





# the Local Voice™

TLV Issue #468 · July/August 2025 · Oxford, Ole Miss, & North Mississippi · Read at Maximum Volume

## From Pizza Fan to Food Influencer APizza's Guy's Delicious Rise in North Mississippi

What started as a simple craving for pizza during a nursing contract near Boston in 2020 has turned into North Mississippi's most followed food journeys.

Oxford-based content creator **Dakota Greer** aka **APizza Guy**—known for his candid, engaging restaurant reviews across **Facebook**, **TikTok**, and **Instagram**—has carved out a space for culinary storytelling in the region.

"Back then, I was just recording my visits to pizza places and sending them to family and friends," Dakota recalled. "People kept telling me, 'You should make a page for this.' So I did, and that's really how it all started."

Since then, Dakota has developed a loyal following, especially on Facebook. "It's definitely my biggest platform. Facebook is great for reaching local audiences, especially in North Mississippi," he said. "A lot of places around here don't even have Instagram, so growing there can be a lot harder unless you're in a big city."

While his TikTok content reaches a more national and younger crowd, Dakota says his Facebook demographic—mainly women aged 20–35—help drive local engagement. "TikTok will push your stuff out wider, but Facebook is where I really connect with people close to home."

Not every review is glowing, and Dakota doesn't shy away from honesty. In fact, some of his most viral moments have come from sharing lesser dining experiences. "If someone comments respectfully, I'll reply the same way—even if we disagree," he explained. "But if they come at me sideways, I feel like it's fair game to respond on that level."

Dakota's reviews span everything from food trucks to long-standing staples. His recent favorites include **The Lunch Box** truck, run by seasoned **Oxford Chef Nic Swogger**, which serves rotating, inventive bites. "They've got these bao bun chicken sandwiches with Japanese mayo and this crazy good sauce. It's one of those places doing something really different."

by Davis Coen



"Korean corn dogs always seem to hit," he said. "People love unique food." But what

really stands out are the emotional defeats, like his disappointment when a beloved Oxford spot, **Phillips Grocery**, forgot the comeback sauce. "It was a heartbreak," he jokes. "Half the reason I go there is for that sauce."

As far as Oxford staples, Dakota emphasized **SoLa**, run by the infinitely talented **Chef Erika Lipe**. "SoLa is at the top," he said without hesitation. "Erika's incredible, and I can't wait for her new menu." He fondly remembered the **Parts & Labor Burger** (not currently on the menu) and praised her inventive seasonal items and ramen bowls. "With the amount of restaurants I visit, I don't get to go back as often as I'd like—but SoLa's always on my mind."

He also highlights **Fergndan's** as a favorite pizza and good nighttime destination. "They're a great family, and they serve some of the best pizza in town."

### Introducing the Pizza Prince

Dakota's three-year-old son Draken, who dubbed himself "**Pizza Prince**," has recently joined his dad on food adventures, particularly when daycare is closed.

"The other day, he looked at a few pictures we took and called himself the Pizza Prince. I about died laughing," said Dakota. "He calls restaurants 'food shops,' and he's starting to ask if we're going to one each day."

Though not every dish wins over Draken—especially when it has nothing to do with pizza—he's quickly becoming a favorite face in Dakota's content.

Looking ahead, Dakota hopes to explore more of Mississippi this summer, with plans to dive into **Tupelo**, **Jackson**, and the Delta food scenes. "Tupelo's really expanded. Ten years ago, it wasn't like this. North Mississippi's food game has grown a lot in the last decade."

He continues to be both a staunch supporter and critic, sharing meals with an ever-growing audience hungry for his honest input.

From everyday food cravings to local fame, **APizza Guy** has proven that a little passion—and a whole lot of eating—can go a long way. **TLV**

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8am-2:30pm Weekends

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Dinner 5:30-10pm Monday-Thursday  
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Happy Hour 4-6PM Daily

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Lunch 11:30 am-2:30 pm;  
Dinner 6-10 pm Monday-Thursday  
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Upstairs Bar 4 pm-close

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**SUNDAY  
FUNDAY  
EVERY WEEK**

**MLB HOME RUN DERBY MONDAY, JULY 14 AT 7 PM**



**MLB ALL STAR GAME TUESDAY, JULY 15 AT 7 PM**

**JOEY BORETTI  
EXPERIENCE  
JULY 11 & 12**



**MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL PENNANT RACES ARE HEATING UP!**



**FRIDAY  
SATURDAY  
JULY 18 & 19**

**FOLLOW THE OPEN LIVE AT THE LIBRARY JULY 17-20**



**FRI JULY 25  
SAT JULY 26**

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the Band**

**WIMBLEDON THROUGH JULY 13 • TOUR DE FRANCE JULY 5-27**





# ROUNDAABOUT OXFORD<sup>®</sup>

## 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** (7 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 7.10.2025

The Coop: Empty Nester Cocktail Hour (6 pm)  
Lafayette County Arena: FARM MARKET (3–6 pm)  
Lafayette County & Oxford Public Library: Check It Out Book Club & Swap (11 am); "You Are What You Eat: w/ Soouul Healthy & OXCM (5:30 pm)  
Proud Larry's: LAID BACK COUNTRY PICKER

### FRIDAY 7.11.2025

► **The Library: BORETTI EXPERIENCE** (9 pm)  
► **Rafters on the Water: PHARMTRUCK** (7–10 pm)  
Elison Assisted Living: TOUCH-A-TRUCK (5 pm; family event w/ trucks, entertainment, and refreshments)  
Lafayette County & Oxford Public Library: Storytime w/ LOU Reads (10:30 am); Chapter Champs Book Club (2 pm)  
Proud Larry's: 12ELEVEN (9 pm)

### SATURDAY 7.12.2025

► **The Library: BORETTI EXPERIENCE** (9 pm)  
► **Rafters on the Water: ANNABETH MOORE** (3–6 pm); **OPIE** (7–10 pm)  
Cherry Creek Orchards (Pontotoc): PEACH FESTIVAL (9 am–6 pm)  
Chicory Market: TOMATO FEST (4–6 pm)

### SUNDAY 7.13.2025

► **Foxfire Ranch: Sunday Blues Series:**  
**ALVIN YOUNGBLOOD HART** (5 pm)  
► **Lafayette County Arena: ANUBIS IMPROV Free Intro Workshop** (11 am–12:30 pm; registration required)  
► **The Powerhouse: ANUBIS IMPROV presents Level 3 Showcase** (7 pm)  
► **Rafters on the Water: CARSON PRINCE** (5–8 pm)  
The Orchard Church: SUMMER NIGHTS w/ THOMAS TOOLE (5:30–8:30 pm)

### MONDAY 7.14.2025

Blind Pig: Trivia (7:30 pm)  
The Coop: Empty Nester Cocktail Hour (6 pm)  
Growler: Mahjong Mondays (6–8 pm)  
The Orchard Church: SUMMER NIGHTS w/ THOMAS TOOLE (5:30–8:30 pm)



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## AJAX DINER

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### TUESDAY 7.15.2025

Lafayette County & Oxford Public Library: Baby Storytime (9:30 am)  
The Orchard Church: SUMMER NIGHTS w/ THOMAS TOOLE (5:30–8:30 pm)  
Proud Larry's: WILL GRIFFITH (8 pm)  
University Museum: Brown Bag Lecture Series featuring COULTER FUSSELL (noon–1 pm)

### WEDNESDAY 7.16.2025

Chicory Market: Happy Hour live music by SINGLEWIDE (5–6 pm)

### THURSDAY 7.17.2025

► **Off Square Books: KATHERINE WOOD with Sunburned** (5:30 pm)  
Chicory Market: DIY Bouquet Class with Farmstead Florals (5–6 pm)  
Lafayette County Arena: FARM MARKET (3–6 pm)  
Proud Larry's: BOARD OF DIRECTORS (9 pm)

### FRIDAY 7.18.2025

► **The Library: THE SMOKE** (9 pm)  
Lafayette County & Oxford Public Library: Storytime (10:30 am)

### SATURDAY 7.19.2025

► **The Library: THE SMOKE** (9 pm)

### SUNDAY 7.20.2025

**The Powerhouse: ANUBIS IMPROV House Rulz** (7 pm)

### TUESDAY 7.22.2025

► **The Powerhouse: BIG BAD BUSINESS Workshop: Side Hustle to Small Business** (6–8 pm)  
Lafayette County & Oxford Public Library: Baby Storytime (9:30 am)



### Wednesday-Friday:

Lunch 11-2, 5-9 Dinner

### Saturday:

Brunch 10-2, 5-9 Dinner

### Sunday: Brunch 10-2

Book reservations at  
**GoodDayOxford.com**







# ROUNDABOUT OXFORD

## LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT & EVENTS

sponsored by **AJAX DINER**  
"OXFORD'S FAVORITE SOUL FOOD"

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

### THURSDAY 7.24.2025

Lafayette County Arena: FARM MARKET (3–6 pm)  
Oxford Conference Center: Planting the Seeds of Understanding - Medical Cannabis Education (5:30–8 pm)  
Proud Larry's: BOARD OF DIRECTORS (9 pm)

### FRIDAY 7.25.2025

► **The Library: THE FENTS** (9 pm)  
► **Off Square Books: LEE CLAY JOHNSON & GARY FISKETJON** for *Bloodline* (5:30 pm)  
Lafayette Co & Oxford Public Library: Storytime with UM Museum (10:30 am)

### SATURDAY 7.26.2025

► **The Library: THE FENTS** (9 pm)  
Courtyard Marriott: THE COVER Unveil & Reveal Celebration (1–4 pm)  
Harrisonville M.B. Church: Church Picnic & BACK-TO-SCHOOL BASH (11 am–4 pm)  
Lafayette County Arena: Black Open Rodeo (7:30 pm)  
Proud Larry's: E-METERS, HARTLE ROAD, PARROT WEATHER (9 pm)

### TUESDAY 7.29.2025

Lafayette County & Oxford Public Library: Baby storytime (9:30 am)

### WEDNESDAY 7.30.2025

Lafayette-Oxford Public Library: Conversation Cafe w/ SEAN ENNIS (10 am)

### THURSDAY 7.31.2025

► **Off Square Books: RAE NELL VAUGHN & TOM MOULD** with *Choctaw Traditions* (5:30 pm)  
Proud Larry's: BOARD OF DIRECTORS (9 pm)

### FRIDAY 8.01.2025

► **The Library: CLAY BARKER** (9 pm)

### SATURDAY 8.02.2025

► **The Library: CLAY BARKER** (9 pm)

### SUNDAY 8.03.2025

► **Proud Larry's: JACK SONNI Book Release Party** with **MICHAEL FARRIS SMITH** (5 pm) 



## Thursday, July 17

5.30pm @ Off Square Books




# Katherine Wood

in conversation with Celia Wood

# 20<sup>TH</sup>

Happy Birthday



# VOLTA

taverna

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**Dinner Service:** 5:30, 6, 7:30, 8:30 pm  
(Min 6 people, Max 10 people)

**Late Night:** 10 & 10:30 pm  
(Min 8 people Max 14 people)



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<b>HALF PRICE</b>	• EXPRESSO MARTINI • BOTTLES UNDER \$99 • BOOM/BOOM SHRIMP • FLATBREAD • STEAK MEATBALLS (4p-12a)	<b>THE LADIES NITE</b>
<b>HED WINE'D</b> PRICE ↑ WHISKEY	<b>WINE + BUBBLES</b> • GLASS UNDER \$6 • HOUSE CHAMPAGNE BOTTLE • LAMARCA BOTTLE (4p-12a)	<b>WHISKEY</b> \$6 MINT JULEP ARNOLD PALMER MULE (4p-12a) \$8 WOODFORD MAKER'S
<b>\$8 MARGS:</b> WATERMELON JALAPENO COCONUT STRAWBERRY SPIC (4p-12a)	<b>OYSTERS</b> (Till 9) CHARBROILED CHAMPAGNE & BRIE CRISPY BUFFALO	<b>THU SHAKE &amp; SHUCK</b>
<b>ERI LEMON DROP</b>	<b>BLUEBERRY</b> <b>RASPBERRY</b>	<b>WATERMELON</b> LAVENDER (4p-12a)
<b>Two Dine for \$79</b> CHOOSE TWO: • 10oz CAJUN RIBEYE SURF & TURF • OR- GRILLED SALMON PICCATA • OR- PEPPER JACK CHICKEN INCLUDES: • 2 SIDE SALADS • 2 INDIVIDUAL SIDES • 1- BOTTLE OF HOUSE WINE • DESSERT (DINE IN)		
		<b>SUN DATE NITE</b>



*Speak easy*  
*write often*



@nightbirdparlour





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 performed the duet "The Last Time I Felt Like This" as the theme song for "Same Time, Next Year"?
- 2. Which artist released "Sea of Love"?
- 3. Which former Beatle released "It Don't Come Easy"?
- 4. Who wrote and released "Sun-down"?
- 5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "They asked me how I knew my true love was true, I of course replied something here inside cannot be denied."

Answers

- 1. Johnny Mathis and Jane Olivor. The song received a nomination for Best Original Song. The 1978 film starred Alan Alda and Ellen Burstyn.
- 2. Phil Phillips, in 1959. Even though the song shot to the top of the charts, Phillips never recorded another song.
- 3. Ringo Starr, in 1971. The song was supposed to be titled "You Gotta Pay Your Dues" and was written over several years before and after the breakup of the Beatles.
- 4. Gordon Lightfoot, in 1974.
- 5. "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes," by the Platters, in 1958. The song has been widely covered over the years since first being written in 1933 for the musical comedy "Roberta," but it was the Platters' version that topped the charts and put the song in the Grammy Hall of Fame.

