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TIDBITS APPRECIATES AGAVE

by Janet Spencer

There are an estimated 270n species of the agave plant. Of those, 70% are native to Mexico. Others are native to the southwestern U.S. and the Caribbean. Agave is useful in many ways!

EAT, DRINK, WEAR

* Agave is not a cactus, but is instead a succulent, designed to retain water in thick spikey leaves in desert regions. It's similar in appearance to yucca or aloe vera.

* Natives called agave by many different names. Mayans called it Ki'[, and Aztecs called it Metl. In 1758, Swedish botanist Carl Linnaeus, known as "the father of modern tanxonomy," organized the system of naming organisms using a two-part Latinized name (genus and species), which remains the standard today. He dubbed the genus "agave" which is Greek for "noble" or "marvelous." He knew that every part of the agave plant is useful.

* The leaves of the agave plant can grow as thick as a human thigh at the bottom and become as sharp as a spear point at its tip. Its spikey leaves yield sisal fibers that can be turned into rope, cloth, brushes, sandals, nets, mats, etc. The fibers of some species can be removed with the spine of the leaf still attached, forming a type of needle and thread used by many early cultures.

(cont. on page 3)



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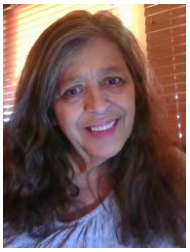


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What's Inside This Week

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Editor's Note of the Week



This past week I have had the opportunity to get out and re-connect with folks since this summer wascompletely n on existent for myself due to extended hospitalization. It was refreshing to be able to hear their thoughts on Tidbits and their loyalty to the paper as everyone is aware that recently, there has been another paper that has been started here. My position on the situation is that competition is never a bad thing, it keeps you on your toes so to speak. Also, I will still service my advertisers and the community the same way that I have for the last seven years. I believe a person is only as good as their word and without it they have nothing really. Loyalty and integrity is what I strive to give everyone and that will continue to be the case going forward.

Until next week, keep on keepin' on,

Michelle Reed

Publisher

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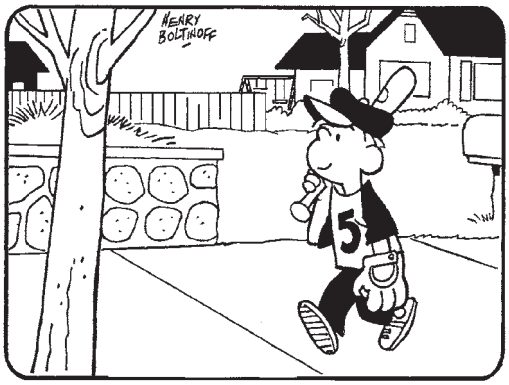
Q: What do you get when you mix American Literature and alcohol?

A: Tequila Mockingbird!

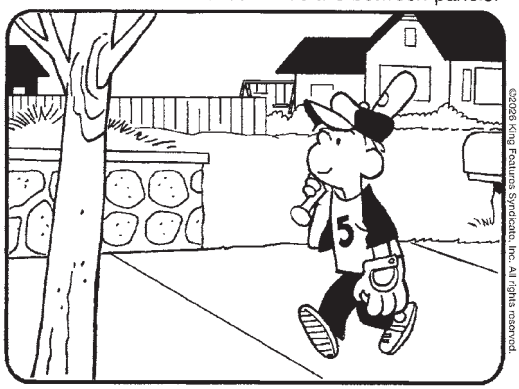


HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Number is smaller. 2. Cap is different. 3. Shutter is smaller. 4. Mailbox is lower. 5. Tree is missing. 6. Wall is not as wide.

AGAVE

(cont. from Front Cover)

The heart and root of the agave are edible, as are the flowers, flower stalks, and parts of the leaves. The barrel-shaped root alone can weigh hundreds of pounds. The sap of the plant yields a nectar that's 1.5 times sweeter than sugar. Agave is also fermented and distilled to create tequila and mezcal. Most agave plants produce a single flower in their lifetime after years of stockpiling sugars, water, and nutrients. The flower stalk is as tall and straight as a flagpole and can be over 20 feet (6 m) tall. This puts the flowers out of reach of small animals who might otherwise eat the blooms. It usually takes between 8 and 30 years for an agave to reach the point of being ready to flower. The flowers are pollinated by bats, insects such as bees and hawk moths, or birds, depending on the species. If that flower stalk is pollinated, a single flower will produce thousands of seeds. After blooming, the mother plant dies.

One species of agave relies on a single species of bat to achieve pollination, luring it in with a sweet nectar. The petals of the flower open at night, offering a nest for the bat to rest, thereby pollinating other plants it visits. If the agave blooms when no bats are in the area, no seeds will be produced and the plant will die in vain.

In Mexico, there was a settlement called Tequitlan which was inhabited by the Tiquili people. The name meant 'land of hard labor' in the local language. Spanish conquistadors shortened the name to Tequila. The residents of the area had long fermented the sap of the agave plant into an alcoholic beverage called pulque, which formed an essential part of their diet for as long as 3,000 years. The Spaniards appreciated the beverage, but then took it one step farther by showing them how to distill the pulque into a liquor.

(*cont on* page 4)

TIDBITS GOES LONG.....

The most expensive bottle of tequila ever sold went for $225.00 at auction in 2006. It wasn't the tequila that was so expensive as much as it was the five pounds of pure platinum and 4,100 white diamonds that adorned the bottle.

AGAVE

(cont. from page 3)

There are two types of liquor that come from distilling fermented agave sap: tequila, and mezcal (or mescal). They are similar, but not the same.

* Different species of agave yield different tastes. Also, different soil types and growing conditions yield different tastes. A volcanic soil yields a spicier flavor; a clay soil yields a floral flavor. Agave grown at higher altitudes yields a sweeter taste; those grown at lower altitudes give an earthier taste. Mineral content and soil pH also factor in.

