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February 1st,  
2026

# TIDBITS

Of N.W. Colorado  
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Volume 25  
Issue 6

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Tidbits says "Rock on!" with these facts about some famous classic rock artists and their music.

\* In 1966, guitarist Jimmy Page joined The Yardbirds, whose guitarists had included Eric Clapton and Jeff Beck. Two years later, when The Yardbirds disbanded, Page formed a new band he dubbed The New Yardbirds. But that name didn't last long, only a few weeks, before the name was changed to Led Zeppelin. The name was inspired by a "lead balloon" joke, but spelled as "Led," as Page thought Americans might pronounce it as "Leed." He was joined by Robert Plant, John Paul Jones, and John Bonham. The band recorded their debut album in an amazing 36 hours. The cover photo was based on the image of the German zeppelin, the Hindenburg, bursting into flames during its 1937 landing in Lakehurst, New Jersey. Released in January, 1969, the album achieved gold certification that July. Led Zeppelin disbanded in 1980 following the untimely death of their drummer John Bonham. Although the group sold 111 million records in the U.S. alone, they never achieved a Number 1 single. The highest sport they reached on the Billboard Hot 100 was #4, with "Whole Lotta Love," although their second LP stayed on the charts for 117 weeks.

\* The first time that Led Zeppelin performed "Stairway to Heaven" was at a 1971 concert in Belfast, Ireland. The final time was at a Berlin, Germany concert in July, 1980, also the last time Led Zeppelin performed as the full band.

*(keep on Rockin' and Readin' on page 2)*

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Lawyer #2: Why do you say that?

Lawyer #1: You do so much pro-Bono work

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\* Initially known under the name of Redwood, the band Three Dog Night made their official debut under their new name in 1968 at West Hollywood's famous nightclub Whiskey-A-Go-Go on Sunset Boulevard. From 1969 to 1974, the band released at least one Top 40 single every three months, 21 in all, a nearly-six-year run, including "One," "Mama Told Me Not To Come," "Joy to the World," "Shambala," "Never Been to Spain," and "Black and White." Three Dog Night has 12 Gold albums, since the group's beginnings in 1967, 27 different musicians have played in the band.

\* Three of the four founding members of the British rock band Pink Floyd met in 1963 at London Polytechnic where all were studying architecture. Because the fourth member was a fan of two American blues singers, South Carolina's Pink Anderson and North Carolina's Floyd Council, the name of Pink Floyd was born. The band's most successful album was 1973's "Dark Side of the Moon," which remained in Billboard's Top 200 for 591 consecutive weeks. Their final album, "The Endless River," was released in 2014 as a tribute to their keyboardist, who had died in 2008. The album features primarily instrumental music from their previous works. Pink Floyd's most successful single was 1979's "Another Brick in the Wall," a protest song against rigid school policies and schools' corporal punishment practices. The song featured a children's choir singing "We don't need no education." In 2004, those children filed a lawsuit against the band, demanding to get paid, a grievance that was unsuccessful.

\* Canadian musician Burton Cummings became a member of The Guess Who in 1966, joining founding member Randy Bachman. In 1970, the band released "American Woman," co-written by Cummings and Bachman, a song that topped the charts in both Canada and the U.S. Other hits included "Undun," "These Eyes," "No Sugar Tonight," "No Time," and "Laughing." At the height of the Guess Who's popularity, Bachman left the band to form Bachman-Turner Overdrive, often known as BTO, with his two brothers Robbie and Tim and friend Fred Turner. BTO's first Top 40 hit in the U.S. was "Let it Ride" in 1974, but they had already experienced enormous success with "You Ain't seen Nothin' Yet" and "Tak-in' Care of Business."

\* The British band Deep Purple was in Montreux, Switzerland in December, 1971, preparing to record their album "Machine Head" on the morning following a Frank Zappa concert in the same theater. During Zappa's performance, a spectator fired a flare gun at the ceiling, starting a fire that completely destroyed the venue. As the members of Deep Purple watched the smoke spreading over Lake Geneva from their hotel window, the idea came for the megahit "Smoke on the Water," with opening lyrics of "We all came out to Montreux, on the Lake Geneva shoreline." The line in Verse 2, "Swiss time was running out" was reference to the fact that the band members' visas were set to expire in the near future. Frank Zappa and his band are mentioned in the first verse, as the song narrates the evening's events. An alternate recording venue was found, the Grand Hotel de Territet, and most of the album was soon recorded within a few weeks, all except for "Smoke on the Water," which was added later. "Smoke on the Water" is on "Rolling Stone" magazine's list of the 500 greatest songs of all time.

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**TIDBITS**

**NUGGET OF KNOWLEDGE**

Led Zeppelin had their own custom-made airplane named "The Starship," which contained a video library, keyboard organ, shower room, and a bar. In addition to their own touring use, the band leased the plane out to other bands - Deep Purple, Peter Frampton, and the Rolling Stones, among others - for \$30,000.

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\* Before he was Steven Tyler of Aerosmith frontman fame, he was Steven Victor Tallarico, the son of a classical pianist who taught music at a Bronx high school. At age 16, Tyler formed his own band called the Strangers, later renamed Chain Reaction. In 1970, Chain Reaction and another group, Jam Band, combined to form a new band, considering the names Spike Jones and Fox Chase before settling on Aerosmith. The band landed a record deal with Columbia Records in 1972. their debut single was "Dream On," a song composed years before by a teenaged Tyler on his father's piano. The ever-popular "Walk This Way" was released in 1975. Aerosmith is one of the best-selling American hard rock bands, with sales of 150 million records worldwide, earning 25 gold, 18 platinum, and 12 multi-platinum albums.

