

the Local Voice

Food, Drinks,
and Entertainment
Roundabout Oxford
and Ole Miss



THE LOCAL VOICE™ #490 - ROUNABOUT OXFORD® - CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF PUBLISHING IN OXFORD, MISSISSIPPI 2006-2026

come together brands

oxford, mississippi



Rafters on The Square
1006 East Jackson Ave.
Oxford, MS 38655
RaftersMusicandFood.com

Hours:
Monday–Saturday
5 pm–1 am
Sunday closed



Ajax Diner
118 Courthouse Square
Oxford, MS 38655
AjaxDiner.com

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



The Old Henry
1002 East Jackson Ave.
Oxford, MS 38655
TheOldHenry.com

Hours:
Wednesday–Saturday
5 pm–1 am
Sunday–Tuesday closed



Miscellanea
306 South Lamar Blvd.
Oxford, MS 38655
MiscellaneaOxford.com

Hours:
Wednesday–Saturday:
5 pm–until
Sunday 5 pm–9 pm
Monday–Tuesday closed
Reservations recommended,
walk-ins welcome



Rafters on The Water
30117 Blackjack Road
Sardis, MS 38666
RaftersOnTheWater.com

Hours:
Thursday & Friday 5–10 pm
Saturday & Sunday
Noon–10 pm
Monday–Wednesday closed
Live entertainment every Friday,
Saturday, and Sunday evening

A Place Called Tula: Shane Brown Finds His Own Voice

For **Shane Brown**, writing was not always part of the plan.

His father, the late Mississippi writer **Larry Brown**, was the novelist in the family. Shane grew up watching him write, publish books, and develop a literary reputation that would eventually make his name closely associated with North Mississippi. Shane took a different path, working, raising a family, and spending time with his brother **Billy Ray** at **Brown Family Dairy**.

Over time, however, Shane began writing his own stories.

Those stories have now become *A Place Called Tula*, a collection of fiction and nonfiction published by Oxford's **Cofield Press**. The book includes an introduction, 13 stories and an afterword by **Allen Boyer**. Its pages move between rural Mississippi, family memories, work, loss, addiction, friendship, and the ordinary moments that can take on greater meaning with time.

Brown will celebrate the release with a **reading and signing Tuesday, September 29 at Off Square Books**.

The book is deeply connected to the landscape around Yocona and Tula, where generations of the Brown family have lived. Tula is also the place where Larry Brown built **The Shack**, a small cabin intended as a writing retreat. For Shane, the setting carries both his father's literary history and his own memories.

Yet *A Place Called Tula* is not simply an extension of Larry Brown's work. It is Shane Brown's effort to make sense of his own experiences and the people around him.

The stories that follow cover a wide range of characters and situations while keeping that connection to rural Mississippi. "George," Brown's favorite story in the collection, centers on a man who drops by the narrator's house and begins unloading his personal problems. The narrator listens despite having problems of his own, and the encounter repeats itself the next day. "People at the Park" focuses on the observations people make about strangers during the course of an ordinary workday.

by **Davis Coen**

photos by **Megan Wolfe**



Shane Brown sits outside "The Shack," a small cabin built by his father Larry Brown in Tula, Mississippi

"Slick" follows a homeless man who unexpectedly gets a role in a movie after wandering drunk onto a film set. Slick had never acted before but "nailed every shot" after agreeing to stay sober during filming. His success is short-lived, however, as he returns to drinking afterward.

"George is probably the best one," Brown said when discussing his favorite story.

The collection becomes darker in several other places. "The Shot" deals with addiction and suicide, while "Judy" examines a collapsing relationship and the character's inability to escape his own behavior. And, "The Bridge" changes the form of the collection and reads almost like a poem or song, presenting a spare and painful account of a child's death in a creek.

Other stories take a quieter approach to the same themes. "Quincy" begins with a hitchhiker picked up on I-55 south of Grenada and evolves into a story about generosity and recognizing the comforts that people can take for granted. "Tula Memory" uses a familiar place to explore the way family experiences remain attached to the landscape. "Changes and Time" considers the inevitable movement of life, while "I Don't Like" uses a more direct and conversational voice to examine judgment and personal opinions.

Shane Brown ...continued on page 15 →

City
GROCERY
RESTAURANT GROUP
Founded by CHEF JOHN CURRENCE
WHERE OXFORD EATS

OXFORD MISS.  SINCE 1992

FOOTBALL RESERVATIONS

Make your reservations through
CityGroceryOnline.com

Open early home game weekends!



BIG BAD BREAKFAST



7am-1pm Weekdays
8am-2:30pm Weekends

SNACK BAR

Dinner 5:30-10pm Monday-Thursday
& 5:30-10:30pm Friday/Saturday
Happy Hour 4-6PM Daily



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



Monday-Thursday 10:30 am-10 pm
Friday/Saturday 10:30 am-10:30 pm

Digital

Menu

Sports Bar
Quack's

Smash Burgers
Happy Hour
Brunch
NEW! Lunch
Open 11 am Daily



downstairs at *Moe's*

7 pm-close

Monday
\$3 domestics

Tuesday
2-4-1 drafts

Wednesday
half off wine and
well whiskey

Thursday
\$5 Bushwackers

Sunday
\$3 PBRs

Happy Hour
3-6 pm

\$15 High Life buckets
\$6 Bushwhackers
half-price apps

Welcome Students!
Give us a call
662-236-6637 for all
your party rentals
and catering needs



THE LIBRARY SPORTS BAR

ON THE SQUARE • OXFORD, MISSISSIPPI

HAPPY HOUR
\$1 MONDAY - FRIDAY
OFF ALL DRINKS **3-7 PM**

Open

**SUNDAY
FUNDAY**
ENJOY THE
LIBRARY PATIO!

OLE MISS FOOTBALL

SEPT 6 AT 6:30 PM

IN NASHVILLE



VS. **LOUISVILLE**

FREE BEER & BBQ
LIVE AT THE LIBRARY!



FIRST HOME GAME

SEPT 12 AT 6:45 PM

IN OXFORD

**OLE MISS VS.
CHARLOTTE**



LIVE MUSIC EVERY WEEKEND AT THE LIBRARY



Jon
Kott
Band
.com

**JON KOTT
BAND**

**FRI-SAT
SEPT 4 & 5**

BRING YOUR FRIENDS AND HANG OUT AT THE LIBRARY!

BLUFF CITY BANDITS

SEPT 11-12 LIVE ON STAGE



• LIVE ON STAGE: NEUTRAL SNAP SEPT 27, 28, & 29 •



ROUNDABOUT OXFORD®



sponsored by
**AJAX
DINER**
"OXFORD'S FAVORITE
SOUL FOOD"
on the Square in Oxford, Mississippi

LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT & EVENTS

THURSDAY 9.03.2026

Proud Larry's: **LIGHTWATCH** (9 pm)

NE Power: Lafayette Ready Emergency Preparedness Fair (4-7 pm)
Oxford-Lafayette Public Library: Cell Phone Photography Talk & Walk
w/ ERIN AUSTEN ABBOTT (5:30 pm)

FRIDAY 9.04.2026

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

The Old Henry: **DJ WADE**

Proud Larry's: **THE CROWNS, CADE FLATT** (9 pm)

Rafters on the Water: **DAVIS WHITE** (7 pm)

Rhythm & Rye: **DAVIS COEN** (7 pm)

SATURDAY 9.05.2026

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

The Old Henry: **DJ WADE**

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

Rhythm & Rye: **AMBER VIOLET** (7 pm)

Pontotoc Agri-Center: Fall Funday Barrel Race (10 am)

SUNDAY 9.06.2026

Rafters on the Water: **BEN PRATT** (5 pm)

MONDAY 9.07.2026

LABOR DAY

Rafters on the Water: **CADE FLATT** (5 pm); Last day of
summer season

TUESDAY 9.08.2026

Off Square Books: **JIM ABBOTT** for *Paper Man* (5:30 pm)

Square Books, Jr.: **No Cap Chap Book Club** (6 pm)

Barnard Observatory (UM): SouthTalks - "Out of the Shadows" (noon)

Ford Center: **LARRY, STEVE & RUDE: THE GATLIN BROTHERS** (7:30 pm)

Oxford-Lafayette Public Library: Football Trivia (5:30 pm)

WEDNESDAY 9.09.2026

Off Square Books: **HENRY WISE** in conversation with
WILLIAM BOYLE for *Promised Land* (5:30 pm)

Chicory Market: **THE KITES** (5 pm)

The Lyric: **THE BENDS** (8 pm)

The Powerhouse: **Maker's Meetup** (6 pm)

THURSDAY 9.10.2026

The Powerhouse: **Thacker Mountain Radio Hour Season**

Premiere: **TIMOTHY B. TYSON & MARY D. WILLIAMS** for
Mahalia Jackson, Moving On Up a Little Higher; music by
BLUE VELVET, LAURELYN DOSSETT (6 pm)

Proud Larry's: **BELLA MCCORMICK, MASON WOODRICK** (9 pm)

Isom Place: **Party on the Green** (5:30 pm)

The Lyric: **BIG RED** (8 pm)

Nutt Auditorium (UM): Faculty Recital - **PHILIP SNYDER, AUSTIN
SMITH, AMANDA JOHNSTON, J. JOSHUA KIM** (7:30 pm)

Oxford-Lafayette Public Library: Check It Out Book Club & Swap (11 am)

FRIDAY 9.11.2026

Ajax Diner: **ERIC DEATON TRIO**

The Library: **BLUFF CITY BANDITS** (9 pm)

Proud Larry's: **RED SHAHAN** (9 pm)

Rhythm & Rye: **DANIEL ROEBUCK** (7 pm)

SATURDAY 9.12.2026

Vaught-Hemingway Stadium: Ole Miss vs. CHARLOTTE (6:45 pm)

The Library: **BLUFF CITY BANDITS** (9 pm)

Proud Larry's: **MAPS & LEGENDS** (9 pm)

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

SUNDAY 9.13.2026

Foxfire Ranch: Sunday Blues Series feat. **ALVIN YOUNGBLOOD
HART** (5 pm; \$20)

The Powerhouse: Theatre Oxford presents *Miscast Musical
Cabaret* (7 pm)

MONDAY 9.14.2026

Off Square Books: **ELLIE BLACK** for *Revelator* (6 pm)

Barnard Observatory (UM): SouthTalks - "Bather: Black Food
Nourishment & the Art of Togetherness" (5:30 pm)

TUESDAY 9.15.2026

Southside Gallery: Talk & signing by **COULTER FUSSELL** for
The Proving Ground (5:30 pm)

Nutt Auditorium (UM): Faculty Recital - **MICAH EVERETT** (7:30 pm)

Oxford Conference Center: Lafayette-Oxford-University Women of
Distinction Luncheon (11:30 am)

Oxford-Lafayette Public Library: Mahjongg Meetup (5:30 pm)

WEDNESDAY 9.16.2026

Off Square Books: **JOHN TALTY** for *Lane Being Lane* (5:30 pm)

Proud Larry's: **FAI LACI** (9 pm)

Chicory Market: **HORACE WILLIS DREAM BOOK** (5 pm)

The Lyric: Oxford Comedy Collective presents *Roast of Lane Kiffin*
(7:30 pm)

THURSDAY 9.17.2026

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

The Powerhouse: **Thacker Mountain Radio NATHANIEL RICH**
for *Cloudthief*; music by **CASH'S JUKE JOINT, KATRINA
MILLER BAND, feat. DAMEIN WASH** (6 pm)

Proud Larry's: **YAZOO, THE ICEMAN SPECIAL** (9 pm)

Square Books, Jr.: **Chapter Captain's Book Club** (6 pm)

Oxford-Lafayette Public Library: Homeschool Hangout (1:30)

SJB Pavillion: **ELLA LANGLEY: THE DANDELIION TOUR** (7 pm)

FRIDAY 9.18.2026

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

Off Square Books: **KATHRYN STOCKETT** for *The Calamity
Club* - signing only (noon)

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

Proud Larry's: **KUDZU KINGS** (9 pm)

Voyager's Rest (Water Valley): **CASH'S JUKE JOINT**

SATURDAY 9.19.2026

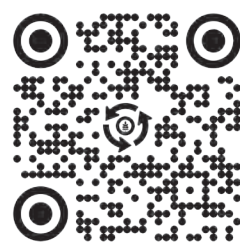
Vaught-Hemingway Stadium: Ole Miss vs. LSU (6:45 pm)

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

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

Proud Larry's: **GEORGE PORTER JR.**

& **RUNNIN' PARDNERS** (9 pm)



Scan the QR code
for more events
Roundabout Oxford®
& Ole Miss

or visit RoundaboutOxford.net



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)

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)
- **Quack's: DRINK EXCHANGE** (9 pm)

Fridays

- **Rafters on the Square: DJ DRUMM**

Saturdays

- **Rafters on the Square: DJ DRUMM**
- **Square Books, Jr.: STORYTIME** (10 am)

Sundays

- **Rafters on the Water.: Live Music** (5 pm)

Monday-Friday

- **Lafayette Co. & Oxford Public Library: Afterschool Zone** (3:45 pm)



New Book by Delta Newspaperman Jim Abbott

Paper Man: Chasing the Truth in the Mississippi Delta

"This is a riveting story, written with precision and grace."

—Steve Yarbrough, *Novelist and winner of the Richard Wright Award and the Robert Penn Warren Award*

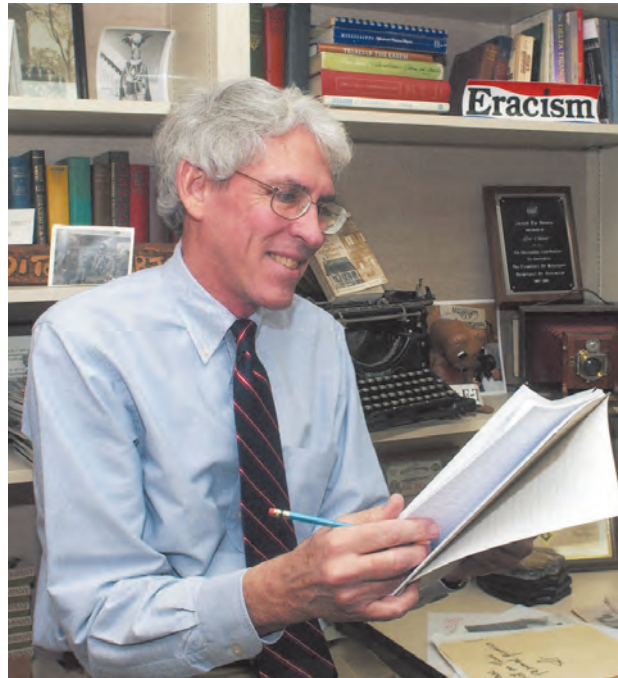
A new memoir, *Paper Man: Chasing the Truth in the Mississippi Delta* (Nautilus, \$34.95) launches this September. *Paper Man* tracks the 38-year career of **Jim Abbott**, editor and publisher of the *Enterprise-Tocsin* (Indianola, Mississippi), as he searched for the truth, fought for justice, and battled systemic, institutional, and personal racism in efforts to make Indianola—birthplace of both the White Citizens' Council and B.B. King—a better place to live for *all* its residents.

Told in anecdote-rich vignettes, the book chronicles Abbott's front-row seat to history and his encounters—in church pews and grocery-store aisles—with the very characters he wrote about each week.

Abbott, who was raised in a segregated community in **Greenwood, Mississippi**, stood among the throng of students jeering James Meredith in 1962. But his time away from the state—a job at Disneyland, service with integrated troops in the Vietnam War, and befriending activists in the mid-1960s—slowly chipped away at his views on race.

