500 employees, innovated systems, created and maintained budgets, made difficult decisions, met every payroll, worked to establish a thriving national brand, and directly contributed to the revitalization of Midtown's home-grown business community. More than this, we gained the unique opportunity to witness the challenges and successes of our shared culture firsthand, across all levels and circumstances.

Jill and I share the lived experience and the institutional history of our 25 years rooted in our Ward 1 community. We know the evolving needs of our neighbors and of those outside our social circle, as we've all grown together here. This direct involvement is why we created

and continue to manage our 'Avent Acres' neighborhood Facebook page, have been successful reducing reckless driving on our streets, and were persistent in petitioning for privacy on behalf of our neighboring cemetery families.

I believe that we all stand on the shoulders of proud Oxonians: that it is both our privilege and our responsibility as this generation's citizens. And now is our time to stand up.



Drew Stevens

What are the major issues facing Oxford in the next four years?

Balancing our interests in progress and growth with a commitment to prioritizing our everyday citizens in this process. The byproducts created by the rapid growth we've experienced recently, and in general over the past 30 years, will further challenge our existing resources as the University continues to grow and Oxford's popularity expands nationally.

There are the obvious issues of the increasing population strain on our infrastructure. Working to maintain the essential framework to handle all the demand we're adding for housing, basic utilities, energy, essential and emergency services, and transportation. And the unintended consequences of basic affordability across all segments of our population I live and breathe the market everyday. We must meet these challenges with opportunities available for all our citizens. If we fail to address these issues head on, we risk what's made our culture so attractive in the first place. We have to prioritize our overall long-term value vs our short-term gains.

What issues are Oxford facing that need more attention by the city government?

In addition to what I referenced above, I continue to be inspired by the frank conversations I've had with our

Ward 1 residents during this campaign. Both with folks I've known well over the years and with folks I'm just meeting for the first time. We are fortunate to live in a civic-minded community that values their neighbors and treats them as the extended family they are. It is equally reassuring to identify so many residents taking the lead to address specific ongoing issues on their street.

One concern I hear repeatedly is that we have not adequately addressed reckless driving along our neighborhood residential streets. Park Drive has a serious need for traffic calming and pedestrian sidewalks along its north end, as do the areas of Jefferson and North 16th, and all along Chickasaw. We need access to all the tools in the kit to bring relief to specific problem areas. And need to ensure we're prioritizing solutions to existing resident issues before adding on.

If you could change anything about Oxford, what would you change?

I'd increase our citizen engagement in our city government. Decisions are made by those who show up. When we disengage with our local officials, there's a tendency to move on without the value of our input. Even with the best of intentions from our leaders, this can stifle the necessary debate these decisions require. Before we know it, we can unwittingly forfeit the openness and transparency in the issues that directly affect our daily lives. It's not a difficult problem to avoid. We just have to have efficient systems in place that allow us to communicate effectively through the proper channels. When we are informed, engaged, and organized than the issues that we voice will become a priority.

Are there any functions of city government that you would change, improve, or eliminate?

In the same vein as above, I would advocate that the city stream all public meetings and lobby for a monthly 'public input' agenda item where citizens can openly

Vote ERIN SMITH ✓ Alderman Ward 1

- Oxford Resident for 23 years
- University of Mississippi, Bachelor of Arts in Political Science & Louisiana State University, Masters of Science in Nonprofit Administration
- Founding Executive Director, CASA of North Mississippi
- Active Member of First Baptist Church Oxford
- Oxford-Lafayette Chamber of Commerce
 - Vice Chair Board of Directors, 2024-present
 - Member, Board of Directors 2019-present
 - Jr. Leadership Oxford-Lafayette Program Chair 2023-present
- Commissioner, City of Oxford Planning Commission 2023-present
- Past Commissioner, City of Oxford Historic Preservation Commission, 2021-2023
- Past Lafayette County District 2 Election Commissioner, 2023-2025
- Intended for Good, Stonewater Council for Youth Board of Directors
- Cadence Bank Oxford Community Advisory Council
- Lafayette County Law Enforcement Officers Part Time Training Academy, Classroom Instructor



June 3, 2025 | Oxford Conference Center
Absentee Voting ends May 31, 2025 | Circuit Clerk's Office

MORE INFO: 662-832-9933 CAPSHOW38655@GMAIL.COM

51st Annual Old-Time Piano Playing Contest & Festival Returns to Oxford May 22-25

Since its inception as a fundraiser for the Monticello, Illinois, Railway Museum in 1975, the World Championship Old-Time Piano Playing Contest has hosted more than 1,200 piano contestants from across the United States and abroad. Held annually to coincide with Memorial Day weekend, this event boasts the largest, most comprehensive competitive events for pianists steeped in the musical genres of ragtime, traditional jazz, and blues.

Contestants of all ages will be converging on Oxford to vie for trophies and cash prizes at the University of Mississippi, the Contest's home since 2016. The event will be emceed by founder Ted Lemen.

There are four primary contests: A New Rag Contest for aspiring composers premiering new ragtime compositions; the Junior Division featuring pianists ages 18-and-under; the Regular Division for the seasoned performers; and the Senior Division for those pianists over 60 years of age. Special guests this year include Steinway artist **Richard Dowling**; **Sue Keller**, director of the **Cape Cod Ragtime Festival**; three-time champion **Paul Orsi**; and the only four-time champion, **Adam Swanson**, who has performed at music festivals world-wide and serves as co-emcee for the event. In addition to the contests, there are presentations, a catered luncheon with live music; a Silent Movie Luncheon; a youth master class and after-hours events each evening featuring lots of pianists. Our exclusive off-campus venue this year is indoors at **The Old Henry** located on the **Oxford Square** at the corner of Jackson Ave. and 10th Street. Admission is by cover charge.



Judges and winners strike a silly pose onstage at the World Championship Old-Time Piano Playing Contest in Oxford, Mississippi.

If you love ragtime, jazz, blues, honky-tonk, boogie or novelty songs from the days of Tin Pan Alley, then you'll have the time of your life in Oxford this Memorial Day weekend. To capture the flavor of this event, visit their YouTube Channel for past performances. For a fun-filled four days of fabulous music, visit www.oldtimepianocontest.com and purchase tickets for this year's World Championship. Check Facebook for regular updates.

All-event tickets, day passes, and individual event tickets are available for purchase online from the event web site and at the door, as space permits.

There is something for everyone during this family friendly weekend. **WV**

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I, Jose Garcia, and we, the officers of Uno Mas Co, INC, intend to make application for a caterer/with on premise retailer permit as provided for by the Local Option Alcoholic Beverage Control Laws, Section 67-1-1, et seq., of the Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated. If granted such permit, I or We propose to operate as a corporation under the trade name of Uno Mas, CO located at 1101 Jackson Avenue E, Oxford, Lafayette, Mississippi. The name, title, and address of the ownerand/or majority stockholder/member/trustee of the above named business are: Jose Garcia. If any person wishes to request a hearing to object to the issuance of this permit a request for a hearing must be made in writing and received by the Department of Revenue within (15) days from the first date this notice was published. Requests shall be sent to: Chief Counsel, Legal Division, Department of Revenue, P.O. Box 22828, Jackson, MS 39225.





Solutions to puzzles are inside **The Local Voice Digital Edition** sent every Thursday to subscribers. Subscribe **FREE** at TheLocalVoice.net or scan this QR code and have our digital edition sent to you.

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Swedish car
- 5 Do sums
- 8 Gym pads
- 12 Bruins' sch.
- 13 Cattle call
- 14 Modern money
- 15 Tall, thin person
- 17 Bickering
- 18 Sound from a hot wok
- 19 Small bill
- 20 Elitists
- 21 Warm-up run
- 22 "Top Gun" target
- 23 Fall flower
- 26 "Hamilton" or "Rent"
- 30 Old money of Rome
- 31 Weir
- 32 Tiers
- 33 Not generic
- 35 Flaxen, as hair
- 36 Stitch
- 37 Hosp. workers
- 38 Smiles broadly
- 41 Bikini half

DOWN

- 42 Solidify
- 45 "The Wire" actor Idris
- 46 Tilt towards
- 48 Region (Abbr.)
- 49 Kreskin's claim
- 50 Without
- 51 "Shool!"
- 52 Holy Fr. woman
- 53 Sch. supporters
- 1 Long lunches?
- 2 High cards
- 3 Regrettably
- 4 Prohibit
- 5 Surrounded by
- 6 Hand (out)
- 7 Anonymous Jane
- 8 2004 Lindsay Lohan movie
- 9 Prefix with pilot
- 10 Chicago paper, for short
- 11 Lushes
- 16 Indigent

- 20 Venus, to Serena
- 21 "Hacks" actress
- 22 Silent
- 23 Cleric's tunic
- 24 Navy address
- 25 -- la-la
- 26 Frenzied
- 27 Bill's partner
- 28 Bristle
- 29 Leary's drug
- 31 Morning moisture
- 34 -- Moines
- 35 Muffin choice
- 37 Cover with cloth
- 38 Wagers
- 39 Power co. supply
- 40 "East of Eden" girl
- 41 Optimum
- 42 Bitty biter
- 43 Sicilian spouter
- 44 Privation
- 46 French article
- 47 AOL, for one

