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October 19th,
2025

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Volume 25
Issue 43

TIDBITS TUNES INTO TALK SHOW HOSTS

by Kathy Wolfe

In honor of Johnny Carson's birthday, October 23 has been designated TV Talk Show Host Day, giving Tidbits the opportunity to tune into these facts about an assortment of entertainers.

* Born in Iowa in 1925, at age 12, Johnny Carson became enthralled with magic, purchasing a mail-order magician's kit. He practiced card tricks and magic tricks on his family, and at age 14, he performed publically for the first time at the local Kiwanis Club as "The Great Carsoni," wearing a cape handmade by his mother, collecting \$3 a show.

* Carson served in the United States Navy during World War II aboard the "USS Pennsylvania" in the Pacific as a communications officer in charge of decoding encrypted messages.

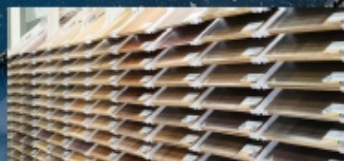
* Johnny Carson's quick wit and punch-lines have led to his being declared "King of the Late Night." From the time he took over "Tonight" from Jack Parr in 1962 until his retirement in 1992, Carson ruled late-night television, winning six Emmy Awards for his entertainment skills.

* Carson's final "Tonight Show" appearance had more than 50 million viewers.

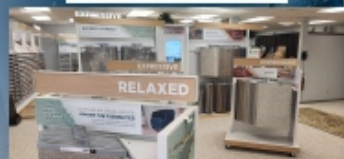
(turn to page 2 for more!)

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~ Bob Hope

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TALK SHOW HOSTS

(More to read from Page 2)

When he was just one semester short of his degree, Fallon dropped out to chase his dream of comedy in Los Angeles. He had been hooked on "Saturday Night Live" his entire life, nurturing a vision of one day nabbing a spot on the cast. At 22, he obtained his first audition, which turned out to be unsuccessful. However, a second audition the next year led to the role he had craved and he made his debut in 1998 at age 24. By his fourth episode, he was a star, and remained with SNL until 2004.

* Fallon pursued a film career after leaving SNL, but with limited success. In 2009, he was offered the position of host of NBC's "Late Night," where he remained until taking over "The Tonight Show" from Jay Leno.

* In addition to his hosting duties, Fallon is also an author, having written nine children's books and three non-fiction books for adults.

* David Letterman was on track for a career in radio working at several stations before making the switch to television. In 1980, when Letterman was 33, NBC gave him his own morning show, and in 1982, "Late Night with David Letterman" premiered on NBC. It was Johnny Carson's intention upon his retirement to pass the torch to Letterman, but NBC gave the job to Leno, and Letterman quickly exited NBC, starting another program on CBS, "Late Show with David Letterman," in the same time slot as "The Tonight Show."

* During his first 20 years in late-night TV, Letterman received 65 Emmy nominations, winning 12 times. By the time he left late-night in 2015, he had hosted 6,080 episodes of talk, the longest-serving late-night talk show host in TV history, more than his friend and mentor Johnny Carson.

* Like Carson and Leno, David Letterman is a devoted fan of classic cars, dominated by Ferraris and Porsches.

* You probably don't know that Jimmy Kimmel was once a pizza delivery driver, that he plays the bass clarinet, and, like Leno, Carson, and Letterman, collects vintage cars. Like Jimmy Fallon, Kimmel was also an altar boy in his youth, and is the author of a children's book. He is also a talented artist.

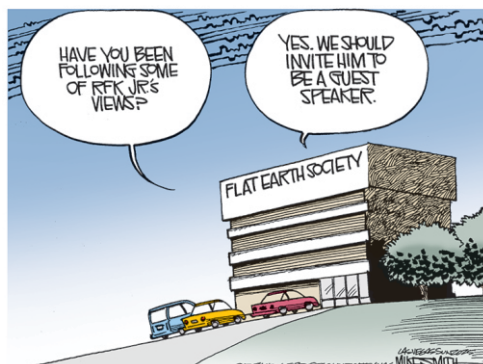
* Jimmy Kimmel got his start in radio, and was fired from his first two positions. He finally settled in as "Jimmy, the Sports Guy" on a Los Angeles station, spending five years on the morning show. In 2003, he became the host of "Jimmy Kimmel Live," while on the side he has provided voices in several animated films, including "Garfield," "Robot Chicken," and "Road Trip," along with hosting a couple of game shows.

* Kimmel's son was born with a rare congenital heart defect, leading Kimmel to raise millions of dollars for children's hospitals through his show.



1. One Battle After Another - (R) Leonardo DiCaprio, Sean Penn
2. Gabby's Dollhouse: The Movie - (G) Laila Lockhart Kraner, Kristen Wiig
3. Demon Slayer: Kimetsu no Yaiba - The Movie - Infinity Castle (R) Zach Aguilar, Ryan Bartley
4. The Conjuring: Last Rites - (R) Patrick Wilson, Vera Farmiga
5. The Strangers: Chapter 2 - (R) Madelaine Petsch, Gabriel Basso
6. Him - (R) Marlon Wayans, Tyriq Withers
7. The Long Walk - (R) Cooper Hoffman, David Jonsson
8. Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale - (PG) Michelle Dockery, Joanne Froggatt
9. Spider-Man - (PG-13) Tobey Maguire, Kirsten Dunst
10. A Big Bold Beautiful Journey - (R) Colin Farrell, Margot Robbie