\* Four El Cerrito teens, including two brothers John and Tom Fogerty, formed the Blue Velvets in 1959, changed the name to The Golliwogs in 1964, before settling on Creedence Clearwater Revival in 1967. Their style of music was called "Swamp Rock," a type of Louisiana bayou music, leading listeners to believe they hailed from Louisiana. The band's first hit was "Susie Q" in 1968, followed by their first Top 10 hit, one of their most famous, "Proud Mary," in 1969. The popular "Bad Moon Rising" and "Fortunate Son" were also released in 1969, the year CCR performed in the rain and mud at Woodstock. Their existence was not a long one, from 1967 to 1972, but they did reunite now and then, notably in 1977 in Moscow in front of 80,000 fans when they sang all of their songs in Russian. The song "Green River alone had upwards of 9,000 words.

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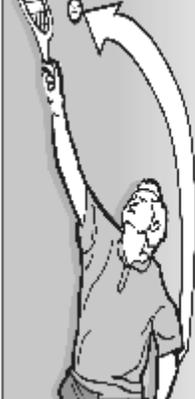
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### STAN SMITH'S TENNIS CLASS



## TOSS OUT IN FRONT

To unleash the power on your serve, you need to uncoil your lower body on contact. This requires tossing the ball in front of you so your momentum carries you forward getting your body weight behind the serve.



Many players rob power from their serve by tossing the ball behind them, making their arm bent at contact and stopping their body momentum from moving forward. Hiding the ball behind your head can also make it land long.



Although the Big Wheel bike is probably the Marx Toy Company's most well-known contribution to the world of fun and games, the company was around for 50 years before they introduced that low-riding tricycle. Follow along as Tidbits rolls out the facts on this toy manufacturer.

\* Brothers Louis and David Marx founded their toy company in New York City in 1919, committed to giving their customers quality toys for an affordable price. By 1922, both of them were millionaires. The company placed their products in mail-order catalogues and in department stores like Sears, Penney's, Spiegel, and Montgomery Ward. Their early playthings were tin toys, toy soldiers, and train sets. The addition of yo-yos during the 1920s brought sales of over 100 million toys. By the late 1930s, the Marx Toy Company had assets of upwards of \$3.2 million, about \$73 million in today's dollars. Sales in 1941 were \$20 million, and Louis Marx was declared the nation's "Toy King."

\* Metal dollhouses furnished with plastic furniture along with metal service stations added to the company's success. During the 1960s, with the threat of the Cold War, a dollhouse was offered that included a bomb shelter. Children's typewriters also added to their increasing sales base.

\* Marx's 1950s train sets included small four inch tin cars with a wind-up or electric engine. Plastic 1950s cars including Volkswagen, Jaguar, Ford, Chevrolet, Studebaker, and a GMC van, were marketed as accessories for the

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company's metal gas station sets and rail station toys.

\* In the 1950s and 1960s, Marx introduced several boxed playsets based on popular television shows, such as "Gunsmoke," "Wagon Train," "The Rifleman," and "The Lone Ranger." Historical playsets depicted Davy Crockett, the Revolutionary War, Robin Hood, and the Battle of the Little Big Horn, Fort Apache and Ben Hur, along with sets for circuses, farms and construction sites. During the 1950s, Marx was the world's largest toy manufacturer, and in 1955, experienced \$50 million in sales.

\* The Space Race introduced new offerings from Marx - Cape Canaveral, Moon Base, Rex Mars, and other space-themed sets.

\* The year 1964 brought another Marx Toy Company success, Rock 'em, Sock 'em Robots, a set of two dueling robot boxers, Red Rocker and Blue Bomber. With mechanical controls, players aim to knock the opposing robot's head up and off the shoulders. According to the toy's box, the "rollicking Red Rocker from Soltarus II" weighs 375 lbs., while the "beautiful Blue Bomber, pride of Umgluck," weighs in at 382 lbs. The Robots were seen in several movie including 1995's "Toy Story 2," 2002's "The Santa Clause 2," and "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" in 2005. An original Robots playset in its original box can fetch as much as \$300 today.

\* Marx debuted the Big Wheel in 1969, a low costs, low riding tricycle with a large front wheel and shallow seat. It was deemed safer than a traditional bike or trike with minimal tip overs and falls.

\* The company was sold to the Quaker Oats Company in 1972 for \$4 million (about \$410 million in today's money), but Quaker failed to get on the electronic toys bandwagon, leading to the closure of two of the Marx plants, followed by a sale to another conglomerate. Sadly the final Marx factory closed in 1979, and with its parent company filing for bankruptcy, the Marx brand disappeared forever.



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Their manager named them after a well-known Michigan rail line, Grand Trunk Western Railroad. They were the first U.S. rock band to have 10 platinum discs in a row. A Detroit concert at a 30,000 seat venue sold out in just two hours, 15 minutes, a venue it had taken The Rolling Stones five weeks to sell out, and the Beatles two days. When Grand Funk played at New York City's Shea Stadium in 1971, 55,000 seats sold out in 72 hours.

\* You've probably never heard of the band, Mookie Blaylock, their first name when they formed in Seattle in 1990. Before that the group was known as Mother Love bone, but disbanded after the death of their lead singer. In March of 1991, the band became Pearl Jam, with their live debut in August of that year at Seattle's Mural Amphitheatre, a free concert that brought in 4,000 fans. Four days later, Pearl Jam released their first album, "Ten." The album was such a success, it stayed on the Billboard chart for nearly five years, achieving 13X Platinum status in the U.S. Their second album in 1993 set a record for most copies sold in the first week of release with sales topping 950,000, and their third album was the second fastest CD in history for the first week in sales.

\* The members of the band Foreigner settled on their name easily because three of the members were British and three were American, so that half of the members would be "foreigners" when performing in their home countries. The group formed in New York City in 1976 and released their first album in 1977, one that contained the top singles "Feels Like the First Time" and "Cold as Ice." Their second album included "Hot Blooded" and "Double Vision." Their first six albums were all certified multi-platinum. Foreigner's greatest hit is "I Want to Know What Love Is," listed on "Rolling Stone Magazine's" list of greatest songs of all time. "Waiting for a Girl Like You" was #2 on the charts for 14 weeks.