Kathy McCormick, a writer for *Law & Order*, said, "Growing up white in the Jim Crow south, you had options. You could accept your racial privilege as natural and live your life accordingly. You could say 'hell no' and leave. Or you could stare clearly at the injustice—and stay anyway, determined to contribute what you could to your community. Your whole community. Jim Abbott stayed."

Columnist **Sid Salter** wrote, "A son of the Mississippi Delta, Jim Abbott was no crusading interloper. He was a Mississippian who knew which political and social anthills not to kick—yet he kicked them anyway because they needed to be kicked."



During Abbott's rich life, he crossed paths with likes of James Meredith, Walt Disney, Duke Ellington, Robert Kennedy, B.B. King, Brooke Shields, Craig Claiborne, Pops Staples, John Fogerty, and Gene Hackman, among many more.

Ralph Eubanks, author of *When It's Darkness on the Delta*, said, "Jim Abbott's *Paper Man* is the story of one man's love of the Delta and Mississippi, a love he professed by bravely practicing journalistic integrity as well as human kindness."

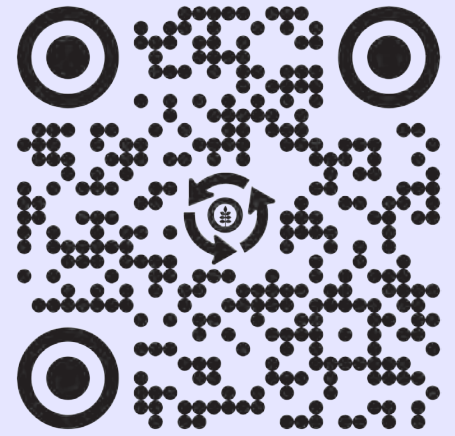
Paper Man takes the reader from the Ole Miss riot to the jungles of Vietnam and from hiking the Grand Tetons to a deserted, post-Katrina New Orleans, but it is Abbott's years behind the editor's desk in Indianola that gives the book its greatest charm—and its lasting lessons about the power and the necessity of local journalism.

Paper Man: Chasing the Truth in the Mississippi Delta is available now at independent bookstores throughout the South.

Abbott will read and sign *Paper Man* at **Off Square Books**, Tuesday September 8 at 5:30 pm.

ROUNABOUT OXFORD

For up-to-date event listings in **Oxford, Mississippi** scan the **QR code** below for all things **Roundabout Oxford® & Ole Miss!**



VOLTA
taverna

Half Price
Margaritas
and Frozen
Mojitos
Every Monday,
Thursday, &
Saturday

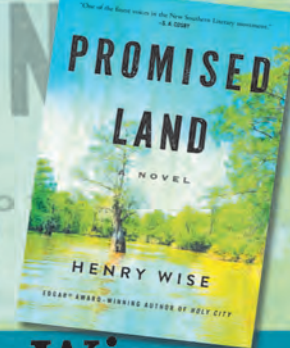


Good Vibes Only
OXFORD, MS

710 North Lamar Blvd * Oxford, MS



Wednesday, September 9
5:30pm @ Off Square Books



Henry Wise

in conversation with **William Boyle**

**FREE DIGITAL
SUBSCRIPTION
SCAN NOW**



The Local Voice is published on Thursdays

Deadline is every Tuesday at noon. Next print deadline: September 15

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

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

© 2026 The Local Voice - Rayburn Publishing. No part of this issue may be retransmitted or copied without the express written permission of the Publisher. Roundabout Oxford® is a federally registered trademark owned by Rayburn Publishing, LLC. Unauthorized use is prohibited.

THE LOCAL VOICE #490 - Newt Rayburn, Publisher. Nature Humphries, Editor-in-Chief.

CONTRIBUTORS: Davis Coen, Allison Estes, Randy Weeks, and Megan Wolfe.

DISTRIBUTION: Brady Rees. The Local Voice LLC is a locally owned and operated media company, founded April 18, 2006 by Newt Rayburn.

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

4 ROUNABOUT OXFORD® is a registered trademark owned by **Rayburn Publishing, LLC**. Unauthorized use is prohibited. © © 2026 Rayburn Publishing LLC

simplyclean
OXFORD

PROFESSIONAL CLEANING SERVICE

simplycleanoxford.com

662-801-4468

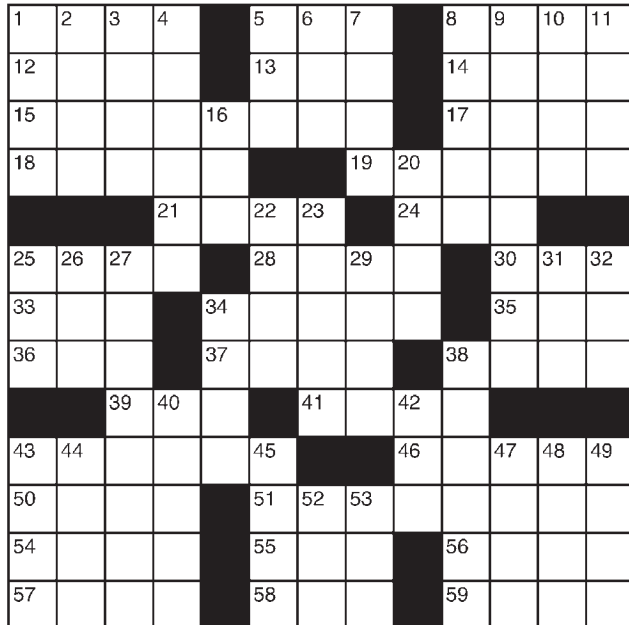


Here are some games to play, in your free time, to keep your mind sharp, and focused.

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Actor Sharif
- 5 "Humbug!"
- 8 JFK guesses
- 12 Cape —, Portugal
- 13 In the style of
- 14 Seniors' gp.
- 15 Manhattan, for one
- 17 China (Pref.)
- 18 "The Sopranos" restaurateur
- 19 Brunch fare
- 21 Thick chunk
- 24 TV spots
- 25 Ancient invader
- 28 Uber compet-
- itors
- 30 Mas' mates
- 33 Chef Garten
- 34 Bo of "10"
- 35 Pen filler
- 36 — chi
- 37 Location
- 38 — B'rith
- 39 Young fellow
- 41 "Absolutely!"
- 43 Texas city
- 46 Caravan stops
- 50 Big rackets
- 51 Pulled-back hairdo
- 54 Icelandic epic
- 55 Chang's brother
- 56 "Andor" actor
- Diego —



- 57 Optimistic
- 58 Tic-tac-toe loser
- 59 Mountain ht.
- 10 "Rule, Britannia!" composer
- 11 Espy
- 16 Aviv preceder
- 20 Mardi Gras wear
- 22 Computer brand
- 23 Exposes
- 25 "Shoo!"
- 26 — tear (rag- ing)
- 27 Hindmost parts
- 29 Boyfriend
- 31 Comic
- Gasteyer
- 32 Enjoy Aspen
- 34 June honor- ees
- 38 Ringo, for one
- 40 Analyze
- 42 Trigger's rider
- 43 Baltic feeder
- 44 Queen of Carthage
- 45 Pinnacle
- 47 Biblical king
- 48 Aachen article
- 49 Serb or Croat
- 52 Musician
- Yoko
- 53 Private aid
- gp.

DOWN

- 1 Sea predator
- 2 Heath
- 3 Ad agcy. cli- ent
- 4 Debonair
- 5 Sheep call
- 6 Boxer Laila
- 7 Angelic light
- 8 Allayed
- 9 Severe decline



- 1. How many Grammy awards did the Beatles receive?
- 2. Name the artist who released "Any Day Now" in 1962.
- 3. Who wrote and released "It's Your Thing"?
- 4. Which doo-wop group had their up-tempo "Unchained Melody" used in the film "Goodfellas"?
- 5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "Left a good job in the city, Workin' for the man every night and day, And I never lost one minute of sleepin', Worryin' 'bout the way things might have been."

Answers

- 1. Out of 28 nominations, they received eight Grammys. The first was for "A Hard Day's Night" in 1965. The most recent was for "Now and Then" in 2025, where they took a 1970s demo and finished it.
- 2. Chuck Jackson. Several artists released covers of the Burt Bacharach song, including Elvis Presley and Percy Sledge, but it was Jackson's version that was used in the 2014 film "Inherent Vice."
- 3. The Isley Brothers, in 1969. They won a Grammy for Best R&B Vocal Performance by a Duo or Group.
- 4. Vito & the Salutations.
- 5. "Proud Mary," by Creedence Clearwater Revival, in 1968. The Proud Mary was a ship officially named the Mary Elizabeth, working out of Memphis.

Solutions to puzzles are inside The Local Voice Digital Edition sent every Thursday to subscribers. Subscribe FREE at TheLocalVoice.net or scan this QR code to subscribe.



MAGIC MAZE ● PRESIDENTS OVER 6 FEET TALL

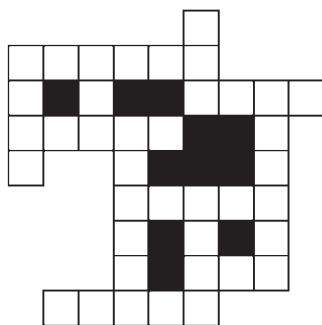
P B Y W T R O L Y J G E B Y W
U R P N K I G D B D Z J X N V
T S Q N L O C N I L E O M A K
I L G E C A G Y W F P N U G N
S Q E P N N L J F H M F N A O
E C A V I Y O E X V U U O E S
F O R D E A R T H U R S S R K
Q B R W A S H I N G T O N E C
P A N M O K O J H I F E H L A
H M C N B Z Y O X V L U O Y J
T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

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

Arthur Clinton Ford Garfield
Harding Jackson Jefferson Johnson
Kennedy Obama Reagan Roosevelt
Trump Tyler Washington



- TSE
- RADBUS
- ♥RSVEE
- ♥EVNA
- VIRTEN
- ♥ABR
- ATBI
- DEENU
- ♥NBA
- ♥BALUNE
- ♥AIRLV
- ♥ESRU



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

Wishing Well®

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

NEW YORK STYLE PIZZA! MONDAY-THURS 2 pm-til FRIDAY Noon-til SAT & SUN 11 am-til

FUNKYS pizza & daiquiris

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

DIFFERENT SPECIALS MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY

the Local Voice PUZZLE PLAYGROUND



ACROSS

- 1 More serious, as a matter
7 It's hidden by head hair
12 Quivered
20 Sure to succeed, as a proposition
21 Marisa of "Cyrus"
22 César Ritz or Conrad Hilton
23 Immediately
24 Of the hipbone
25 With great happiness
26 Start of a riddle
29 Breathe hard and fast
30 Seat of Kansas' Allen County
31 Whale like Shamu
35 Bouncer's age-verifying duty
39 — Park (site of Edison's lab)
41 Shock absorbers, of sorts
44 Riddle, part 2
47 Overly affected
48 Two, in Spain
49 Certain blood type, in brief
50 Quantity: Abbr.
51 Egyptian sun god
53 Fiber-yielding plant
56 Charlotte — (rich dessert)
58 Erwin of old films
61 Web portal since '95
62 Riddle, part 3
66 Mailed, e.g.
68 Pen name
70 Tiny, informally
71 Riddle, part 4
74 Really binges, briefly
77 Atlanta-to-Tampa dir.
78 Dog's tether
79 Edict
80 Expend all of
82 Lay (down)
83 84-Down of Bart Simpson
85 "Indubitably!"
87 Dazzling effects
91 End of the riddle
97 Signs up
98 Fishing line attachments
99 Private school
100 Personal manner
101 Chimney stuff
102 Skewed view

DOWN

- 103 Riddle's answer
113 Egyptian carrier until 2021
116 Makes level
117 Disappear without —
118 Least narrow
119 Fix, as a bow
120 Papal crowns
121 Cutting parts of some cutting tools
122 Sulky states
123 Accompany for security
1 Chew like a rat
2 Horror film director Eli
3 Emollient plant juice
4 Gold-winning skier Lindsey
5 Locked place where people solve puzzles to find the key
6 People staging old battles, say
7 Clown's leg lengthener
8 E. — (bacterium)
9 Lady friend, in France
10 On a slant
11 Small flute

- 12 Iota preceder
13 Do deep massage therapy on
14 And the like: Abbr.
15 Portion (out)
16 Ignored, informally
17 Pan topper
18 Sinuous fish
19 Parched
27 Egyptian sacred cross
28 Truckloads
32 Goes over, as old issues
33 Sevastopol natives, e.g.
34 Deputy: Abbr.
35 Hairy TV cousin
36 Whoop-de- —
37 Co. VIP
38 Owns, to Shakespeare
39 L-P link
40 Mag VIPs
41 Big Mac base
42 Wombs
43 Fill with steam
45 Mag revenue sources
46 Cry to a baby who makes a boo-boo
52 Potentially offensive, in brief

- 53 Attacked aggressively
54 Business coll. subject
55 Repair
57 Neighbor of Nor. and Fin.
58 Dir. 45 degrees from 77-Across
59 "Madam Secretary" star
60 Perturb
62 Rig on a road
63 Panther
64 Med. insurers co-star
65 "Ready Player One"
67 "J to — L-O!" (Lopez album)
69 Until now
72 Dots on ocean maps
73 Switch gears
75 Become less intense
76 In the current state
80 Land with a 50-star flag
81 Said "guilty" or "not guilty"
82 Apple discard
84 Bro's sibling
85 Hearty laugh

- 86 Three in "maximum"
88 "Botch- —" (1952 hit)
89 Pro — (for now)
90 Pigs' hangout
92 Makes an allusion to
93 Sneaker, e.g.
94 Horn honkers
95 A baker may wear a mitt to handle one
96 Longtime depilatory brand
101 Singer Patti or Sam
102 Greyhound transports
104 Deputy
105 Body part with a cap
106 Brooklyn Bridge's river
107 Legendary snow beast
108 Doing the task
109 — II (Gillette razor)
110 Starchy tropical root
111 Plug-in auto
112 Repose
113 Sit-up targets
114 Lyricist Gershwin
115 Seating tier

SUDOKU

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

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 House of Music
Music Lessons • Instrument Repair • PA Rental
CLINT 662-234-4553
ROBERT 901-828-5379
305 Heritage Drive
Oxford, Mississippi

kWF KEVIN W. FRYE
ATTORNEY AT LAW
General Practice & Litigation Including: Criminal Defense, Misdemeanor & Felony, Liquor Liability, Business Law, Family Law, University Policy Violations
1100 Tyler Avenue, Suite 101, Oxford, Mississippi
662.259.0050 | www.kevinwfrye.com
Free background information available upon request. Listing of these areas does not indicate any certification of expertise there in.

1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11		12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
20							21						22								
23							24						25								
26						27						28									
				29						30							31	32	33	34	
35	36	37	38					39	40					41	42	43					
44							45						46								
47							48						49					50			
			51			52				53	54	55			56		57				
58	59	60		61				62	63					64						65	
66			67			68	69									70					
71				72	73									74	75	76		77			
	78						79						80				81				
82				83		84					85	86			87			88	89	90	
91			92					93	94	95				96							
97								98						99							
100							101						102								
			103	104	105	106						107	108					109	110	111	112
113	114	115									116					117					
118										119						120					
121										122						123					



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.

Five Spot™

Horror movie prop

R	U	S	T	Y

Nickname for a red head

The little ones

Piano technician

Loosen

Deke

Word with "bread" or "butter"

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.