MAGIC MAZE CONTAINS A NUMBER

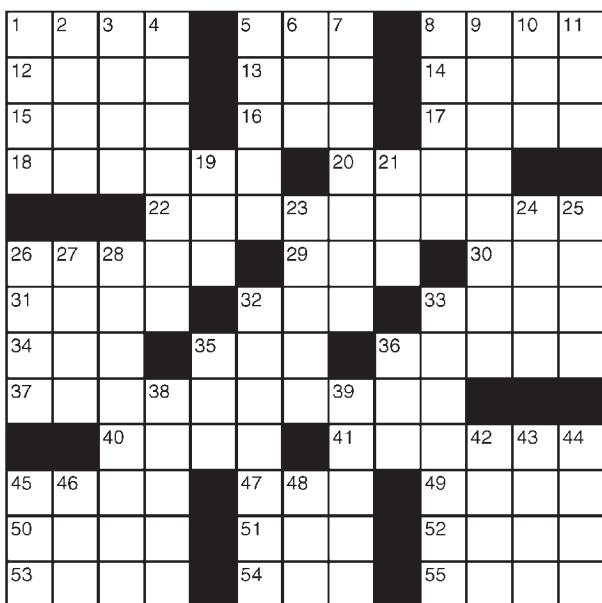
K B Y W U R P N K I G D B 0 Z  
0 X V S Q O M K 0 2 I G E 0 0  
C 0 2 A Y W U S 1 3 Q P R 1 9  
N L 5 J H F E B 8 C W E P Q D  
A Y B E X V N E U S L O Q A U  
P N M K N I R J H E T F D D O  
E C B 3 M U S K E T E E R S L  
Z Y 5 A G 7 T H 2 2 H C T A C  
X V T I / U W R 0 0 5 Y D N I  
T I F 4 M 8 R Q O M E G A 3 P  
V O 2 M 1 Y L U J F O H T 4 L

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

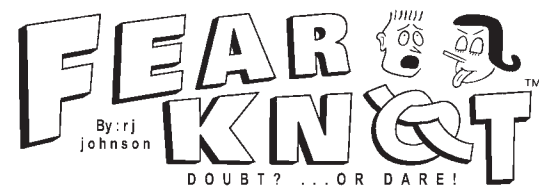
18-wheeler 24/7 3 Musketeers 4th of July B-52 Catch-22 Cloud 9 Dow 30 Figure 8 Fortune 500 Indy 500 Nasdaq 100 Omega-3 Top 10 Vitamin B12

ACROSS

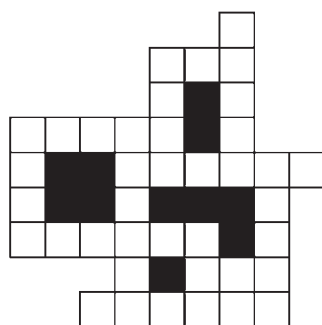
- 1 Bump into
- 5 Small batteries
- 8 Gush
- 12 Jai —
- 13 Wall St. deal
- 14 Abhor
- 15 Fish story
- 16 X, at times
- 17 "— the picture!"
- 18 Chevy model
- 20 Rhine feeder
- 22 Kindergarten follower
- 26 Defy authority
- 29 Make lace
- 30 PBS funder
- 31 Grand Ole —
- 32 Doubtfire or Miniver
- 33 Dele undoer
- 34 Corp. boss
- 35 "Give — break!"
- 36 Main ideas
- 37 Renewed energy
- 40 "Trust Exercise" author Susan
- 41 Verdi works
- 45 Tactic
- 47 Coffee vessel
- 49 Crimson Tide, briefly
- 50 Anger
- 51 French pronoun
- 52 Mellowed



- 53 Kimono ties
- 54 Briny
- 55 Scarce
- DOWN
- 1 Polite query
- 2 Biblical kingdom
- 3 Lawman Wyatt
- 4 "30 Rock" creator
- 5 Wedding setting
- 6 Prez on a penny
- 7 Piano compositions
- 8 Bake eggs
- 9 Christmas shows
- 10 Arles summer
- 11 Drenched
- 19 Like Abner
- 21 Literary rep
- 23 Milkshake insert
- 24 Bug spray ingredient
- 25 Diner grub
- 26 Mythical birds
- 27 Duel tool
- 28 Veggie with florets
- 32 T-shirt sizes
- 33 Courtroom huddle
- 35 6 on a phone
- 36 Econ. measure
- 38 "But of course!"
- 39 Ancient Greek region
- 42 Sitarist's music
- 43 From the U.S.
- 44 "Maureen" singer
- 45 Expert
- 46 Ad- — (improvise)
- 48 Shad product



NIO  
NUVIAC  
UFALO  
ARFI  
FUNGLE  
FOF  
♥ DAEI  
♥ RENUI  
RIF  
FIXNUL  
LEVIA  
EXNO



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. ♥ RATHER becomes HATER or EARTH or HEART). Fit each string's word either across or down to knot all twelve strings together.

Wishing Well®

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

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.

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.

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

# the Local Voice PUZZLE PLAYGROUND

## SUDOKU

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

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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Free background information available upon request. Listing of these areas does not indicate any certification of expertise there in.

- CROSS**

1 Short leaps  
5 "No — español"  
10 Crammed  
16 — Paulo  
19 Milky gem  
20 Like much pond scum  
21 Shoelace tips  
22 Feeling sick  
23 Luciano  
Pavarotti had a famous one  
25 Verity or falsity of a proposition  
27 Gershwin or Glass  
28 Physics  
Nobelists Niels  
29 Maine city  
30 Camera part  
31 Choosing a "lesser evil" candidate at the polls  
35 Central rd. through town  
37 Moral climate  
38 Bana of "Troy"  
39 Scary ghost, say  
40 Encounter  
41 Any of 12 spinal bones  
46 Couple  
47 Advocate of a lawless state, archaically
- 48 Document allowing passage through a country  
55 Phillies' div.  
56 Astrologer Sydney  
61 Cleveland, e.g.  
62 Faux pas at a dinner table  
64 "My Baby" rapper of 2001  
66 Fisher's lure  
67 Creeper in the bignonia family  
71 Football player Junior  
72 Types, as data  
74 Ample, in dialect  
75 Cooling appliance, in brief  
77 Singer Lewis  
78 E. Coast ocean  
80 Amount of seawater that periodically rises  
83 One feeling sympathy  
86 Bank claim
- 87 Fastest speed of a freely falling object  
94 Twirl  
98 Six Nations members  
99 Festive party  
100 School, in Somme  
101 Finally  
102 Central cavity of the brain  
107 Did pool laps  
108 Black-and-white cookies  
109 Alternative to Levi's  
110 Large Brit. lexicon  
111 Lower-leg blood vessel  
114 10 things featured in this puzzle?  
117 Dir. from Ariz. to Ky.  
118 "Burnt" color  
119 Cries loudly  
120 Castle trench  
121 Playa — Rey  
122 Paper Mate competitor  
123 Amtrak train  
124 Norway port
- DOWN**

1 Huge seller  
2 Function  
3 Spirited style  
4 — pitch  
5 Ruination  
6 Hawaii "hi"  
7 Female rap fan  
8 Fond du —  
9 Heady quaff  
10 "Hud" actress Neal  
11 "Glee" actress Dianna  
12 Held tightly  
13 Like a very low-carb diet  
14 Archaic verb ending  
15 "seaQuest —" (1990s series)  
16 Feature of the word "thumb"  
17 Father or son auto-racing star  
18 Fake fat  
24 MLB stats  
26 Flared skirt  
29 Of the ear  
32 Little tyke  
33 Edition: Abbr.  
34 "... cup — cone?"  
35 Podcaster Maron  
36 Writer  
39 Found on this page  
41 Sullies  
42 Huge seller
- 43 Redenbacher of popcorn, for short  
44 Erin Burnett's channel  
45 Frankie with a falsetto  
46 Ad Council ad, e.g.  
48 Sauna wear  
49 Arles' river  
50 — -surface missile  
51 All-female club's policy  
52 Classic PC  
53 Apartment building VIP  
54 "— we all?"  
57 City in Iraq  
58 "Would you like to see —?" (waiter's question)  
59 Draw a better bead on  
60 Path  
63 Spitting sound  
65 "Megan —" (2017 biopic)  
68 Lassos  
69 Up to such time as  
70 Hook-and-ladder co.  
73 Canoeist's challenge  
76 Scam  
79 Bible book after Exod.
- 81 Foe of Liston  
82 Enkindled  
84 — the finish  
85 Wider than local  
87 Saluted prior to drinking  
88 Interweave  
89 Tag anew  
90 Florida port  
91 Filmmaker — von Trier  
92 Antiquated  
93 Cleveland hoopster  
94 Chem., e.g.  
95 Pennsylvania resort range  
96 Not lawful  
97 Really must  
100 Once, once  
102 Ex-senator Lott  
103 Poet Heinrich  
104 Kemper of "The Office"  
105 Sam of "Dead Calm"  
106 Thompson of "Selma"  
108 Broiler, e.g.  
112 African viper  
113 False story  
114 Bygone Pan Am rival  
115 Wet/dry —  
116 "As I see it," to a texter

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			
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40					41	42	43					44	45								
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77						78		79		80				81	82						
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98									99								100				
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107								108						109					110		
111					112	113						114	115					116			
117					118							119						120			
121					122							123						124			



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Puzzles4Kids

by Helene Hovanec

WORD FUN

Study the two words on each line to find the ONE letter in the left column that is NOT in the word in the right column. Write the extra letter on the blank space. Then read DOWN to answer this riddle:

WHAT DO YOU CALL A WIZARD WHO IS GOOD AT CERAMICS?

SEARCH    SCARE

HEATER    THREE

REUSED    SUEDE

SCREEN    SCENE

PEACHY    CHEAP

SUPPER    PURSE

ORANGE    ANGER

BATTLE    TABLE

RENTAL    LEARN

BOTHER    BROTH

CHORES    CHOSE

SAFELY    FALSE

FEAR

KNIGHT

By: rj johnson

DOUBT? ... OR DARE!

PFO

ARMCL

♥ERLFI

♥IRTO

LEWUFO

ALM

♥HWTE

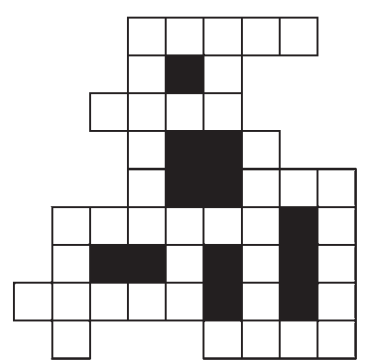
♥APRCE

♥TPA

AFENIC

OMPT

♥MPLA



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.

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S	M	O	K	E

Cure, in a way

Undercover agents

Alabama city

Iconic hardwood

Asian country

Factory

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  
See more at [www.sproutspuzzle.com](http://www.sproutspuzzle.com)

02519

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. Ice cream spoon    C    Rapper Dogg    N

2. Patriotic silversmith    R    Very strict    S

3. Electrical energy    P    Steeple    T

4. Coil    G    Short footrace    T

5. Edible fruit part    L    Just picked    R


6. Smallest finger    N    Persnickety    C

7. Vacationer's complex    S    Official account    P

8. Hair snarl    A    Prickle    I

9. Tire pressure tool    G    Hospital wrap    Z

10. Navigate a canoe    P    Lone Ranger's chair    S



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"Your order should be along soon, sir.  
The boss is \_\_\_\_\_ the chef now."

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!

Think

PONIE

Lament

GIVERE

Scold

DICHE

Agile

HILET

TODAY'S WORD

SOUTH LAMAR

Sola

OXFORD MS

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LIFTED SPIRITS

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# the Local Voice

## PUZZLE PLAYGROUND



## Super Crossword

NEW ORDER  
OF BIRDS

### SUDOKU

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

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.

