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December 14th,  
2025

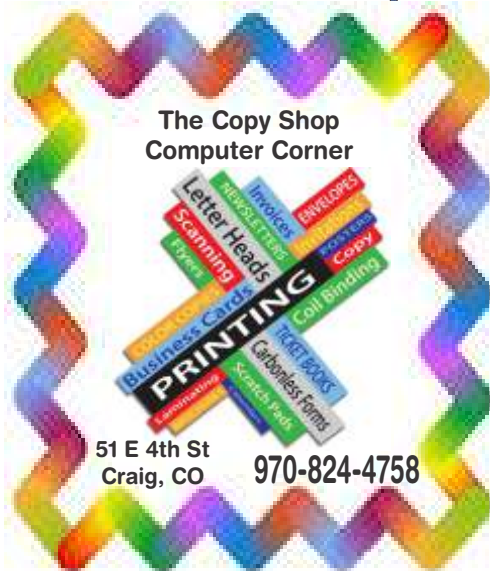
# TIDBITS®

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## TIDBITS VIEWS SOME FAVORITE CHRISTMAS MOVIES

by Kathy Wolfe

'Tis the season to remember some of our favorite Christmas movies! *Tidbits* walks down memory lane down memory lane this week with these facts.

\* The 2004 movie "The Polar Express" was originally intended by director Robert Zemeckis to be a live-action film, but when he learned that costs of live-action would creep close to \$1 billion instead of the budgeted \$160 million, he opted for motion-capture footage that was turned into animation. Actors performed in a black box theater, with the footage converted to digital. The story of children riding a magical train to the North Pole on Christmas Eve was written by Chris Van Allsburg, the same author who penned "Jumanji." Besides his main role as the train's conductor, actor Tom Hanks played five other roles in the film. Lead singer of Aerosmith, Steven Tyler played two characters in "The Polar Express."

\* Although the famous song "White Christmas" is featured in the 1954 movie of the same name, the tune sung by crooner Bing Crosby actually had its debut in the 1942 film "Holiday Inn," winning the Oscar for Best Original Song that year. There was a new version of the song for 1954's "White Christmas," the highest grossing film of the year. It still ranks among the top 100 popular movies of all time.

(turn the page for more!)



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# CHRISTMAS MOVIES

(cont. from Front Cover)

\* All 17 songs in the movie "White Christmas" were written by Russian-born composer Irving Berlin, who wrote an estimated 1,500 songs before his death in 1989 at age 101. Rosemary Clooney, aunt of actor George Clooney, starred opposite Bing Crosby.

\* It was a typical morning in the life of writer Philip Van Doren in 1938, when he had an idea for a story while he was shaving. His brainstorm was the tale of a man considering suicide who is visited by his guardian angel who shows the man the worth of his life. Van Doren worked on the story over the next five years, and in 1943, he mailed it out to friends as his annual Christmas card, using the title "The Greatest Gift." A copy of the story found its way to an agent at RKO Pictures, and Van Doren was paid \$10,000 for the film rights. The title was changed to "It's a Wonderful Life," and it was released in 1946 with Jimmy Stewart in the role of George Bailey, a banker in the small town of Bedford Falls facing a breakdown. The entire plot takes place on Christmas Eve with Clarence the angel saving Bailey in order to earn his wings. The movie was filmed at RKO's movie ranch near Encino California, where four acres was transformed into the small town.

Being filmed during the middle of a scorching heat wave necessitated the invention of a new type of fake snow composed of soap flakes and fire extinguisher foam. In previous films, painted corn flakes were used for winter scenes, but the crunching sound resulted in multiple scenes having to be re-done. "It's a Wonderful Life" has become one of the world's most beloved Christmas movies, but although it was nominated for five Academy Awards, it didn't win a single one. It was considered a failure at the box office and recorded a loss of \$525,000.

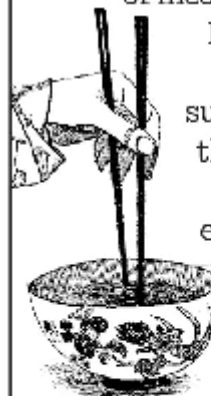
\* The movie was called "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation," but there are no scenes that take place on Christmas Day. The movie ends with the celebration of Christmas Eve with the whole Griswold family participating, including Mrs. Griswold's cousin Catherine and her socially-awkward husband Cousin Eddie, who has been out of work for seven years. Clark Griswold, played by Chevy Chase, longs for the perfect Christmas, and adorns his house with 25,000 lights, which cause a temporary citywide power shortage when lit. During the filming, as Aunt Bethany and Uncle Lewis arrive, there was an earthquake as the scene was being shot, and if you look closely, you can see that the camera shook as they walked in the door.



