

TLV #477

the

Local Voice



December
2025

ROUNDAABOUT OXFORD



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Proud Larry's Owners Support Southern Culture

Caradine gift funds Mississippi Encyclopedia, film residency, graduate stipends

by Rebecca Lauck Cleary



Enjoying a slice of pizza or a burger with seasoned fries while listening to a live band at **Proud Larry's** is a quintessential **Oxford** experience. A gift from **Lisa and Scott Caradine**, who opened the restaurant and music venue in 1993, promises to help document and preserve such iconic Southern experiences.

"Our livelihood has revolved around the culture of the South in Oxford, Mississippi, and we understand the importance of that surviving," Scott Caradine said. "We have had a lifelong commitment to the fundamentals of Southern studies in areas of food and music."

The Caradines' gift will support several projects at the **University of Mississippi's Center for the Study of Southern Culture and Southern Foodways Alliance**, including the SFA Keeper of the Flame award, film residency program, and stipends for graduate students. It also supports maintaining the online **Mississippi Encyclopedia** for the next five years.

The center, which celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2027, has a mission to document, interpret, and teach about the American South through critical research and public engagement.

"This is the lead gift in supporting The Center at 50 Fund, which will help us celebrate and take stock of the role the center has played in the study of regional culture," said **Katie McKee**, the center's director. "This gift is delightful any way you look at it, but especially delightful because it comes from friends."

The importance of family is also a significant factor for the Caradines. Several of their family members, including Scott Caradine's dad, Emmett Caradine; Lisa Caradine's father, Sonny Mitchell; and her brother, Butch Mitchell, as well as their daughter, Haley, also are Ole Miss alumni.

"I grew up among educators from a dad who was a university professor to mother and stepfather who taught at the high school level," Scott Caradine said.

"This gift is also in memory of my Uncle Jimmy, who grew up in West Point, Mississippi, and spent his entire career in New York and working around the globe.


"He loved Southern writers and Southern food. When we decided to help celebrate the 50th anniversary of Southern studies and put money toward the encyclopedia, those were all things that Uncle Jimmy would be proud we are helping to foster."

Lisa Caradine, a Greenville native, grew up attending Ole Miss football games with her dad and brother. She earned a degree in mathematics, which she used as the bookkeeper for Proud Larry's, and continues with an active role in the management team.

Each fall, the SFA honors an unsung foodways tradition bearer of note with the Keeper of the Flame award and pays homage to their life and work through a documentary film. This aspect appealed to the Caradines.

"This gift ensures the stories of the unsung folks who make, grow, and serve great Southern food will be told, and told well by the next generation of graduate students and emerging filmmakers," said **Melissa Hall**, SFA co-director. "Transformative gifts like the Caradines' fund SFA's work and ensure that documentary field work is a part of the CSSC curriculum for years to come."

Helping others is a key component of the Caradines' ethos. "The consideration of our daughter, Haley, eventually coming back to Oxford and taking over our family business gave it some resonance," Scott Caradine said.

"And the fact that our son, Miles, is learning to be a filmmaker at Loyola University in New Orleans gave us the idea of wanting to support anything that had to do with being creative on campus. We know from our son trying to raise money for his own projects that it's hard, and if we could help filmmakers with that, then that was important." 

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ROUNDAABOUT OXFORD[®]

LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT & EVENTS

THURSDAY 12.11.2025

Proud Larry's: **CODE PINK: Fruitcake - drag show & LGBTQIA+ dance night** (9:30 pm)

Ford Center: Nutcracker! Magical Christmas Ballet (7:30 pm)

Lafayette Co. & Oxford Public Library: Midday Meetup: Check It Out Book Club & Swap (11 am-noon); Afterschool Zone w/ UM Museum (3:45 pm)

FRIDAY 12.12.2025

The Library: **FENTS THE BAND** (9 pm)

The Powerhouse: **Holiday Ornament Auction** (7 pm)

Proud Larry's: **Jesse Lipe Memorial Concert** feat.

WILLIAM FUNKNER & THE SOUND AND THE FURY (8 pm)

Rhythm & Rye Rooftop: **TONY BOYD** (7-10 pm)

The Coop: **DAVIS COEN** (7 pm)

Ford Center: **HOLIDAY VILLAGE** (1-5 pm)

Lafayette County & Oxford Public Library: Storytime (10:30 am);

Afterschool Zone w/ UM Museum (3:45 pm)

SATURDAY 12.13.2025

City Grocery Bar: **MICHAEL FARRIS SMITH & THE SMOKES** (8:30 pm)

The Library: **FENTS THE BAND** (9 pm)

Off Square Books: **Season's Signings - STAFFORD**

SHURDEN, SPARKY REARDON, CHASE PARHAM (11 am)

Rhythm & Rye: **HONEYBOY & BOOTS** (7 pm)

Ford Center: **HOLIDAY VILLAGE** (noon-5 pm); Santa in the Village (1-4 pm)

Hollywood Feed: Canine Christmas Market (11 am-2 pm)

Lafayette County & Oxford Public Library: Handmade Holidays Open House (10 am-noon); NAMI Family Support Group (10 am);

Kudzu Tree Weaving w/ **NANCY OPALKO** (11 am-12:30 pm);

Teen Ornament Workshop with **ANDI BEDSWORTH** (11 am-noon)

MTrade Park: Pictures with Santa at Holly Jolly Holidays (5:30-9 pm)

Nutt Auditorium (University): **OXFORD CIVIC CHORUS**

'Tis the Season: A Journey to Bethlehem (3 pm)

The Pavilion: **OLE MISS Women's Basketball** vs. **WOFFORD** (noon)



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SUNDAY 12.14.2025

The Powerhouse: **A SLACKER FAREWELL - An Anubis Improv Comedy Show** (7 pm)

Ford Center: **HOLIDAY VILLAGE** (1-5 pm)

SJB Pavilion: **OLE MISS Women's Basketball** vs. **SOUTH CAROLINA STATE** (2 pm)

MONDAY 12.15.2025

Ford Center: **HOLIDAY VILLAGE** (1-5 pm)

Lafayette Co. & Oxford Public Library: Chapter Champs (3:15 pm); Afterschool Zone (3:45 pm)

TUESDAY 12.16.2025

Old Armory Pavilion: **Oxford Community Market** (3:30-6 pm)

Oxford Activity Center: **NIGHT AT THE NORTH POLE** (5 pm)

Ford Center: **HOLIDAY VILLAGE** (1-5 pm)

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

Afterschool Zone (3:45 pm); Mahjongg with **SUSAN KELLY** (5:30 pm)

Proud Larry's: **LIAM ST. JOHN** (5 pm)

WEDNESDAY 12.17.2025

Ford Center: **HOLIDAY VILLAGE** (1-5 pm)

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

SJB Pavilion: **OLE MISS Women's Basketball** vs. **MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE** (6 pm)

Proud Larry's: **ERIC CARLTON & FRIENDS** (9 pm)





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"OXFORD'S FAVORITE SOUL FOOD"
on the Square in Oxford, Mississippi

THURSDAY 12.18.2025

Square Books, Jr.: Chapter Captains Book Club (6 pm)
City Hall Pocket Park: Third Thursday LIVE MUSIC (5–7 pm)
Lafayette County & Oxford Public Library: Midday Meetup: Handcraft Hangout (11 am–1 pm); Afterschool Zone: Mental Health Matters w/ UM PANDAA Lab (3:45 pm)

FRIDAY 12.19.2025

The Library: THE CROWNS (9 pm)
Quack's: BEDLXM
Voyager's Rest (Water Valley): FAKE, BARK
The Coop: GIA WELCH & JD WESTMORELAND (7 pm)
Lafayette Co. & Oxford Public Library: Storytime (10:30 am); Afterschool Zone: Mental Health Matters w/ UM PANDAA Lab (3:45 pm)
The Lyric: Rebel Nation's official Ole Miss playoff party w/ DOCTOR ZARR'S AMAZING FUNKMONSTER (7:30 pm)
Proud Larry's: TYLER KEITH & THE APOSTLES, MATT PATTON, NEON JUNKIES (9 pm)

SATURDAY 12.20.2025 Game Day

Vaught-Hemingway Stadium: College Football Playoff
OLE MISS vs. TULANE (2:30 pm)
The Library: THE CROWNS (9 pm)
Quack's: BEDLXM
Rhythm & Rye Rooftop: JAMIE BAKER (7–10 pm)
MTrade Park: Pictures with Santa at Holly Jolly Holidays (5:30–9 pm)

SUNDAY 12.21.2025

Winter Solstice

The Coop: DAVIS COEN (5 pm)

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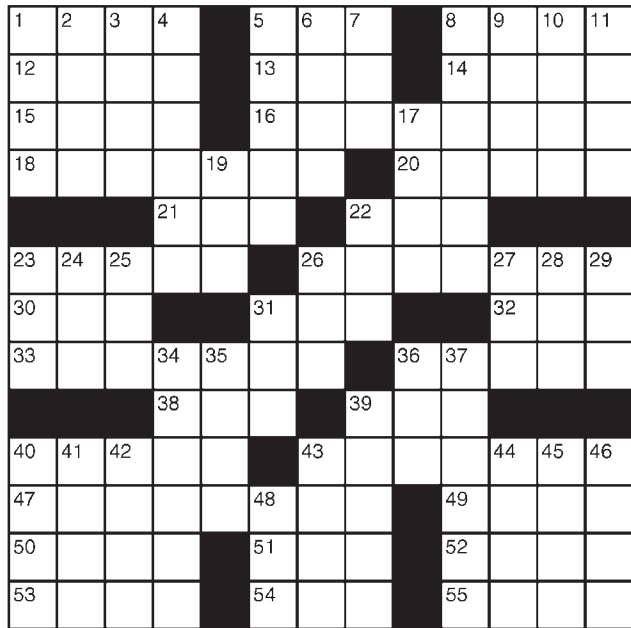
305 E JACKSON AVE | OXFORD



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

ACROSS

- 1 Touse
- 5 Resistance unit
- 8 Prego rival
- 12 Bickering
- 13 Zodiac animal
- 14 Pub orders
- 15 Tabula —
- 16 Sheer fabrics
- 18 Santiago resident
- 20 Playful sea critter
- 21 Mormon church, for short
- 22 Top card
- 23 Army bigwigs
- 26 Scolding
- 30 "Humbug!"
- 31 Cooking fuel
- 32 French pronoun
- 33 Upbeat
- 36 Rose protector
- 38 Weeding tool
- 39 Spanish gold
- 40 Parlor pieces
- 43 Bar exercises
- 47 Trailblazing congresswoman
- 49 Shirley —
- Power co. supply
- 50 Suffix for million
- "Levitating" singer Lina



- 52 Poet Teasdale
- 53 Rolling stone's lack
- 54 Lair
- 55 Threaded fastener
- DOWN
- 1 Artist Chagall
- 2 Beehive State
- 3 Spanish ayes
- 4 Stable enclosures
- 5 Killer whales
- 6 Virtuoso violinist Hilary
- 7 2001, to Cato
- 8 Traveled the rapids
- 9 Oodles
- 10 Hereditary unit
- 11 Cold War initials
- 17 Central points
- 19 Asner and Harris
- 22 Sounds of relief
- 23 Telly network
- 24 Fan's cry
- 25 Sashimi fish
- 26 Automobile
- 27 "As I see it," in a text
- 28 Fish-fowl insert
- 29 Tom Collins liquor
- 31 "My word!"
- 34 Stages
- 35 Ritzy
- 36 Part of TNT
- 37 Truthful
- 39 "Holy cow!"
- 40 Con job
- 41 Columbus' home
- 42 Evergreens
- 43 Crossword hint
- 44 — Bator
- 45 Lima's land
- 46 "Shool!"
- 48 Quirky



- 1. Which group released "You Really Got Me"?
- 2. Mel Carter had two hits that topped the charts. What were the songs?
- 3. Who wrote and released "Coming Up"?
- 4. Who released "Sowing the Seeds of Love"?
- 5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "When I see her comin' down the street, I get so shaky and I feel so weak, I tell my eyes look the other way."