FEAR KNOT

By: rj johnson

DOUBT? ... OR DARE!

GEG
UGFARL
OLAFO
♥ETNR
♥GWOLBE
♥ELE
♥REOG
AGDEL
OEF
DACLER
♥RECTU
♥LBGO

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.

Puzzles4Kids

CRISSCROSS – 26 VERBS

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

3 Letters
ASK
CRY
EAT
GET
HUM
RUN

4 Letters
COOK
DRAW
GASP
HELP
PLAY
READ
STOP
TEST
WAIT
YAWN

5 Letters
KNOCK
LEARN
START
THROW
WORRY

6 Letters
ANSWER
LISTEN
SPLASH

7 Letters
APPLAUD
DISCUSS

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. Heavenly | ___ _ _ _ V _ | Divvy up | ___ _ _ _ D _ |
| 2. Certain quartet | ___ T ___ _ _ | Planting season | ___ P ___ _ _ |
| 3. Express gratitude | ___ _ A _ _ _ | Mull over | ___ _ I _ _ _ |
| 4. Coronet | ___ _ _ _ N _ | Multitude | ___ _ _ _ D _ |
| 5. Pendant | ___ _ _ _ _ T | Student's closet | ___ _ _ _ _ R |
| 6. Beehive | ___ P _ _ _ _ | Bird sanctuary | ___ V _ _ _ _ |
| 7. Lombard or Burnett | ___ _ _ _ L _ | Chocolate alternate | ___ _ _ _ B _ |
| 8. Arrogance | P _ _ _ _ _ | Groom's mate | B _ _ _ _ _ |
| 9. Stockholm native | ___ W _ _ _ _ | Velvety leather | ___ U _ _ _ _ |
| 10. Rowling's character | ___ _ T _ _ _ | Composer Cole | ___ _ R _ _ _ |

"I'll have the chef's special and no need to hurry — unless you want a _____!"

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!

Student
RENTIN

Rural
SIRCUT

Slime
GLUDES

Anarchy
HAMMEY

TODAY'S WORD

SUNDAY PLATE LUNCHES

10 am - 2 pm
Serving Southern style Meat & Threes

NOW OPEN AT THREE WAY INTERSECTION

(North Lamar & Molly Barr)
on the hill at
1503 White Oak Lane Suite B
Oxford, Mississippi
662.801.4194

Skating for Awareness: Skyler King's Journey from Oxford to New York

by Davis Coen

For **Skyler King**, the idea of skateboarding from **Mississippi to New York** began with a few different pieces of his life coming together.

King had already planned to move to New York City after graduating from college. He had spent time there before, and also been offered a place to stay. But in December 2025, another idea began to take shape. Instead of simply making the move, King would skate there.

The idea was inspired in part by his friend **Demarcus James**, whom King met in California. James had previously skateboarded from San Francisco to New York, and watching that journey left an impression on King.

King had also seen others undertake long-distance journeys to call attention to causes that mattered to them. One friend had ridden a bicycle from Oxford to South America and had also completed a 1,000-mile walk.

Those examples gave King a way to combine his own upcoming move with something larger.

The journey is also deeply personal. In 2024, he lost his brother, **Justin Judkins**, to suicide. At the time, King was in the middle of transferring from **Northwest Community College** to **Ole Miss**, making an already difficult transition even harder.

Now, as he travels north on a skateboard, King is raising awareness about mental health and suicide prevention while honoring his brother.

The trip began in Oxford, where King had spent several years involved in the local skateboarding community. He had operated the **Oxford Skateboarding Association**, a nonprofit organization focused on keeping skateboarding active in the community.

The association has worked on efforts to revitalize and expand the local skate park, as well as hosting competitions, skate clinics, and other programs.

"I was kind of carrying the weight of that," King said of his work with the organization.

So, his journey has become more than a trip from one city to another, but a continuation of the work he has already been doing in Oxford, only now on a much larger scale.

Life on Four Wheels

King first picked up a skateboard when he was six years old. Growing up in **Horn Lake**, he had a skate park just a couple of miles from home, and his older brother was an avid skateboarder.

By the time King was ten, he was spending more time skating and began to take it seriously.

For his cross-country trip, King is riding a Creature 8.75-inch, a fish-shaped board with a square tail and rounded, pointed nose. He had been riding the same board for about six months before

setting out, putting it through considerable preparation for the journey.

As part of his training, King skated the **Tanglefoot Trail**, which stretches about 43 miles from **Houston** to **New Albany**. On one occasion, he and a friend skated the trail roundtrip.

By August 28, King had already been on the road for nearly a month, and there had not yet been a typical day.

Every morning he wakes up in a new town, encounters new people, and adjusts his plans according to the road, the weather, and whatever else happens. Sometimes those adjustments are minor, but other times plans are completely changed.

During one stretch in Virginia, King was caught on a back road by a severe thunderstorm. With night approaching and no obvious place to take shelter, he stopped near a farm. A woman noticed him and offered him the use of her barn.

The storm quickly intensified, and King took her up on the offer.

Later, the woman's elderly mother came to check on the unexpected visitor. After learning what King was doing, the family eventually offered him a place to spend the night.

King left early the next morning, but the encounter stayed with him. That kind of hospitality has become one of the defining parts of his journey.

People have stopped along the road to check on him. Others have offered food, rides, or lodging. In small towns, residents sometimes see him skate by and simply want to know what he is doing.

The physical demands are considerable, too.



Backpack and skateboard on an unskateable road in West Virginia.
Submitted photo.



Early on in the trip, in Tennessee, he took a hard fall and suffered a road rash on his arm that took weeks to heal. There were other times of difficult weather, including one day when he covered about 30 miles during storms.

His route changed as a result, sending him through towns he had not originally planned to visit. Even so, King has come to see those unexpected detours as part of the experience.

Meeting People along the Way

Perhaps the most meaningful part of King’s journey has not been the miles themselves, but the people he has encountered along the way.

Again and again, conversations with strangers have turned into something deeper.

King said many of the people he meets have their own experiences with depression, mental health struggles, or the loss of someone close. Sometimes a brief roadside conversation becomes an emotional exchange with folks he had never met.

“There’s so many specific moments I could bring up,” King said.

One encounter came after King had skated through a small town during more bad weather. Near the end of the day, he passed a man who was fishing and casually asked if he had caught anything, then continued down the road.

A short while later, the man caught up with him in his truck. He had recognized King from earlier and was amazed at how far he had traveled.

When King explained that he was skating across the country to raise awareness for mental health and suicide prevention in honor of his brother, the man shared his own history with mental health and suicide attempts. He also told King that he was now a local preacher.

For King, encounters like that have reinforced the reason he decided to make the trip.

One family he met at a campground turned out to live in Phoenixville, Pennsylvania, which was along his route. They told him to contact them when he gets close so they can provide him with a meal and a place to stay.

Another woman in Virginia has been checking in with him regularly, and that type of support has



Skyler King poses in downtown Gate City, Virginia. Photograph by Sally Ammerman.

helped make an otherwise lonely journey feel less isolated.

“It’s pretty lonely out on the road,” King said. “But I’ve got a big group text and people online are checking in, making me feel a lot better.”

As King moves north, he has also changed his approach to the trip. Originally, he had a target date for reaching New York, but after making it more than halfway, he decided to slow down. He realized that moving too quickly meant missing out on some people and places in the process.

There is still a destination in mind. King hopes to reach the legendary skate spot Brooklyn Banks, although he is not sure exactly what his arrival will look like. He is not particularly interested in turning the finish into a spectacle.

And while New York was supposed to be the end of this journey, it may not be the end of the story. King said his mother has already suggested

that he keep going. Perhaps even skating through all fifty states.

Whether that happens remains to be seen. For now, the important thing is the road ahead, the skateboard beneath his feet, and the people he continues to meet.

Back in Oxford, the skateboarding community he helped build remains part of that journey. At the local skate park, a bench made from skateboards donated by local skaters stands in memory of King’s brother. **Lafayette High School** students built the bench before donating it to the park, where anyone can sit, watch the skaters, or simply spend some time. It is a fitting reminder of where King’s journey began.

From Oxford to New York, he is carrying that community with him, one mile, one friendly conversation, and one push of the skateboard at a time. **TV**

Brewing

CIRCLE

AND

SQUARE

Company

OFFBEAT
IN
GENERAL

114 Town Square Lane • Taylor, Mississippi 38673

NOW SERVING The Jimmy Pesto, The CRAZY German, and My First Love
Plus, your all-time favorites, including: Pepperoni, Supreme, and Veggie!
Cauliflower crust also available.

Dine-in or pick-up. Call 415-412-8610 menu at: www.offbeatgeneralstore.com

PIZZA
KNIGHTS

Thursday–Saturday
Night
5:00–8:00 pm

Comedy in Oxford Is Alive & Kicking

Kiffin roast pokes fun and raises funds for former Ole Miss player

by Allison Estes

Walt Karr has a serious side quest: comedy.

"From an early age, I've always liked to laugh and I've always liked to make people laugh," Karr said. "From the first time I tried it, I was hooked. I knew that was something I wanted to do."

When he's not busy with his day job, Karr performs stand-up and produces comedy events. His next project is **"The Roast of Lane Kiffin" Wednesday, September 16 at The Lyric Oxford**. Doors open at 6:30 pm for the 7 pm show. Admission is \$25, or \$40 for the balcony. The lineup includes Memphis comedians **Colton Ales**, **Ryan Bush**, and **Hayden McOlgan**, along with Oxford's own **Ayric Bradley** and **Chris Green**, with Karr hosting.

"It's going to be a fun night," Karr said. "It's a night for us to make jokes about everything from the weirdness that is the SEC culture, to college football in general, to, you know, just anything and everything, with most of the punches going toward Lane, of course!"

Besides taking shots at Kiffin, the Roast has a cause. Former **Ole Miss** linebacker **Cassius Ware** ('92-'93) developed complications from an injury and recently underwent a leg amputation. Ware will be moving back to Mississippi to recover. Attendees will have an opportunity to donate to Ware's GoFundMe and to write him a personal note on cards Karr will deliver.

"Cassius Ware gave everything he had when he wore the uniform and he's always been a champion for the university football program and the community of Oxford," Karr said. "Now he's going through something much bigger than football, and we wanted to use the attention surrounding the roast to do some good and show support for Cassius and his family."

"At the end of the day football is what brings us a lot of us together, but taking care of people in our community is more important than a football game."

Karr has been interested in comedy since before



Oxford Comedy Collective. Submitted photo.

he could drive. But as a kid growing up in Batesville, his exposure to stand-up was limited to what was available on cassette tapes, DVDs and TV. For Karr, that amounted to comedian Jerry Clower, "the Mouth of Mississippi," Rudy Ray Moore's "Dolemite," and Larry the Cable Guy and the Blue Collar Comedy Tour with Bill Engvall, Ron White, and Jeff Foxworthy.

"It used to be 30 years ago in comedy, you had to have an album," Karr said. "Jerry Clower at one time, and may still be, was the highest selling artist of any genre, including music, on his record label."

Karr never outgrew that fascination with comedy. As an adult, he still had a hankering to try doing stand-up himself, and started looking for opportunities. Eventually he found one in Oxford: An Instagram search led him to an open mic night at **Moe's Penny Bar** on Wednesday nights.

"I did about 60 seconds worth of really bad jokes," Karr said. "And I got maybe one laugh. But that one laugh — I said, Ah, I like this!"

That first gig might not have gone as well as expected, but it connected him with others in the Oxford comedy scene and he continued to develop his stand-up skills at Moe's and wherever he could take the stage.

"The comedy scene in Oxford has been a really good place as far as opportunities, open mics, things like that," Karr said.

Does he get laughs now?

"I hope so," Karr said. "I'm really hard on myself, but yeah, I hope I've gotten a lot better. I definitely have more than 60 seconds worth of material!"

Karr has progressed from performing to

producing shows in North Mississippi, Senatobia, and Batesville, including pop-up comedy shows. And when Moe's shelved the comedy night in favor of a music open mic night, Karr and four other local comedians got together and formed **Oxford Comedy Collective**, with the goal of expanding the comedy community in Oxford and North Mississippi. In April, they started doing shows and also offering free comedy workshops at **The Powerhouse** and the **Lafayette County Arena**. In August, the Collective had a show at **Proud Larry's**, with an open mic afterward. The **Yoknapatawpha Arts Council** has helped the Collective apply for grants, though they haven't yet received any.

What's next for Karr and comedy in Oxford? Oxford Comedy Collective is producing monthly shows, and Karr said he plans to produce more shows locally—the Kiffin Roast is his latest independent production.

"We're building a scene where we're watching it grow," Karr said. "It's already growing for us. There're new people coming to join the Collective. They're coming to hang out with us and learn more about it and take part. And that's really what we need."

The Collective's unofficial roster includes Jeff Adams, Lucian Blackburn, Ayric Bradley, Chris Green, Keenen Darnell Kareem, Walt Karr, Connor King, Jake Purvis, Glisto Rice, and Shay Shuffield. Anyone 18 and older is welcome—to join or find out more about workshops and shows, follow Karr and Oxford Comedy Collective on Instagram at @WaltKarrComedy and @LaughOxford. 📸

662-638-3767

SOUTHERN COOP

— OXFORD, MISSISSIPPI —

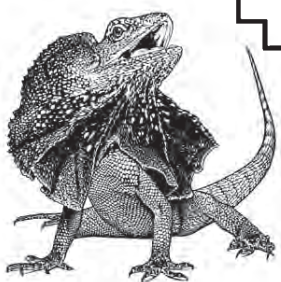
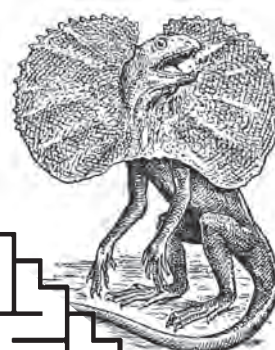
705 SISK AVENUE

OXFORD'S FAVORITE CHICKEN AND BEST WINGS IN TOWN!



PLAY GOLF ON STATE OF THE ART SIMULATORS

Chicken Wings, Tenders, Wraps, Sandwiches, Salads, Quesadillas, Nachos, Pizza, 23 Beers on tap, & a full bar! Order now for pickup or delivery at SouthernCoopWings.com



Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

- HISTORY:** When did Labor Day become a federal holiday?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM:** Which animal can hop from side to side but can't walk forward or backward?
- MOVIES:** What is the only international (non-English) movie to date that has won the Best Picture Oscar?
- LANGUAGE:** What does the Latin word *alibi* mean in English?
- FOOD & DRINK:** Which country is known for the soup called pho?
- GEOGRAPHY:** What is the largest bay in the world?
- MUSIC:** What 1996 song by Los del Rio became an international dance phenomenon?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS:** Who is the only president to be elected unanimously by the Electoral College?
- SCIENCE:** How many times does the average human blink per minute?
- TELEVISION:** What is SpongeBob's pet named in the animated series *SpongeBob SquarePants*?

