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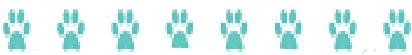
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TIDBITS RIDICULES

GENDER REVEALS

by Janet Spencer

Come along with Tidbits as we attend the world's worst gender reveal parties!

WILD PARTIES

* Blogger and journalist Jenna Karvunidis accidentally started a new tradition in 2008. After several heartbreaking disappointments, she finally held onto a pregnancy long enough to find out whether she was having a girl or a boy. She baked a cake, secretly spreading the middle layer with pink icing. She invited friends to a celebration, cutting into the cake to reveal that she was expecting a baby girl. Pictures posted to her blog went viral. This was the first gender reveal party.

* This kicked off a fad that spread widely around the nation. By 2010, gender reveal parties had evolved in scope and method, ranging from simple to elaborated, including boxes filled with colored helium balloons, balloons filled with colored powder, fireworks, pinatas, smoke bombs, confetti bombs, and more.

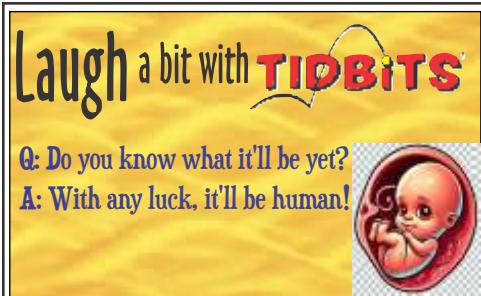
* Karvundis now regrets the fad that her original gender reveal party sparked, not only for the destruction caused, but because she doesn't feel that such a big deal should be made over the gender of a baby. "Celebrate the baby, not the gender" is her approach. (cont. on page 2)

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GENDER REVEALS

(cont. from Front Cover)

* Here are some stories of awful gender reveals ranging from tacky to tragic.

AN ALLIGATOR

* When a couple in Florida found out they were expecting in 2019, they agreed the gender reveal should involve their pet alligator, Amos. The dad, a 'nuisance wildlife trapper' for the Florida fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, acquired the gator as a pet in 2000. To accomplish the gender reveal, he dangled a black balloon attached to a long pole in front of the alligator, a typical feeding technique. When the alligator chomped on the balloon, it exploded into a cloud of pink powder. Let's hope Amos got a nice fish dinner afterward for his trouble.

LASAGNA

* In 2018, Villa Italian Kitchen, a pizza and pasta chain based out of New Jersey, announced a "Gender Reveal Lasagna." They made it using white Alfredo sauce instead of tomato sauce, and mozzarella and ricotta instead of cheddar, so that the pink and blue dye that colored the sauce and the cheese would really stand out.

For only \$140, customers received a lasagna big enough to feed 12, plus garlic rolls and a salad. People who posted their lasagna gender reveal to social media were entered into a contest to win a free catered meal. There was mixed reaction to this idea, with people complaining that instead of blue for boys, it definitely looked more like green.

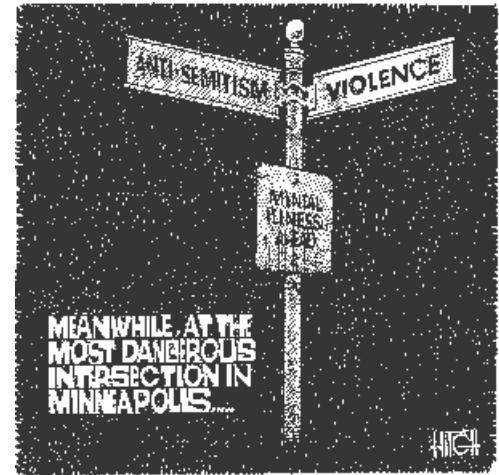
PLANE CRASH

* The town of Turkey, Texas, was the site of a near-fatal gender reveal. On September 7, 2019, friends and family gathered to watch a hired crop-dusting plane fly over the party, dropping 350 gallons of either pink or blue water into the nearby fields. However, after disgorging the load of pink water, the low-flying plane was thrown off balance and stalled. It crash-landed on a neighboring farm. Both the pilot and co-pilot were injured but survived. The plane, however, was a total loss.