Answers

- 1. The Kinks, in 1964. The buzzy guitar sound was created by slicing open the speaker on the amp and sticking pins in it for the vibration. They named the amp "little green."
- 2. "Hold Me, Thrill Me, Kiss Me" in 1965, and "Band of Gold" in 1966.
- 3. Paul McCartney, in 1980. He recorded the song at his Scotland farm one track at a time, beginning with drums, then guitars and finally vocals. John Lennon called that the "freaky version."
- 4. Tears for Fears, in 1989.
- 5. "I Go to Pieces," by Peter and Gordon, in 1965. Written by Del Shannon, it was the duo's first song that hadn't been written by two of the Beatles, John Lennon and Paul McCartney. The song made it to the top 10.

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.



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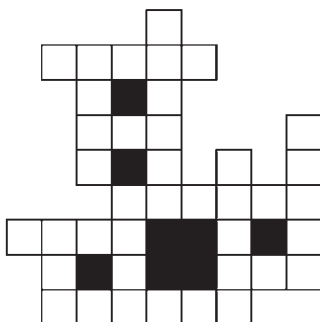
Q W T S Q N K I F C Z W U R P
M J H E N C N Z X U S Q N L H
J G E C Z I X O V T R P N S O
L J H E S P O R D N O D N O L
C A Y A W M A C A R O N V T L
T R P N K H H L E S E K I N Y
G M E N A L S C B T E B Z E W
X W U T U S I R P L A N U M O
O P M K L J E M M I G R A C O
S R A M O E G U T A K T I K D
D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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Unlisted clue hint: Home of the U.S. Film Industry

Akanes	Kit Kat	Mars	Pirate Coins
Cuberdon	Lokum	Mentos	Rahat
Dumle	London Drops	Milka	Spunk
Geisha	Macaron	Pez	



- NIN
- SMAMIO
- HADEC
- IWMH
- ♥DRENRA
- ♥ATM
- MTIO
- AGIMS
- ♥MDI
- HARTWI
- AWNYO
- ♥HTIC



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

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.

the Local Voice

PUZZLE PLAYGROUND

SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!



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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 Has a snooze
5 Workout unit
8 Anti-DUI ad, maybe
11 "The Maltese Falcon" hero
19 Conical-bore woodwind
20 Log chopper
21 Possess
22 Former airline to Rome
23 Composer of the 1938 ballet "The Incredible Flutist"
26 Squirrel-sized monkeys
27 Super-cold
28 Poddled plant
29 What a dieter may reduce
31 Pressure-reducing elastic stockings
34 Mork's home planet
35 German city
36 Ordinal suffix
37 Yvette's "yes"
38 "Gremlins" actress Cates
44 Folk great Bob
47 Edison's phonograph medium
49 Writer Rand
52 Prefix with treat or trust
- 53 Bird bill
55 Booting out
56 Horn honk
58 Cleans up, as code
60 Hit PC game of the 1990s
62 Director Preminger
63 Heater along the bottom of a wall
67 Houston ballplayer
68 Ending for Gator
69 CIO partner
70 Greek vowels
75 Bracing wear for a body-builder
81 Dog in "The Thin Man"
85 "Little" actress Rae
86 Mrs. with a famous cow
87 "500" auto race
88 Hone
90 William of "Hopalong Cassidy"
91 Its cap. is Buenos Aires
93 Levy
94 Video surveillance device, briefly
97 Of — (somewhat)
99 Bit of skin art
100 Timid
- 101 Cable TV channel for buying goods
103 Flee to wed
107 "I solved it!"
108 Type of needle-free syringe
111 ThinkPad power source, e.g.
118 Cl- or Na+
119 Gold, to Luisa
120 Zesty potato chip go-with
121 Where nine key words in this puzzle can be found
124 Word after poet or Nobel
125 LA-to-MI dir.
126 Tea vessel
127 Swing about
128 Evaluated
129 Lobed thing
130 Turndowns
131 Actress Harper
- DOWN**
1 Not at all, quaintly
2 Ancient calculator
3 Corals, e.g.
4 Workout unit
5 Less ordinary
6 Brit living in America, e.g.
7 Architect I.M.
8 Soil-enriching compound
9 Very muscular, in modern lingo
10 Year, to Nero
11 Like "Weekend Update" reports
12 "Alas and —"
13 "Bosch" actress Rogers
14 Lee of Marvel
15 Component
16 Et — (plus others)
17 Rinky- —
18 Relieve
24 Person for whom a thing is named
25 Kilt wearer
30 Butter-and-flour mixture
32 Crosswalk user, for short
33 Coop female
37 Tree of Illinois
38 Largest dwarf planet
39 — and hers
40 Aware of
41 Revise text
42 Crooked
43 Therefore
45 Venice beach resort
46 Totally lost
47 "That — close call!"
48 Former Royals manager Ned
49 "Mamma Mia" group
50 In-favor votes
51 Chick's home
53 Indian religion founder
54 White heron
57 For each
59 Talks big
60 Ticked off
61 Crimean resort port
64 Curtsy, e.g.
65 How often the sun rises
66 Fix, as a fight
71 Osaka sash
72 Festival shelter
73 Actor Alan
74 River of myth
76 "Old Mac-Donald" letters
77 Lacks entity
78 Impend, as a deadline
79 Investments for later yrs.
80 Songwriter Laura
81 Helper: Abbr.
82 Old New York ballpark
83 Diplomacy
84 In — (mired)
89 Expert
90 Large inlet
92 Actor Lorne
95 Like a slingshot or a wishbone
96 Schmooze
97 Singer DiFranco
98 Pampering, for short
101 Cowboy doing a roundup, say
102 Eye affliction
104 Peter of "Becket"
105 Spongelike
106 Wears away
107 Grab — (eat fast)
108 Actress Elfman
109 Hot rod fuel
110 Long — (winter undies)
111 Singer Falana
112 Santa — (hot winds)
113 Name of 12 popes
114 Ripped
115 Small bills
116 Sidewalk smooches, e.g., for short
117 Melody
122 Leg it
123 Prez after FDR

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19					20				21				22							
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63					64							65					66			
67								68				69					70	71	72	73
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81	82	83	84		85						86							87		
88					89					90					91		92		93	
94									95	96					97				98	
99									100					101	102				103	
																			104	105
																			106	

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.

Puzzles4Kids
by Helene Hovanec

CRISSCROSS – A HOLIDAY FEAST
Each word will fit into one spot in the grid. Use the starting letters as a guide and fit each word into its spot. All words will be used, so cross off each one after you put it into the grid.

3 Letters
BUN
HAM
PIE

4 Letters
DUCK
NUTS
SOUP

5 Letters
CIDER
COCOA
GRAVY
JELLY
JUICE
PUNCH
ROAST
ROLLS
SALAD

6 Letters
BUTTER
CHEESE
EGGNOG
SQUASH
TURKEY

7 Letters
CHICKEN
SAUSAGE

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

UYO
GLYNIC
GRYBU
RGDU
TORTIC
♥ ARW
♥ EURL
ANCB0
♥ NBI
DRYBOW
WATLR
TCRU

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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Outside perspectives
Shroud town
Wee ones
What guitarists do with an E chord
Tempest
Shapes

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.

! :

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. _____ Kent
2. Very smart
3. Country
4. Tuscany river
5. Hotel foyer
6. Singer Dolly
7. Balanced
8. Thirst-quencher
9. Occupation
10. Pituitary, e.g.

____ A ____
____ I ____
____ A ____
____ R ____
L ____
____ T ____
____ D ____
____ T ____
____ R ____
____ L ____

Counter worker
Very muscular
Idea
“The Roof of the World”
Leisure pursuit
Forgiveness
Humid, like a sauna
Thin cookie
Meander
_____ Canyon

____ E ____
____ W ____
____ O ____
____ T ____
H ____
____ D ____
____ M ____
____ F ____
____ N ____
____ R ____

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Bob Schuster

“The vet says he’s a very _____ cat.”

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!

Grit
ARLOV
Kind
AHMENU
Vague
ROCUBES
Prompt
LIMPE

TODAY’S WORD

SUNDAY PLATE LUNCHES
10 am - 2 pm
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“I don’t care if I’m coaching football or playing my wife in tennis, I’m trying to whip your ass.”
— **Pete Golding**
(born February 8, 1984)

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Open for Lunch
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BRUNCH
Saturday & Sunday
11 am - 3 pm

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GET SPRITZED



THE TOWNIES 2026

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*The ballot is finalized and the poll is open:
It's time to vote for your favorite local people,
businesses, restaurants, arts & entertainment, and more!*



Who will get bragging rights for an entire year?
You can decide. Be sure to tell your friends and
family because the more votes, the better for all
of Oxford and Ole Miss to have their voices
heard and for champions to reign supreme!

VOTE NOW

All voting will take place online at
www.TheLocalVoice.net/TheTownies

There is no printed ballot this year. If you prefer to vote by paper ballot,
email thelocalvoice@thelocalvoice.net and a printable PDF will be sent to you.



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**

Families Anonymous Established in Water Valley

Mississippi's First FA chapter to start meeting in January 2026

Two-thirds of Americans are affected by drug abuse (including alcohol) and related behavioral problems. In Mississippi, 12-step programs for addicts are readily available; however, 12-step groups for parents, children, siblings, and friends of addicts are rare.

The excessive use of drugs or alcohol obviously wreaks havoc on a person's life, but it can also strain and destroy the addict's relationships with others. As family members and friends seek ways out of the negative situations in which they find themselves, they typically focus on "fixing" their addicted loved ones — without considering how their own patterns of thoughts and actions might be contributing to the problem.

A group in **Water Valley, Mississippi**, is working to help family members who find themselves in those situations. A chapter of **Families Anonymous** — the first in the state of Mississippi — has been established to aid individuals whose lives have been disrupted by the behavior of a family member.

Families Anonymous® (FA®) is a self-help support group for families and friends of people with drug, alcohol or related behavioral issues. The fellowship, founded in 1971, is based on the Twelve Step recovery model of Alcoholics Anonymous. FA's philosophy begins with the premise that when one family member is in trouble and abusing drugs, his or her whole family is in trouble and needs help.

The Water Valley chapter of Families Anonymous will meet for the first time on **January 11, 2026**, at 4 pm at the **Salt & Light Building**, located at 610 N. Main in Water Valley. A second meeting is scheduled for January 25, 2026, at the same location.

Are you at your wits' end?



Is someone you love destroying family harmony?

Newcomers typically come to their first Families Anonymous meetings feeling desperate and hopeless, fearing they have nowhere to turn. In the meetings they realize they are no longer alone. As they listen to other members share their experiences and hear how other families have dealt with circumstances and problems similar to their own, they learn new ways to cope with their own situations.

There are no dues or costs to participate and there is no need to register. Interested parties can simply arrive at the Salt and Light Building at 4 pm on the day of the scheduled meeting. If you need more information about the Water Valley Families Anonymous meeting, email: famanonwv@gmail.com. 📧

ply arrive at the Salt and Light Building at 4 pm on the day of the scheduled meeting. If you need more information about the Water Valley Families Anonymous meeting, email: famanonwv@gmail.com. 📧

Brewing

CIRCLE

AND

SQUARE

Company

2025 HOLIDAY SHIPPING DEADLINES

Between the astronomical rise in online shopping and workforce shortages, it's more important than ever to mail and ship early!