ANSWERS BELOW

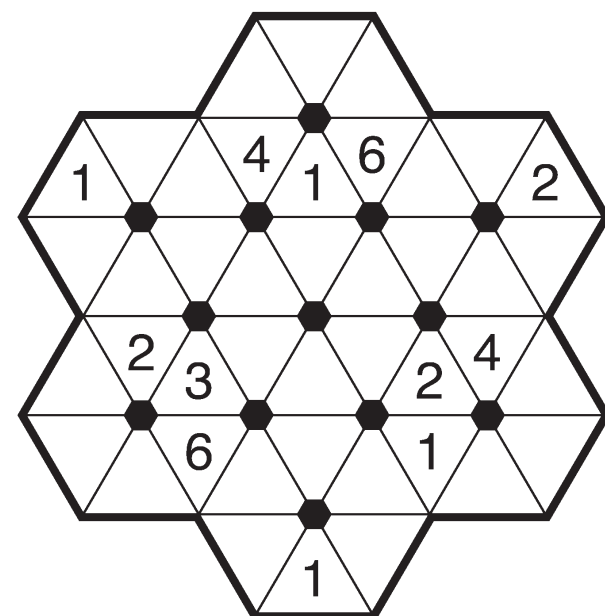
GO FIGURE!

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.

	+		×		= 63			
+		+		+				
	+		÷		= 6			
÷		×		×				
	+		+		= 15			
=		=		=				
7		84		72				
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

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.

OZH VQGDO DOHX OW MHO
UZCO KWJ UCSO QD OW MHO
GQP WV UZCO KWJ PWS'O.
— XCJEW IWHEZW

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 P

YJK NKYWY WAS BRM NVKMKS YKL
BWYJ YJK MYVASE KMY
NVAYKMYAVM RY YJK YAN.
WY'M WS LWMMKSYWSE AVLKV

UBREAKIFIX

IPHONE • SAMSUNG • IPAD • PC • MACBOOK

662-236-5670

1501 W. Jackson Ave.

Right next to Firehouse Subs

OPEN
9 am - 7 pm Weekdays
11 am - 3 pm Saturdays

PC & Mac
Virus Removal

We buy broken
MacBooks!

We repair
your screen
while you wait!

Answers: 1. 1894 2. Kangaroo 3. Parasite, 2019
4. Elsewhere 5. Vietnam 6. Bay of Bengal
7. "Macarena" 8. George Washington 9. 15 to
20 times 10. Gary



Rebel Wine & Spirits

Remember the
Party Starts Here!

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

STICKELERS

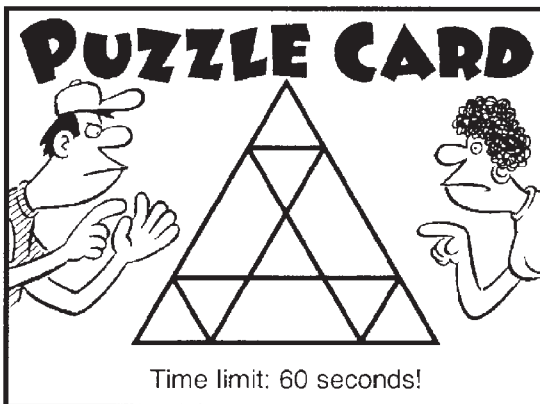
The words below share an interesting feature not often found in the English language. What is it?

Buckle, left, strike, weather, sanction, oversight, bolt

KNIGHT MOVES

Y	N	R
D		R
A	O	I

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.



How many different-size triangles are in the above drawing?

Answer: There are four sizes. The smallest has seven triangles. The next two sizes have three each. The largest has one. The total is 14 triangles.

THE MYSTERY TENNIS BALL! How would you throw a ball so that after going a short distance it will stop, reverse its motion, and come back to you? It can't be hit or bounced off anything, and nothing can be tied to it (Give two answers.)

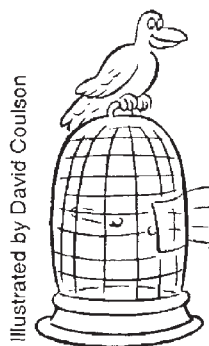
Answers: (1) Throw it straight up into the air. (2) Stand by a brook, throw the ball upstream, and wait for it to float back.

CHAIN REACTION! Take the seven letters printed below our diagram and place them in the circles so that eight four-letter words can be read, top to bottom, along connecting lines. All of the words will begin with the letter in the top circle.

Answers: Top to bottom, left to right: Lent, lend, lead, lean, load, loan, loon, loot.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



BIRD
BARD
CARD
CARE
CAGE

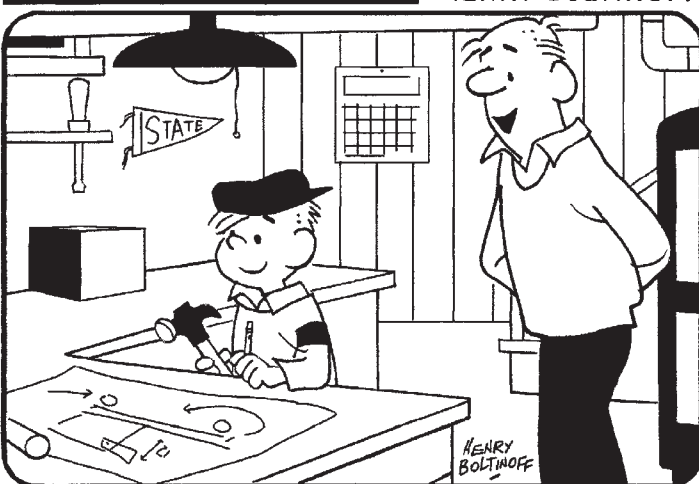
A "CAGEY" PROBLEM
In this type of puzzle you are given a word that must be changed into another word in a series of moves. During each move, you must change one letter in the previous word so as to form a new word. In our example, we changed BIRD to CAGE in four moves. Can you change the following five words in four moves?

1. MEAN to KIND
2. DIRT to PAVE
3. ROCK to BAND
4. SEED to PACK
5. DEAF to LOUD

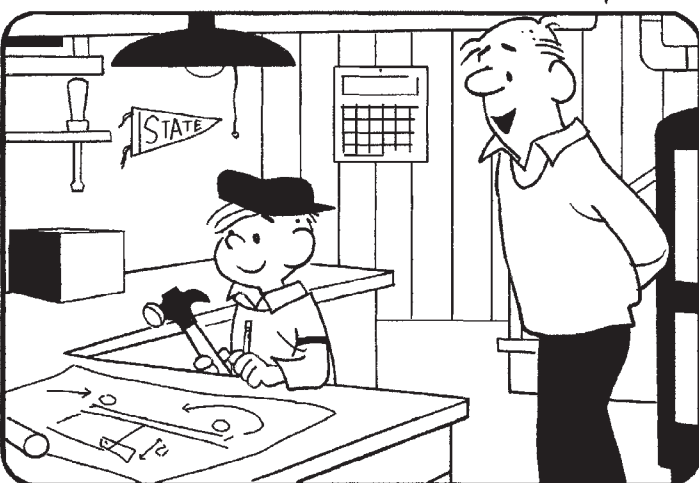
Answers:
1. MEAN, MEAD, MEND, MIND, KIND.
2. DIRT, DART, DARE, PARE, PAVE.
3. ROCK, RACK, RANK, BANK, BAND.
4. SEED, SEEK, PEEK, PECK, PACK.
5. DEAF, LEAF, LOAF, LOUD.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Arm is not showing. 2. Hammer is longer. 3. Box is moved. 4. Cap is tilted back. 5. Lightbulb is smaller. 6. Stripe on sleeve is smaller.

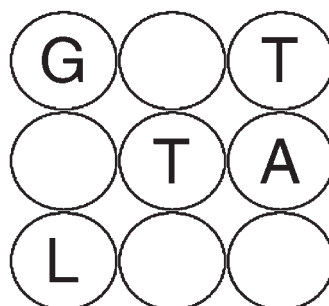
Even Exchange

by Donna Pettman

Each numbered row contains two clues and two 6-letter answers. The two answers differ from each other by only one letter, which has already been inserted. For example, if you exchange the A from MASTER for an I, you get MISTER. Do not change the order of the letters.

- | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Poker hand | F _ _ _ _ _ | Redden in the face | B _ _ _ _ _ |
| 2. Unmarried | S _ _ _ _ _ | Socialize | M _ _ _ _ _ |
| 3. Talisman | _ _ _ _ _ M | Graph | _ _ _ _ _ T |
| 4. Sell abroad | _ _ _ _ _ O _ _ | Specialist | _ _ _ _ _ E _ _ |
| 5. Goliath, e.g. | _ I _ _ _ _ | Civil War general | _ R _ _ _ _ |
| 6. Actress Elizabeth | _ _ _ Y _ _ _ _ | Clothes maker | _ _ _ I _ _ _ _ |
| 7. Arms and legs | _ _ _ _ _ S | Caribbean dance | _ _ _ _ _ O |
| 8. President Johnson | _ Y _ _ _ _ | Thames city | _ O _ _ _ _ |
| 9. Round map | _ _ _ _ _ B _ _ | Hand warmer | _ _ _ _ _ V _ _ |
| 10. Pebble | S _ _ _ _ _ | Make amends | A _ _ _ _ _ |

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.

© 2026 © Rayburn Publishing





Conversation with a Grove Tree

Last week I decided to take a stroll through The Grove. I found refuge from the heat in the shade of all the beautiful leaves on the trees. I found an especially inviting tree trunk, so I sat down and leaned on it. I was on the verge of sleep when I felt a gentle nudge on my back. I ignored it, only to receive a stronger nudge. I looked around to see who might be poking me, but there was no one there. All of a sudden a root of the tree lifted itself from the earth. It gave me a shove that sent me sprawling. Then I heard a gruff voice (think the talking trees from *The Wizard of Oz*) say, "Get off me, cowboy!"

Still on my back, wondering if this was a nightmare. I knew I wasn't drunk. I decided to do the unthinkable—I talked back,

"You're a tree—and a talking one at that!"

No shite, Sherlock!

"You don't have to be a smart-ash about it!"

Good god. I'm a grand oak, not an ash! So you can kiss my non-ash ash!

"Okay. I apologize. We got off on the wrong root."

It's okay. I won't bark at you, you sap!

"Speaking of bark, it looks like you're missing some. A few limbs, too."

"Blame Fern. She really did a number on us."

"Yeah. That's for sure."

Do you think y'all are ready for the first home game?"

Are we ready? Hell yeah! Damn right! Hotty Töt...

"Alright, alright, alright. Enough of that! Are you really ready?"

Of course! We're always ready. Once people put their tents up they're gonna start drinking—if they haven't already. After a few Bud Lights they won't even notice we're damaged goods. And if some fans forget to use their red and blue solo cups security will pour their beer out. Once it soaks in we'll be sauced, too.

Can't wait to get my buzz on! And when the band plays, we'll start (singing) slow dancin', swayin' to the music. We'll make a breeze and everybody'll be happy!

"Are y'all worried about anything?"

ICE.

"Ice? It's September. The only ice in The Grove will be ice to keep the food and drinks cold."

Not that kind of ice. The capital I capital C capital E kind of ICE!

"You gotta be kiddin' me!"

I kid you not. After the cherry trees in D.C. got slaughtered, none of us are safe!

"But no trees have been arrested."

Not yet.

"But y'all are American, born and bred."

It don't seem to matter. Hell, they might dig us up and send us to Argentina! They might turn us into lumber and ship us up above the Mason Dixon Line.

We're Rebels, not Yankees!

"What about your I.D.s?"

I'm sure the University has those records, but that don't seem to matter either. It didn't matter with the cherry trees, so why would it matter with us?

"Point well taken. Is there anything y'all do to try to stop this?"

Kinda sorta. We do have ways to irritate people. Sometimes, especially when rain has turned The Grove into a super-sized slip 'n slide, we'll lift a root just enough for people to trip over it and fall flat-faced in the mud! Revenge is sweet!

"Is there anything you want people to know about this? I do have a venue to pass information along."

Yeah. We're on the verge of PTFD.

"PTFD?"

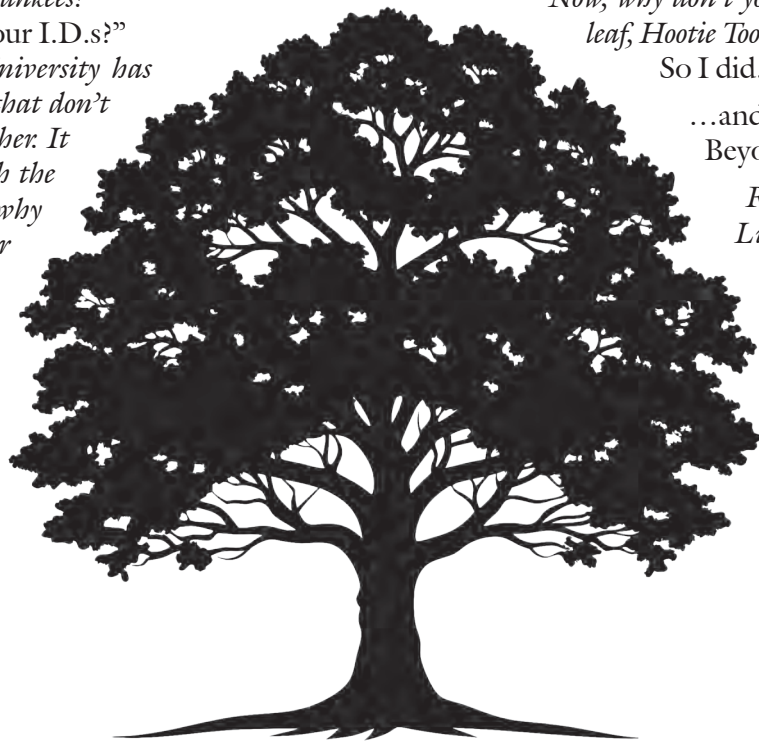
Yeah. Pre-Traumatic Felling Disorder. It's a reaction to the bulldozing of the cherry trees in D.C. We can't hold our sap. We may look fine on the outside, but underneath this bark we're sappin' all over ourselves. (sighs) Just tell folks that trees have feelings, too. It's a proven fact that we communicate with each other. When one of us hurts, we all hurt. Practice kindness toward us and we'll practice kindness toward you.

Now, why don't you make like a tree and leaf, Hootie Tootie? (laughs)

So I did.

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

Randy Weeks is a Licensed Professional Counselor, Board Certified Telemental Health Provider, a Certified Shamanic Life Coach, an ordained minister, singer-songwriter, actor, and writer, and, yes, he is a tree-hugger. 



Open for Lunch
7 days a week
11 am-2:30 pm

BRUNCH
Saturday & Sunday
11 am - 3 pm

TG
TALLAHATCHIE
GOURMET

1221 Van Buren Avenue • Oxford, Mississippi
662-380-5122 • Casseroles & Catering available



662-371-1333 BoothsBarbeque.com
BOOTH'S BARBEQUE 2200 South Lamar Blvd, Oxford, MS
New Happy Hour
Tuesdays: \$4 Drafts Wednesdays: \$5 Margs
Thursdays: 2-for-1 wells
Friday: \$2 off all frozen drinks & signature cocktails
plus Friday night line dancing!
Saturday: \$15 pitchers & buckets
Sunday: \$5 Mimosas & Bloody Marys

EAT IN OXFORD

LOCAL FOOD & DRINK OPTIONS

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

www.TheLocalVoice.net [f /thelocalvoice](#) [@TheLocalVoice](#) [@TheLocalVoice](#)



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

Ajax Diner

118 Courthouse Square

Mon-Sat: 11 am-9 pm

Delivery: TAB

Big Bad Breakfast

719 N. Lamar Blvd.

Mon-Fri: 7 am-1 pm

Sat-Sun: 8 am-2:30 pm

Early Bird Special:

Wed & Thur 7-9 am: 10% off

Delivery: DoorDash

Booth's Barbeque

2200 S. Lamar Blvd.

Tue-Thu & Sun: 11 am-9 pm

Fri-Sat: 11 am-10 pm

Tue: \$4 drafts

Wed: \$5 Margaritas

Thu: 2-for-1 wells

Fri: \$2 off all frozen drinks & signature cocktails + LINE DANCING

Sat: \$15 pitchers & buckets

Sun: \$5 Bloody Marys & Mimosas

Delivery: DoorDash, 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, \$4 wells, \$5 frozen, \$6 daily cocktail, \$7 house wines

Delivery: TAB, DoorDash

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; open early on home football weekends

Happy Hour 4-6 pm:

M-F \$1 off wells & domestics

Circle & Square

100 Depot St.

Tap Room Hours:

Mon-Wed: 7 am-9 pm,

Thu-Sat: 7 am-10 pm

Sun: 9 am-7 pm

Kitchen Hours:

Mon-Tue: 7 am-8 pm

Wed-Sat: 7 am-8:30 pm

Sun: 9 am-6:30 pm

WED: TRIVIA 7 pm

Delivery: DoorDash, 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 (til 9 pm)

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

Mon: Industry Night - 25% off for service industry professionals

'Tini Tues: ½-price classic martinis & \$7 specialty 'tinis

Wine Down Wed: ½-price bottles of wine (under \$200)

Little Easy Catering

1503B White Oak Ln.