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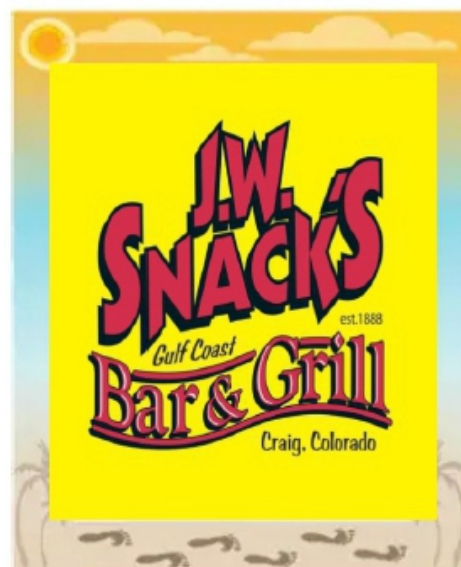
October 12th, 2025

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

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



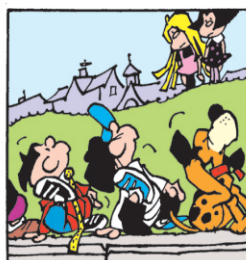
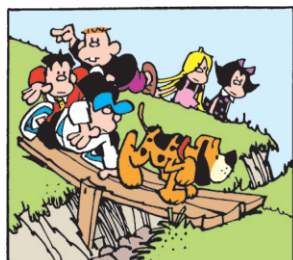
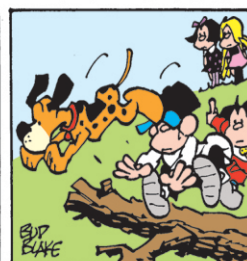


Wishing Everyone A



*Safe & Happy
Halloween!*

TIGER



by **BUD BLAKE**

SPORTS **STORIES**



Baseball hero Jackie Robinson passed away on October 24, 1972 at the young age of 53. This week, *Tidbits* honors this civil rights legend with the facts on his remarkable life.

* Jack Roosevelt Robinson, the grandson of a slave, was named after President Theodore Roosevelt, who had passed away 25 days before Jackie's birth in 1919. His single mother moved with her five children from Georgia to Pasadena, California, where Jackie grew up in poverty.

* Following his graduation from Pasadena Junior College, Robinson enrolled at UCLA in 1939. While we think of Robinson as a baseball superstar, he became UCLA's first athlete to win varsity letters in four sports - baseball, basketball, football, and track. He went 4-for-4 with four stolen bases in his very first UCLA baseball game. Robinson was the football team's leading rusher in 1940, and still holds UCLA's record for highest rushing yards per carry in a season. On the basketball court, he led the conference in scoring for two years. In track, Robinson was the NCAA broad jump champion and qualified for the 1940 Olympics, which unfortunately were canceled due to World War II.

* In 1941, Robinson dropped out of UCLA in order to provide financial assistance for his mother. He began playing semi-pro football in Hawaii while also working in construction. His last game with the Honolulu Bears was two days before the attack on Pearl Harbor. He served in the U.S. Army from 1942 to 1944, during which time he was arrested and court-martialed for refusing to sit in the back of a military bus.

He was acquitted and received an honorable discharge, but the incident set him on the path for commitment to civil rights.

* The Kansas City Monarchs of the Negro Leagues signed Robinson to play pro ball in 1945. The following year, the Brooklyn Dodgers signed him to play on their minor league team, the Montreal Royals. On April 15, 1947, Robinson debuted with the Brooklyn Dodgers, the first black player in the modern MLB.

* The 1947 season brought 175 hits, 29 stolen bases, and a .297 batting average, earning Robinson the inaugural Rookie of the Year award. In 1949, his average was .342 with 203 hits, 124 RBI's, and 37 stolen bases, and the National League's MVP award. The Dodgers were league champions six times during Robinson's tenure from 1947 to 1956, with a World Series win in 1955.

* In the midst of the accolades were the hostile remarks and racial discrimination, including not being allowed to stay in hotels and eat in restaurants with his team, and being banned from using gas station restrooms. Even his own team members protested, while opposing teams deliberately hit him with pitches and spiked him with their cleats, while spectators threw bottles at him.

* Jackie Robinson's breaking the color barrier led to 150 black ballplayers entering the majors in the first five years after his debut. From 1949 through 1962, 11 of the 14 National League MVP's were black.

* Robinson retired with a lifetime batting average of .311 over 1,382 games. He was inducted into MLB's Hall of Fame in 1962, the Hall's first black player. Robinson became the first black television sports analyst as a commentator for ABC.

* Major League Baseball retired Robinson's Number 42 in 1997 on the 50th anniversary of his Dodgers debut, the first number to be retired from all MLB teams. In 2009, MLB decreed that all players, coaches, and umpires would wear number 42 every April 15.

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: **W** equals **L**

BCWCMPRICE PQLRDIGB-CPR

CDAWGJY VQCI OYQ ORJ

KRLQSJ KQP MCGDA CRJGWT

ICLVICF: WSPCF MTPQD.

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ANSWER IN OCTOBER 26TH ISSUE



October 23 is the day that the swallows depart California's Mission San Juan Capistrano, as they have done since the first documented exodus in 1812. *Tidbits* commemorates the day with facts about this old Spanish mission and its famous birds.

* The mission was founded by Spanish Catholic missionaries of the Franciscan Order in 1776, and named for an Italian priest of the Order. It is home to The Great Stone Church and Serra Chapel, California's oldest building still in use. The original priests' quarters have survived as well.