* True tequila comes from a single species of agave, called the blue agave, which must be grown in a certain soil type in a specific region of Mexico. Mezcal, on the other hand, comes from over 40 species of agave grown in a wider range of conditions across a larger region of Mexico.

* All tequila is mezcal, but not all mezcal is tequila. Mezcal is the broad umbrella term for any liquor made from agave.

* Whereas there are many flavors and varieties of mezcal, there are only 5 flavors of tequila, depending on how long it's been aged, ad in what sort of barrel, either oak or stainless steel. Whereas most liquors become better with age, and the older the better, tequila tops out at about 4 years. Consider that it takes the blue agave plant between 8 and 12 years to mature to the point where it's ready to be harvested, and that once processed, it requires up to 4 more years to age to maximum perfection. The average bottle of tequila requires 11 years to produce.

* About 300 million blue agave plants are harvested each year for processing. Today there are over 100 distilleries making over 900 brands of tequila in Mexico.

* Tequila and mezcal are produced differently. Agave hearts are steamed or baked in industrial ovens to make tequila, giving it a c lean, bright taste.

Mezcal is made from agave hearts roasted or baked in stone-lined underground pits with charcoal, imparting a smoky, earthy flavor. Tequila makes a better mixer; mezcal is usually served neat.

* Another difference between tequila and mezcal is that you may find a worm floating in the bottom of a bottle of mezcal - but never in tequila. Why is there a worm involved at all? The red maguey worm feeds on the heart of the agave plant when in its larval stage, and then pupates and becomes the agave redworm moth. The red maguey worm is edible and is often eaten fried. It's natural that while processing millions of agave plants into liquor, some worms may accidentally end up in the bottom of the bottle. And it's also true that the presence of the worm alters the taste of the liquor it's in, which some people prefer.

In the 1940s, mezcal producer Jacobo Lozano Páez was frustrated that people didn't really know the difference between tequila and mezcal. He hit upon the idea of putting a maguey worm in the bottle of mezcal to set it apart. He advertised that if there was a worm in the bottle, it meant the liquor was pure because if it were watered down, the pickled worm would deteriorate. Rumors spread that the worm had hallucinogenic or aphrodisiac properties which was not true. The truth of the matter is that Mexicans do not drink mezcal with a worm in it, and that any bottle that does contain a worm generally indicates that the brand is geared towards tourists. Today, some bottles of mezcal contain not a worm but a packet of worm-flavored salt.



TIDBITS

NUGGET OF KNOWLEDGE

World War II-era soldiers and servicemen wanted to mix tequila with juice to make it more palatable, but did not always have spoons to do the mixing. They used their tools instead, which is how the cocktail called the Screwdriver (orange juice and tequila) got its name.





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* Born in 2936, Ken Forsse grew up in California. After high school, he got a job in the mailroom at Walt Disney Studios before making his way to their animation department, where he engineered animatronics. Throughout the 1960s and 70s, Forsse developed creatures thatcould sing, wave, speak, and interact with visitors. Forsse knew there must be a way to design a children's toy that used these features.
* Forsse formed his own company in 1982 and set out to do just that. He settled on a bear that looked like a teddy bear, except that it came with a complete back-story explaining that it was really a creature called an Illiop from the island of Grundo. One day, he found a treasure map, set off on an adventure, found some magical crystals, and ended up on the world market, where he wanted to tell his story to everyone for the low, low price of only $79.95. His name was Teddy Ruxpin. He was the world's first talking animatronic toy.
* Ruxpin cam with a dual-track cassette tape buried in his chest. One track told one of 60 different stories, while the other track guided the movement of Ruxpin's mouth and eyes to form realistic facial expressions that synchronized with the story. Ruxpin could even yawn and giggle. Children would press the "play" button and listen to a story of Ruxpin's travels while following along in the accompanying storybooks.
* Ken Forsse and his team shopped the prototype around the world toy market before finally engaging the interest of a company called Worlds of Wonder, headed up by the former president of Atari. It was agreed that the product wold hit the shelves in time for the 1985 holiday season.
* Forsse approached ABC and arranged for two live-action Teddy Ruxpin specials to air that November and December to boost sales.
* When Teddy Ruxpin went on sale in September of 1985, Worlds of Wonder sold 41,000 units in 30 daysat $79 each, worth $250 today. The set of 60 accompanying storybooks and cassettes sold for $12.95 ($40 today). By 1985, over a million Ruxpins had been sold. World of Wonder rang up over $93 million in sales the first year.
* Ruxpin fever swept the nation. In 1987, there were 65 episodes of the Teddy Ruxpin cartoon show. Ruxpin became the spokesbear for all sorts of good causes. There were Teddy bed sheets, wallpaper, picnic baskets, pajamas, lunch boxes, and beach balls. There was a Teddy Ruxpin fan club. Ruxpin's stories were translated into 13 languages. It was named "1985 Toy of the Year."
* And yet, all was not well in Ruxpinland. There were issues with shipping. Inventory would run out for long periods. Over 35,000 defect-I've units were returned. Cheaper knock offs flooded the market. Then there was a major stock market crash.
* Four days before Christmas in 1987,World of Wonders filed for bankruptcy. They tried to reorganize while discounting Teddy to $30 but it was too late. Teddy Ruxpin was perhaps not dead, but just in hibernation.
* In the years since then, different companies have come out with various versions of new improved Teddy Ruxpins, without ever matching the original fervor. The tech industry shot ahead like a rocket, leaving Ruxpin in the dustbin of toy history.
* Ken Forsse died in 2014, but not before seeing his creation flourish, and then die, on the world market.



