



Good News

MAY 2021



Business reimagined: Paint-by-number is back

Paint-by-number kits were first developed in 1950 by an artist named Dan Robbins, who pitched the idea to his boss, Max S. Klein, owner of the Palmer Paint Company in Michigan, according to Segmation.com. Klein marketed and promoted them and the company sold 12 million kits by proclaiming that *anyone* could be an artist.

The kits were derided back then as kitschy art for the uncreative. But, in fact, at least 30 top-notch artists, including Robbins, worked on the original paintings on which paint-by-number (PBN) works were based. The paintings actually forged something of their own style since limited colors created a sort of blocky art. But today people collect the best specimens, some of which still lurk in garages and attics.

After a run of a couple decades, the old PBN mostly faded away, but today, it's back big and it has changed.

The technology has changed, for one thing. Today, you can get a photo of your grandkids changed into paint by number. Or a photo of anything.

Interest in the craft has soared during lockdowns for COVID-19. Hundreds of new designs are available in all sorts of themes.

2021 opens with supply chain headaches

A port in Los Angeles was three weeks behind, causing a traffic jam of ships. So, containers didn't get off the ships. That means an automaker didn't get its parts for an SUV and then, an autoworker was laid off in the Midwest.

That is why they call it a chain.

Like a pretty line of dominoes, the global supply chain worldwide is resilient, but also in exposed to danger from weather, accidents, and miscellaneous oddities.

These global supply chain has taken some hits since the beginning of 2021.

In February, freezing weather in Texas disrupted plastic production, so there was a shortage of materials for things like smartphones.

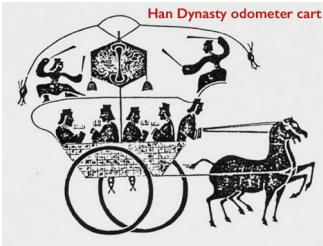
March was especially ugly as a chip factory in Japan was damaged by fire and car production stalled in Asia.

Meanwhile, at the end of March, one of the world's busiest shipping arteries shut down as MV Ever Given was apparently hit by a sudden wind blast in the Suez Canal. The 1300-foot container vessel was blown sideways to completely block the canal. In just three days, about 300 ships were stalled at the canal entrance, awaiting some solution.

There were no good choice for shippers. One possibility was rerouting ships around the Cape of Good Hope at the southern tip of Africa, adding an estimated 3,800 miles and 12 days to the route. Meanwhile, along the coast of east Africa, pirates gathered with an eye toward targeting more ships traveling the coast, threatening further turmoil.

Oil prices jumped 3 percent in one day, but it wasn't just oil at issue. According to the Wall Street Journal, delivery of key materials worldwide were disrupted. Supply chains were already clogged at the U.S. west coast, where ports were jammed with traffic, delaying the flow of inventory for about a month. The ports on the West Coast handle more than a third of U.S. container imports. This year, business struggled to restock following the coronavirus shutdowns, causing a shipping traffic jam.





**Need inspires solutions:
The invention and re-invention of the odometer**

Whether plotting a road trip or training for a triathlon, we need our odometers. But did you ever wonder how they were invented?

The odometer was actually invented and reinvented a number of times. From ancient Greeks to a Mormon pioneer, our mileage-tracking device has received quite a bit of attention.

The National Parks Service credits a Roman architect and engineer named Vitruvius with the first design. Vitruvius built a contraption that looked a bit like a wheelbarrow, which automatically dropped a pebble into a container at each revolution of the wheel, measuring the distance traveled.

Two other iterations showed up in the coming centuries, plus a third designed for ships. Then Benjamin Franklin created a version in 1775 to track his mileage as postmaster between Philadelphia and Boston. It is unclear whether Franklin then asked for a mileage reimbursement.

William Clayton is credited with creating a detailed guide for Mormon travelers crossing the plains from Winter Quarters, Neb. to Salt Lake City, Utah. In addition to noting camping locations, terrain, and the availability of water, grass and timber, Clayton recorded the mileage thanks to the "roadometer" he invented.