Catering: 662-801-4194

Sunday Plate Lunches

Sun: 10 am-2 pm

The Library

120 South 11th St.

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

LIVE MUSIC

Miscellanea

306 S. Lamar Blvd.

Wed-Sat: 5 pm-until

Sun: 5 pm-9 pm

Monday-Tuesday closed

Reservations: website

Moe's BBQ

311 S Lamar Blvd.

Mon-Sun: 11 am-10 pm

Penny Bar open 3 pm

Penny Bar Happy Hour 3-6 pm:

Mon-Fri ½-price apps, \$15 High Life buckets, \$6 Bushwhackers

Mon: \$3 domestics (7p-till)

Tue: TRIVIA + 2-for-1 drafts (7p-till)

Wed: OPEN MIC; ½-price wine & well whiskey (7p-till)

Thu: BINGO + \$5 Bushwhackers (7p-till)

Sun: \$3 PBR (3 p-till)

Delivery: DoorDash, TAB

Nightbird

425 S. Lamar Blvd.

Open at 4 pm nightly

Mon: Industry Night - 25% off for service industry professionals

'Tini Tues: ½-price classic martinis & \$7 specialty 'tinis

Wine Down Wed: ½-price bottles of wine (under \$200)

Offbeat in General

Plein Air, Taylor

Tue-Wed: 10 am-6 pm

Thu-Sat: 10 am-8 pm

Sun: 10 am-3 pm

Pizza Knights Thu-Sat 5-8 pm

The Old Henry

1002 E. Jackson Ave.

Wed-Sat: 5 pm-1 am

Wed: \$1 WINGS; ½-price wine; \$15 beer/seltzer buckets

Thu: Happy Hour 6-8 pm

½-priced cocktails & wine

Proud Larry's

211 S. Lamar Blvd.

Mon-Sat: Kitchen, 11 am-9 pm

Bar open late

Sun: Lunch 11 am-3 pm

Quack's

122 Courthouse Square

Mon-Sat: 11 am-close

Sun: 11 am-9 pm

Fri-Sun: Brunch 11 am-3 pm; Mimosa specials & \$9 Espresso Martinis

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: DoorDash, TAB

Rafters on the Square

1006 E. Jackson Ave.

Tue-Sat: 6:30 pm-1 am

DJ DRUMM Fri & Sat

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 NIGHT

Southern Coop

705 Sisk Ave.

Mon-Sat: 11 am-9 pm

Delivery: DoorDash, TAB

Snackbar

721 N. Lamar Blvd.

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

Happy Hour 4-6 pm:

\$2 domestics, \$4 drafts, \$6 wines, \$8 classics, select food & oysters

Mon: INDUSTRY NIGHT: \$8 select cocktails, 24% off food

SoLa

401 S. Lamar Blvd.

Wed-Sun: 5-9 pm

Happy Hour 5-6 pm:

\$6 fresh Margaritas

Wed: Spaghetti + \$6 wine

Thu: Ramen & \$6 Rosé

Sun: Oyster Happy Hour \$2/shuck (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, ½-price apps & domestics

Tues (all day): \$2.50 tacos, \$20

pitchers, \$5 drafts, ½-price apps

Sun: Service Industry Sunday

Delivery: DoorDash

Volta Taverna

710 N. Lamar Blvd.

Mon-Sat: 11 am-9 pm;

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

½-price Margaritas & Mojitos

Monday, Thursday, & Saturday



HAPPY HOUR 3-7 PM
MON • WED • THURS • FRIDAY

\$6 MARGS • \$3 TACOS • HALF-OFF APPS

\$5 22 OZ DRAFT BEERS • 1/2 OFF DOMESTIC BOTTLE BEERS • \$5 WINE

ALL DAY HAPPY HOUR
EVERY TUESDAY

\$2.50 TACOS • \$20 PITCHERS • \$5 22 OZ DRAFT BEERS • HALF-OFF APPS

Shane Brown ... continued from page 1

"Brothers" returns to the relationship between Shane and Billy Ray and the familiarity of siblings who work together. "Billy Ray's Farm, Now" focuses on the dairy and the realities of agricultural work. "Time on the River," the final story, turns toward children and the passage of time, reflecting on the way ordinary family moments can become more meaningful as children grow older.

The collection's emphasis on work comes naturally from Brown's own life. He began helping his brother with the dairy about a decade ago and continues to milk cows, make deliveries, and help with the family's growing ice cream operation.

"I wouldn't have to do anything else but make ice cream," Brown said, describing how much the business has grown.

Shane's relationship with his father also extends into the music connected to the book. Shane and his brother wrote a song called "Joe" after riding around together with their father's book and its movie adaptation. The song was recorded at The Shack, and portions of it are incorporated into the design of the book.

"I've seen all this, these aspects of life that I've talked about in this book really happen," Brown said.

That may be the best way to understand *A Place Called Tula*. The book makes no effort to glamorize rural Mississippi, or pretend that difficult experiences do not happen there.

Instead, Brown writes about people dealing with real problems alongside ordinary moments of humor, family, work, and friendship.

A neighbor can become a source of unexpected reflection. A hitchhiker can become a lesson in gratitude. A homeless man can unexpectedly become a movie actor. A farm can become a place where family history continues to live. A day spent with children can become a reminder that time does not stop.

Brown writes about people who work hard, make mistakes, drink too much, lose people, argue with family members, take care of children and do it all over the next day. Some of the characters make terrible choices. Others offer unexpected kindness. Most of them are recognizable because he allows them to remain complicated.

In that way, *A Place Called Tula* is also a book about inheritance - not simply being the son of a well-known writer, but the inheritance of a place, a family, a way of working, and a collection of stories waiting to be told.



That connection could have been intimidating, especially for a first-time author whose father remains such a major literary figure. But *A Place Called Tula* works because Shane does not seem interested in becoming another Larry Brown. The stories are rougher around the edges, conversational, and often deliberately unpolished in voice. They sound like someone telling you what happened rather than standing at a distance and explaining what it means.

That may be the book's greatest strength.

For Shane Brown, those stories have been close by all along, but now the experiences have finally found a place on the page.

And for readers who know the Brown family, the Yocona area, or the rural North Mississippi landscape that runs through the collection, the September 29 book release event will offer an opportunity to hear him read from these stories in his own voice. **TV**

Top photo: Shane's daughter Tula with one of the family's many animals that reside on the farm in Tula. **Below left:** Shane and his wife Katie operate an ice creamery in the dairy. **Below right:** Shane keeps a photo of his father next to his writing desk in The Shack. *All photographs by Megan Wolfe, 2026.*



SPECIALS YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS!

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 | 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**
BUY ONE GET ONE FREE ENTREE
(OF EQUAL OR LESSER VALUE)

DAILY HAPPY HOUR 5-6P!

FOLLOW US
+ SCAN FOR AN
EXCLUSIVE OFFER!



LOCATED ON TOP OF THE
COURTYARD MARRIOTT
305 E JACKSON AVE., OXFORD
662-638-6017

the Local Voice PUZZLE PLAYGROUND

SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!



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

Transfer your old Video Tapes to Digital
VHS, MINI DV, HI-8, CASSETTE, ETC.
662.232.8900

TV Super Crossword

SHORT MONTHS

ACROSS

- 1 Gentle
5 Not active
9 Hockey great Gordie
13 Certain utility meter reader
19 "Pronto!"
20 Back end
21 Notion
22 Hun leader
23 "Klute" actress
25 Line of air fresheners requiring an outlet
27 Element #10
28 See 38-Down
29 Texting format, for short
30 Land in eau
32 Strong-arms
36 Lobbying org.
37 Singer Ross
39 "Let's Get It On" singer
41 Certain fruit stone
43 "— fair in love and war"
44 Stood to lose
46 Idyllic places
47 City official on "Family Guy"
50 Part of UCLA
52 Make tidy
56 Noted Deco master

DOWN

- 57 Notion
60 Go in haste
61 Fogged up, as a sauna
65 School for associate's degrees
68 Caribbean resort
69 "Let it stand"
71 Goes after in court
72 Intended (to)
73 Bartending tool with holes
76 1841-45 first family
77 Primo pitcher
78 Cape Cod resort village
79 Dried up
81 Heptathlete Jackie Joyner —
84 Railroad depot: Abbr.
85 Portend a good outcome
90 Dog's reward
93 Scored a major victory
95 Mine, in France
96 Brownish-toned picture
100 Stuff squirted by a cephalopod

ACROSS

- 103 Slow to react
104 NFL notable Manning
105 Some private planes
106 "Is that so!"
107 Univ. senior's test
108 Weapons depot
110 Tiger's sound, to tots
112 Halifax native
115 Poolside seat of Uranus
121 "I'm buying"
122 Region
123 Rebuke from Caesar
124 Lie comfily close
125 Belgian river
126 Frat guys
127 Span represented by the first three letters of 12 answers in this puzzle

DOWN

- 1 — Mahal
2 "Hugo" title role player Butterfield
3 Polite
4 Sword variety
5 Patch variety
6 Animal lair
7 Young fellow

ACROSS

- 8 Time of note
9 Old LP players
10 Polish river
11 Program running in a browser
12 Topic of an otologist's instructions
13 Intent stare
14 Munched on
15 Fuel additive brand
16 Country singer Ronnie
17 School reunion-goers
18 Pesters
24 Central points
26 "Champion" of Spain
28 Overly docile
30 Muslim prayer leader
31 See 70-Down
33 Heron variety
34 Elevate
35 Sac in anatomy
37 "Finished!"
38 With 28-Across, church meeting cry
40 Abbr. on a brandy bottle
41 Dreamy guys

DOWN

- 42 Italian for "hundred"
45 SpaceX head Musk
48 Chart anew
49 Ironic, as wit
51 Rub to clean
53 Main topic
54 "The — Sanction" (1975 film)
55 Must have
57 Halve with an ax, say
58 Prior to, to a bard
59 Mac rivals
61 "Wheel of Fortune" host Pat
62 Halting of hostilities
63 Leonhard of pure mathematics
64 Prez Lincoln
65 Denim pants
66 Cake tier
67 "— Abner"
69 Hog's pen
70 With 31-Down, lilting song syllables
74 Ovine animal
75 El — (ocean current)
76 —TV ("Tacoma FD" channel)

ACROSS

- 79 Armani offerings
80 Incite
82 Incite
83 Part of QED
85 Basic lessons
86 Once lived
87 Move to a new country
88 Individual
89 Similar to
91 "Billy, Don't Be —"
92 "Anna Karenina" novelist
94 Yule tune
96 Join the team
97 Get dressed
98 Irritates
99 Promotional connections
101 Ski jackets
102 Quadrennial games org.
105 Seat weaver
108 Clearasil target
109 Moniker
111 Curds and —
113 Craft
114 Pine- —
115 Small dollop
116 Make a gaffe
117 Co. top dog
118 Give — shot
119 Classic Karel Capek play

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12		13	14	15	16	17	18	
19					20					21					22						
23					24					25					26						
			27							28									29		
30	31				32		33	34	35				36				37	38			
39				40								41				42					
43							44				45			46							
47					48	49					50		51			52			53	54	55
					56					57					58	59			60		
61	62	63	64						65								66	67			
68							69	70				71					72				
73						74					75					76					
77						78								79	80						
81				82	83				84				85					86	87	88	89
			90				91	92		93		94					95				
96	97	98							99			100				101	102				
103							104				105								106		
107						108				109						110		111			
112				113	114									115	116	117				118	119
120								121					122					123			
124								125					126					127			



Just Like Cats & Dogs

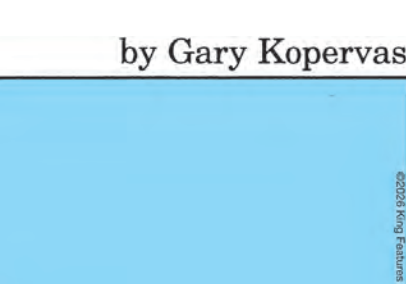
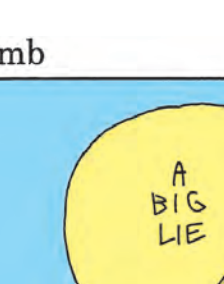
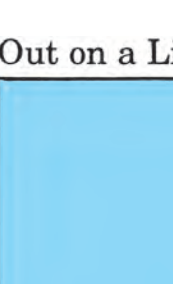
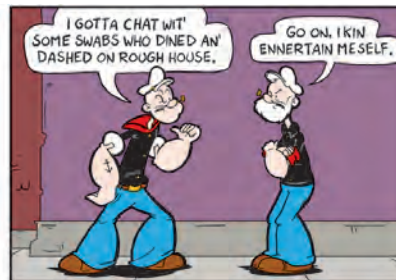
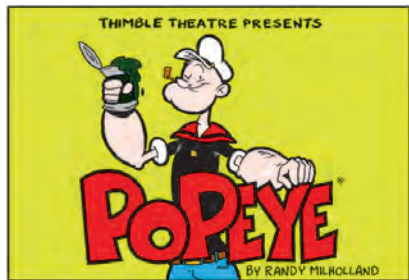
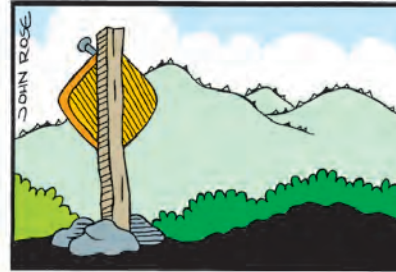
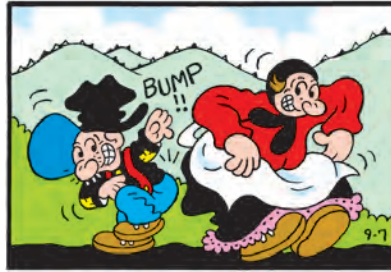
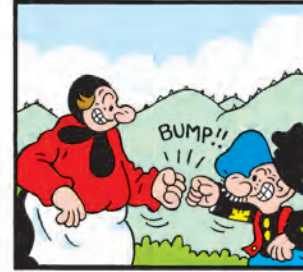
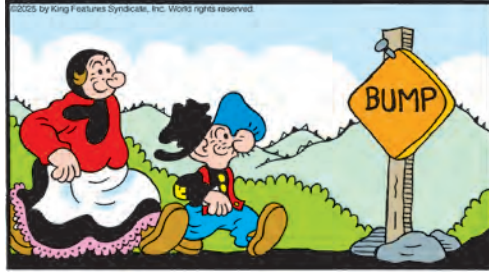
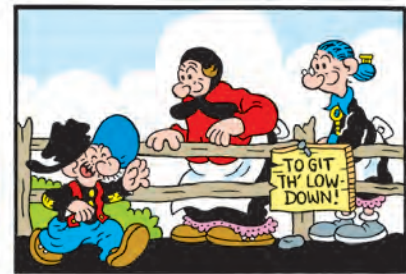
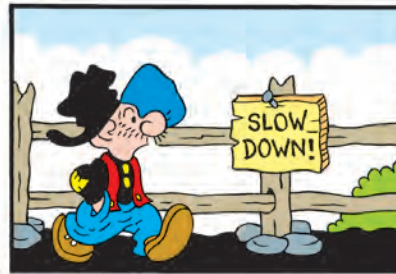
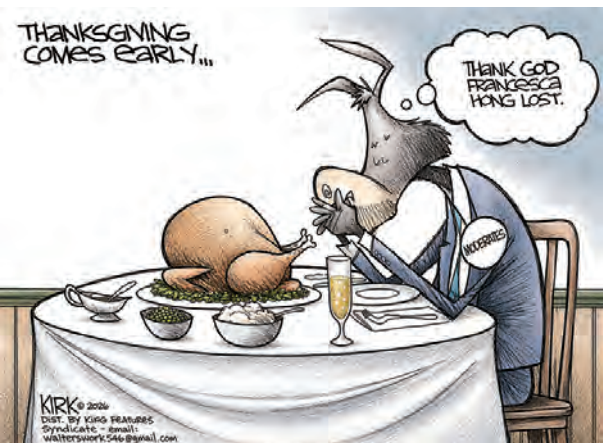
by Dave T. Phipps