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TIDBITS QUOTE

"Tequila is not just a drink, it's a philosophy."
~ Carlos Santana

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



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September 20th Answers



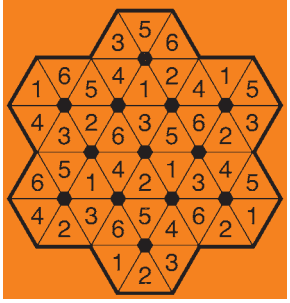
KNIGHT MOVES
Answer

R 7	L 2	F 5
T 4		M 8
P 1	O 6	A 3

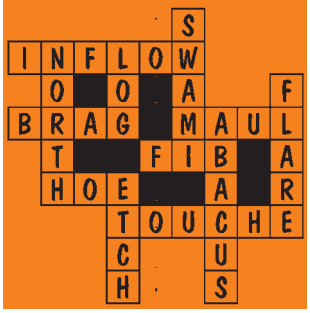
PLATFORM

Stickelers Answer
TRACK
TRACE
TRADE
GRADE
GLADE
GLIDE

SNOWFLAKES
solution



FEAR KNOT
answer



Weekly SUDOKU
Answer

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

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) With your Arian charm quotient at an almost all-time high this week (plus all the facts to back you up), you just might win over the last doubters of your proposal.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You might be in line for a job change that you applied for. But be advised that you could be called on to defend your qualifications against supporters of other applicants.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Creating a new approach to an old idea is one way to get beyond a workplace impasse. There are no such problems in your personal life, where things continue to flow smoothly.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Be more forthcoming about your feelings concerning a proposed change either in your workplace or in your personal life. Your opinions are valuable. Don't keep them hidden.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) A changing situation in your life needs more patience than you appear to be willing to offer. Allowing it to develop at its own pace is the wisest course you can take at this time.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) With more stability in your life -- both on personal and professional levels -- this could be a good time to strengthen relationships with both friends and colleagues.

L

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) People have always relied on your integrity not only to get the job done, but to get it done right. So, don't be pressured by anyone into cutting corners to save time.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) While others might get rattled over unexpected changes, your ability to adapt calmly and competently helps you make a positive impression during a crucial period.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A changing environment might be daunting for some, but the adventurous Sagittarian takes it all in stride. Meanwhile, a friend from the past could awaken some meaningful memories.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) With your self-assurance rising to full strength, the bold Goat should feel confident about opening up to new ventures, as well as new relationship.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Reaching out to someone who has been unkind to you might not be easy. But in the long run, it'll prove to have been the right thing to do. A friend offers moral support.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Your keen insight once again helps you work through a seemingly insoluble problem in your workplace. The weekend offers a good chance to develop new relationships.

BORN THIS WEEK: You have a penchant for finding details that others would overlook. You would make a fine research scientist, designer, or editor.

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THIS WEEK'S CELEBRITY BIRTHDAYS



Shaun Cassidy	09/27/1959
Ed Sullivan	09/28/1901
Jerry Lee Lewis	09/29/1935
Fran Drescher	09/30/1957
Julie Andrews	10/01/1935
Lindsey Buckingham	10/02/1947
George Steinbrenner	10/03/1930

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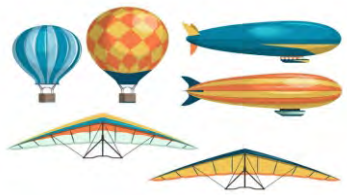
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HIGHEST HELIUM FLIGHT

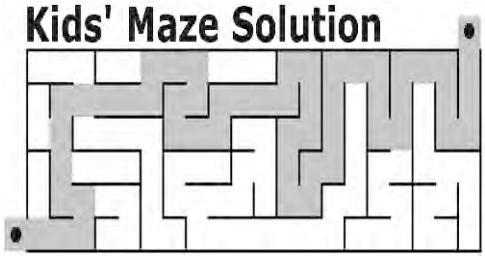


* In 1927, an Army captain from Illinois rode a helium balloon into the stratosphere three times in an attempt to set an altitude record. The first time, he blacked out. \The second time, he had to bail out. The third time, he set an all-time record, but the attempt killed him.
* Hawthorne Gray was born in 1889 in the Pacific Northwest. He joined the Army Air Service in 1920, and began piloting helium balloons in 1921. By 1926, he was one of America's top military balloonists, stationed at Scott Field near Belleville, Illinois. He was determined to set the world record for altitude reached in a helium balloon.
* Flight #1: March 9, 1927. Gray launched from Scott Field in a silk, rubberized, aluminum-coated helium balloon and reached 28,510 feet (8,690 m) setting a new record before passing out from the lack of oxygen. The balloon came down on its own. He woke up just in time to slow his descent and land safely.
* Flight #2: May 4, 1927. Determined to go higher, he launched another attempt two months later. This time, he reached 42,470 feet (12,944 m), higher than any human being had ever gone. Consider that modern jets fly at around 35,000 feet (10,668 m). However, the balloon descended too fast and he bailed out at 8,000 feet (2,438 m). The FAI, the world authority that governs aviation records, refused to certify it because he didn't land with his craft. It was the highest anyone had ever flown, but it didn't count.
* Flight 3: November 2, 1927. Undaunted, Gray tried a third time a few months later. He said goodbye to his wife and three sons, and launched from Scott Field at 2:24 in the afternoon, accompanied by four chase planes. Fifty-mile-per-hour winds blew the balloon into a cloud bank over McLeansboro, Illinois. Chase planes lost him in the dense fog. When he reached 34,000 feet (10,363 m), Gray threw over an empty oxygen cylinder for ballast. It accidentally snapped his radio antenna, cutting off all contact. Disoriented from oxygen deprivation, and suffering from hypothermia, he apparently parachuted a full bottle of oxygen overboard--he very thing he needed to keep him alive-- in order to go higher. His final journal entry: "Sky deep blue, sun very bright, sand [ballast] all gone."
* Late that afternoon, a field hand near Orlindo, Tennessee found a set of radio batteries dangling from a parachute. The next day, searchers found Gray's balloon in a tree near Sparta, Tennessee, some 300 miles (482 km) from his starting point. His body was still in the basket. The barographs, which measure altitude, showed he had topped out at nearly 44,000 feet (13,411 m). He had set the record, but the feat killed him due to oxygen deprivation and extreme cold.
*The U.S. National Aeronautical Association recognized the record. The worldwide FAI did not, because the aeronaut "was not in personal possession of his instruments." Gray was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. The citation: "His courage was greater than his supply of oxygen." He was buried at Arlington National Cemetary, and his basket is on display at the Smithsonian. His widow received his Army insurance and $2,700 - equal to six months' pay.
* Today, the highest altitude reached by a manned helium balloon is officially listed by the FAI as 113,740 feet (34,668 m), achieved on May 4, 1961, by the U.S. Navy's Strato-Lab V balloon carrying Malcolm Ross and Victor Prather, who landed safely in the Gulf of Mexico. Other helium balloons have gone higher, while carrying their human pilots in enclosed capsules.