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18					19				20			
			21				22					
23	24	25				26				27	28	29
30					31				32			
33					34				35			
			36				37					
38	39	40				41				42	43	44
45					46				47			
48					49				50			
51					52				53			

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Lunch 11-2, 5-9 Dinner

Saturday:

Brunch 10-2, 5-9 Dinner

Sunday: Brunch 10-2

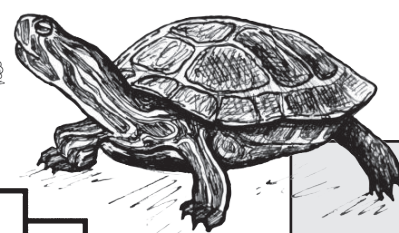
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**DIFFERENT SPECIALS MONDAY
THROUGH THURSDAY**



Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- MOVIES:** What is the name of Han Solo's ship in the "Star Wars" series?
- TELEVISION:** What is Ray Barone's job on the sitcom "Everybody Loves Raymond"?
- U.S. STATES:** The Baltimore Ravens' name is a nod to which past famous resident?
- PSYCHOLOGY:** What fear is represented in the condition called "alliumphobia"?
- LITERATURE:** Who created the fictional detective Lord Peter Wimsey?
- GAMES:** Which chess piece can't move in a straight line?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM:** What is a baby mouse called?
- SCIENCE:** What does the acronym RNA stand for?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS:** Which president was the first to wear contact lenses?
- ASTRONOMY:** Which constellation contains Polaris, the North Star?

ANSWERS BELOW

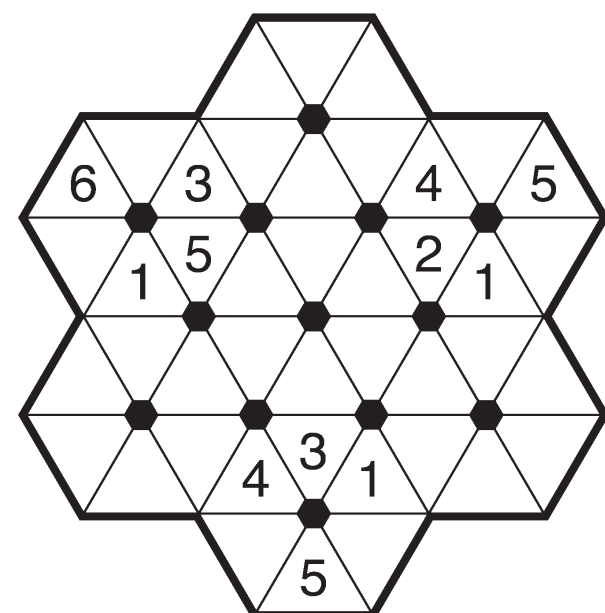
GO FIGURE!

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

	+		-		=	5		
+		-		+				
	+		-	4	=	5		
÷		+		÷				
	+		÷		=	2		
=		=		=				
2		14		1				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

SNOWFLAKES

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

CryptoQuote

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, **A** is used for the three L's, **X** for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each week the code letters are different.

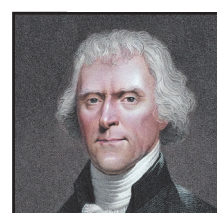
Y HYSI ABXBTYMYCS TBVD
BIWQUAYSK. BTBVD AYZB
MCZBGCID AWVSM CS ANB
MBA, Y KC YSAC ANB
CANBV VCCZ USI VBUI U
GCCJ. — KVCWQNC ZUVP

CryptoQuip

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

Clue: F equals B

SLWY IXCYS AT L BYKKQJTSY
UYOCXBY BTOQTOLAXTS
KTBLAYG XS FXOWXSIJLW'U
UALAY: WTFXKY LKLFLWL.



"We do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate."
— Thomas Jefferson
(April 13, 1743 – July 4, 1826)

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Answers: 1. Millennium Falcon. 2. Sports writer. 3. Edgar Allan Poe, who wrote the poem "The Raven." 4. Fear of garlic. 5. Dorothy L. Sayers. 6. Knight. 7. A pinky or pup. 8. Ribonucleic Acid. 9. Lyndon Johnson. 10. Ursa Minor (The Little Dipper).



Rebel Wine & Spirits

Remember the Party Starts Here!



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Oxford, Mississippi 38655




the Local Voice PUZZLE PLAYGROUND

STICKELERS

by Terry Stickels

Which two figures cannot be folded into cubes?

A.  B. 

C.  D.  E. 



IT'S MORNING and this little squirrel is still hibernating. When he wakes up, how many nuts will he have for breakfast?

Answer: We counted 55. Did you find that many?

FARMER BROWN STRIKES IT RICH! When he brought a truckload of chickens and sheep to market, he noticed that, all together, they had 24 heads and 76 feet. If he was paid \$3 per chicken and \$10 per sheep, how much money did he make that day?

Answer: There were 10 chickens and 14 sheep in his truck, so he made a total of \$170.

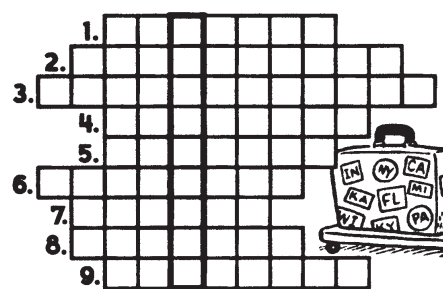
HERE'S A KNOTTY PROBLEM! In this puzzle, all of the words get progressively longer, and they all start with NOT. Some hints are:

- 1. NOT (in place).
- 2. A brief record.
- 3. A V-shaped cut.
- 4. A whim.
- 5. Something remarkable.
- 6. Made known.

Answers: 1. Not. 2. Note. 3. Notch. 4. Notion. 5. Notable. 6. Notified.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



A "STATE" OF MIND PUZZLE!

Let's take a trip around the country. Below are the mottos of nine states.

Your problem is to identify the name of each state, using these mottos, and then enter the state's name in the puzzle grid above. Have a nice trip!

- 1. The Empire State.
- 2. The Golden State.
- 3. The Keystone State.
- 4. The Great Lakes State.
- 4. The Sunshine State.
- 6. The Prairie State.
- 7. The Sunflower State.
- 8. The Hoosier State.
- 9. The Bluegrass State.

If you solve this puzzle correctly, the dark-framed column in the grid will spell out the name of the Badger State.

Answers: 1. New York. 2. California. 3. Pennsylvania. 4. Michigan. 5. Florida. 6. Illinois. 7. Kansas. 8. Indiana. 9. Kentucky. The dark-framed column spells "Wisconsin."

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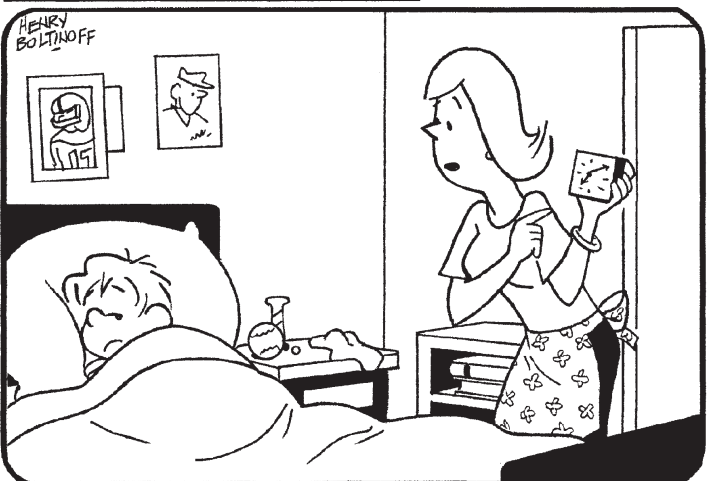
KNIGHT MOVES

E	M	O
N		C
I	C	O

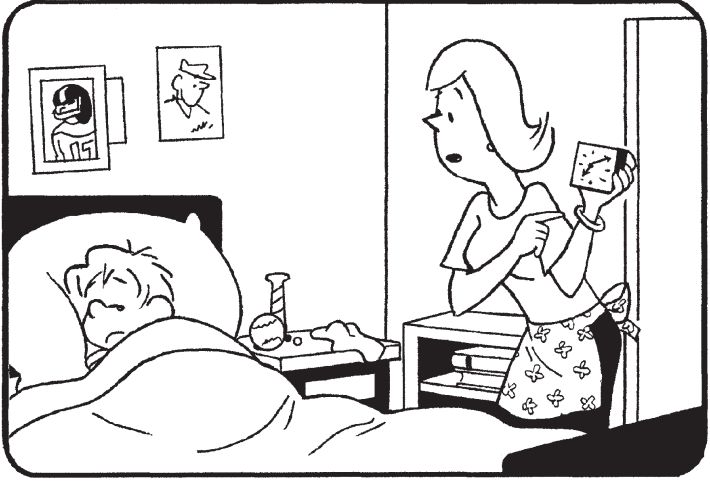
Unlock the power of chess to find the eight-letter word of the day. Choose your starting letter carefully, then move around the square in a one by two fashion to get to the next letter.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Apron is shorter. 2. Bat is moved. 3. Bookcase is wider. 4. Picture is different. 5. Hand is moved. 6. Bracelet is moved.