\* The "27 Club" isn't a desirable club to belong to, consisting of a list of musicians who died at age 27. There were four between 1969 and 1971, beginning with Rolling Stones' guitarist Brian Jones, who drowned. Jimi Hendrix died in September, 1970, followed closely by Janis Joplin in October, both drug related deaths. The Doors' Jim Morrison passed away in July, 1971, reportedly from a heart failure. The "club" was "revived" in 1994 with the death of Kurt Cobain, and again in 2011 when Amy Winehouse died at 27.



Neil & Jess

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Before they were famous, Mick Jagger and Keith Richards were childhood friends in elementary school beginning in 1950. The pair teamed up to form The Rolling Stones in 1962 in London, although that wasn't their original name. They were first The Blue Boys, followed by The Rollin' Stones, named for blues man Muddy Waters' 1950 single. At their initial gig in 1962, they were billed as The Rollin' Stones, but changed to their current name shortly afterward. Their debut album was released in 1964, followed by their first international #1 hit "I Can't Get No Satisfaction," released in the summer of 1965. Jagger and Richards have written most of the Stones' songs, including 1969's "You Can't Always Get What You Want," 1971's popular ballad "Wild Horses," and the 1973 global hit "Angie." Although Keith Richards is frequently portrayed as "older than dirt," Mick Jagger is actually older, with Jagger's 82 years to Richards' 81. The Stones' "One Last Ride" 2026 farewell tour, scheduled to appear in 40 cities spanning five continents was called off in November, 2025.

\* Grand Funk Railroad, the band that brought us "We're an American Band", "Some Kind of Wonderful", and "I'm Your Captain," started out in a Flint, Michigan garage in 1969 as a trio.

**TIDBITS Laughs!**

**Fred: "I've opened up a gym helping aging rock band members get back into shape!"**  
**Sam: "Oh, how's it going?"**  
**Fred: "Okay so far. I'm just working out the Kinks.."**




**February 1st, 2026 Puzzle Answers**

**Super Crossword**

**Answers**

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

**Even Exchange**

Donna M. Pettman

1. Defend, Depend	6. Clear, Clean
2. Metal, Medal	7. Orange, Grange
3. Acorn, Adom	8. Break, Bleak
4. Hargar, Hanger	9. Lawyer, Sawyer
5. Torch, Touch	10. Shave, Suave

**Sticklers Answer**

5 sheets are needed.

One large sheet is placed first, then two squares 1/4 the size of the largest sheet.

Now add the diamond square and the square inside the diamond.

**THIS WEEK'S CELEBRITY BIRTHDAYS**

Mary Steenburgen	02/08/53
Joe Pesci	02/09/43
Laura Dern	02/10/67
Jennifer Aniston	02/11/69
Christina Ricci	02/12/80
Neal McDonough	02/13/66
Meg Tilly	02/14/60

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# Fun Fact

Great white sharks are the largest predatory fish on our planet, growing as long as 20 feet and weighing as much as 4,000 pounds. The mouth of a great white is equipped with a set of 300 sharp, triangular teeth arranged in up to seven rows.

Sources:  
[oceana.org](http://oceana.org),  
[www.natgeokids.com](http://www.natgeokids.com),  
[www.fisheries.noaa.gov](http://www.fisheries.noaa.gov)

fisheries.  
noaa.gov



**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) You might need to be certain that all the right conditions are in place before you take the first step. It can't hurt to listen to good advice from those who have your best interests at heart.



**TACRUS** (April 20 to May 20) Be careful not to get involved in other people's disputes unless you know the facts behind the disagreements. This is the best way to be assured of making wise and honest decisions.



**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) You still need to be careful about how you're going to spend the energy reserves that you finally got around to restoring. Best advice: Avoid overdoing it, let things take their course.



**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) Your aspect continues to favor travel – alone or with a special person. So, if you've been putting off making some getaway plans, it's still a good time to get started on them.



**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) Some so-called golden opportunities that continue to dazzle the Lion still need to be carefully checked out. Be suspicious about anything that looks like the "perfect" prospect.



**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) Changes at the workplace could make it more difficult to do things the way that you prefer. But the wise Virgo who shows some flexibility could find it paying off in a big way.



**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) You might want to check out the explanation you were given for a sudden shift in your duties. There's a possibility you haven't been told all the facts you deserve to know.



**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) Having confidence in your abilities is important especially when you could be facing a new challenge, whether it's in the workplace or in a personal relationship. Good luck!



**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) A new work-related opportunity might not be all that it appears to be. Before making any decisions, you might want to check with others who have had some experience in this area.



**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) A situation involving someone close could benefit from your timely intervention. Avoid being judgmental. There will be plenty of time later for the "little talks" you like to have.



**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) Travel could be a surprise element in a new project. Be prepared for other previously undisclosed aspects that might also come to light as you proceed with the work.



**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) Try to balance your work related responsibilities with the time that you're spending on your recently revived social life. In addition, an old friend might be planning to return after a long absence.



**BORN THIS WEEK:** Your sensitivity makes you aware of the needs of others. Have you considered a career as a counselor?

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**On Feb. 9, 2022**, snowboard marvel Chloe Kim made history as the first athlete to earn a gold medal in the women's snowboard half-pipe event in two consecutive Winter Olympics. Four years earlier, she had also become the youngest winner of that event at age 17.

**On Feb. 10, 1943**, duct tape was born when factory worker Vesta Stoudt, who packed WWII munitions, sent a letter to Franklin Delano Roosevelt outlining, with drawings, her idea to replace weak paper packing tape with a tougher and waterproof cloth version. The president was impressed enough to launch the suggestion into production.

**On Feb. 11, 2012**, singer Whitney Houston was found dead in the bathtub of her suite at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, California. The cause of death was determined to be accidental drowning with contributing factors of heart disease and cocaine.