September 20th Answer

Kids' Maze Solution



Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

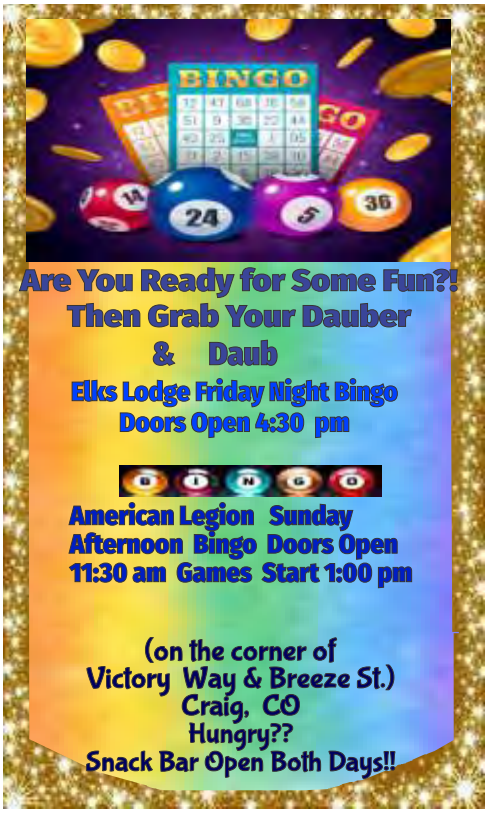




September 20th Answer

Even Exchange
answers

1. Nearly, Nearby
2. Beard, Board
3. Roster, Poster
4. Camel, Cameo
5. Elate, Elite
6. Sensor, Senior
7. Geese, Reese
8. Palace, Palate
9. Flour, Floor
10. Policy, Police



All Puzzle Answers will be in the October 4th Issue

FiveSpot™

Hyperbole?

S	U	P	E	R	Word with market or bowl
					Extra
					Records
					Breathes heavily, like a dog
					Paint finish option
					Willie Mays or Barry Bonds

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.

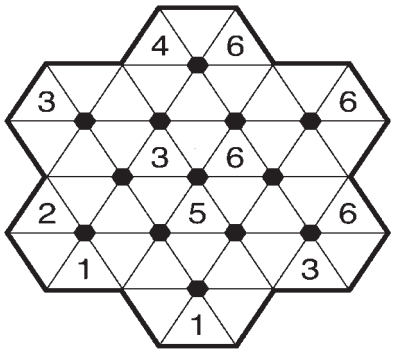
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SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

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

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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. White Cliffs of ___	__ O __ __ __	Under water worker	__ I __ __ __
2. Monkey with	__ A __ __ __ __	Bad humor	__ E __ __ __ __
3. Police ID	__ __ D __ __	Flat-bottomed boat	__ __ R __ __
4. Canonized one	S __ __ __ __	Muffled	F __ __ __ __
5. Dollywood owner	__ __ __ T __ __	Come again?	__ __ __ D __ __
6. Whittle	__ A __ __ __	Bend in the road	__ U __ __ __
7. Saunter	__ __ B __ __	Abundant	__ __ P __ __
8. Mountainous	__ I __ __ __	Yuletide shrub	__ O __ __ __
9. Scream, like a pig	__ __ __ __ __ L	Noisy door sound	__ __ __ __ __ K
10. Royal chair	__ __ __ __ __ E	Multitude	__ __ __ __ __ G

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Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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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.

	+		+		=	11
+		+		+		
	-		×		=	21
÷		+		×		
	+		+		=	14
= 1		= 11		= 39		

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

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All Puzzle Answers will be in the October 4th Issue

STICKELERS [sic].

by Terry Stickels

Match the words on the left with their meanings on the right.

1. penurious	a. dirty, filthy
2. fruition	b. realization
3. alimentary	c. resentment
4. umbrage	d. stingy
5. squalid	e. related to nourishment

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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: **R** equals **C**

QINY RMVKL BMV RNKK FCMFKC

QIM GMYC "HM" MH EMACYIJHP

JH N KCPJEKNYJGC NEECAZKB?

NHYJ ZMLJCE.

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KNIGHT MOVES

A	Y	E
N		R
C	V	L

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.

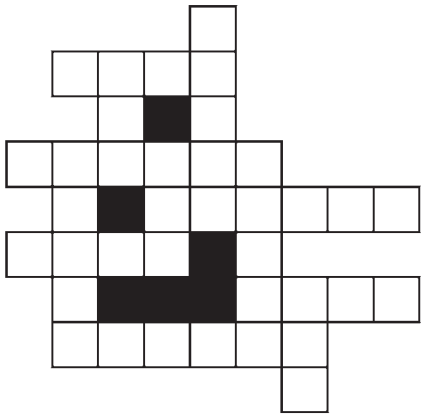
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FEAR KNOT™

By: rj johnson

DOUBT? ...OR DARE!