	Coast to Coast	Cutting It Close	Where To Take It	Contact
U.S. Postal Service	First-class letters and cards, plus ground parcels by Dec. 17.	Priority (1-3 day) service by Dec. 18 Express Overnight by Dec. 20	Your local post office. Use usps.com to order supplies, print postage and arrange pickup.	www.usps.com
UPS	Dec. 16-17 (for ground service); check ups.com /ctc for exact dates.	Ship 2-Day Air by Dec. 22 or Next-Day Air as late as Dec. 23 for delivery by Wednesday, Dec. 24.	UPS Stores nationwide. Visit ups.com or call to find a location or to schedule pickup.	www.ups.com ; 1-800-PICK-UPS
Fed Ex	Dec. 15 for all FedEx Ground Economy.	Express Saver by 12/20; 2-Day Air by Dec. 22; Same-day packages go on Dec. 24.	Any FedEx Office location or FedEx authorized shipper.	www.fedex.com ; 1-800-GO-FEDEX

Local Q&A: What do you want for Christmas?



Tiffany Torma, 13
"A white one."

Smith Stuart, 3
"A real chainsaw that cuts down real trees."



Charlie Burandt, 14
"I'm leaving it to chance this year...You turn 13 and you get zilch."



Lil Gray, 8
"A guinea pig and a pair of roller skates."



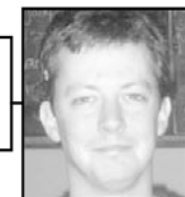
Sophie Torma, 11
"A cow."



Simone Bourgeois, 5
"One of those 'thingies' that makes cupcakes."



Carter Wilkes
"Micheal McDonald's new album."



Jamo
"Easy-Bake Oven."

the Local Voice PUZZLE PLAYGROUND



SUDOKU

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

TV-Super Crossword

ONE AND THE SAME

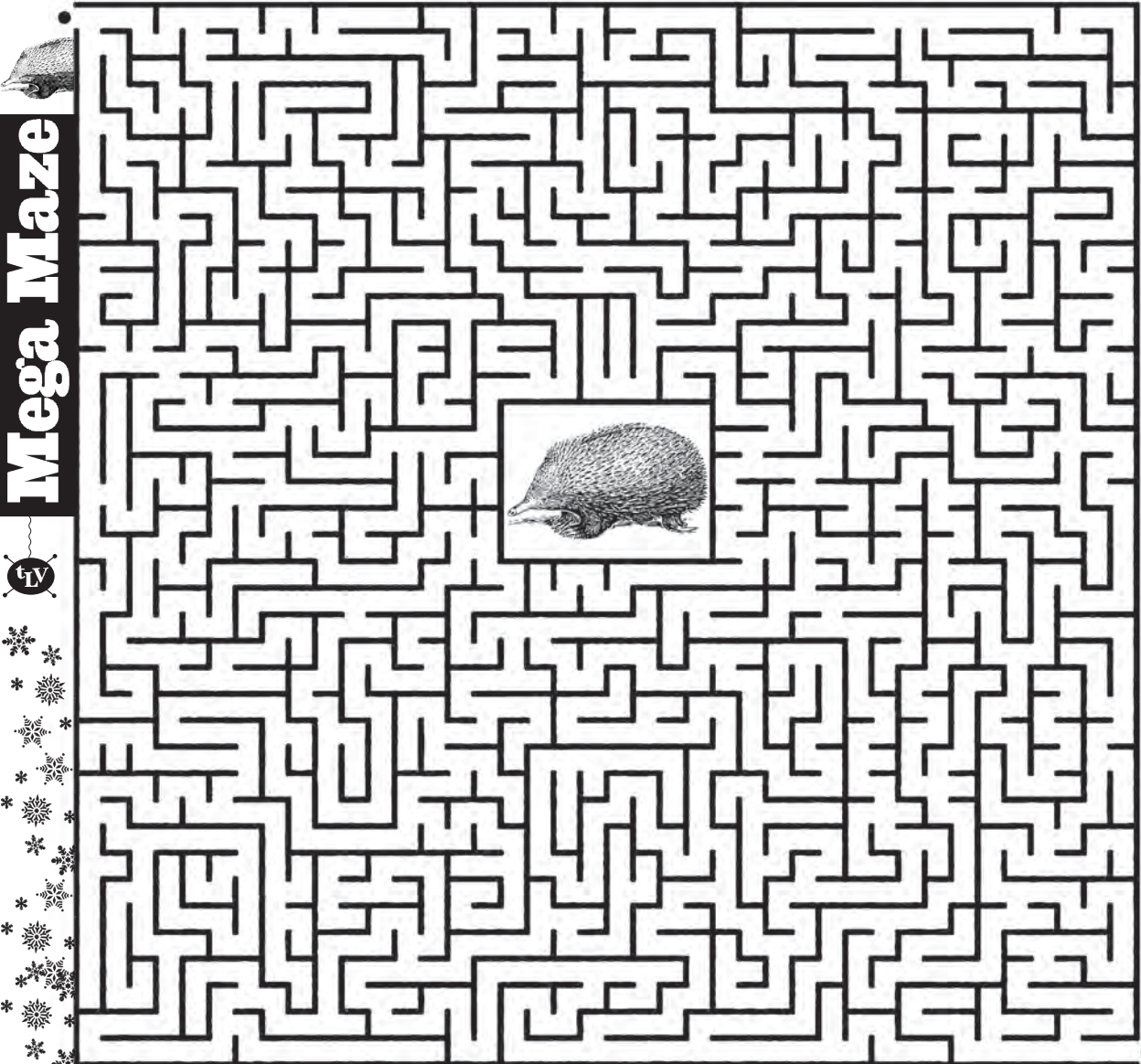
ACROSS

- 1 Enchilada alternative
8 Threaten like a mad dog
15 Recurring design
20 Proved to be beneficial to
21 Audrey of "Sabrina"
22 "Magic Bites" author Andrews
23 [Span] [Span]
25 Some spongy balls
26 Morning times, in brief
27 Astrologer Sydney
28 Films based on reportage, for short
30 Heavy drinker
31 Musical scale starters
33 [Cogitates] [Cogitates]
36 Severe shock
39 Pear or lime
41 Somber
42 [Criminal] [Criminal]
46 Surrealist painter Max
47 Swiss peaks
48 Ukraine city
49 Having some benefit
52 Pick-up-sticks logic game
53 Lad from London, say
54 Old-time TV announcer Johnny
56 Spike of corn
59 "I — reason why ..."
61 [Star] [Star]
67 Reportage on American events
69 Gas station brand
70 Golf great Sörenstam
71 [Residence] [Residence]
76 Old Icelandic poetry books
77 Coast Guard officer: Abbr.
78 Strong winds
79 — and aahs
81 Raised trains
82 Not asleep
84 Obstruct
87 Parisian gal pal
88 Setting
91 [Brotherly] [Brotherly]
95 Bach choral composition
98 Poets' Muse
99 Pie portions
100 [Dictated] [Dictated]

DOWN

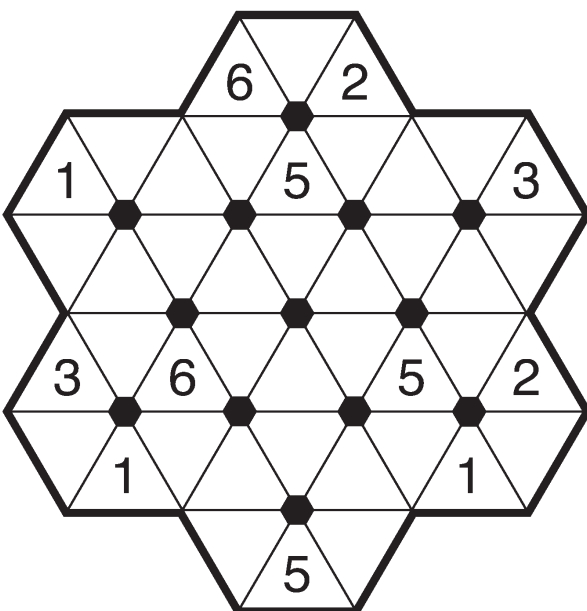
- 102 Accessories for cue sticks and black-boards
105 Follower of "http://"
106 Greek epic about Troy
107 Mario's video game brother
108 Real devotee
111 Jazz singer Cleo
113 [Character] [Character]
118 Snaky curves
119 Attack the integrity of
120 Go in circles
121 Butler played by Gable
122 Foyer sofas
123 For the purpose of diagnosing
8 County officers
9 State east of Wyo.
10 Mo. before May
11 Slugging stat
12 Avoider of high-tech stuff
13 Element #18
14 High, tight sweater
15 Singer of lyric poetry
16 Chilean cheer
17 Process of being twisted
18 Not blurry, as an image
19 Most rapid
24 Scottish cap
29 Purpose
31 Club fees
32 German for "grandma"
33 Sushi fish
34 Concealed
35 Metallic string
36 Ooze through pores
37 Trusts in
38 Option lists for e-device downloads
40 Hi- — screen
43 Like poems of praise
44 Lavish party
45 Oxidation formation
50 Mattel product
51 Old Cuzco native
53 Play tenpins
54 Bicolor whale
55 Roarer in Oz
56 Uncontrolled outbreak
57 Having a pH over 7
58 Appraise again
60 Bird's beak
62 Wedding veil material
63 Very big birds
64 Conk
65 Low bills
66 Linking word in German
68 Former rival of Nintendo
72 Sturdy wood
73 Symbol on a musical staff
74 Either director of " Fargo"
75 Jedi master
80 They're called to get assistance
82 Pot payment
83 Most fatigued
84 Russia's — -Tass
85 Came upon
86 Obtains
87 Leaves speechless
88 Giver of an angry look
89 Place to take a dirty vehicle
90 How sausage links are connected
92 Adjust to a situation again
93 Bush press secretary
94 "— Tok" (Kesha hit)
96 Phone no.
97 Nike rival
101 Intermission
103 That fellow's
104 Ancient Greek market
107 — majesty (high treason)
108 Manicure tool
109 Off-road trucks, briefly
110 No, in Russia
112 Insect trapper
114 Allow to
115 Start for teen or adolescent
116 Film director DuVernay
117 Large number

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							54	55						56	57	58
59			60			61		62	63	64						65	66			
67					68			69							70					
71						72	73						74	75		76				
77						78							79		80			81		
			82	83						84	85	86					87			
88	89	90						91	92	93						94				
95						96	97		98						99					
100								101					102	103	104					
105					106							107						108	109	110
111				112				113			114	115					116	117		
118								119							120					
121								122							123					



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.

PGB BAY RNU HB PGB
AMBNP FVRRBFF ZUGZHYPYM.
ZP RNU WZOO YJJYMPVUZPZBF,
NUS ZP RNU WZOO FVRRBFF.

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: E equals B

MAITZOCPGQ OEGSC O
WPZAWTL GZ TOMLESV CJOC
NZAWAZR ORIAQMPQV RSZWOIAR:
PC'R OQ SNJPTT EAACTA.

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

- TELEVISION:** What is the name of the bloodhound featured on the sitcom "The Beverly Hillbillies"?
- HISTORY:** Which Chinese dynasty mostly built the Great Wall?
- MOVIES:** Which 2003 movie is about juveniles who are sentenced to work at a desert camp?
- MUSIC:** Which famous song begins with the line, "Hello darkness, my old friend..."?
- ANATOMY:** What's another name for the patella?
- GEOGRAPHY:** What is the capital of Chile?
- FOOD & DRINK:** Who perfected the Champagne method?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:** What are the national flowers of Japan?
- LITERATURE:** Who wrote the novel "Love in the Time of Cholera"?
- SCIENCE:** Which wire is usually the main "hot" one in electrical work?

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.

	+	8	+		=	13
+		+		+		
	-		×		=	6
÷		×		+		
	+		×		=	72
=		=		=		
4		78		16		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 8 9

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11 am - 3 pm Saturdays



Answers: 1. Duke. 2. The Ming dynasty. 3. "Holes." 4. "The Sound of Silence" by Simon & Garfunkel. 5. Kneecap. 6. Santiago. 7. A Benedictine monk named Dom Perignon. 8. The cherry blossom and the chrysanthemum. 9. Gabriel Garcia Marquez. 10. Black, although red also can be hot in two-wire circuits.