**On Feb. 12, 1970**, Joseph Searles III became the first black member of the New York Stock Exchange, following in the footsteps of Clarence B. Jones, who three years previously was the first African American to become an allied NYSE member, but without trading floor access.

**On Feb. 13, 1961**, Col. Bernard Irwin, an assistant army surgeon serving in the first major U.S.-Apache conflict, volunteered to go to the rescue of 2nd Lt. George N. Bascom, who was trapped with 60 men of the U.S. Seventh Infantry by the Chiricahua Apaches in southeastern Arizona, in what became the earliest military action to be awarded a Medal of Honor.

**On Feb. 14, 1980**, playwright Lillian Hellman sued novelist and critic Mary McCarthy for libel, demanding \$2.25 million in damages. The case posed the tricky question of where the legal line stands between a critic's free speech and malicious libel.

**On Feb. 15, 1961**, the entire 18 member U.S. figure skating team was killed in a plane crash in Berg-Kamphenhout, Belgium, while on their way to the 1961 World Figure Skating Championships in Prague, Czechoslovakia. Investigators were unable to determine the exact cause of the crash, though mechanical difficulties were suspected.

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**TIDBITS ONE MORE FACT**

Mick Jagger was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II in 2003 "in recognition of his contributions to music and his philanthropic endeavors."

February 1st, 2026

Go Figure!

answers

8	+	9	-	2	=	15
+		+		+		
7	+	6	×	3	=	39
÷		×		÷		
1	+	4	÷	5	=	1
=		=		=		
15		60		1		

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**The Garden Bug**

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planter</li> <li>• iScape</li> <li>• Gardenize</li> <li>• Gardroid</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planta</li> <li>• From Seed to Spoon</li> <li>• Garden Manager</li> <li>• Moon and Garden</li> </ul>

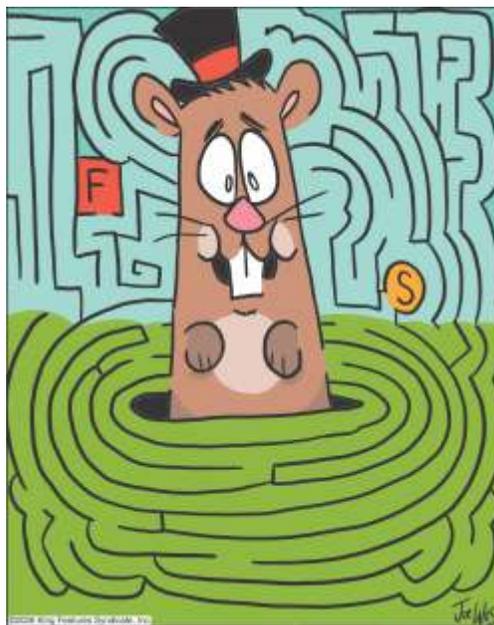
— Brenda Weaver  
Source: [gardentherapy.ca](http://gardentherapy.ca)

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					They give the Ivy League its name
					Famous armless statue

Solve each row by selecting one letter from the 5 letters above or below and scrambling to make a new word. When completed, the top 5 and bottom words will have no letters in common.

The Sports Director of Michael H. Jordan  
The Denver Post/Post-Express © 1992

Answer in the February 15th Issue

## 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 February 15th Issue

# BINGO

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

Friday Night Elks Lodge Bingo  
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Games Start 6:30 pm

Sunday Afternoon American Legion  
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## Weekly SUDOKU

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

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 February 15th 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.

	+		×		=	70		
+	■	+	■	-	■			
	-		×		=	6		
÷	■	+	■	+	■			
	+		+		=	15		
=	■	=	■	=	■			
6	■	16	■	10	■			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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Answer in the February 15th 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 MASTER. Do not change the order of the letters.

1 Car used to tow	— E — — —	Subtraction sign	— I — — —
2 Car bumper	F — — — —	Financier	L — — — —
3 Clothes stiffness	T — — — —	Unit for	F — — — —
4 Threw like Nolan Ryan	— — — — —	Week	— — N — —
5 Cool and invigorating	S — — — —	Wason's book	— — — C —
6 He asked for "more"	O — — — —	Spindle	S — — — —
7 Gawks	T — — — —	Purify	C — — — —
8 Unstable	A — — — —	Strainer or sieve	I — — — —
9 Swap	— — — J —	Smidgeon	— — — C —
10 Racket	N — — — —	Composure	P — — — —

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Answer in the February 15th Issue



**SCRABLERS**  
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!

Sweet  
MEALCAR

Cipher  
DECO

Exclusive  
INDIES

Clumsy  
TIPEN

**TODAY'S WORD**

"Sure, I've got a great diet —  
the low-\_\_\_\_\_ diet!"

Answer in the February 15th Issue

**CryptoQuip**

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that K equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Scouton is accomplished by trial and error.

Cue: F equals P

FHEFRH JTEQRV GH LHYS  
FYQVHAU DTHA JHRHIUOAC  
GHLHYXCH IEAUXOAHYJ. ITEEJH  
SEQY GEURHJ DOJHRS!

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Answer in the February 15th Issue

**KNIGHT MOVES**

I	O	E
P		L
T	N	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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Answer in the February 15th Issue

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**STICKELLERS** (TM)  
by Terry Stickels

See how many anagrams you can find for the following words.

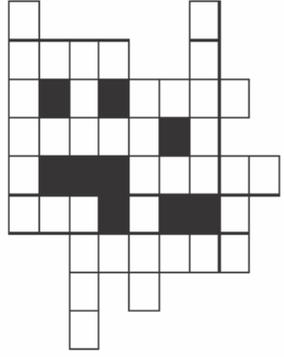
- stimulate
- percussion
- aligned
- gander

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Answer in the February 15th Issue

**FEAR & KNIGHT**  
By: R. Johnson  
JOB? ... OR DARE!

ANC  
♥ DACERG  
ERMEC  
♥ ERDI  
♥ RIDONA  
GDU  
ONAR  
NEMIC  
♥ REA  
♥ EMREDA  
DANLE  
♥ DSGE



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. ♥ RATHER becomes HATER or EARTH or HEART). Fill each string's word either across or down to knot all twelve strings together.