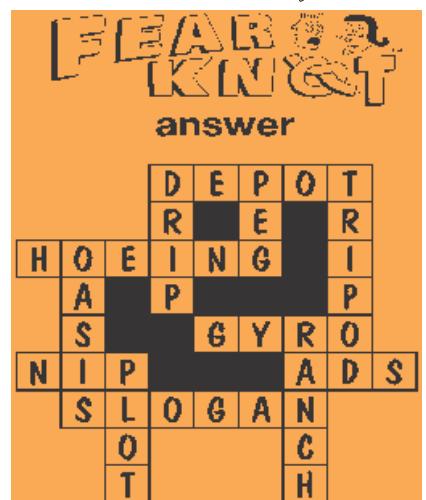
THE HIPPO

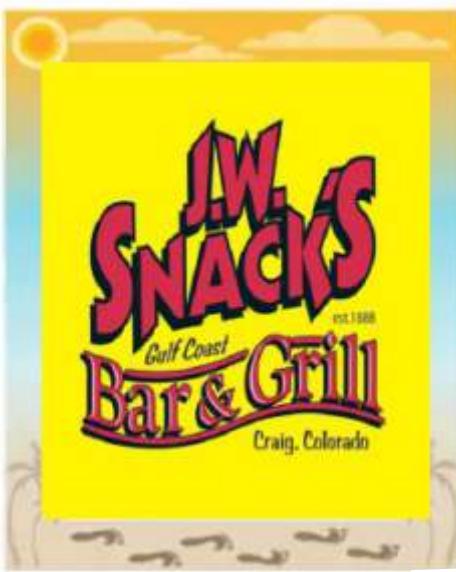
* A Texas couple incorporated a local zoo's hippopotamus for their gender reveal. The hippo, named Tank, resides at the Capital of Texas Zoo. Officials at the zoo assisted in planning the event. With a crowd gathered and cameras rolling, Tank waited with his mouth wide open at this regular feeding time.

(read on page 3)



November 30th, 2025





♂ GENDER REVEALS ♀

(cont. from Page 2)

The father-to-be tossed in a watermelon and when Tank bit down on it, the melon exploded into blue squirts. Watermelon is a favorite treat for hippos, and the blue filling was gelatin, a common dietary supplement. The video went viral, a publicity coup for both the zoo and the expectant mother.

PHILLY FIREWORKS

*In July of 2018, a family gathered on the sidewalk of a Philadelphia neighborhood to set off a gender-revealing fireworks cannon. The fireworks tube, set up on a rickety stand, was unstable. As the fireworks burst into the sky, the launch tube tipped over, spewing pyrotechnics throughout the crowd. Screaming and scrambling they ran for cover. "My wife was filming with my phone and I immediately grabbed my son and covered his face and ran," a partygoer reported. A few people were hit and suffered minor burns.

BURNOUT

An Australian gender reveal disaster involved using a car to spin donuts in a gravel parking area which caused blue smoke to spew forth. As the car continued to perform "burnouts," the smoke increased - and flames appeared. The Queensland Police Service released footage of the incident, showing the abandoned car sitting in the middle of a cloud of thick smoke that turned from blue to black as flames surrounded the ruined vehicle. The driver was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle in a dangerous manner. There was no word on whether he was the dad.

APPLEBEE'S FIST FIGHT

* Trouble brewed at an Applebee's in Cleveland in 2018 when 20 people gathered for a gender reveal. The method they chose was a mass launch of confetti-packed poppers. When staff objected to the prospect of cleaning up all that confetti, trouble broke out. The manager insisted that the party take their big reveal outside, prompting the group to yell, curse, and threaten. The hostess was pelted with menus, and police were called. The result was a parking lot, sidewalk, and cars covered with confetti, and an unpaid tab left behind. Police were able to track down the perpetrators with the help of license plate numbers recorded by staff members, as well as a purse left behind in a booth. No word on whether it was a girl or a boy.

FIRE!