Rebel Wine & Spirits

Remember the
Party Starts Here!

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

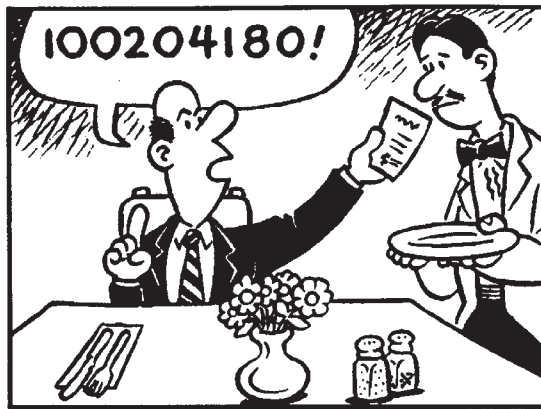
the Local Voice PUZZLE PLAYGROUND

STICKELERS

by Terry Stickels

Find a word and its anagram that can be filled into the blanks below.

The prime minister told his secretaries that they had been working under the misguided _____ that governance of the southern provinces was under their jurisdiction. Those five provinces had been given _____ years ago to make their own regional regulations.



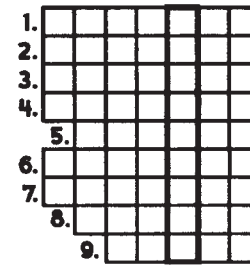
WHEN THIS MAN SAT DOWN TO EAT, the waiter, by mistake, gave him someone else's check. What did the man say to the waiter?

Answer: "I ought naught to owe for I ate nothing."

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Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



A "CAPITAL" CHALLENGE!
In our puzzle grid, there is room to list nine state capitals. Below are the names of the states. Can you furnish their capitals?

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Maine | 6. Maryland |
| 2. New Mexico | 7. North Dakota |
| 3. North Carolina | 8. Ohio |
| 4. Arizona | 9. Oregon |
| 5. Connecticut | |

There is a dark frame around one of the columns in the grid. If you correctly name the nine state capitals, the letters in this frame, top to bottom, will spell out the name of a 10th state capital.

Answers: 1. Augusta, 2. Santa Fe, 3. Raleigh, 4. Phoenix, 5. Hartford, 6. Annapolis, 7. Bismarck, 8. Columbus, 9. Salem. The state capital's name in the dark frame is St. Paul (Minnesota).

Illustrated by David Coulson

A CREEPY CRAWLY QUESTION!

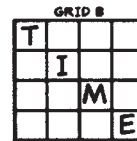
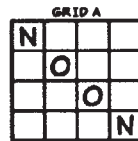
"A little bug, alert and alive, climbed up a door ninety inches and five. If every day it climbed up eleven, and every night it dropped back seven, How many days, without a stop, did the little bug travel to reach the top?"



Answer: 22 days

YOUR "NOONTIME" PUZZLE BREAK! Pictured below are two puzzle grids for you to fill in. Hints are given for each word. The words in Grid A contain the same letters as the corresponding words in Grid B.

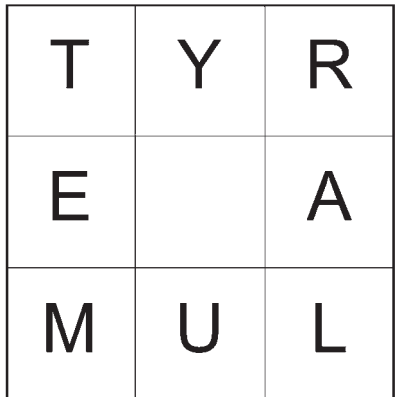
- Fit together in a stack.
- To get dirty.
- A formal occasion.
- A sharp edge.



- Our counting system.
- A missile shelter.
- To win easily.
- A joint.

Answers: 1. Nest-tens, 2. Soil-silo, 3. Prom-tomp, 4. Keen-knee.

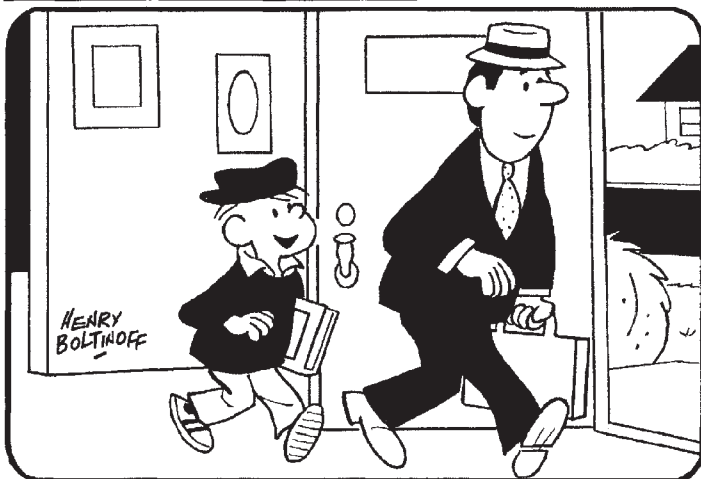
KNIGHT MOVES



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. Picture frame is higher. 2. Door knob is larger. 3. Hand is moved. 4. Collar is missing. 5. Stripe is added to sleeve. 6. Book is smaller.

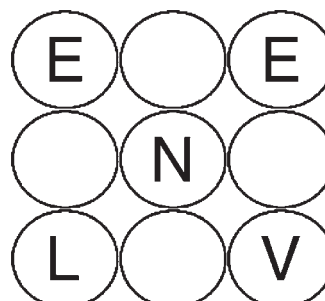
Even Exchange

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. Kilt or a-line | ___ K ___ | Blouse or tee | ___ H ___ |
| 2. Eight musical notes | ___ ___ V ___ | Fuel rating | ___ ___ N ___ |
| 3. Self-serve meal | ___ ___ T | Shock absorber | ___ ___ R |
| 4. Customer | ___ ___ R ___ | General George | ___ ___ T ___ |
| 5. Culpability | F ___ | Treasure house | V ___ |
| 6. Stay behind | ___ M ___ | Recollect | ___ T ___ |
| 7. Handmade blanket | ___ ___ T | Feather | ___ ___ L |
| 8. Splinter | ___ L ___ | Shake from the cold | ___ H ___ |
| 9. Actress Halle | ___ E ___ | Musician Manilow | ___ A ___ |
| 10. Humpback, e.g. | ___ A ___ | In one piece | ___ O ___ |

WORD SPIRAL

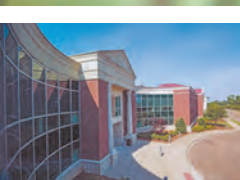


Fill in the missing letters to reveal the nine-letter word that starts at one of the four corners and moves clockwise around the perimeter before ending in the center.



Read More at TheLocalVoice.net

Scan our QR code for quick access to TheLocalVoice.net



University of Mississippi Museum Keepsake Features Walk of Champions, Vaught-Hemingway Stadium

"This year's design celebrates two of the most iconic symbols of Ole Miss tradition and pride – the Walk of Champions and Vaught-Hemingway Stadium – by highlighting their deep historical roots and their lasting impact on the university community," said Campbell Sandlin, the museum's coordinator of membership and communications.

Photo of the Week: "Hoe Hoe Hoe Merry Christmas"

Thomas Brothers Formalwear sign, December 1, 2025. Photograph by Elizabeth Stephens.

Lafayette County Master Gardeners: "Holiday Cacti" by Bronwynne Bailey

Plants Perfect for the Holidays.

University of Mississippi Expands Collegiate Recovery Community Efforts

The Dr. and Mrs. R. Faser Triplett Foundation, of Jackson, has provided \$250,000 to match an anonymous gift of the same amount to hire a Collegiate Recovery Community coordinator for Ole Miss.

University of Mississippi Welcomes Four New Companies to Innovation Hub at Insight Park

Four new companies are setting up offices at the University of Mississippi's Innovation Hub at Insight Park, opening the door to new internships, partnerships and hands-on learning opportunities for students. ScamZero, The Magee Foundation, and Unity Construction opened offices this fall, and a fourth – MS FinTech – will launch operations in January.

Timothy Herrington Sentenced to 40 Years in Prison for the Death of Jimmy "Jay" Lee

Sheldon "Timothy" Herrington Jr. has been sentenced to 40 years in prison after pleading guilty to second-degree murder and other charges in the killing of University of Mississippi graduate Jimmy "Jay" Lee, who was prominent in the LGBTQ+ community.

More Headlines

Researchers Break Cancer's 'Shield' in New Metastasis Study

Ole Miss Football Wraps Up Early Signing Day With Top 25 Class

Oxford School District Announces 2025-2026 Teachers of the Year & District Teacher of the Year

Research Uncovers the Telltale Tail of Black Hole Collisions

Alumnus, Former Student-Athlete Invests in Ole Miss Athletics

Mississippi Museum of Natural Science Receives Highest National Recognition

Ole Miss Scholars Join Effort to Address AI Influence on Elections

Proud Larry's Owners Support Southern Culture

Dana Criswell: "I've Flown Autoland Jets. Tesla's Full Self-Driving Still Needs a Fully Awake Pilot"

New University of Mississippi Collection Preserves Mississippi's Past for Future Scholars

Local Crime:

Oxford Man Arrested for Child Pornography, Enticement, and Grooming

Arrest Made Following Shots Fired Incident at Anchor Baptist Church in Lafayette County

Bad Check Writer at Oxford Chevron Now Being Held for Immigrations and Customs Enforcement

Lafayette County Authorities Investigate Series of Automobile Burglaries Along Highway 30; Two Suspects Identified and Arrested

Read more at TheLocalVoice.net

Strange BUT TRUE

- **Picasso** was once suspected of stealing the "Mona Lisa" from **The Louvre**. He was brought to court, where it was determined that he was indeed in possession of stolen art, but not **da Vinci's** masterpiece, and was let off with a warning.
- Ice from seawater melts into fresh water.
- The modern sense of the term "Black Friday" likely originated in the 1950s when Philadelphia police began using it to describe the chaotic traffic of shoppers and sports fans after Thanksgiving and before the **Army-Navy** football game on Saturday.
- **Jimmy Carter** was the first American president born in a hospital.
- **Pepsi** was originally called "Brad's Drink," after its creator, pharmacist **Caleb Bradham**, who believed it had digestive benefits.
- Volcanoes can create lightning.
- **Ulysses S. Grant's** middle initial doesn't stand for anything. He was christened **Hiram Ulysses Grant**, and the initial was added by Congressman **Thomas Hamer** when he nominated Grant for **West Point**, thinking it stood for Grant's mother's maiden name.
- Fewer than one in 10,000 people possess the gift of perfect pitch.
- The world's largest beaver dam, located in **Canada's Wood Buffalo National Park** and boasting a length estimated at more than 2,600 feet, is visible from space via satellite imagery.
- Memorial Day's date was first chosen because it was when flowers would be in full bloom.
- In 2012, **Susan Warren**, who owned a cleaning business, broke into a house but stole nothing. Instead, she washed coffee cups, vacuumed, took out the garbage, and dusted ... then left the homeowners, who were asleep upstairs, her phone number and a bill for her services on a napkin.

Thought for the Day: "If the world should blow itself up, the last audible voice would be that of an expert saying it can't be done." – **Peter Ustinov**

Treat Yourself

OPEN TUESDAY-SUNDAY LUNCH/ DINNER/ WEEKEND BRUNCH

@eat_saint_leo

SAINT LEO FUND
922 JACKSON AVE EAST
OXFORD, MS.

Saint Leo

FREE DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION SCAN NOW



The Local Voice is published every Thursday

Deadline is every Tuesday at noon. Next print deadline: January 13
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 #477 – Newt Rayburn, Publisher. Nature Humphries, Editor-in-Chief.

CONTRIBUTORS: Randy Weeks, Davis Coen, Megan Wolfe. DISTRIBUTION: Brady Rees.