* In 1812, a 7.5 - magnitude earthquake destroyed the Great Stone Church and bell tower, and the ruins became the perfect place for the mud nests of the American cliff swallows. The swallows leave the Mission every October 23, observed as a day of mourning for the church's Saint Joseph. They embark on their yearly migration to their winter home 6,000 miles (10,000 km) away in Goya, Argentina, flying up to 60 mph (95.5 km/hr), returning on March 19, St. Joseph's Day.

* In the early 1900s, the migrating birds' return became an annual established tradition, instituted by Father John O'Sullivan, who maintained his story of contributing to the bird's shelter at the Mission. According to the legend, Father O'Sullivan was walking past a new hotel in the community, and noticed the innkeeper using a long pole to destroy swallows' nests under the structure's eaves. The panicked birds were darting here and there, squealing in terror at the loss of their homes and young. O'Sullivan questioned the proprietor as to where the swallows would go, and received the reply that the dirty birds were a nuisance, he was getting rid of them, and didn't care where they went. The priest spoke to the birds, "Come on, swallows, I'll give you shelter.

* Father O'Sullivan created a festival for the swallows' return every March to the eaves and stone walls of the Mission, with the townspeople gathering to welcome them.

* In the 1950s, the number of swallows reached their peak, with an estimated 25,000 birds nesting at the Mission. However by 1970, less than 5,000 swallows were returning. A devastating rainstorm in 1983 flooded the nests, drastically reducing the numbers. Today's population is less than 1,000 birds. Several factors have contributed to the decline, with one major factor being urban development in the area. With the population of San Juan Capistrano topping 35,000, many of the birds' water sources have disappeared. Noise and vehicle traffic have disturbed nesting habits, there are fewer insects to eat, and an increase in predators have all added to the drop.

* A restoration project at the Mission in the 1990s removed the mud nests from the mission walls, and the birds moved to other areas of town - a nearby housing development, on cliff edges, beneath bridges, and in culverts. An intensive effort is in place to attract the famous feathered friends back to the Mission.



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SCRAMBLERS

solution

1. Enigma; 2. Tragic;
3. Banjo; 4. Tough

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* In 1940, Leon Rene wrote a song "When the Swallows Come Back to Capistrano" as a tribute to the swallows' return. It was recorded by several famous 1940s musicians, The Ink Spots, Fred Waring, Guy Lombardo, and Glenn Miller, reaching No.4 on the charts.



A man heard a talk show was looking for people with unusual talents. When he showed up to audition for the segment, the host asked him what talent he was going to perform. The man explained, "I imitate birds." The talk show host laughed, waving him away saying, "Thousands of people can imitate birds. We want something nobody has ever seen before." The man shrugged, flapped his arms, and flew away.







ARIES (March 21 to April 19) A bid for you to swoop in and take over an incomplete project could prove to be an excellent learning experience that you can take with you when a new opportunity opens up.



Taurus (April 20 to May 20) It's a good time for socializing, both with family and friends. Your aspects also favor developing new relationships, any or all of which might become especially meaningful.



GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Your success in handling a recent difficult situation prompts a request to handle another workplace problem. But this is one you should accept only if you get all of the relevant facts.



CANCER (June 21 to July 22) New information about a past decision raises some unsettling questions from an old friend. Be prepared to explain your actions fully and, if necessary, make adjustments.



LEO (July 23 to August 22) This is not a good time to share personal secrets, even with someone you've known for a long while. What you don't reveal now won't come back to haunt you later.



VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Pushing yourself to meet a project deadline is admirable. But be careful not to leave out important details in your rush to complete your work and send it off.



LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Watch that you don't take on more than you can handle when offering to help someone with a personal problem. There might be hidden factors you weren't told about.



SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) A major move you've been considering could come sooner than you expected. Make sure that you'll be ready with the facts you need when decision time arrives.



SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Languishing relationships can benefit from a break i routine. Get out of the rut, and do something new and maybe a little unpredictable this weekend.



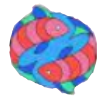
CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Although you don't think of yourself as roe model, your ability to make a tough decision at this time sets an example for others, who admire your courage.



AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) You need to move any remaining obstacles out of your way before you can take on a new challenge. Seek out advice from close, trusted friends and associates.



PISCES (February 19 to March 20) A career change appears increasingly likely to happen during the next several weeks. It's a good idea to start now to prepare so that you can be ready to make the move when the time comes.



BORN THIS WEEK: You have a strong sense of obligation to justice, which inspires others to follow your example and do the right thing.

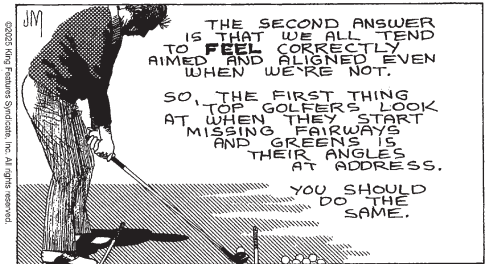
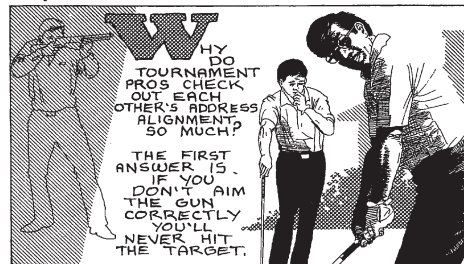
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THIS WEEK'S CELEBRITY BIRTHDAYS

Evander Holyfield	10/19/62
John Krasinski	10/20/79
Benjamin Netanyahu	10/21/49
Jeff Goldblum	10/22/52
Ryan Reynolds	10/23/76
Kevin Kline	10/24/47
Katy Perry	10/25/84

TIDBITS

Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



Fun Fact

The first US state to require license plates was New York, in 1901. Each car owner ordered their own plate to be made, out of porcelain baked onto iron, or out of ceramic materials.