GRIN and BEAR IT

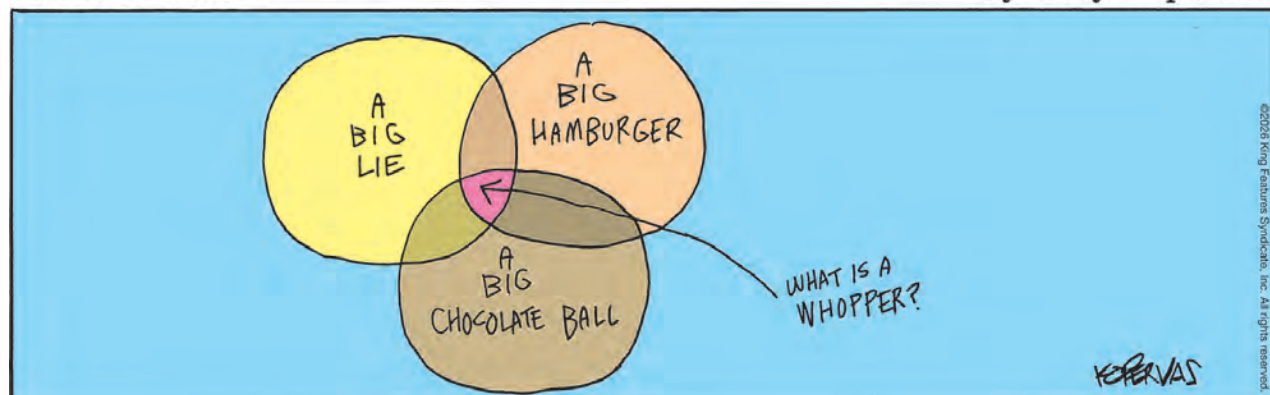


"He has been unusually pleasant lately.
... I don't like it!"



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



Prince Valiant

BY SCHULTZ AND YEATES

GURVAN CONTINUES HIS STORY: "MY BROTHERS AND I STOLE THE ONE THING THAT COULD BRING AZAR RASA ABSOLUTE POWER. WE CARRIED THE SOUL OF ASIA TO..."

YEATES 7/5/15

"...THE MISTY ISLES AND OUR LORD GIOVANNI, WHO HAD SO UNFORTUNATELY SOUGHT TO AVOID HIS HERITAGE BY FLEEING TO YOU, LADY KAREN."

"LORD GIOVANNI WAS, OF COURSE, MUCH TROUBLED, AS HE KNEW HIS RESPONSIBILITY ULTIMATELY LAY WITH HIS FATHER'S PEOPLE, AND HE KNEW THAT THE SOUL OF ASIA COULD NOT STAY WITH HIM..."

©2015 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

"...FOR HE WAS BOUND TO RETURN TO PRESTER JOHN'S KINGDOM, AND HE COULD NOT RISK THE TALISMAN UNPREPARED. SO, UNSUSPECTED BY YOU, HE PUT IT ON YOUR VOYAGE TO DISTANT CAMELOT, FAR BEYOND AZAR RASA'S INFLUENCE, AND HE SLIPPED AWAY TO RETURN TO HIS PEOPLE!"

"BUT BEFORE HE LEFT, HE TOLD US THAT WHEN THE CYCLOPS DISCOVERED THE TALISMAN, THE TIME TO RETURN IT TO ITS HOME HAD COME! A CYCLOPS RETURNED IT FROM THE SEA, AND NOW... HIM!"

VAL FINDS THE TALE A BIT SUSPICIOUS, BUT KAREN IS INSPIRED: "THEN WE SHALL TAKE THE SOUL OF ASIA TO MY HUSBAND!"

NEXT: Queen's rules

4091

Americanisms



"The artist must bow to the monster of his own imagination."

— Richard Wright

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

WOW, WHAT A GREAT DAY! FIRST, THE FARMER SERVED UP EXTRA CORNGOBS AND GRAIN.

THEN I WAS ABLE TO GET A NICE SHADY SPOT IN THE MUD FOR AN AFTERNOON NAP.

AT THIS POINT I DON'T THINK ANYTHING COULD WRECK A PERFECT DAY LIKE THIS.

DID YOU WATCH THE NEWS TODAY?

I WAS WRONG.

©2026 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

ICE AGENTS TO BE ISSUED ELECTRICAL SHOCK GLOVES

HEIL FIVE!

ICE

© 2026 BRUNCH KING FEATURES

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

I THINK I'M GETTING A CATARACT.

ARE YOU GOING TO TRADE IN OUR TOYOTA?

©2026 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

HITCH

PENN STATE NITTANY LINES



TIGER

by BUD BLAKE

YOU GOT ANY BRAKES ON THIS THING?

WHAT? I CAN'T HEAR YOU!

I SAID: ANY BRAKES ON THIS CART?

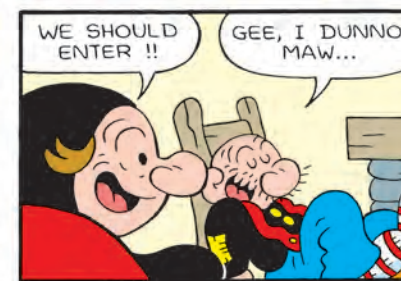
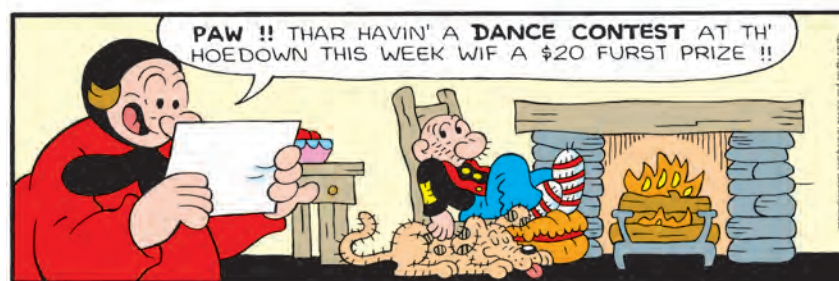
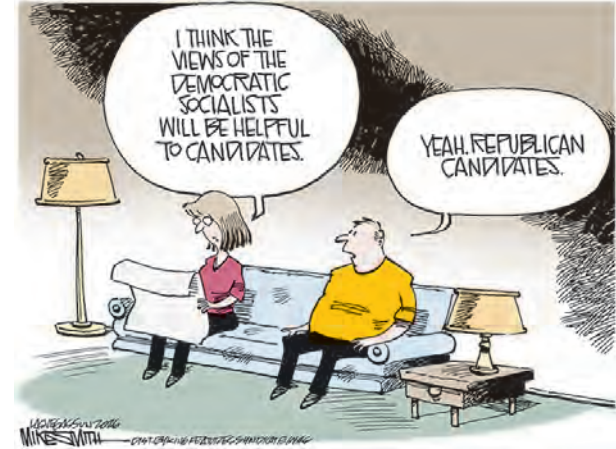
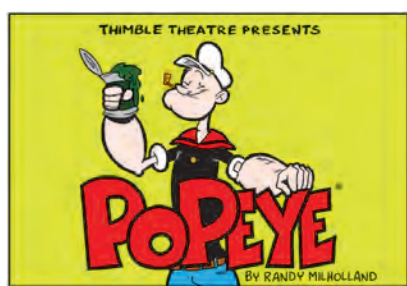
HUH? BRAKES! BRAKES!

BUD BLAKE

©King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

NATIONAL DEBT NOW OVER \$40 TRILLION





"Didn't I warn you not to scrimmage the cheerleaders?"

Americanisms



"I let my feet spend as little time on the ground as possible."
— Jesse Owens

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



OK, DON'T JUDGE. I'M ONLY WATCHING THIS BECAUSE THE BATTERIES IN THE REMOTE DIED ABOUT AN HOUR AGO.



YOU THINK THE ECONOMY IS ON LIFESUPPORT, SENATOR MARKEY?

WHAT'S YOUR REMEDY, ED?

MORE LEECHES!

WE DEMAND SOCIALISM NOW

TAX THE RICH



The Garden Bug

Sweetspire

This shrub is found among wetlands and along stream banks. It can tolerate a wide range of soil and light conditions. Growing 4 to 8 feet tall, with graceful arching branches and fragrant bottlebrush-like flower clusters that appear in late spring, it boasts beautiful fall foliage. Its leaf colors range from copper to orange to gold, and last into winter. — Brenda Weaver

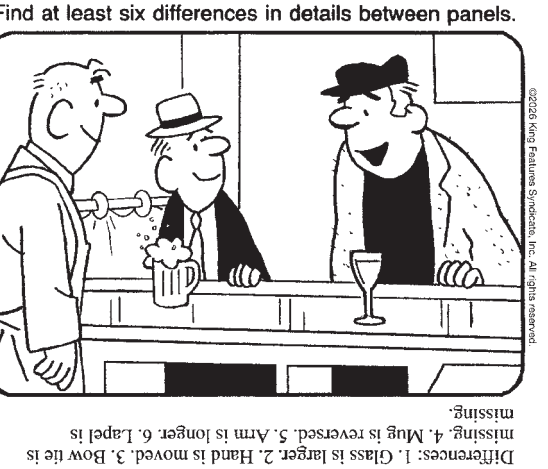
Sources: plants.ces.ncsu.edu, mortonarb.org



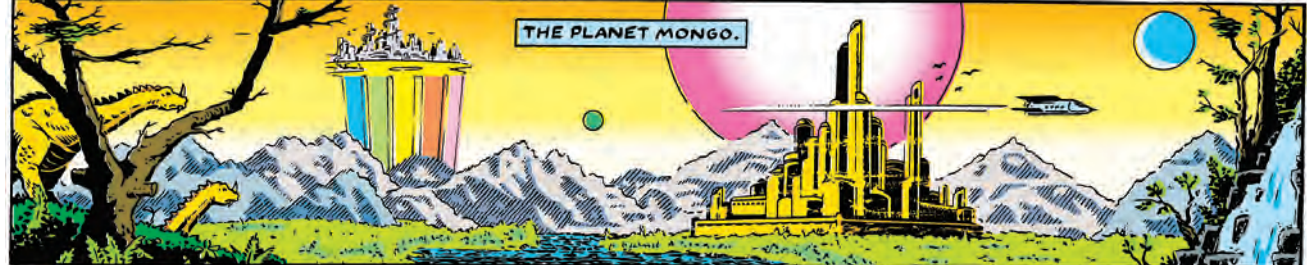
HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



THE PLANET MONGO.



FLASH GORDON BY JIM KEEFE

8-8

MING THE MERCILESS HAS RETURNED!

DUROK, ESTABLISH THE LINK BETWEEN THIS CHAMBER AND THE SPACE PORTAL SENT TO EARTH.

AND THEN WHAT? YOU CAN'T CONQUER A WORLD WITH ONLY A HANDFUL OF MEN!

IS YOUR WHOLE RACE AS DIM-WITTED AS YOURSELF?

MING BUILT THIS FACILITY FAR BENEATH THE PALACE FOR A REASON...

...UNDERNEATH US LIES THE CAVERN OF THE GORKONS!

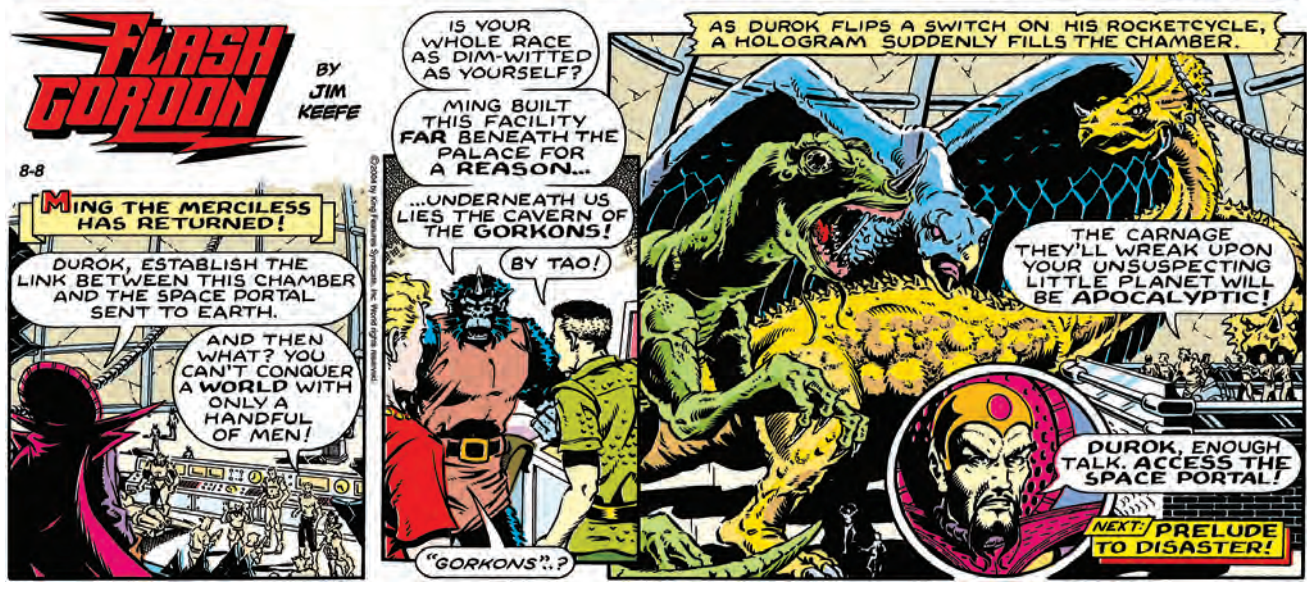
BY TAO!

AS DUROK FLIPS A SWITCH ON HIS ROCKETCYCLE, A HOLOGRAM SUDDENLY FILLS THE CHAMBER.