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Ajax Diner

118 Courthouse Square

www.AjaxDiner.com

Mon-Sat: 11 am-9 pm

Delivery: TAB

Big Bad Breakfast

719 N Lamar Blvd.

www.BigBadBreakfast.com

Mon-Fri: 7 am-1 pm

Sat-Sun: 8 am-2:30 pm

Early Bird Special:

Wed & Thur 7-9 am: 10% off

Delivery: Door Dash, TAB

Booth's Barbeque

2200 South Lamar Blvd.

www.boothsbarbeque.com

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;

\$5 High Noons (4-8 pm)

Sat: \$7 Signature Cocktails

Sun: ½-price Bloody Marys & Mimosas

Delivery: Door Dash, Uber Eats

Bouré

110 Courthouse Square

www.CityGroceryOnline.com

Mon-Thu: 10:30 am-10 pm

Fri-Sat: 10:30 am-10:30 pm

Bar: Mon-Wed 4 pm-midnight;

Thu-Fri 4 pm-1 am; Sat 10:30 am-1 am

Delivery: Door Dash, TAB

City Grocery

152 Courthouse Square

www.CityGroceryOnline.com

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

Happy Hour 4-6 pm:

M-F \$1 off wells & domestics

Circle & Square

100 Depot Street

www.CircleAndSquare.beer

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

Delivery: Door Dash, Uber Eats

Funkys

1012 E Jackson Ave

www.Funkys.com

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

Delivery: TAB

Kingswood

425 S. Lamar Blvd.

www.KingswoodRestaurant.com

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

Nightbird

425 S. Lamar Blvd.

[@nightbirdparlour](https://www.instagram.com/nightbirdparlour)

Open at 4 pm nightly

Little Easy Catering

1503B White Oak Lane

www.LittleEasyCatering.com

Catering: 662-801-4194

Sunday Plate Lunches

Sun: 10 am-2 pm

The Library

120 South 11th Street

www.LibraryOxford.com

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

Miscellanea

306 South Lamar Boulevard

www.MiscellaneaOxford.com

Wed-Sat: 5 pm-12 am

Sun: 3 pm-9 pm

Monday-Tuesday closed

Reservations: website

Moe's BBQ

311 S Lamar Blvd

www.MoesOriginalBBQ.com

Mon-Sun: 11 am-10 pm

Penny Bar open 3 pm

Happy Hour 3-6 pm:

Mon-Fri ½-price apps,

2-for-1 wells, wines & domestics

Mon: \$2 domestics; 50¢ wings

Tue: TRIVIA + \$25 High Noon buckets

Wed: OPEN MIC (starting Sept. 3)

Thu: BINGO + \$5 Bushwhackers

Sun: Kids 12 & under eat free

(6 pm-close)

Delivery: Door Dash, TAB

The Old Henry

1002 East Jackson Ave

www.TheOldHenry.com

CLOSED FOR BREAK EXCEPT

Friday Dec. 19: 5 pm-1 am

Saturday, Dec. 20: noon-1 am

Oxford

Community Market

1801 University Ave

www.OxfordCommunityMarket.com

Tue: 3-6:30 pm

Quack's

122 Courthouse Square

www.QuacksDogs.com

Mon-Thu: 4 pm-close

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

Sat & Sun: Brunch 11 am-3 pm;

Mimosas & \$9 Espresso Martinis

Sun: 11 am-9 pm; \$1 off cocktails 3-9pm

Happy Hour:

Mon: \$1 off drafts ALL DAY

Tues: \$1 off drafts ALL DAY, \$1 off

bottles & cans (4-6 pm)

Wed: \$1 off drafts, bottles & cans

ALL DAY

Thur & Fri: \$1 off drafts, bottles &

cans (4-6 pm)

Delivery: Door Dash, TAB

Rafters on the Square

1006 East Jackson Ave

www.RaftersMusicandFood.com

CLOSED FOR BREAK EXCEPT

Friday Dec. 19-Sunday, Dec. 21: 5

pm-1 am

Saint Leo

922 E Jackson Ave

www.EatSaintLeo.com

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

Snackbar

721 N Lamar Blvd

www.CityGroceryOnline.com

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

www.SolaOxford.com

Wed-Sun: 5-9 pm

Happy Hour 5-6 pm: \$6 fresh

Margaritas

Wed: Spaghetti + \$5 wine

Thu: Ramen & \$5 Rosé

Sun: Oyster Happy Hour: 2 Bucks a

Shuck grilled oysters (5-6 pm)

Southern Coop

705 Sisk Ave.

SouthernCoopWings.com

Mon-Sat: 11 am-9 pm

Delivery: Door Dash, TAB

Tallahatchie Gourmet

1221 Van Buren Ave

www.TallahatchieGourmet.com

Mon-Wed: 11 am-2:30 pm

Mon-Fri: retail open until 4:30 pm

Brunch Sat & Sun 11:30 am-3 pm

Delivery: TAB

Uno Mas

1101 E Jackson Ave

www.EatUnoMas.com

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; ½-off appetizers

Tues: HAPPY HOUR ALL DAY

Sat: \$5 Frozenes & \$20 pitchers

Sun: Service Industry Sunday

Delivery: Door Dash

Volta Taverna

710 N Lamar Blvd

www.VoltaTaverna.com

Mon-Thu: 11 am-9 pm;

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

Happy Hour 4-6 pm: \$1 off all drinks

½-price Margaritas & Mojitos

Monday, Thursday, & Saturday 

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The Worst Christmas Ever

It was a cold and windy night, but what did I care? As is my custom I was dressed for the occasion. Not surprisingly I was the only one on The Balcony, when what to my wondering eyes did appear but two figures coming out of the doors to The Balcony. One was dressed in 19th-century clothing, the finest of finery. The other was fuzzy bright green from head to toe. A stranger pair I had never seen. I immediately recognized Ebenezer Scrooge and the Grinch, the two most anti-Christmas beings to ever exist. They took seats on opposite sides of The Balcony and glared at each other like Superman with his X-ray vision. They paid me no mind, which was fine with me.

In unison they growled, "What the hell are you doing here? This is MY territory!"

Grinch: *Territory schmerritory! I'm here every year, absconding the spirit of Christmas!*

Scrooge: Ah, but do you do that 365 days a year, year in and year out as I?

Of course not. I'm too strategic for that. Intermittent reinforcement is more powerful than a daily dose of downandoutamy. Children wait all year for Christmas with hopes of being showered with gifts, only to have them whisked away on Christmas Eve while visions of sugar plums dance in their heads!

Bah! Humbug! I take away hope entirely by never allowing it to take root, rather the sober solemnity of, as William Cullen Bryant wrote, "the quarry-slave at night, scourged to his dungeon . . ." Unwatched, unwept, uncared for . . . Darkness is cheap, and I love it!

Bah. Ham bone yourself! What's the meaning of Christmas anyway? It's revenge! Sweet, sweet revenge! Your toxic sludge is my potpourri! Every Christmas morning I hear the crescendo of my odious opus. You called down the thunder. Now get ready FOR THE BOOM! Gaze into the face of fear!

You're a mean one, Mr. Grinch.

It's because I'm green, isn't it? It ain't easy, being green!

Thou art a horse of a different color with a heart of black, but not as black as mine.

And just how do you measure blackness?

I take money from the poorest of the poor and leave them and their families more destitute than a rotting corpse in its grave.

A real Robbing Hood. Ha! I ruin the most holy of holidays by stealing the joy of innocent little children. Thusly I steal the rest of the family's joy to boot.

Beware this man (pointing to himself), Mr. Grinch, for on his brow I see that written which is Doom! This man builds work-houses. This man builds jails.

Just as Aristotle said, "Mean-ness is incurable; it cannot be cured by old age or anything else." Ergo, my legacy is immortal!



Leggo my ergo you old fart! By that standard so is mine!

Suddenly a dazzling light from the brightest of stars beamed down upon us and an obese angel with the worst comb over imaginable appeared and proclaimed:

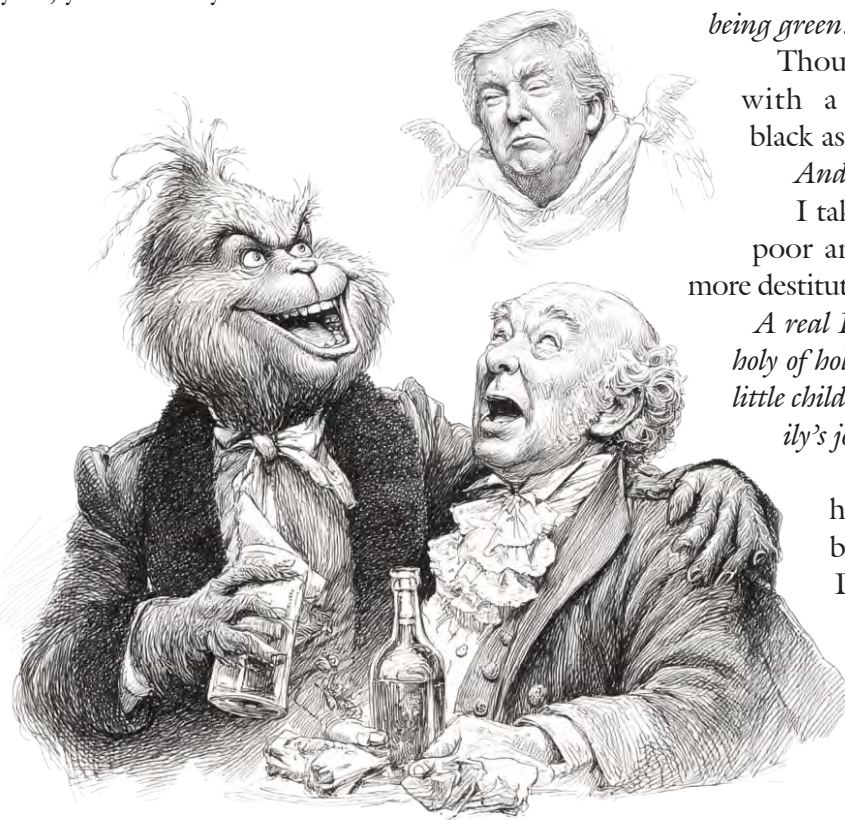
"Bah! Humbug to you both! On this very night you have been weighed in the balance and found lacking. There is one much meaner than you two amateurs and I am he. But your despicable hearts are not of your own doing. Like all things wrong in this world, it is the fault of Sleepy Joe Biden! Gotta go now. I'm overseeing the construction of a ballroom in Heaven. (singing to the tune of "Stairway to Heaven") 'Oh, I'm building a ballroom in Heaven.'" With that the angel skedaddled.

For a minute or so the Grinch and Ebenezer Scrooge sat in stupefied silence. Then they looked at each other, shrugged their shoulders, and said, "Who knew? There really is one who is crueler than we!" Ebenezer and the Grinch high fived and, with the vilest of grins and hyena-esque laughter, shouted in unison, "This is most certainly the worst Christmas ever!" Amen.

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

Randy Weeks is a Licensed Professional Counselor, a Certified Shamanic Life Coach, an ordained minister, singer-songwriter, actor, writer, and a former triathlete. He may be reached at: randallweeks@gmail.com.

(Most of the conversation between Ebenezer Scrooge and the Grinch was based on their actual words in their literary and cinematic portrayals. Sadly, the obese angel with the ghastly comb over is real. Merry Christmas anyway.)