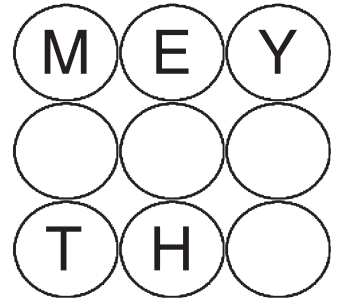
Even Exchange

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. Unravel a mystery | ___ O ___ | Soothing lotion | ___ A ___ |
| 2. Irritate | ___ E ___ | Movie ad on paper | ___ O ___ |
| 3. Footpath | ___ ___ K | Just a smidgeon | ___ ___ E |
| 4. Nirvana | ___ I ___ | Consecrate | ___ E ___ |
| 5. Beach season | ___ U ___ | Cook slowly | ___ I ___ |
| 6. Gulch | ___ ___ E | Uncontrollable | ___ ___ G |
| 7. Rudimentary | ___ ___ C | Sink | ___ ___ N |
| 8. Makeup table | V ___ | Mental well-being | S ___ |
| 9. Almost | ___ ___ L | Very close | ___ ___ B |
| 10. Jump-start | ___ ___ O | Blow your own horn | ___ ___ A |

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.

on the square:
401 S Lamar

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Oxford, Mississippi's Oldest Restaurant The Beacon Will Close its doors for the final time

The Beacon is the last eating establishment that was around during William Faulkner's time, having opened its doors just over three years before his death. I don't know that he ever ate there (he was partial to the Mansion Restaurant, which would burn down in 1967), but he was almost certainly aware of it, as Oxford was much smaller then.

Oxford Future Farmers of America Teams Earn Top Honors, Advance to Nationals

The Oxford Horticulture program had three teams qualify for the State FFA Contest including: Agronomy, Equipment and Tool Identification, and Floriculture.

News You Can Use: Fighting Infections While Expecting

New research by UM pharmacy professor examines safe antibiotic use during pregnancy

During pregnancy, about 80% of the medications prescribed to women are antibiotics. And while women have been told in the past to not take antibiotics while pregnant, UM pharmacy professor Kayla Stover said that is not the case.

Ole Miss Alumni Association Plans for Growing Campus

For almost 75 years, University of Mississippi alumni and friends have found a home at the Alumni House overlooking The Grove. This space has served as a hub for connection, celebration and memories, but the university – and its alumni base – has outgrown the facility.

Veteran Communicator Tapped to Lead University Marketing, Communications

"For nearly three decades, Lisa Stone has been a valued member of our campus community," Chancellor Glenn Boyce said. "She has led award-winning communications campaigns, managed major initiatives, developed purposeful communication strategies, and built strong stakeholder relationships."

Lafayette County Master Gardeners: "Penstemon"

by Bronwynne Bailey

Penstemon is a native plant which acts like a magnet for hummingbirds, bees, and butterflies. The red and mauve varieties shown are the best choices to attract hummingbirds. There are more than 260 different species. This provides you with a large variety of bloom times and heights for your garden.

Southern Kitchens Nourish Bay Merrell's College Experience

Warm, flaky, tender buttermilk biscuits are the inspiration for Bay Merrell's undergraduate thesis, as well as the reason for her grandmother's internet fame.

More Headlines

Empathy in Practice: Law Students Learn by Protecting Students in Need

Oxford Middle School Robotics Team Advances to World Robotics Championship

Orchestra Participation Soars Across Oxford Schools

Narcissistic Men Are Drawn to Gossip, Study Finds

University of Mississippi's Susan Pedigo Bids Farewell with Wisdom and Warmth

26 Local High School Sophomores Complete Chamber of Commerce 2025 Junior Leadership Program

Local Crime:

Lafayette County Sheriff's Department, Oxford Police Department, Water Valley Police Department assist Yalobusha County Sheriff's Department in Standoff involving guns near Water Valley

TV

Read more at TheLocalVoice.net

Strange BUT TRUE

- More than 300 different species of bacteria are found in dental plaque.
- Bones found at **Seymour Island** indicate that 37 to 40 million years ago, penguins stood at a formidable 6 feet tall and weighed 250 pounds.
- **PEZ** candies were originally anti-smoking mints.
- **World War II** is known as "the blessed war" to many Icelanders because the country has that conflict to thank for its independence.
- **Jeanne-Genevieve Garnerin** was the first female parachutist. In 1799, she jumped from a hot air balloon. This jump was recorded to be around 900 meters high (over 3,000 feet). She was also one of the earliest women to fly in a balloon.
- In the 1920s and '30s, many movie theaters had signs instructing ladies to "Please Remove Your Hats" to keep their elaborate headwear from blocking anyone's view.
- **Jeannette Rankin** became the first female member of **Congress** in 1916, four years before the 19th Amendment, granting women the right to vote, was ratified.
- **Mike Tyson** saw **Muhammad Ali's** last match at the age of 14 and got mad at **Larry Holmes** for beating Ali. Tyson called Ali on the phone and told him, "I'll grow up and get him back for you." Seven years later, Tyson met Holmes for a match, and the then-retired Ali stepped in the ring and said, "Remember what you promised." Tyson made good on his vow in the fourth round.
- The platypus doesn't have a stomach at all: Its esophagus goes straight to its intestines.
- Rainbows are full circles when viewed from a different perspective, and everyone sees a unique version depending on how their eyes perceive light.
- **Thought for the Day:** "Whatever you can do, or dream you can do, begin it. Boldness has genius, power and magic in it."

For Rent: Commercial or Residential Building in Oxford

675sf of commercial or residential space located at **Three Way on White Oak Lane** (North Lamar and Molly Barr). Zoned commercial but has 1 bedroom, 1 bath, kitchen, living room, deck, private drive, and parking. Excellent location for small office or private residence. Call **Max Hill** at (662) 807-1810.

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The Local Voice is published every Thursday

Deadline is every Tuesday at noon. Next print deadline: June 10

We welcome submissions, contributions, local writers, and artists! Get in touch and get published.

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Ajax Diner

118 Courthouse Square

Mon-Sat: 11 am-9 pm

Big Bad Breakfast

719 N Lamar Blvd.

Mon, Wed-Fri: 7 am-1 pm

Sat-Sun: 8 am-2:30 pm

Early Bird Special:

Wed & Thur 7-9 am: 10% off

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Fri-Sat: 11 am-10 pm

Sun: 11 am-8 pm

Wed-Thu: \$4 drafts & wells;

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Fri: 2-for-1 wells ALL DAY; \$4

drafts, \$5 High Noons (4-8 pm)

Sat: Crawfish

Sun: 1/2-price Bloody Marys &

Mimosas + Crawfish

Delivery: Take A Break 🚗

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Fri-Sat: 11 am-10:30 pm

Bar: Mon-Wed 4 pm-midnight;

Thu-Fri 4 pm-1 am; Sat noon-1 am

Delivery: Take A Break 🚗

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Kitchen Hours:

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Wed-Sat: 7 am-7:30 pm

Sun: 9 am-6:30 pm

WED: TRIVIA 7 pm

City Grocery

152 Courthouse Square

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Lunch: 11:30 am-2:30 pm;

Dinner 6-10 pm; Fri & Sat till 10:30

City Grocery Bar

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Open at noon Sat 5/10

Happy Hour 4-6 pm:

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1012 E Jackson Ave

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Fri: noon-1 am; Sat: 11 am-1 am

Sun: 11 am-9 pm

Mon: \$5 Octanes

Tue: \$5 Grape Gatorade

Wed: LADIES' NIGHT:

\$5 Skinny Bitches

Thur: \$4 domestics

Sat: Crawfish

Delivery: Take A Break 🚗

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Wed-Fri: Lunch: 11 am-2 pm;

Dinner 5-9 pm

Sat: Brunch 10 am-2 pm;

5-9 pm

Sun: Brunch 10 am-2 pm

Kingswood

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Mon-Wed: 4-9 pm; Thu: 4-10 pm

Fri: 11 am-2 pm; 4-10 pm

Sat & Sun: 9 am-2 pm; 4-10/9 pm

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\$7 wines, food specials

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Mon-Fri: 3 pm-1 am

Sat: 11 am-1 am

Sun: 11 am-9 pm

Happy Hour 3-7 pm

Mon-Fri \$1 off all drinks

Moe's BBQ

311 S Lamar Blvd

Mon-Sun: 11 am-10 pm

Penny Bar open 3 pm

Happy Hour 3-6 pm:

