

# the Local Voice



TLV #485 MAY 2026 FREE



## THE ODDEST SEA

Local Entertainment, Events, Food & Drinks, Puzzles, Trivia, Arts, Good Reads, and more inside

THE LOCAL VOICE™ #485 - ROUNABOUT OXFORD® - CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF PUBLISHING IN OXFORD, MISSISSIPPI 2006-2026

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# the Local Voice™

TLV Issue #485 · May 2026 · Oxford, Ole Miss, & North Mississippi · Read at Maximum Volume

## Will Griffith to Celebrate Book Release for *The Oddest Sea*

### His first book is a collection of poetry and lyrics published by Cool Dog Sound

Writer and musician Will Griffith, a.k.a. **The Great Dying**, will celebrate the release of his new book with an official launch party on Sunday, May 31, featuring live music, a reading, and a post-show signing.

The event will include **Bark!** opening for **The Great Dying**. Will plans to share a short reading—potentially including a few poems—and will be available before and after the show to sign books. The event will take place at **Proud Larry's**, with a start time to be announced.

Presales are available now through [CoolDogSound.com](http://CoolDogSound.com).

"I am very excited. I'm exhausted, but his is a surreal thing. When I was younger, all I ever wanted to do was have some records out on vinyl, which I did ... I wanted to play at Proud Larry's and play Double Decker. I've done those two things ... and having something at Square Books is like a dream come true on top of all that."

Will's upbringing in the Mississippi Delta, in and around Cleveland and Gunnison, informs the book's imagery—small towns, roads, the levee, and the Mississippi River—alongside themes of sadness and heartbreak that draw from both personal experience and stories he imagines about the people he has served.

"A lot of that is from my life, but also it's from ... observing people and writing in their shoes. So, it's not

by Nature Humphries



"Will Griffith's words hold the power of a gospel hymn, rising and falling, and carrying you on the wind of a great spiritual lyricism. He joins you in your woes, holds you in your grief, and rides shotgun in your joy. A real guy writing about real people in the real world. A true wordsmith and storyteller."

— **Michael Farris Smith**, author of *Lay Your Armor Down* and *Desperation Road*

all about me. Sometimes I assume people's narratives, and kind of write from there. I don't want [people] to think that I have been done that dirty that many times. I'm also taking characters I have [observed] and I write little stories about them."

Will credits a high school creative writing teacher in Memphis named **Rita Gorman** for pushing him to expand beyond writing punk rock lyrics into poetry. When he began working in the service industry, waiting tables and bartending, he started writing down bits and pieces, sometimes just single lines, on guest checks, hoarding them in boxes to eventually become his songs and poems.

"I refer to the Delta as the sea of towns; *The Oddest Sea* is all about the Delta, just a ton of little bitty towns all on top of each other. A lot of the imagery absolutely comes from the aesthetics of the Delta."

The book's cover, a snippet of a painting of Will's, ties together the creative forces that comprise his many talents. Will expects to do more painting in the near future, when he can find time

outside his busy schedule of bartending, playing shows, and recording music. A new album is also in the works, recorded and mixed at **Dial Back Sound** in **Water Valley**, expected to be out sometime this fall.

So, go ahead and pre-order a copy of the book and make plans to celebrate at **Proud Larry's** on May 31. 🐕

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MAY 22 & 23

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# ROUNDABOUT OXFORD®

## LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT & EVENTS

### THURSDAY 4.30.2026

**The Powerhouse: Thacker Mountain Radio Season Finale**  
featuring authors **JAY MCINERNEY** for *See You on the Other Side*, music by **NUBIA YASIN, ALEX HUEY** (6 pm)

Ford Center: WIND ENSEMBLE concert (7:30 pm)  
Lafayette County Arena: SPRING CARNIVAL (4-10 pm; \$5 parking)  
Oxford-Lafayette Public Library: Afterschool Zone (3:45 pm)  
Proud Larry's: JOYBOMB, THE HALF OF IT, DREEM BOOK (9 pm; free)  
Student Union 326 (UM): Lavender Graduation (6 pm)  
University Museum: Discovery Day (10:45 am)

### FRIDAY 5.01.2026

**The Library: THE SMOKE** (9 pm)

**Quack's: BEDLXM** (9 pm)

**Rafters on the Water: MICHAEL THOMAS** (7 pm)

**Rhythm & Rye: KODY HARRELL** (7 pm)

Barnard Observatory: Spring Documentary Showcase (6-8 pm)  
Lafayette County Arena: SPRING CARNIVAL (4-10 pm; \$5 parking)  
Oxford Conference Center: St. John's Drawdown w/ THE KRACKERJACKS PARTY BAND (7 pm; \$150 admits 2)  
Oxford-Lafayette Public Library: Storytime (10:30 am); Afterschool Zone (3:45 pm)  
Proud Larry's: POSE YOURSELF Drag & Variety Show (9 pm; \$7)  
Velvet Ditch Coffee: Pop-up lunch w/ MANILA SKILLET (11 am-2 pm)

### SATURDAY 5.02.2026

**The Library: THE SMOKE** (9 pm)

**The Old Henry: DUELING PIANOS: Kyia & Doc** (7:30 pm)

**The Powerhouse: CINCO DE MAYO FESTIVAL** (5 pm; \$15)

**Quack's: BEDLXM** (9 pm)

**Rafters on the Water: REESE HORTON** (7 pm)

**Rhythm & Rye: KODY HARRELL** (7 pm)

**Downtown Oxford: OXFORD PRIDE PARADE** (2 pm)



Lafayette County Arena: SPRING CARNIVAL (noon-10 pm; \$5 parking)  
The Lyric: Oxford Pride Drag Show - Love Yourself (8 pm)  
Magnolia Coffee Co. (Water Valley): Music w/ ALEX HUEY (7 pm)  
Midtown Marketplace: MID-TOWN SPRING FEST (10 am-2 pm; music, food & drinks, etc.)  
Student Union: UM Pride Network Resource Fair (3-5 pm)  
Velvet Ditch Coffee: Pop-up lunch w MANILA SKILLET (11 am-2 pm)  
Water Valley: PRIDE IN THE VALLEY (9 am-noon)

### SUNDAY 5.03.2026

**Circle & Square: Off-Campus Vintage & Arts Market** (noon-6 pm)

**The Powerhouse: Theatre Oxford Membership Mixer - Groove & Line Dance Night** (6 pm)

**Rafters on the Water: JOE AUSTIN & THE TALLAHATCHIES** (5-8 pm)

Cedar Oaks: Mayfest with live music by GREG JOHNSON & SHAUNDI WALL, Maypole, crafts, refreshments, store (2-4 pm; FREE)

### MONDAY 5.04.2026

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

Oxford-Lafayette Public Library: Pokemon Playdate (3:15 pm); Afterschool Zone (3:45 pm); Author visit & book signing with SPARKY REARDON for *The Dean* (5:30 pm)

### TUESDAY 5.05.2026

Bozarts Gallery (Water Valley): The Hubert Creekmore Literary Society Reading Series - NEIL WHITE (6:30 pm; free)

Oxford-Lafayette Public Library: Baby Storytime (9:30 am); Craft & Connect (11 am & 5:30 pm)

### THURSDAY 5.07.2026

**The Library: NEUTRAL SNAP** (9 pm)

**Off Square Books: SPARKY REARDON** for *The Dean* - meet & greet signing (11 am-1 pm)

**The Powerhouse: KATHRYN STOCKETT** for *The Calamity Club* (5:30 pm; ticketed event)

Oxford-Lafayette Public Library: Using Search Engines Effectively (11 am); Afterschool Zone (3:45 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** (3-6:30 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

- **Booth's BBQ: LINE DANCING**
- **The Old Henry: DUELING PIANOS** (7 pm)
- **Rafters: DJ DRUMM**

### Saturdays

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

### Weekend Brunch

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

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# ROUNDAABOUT OXFORD™



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## FRIDAY 5.08.2026

**Swayze Field: OLE MISS BASEBALL**  
vs. **TEXAS A&M (6:30 pm)**

**The Library: NEUTRAL SNAP (9 pm)**

**Off Square Books: SPARKY REARDON for *The Dean* - meet & greet signing (11 am-1 pm)**

**Quack's: BEDLXM**

**Rafters on the Water: LIVE MUSIC TBA**

**Rhythm & Rye: MICHAEL MCINTIRE (7 pm)**

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

Velvet Ditch Coffee: Pop-up lunch w MANILA SKILLET (11 am-2 pm)

## SATURDAY 5.09.2026

**Swayze Field: OLE MISS BASEBALL vs. TEXAS A&M (4 pm)**

**The Library: NEUTRAL SNAP (9 pm)**

**Quack's: BEDLXM**

**Rafters on the Water: LIVE MUSIC TBA**

**Rhythm & Rye: KYLE KITE (7 pm)**

The Grove (UM): 2026 Commencement Convocation (9 am)

Magnolia Coffee Co. (Water Valley): Music w/ SAD BATH (7 pm)

Velvet Ditch Coffee: Pop-up lunch w MANILA SKILLET (11 am-2 pm)

## SUNDAY 5.10.2026

### Mother's Day

**Swayze Field: OLE MISS BASEBALL vs. TEXAS A&M (4 pm)**

**Foxfire Ranch (Waterford): Sunday Blues TBA (5 pm; \$20)**

**The Powerhouse: ANUBIS IMPROV Level Up (7 pm; free)**

**Rafters on the Water: LIVE MUSIC TBA**

## MONDAY 5.11.2026

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

## TUESDAY 5.12.2026

**Off Square Books: BOOK LAUNCH: ERIN AUSTEN ABBOTT with *Waterfront Living* (5:30 pm)**

**Square Books, Jr.: No Cap Chap Book Club (10 am)**

Oxford-Lafayette Public Library: Baby Storytime + the 3Ts (9:30 am);

Mental Health Resource Stop w/ NAMI (9 am-1 pm); Get Started

with Talking Books (11 am); Afterschool Zone (3:45 pm)

## WEDNESDAY 5.13.2026

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

## THURSDAY 5.14.2026

Oxford-Lafayette Public Library: Afterschool Zone (3:45 pm); Fight the Bite w/ Miss. Dept. of Health (5:30 pm)

## FRIDAY 5.15.2026

**The Library: JUSTIN HOLT (9 pm)**

**Rhythm & Rye: BRIGID FERGUSON (7 pm)**

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

Velvet Ditch Coffee: Pop-up lunch w MANILA SKILLET (11 am-2 pm)

## SATURDAY 5.16.2026

**The Library: JUSTIN HOLT (9 pm)**

**Rhythm & Rye: WILL COPPAGE (7 pm)**

Magnolia Coffee Co. (Water Valley): Music w/ MAX HIPPI (7 pm)

Velvet Ditch Coffee: Pop-up lunch w MANILA SKILLET (11 am-2 pm)

## SUNDAY 5.17.2026

The Coop: Empty Nester Cocktail Hour (6 pm)

## TUESDAY 5.19.2026

**Proud Larry's: NIC BROWN in conversation with JOHN T EDGE for 33 1/3: *Violent Femmes*, musical guest SHANNON FERGUSON (7:30 pm)**

The Coop: Empty Nester Cocktail Hour (6 pm)

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

Mahjongg for Beginners (5:30 pm)

## WEDNESDAY 5.20.2026

**Off Square Books: DAN JONES in conversation with BETH ANN FENNELLY for *Medical Missionary* (5:30 pm)**

Oxford-Lafayette Public Library: Afterschool Zone - Mental Health

Matters w/ UM PANDAA Lab (3:45 pm)

## THURSDAY 5.21.2026

**Old Henry: Old-Time Piano Playing Contest & Festival OPENING Concert (7:30 pm)**

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

Oxford-Lafayette Public Library: Afterschool Zone - Mental Health

Matters w/ UM PANDAA Lab (3:45 pm)

## FRIDAY 5.22.2026

**The Library: TY TAYLOR & THE KINFOLK (9 pm)**

**Rhythm & Rye: MICAH BROWN (7 pm)**

Nutt Auditorium: Old-Time Piano Playing Contest (12-8 pm)

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

Velvet Ditch Coffee: Pop-up lunch w MANILA SKILLET (11 am-2 pm)

## SATURDAY 5.23.2026

**The Library: TY TAYLOR & THE KINFOLK (9 pm)**

**Rhythm & Rye: TOMFOOLERY (7 pm)**

Magnolia Coffee Co. (Water Valley): Music w/ TORI VINSON (7 pm)

Nutt Auditorium: Old-Time Piano Playing Contest (9 am-1 pm)

Velvet Ditch Coffee: Pop-up lunch w MANILA SKILLET (11 am-2 pm)

## SUNDAY 5.31.2026

Nutt Auditorium: Old-Time Piano Playing Contest (9 am-3 pm)