* Two of the worst gender reveals involved wildfire. In 2017, the expectant father added colored powder to a box of highly explosive Tannerite. He affixed the mixture to a target and carried it to an Arizona state park where the gender reveal was held. He shot the target with a rifle, spreading blue powder and flaming Tannerite in dry grass. The resulting conflagration, dubbed the Sawmill Fire, burned for two weeks, scorching 73 square miles (190 km). Over \$8 million was spent fighting the flames. The dad was sentenced to five years probation and ordered to pay restitution of \$500/month for the next 20 years, meaning that his newborn son will reach college age before the restitution is paid.

* in 2020, a gender-revealing smoke bomb was detonated at El Dorado Park in California. The El Dorado fire scorched 35,538 square miles (92.04 km) and cost \$23 million. It burned 20 buildings, including four homes, and forced thousands to evacuate. It wasn't extinguished until November. Firefighter Charles Morton, age 39, was killed while fighting the flames.

November 30th, 2025

Go Figure!						
answers						
9	-	2	+	6	= 13	
-		+		-		
4	+	5	÷	1	= 9	
×		÷		+		
3	+	7	-	8	= 2	
-		=		=		
15		1		13		

Fun Fact

Memories that are linked with a specific smell carry more emotion than visual memories. The nerve signals that share sights, sounds and touch typically go through the thalamus. Smell signals bypass this area and go to the olfactory bulb and then to the amygdala and hippocampus, which deal with higher-level thinking.

Source: health.clevelandclinic.org

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TIDBITS GOES GREEN

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SPORTS STORIES

NEW RULES

- * As various sports have evolved, new situations have led to the creation of new rules. Here are the stories behind a few.
- * Tom Dempsey was born missing the toes on his right foot. This did not stop him from a career as a kicker in football. He was outfitted with a blunt-nosed half boot that ended where his foot ended, which was an improvement over having a half-empty shoe with newspaperstuffed in the toe.
- * In 1970, in a game where the New Orleans Saints were up against the Detroit Lions, Dempsey was wearing this half-shoe when he kicked a game-winning, record-setting 63-yard field goal for the Saints.
- * Some people complained that his disability, corrected by the specially made shoe, gave him an advantage. The Dallas Cowboys president insisted that his remarkable kick be entered into the record books with an asterisk next to it, explaining the special circumstances of the feat.
- * In response to the controversy, seven years later, the NFL passed Rule 5, Section 4, Article 3, Item 7, which states that all shoes used to kick a field goal, regardless of the disability of the kicker, must conform to the specifications of a normal shoe. In other words, a prosthetic is allowed, but only if it matches the uniform requirements of players who are not wearing a prosthetic. it was called the Tom Dempsey rule.



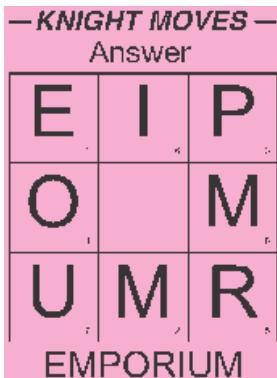
Page 4



* Dempsey was upset by this new rule and went to the Commissioner to object. The Commissioner reassured Tom that his record was grandfathered in and would be unaffected by the ruling. Dempsey held the record for 43 years until it was broken by Matt Prater, who kicked a 64-yard field goal while playing for the Denver Broncos in 2013.

* Pat Venditti was born ambidextrous, able to use either hand equally well.

November 30th, 2025



1. Now You See Me: Now You Don't, (PG-13) Jesse Eisenberg, Woody Harrelson
2. The Running Man, (R) Glen Powell, Alyssa Benz
3. Predator: Badlands, (PG-13) Elle Fanning, Dimitrius Schuster-Koloamatangi
4. Regretting You, (PG-13) Allison Williams, McKenna Grace
5. Black Phone 2, (R) Mason Thames, Ethan Hawke
6. Keeperm, (R) Tatiana Maslany, Rossif Sutherland
7. Nuremberg, (PG-13) Russell Crowe, Michael Shannon
8. Sarah's Oil, (PG-13) Zachary Levi, Naya Desir Johnson
9. Bugonia, (R) Jesse Plemons, Aidan Delbis
10. Chainsaw Man - The Movie: Reze Arc, (R) Kikunosuke Toya, Tomori Kusunoki

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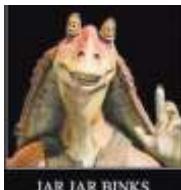
When he became a pitcher in the minor leagues, he was a switch pitcher. He was playing for the Stanton Island Yankees in 2008 against the Brooklyn Cyclones when Ralph Henriquez stepped up to bat. Ralph was a switch-hitter. So now a switch-pitcher was throwing against a switch-hitter.