Mon-Fri 1/2-price apps,

2-for-1 wells, wines & domestics

Mon: \$2 domestics

Tue: TRIVIA + \$25 High Noon buckets

Wed: COMEDY OPEN MIC

Thu: BINGO + \$5 Bushwhackers

Sun: Kids 12 & under eat free (6 pm-

close)

Delivery: Take A Break 🚗

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Thu-Fri: 5 pm-1 am

Sat: noon-1 am

Last Brunch Service is

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Live music 11:30-2:30

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1/2-priced cocktails & wine

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1006 E Jackson Ave

Mon-Sat: 5 pm-1 am

Fri & Sat: DJ DRUMM

Rafters on the Water

30117 Blackjack Rd., Sardis

Wed-Fri: 5-11 pm

Sat-Sun: 11 am-11 pm

Quack's

122 Courthouse Square

Mon-Thu: 4 pm-close

Mon & Tue: \$1 off drafts all day

Fri: noon-1 am; Brunch noon-3 pm;

Free Fry-day

Sat & Sun: Brunch 11 am-3 pm;

Mimosas & \$9 Espresso Martinis

Sun: 11 am-9 pm;

\$1 off cocktails 3-9 pm

Happy Hour: Mon & Tues ALL DAY

\$1 off drafts; Wed ALL DAY \$1 off

all beer & seltzers + 2-4-1 wells; Thu

& Fri 4-6 pm: \$1 off all beer &

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Dinner 5-10 pm

Brunch Sat & Sun:

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Happy Hour 3-5 pm

(Tue-Thu): \$10 Pizzas, Bubbles +

Fries, \$6 Wine & Cocktails

Snackbar

721 N Lamar Blvd

Mon-Thu: 4-10 pm

Fri-Sat: 4-10:30 pm

Happy Hour 4-6 pm:

\$2 domestics, \$4 drafts,

\$6 select wines, \$8 select classic

cocktails, small plate & oyster

specials

Mon: INDUSTRY NIGHT

Southern Coop

New Location: 705 Sisk Ave.

Mon-Sat: 11 am-9 pm

Delivery: Take A Break 🚗

SoLa

401 S Lamar Blvd

Wed-Sat: 5-9 pm

Sun Brunch: 10:30 am-1:30 pm

Happy Hour 5-6 pm: \$6 fresh

Margaritas

Wed: Spaghetti + \$5 wine

Thu: Ramen & \$5 Rosé

Sun: Oyster Shooters!

Tallahatchie Gourmet

1221 Van Buren Ave

Mon-Wed: 11 am-2:30 pm

Mon-Fri: retail open until 4:30 pm

Brunch Sat & Sun 11:30 am-3 pm

Delivery: Take A Break 🚗

Uno Mas

1101 E Jackson Ave

Otry Sunday

Volta Taverna

710 N Lamar Blvd

Mon-Thu: 11 am-9 pm;

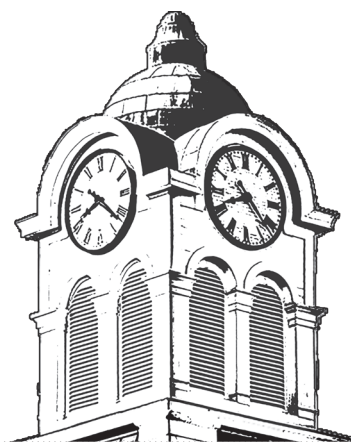
Fri-Sat: 11 am-9:30 pm;

Happy Hour 4-6 pm:

\$1 off all drinks

1/2-price Margaritas & Mojitos

Mon, Thu & Sat 🚗



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Chidoriya Ramen & Poke
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Kabuki Sushi
The Noodle Bowl
Pho Bowl Vietnamese
Pokemoto
Rice & Spice
Toyo
Zaap Thai Kitchen

Ajax Diner
Tallahatchie Gourmet
The Blind Pig

Tarasque Cucina
Panino Veloce
Back 9
Maharaja
Boure
Greenline Salads
Proud Larry's
Amore
Walk On's
Sizzler Steakhouse
Tangos

Casa Mexicana
Chipotle
Costa Mexican
El Agave
El Charro
El Mariachi

La Perla
OK Maguey
South Depot
The Taco Shop

Arby's
Burger King
Captain D's
Chick-fil-A
Cookout
McDonald's
Popeye's
Taco Bell
Wendy's
Zaxby's

Firehouse Subs
Jimmy John's

McAlister's Deli
Newk's Eatery
Oby's
Buffalo Wild Wings
Chicken Salad Chick
Connie's Chicken
Guthrie's Chicken
Ole Coop
Southern Coop
Wingstop

Bim Bam Burgers
Checkers
Dairy Queen
Mugshots Grill
Beacon
Phillips Grocery
Oxford Burger Co.

Fergndan's
Funkys Pizza & Daiquiris
Lost Pizza Co.
Marco's Pizza
Papa John's
Pizza Den
Pizza Hut
Pizza Paradise
Pizza Shop



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your delivery



You're My Soul and My Heart's Inspiration, Part Two

With all humility this column is part two of a two-part series about people and things that have inspired me and inspire me still in hopes that you, the much-appreciated reader, might also take an inventory of the same.

Friends. I've had wonderful friends throughout my life. Since I stepped onto The Balcony at City Grocery 10 years ago I discovered a group of friends that let me be the most authentic self I could be since high school. The Whiskey Wednesday group and the Knights of the Long Table (bartenders) help make me feel especially safe and cared about. Some have said that The Balcony is my home away from home. The truth is that my apartment is home away from home. The Balcony is my true home—my chosen home with my chosen family.

My family of origin inspires me even though both of my parents and all three of my siblings have died. It's a strange feeling to know that you are the last surviving member of the family you grew up with, but I do gain much inspiration from my memories of them. I especially see Mama reading her Bible and hearing her say to me, "If you don't have something good to say don't say anything at all." She will always be my Fount of Kindness.

I've found so many things in my heart that I didn't appreciate at the time. I wish I had recognized them while they were taking place, but perhaps that is a course most of us take in life. One of my Balcony friends, the Sheik, once said, "Hindsight is 50/50." Cogitate on that for a while.

There's a little boy that I see on the Square often. We sit and talk of all kinds of things, tell riddles and jokes, and sometimes he shows me his newest dance moves. He is wise beyond his years and is one of the kindest children I've ever known. I once asked him, "What's something you've learned in life so far?" He thought for a bit then said, "Sometimes the little things make a big difference." Out of the mouths of babes indeed. That literally took my breath away. I've told his parents,

and perhaps him (I can't exactly recall), that if I ever have a grandchild I hope they will be just like him. He gifts me with inspiration, joy, and love.

The arts inspire me. Works of art, whether they be music, paintings, books, movies, dance, sculptures, stage plays or other forms, inspire me. They touch my heart and soul, not just because of their beauty, but also because the creator(s) had the courage to put their heart and soul into their work, and were brave enough to share their creation with the world, taking the risk of rejection.


I have chosen to eliminate the words "good" and "bad" in relation to artistic creations. Why? Because everyone brings their own life experience to their appreciation of art. So while one person might love a piece of art, another person doesn't. No big deal. You like it, I don't. I like it, you don't. Beauty is in the eye, heart, and soul of the beholder.

My son, Jonas, inspires me the most. Jonas is forty-two years old now. He's been through a lot, including being a Marine deployed in Afghanistan and Iraq during the early years of our wars there. He's married now to a wonderful woman. They support each other magnificently. Jonas has developed a deep spiritual life. I was always concerned about that. He went to church with me, and I told him about my spiritual beliefs. I never pressured him. He found spirituality for himself and holds beliefs of high ethical and moral standards. I'm so very proud of him. He is my greatest hero.

In writing these two columns I've unearthed more of the things that inspire me than I ever thought possible. There's no limit. Things like the changing colors of oil that's dripped on water, looking at the rain on the street, standing in the wind, eating chocolate and a medium rare ribeye cooked on a grill, and especially hearing one of my therapy clients say, "You saved my life."

There are so many more things that inspire me but I'm out of space again. I'll close with this: if you're reading this column, know that you inspire me, and I am ever so grateful. Shalom!

...and that's the View from The Balcony.

Randy Weeks is a Licensed Professional Counselor, Board Certified Telemental Health Provider, Certified Shamanic Life Coach, ordained minister, singer-songwriter, actor, and writer. He seeks to live a life of gratitude and love. 



"Goodbye to the Beacon"

Andy Griffith in Mayberry on the Beacon TV says so much. As the good old days slip away, Father Time knows only the road ahead, and Oxford has lost a main stop on the Southern trip that is only ours to know, love, and remember. With many fond memories of Charlene and Flem Mize, with wishes for nothing but the best for Tony in his well-deserved retirement years, and with heavy Oxford and Ole Miss hearts, we say... Goodbye to the Beacon.