Just Like Cats & Dogs

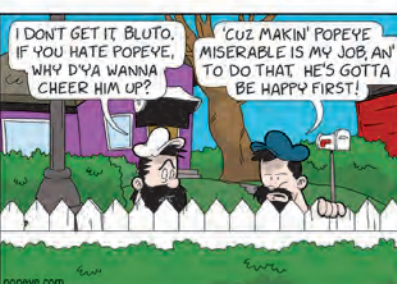
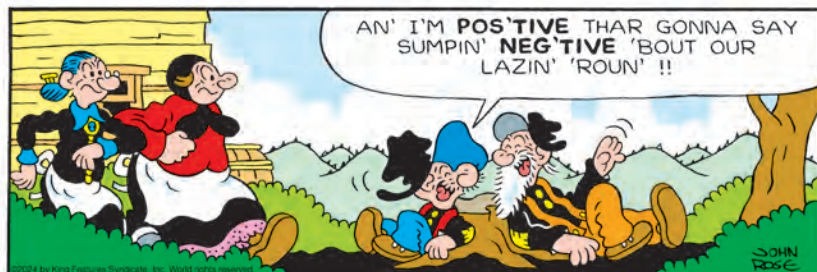
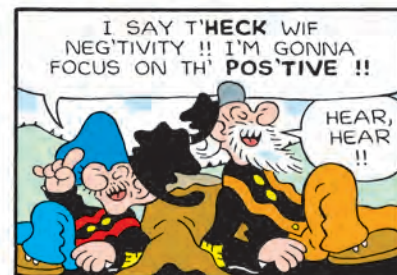
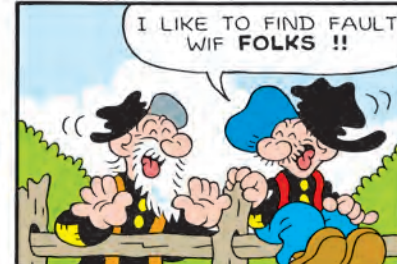
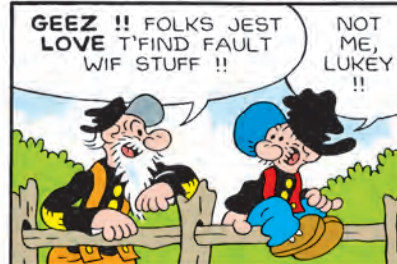
by Dave T. Phipps



GRIN and BEAR IT

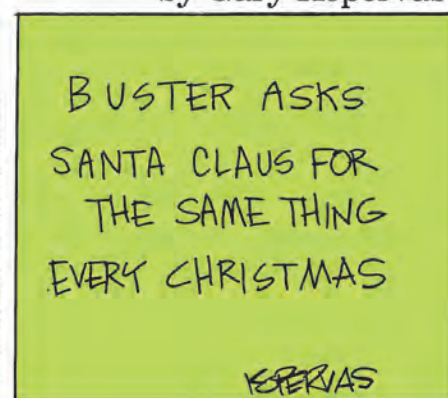


"All the good jobs are being outsourced, but yours are safe."



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



HAL FOSTER'S Prince Valiant
BY SCHULTZ AND YEATES

STRAKONUS THE PIRATE CALLS FOR A PALAVER. HE HAS SEEN THAT HIS OPPONENT IS A KNIGHT, HELD TO A CODE OF CONDUCT. HE FIGURES HE CAN EXPLOIT THIS WEAKNESS.

YEATES 10/5/14

"I WILL APPROACH HIM ALONE," SAYS VAL.
"NOT ALONE," COUNTERS ZULFA.
"THEY COME FOR US IMAZIGHEN.
WE WILL NOT BE COWED."

STRAKONUS SEES THE KNIGHT AND THE STRANGE WOMEN APPROACHING. "SO," HE THINKS, "MY BROTHER'S FEMALE CARGO DOES LIE HERE." NOW HE MUST STALL ACTION AS LONG AS HE CAN, BECAUSE...

...A SMALL BAND OF HIS MEN HAS MANAGED TO WORK ITS WAY DOWN THE NARROW SHORE, BEYOND VALS CORDON! IF THIS BAND HAS TIME TO GET ABOVE THE ENEMY LINES, STRAKONUS GAINS THE ADVANTAGE.

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BUT SOMETHING ELSE HAS CAUGHT THE ATTENTION OF THE RAIDERS. A THIN PLUME OF SMOKE RISES FROM THE FAR WESTERN END OF THE ISLAND— WHERE ALETA AND HER COMPANY HAVE BEEN SALVAGING THE ISLAND QUEEN!

NEXT:
A valuable discovery

Americanisms

"The wilderness holds answers to questions we have not yet learned to ask."
— Nancy Wynne Newhall

Amber Waves

GUYS, WE AGREE THERE'S TOO MUCH FUSS OVER POLITICS, SO I CLAIM THIS FARM DEMOCRAT.

HOLD ON MISTER, SOME COWS AND US CHICKENS LEAN MORE REPUBLICAN!

YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS! YOUR POLICIES ARE SO OUTDATED AND SILLY.

PHLOP!

by Dave T. Phipps

AH GEEZ, THE LIVESTOCK MUST BE DEBATING POLITICS AGAIN. THE MUDSLINGING HAS COMMENCED.

MAMDANI AND HIS UNICORN

DOES HE FART RAINBOWS, OR JUST FART?

KIRK

The Spats

THE WEATHER IS AWFUL TODAY!!

IS IT RAINING CATS AND DOGS AGAIN?

by Jeff Pickering

EVEN WORSE... IT'S HAILING TAXIS!!

ERIC SWALWELL THROWS HIS HAT INTO THE RING

HITCH

TIGER

MOM JUST WAXED THE FLOOR

IF YOU GO IN WITH THOSE MUDDY FEET

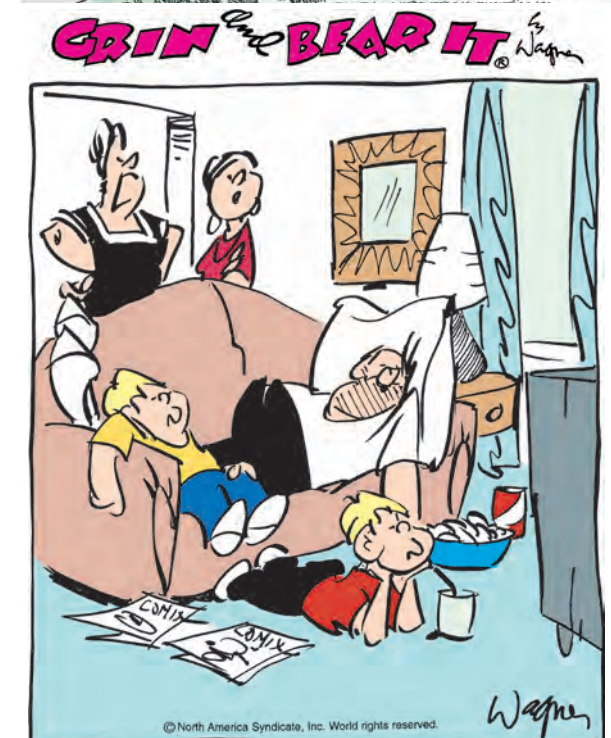
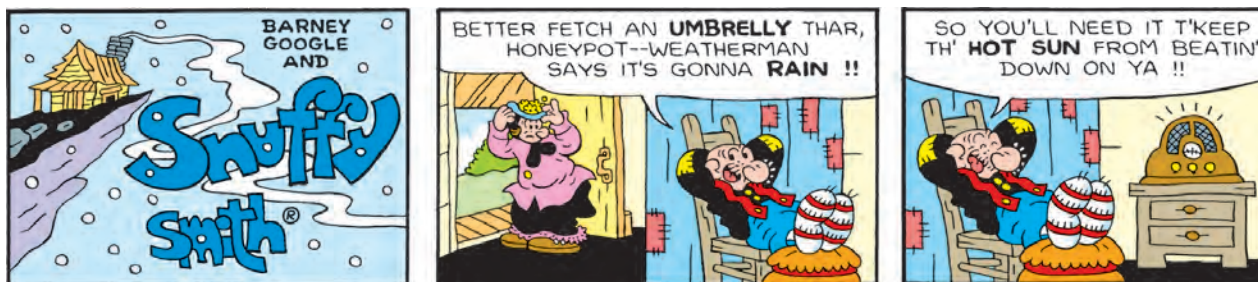
...YOU'LL GET THROWN RIGHT OUT OF THE HOUSE!

I WILL NOT

by BUD BLAKE

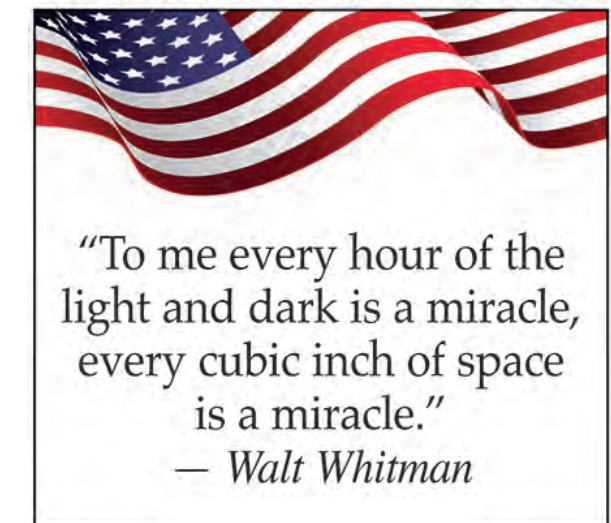
I DON'T REMEMBER SEEING THIS ON THE MAP...

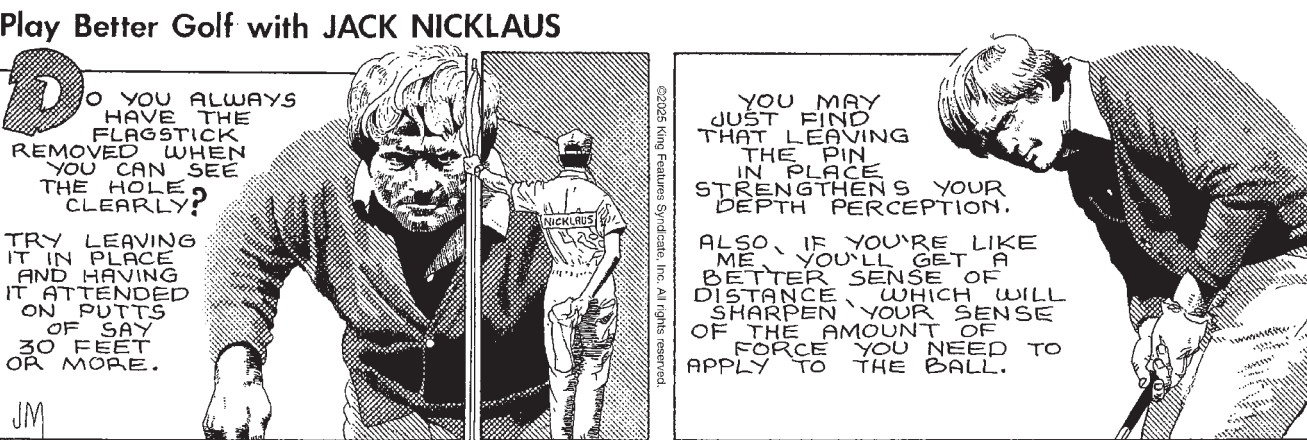
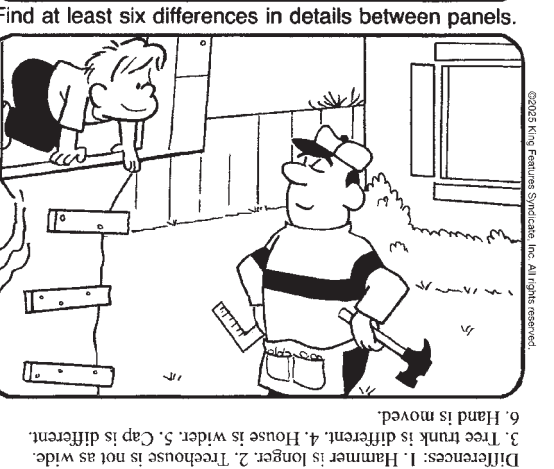
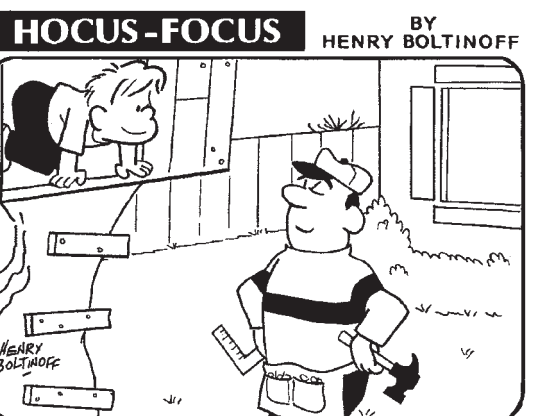
COURTS



Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps







Baked Alaska Citrus

Greet the new year with a showy, wintry dessert your family will ooh and ahh over. It's a take on traditional Baked Alaska that you may have enjoyed at a fancy restaurant. This mini version is much easier, using fresh grapefruit in its own "bowl" instead of cake, but still keeps the wow factor with billowing warm meringue on top and chilly ice cream nestled inside.

