

# the Local Voice

February 19–March 5, 2026



TLV #480

# Read at Maximum Volume!



Beth Ann Fennelley

"The Irish Goodbye"

Book launch  
February 24  
at Off Square Books

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Sunday Bunch 11 am–3 pm  
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Wednesday–Saturday 5 pm–12 am  
Sunday 3 pm–9 pm  
Monday–Tuesday closed  
Reservations made on our website

# the Local Voice™

TLV Issue #480 · February 19–March 5, 2026 · Oxford, Ole Miss, & North Mississippi · Read at Maximum Volume

## Mississippi Arts Commission Funds Writer Studio at Greenfield Farm

The Mississippi Arts Commission has awarded a \$500,000 grant to the University of Mississippi Research Foundation for construction of an overnight writer studio for the university's forthcoming Greenfield Farm Writers Residency.

Construction is set to begin this year on the retreat-style writers compound, which will provide Mississippi writers of all genres with time, seclusion, and financial support to take on big projects including song cycles, movie scripts, and novels.

"With this grant, our fundraising tops the \$5 million mark," said John T Edge, residency developer and director of The Mississippi Lab. "That support has come from University of Mississippi alumni, good readers from across the state, family trusts, corporate foundations, and the state of Mississippi.

"Design for the Greenfield Farm Writers Residency, recently completed, includes six new buildings and two renovated buildings."



John T. Edge.  
Photo by Thomas Graning  
Ole Miss Digital Imaging Services

by Marvis Herring



The Greenfield Farm writers retreat will include four studios for writers to live and work in a natural setting. The Mississippi Arts Commission has provided \$500,000 to construct one of the studios at the retreat.

Illustration courtesy Marlon Blackwell Architects

Writers-in-residence will be able to spend one to three weeks at the 20.4-acre property, which was once owned by acclaimed author William Faulkner. Designs for the writer studios by the award-winning firm **Marlon Blackwell Architects**, of Fayetteville, Arkansas, reimagine vernacular building idioms, such as the dogtrot and the shotgun, as modern spaces where writers will work.

The MAC grant secures funding for one of four overnight writer studios, which will cluster in the woods, near the **Gathering Shed**, Edge said. A second studio is funded by a **Gertrude C. Ford Foundation** grant, and two studios offer naming opportunities for donors.

Seventeen Mississippi organizations received Building Fund for the Arts Grants for the 2026 fiscal year. The funding supports a range of renovation and expansion projects to support year-round arts programs across the state.

"MAC and our grantees are grateful to the Mississippi Legislature for prioritizing funding for the Building Fund for the Arts grant each year," said **David Lewis**, executive director of the commission, a state agency. "The fund for this grant has a high impact on the arts communities throughout the state. "We are excited to see these grant dollars put to good use through the investment in Mississippi's creative communities." **TV**



The writer studios at Greenfield Farm will offer Mississippi writers a place to work uninterrupted on projects in a natural setting. The Mississippi Arts Commission has provided \$500,000 to construct one of the studios at the retreat. Illustration courtesy Marlon Blackwell Architects



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Happy Hour 4-6 pm Daily



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



DINING: MON-THU: 10:30 am-10 pm  
FRI-SAT: 10:30 am-10:30 pm  
BAR HOURS: MON-WED: 4 pm-12 am  
THU: 12 pm-1 am FRI-SAT: 10:30 am-1 am

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Brunch  
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**VS. VANDERBILT** 3/3  
**Women's Basketball** 21-6  
vs. LSU 2/19; vs. South Carolina 2/22; vs. Florida 2/26;  
vs. Texas A&M 3/1; SEC Tournament 3/1-3/8



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# ROUNDABOUT OXFORD®

## LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT & EVENTS

### THURSDAY 2.19.2026

Hendricks Building (Water Valley): Thacker Mountain Radio feat. author LATOYA WATKINS for *Holler, Child*, live music by WILEY GABEY, DRE WALKER (6 pm)

The Old Henry: DOC SINCLAIR (7 pm)

Square Books, Jr.: Chapter Captains Book Club (6 pm)

Oxford-Lafayette Public Library: Afterschool Zone (3:45 pm); Sewing Setup 101 with ANDI BEDSWORTH (5:30 pm)

Nutt Auditorium (University): TRIO ABRIL (7:30 pm)

Proud Larry's: YAZOO, HALF STEP (9 pm)

SJB Pavilion (Univ.): Ole Miss Women's Basketball vs. LSU (8 pm)

### FRIDAY 2.20.2026

The Library: LOGAN HOGUE (9 pm)

Old Henry: Dueling Pianos: DANNY & JOE BOOGIE (7 pm)

Quack's: BEDLXM

Rhythm & Rye: BRIGID FERGUSON (7 pm)

Ford Center: UNCHARTED: TEDx University of Mississippi (7 pm)

Oxford-Lafayette Public Library: Storytime - Chocolate (10:30 am); Afterschool Zone (3:45 pm)

Proud Larry's: ENOL + THE ARTISTS AT LARGE, THE PINKSHEETS,

SCOOBY DA KID (9:30 pm)

Swayze Field (Univ.): Ole Miss Baseball vs. MISSOURI STATE (4 pm)

### SATURDAY 2.21.2026

The Library: LOGAN HOGUE (9 pm)

The Old Henry: Dueling Pianos: DOC & JOE BOOGIE (7 pm)

Quack's: DJ RYBACK-ATCHA

Rhythm & Rye: JODIE ROSS (7 pm)

The Lyric: GRAHAM BARMAM (8 pm)

Oxford Skatepark: FREE Skateboarding Clinic (10 am)

Proud Larry's: THE GREAT DYING, WILEY GABY (9 pm)

SJB Pavilion (Univ.): Ole Miss Men's Basketball vs. FLORIDA (11 am)

Swayze Field (Univ.): Ole Miss Baseball vs. MISSOURI STATE (2 pm)

Tractor Supply: Mardi Paw Krewe Adoption Event (10 am)

### SUNDAY 2.22.2026

Circle & Square: OFF-CAMPUS VINTAGE & ARTS MARKET (11 am-4 pm); Oxford's ARMY OF NORMAL FOLKS

Kickoff meeting (5-6 pm)

Old Henry: MICHAEL PINELLI / OPIE (11:30 am)

The Coop: BRIGID FERGUSON (5 pm)

Kennon Observatory (Univ.): Astronomy Open House (6-7:30 pm)

Nutt Auditorium (University): CLARINET ENSEMBLES (2 pm)

Swayze Field (University): Ole Miss Baseball vs. MISSOURI STATE (1:30 pm)

### MONDAY 2.23.2026

Oxford-Lafayette Public Library: Afterschool Zone (3:45 pm);

Autism Connection w/ Dr. ANNE KRISTIN GLASER (5:30 pm)

### TUESDAY 2.24.2026

Off Square Books: BETH ANN FENNELLY book launch for

*The Irish Goodbye* (5:30 pm)

Ford Center: Black History Month Concert (7:30 pm)

Oxford-Lafayette Public Library: Baby Storytime (9:30 am);

Afterschool Zone with FNB Oxford (3:45 pm)

Swayze Field (University): Ole Miss Baseball vs. SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE (4 pm)

### WEDNESDAY 2.25.2026

Oxford-Lafayette Public Library: Conversation Cafe Wicked Plants with ANNA HALLER (11:30 am); Afterschool Zone (3:45 pm)

Proud Larry's: PROVING GROUND

(Widespread Panic tribute 9:30 pm)

SJB Pavilion (University): Ole Miss Men's Basketball vs. LSU (8 pm)

### THURSDAY 2.26.2026

Oxford Film Festival @ Malco Oxford Commons

The Powerhouse: Thacker Mountain Radio feat. author JONATHAN MILES for Eradication: A Fable, live music by TOMMY WOMACK, JEMERO CARTER/KINGDOMOLOGY (6 pm)

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

Lost Dog Coffee (Taylor): BETH ANN FENNELLY reading from

*The Irish Goodbye* (6 pm)

Proud Larry's: TRIPPP (9 pm)

### FRIDAY 2.27.2026

Oxford Film Festival @ Malco Oxford Commons

The Library: CLAY BARKER (9 pm)

Quack's: DJ RYBAK-ATCHA

Rhythm & Rye: MICAH BROWN (7 pm)

Oxford-Lafayette Public Library: Storytime UM Museum (10:30 am);

Afterschool Zone (3:45 pm)

Proud Larry's: BILLY ALLEN, THE POLLIES, MICHAEL FARRIS SMITH

(9 pm)

### SATURDAY 2.28.2026

Oxford Film Festival @ Malco Oxford Commons

The Library: CLAY BARKER (9 pm)

Quack's: BEDLXM

Rhythm & Rye: JAMIE BAKER (7 pm)

Lafayette County Arena: ALL-NASHVILLE ROAD SHOW (1:30-6 pm)

Oxford Conference Center: Indoor Yard Sale (9 am-1 pm)

Proud Larry's: LOGAN CROSBY, BEN WILLIAMS (9 pm)

SJB Pavilion (University): Ole Miss Men's Basketball vs. AUBURN

(7:30 pm)

### SUNDAY 3.01.2026

SJB Pavilion (University): Ole Miss Women's Basketball vs. TEXAS A&M (2 pm)

### MONDAY 3.02.2026

Circle & Square: Thrills & Chills Book Club (7 pm)

### TUESDAY 3.03.2026

Off Square Books: W. FITZHUGH BRUNDAGE for *A Fate Worse Than Hell* (5:30 pm)

Rhythm & Rye: TAP TAKEOVER w/ Circle & Square (6-8 pm)

Bozart's Gallery (Water Valley): Hubert Creekmore Literary Society Reading Series feat. writer CAROLINE MCCALAY (6:30; no cover)

Proud Larry's: DAISYCHAIN (7 pm)

Swayze Field (University): Ole Miss Baseball vs. MEMPHIS (6:30 pm)



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## FEATURED WEEKLY EVENTS

### Mondays

- Blind Pig: Trivia (7:30 pm)

### 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 Bar: OPEN MIC NIGHT (9 pm)
- Square Books, Jr.: STORYTIME (10 am)

### Thursdays

- Moe's: BINGO (7 pm)
- The Old Henry: LIVE MUSIC (7 pm)
- Quack's: DRINK EXCHANGE (9 pm)

### Fridays

- The Old Henry: DUELING PIANOS (7 pm)

### Saturdays

- The Old Henry: DUELING PIANOS (7 pm)
- Square Books, Jr.: STORYTIME (10 am)

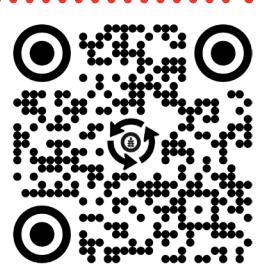
### Weekend Brunch

- 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
- The Old Henry: 11 am-3 pm
- Saint Leo: Sat & Sun: 10:30 am-3 pm
- Tallahatchie Gourmet: Sat & Sun 11:30 am-3 pm

### WEDNESDAY 3.04.2026

Swayze Field (University): Ole Miss Baseball vs. NORTH ALABAMA (6:30 pm)

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Tuesday, February 24  
5:30pm @ Off Square Books



BOOK LAUNCH

Beth Ann Fennelly

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### Thursday, February 26

4:30 PM **Music:** \*Afrissippi | \*Alexis Grace-West Coast | \*Anything. if | \*glass13vators | Round Corner-Such A Fool | She Prayed for Me | \*Stupid Game | Subtle Hurts | Take Me Back | The Party | The Tooth Fairy | Viral

6:00 PM **Opening Night:** \*Cole: Bridge to Justice

### Friday, February 27

9:00 AM **Educational School Field Trip:** Citizens Revival

10:15 AM **Ways We Grow:** Multiple Choice

12:30 PM **How We Honor the Gifts:** The Sycamore | \*We Make | The Land with No Rider

1:00 PM **Friday Shorts:** Berth is Dead But it's Okay | Bird Drone | Climate Control | Everywhere I look | \*Magnolia Grove | \*The Joys and Blues | Voicemail

3:15 PM **Moving Mountains:** Subtract Nine Sundays | Anyone Lived in a Pretty How Town | \*The Inquisitor

4:00 PM **How We Matter:** Frankenstein Too | Overlooked | \*Beyond

6:00 PM **Special Friday Feature including the Oxford Icon Award for Tovah Feldshuh:** \*Trigonometry's Ultimate Method to Putting the Fun Back in Your Own Funeral | Right to Die | Lay Lefty Down

6:15 PM **Friday Features:** \*Beyond Borders | Handwoven | \*Dokita Musa

8:30 PM **Late Night Offering:** \*Toiler's Dirge | \*Meta Take One

8:45 PM **Late Night Offering:** There's a Robbery in Progress | \*Sofia | I've Seen All I Need to See

### Saturday, February 28

9:30 AM **Breakfast & Creative Workshops**  
— NOON

12:30 PM **The Power of the Brush:** \*The Color of Conversation | Paint Me Out of Here

12:45 PM **Let's Talk Sports:** Run to Honor | \*Soaring Hoops | Good Shot

1:00 PM **Saturday Shorts:** All Beauty Queens Have Broken Bones | \*Asking the Forest for a Flute | Burial Permit | Climate Control | Everywhere I Look | High Diver | In the Dark | Juice | Mariposa | \*Michael's Air B&B | \*Moving Spirits: Encountering the Ancestors | My Black is Cracking | The Old Man at the Bar | Refuge in the Bay | Saturday Ritual | She Said So | Son of Man | Sumarsólstóður | \*What's Left

1:00 PM **Food & Culture:** \*Making Ice Cream | \*Last of the Shrimpers | \*Possum Town

3:00 PM **Connected Communities Win:** The Motorcycle Man | Ink or Dye | \*Ronzo

3:15 PM **All In A Day's Journey:** The Night Club | \*The Show Must Go On | The Legend of Juan Jose Mundo

3:45 PM **UM Students:** \*Amara | \*The Bedrock of Hayti | \*Caregiver | \*Found | \*I Concede: A Diesel Fueled Dream | \*Old Habits | \*Roots Return | \*Utopia

5:45 PM **Saturday Finale:** 3 Preachers and a Bottle of Scotch | \*Szypliszki | \*In Transit

6:15 PM **Saturday Finale:** \*Tangled Up in the South | Road Recovery: The Backstory | It's Never Over, Jeff Buckley

8:45 PM **Awards Ceremony**

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FEBRUARY  
26 — 28  
2026



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# the Local Voice



# PUZZLE PLAYGROUND

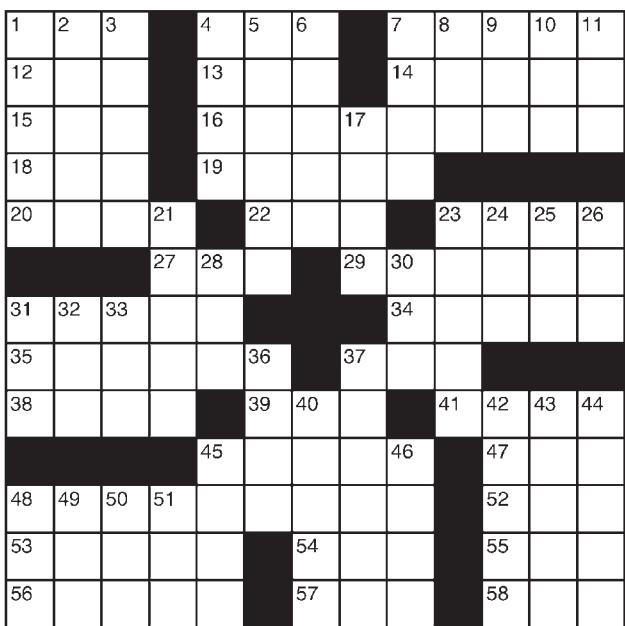
EXERCISE YOUR BRAIN!