CYO
NEOGIS
♥ TOSUP
GYLU
EPYCUE
EAG
♥ TCSA
APNEC
♥ EGL
EPYLON
GYSIO
♥ ESLA

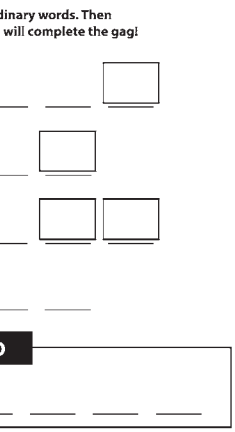


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Unscramble these twelve letter strings to form each into an ordinary word (ex. **HAGNEC** becomes **CHANGE**). Prepare to use only ONE word from any marked (♥) letter string as each unscrambles into more than one word (ex. ♥ **RATHE** becomes **HATER**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







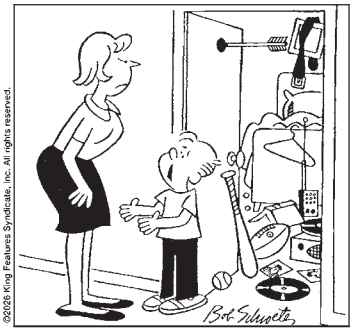
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or
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WORD SPIRAL

A		
A		O
N	I	

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

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"Clean up my room? You act like _____ is just around the corner."

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!

Chant **HAMNET**

Former **RIPOR**

Candid **SOTHEN**

Patrol **STUCO**

TODAY'S WORD



KOVELS
Antiques & Collecting



Art Glass

The Mt. Washington Glass Company was one of the most important American art glass makers of the 19th century. The company started in 1837 as the Mt. Washington Glass Works in South Boston. Later, it moved to New Bedford, Massachusetts, where it operated until it merged with the Pairpoint Manufacturing Co. in 1894. While it was in operation, Mt. Washington made art glass in many colors and finishes, like two-tone Amberina and Burmese, often embellished with gold and enamel. Its crown jewel may be the appropriately named Royal Flemish, which features panels of multiple colors outlined in gold. It was made by 1889, but the company did not patent it until 1894. Maroon is often one of the featured colors; shades of peach, pink, yellow, cream, and translucent white also appear.

The glass is further embellished with designs like flying birds, flowers, or mythical creatures. Decorations were meant to evoke the exotic or antique. Royal Flemish was rarely marked, unlike some Mt. Washington glass lines, which doesn't worry collectors; it is usually unmistakable. Making Royal Flemish glass was a complicated process, so it was not copied by other companies. Even today, it has not been reproduced. This makes it all the more valuable. The covered jar shown here, decorated with medallions inspired by ancient Greek and Roman coins, sold for $2,280 at Woody Auction.



* * *

Q: I bought a Japanese woodblock print at an estate sale. There is a handwritten note on the back that reads "Framed June 1962." I like the print, but I do not know much about this category of art. Because the marks are in Japanese, it has not been easy to find much about them through an Internet search. How can I find out if it is an old print by a known artist and what it may be worth?

A: Japanese woodblock prints have been popular collectibles for centuries. They became available in the West in the late 19th century. Generally, if you have a Japanese print and want to find out more information or a value, it is worth contacting an expert if the print is over 30 years old. If yours was framed in the 1960s, it certainly qualifies. If there is a museum in your area with a collection of Asian art, they may be able to help you identify your print, the artist, and its age, but not its value. Remember that prints, including Japanese woodblock prints, can be reprinted over many years. Look for books on Japanese prints, also called ukiyo-e, at your library. Many auction houses and dealers that sell artwork deal in Japanese prints and may be able to help you evaluate yours. There are some auction houses like the Ukiyo-e Gallery that specialize in them.

* * *

TIP: Never use hot or cold water on glass. Use dishwashing liquid, a soft toothbrush, and warm water. Rinse, then dry with a terrycloth towel.

* * *

CURRENT PRICES

Carnival glass, Harvest Grape, compote, marigold, scalloped rim, flared base, Indiana, 1960s, 8 1/2 inches, $30.

Textile, piano shawl, sky blue, ribbon, macrame border, diamond lattice, fringe, hand knotted, 1920s, 105 x 39 inches, $115.

Auto, sign, Goodrich, Guide Post, round, red and white, Slow Down, Safety First, porcelain, 20 inches, $480.

Bottle, Star Whiskey, cone shape, brown amber, ribbed, applied handle, embossed oval, mold blown, open pontil, W.B. Crowell Jr., New York, c. 1850, 8 inches, $770.

For more collecting news, tips and resources, visit: www.Kovels.com

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September 20th Answer

CryptoQuip
answer

Special sweet potatoes that, when consumed, cause folks to speak more frankly: candid yams.