## Fun Fact

Japanese chefs consider Gomi (the Five tastes), Gokan (the Five senses), Goshiki (the Five colors) and Goho (the Five cooking methods) to be the most important aspects of meal preparation.

It is the chef's duty to make sure that everything creates a satisfying experience for those who are dining.



Sources: [maff.go.jp/e/policies](http://maff.go.jp/e/policies), [japan-experience.com](http://japan-experience.com)

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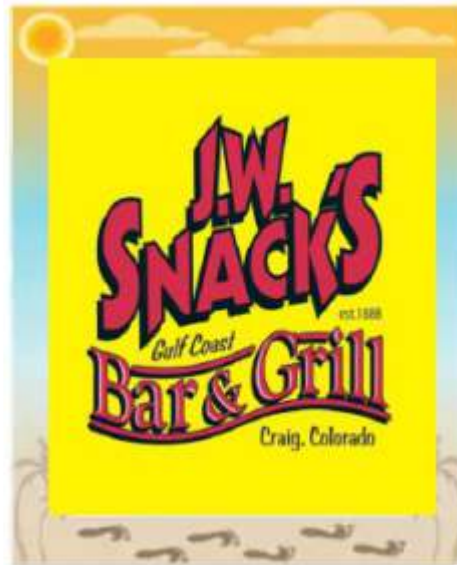
# CHRISTMAS MOVIES

(cont. from Page 2))

Charles Dickens' masterpiece, "A Christmas Carol," has been adapted into film well over 100 times, both in animated and live-action form. The first to tell the story of the miserable miser Ebenezer Scrooge was a British short silent film in 1901, footage that has been preserved nearly 125 years. The 1935 Film "Scrooge" starred a British actor, Seymour Hicks, in the title role. In 1951, Scottish actor Alastair Sim took on the role of the stingy businessman visited by three spirits. Oscar-winning actor George C. Scott's 1984 portrayal of Scrooge is one of the favorite representations of the story. Kelsey Grammer and Patrick Stewart have also tackled the famous role. There have been numerous animated versions of "A Christmas Carol," including the 1999 computer-animated film with Jim Carrey voicing Scrooge. Favorite cartoon character adaptations have included Mickey Mouse, Bugs Bunny, Mr. Magoo, Yosemite Sam, and the Flintstones.

\*"The Muppet Christmas Carol," produced in 1992, was the debut of Brian Henson, son of Muppets creator Jim Henson. It was the first major Muppet project following Jim's death in 1990. Actor Michael Caine claims that the role of Scrooge was one of his favorite parts of his entire career. Kermit the Frog played Scrooge's clerk Bob Cratchit, and Miss Piggy, of course was featured as Mrs. Cratchit. After Jim Henson's death, Kermit's role was handed to Steve Whitmire, who was exceptionally nervous about taking over fulfilling the hole left by Henson. The day before Whitmire was to step in, he had a dream of meeting Henson and relaying how nervous he was. In his dream, Whitmire was assured by Henson that all would go well, giving the new Kermit the confidence to continue.

\*1988's "Die Hard" is considered one of the greatest action films of all times, but is it really a Christmas movie? Fans of the film say absolutely, since it takes place on the evening of the office Christmas party of the hero's ex-wife. The film is perhaps Bruce Willis' most famous role, in which he portrays New York cop John McClane, who gets mixed up in the terrorist takeover of a Los Angeles skyscraper, while there in an attempt to win back his wife. Although we can't imagine anyone other than Willis in the role, it was offered to several other box office stars first, including Sylvester Stallone, Richard Gere. Clint Eastwood, Harrison Ford, Mel Gibson, Don Johnson, and Al Pacino. Willis received \$5 million for the role. When filming began, the ending had not even been finalized, and was only determined in the last 10 days of filming.







Strap on your skates and follow along as *Tidbits* presents the facts on the sport of figure skating.