Timing is everything. Do some simple prep work beforehand. Then, as the table is being cleared after your main course, preheat the oven and whip the egg whites while your child spoons fruit into the grapefruit bowls and tops each one with ice cream and mounds of sweet meringue.

GRAPEFRUIT BAKED ALASKA
Makes 6 servings
4 grapefruits
6 scoops vanilla ice cream
3 egg whites (1/2 cup) at room temperature

1/4 teaspoon cream of tartar
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract

One hour or more before serving:

1. Prepare grapefruit by cutting evenly in half crosswise. Use a grapefruit knife to cut out fruit sections. Place in a bowl and drain juice (enjoy drinking it for a snack). If grapefruit is rather tart, add some sugar. Cover and refrigerate.

2. Remove and discard membranes in six of the halves to form hollow "bowls," and discard the two remaining grapefruit halves. (You are using

6 halves for the dessert, but the fruit from 4 grapefruits to have ample servings.)

3. Pre-scoop ice cream in six rounds on a tray lined with wax paper or plastic wrap. Place back in freezer.

15 minutes before serving:

4. Heat oven to 400 degrees. Line baking sheet with parchment paper or foil. Ask one of your kids to spoon the refrigerated grapefruit pieces evenly into the six grapefruit "bowls" and set them on the baking sheet.

5. In a 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. Start adding the sugar slowly, a tablespoon at a time. Let your kids watch as the mixture changes and



enlarges, and glossy, stiff peaks form.

6. Set an ice-cream round in the center of each fruit-filled bowl. Immediately spoon the glossy, stiff meringue on top and seal edges around the cut grapefruit rim with a butter knife. Bake in the middle of the oven for 5 minutes, or until meringue is golden.

7. Serve immediately on dessert plates.

Tip: For a special occasion such as New Year's Eve, top each one with a birthday candle and light.

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



1. **Wicked: For Good**
(PG) Cynthia Erivo, Ariana Grande
2. **Now You See Me: Now You Don't**
(PG-13) Jesse Eisenberg, Woody Harrelson
3. **Predator: Badlands**
(PG-13) Elle Fanning, Dimitrios Schuster-Koloamatangi
4. **The Running Man**
(R) Glen Powell, Alyssa Bunn
5. **Rental Family**
(PG-13) Brendan Fraser, Paolo Andrea Di Pietro
6. **Sisu: Road to Revenge**
(R) Jorma Tommila, Stephen Lang
7. **Regretting You**
(PG-13) Allison Williams, McKenna Grace
8. **Nuremberg**
(PG-13) Russell Crowe, Michael Shannon
9. **Black Phone 2**
(R) Mason Thames, Ethan Hawke
10. **Sarah's Oil**
(PG-13) Zachary Levi, Naya Desir-Johnson

THE POD REPORT

By Dana Block



THIS WEEK'S CATEGORY:

Top New Podcasts of 2025

There's no trophy or a definitive winner, but these newbies to the podcast world are the most downloadable podcasts of the year, according to Apple Podcasts:

"Good Hang with Amy Poehler"

— Comedic genius Amy Poehler's new one-on-one interview show has maintained a consistent top-10 ranking ever since its debut in March. A-list guests include Ariana Grande, Kristen Wiig and Michelle Obama. (TheRinger.com)

"Not Gonna Lie with Kylie Kelce"

— Taylor Swift's future sister-in-law Kylie Kelce has made a name for herself in her hit podcast where she speaks her truths on topics like modern parenting, social media trends, and women in sports. (Pod.Wave.co)

"Deadly Mirage" — This true-crime podcast from Dateline NBC tells the sad tale of a seemingly perfect family with a "tight-knit group of friends who call themselves the 'Wolf Pack.'" However, when one of the wolves is found murdered, secrets are uncovered that shatter the facade. (NBCNews.com)

"Blink" — This true-crime serial is about a coma patient named Jake Haendel. Just like in the soap operas, Haendel can hear his bedside visitor talking to him, even though he can't move or indicate in any way that he is aware. What the visitor has to say turns out to be a startling confession. (Blinkthepodcast.com)

"Murder in the Moonlight"

Dateline's Keith Morrison delivers this multipart true-crime tale in his distinctive style. This particular case is about a couple who got shot to death in their farmhouse, but the suspects are many — with the only clue left behind a shiny gold ring. (NBCNews.com)

"Devil in the Desert" — This podcast from ABC's "20/20" is about a woman who is found with her hands bound in the Mojave Desert. A devoted wife becomes an informant, and authorities "zero in on the so-called mastermind behind the attack ... a charming man with ties to the emerging medical marijuana industry in California." (ABCAudio.com)

"What Happened to Holly Bobo?"

— Another true-crime podcast from "20/20," this one is about a young nursing student who disappeared from her home 15 years ago, but there was a witness: her brother. Two men were sent to prison for the crime, and a third committed suicide. But questions still remain. (ABCAudio.com)

"Cold Blooded: Mystery in Alaska"

— "20/20" lands another hit in this case about a doctor who is found dead in his home. Initially, police believed his death to be by suicide or natural causes, but this wouldn't be a true-crime podcast if the mystery was solved that quickly. (ABCAudio.com)

"Unicorn Girl"

— Award-winning journalist Charlie Webster exposes the rise and fall of Candace Rivera, who carefully crafted her "flawless image" while launching her multimillion-dollar businesses. The question is: "Was she a visionary — or just a master of deception?" (Apple.co)

"The Best People"

— Host Nicole Wallace's guests include people like Heather Cox Richardson, a historian and host of "Letters From an American." Her essays on social media (and her Substack newsletter) aim to expose the "growing conflict between the citizenry and [our] executive branch" of government. (MS.NOW)

Fun Fact

Japanese chefs consider Gomi (the Five tastes), Gokan (the Five senses), Goshiki (the Five colors) and Goho (the Five cooking methods) to be the most important aspects of meal preparation.

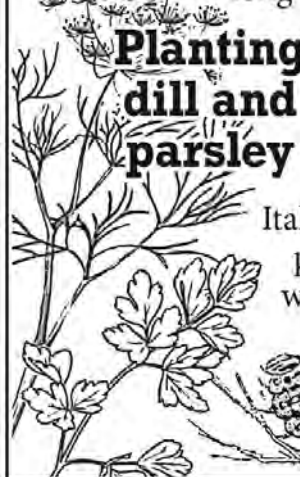
It is the chef's duty to make sure that everything creates a satisfying experience for those who are dining.



Sources: maff.go.jp/e/policies, japan-experience.com

The Garden Bug

Planting dill and parsley



Dill plants do not transplant easily due to their long taproot; create a permanent bed by allowing dill to mature and self-seed over the long-term. To help establish, plant new seeds every few weeks to ensure an ample supply all summer and to prepare for pickling season. Parsley is rich in vitamins and minerals and adds beauty to both the vegetable and flower garden. There are several varieties, including Italian Flat Leaf and Curly. They can be grown in pots if you have limited space. Dill and parsley will attract and feed the beautiful Eastern Black Swallowtail, and can feed its caterpillars as well. — Brenda Weaver

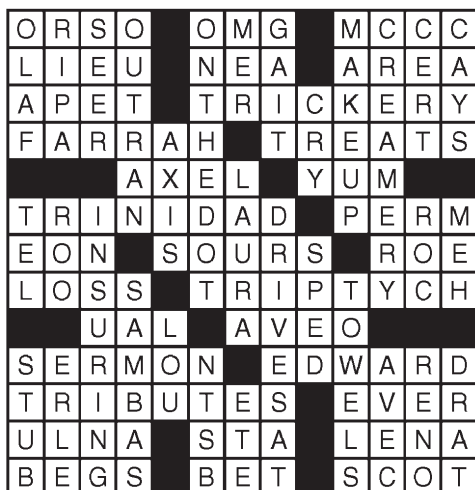
Source: extension.psu.edu



King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 22 mins.



SCRAMBLERS

solution

1. Valor; 2. Humane;
3. Obscure; 4. Impel

Today's Word

NERVOUS

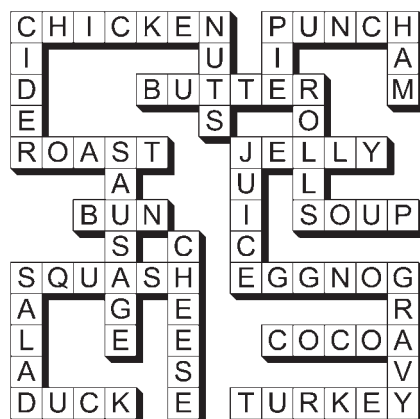
Even Exchange

answers

1. Clark, Clerk
2. Brainy, Brawny
3. Nation, Notion
4. Tiber, Tibet
5. Lobby, Hobby
6. Parton, Pardon
7. Steady, Steamy
8. Water, Wafer
9. Career, Careen
10. Gland, Grand

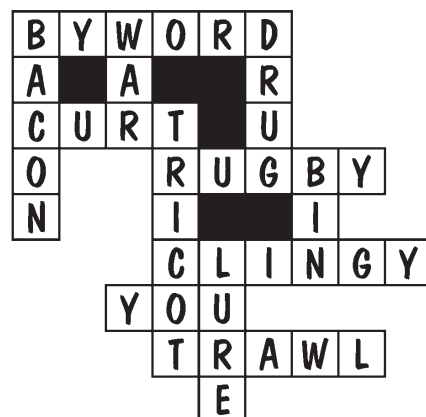
Puzzles4Kids

Answer



FEAR KNOT

answer



"The Wonderful World of Disney: Holiday Spectacular" (TV-PG) — Disney's annual TV holiday special is back right in time for the Christmas season to officially kick off. Premiering Dec. 2, the special will feature performances from several artists, some of Disney's most popular locations across the nation, and iconic Disney characters who are ready to spread Christmas cheer. You can expect to hear your favorite Christmas songs from celebrities like Gwen Stefani, Coco Jones, Trisha Yearwood and more. "Dancing With the Stars" judge Derek Hough will be hosting, so don't be surprised if you see him busting out his signature sharp moves throughout the special. (Disney+)

"The Family McMullen" (R) — This comedy-drama film premiering Dec. 5 is the sequel to the 1995 Edward Burns film "The Brothers McMullen." This continuation builds on the same relationship themes of the original film but tells the characters' stories in a more modern way. Burns, Connie Britton ("The Life List"), and Michael McGlone ("The Bachelors") reprise their roles from the original film, while Pico Alexander ("The Honeymoon") and Halston Sage ("Neighbors") join the cast as Burns' children, who move back home with their father after a series of trials and tribulations. As their bonds get tested in ways that only family members know how to do, the McMullens learn important lessons about love and loyalty, leaving them stronger and more solid than ever. (HBO Max)

"House of Guinness" (TV-MA) — From the creator of Netflix's hit series "Peaky Blinders" comes this historical-drama series about the family behind the Guinness Brewing

Company, which premiered all eight of its episodes a few months back. After the patriarch of the family, Benjamin Guinness, passes away, his four adult children are left to deal with the impact of the legacy he left behind. Add into the mix the Irish Republican Brotherhood, who riot against the Guinness' ties to the English, and you get pure action scenes that elevate the historical drama into something more exciting. Anthony Boyle ("Masters of the Air"), Louis Partridge ("Disclaimer"), Jack Gleeson ("Game of Thrones"), and James Norton ("King & Conqueror") star in the series, which might eventually premiere another season if creator Steven Knight's dreams go according to plan. (Netflix)



Danielle Galligan is Lady Olivia Hedges in "House of Guinness."