Sources: www.inspectaride.com, leatherlicenseplates.com

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The Garden Bug

Dry used grounds thoroughly before using in the garden; this prevents mold development and unpleasant odors. Spread them on newspaper or screens for 24-48 hours until completely moisture-free.

Using coffee grounds

Limit quantities to 1-2 tablespoons per plant, applied once every 3 months. Sprinkle evenly over the surface to avoid thick clumps forming. Combine your grounds with other organic amendments for balanced nutrition.

- Brenda Weaver
Source: blog.bostonorganics.com

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* **On Oct. 20, 1967**, the mythical Bigfoot was believed to have been filmed in northern California, firing the imaginations of numerous enthusiasts. However, when a prominent researcher sent the FBI a supposed hair sample, agents concluded that it was, sadly, of “deer family origin.”

* **On Oct. 21, 1797**, the USS Constitution launched in Boston Harbor. A 44-gun U.S. Navy frigate, it was constructed to fight Barbary pirates off the coast of Tripoli, and performed admirably during those conflicts. In 1805, a peace treaty with Tripoli was signed on the Constitution’s deck.

* **On Oct. 22, 1895**, a train with a faulty brake tore through the Gare Montparnasse in Paris and out the front before landing nose down in the street. Onlookers purchased train tickets just to see the damage.

* **On Oct. 23, 1958**, Boris Pasternak was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature for “Doctor Zhivago,” a romance set during the Russian Revolution and World War I. The book was banned in the Soviet Union, and the Soviet government forced Pasternak to renounce the honor, but his admirers smuggled the manuscript out of Russia in pieces and the CIA helped with distribution behind the scenes. Appearing in numerous translations around the world, it was hailed as a classic, but Pasternak was banished from the Soviet Writers Union, ending his literary career.

* **On Oct. 24, 1921**, in the French town of Châlons-sur-Marne, an American sergeant chose the body of the first “Unknown Soldier” to be honored among the approximately 77,000 American servicemen who died on the Western Front during World War I.

* **On Oct. 25, 1964**, Minnesota Vikings star defensive end Jim Marshall ran 66 yards in the wrong direction into his own end zone after recovering a fumble against the 49ers in San Francisco. Despite the gaffe, the Vikings won.

* **On Oct. 26, 1984**, 19-year-old John McCollum was found shot to death on his bed in Indio, California. The boy’s parents believed that singer Ozzy Osbourne was responsible, because John was listening to Osbourne’s album “Blizzard of Oz,” which contained the song “Suicide Solution,” when he died, but the suit was dismissed in 1988.

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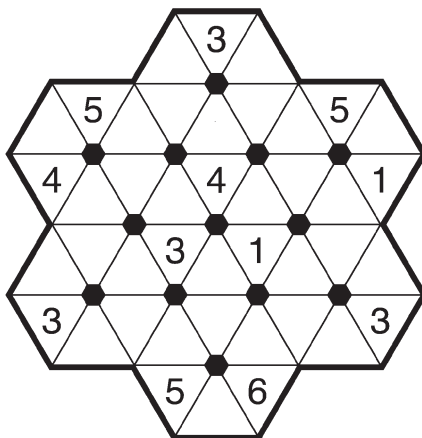




SNOWFLAKES

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

Answer in the October 26th Issue

BINGO

Are You Ready for Some Fun?!
Then Grab Your Dauber
&
Git 'Er Done!!

Friday Night
Elks Lodge Bingo
Doors Open 4:30
pm Games Start
6:30 pm

Sunday Afternoon
American Legion
Bingo Doors Open
11:30 am Games
Start 1:00 pm

B I N G O

Hungry?
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at the Concession
Stand Both Days!!

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Way & Breeze St.) Craig,
CO

TIPBITS

NUGGET OF KNOWLEDGE

TALK SHOW HOSTS HAVE BEEN INVITED TO EMCEE THE ACADEMY AWARDS NUMEROUS TIMES.



JOHNNY CARSON HOSTED THE OSCARS FIVE TIMES,



JIMMY KIMMEL FOUR TIMES,



ELLEN DEGENERES TWICE,



AND DAVID LETTERMAN ONCE IN 1995.

FiveSpot™

Use your head

T	H	I	N	K

Cogitate

That which belongs to thee

Just sitting there

Earn

Key role in old-time circuses

Type of job or house

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.

FiveSpot is a trademark of Michael McLinden
See more at www.sproutspuzzle.com

02531

Answer in the October 26th Issue

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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!

Answer in the October 26th Issue

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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.