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

## tLV King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Lawyers' gp.
- 4 Radiator sound
- 7 Explosion
- 12 Bottom line
- 13 Ref
- 14 — Ababa
- 15 Hindu honorific
- 16 Obstruction
- 18 Work unit
- 19 Incursion
- 20 Frog's relative
- 22 — Aviv
- 23 Chumps
- 27 Fan's shout
- 29 Owing money
- 31 Choir member
- 34 Like anchovies
- 35 Hour follower
- 37 Dog's foot
- 38 Yuletide tune
- 39 GPS suggestion
- 41 Lounge about
- 45 Toe woes
- 47 Nev. neighbor
- 48 "Psycho" director Alfred
- 52 Chemical suffix
- 53 Petrify
- 54 "QB —" (Uris novel)
- 55 Cacophony
- 56 "One L" author Scott
- 57 Right angle



### DOWN

- 1 Plus
- 2 Small pack animal
- 3 Spanish girl-friend
- 4 Ride the waves
- 5 Suave
- 6 Memoir by Prince Harry
- 7 Infant
- 8 "Bad" cholesterol
- 9 Commotion
- 58 Mermaid's home
- 10 Bracketed word
- 11 Chiding sound
- 17 Painter
- 21 Slobber
- 23 Shoulder wrap
- 24 "You've got mail" co.
- 25 Agt.'s cut
- 26 Cloud setting
- 28 Rainbow
- 30 Code-breaking gp.
- 31 Great weight
- 32 Green prefix



1. Name the artist who wrote and released "Jump into the Fire."
2. Who wrote and released "Games People Play"?
3. Name Aerosmith's first song to reach the charts.
4. Which singer wrote and released "I Go Crazy"?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "All the leaves have gone green and the clouds are so low, You can touch them and so, Come out to the meadow."

### Answers

1. Harry Nilsson, in 1972. The song has been used in several films, including "Goodfellas" (1990) and "A Bigger Splash" (2015).
2. Joe South, in 1968. Even though the only place the song topped the charts was in South Africa, it won both the Grammy Award for Song of the Year (1970) and the Grammy Award for Best Contemporary Song (1970).
3. "Dream On," in 1973.
4. Paul Davis, in 1977. The song went to No. 7 on the Hot 100 chart and has been covered by several others, including Lee Greenwood and Barry Manilow.
5. "Jean," by Oliver in 1969. The song was used in the film "The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie" starring Maggie Smith as a teacher at a school in Scotland. The film was nominated for Best Original Song.

Solutions to puzzles are inside

**The Local Voice**  
Digital Edition sent every Thursday to subscribers. Subscribe **FREE** at [TheLocalVoice.net](http://TheLocalVoice.net) or scan this QR code to subscribe.



## MAGIC MAZE

## RAIN OR SHINE

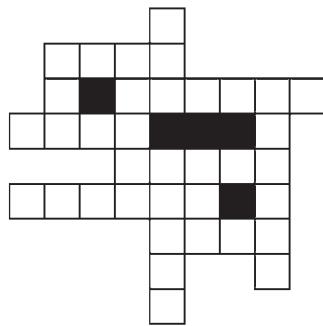
P O L J H E B C A X V T R P N  
L J H F E I D R B D Y X V T R  
P S T S O N N I A R T S E R M  
K P E P I G I E N I H S N U S  
G R R I E R A H D V N B I Z N  
X A R T W A R U S E T R H Q I  
O I A S N I D L J T I G S F A  
E N I H S N O O M R U D E C R  
A Y N I N I A R H A B O O X F  
W M O N K E Y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

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

Bahrain	Monkeyshine	Restrain	Sprain
Drain	Moonshine	Rise and shine	Sunshine
Drivetrain	Outshine	Shoeshine	Terrain
Ingrain	Refrain	Spit-shine	



ICH  
ESTNAC  
TANCE  
ASRC  
RAMNIA  
NDE  
NHAK  
DECMI  
RCA  
AHNEMU  
AKMRA  
NOAN



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.

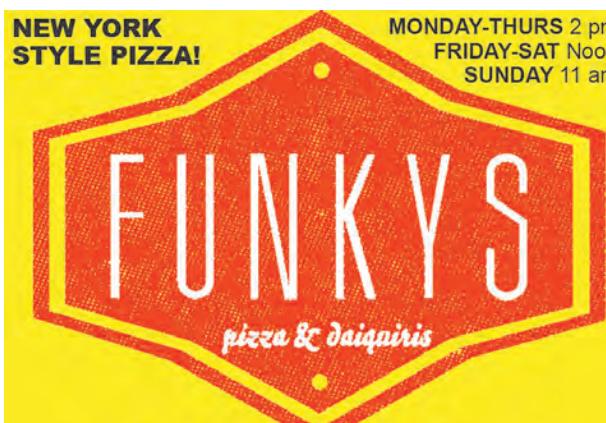
## Wishing Well®

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

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.

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THROUGH THURSDAY**

# the Local Voice PUZZLE PLAYGROUND



# tLV Super Crossword

REPTILIAN EMPIRE

## SUDOKU

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

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

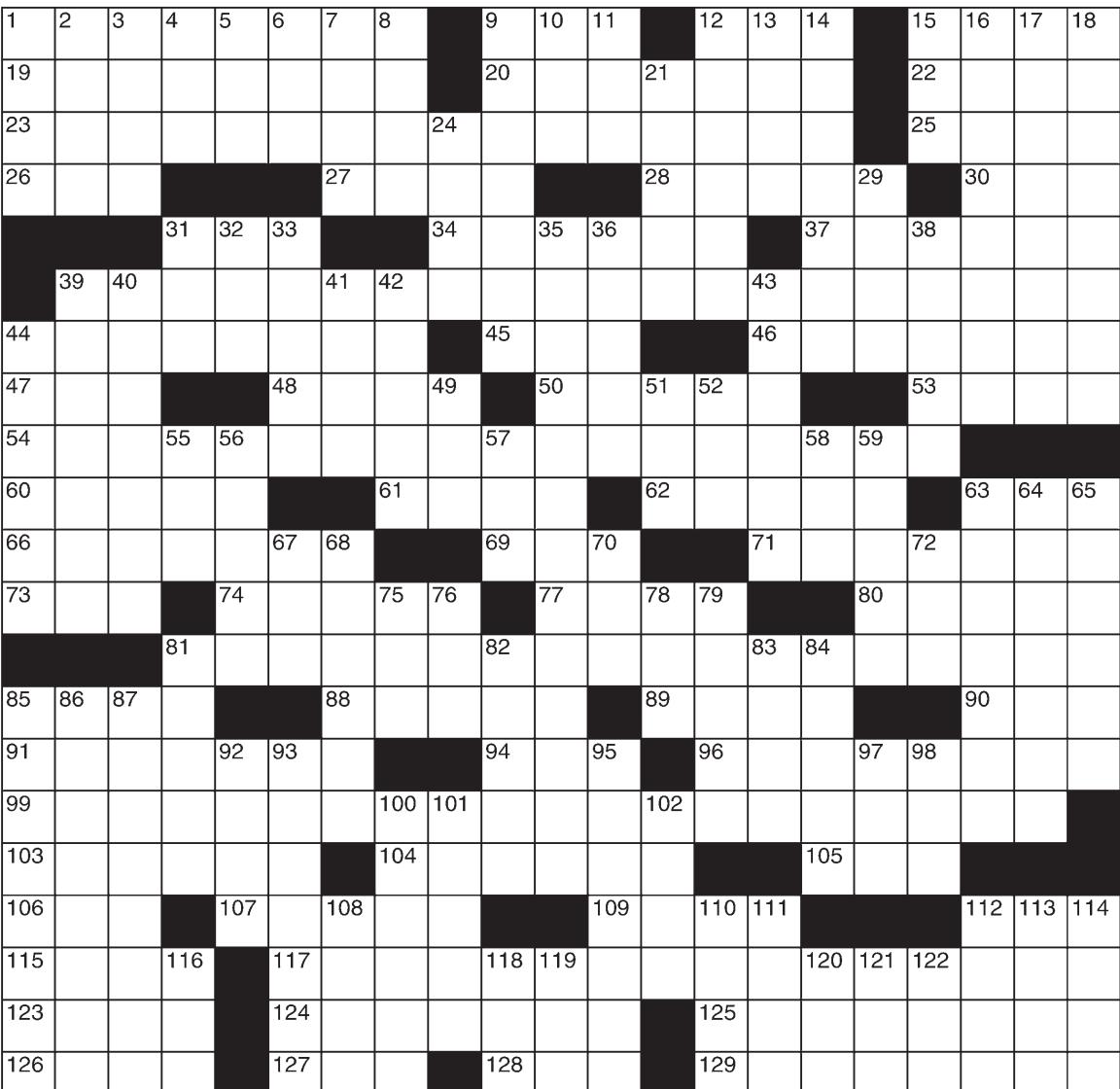
- 1 Soft drink giant
- 9 Pappy
- 12 "Botch- —" (old hit song)
- 15 Masticate
- 19 Oval wind instruments
- 20 Took too far
- 22 Put concrete on
- 23 Start of a riddle
- 25 Partially
- 26 Heir, often
- 27 Penta- plus one
- 28 Spitting beast
- 30 Everything
- 31 Unusual
- 34 "Our Gang" novelist Roth
- 37 Actress Peet of "Trust Me"
- 39 Riddle, part 2
- 44 Leonardo of "Titanic"
- 45 Curvy letter
- 46 Given a permanent post
- 47 Cereal grain
- 48 Computer menu option
- 50 Prefix with chemistry
- 53 Curiosity's planet
- 54 Riddle, part 3
- 60 Palatable

### CROSS

- 61 Computer menu option
- 62 Revise, as a manuscript
- 63 Yank's home
- 66 Try to be like
- 69 A couple of
- 71 Mice, e.g.
- 73 House divs.
- 74 Kinda
- 77 And higher, as in price
- 80 Perfect
- 81 Riddle, part 4
- 85 Dalai —
- 88 Contaminate
- 89 Big burden
- 90 Sports draw
- 91 Paper-folding craft
- 94 Part of BTW or OTC
- 96 "Allow me to assist"
- 99 End of the riddle
- 103 Allergy sufferer's device
- 104 White swan in "Swan Lake"
- 105 Audit org.
- 106 Spy's device
- 107 With
- 112-Across, "Hold on!"
- 109 Sneak attack
- 112 See
- 115 Akron's state
- 125 Ultimate consumers of products
- 126 With
- 127 'Zine staffers
- 128 Antis' votes
- 129 Occupied, as an inn

### CROSS

- 117 Riddle's answer
- 123 Painter Vincent van —
- 124 Fastening feature of many a face mask
- 125 Ultimate consumers of products
- 126 With
- 127 'Zine staffers
- 128 Antis' votes
- 11 Biden's party: Abbr.
- 12 Basketball coach Rupp
- 13 Re-sol linkup
- 14 Boiled, salted soybeans
- 15 1040 pro
- 16 Dance similar to the tango
- 17 Unsaintly soul
- 18 Marshy habitats
- 21 Holy artifact
- 24 Trade show
- 29 "So true!"
- 31 Fertilizable cells
- 32 Chip go-with
- 33 Actress Bo
- 35 "The risks outweigh the benefits"
- 36 Intense beam
- 38 Some reunion-goers
- 39 U.S. women's soccer star at the Atlanta Olympics
- 40 Living ink squitter
- 41 Assistant
- 42 Idaho's capital
- 43 Person doing penance
- 44 One searching for water with a divining rod
- 49 Tariff
- 51 Sporty truck, in brief
- 52 Daiquiri base
- 55 "Cool" cash amount
- 56 Very little, as of salt
- 57 Tantrum
- 58 Brian of electronica
- 59 Give as a bonus
- 63 Like wasted food
- 64 In a theatrical manner
- 65 Snoozing
- 67 Shoe tip
- 68 Like Nin's writings
- 70 "Mind Train" singer Yoko
- 72 Baseball great Roush
- 75 Old Pan Am competitor
- 76 "Shy" singer DiFranco
- 78 ETs' craft
- 79 Fail to keep one's cool
- 81 Return to base after a fly ball
- 82 — nous
- 83 See
- 110 — of March
- 111 Taboo thing
- 112 Litigated
- 113 Poet Pound
- 114 " — la vie!"
- 116 "Well well!"
- 118 Charged atom
- 119 Animal park
- 120 Rx watchdog
- 121 Dude
- 122 Suffix of enzymes





Solutions to puzzles are inside The Local Voice Digital Edition sent every Thursday to subscribers. Subscribe FREE at [TheLocalVoice.net](http://TheLocalVoice.net) or scan this QR code and have our digital edition sent to you.