* Seeing Venditti preparing to pitch with his right hand, Henriquez stepped to the right side of the plate. Venditti then prepared to pitch with his left hand, and Henriquez stepped to the left side of the batter's box. Venditti switched hands again; Henriquez switched sides again. This continued until the Umpire called a time-out and tried to figure out how to handle the situation.

* it was the bottom of the 9th. The Cyclones were behind by five runs with two outs. Finally, it was decided that Venditti would pitch right-handed, and Henriquez would bat right-handed. Venditti struck him out.* Major League Baseball later added a rule, specifying that a pitcher is required to indicate which hand he intends to pitch with, and is obligated to use that hand for as long as the batter is at bat. The pitcher is allowed to switch hands in between batters.

NO GLUE ALLOWED

Rule 5, Section 4, Article 4, Item 8 of the NFL rule book states simply that no adhesive or slippery substances are allowed. This rule originated with Lester Hayes, who played for the Oakland Raiders. He started using a sticky-tacky substance to help him catch the football. In a single season, Hayes caught 13 interceptions, setting an NFL record. He then started slathering his entire uniform in glue. In 1981, the Lester Hayes Rule outlawed the use of any such substance.



* Ahmed Best was a jazz musician from the Bronx when he joined the energetic percussion group called Stomp, touring with them for several years. Along the way, Ahmed became skilled at the acrobatic body percussion that characterized Stomp's performances. At one show in 1996, a casting director in the audience noticed how limber Ahmed was. At the time, the casting director was looking for someone to play the part of an alien in the first Star Wars prequel, "The Phantom Menace." The character's name, suggested by George Lucas' young son, was Jar Jar Binks.

* Ahmed Best was thrilled and did his best to work with the producers and directors to come up with what turned out to be history's first CGI hybrid character. Lucas patterned the part after Disney's Goofy, and Ahmed came up with the voice, the moves, and the pratfalls accordingly. Jar Jar Binks was supposed to provide comic relief, appealing to children.

* However, Ahmed Best was unprepared for the backlash of ridicule that resulted when the movie was released in 1999.

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



November 30th, 2025

Five Spot™ Solution

S	O	L	A	R
R	O	A	D	S
A	R	M	E	D
D	R	E	A	M
M	E	D	I	A
M	I	N	E	D

Jar Jar Binks was compared to a Jamaican mammy, a Vaudeville black-faced minstrel, or a stereotypical plantation slave. Ahmed was accused of racism, although he is black. Ahmed was so distraught over the derision that one day, her nearly threw himself off the Brooklyn Bridge, feeling that he had unintentionally destroyed the movie franchise he had adored.

* Nearly 20 years later, Ahmed Best brought his young son to the place where he nearly jumped. He took a picture of himself and his son at that spot, and posted it to Twitter, explaining the whole story of how he nearly ended it all. This post went viral.

* Now people come out of the woodwork to apologize to Ahmed Best. Suddenly, his story was all over the media, and he started receiving calls. One of them was from the producers of the "The Mandalorian" who offered him a new role: that of Jedi master Kellaran Beq, handsome and brave. He nailed the role.

* Meanwhile, the character of Jar Jar Binks was also redeemed, with experts pointing out how the entire story are hinged on his actions. Here are some facts you might not have known about Jar Jar Binks, the hero.

* Jar Jar Binks was a member of the species called Gungans, native to Naboo. Gungans are amphibious and can hold their breath underwater for extended periods, making them comfortable both in water and on land.