Answer in the February 15th Issue

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**WORD SPIRAL**

	S	W
N		
I		C

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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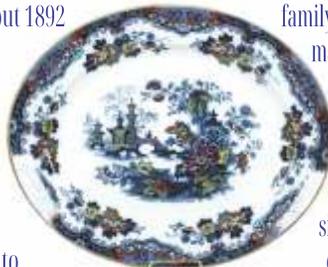
Answer in the February 15th Issue **Page 9**



## Ironstone Ceramics

If you're familiar with 19th-century ceramics, you probably know about ironstone. It was first made by English potter Miles Mason, who sold Chinese export porcelain and decided to make his own replacements for broken dishes. To make these replacements, he created a ceramic using slag from processing iron, which his son patented as ironstone in 1813. Heavy, durable and hard to chip, it was clearly different from porcelain, but quickly became a favorite for tableware. Many other potteries began making ironstone, especially in the Staffordshire district of England. Albion Pottery, also known as Bourne & Leigh, active from about 1892 to 1941, was one of them.

The platter shown here, which sold for \$95 at DuMouchelles, is an example of their ironstone. The pattern's name, "Chinese," evokes Mason's original intention of making dishes to use with Chinese porcelain. Many popular ironstone patterns imitated East Asian designs. This Albion Pottery platter includes a landscape with buildings and a bridge with a figure, reminiscent of Nanking china or the design that inspired the famous Blue Willow pattern. A close look at the platter's border shows geometric patterns like the ones found on Chinese porcelain.



Printed Staffordshire pottery goes beyond blue transfers. This oval platter by Albion Pottery has colorful decorations reminiscent of Chinese porcelain.

**Q:** I have a child's chair shaped like a hand-carved bear cub that looks like a Black Forest piece but I'm not sure. Can you tell me, and what is worth? How old, too?

**A:** Black Forest furniture was first made in the late 1800s. Several wood carving schools were established in Switzerland and southern Germany by then. Wooden furniture and figurines carved into the shapes of local animals like deer, bears and wolves were popular souvenirs. Walnut and linden woods were frequently used. Carving shops were often run by families. One of the most famous was the Trauffer family of Switzerland. Three generations of Trauffers made Black Forest furniture from the 1880s to the 1950s. Check your chair for a maker's signature. Black Forest furniture production declined by the 1960s because it was going out of fashion. However, it came back into fashion in the 1980s, since then, reproduction pieces have been made outside Germany and Switzerland. Authentic Black Forest furniture from about 1880 to 1950 sells for high prices. Pieces with bears have sold for about \$300 to over \$3,000 at recent auctions. Pieces with large animal figures as part of the structure, like a table that appears to be held up by its bear shaped supports or chairs like yours where the bear makes up the chair's back, seat and arms, tend to sell for more. Bears are the most common animal seen in Black Forest furniture, so pieces that feature other animals can get even higher prices.

**TIP:** To whiten stained ironstone, soak it, completely submerged, for a week. Then heat it in a preheated electric oven at 250 degrees for 20 minutes.

### \* \* \* CURRENT PRICES

**Opaline**, vase, blue bands, gilt trim, multicolor flowers around shoulder, flared neck, slightly flared base, 9 inches, pair, \$100.

**Sports**, snooker, scoreboard, mahogany, walnut, shaped top, gilt urn finial, three mirrors, sliding markers, Victorian, 27 1/2 x 38 inches, \$255.

**Advertising**, cabinet, Dr. B.J. Kendall's, patent medicines, veterinary, wood, glass door, two interior shelves, 38 x 18 inches, \$1,030.



For more collecting news, tips and resources, visit: [www.kovels.com](http://www.kovels.com)



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February 1st, 2026

**TIDBITS QUOTE**

*"You may say I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one."*  
~ John Lennon, lyrics from "Imagine"

**SNOWFLAKES**  
solution

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# Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- \* The living room set of "The Addams Family" TV series was actually pink.
- \* About 1,350 potentially active volcanoes presently exist on Earth, with the majority of them found along a 25,000-mile-long, horseshoe-shaped ribbon bordering the Pacific Ocean that's commonly known as the "Ring of Fire."
- \* Chopsticks in Asia are about 2,000 years older than forks in Europe.
- \* The color red appears in nearly every shot of Stanley Kubrick's 1980 horror classic "The Shining."
- \* Michaelangelo only signed one piece of art, the "Madonna della Pieta," and that was supposedly because he overheard his work credited to a rival and sneaked back to include his name on the sash across the Virgin Mary's chest.
- \* Philadelphia cream cheese doesn't hail from Philadelphia. It originated in New York.

- \* People spend roughly 10% of their waking hours with their eyes closed. That's OK, we know you're just thinking.
- \* No American president has been an only child.
- \* In 1954, the mayor of the wine-growing town Chateaufauf-du-Pape in France issued a memorable decree that banned the "flying over, landing or taking off of flying saucers." It's unclear whether anyone ever considered how such an event should be handled should it definitely occur.
- \* Shaquille O'Neal missed 5,317 free throws over the course of his career.
- \* Only three music companies are responsible for more than 80% of the music we listen to: Sony BMG, Warner Music Group and Universal Music Group.
- \* Spiders, like humans, can have arachnophobia. Small wonder, since certain species regularly eat each other for food, after mating and for other reasons scientists don't yet fully understand.

**Thought for the Day:** "You can make positive deposits in your own economy every day by reading and listening to powerful, positive, life-changing content and by associating with encouraging and hope-building people." Zig Ziglar

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## Puzzles4Kids by Helene Hovanoc

### CODED RIDDLE

Change each letter to the one that comes immediately BEFORE it in the alphabet to find a riddle and its answer.