- ACROSS**  
1 They're filled at filling stations  
9 Causes of some winter roof leaks  
16 Two or three  
20 Its capital is Springfield  
21 Good time to shop and save  
22 1977 hit for Electric Light Orchestra  
23 Bird hanging around power-generating structures?  
25 Bottom-of-the-barrel bit  
26 "Grace and Frankie" co-star Lily  
27 Me, in Marne  
28 Take a chair  
29 Spike for a rock climber  
30 Icky food  
33 Bird with a pronounced lower back?  
36 Elite police unit  
41 35mm camera type  
42 Holy Week follower
- DOWN**  
43 Bird with an affliction?  
48 Lead-in to lateral  
49 It flows through Köln  
50 Rocker  
51 "Ammonium" has three  
52 Single's first half  
54 Response to "You weren't!"  
55 Jazz great  
58 Give a bird a monetary reward?  
60 "God Love Us" rapper  
61 Pecans and cashews  
64 Eggs  
65 Slow-moving reptile with a bird on its back?  
73 Aussie critter  
74 Outer surface  
75 911 VIP  
76 Waterway full of birds?  
82 Billfold bills  
83 Employee welfare agcy.  
84 Daisy type  
85 Daisy of "Li'l Abner"  
86 Pull along
- ACROSS**  
88 Old paper sections  
89 Bub  
90 Share employment hours with a bird?  
95 Actress  
98 Boating blade  
99 "Are we out of danger?"  
100 Bird starring in "The Birds"?  
104 Wise — owl  
105 Novelist Loos  
106 Two times LI  
107 Neighbor of Okla.  
109 "You did not just say that!"  
115 Will of "The Waltons"  
116 Jacket with bird hues?  
120 Coastal eagle  
121 100% correct  
122 Overpraises  
123 Old booming jets, in brief  
124 Catholic prayer books  
125 Pre-release software trial
- DOWN**  
5 Opposer  
6 One who's hardly saintly  
7 Tool set, e.g.  
8 Guyana-to-Bolivia dir.  
9 "Money — object"  
10 Escalade carmaker  
11 Wood for dartboards  
12 Certain belief in God  
13 Impromptu  
14 Country south of Sicily  
15 — admin  
16 Extra installations  
17 Courage in adversity  
18 Big surprise  
19 Like the operas "Parsifal" and "Lohengrin"  
24 Wee devil  
29 Free TV ad  
31 Thai tongue  
32 Texter's "Yowza!"  
34 Website ID  
35 Family mem.  
36 Run very fast  
37 Guitarist's pedal effect  
38 Resting  
39 That's partner  
40 Boatload  
41 — -fi movie
- ACROSS**  
44 Tabriz native  
45 Stephen of "Utopia"  
46 Actress Irving  
47 Suffix with cartoon  
52 Break off  
53 — -Tass  
55 Slip-up  
56 Allow to  
57 Zodiac feline  
58 H.S. junior's hurdle  
59 Hostess snack cakes  
61 — degree or another  
62 Consumer  
63 Neighbor of Okla.  
66 Helen of —  
67 Abbr. on a food carton  
68 "Dr." of rap  
69 It's in bronze  
70 Greek goddess of the hearth  
71 Doug who is married to Kamala Harris  
72 Just one bite  
76 Websites' "front covers"  
77 Ones taking a close look  
78 Awardee, say  
79 Texter's "I think ..."
- DOWN**  
80 Alternate wd. spelling  
81 "A mouse!"  
83 Circus cries  
86 Feeling gratitude  
87 Not 'neath  
88 Post-Q string  
90 Baby's cry  
91 "Little piggy"  
92 — for "Evidence" (Sue Grafton novel)  
93 "Hugo" star  
94 Relative of a wood engraving  
96 Petrol units  
97 "Give — rest"  
101 Gut bacterium  
102 Radio knobs  
103 Celebrity photographer Herb  
104 Even a hint of  
108 Spy Aldrich  
110 Spanish greeting  
111 Shutter piece  
112 Short letter  
113 God of war  
114 "You ... over there ..."  
116 Engine wheel  
117 Singer Rita  
118 Slap cuffs on  
119 Fruity quaff

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123																				



# Book Release Event on August 3 for Jack Sonni's *Sagamore*

Known to many as a local fixture and friend, the late Jack Sonni—former guitarist for Dire Straits and later head of Water Valley's Cool Dog Sound—has left behind a remarkable final gift in *Sagamore*, a novel that peels back layers of America's past.

Jack finished *Sagamore* shortly before his untimely passing on August 30, 2023, at age 68, and the book has now been published and will be available for purchase on the first of August.

A release event is being held at Proud Larry's on Sunday, August 3, at 5 pm, and will feature a reading from local authors as well as a performance by his band The Leisure Class. Square Books will be on hand to sell copies.

Jack's ties to Proud Larry's include a house rocking set at their two-day 30th anniversary celebration back in 2023, but the venue also hosted his tribute show along with local rock group Rocket 88.

*Sagamore* is a gripping historical novel set in hardscrabble 1930s Pennsylvania coal country and unfolds like a slow-burning stick of dynamite.

It may seem a long way from Mississippi, but the storyline—moving along with harsh clarity and purpose—eventually leads its main characters down South. It explores themes of injustice and immigrant perseverance, both which reverberate far beyond state lines.

The story centers on Corky Trunzo, a young Italian-American boy growing up in the rugged mining town of Sagamore. With coal dust in the air and violence always nearby, Corky's coming of age is interrupted by a string of brutal acts committed by a state game warden named Ed Markle. Supposedly a protector of wildlife, Markle uses his

by Davis Coen

badge and twin Colt revolvers to terrorize Italian immigrant hunters, who have to shoot songbirds to survive.

As Corky watches Markle's escalating cruelty, including the killing of his dog and the murder of a friend's father, the question becomes not just if—but how—justice can prevail in a system that has turned its back on the very folks who power it.

At the center of the resistance is Corky's tough grandmother, Gina Ferraro, a quietly feared fixer who may or may not have Mafia ties—and whose resolve runs deeper than the nearby coal mines.

Though Sonni hailed from Indiana, Pennsylvania, he spent his final years in Taylor, Mississippi, and his storytelling in *Sagamore* carries a kind of lyrical grit that feels right at home. At times it recalls the moral weight of Faulkner as well as the sharp social insight of Southern Gothic literature. The novel is both a violent and tender portrait of a community pushed too far.

Though *Sagamore* is partly set against the snowy backdrop of the Allegheny Mountains, it tells an American story that Mississippians will recognize, which is of working people navigating a deep tension between the law and what's right.

Any reader expecting a musician's vanity project will be greatly surprised by this serious, elegant, and fearless literary achievement.

Echoing some of the menace of a Cormac McCarthy novel, *Sagamore* is all about what it takes to push back. Against a man with a badge and a gun, and the system that protects him. Against the quiet pull of giving up. With a searing heart and a clear sense of history, Jack has given us a tale of pain and perseverance that reminds us why fiction matters.



The book is not just a tribute to his storytelling but to Jack's chosen Southern home. The lyrics of Blackberry Smoke's *One Horse Town*, which opens the book, could just as easily describe a one-stop-light Mississippi town as it could a coal town in decline.

With *Sagamore*, he cements his legacy not only as a musician, but as a storyteller of depth. It's a book that lingers and demands to be read.

It's also a thrill to enjoy the voice of a seasoned, world-class musician inserted into fiction—especially when Corky and his companion, in search of adventure, visit a juke joint on the far outskirts of town and encounter a famous bluesman.

*Sagamore* is available now through Cool Dog Sound ([www.cooldogsound.com](http://www.cooldogsound.com)) and Square Books. 📖

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## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Condo coolers
- 4 Mornings, briefly
- 7 Malaria symptom
- 8 Daub
- 10 Florida city
- 11 Research
- 13 Nocturnal birds
- 16 Actor Cariou
- 17 English horn cousins
- 18 Actor McShane
- 19 Stumble
- 20 Part of A.D.
- 21 Exams for future attys.
- 23 Years
- 25 Deception
- 26 Cousin's mom
- 27 -- -ray Disc
- 28 Soaks up the sun
- 30 Prefix with gram

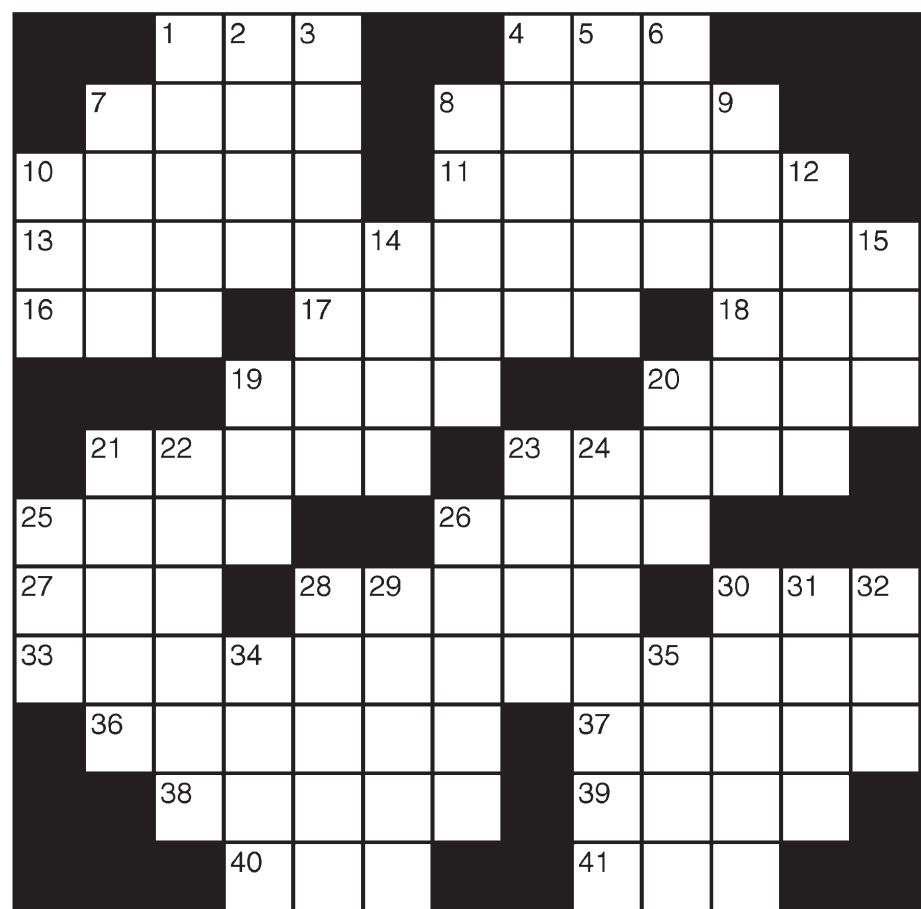
or center

- 33 Ancient
- 36 "Hard as nails," for one
- 37 More bizarre
- 38 Auto style
- 39 Clarinet insert
- 40 Ballot markings
- 41 Corn serving

### DOWN

- 1 "Encore!"
- 2 Robert of "I Spy"
- 3 Stop on a cruise
- 4 Love, to Luigi
- 5 Cat calls?
- 6 H.H. Munro's pen name
- 7 Dull pain
- 8 Sailing vessel
- 9 Judge's decision
- 10 Hooting bird

- 12 Blueprints
- 14 Kimono ties
- 15 -- -cone
- 19 Levy
- 20 Busy insect
- 21 Lounges
- 22 Mecca residents
- 23 Sci-fi's Skywalker
- 24 By the beach
- 25 "Westworld" aier
- 26 Wan
- 28 Back of a 45 record
- 29 Book of maps
- 30 Church leader
- 31 Begged
- 32 Leb. neighbor
- 34 Visa rival, briefly
- 35 Inventor's inspiration



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Company**



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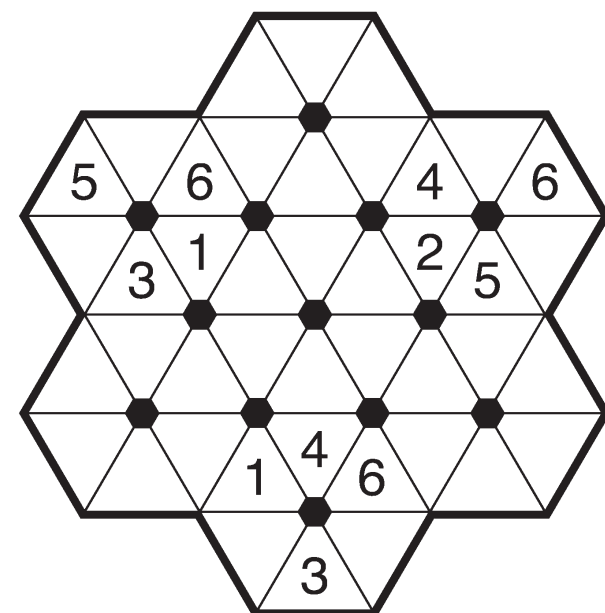
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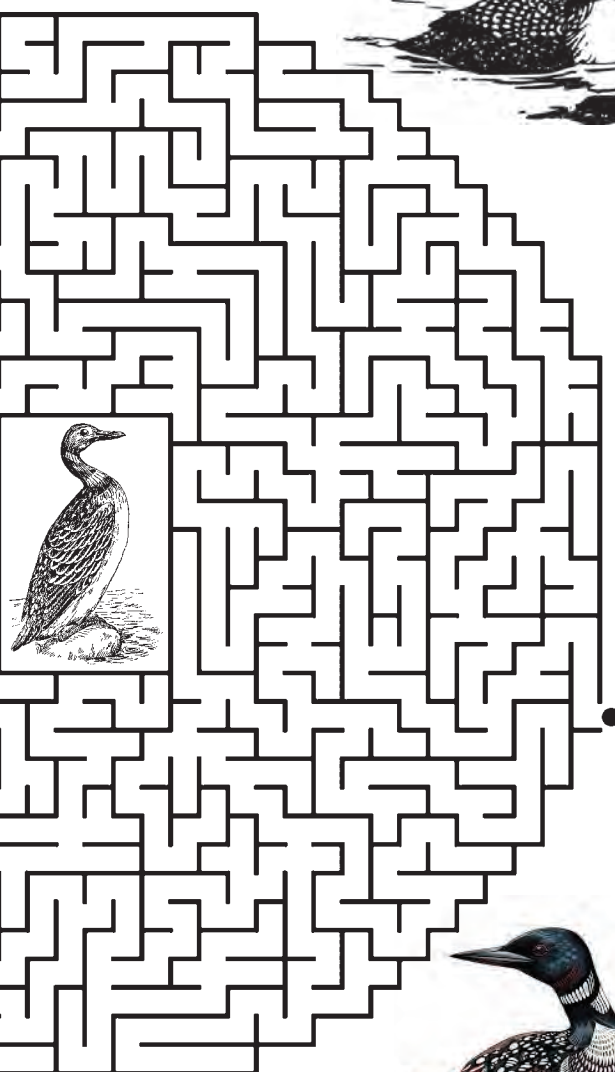
# SNOWFLAKES

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



# Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

- ANIMAL KINGDOM:** What is a female goat called?
- TELEVISION:** What is the name of the town in "Gilmore Girls"?
- GEOGRAPHY:** How many states does the Appalachian Trail cross?
- MOVIES:** Which actress voices the character Jessie in "Toy Story 2"?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS:** What is believed to have caused President Zachary Taylor's death?
- ANATOMY:** What is the most abundant protein in the human body?
- GEOMETRY:** How many sides does a hexagon have?
- LITERATURE:** Serial killer Hannibal Lecter first appears in which novel?
- ASTRONOMY:** What are planets outside our solar system called?
- MUSIC:** Who was the first women inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame?