## WEDNESDAY 5.27.2026

**Off Square Books: JESMYN WARD with *On Witness and Repair* (5:30 pm; ticketed event)**

The Coop: Empty Nester Cocktail Hour (6 pm)

Oxford-Lafayette Public Library: Conversation Cafe with BARBARA WORTHAM (11:30 am)

## THURSDAY 5.28.2026

**Proud Larry's: KARAOKE night with Thacker Mountain Radio (7 pm; \$10)**

## FRIDAY 5.29.2026

**The Library: JON KOTT BAND (9 pm)**

**Rhythm & Rye: BRADY REES (7 pm)**

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

## SATURDAY 5.30.2026

**The Library: JON KOTT BAND (9 pm)**

**Rhythm & Rye: MISTI WILLIAMS (7 pm)**

Magnolia Coffee Co. (Water Valley): Music at Magnolia w/ KELL KELLUM (7 pm)

## SUNDAY 5.31.2026

**Proud Larry's: BOOK LAUNCH for WILL GRIFFITH's *The Oddest Sea*, music by BARK!, THE GREAT DYING (time TBA)**

The Coop: Empty Nester Cocktail Hour (6 pm)

### POP-UP LUNCH

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### GIFTS FOR GRADS

**The Dean**, a collection of memories, thoughts, and insights from the desk of the beloved former Dean of Students, **Sparky Reardon**, is the perfect Ole Miss memento

Meet Sparky and get your copy personalized

**Thursday, May 7** 11am - 1pm @ Off Square Books  
**Friday, May 8** 11am - 1pm @ Square Books

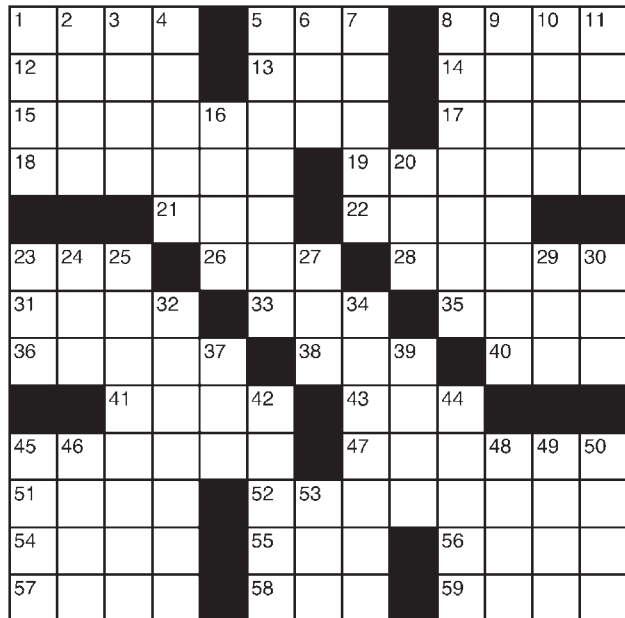


Here are some games to play, in your free time, to keep your mind sharp, and focused.

## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Lopsided win
- 5 Have bills
- 8 Wan
- 12 Golden Fleece ship
- 13 Fix illegally
- 14 Final Four gp.
- 15 Speed
- 17 Teri of "Tootsie"
- 18 Actor Estevez
- 19 Looked closely (at)
- 21 Pitcher Maglie
- 22 Bath powder
- 23 Speed (up)
- 26 Poetic contraction
- 28 Period of rule
- 31 El-Masry of "Star Wars"
- 33 Bro, maybe
- 35 Stair part
- 36 Deeply touched
- 38 Its cap. is Brussels
- 40 "— outta here!"
- 41 "Dream on!"
- 43 Actor Holbrook
- 45 Locust
- 47 Talisman
- 51 Seethe
- 52 Maximum contents
- 54 Diminutive



- 55 Hirohito's title (Abbr.)
- 56 One-named supermodel
- 57 Sun beams
- 58 Verbalize
- 59 Church section
- DOWN**
- 1 Gushing review
- 2 Utah city
- 3 Wrinkled fruit
- 4 Workshop array
- 5 Baltimore baseballers
- 7 Pharaoh's land
- 8 The "A" of UCLA
- 9 Shortage
- 10 Fast runner
- 11 Lawn party site
- 16 Pisa farewell
- 20 Jug handle
- 23 Zodiac animal
- 24 Comic Philips
- 25 Liveliness
- 27 Tease
- 29 "My word!"
- 30 "Science Friday" net-
- 32 Secondhand deals
- 34 "Cheer up!"
- 37 Carried out
- 39 Tibetan monk
- 42 Confronts
- 44 "— di Lammermoor"
- 45 Driver with a handle
- 46 Tiny bit
- 48 Walk unevenly
- 49 LAX guesses
- 50 Broadway actress Daly
- 53 Docs' org.



1. Which group had a hit with "Let Me Love You Tonight"?
2. Name the first artist to release "Say You Don't Mind."
3. Which group started out as Fat City?
4. "As Long as He Needs Me" was used in which musical?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "Just look at you sitting there, Never looked better than tonight, And it'd be so easy to tell you I'd stay."

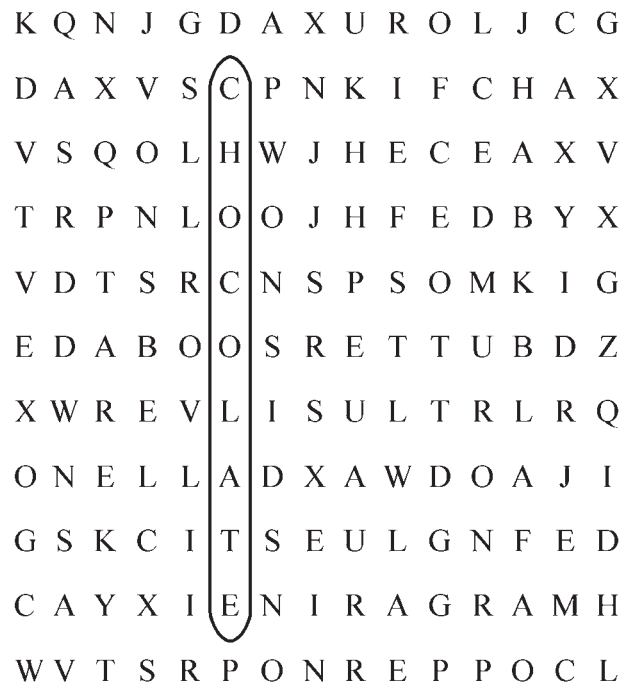
### Answers

1. Pure Prairie League, in 1980. The song topped the Adult Contemporary charts in both Canada and the U.S. Vince Gill got his start with the group after an audition in 1978.
2. Singer-songwriter Denny Laine, in 1967. The song did not chart, but Colin Blunstone released a cover in 1972 that reached the Top 20.
3. Starland Vocal Band, in 1976, when they released "Afternoon Delight." The song won a Grammy Award for Best Arrangement for Voices, while the group won a Grammy for Best New Artist of 1976.
4. "Oliver!" in 1960.
5. "Don't Fall in Love With a Dreamer," by Kenny Rogers and Kim Carnes, in 1980. The song did well across several charts, including Hot 100, Country and Adult Contemporary, in both the U.S. and in Canada.

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.

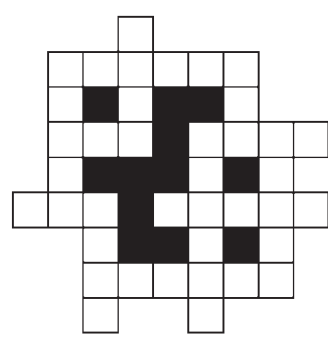


## MAGIC MAZE ● THINGS WE MELT



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

- |           |             |           |        |
|-----------|-------------|-----------|--------|
| Butter    | Glass       | Ice       | Snow   |
| Candles   | Glue sticks | Lead      | Solder |
| Chocolate | Gold        | Margarine | Wax    |
| Copper    | Hearts      | Silver    |        |



- ♥ WRA
- WUCREF
- GOWAL
- ♥ EWNH
- ♥ SECTHA
- ♥ NSI
- ♥ ERCA
- ♥ ERTWO
- ♥ EEW
- EGHTUS
- ♥ HANIC
- ♥ AGSR

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

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

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

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FRIDAY-SAT Noon-til  
SUNDAY 11 am-til

**New Orleans style Daiquiris and a HUGE selection of Beer and Liquor**

**DIFFERENT SPECIALS MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY**

# the Local Voice PUZZLE PLAYGROUND

## SUDOKU

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

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

### DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging  
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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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 Huntsville's state
  - 8 "Dig in!"
  - 13 Watched a child for pay
  - 20 Recuperate
  - 21 Bodily trunks
  - 22 French writer France
  - 23 1983 film for which Robert Duvall won Best Actor
  - 25 Hold within
  - 26 — -Ball
  - 27 Bullring cry
  - 28 Illegal trade medium
  - 30 Common med. scans
  - 32 The Beatles' "I've Just — Face"
  - 33 Folk singer DiFranco
  - 34 Many a morning bowlful
  - 39 Preview release of a new product
  - 44 Hardship
  - 45 Vid shooters
  - 47 Relative of "BTW"
  - 48 Further
  - 49 Actress Blair
  - 50 "Spamalot" creator Idle
  - 51 Brimless cap
  - 53 — -to manual
  - 54 High roller
  - 58 Per the norm
  - 60 GQ, e.g.
  - 63 Entre —
  - 64 Other, in Acapulco
  - 66 Rich, nutty cake
  - 67 Iraqi, e.g.
  - 69 Tulsa's largest suburb
  - 74 Chap from Chelsea, e.g.
  - 75 Thumbs-ups
  - 77 "Call Jane" actress Kate
  - 78 Oven knob
  - 80 Sun — -sen
  - 81 Sentimental songs
  - 84 Coin worth two quarters
  - 88 Defunct U.K. record label
  - 89 Long (for)
  - 91 Active sort
  - 92 Aussie buds
  - 96 Rational
  - 98 "Phooey!"
  - 99 General — chicken
  - 100 Music genre for Brian Eno
  - 102 Ali Baba's password
  - 105 South American marmoset
  - with a tufted tail
  - 107 Knight, e.g.
  - 108 Drifts about
  - 110 Beehive State team
  - 111 Something barely recalled
  - 115 Here, in Lyon
  - 116 Knight, e.g.
  - 120 Crated up
  - 121 Cavalry soldier without heavy weaponry
  - 125 Arranging in rows
  - 126 Emollient plants
  - 127 Arbitrary change of mind
  - 128 A bit firm, as cooked pasta
  - 129 Snake killed by Hercules
  - 130 Word that can follow the starts of 11 answers in this puzzle
  - 4 Be a sign of
  - 5 "Hail, Nero!"
  - 6 French sea
  - 7 Large, ornate wardrobe
  - 8 Raison d'—
  - 9 Member of "The Squad" in D.C., for short
  - 10 Family group
  - 11 Futile
  - 12 Italian sculptor Andrea
  - 13 Reverse side
  - 14 Abnormalities
  - 15 Daiquiri fruit
  - 16 Rare-earth element
  - 17 Drench
  - 18 "I cannot tell —"
  - 19 Circus shelter
  - 24 Alternatively
  - 29 — latte (kind of espresso)
  - 30 "The Mugger" novelist Ed
  - 31 Subj. for a theologian
  - 32 Done in, as a dragon
  - 34 Euro divs.
  - 35 Often-refined resource
  - 36 IM giggle
  - 37 Word before luck or struck
  - 38 Farmland unit
  - 40 Model Banks
  - 41 "Take your time"
  - 42 Zagreb's land
  - 43 — -Packard
  - 46 Rival of Burger King
  - 50 Word with salts or Downs
  - 51 "I'm f-f-freezing!"
  - 52 Boy pharaoh, for short
  - 55 Hunk
  - 56 Prefix with tax or charge
  - 57 Greek "H"
  - 59 Weep audibly
  - 60 "Possibly"
  - 61 Tourist's aid
  - 62 Fuel conduit
  - 65 Zeal
  - 68 — Paese cheese
  - 70 Madeline of "Mixed Nuts"
  - 71 Age
  - 72 Often-refined resource
  - 73 Retail store's beginning?
  - 76 Declare
  - 79 Italian luxury cars, for short
  - 82 Postponing of military service
  - 83 Je ne — quoi
  - 85 Dupes
  - 86 Lucy's Arnaz
  - 87 Picnic spoiler
  - 90 Weaponize anew
  - 93 William Shatner's "—War"
  - 94 Propyl ending
  - 95 Hog haven
  - 97 Trap in a net
  - 99 With a bit of crying
  - 100 Capital of ancient Syria
  - 101 Mrs., in Metz
  - 103 Substitutes (for)
  - 104 Dough
  - 106 "That hurts!"
  - 109 "Mon Dieu!"
  - 111 Greek salad cheese
  - 112 Blue dye
  - 113 Chilled
  - 114 Border
  - 115 "— miracle!"
  - 116 Mr., in Berlin
  - 117 Send out
  - 118 Indy 500, e.g.
  - 119 Lacking width and depth, for short
  - 122 That lady
  - 123 "Vengeance" actress Issa
  - 124 Jacuzzi site

**DOWN**

- 1 Part of B.A.
- 2 Onion cousin
- 3 Oxy 5 target

1	2	3	4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11	12		13	14	15	16	17	18	19			
20								21						22									
23								24						25									
26							27				28			29									
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34	35	36	37							38			39			40				41	42	43	
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75					76					77					78			79		80			
81					82	83				84			85	86					87				
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96				97		98						99						100	101				
102					103						104			105		106							
					107					108				109			110						
111	112	113						114						115						116	117	118	119
120																							
125																							
128																							



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

### CODED RIDDLE

Change each letter to the one that comes immediately BEFORE it in the alphabet to find a riddle and its answer.