## 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 ROPES GIVE EACH OTHER ON FEBRUARY 14TH?**

LOVERS	ROLES	NECTAR	CRANE
TURBAN	BRUNT	WHALES	LEASH
LATEST	STATE	LIKELY	KELLY
ETCHES	CHEST	BANKER	BREAK
SUNTAN	AUNTS	ITCHED	DITCH
		DISHES	HIDES



"Truth is like the sun.  
You can shut it out for a time,  
but it ain't goin' away."

— Elvis Presley

(January 8, 1935 – August 16, 1977)

## 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. Elongated square	— B — — —	Amber tea
2. Big Ben's home	T — — — —	Force
3. Be of importance	— A — — —	Grumble softly
4. Get used to	— — A — —	Take as one's own
5. Greasy grunge	— — — M —	Complain
6. "Purple Rain" artist	— — I — —	Cavort
7. Nile or Amazon	— — — — S	Reporter Geraldo
8. Multitude	— — — D —	Trigger or Secretariat
9. Tailor's cord	— — — — D	Intimidation
10. Harriet Beecher	— — — — W	Pebble

— O — — —
P — — — —
— U — — —
— — O — —
— — P — —
— — A — —
— — — — A
— — — — S
— — — — T
— — — — N

## 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!

King

**HICLAP**

Inset

**ALIYN**

Weight

**REDBUN**

Feint

**ODDEG**

—   — — —

— — — —

— — — —

— — — —

**TODAY'S WORD**

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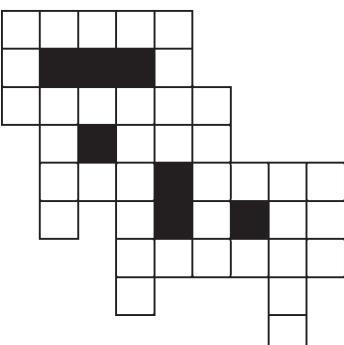
"First they fill you with chicken,  
then \_\_\_\_\_."

## FEAR KNOT

By rj  
johnson

DOUBT? ... OR DARE!

AMN  
ARTLEE  
♥ NOLRE  
♥ ATHE  
PRITMO  
SDI  
VAAL  
HDTIC  
♥ APL  
♥ HERVIS  
PLIME  
♥ DERU



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

## Five Spot

Night out

D	A	N	C	E

Conservatory  
major

Keaton or Ladd

Hash house

Brought on

Where to find a  
Baggins

Top

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.

e

asy

Catering

SUNDAY

PLATE

LUNCHES

10 am - 2 pm

Serving

Southern style

Meat & Threes

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"Learning never  
exhausts the mind."

— Leonardo da Vinci

(April 15, 1452 – May 2, 1519)

# Beth Ann Fennelly's *The Irish Goodbye* and the Art of Truth-Telling

**Off Square Books to host book launch for The Irish Goodbye on Tuesday, February 24 at 5:30 pm**

Beth Ann Fennelly—Poet Laureate of Mississippi from 2016–2021, Distinguished Professor of English at the University of Mississippi, and two-time winner of Oxford's Favorite Writer in *The Townies*—believes that everyone has a story to tell.

In *The Irish Goodbye*, Fennelly's forthcoming book of micro-memoirs, she exemplifies how the sheer act of attention can transform seemingly mundane moments into a life story worth sharing and celebrating. With these micro-memoirs—some as short as five words—Fennelly expertly builds on her previous book, *Heating & Cooling*, in which she first introduced readers to the small but mighty form.

The micro-memoir form stems from Fennelly's innovation and experimentation across written genres. A poet by training, Fennelly has authored seven books, including three books of poetry—*Unmentionables*, *Tender Hooks*, and *Open House*—in addition to three books of nonfiction and a novel, *The Tilted World*, which she wrote with her husband, **Tom Franklin**. Fennelly explains, "I found that the micro-memoir is the perfect form to steal what I love from the different genres." Compression, abbreviation, and lyrical thrust from poetry. Narrative and tension from fiction. "And from nonfiction," Fennelly states, "what I really love is truth-telling."

At its core, *The Irish Goodbye* is a book of true stories from Fennelly's life, spanning from girlhood to adulthood as she explores what it means to be a daughter, sister, wife, mother, and individual. While readers can catch glimpses of Fennelly's life

by Noreen Ocampo

photographs by  
Megan Wolfe



in her poetry, *The Irish Goodbye* reflects her experiences in a wholly different way, lifting a magnifying glass to memories of hurt and triumph alike, holding it steady and allowing readers to peer through. "The pieces in this book," Fennelly says, "they're me. This is my life. My husband, my kids, my town. Everything I talk about in the book is verifiably true."

From a lonely year spent teaching on the Czech-Polish border to the unexpected death of Fennelly's sister, *The Irish Goodbye* leaves no stone unturned and does the often-terrifying work of

refusing to shy away from grief, loneliness, shame, and truth. "I think that people turn to memoir because it shows a human heart being vulnerable," says Fennelly. "I'm interested in pressing into the areas that aren't written about on social media, or aren't deliberately masked or beautified."

As a source of inspiration, Fennelly gestures to her favorite mug from **Square Books**, which bears a quote from James Baldwin: "You think your pain and your heartbreak are unprecedented in the history of the world, but then you read." In the face of a digital landscape saturated by artificially altered



@nightbirdparlour

content and social media posts that overlook the small, imperfect, and real moments that make up our lives, *The Irish Goodbye* urges readers to consider what can be gained from being vulnerable with oneself. "When you do that, other people see themselves in you," Fennelly explains. And in this way, *The Irish Goodbye* brings us together.

Through her work both on and off the page, Fennelly reminds us that reading and writing equip us to better understand ourselves and the world. Wanting to create opportunities for her local community to come together and rediscover the joys of reading, she began hosting **BYOB—Bring Your Own Book**—events across and around Oxford. By inviting community members from all walks of life to spend 45 minutes of uninterrupted time reading with strangers, Fennelly emphasizes one of her core beliefs: "Reading is for everybody. Books are for everybody."

These BYOB events came about as a way to remind Oxford of its rich literary tradition in the face of rapid growth and new development. "I do worry a little bit about Oxford getting overdeveloped . . . I worry about, for example, servers at restaurants that can't afford to live in the town they serve. I think that that starts getting really dangerous, what that does to a community," Fennelly shares. "And so I thought, 'Is there one small thing I could do to build community that would help remind Oxford that reading is something we do here, that's part of who we are?'"

So far, Fennelly has invited community members to bring their own books and read at Exploradora Coffee, The Growler, T.I.N. in Water Valley, and Lost Dog Coffee in Taylor. The next BYOB will take place on **Tuesday, March 31 at 5:30 pm** at Circle and Square Brewing, followed by **Tuesday, April 21 at 6 pm** at The Magnolia Coffee Co. in Water Valley.



For those interested in writing their own micro-memoirs, Fennelly will lead an interactive workshop on **Monday, March 16 from 5:30-6:30 pm** at the **Oxford-Lafayette Public Library**. This free class is part of the **Oxford Micro Memoir**

**Project**, developed by **Greenfield Farm Writers Residency** at the University of Mississippi and sponsored by **Visit Oxford**. Writers of all levels are invited to attend. "There are a lot of people who want to write their life story and don't know how to start," Fennelly says. "You start with one paragraph. One sentence."

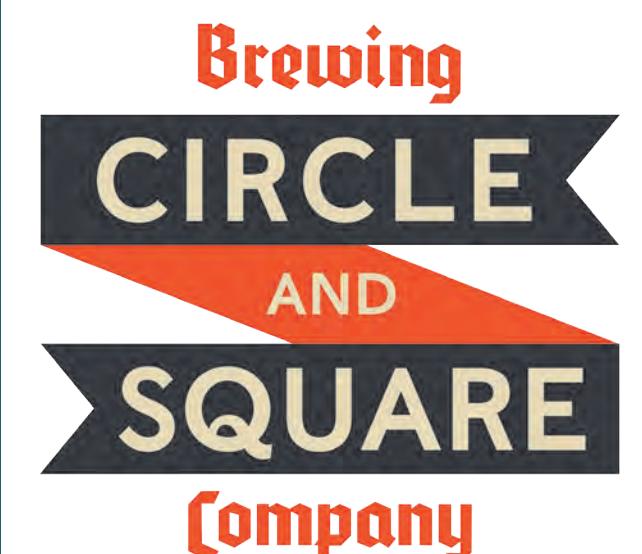
After all, the micro-memoir is ultimately a form that encourages everyone to dare to see themselves as writers, reminding us that we've all lived lives worth writing about and sharing. The micro-memoir reflects Fennelly's belief that the joys of literature are for everyone. "I think people want to be creative," she states. "I think they forget that it makes them feel

good, and it's so much easier to pick up your phone and open an app and zone out than it is to use your brain. But we're happier people when we're creating beautiful things."

The Greenfield Farm Writers Residency is also accepting submissions of original 300-word micro-memoirs for a chance to win a \$750 grand prize or a \$250 runnerup prize. Finalists will be invited to read their work on stage at the **Double Decker Arts Festival**. Submissions for the Oxford Micro Memoir Contest will be accepted until March 30. For more information, visit: [www.greenfieldfarmwriters.org/micromemoirs](http://www.greenfieldfarmwriters.org/micromemoirs).

The book launch for Beth Ann Fennelly's *The Irish Goodbye*, her much-anticipated seventh book, will take place at **Off Square Books** on **Tuesday, February 24 at 5:30 pm**. There will be another reading at **Lost Dog Coffee** in Taylor on **Thursday, February 26 at 6 pm**. Books are available for preorder on the Square Books website and can also be purchased at the event. Please join us in celebrating one of Oxford's most remarkable and beloved writers. ▀

**"I'm interested in pressing into the areas that aren't written about on social media, or aren't deliberately masked or beautified."**



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# Dr. Michael V. Namorato Jr.

**September 4, 1947–February 7, 2026**

**Dr. Michael V. Namorato Jr.**, 78, passed away on February 7, 2026, at his residence surrounded by his loved ones.

The visitation and memorial mass was held on Friday, February 13, 2026 at **St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church**.

Dr. Namorato was born on September 4, 1947, in **Brooklyn, New York**, to the late **Michael Francis and Filomena DiGruccio Namorato**.

Born with a deep intellectual curiosity, Dr. Namorato began his academic journey at **Iona College** before earning his Ph.D. at **Michigan State University**. In 1973, he moved to **Oxford, Mississippi**, where he joined the faculty at the **University of Mississippi (Ole Miss)** and began a remarkable teaching career that spanned four decades. Over 40 years, Dr. Namorato inspired and mentored thousands of students, sharing his love of history and his passion for learning.

Dr. Namorato's impact extended far beyond the classroom. A prolific author, he enriched his field with numerous books. He taught history, and his classes were renowned for their depth, warmth, and wit. He was deeply committed to helping others, always offering support to students and colleagues in times of need.

Dr. Namorato's devotion to his Catholic faith was evident in all aspects of his life. He taught many classes on various elements of the Catholic faith at his dearly loved church, **St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church**, guiding young people and adults alike in their journeys of faith.

Those who knew Dr. Namorato remember his boundless curiosity and joy for life. He found peace in reading, and music was his constant

companion—especially when he played his beloved guitar or banjo. Some of his happiest moments were spent playing guitar with his son and attending Ole Miss baseball games with his daughter and grandson, creating cherished memories that will live on in their hearts.

Dr. Michael Namorato will be remembered for his generosity, his unwavering faith, and his profound impact on the lives of countless students and friends. His legacy will continue to inspire all who had the privilege of knowing him.

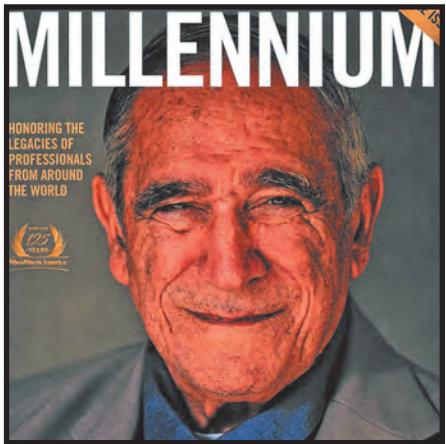
The family would also like to express their gratitude to **Baptist Hospice** and the staff. They are forever thankful for the care that was given to Dr. Namorato by the nurses and caregivers.

He is survived by his loving wife, **Karen Fahey Namorato** of Oxford, MS; his daughter, **Rachel Phillips (Chris)** of Oxford; his son, **Michael John Namorato (Rachel)** of

Oxford; his grandson, **John Robert Phillips** of Oxford; his brother, **Carmine Namorato (Angela)** of Long Island, NY; his two sister-in-laws, **Linda Fahey** of Oxford and **Madeleine Namorato** of Brooklyn, NY; and a host of extended family members.

Dr. Namorato is preceded in death by his parents, **Michael Francis and Filomena DiGruccio Namorato**; his sister, **Rose Marie Namorato**; his brother, **Cono Namorato**; and his sisters, **Raffella Daniele** and **Palmina Hasselberger**.