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.

	+		÷		=	1		
+		+		+				
	+	5	÷		=	1		
÷		×		×				
	+		+		=	15		
=		=		=				
2		44		13				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

## 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.

DUTS XK XW ORWUXSC  
KUONRCU MNR, ZTWKONMXSC  
MNR, VXYT XW CNOCTNRW,  
CVNOXNRW.  
— Z.U. VJDOTSFT

## 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: **V** equals **L**

GTGXSVNLNTPD VSZOVSB FSZGB  
BT US RNDBXNUPBSR BT Z  
VZXLS GPFUSX TO ISTIVS:  
Z DSAPVZX ANXAPVZX.



"To love oneself is the beginning of a life-long romance."  
— **Oscar Wilde**

(October 16, 1854 – November 30, 1900)

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**Answers:** 1. A doe or nanny. 2. Stars Hollow. 3. 14. 4. Joan Cusack. 5. Acute gastroenteritis. 6. Collagen. 7. Six. 8. "Red Dragon" by Thomas Harris. 9. Exoplanets. 10. Aretha Franklin.



## Rebel Wine & Spirits

**Remember the Party Starts Here!**

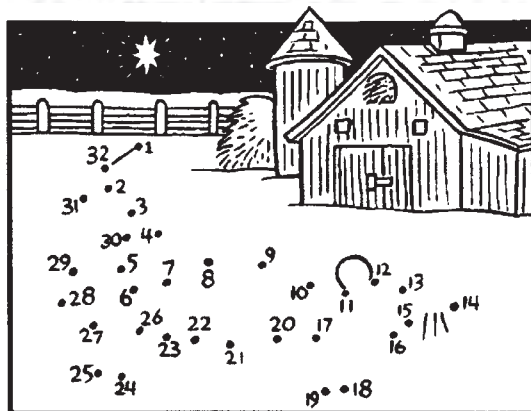
1429 North Lamar (at Molly Barr)  
Oxford, Mississippi 38655



**STICKELERS** (sue)  
by Terry Stickels

Match the words on the left with their respective meanings on the right.

1. perfidy	a. green with vegetation
2. intransigent	b. superficial; cursory
3. perfunctory	c. complaining
4. verdant	d. treachery
5. querulous	e. stubborn; unyielding



Illustrated by David Coulson

**CONNECT THE DOTS** and find out why a star and an old barn are alike.

Answer: Because they both contain r-a-t-s.

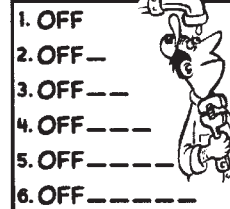
**A PUNCTURE PROBLEM!** Try nailing down the answer to this AlphaMath puzzle before the tire is fixed. Replace the letters in our sign with the digits 0, 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8 and 9 to get a correct addition problem. The same letters get the same digits.



Our answer: T=1, I=4, R=0, E=2, N=7, A=5, F=8, S=9 (1402 + 7549 = 8951).

**DON'T GET TURNED OFF BY THIS ONE!** In this puzzle, all of the words get progressively longer, and they all start with OFF. Some hints are:

- |                                  |                       |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. OFF (in place).               | 2. Goes away from.    |
| 3. To present for consideration. | 4. Out of pitch.      |
| 5. Transfer data.                | 6. Behind the scenes. |



Answers: 1. Off. 2. Offs. 3. Offer. 4. Off-key. 5. Offroad. 6. Offstage.

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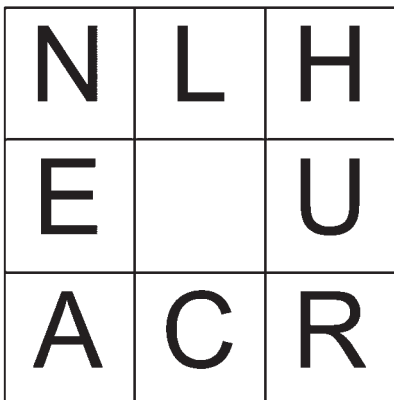
**PYRAMID OF WORD POWER!**

You won't solve this one by sticking your head in the sand. Starting with the given word **OSTRICHES** at the bottom of our pyramid, try dropping one letter at a time as you work your way up, so that the remaining letters, at each level, spell out a new word. You have three minutes. The following helpful hints are in ascending order, beginning with **OSTRICHES**.

1. Large, flightless African birds.
2. Most resembling a thoroughbred.
3. Found in libraries.
4. A female relative.
5. Rows in a stadium.
6. A building's location.
7. Part of railroad tracks.
8. A player in the game of tag.
9. Symbol for iodine.

Answers: (from the bottom up): 1. Ostriches. 2. Horst. 3. Stores. 4. Sister. 5. Tiers. 6. Site. 7. Tie. 8. It. 9. I.

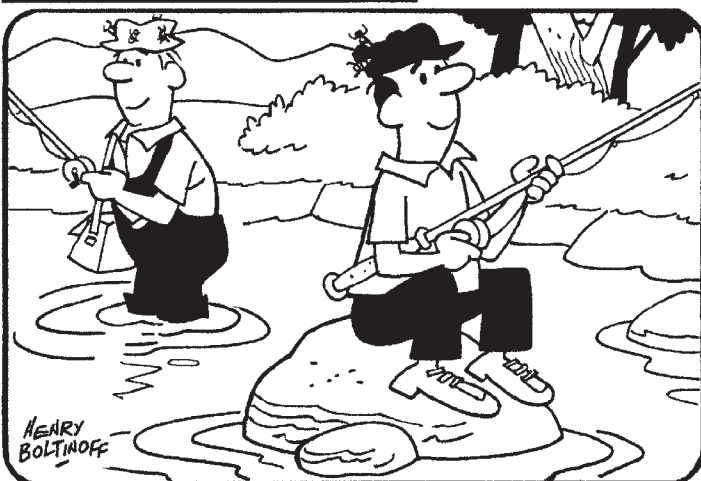
**KNIGHT MOVES**



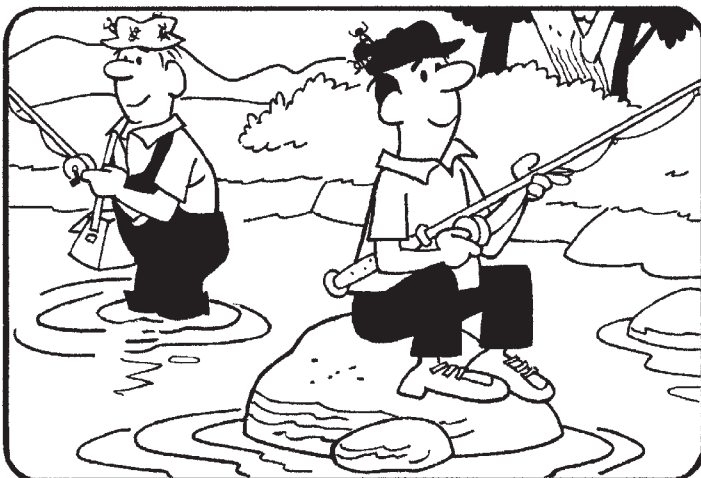
Unlock the power of chess to find the eight-letter word of the day. Choose your starting letter carefully, then move around the square in a one by two fashion to get to the next letter.

**HOCUS-FOCUS**

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



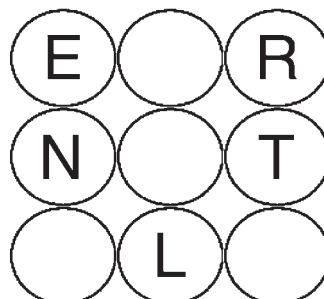
Differences: 1. Foot is moved. 2. Tree is moved. 3. Rock is moved. 4. Mountain is different. 5. Ear is larger. 6. Fingers are different.

**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. Georgia crop        | ___ _ _ _ H | Truce                 | ___ _ _ _ E |
| 2. Director Scorsese   | ___ _ _ T   | Florida major-leaguer | ___ _ _ L   |
| 3. Military trainee    | ___ _ D     | Proofreader's mark    | ___ _ R     |
| 4. Twisted hairdo      | ___ _ _ D   | Noggin                | ___ _ _ N   |
| 5. Bowling score       | ___ _ _ K   | Pace                  | ___ _ _ D   |
| 6. Recliner or rocker  | ___ _ _ R   | Series of links       | ___ _ _ N   |
| 7. Deliberate          | ___ _ N     | Talcum, e.g.          | ___ _ W     |
| 8. Depart              | L ___ _     | Use a loom            | W ___ _     |
| 9. "Braveheart" star   | ___ _ S     | Long-armed ape        | ___ _ B     |
| 10. Santiago's country | ___ _ E     | Youngster             | ___ _ D     |

**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.





# Read More at TheLocalVoice.net

Scan our QR code for quick access to TheLocalVoice.net



## Wild Turkey Stamp Art Contest Continues until July 25th

The Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks is reminding artists across the state that submissions for the inaugural Wild Turkey Stamp Art Contest are open until July 25, 2025.

## Faulkner Scholar Retires After Three Decades at Ole Miss

Jay Watson leaves long-lasting impact on students, Southern literature and Faulkner studies

Jay Watson, a leading voice in William Faulkner studies and University of Mississippi professor, retired June 30, 2025, after more than three decades of teaching, research and service.

## University of Mississippi, Greystar Partner to Build New Student Housing

Public-private partnership seeks to create up to 2,700 new student beds

This partnership will aim to produce approximately 2,700 new beds for students at the Oxford campus, with students expected to move in by 2027.

## Lafayette County Master Gardeners: "July Garden Calendar" by Bronwynne Bailey

Everything you need to know about attending your yard and garden in this July heat.

## Visit Oxford's Kinney Ferris to Serve as Secretary/Treasurer Of Mississippi Tourism Association

The Mississippi Tourism Association, the state's voice of tourism for over 35 years, is pleased to announce Kinney Ferris began serving as the state association's secretary/treasurer as of July 1.

## University Museum Leader Reflects on 13 Years of Service

Saarnio championed access, acquisitions and education during 13 years as director

Robert Saarnio, longtime director of the University of Mississippi Museum, is retiring after 13 years of dedicated service to history, art, and education at Ole Miss.

## Honoring A Contagious Laugh, A Friend to All

Ole Miss fraternity pays tribute to Wyatt Thistle's life with scholarship endowment

Wyatt Thistle's smile, joy, and hugs were legendary, and many people considered him their best friend. The 20-year-old from Alamo Heights, Texas, died earlier this year in a boating accident, but the University of Mississippi chapter of Phi Delta Theta fraternity is making sure his legacy lives on.

## Study Links Air Pollutant to Year-Round Respiratory Health in Jackson

UM researchers study impact of air pollutants on Mississippi residents

University of Mississippi researchers have linked exposure to high levels of black carbon in the air to an increase in respiratory-related hospital admissions in Mississippi's capital city.

## More Headlines

City of Oxford, Mississippi Board of Alderman Meeting Agenda - Tuesday, July 1, 2025

University of Mississippi Research Finds 'Attractiveness Advantage' in Customer Experience

Oxford 2025 CoBuilders Winners Announced

## Local Crime:

Convicted Felon with a Gun Arrested on Slack Road in Oxford, Mississippi

911 Caller and Four Others Arrested in Oxford for Robbery, Promoting Prostitution, Kidnapping, Conspiracy, and Procuring Prostitution

Thaxton, Mississippi Man Arrest for Embezzlement at Home Depot in Oxford

Memphis Man Arrested for Stealing \$4000 from an ATM in Oxford, Mississippi



Read more at TheLocalVoice.net

# Strange BUT TRUE

- The first staplers were invented in the 18th century for **King Louis XV of France**, though the word "stapler" wasn't commonly used until 1901. These early devices were cumbersome and often required force to operate, with some even needing a hammer or mallet.
- Animals with smaller bodies and faster metabolism see in slow motion.
- Occupational therapy techniques date to 100 B.C., when a **Greek** physician named **Asclepiades** used them to treat mental illness.
- The tradition of playing loud music at an **Irish** wake originated with the belief that it would ward off evil spirits. Wakes also provided the opportunity to watch over the deceased to see if they would awaken.
- The **Firefox** logo isn't a fox, but a red panda.
- If your hat falls off during a tennis match, your opponent has the option to declare it a "hindrance" and redo the stroke.
- The temperature of a shooting star is around 3,000 degrees Fahrenheit.
- In 2019, a British woman married her dog. Her motive? After four failed engagements, 220 dates and a general range of unsatisfying experiences in the search for **Mr. Right**, she had given up on men but felt she and her dog had saved each other.
- "Crab mentality" refers to the "If I can't have it, neither can you" line of thinking, due to the fact that when a crab in a bucket attempts to escape, its fellow crabs pull it down.
- Trypophobia** is the fear of closely packed holes.
- A flute is technically any open tube that one blows into to produce sound -- even, for example, an empty Coke bottle!