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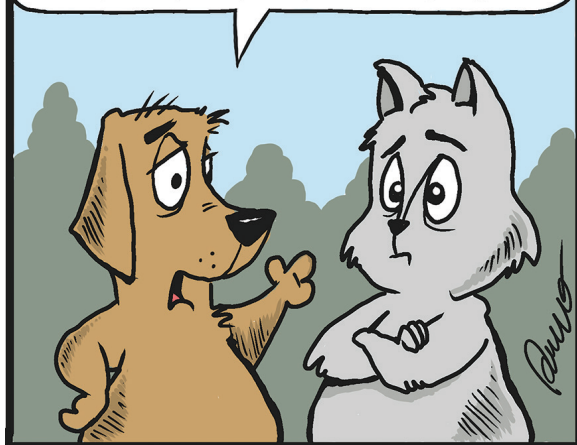
Instagram



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

I JUST MET OUR NEW NEIGHBORS. THEY WANTED TO THANK US FOR MAKING THEIR PURCHASE PRICE SO AFFORDABLE.



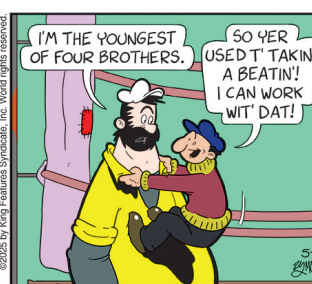
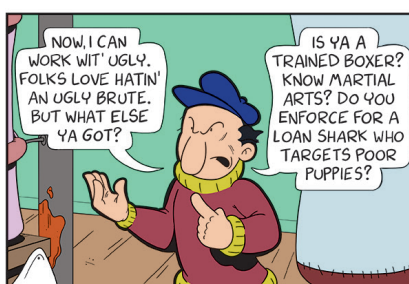
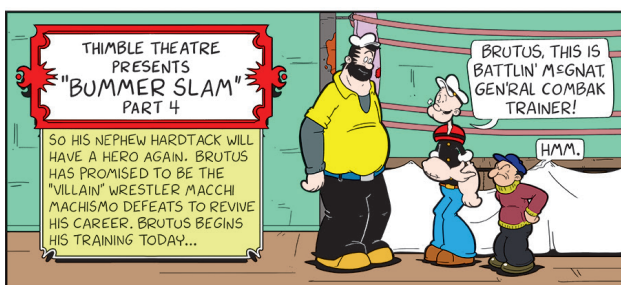
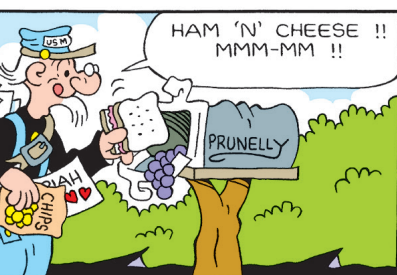
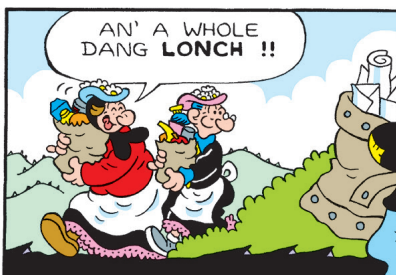
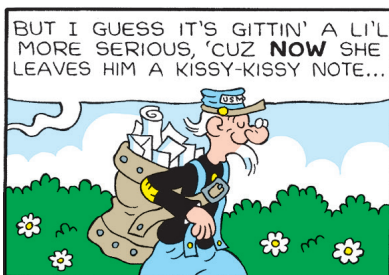
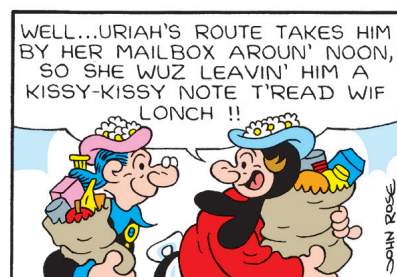
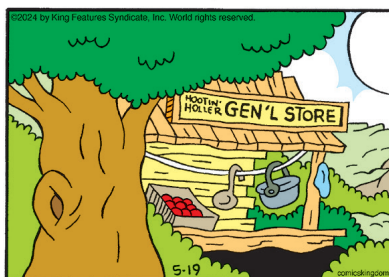
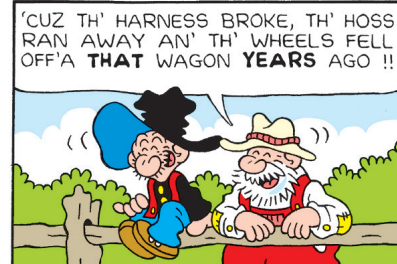
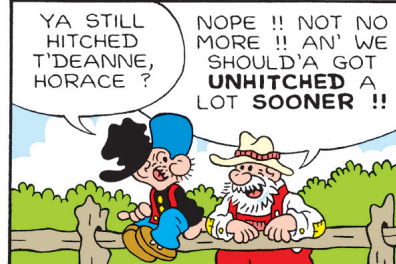
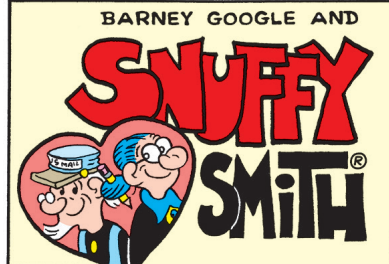
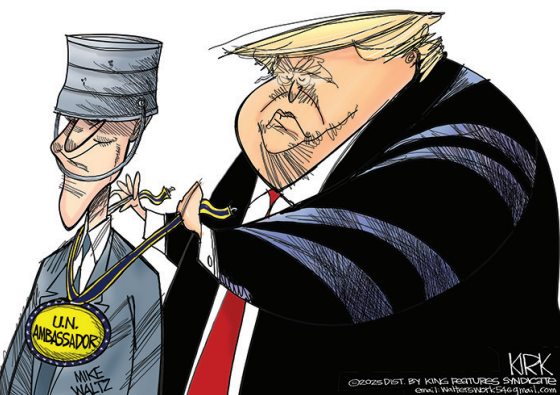
GRIN and BEAR IT

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"The magic is gone? Well, let's see if we can pull something out of the hat."

THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FAILING UPWARDS



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



HAL FOSTER'S **Prince Valiant** BY SCHULTZ AND YEATES

THE FALLEN POLYPHEMUS AND THE AVALANCHE OF ROCK HE BROUGHT DOWN WITH HIM HAVE DRIVEN OFF THE DEADLY SCYLLA THAT HAD BEEN ON THE VERGE OF OVERWHELMING ALETA, HER FAMILY AND HER COMPANIONS.

YEATES 3/16/14

BUT WHAT OF THE SWIFTLY RISING TIDE? ALETA NOTICES A SUDDEN STILLNESS- IT NO LONGER RISES. THEN, WITH APPALLING SPEED...

...THE TIDE REVERSES ITSELF! WITH A FURY EXCEEDING ITS INFUX IT RUSHES AWAY, CARRYING ALL IN ITS PATH! THE WRECKAGE OF THE ISLAND QUEEN IS SWEEPED INTO THE DEPTHS AS IF IT NEVER EXISTED.

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A SORE AND PERPLEXED VAL GINGERLY MAKES HIS WAY DOWN THE CLIFF AND INTO THE ARMS OF HIS FAMILY. SOMEHOW, HIS STRUGGLES WITH POLYPHEMUS HAVE RESCUED THEM.

HE CHOOSES NOT TO QUESTION FATE TOO CLOSELY.

NEXT: Taking stock

Americanisms

"Spring is when you feel like whistling, even with a shoe full of slush."

— Doug Larson

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

HEY GRANDPA, WHAT'S IT LIKE BEING SO OLD?

I GUESS I DON'T THINK OF MYSELF AS "OLD." I STILL FEEL YOUNG AT HEART!

BUT DON'T YOU HAVE A PACEMAKER THINGY HELPING YOUR HEART?

OK, MAYBE THAT'S WHY.

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SOCIAL INSECURITY

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The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

DO YOU LIKE "EYE" JOKES?

YES, I LOVE EYE JOKES...

...IN FACT, THE "CORNEA" THE BETTER.

PICKERING

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WOULD YOU LIKE THE RACK OR LISTEN TO A FEDERAL EMPLOYEE WHINE ABOUT HOW HER LIFE IS WORSE THAN YOURS?

I'LL TAKE THE RACK.

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TIGER

by BUD BLAKE

TAG!

YOU'RE IT, PUNKINHEAD!

TAG. YOU'RE IT!