Instead of flowers, contributions can be given in memory of Dr. Namorato to the Benevolent Fund at **St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church**, which serves the poor and needy in the Oxford area. Please visit <https://tinyurl.com/45ra7kwp> to make a contribution. **■**



# Gara Gillentine

**November 7, 1947 ~ February 15, 2026**

**Gara Ruth Gillentine**, 78, of **Tupelo**, passed away peacefully on February 15, 2026, at **North Mississippi Medical Center Hospice**.

Born on November 7, 1947, in **Mississippi** to the late **Otis and Nell Homer**, Gara lived a life rooted in creativity, curiosity, and deep appreciation for the beauty around her. She earned her bachelor's degree and went on to work as a talented floral designer, a profession that perfectly reflected her artistic spirit and lifelong love of flowers. Her arrangements were more than creations—they were expressions of her gentle heart and eye for detail.

Gara was a gifted artist who found joy in painting and ceramics. She had a special love for nature, music, and all things beautiful. A self-proclaimed weather enthusiast, she followed forecasts and changing skies with fascination. Whether tending to flowers, listening to her favorite songs, or admiring the outdoors, Gara found wonder in the simple blessings of everyday life.

Gara was a frequent contributor to **The Local Voice** media company in **Oxford** over the last twenty years. Her articles, photographs and poems graced the pages of the newspaper many times. She was one of the first distributors of the newspaper, and in 2006, Gara custom painted one of the first **The Local Voice** newspaper bins, which was a tribute to the victims of **Hurricane Katrina**.

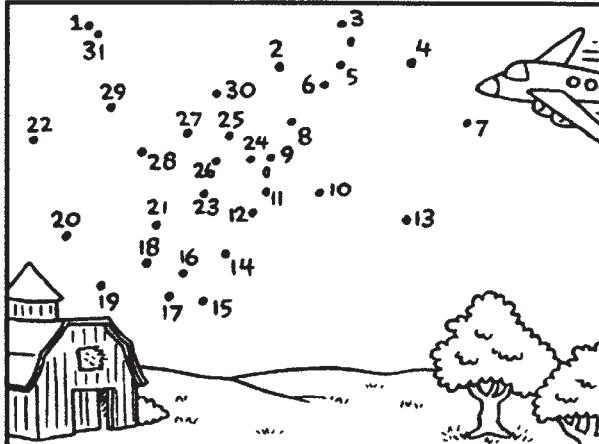
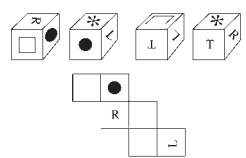
She is survived by her daughter, **Ramona Scott**; her sons, **Michael Gillentine** and **Matthew Gillentine**; and her brother, **David Homer (Jan)**. She was preceded in death by her parents and her brother, **Jerry Homer**. **■**







Below are four different views of the same cube. Fill in the three missing sides with the correct symbol and orientation.



CONNECT THE DOTS and find out "What has four legs and flies in the air?"

Answer: Two birds.

## KNIGHT MOVES

O	W	S
B		R
C	S	O

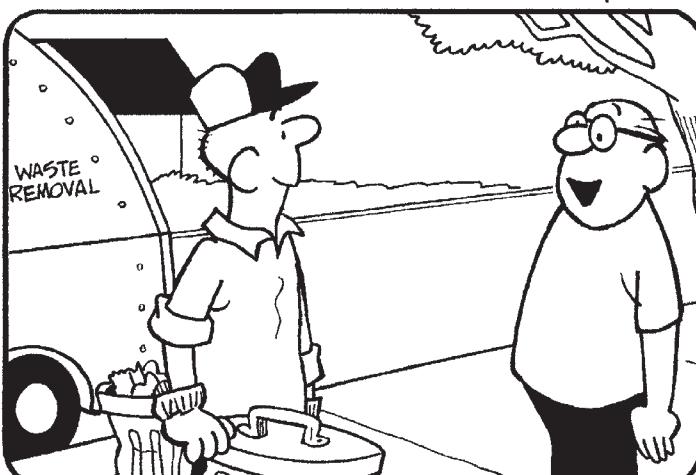
Unlock the power of chess to find the eight-letter word of the day. Choose your starting letter carefully, then move around the square in a one by two fashion to get to the next letter.

## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Wheel is larger. 2. Hat is larger. 3. Window is wider. 4. Button is missing. 5. Sleeve is longer. 6. Sidewalk is missing.

## Even Exchange

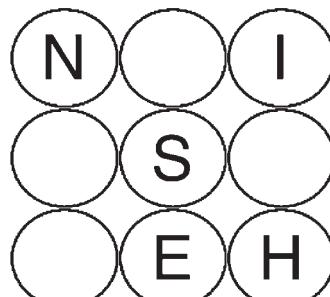
by Donna Pettman

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. Center
2. Semi or pickup
3. Love interest
4. Football pass
5. Washington's pen
6. Cartoon canary
7. Actress Symone
8. Actress Day
9. Human being
10. Humpbacked or Orca

— I — — —	Interfere	— E — — —
— U — — —	Racer's path	— A — — —
— M — — —	Snowy particle	— K — — —
— R — — —	Of the backbone	— N — — —
— L — — —	Blanket	— T — — —
— E — — —	One score	— N — — —
— N — — —	Composer Maurice	— L — — —
— I — — —	Frat houses	— M — — —
— E — — —	Preacher	— A — — —
— A — — —	Undivided	— 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.

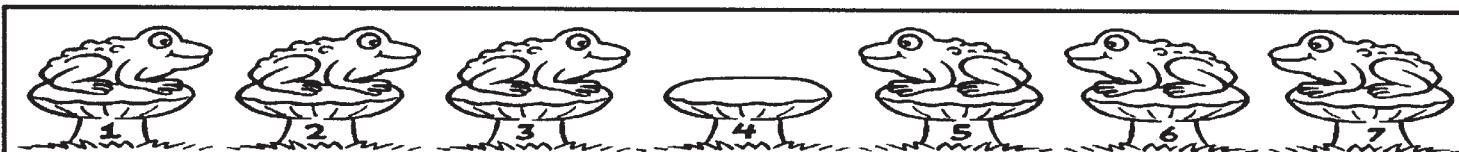
## Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

### A HOPPING GOOD PUZZLE!

Below we have seven toadstools occupied by six froggies. Three are green and three are brown. Your problem is to make them change places on the toadstools in the fewest possible moves according to the following rules. (Use pennies and nickels to represent the frogs.)

1. Each frog can only jump to the next empty toadstool.
2. The green frogs must jump left to right; the brown frogs must jump right to left.
3. If one frog is separated from a vacant toadstool by a single frog, it may jump over this frog to occupy the empty toadstool.



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Illustrated by David Coulson

**DON'T BARK UP THE WRONG TREE ON THIS ONE!** Hidden in the grid to the right are the names of 17 kinds of trees. Starting at any letter, spell a name by going from letter to letter horizontally, vertically or diagonally. You can use each letter only once when spelling any one name. As an example, we've given you OAK by circling the letters. Good luck!

Answers: Oak, elm, pine, peach, pear, apple, maple, plum, fig, sumac, beech, willow, spruce, cedar, larch, fir.

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

The Froggie Puzzle Answer:  
The jumps are as follows:  
1. 10 3, 2 10 6, 5 10 7,  
2. 6 10 4, 7 10 5, 2 10 3, 4 10  
3 10 5, 1 10 3, 2 10 1, 4 10  
2, 6 10 4, 7 10 5, 2 10 3, 4 10  
3 10 4, 5 10 6, 3 10 5,  
4 10 3.



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## Grant Brings 29 New Trees to Ole Miss

*Mississippi Forestry Commission Grant restores campus tree life*

Although 95% of trees survived the historic winter storm, many were damaged and may need to be replaced. The grant will help fund the planting of 29 new trees across the Ole Miss campus, said Sophie Kline, arborist and superintendent of the Department of Landscape Services.

## Ted Gainey: Mississippi's Eternal Sound Explorer

A pivotal move to Oxford, Mississippi's thriving music scene allowed him to tour nationally and internationally, blending jazz, avant-garde, country, and hip-hop jazz into a rich, personal sound. Today, at 51, Ted Gainey channels decades of experience through his Flux Recording Studio, a rural haven where every note is intentional.

## City, County, University Team Up to Serve Thousands After Ice Storm

Once she knew her family would be safe in the wake of winter storm Fern, Betsy Chapman had a thought: "What about all the families that aren't?" That thought grew into a communitywide relief effort that has served more than 3,000 families affected by the storm.



## Dana Criswell: "Mississippi's Alcohol Laws Are Stuck in the Past"

Mississippi's alcohol laws are some of the most restrictive in the country, built around a control-state model that assumes government gatekeeping is the only way to manage commerce. For decades, this system has limited consumer choice, insulated entrenched distributors from competition, and treated adults as incapable of making lawful purchasing decisions without state intermediation. House Bill 669 does not dismantle that system—but it meaningfully improves it.

## Oxford Police Department: "Why The City of Oxford is Addressing Nitrous Oxide Products"

You may have recently heard discussion about nitrous oxide products, sometimes called "whippets" or "chargers." We want to take a moment to explain what this is about and why the City is addressing it.

## More Headlines

Naniih Waiya Wildlife Management Area Receives Pig Brig Net Trap

Eight Ole Miss Students Win Stamps Impact Prize

Doctor's Gift Helps Keep Health

## Care Close to Home

City of Oxford, Mississippi Board of Aldermen Regular Meeting Agenda – Tuesday, February 17, 2026

Starke Miller: "Two Ole Miss Coeds in The Circle in 1908"

Ole Miss Women's Council Honors 'Home Town' Creators

Mississippi Museum of Natural Science Receives Torchbearer Award

Ole Miss Hall of Famer James "Jim" Poole Jr. Passes Away

Dana Criswell: "Stop Taxing the Tools That Feed Mississippi"

Explore Uncharted Ideas with TEDx University of Mississippi

Theatre Oxford to Present Annual Ten-Minute Play Festival

Learning the Game Beyond the Scoreboard

City of Oxford, Mississippi Board of Aldermen Meeting Agendas

## Local Crime:

Suspect Arrested on Theft of Motor Vehicle on County Road 321 in Lafayette County

Read more at [TheLocalVoice.net](http://TheLocalVoice.net)

# Strange BUT TRUE

- Ever wonder where the term "jay-walker" originated? Back in the day, "jay" was slang for a foolish person. So when pedestrians ignored street signs, to their own peril, they were labeled jaywalkers.
- Relative to their body size, barnacles have the largest sex organs in the animal kingdom.
- During **World War II**, **Charles Richard Drew**, a Black physician, developed blood banks for military personnel. However, when he discovered that the military was separating blood donations according to race, he quit working for the **Red Cross**.
- Some beaches in the **Maldives** glow in the dark.
- If you have a daily routine, some scientists believe that your dog can tell when you're coming home by the amount of your scent that's left in the house.
- As astronauts spend months traveling to **Mars**, their eyeballs may change shape. Some scientists believe this is due to pressure from fluids that won't drain from their heads, thanks to low gravity.
- Ackwards is an old **English** dialect word for a creature lying on its back that can't get up.
- In the popular **Roadrunner/Wile E. Coyote** cartoons, the latter character shouldn't have been outwitted by his desperately hunted prey, since coyotes typically outpace roadrunners by a good 23 mph.
- According to a poll of 11,000 Americans, 84% of vegetarians and vegans return to eating meat.
- When **Angelfire** launched in the mid-1990s, it offered medical transcription services as well as web-building tools.

**Thought for the Day:** "I do not know what I may appear to the world, but to myself I seem to have been only like a boy playing on the seashore, and diverting myself in now and then finding a smoother pebble or a prettier shell than ordinary, whilst the great ocean of truth lay all undiscovered before me."

— Isaac Newton



OPEN TUESDAY-SUNDAY  
LUNCH/ DINNER/ WEEKEND BRUNCH

@eat\_saint\_leo

**The Local Voice is published every Thursday**

Deadline is every Tuesday at noon. Next print deadline: March 3

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

**CELL: 662-832-3574 EMAIL: [thelocalvoice@thelocalvoice.net](mailto: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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# EAT IN OXFORD

## LOCAL FOOD & DRINK OPTIONS

The Local Voice updates are posted every day by 11 am on our website and social media.

[www.TheLocalVoice.net](http://www.TheLocalVoice.net)  /thelocalvoice  @TheLocalVoice  @TheLocalVoice

### Ajax Diner

118 Courthouse Square

[www.AjaxDiner.com](http://www.AjaxDiner.com)

**Mon-Sat:** 11 am-9 pm

**Delivery:** TAB

### Big Bad Breakfast

719 N Lamar Blvd.

[www.BigBadBreakfast.com](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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

**Open at 4 pm nightly**

### Little Easy Catering

1503B White Oak Lane

[www.LittleEasyCatering.com](http://www.LittleEasyCatering.com)

**Catering:** 662-801-4194

**Sunday Plate Lunches**

**Sun:** 10 am-2 pm

### The Library

120 South 11th Street

[www.LibraryOxford.com](http://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](http://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](http://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

**Tue:** TRIVIA + \$25 High Noon buckets

**Wed:** OPEN MIC

**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](http://www.TheOldHenry.com)

**Thu-Fri:** 5 pm-1 am

**Sat:** noon-1 am

**Sun:** Brunch 11 am-3 pm

**Happy Hour 6-8 pm Thu:**

½-priced cocktails & wine

### Rafters on the Square

1006 East Jackson Ave

[www.RaftersMusicandFood.com](http://www.RaftersMusicandFood.com)

**Tue-Fri:** 5 pm-1 am

**Sat:** 1 pm-1 am

### Quack's

122 Courthouse Square

[www.QuacksDogs.com](http://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, 2-4-1 wells ALL DAY

**Thur & Fri:** \$1 off drafts, bottles & cans (4-6 pm)

**Delivery:** Door Dash, TAB

### Rhythm & Rye

#### Rooftop Tavern

305 E Jackson Ave

**Sun:** 5-9 pm

**Mon-Thu:** 5-10 pm

**Fri-Sat:** 5-11 pm

**Tue:** Taco Night: \$2 tacos, \$5 Margaritas

**Wed:** Old Fashioned Night: \$6 burger, \$7 Old Fashioned

**Thu:** \$3 16 oz. Natty

**Fri & Sat:** Live Music

### Saint Leo

922 E Jackson Ave

[www.EatSaintLeo.com](http://www.EatSaintLeo.com)

**Tue-Sun:** Lunch 11 am-3 pm

Bar & Pizza 3-5 pm

Dinner 5-10 pm (Sun till 9 pm)

**Brunch Sat & Sun:** 10:30 am-3 pm

**Happy Hour 3-5 pm:**

(Tue-Thu): \$10 Pizzas, \$7.5

select wine & cocktails, Bubbles + Fries, 2 Wonderbird Dry Martinis & Fries for \$20

### Southern Coop

705 Sisk Ave.

[SouthernCoopWings.com](http://www.SouthernCoopWings.com)

**Mon-Sat:** 11 am-9 pm

**Delivery:** Door Dash, TAB

Sponsored by OXFORD A/V

### Transfer your old Video Tapes to Digital

VHS, MINI DV, HI-8, CASSETTE, ETC.