Here's a copy of the alphabet to guide you:

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

XIBU EP ZPV DBMM B

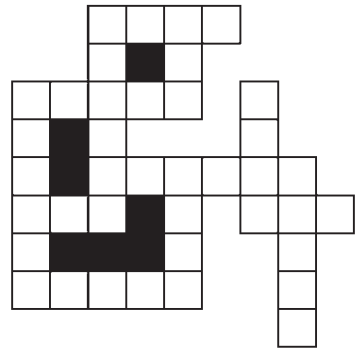
DPX FBUJOH HSBTT?

B MBXO NPPFS.

## FEAR KNOT By: rj Johnson

DOUBT? ... OR DARE!

- DHI
- EPTCID
- CAGRI
- APCI
- GAPOAD
- ♥PSA
- ♥HMCU
- ♥ERMAD
- ♥RCA
- ♥HADSEC
- ETDIM
- ♥APML



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™ Airport update

S	H	O	R	T

- Electrical malfunction
- Sunday dinner staple
- Look without blinking
- Career choice
- Prepared
- Hold back

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. Veranda        | ___ R ___ | Kangaroo's sack     | ___ U ___ |
| 2. Calvary sword  | ___ A ___ | Not drunk           | ___ O ___ |
| 3. Navigate       | ___ T ___ | Translucent         | ___ H ___ |
| 4. Clothes room   | ___ T ___ | Late-inning pitcher | ___ R ___ |
| 5. Agile          | ___ I ___ | Wood planks         | ___ U ___ |
| 6. Tote           | C ___     | Take to the altar   | M ___     |
| 7. Run down hut   | ___ C ___ | Mako or tiger       | ___ R ___ |
| 8. Catchy ad tune | J ___     | Socialize           | M ___     |
| 9. Place a bet    | ___ G ___ | Irrigate            | ___ T ___ |
| 10. Dean or Short | ___ T ___ | Hemingway's fish    | ___ L ___ |

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"In an overwhelming attempt to capture memories, people have forgotten to make memories."  
— **Abhijit Naskar** (born October 9, 1991)

## 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!

- Leave: TARPED [ ] [ ]
- Cut: CREEPI [ ] [ ]
- Tribute: OHMEGA [ ] [ ]
- Slope: RAGED [ ] [ ]

### TODAY'S WORD

\_\_\_\_\_



"I noticed they changed their act since the \_\_\_\_\_!"

# Blues Musician and Scholar to Deliver Annual Last Lecture

## Adam Gussow prepares to retire after 24 years in Southern Studies

by Rebecca Lauck Cleary

On his first day of teaching at the University of Mississippi in 2002, Adam Gussow showed up in Barnard Observatory right at the start of class time, sweating profusely in the August heat. His left arm was in a cast from a recent bicycle accident on Pea Ridge Road, and he was flustered and in pain.

The native New Yorker was a little uncertain about his new place on the map, but he made it through his first day, and subsequent ones over the next 24 years. He is preparing to take his final trek through the building before retiring in May.

“Leaving Manhattan for Oxford, Mississippi, to begin a new life as an assistant professor of English and Southern studies at the University of Mississippi was the best move I’ve ever made, apart from asking my wife to marry me,” Gussow said. “It was a dream job in an amazingly convivial town, and—clined as it sounds—it gave me a chance to live my best life.”

Gussow will deliver this year’s Last Lecture at 4 pm May 1 in **Overby Center Auditorium**. The Tassels Chapter of Mortar Board asks one Ole Miss professor to “deliver a lecture to end the academic year as if it were the last lecture of their career.”

The Last Lecture series began at UM in 2013, inspired by the book *The Last Lecture* by Randy Pausch. “I’ve already sketched out a presentation and I plan to surprise people,” Gussow said. “That’s all I’ll say for now.”

Gussow, who earned his bachelor’s and doctoral degrees from Princeton University and a master’s from Columbia University, wrote his dissertation on Southern violence and the blues tradition. He was looking for a tenure-track job in African American literature when he saw a listing for a position at the Center for the Study of Southern Culture.

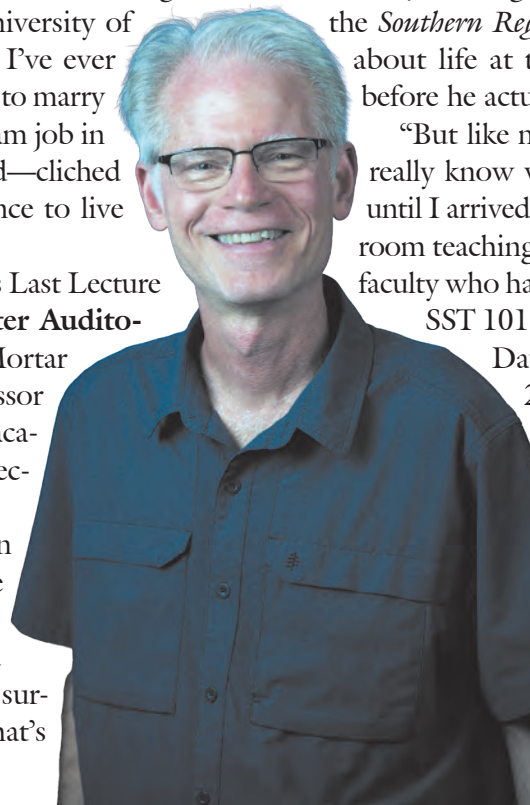
“I knew about the center—I’d stopped by to visit Bill Ferris back in 1997 after my Satan & Adam duo had made the cover of *Living Blues*—but I hadn’t thought about Southern studies as a field,” Gussow said. “When I saw the job listing, though, I said, ‘Whoa! That’s perfect.’”

Somehow, he had gotten on the mailing list for the *Southern Register*, so he recalls reading about life at the center for many years before he actually arrived as a new hire.

“But like most of our faculty, I didn’t really know what Southern studies was until I arrived and found myself in a classroom teaching it in the company of other faculty who had been doing it, in my case, SST 101 with Robbie Etheridge and David Wharton in the fall of 2002,” Gussow said.

He team-taught SST 101 many times with five different people, but his relationship with Wharton, who died in 2022, was a real partnership.

“He saw me as the kid, early on—although I was in my mid-40s—and he thought that I



## SPECIALS YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS!

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\$6 BURGERS  
\$7 PER CLASSIC OLD FASHIONED

**Th** THIRSTY THURSDAY | 5P - CLOSE  
ALL DRAFTS \$5.00

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

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

**Su** BOGO NIGHT | 5PM - CLOSE  
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Adam Gussow, professor of English and Southern studies at the University of Mississippi, is retiring in May after 24 years of guiding students through examinations of Southern culture and history and the blues. Gussow will deliver this year's Last Lecture at 4 pm May 1, 2026 in Overby Center Auditorium. Photo by Olivia Whittington

"He has never lost the energy and enthusiasm he brought with him to his first day on campus, and I am sure that will be evident in his Last Lecture," McKee said.

Gussow said he is delighted at the honor.

"Although my books have won awards of various sorts over the years, this is, I believe, the first campuswide honor I've been lucky enough to snag," he said.

When he is not inside in the air conditioning, Gussow is outside running.

"Running is my true passion, the thing that keeps me grounded," he said. "But I also love to cook. This started when I was a child and my mother, a nutrition educator, told me I could have desserts only if I cooked them myself."

He is also a blues harmonica player, as seen in the Netflix documentary *Satan and Adam*, and has published a number of books on the blues.

For the past several years, Gussow has also been researching a book about the worst school bus-train collision in New York state history, which took place one mile from his boyhood home in Congers.

"Faulkner had Yoknapatawpha County; my little postage-stamp of native soil, Rockland County, was irreparably wounded by this disaster, and I'm

overwrote," Gussow said. "He taught me to pare down my sentences, especially quiz and essay questions. We drafted exams together, each looking over the other's shoulder."

Gussow recalls one of his favorite moments in the classroom from spring 2014, in an honors section of SST 102: Freedom Summer 1964: Mississippi's Civil Rights Watershed. **Bob Zellner**, civil rights legend and original member of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, visited campus and dropped by Gussow's classroom.

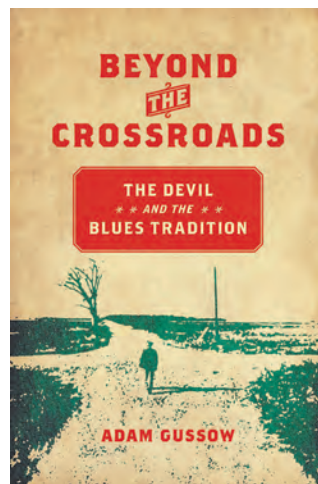
"We'd been reading about him in several of the books I'd assigned," Gussow said "Suddenly here he was, at the head of the conference room table, telling us a story about the day he and his fellow SNCC members had marched on city hall in McComb, Mississippi and he, the lone white student, had been singled out by the mob—beaten with chains, bricks, lead pipes and baseball bats—for daring to cross the color line.

"His voice caught; his eyes teared up. History was there, in the classroom, present and alive. The students were transfixed."

On the administration side, Gussow has worked with three different center directors, and he sees the commonalities among **Katie McKee**, **Ted Ownby**, and **Charles Reagan Wilson**.

"Adventurous, wide-ranging, sharp-eyed scholars, each of them managed to be an active steward of the thing called Southern studies and a three-dimensional—indisputably human—figurehead for the center," he said.

McKee said it has been a great privilege to work with Gussow during many years.



determined to tell the story—a community's story—in a way that moves and enlightens those of us who have lived with it all these years, and those who know nothing about it," he said.

When he's not working on the book, he will be running, traveling with his wife, Sherrie, and helping their son, Shaun, a music performance major at Ole Miss, make it through to graduation. Last year, Gussow wrote a book about his family, showing an intimate portrait of love, family, music and hope amid a backdrop of persistent racial challenges.

In the end, Gussow leaves with no regrets.

"I've written the books I hoped to write, learned so much from my students and colleagues, made more and better music than I expected to, fallen in love with the landscape, and enjoyed a wonderfully full family life with Sherrie and Shaun," he said. "I'm filled with gratitude." 📖

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5:30pm @ Off Square Books

**SQUARE BOOKS**

**Jesmyn Ward**  
**ON WITNESS AND REPAIR**  
ESSAYS

scan to buy tickets

**TICKETED EVENT**

**Jesmyn Ward**

# An Evening with Jesmyn Ward for *On Witness and Repair*

Wednesday, May 27 at 5:30 pm at Off Square Books

“How fortunate we are to be living in the time Jesmyn Ward is writing. On top of an astonishing career—two National Book Awards, youngest recipient of the Library of Congress Prize for American Fiction, and a John and Renee Grisham Visiting Writer position here at the University of Mississippi—she now gives us *On Witness and Repair*. Here a reader will find illuminating essays on Ta-Nehisi Coates, Octavia Butler, Toni Morrison, and others, replete with penetrating and personal observations rendered artfully: family, tragedy, Mississippi, gratitude, frustration, love, and then some.”

—Richard Howorth

Square Books is hosting one of Mississippi’s most beloved writers, the double National Book Award-winning author Jesmyn Ward, on May 27 for an event in support of her new collection of essays, *On Witness and Repair*. She will be in conversation with Square Books owner Richard Howorth.

Square Books has had the honor of welcoming Jesmyn Ward to the store many times over her career, beginning with her debut novel, *Where the Line Bleeds*, in 2008. She returned to Oxford just two years later as the John and Renée Grisham Writer-in-Residence at the University of Mississippi in 2010–2011. Later that year, she returned to Square Books for an event in support of *Salvage the Bones*, the first of her two novels to have won the National Book Award. Again, she returned in 2013 for her memoir, *Men We Reaped*, and again in 2017 for *Sing, Unburied, Sing*, her second National Book Award-winning novel. Her most recent visit was in 2023 for a sell-out event in support of her fourth novel *Let Us Descend*.