\* Skates were first used in the Scandinavian countries centuries ago as a means of transportation, with skaters strapping the leg bones of large animals to their feet. The bones were sharpened and shaped so that people could glide across ice, cutting the time required to travel around a body of water. Metal skates were introduced during the 13th century.

\* In the 18th and 19th centuries, skating evolved into a sport, with competitors required to trace elaborate geometric patterns and designs, or "figures," on the ice. Circles, loops, and figure eights were carved with the blades' edges, leading to the name figure skating. These exercises became known as "compulsory figures" in competitions. The sport progressed into jumps, spins, and choreography, and in the early 1990s, the compulsories were removed from competitions.

\* During the mid-1800s, American ballet dancer and figure skater Jackson Haines blended the artistry of dance with the athleticism of skating, capturing the first U.S. National Figure Skating Championship title. Haines is considered the father of modern figure skating.

\* Beginning in 1880, skaters invented several complicated jumps which were subsequently named after them. Norwegian skater Axel Paulsen devised the sport's oldest and most difficult jump, one with a forward takeoff, requiring the skater to land backward on the outside edge of the skate, appropriately named the Axel.

\* In 1909, Swedish skater Ulrich Salchow invented a jump in which the skater takes off from the back inside edge of one foot and lands on the back outside edge of the opposite foot. The Lutz, invented in 1913 by Alois Lutz of Austria, is a jump with the entrance from the skate's back outside edge and a landing on the back outside edge of the opposite foot. It's considered figure skating's second-most difficult jump.

\* There are three spin positions in figure skating - the upright spin, the sit spin (invented by Jackson Haines), and the camel spin. All can be either forward or backward. A flying spin combines a jump and a spin. The speed at which figure skaters spin is mind-boggling. They can reach six revolutions per second, which is more than 300 per minute! The record for the fastest spin was set in 2015 by a Polish-Canadian skater, Olivia Oliver, who achieved 342 revolutions per minute.

\* Figure skating competitions were initially just for men. It wasn't until 1902 at the World Championships that female British skater Madge Syers joined the competition, nabbing second place behind Ulrich Salchow. Although the formal Winter Olympic Games as we know them started in 1924 in Chamonix, France, Olympic Games were held in London in 1908, with figure skating featured for the first time. Oddly enough, the competition was held during the summer games inside an ice rink.

\* That area where skaters sit and wait for their marks from the judges has an official term - the "kiss and cry area." It can be the place for either celebrating success or lamenting over a poor performance.

\* You might have noticed that skaters avoid fringe and feathers on their costumes. Any type of wardrobe malfunction, including glitter floating to the ice's surface, a broken strap, or loss of a feather or any trim results in a deduction in score by the judges.

## December 7th, 2025

### Stickelers Answer

The answer is "fantouche," which means fancy. The other words refer to winds found in different parts of the world.

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## UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATERS

## December 7th, 2025 Puzzle Answers

It's that time of year again, when we don our Christmas sweaters in the midst of holiday festivities. December 20 is officially National Ugly Christmas Sweater Day, the perfect time to dig out those unfashionable garments and celebrate!

\* Christmas sweaters haven't always been the tacky, goofy garments we associate with ugly sweaters of today, adorned with pom-poms, lights, bells, reindeer, and even hanging ornaments. In the 1950s, they were pullovers produced with the name "Jingle Bell Sweaters," and often featuring traditional Nordic and Fair Isle designs, cable-knit, snowflakes, and angels. There were patterns for crafters to create their own hand-knit woolens. Crooner Andy Williams sported a Christmas sweater on his variety show as he sang carols to his audience.

\* During the 1960s and 1970s, bold psychedelic designs took over, with sunglass-wearing Santas, and brilliant dazzling colors. In the big-hair days of the '80s, glitter, sequins, pom-poms, and disco themes prevailed. The sweaters' status was boosted by the 1989 film "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation," which featured Chevy Chase wearing a festive eyesore. Ugly Christmas sweaters were a regular fixture at office parties.

\* The 1990s brought a down-slide in the popularity of ugly sweaters, something that only grandmas wore, and they disappeared from the fashion world.

But in 2001, the movie "Bridget Jones' Diary" brought a revival of the sweater when actor Colin Firth in the role of Mr. Darcy wears a hideous Christmas sweater featuring a giant red-nosed reindeer. Bridget herself was horrified, but the sweater launched the ugly ones back into vogue.



