

the Local Voice

TLV #480

February 19–March 5, 2026



Beth Ann Fennelley

"The Irish Goodbye"

Book launch
February 24
at Off
Square
Books

Read at
Maximum
Volume!



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Wednesday–Saturday 5 pm–12 am
Sunday 3 pm–9 pm
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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."

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



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

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." 



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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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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Thursday

BINGO NIGHT

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VS. FLORIDA 2/21

VS. LSU 2/25

VS. AUBURN 2/28

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





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 BARHAM** (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 MCCAULAY** (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)

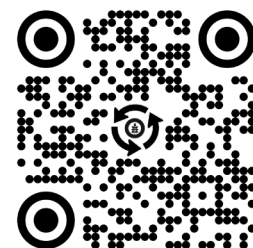
Weekend Brunch

- **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



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Thursday, February 26

4:30 PM **Music:** *Afrisippi | *Alexis Grace-West Coast | *Anything, if | *glass3l3vators | 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 | Sumarsólstöour | *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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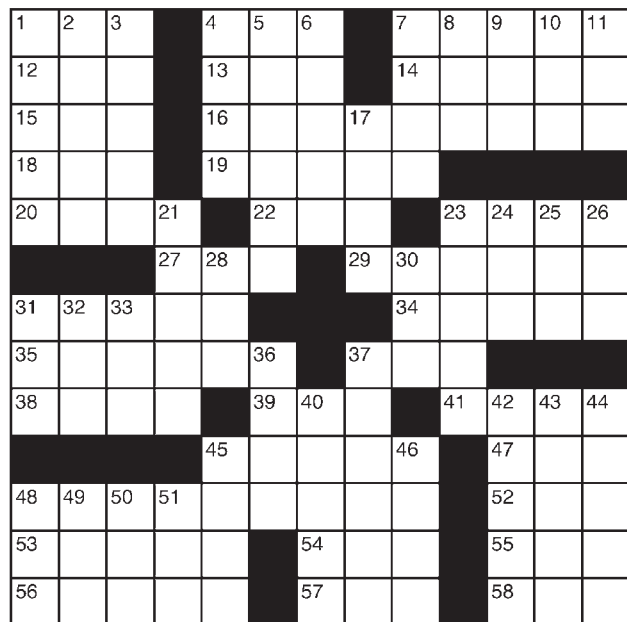


Here are some games to play, in your free time, to keep your mind sharp, and focused.

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 girlfriend
- 4 Ride the waves
- 5 Suave
- 6 Memoir by Prince Harry
- 7 Infant
- 8 "Bad" cholesterol
- 9 Commotion
- 10 Bracketed word
- 11 Chiding sound
- 17 Painter
- 21 Salvador
- 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
- 33 Mets' div.
- 36 Ray of McDonald's
- 37 Writing instrument
- 40 Treasure stash
- 42 Lab liquids
- 43 "The Fraud" author —
- 44 Justice Kagan
- 45 Enjoy gum
- 46 Power tool brand
- 48 FDR follower
- 49 Post-op area
- 50 Sailor
- 51 — Magnon



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
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MAGIC MAZE • RAIN OR SHINE

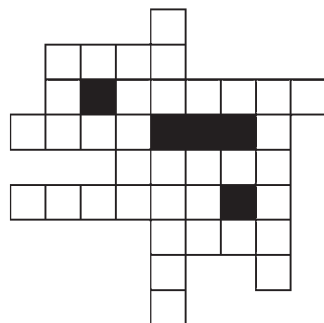
P O L J H E B C A X V T R P N
L J H F E I D R B D Y X V T R
P S T S O N N I A R T S E R M
K P E P I G I E N I H S N U S
G R R I E R A H D V N B I Z N
X A R T W A R U S E T R H Q I
O I A S N I D L J T I G S F A
E N I H S N O O M R U D E C R
A Y N I N I A R H A B O O X F
W M O N K E Y S H I N E H V E
T 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
DECM
♥ 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. ♥ RATHER becomes HATER or EARTH or HEART). Fit each string's word either across or down to knot all twelve strings together.

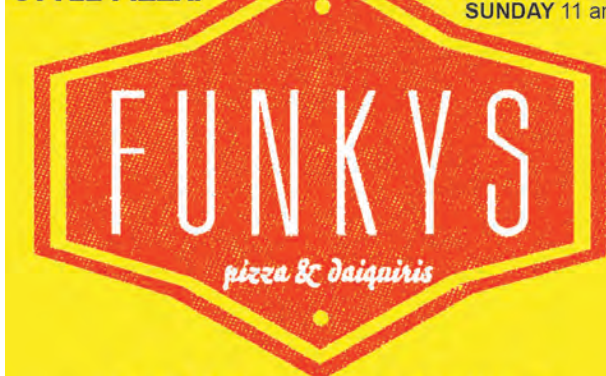
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5	6	3	7	4	5	8	2	5	6	7	4	3
E	A	C	N	M	N	U	B	D	G	O	I	O
4	6	2	5	7	8	4	7	4	5	7	2	6
N	R	L	A	M	N	D	O	O	N	R	I	I
3	4	5	3	6	3	5	8	7	3	2	3	4
N	V	O	F	N	I	L	C	E	D	S	E	E
3	7	6	5	7	4	7	4	7	4	8	7	6
N	M	T	D	E	R	L	M	A	A	A	N	O
4	2	4	5	8	7	6	4	3	8	5	8	6
T	S	T	F	N	C	D	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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the Local Voice PUZZLE PLAYGROUND