	+		÷	1	= 11			
+		+		+				
	+		+		= 16			
-		+		-				
	+		×		= 52			
=		=		=				
4		19		2				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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Answer in the October 26th Issue

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. Water flow | ___ T ___ | Munch painting | ___ C ___ |
| 2. Creek | ___ ___ K | Witch's transportation | ___ ___ M |
| 3. ___ dioxide | ___ ___ B | Milk container | ___ ___ T |
| 4. Beauty's admirer | B ___ | Banquet | F ___ |
| 5. Appropriate | ___ ___ R | Power forward | ___ ___ L |
| 6. Scare | ___ R ___ | Air journey | ___ L ___ |
| 7. Similar | ___ ___ K | Have being | ___ ___ V |
| 8. Inn's guest | ___ D ___ | Forest worker | ___ G ___ |
| 9. Harmony | ___ E ___ | Come in second | ___ L ___ |
| 10. Up and about | ___ ___ K | Cognizant | ___ ___ R |

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FEAR KNIGHT™

By: rj johnson

DOUBT? ...OR DARE!

IGG
PIDANK
DRUNO
♥NSGI
GREEDI
UDD
♥OPRM
♥ESPRI
PPA
KOGGIN
NEGIK
♥RPDO

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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.

Answer in the October 26th Issue

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Barely SPENT Consignment

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Craig, CO

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Bob Schwetkey

"What's with the _____?"

This is the space age."

Answer in the October 26th Issue

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!

Filth: **MIRGE**

Grasp: **HALEND**

Find: **ELTACO**

Expire: **RESHIP**

TODAY'S WORD

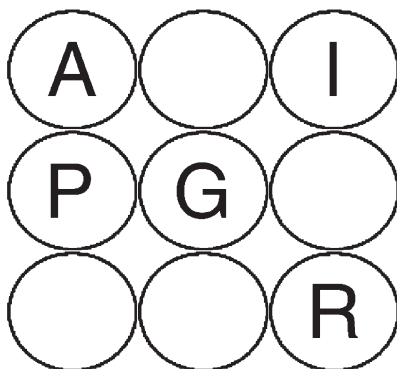
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

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Find at least six differences in details between panels.

WORD SPIRAL



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

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Answer in the October 26th Issue

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: **W** equals **L**

BCWCMPRICE PQLRDIGB-CPR

CDAWGJY VQCI OYQ ORJ

KRLQSJ KQP MCGDA CRJGWT

ICLVICF: WSPCF MTPQD.

Answer in the October 26th Issue

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STICKELERS

by Terry Stickels

Can you unscramble the letters below to form a word?

M O A R T
C M N E G
L E S T I

Answer in the October 19th Issue

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* Compared to the production of standard paper, recycled paper production reduces air pollution to up to 73%.

* The Towel Museum in Japan showcases a vast collection of towels from different countries, each with its unique designs and cultural significance.

* Lobsters pee out of their face.

* A crow funeral is much like a human funeral - the birds gather around a fallen fellow crow, call to each other and pay close attention to their late peer.

* The tradition of a wedding cake topper originated in ancient Rome, where figurines depicting the bride and groom were used for good luck.

* Female turkeys don't gobble.

* Matthias Buchinger, known as the Little Man of Nuremberg, was born without hands or feet and was only 29 inches tall, but still managed to perform numerous magic feats and illusions including the famous cups-and-balls routine.

* The first knitting union, founded in Paris in 1527, allowed only men as members.

* Will Shortz, a crossword editor for The New York Times, designed a degree program at Indiana University in enigmatology, or the study and science of puzzles.

* Ancient Romans gargled with urine to whiten their teeth.

* Since the prosthetics Heath Ledger wore on his mouth during the filming of "The Joker" would loosen as he spoke, he kept them on by frequently licking his lips, a trait that suited his character and was therefore incorporated into the film.

Thought for the Day: "The battles that count aren't the ones for gold medals. The struggles within yourself - the invisible battles inside all of us - that's where it's at." ~ Jesse Owens

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October 12th, 2025

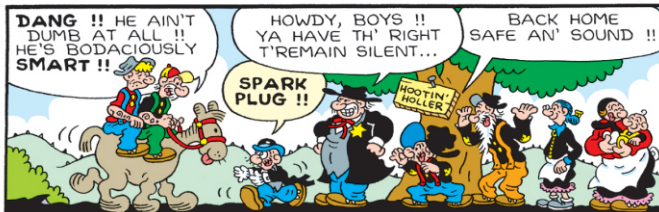
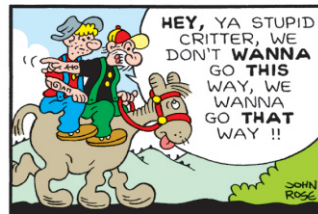
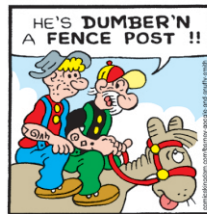
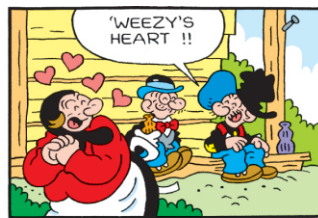
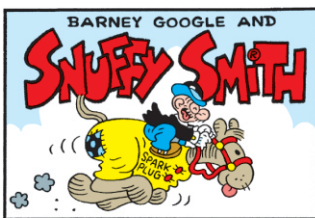
Stickelers Answer

The answer is
ELECTROMAGNETISM.