Here's a copy of the alphabet to guide you:

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

X I B U T I P V M E Z P V T B Z

U P B O B O H S Z Q P M B S C F B S ?

O P U I J O H . K V T U S V O B X B Z I

Answer in February 15th Issue



Hello Everybody! I was wondering if you like to read Tidbits and enjoy all the fun stuff to do in each copy? If you do, then please send the Tidbits folks an email recommending that everyone pick up a copy so they can enjoy it as well. Make sure to tell them who you are so that they can give you credit if they use your recommendation. The email is [nwcotidbits@msn.com](mailto:nwcotidbits@msn.com) ~Thanks! Stay warm!



## TIDBITS GOES LONG.....

Steve Miller is the only remaining original member of the Steve Miller Band, the group he founded in 1966. Miller, who brought us "Space Cowboy," "Fly Like an Eagle," "Take the Money and Run," and "The Joker," was once a student of legendary guitarist Les Paul..

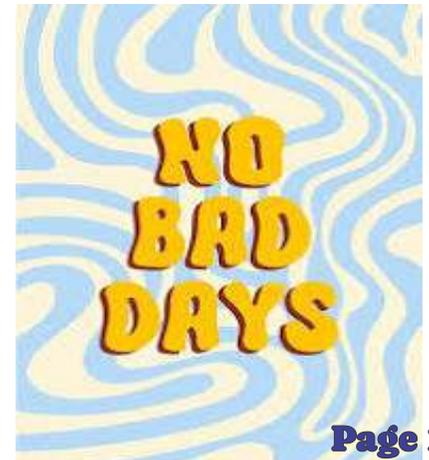
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February 1st, 2026 Puzzle Answers

**CryptoQuip**  
answer

When you persuade many people to move to Ukraine's capital, what do you do? Thicken Kiev.

**SCRAMBLERS**  
solution

- 1. Imply; 2. Shade;
- 3. Wallow; 4. Attire

Today's Word  
**WEALTHY**

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

**Word Spiral**  
Answer

TABULATOR

**Kids' Maze Solution**



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\* This tip will change your life when peeling eggs: After you have hard-boiled your eggs, drain them and leave them in the pot. put the lid on the pot and shake. shake in all directions for up to a minute. The eggs practically slip right out of their shells just rinse and prep.  
 \* "I feed my ktty cat outside on the back porch, but she eats a little at a time, and whenever she took a break, the ants would be all over her food. Now I serve my little princess in a teacup and saucer I found at a thrift store. I put the food in the cup and then put a little water in the saucer. The ants won't get the food ever, because they can't cross the water to get to it. Kitty is very happy now that she can take her time." -O.W. in Arkansas  
 \* "To distinguish your keys, especially house keys that have similar stamp simply paint the key head with different colors of nail polish. You could even add a very subtle dot of the matching polish on the key lock. Reapply as needed." -S.L. in Oregon

\* Use a flat iron to iron your collar if it's rump- led. This also works to straighten out button holes that have crimped.  
 \* "To mark the end on a roll of tape, save your bread tabs. Stick it on the end and it will be ready and easy to start the next time you need tape, you can use two clips - one at either side of the tape. This way, it won't split on you. - M.E. in Maryland

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## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

GERALD, I PICKED UP THAT CEREAL YOU KEEP BEGGING ME TO GET FOR YOU.

OOH, CAPTAIN FROSTY! THIS IS ONE OF MY FAVORITES.

FAKE COLORING, NO NUTRITION. DEAR, WHAT ABOUT THIS STUFF MAKES YOU THINK IT'S GOOD?

CRUNCH! CRUNCH! CRUNCH!

FIRST OFF, IT'S GOTTA TURN YOUR TONGUE PURPLE.



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# Americanisms



“Work like you don’t need the money. Love like you’ve never been hurt. Dance like nobody’s watching.”  
 — Satchel Paige

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## Holidays & Observances This Week

- 02/08 Boy Scout Anniversary Day
- 02/09 International Epilepsy Awareness Day
- 02/10 Umbrella Day
- 02/11 International Day of Women & Girls in Science
- 02/12 Lincoln's Birthday
- 02/13 World Radio Day
- 02/14 Valentine's Day



## VETERANS POST

by Freddy Croves

### Incomplete Training for Audiologists

You wouldn't think you would need to wonder about a risk of suicide related to the audiology department of a clinic or the kind of work they do there or in having hearing checkup. But you'd be wrong. Tinnitus (ringing, buzzing, clicking or other sounds in the ears) is the number one service-connected disability, and those who have often also have PTSD, behavior disorders, substance abuse, mental health problems and anxiety. It seems that looking for those concerts when there is a diagnosis of tinnitus would be standard care when being seen by an audiologist. Again, you'd be wrong. What doesn't always happen is training of audiology staff in suicide risk identification and intervention. Clinical staff are trained to a yearly suicide risk screening on patients. However, audiologists are not always recognized as clinical staff. Therefore, audiologists are only partially trained - they only receive Signs, Ask, Validate, Encourage and Expedite training. Clinical staff, on the other hand, receive the full Skills Training for Evaluation and Management of Suicide and need to complete it within 90 days of starting their job. What the VA's Office of Inspector General (OIG) found in 132 facilities was that non-clinical staff got the training, but most clinical staff did not. Are audiologists considered healthcare providers or not? That question was batted back and forth, with policymakers seeming unsure. And it left the OIG with a concern: If audiologists are not considered health care providers, are they or are they not getting the correct suicide risk training? And are they actually doing the suicide screenings? The OIG investigation results from two years indicate that no, they're not doing all the screenings. For those two years, only 22 and 39% of screenings were done. And at 15 facilities, no screenings were done at all. For 29,000 VA patients who only get audiology care, that means nobody was doing any suicide risk assessments on them for those two years.

THUMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS  
**POPEYE**  
 BY RANDY M. RUSSELL

SOMEONE IS HERE SEEKING POWER AND AID. SEA HAG.

EXCELLENT! ANOTHER WILLING SAP TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF!