"Inheritance" (R) — This spy thriller film premiering Dec. 5 is led by two actors who have recently completed stellar performances in their own respective series. Phoebe Dynevor ("Bridgerton") and Rhys Ifans ("House of the Dragon") play a father-daughter duo who reconnect after Maya's (Dynevor) mother passes away. Sam (Ifans) is determined to have a relationship with his daughter and persuades her to travel with him so that they can run his "information gathering" business together. After her father suddenly disappears, and Interpol claims that Maya is in possession of stolen government property, Maya realizes she was suckered into some shady business. Now it's up to her to figure out whether she wants to inherit the role her father originated or give herself up to Interpol. (Hulu)



Holiday Biscotti: Beautiful, Giftable and Surprisingly Simple

If the holiday season had a signature cookie, biscotti wouldn't be it. However, it would be this cookie's elegant cousin who shows up beautifully dressed, stays cheerful for weeks and never crumbles under pressure. These crisp Italian cookies are made for gifting, packing, mailing, dunking and showing off, all while looking like you spent far more effort than you did.

They're sturdy enough to ship across the country, pretty enough for a cookie plate and wonderfully adaptable. Once you have the simple base recipe, you can flavor them in many ways. Tuck a few into a basket with some coffee or tea, a pretty tea towel and a thrifted mug, and you've got a gift that feels thoughtful and homemade without breaking the bank.

This year, I'm sharing my base biscotti recipe plus several festive variations, each one perfect for adding a little sparkle to your holiday baking.

HOLIDAY BISCOTTI

Yield: 20-24 servings
Total Time: 55 minutes + cooling
For the base dough:
4 tablespoons unsalted butter, softened
3/4 cup granulated sugar
2 large eggs
1 to 2 teaspoons extract (see flavor variations)
2 cups all-purpose flour, or half

all-purpose + half whole wheat
1 teaspoon baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
Add-ins as per flavor variation

Heat oven to 350 F. Line a baking sheet with parchment.

Beat butter and sugar until creamy. Add eggs and extract; mix well. In another bowl, whisk flour, baking powder and salt. Gradually add to wet mixture until combined. Stir in flavor add-ins, if using.

Divide dough in half. Shape into two 8-inch logs and flatten to 3/4 inch thick. Wet hands help if dough is sticky. Sprinkle with coarse sugar if desired.

Bake 20-25 minutes, until lightly golden and firm to the touch. Cool on the pan for 15 minutes.

Slice logs diagonally into 3/4-inch slices. Lay cut side up on the sheet and bake 12-16 minutes, until dry. Cool completely.



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A little holiday sparkle in every crunchy, dunkable cookie.

Flavor Variations

Classic Vanilla-Almond: 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla + 1/2 teaspoon almond extract. Add 3/4 cup sliced almonds.

Cherry-Almond (pictured): 1 teaspoon almond + 1 teaspoon vanilla. Add 1/2 cup dried cherries, 1/2 cup sliced almonds. Sprinkle tops with decorating sugar before baking.

Triple Chocolate: 1 teaspoon vanilla, reduce flour by 1/4 cup, add 1/4

cup cocoa powder. Stir in 1 cup mini chocolate chips + 1/2 cup nuts of choice. Dip in chocolate.

Cranberry-Orange-Pistachio: Add 1 teaspoon vanilla + 1 teaspoon orange extract Add-ins: 1/2 cup dried cranberries, 1/2 cup chopped pistachios and zest of an orange. Dip ends in white chocolate and sprinkle with more orange zest.

Dark Chocolate-Orange-Hazelnut (pictured): Add 1 teaspoon vanilla + 1 teaspoon orange extracts. Add-ins: 1/2 cup chopped hazelnuts, 1/2 cup mini dark chocolate chips and zest of an orange. Dip the ends in dark chocolate and sprinkle with chopped hazelnuts.

Peppermint Mocha (pictured): Add 1 teaspoon vanilla + 1 teaspoon peppermint. Reduce flour by 1/4 cup and add 1/4 cup cocoa powder, 1 teaspoon espresso powder, 1/2 cup mini chocolate chips. Dip one side in chocolate and sprinkle with crushed candy canes.

Ginger Spice (pictured): Add 1 teaspoon vanilla. Add-ins: 2 teaspoons ginger + 2 teaspoons cinnamon + 1/4 teaspoon cloves + 1/4 cup chopped candied ginger. Optional: Drizzle with glaze made from powdered sugar + maple syrup.

Whichever flavor you choose, biscotti are the kind of homemade gifts that feel thoughtful without demanding hours in the kitchen. Bake a batch, share with friends and enjoy a little holiday magic.

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

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Super Crossword

Answers

T	O	S	T	A	D	A		S	N	A	R	L	A	T		M	O	T	I	F
A	V	A	I	L	E	D		H	E	P	B	U	R	N		I	L	O	N	A
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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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



“Wake Up Dead Man: A Knives Out Mystery” (PG-13) — The third installment in director Rian Johnson’s “Knives Out” film series is finally arriving on streaming this week on Dec. 12. Of course, Daniel Craig (“Queer”) busts out his beautiful southern drawl once again to reprise his role as detective Benoit Blanc, but this time around, he is far from the luxuries of a private island. In this latest case, he’s brought to the church of Our Lady of Perpetual Fortitude to investigate the death of Monsignor Jefferson Wicks (Josh Brolin), alongside law police chief Geraldine Scott (Mila Kunis). There’s an array of fun suspects played by an assortment of actors like Glenn Close, Kerry Washington, Jeremy Renner and Daryl McCormack. Deadline writer Damon Wise wrote that this installment might just be Johnson’s best one yet. (Netflix)

“Bugonia” (R) — Emma Stone seems to be director Yorgos Lanthimos’ muse at the moment as she reteams with the director for the fifth time for this black-comedy film based on the 2003 South Korean film “Save the Green Planet!” Stone plays Michelle Fuller, the CEO of a pharmaceutical corporation that is responsible for the clinical trial of a drug, which leaves a woman comatose. The woman’s son, Teddy (a very gaunt-looking Jesse Plemons), believes that not only is Michelle responsible, but she is also an “Andromedan alien” who wants to take over the world. (I know, I know, but hang in there.) Teddy enlists help to kidnap Michelle, subsequently shav-

ing her head and forcing her to arrange a meeting with her alien higher-ups. Although Teddy seems deranged, Michelle must play along with his outlandish claims in the chance that she can get back to her normal life. Out now to rent! (Apple TV+)

“After the Hunt” (R) — Director Luca Guadagnino (“Challengers”) takes on a tricky theme in his latest psychological thriller film, focusing on the interesting nuances of what happens when a sexual assault victim speaks out about what they experienced. Starring two incredible leading ladies from different generations (Julia Roberts and Ayo Edebiri), the film picks up after Ph.D. student Maggie (Edebiri) claims that she was sexually assaulted by a professor named Hank (Andrew Garfield). She divulges this to Alma (Roberts), the professor at her school who she’s the closest to, thus beginning the cycle of advances and setbacks that sexual assault victims deal with. Alma attempts to guide Maggie, despite her own messy past with sexual assault claims, but Alma also knows what’s actually feasible within her own institution. While the film received mixed reviews from critics, it’s a bold commentary from Guadagnino about the things that often get left unsaid in these types of cases. Out now! (Amazon Prime Video)



From left, Mila Kunis, Daniel Craig and Josh O’Connor star in “Wake Up Dead Man: A Knives Out Mystery.”



Low-Stress Holiday Entertaining Starts Here

The holiday season has officially begun, which means many of us are about to jump on a month-long juggling act involving gift lists, grocery lists, guest lists and the occasional existential crisis in the snack aisle. (Or is that just me?) But here’s the good news: Holiday entertaining does not have to feel like auditioning for a cooking competition.

In fact, some of the best gatherings I’ve ever hosted were powered by simple food, mismatched napkins and the sheer charm of wonderful people being together.

This year, instead of stressing about elaborate spreads or complicated appetizers, let’s bring the joy back to hosting with low-cost, low-fuss tricks.

Easy, Affordable Entertaining Tips

Share the Spotlight with a Potluck: Ask guests to bring a favorite side or appetizer while you handle the main dish. It lightens the load and the bill.

Create Instant Ambiance: Dim the lights, turn on lamps, light a candle — instant cozy, no decorating required.

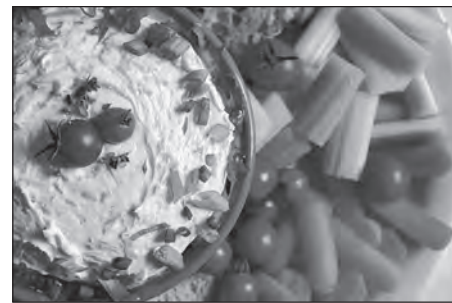
Set Up a Self-Serve Drink Station: A few bottles of vino, a pitcher of sparkling water, some citrus, ice and glasses let guests help themselves while you enjoy the party.

Think “Nibbles,” Not a Buffet: Crackers, fruit, veggies and your cream cheese spread looks generous

without draining your time or budget.

Make Something You Can Ignore: Cream cheese dips and spreads shine here — no wilting, no reheating.

Start with my “Mother of All Cream Cheese Dips,” a simple base — like a mother sauce — that every other flavor can be built on. Use whatever you have: herbs, cheese, leftover roast veggies, odds and ends. It turns out a little different each time, always delicious and perfect for effortless appetizers or last-minute hostess gifts. The very definition of frugal and fabulous!



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One simple base, endless flavor possibilities: Make dips for every holiday gathering.

THE MOTHER OF ALL CREAM CHEESE DIPS

Yield: 1 1/2 cups

Total Time: 1 hour 5 mins.

1 (8-ounce) block cream cheese, at room temperature

1/2 cup sour cream or mayonnaise, at room temperature

3/4 teaspoon salt

1/2 teaspoon garlic powder

Freshly ground black pepper, to taste

Optional Mix-Ins (use one, some, or all — whatever’s handy):

1 green onion, thinly sliced

1/2 cup shredded aged cheddar or other cheese

1/4 cup bacon crumbles

1/4 cup toasted almonds

Place the cream cheese in a bowl and beat with an electric mixer on high for about 2 minutes, until it’s light and fluffy. Scrape the bowl, then add the sour cream or mayo, salt, garlic powder and pepper. Beat on high for another minute. Taste and adjust the seasoning — this is your dip, after all.

Refrigerate for at least 1 hour so the flavors can get acquainted and settle in. Serve with breadsticks, pretzels, mini bagels, crackers or chips.

Note: The longer it chills, the better it gets, which makes this a perfect make-ahead recipe for busy hosts. Leftovers keep in the fridge for up to a week, although “leftover dip” is mostly a theoretical concept.

What else can you add? Truly anything else you love, like chopped herbs, leftover roasted veggies, a spoonful of pesto, diced olives, sun-dried tomatoes, everything bagel seasoning. This recipe is here for your creativity and your fridge clean-outs.

At the end of the day, people aren’t coming over to evaluate your culinary skills or inspect your baseboards. They show up for laughter, warmth and the simple comfort of being welcomed. A cozy room, a low-stress menu and the delicious variety of potluck goodness is more than enough to make your home the spot everyone remembers.

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

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