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~ Johnny Carson



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Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



KNIGHT MOVES

B	T	S
L		T
O	U	A

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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Answer on Page 13

KOVELS Antiques
By Terry and Kim Kovel & Collecting

Halloween Decorations

You don't have to be a Halloween collector to know the symbols associated with the holiday. And there are a lot of them. Pumpkins are always a favorite, especially carved into jack-o'-lanterns, but anything spooky — witches, spiders, skeletons, monsters, ghosts — fits in. Anything related to nighttime, like bats and owls, or even moons and stars, is on theme, too. And if you're still at a loss for ideas, anything orange and black will do. All this variety is just one reason why vintage Halloween decorations are so collectible! Look at this plastic Halloween decoration, which sold for \$540 at Milestone Auctions. You have a witch on her broomstick, which can move on a spring for added fun. Not only is she flying by a crescent moon, it looks like the man in the moon is there, too. And the moon rests on the arched back of a black cat. Well, it's a mostly black cat; it appears to be wearing an orange mask. It's definitely the kind of sight you would see on Halloween night.



Who else is over the moon for Halloween? Have a safe and happy holiday!

Q: I have what I believe to be my great-grandmother's reading glasses. The lenses are small and oval with wire rims and they fold out from a dark metal stick with raised swirls and a purple gemstone. I was wondering if you could tell me what they would be worth and where I should take them.

A: Your great-grandmother's glasses sound like a lorgnette, which is a small pair of glasses with a single handle. They were popular in the late 19th century. Today, they often sell as jewelry. Gray metal (possibly pewter?) swirls and purple stones are all characteristic of art nouveau jewelry, which was at its most popular from the late 1800s to early 1900s; about the same time as lorgnettes.



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Art nouveau lorgnettes usually sell for at least \$100. Remember that, like most jewelry, the value will depend on its material. Look for any maker's marks or quality marks; in addition to providing more information, they often raise the value. You may want to consult a local antique shop or jewelry dealer to find out more. Look for one that sells similar pieces; for example, a dealer who specializes in gold jewelry with diamonds may not be interested in or as knowledgeable about a piece like yours. There are also dealers and collectors who specialize in antique glasses.

* * *

TIP: Old papier-mache jack-o'-lanterns originally had a thin piece of paper in the eyes. The light from the candle showed through the paper. You can make a replacement with tracing paper and watercolor paint.

* * *

CURRENT PRICES

Copper, cauldron, fireplace, bail handle, slightly tapered sides, turned-out rim, 7 1/2 x 12 inches, \$70.
Rookwood, pitcher, standard glaze, leaves, olives, ruffled rim, squat body, Jeanette Swing, 1889, 4 1/2 inches, \$200.
Toy, carousel, six horses, riders, painted, tin, red and white flag finial, windup, early 20th century, 20 x 9 inches, \$810.
Porcelain-Chinese, box, lid, round, Famille Rose, outdoor scene, children playing in landscape, goats, red and blue trim, 20th century, 4 1/2 inches, \$1,890.

For more collecting news, tips and resources, visit:

www.Kovels.com

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October 12th, 2025

October 12th, 2025

Even Exchange answers

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Nanny, Nancy | 6. Chuck, Cluck |
| 2. Grease, Crease | 7. Pierce, Pierre |
| 3. Brink, Brisk | 8. Lower, Mower |
| 4. Laurel, Lauren | 9. Paris, Parts |
| 5. Repeat, Reheat | 10. Raffle, Ruffle |



Word Spiral Answer LANDMINES

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TIDBITS GOES LONG.....

Jay Leno featured a regular segment called "Jay Walking," during which he approached people of all ages on the streets of Hollywood, asking basic questions about politics, celebrities, literature, geography, and civics, exposing how little Americans know about the workings of the country.



- * "To speed the healing of bruises, try eating pineapple. Drink lots of water, too. I play contact sports, and this has always helped me." — R.E. in Missouri
- * Need new tires? Don't overlook big-box stores with automotive departments. Sometimes the best deals aren't at the tire places!
- * Are you dreaming of a beach vacation right about now? Maybe you're looking to make an early booking. Here's a travel tip: Skip the ocean views from your hotel room. The rooms facing the ocean have a 20-25% higher rate. There's usually a nice common area where you can admire the view, anyway.

* "If you're thinking of getting a new TV, don't forget about safety. Be sure to use a wall strap, or just go ahead and mount it to the wall!" — E.S. in Virginia

* Ease stress when dropping off a child at day care by creating a special, just-for-the-two-of-you ritual. Maybe a secret handshake or a kiss for your cheek and one in the hand to "save for later." Reinforce with your attitude that it's a good and fun thing to go to school.

* Here's a great school tip from a young reader, P.J. in Florida: "Take a photo of your spelling words with your mom or dad's cell-phone, and you can go over them anytime, anywhere!"

Send your tips to:

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October 12th, 2025

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U	N	D	E	R	
R	O	U	N	D	ROUND

Test Your Knowledge



1. **MOVIES:** In the United States, what is the title of the first Harry Potter movie?
2. **GEOGRAPHY:** The Prime Meridian Line runs through which major city?
3. **HISTORY:** When did federal child labor law start in the United States?
4. **ACRONYMS:** What does the acronym VPN stand for?
5. **U.S. PRESIDENTS:** Which president appeared on the 1960s comedy show "Laugh In"?
6. **TELEVISION:** Which teen show starred Mayim Bialik before she got the role as Amy Fowler on "The Big Bang Theory"?
7. **GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:** Where did the Minoan civilization flourish?
8. **SCIENCE:** What pH balance is considered neutral?
9. **LITERATURE:** In which of Shakespeare's plays does the character Polonius appear?
10. **ANIMAL KINGDOM:** In which country can the Bonobos species of ape be found in the wild?