IT'S HAM GRAVY.

IT'S NO FUN WHEN THEIR SPIRIT IS PRE-BROKEN.

HAM GRAVY! I HOPED I'D SEEN THE LAST OF YOU.

SEA HAG, I'M BEGGING YOU TO GRANT ME THE POWER TO DEFEAT POPEYE!

I NEED REVENGE FOR HIM STEALING OUIVE, MY ONE TRUE LOVE!

YOU HIT ON ME THREE TIMES WHILE WAITING FOR SEA HAG.

SO YOU'RE A CREEP AND BAD AT CONTEXT CLUES. GREAT.

I KNOW IT'S A WASTE OF TIME, BUT I'LL HELP YOU. ALL I NEED IS TEN THOUSAND UP FRONT.

BUCKS?!  
 NOW, FOREHEAD KISSES.

OF COURSE, BUCKS!

I WAS HOPIN' SINCE YOU'RE A WITCH I COULD JUST GIVE YOU MY FIRSTBORN.

FIRST, I'VE RAISED ENOUGH KIDS, SECOND?

IT FEELS LIKE YOU WANNA HURT MY FEELINGS.

AW, HAH! IT'S SO CUTE YOU BELIEVE I THINK YOU HAVE FEELINGS.

I DO NOT WANT ANYTHING THAT'S HALF YOU.

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# HIGH WAYS

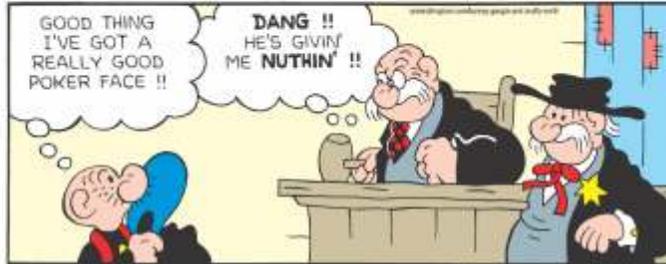
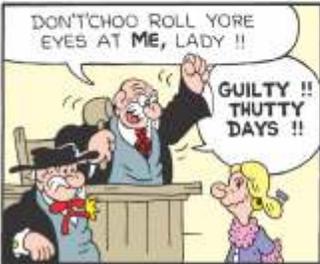
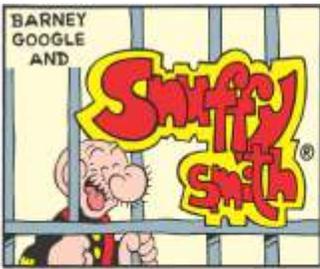
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**KNIGHT MOVES**  
Answer

C <sub>7</sub>	S <sub>4</sub>	L <sub>1</sub>
I <sub>2</sub>		I <sub>6</sub>
T <sub>5</sub>	K <sub>8</sub>	P <sub>3</sub>

LIPSTICK

**February**  
**1st, 2026**  
**PUZZLE**  
**ANSWERS**

**LEAD & TRAIL**  
answer

D				E
R			DOT	
A	D	Z	E	G
K			EARTH	
H	E	A	R	I
E			O	V
A			T	R
L	I	T	H	E
				D

**FiveSpot** Solution

S	N	O	W	Y
D	O	W	N	S
S	W	O	R	D
D	O	R	I	S
R	I	D	E	S
D	R	I	V	E

**Reading and Writing for Relaxation**



But what shall we do with our free time, once we have silenced the noise? We can read... "Homework for Grown-ups: Everything You Learned at School and Promptly Forgot," by Elizabeth Foley and Beth Coates, which is a trip down memory of all the facts and tidbits you used to know. The topics are covered in bite-size sections and include English language and literature, math, home economics, history, science and much more. Still wonder if you should use "that" or "which" in a sentence? Or you don't remember the answer when your grandchild asks, "What's the difference between a parallelogram and a rhombus?" Or if you need a refresher about rock, paper, scissors, the book will remind you. At the end of each section is a quiz with answers in the back of the book.

If you read a few pages every day, you'll find it addicting! And we can write.... When is the last time you wrote someone a letter? Not an email, not a text message, not a letter typed on the computer and printed out, but a handwritten letter written on nice stationery with a matching envelope. And yes, they still make such things, sold in sets. While you're shopping for stationery, consider buying a journal. If you make a habit of writing, without a daily dose of bad news, you'll likely find yourself much more relaxed - and happy!

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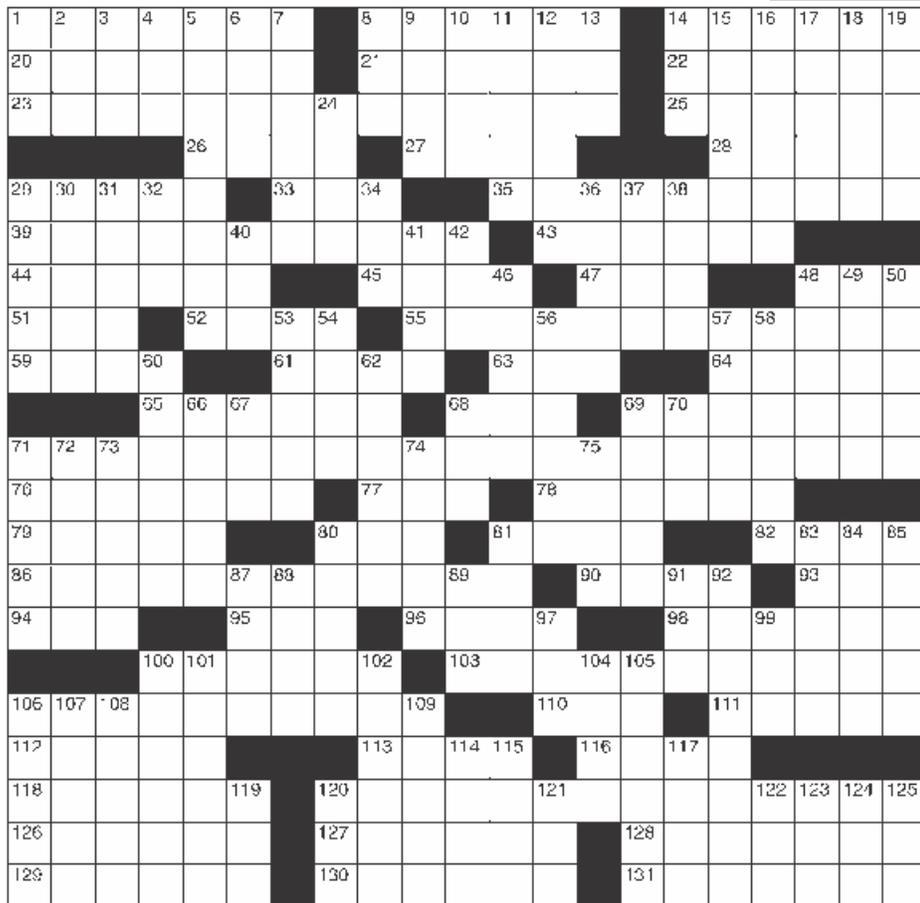
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**ACROSS**