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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- 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
- 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 107-Across
115 Akron's state
- 117 Riddle's answer
123 Painter Vincent van —
124 Fastening feature of many a face mask
125 Ultimate consumers of products
126 With 83-Down, Italian veal dish
127 'Zine staffers
128 Antis' votes
129 Occupied, as an inn
- DOWN
- 1 Female whales
2 Eight, in Peru
3 "Misery" actor James
4 Prado display
5 102, to Nero
6 Walk- — (small roles)
7 Plastering strip
8 Arthur of tennis
9 Troy of "A Summer Place"
10 Gardner or DuVernay of film
- 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 squirter
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 126-Across
84 "Likewise"
- 85 African capital on the Gulf of Guinea
86 Wyoming tribe members
87 Small swine breeds
92 Several
93 Plant-eating sea mammal
95 Catches in a snare
97 "Planet Money" aier
98 Includes
100 People lugging things
101 Politician Mo, Mark or Tom
102 Ship's rigging
108 "If only — known!"
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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11		12	13	14		15	16	17	18
19									20			21						22		
23								24										25		
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115			116		117				118	119					120	121	122			
123					124								125							
126					127				128				129							



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

Puzzles4Kids

by Helene Hovanec

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



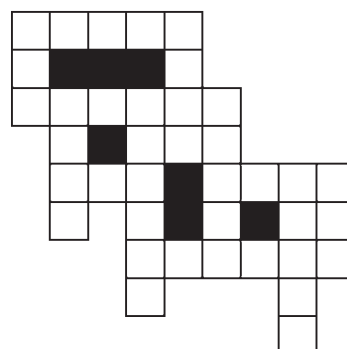
"Truth is like the sun.
You can shut it out for a time,
but it ain't goin' away."

— **Elvis Presley**

(January 8, 1935 – August 16, 1977)



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.

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



"First they fill you with chicken,
then _____."

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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"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



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**.

“I’m interested in pressing into the areas that aren’t written about on social media, or aren’t deliberately masked or beautified.”



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.

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. 📖

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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 stu-

dents and friends. His legacy will continue to inspire all who had the privilege of knowing him.

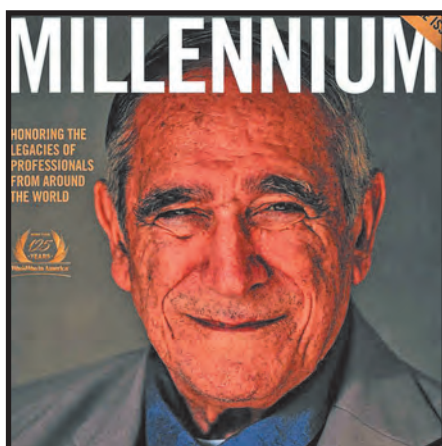
The family would also like to express their gratitude to **Baptist Hospice** and the staff. They are forever thankful for the care that was given to Dr. Namorato by the nurses and caregivers.

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, **Carmin Namorato (Angela)** of Long Island, NY; his two sister-in-laws, **Linda Fahey** of Oxford and **Madelaine 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**.

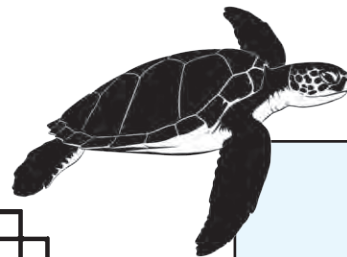
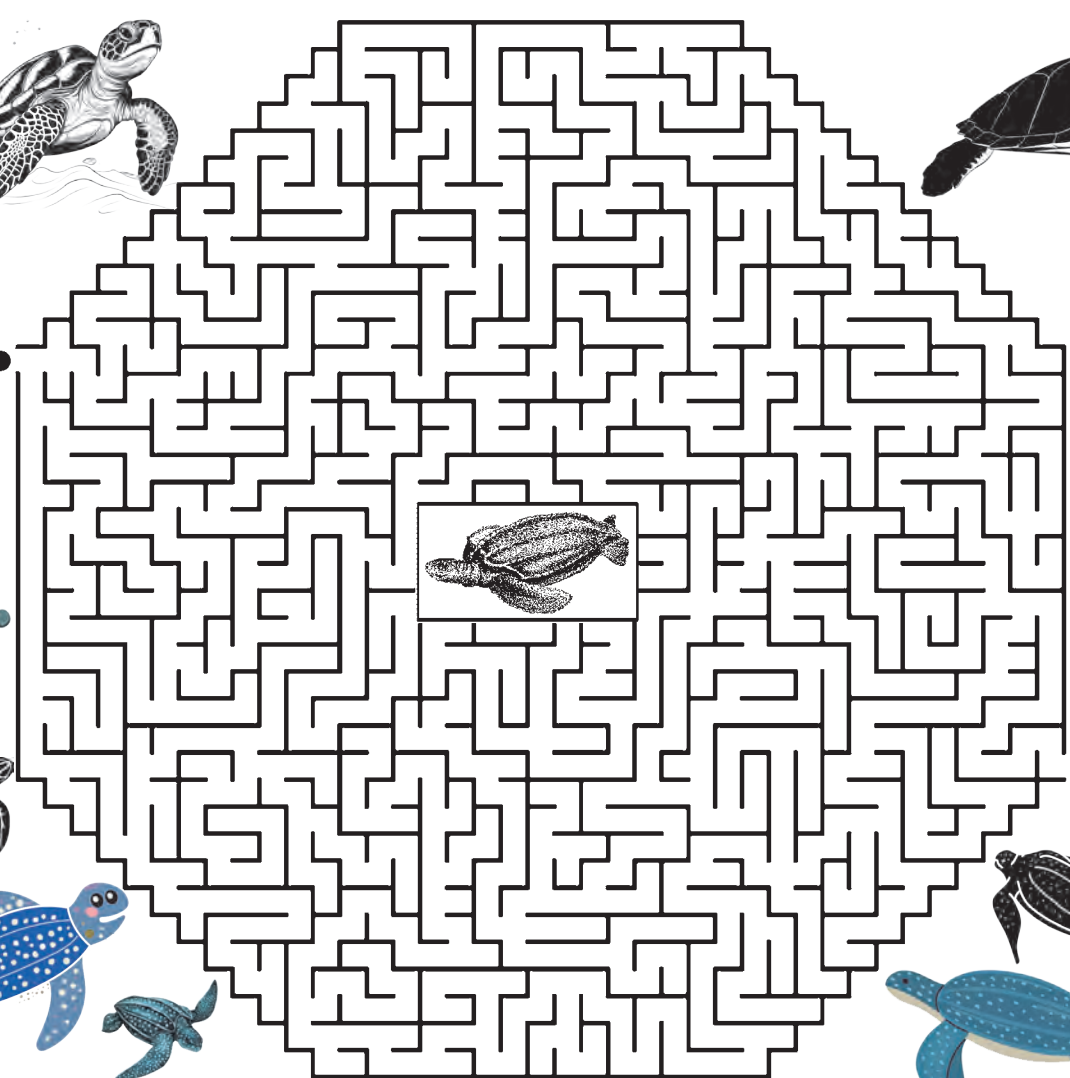
Born on November 7, 1947, in **Mississippi** to the late **Otis** and **Nell Homer**, Gara lived a life rooted in creativity, curiosity, and deep appreciation for the beauty around her. She earned her bachelor's degree and went on to work as a talented floral designer, a profession that perfectly reflected 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**. 🕊





Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- FOOD & DRINK:** What is a bunch of bananas called?
- MOVIES:** Who is Neo's nemesis in "The Matrix"?
- MUSIC:** The Broadway show "Jersey Boys" is about which music group?
- TELEVISION:** In which U.S. city is the sitcom "New Girl" set?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS:** What is the name of the helicopter that transports U.S. presidents?
- GEOGRAPHY:** The Lake of the Ozarks is in which U.S. state?
- HISTORY:** When did construction begin on the Berlin Wall?
- PSYCHOLOGY:** What fear is represented in the condition called mageirocophobia?
- ASTRONOMY:** Which planet in our solar system has the Great Red Spot?
- LITERATURE:** Which country is the setting for the novel "The French Lieutenant's Woman"?

ANSWERS BELOW

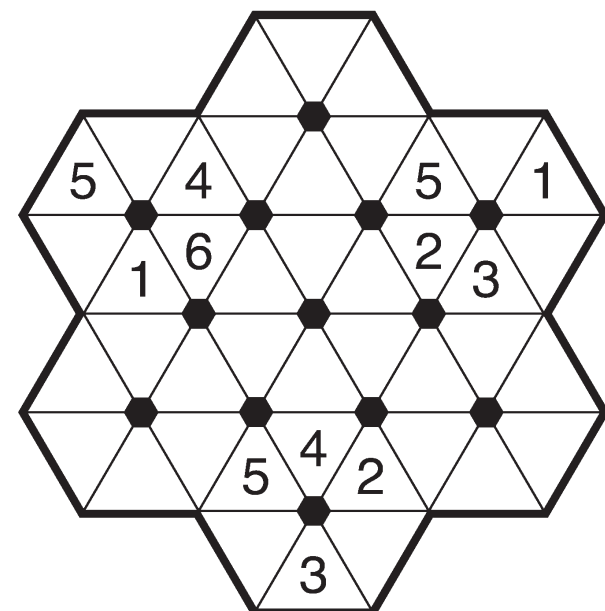
GO FIGURE!

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

	+		÷		=	2		
+		-		+				
	+		×		=	45		
×		÷		-				
	+		×		=	36		
=		=		=				
56		4		11				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

SNOWFLAKES

There are 13 black hexagons in the puzzle. Place the numbers 1 - 6 around each of them. No number can be repeated in any partial hexagon shape along the border of the puzzle.



DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

◆ Easy ◆◆ Medium ◆◆◆ Difficult



"I think A.I. should be putting mufflers on cars, not doing art for us."
— **Wolfgang Van Halen**
(born March 16, 1991)

CryptoQuote

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

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

ZM'L DFM MNWM SZWXFDSL
WBI W HZBV'L TILM JBZIDS,
TRM ZM'L QFRB TILM JBZIDSL
UNF WBI QFRB SZWXFDSL.

CryptoQuip

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

Clue: N equals V

NFQV QFEOHGIS OICG-OIHGFCV
AQTS BOITJOMCTQFA GI
RWTCYFQI MOEGJWQIGO:
ROI JFQIOIAW NOEGTB.

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Answers: 1. A hand, and each banana is a finger.
2. Agent Smith. 3. The Four Seasons. 4. Los Angeles. 5. Marine One. 6. Missouri. 7. 1961. 8. A fear of cooking. 9. Jupiter. 10. England.



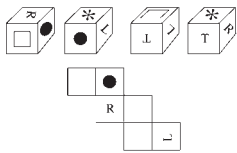
Rebel Wine & Spirits

Remember the
Party Starts Here!