The event on May 27 will be at Off Square Books starting at 5:30 pm. The event is ticketed, priced at \$35, including all taxes and fees. Each ticket includes entry for one person and one signed first edition copy of *On Witness and Repair*.

Tickets can be purchased via Ticket Tailor: <https://buytickets.at/squarebooks/2068342>

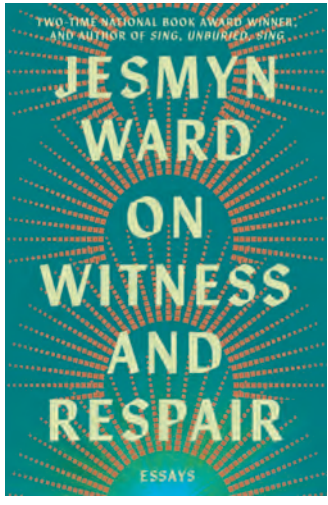


## About the Book

*Repair* (noun, obsolete), fresh hope after despair.

Jesmyn Ward’s collection of essays documents more than a decade of work in the life of a singular writer often lauded as “the heir apparent to Toni Morrison” (LitHub). Beginning with her upbringing in a multigenerational household in rural Mississippi, the cradle of both her youth and her gift for storytelling, Ward brings her keen wisdom and hauntingly lyrical prose to a range of topics, following in her grandmother Dorothy’s footsteps when she promises always to “Tell it straight. Tell it all.”

True to her word, in these pages Ward contemplates the writers and novels of her youth and adulthood—the transformative power of discovering Octavia Butler as a twenty-something, the mirror that Richard Wright’s novels held up to her own childhood, and of course, her lifelong love for Toni Morrison. Ward ruminates on her approach to both fiction and life, reflecting on the power of the novel, how to raise a Black son in an era of rising divisiveness and cruelty, as well as her own personal tragedies—including the titular essay of the collection, which tells the story of her partner’s sudden death on the eve of the COVID-19 epidemic. Every bit as piercing and moving as her fiction, *On Witness and Repair* is a testament to Ward’s powers as “one of America’s finest living writers” (*San Francisco Chronicle*) and is a monument to hope, beauty, and personal and collective resilience. **RV**



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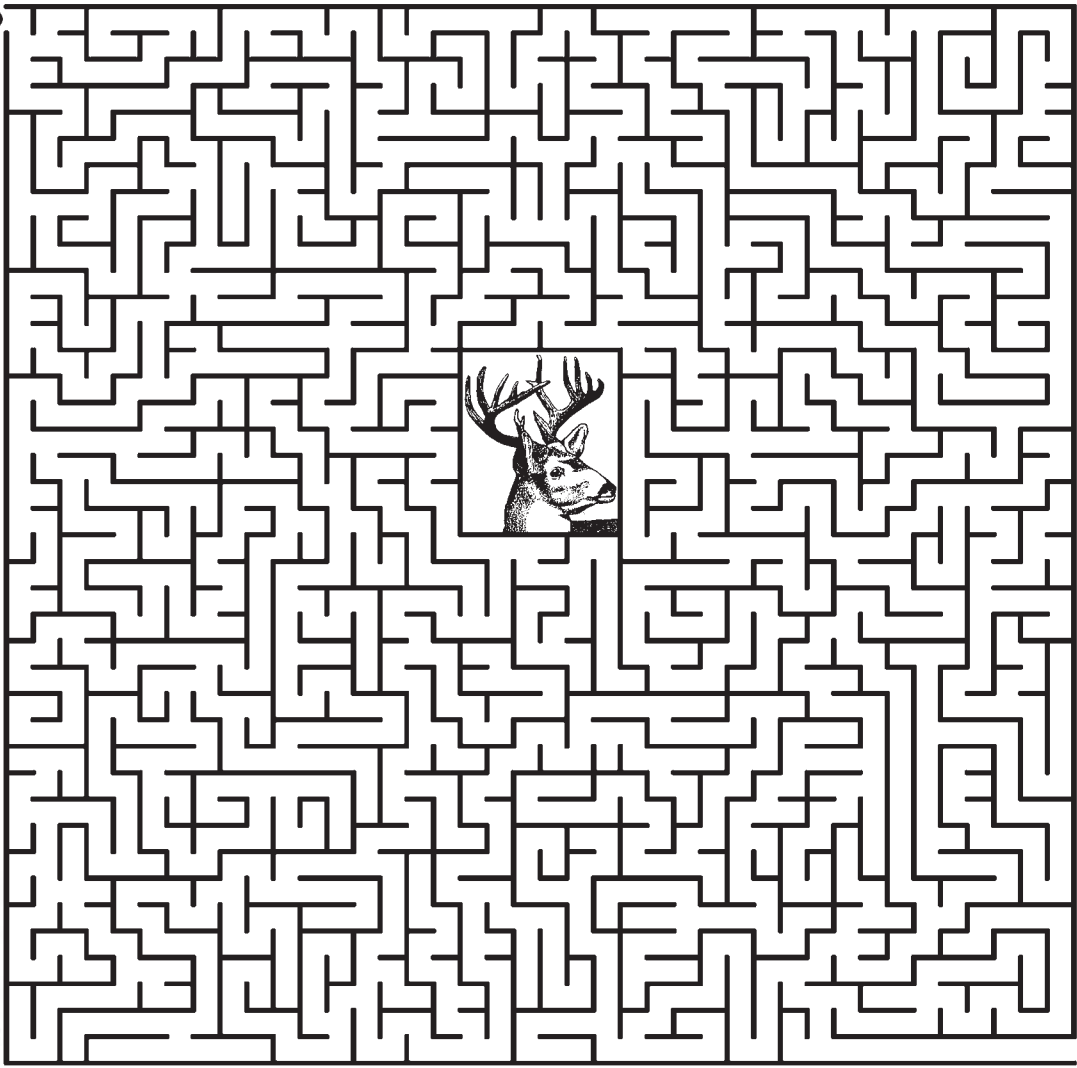
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# Mega Maze



# Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- MOVIES:** What is Indiana Jones' real first name in "Raiders of the Lost Ark"?
- LITERATURE:** What is Charlie's last name in the children's book "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory"?
- GEOGRAPHY:** What isthmus connects the Asian and African continents?
- MATH:** What is the first prime number to follow 19?
- GEOLOGY:** What type of rock is formed by cooled lava?
- TELEVISION:** What is the title character's famous line in the TV detective show "Columbo"?
- BUSINESS:** What company's stock ticker symbol is LUV?
- ASTRONOMY:** Which four planets in our solar system have rings?
- HISTORY:** About how many people worldwide were infected by the Spanish flu in the early part of the 20th century?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM:** If an animal eats only plants, what is it called?

ANSWERS BELOW

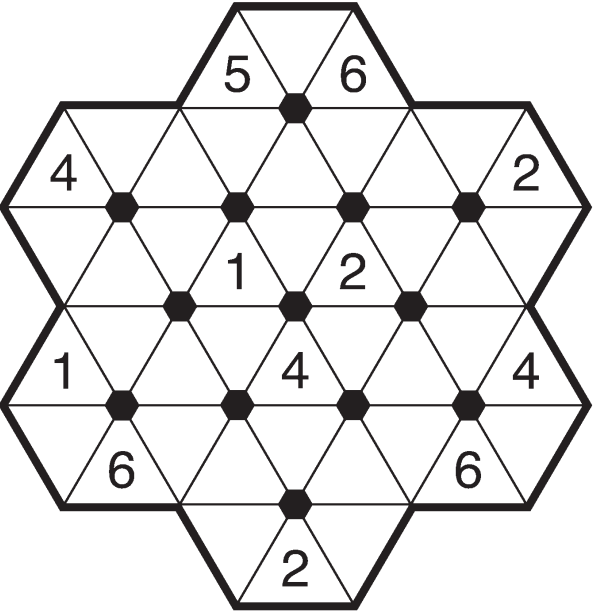
## GO FIGURE!

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.

	+		÷		=	17		
+		+		+				
	+		+		=	14		
+		-		+				
	+		-		=	9		
=		=		=				
17		9		7				
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'm still not sure why they call it social media. It robs us of genuine social interaction because we're forced to communicate through a device." - **Germany Kent** (born July 29, 1975)

## 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.

JILEL NEL JIELL JIPYBR WZH  
 VNY QZ PY N ANRLANOO  
 BNKL. WZH VNY CPY, ZE WZH

## 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: L equals U

MWDG NZLGBOP FTGYTGY  
 NDEDCOTBP OZP KBDGDH  
 CEKNS-BTD KVVKTOF, HTH WD  
 MDKO KNLVV-ETGSF?

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Answers: 1. Henry. 2. Bucket. 3. Isthmus of Suez. 4. 23. 5. Igneous. 6. "Just one more thing." 7. Southwest Airlines. 8. Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune. 9. Nearly one-third of the world's population. 10. An herbivore.



# Rebel Wine & Spirits

Remember the Party Starts Here!

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

## Junior Whirl

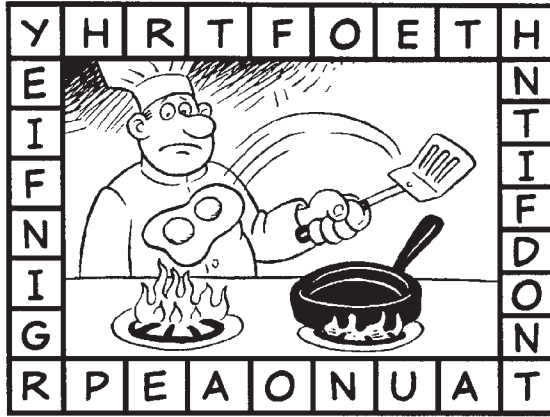
by Charles Barry Townsend



**PYRAMID OF WORD POWER!**  
You have three minutes to unlock the secrets of Word Power! Starting with the given word AIR-DROMES, at the bottom of our pyramid, try dropping one letter at a time as you work your way up, so that the remaining letters at each level spell out a new word. The following helpful hints are in ascending order, beginning with AIRDROMES.

1. Airports (given).
2. Military reserves headquarters.
3. What a minister does.
4. A rugged range of mountains.
5. A type of poker bet.
6. An Indian outer garment.
7. A form of polite address.
8. To exist; have life.
9. Symbol for iodine.

Illustrated by David Coulson



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**HIDDEN IN THE ABOVE FRAME** is a famous old saying. You can find it by reading every other letter as you go around it counterclockwise. The trick is finding the right first letter.

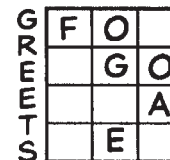
Answer: Starting with the "O" in the bottom rail: "Out of the frying pan and into the fire."

**A TONGUE TWISTER!** "One day Esau Wood saw a saw saw wood as no other wood-saw Wood saw would saw wood. In fact, of all the wood-saws Wood ever saw saw wood, Wood never saw a wood-saw that would saw wood as the wood-saw Wood saw saw wood would saw wood and I never saw a wood-saw that would saw as the wood-saw Wood saw would saw until I saw Esau Wood saw wood with the wood-saw Wood saw saw wood." (How fast can you say that one out loud?)



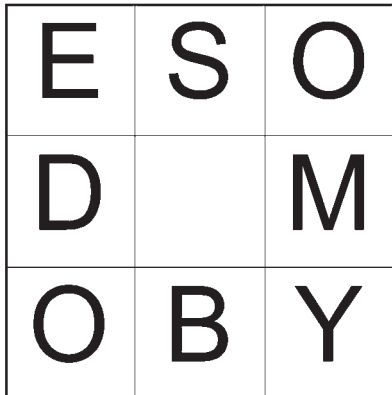
**FIND THE SEVEN WORDS PUZZLE!** In the word square at the right, we've removed six of the letters to spell out the word "GREET'S." Can you replace these letters in the squares so that you have four 3-letter words across and three 4-letter words down? Time limit: 60 seconds.

Answers: (Across) Fog, ego, era, set. (Down) Fees, ogre, goat.



Answers: 1. Airdromes, 2. Armories, 3. Marries, 4. Sierra, 5. Raise, 6. Sant, 7. Sir.

## KNIGHT MOVES



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

## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Leg is moved. 2. Design on lampshade is wider. 3. Club is shorter. 4. Curtain is shorter. 5. Doorway is different. 6. Streaks on windowpane are reversed.