(Answers on Page 15)

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1. Who wrote and released "Band on the Run"?
2. Which group released "Winchester Cathedral"?
3. Who wrote and was the first to release "Rhinestone Cowboy"?
4. Which group released "Don't Leave Me This Way"?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "Now I've got a guy and his name is Dooley. He's my guy and I love him truly."

(Answers on Page 15)

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1. What basketball star from Delta State University became the first woman officially drafted by an NBA team when the New Orleans Jazz selected her in 1977?
2. What bruising fullback from Arkansas State University won two Super Bowls during his NFL career with the New York Giants from 1985 to 1991?
3. How many playoff games did the Atlanta Thrashers win during their existence in the NHL from 1999 to 2011?
4. Who holds several Toronto Blue Jays team records, including home runs (336), RBI (1,058) and walks (827)?
5. What team selected University of Alabama quarterback Bryce Young with the first overall pick in the 2023 NFL Draft?
6. First held in 1985, what biennial multi-sport event includes nine participating countries that each have a population of less than 1 million?
7. What Baseball Hall of Fame relief pitcher, known for his knuckleball, received a Purple Heart for wounds suffered in World War II's Battle of the Bulge?

(Answers on Page 15)

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Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps



—KNIGHT MOVES—
Answer

B	T	S
L		T
O	U	A
SUBTOTAL		



Using The VA Home Loan Program

The Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, gave several benefits to veterans coming back from war, including help to buy homes. Within a few years, 2 million veterans took advantage of the program.

Now, in 2025, they've issued the 29 millionth home loan. Since the Home Loan Guaranty program began, the VA has guaranteed \$4 trillion in home loans. Are you ready to buy a home? Your first step will be to get a Certificate of Eligibility (VA Form 26-1880). The COE used for specific VA benefits, such as the home loan or education (Post-9/11 GI Bill). It is your proof of entitlement with details about your service and the benefits you qualify for. The COE confirms to a lender that the VA will back part of your loan. There are several ways to get the COE, but the fastest might be to go online to complete the form. You'll need to log in at ID.me or Login.gov. Once in your account, you'll be able to request your COE, see if you already have one or check the status if you've previously asked for one. See tinyurl.com/yrtr5549 to get started.

Or if you're working with a lender who specializes in doing VA loans, they'll be set up to process your COE request. You can also do it by mail: Download the form, fill it out and send it in with a copy of your DD-214. Keep in mind that you still need to pass the lender's scrutiny to get a home loan. (The VA's part of the program is to guarantee that the lender won't lose money if you fail to pay the mortgage.) The COE isn't a preapproval or a promise. You'll need to have a good credit history and adequate income. Your current debts will be factored in. To see how your basic entitlement is calculated, go online to www.va.gov/housing-assistance/home-loans/loan-limits.

If you have eligibility questions, call the VA at 877-827-3702.

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Contract Bridge

Luck evens out in the long run, so if you want to be a winner at bridge, you have to play better than those you play with.

Let's say you're in six hearts and West leads the king of clubs, which you ruff. You play the queen of trump and finesse, but East wins with the king and returns the queen of spades.

It looks as though you must lose a spade trick and go down one, but if you put your gray cells to work, the way to avoid the spade loser emerges. So, you win East's spade return with dummy's king, ruff a club with the ten, re-enter dummy with a low trump to the nine and ruff another club with the jack.

This runs you out of trumps in your hand, since you've ruffed clubs three times and led trumps twice, but that's precisely what you've been trying to do.

You now cross to dummy with a diamond and draw West's last trump with the ace, discarding a spade from your hand. Your K-Q-J-10 of diamonds and ace of spades then win the last five tricks, and the slam is home as your spade loser vanishes into thin air.

To come to 12 tricks, you scored five trump tricks instead of only the four you seemed to have after the trump finesse failed. It might seem odd that to make the slam you must discard your spade loser on one of dummy's trumps, but that's the way things usually go in a dummy-reversal hand.

SHEER ARTISTRY

North dealer.

North-South vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ K 8 7
♥ A 9 6
♦ A 8 3
♣ Q J 9 4

WEST

♠ 6 3 2
♥ 8 5 4
♦ 7 4 2
♣ A K 8 3

EAST

♠ Q J 10 4
♥ K 2
♦ 9 6
♣ 10 7 6 5 2

SOUTH

♠ A 9 5
♥ Q J 10 7 3
♦ K Q J 10 5
♣ —

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
1 NT	Pass	3 ♦	Pass
4 ♥	Pass	6 ♥	

Opening lead — king of clubs.

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by Steve Becker

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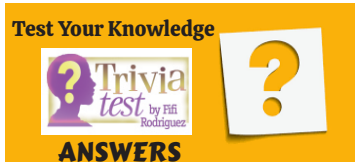
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Holidays & Observances This Week	
10/19	World Statistics Day
10/20	National Sasquatch Awareness Day
10/21	Reptile Awareness Day
10/22	International Stuttering Awareness
10/23	TV Talk Show Host Day
10/24	United Nations Day
10/25	International Artists' Day





1. "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone".
2. Greenwich, London, England.
3. 1938.
4. Virtual Private Network.
5. Richard Nixon.
6. "Blossom".
7. The Island of Crete.
8. 7
9. "Hamlet".
10. Democratic Republic of the Congo.

1. Lusia Harris
2. Maurice Carthon.
3. Zero (They were swept in their only playoff appearance in 2007).
4. Carlos Delgado.
5. The Carolina Panthers.
6. Games of the Small States of Europe.
7. Hoyt Wilhelm.