THE CARNAGE THEY'LL WREAK UPON YOUR UNSUSPECTING LITTLE PLANET WILL BE APOCALYPTIC!

DUROK, ENOUGH TALK. ACCESS THE SPACE PORTAL!

NEXT: PRELUDE TO DISASTER!

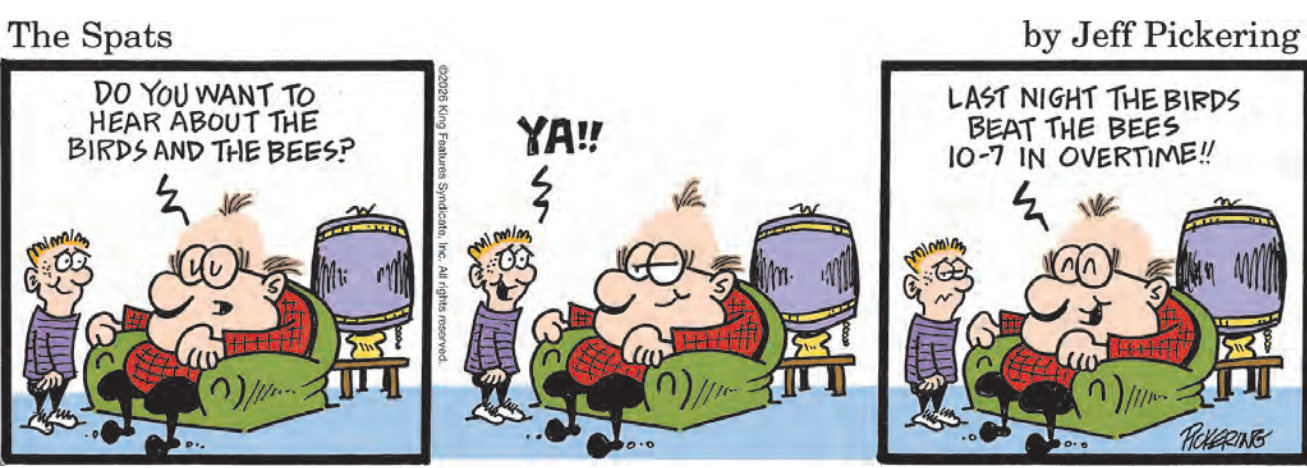


The Spats by Jeff Pickering

DO YOU WANT TO HEAR ABOUT THE BIRDS AND THE BEES?

YA!!

LAST NIGHT THE BIRDS BEAT THE BEES 10-7 IN OVERTIME!!



Out on a Limb by Gary Kopervas

ISN'T IT IRONIC, DON'T YOU THINK?

SNIFF, SNIFF, SNIFF

OW!

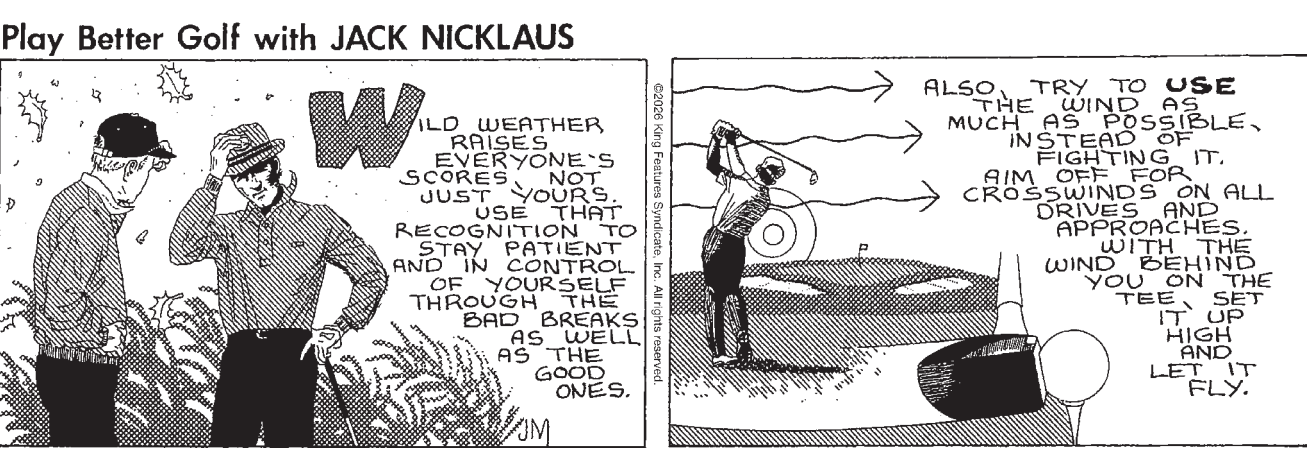
A GUY GETS A DULL PAIN IN HIS HEAD FROM SNIFFING A SHARPIE



Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS

WILD WEATHER RAISES EVERYONE'S SCORES NOT JUST YOURS. USE THAT RECOGNITION TO STAY PATIENT AND IN CONTROL OF YOURSELF THROUGH THE BAD BREAKS AS WELL AS THE GOOD ONES.

ALSO, TRY TO USE THE WIND AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, INSTEAD OF FIGHTING IT. AIM OFF FOR CROSSWINDS ON ALL DRIVES AND APPROACHES. WITH THE WIND BEHIND YOU ON THE TEE, SET IT UP HIGH AND LET IT FLY.



DONNA ERICKSON'S BEST BITES



Bake an Apple Tarte Tatin

Here's a simple name game to play with your kids as you prepare this treat: Think of food and recipes named after people. There's Melba toast named after Nellie Melba, a famous Australian opera singer from the 19th century; oysters Rockefeller; fettuccine Alfredo; and of course Granny Smith apples! Her apple is ideal for a quick-to-prepare dessert called Tarte Tatin, which is named after the French Tatin sisters.

While kids who are able to handle a peeler or a small knife peel core the apples, tell them that years ago in France, Stephanie Tatin was making a pie in such a hurry that she mistakenly put the apples in the pan before the pastry. She added the pastry on top so that it wouldn't go to waste. A new caramelized upside-down apple pie was created!

APPLE TARTE TATIN

Makes 8 servings

- 4-5 apples, such as Granny Smith or Golden Delicious
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1 rolled-dough pie crust (home-made or purchased from the refrigerated section of your store)

Heat the oven to 375 F. Peel the apples, cut in half, and core with a melon baller, if you have one. Slice 2 of the halves into quarters lengthwise.

In an ovenproof 10-inch skillet, an adult should heat the sugar over medium-high heat until it begins to caramelize. Reduce to medium heat and keep an

eye on it at all times as it transforms into a golden liquid; be sure not to let it darken too much.

Remove the pan from heat and arrange the apple halves tightly, cut side down, in a circular fashion. Fill in the spaces and center with quarter slices. Cook on medium-high heat for about 10-15 minutes, or until the apples soften.

Use a fork to turn the softened apples cut side up on the skillet and carefully drape the pie crust dough evenly over the top. With a spatula, slightly tuck the dough under the apples. Poke a hole in the center with the tip of a knife.

Bake for 20-25 minutes, or until the crust is lightly golden. Remove from oven and cover the skillet with a large serving plate. Hold the pan and plate together using pot holders, and flip with a steady movement, keeping the tart in one piece. (Note: The liquid is extremely hot.) Remove skillet to reveal the dessert.

Cool. Serve with vanilla or cinnamon-spice ice cream.



Cook's Note: If you don't have an ovenproof skillet, add the caramelized sugar and semi-cooked apples to a standard greased pie pan. Cover with pie crust and continue as described above.

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

THE POD REPORT

By Dana Block



THIS WEEK'S CATEGORY:

Top Music Podcasts

These five podcasts are currently topping the charts in Apple Podcasts' music category. There's something for everyone, including in-depth interviews with artists, producers, pop-culture enthusiasts, and philanthropists:

"Tony Mantor's: Almost Live ... Nashville"

— Tony Mantor's LinkedIn page describes him as an established and successful American singer-songwriter, pianist, and record-charting music producer. He also currently hosts the top-rated music podcast, according to Apple Podcasts. If you subscribe to "Almost Live," you'll be treated to interviews of special guests with great stories to tell, like Andy Kyriacou of the band Modern Romance, Whey Jennings (grandson of Waylon), and Curt Smith of Tears for Fears. (TonyMantor.com)

"The Joe Budden Podcast"

— This former rapper of the early 2000s hit "Pump It Up" has carved out a successful career in broadcasting and podcasting. Joe Budden's described as "the Howard Stern of hip-hop" due to his unfiltered style. He shares his podcast with friends and co-hosts who give their opinionated comments on big names in the music industry — both young (Tyga) and iconic (Lionel Richie). He also recaps recent concerts like the Chris Brown and Usher show

at MetLife Stadium and gossips about feuds, like the ongoing one between Drake and Jay-Z. (YouTube.com)

"New Rory & MAL" — These two former co-hosts from "The Joe Budden Podcast" are currently No. 3 on the Apple Podcast Charts, quickly gaining traction on their ex-boss. Recent episodes include discussions on interesting topics, like what the musical lineup should look like for the Democratic National Convention. They also branch out into other pop culture news and what's currently going on in the world of sports. (iHeart.com)

Don't Forget These Gems

"Takin' A Walk Nashville"

— Singer-songwriter and Tennessee native Sarah Harralson doesn't just interview country music artists on her popular weekly podcast. She "celebrates every genre of music born from the heart of Music City," from country and Americana to rock, R&B and beyond. Her background as a musician "gives her a unique connection with her guests, creating intimate, candid conversations that go deeper than typical interviews." (iHeart.com)

"Music Saved Me"

— This podcast hosted by Lynn Hoffman features musical guests who've all been "personally transformed by the power of sound." Guests include cancer survivor Danielia Cotton and her latest EP, which also includes a heartfelt tribute to the legendary Charley Pride. Hear about John Beltzer's journey with the organization he founded, Songs of Love Foundation, which creates personalized songs for kids who are fighting serious diseases and illnesses. You can also listen to Chad Tepper's testimonial of how music inspired him while he was growing up homeless. (MusicSavedMe.Podbean.com)

Fun Fact

Roughly 270 million people play soccer worldwide (about 4% of the world's population), and billions of people support it as fans. More than 200 of the world's countries have organized leagues, amateur clubs, and casual recreational matches regularly.

Source:
www.britannica.com



1. **Spider-Man: Brand New Day** (PG-13) Tom Holland, Zendaya
2. **The Odyssey** (R) Matt Damon, Tom Holland
3. **The End of Oak Street** (PG-13) Anne Hathaway, Ewan McGregor
4. **PAW Patrol: The Dino Movie** (PG) Carter Young, McKenna Grace
5. **Katseye: Wild Hearts** (NR) Abhinav Singh, Daniela Avanzini
6. **Six: The Musical Live!** (PG-13) Aimie Atkinson, Alexia McIntosh
7. **The Brink of War** (PG) Jeff Daniels, Jared Harris
8. **Toy Story 5** (PG) Tom Hanks, Tim Allen
9. **One Night Only** (R) Monica Barbaro, Callum Turner
10. **Vishwanath and Sons** (NR) Suriya, Mamitha Baiju



Gomphrena

This compact and colorful plant produces flowerheads that brighten any garden. It is excellent for use in freshly-cut bouquets, or dried to use in dried flower arrangements.

Gomphrena likes well-drained soil in full sun, typically growing about 12" to 24"

tall. It may need support for its stems. These

plants show good tolerance for drought and high heat, and do very well in borders, rock gardens or cutting gardens.

Source: www.gardening.cornell.edu

— Brenda Weaver



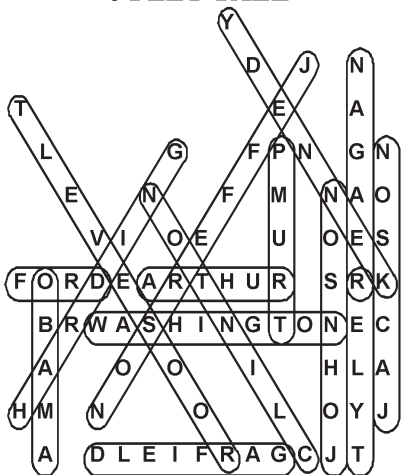


Super Crossword

Answers

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

PRESIDENTS OVER 6 FEET TALL



Even Exchange

answers

1. Flush, Blush
2. Single, Mingle
3. Charm, Chart
4. Export, Expert
5. Giant, Grant
6. Taylor, Tailor
7. Limbs, Limbo
8. Lyndon, London
9. Globe, Glove
10. Stone, Atone

Go Figure!

answers

4	+	5	×	7	= 63
+		+		+	
3	+	9	÷	2	= 6
÷		×		×	
1	+	6	+	8	= 15
=		=		=	
7		84		72	

Stickelers Answer

These words are called "contronyms." Each of these words can have an opposite or contradictory meaning.

KNIGHT MOVES

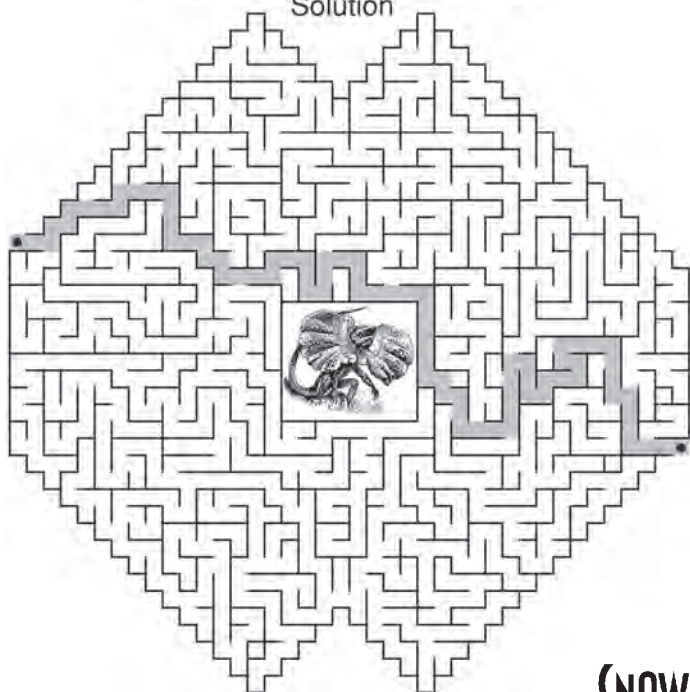
Answer

Y	N	R
8	5	2
D		R
3		7
A	O	I
6	1	4

ORDINARY

Mega Maze

Solution



Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

CryptoQuip

answer

The petition was presented with the strongest protestors at the top. It's in dissenting order.

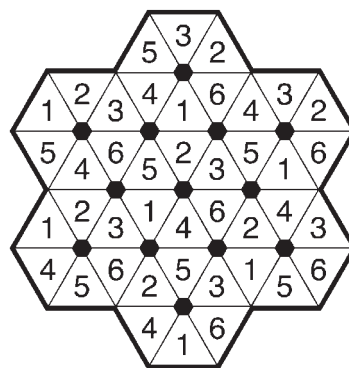
CryptoQuote

answer

The first step to get what you want is to get rid of what you don't.
— Paulo Coelho

SNOWFLAKES

solution



Five Spot™

Solution

S	T	O	N	E
S	N	O	R	E
R	I	N	S	E
B	R	I	N	E
B	I	K	E	R
B	R	I	C	K

FEAR & KNOT

answer

N	E	B	U	L	A
A	A		B	A	I
V	I	R	A	L	N
E		B		S	E
		S	E	R	V
		U		U	R
		R		S	E
		E	N	D	U

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.