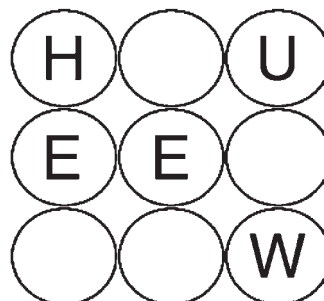
## Even Exchange

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. Small container  | ___ A ___ | Fence style        | ___ I ___ |
| 2. Chef's bib       | ___ P ___ | Ohio city          | ___ K ___ |
| 3. Portion          | ___ H ___ | Ogle               | ___ T ___ |
| 4. Peril            | ___ N ___ | Short knife        | ___ G ___ |
| 5. Twisted hairdo   | ___ D ___ | Thinking organ     | ___ N ___ |
| 6. Writing style    | ___ S ___ | Provide evidence   | ___ V ___ |
| 7. Center           | M ___     | Brain teaser       | R ___     |
| 8. Hatchling        | ___ H ___ | Hit it off         | ___ L ___ |
| 9. Resuscitate      | ___ V ___ | Edit               | ___ S ___ |
| 10. Bracelet locale | ___ R ___ | Foursome card game | ___ H ___ |

## 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.





# "A Conversation at Double Decker with Joe Biden"

Part One  
 During Double Decker last Saturday, I was wandering from booth to booth when an old guy caught my eye. I was sure I'd seen the man somewhere, but I just couldn't place him. I followed him around a bit. The man spoke with one of the vendors, "I want that pin for Jill." I put two and two together, the halting steps, the shaky hands, the Aviator Ray-Bans, and Jill. Even with the bad fake moustache and the Dallas Cowboys cap, it was Joe Biden, trying to be incognito, but not doing a stellar job of it.

I slowly moved closer with the utmost care, pretending to be a shopper.  
*Welcome to Oxford, sir.*  
 Thanks, man. Good to be here.  
*It's good to have you here, Mr....*  
 Shhh! I'm trying to be invisible here.  
 Tired of walking, man. Need a place to sit and drink a beer. I really mean it.  
*I thought you didn't drink.*  
 I do today.  
*I know a quiet place about two blocks from here.*

Let's go, man.  
 (We shuffled away until we reached our destination.)  
 What's this place, man?  
 Looks like a hole in a brick wall.  
*Yessir, but it's a great hole in the wall. Let's go in.*  
 It's dark in here, man.  
 What's this place called?  
*Bar Muse. It's one of the seven wonders of Oxford.*  
 Nice place. I want a beer.  
 (Drinks in hand, we found the quietest table in the place and sat.)

*What brought you to Oxford, sir?*  
 It's Joe. Just Joe, man. I've been trying to get some peace. Nowadays I'm getting blamed for everything. The war in Iran is my fault. The rise in grocery and gasoline prices is my fault. Even ice storm Fern that hit you guys so damn hard was my fault. Oh, and now, since I'm Catholic, the tension between the president and Pope Leo is my fault, too.

*Now, Joe. You know that's not true.*  
 Sure, I know, but about half the country thinks Eve eating the apple in the Garden of Eden was my fault, too. But I was growing up in Delaware at the time (chuckles).

*So what about this thing between the pope and the president? What do you think about it?*

"The Pope and the President." Sounds like a great name for a book or a movie. Look, I think the president is damn stupid, for blessing out the pope. I mean it. I really do. There's this president who panders to evangelicals and doesn't even know his Bible except for First Tarantino verses 1-6. Then you've got a veep who's telling the pope he needs to be careful with his theology. That's the stupidest thing I've ever heard—a Catholic layman telling the leader of his church to watch his theology.

*To quote a great Southerner, Saint Gump, "Stupid is as stupid does."*

(Belly laugh for both of us!)  
 Any serious Christian knows that their faith has to make a difference in everything they do, but you don't need to be a Bible-thumper to love like Jesus said we should.

(Just then, the news broke about the would-be assassin at the White House Correspondents' Dinner in Washington, D.C. Joe looked shocked. A tear rolled down his left cheek.)

*Dammit, man! Is the president all right? Why do you care?*

*Think, Randy. We all need to respect the office of the presidency. It's another thing altogether to respect the man or woman who occupies the office. Hell, there's not one damn thing I respect about that man, but he's still president. If the leader of the free world is assassinated, it creates chaos you can't imagine.*

Of course. But we have protocols for that, like the line of succession.

*Yes, we do, but we don't want to have to use them. I mean it, man. I really mean it. Look, the tension between the president and the pope will eventually be a footnote in history. The presidency will survive. The papacy will survive.*

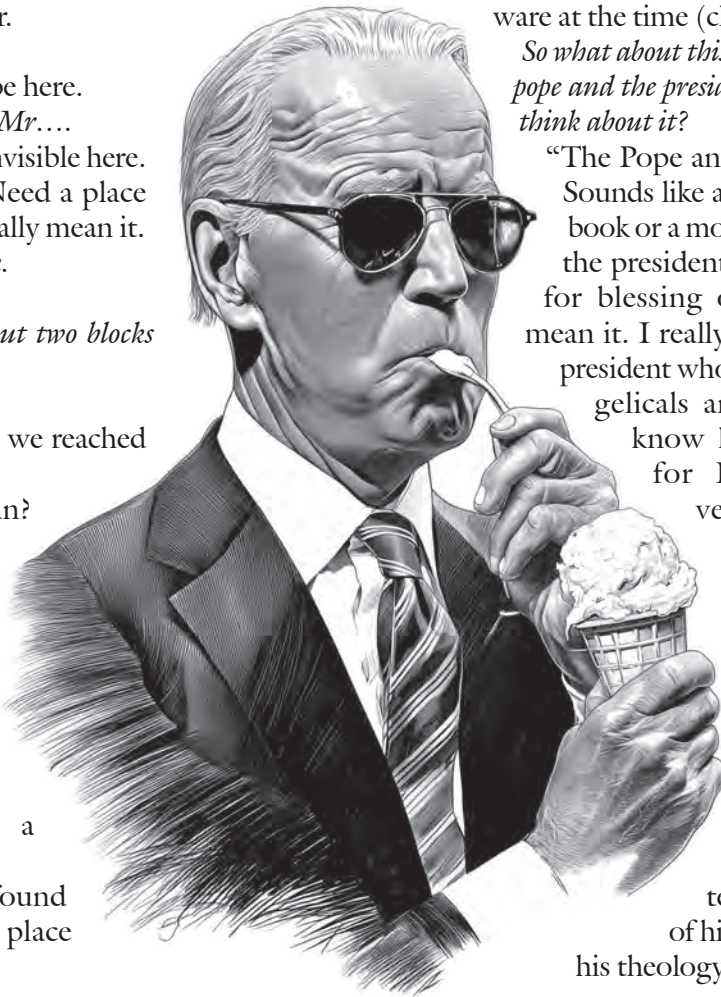
Should we pray for the president?  
*Absolutely! If anybody in this world needs praying over, it's this man. He needs it badly. I believe that. I really do.*

What should I pray for?  
*That, my friend, is between you and the Almighty.*

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

(To be continued...)

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



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 Saturday: \$15 pitchers & buckets  
 Sunday: \$5 Mimosas & Bloody Marys

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118 Courthouse Square  
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Delivery: TAB

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Mon-Fri: 7 am-1 pm  
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Early Bird Special:  
Wed & Thur 7-9 am: 10% off  
Delivery: Door Dash, TAB

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2200 South Lamar Blvd.  
Tue-Thu: 11 am-8 pm  
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Sun: 11 am-8 pm  
Tue: \$4 drafts  
Wed: \$5 Margaritas  
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Fri: \$2 off all frozen drinks & signature cocktails + LINE DANCING  
Sat: \$15 pitchers & buckets  
Sun: \$5 Bloody Marys & Mimosas  
Delivery: Door Dash, Uber Eats

### Bouré

110 Courthouse Square  
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  
Happy Hour 4-7 pm:  
M-Th \$2 High Life, \$3 domestics, \$4wells, \$5 frozen, \$6 daily cocktail, \$7 house wines  
Delivery: Door Dash, TAB

### City Grocery

152 Courthouse Square  
Mon-Sat:  
Lunch: 11:30 am-2:30 pm;  
Dinner 6-10 pm; Fri & Sat till 10:30  
Bar Mon-Sat: 4 pm-till  
Happy Hour 4-6 pm:  
M-F \$1 off wells & domestics

### Circle & Square

100 Depot Street  
Tap Room Hours:  
Mon-Wed: 7 am-9 pm,  
Thu-Sat: 7 am-10 pm  
Sun: 9 am-7 pm  
Kitchen Hours:  
Mon-Tue: 11 am-7:30 pm  
Wed-Sat: 7 am-7:30 pm  
Sun: 9 am-6:30 pm  
WED: TRIVIA 7 pm  
Delivery: Door Dash, Uber Eats

### Funkys

1012 E Jackson Ave  
Mon-Thu: 2 pm-1 am  
Fri: noon-1 am; Sat: 11 am-1 am  
Sun: 11 am-9 pm  
Mon: \$5 Octanes  
Tue: \$5 Grape Gatorade  
Wed: LADIES' NIGHT: \$5 Skinny Bitches  
Thur: \$4 domestics  
Delivery: TAB

### Kingswood

425 S. Lamar Blvd.  
Mon-Wed: 4-9 pm; Thu: 4-10 pm  
Fri: 11 am-2 pm; 4-10 pm  
Sat & Sun: 9 am-2 pm; 4-10/9 pm  
Happy Hour 4-5 pm: \$4 select drafts, \$8 Classic Cocktails, \$7 wines, food specials

### Little Easy Catering

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120 South 11th Street  
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Sun: 11 am-9 pm  
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Sun: 5 pm-9 pm  
Monday-Tuesday closed  
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Penny Bar open 3 pm  
Happy Hour 3-6 pm:  
Mon-Fri 1/2-price apps, 2-for-1 wells, wines & domestics  
Mon: \$2 domestics  
Tue: TRIVIA + \$25 High Noon buckets  
Wed: OPEN MIC  
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Sun: 10 am-3 pm  
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1/2-priced cocktails & wine

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1006 East Jackson Ave  
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DJ Fri & Sat

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30117 Blackjack Rd., Sardis  
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Sat-Sun: noon-10 pm  
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### Quack's

122 Courthouse Square  
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: \$5 drafts  
LIVE MUSIC Fri & Sat  
Sun: BOGO ENTREE NGIHT

### Saint Leo

922 E Jackson Ave  
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

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705 Sisk Ave.  
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721 N Lamar Blvd  
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  
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

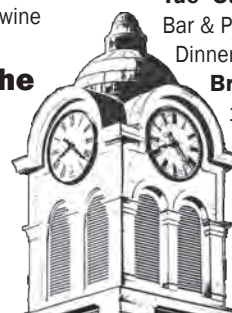
1221 Van Buren Ave  
Mon-Wed: 11 am-2:30 pm  
Brunch Sat & Sun 11:30 am-3 pm  
Delivery: TAB

### Uno Mas

1101 E Jackson Ave  
Mon-Sat: 11 am-10 pm  
Sun: 11 am-9 pm  
Happy Hour 3-6 pm: \$6 Margaritas; \$3 tacos; \$5 drafts & wine, 1/2-price apps & domestics  
Tues (all day): \$2.50 tacos, \$20 pitchers, \$5 drafts, 1/2-price apps  
Sun: Service Industry Sunday  
Delivery: Door Dash

### Volta Taverna

710 N Lamar Blvd  
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Happy Hour 4-6 pm: \$1 off all drinks  
1/2-price Margaritas & Mojitos  
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# World Championship Old Time Piano Contest Returns to Oxford May 21-24, 2026

Events will be held in Nutt Auditorium at Ole Miss and at The Old Henry on the Oxford Square

Since its inception as a fundraiser for the Monticello, Illinois Railway Museum in 1975, the World Championship Old-Time Piano Playing Contest has hosted more than 1,200 piano contestants from across the U. S. and abroad.

Held annually to coincide with Memorial Day weekend, this event boasts the largest, most comprehensive competitive events for pianists steeped in the musical genres of ragtime, traditional jazz, and blues.

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

There are four primary contests: A *New Rag Contest* for aspiring composers premiering new ragtime compositions; the *Junior Division* featuring pianists ages 18-and-under; the *Regular Division* for the seasoned performers; and the *Senior Division* for those pianists over 60 years-of-age.

Special guests this year include noted artists Jeff Barnhart; Brian Holland; Julie McClarey; Paul Orsi and Bobby van Deusen.


In addition to the contests, there are presentations, a catered luncheon with live music; a Silent Movie Luncheon; a youth master class and after-hours events each evening featuring lots of pianists.

Our exclusive off-campus venue this year is indoors at *The Old Henry* located on the Oxford Square at the corner of Jackson Avenue and South 10<sup>th</sup> Street. Admission each evening is a \$15 cover charge.