Call or Text **662.232.8900**

### Snackbar

721 N Lamar Blvd

[www.CityGroceryOnline.com](http://www.CityGroceryOnline.com)

**Mon-Thu:** 4-10p; **Fri-Sat:** -10:30p

**Happy Hour 4-6 pm:**

\$2 domestics, \$4 drafts, \$6 wines, \$8 classic cocktails, small plate & oyster specials

**Mon:** INDUSTRY NIGHT

### SoLa

401 S Lamar Blvd

[www.SolaOxford.com](http://www.SolaOxford.com)

**Wed-Sun:** 5-9 pm

**Happy Hour 5-6 pm:** \$6 fresh Margaritas

**Wed:** Spaghetti + \$6 wine

**Thu:** Ramen & \$5 Rosé

**Sun:** Oyster Happy Hour (5-6 pm)

### Tallahatchie Gourmet

1221 Van Buren Ave

[www.TallahatchieGourmet.com](http://www.TallahatchieGourmet.com)

**Mon-Wed:** 11 am-2:30 pm

**Brunch Sat & Sun:** 11:30 am-3 pm

**Delivery:** TAB

### Uno Mas

1101 E Jackson Ave

[www.EatUnoMas.com](http://www.EatUnoMas.com)

**Mon-Sat:** 11 am-10 pm

**Sun:** 11 am-9 pm

**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 Frozens & \$20 pitchers

**Sun:** Service Industry Sunday

**Delivery:** Door Dash

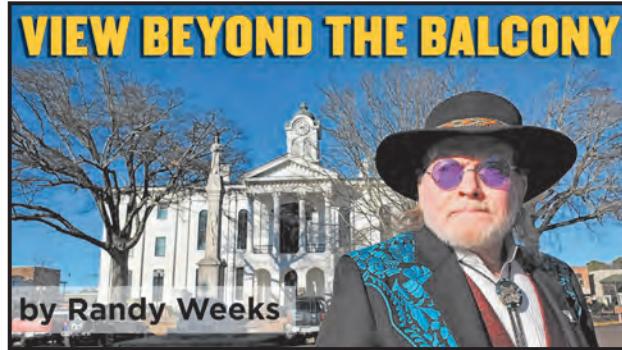
### Volta Taverna

# Ice Storm Fern in Your Own Words

We are expanding the field of vision of this column beyond The Balcony for the time being. Readers may not notice the difference, but believe us, there is one—for now at least.

Ice Storm Fern brought devastation to much of North Mississippi, particularly Lafayette County and Oxford. I've lifted portions of Facebook posts (anonymously and minimally edited in some cases) from Oxfordians in an attempt to give a truthful, fair, and accurate chronicle of Fern's impact on our lives.

*I'm trying to focus on the ground because looking at the blue sky and its blank patches where tree limbs used to be is really hard. • I spent almost twelve years in the Northeast, so I figured I'd seen about all winter could throw at you, but I've never experienced anything like what we went through last night. • Is it weird that I'm craving ice cream? • Yes, we got a sprinkling of snow overnight. Hopefully, that's all we get. • Apparently some people lied about wires down so that they could get someone to their place sooner. • Dystopian conditions ahead. Use caution. • Outage start time: 01/25 12:19 a.m. Outage duration: 15 days, 07 hours, 10 minutes. • Spring melts the ice from our eyes. • Ice Storm Fern did a number on us. • lots of lightning and thunder as well as the devastating sound of trees imploding. The dog refuses to sh\*t out there... • I just saw a cherry picker and a bucket blade come down my street. It's exciting. • On Thursday, we woke up to the sounds of chainsaws and a crew from Wisconsin and Texas removing fallen trees and limbs on our road in front of our house. What a welcome sight and sound! • I smell your pain. • All 15 chickens survived the fallen trees, frozen water, and blocked gates. Two geese landed in our pond yesterday! • The word of the day is "crangy".*



by Randy Weeks

It's when you're so sick and tired of being cold that you're cranky AND angry. • Ain't so peaceful in the Valley no mo'! • WATER's ON!!! Power is out... flushed toilets - lit gas fireplace. • No power. Only the sound of cold rain and tree limbs falling. • A tree like that is more than just a tree. She becomes a companion...Now, after a \$5,000 funeral, she is firewood. • Square squatting looks a lot different now. • 44 has power back on after 18 days! No more pioneer man! • THE OWL MADE IT! • I always wanted a walk-in refrigerator. Be careful what you wish for. • I had not been downtown until today. The destruction is incomprehensible. • Our snow globe shattered, but we will get through it. • We have power! • I mourn for the trees. •

Dear Past, thank you for all the lessons.  
Dear Future, I am ready.

I told you ice was coming! • Got to love a clean sewer line! • Day 4 headlamp grilling...different vibes tonight. • Still have no power, but we have eggs and bacon and a propane grill. Whew! • Growing up in the Mountain West I thought I had seen the worst winter had to offer, but I have never experienced thunder ice at 15 degrees and exploding trees. • Thanks to the incredible kindness of family and friends I have safe places to stay in town. • I have a space of quiet inside me—a bit of quiet inside me—a bit of safety to hide in—thanks to you, my friends. I love you.

...and that's The View Beyond The Balcony.

Randy Weeks is a Licensed Professional Counselor, a Certified Shamanic Life Coach, a singer-songwriter, an actor, and an ordained minister. He prefers the cold to the heat, but Fern was a bit much. Randy can be reached at [randallsweeks@gmail.com](mailto:randallsweeks@gmail.com)



## DAILY SPECIALS YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS!



**BOGO NIGHT | 5PM - CLOSE**  
BUY ONE GET ONE FREE ENTREE  
(OF EQUAL OR LESSER VALUE)



**TAP TAKEOVER | 5P - CLOSE**  
FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH  
\$4 DRAFT BEER, ROTATING DRAFT FEATURE FOR THE MONTH



**TACO NIGHT | 5P - CLOSE**  
\$2 STREET TACO (EACH)  
\$5 MARGARITAS



**BULLEIT OLD FASHIONED NIGHT | 5P - CLOSE**  
\$6 BURGERS  
\$7 PER CLASSIC OLD FASHIONED



**THIRSTY THURSDAY:  
NATTY EDITION | 5P - CLOSE**  
\$3.00 TALL NATTYS (16OZ)



**LIVE MUSIC | 7P - 10P**  
LOCAL & SEMI LOCAL VOICES  
OUTDOORS, WEATHER PERMITTING



**LIVE MUSIC | 7P - 10P**  
LOCAL & SEMI LOCAL VOICES  
OUTDOORS, WEATHER PERMITTING

## DAILY HAPPY HOUR 5-6P!

**FOLLOW US**  
+ SCAN FOR AN  
EXCLUSIVE OFFER!



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COURTYARD MARRIOTT

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# SOUTHERN COOP

— OXFORD, MISSISSIPPI —  
705 SISK AVENUE

## OXFORD'S FAVORITE CHICKEN AND BEST WINGS IN TOWN!



**PLAY GOLF ON STATE OF THE ART SIMULATORS**

Chicken Wings, Tenders, Wraps, Sandwiches, Salads, Quesadillas, Nachos, Pizza, 23 Beers on tap, & a full bar!



# the Local Voice PUZZLE PLAYGROUND



## tLV-Super Crossword

NBA PLAY

### SUDOKU

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

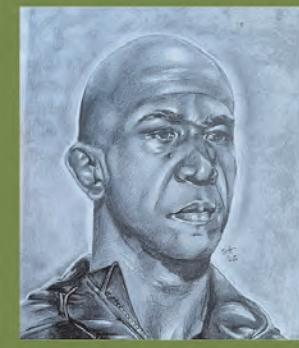
Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

### 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.

### CROSS

1 Relatives of pistachios  
8 Mail-related  
14 Baio and Turow  
20 Wife of Nero  
21 Fingers-in-ears syllables  
22 Headwear for Mr. Peanut  
23 Golden State hoopster who lives for Saturdays and Sundays?  
25 Existence  
26 Days of yore, archaically  
27 Ruling group  
28 Schlepped through the entrance  
30 Ballesteros of golf  
33 Groom, e.g.  
35 Exemplary Houston hoopster?  
38 San Antonio hoopster scaling a mountain?  
42 Suffix with lion  
43 Guy in the fam  
44 High peak  
45 Heavenly  
46 Health club  
48 Gyro bread  
49 Semi fuel

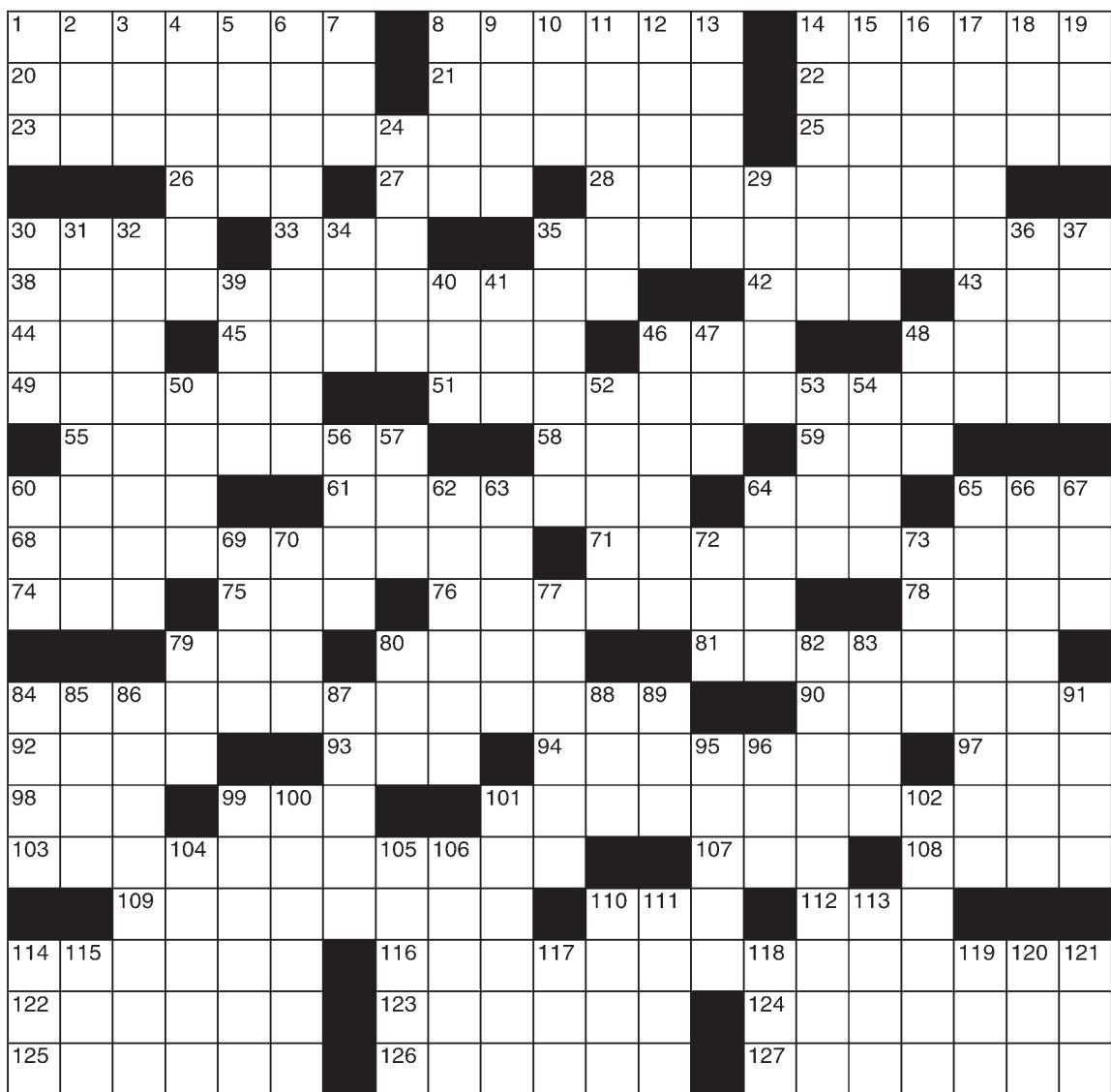
51 Cowardly Denver hoopster?  
55 "Mom" actress Jaime  
58 Start eating  
59 Org. against pollution  
60 Redding of R&B  
61 Event for stunt pilots  
64 — -Z (total)  
65 Foot part  
68 Brooklyn hoopster using a rod and reel?  
71 Phoenix hoopster preparing a typeface for printing?  
74 Frau's "Oh!"  
75 Girl in the fam  
76 Name originally proposed for Utah  
78 Gas guzzler  
79 Reindeer kin  
80 Notion, to Fifi  
81 Damsels  
84 Los Angeles hoopster originally from New England?  
90 Train in the pool  
92 All excited  
93 Mtn. stat

94 Tested for fit  
97 — "culpa!"  
98 "Stillmatic" rapper  
99 Footed vase  
101 Sacramento hoopster holding power?  
103 Eco-conscious Charlotte hoopster?  
107 Livy's lang.  
108 Words in an analogy  
109 Some nobles' domains  
110 Jamaican pop genre  
112 Baby wolf  
114 Justification  
116 Chicago hoopster devoid of spontaneity and emotion?  
122 Sock with diamond patterns  
123 "Seinfeld" character  
124 Shrunken Asian lake  
125 Some vowel sounds  
126 Phrase structure  
127 Lower than

DOWN  
1 Mooing beast  
2 High card  
40 "Get 'em, Spot!"