In a prime example of

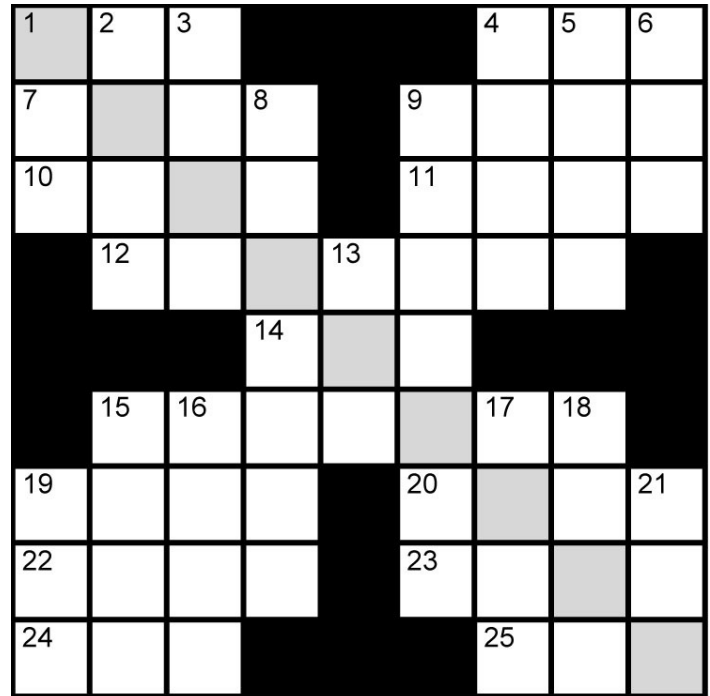
Bear's Eye or Black Caps

Across

1. Pi follower
4. Lock opener
7. Actor's goal
9. Wait
10. Soybean paste
11. Farm females
12. Entices
14. ___-Wan Kenobi
15. Ray of natural light
19. Very small
20. Film crew member
22. Thin
23. Viscount's superior
24. Chicken ___
25. Chesapeake, e.g.

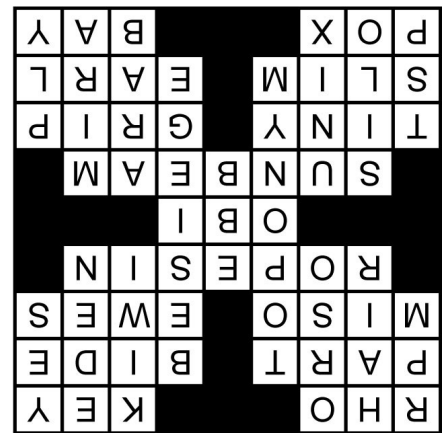
Down

1. Engine speed, for short
2. "Aquarius" musical
3. Approximately
4. Tropical fruit
5. Genesis locale
6. Thumbs-up
8. Sandwich, Edam or Champagne
9. Surround, as a castle
13. Wane
15. Fodder holder
16. Popular computer operating system
17. Spirited horse
18. Oscar winner



- Sorvino
19. Recipe amt.
21. Layer

The headline is a clue to the answer in the diagonal.



need inspiring invention, Clayton created the device in 1847 after realizing early on that he needed a more accurate way to measure the distance. He measured the left rear wheel of one of the wagons to determine its circumference and calculate how many rotations equaled a mile.

Clayton then tied a marker on the spoke and walked beside it, counting the rotations —what must have been a painstaking process, as he notched 4,070 rotations for 11 and a quarter miles plus 20 revolutions the first day.

The first roadometer could count to 100 and was quickly replaced by another that could count to 1,000, making the job much more efficient.



"Jumped over moon. Impressive."

Business braces for rising gas prices

It's one of the most visible commodities and its price affects us every day: Gasoline. Experts predict that small businesses will be hit this summer by a gas price spike that will be high enough to raise the everyday costs of doing business.

Already, gasoline prices are surging -- according to Gas Buddy at the end of March, prices were up nearly 80 cents compared to the same time in 2020, and trend lines are expected to continue to spike upward. Prices could reach a national average of \$3 per gallon by Memorial Day, according to the Miami Herald. The price spike is part of a long, slow rise that has been building since gas prices bottomed out in early May of 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic sent demand plummeting.

Small business will find trucking costs rise with the dreaded invoice line: Fuel-related increase. Businesses such as brick-and-mortar furniture stores will immediately see higher trucking costs and higher costs per item.

For businesses that rely on a fleet, be it one or 100 vehicles, higher gas prices could require some changes in service areas, vehicles or services, according to the Houston Chronicle.

The smallest of small business, like food trucks in Los Angeles for example, have experienced gasoline prices over \$4 since 2019. In response, they cut their routes and parked in their most lucrative locations.

As overhead continues to rise, some changes are inevitable, whether in workforce, product quality or consumer prices, according to the Houston Chronicle.

When and how to amend your tax return

Not every tax mistake may require you to file an amended return, but some mistakes are important to correct.

If you made a minor mistake in addition or subtraction, for example, the IRS will probably make the correction for you. The agency will send you a letter telling you what they corrected, how it affects your return and what you have to do next.

But for major errors, you should file an amended return using Form 1040X.