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



King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 23 mins.

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

SCRAMBLERS

Solution

1. Grain; 2. Matron
3. Tense; 4. Maiden

Today's Word

SNORING

Even Exchange

answers

1. Bland, Brand
2. Prove, Probe
3. Monkey, Donkey
4. Reach, React
5. Shiver, Sliver
6. Athens, Athena
7. Swell, Smell
8. Ferry, Jerry
9. Gibbon, Gibson
10. Broke, Brake

Puzzles4Kids

Answer

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

FEAR KNOT

answer

		B										
G	L	O	B								R	
L												
A		L										
D												
E	G	G										
C	R	A	D	L	E							

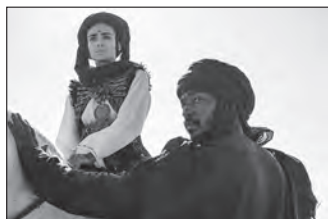


"The Whisper Man" (R) — Based on the novel by Alex North, this crime thriller film, premiering Aug. 28, was produced by the Russo Brothers ("Avengers: Endgame") and stars Robert De Niro ("The Alito Knights"), Michelle Monaghan ("The White Lotus"), and Adam Scott ("Severance"). Although it's deemed a crime thriller, it's got the tone of a full-on horror flick, and with the dark subject matter at hand, it's sure to keep the hairs on your arms standing. Scott portrays Tom, a widowed father to an 8-year-old son, who decides to move his family to a quiet town named Featherbank to start anew. Featherbank, however, used to be tormented by a serial killer named the Whisper Man, and somehow, the killer has escaped. Tom's son is subsequently taken, leaving him with no choice but to reach out to his estranged father, a detective named Pete (De Niro), to help find the missing boy. (Netflix)

"The Last Sunrise" (R) — Maia Reficco from the rebooted "Pretty Little Liars" series leads this steamy romantic drama premiering Aug. 26! Based on the 2025 novel of the same name, "The Last Sunrise" follows Ry, a young American woman who accompanies her mother, Isolde (Eva Longoria), on a business trip to Majorca, Spain. With health issues weighing her down mentally, Ry isn't expecting much out of this trip ... until she meets a local boy named Julian (Fernando Lindez). A passionate affair between the two is inevitable, but their romance gets threatened when Isolde reveals to Ry that she needs to buy out Julian's family's docks to bring her business deal to fruition. (Amazon Prime Video)

"Girls Like Girls" (R) — Actress and singer Hayley Kiyoko got her start in the 2011 film "Lemonade

Mouth," a Disney Channel original film. Since then, she's had a steady career in music, film and TV. In 2015, she released the song "Girls Like Girls" with a music video that's somewhat of a sneak peek of the new "Girls Like Girls" film, which just released on Peacock. This coming-of-age drama film is directed by Kiyoko and stars Maya da Costa ("Descendants: Wicked Wonderland") and Myra Molloy ("He's All That"). Da Costa plays 17-year-old Coley, who begins a new chapter of her life in rural Oregon with her estranged father, Curtis (Zach Braff). Soon after she moves, Coley meets another girl named Sonya (Molloy), and they form a deep emotional connection that's bound to leave one girl heartbroken. (Peacock)



Courtesy of MovieStillsDB

Aiysha Hart, left, and Anthony Mackie star in "Desert Warrior."

"Desert Warrior" (R) — AGC Studios made an interesting choice in producing a \$150-million historical action film led by Anthony Mackie ("Captain America: Brave New World"). While Mackie is incredibly talented, his latest "Captain America" installment didn't fill theater seats like Chris Evans' previous three films, and "Desert Warrior" didn't even make \$1 million at the box office. Still, this film could be a great choice for those who enjoy period-piece action films. Mackie takes on the role of Hanzala, a legendary bandit in 7th-century Asia who agrees to assist an exiled princess in her revolution against a tyrannical empire. Not only must he unite tribes against Emperor Kisra (Ben Kingsley), but he must also face the emperor's ruthless soldier Jalabzeen (Sharlto Copley) in direct combat. Premieres Aug. 28. (Hulu)



Breakfast happens in the morning, so make it ahead

The trouble with breakfast isn't knowing it's important. The trouble is that it happens in the morning.

On busy school and workdays, breakfast competes with alarm clocks, missing homework, lost permission slips and grumpy people who insist they aren't hungry until three minutes before leaving the house.

This make-ahead breakfast combines the sweet-and-savory appeal of a famous fast-food sandwich with sheet-pan convenience. Instead of making pancakes, eggs and sausage while hunting for missing socks, we bake the whole delicious mess together.

The result is a fluffy, maple-kissed pancake filled with sausage and scrambled eggs. Cut it into squares for the table or grab-and-go breakfasts.

Make a batch over the weekend and freeze the squares. On a hectic Wednesday morning, Future you will be deeply grateful to past you. You may even forgive you for leaving dishes in the sink.

Use maple or regular breakfast sausage. Real maple syrup adds gentle sweetness; optional maple extract boosts the flavor without the stickiness. Cheddar is delicious but not necessary.

Serve with fruit, applesauce or maple syrup. Because everything is baked inside, the squares are tidy enough to eat on the run, although preferably not while literally running.

MAPLE SAUSAGE AND EGG SHEET-PAN PANCAKES

Yield: 12 to 18 portions

Total Time: 45 mins., plus cooling

For the filling:

- 1 pound maple or regular breakfast sausage
- 8 large eggs
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese, optional

For the pancake batter:

- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 tablespoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 3 cups buttermilk
- 3 large eggs
- 1/4 cup pure maple syrup
- 6 tablespoons butter, melted and slightly cooled
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 teaspoon maple extract, optional



www.JasonCoblentz.com

Maple Sausage and Egg Sheet-Pan Pancakes put an entire hot breakfast into one freezer-friendly, grab-and-go square.

Preheat oven to 400 F. Lightly grease a 13-by-18-inch rimmed sheet pan, then line the bottom with parchment paper. Grease the parchment.

Cook sausage in a large skillet over medium heat, breaking it into small crumbles, until browned and completely cooked. Transfer sausage to a paper towel-lined plate to drain and cool.

Leave about 1 tablespoon of drippings in the skillet, if desired.

Whisk 8 eggs with salt and pepper. Pour into the skillet and cook over medium-low heat, stirring gently, until softly scrambled but still glossy. Remove from heat (the eggs will finish cooking in the oven). Let cool for 10 minutes.

Meanwhile, whisk flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt in a large bowl. In another bowl, whisk buttermilk, 3 eggs, maple syrup, melted butter, vanilla and maple extract, if using.

Pour wet ingredients into dry ingredients and stir just until combined. A few small lumps are perfectly acceptable.

Gently fold the cooled sausage, scrambled eggs and cheese, if using, into the batter. Spread evenly in the prepared pan.

Bake for 15 to 20 minutes, or until golden, lightly puffed and a toothpick inserted into the pancake portion comes out clean. Don't overbake.

Cool in the pan for 10 minutes, then cut into squares. Serve warm with maple syrup or freeze.

To make ahead: Cool completely. Refrigerate in an airtight container for up to four days or wrap individual portions and place them in a freezer bag. Freeze for up to two months for best quality.

To reheat from frozen, unwrap and place on a microwave-safe plate. Cover with a paper towel and microwave in 30-second intervals until hot throughout. For crisper edges, finish briefly in a toaster oven or air fryer.

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



Super Crossword

Answers

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

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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



“Star Wars: The Mandalorian and Grogu” (PG-13) — Sometimes a film can have a notable director such as Jon Favreau (“The Lion King”), popular lead stars like Pedro Pascal (“Fantastic 4: The First Steps”) and Jeremy Allen White (“The Bear”), and even a score composed by an Oscar winner like Ludwig Goransson (“The Odyssey”) — and still not meet box-office expectations! It certainly didn’t meet Disney’s, as it was the lowest-grossing live-action “Star Wars” film of all time. This sci-fi film is a continuation of the three-season series “The Mandalorian” (2019-2023), which follows bounty hunter Din Djarin (Pascal) and his foundling, Grogu. Instead of a fourth season, its creators decided to move toward a feature film about the duo, who get recruited by the New Republic to rescue Rotta the Hutt (White). Stream it on Sept. 21 (Disney+)

“Mayday” (PG-13) — Ryan Reynolds is back on our screens after the successful third installment of his “Deadpool” franchise! Trading in his skintight red suit for a United States Air Force uniform, Reynolds plays pilot Troy “Assassin” Kelly in this action-comedy film out on Sept. 4. After ejecting himself from his plane to survive a head-on collision, Troy lands in the Russian wilderness and quickly encounters ex-KGB carpenter Nikolai Ustinov (Kenneth Branagh). Nikolai, who greatly admires the American government and culture, agrees to help Troy get outside of enemy lines. Of course, even with their combat skills and the power of their two heads combined, it won’t be an easy feat. (Apple TV)

“The Runner” (PG-13) — Having gone under the radar for a bit after the

catastrophe that was “Snow White” (2025), Gal Gadot has found herself in a new lead role for an action thriller that’s way more up her alley. Gadot portrays Maia, an attorney, mother and running enthusiast. In the middle of her normal run after dropping her son, Noah, off to school, she receives what she assumes is an ordinary call from him, until she hears a man on the other end of the line. Startled, Maia listens intently as the caller tells her that he has abducted Noah, and only if she follows each of the caller’s rules will Noah get to live. Damian Lewis (“Pressure”) and Alfred Enoch (“The Critic”) co-star. Premieres Sept. 2. (Amazon Prime Video)



Courtesy of MovieStillsDB

Gal Gadot stars in “The Runner.”

In Case You Missed It
“The Man Will Burn” (TV-MA) — This four-part documentary series that’s out now on streaming takes on the radical weeklong desert festival known as Burning Man. Originating in 1986 on Baker Beach in San Francisco, Burning Man has since evolved into a large-scale event consisting of more than 100,000 people gathered at its iconic venue of Black Rock City, Nevada, the festival brings together people from around the world with a foundation of 10 main principles: radical inclusion, gifting, decommmodification, radical self-reliance, radical self-expression, communal effort, civic responsibility, leaving no trace, participation, and immediacy. The series explores its history, the nonprofit that organizes the festival, and how celebrity culture has infiltrated Black Rock City. (HBO Max)



Celebrate Labor Day with a late-summer mezze board

Labor Day weekend is summer’s grand finale, the last big bash before we begin pretending we are ready for sweaters, schedules and pumpkin-spiced everything.

Let’s make a late-summer mezze board: a relaxed Mediterranean-style feast of smoky vegetables, creamy dips, warm pita and salty little nibbles. It looks lavish, but its principal players — beans, bread and seasonal produce — are happily inexpensive. And because Labor Day is supposed to be a holiday free from labor, nearly everything can be prepared ahead and the board assembled with fresh, no-cook ingredients.

The secret here is restraint. Otherwise, what starts as a casual graze board becomes 17 tiny bowls and a grocery receipt requiring smelling salts.

Build your board around a few contrasting elements: grilled zucchini, sweet peppers and red onion; baba ghanoush and hummus; sliced cucumber and tomatoes; olives, feta and toasted pita wedges. Fill any gaps with pepperoncini, grapes, watermelon, fresh herbs or whatever looks delicious and reasonably priced.

Arrange everything in generous, overlapping piles. Mezze should look invitingly abundant.

The smoky centerpiece is baba ghanoush, a creamy eggplant dip with variations found throughout the Middle East and Mediterranean. Grill

the eggplant alongside the vegetables, and one cooking session accomplishes most of the meal. No grill? The oven will do nicely.

There is absolutely no shame in buying the hummus. Labor Day is, after all, a holiday devoted to avoiding labor.

GRILLED BABA GHANOUSH

Yield: about 2 cups or 6 servings

Total Time: 1 hour 40 mins.

2 small globe or Italian eggplants

1/4 cup tahini

2 to 3 tablespoons fresh lemon juice

1 teaspoon finely grated lemon zest

1 large garlic clove, minced

1 tablespoon plain Greek yogurt

1/4 teaspoon each kosher salt and black pepper

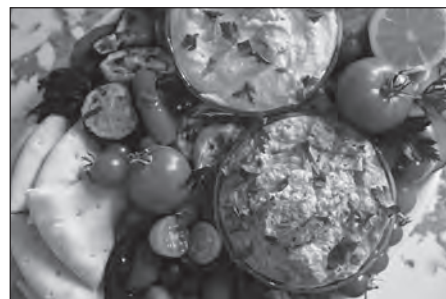
1 teaspoon sumac

3/4 teaspoon Aleppo pepper or 1/4

teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes, optional

Extra-virgin olive oil and chopped

parsley, for serving



www.JasonCoblentz.com

A colorful mezze board turns late-summer produce into an easy, elegant feast.

To grill: Heat the grill to medium-high. Grill the whole eggplants, turning occasionally, for about 30 minutes, until deeply charred, collapsed and completely soft.

To oven-roast: Heat the oven to 425 F. Halve the eggplants lengthwise and place them cut side down on a lightly oiled baking sheet. Roast 35 to

40 minutes, until very tender.

Let the eggplant cool. Peel grilled eggplant and discard the stems; scoop roasted eggplant from its skin.

Place the flesh in a colander and drain for 15 minutes, pressing gently to release excess liquid. Transfer to a bowl and mash with a fork. Stir in the tahini, lemon juice and zest, garlic, yogurt, salt, pepper, sumac and Aleppo pepper.

Cover and refrigerate for at least 30 minutes. Spoon into a shallow bowl, drizzle with olive oil and garnish with parsley. Serve with pita and vegetables. Refrigerate leftovers for up to four days.

Prepare the dip a day ahead, grill the vegetables at the same time, and add fresh produce and herbs shortly before serving. For outdoor gatherings, bring out smaller portions of dips and cheese as needed. Perishable foods should not remain unrefrigerated longer than two hours, or one hour when the temperature exceeds 90 F.

To turn the board into dinner, keep the grill working and add chicken or pork kabobs, sausages or a steak cut into bite-size pieces, an economical way to share steak with a crowd. Round out the meal with herbed couscous or lemony orzo, both inexpensive and delicious served at room temperature.

Then gather everyone around, pour something cold and toast the last long, golden days of summer. They deserve a proper farewell.

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

the Local Voice

Food, Drinks,
and Entertainment
Roundabout Oxford
and Ole Miss



THE LOCAL VOICE™ #490 - ROUNABOUT OXFORD® - CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF PUBLISHING IN OXFORD, MISSISSIPPI 2006-2026

come together brands

oxford, mississippi



Rafters on The Square
1006 East Jackson Ave.
Oxford, MS 38655
RaftersMusicandFood.com

Hours:
Monday–Saturday
5 pm–1 am
Sunday closed



Ajax Diner
118 Courthouse Square
Oxford, MS 38655
AjaxDiner.com

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



The Old Henry
1002 East Jackson Ave.
Oxford, MS 38655
TheOldHenry.com

Hours:
Wednesday–Saturday
5 pm–1 am
Sunday–Tuesday closed



Miscellanea
306 South Lamar Blvd.
Oxford, MS 38655
MiscellaneaOxford.com

Hours:
Wednesday–Saturday:
5 pm–until
Sunday 5 pm–9 pm
Monday–Tuesday closed
Reservations recommended,
walk-ins welcome



Rafters on The Water
30117 Blackjack Road
Sardis, MS 38666
RaftersOnTheWater.com

Hours:
Thursday & Friday 5–10 pm
Saturday & Sunday
Noon–10 pm
Monday–Wednesday closed
Live entertainment every Friday,
Saturday, and Sunday evening