### NBA PLAY

41 Syllable after "oom"  
46 Broiling bar  
47 Church seat  
48 Club swingers' gp.  
50 Meeting period, informally  
52 Picked  
53 — pot (sinus-cleaning product)  
54 "Once — a time ..."  
56 Dillydallies  
57 Dark half of a Chinese circle  
60 Birds — feather  
62 News aggregation website  
63 Precipitous  
64 — girl!"  
65 Giant waves  
66 Paid more than  
67 Musician Brian  
69 Capri, e.g.  
70 Adidas rival  
72 Pro —  
73 Celtic speaker  
77 Piece for seven  
79 Heart test, for short  
80 Ailing  
82 Apathetic response  
101 Make a new digital image of  
102 Dry dog food  
104 Class that's a cinch  
105 "Blue" singer LeAnn  
106 Hockey great Cam  
110 Capital of Yemen  
111 Lego alternative  
113 — Bator  
114 Jogged, e.g.  
115 History unit  
117 Smack  
118 Taxi  
119 D.C.'s nation  
120 Tennis call  
121 — -di-dah!"





Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

OH, GIVE ME A BREAK.  
THANK YOU FOR BREAKFAST.

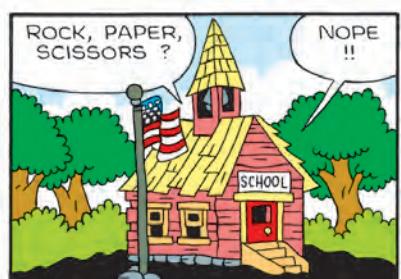


GRIN and BEAR IT<sup>®</sup> Wagnleitner

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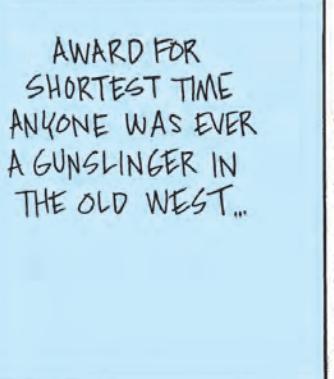
"Hey, this is a great deal on refinancing!"



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Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



AWARD FOR  
SHORTEST TIME  
ANYONE WAS EVER  
A GUNSLINGER IN  
THE OLD WEST...



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# Prince Valiant

BY SCHULTZ  
AND YEATES

PIRATE BLADES  
WOULD CUT DOWN  
JOGTHURA, LOST IN  
A BERSERKER FURY,  
HAD NOT ALETA  
PLACED HERSELF  
IN HARM'S WAY...

...BUT JUST AS SHE IS ABOUT  
TO BE RUN THROUGH, A  
DEADLY MISSILE PINS  
HER ATTACKER!

GUNDAR THANKS ODIN THAT HIS ONE GOOD ARM  
REMAINS STRONG, AS HE AND HIS MEN SCRAMBLE  
DOWN THE TREACHEROUS CAVERN ROCKS,  
SCREAMING LIKE BANSHEES.

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AND THAT BRINGS THE CONFUSED PIRATES TO THEIR  
BREAKING POINT. BETWEEN THE CRAZED GIANT, THE  
CRAB-INFESTED PITS BELOW, AND NOW THIS  
AMBUSH, THEIR DISCIPLINE IS SHATTERED.

MOST ARE CUT DOWN IN A  
POORLY LIT SKIRMISH. ONE  
MANAGES TO BREAK AWAY,  
STUMBLING BLINDLY IN A  
WILD PANIC...

YATES 12/21/14

4063

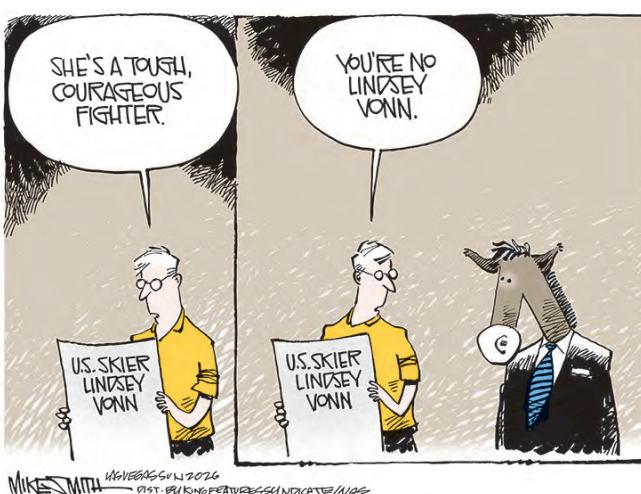
NEXT: The  
lady vanishes

# Americanisms



"All the thoughts of a  
turtle are turtle."

— Ralph Waldo Emerson



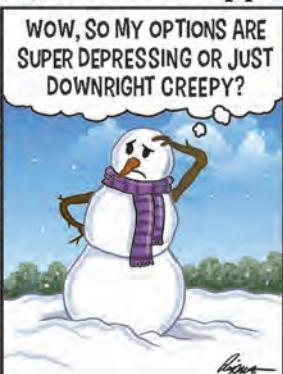
YES OR NO?  
WHAT IS  
ONE PLUS  
TWO?  
ANSWER YES OR NO!  
YES OR NO! YES OR  
NO! SHUT UP! YES  
OR NO! YES OR NO!  
YES OR NO! YES OR  
NO!

YOUR REFUSAL  
TO ANSWER  
PROVES YOU'RE  
A RACIST!



## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



## The Spats

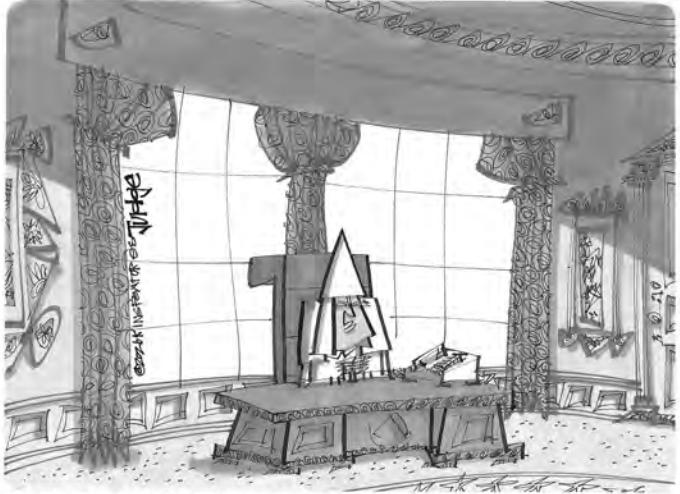


by Jeff Pickering

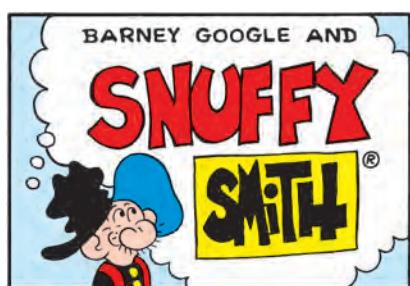
PICKERING

## TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



WHEN IT COMES TO THE OBAMAS VIDEO, DONALD TRUMP HAS A POINT.



## Amber Waves

DINNERTIME, STEP RIGHT ON UP. NO NEED TO SHOVE. THERE'S PLENTY FOR ALL.

HERE YOU GO, LADIES. EAT ALL YOU CAN.

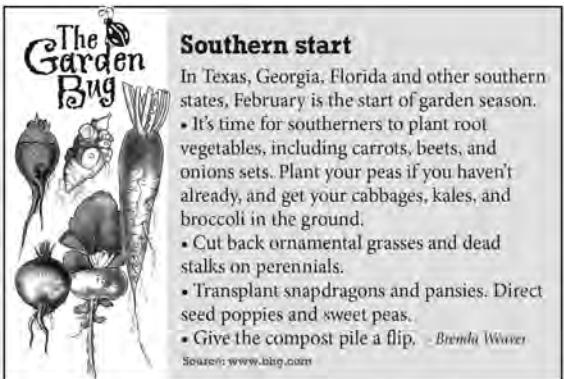
YOU GUYS SURE AREN'T PICKY. I'M ON MY THIRD PAIL AND YOU'RE STILL GOING!

by Dave T. Phipps

OOH GROSS! MOM, ALL MY FOOD IS TOUCHING! AND WHAT'S THAT GREEN STUFF?

"We never know the love of a parent till we become parents ourselves."  
— Henry Ward Beecher

AT THIS POINT I THINK MY BODY SHOULD BE DONATED TO SCIENCE. ACTUALLY, IF I KEEP IT UP, MAYBE SCIENCE FICTION.



### HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



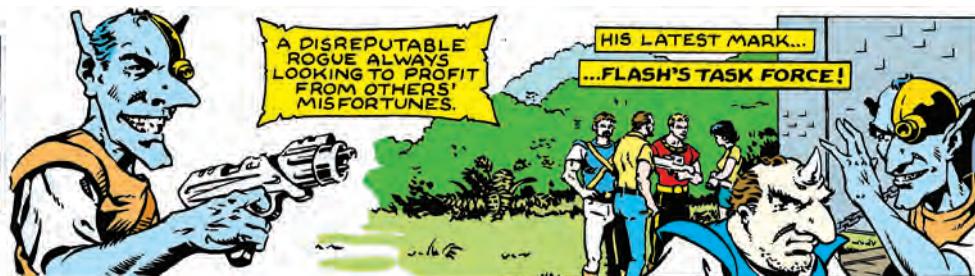
Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Tail is smaller. 2. Arms are longer. 3. Pocket is moved. 4. Log is different. 5. Earflap is longer. 6. Rabbit's ear is moved.

### FLASH GORDON

Character Profile:  
**RENSHAW**



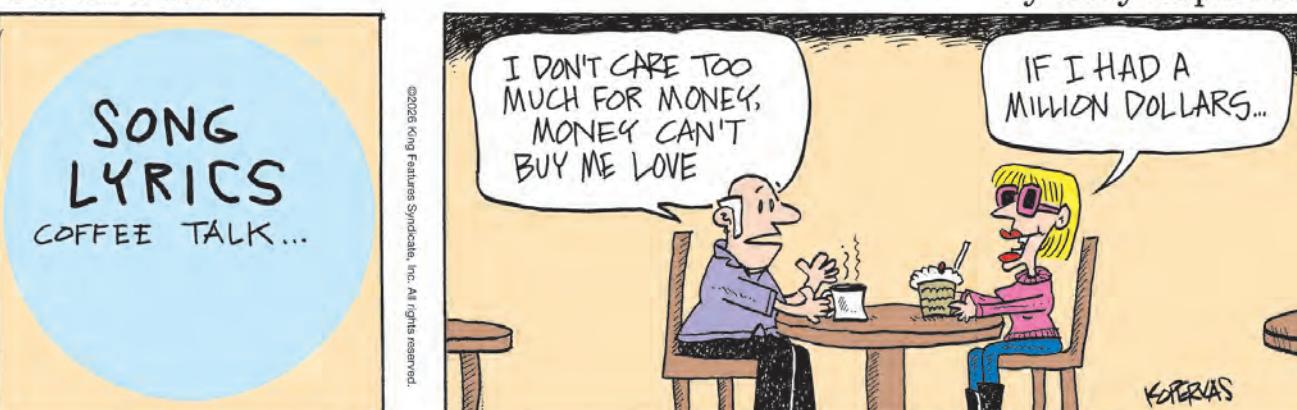
### The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

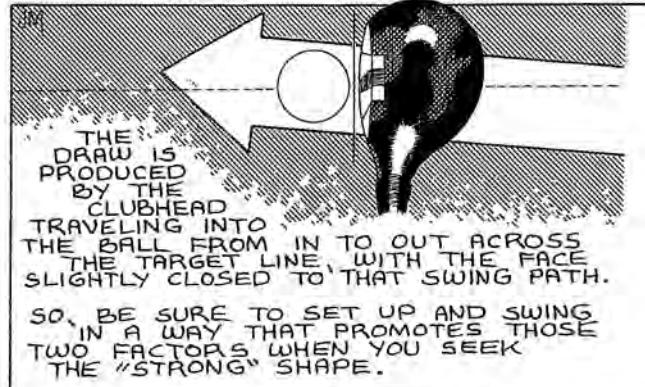
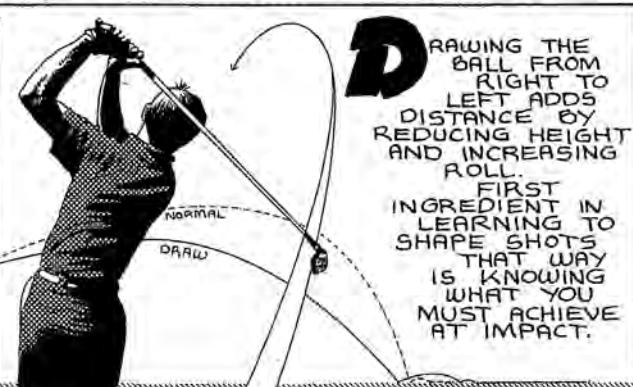


### Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



### Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS





# DONNA ERICKSON'S BEST BITES

## Make Cinnamon-Toast Heart Crisps

Sometimes during the winter months, I just need a "day brightener" when it's dark and dreary outside. And this is where my spunky friend Carol fits in. On a recent morning jog, when I popped by her cheery house to see what she was up to, I was greeted at the door with her wide smile and the tempting aroma of cinnamon and good coffee wafting from her kitchen.