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

STICKELERS

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



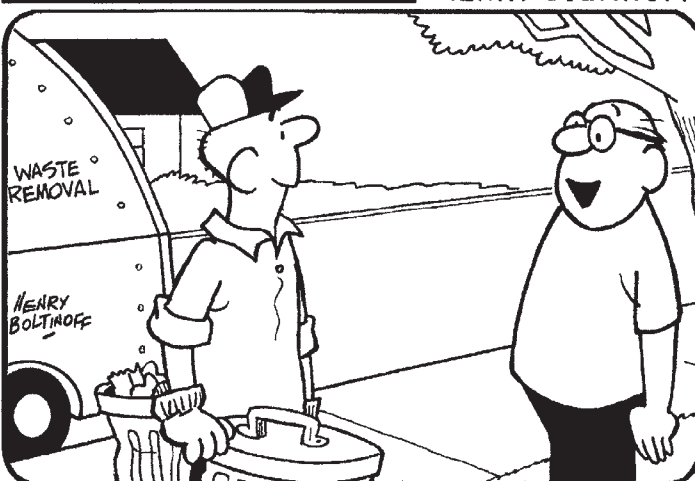
KNIGHT MOVES

O	W	S
B		R
C	S	O

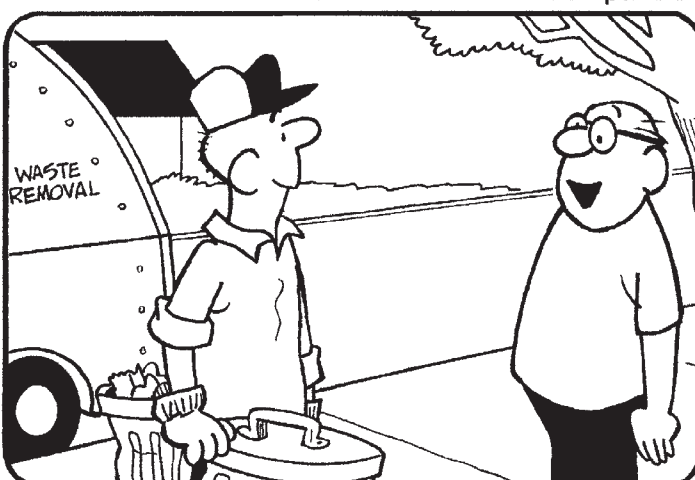
Unlock the power of chess to find the eight-letter word of the day. Choose your starting letter carefully, then move around the square in a one by two fashion to get to the next letter.

HOCUS-FOCUS

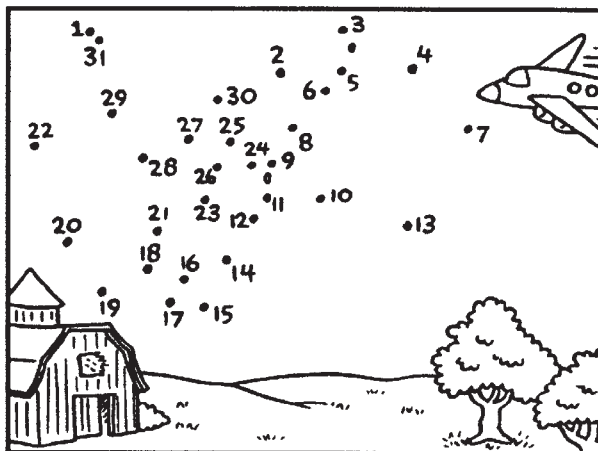
BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

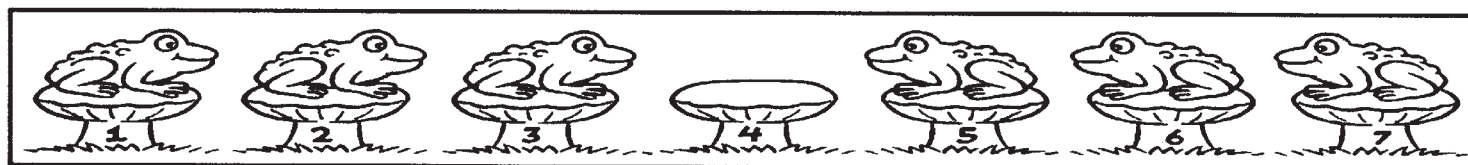


Differences: 1. Wheel is larger. 2. Hat is larger. 3. Window is missing. 4. Button is missing. 5. Sleeve is longer. 6. Sidewalk is wider.



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

Answer: Two birds.



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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, maple, pear, apple, peach, 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

Illustrated by David Coulson

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

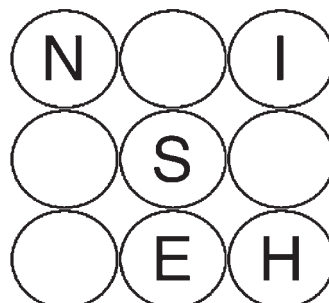
Even Exchange

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	___ I ___	Interfere	___ E ___
2. Semi or pickup	___ U ___	Racer's path	___ A ___
3. Love interest	___ M ___	Snowy particle	___ K ___
4. Football pass	___ R ___	Of the backbone	___ N ___
5. Washington's pen	___ L ___	Blanket	___ T ___
6. Cartoon canary	___ E ___	One score	___ N ___
7. Actress Symone	___ N ___	Composer Maurice	___ L ___
8. Actress Day	___ I ___	Frat houses	___ M ___
9. Human being	___ E ___	Preacher	___ A ___
10. Humpbacked or Orca	___ A ___	Undivided	___ O ___

WORD SPIRAL

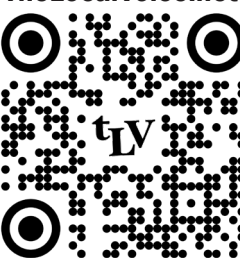


Fill in the missing letters to reveal the nine-letter word that starts at one of the four corners and moves clockwise around the perimeter before ending in the center.