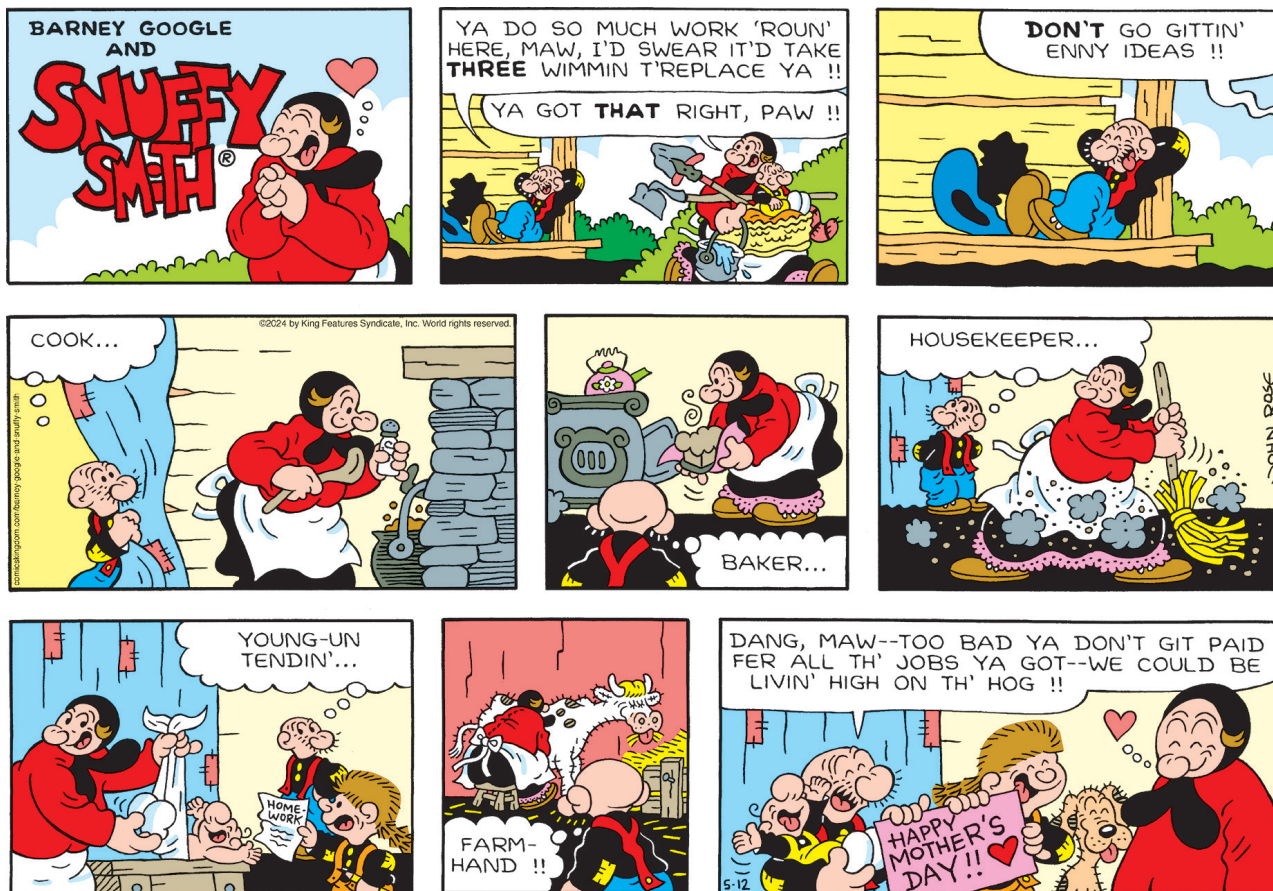
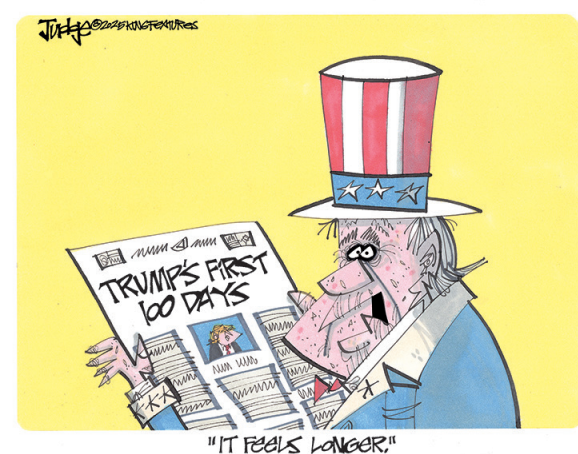
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JUST LOOK AT WHERE TRUMP HAS TAKEN US IN HIS FIRST HUNDRED DAYS!

THOSE ARE OUR RATINGS, DOOFUS!

LEGACY MEDIA

HITCH



"Sure it has a sound system! ... It goes 'va-room, va-room.'"

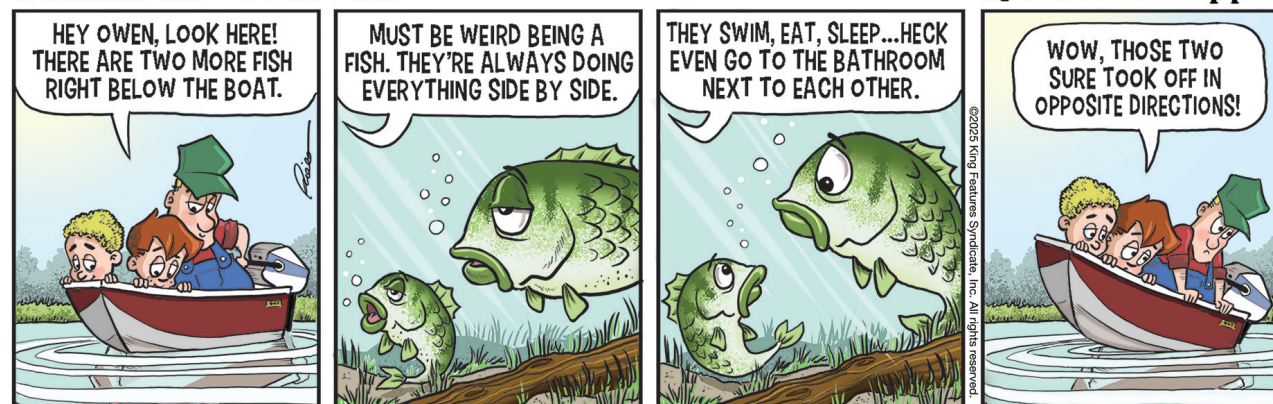
Americanisms



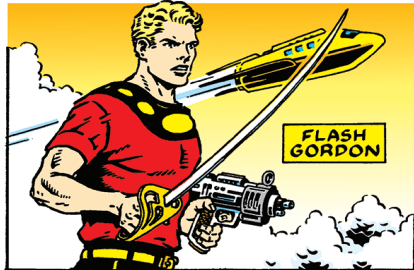
"Mother is a verb. It's something you do. Not just who you are."
— Cheryl Lacey Donovan

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



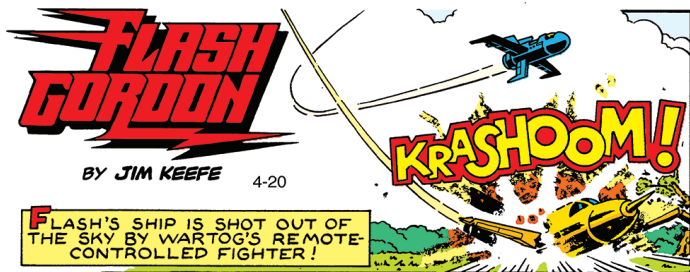
WHOA, THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE. I THINK HE'S SIGNALING US TO PLAY THROUGH...OOH WAIT NOPE THAT'S DEFINITELY A DIFFERENT GESTURE.



FLASH GORDON
BY JIM KEEFE 4-20

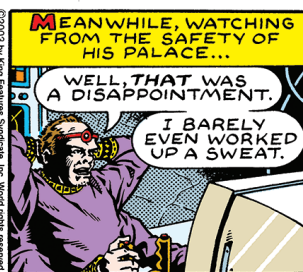
FLASH'S SHIP IS SHOT OUT OF THE SKY BY WARTOG'S REMOTE-CONTROLLED FIGHTER!

KRASHOOM!



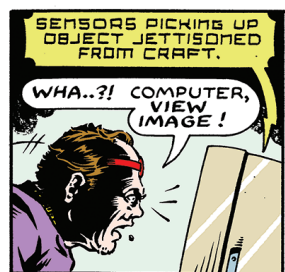
MEANWHILE, WATCHING FROM THE SAFETY OF HIS PALACE...

WELL, THAT WAS A DISAPPOINTMENT. I BARELY EVEN WORKED UP A SWEAT.



SENSORS PICKING UP OBJECT JETTISONED FROM CRAFT.

WHA...?! COMPUTER, VIEW IMAGE!

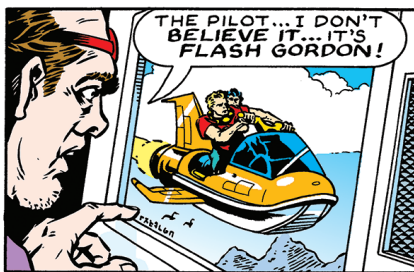


FRIENDS and FAMILY PLAN

“Four lines at \$30/month, plus unlimited texts from Pete Hegseth’s classified military chat group...”