Strange But True

By Lucie Winborne

* The first animal ever cloned, the famous sheep Dolly, was named for singer-songwriter Dolly Parton.
* According to a study, dancers and choreographers reported the highest divorce rates.
* Students are more than four times more likely to drop out of school if they are unable to read proficiently by the third grade.
* Early hairspray formulas often used shellac, a resin secreted by female Kerria lacca bugs.
* Some scientists have speculated that a zombie apocalypse may not be impossible because humans are vulnerable to neurotoxins, parasites and viruses such as rabies, which can alter behavior and brain function. Prions, the proteins behind mad cow disease, can remain active in deceased tissue, while hypothetical nanobots could raise similar questions.
* Holes in crackers allow steam and gas to escape so the product will remain flat and crisp.
* According to Gallup, Inc., more people recognized the term "UFO" than remembered the name Gerald Ford in a poll taken just six months after Ford left the presidential office.
* The Wizard of Oz's full name is Oscar Zoroaster Phadrig Isaac Norman Henkel Emmannuel Ambroise Diggs. He called myself OZ because the other initials spelled P-I-N-H-E-A-D.
* Frida Kahlo is the only Mexican woman to have a major solo exhibition at the Louvre.
* In many early Northern European tribes slaves were forbidden from hunting since they were not allowed to own weapons or bear arms.
* The first pet insurance in America was purchased in 1982 to protect the dog playing the title role in "Lassie."
* Archaeology suggests that belt buckles were developed during the Bronze Age.
* The longest poem in the world is the "Mahabharata," an Indian epic dating from the 4th century B.C. or earlier and containing about 1.8 million words.

* * *

Thought for the Day: "A computer once beat me at chess, but it was no match for me at kickboxing." -- Emo Philips

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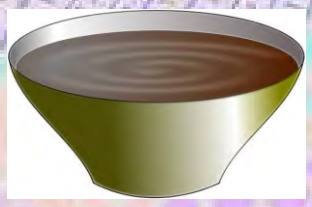
TIDBITS® Laughs!

What happens when you spill tequila at the pudding factory?

The proof is in the pudding!



+



September 20th Answer

Go Figure!

answers

8	+	4	÷	2	= 6
+		+		+	
9	+	3	+	7	= 19
÷		×		×	
1	+	6	-	5	= 2
= 17		= 42		= 45	

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M	I	N	T	Y
M	I	S	T	Y
S	M	I	T	E
T	I	R	E	S
S	H	I	R	E
F	R	E	S	H

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* To remove stubborn hard water deposits from a shower head (without removing it), do this trick: Add a cup of plain white vinegar to a zipper-top sandwich bag (or a larger bag with added vinegar to fit larger showerheads). Submerge shower head in the vinegar and draw bag up tightly around the stem. Use a rubber band to secure the plastic bag around the showerhead. Leave overnight. Remove, scrub and shower to release the deposits.
* "When moving, use foam plates as separators for your dinner plates. Use kitchen towels to wrap serving platters. If you have a box that separates glasses, drop a spice jar into each glass. Use all the space and you'll have less boxes to move."
-- P.L. in South Carolina

* Borax can be used to keep sidewalks free of weeds. Simply sprinkle a little Borax on the sidewalk and sweep into the cracks. This is a very effective weed killer, but it will also kill your grass if you use too much, so keep it in the cracks only!
* "Have a stripped screw? Place a wide rubber band over the head and insert your drill. The rubber band fills in the stripped spots and makes the drill catch the screw. It works most of the time."
-- D.D. in Nebraska
* "Make audio recordings or short videos of you reading your children's favorite books for them to play when you are busy doing housework, working or cooking." -- K.A. in Oregon
* If you have a sticky zipper, try running a candle along the zipper face, then zipping it up and down a few times.

Send your tips to:
Now Here's a Tip
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6

September 20th Answer

SCRAMBLERS
Solution
1. Synonym; 2. Brief
3. Ghoul; 4. Sprain
Today's Word
FAMILY

Fun Fact

Titanoboa was a real species of giant snake thought to have lived 58 to 60 million years ago. It was about 45 feet long on average, and weighed about 2,500 pounds. It survived on the large crocodiles and turtles also found to be living nearby at that time.

Source: discover magazine. com

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Moments in time
THE HISTORY CHANNEL

* On Sept. 28, 1542, Spanish explorer Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo became the first European to sail into San Diego Bay, which he named San Miguel and claimed for Spain. The bay was given its present name in 1602 by Sebastian Vizcaino, who was also the first person to note certain ecological features of California's coast.
* On Sept. 29, 1885, the world's first practical public electric tramway, designed by Michael Holroyd Smith, opened in Blackpool, England, using an underground "conduit" system to supply electricity rather than overhead wires. The route is still active today, operating modern light rail vehicles.
* On Sept. 30, 1934, St. Louis Browns coach Charley O'Leary "unretired" to good effect by becoming the oldest player to get a hit and score a run in the major leagues, at age 58.
* On Oct. 1, 1962, Barbra Streisand signed her first recording contract with Columbia Records. Her manager, Marty Erlichman, negotiated full artistic and creative control, including the right for Streisand to choose her own songs, in exchange for a lower initial pay rate of a $20,000 advance.
* On Oct. 2, 1985, Hollywood heartthrob Rock Hudson died of AIDS related complications, just a few months after publicly acknowledging he had the disease at a hospital in Paris where he was seeking treatment.
* On Oct. 3, 1997, 69-year-old Hall of Famer Gordie Howe, who was known as "Mr. Hockey" and played his first NHL game when Harry Truman was president, skated the first shift with the Detroit Vipers in their International Hockey League opener for a total of just 40 seconds but became the only professional in the sport to compete in six decades. Afterward, he thanked the Vipers for "putting up with me."
* On Oct. 4, 2011, Michael Morton, who served 25 years in prison for the murder of his wife, Christine Morton, was released after DNA evidence implicated convicted felon Mark Alan Norwood in the crime. The prosecutor in the case later was accused of withholding evidence indicating Morton's innocence.

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Memories From The Past.....