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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

Nanhi 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 **TV**

Read more at TheLocalVoice.net

Strange BUT TRUE

- Ever wonder where the term "jaywalker" 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 **TV**

Treat Yourself

OPEN TUESDAY-SUNDAY LUNCH/ DINNER/ WEEKEND BRUNCH

@eat_saint_leo

Saint Leo

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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

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

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Ajax Diner

118 Courthouse Square

www.AjaxDiner.com

Mon-Sat: 11 am-9 pm

Delivery: TAB

Big Bad Breakfast

719 N Lamar Blvd.

www.BigBadBreakfast.com

Mon-Fri: 7 am-1 pm

Sat-Sun: 8 am-2:30 pm

Early Bird Special:

Wed & Thur 7-9 am: 10% off

Delivery: Door Dash, TAB

Booth's Barbeque

2200 South Lamar Blvd.

www.boothsbarbeque.com

Wed-Thu: 11 am-8 pm

Fri-Sat: 11 am-10 pm

Sun: 11 am-8 pm

Wed-Thu: \$4 drafts & wells;

\$5 High Noons (4 pm-close)

Fri: 2-for-1 wells ALL DAY;

\$5 High Noons (4-8 pm)

Sat: \$7 Signature Cocktails

Sun: ½-price Bloody Marys & Mimosas

Delivery: Door Dash, Uber Eats

Bouré

110 Courthouse Square

www.CityGroceryOnline.com

Mon-Thu: 10:30 am-10 pm

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

Bar: Mon-Wed 4 pm-midnight;

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

Delivery: Door Dash, TAB

City Grocery

152 Courthouse Square

www.CityGroceryOnline.com

Mon-Sat:

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

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

City Grocery Bar

Mon-Sat: 4 pm-till

Happy Hour 4-6 pm:

M-F \$1 off wells & domestics

Circle & Square

100 Depot Street

www.CircleAndSquare.beer

Tap Room Hours:

Mon-Wed: 7 am-9 pm,

Thu-Sat: 7 am-10 pm

Sun: 9 am-7 pm

Kitchen Hours:

Mon-Tue: 11 am-7:30 pm

Wed-Sat: 7 am-7:30 pm

Sun: 9 am-6:30 pm

WED: TRIVIA 7 pm

Delivery: Door Dash, Uber Eats

Funkys

1012 E Jackson Ave

www.Funkys.com

Mon-Thu: 2 pm-1 am

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

Sun: 11 am-9 pm

Mon: \$5 Octanes

Tue: \$5 Grape Gatorade

Wed: LADIES' NIGHT: \$5 Skinny Bitches

Thur: \$4 domestics

Delivery: TAB

Kingswood

425 S. Lamar Blvd.

www.KingswoodRestaurant.com

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

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

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

Happy Hour 4-5 pm: \$4 select

drafts, \$8 Classic Cocktails,

\$7 wines, food specials

Nightbird

425 S. Lamar Blvd.

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

Open at 4 pm nightly

Little Easy Catering

1503B White Oak Lane

www.LittleEasyCatering.com

Catering: 662-801-4194

Sunday Plate Lunches

Sun: 10 am-2 pm

The Library

120 South 11th Street

www.LibraryOxford.com

Mon-Fri: 3 pm-1 am

Sat: 11 am-1 am

Sun: 11 am-9 pm

Happy Hour 3-7 pm

Mon-Fri \$1 off all drinks

Miscellanea

306 South Lamar Boulevard

www.MiscellaneaOxford.com

Wed-Sat: 5 pm-12 am

Sun: 3 pm-9 pm

Monday-Tuesday closed

Reservations: website

Moe's BBQ

311 S Lamar Blvd

www.MoesOriginalBBQ.com

Mon-Sun: 11 am-10 pm

Penny Bar open 3 pm

Happy Hour 3-6 pm:

Mon-Fri ½-price apps,

2-for-1 wells, wines & domestics

Mon: \$2 domestics

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

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

Tue-Fri: 5 pm-1 am

Sat: 1 pm-1 am

Quack's

122 Courthouse Square

www.QuacksDogs.com

Mon-Thu: 4 pm-close

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

Sat & Sun: Brunch 11 am-3 pm;

Mimosas & \$9 Espresso Martinis

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

Happy Hour:

Mon: \$1 off drafts ALL DAY

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

bottles & cans (4-6 pm)

Wed: \$1 off drafts, bottles & cans,

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 Margs

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

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

Mon-Sat: 11 am-9 pm

Delivery: Door Dash, TAB

Snackbar

721 N Lamar Blvd

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

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

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

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 Frozen & \$20 pitchers

Sun: Service Industry Sunday

Delivery: Door Dash

Volta Taverna

710 N Lamar Blvd

www.VoltaTaverna.com

Mon-Sat: 11 am-9 pm;

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

½-price Margaritas & Mojitos

Monday, Thursday, & Saturday 

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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".




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 experience 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 randallweeks@gmail.com 



DAILY SPECIALS YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DAILY HAPPY HOUR 5-6P!

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+ SCAN FOR AN
EXCLUSIVE OFFER!**



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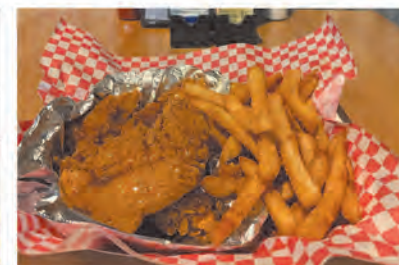
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Quesadillas, Nachos, Pizza, 23 Beers on tap, & a full bar!

the Local Voice PUZZLE PLAYGROUND



TV - Super Crossword

NBA PLAY

SUDOKU

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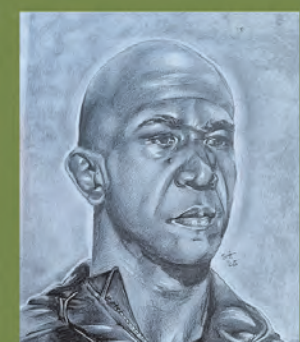
Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!