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**Go Figure!**  
answers

7	-	2	÷	1 = 5
+		+		+
6	+	8	+	3 = 17
+		+		×
9	+	4	+	5 = 18
=		=		=
22		14		20

— Weekly SUDOKU —

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

**FEAR &  
KNIGHT**  
answer

G	I	R	T	E	D					
	L		E		E					
S	K	I	M		A			R		
			P	A	R	L	E	Y		
S	I	T						G		
	M							M	A	D
	P	E	N	C	I	L				
	L						T			
	Y						E			

**SCRAMBLERS**  
*solution*  
1. Impart; 2. Clean;  
3. Enemy; 4. Blonde  
*Today's Word*  
**LEMON**

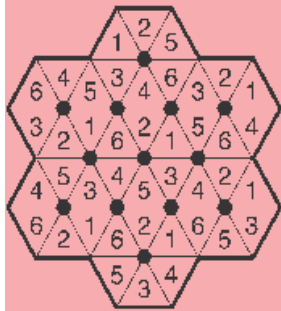
1. Impart; 2. Clean;  
3. Enemy; 4. Blonde

Today's Word  
**LEMON**

**SNOWFLAKES**  
solution

1 2 5  
4 3 6 2 1  
3 2 1 6 2 1 5 6 4  
4 5 3 4 5 3 4 2 1  
6 2 1 6 2 1 6 5 3  
5 3 4

**solution**



—KNIGHT MOVES—  
Answer

C	E	S
C		I
V	E	R

CREVICES

\* In 2002, a Canadian retirement home employee noticed residents wearing Christmas sweaters during the holidays, and as he was complimenting them on their apparel, he was really thinking of tracking down vintage sweaters and inviting friends to join in the fun. That year, Chris Boyd and his friend Justin Birch hosted the first known ugly Christmas sweater party, urging others to attend "the most cheesy, most feel-good party imaginable," wearing the ugliest sweater they could find. That initial gathering of 30 guests grew in four years to a size that required renting a venue at the local university, and by the fifth year grew to the venue of a massive Vancouver ballroom with 1,200 people in attendance. Boyd and Birch even published a book on the subject, "Ugly Christmas Sweater Party Book: The Definitive Guide to Getting Your Ugly On."

\* Even the top fashion giants have gotten into the act, pairing cashmere with beading and gaudy designs. The shelves of high-end stores like Nordstrom fill their shelves with designer alpine sweaters from Dolce and Gabanna, Ralph Lauren, and Stella McCartney.

\* Every year since 2009, talk show host Jimmy Fallon has held the "12 Days of Christmas Sweaters" giveaway, with an audience member selected at random to receive and ingenious creation of his program's costume department over the span of 12 nights. The imaginative garments have included such features as an iPad centerpiece highlighting a roaring fireplace video, and a giant snow globe that actually blew fake snow.

\* Social media has boosted the appeal of ugly sweaters as users post their ugliest sweaters on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter (X). There are ugly sweater 5k runs, bar crawls, parties, and contests. A winning sweater might include LED lights, tinsel, hanging ornaments, jewels, 3-D elements, pom-poms, or a sweater with a 1950s vintage design.

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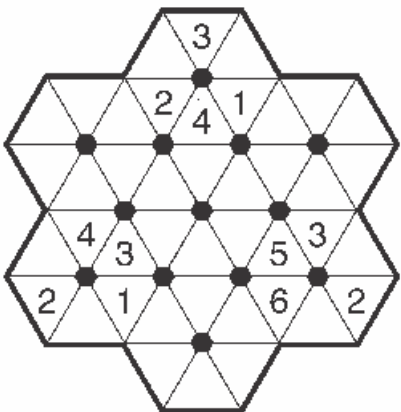
Score each row by replacing one letter from the answer above or below and something to make a new word. When complete, the top and bottom words will have no letters in common.

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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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Answer in the December 21st Issue

## Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
 ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Answer in the December 21st Issue

## 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.

	+		÷		= 9
+		+		+	
	+	5	+		= 17
+		+		×	
	+		÷		= 2
=		=		=	
20		10		54	

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

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Answer in the December 21st 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 L, you get MISTER. Do not change the order of the letters.