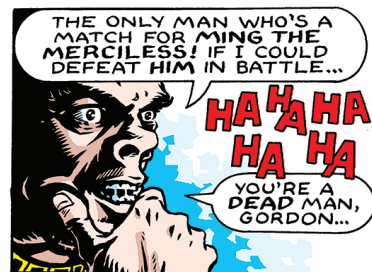
THE PILOT... I DON'T BELIEVE IT... IT'S FLASH GORDON!



THE ONLY MAN WHO'S A MATCH FOR MING THE MERCILESS! IF I COULD DEFEAT HIM IN BATTLE...

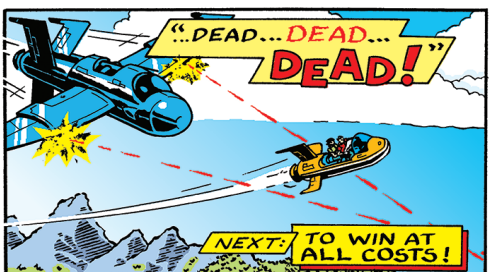
HA HA HA HA HA

YOU'RE A DEAD MAN, GORDON...



“DEAD... DEAD... DEAD!”

NEXT: TO WIN AT ALL COSTS!



The Garden Bug

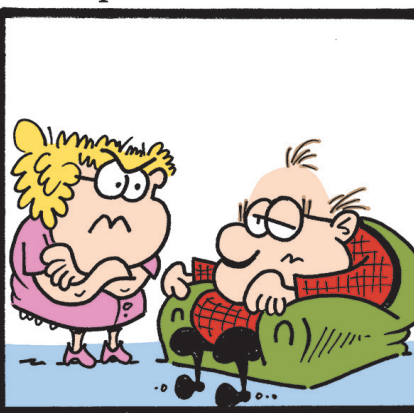
Abutilon plants are commonly known as “flowering maples,” as their leaves are thought to resemble maple leaves. These perennial shrubs like well-drained soil and sunny or partly shady locations. Their colorful, paper-lantern-like flowers attract hummingbirds and butterflies.

— Brenda Weaver


“Fools’ Gold” flowering maple Sources: www.plantdelights.com, www.ehow.com



The Spats



I TRY TO MIND MY “P’S” AND “Q’S”



...AND ALL I GET BACK ARE “F’S”



by Jeff Pickering

Out on a Limb

SONG LYRICS COFFEE TALK



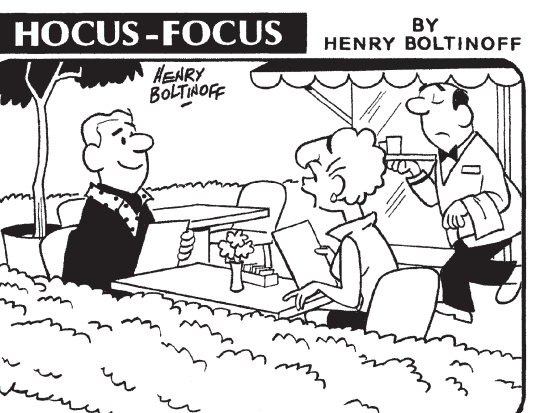
WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT? WHAT'S LOVE BUT A SECOND HAND EMOTION...

ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE... ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE, LOVE, LOVE IS ALL YOU NEED



by Gary Kopervas

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



DONNA ERICKSON'S BEST BITES



Serve Berry Delicious Meringues for Mother's Day

I am always looking for a way to showcase the bright colors and naturally sweet tastes of fresh berries. Sliced, whole, or mixed together with a light sauce, they make a quick dessert option when piled high over a scoop of ice cream or a slice of angel food cake.

And for a dependable showstopper, nothing beats topping serving-sized crackly, meringue shells with berries, a dollop of whipped cream, and a sprig of fresh mint from the garden. They look fancy, but they are easy to make, especially when your school-aged kids lend a hand.

Put these "Berry Delicious Meringues" on your Mother's Day menu this year for a memorable celebration! First, make the meringue shells ahead of time.

BERRY DELICIOUS MERINGUES

- 8-10 servings
- 3 egg whites
- 1/4 teaspoon cream of tartar
- 3/4 cup of sugar

Preheat oven to 275 F. In a large mixing bowl, beat the egg whites until frothy and foamy with an electric mixer set at low speed. Add the cream of tartar. Increase speed until soft peaks form. Let

one of your kids begin adding the sugar slowly, a tablespoon at a time. You'll be amazed to see how dramatically the mixture expands and changes. Once all the sugar is added, keep beating until glossy, stiff peaks form.

Use an ice-cream scoop or large spoon to drop 1/3 cupfuls of the mixture onto a cookie sheet lined with parchment paper. With the back of a spoon or with wet fingers, spread each portion out into 3-1/2-inch circles, building up the sides slightly. You may space them quite close together since they won't rise.

Bake 1 hour. Turn off the oven and leave meringues in the oven with the door closed for an additional 1 1/2 hours. Remove and cool.

To serve, fill with your favorite whole and sliced berries, then top with whipped cream and a sprig of mint or a whole strawberry — stem and all.



Extra Tip: Is Mom a chocoholic? Drizzle some chocolate sauce over the top! Or get fancy like restaurants and make a few simple dots or swirls directly on the plate around the meringue.

Donna Erickson creates relationships and community through food and fun. Find more to nourish and delight you at www.donnaerickson.com.



- 1. Sinners**
(R) Michael B. Jordan, Miles Caton
- 2. Star Wars: Episode III - Revenge of the Sith**
(PG-13) Hayden Christensen, Natalie Portman
- 3. The Accountant 2**
(R) Ben Affleck, Jon Bernthal
- 4. A Minecraft Movie**
(PG) Jason Momoa, Jack Black
- 5. Until Dawn**
(R) Ella Rubin, Michael Cimino
- 6. The King of Kings**
(PG) Pierce Brosnan, Oscar Isaac
- 7. The Amateur**
(PG-13) Rami Malek, Rachel Brosnahan
- 8. Warfare**
(R) D'Pharaoh Woon-A-Tai, Will Poulter
- 9. Pink Floyd: Live at Pompeii**
(G) David Gilmour, Roger Waters
- 10. The Legend of Ochi**
(PG) Helena Zenge, Willem Dafoe

THE POD REPORT

By Dana Block



THIS WEEK'S CATEGORY: Don't Know Much About History?

Did you sleep through history class in high school and now regret it? Do you wonder how the younger you could have found the subject so boring when you can't get enough of historical documentaries and biographies now? These five podcasts frequently top Apple Podcasts' history chart, so be sure to tune in and see what you missed as a daydreaming youth:

"The Rest Is History" — Explore the stories of history's most brutal rulers, deadliest battles, and life-altering events in this fascinating podcast hosted by Tom Holland (no, not the actor) and Dominic Sandbrook. Most episodes span over several parts so that you'll get the full scope — not some abbreviated synopsis — of events you've heard of but know nothing about, like the French Revolution, the murder of Franz Ferdinand, and Hitler's war on Poland. The episodes are free, but if you become a member of The Rest Is History Club, you'll have access to exclusive bonus episodes, tickets to live shows, and the members' chat room on Discord. (TheRestIsHistory.SupportingCast.fm)

"Titanic: Ship of Dreams" — People can't get enough of the tragic sinking of the Titanic, and with this podcast, you'll feel like you're right on board "setting sail from Southampton, chugging across the Atlantic, striking the iceberg, and sinking into the icy

depths." Host Paul McGann explores his own family history (his great uncle was a trimmer down in the engine room) in this five-part engrossing podcast series. (Noiser.com)

"Throughline" — This series brought to you by NPR is a veritable time machine, using "sound and stories to bring history to life and put you in the middle of it." Hosted by Peabody-Award-winning journalists Rund Abdelfatah and Ramtin Arablouei, this podcast takes you through the contradictions of Abraham Lincoln to the 14th Amendment to even the history of "Sesame Street." Topical subjects also include the anti-vaccine movement, birthright citizenship, and seeking asylum in the United States. (NPR.org)

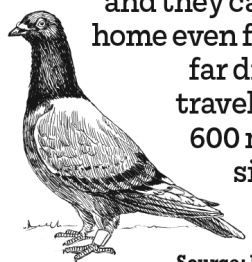
Don't Forget These Gems

"SNAFU with Ed Helms" — Do you like your history with a dose of humor? This podcast hosted by Ed Helms (yes, the actor) is about history's greatest screw-ups. Prohibition is the topic of discussion in "SNAFU's" third season. Learn how the IRS, of all agencies, was chosen to enforce the Prohibition and how the war on alcohol "went so far off the rails the government poisoned its own people!" Be sure to also listen to seasons one and two, where we revisit President Reagan versus Yuri Andropov and how our FBI director's deepest secrets were exposed after an office raid. (iHeart.com)

"Devil and the Deep Blue Sea" — From the creators of the hit podcast "The Rise and Fall of Mars Hill" comes a new podcast that explores the "Satanic Panic" that gripped America in the '80s and '90s. Having been the subject of many daytime talk shows, this hysteria gripped parents and teens and "catapulted the political agenda of the Moral Majority." (ChristianityToday.com)

Fun Fact

"Carrier pigeons" have been used to relay written messages for thousands of years. As early as 3000 B.C., the Egyptians were using pigeons' "homing" skills by having them carry written texts across great distances. Once pigeons have established their connection to a particular location, their instinctual navigation remains sharp, and they can return home even from very far distances, traveling up to 600 miles in a single day.