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



SAMANTHA HALEY
ARTIST

artbysamanthahaley@gmail.com
artbysamanthahaley

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

ACROSS

- 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
- 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

DOWN

- 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

DOWN

- 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 Shrunk Asian lake
- 125 Some vowel sounds
- 126 Phrase structure
- 127 Lower than

DOWN

- 3 Fr. holy woman
- 4 Olajuwon of the NBA
- 5 Daredevil Knievel
- 6 Power sources with spinning sails
- 7 Tearful
- 8 Strategize
- 9 Rowers' tools
- 10 35mm camera inits.
- 11 Alteration pro
- 12 Not silently
- 13 Huge
- 14 Directs
- 15 Buyable apartments
- 16 Vision-related
- 17 Have high aspirations
- 18 Bit of ink art
- 19 Pigpen
- 24 Flying needs
- 29 Collect bit by bit
- 30 Cousin of a jack mackerel
- 31 Oval-shaped
- 32 Spiteful
- 34 Even one
- 35 Capital of Bavaria
- 36 One-named Deco master
- 37 Exactly
- 39 Pollen eaters
- 40 "Get 'em, Spot!"

DOWN

- 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

DOWN

- 83 Ding- —
- 84 Light half of a Chinese circle
- 85 Lab gelatin
- 86 Horse feed holders
- 87 Body of rules
- 88 Verdi's "— tu"
- 89 Fix illegally
- 91 Pudding starch
- 95 China's Zhou
- 96 Day, in Peru
- 99 Open, as a new rug
- 100 Some French wines
- 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!"

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Just Like Cats & Dogs

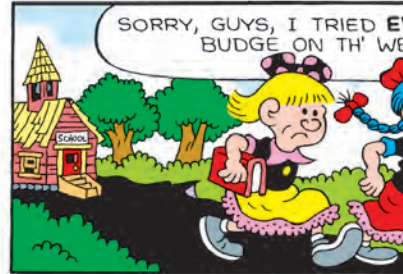
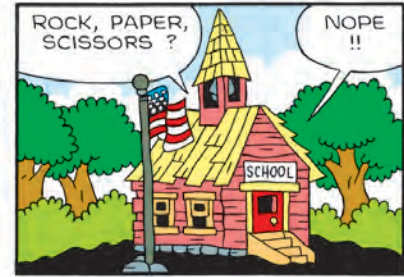
by Dave T. Phipps



GRIN and BEAR IT



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



Out on a Limb



by Gary Kopervas



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.

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...

...UNTIL LOW, RUMBLING GROWLS — BEFORE AND BEHIND — FREEZE HIM IN TERROR. "WHAT DID I DO TO DESERVE THIS?" HE SOBS.

NEXT: *The lady vanishes*

Americanisms

"All the thoughts of a turtle are turtle."
— Ralph Waldo Emerson

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

OK, THAT SHOULD DO IT. OUR BEST SNOWMAN EVER!

I'D HATE TO SEE ALL OUR HARD WORK GO TO WASTE.

I GUESS WE HAVE TWO CHOICES. WATCH HIM MELT AWAY OR STICK PARTS OF HIM IN THE FREEZER.

WOW, SO MY OPTIONS ARE SUPER DEPRESSING OR JUST DOWNRIGHT CREEPY?

SHE'S A TOUGH, COURAGEOUS FIGHTER.

YOU'RE NO LINDSEY VONN.

U.S. SKIER LINDSEY VONN

U.S. SKIER LINDSEY VONN

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The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

I ONCE CROSSED A LAWN MOWER WITH A CANARY

AND WHAT HAPPENED?

I GOT SHREDDED TWEET!!

YES OR NO? WHAT IS ONE PLUS TWO?

ANSWER YES OR NO! YES OR NO! SHUT UP! YES OR NO! YES OR NO! YES OR NO!

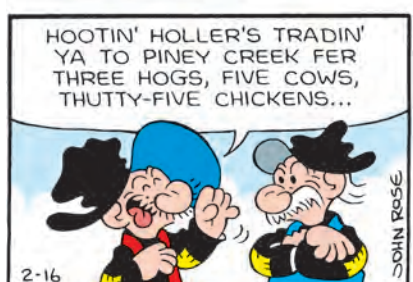
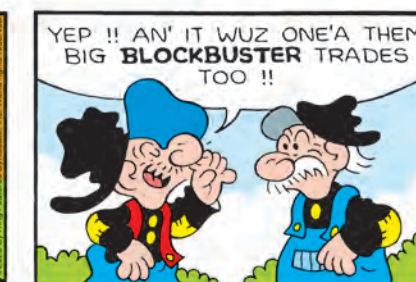
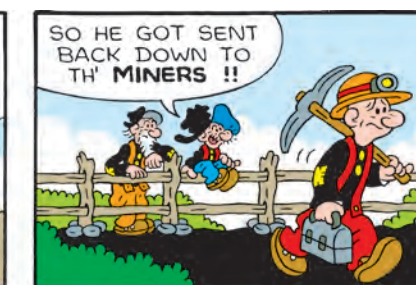
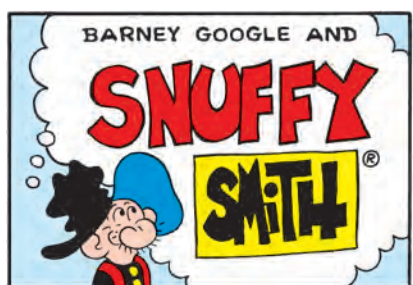
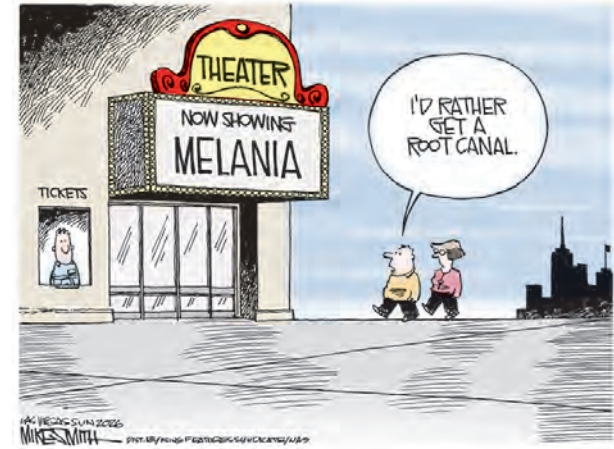
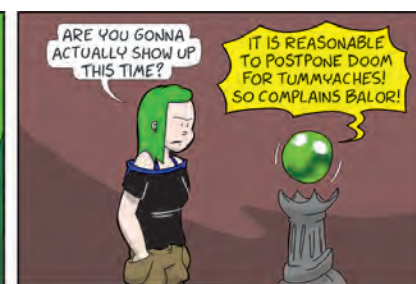
YOUR REFUSAL TO ANSWER PROVES YOU'RE A RACIST!