1. Kent	A	Counter worker	E
2. Very smart	I	Very muscular	W
3. Country	A	Idea	O
4. Tuscany river	R	"The Roof of the World"	T
5. Hotel foyer	L	Leisure pursuit	H
6. Singer Dolly	T	Forgiveness	D
7. Balanced	D	Humor, like a sauna	M
8. Trust-quencher	T	Thin cookie	F
9. Occupation	R	Meander	N
10. Pituitary, e.g.	L	Canyon	R

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Answer in the December 21st Issue

# FEAR KNIGHT

By: rj johnson

DOUBT? ...OR DARE!

UYO  
GLYNIC  
GRYBU  
RGDU  
TORTIC  
♥ARW  
♥EURL  
ANCBO  
♥NBI  
DRYBOW  
WATLR  
TCRU

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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Answer in the December 21st issue

## CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. Try to think it all. X equals Q. Will you solve the puzzle. Solution is given printed by trial and error.

Clue: I sounds S

AVYJ AFNDO EFN ZYDD LBDXBM  
XS Y KYQXZYD YLXDXJE JF  
OBJBQKXS3 JVB FQXQXS1 FM  
JVXSQ1? IFNGZBGE.

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Answer in the December 21st issue

## STICKELERS

by Terry Stickels

Using these three identical squares, can you create eight squares?

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Answer in the December 21st 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!

Gift  
ARLOV  
Kind  
AHMENU  
Vague  
ROCUBES  
Prompt  
LIMPE

"The vet says he's a very cat"

TODAY'S WORD

Answer in the December 21st issue

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## KNIGHT MOVES

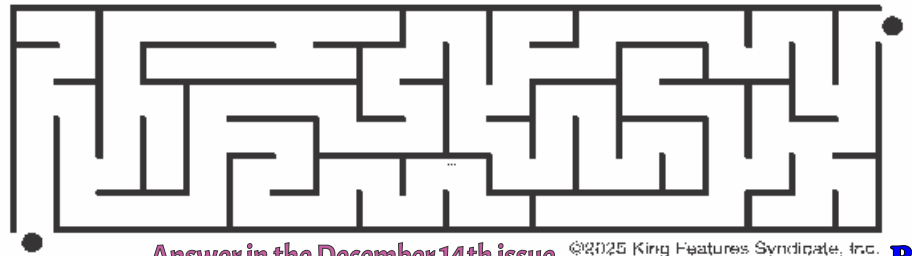
O	R	P
I		R
C	U	E

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 in the December 21st issue

## Kids' Maze



Answer in the December 14th issue ©2025 King Features Syndicate, Inc.





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**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) Make your holiday preparations one step at a time in order to avoid being overwhelmed and leaving things undone. That confusing family situation continues to work itself out.



**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) Ease this year's holiday money pressures by letting your thrifty side guide you as you look for those perfect gifts that typically reflect your good taste and love of beauty.



**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) You'll have a good handle on potential holiday problems if you delegate tasks to family members, friends or co-workers - most of whom will be more than happy to help out.



**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) Right now you are especially vulnerable to holiday scams that seek to take advantage of your generosity. Best advice: Check them out before you transfer any money.



**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) The upcoming holiday season gives the Big Cat much to purr about. Relationships grow stronger, and new opportunities loom on the horizon, just waiting to be pounced on.



**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) A changing situation brings conflicting advice about how to go forward with your holiday plans. Your best bet: make the decision you feel most comfortable with.



**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) Holiday plans get back on track after some confusion about the direction you expected to take. A potentially troublesome money matter needs your immediate attention.



**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21)



Your holiday preparations are on track. But you need to confront a personal situation while you can still keep it from overwhelming everything else.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) Tight financial matters ease a bit during this holiday season, but the sagacious Sagittarian is well-advised to keep a tight hold on the reins while shopping for gifts.



**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) Don't put off making decisions about this year's holiday celebrations, despite the negative comments you have been getting from several quarters. Do it NOW!



**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18)



The holidays will bring new friends and new opportunities. Meanwhile, be careful to use your energy wisely as you go about making holiday preparations.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) There's good news coming from a most unlikely source. And it could turn out to be one of the best holiday gifts you have had in years. Remember to stay positive.



**BORN THIS WEEK:** You are respected for your honesty and loyalty. You make friends slowly - but with rare exceptions, they're in your life forever.