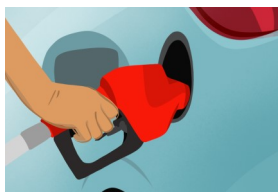
Some errors that should be corrected using an amended form:

- Income that was not reported.
- Wrong filing status
- Dependent change.
- Deductions not claimed.

On the two-page 1040X, you'll have a chance to explain why this mistake was made, but be sure to read the form carefully, paying close attention to the instructions, according to Forbes.

You'll need to reference the tax form you filed, but are changing, so make sure you have a copy.

Remember that changes to one item affects another. So if you list higher income, your tax liability may increase or your refund may decrease. If you owe money, you'll have to mail it with your Form 1040X (you can't make an amendment online).



You can tame heartburn with a healthy lifestyle, study suggests

Five factors appear to prevent about 40 percent of symptoms of Gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD).

That conclusion comes from a research letter published in JAMA Internal Medicine.

Researchers found those who followed five healthy lifestyle choices had 40 percent less GERD symptoms every week:

- Healthy body weight with body mass index of between 18.5 and 24.9.
- Not smoking.
- Limit coffee, tea, soda limit to 2 cups per day.
- Healthy diet.
- 30 minutes of daily moderate to vigorous physical activity.

Carrying extra weight is a key factor since weight at the waist can push on the stomach, forcing stomach acid into the esophagus.

Man turns honey thieves into taste testers

Ibrahim Sedef keeps bees in the best location in the world.

Trabzon province in Turkey, near the Black Sea, has a climate that is perfect for bees.

Sedef and his bees make flower honey, chestnut honey, cherry honey and the famed and rare Anzer honey. Anzer honey comes from the nectar of 90 flowers that grow in the mountains on the Anzer plateau. About 8 ounces sells for \$34.



Gourmet honey tasters consistently rate Anzer as the best in the world, but it's expensive, and part of that cost is in security. For while Anzer is perfect for bees, it's also great for bears.

And bears love honey.

Sedef has enclosed his hives with a steel bar cage, easy for bees to come and go, but more difficult for bears. Difficult -- but not impossible.

On YouTube, you can watch Sedef's video of bears gleefully destroying hives, climbing on Sedef's workshop and generally making a party out of honey theft. The video of Sedef cleaning up the mess is in Turkish, but you won't need a translator.

Recently, in the most brilliant taste test in all of marketing, Sedef decided to set up a bear picnic with samples of each honey, including Anzer. He set up a night vision camera to record the action.

The bears surely did come to the honey (without bee stings) picnic. They sniffed each bowl and they chose Anzer. In multiple tests, the bears always ate Anzer first.

Bee-made, bear approved.



Technology helps protect animals

Today, most people generally take to heart the commandment to be kind to animals. Bad people remain, of course. People still poach rhinos and elephants for their tusks, for example.. And there are still horrid people. Among the horrid, a man in Thailand who became so enraged that a dog chewed on his shoe that, in a rage, he cut the dog's two front legs off with a sword. But human and humane technology helped. A Thai rescue organization, Soi Dog Foundation, was able to fit the happy, wiggly dog Cola with two front prosthetic legs, and Cola uses them with glee.

Technology is also helping animals before they are hurt. In Africa, Bathawk drone programs patrol lands inhabited by endangered species like elephants, looking for the human predators who want to kill them for their tusks, all because of a human myth that tusks or horns of animals are aphrodisiacs. The drones can identify poachers from miles away and are especially effective at night.

Meanwhile artificial intelligence technology is being employed to understand the sounds and facial expressions of The research could help people understand behavioral problems of animals and what fears or needs help create the problems.

While there is plenty of technology on the horizon, people can still help animals by just being aware. Don't leave animals outside in the freezing cold or burning sun. Provide enough water in all seasons. Give animals exercise.

Fragrant choices for your herb garden

A walk in the garden or on a path is deliciously better with sweet smelling herbs. Some of the best, recommended by The Spruce:

- Anise hyssop. Bees love the spiky purple flowers which, along with the leaves, are edible. A gentle breeze easily picks up the sweet licorice scent.
- Nepeta (Catmint). A treat for -- who else? -- your cat. To humans, it's subtle. To cats, it's intoxicating.
- Mint. Its underground stems travel horizontally everywhere, making it an aggressive, but delightful plant. Its clean, tingling aroma is the definition of fresh.
- Rosemary. A splendid herb and a delight on the nose and tongue. Rosemary can actually be used to form a small hedge along a sunny walkway.
- Thyme. An ancient herb used for cooking and medicine for thousands of years, thyme is useful in cooking and has a sharp woody fragrance.



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