- 1. Give a right to
- 8. Eye narrowly
- 14. Choir songs
- 20. Dog collar attachments
- 21. Ends of bridal paths.
- 22. See 1-Down

- 23. Refrigerator, stove, or dryer
- 25. Warship fleet
- 26. Over yonder
- 27. Designer Gucci
- 28. Lhasa \_\_\_\_\_ (little dogs)
- 29. Mega Stuf cookies

- 33. This second figure in a 1999 horror film
- 39. Azaleas are members of it
- 43. Not quite
- 44. Dutch beer
- 45. \_\_\_\_\_ the line (obeyed)

- 47. Sturdy tree
- 48. Slimy gunk
- 51. Shaft of light
- 52. Common allergy trigger
- 55. Condiment spicier than its yellow cousin

- 59. On \_\_\_\_\_ with (similar to)
- 61. Big name in dog food
- 63. Born
- 64. TV announcer Don
- 65. Riddle
- 68. Strep-treating doc

- 69. Person giving out prizes
- 71. Eight of their last names are featured in this puzzle
- 76. Egg-hiding holidays
- 77. Gridiron stats
- 78. Punctual
- 79. Sominex or Unisom rival
- 80. Passing vote
- 81. As many as
- 82. Big lamb cut
- 86. Common weed of North America
- 90. Universal donor blood type in brief
- 93. Shark feature
- 94. Ending for alp or or salt
- 95. Architect I.M. \_\_\_\_\_
- 96. Red Sea canal
- 98. Get there
- 100. Hive house
- 103. Suburb of Minneapolis
- 106. June bugs, by another name
- 110. Poetic "always"
- 111. Yule songs
- 112. Post-teen
- 113. Squeaks (out)
- 116. Ticked (off)
- 118. Spring back
- 120. Kentucky Derby venue
- 126. "Little Women" author
- 127. Wanness
- 128. Cry upon getting there
- 129. Joined (up)
- 130. Baby hooters
- 131. Vain person's lack

- DOWN**
- 1. With 22-Across film "nightmare" locale
- 2. Teachers' gp.
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_ Mahal
- 4. Equal: Prefix
- 5. Walloped
- 6. Foliage bit
- 7. Barcelona's land to natives
- 8. Bud
- 9. Director Kazan
- 10. Plus others: Abbr.
- 11. Music genre for TLC
- 12. Chachi's last name on "Happy Days"
- 13. Mao \_\_\_\_\_-tung
- 14. Free TV ad, for short
- 15. Drink inserts
- 16. Target of anti-perspirant
- 17. Minimal
- 18. Bordeaux wine
- 19. Secret store
- 24. Grads' event
- 29. Fictional Scarlett
- 30. Plan a new route for
- 31. Cushy class
- 32. Mel the Giant
- 34. Jokester
- 36. Solo
- 37. Mosque officiant
- 38. Streaming set-top box
- 40. Viral misery
- 41. Soft throws
- 42. "\_\_\_\_\_ out!"
- 46. "Death Be Not Proud" poet
- 48. Avant-\_\_\_\_\_
- 49. Mandate
- 50. Smells
- 53. Exhales wistfully
- 54. Pack firmly
- 56. Cleaning tool in a bucket
- 57. Muscle jerk
- 58. More citrusy, say
- 60. Mary Lou of gymnastics
- 62. One suffering for a belief
- 66. Atom studier Bohr

- 67. Leb. neighbor
- 68. 911 gp.
- 69. Susan of "Spring Fever"
- 70. Nintendo console
- 71. 1974 dog film
- 72. Artificial silk
- 73. "Orange \_\_\_\_\_ New Black"
- 74. Thoughts
- 75. Taken with
- 80. "Two Guys and \_\_\_\_\_"
- 81. Operated
- 83. In flames
- 84. Courteous
- 85. Midleg joints
- 87. Sheriff Taylor's tyke
- 88. Mess-free
- 89. Take to court
- 91. Jug handle
- 92. Pa's pa
- 97. Last letter
- 99. "16 Olympics site
- 100. Flowering
- 101. Small dress size
- 102. Cowboy's whoop
- 104. \_\_\_\_\_ pot (sinus cleaner)
- 105. Early tourney round
- 106. Safin who won tennis' 2000 U.S. Open
- 107. She sang the hit "Hello"
- 108. New Mexico's state flower
- 109. Brain protector
- 114. \_\_\_\_\_ Stanley Gardner
- 115. "Nae" sayer
- 117. Red Muppet
- 119. Inc., abroad
- 120. U.S. Navy nancom
- 121. Divs. of days
- 122. Lyric verse
- 123. Film director Craven
- 124. Little peeve
- 125. Hog hangout

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**Answer in  
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