**Thought for the Day:** "I don't believe you have to be better than everybody else. I believe you have to be better than you ever thought you could be."

~ Ken Venturi

# Treat Yourself

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## The Local Voice is published every Thursday

Deadline is every Tuesday at noon. Next print deadline: August 5

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

**CELL: 662-832-3574 EMAIL: thelocalvoice@thelocalvoice.net**

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The Local Voice is a locally owned and operated media company. Published in loving memory of Thomas McCarver Rayburn (June 6, 1978-August 13, 2021)



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### Ajax Diner

118 Courthouse Square

Mon-Sat: 11 am-9 pm

### The Balcony at Grillehouse

114 Courthouse Square

Tue-Sat: 4 pm-12:30 am

Kitchen open till midnight

Sun: 4 pm-9 pm; Two dine for \$79

Wed: Ladies Night: Half-price specials

Wed: Wine'd Up & Whiskey'd Down:

\$6 and \$8 Whiskey specials,

Half-price wine specials

Thu: Shake & Shuck: \$8 Margs &

Oyster specials (till 9)

Fri: \$9 Lemon Drops

Red Booth Reservations: email

Balcony.Events@TheGrillehouse.com

Dinner Service: 5:30, 6, 7:30, 8:30 pm

(MIN 6 people, MAX 10 people)

Late Night: 10 & 10:30 pm

(MIN 8 people MAX 14 people)

### 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

### Booth's Barbeque

2200 South Lamar Blvd.

Wed-Thu: 11 am-8 pm

Fri-Sat: 11 am-10 pm

Sun: 11 am-8 pm

Wed-Thu: \$4 drafts & wells;

\$5 High Noons (4 pm-close)

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

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

Sun: 1/2-price Bloody Marys &

Mimosas

Delivery: Take A Break 🚚

### Nightbird

425 S. Lamar Blvd.

Open at 4 pm nightly

### Bouré

110 Courthouse Square

Mon-Thu: 11 am-10 pm

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 🚚

### Circle & Square

100 Depot Street

Tap Room Hours:

Mon-Wed: 7 am-9 pm

Thu-Sat: 7 am-10 pm

Sun: 9 am-7 pm

Kitchen Hours:

Mon-Tue: 11 am-7:30 pm

Wed-Sat: 7 am-7:30 pm

Sun: 9 am-6:30 pm

WED: TRIVIA 7 pm

### City Grocery

152 Courthouse Square

Mon-Sat:

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

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

City Grocery Bar

Mon-Sat: 4 pm-till

Open at 2 pm Fri 5/09

Open at noon Sat 5/10

Happy Hour 4-6 pm:

M-F \$1 off wells & domestics

### Funkys

1012 E Jackson Ave

Mon-Thu: 2 pm-1 am

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 🚚

### Good Day Cafe

766 N. Lamar Blvd.

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

425 S. Lamar Blvd.

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

Happy Hour 4-5 pm: \$4 select

drafts, \$8 Classic Cocktails,

\$7 wines, food specials

### Little Easy Catering

1503B White Oak Lane

Sunday Plate Lunches

Sun: 10 am-2 pm

### The Library

120 South 11th Street

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 🚚

### The Old Henry

1002 East Jackson Ave

Thu-Fri: 5 pm-1 am

Sat: noon-1 am

Happy Hour 6-8 pm Thu:

1/2-priced cocktails & wine

### Rafters on the Square

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 3-9pm

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 &

seltzers

Delivery: Take A Break 🚚

### Saint Leo

922 E Jackson Ave

Tue-Sun: Lunch 11 am-3 pm

Bar & Pizza 3-5 pm

Dinner 5-10 pm

Brunch Sat & Sun:

10:30 am-3 pm

Happy Hour 3-5 pm

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

Fries, \$6 Wine & Cocktails

### Southern Coop

705 Sisk Ave.

Mon-Sat: 11 am-9 pm

Delivery: Take A Break 🚚

### 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

### 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

Mon-Sat: 11 am-10 pm

Sun: 11 am-9 pm

late night menu Thu-Sat

Happy Hour 3-6 pm: \$3 tacos; \$6

house Margaritas (\$20 pitchers); 2-for-1

domestics; 1/2-off appetizers

Tues: HAPPY HOUR ALL DAY

Sat: \$5 Frozen's & \$20 pitchers

Sun: Service Industry 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

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The Blind Pig

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Firehouse Subs  
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Buffalo Wild Wings  
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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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# Jesus & Paul

(The following is an excerpt from my unpublished novel, *Middle-Aged Messiah*, in which Jesus convinces \_\_\_od to allow him to come back to Earth in Mississippi in the early 1960s and grow up as a typical human, with no miracles or special powers just like you and I.) and away we go...

Most folks think I never met Paul. After all, I was dead when he came on the scene, guns a' blazin', according to the book of *Acts*. But I did meet him once and a saint he ain't.

You remember that story in the Bible about when I was thirteen and got left in Jerusalem by Mama Mary and Daddy Joseph? How when they realized it a few days later and came rushin' back lookin' for me and found me in the Temple sayin all kinds of amazin' crap to the ol' rabbis? Paul was right there, too. His name was "Saul" then. Most folks know him as Paul now. He was a couple of years older'n me. Those wiley ol' rabbis had secretly set us up to do a kinda "point counterpoint" debate. They'd ask questions and me and Paul would take turns answerin'.

Paul knew the Law. There wasn't nobody who could outsmart him on that. He'd about got it all memorized. For hours me and Paul fielded the rabbis' questions. Paul'd answer 'em real black an' white an' he was right—every time. He didn't miss one single point of the Law. I, on the other hand, answered from the standpoint of the *spirit* of the Law.

Everything was friendly enough the first day, but as time rolled on things started gettin' tense. By the third day Paul was royally pissed and he let us know it. He was standin' up yellin' and screamin' at me. He was yellin' so hard that his face turned a bright, bright red. The veins on his neck and forehead were poppin' out like canned biscuits (which are an abomination to the Lord and the Southern Food Alliance, by the way). His eyes was bulgin' out to the point I was scared they were gonna bust wide open.

I, on the other hand, was just sittin' there watchin'—which wasn't easy to do since Paul was

about an inch from my nose an' was spittin' on my face with every word. I thought, "What if his eyes and veins really did bust open?" I imagined him with busted eyes and veins, but his mouth still agoin' ninety-to-nothin' and I got tickled. I tried not to laugh, but the more I thought about Paul's mouth just a' goin' an a goin' 'til his eyes and veins busted, the more trouble I had keepin' a straight face.



I finally started hootin' an howlin' and rolled over on the floor bustin' a gut. Some of the rabbis got tickled, but to laugh out loud woulda been anathema. Those who didn't get it just sat there like one of 'em had farted


and nobody was gonna own up to it! The others, like Paul, stood up all high and mighty, stuck their big ol' noses in the air, and marched out like I'd put a turd in the middle of their prize winnin' bamanna bread! Yeah, I said "bamanna bread." That's whatcha get when you use bananas and manna to make bread. Bamanna bread.

Then I was kinda summin' things up for the remainin' rabbis. That was when Mama busted up all huffy and puffy. She grabbed me by the left ear and pulled me outta the Temple, giving me hell all the time for puttin' her and Daddy Joseph through such worry and trouble. I smarted off. "I didn't leave y'all. Y'all left me!"

Mama twisted my ear so hard I belly-flopped in the dirt. I looked up at her and she was starin' down at me like she wanted to give me the cussin' of my life. Mama looked back at the rabbis glarin' at us and came back eye-to-eye with me. She barked, "C'mon, Jesus. We gotta move if we're gonna catch up with your Daddy!"

So, yeah, I had a real close encounter with Saint Paul the Constipated quite early in my second incarnation.

...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 has a tangential mind.* 

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Admission is \$20, and includes a personal printed copy of the magazine, lite hors d'oeuvres, red-carpet interviews, and exclusive access to event surprises.

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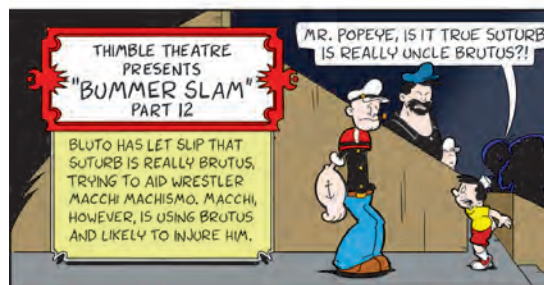
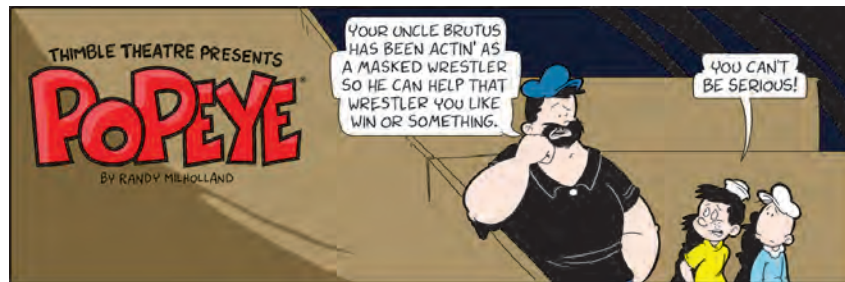
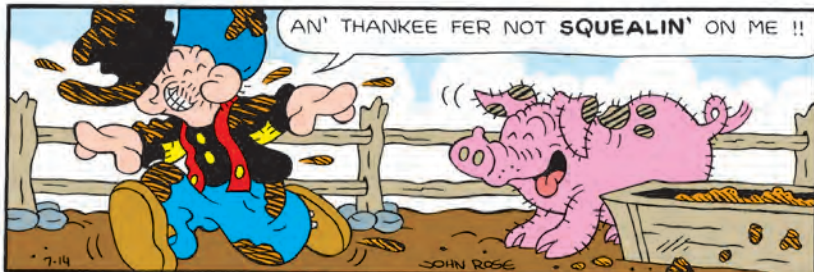
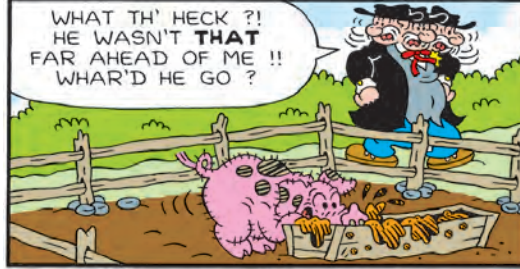
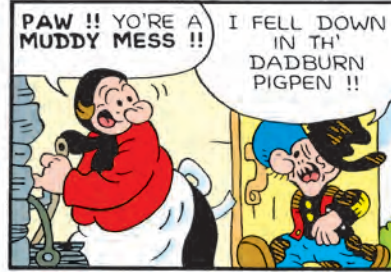
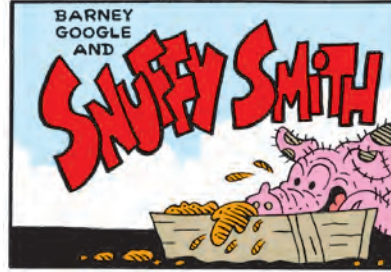


Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



GRIN and BEAR IT

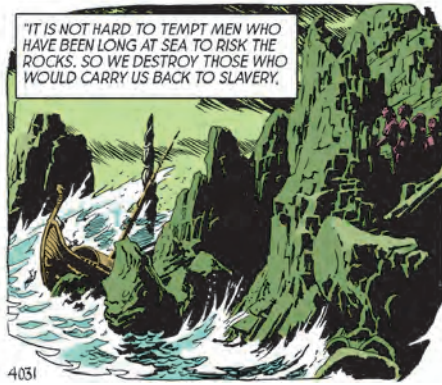
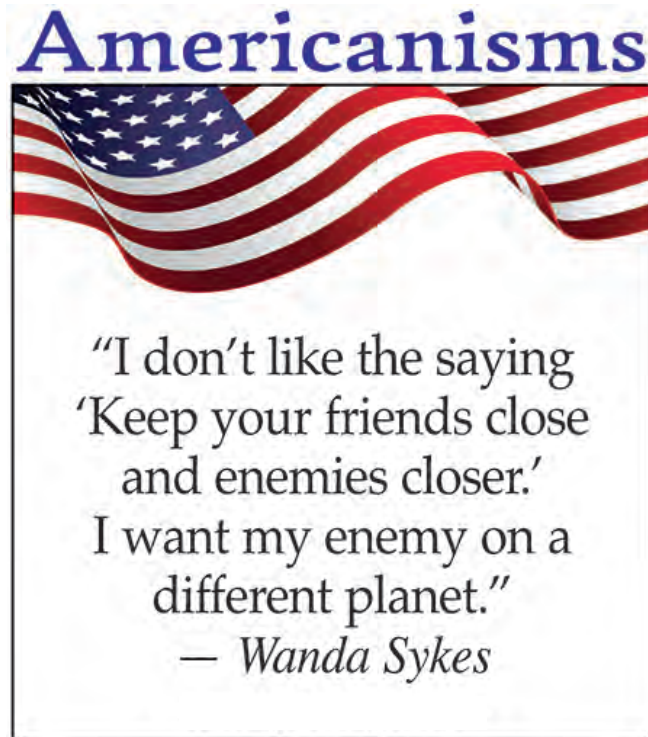
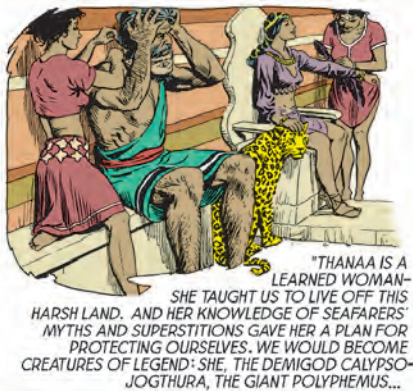
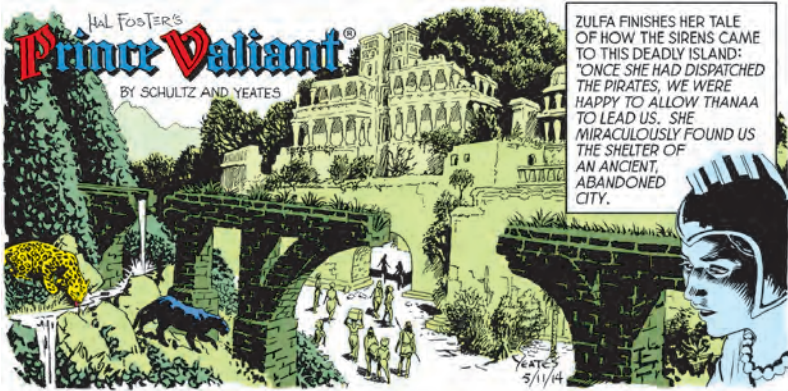


Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



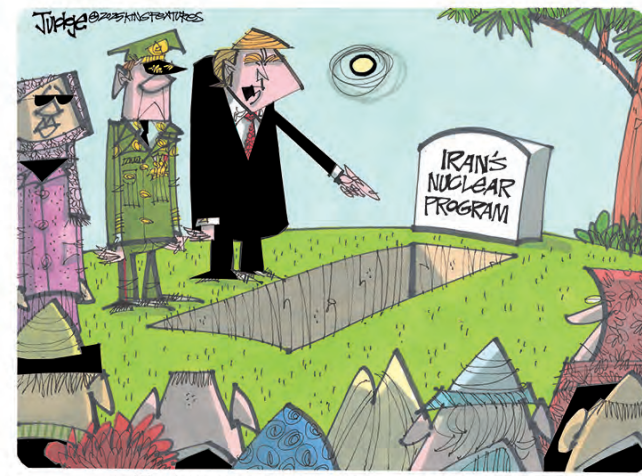




## Amber Waves

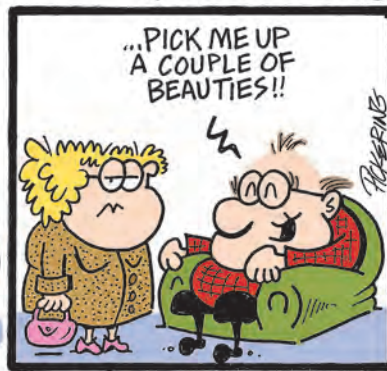


by Dave T. Phipps



"I'VE PRONOUNCED YOU DEAD SO STOP MOVING."

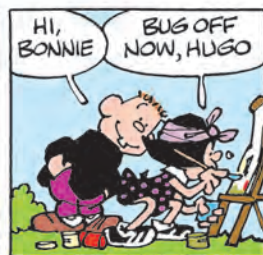
## The Spats



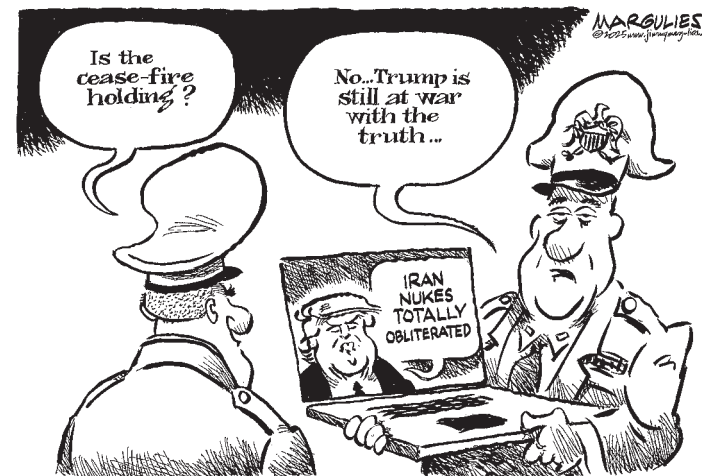
by Jeff Pickering



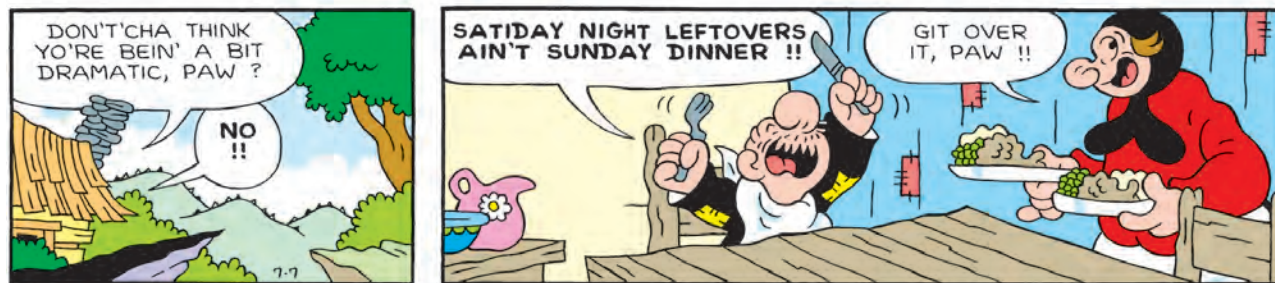
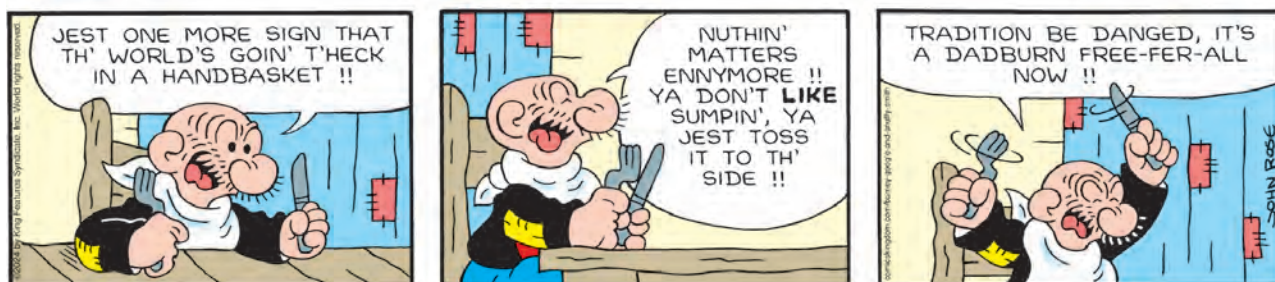
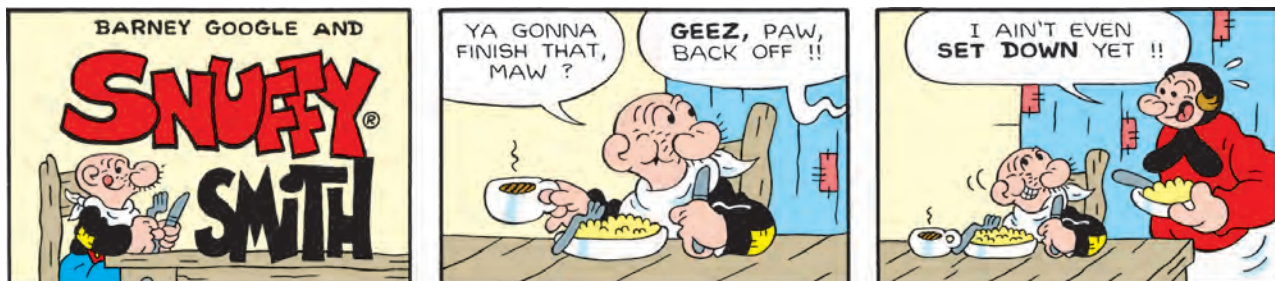
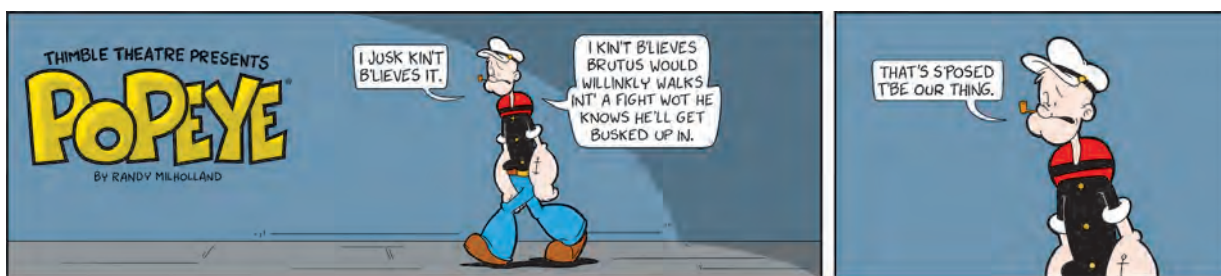
## TIGER



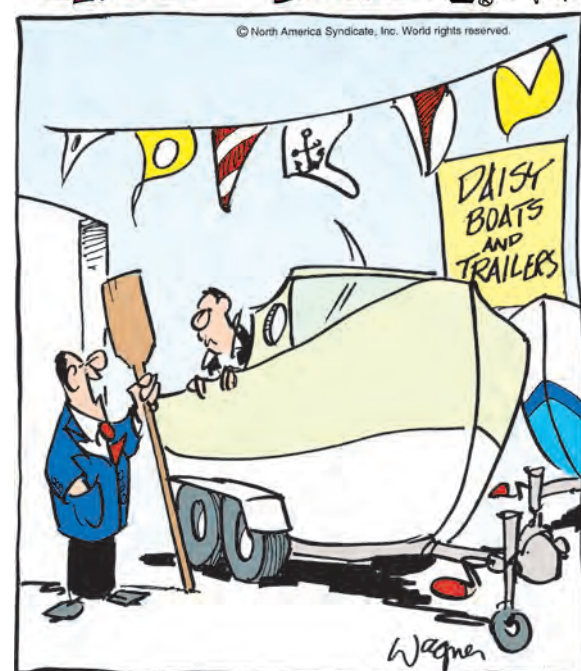
by BUD BLAKE







**GRIN and BEAR IT** Wagner



"And it's being offered with this alternative fuel option!"

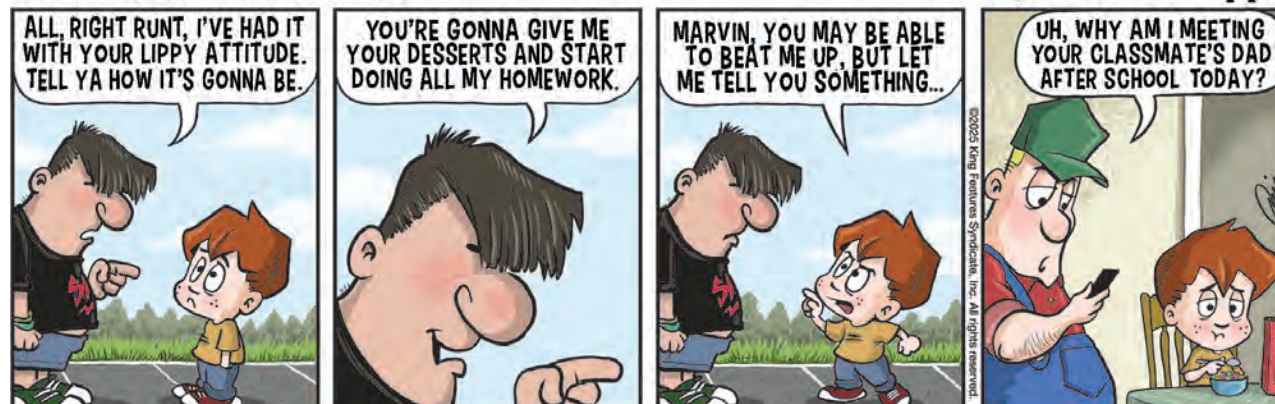
**Americanisms**



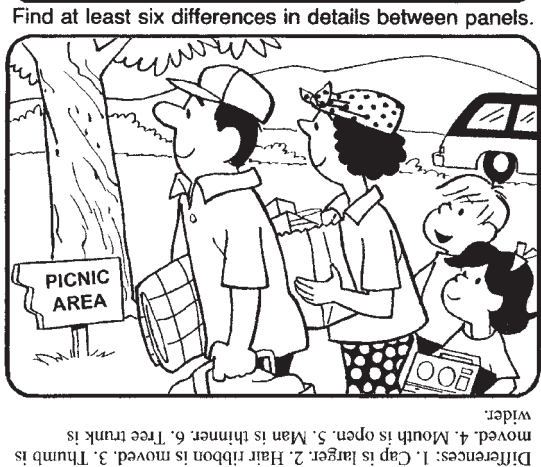
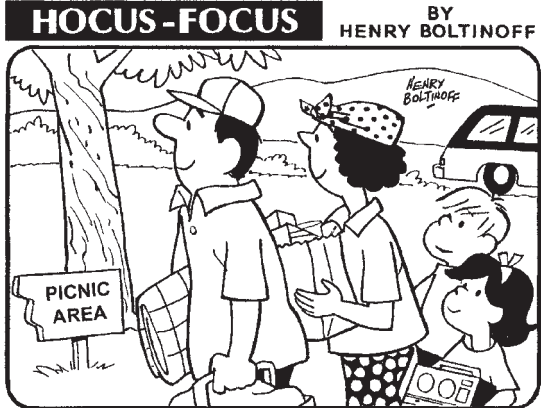
"It is better to be a young June bug than an old bird of paradise."  
— Mark Twain

## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps







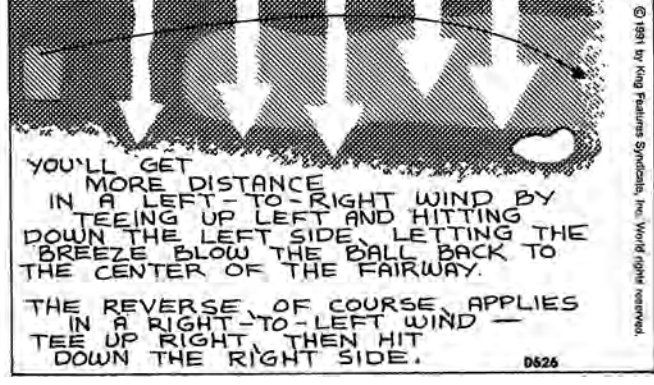
The Spats



Out on a Limb



Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS







Optional extras such as 1/4 cup crushed ripe strawberries or peaches, mini chocolate chips, or a squirt of chocolate syrup

Stir together cream, vanilla and sugar in a bowl. Add an optional extra if you wish. Pour into one of the smaller bags. Press out as much air as possible, then seal it. Slip this bag into a second pint-sized bag, release air, and seal.

Scoop enough ice into the larger bag to generously cover the bottom. Sprinkle some salt over the ice. Set the small sealed bags inside the large bag, then add more ice and salt. Release air and seal.

Hold the large bag with both hands, turn it over and over, massage it, and gently shake it consistently for 15 minutes. Since it will feel very cold, you may wish to wrap it in a towel or wear mittens as you work.



When the mixture turns into ice cream, carefully unseal the outer pint-sized bag before opening the inner bag, making sure that ice and salt don't get into your batch of ice cream. Spoon into bowls and enjoy. If you wish to eat it later, spoon it into a storage container and put into the freezer.

\*\*\*

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



1. **How to Train Your Dragon** (PG) Mason Thames, Nico Parker
2. **28 Years Later** (R) Jodie Comer, Aaron Taylor-Johnson
3. **Elio** (PG) Yonas Kibreab, Zoe Saldaña
4. **Lilo & Stitch** (PG) Maia Kealoha, Sydney Agudong
5. **Mission: Impossible - The Final Reckoning** (PG-13) Tom Cruise, Hayley Atwell
6. **Materialists** (R) Dakota Johnson, Chris Evans
7. **Ballerina** (R) Ana de Armas, Keanu Reeves
8. **Karate Kid: Legends** (PG-13) Jackie Chan, Ben Wang
9. **Final Destination: Bloodlines** (R) Kaitlyn Santa Juana, Teo Briones
10. **Kuberaa** (NR) Dhanush, Rashmika Mandanna

## THE POD REPORT

By Dana Block



### THIS WEEK'S CATEGORY:

#### Across the Pond

The United States and the United Kingdom have a lot of shared interests when it comes to TV, especially comedies, but do you ever wonder which podcasts the Brits are downloading? According to the Spotify podcast charts, these seven podcasts frequently produce high numbers. Best of all, they're available here in the U.S. on most apps:

**"The Louis Theroux Podcast"** — British journalist, documentarian and author Louis Theroux welcomes a new guest each week for an in-depth, freewheeling conversation. Singer Ed Sheeran, actor Sean Penn, and former "Daily Show" host Trevor Noah are just a few names you'll recognize, but his interviews with those who are less famous are even more captivating. (Spotify.com)

**"Journey Through Time"** — Hosts David Olusoga and Sarah Churchwell bring you the forgotten stories from history about the ordinary people whose impact is still felt in the present time. It's here where we learn about Eleanor Rathbone, the member of Parliament who was instrumental in implementing child benefits and welfare. Forgotten heroes like her live on in this podcast. (Goalhanger.com)

**"The Rest Is Politics"** — Hosts Alastair Campbell and Rory Stewart break down current affairs in the U.K. and abroad. They analyze and debate global issues "whilst bringing back the lost art of disagreeing agreeably." Hear what others have to say besides

CNN, NPR and Fox News about the recent U.S. air strike on Iran. They also cover issues in their own backyard like "How to Solve Britain's Immigration Question." (TheRestIsPolitics.com)

**"The Diary of a CEO"** — Hosted by British entrepreneur and investor Steven Bartlett, this podcast has a wide range of topics and guests. You can tune in simply for his "CEO Diaries" episodes with guests like Evan Spiegel of Snapchat, or listen to episodes like "Buddhist Teacher," which is about a monk who spent six years in isolation. American guests include former First Lady Michelle Obama and "Tonight Show" host Jimmy Fallon. (StevenBartlett.com)

**"Parenting Hell with Rob Beckett and Josh Widdicombe"** — Rambunctious, unruly children aren't just limited to the 50 states! Parents all over the world can benefit from this podcast hosted by British comedians Rob and Josh as they "share their tales of parenting woe and chat with celebrity parents about how they're coping, or not coping." Be sure to listen to their new favorite feature, "Other Parent W\*okers," where they address correspondence from their listeners. (Spotify.com)

**"Off Menu with Ed Gamble and James Acaster"** — Each week, comedians Ed Gamble and James Acaster welcome a special guest to their "magical restaurant" to choose their favorite "dream meal." Celebrity guests of honor include British thespians like Daisy Ridley and David Tennant but also American acting royalty like Robert De Niro. (OffMenuPodcast.co.UK)

**"The Joe Rogan Experience"** — Yes, you read that correctly. The podcast that frequently charts at No. 1 in the U.S. is also kicking butt on the U.K. Charts. In addition to his guests who were born stateside, Rogan has welcomed British scientists, physicists, journalists, and water polo players to his show. (JoeRogan.com)

## Try Shake-and-Make Ice Cream in a Bag

Many of my childhood summer memories are based on cranking the handle of ice-cream makers at picnics and family reunions. Nowadays, when you ask kids about ice cream, they are more likely to associate it with the cold, hazy cloud that comes out of the supermarket freezer rather than the sound of ice swirling around in an ice-cream maker on a hot summer evening.

You don't need a commercial machine to make the real thing. For an unconventional method, use plastic bags, a simple old-fashioned recipe, and your kids' energy! Here's the latest scoop on how to make a basic, no-cook vanilla ice cream:

### SHAKE-AND-MAKE ICE CREAM IN A BAG

Serves 2

- 1 gallon-sized sturdy, zipper-style plastic bag
- 2 pint-sized zipper-style plastic bags
- Several cups of crushed ice to fill the large bag halfway full
- 1/2 cup coarse salt such as kosher salt or rock salt for ice cream
- 1 cup half-and-half cream, or a mix of half-and-half cream and heavy whipping cream
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 tablespoons sugar

## Fun Fact

A pineapple is neither a pine nor an apple, but a fruit consisting of many berries that have grown together. The Tupi people of Brazil cultivated and used the fruit extensively for food, fermentation into wine and to make poison arrows from its leaves.



Source: [lovebigisland.com](http://lovebigisland.com), [lordwandsworth.org](http://lordwandsworth.org)



- Remove dead flowers from your plants to encourage more blooming. Add both dead and green trimmings to your compost pile.
- Fertilize container gardens regularly with

all-purpose plant food as needed. Keep them adequately watered, as they may dry out more quickly than your in-ground plantings.

- Pull weeds before they mature.
- As you add organic matter to your compost pile, "turn" it to aerate it.
- Support tall-growing plants and climbing vines. — Brenda Weaver

Sources: [horticultureguy.com](http://horticultureguy.com), [thegardenhelper.com](http://thegardenhelper.com), [canadiangardening.com](http://canadiangardening.com)





# PUZZLES & BRAIN TEASERS SOLUTIONS

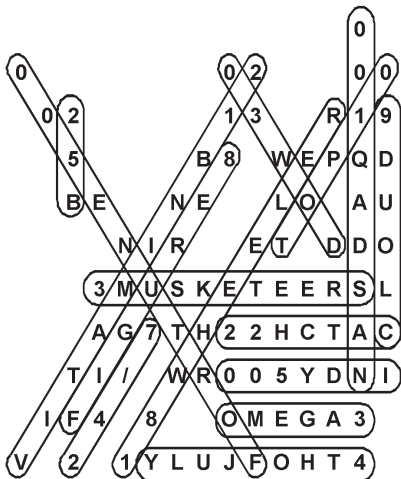


## Super Crossword

Answers

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

CONTAINS A NUMBER



## Even Exchange

answers

1. Peach, Peace
2. Martin, Marlin
3. Cadet, Caret
4. Braid, Brain
5. Strike, Stride
6. Chair, Chain
7. Ponder, Powder
8. Leave, Weave
9. Gibson, Gibbon
10. Chile, Child

## Go Figure!

answers

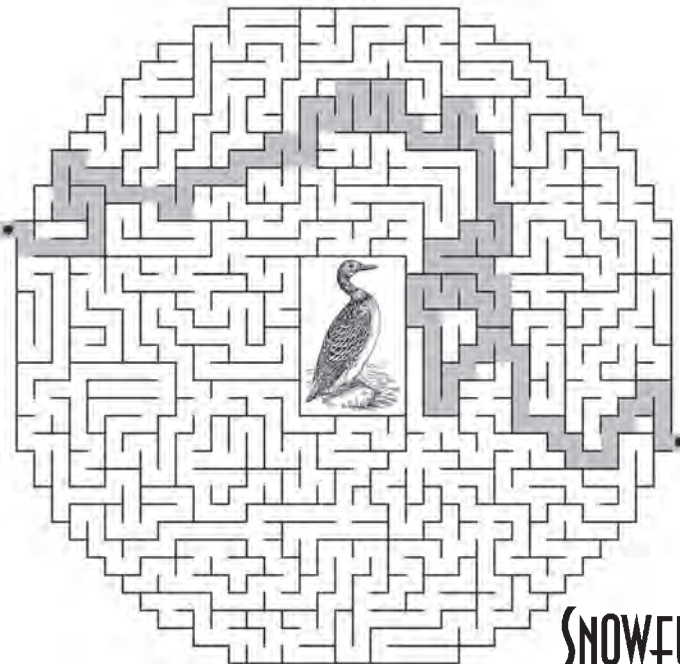
9	+	3	÷	2	=	6
-		+		+		
8	+	1	+	6	=	15
+		×		-		
4	+	7	×	5	=	55
=		=		=		
5		28		3		

## Stickelers Answer

1-d, 2-e, 3-b, 4-a, 5-c

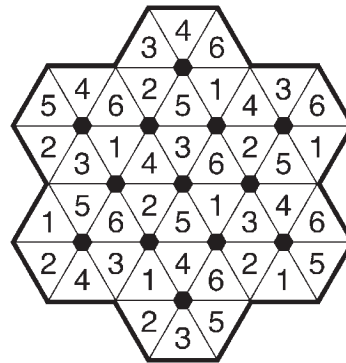
## Mega Maze

Solution



## (SNOWFLAKES)

solution



## Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

## CryptoQuip

answer

Nonreligious leaflet meant to be distributed to a large number of people: a secular circular.

## CryptoQuote

answer

When it is rushing through you, destroying you, life is gorgeous, glorious.