MAD MAX HITCH

TIGER

by BUD BLAKE

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



Amber Waves



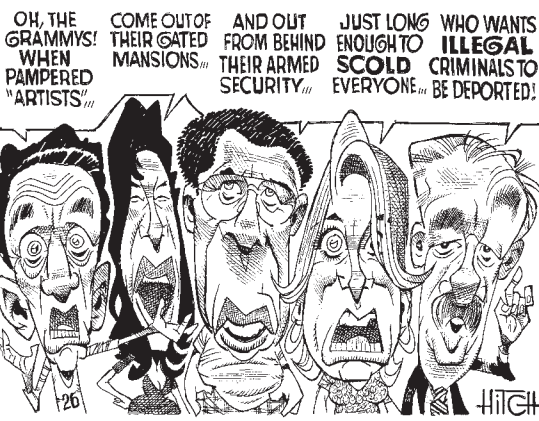
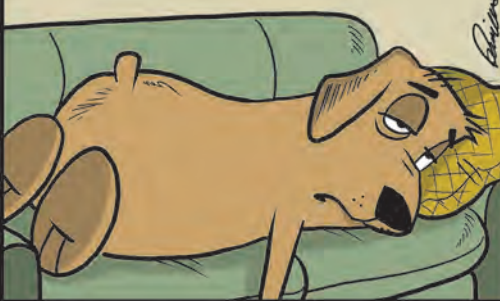
by Dave T. Phipps

Americanisms



"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.



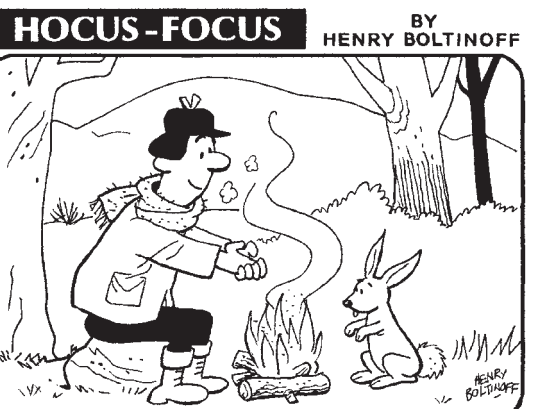
The Garden Bug

Southern start

In Texas, Georgia, Florida and other southern states, February is the start of garden season.

- It's time for southerners to plant root vegetables, including carrots, beets, and onions sets. Plant your peas if you haven't already, and get your cabbages, kales, and broccoli in the ground.
- Cut back ornamental grasses and dead stalks on perennials.
- Transplant snapdragons and pansies. Direct seed poppies and sweet peas.
- Give the compost pile a flip.

- Brenda Weaver
Source: www.bug.com



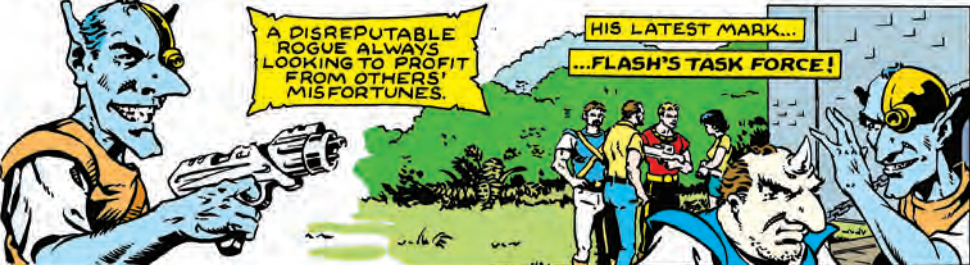
Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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

FLASH GORDON

Character Profile:
RENSHAW



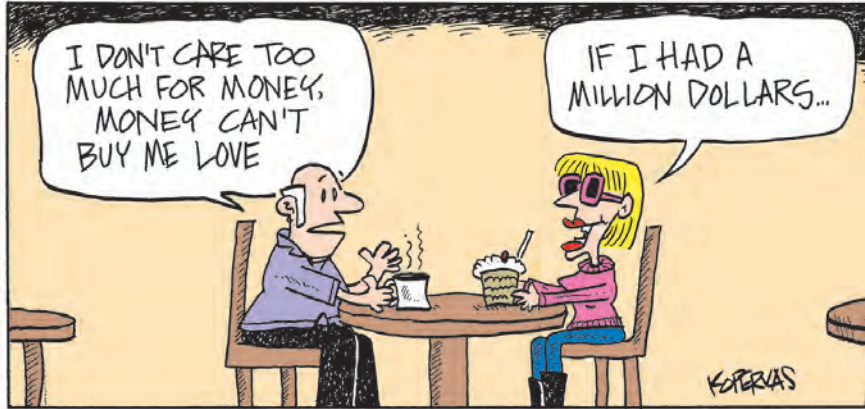
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