After stepping inside, I had barely removed my wool scarf when she pulled from the oven a large cookie sheet that was filled with her signature cinnamon-toast heart crisps. She challenged me, "I bet you can't eat just one!"

Brighten your Valentine's Day with these easy-to-prepare, cookie-like treats using very thinly sliced bread and everyone's favorite combination: cinnamon and sugar. They'll be a hit with the whole family! Here's what you'll need for 25-30 hearts:

— 1 loaf of thin-sliced, enriched white bread such as Pepperidge Farm Very Thin Bread

— Cinnamon and sugar mixture

— Butter or margarine

— 3-by-3-inch heart-shaped cookie cutter

— Cookie baking sheets

Here's the fun: Preheat oven to 350 F. Spread butter or margarine on each slice of bread and sprinkle with cinnamon and sugar mixture.

Cut out a heart shape with the cookie cutter on each slice and place on ungreased cookie sheets. Don't throw out crusts or leftover pieces! Put them on another cookie sheet.

Bake for 12-15 minutes, or until crisp. Cool. Serve hearts and extra crusts and pieces with a big glass of cold milk, a mug of hot chocolate, or a cup of tea. Store extras in a cookie tin.

**Tips:** If you don't want to use an entire loaf at once, simply put the remaining bread in the freezer. Thaw the amount you wish and make more hearts or other cookie-cutter shapes, such as a shamrock for St. Patrick's Day, a bunny for Easter, etc.



If you prefer using a favorite bread from your local bakery, ask to have it sliced extra thin, or slice it very thin yourself when you're ready to make the recipe.

\*\*\*

*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. **Send Help**  
(R) Rachel McAdams, Dylan O'Brien
2. **Iron Lung**  
(R) Mark Fischbach, Caroline Kaplan
3. **Melania**  
(PG) Melania Trump, Hervé Pierre
4. **Zootopia 2**  
(PG) Ginnifer Goodwin, Jason Bateman
5. **Avatar: Fire and Ash**  
(PG-13) Sam Worthington, Zoe Saldana
6. **Shelter**  
(R) Jason Statham, Bodhi Rae Breathnach
7. **Mercy**  
(PG-13) Chris Pratt, Rebecca Ferguson
8. **The Housemaid**  
(R) Sydney Sweeney, Amanda Seyfried
9. **Marty Supreme**  
(R) Timothée Chalamet, Gwyneth Paltrow
10. **28 Years Later: The Bone Temple**

## Fun Fact



**Popcorn** is popular at theaters, sporting events, amusement parks, and everywhere else people gather. Most of the world's corn production used for popcorn is in the United States. 25 states grow corn, mostly in the very fertile areas of Iowa, Illinois, Nebraska, Minnesota and Indiana.

Source: [www.nal.usda.gov](http://www.nal.usda.gov)

## THE POD REPORT

By Dana Block



### THIS WEEK'S CATEGORY: Black History Month

Last October, the Black Podcast Awards held its first in-person ceremony. Twenty-nine podcasts and five podcasters were honored in Baltimore in a wide variety of categories. Anna DeShawn, host of the "Queer News" podcast, won the prestigious Legend Award, and Dominic Lawson, host of "Black Is America," won the peer-voted Podcaster of the Year Award. The five podcasts below are some of the other exceptional winners:

**"How I Crushed It"** — In this show that was voted as the Best Business Podcast, a special guest shares their journey of how they've overcome big obstacles and who inspired them, whether it be in the world of arts, sports or business. A great place to start listening is their "Best Bits of 2025" episode, which provides highlights from a dozen of their most popular guests of the year. This includes guests like Sebastian Thiel, the British writer/director of the Paramount+ series "Dreaming Whilst Black," and Ashleigh Ainsley, co-founder of ColorInTech.org, which helps further opportunities for African Americans in the tech industry. ([HowICrushedIt.Podbean.com](https://HowICrushedIt.Podbean.com))

**"Our Ancestors Were Messy"** — Host Nichole Hill takes her listeners on a journey to pre-Civil-Rights-Era America during each episode, with a story of "an ancestor in search of opportunity, adventure, love, and a

way to beat Jim Crow." However, along the way, these folks "make messes that land them in the gossip columns of Black newspapers." Discover the family feud that launched Black Hollywood, which is considered to be a favorite episode of her listeners and likely one of the reasons that this series won Best History Podcast. ([OurAncestorsWereMessy.com](http://OurAncestorsWereMessy.com))

**"We Sound Crazy"** — Winner of Podcast of the Year, this weekly podcast is praised by fans for not only their insightful conversations, but the camaraderie shared among the hosts. One Apple Podcast reviewer states that the hosts "all clearly share a strong bond and friendship that only complement the chemistry showcased on the show." Guests include Grammy-winning artist Estelle, who shares a wild and inspiring story about Prince, as well as platinum-selling rap artist Da Brat, who discusses her love of gospel music and her early experiences of directing her church choir. ([WeSoundCrazy.com](http://WeSoundCrazy.com))

### Don't Forget These Gems

**"Love, The Amazing Clarks"** — Anthony and Melanie Clark have been together for over 30 years. In their podcast, they share their wisdom and love for each other to help guide listeners in achieving a successful relationship. As the winners of the Best Relationship Podcast Award, they know that there's no "right way" to be married; instead, they instruct their audience on how to stop chasing perfection and how to start building a marriage that works for them. ([TheAmazingClarks.com](http://TheAmazingClarks.com))

**"Vaguely Nerdy"** — This podcast for film enthusiasts won the Best Film and Television Podcast Award. Hosted by siblings Cheryl and Jae, this weekly podcast delivers not only film reviews but hilarious banter, trailer breakdowns, and the latest news on everything from blockbusters to indie films. ([VaguelyNerdyPodcast.com](http://VaguelyNerdyPodcast.com))



## Planning your growing space

- Consider a **container garden** if you have a small space or a patio. Compact veggies like peppers like to grow in pots.
- For smaller properties, a **raised garden bed** gives more space and control than containers, but less permanent than in-ground beds. They're great for root crops, onions, garlic, cabbage, zucchini and squash.
- An **in-ground garden** works if there is full sun, good soil and space for what you'll grow. This requires the most time and effort. Corn, tomatoes, winter squash and perennial herbs like more space to grow. — Brenda Weaver

Source: [thehomesteadchallenge.com](http://thehomesteadchallenge.com)



# PUZZLES & BRAIN TEASERS SOLUTIONS

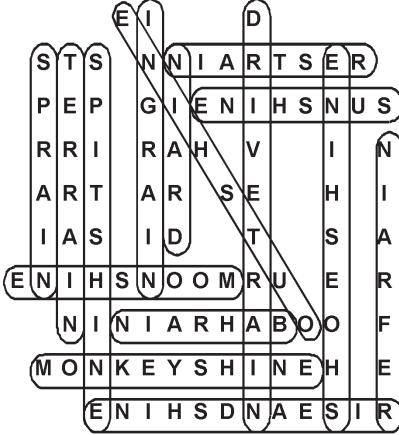


## Super Crossword

### Answers

COCA COLA	DAD	AME	CHEW
OCARINAS	OVERDID		PAVE
WHAT IS THE NAME OF A	ABIT		
SON	HEXA	LLAMA	ALL
ODD	PHILIP	AMANDA	
MOVIE ABOUT A CHAMELEON			
DICAPRIO	ESS	TENURED	
OAT	EDIT	NEURO	MARS
WHOMAKESA FORTUNE	EAS		
SAPID	EXIT	EMEND	USA
EMULATE	TWO	RODENTS	
RMS	SORTA	ON UP	IDEAL
	THE OWNER OF A BANDAGE		
LAMA	TAINT	ONUS	TIE
ORIGAMI	THE	ICANHELP	
MANUFACTURING COMPANY			
EPI PEN	ODETTE	IRS	
TAP	WAITA	RAID	SEC
OHIO	THE LIZARD OF GAUZE		
GOGH	EARLOOP	END USERS	
OSO	EDS NOS	STAYED AT	

### RAIN OR SHINE



## Even Exchange

Donna M. Pettman

1. Middle, Meddle
2. Truck, Track
3. Flame, Flake
4. Spiral, Spinal
5. Quill, Quilt
6. Tweety, Twenty
7. Raven, Ravel
8. Doris, Dorms
9. Person, Parson
10. Whale, Whole

## Go Figure!

answers

$$\begin{array}{r}
 5 + 7 \div 6 = 2 \\
 + - + \\
 2 + 3 \times 9 = 45 \\
 \times \div - \\
 8 + 1 \times 4 = 36 \\
 = = = \\
 56 \quad 4 \quad 11
 \end{array}$$

## Word Spiral Answer NAILHEADS

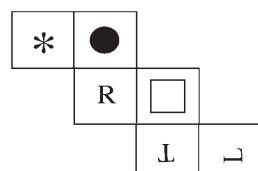
### KNIGHT MOVES

Answer

O	W	S
3	8	5
B		R
6		2
C	S	O
1	4	7

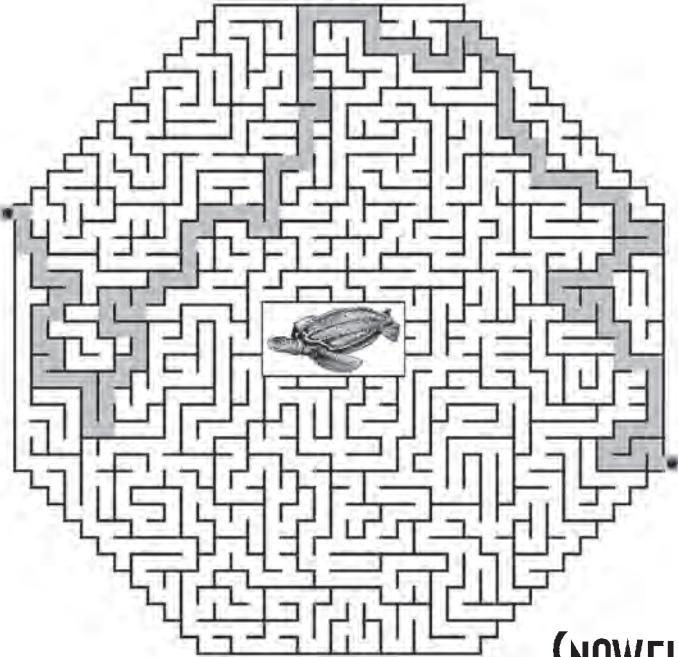
CROSSBOW

## Stickelers Answer



## Mega Maze

Solution



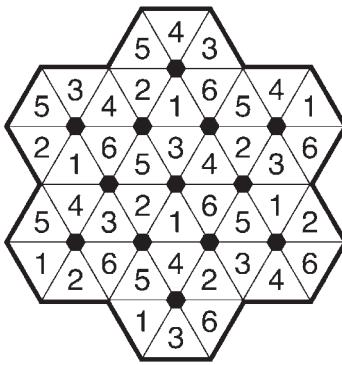
## Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

## Snowflakes

solution



## Five Spot™

Solution

O	R	B	I	T
T	R	I	B	E
R	I	V	E	T
V	E	N	T	I
V	I	N	E	S
V	E	N	U	S

Very relaxing anti-anxiety drug manufactured in southern California: San Fernando Valium.

## CryptoQuote

answer

It's not that diamonds are a girl's best friend, but it's your best friends who are your diamonds.

— Gina Barreca

## King Crossword

### Answers

Solution time: 26 mins.

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

## FEAR & KNOT

### answer

C				
A	N	K	H	
R		A	I	R
S	C	A	R	S
H	U	M	E	I
M	E	D	I	C
A	N		E	
N	O	E		
C				
T				

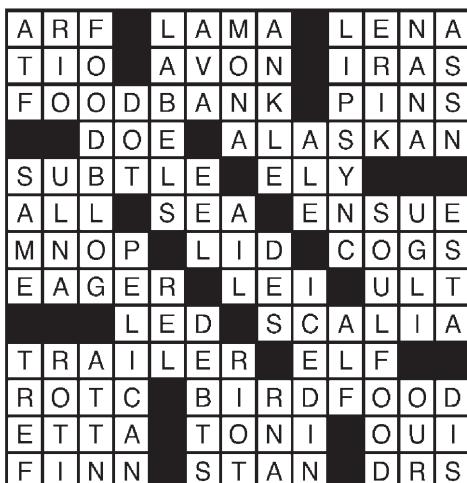


# PUZZLES & BRAIN TEASERS SOLUTIONS



## King Crossword — Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.



## SCRAMBLERS

solution

1. Caliph; 2. inlay
3. Burden; 4. Dodge

Today's Word

**BALONEY**

## Even Exchange

Donna M. Pettman

1. Oblong, Oolong
2. Tower, Power
3. Matter, Mutter
4. Adapt, Adopt
5. Grime, Gripe
6. Prince, Prance
7. Rivers, Rivera
8. Horde, Horse
9. Thread, Threat
10. Stowe, Stone

## Puzzles4Kids

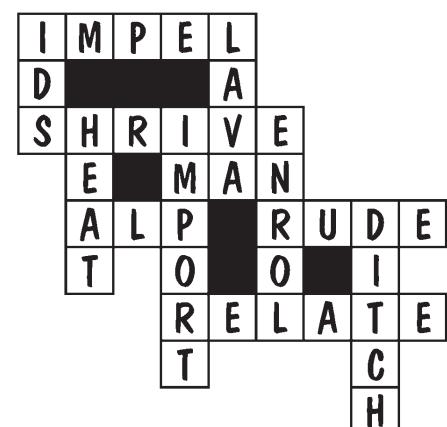
Answer

LOVERS	V	ROLES
TURBAN	A	BRUNT
LATEST	L	STATE
ETCHES	E	CHEST
SUNTAN	N	AUNTS

NECTAR	T	CRANE
WHALES	W	LEASH
LIKELY	I	KELLY
BANKER	N	BREAK
ITCHED	E	DITCH
DISHES	S	HIDES

## FEAR KN&T

answer



might know Wagner Moura from his portrayal as Pablo Escobar in "Narcos" or his role in "Civil War," but his role in this political thriller is what got him a Golden Globe for Best Actor in a Motion Picture (Drama) a month ago. Taking place in 1977 during the Brazilian dictatorship, the film picks up as professor and single father Armando (Moura) returns to his hometown of Recife, Brazil, hoping to reconnect with his son, Fernando, and find some semblance of peace. However, Armando shortly finds out that because of a previous political scuffle with a business executive, a contract killing for him has been ordered, leaving him with very few options and a murky, unknown future. Out now to rent. (Apple TV+)



Courtesy of MovieStillsDB

Wagner Moura stars in "The Secret Agent."