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**THIS WEEK'S CELEBRITY BIRTHDAYS**

Vanessa Hudgens	12/14/88
Don Johnson	12/15/49
Benjamin Bratt	12/16/63
Eugene Levy	12/17/46
Brad Pitt	12/18/63
Jake Gyllenhaal	12/19/80
Alan Parsons	12/20/48

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**On Dec. 15, 1945,** Gen. Douglas MacArthur, in his capacity as Supreme Commander of Allied Powers in the Pacific, ended the role of Shintoism as Japan's established religion. Shintoism included the belief that the emperor was divine.

**On Dec. 16, 1998,** President Bill Clinton announced his order of air strikes against Iraq, due to the country's refusal to cooperate with U.N. weapons inspectors. Key members of Congress did not support the decision, accusing Clinton of using the strikes to direct attention away from his impeachment proceedings.

**On Dec. 17, 2003,** "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King," the final film in the trilogy based on J.R.R. Tolkien's beloved fantasy novels, debuted in theaters. A tremendous hit, it won 11 Academy Awards, and the trilogy became one of the highest-grossing franchises in cinema history.

**On Dec. 18, 1961,** the Tokens' version of "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" became not just a No. 1 song, but a classic - one of the most covered and most. Sadly, a sequence of business arrangements that made millions of dollars for a handful of prominent U.S. music publishers yielded just a \$1,000 personal check from folk singer Pete Seeger to Solomon Linda, a South African performer who composed the tune.

**On Dec. 19, 1986,** Michael Sergio, an actor and Mets fan who parachuted into Game Six of the 1986 World Series at New York's Shea Stadium, was fined \$500 and sentenced to 100 hours of community service for touching down on the infield with a "Let's Go Mets" banner to the cheering support of more than 55,000 spectators.

**On Dec. 20, 1880,** a section of Broadway between Union Square and Madison Square was illuminated by Brush arc lamps, becoming one of the first electrically lighted streets in America and earning the nickname "The Great White Way."

**On Dec. 21, 1913,** the first modern crossword puzzle was published in the New York World, part of a set of what the paper called "mental exercises." Clues included "sunk in mud," "the fibre of the gomuti palm," and "such and nothing more."

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Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Hammer is moved. 2. Truckhouse is not as wide. 3. Tree trunk is different. 4. House is wider. 5. Cap is different. 6. Hand is moved.

**Planting dill and parsley**

Dill plants do not transplant easily due to their long taproot; create a permanent bed by allowing dill to mature and self-seed over the long term. To help establish, plant new seeds every few weeks to ensure an ample supply all summer and to prepare for pickling season. Parsley is rich in vitamins and minerals and adds beauty to both the vegetable and flower garden. There are several varieties, including Italian Flat Leaf and Curly. They can be grown in pots if you have limited space. Dill and parsley will attract and feed the beautiful Eastern Black Swallowtail, and can feed its caterpillars as well. - Brenda Weaver

Source: extension.psu.edu

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## English Christmas

With its rings of holly branches, this majolica platter carries the spirit of Christmas. And with its \$7,735 sale price at Strawser Auction Group, it's certainly something to celebrate! But a closer look shows its symbols are a little different from the decorations most of us may be used to. The birds around the rim are robins; not something you often see on American Christmas decorations, but very popular in the United Kingdom. Robins are often seen there in the winter because they migrate there from Scandinavia and Continental Europe. Then there are the portrait medallions of a white-bearded man who looks a little, but not entirely, like Santa Claus. Instead of a red suit with a matching fur-trimmed hat, he wears a brown robe, carries a staff and is crowned with a wreath of holly. This must be Father Christmas, the English personification of the holiday's festivities. He dates to at least the 15th century and may be influenced by the folkloric figure of the Holly King of winter, whose perpetual battle with the Oak King of summer (who is sometimes represented by a robin) dramatizes the cycle of seasons. As you may have guessed, this platter is an English piece. It was made by George Jones, one of the most celebrated makers of Victorian majolica.



*Victorian English majolica maker George Jones decorated this platter with English Christmas symbols that may be unfamiliar to Americans, but still have the spirit of the holiday.*

**A** The first clue to the bracelet's A: value is the "830S." That is the silver content, meaning it is 83% silver and 17% alloy of other metals. The standard for sterling silver is 925, meaning 92.5% silver. While not sterling silver, 830 silver still has a relatively high silver content, and its higher percentage of alloy means it is more durable than 925 silver. The "JB" mark was used by John Baalerund, whose business operated from 1935 to 1988 in Oslo, Norway. He was known for his enameled silver jewelry. Silver jewelry by Scandinavian designers was extremely popular in the mid-20th century. Today, 830S silver bracelets from that period generally sell for about \$50 to \$150.