If you love ragtime, jazz, blues, honky-tonk, boogie or novelty songs from the days of *Tin Pan Alley*, then you'll have the time of your life in Oxford this Memorial Day weekend.

For a fun-filled four days of fabulous music, visit [www.OldTimePianoContest.com](http://www.OldTimePianoContest.com) and purchase tickets for this year's World Championship.

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

There is something for everyone during this family-friendly weekend. We'll see you in Oxford May 21-24 for an incredible weekend of old-time music! 



**MAY 21-24, 2026**

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## 2026 CONTEST SCHEDULE

### Thursday, May 21

7:30 pm Guest Artist Concert\*

### Friday, May 22

12:00 pm Musical Luncheon with 3-time Champion Paul Orsi  
2:00 pm Bobby van Deusen Concert  
3:00 pm Julie McClarey Gospel Presentation  
6:00 pm New Rag Contest  
8:00 pm Tune-Ups Party\*

### Saturday, May 23

9:00 am Preliminary Rounds  
11:45 am Silent Movie Luncheon  
7:00 pm After-hours\*



Jeff Barnhart



Brian Holland



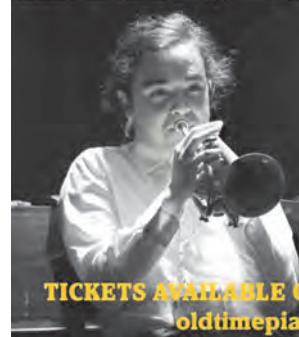
Julie McClarey

### Sunday, May 24

9:00 am Youth Master Class  
11:00 am First Baptist Church Service  
1:00 pm Semi-final & Final Rounds  
7:00 pm Red, White & Blue Finale\*

all day-time events in Nutt Auditorium

\*after-hour events at *The Old Henry* located at the corner of Jackson Ave. & 10th St.



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[oldtimepianocontest.com](http://oldtimepianocontest.com)

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**Deadline is every Tuesday at noon. Next print deadline: May 26**

**We welcome submissions, contributions, local writers, and artists!**

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Published in loving memory of **Thomas McCarver Rayburn** (June 6, 1978-August 13, 2021)



# the Local Voice PUZZLE PLAYGROUND



## SUDOKU

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

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

## DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!



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



SAMANTHA HALEY  
ARTIST

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

# LV — Super Crossword

GONE GUY

### ACROSS

- 1 Sturdily built
- 7 Evergreen-scented cleaning brand
- 14 Cows' milk deliverers
- 20 Perjurious way to be caught
- 21 Transition zone between biomes
- 22 Go on a trip
- 23 "... at least"
- 24 Hundredth of a peseta
- 25 Cure
- 26 Managers' evaluations of employees
- 29 "Rope-a-dope" boxer
- 30 Gas brand in Ontario
- 31 "Ltd." cousin
- 32 Hit the slopes
- 35 Tries to swat with an open hand
- 39 2002 film with Jennifer Lopez and Ralph Fiennes
- 45 "I have it!"
- 48 Uno plus due
- 49 Narrow ship passages
- 50 Regulation of a computer network
- 55 White wader
- 56 1/24 of a day
- 57 Torrid
- 58 Capital of the Bahamas
- 61 Try out for the role
- 65 Realm that began with the reign of Charlemagne
- 71 Monk's title
- 72 Crumple (up)
- 73 Mafia bosses
- 74 Meadow
- 75 Denials
- 76 They were given to Moses on Mount Sinai
- 79 Most energetic
- 81 Humiliated
- 82 Suffix with 52-Down
- 84 Creamy cheese
- 85 "May I see —?" (diner's question)
- 88 "Don't Cry Out Loud" singer
- 94 Full of subtlety

### DOWN

- 1 Dry Spanish wines
- 2 Open, as a sleeping bag

- 3 African nation
- 4 Mushy food
- 5 St. Pat's isle
- 6 Doe, e.g.
- 7 Texas river
- 8 Frosting tools
- 9 Sarge, say
- 10 Un-PC suffix
- 11 Evening, in French
- 12 "My treat!"
- 13 10th-century pope
- 14 Netherlands province or its capital
- 15 Doodled, e.g.
- 16 Stops up
- 17 Adam's mate
- 18 Like many wines
- 19 Like many winks
- 27 Gala affairs
- 28 Motels
- 32 Swizzle
- 33 Model Moss
- 34 Pt. of MIT
- 36 — dish
- 37 Drag to court
- 38 Ulna's place
- 40 \$ dispenser
- 41 Great anger
- 42 Alternative to Bob Evans
- 43 Hiker's guide
- 44 Touch base after a fly-out
- 46 Madeline of "Judy Berlin"
- 47 In history
- 50 Elevator part
- 51 "— welcome"
- 52 Neighbor of Chad
- 53 Hollywood's Hawke
- 54 Road goop
- 59 Only
- 60 Ooze
- 62 — Chuck (cheap wine)
- 63 "— Rock" (1966 hit)
- 64 Probability
- 66 Choose (to)
- 67 Is defeated
- 68 Nonreactive
- 69 O'Donnell of TV and film
- 70 Citrate, e.g.
- 73 Give formally
- 77 Tropical plant with bright flowers
- 78 One paying dues: Abbr.
- 79 Bell's ring
- 80 "Peer Gynt" playwright
- 83 NNW's opposite
- 85 Dye used in blue jeans
- 86 City bond, in brief
- 87 Devours
- 89 Cyber-giggle
- 90 "— be my pleasure!"
- 91 Murmured lovingly
- 92 Fruit drink brand
- 93 That, in Chile
- 95 It might ensnare congers
- 96 Aeneas' lover, in myth
- 100 Played like Galway
- 101 Neighbor of Denmark
- 103 Think a lot of
- 104 Closer to one's heart
- 105 "Gunsmoke" actor James
- 109 Revise
- 110 Main ideas
- 112 Soda holders
- 113 Pakistani language
- 114 Part of DST
- 115 Prune
- 116 Tennis player Mandlikova
- 117 Drearily dull
- 118 Mother of Helen of Troy
- 119 Furry "Star Wars" critter
- 120 Fall behind
- 121 Grow older
- 122 Ran into

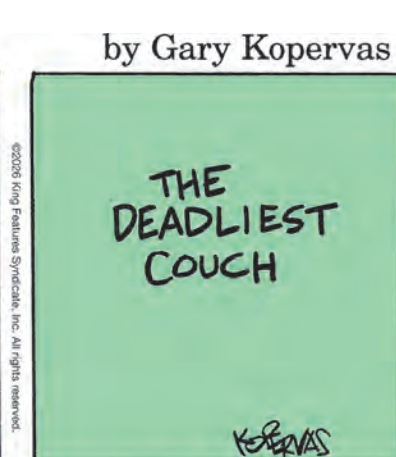
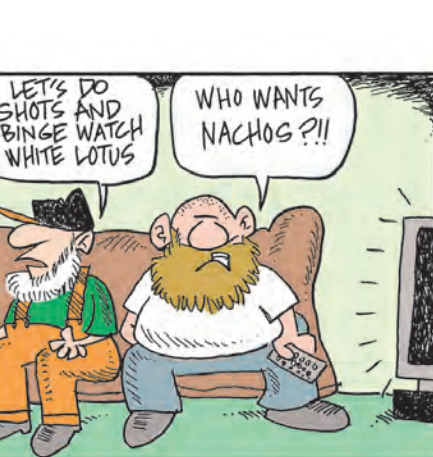
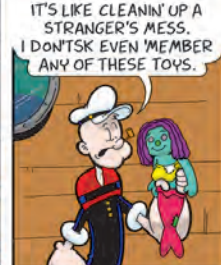
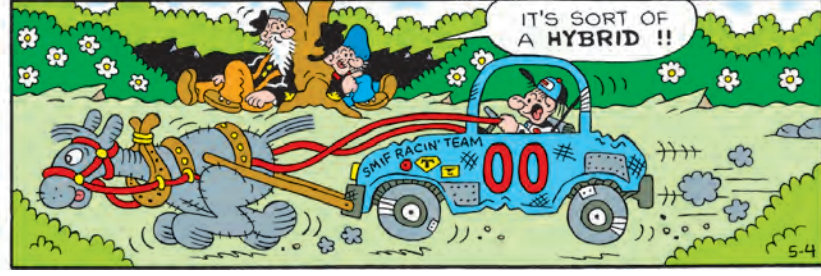
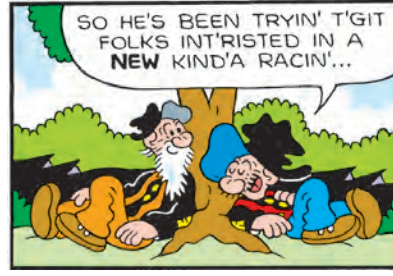
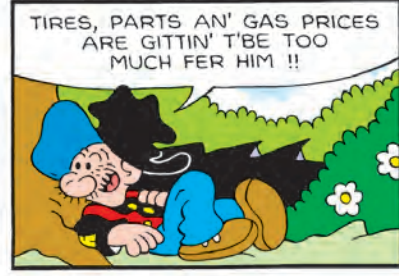
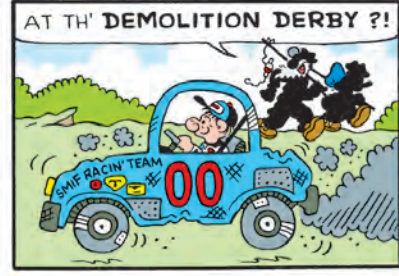
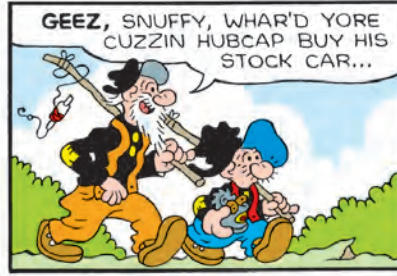
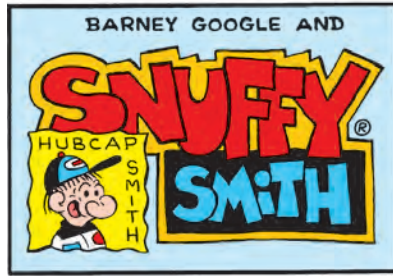
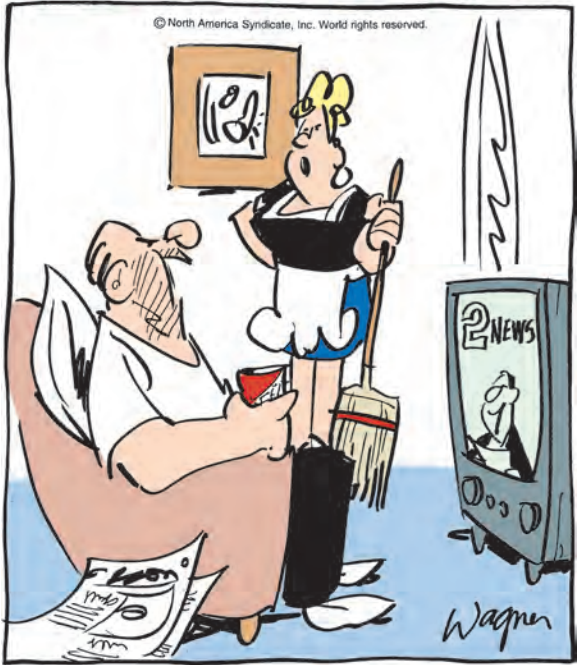
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20								21							22							
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26							27							28								
29							30						31					32	33	34		
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50	51	52								53				54			55					
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61				62	63	64				65	66	67							68	69	70	
71					72					73					74					75		
76				77						78					79					80		
				81									82	83						84		
85	86	87							88		89	90				91	92	93				
94					95	96			97					98								
99									100				101			102				103	104	105
106						107						108	109	110						111		
					112	113					114	115	116						117	118	119	
120	121	122								123										124		
125										126											127	
128										129												130

# TV COMIX

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



## GRIN and BEAR IT



## Out on a Limb



by Gary Kopervas





POPEYE CONTINUES TO TRY TO GET HELP FROM HIS UNCLE.  
**DAVY JONES!**  
 WHAT IS IT, NEPHEW?

I GOTTA GIT T' TH' KINGDOM O' TH' PAST BUT ME SHIP'S WRECKED.\*  
 KIN YA HELP?  
 YA THINK I'LL HELP JUST 'CUZ YOU'RE FAMILY? 'CUZ YOUR AUNT AND I RAISED YA 'TIL WERE THREE?!"

NOT A CHANCE. YOU GOTTA EARN MY HELP THROUGH HEROIC DEEDS.

YA WANTS ME T' CLEAN OUT ME 'OL' NURSERY? EVEN MYTHIC BEINGS WANT A MAN CAVE.



**THIMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS OYL BARRELS PART 6**  
 AFTER BEING ABDUCTED BY THE SEA HAG'S SISTER AND ESCAPING HER DUNGEON, OLIVE OYL FOUND AND FREED THREE STRANGE PRISONERS. NOW, THEY SEARCH THE WITCH'S CASTLE FOR AN EXIT.

ALRIGHT, GENTS. LOOK FOR ANYTHING THAT MIGHT HELP WITH AN ESCAPE. DON'T YOU WANNA KNOW WHY WE ENDED UP IN THOSE CELLS?

HAPPY, THE MORE I KNOW ABOUT YOU, THE MORE SAD I'LL BE WHEN NONE OF YOU SURVIVE.  
 DIDN'T YOU MEAN, "IF NONE OF US" -  
 YOUR MIDDLE NAME MUST BE 'OPTIMIST.'



JACK, CAN YOU HELP ME?  
 THAT'S MR. JACK! I'M AN ADULT 'YKNOW!

AND I APPRECIATE YOU FREEING US, BUT I DON'T TAKE ORDERS FROM A DAME UNLESS I WANT TO AND SHE CAN HELP ME GET A LEG UP.

OH, HA HA. "A LEG UP." VERY FUN--

HA HA. "LEG UP." FUN--  
**BONK!**

NEED ANOTHER LEG UP?  
 NO, THANK YOU. I DON'T THINK MY SKULL CAN TAKE ANY MORE CLEVER WORDPLAY.



IS THIS A SUGAR MAPLE TREE RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE TRAIL ?

SAPPY TRAILS TO YOOOU...  
 WHO'S UP FOR A HIKE ? WE ARE !!

SPRING IS A GREAT TIME FOR HIKING !!

WHO'S UP FOR A HIKE ? WE ARE !!

A HIKE FOR YOU...

IS A TRAIL RIDE FOR US !!



"They don't like the decor of the jury room!"

**Amber Waves**

by Dave T. Phipps

SON, WHAT A GORGEOUS DAY. WE NEED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF NICE WEATHER LIKE THIS.

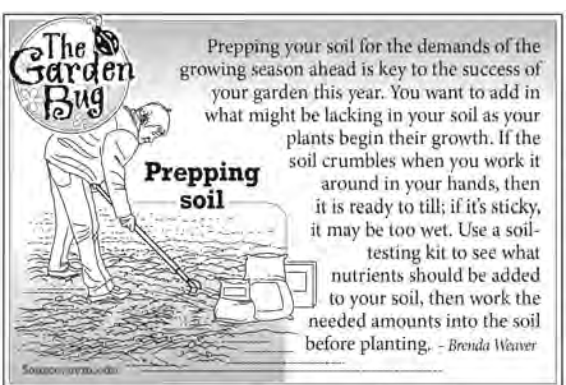
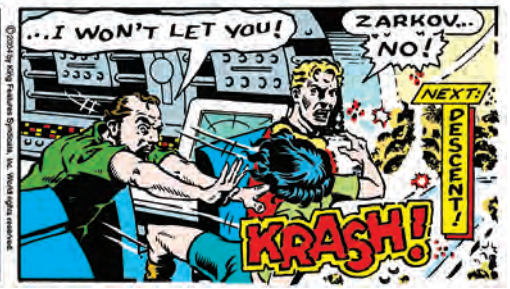
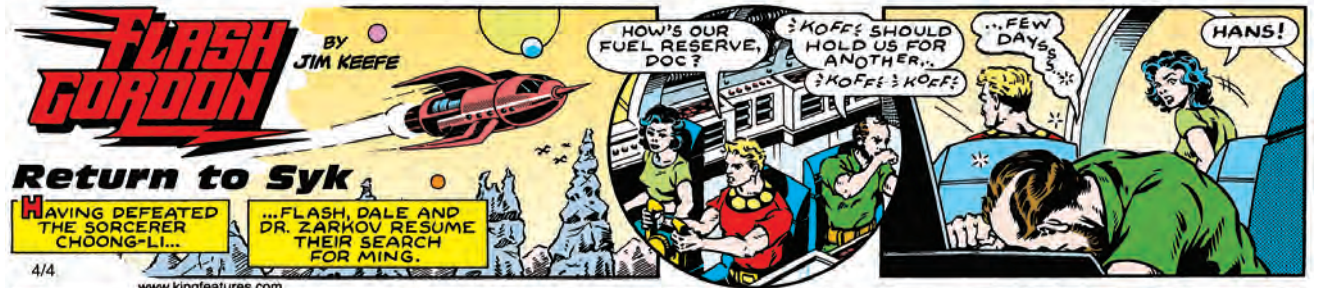
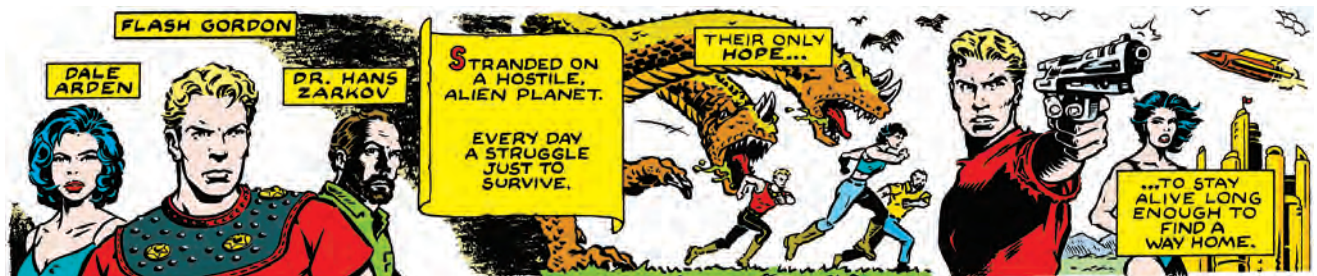
DAD, DAD, I KNOW! LET'S GO SWIMMING, OR BETTER YET, LET'S SNEAK OUT AND GO TO A PARK!

EVEN BETTER, HOW ABOUT WE TAKE A NAP IN THE WARM SUN?

AT WHAT AGE DOES A NAP STOP BEING PUNISHMENT?



"You pray for rain, you've gotta deal with the mud too. That's a part of it."  
 — Denzel Washington



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

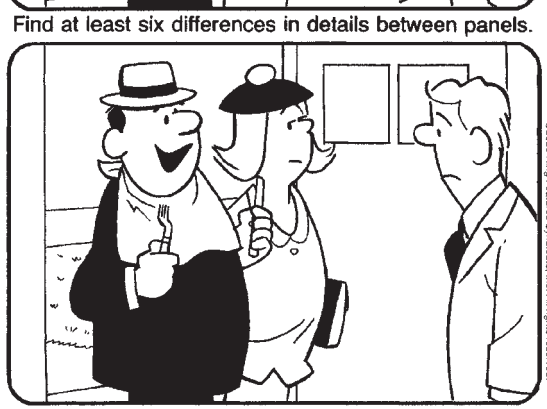


Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

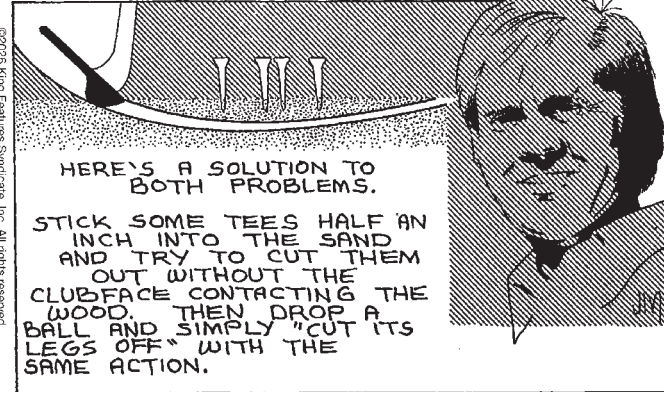
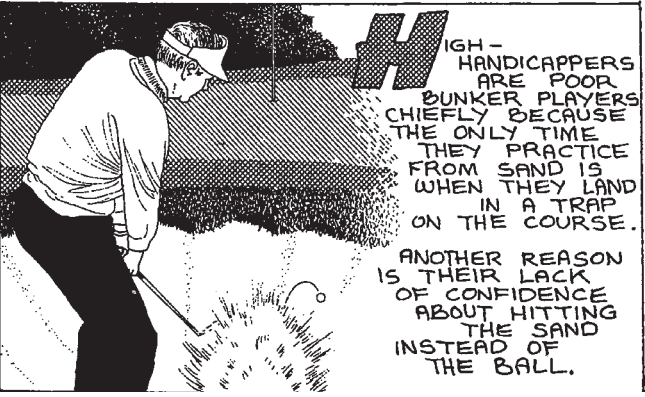


HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



Differences: 1. Purse is moved. 2. Fork is reversed. 3. Napkin is different. 4. Doorway opening is not as wide. 5. Window in door is different. 6. Jacket is longer.

Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS





## Get Your Oats With No-Cook Breakfast Porridge

Once your kids turn the last page of the classic bedtime story “The Three Bears,” tell them that when they wake up in the morning, they’ll get to mash and measure some healthy ingredients, then watch them whirl all together in a blender for their own bowls of nutritious and filling porridge!

You’ll actually be preparing a very thick smoothie-like concoction that the kids can ladle into cereal bowls instead of drinking glasses. Then they can top it with colorful fresh fruits and berries! When they grab their spoons and dig in, they’ll quickly discover that their porridge is not too hot, not too cold, but “just right.”

Gather all these ingredients on your counter, and you’ll have this no-cook breakfast together in minutes.

### NO-COOK BREAKFAST PORRIDGE

Makes approximately four 1/2-cup servings

- 1/2 cup uncooked rolled oats
- 4 tablespoons low-fat cottage cheese
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1 large ripe banana
- 6 raw almonds or walnut pieces
- Juice from 1/2 of a lemon

— 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract (optional)

#### Topping Ingredients:

— Favorite fruits such as sliced kiwi and fresh berries, like strawberries, blackberries, raspberries and blueberries

Here’s the fun: While one child peels and mashes a banana on a plate with a fork, another may wash the berries and juice the 1/2 lemon.

Meanwhile, an adult should place the oats in the blender and pulse it a few seconds into a coarse powder. Add the remaining porridge ingredients in the blender and blend, adding extra milk a tablespoon at a time if necessary, for your desired consistency.

Serve in bowls and let kids add their favorite fruit toppings.



#### Alternative Ideas:

— Peel, slice and freeze the banana the night before for a cooler porridge.

— Add a few strawberries or raspberries to the blender for a sweeter pink porridge.

— Add 2 tablespoons freshly ground flaxseed. I buy mine in bulk and grind it in my coffee grinder before adding it to the porridge ingredients.

\*\*\*

*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. **The Super Mario Galaxy Movie** (PG) Brie Larson, Virginia Dare Jelenic
2. **Project Hail Mary** (PG-13) Ryan Gosling, Sandra Hüller
3. **The Drama** (R) Zendaya, Robert Pattinson
4. **You, Me & Tuscany** (PG-13) Halle Bailey, Regé-Jean Page
5. **Hoppers** (PG) Piper Curda, Bobby Moynihan
6. **BTS World Tour Arirang** (NR) BTS
7. **Faces of Death** (R) Dacre Montgomery, Barbie Ferreira
8. **Exit 8** (PG-13) Kazunari Ninomiya, Yamato Kochi
9. **A Great Awakening** (PG-13) John Paul Sneed, Jonathan Blair
10. **Reminders of Him** (PG-13) Maika Monroe, Tyriq Withers



#### THIS WEEK’S CATEGORY:

##### “Boring” Podcasts

“Boring” is obviously subjective, so the only thing that these five podcasts have in common is the B word in their title. Enjoy these programs before bed or with your morning coffee — it’s entirely up to you:

##### “Boring History for Sleep” —

The purpose of this podcast could backfire if you’re a history buff, but its intention is to lull insomniacs to sleep. Each episode takes you on a “slow, uneventful stroll through the most yawn-worthy corners of the past” with a soft-spoken narrator, to induce a slumber that’s “like warm milk with a side of ancient trivia.” Episodes average 5 hours in length and include subjects like “World War I: The Complete Story, All Parts,” “Rh-Negative Blood: The Secret ‘Superpower’ That Lasts Till Today,” and “The Odyssey Explained: More Than Just a Journey.” (Podcasters. Spotify.com)

##### “Canada is Boring” —

Meet Rhys Waters (a new Canadian) as he tries to convince Jesse Harley (“your average disengaged Canadian”) that the Great White North — a land of bizarre events and eccentric people — is a “fiery rollercoaster of a country.” Be sure to check out their special two-part episode called “The Hollowing of Tim Hortons.” Jesse remembers back in the ‘90s when the coffee chain was similar to pubs in the United Kingdom,

where people would just show up, play cards, smoke in the partitioned-off section, and chat for hours. Rhys takes you on a journey beyond the early history of the chain through the rise of franchising and the death of its founder — the legendary NHL defenseman Tim Horton. (CanadaisBoring.com)

##### “Insurance isn’t Boring” —

Hosts Xander Wolfe and Elijah Corujo are two young, ambitious life-insurance professionals who “cut through the noise and nonsense to deliver actionable advice on how to make informed financial decisions ... [and] cultivate wealth-building habits.” Guests include insurance agency owners like Janelle Jemmott, who shares her unique insights on how selflessness and humility have led to impressive sales, as well as how she balances her family life. (InsuranceisntBoring.bio)

##### Don’t Forget These Gems

##### “Ron Reads Boring Books” —

Again, if your goal is to overcome insomnia, this “boring” podcast might be just what the doctor ordered. Someone named Ron, who has what is described as a soothing southern accent, will read from a boring book each night that is simply “intended to bore you.” Some episodes will be short, while some will be “excruciatingly long.” (A quick scroll through the podcast library reveals this to be an exaggeration. The longest episode is just 53 minutes.) (Buzzsprout.com)

##### “Boring Science For Sleep” —

This podcast offers up some “boring science” to help you sleep — or keep you awake and curious if you find the subjects fascinating, like I do. Each episode explores space, physics, biology and the universe with a slow, calm narrator. It promises “no dramatic music or cliffhangers — just fascinating facts delivered quietly until you drift off” ... or eagerly download another one. (Podcasters.Spotify.com)

## Fun Fact

The country of Russia is so vast that the time difference between its westernmost and easternmost points is about 11 hours. For example, when it is noon in Kaliningrad, the westernmost part of Russia, it is 11pm in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, the easternmost city.