"Hamnet" (PG-13) — This historical tragedy film stars two powerhouse actors in the drama genre, Jessie Buckley ("Wicked Little Letters") and Paul Mescal ("Gladiator II"). Mescal and Buckley respectively play William Shakespeare and Agnes Hathaway, with the film recounting the story of their relationship as William becomes a successful playwright. William and Agnes marry quickly, with kids following shortly, including twins named Hamnet and Judith. But with the bubonic plague spreading its deadliness throughout Europe, it's a matter of time until someone catches the disease. And when the disease catches Hamnet at 11 years old, his poor parents are left to cope with the tragedy of his death. Chloe Zhao ("Nomadland") directs this Oscar-nominated film that is out now to rent. (Amazon Prime Video)

"The Secret Agent" (R) — You



## A Love Letter to Chocolate

Chocolate doesn't need a holiday, but Valentine's Day gives us permission to notice it. Chocolate melts patiently. It waits. It forgives mistakes. When treated gently, it rewards you with far more than the sum of its parts. That's not a bad lesson for life or love.

Most of us think we know chocolate, but the labels tell an important story:

- Dark chocolate is made from cocoa solids, cocoa butter and minimal sugar. Higher cocoa percentages mean deeper flavor and less sweetness.
- Bittersweet and semisweet are both dark chocolates and interchangeable in most recipes. Exact cocoa percentages matter less than choosing chocolate you enjoy.
- Milk chocolate includes milk solids and more sugar, giving it a softer, creamier flavor.
- White chocolate contains cocoa butter, sugar and milk solids but no cocoa solids. When well made, it's still real chocolate.

You may have noticed that some chocolate costs more than others. The difference often lies in better cocoa beans, higher cocoa butter content, fewer fillers and ethical sourcing.

Some of chocolate's higher cost reflects how cocoa is grown and who benefits. When you're able, choosing fair trade or ethically sourced brands is a small way to support better practices.

That said, not every recipe asks for your very best chocolate. Cakes, brownies and bark loaded with top-

pings do just fine with good grocery-store chocolate. Save higher-end bars for simple recipes, where flavor and texture truly shine.

If chocolate has a greatest magic trick, it's ganache. It sounds fancy, but it's simply chocolate and cream, and one of the most useful techniques a home cook can learn. By adjusting the ratio of chocolate to cream, ganache can be thin and pourable or thick and scoopable, serving as a sauce, glaze, frosting, truffle filling or the thing that makes a simple cake feel extraordinary.

### HOW TO MAKE CHOCOLATE GANACHE

8 ounces chocolate chips  
1 cup heavy cream

Place the chocolate chips in a heat-proof bowl. Heat the cream, on the stovetop or in the microwave, just



www.JasonCoblentz.com

Ganache in the middle, chocolate-dipped cupcakes and strawberries circling like devoted Valentines.

until steaming with small bubbles at the edges. Pour the hot cream over the chocolate and let it sit undisturbed for 3 minutes. Starting in the center, gently stir outward until smooth and glossy.

Use warm as a pourable glaze, dip or sauce. Let it cool to thicken for spreading or frosting. Strawberries are always welcome.

And if you want the simplest Valentine's dessert of all, these

straightforward chocolate cupcakes never fail. No fuss, just rich flavor and a tender crumb.

### EASY CHOCOLATE CUPCAKES

Yield: about 16 cupcakes

Total Time: 30 minutes

#### What You'll Need:

1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour  
1 cup granulated sugar  
1/4 cup unsweetened cocoa powder  
1 teaspoon baking soda  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1 cup coffee  
1 tablespoon white distilled vinegar  
1/3 cup vegetable oil  
1 large egg, room temperature  
2 teaspoons vanilla extract

#### Here's How:

Preheat oven to 350 F with rack centered. Line a muffin tin with cupcake liners.

In a large bowl, whisk together flour, sugar, cocoa powder, baking soda and salt. In a second bowl, whisk coffee, vinegar, oil, egg and vanilla until blended. Pour wet ingredients over dry and whisk just until combined. Do not overmix.

Using an ice cream scoop, portion batter into liners, filling each about two-thirds full. Bake for 20 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Cool 5 minutes in the pan, then transfer to a rack to cool completely before frosting.

Chocolate doesn't ask for perfection. It teaches patience, provides us with self-care. Say it with me: "Chocolate, will you be my Valentine?"

\*\*\*

*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](http://DivasOnADimeDotCom). Email Patti at [divapatti@divasonadime.com](mailto:divapatti@divasonadime.com)*

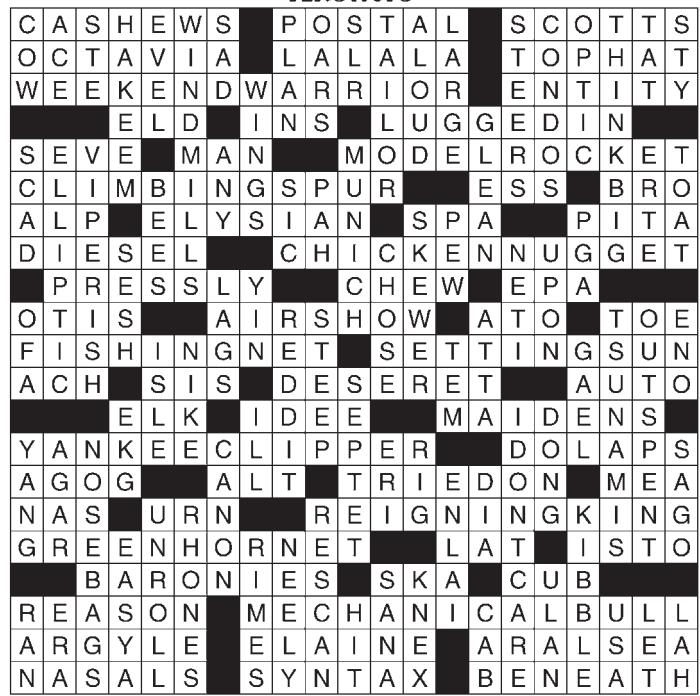


# PUZZLES & BRAIN TEASERS SOLUTIONS



## Super Crossword

### Answers



## Weekly SUDOKU

### Answer

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



1/2 cup fresh cilantro or parsley, chopped and loosely packed  
1/4 teaspoon salt, optional

In a medium bowl, whisk together the mayonnaise or Greek yogurt, curry, cumin, turmeric, lemon juice, vinegar, sugar and black pepper until smooth. Taste and adjust as needed. Set aside.

Mince the celery and onion, thinly slice the green onions, and roughly chop the cilantro or parsley.

Drain and rinse the chickpeas well. For a creamier, more scoopable salad, lightly mash about a quarter of the chickpeas with a fork. Leave the rest whole for texture.

Add the chickpeas, celery, both onions and herbs to the bowl with the dressing. Stir gently until everything is evenly coated.

Taste and add salt if needed. Chill for 20-30 minutes to let the flavors settle or serve right away if you're hungry.

Why add black pepper? Turmeric's active compound, curcumin, is hard for the body to absorb on its own. Black pepper boosts absorption by up to 2,000%, making this a smart pairing, not just a flavorful one.

Once you know how to turn pantry staples into real meals, you gain flexibility. You're less vulnerable to price swings, less tempted by take-out on tired nights and more confident you can feed yourself well even when things get tight. Cheap meals come from building skills, learned in the pantry.

\*\*\*

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)



## Cheap Meals Start in the Pantry

When grocery prices rise, and we begin to search for savings, many people assume the solution must be found at the store. New sales. New substitutions. New strategies. But the truth is far less difficult and far more comforting.

Cheap meals don't start at the grocery store. They start at home, with what you already have.

Most households are sitting on the framework of dozens of meals without realizing it. Rice, beans, pasta, canned tomatoes, frozen vegetables, onions. These aren't odds and ends. They're infrastructure, and they're probably in your pantry.

The pantry is where inexpensive cooking becomes possible.

Before planning the week's meals, open the pantry and freezer and take inventory with curiosity. Ask one simple question: What meals are already halfway made?

When you cook from the pantry first, the grocery store becomes a supporting character instead of the star of the show. You stop shopping for meals and start shopping to finish meals. That shift alone can dramatically reduce your grocery bill.

Pantry-based meals rely on shelf stable ingredients that stretch easily, welcome substitutions and adapt to whatever you have on hand.

A well-used pantry reduces waste, one of the most expensive habits in any kitchen. Food thrown away

is money thrown away, and pantry cooking gives forgotten ingredients and small leftovers a second chance.

This isn't about deprivation. It's about competence.

This meal-prep-friendly curried chickpea salad is a good example of what pantry competence looks like. Made primarily from shelf-stable ingredients, it can stand on its own or shift roles depending on the meal. Spoon it over greens, tuck it into a pita or wrap, pile it onto toast or serve it alongside a sandwich or bowl of rice. It's flexible and adapts to whatever the day requires.



[www.JasonCoblenz.com](http://www.JasonCoblenz.com)

Pantry cooking turns everyday staples into meals that are affordable, adaptable and delicious.

### CURRIED CHICKPEA SALAD

Yield: 4 servings

Total Time: 30 minutes

1/2 cup mayonnaise or Greek yogurt  
1 tablespoon curry powder  
1 teaspoon cumin  
1/2 teaspoon turmeric powder  
1 tablespoon lemon juice  
1 teaspoon red wine vinegar  
1/2 teaspoon granulated sugar  
1/4 teaspoon black pepper  
1/2 cup celery, minced  
1/4 cup red onion, minced  
1/4 cup green onion, thinly sliced  
2 (15-ounce) cans low or no sodium garbanzo beans (chickpeas), drained

**"Urchin"** (R) — Harris Dickinson ("Babygirl"), who will be playing John Lennon in the 2028 biopic film about the Beatles, decided to make his directorial debut before donning Lennon's signature glasses. This drama film premiered at the most recent Cannes Film Festival and stars Frank Dillane ("Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince") as a homeless young man named Mike. Struggling with addiction and poverty, Mike attempts to get off the streets and find a reliable way to make a living. But with life continuing to put obstacles in the road, the immense pressure that Mike feels is enough to make even an urchin like him lose his mind. Premieres Feb. 17. (Hulu)



Courtesy of MovieStillsDB

**Dove Cameron, left, and Avan Jogia star in "56 Days."**

**"The 'Burbs"** (TV-MA) — You might remember a 1989 film called "The 'Burbs" starring Tom Hanks, Bruce Dern and Carrie Fisher. Well, this new television series is a reimagining of that very film, with Keke Palmer ("Nope") and Jack Whitehall ("Malice") as the main stars. Palmer plays Samira, who takes a chance on moving to a quiet cul-de-sac that used to be her husband Rob's (Whitehall) childhood neighborhood. As the couple settles into suburban life, Samira notices oddities surrounding an old home, which lead her to think that it's haunted. With the help of bored neighbors who have nothing else to do, Samira decides to probe deeper into the old house, but she might not like where the road takes her. All eight episodes are out now to stream. (Peacock)

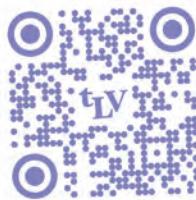


**"56 Days"** (TV-MA) — Between the thrills and the steaminess that this new series brings, binge-watchers might not be able to resist it! An adaptation of Catherine Ryan Howard's 2021 novel of the same name, "56 Days" stars two actors who got their start on Disney and Nickelodeon, respectively — Dove Cameron ("Liv and Maddie") and Avan Jogia ("Victorious"). The steamy duo play couple Oliver and Ciara, who commenced their passionate love affair after a chance meeting at a supermarket. (What a dream!) Fifty-six days after the chance meeting, a body is found in Oliver's apartment, which leads detectives to probe deeper into Oliver's life and his relationship with Ciara. All eight episodes premiere on Feb. 18. (Amazon Prime Video)

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# the Local Voice

February 19–March 5, 2026



TLV #480

# Read at Maximum Volume!



Beth Ann Fennelley

"The Irish Goodbye"

Book launch  
February 24  
at Off Square Books

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Hours:  
Tuesday–Friday 5 pm–1 am  
Saturday 1 pm–1 am

Hours: Monday–Saturday  
11 am–9 pm  
First Come, First Serve,  
No Reservations

Thursday–Friday 5 pm–1 am  
Saturday noon–1 am  
Sunday Bunch 11 am–3 pm  
Monday–Wednesday closed

Wednesday–Saturday 5 pm–12 am  
Sunday 3 pm–9 pm  
Monday–Tuesday closed  
Reservations made on our website