**TIP:** Candle drippings can be removed from fabric with the help of ice cubes. Rub the wax with the ice until the wax hardens. Scrape off the hard wax with a credit card or stiff cardboard. If some wax remains, put a blotter over it, and then iron with a warm iron.

## CURRENT PRICES

**Art deco,** punch bowl, chrome cover and ladle, red plastic mounts, glass body, globular, ribbed, c. 1930, 10 x 9 inches, \$150.

**Rug,** Frank Lloyd Wright, shaded pink, gray and red geometrics, fringe, wool, import label, Schumacher, 1980s, 10 feet 11 inches x 7 feet 10 inches, \$1,260.

**Judica,** menorah, Peace Menorah, asymmetrical arms, center mask over star of David, bronze, gold patina, marble base, Salvador Dali, 1981, 20 inches, \$1,905.



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## Americanisms

"The wilderness holds answers to questions we have not yet learned to ask."

— Nancy Wynne Newhall

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## Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps





# Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne



# OLIVE OYL

- \*America's first dentist, John Baker, trained Paul Revere to be a dentist.
- \*A German word for nightmare is "alptraum," or "elf dream." In German folklore, elves were dangerous figures who could control dreams and create nightmares.
- \*Canadians eat more macaroni and cheese than any other nation in the world.
- \*No matter how badly fingerprints are damaged, they will still grow back in their original pattern.
- \*Eggnog originated from the medieval hot, milky ale-like drink known as a posset.
- \*The band name Imagine Dragons is an anagram. Lead singer Dan Reynolds described it as a "phrase that meant something to all of us," but the group has yet to confirm what that is.
- \*Though dragonflies have six legs, they cannot walk.
- \*Ancient pagan cultures such as the Celts believed that benevolent, helpful spirits lived in trees. Knocking on tree trunks roused a spirit for protection, which led to the saying "knock on wood."
- \*The Muppet vampire Count von Count from "Sesame Street," was based on actual vampire myth. One way to supposedly deter the bloodsucking creatures is to throw seeds outside a door. Vampires are compelled to count the seeds, delaying them until morning.
- \*In 1951, Sir Hugh Beaver, the managing director of Guinness Brewery, got into a spat with someone over the world's fastest game bird. When the pair couldn't locate an answer in a book, Beaver had the idea of writing one that would solve pub arguments.
- \*The sun weighs 2,000 million million million tons.

\* \* \*

**Thought for the Day:** "The difference between stupidity and genius is that genius has its limits." — *Albert Einstein*

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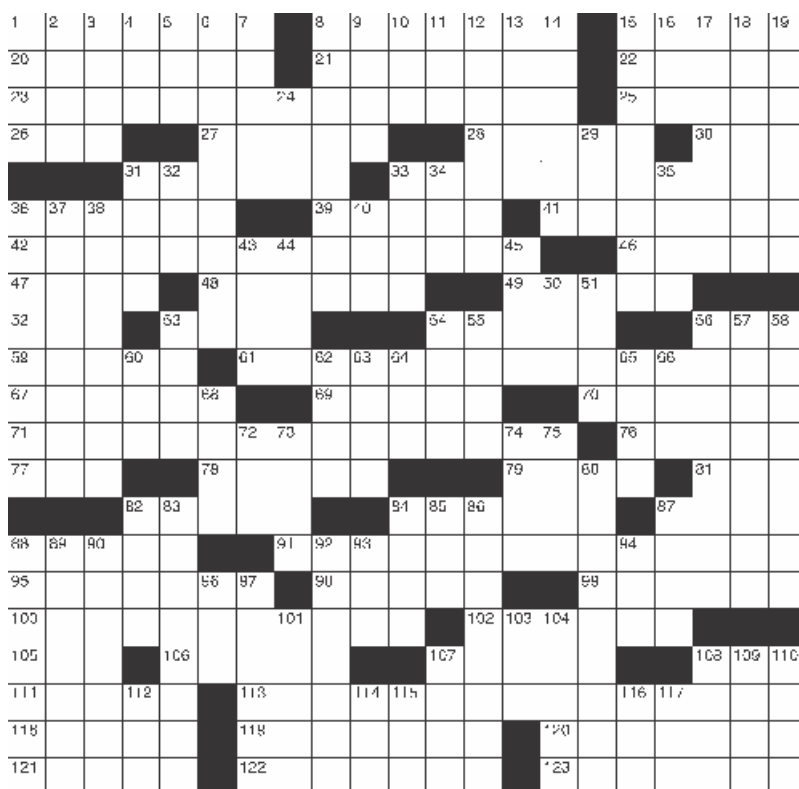
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Answer in the December 21st Issue