Source: testbook.com

Prepping your soil for the demands of the growing season ahead is key to the success of your garden this year. You want to add in what might be lacking in your soil as your plants begin their growth. If the soil crumbles when you work it around in your hands, then it is ready to till; if it’s sticky, it may be too wet. Use a soil-testing kit to see what nutrients should be added to your soil, then work the needed amounts into the soil before planting. — Brenda Weaver

Source: uym.edu

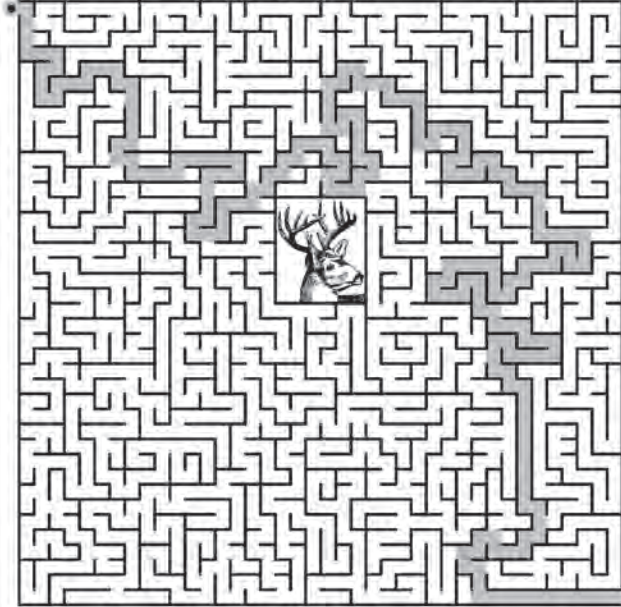
## Super Crossword

### Answers

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

## Mega Maze

### Solution

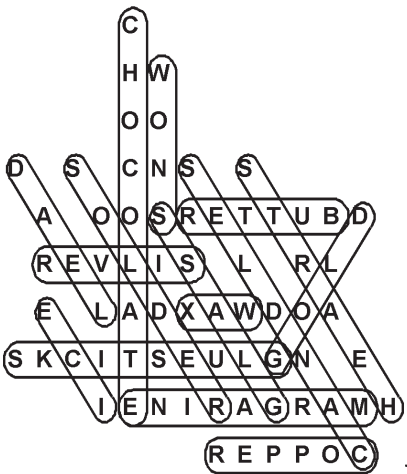


## Weekly SUDOKU

### Answer

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

## THINGS WE MELT



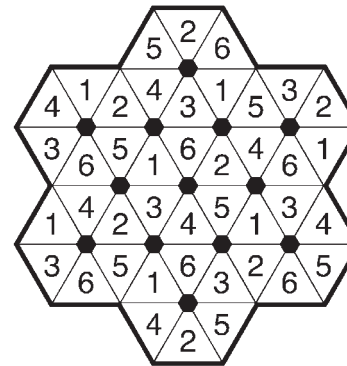
## Even Exchange

### answers

1. Packet, Picket
2. Apron, Akron
3. Share, Stare
4. Danger, Dagger
5. Braid, Brain
6. Prose, Prove
7. Middle, Riddle
8. Chick, Click
9. Revive, Revise
10. Wrist, Whist

## SNOWFLAKES

### solution



## CryptoQuip

### answer

When country singer celebrity Roy attended black-tie affairs, did he wear Acuff-links?

## CryptoQuote

### answer

There are three things you can do in a baseball game. You can win, or you can lose, or it can rain.

— Casey Stengel

## Go Figure!

### answers

9	+	8	÷	1	=	17
+		+		+		
3	+	7	+	4	=	14
+		-		+		
5	+	6	-	2	=	9
=		=		=		
17		9		7		

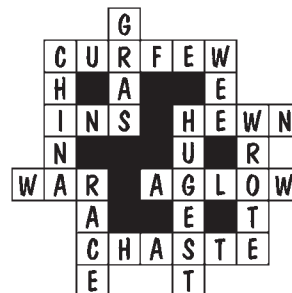
## Five Spot™

### Solution

C	L	O	U	D
D	U	C	A	L
L	A	C	E	D
S	C	A	L	E
L	A	S	E	R
F	E	A	R	S

## FEAR KNIGHT

### answer



## King Crossword

### Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.

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

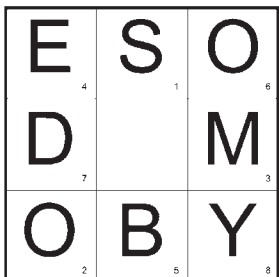
## STICKELERS

by Terry Stickels

This is an old puzzle that asks you to place 4 nickels and 4 pennies within a 4 x 4 grid in such a way that no two coins of the same denomination will be next to each other in the same row

## Word Spiral Answer WAREHOUSE

## KNIGHT MOVES Answer



SOMEBODY





## Super Crossword

### Answers

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

## Weekly SUDOKU

### Answer

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



**“Malcolm in the Middle: Life’s Still Unfair”** (TV-14) — The Reboot Era has brought yet another revival of a beloved sitcom: “Malcolm in the Middle,” starring Frankie Muniz, Bryan Cranston, and Jane Kaczmarek. This is a major move for Muniz, who hasn’t starred in a main role for television or movies in almost two decades! This miniseries picks up almost 20 years after the end of the original series, and Malcolm (Muniz) has since distanced himself from his chaotic family to maintain some semblance of peace in his life. He now has a daughter named Leah (Keeley Karsten) and a girlfriend named Tristan (Kiana Madeira), but when Hal (Cranston) and Lois (Kaczmarek) require his presence at their 40th anniversary, Malcolm gets sucked right back in! Life’s still unfair, indeed! All four episodes are out now to stream. (Hulu)

**“Balls Up”** (R) — Who will volunteer as tribute to stop Mark Wahlberg from making action/comedy films where he plays the same character every time? (The answer is no one!) Quips aside, “Balls Up” stars an interesting clan of comedic actors, including Paul Walter Hauser (“Springsteen: Deliver Me from Nowhere”), Molly Shannon (“Saturday Night Live”), and Sacha Baron Cohen (“Disclaim-er”). Wahlberg and Hauser play two rival co-workers at a condom company who get a little too boozed up at the World Cup Final. When their drunken shenanigans cost Brazil the game, the pair must find a way to make it out of Brazil in one piece before the fans eat them alive. Stream it now! (Amazon Prime Video)

**“Funny AF with Kevin Hart”** (TV-MA) — Comedian/actor Kevin Hart (“Borderlands”) hosts this new competition show that searches for the next best stand-up comedian across the nation! With the help of guest judges like Chelsea Handler, Nikki Glaser, Kumail Nanjiani, and Keegan-Michael Key, Hart travels around the country to different venues where comics present their stand-up sets, and viewers at home can vote in real time for their favorite comic. The competition was created to mimic the journey of what comedians really go through on the road, which will poise the winner to become the next stand-up superstar! Six episodes are out currently, with the next two to be released on May 4 and May 5. (Netflix)



Courtesy of MovieStillsDB  
**Mark Wahlberg and Paul Walter Hauser star in “Balls Up.”**

**In Case You Missed It “Rental Family”** (PG-13) — Oscar winner Brendan Fraser (“The Whale”) leads this comedy-drama film that takes place in Japan. Fraser plays an American actor named Phillip, who’s based in Tokyo and struggles to find work after a successful toothpaste commercial put him on the map. But Phillip suddenly receives the offer of a lifetime through a company called Rental Family, which recruits actors to serve as stand-in family members or friends for strangers. At first, he finds the concept to be a bit odd, but as Phillip starts taking on jobs, he starts to make incredible connections with the strangers whom he encounters. The film received mostly positive reviews and is out now to stream! (Disney+)



## A Crowd-Pleasing Chicken Queso Fundido for Cinco de Mayo

Cinco de Mayo called, it wants more cheese. A creamy, cheesy dip with salsa verde and seasoned chicken? Why, yes. Yes, please. This is queso fundido’s heartier, more satisfying cousin, loaded with tender chicken and layered flavor that goes way beyond your basic nacho cheese. It’s perfect for Cinco de Mayo or any gathering that calls for something warm and utterly irresistible. Serve it with tortilla chips or crisp veggies for dipping. This recipe serves a crowd, but don’t worry about making too much, because any leftovers are downright glorious spooned over baked potatoes or rice.

When I developed this recipe, I happened to have a house full of family. The only thing faster than making this amazing recipe was how quickly it disappeared. File this under “big hit.”

There is an optional step, roasting poblano peppers. Roasting poblanos adds a deep, earthy flavor that really elevates this queso. It’s easy! Here’s how: Place them on a baking sheet directly under the broiler, turning as needed, until the skins are blistered and blackened on all sides. Remove from the oven and cover with foil tightly to steam for 5-10 minutes. Once cool enough to handle, peel off the skins, remove seeds for less heat, if desired, dice

and set aside. To my taste, this step absolutely makes this dish, but if you choose to skip it, substitute with a 7-ounce can of diced mild green chili peppers. Now that you know how, you’ll do it all the time.

### POLLO QUESO FUNDIDO

- Yield: 10+ appetizer servings
- Total Time: 45 mins
- 2 poblano peppers, optional but highly recommended
- 2 pounds chicken breast
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 teaspoon cumin
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 (16 ounce) bag of frozen onion and pepper blend
- 16 ounces salsa verde
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 yellow onion, diced
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 1 cup whole milk or half and half
- 8 ounces cream cheese, cubed
- 3 1/2 cups Cheddar and Monterey jack cheese blend, shredded, divided
- Green onion, cilantro and tomato for garnish
- Serve with tortilla chips, bell pepper and celery for dipping



A bubbling dish of chicken queso fundido, loaded with flavor and perfect for sharing.

**Roast poblanos** (if using) according to directions above. Peel, dice, set aside.

**Bake the chicken:** Preheat oven to 350 F and grease a 9”x13” baking dish with cooking spray or olive oil.

Cut chicken into big chunks and place in baking dish. Toss with salt, pepper, cumin and garlic powder. Add frozen peppers and onions, pour in salsa verde, cover with foil and bake 22-25 minutes until cooked through. While this bakes, make the queso.

**Make the queso:** Melt butter in a large skillet. Cook diced onion until soft. Add garlic; cook briefly. Stir in flour and cook 1-2 minutes. Add milk, stirring until thickened. Add cream cheese and melt. Stir in 3 cups shredded cheese, one handful at a time, until melted. Mixture will be thick.

**Combine:** By now the chicken should be done. Shred the cooked chicken in the pan. Add the entire mixture — the whole shebang! (chicken, veggies and salsa) — to the queso. Stir in half the poblanos.

**Finish (optional but worth it):** Transfer to baking dish, top with remaining cheese and bake for 10 minutes, until bubbly. Broil briefly for a golden top if desired.

**Garnish and serve:** Artistically top with remaining poblanos, green onion, cilantro and tomato. Serve hot with chips and veggies.

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

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