Historical Images of Craig & Moffat County



The Town of Lay, Colorado Post Office



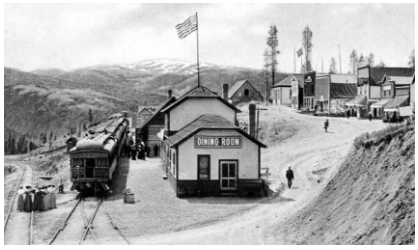
Cosgriff Hotel, Craig, Colorado



The Moffat Tunnel Group of Workers



Downtown Craig, Colorado



Moffat Tunnel Construction Area



Craig's First Parade



A Northwest Colorado Cowboy



Craig's First Parade

September 20th AnswerS

Word Spiral Answer

IMMEDIATE

King Crossword Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas





VETERAN'S ★POST★

by Freddy Groves

The OIG At Work

The Veterans Affairs Office of Inspector General (VA OIG) has been busy. And as is typical, their work involves saving millions of dollars that should have gone to veterans services.

When the OIG analyzed the details about a contractor for the Veterans Crisis Line, they questioned why millions of dollars were paid when the work wasn't actually done. The job involved providing backup services for the toll-free 24/7 crisis line. However, that contractor didn't have enough staff, didn't train the staff they did have and didn't meet federal security requirements. Due to lack of contract oversight, the VA made payments to that contractor -- $11.2 million worth -- for a year. The OIG, naturally, wants that money back.

Then there was the not-so-small matter of critical medical supplies and equipment and how those were managed. After being called on to inspect the practices at one certain VA facility, the OIG spent months looking at the inventory of expendable supplies, nonexpendable equipment, distribution controls and the leadership. What they found was so bad that four operating rooms had been closed because of lack of supplies, expired supplies and unreliable restocking, causing surgery backlogs and cancellations.

The OIG found expired supplies in operating rooms. (The OIG asked that they be removed, yet two months later the expired supplies were still there.) They discovered 50 pallets of supplies that were expired, damaged or obsolete.

When it came to equipment, five pieces couldn't even be located. The value of missing nonexpendable items was $10.5 million. The facility had been awarded $3.2 million for a contract for an inventory management system but never completely installed it and eventually disabled the program. They were then awarded more money to get the contractor to do the complete installation, and that wasn't done either.

Rumor is that the VA's OIG is not getting a bigger budget for 2027. That's ridiculous considering the amount of money they save the VA through their investigations.

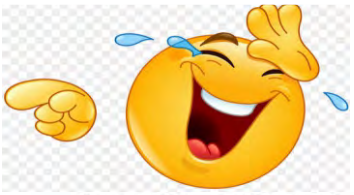
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Holidays & Observances This Week

09/27	Ancestor Appreciation Day
09/28	National Teacher's Day
09/29	National Women's Health & Fitness Day
09/30	Feast of St. Jerome
10/01	Adopt a Shelter Dog Month
10/02	Guinea Independence Day
10/03	Get Organized Week

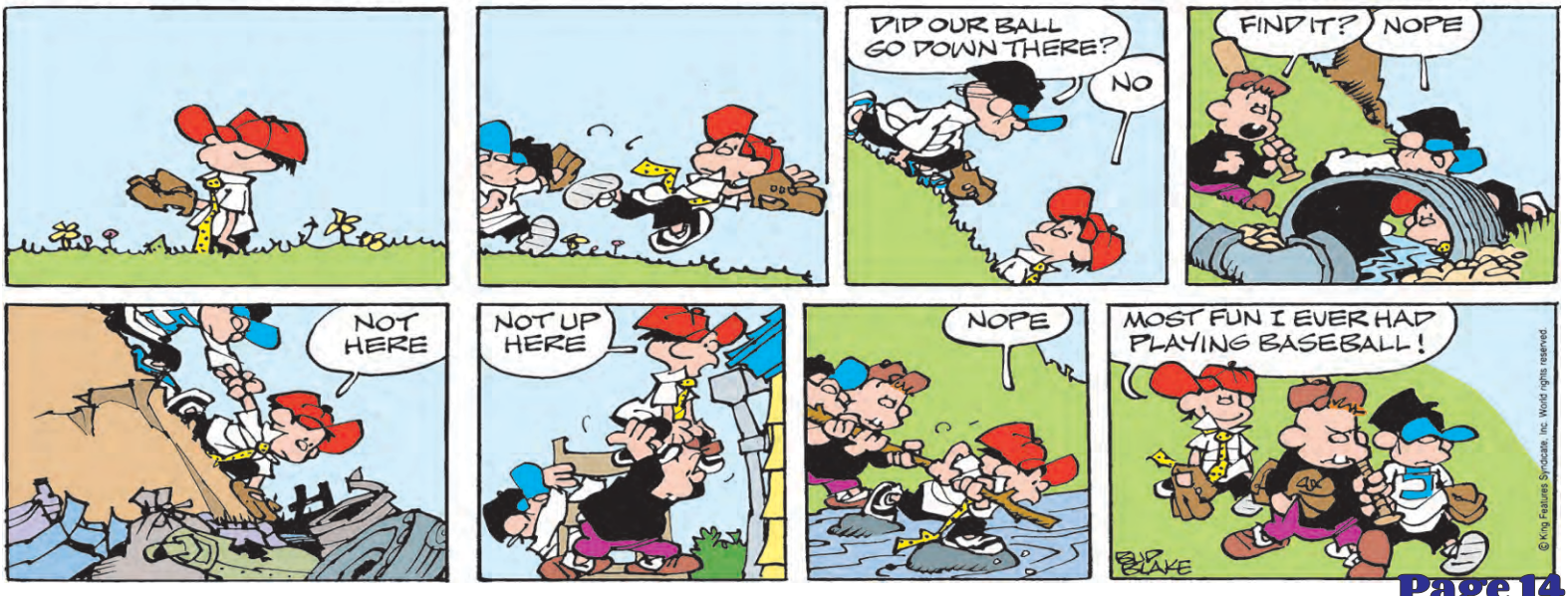






TIGER

by BUD BLAKE





SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Beware the Supplements on TV

If you're home during the day and have spent much time with the television on, you've no doubt been inundated with advertising for supplements that promise to change your life. By the time you've heard those ads 30 times you can probably quote them word for word. And at some point you might even be tempted to just dial that number and place an order.