## Super Crossword

ONE AND THE SAME

<b>ACROSS</b> 1 Enchilada alternative 6 Throaty like a mad dog 15 Recurring design 20 Proved to be beneficial to 21 Audrey of "Suzanna" 22 "Mug" Brass' author Andrews 23 [Scar] [Sue] 25 Some spongy balls 26 Morning times in brief 27 Ashtabega 32 Spongy 33 [Cognitive] 36 Severe shock 38 Fear of lime 41 Sember 42 Criminal [Criminal] 46 Surrealist painter Max 47 Swiss peaks 48 Ukraine city 49 Having some benefit	52 Pick-up sticks 53 Las Vegas London, say 54 On-line TV announcer 55 Spike of corn 59 "— reason very ..." 61 [Ear] [Site] 67 Rapoport 69 Gas station brand 70 So "great" Silverman 71 "Residence" Residence 76 Old Icelandic poetry books 77 Coast Guard for short 78 Strong winds 79 — and ashe 82 Not sleep 84 Obstruct 87 Panamanian 88 Setting 91 Brothery 95 Bach chorale composition 98 Poets' Muse 99 He potions 100 [Dictated] [Dictated]	102 Accessories for cue sports and backboards 105 Followed "Hill" 106 Gruck up about Toy 107 Ma's video game brother 108 Head devotee 111 Jazz singer 113 [Character] [Character] 118 Snow curves 119 Attack the integrity of 120 Go in circles 121 Buller played by Gabe 122 Foyer sofas 123 For the purpose of diagnosing	8 County of ones 9 State east of Wyo. 10 W. before May 11 Slugging slab 12 Avenger of high-tech 13 Element #15 14 110° light sweats 15 Singer of yip collars, briefly 16 Bird's book 17 Process of being twisted 18 Not slurry, as an image 19 Most rapid 20 Scottish cap 21 Fuzze 22 Cuz loco 23 German "ai" 24 Consolated 25 Metabolic eating 26 Coze through 27 Truists n 28 Option like for device 29 Downloads 30 Hi — screen 31 Like poem's of praise 32 Tawish party	45 Oxidation formation 46 Media product 47 Old Curse native 48 Play for one 49 Bookish whale 50 Roarer in Oz 51 Uncontrolled outbreak 52 Having a pl over? 53 Appraise again 54 Bird's book 55 Wedding veil material 56 Very big birds 57 Cork 58 Low bills 59 Linking word in German 60 Former rival of Nintendo 61 Sturdy wood 62 Synonym for musical staff 63 Either director of "Fargo" 64 Led master 65 They're called to get assistance 66 For payment 67 Mail 68 Russia's Tass	85 Came upon 86 Oblique 87 Leaves 88 Give of an angry look 89 Floor to take a dirty vehicle 90 How sausage links are connected 91 Adjust to a situation again 92 Bush press secretary 93 Planchet 94 "— Tok" 95 (Keanu hit) 96 Phone no. 97 Nice idea 98 Intermittent 99 That fellow's 100 Ancient Greek market 101 — majesty 102 (high rearing) 103 Manicure tool 104 On-road trucks briefly 105 No. in Russia 106 Insect 107 trapper 108 Allow to 109 Sport for teen or adolescent 110 Firm director 111 Large number
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December 7th, 2025 Puzzle Answers



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### Super Crossword

Answers

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

### Kids' Maze Solution

### Five Spot

Solution

V	O	C	A	L
C	A	L	V	E
D	E	C	A	L
C	L	U	E	D
C	U	B	E	D
D	E	B	U	T

### Even Exchange answers

1. Trash, Trawl	8. Blink, Blink
2. Temper, Temper	7. Parley, Parley
3. Debit, Debit	6. Growl, Growl
4. Blank, Blink	9. Farmer, Farmer
5. Cargo, Cargo	10. Motel, Motel