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Out on a Limb



by Gary Kopervas

October 12th, 2025

Americanisms



"Anger can teach us forgiveness, hate can teach us love, and war can teach us peace."
— Le Ly Hayslip

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1. Paul McCartney, in 1974. Demo tapes of the song and others were stolen from McCartney and his Wings band when they were recording in Nigeria. They had to record all the music again from memory.
2. The New Vaudeville Band, in 1966. It was intentionally made to sound like the singer was using a megaphone. It later won a Grammy for Best Contemporary Song.
3. Singer-songwriter Larry Weiss, in 1974. The most popular version was covered by Glen Campbell.
4. Harold Melvin & the Blue Notes, in 1975. Their album version clocked in at 6 minutes 8 seconds.
5. "Pink Shoe Laces," by Dodie Stevens, in 1959. In the song, the singer loves her guy because of his clothes, not just his pink shoe laces, but a polka-dot vest and a hat with a purple band.

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"Early man learned to fashion crude tools, leading to the first tool belt."

Weekly SUDOKU												
Answer												
7	3	5	2	8	6	1	4	9				
9	6	2	1	4	7	8	3	5				
8	1	4	3	9	5	2	6	7				
5	2	9	6	1	4	7	8	3				
6	4	7	8	3	2	9	5	1				
3	8	1	7	5	9	4	2	6				
1	7	8	4	6	3	5	9	2				
4	5	3	9	2	1	6	7	8				
2	9	6	5	7	8	3	1	4				

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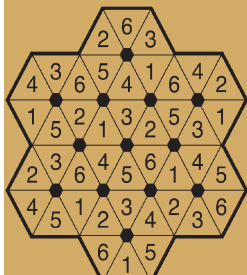


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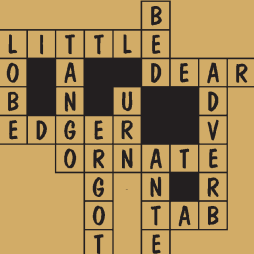
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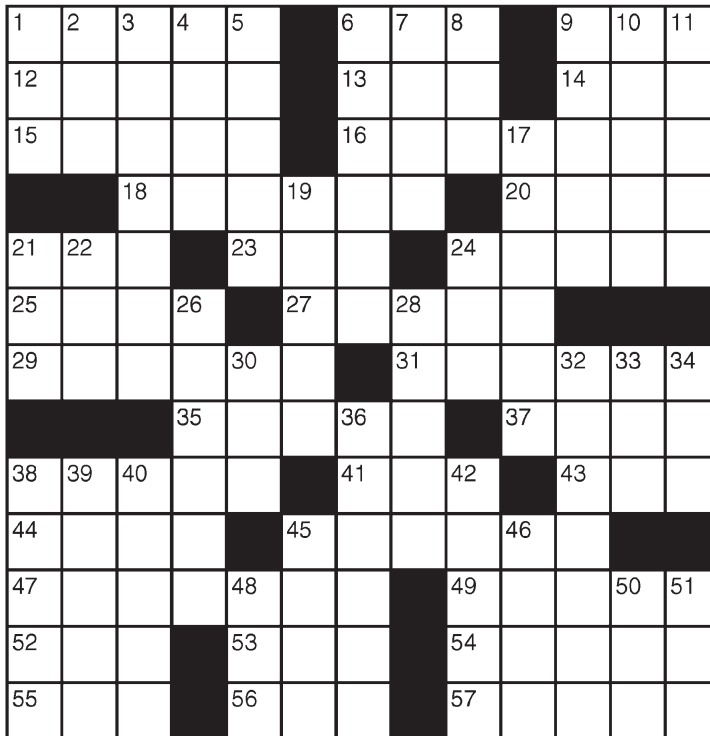
answer



King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Surrenders
6 Tennis match division
9 Cover
12 Fold
13 Sch. founded by Jefferson
14 Blackbird
15 Shadow
16 Utter disaster
18 Author Lurie
20 Bump into
21 Soup cooker
23 Cowboys quarterback Prescott
24 Has an intense craving
25 Actor Guinness



- 27 Toothpaste holders
29 Strange thing
31 Deceived
35 Welsh pooch
37 Bargain
38 "Downton —"
41 ER workers
43 Quilters' get-together
44 Tragic king
45 Rum cocktail
47 TV anchor Norville
49 "Glee" guitarist
52 Packed away
53 Historic period

- 54 Property claims
55 Radiator sound
56 Tiara sparkler
57 Stows cargo

DOWN

- 1 PC's brain
2 Shade tree
3 Battled verbally
4 — Grey tea
5 Composed
6 Number puzzle
7 Divisible by two

- 8 Bar bill
9 Shoe fasteners
10 Cove
11 Losing ventures?
17 Tickled
19 Nymph pursuer
21 Kung — chicken
22 Vintage
24 Floral garland
26 Roman orator
28 Russian pancakes
30 Playpen item
32 Deducted

- 33 — kwon do
34 Flamenco cheer
36 Cracker type
38 Actors Robert and Alan
39 Borscht base
40 Innocents
42 Play for time
45 Stallion's mate
46 Operatic solo
48 Rule, for short
50 Chemical suffix
51 Curved letter



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October 12th, 2025

Go Figure!

answers

4	+	3	×	6	= 42
+		-		+	
8	+	2	×	7	= 70
÷		×		-	
1	+	5	+	9	= 15
=		=		=	
12		5		4	

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Answer in the October 26th Issue