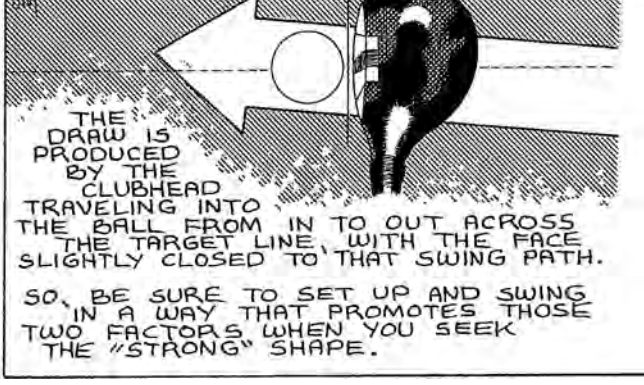
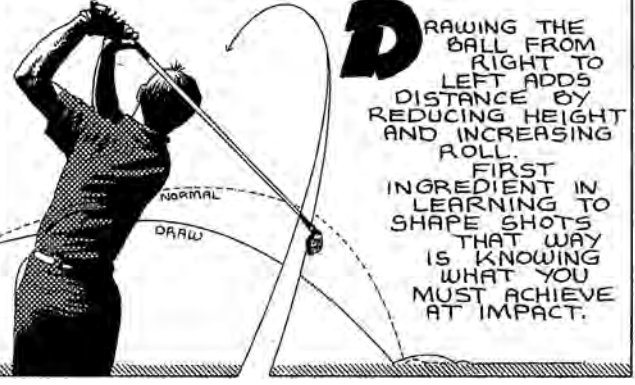


Out on a Limb

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.



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

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)

“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)

“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)

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)

“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)

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



Planning your growing space

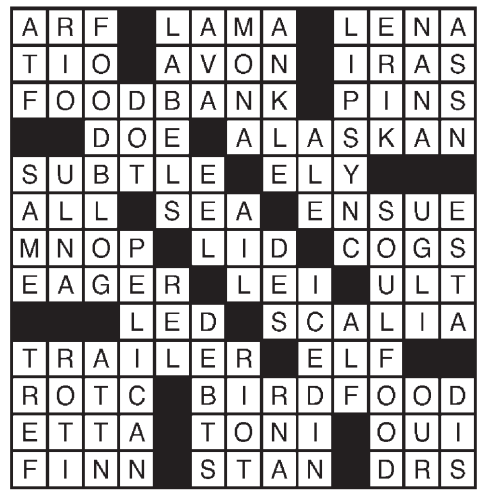
- Consider a **container garden** if you have a small space or a patio. Compact veggies like peppers like to grow in pots.
- For smaller properties, a **raised garden bed** gives more space and control than containers, but less permanent than in-ground beds. They’re great for root crops, onions, garlic, 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

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



"Super Bowl LX" (TV-PG) — Nowadays, we no longer have to set reminders to record our favorite TV programs, including NFL championship games and award shows, because everything's being aired on major streamers! We can rewatch these programs as many times as we want, which is something viewers will definitely want to do this year because of the halftime performance. The big game will be held at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, California, where the Seattle Seahawks square off against the New England Patriots. Charlie Puth delivers his rendition of our national anthem, while Bad Bunny — who just won Album of the Year at the Grammys — forces us up from our seats to dance along to his halftime show. Out now! (Peacock)

"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

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."

"A Knight of the Seven Kingdoms" (TV-MA) — Fans of George R.R. Martin's "A Song of Ice and Fire" franchise should be quite happy to receive a third TV-series adaptation based on Martin's immersive books. This new prequel series takes place 90 years before "Game of Thrones" and about 70-80 years after "House of the Dragon." Starring Peter Claffey ("Bad Sisters") and Dexter Sol Ansell ("The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds & Snakes"), the series follows a lowborn hedge knight named Ser Duncan the Tall (aka Dunk) and his squire, Ageon "Egg" Targaryen. The odd duo wanders throughout Westeros, naturally getting themselves into trouble and into some great adventures indeed. The first four episodes are out now to stream. The remaining two will premiere during the last two Sundays of February. (HBO Max)



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



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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 and join the conversation on Facebook at DivasOnADimeDotCom. Email Patti at divapatti@divasonadime.com



Super Crossword

Answers

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

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



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.JasonCoblentz.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

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 and join the conversation on Facebook at [DivasOnADimeDotCom](https://www.facebook.com/DivasOnADimeDotCom). Email Patti at divapatti@divasonadime.com



"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)

"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."

"Can You Keep a Secret?" (TV-14) — This sitcom features a handful of movie and television stars from across the pond, including Dawn French ("French and Saunders"), Mark Hean ("Pisolets"), and Craig Roberts ("The Dump Truck"). Based on the real-life disappearance of John Darwin, the six-episode series follows retired couple Debbie (French) and William (Heap), who capitalize on an opportunity to claim life insurance after William is mistakenly pronounced dead. Although their son, Harry (Roberts), tries to persuade them to give the money back because this is, indeed, a criminal activity, he somehow gets sucked into the charade as well. The first episode is out now, with subsequent episodes premiering every Thursday. (Paramount+)

the Local Voice

TLV #480

February 19–March 5, 2026



Beth Ann Fennelley

"The Irish Goodbye"

Book launch
February 24
at Off
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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