Don't do it.

Just because companies create slick ads that sound like they'll solve all your problems doesn't mean it's safe for you to use their products, especially if you take any prescription drugs or have a medical condition.

Supplements are not approved by the Food and Drug Administration. The FDA doesn't evaluate those types of products and doesn't conduct any trials to check their safety and recommended dosage. The supplement companies are required to tell you this in their advertising, but it's in all that tiny text at the bottom of the TV screen that's impossible to read.

Learn all you can about potential drug interactions. Go first to drugs.com and click on the Drug Interaction Checker. Type in the name of your drug. Then type in the name of whatever you're considering taking and see what it says. I tried this with one of my prescription drugs and added one of the frequently advertised products and it showed 11 potential drug interactions. There were also some possible uncomfortable side effects, even without the possible drug interactions.

Seniors are especially targeted by the manufacturers of those supplements, hoping we'll believe their slick claims if we see those ads often enough. It's a billion-dollar industry, and they want your money. Before you dial that number on the TV screen, dial your doctor's office and ask if the supplement is something you should have. Chances are they will say no.

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"I checked the GPS and we're right here!"

Americanisms



"When I no longer thrill to the first snow of the season, I'll know I'm growing old."

— *Lady Bird Johnson*

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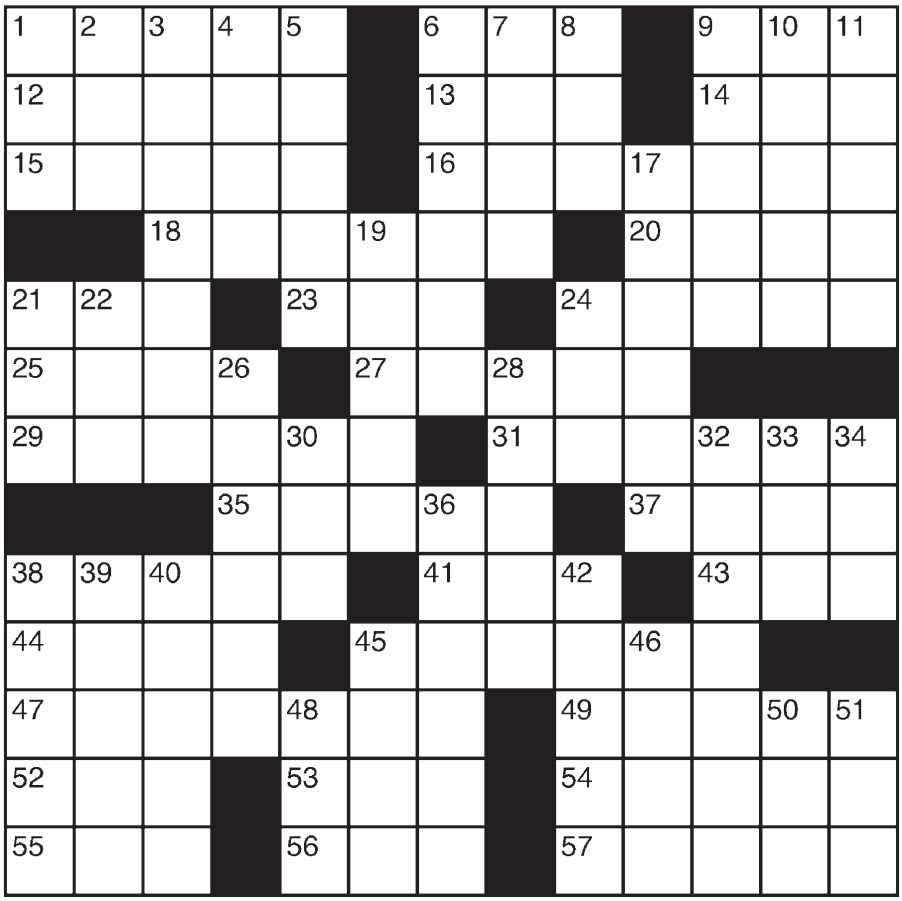


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King Crossword



ACROSS

1 Ashley and Wynonna
6 Consumer protection agcy.
9 Catchall abbr.
12 Track star Bolt
13 Tic-tac-toe win
14 "The Matrix" character
15 Refuse an offer
16 Seattle suburb that's home to Microsoft
18 Credit rating publisher
20 Skin smoother
21 Corp. money exec
23 Overly
24 Part of LGBTQ
25 Hit on noggin
27 Japanese fish dish
29 Tranquil
31 Sort of dive
35 Police ID
37 Employ
38 Hairnet
41 Moray, for one
43 Past
44 Plane-related
45 Country song?
47 Archbishop Tutu
49 Stag
52 Altar affirmative
53 Reuben bread
54 More practical
55 Aachen article
56 Rowing need
57 Birch's kin

DOWN

1 Roast beef au ____
2 "Suits" network
3 "Shark Tank" star _____ John
4 Flintstones' pet
5 Stuffed shirt
6 Gift giver's words
7 Low digits
8 Atlantic fish
9 ___ Holmes (Sherlock's sister)
10 Mortise partner
11 Encryptions
17 "Butterfly" singer Carey
19 Medicated
21 "60 MInutes" airer
22 Nemesis
24 Fill in ____ blank
26 Explosive sound
28 Bed cover
30 Wee bit
32 Tiara store
33 Work unit
34 Old Olds
36 Census info
38 "Sexy" Beatles girl
39 "____ say more?"
40 Director Welles
42 ___apso (small dog)
45 Novelist Seton
46 Airline to Tel Aviv
48 Spanish gold
50 Born
51 Blunder

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Answer in September 27th Issue