Source: luxwisp.com

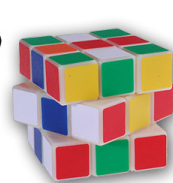


Bristlecone pines, known for their long life spans, live in harsh conditions high in the mountains of California, Nevada and Colorado. The oldest one known is nicknamed Methuselah (after the longest-lived person in the Bible), and is located in a remote area of the Inyo National Forest in California. Known as "extremophiles," these trees grow very slowly; their wood is very dense and resinous, and resistant to insects. Often only a strip of living tissue connects the roots to a handful of live branches. — Brenda Weaver

Sources: www.usda.gov,
www.nps.gov



PUZZLES & BRAIN TEASERS SOLUTIONS

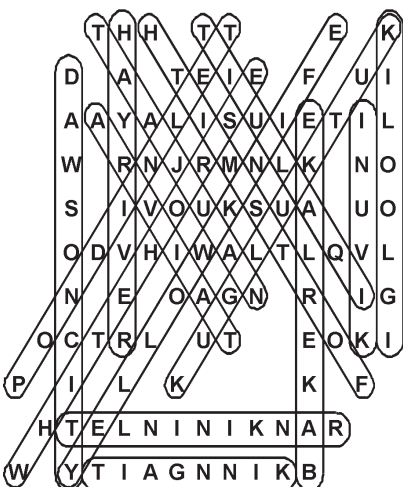


Super Crossword

Answers

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

PLACE NAMES IN NORTHERN CANADA



Even Exchange

answers

1. Solve, Salve
2. Pester, Poster
3. Track, Trace
4. Bliss, Bless
5. Summer, Simmer
6. Ravine, Raving
7. Basic, Basin
8. Vanity, Sanity
9. Nearly, Nearby
10. Boost, Boast

Go Figure!

answers

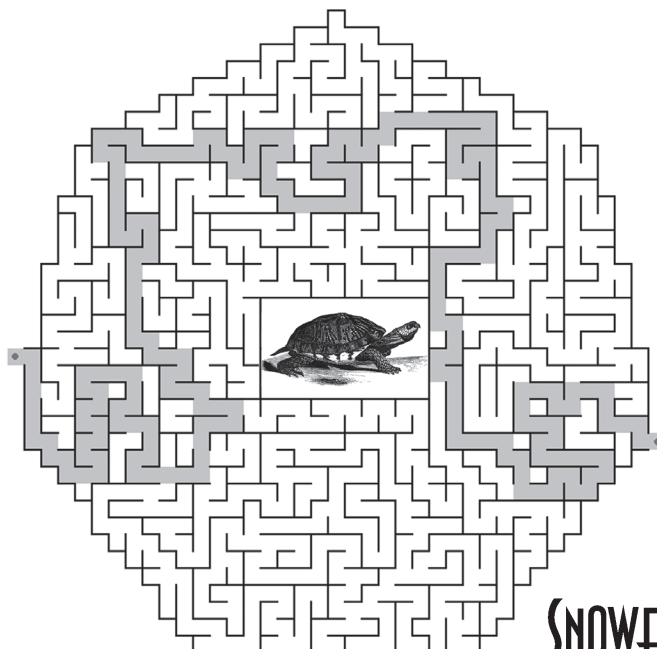
2	+	6	-	3	=	5
+		-		+		
8	+	1	-	4	=	5
÷		+		÷		
5	+	9	÷	7	=	2
=		=		=		
2		14		1		

Stickelers Answer

Figures B and E cannot be folded into cubes.

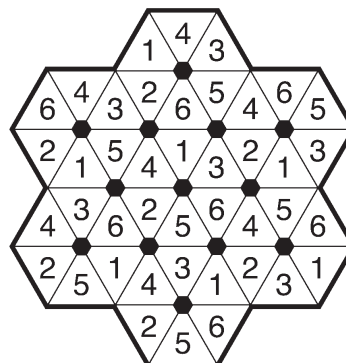
Mega Maze

Solution



(SNOWFLAKES)

solution



Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

CryptoQuip

answer

Name given to a cellphone service corporation located in Birmingham's state: Mobile Alabama.

CryptoQuote

answer

I find television very educating. Every time somebody turns on the set, I go into the other room and read a book. — Groucho Marx

King Crossword

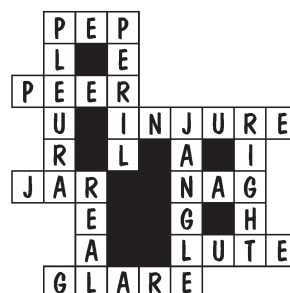
Answers

Solution time: 23 mins.

S	A	A	B		A	D	D		M	A	T	S
U	C	L	A		M	O	O		E	U	R	O
B	E	A	N	P	O	L	E		A	T	I	T
S	S	S		O	N	E		S	N	O	B	S
			J	O	G		M	I	G			
A	S	T	E	R		M	U	S	I	C	A	L
L	I	R	A		D	A	M		R	O	W	S
B	R	A	N	D	E	D		B	L	O	N	D
			S	E	W		D	R	S			
B	E	A	M	S		B	R	A		G	E	L
E	L	B	A		L	E	A	N	I	N	T	O
T	E	R	R		E	S	P		S	A	N	S
S	C	A	T		S	T	E		P	T	A	S

FEAR KNOT

answer



Word Spiral

Answer

YACHTSMEN

— KNIGHT MOVES —

Answer

E	M	O
N		C
I	C	O

ECONOMIC

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 22 mins.



SCRAMBLERS

solution

1. Pardon
2. Allure;
3. Abide;
4. Allot

Today's Word
LOADED

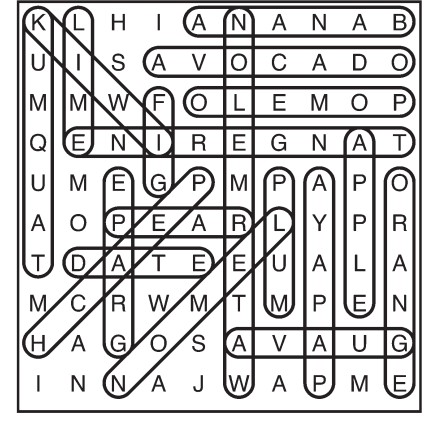
Even Exchange

answers

1. Remove, Remote
2. Plato, Pluto
3. Timer, Tamer
4. Mortar, Mortal
5. Wendy, Windy
6. Sprain, Strain
7. Amber, Ember
8. Recipe, Recite
9. Copper, Cooper
10. Thick, Think

Puzzles4Kids

Answer

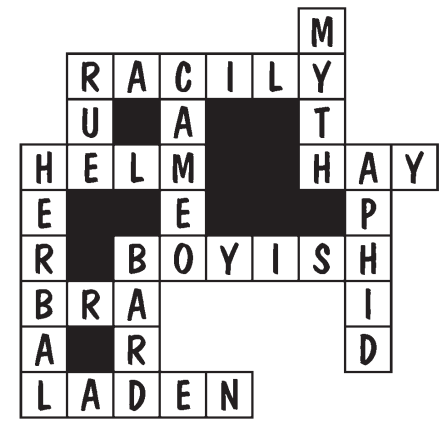


Riddle Answer:

His mom was in a jam.

FEAR KNOT

answer



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Courtesy of MovieStillsDB
Paul Rudd, left, and Jenna Ortega star in "Death of a Unicorn."

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Total Time: 20 minutes
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 - 4 cloves garlic, minced
 - 1 lemon, zest and juice OR 3 tablespoons lemon juice
 - 1/2 teaspoon Italian seasoning
 - 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
 - 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
 - 1 1/2 pounds medium raw shrimp, peeled and deveined
 - 2 tablespoons fresh parsley and/or green onion, chopped
 - 1 loaf crusty bread or pasta to serve

Preheat oven to 450 F degrees and



www.JasonCoblentz.com

Shrimp Scampi over pasta — quick, buttery and bursting with flavor.

line a sheet pan with aluminum foil for easier cleanup; set aside. In a small bowl, melt butter in the microwave. Whisk together butter, garlic, lemon juice and Italian seasoning, salt

and pepper.

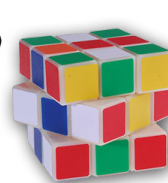
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Super Crossword

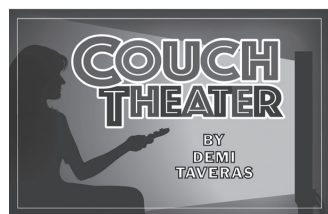
Answers

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

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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



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Saturday noon-1 am
May 18 Sunday Brunch 11-3 pm
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