— D.H. Lawrence

## King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

## FEAR & KNOT

answer



## Word Spiral

Answer

EARTHLING

## —KNIGHT MOVES—

Answer

N	L	H
E		U
A	C	R

LAUNCHER





## King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.



## SCRAMBLERS

solution

1. Opine 2. Grieve;
3. Chide; 4. Lithe

Today's Word

### HIRING

## Even Exchange

answers

1. Scoop, Snoop
2. Revere, Severe
3. Power, Tower
4. Spring, Sprint
5. Flesh, Fresh
6. Pinky, Picky
7. Resort, Report
8. Tangle, Tingle
9. Gauge, Gauze
10. Paddle, Saddle

## Puzzles4Kids

Answer

SEARCH	H	SCARE
HEATER	A	THREE
REUSED	R	SUEDE
SCREEN	R	SCENE
PEACHY	Y	CHEAP

SUPPER	P	PURSE
ORANGE	O	ANGER
BATTLE	T	TABLE
RENTAL	T	LEARN
BOTHER	E	BROTH
CHORES	R	CHOSE
SAFELY	Y	FALSE

## FEAR KNOT

answer



### "Thunderbolts" (PG-13)

Although this latest Marvel film underperformed slightly at the box office, trailing behind its predecessor "Captain America: Brave New World," it still received positive reviews from critics and landed well with Marvel fans. Led by Florence Pugh, who reprises her role as Yelena from "Black Widow," "Thunderbolts" follows a group of ex-mercenaries who are baited into a trap by CIA director Valentina Allegra de Fontaine (Julia Louis-Dreyfus) to cover up her illegal misdoings. After being thrown together haphazardly and forced to escape, this group of antiheroes eventually evolves into a full-fledged team, rivaling the CIA director and her corrupt plans. Sebastian Stan ("The Apprentice"), Wyatt Russell ("Night Swim"), and David Harbour ("Stranger Things") co-star in the film, out on July 1 to rent. (Apple TV+)

"The Alto Knights" (R) — Director Barry Levinson hasn't struck gold with critics or audiences since his 2001 film "Bandits," which received two Golden Globe nominations. But perhaps signing on Robert De Niro to play the dual roles of two mobsters was Levinson's way of trying to bring back the appeal! This biographical crime-drama film out now follows mob boss Frank Costello and underboss Vito Genovese during the 1950s, just as an unsightly war begins between the two of them. What they couldn't have expected was that this war would lead to the inner workings of the American Mafia getting brought up to the surface for all the public to finally see. (Max)

"Trainwreck: The Astroworld Tragedy" (TV-MA) — On Nov. 5, 2021, the third annual Astroworld Festival was held in Houston under the management of rapper Travis Scott. Approximately 50,000 people attended the event. While Scott was performing, a crowd crush occurred that killed 10 people and injuring hundreds in total. Although the crowd crush was declared a mass casualty event around 9:40 p.m., Scott continued to perform to fans who were crying out for him to stop until about 10:15 p.m. Featuring firsthand accounts from survivors, event workers and medical staff, this documentary now details this terrifying concert experience that absolutely should have been prevented. (Netflix)



Courtesy of Amazon MGM Studios

John Cena, left, and Idris Elba star in "Heads of State."

"Heads of State" (PG-13) — Out on July 2, this action-comedy film stars John Cena as U.S. President Will Derringer and Idris Elba as U.K. Prime Minister Sam Clarke. (With John Cena as the president, expect heavier comedy than action.) A meeting on Air Force One between the two world leaders goes awry, and after miraculously surviving a plane crash, the pair must lean on each other's skills to get themselves to safety. Luckily, they also have the help of MI6 agent Noel Bisset (Priyanka Chopra-Jonas), who will travel day and night to protect Will and Sam from their adversaries. Jack Quaid ("The Boys") and Paddy Considine ("House of the Dragon") co-star. (Amazon Prime Video)



## It's Fourth of July on a Stick: Skewers Make Your Party a Breeze

The Fourth of July is the time to celebrate with fireworks, family and, of course, food. This year let's make the celebration even easier and more fun — by taking everything on a stick. No plates? No problem! Whether you're hosting a backyard BBQ, heading to a picnic or attending a block party, these skewers will keep everyone happily munching without the mess.

When it comes to holiday fare, I love a good kabob. Kabobs are the ultimate finger food; they're easy to eat while mingling or watching the fireworks. They're customizable, delicious and fun to make. You can go savory, sweet or a combination of both, and the best part? They require no plates! Just grab and go.

Here are some kabob ideas that will impress your guests and make cleanup a breeze.

Diva Tip: Soak bamboo skewers in water for 30 minutes before using.

**The Appetizer Skewer.** Let's start with something light, fresh and oh-so-flavorful. **Mini Caprese Skewers** are as simple as they get — just cherry tomatoes, mozzarella balls and fresh basil leaves, all threaded onto skewers. They offer a burst of tangy goodness with every bite. For an extra touch of elegance, drizzle them with a little balsamic glaze before serving. These skewers are

a perfect appetizer. They're vibrant, simple and a refreshing break from the heavier grilling options.

**The Dessert Skewer.** Want to add a little sweetness to your menu? These **Firework Fruit Skewers** will do the trick! Thread fresh strawberries, blueberries and banana slices onto skewers for a patriotic burst of red, white and blue. Brush the banana slices with lemon juice to prevent browning. To take these skewers over the top, brush them with melted coconut oil and toss them on the grill for a minute or two to add a smoky, caramelized sweetness that's simply irresistible. Serve with ice cream or glazed doughnuts. (Trust me on this!)



www.JasonCoblentz.com

### Skewers make 4th of July celebrations simple, delicious and plate-free!

Now, for the star of the show: the All-American Chicken Sausage Skewers. These skewers are a true crowd-pleaser, combining the savory goodness of chicken and apple sausage (or your favorite sausage) with the vibrant colors of red peppers, earthy mushrooms and sweet red onions. It's a simple but flavorful combination that also looks gorgeous on the platter and captures the spirit of the Fourth of July — celebrating all things fresh, bold and fun.

### ALL-AMERICAN CHICKEN SAUSAGE SKEWERS

Yield: 4 servings  
Total Time: 20 minutes

4 chicken and apple sausages (or your favorite sausage variety)  
1 red bell pepper, cut into chunks  
1 red onion, cut into chunks  
8 large mushrooms, halved or quartered  
2 zucchini  
Olive oil for brushing  
Salt and pepper to taste  
Fresh herbs (such as parsley or thyme) for garnish, optional

Preheat your grill to medium-high heat.

Slice the sausages into 1-inch pieces. You want them to be bite-size for easy skewer assembly. Thread the sausage pieces onto the skewers, alternating with chunks of red bell peppers, red onion and mushrooms. Lightly brush the skewers with olive oil and season with salt and pepper.

Place the skewers on the preheated grill, turning occasionally until the sausage is cooked through and the vegetables are tender with a slight char (about 8-10 minutes).

Once done, remove from the grill and cool. Sprinkle fresh herbs over the top for added flavor and color, if desired. Serve immediately or store in the fridge until ready to serve.

So, fire up the grill, grab your skewers and let the good times roll — no plates, no problem!

\*\*\*

Lifestyle expert Patti Diamond is the penny-pinching, party-planning, recipe developer and content creator of the website *Divas On A Dime* — *Where Frugal, Meets Fabulous!* Visit Patti at [www.divasonadime.com](http://www.divasonadime.com) and join the conversation on Facebook at *DivasOnADimeDotCom*. Email Patti at [divapatti@divasonadime.com](mailto:divapatti@divasonadime.com)





## Super Crossword

### Answers

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

## Weekly SUDOKU

### Answer

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



**“Ballerina” (R)** — From the world of “John Wick” comes this action/thriller led by Ana de Armas (“Ghosted”). Although this is the fifth installment in the franchise, the film takes place between “John Wick: Chapter 3” (2019) and “John Wick: Chapter 4” (2023). De Armas plays Eve Macarro, the daughter of two assassins from two respective groups — the Cult and the Ruska Roma. After having watched her father die at the hands of the Cult, Eve is fueled by insatiable revenge to become an assassin/bodyguard at the Ruska Roma. Twelve years of training later, she’s a stone-cold killer who won’t stop at anything until she exacts her revenge. Of course, Keanu Reeves reprises his role as John Wick, while Lance Reddick reprises his role as Charon — his final film role following his death in 2023. Out now to rent. (Amazon Prime Video)

**“Tyler Perry’s Madea’s Destination Wedding” (PG-13)** — The 13th film in the “Madea cinematic universe” (watch out, Marvel, this is the real MCU!) is set to premiere on July 11, with a story meant for the summertime! This time around, we join Madea (Tyler Perry) and her family as they celebrate her grandniece’s wedding in the Bahamas. But even a sunny paradise such as the Bahamas can’t keep the drama from getting stirred, especially as doubts begin to arise regarding the marriage’s legitimacy. Get ready for those quick quips, hilarious mispronunciations, and the outright chaos that makes Madea the woman we’ve come to know and love! (Netflix)

**“Marked Men” (R)** — “Outer Banks” Chase Stokes has all the

makings of a Hollywood movie star on paper, but the projects he’s been cast in, such as this new romantic drama from director Nick Cassavetes (“The Notebook”), seem to fall short of reaching box-office or critical success. Stokes portrays Rule, a misunderstood and mysterious tattoo artist who despises the idea of being tied down to one woman. His family friend, Shaw (Sydney Taylor), is his opposite as a wealthy pre-med student, but she can no longer contain her crush on him. So, she decides to make her move, accepting the fact that nothing might come of it... or that she’ll finally get to have the man of her dreams. The film premieres July 8 and co-stars Alexander Ludwig (“Bad Boys: Ride or Die”) and Ella Balinska (“Resident Evil”). (Hulu)



Courtesy of MovieStillsDB

Ana de Armas stars in “Ballerina.”

**“The Wild Ones” (TV-PG)** — In this six-part docuseries releasing July 11, a team of three — including cameraman Vianet, expedition leader Declan — attempt to save six endangered species from becoming extinct. Their job is to find these creatures in the wild and gather information on how to help conserve their species. The trio first heads to Malaysian rainforests to find tigers, then to the Mongolian desert to find Gobi bears. Next, they travel to jungles in Gabon for gorillas and Armenian mountains for Caucasian leopards. Finally, they end their series in the North Atlantic, where they encounter some beautiful big whales! (Apple TV+)



## Budget-Friendly Black Bean Burgers That Don’t Disappoint

Let’s be honest. When someone says, “black bean burger,” your first thought probably isn’t “Ooh, yes please!” More like, “Will it taste like sadness and regret on a bun?” But hold up — these aren’t those dry, flavorless hockey pucks pretending to be burgers. They’re scrumptious, savory and genuinely satisfying. Packed with flavor and — best of all — they’re not trying to be beef. They’re proudly plant-based and delicious on their own terms.

So, why should they land on your plate?

First, they’re budget-friendly. Two cans of black beans can easily feed a family of four for just a few bucks — no fancy ingredients needed.

Second, they’re incredibly healthy. Black beans are loaded with protein, fiber, iron and magnesium. They help lower cholesterol, support digestion and keep you full. Mixed with veggies, whole grains and spices, these burgers deliver big nutrition and bold flavor.

And third, people light up when they see a burger. Serve something healthy in that familiar shape, and you’ve got a dinner win.

Now for the magic trick. What’s the secret to a black bean burger that doesn’t fall apart? Bake the beans first. Drying them out intensifies flavor and adds structure. Most folks skip this step — and end up with mush. Don’t skip it. It’s the difference

between “meh” and “more please!”

### BLACK BEAN BURGERS

Yield: 6-8 servings

Total Time: 1 hour 20 minutes

- 2 (14 oz) cans black beans, drained, rinsed and patted dry
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 cup bell pepper, finely chopped
- 1 cup yellow onion, finely chopped
- 1 tablespoon garlic, minced
- 2 teaspoons ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 cup breadcrumbs
- 1/2 cup shredded pepper jack (or cheddar)
- 2 large eggs
- 1 tablespoon coconut aminos (or Worcestershire sauce)
- 2 tablespoons mayonnaise
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- Hamburger buns and favorite accompaniments
- Optional but highly recommended: Sliced pepper jack cheese
- Zesty Lime-Dijon Spread (below)



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### Proof that frugal and fabulous can exist on the same bun.

Preheat oven to 325 F. Spread beans on a parchment- or foil-lined baking sheet and bake for 15 minutes to dry them slightly.

Meanwhile, heat a skillet over medium heat. Saute olive oil, bell pepper, onion and garlic until soft, 5-6 minutes. Let cool, then blot moisture.

In a food processor, combine veg-

gies with spices, breadcrumbs, cheese, eggs, coconut aminos, mayo, salt and pepper. Mix or pulse. Add beans and mash or pulse, leaving some texture.

**Note:** This mixture is sticky — chilling helps! Refrigerate for 30 minutes before shaping. To keep hands clean, oil or wet them slightly. Use wax paper to separate patties and prevent sticking.

Form mixture into 12 patties using a generous 1/3 cup each.

**To bake:** Place on greased, foil-lined sheet and bake at 375 F for 6 minutes per side. Add cheese for the last 3 minutes.

**To grill:** Use greased foil, cook over medium-high for 7 to 8 minutes per side. Add cheese for the last 3 minutes. Serve on toasted buns with classic toppings like lettuce, tomato and onion — or make it your own.

And to top it all off, don’t skip the sauce. Every single taste tester asked for this recipe. Creamy, tangy and just the right touch of sweet, it’s the perfect match for these black bean beauties.

### ZESTY LIME-DIJON SPREAD

- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- 1 tablespoon lime juice
- Pinch of sugar

Whisk together and chill until serving. It’s excellent on burgers, wraps or sandwiches.

These black bean burgers are everything a good dinner should be — affordable, nourishing and completely delicious. A little messy? Sure. But absolutely worth it.

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Lifestyle expert Patti Diamond is the penny-pinching, party-planning, recipe developer and content creator of the website *Divas On A Dime* — Where Frugal, Meets Fabulous! Visit Patti at [www.divasonadime.com](http://www.divasonadime.com) and join the conversation on Facebook at *DivasOnADimeDotCom*. Email Patti at [divapatti@divasonadime.com](mailto:divapatti@divasonadime.com)