* The costume, which cost about \$100,000, gave actors something to interact with, and a focus for animators. It was a cross between a duck-billed dinosaur, an emu, and a heron.

* Michael Jackson wanted the role, but Lucas worried his fame would overshadow the part.

* When the movie was lampooned on "The Simpsons," the character was named "JimJam Bonks." When it was spoofed on "South Park," he was named "Joon-Joon."

* In a 2018 Saturday Night Live skit, guest star Natalie Portman reprised her role of Queen Padme Amidala. In the sketch she holds a gun to the head of an actor and shouts, "Say something [expletive] nice about Jar Jar Binks!"

* Jar Jar Binks went on to become a Junior Representative for his people in the Galactic Senate, serving alongside Amidala once she became the planet's senator.

* Despite the largely negative fan reaction to Jar Jar Binks, the film was the biggest box office hit in 1999, bringing in over \$400 million.



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A: Yes!



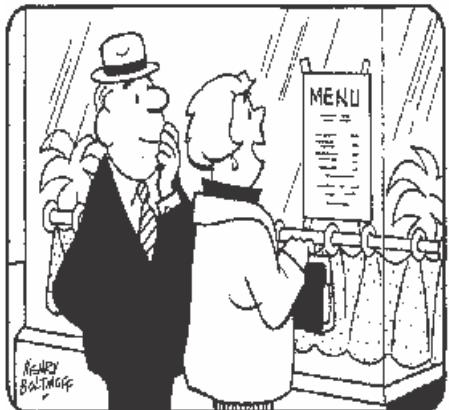
Happy Holidays





HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



6. Hemline is different.
7. Collar is different.
8. Pocket is different.
9. Handbag is different.
10. Glasses are different.

THIS WEEK'S CELEBRITY BIRTHDAYS



Harry Chapin	12/07/1942
Sammy Davis Jr.	12/08/1925
Redd Foxx	12/09/1922
Emily Dickinson	12/10/1830
Brenda Lee	12/11/1944
Bob Barker	12/12/1923
Mary Todd Lincoln	12/13/1818

TIDBITS



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Your curiosity might not be appreciated by everyone. Expect some resistance when getting the answers to your questions. But stay with it. You need facts in order to make important decisions.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Some of the mystery surrounding your recent fiscal situation will soon be dispelled with a clear explanation. Use this new knowledge to help you chart a fresh financial course.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Start your Christmas and Chanukah gift-buying now. This will help avoid problems caused by possible mid-December delays. Meanwhile, a family member has important information.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Use a little more sense in how you plan to spend your end-of-the-year holiday dollars. Meanwhile, you continue to gain support for your stand on a workplace issue.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Wearing that big, loving Lion's heart of yours on your sleeve leaves it unprotected. Let things develop a little more before you allow your emotions to spill over.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) You might feel like you're not ready to patch up an unraveled relationship. But the longer you wait, the more difficult it will be for all parties to take the first healing step.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Your end-of-the-year holiday plans could be disrupted by something out of your control, but stay the course. Ultimately, things will settle back into a normal pace.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Your honest approach to a workplace project earns you both respect and credit from those in charge. Meanwhile, a personal problem still needs to be dealt with.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Money could be a little tight this month. This means that the usually bargain-oblivious Sagittarian should look for ways to save on end-of-the-year holidays.

CAPRICORN December 22 to January 19) Examine the facts, and you might find that it's a wiser move to shift gears and redirect some of your goals before the end of the year. In addition, someone close to you offers good advice.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Be careful that your generosity is not abused. Find out more about both of the special favors that you might be asked to grant - and who exactly is asking for them.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) You've come through a recent rough time in great shape. Congratulations! Now go out and enjoy your well-earned rewards. More good news comes in mid-December.

BORN THIS WEEK: You aim for the truth, and you usually find it. Your honesty earns you the friendship and respect of others.

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November 30th,
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**Word Spiral
Answer
VARNISHES**



On Dec. 8, 1985, The Byte Shop opened in Mission Valley, California, selling the first 50 Apple-1 computers at a price of \$666.66. Nowadays, collectors shell out hundreds of thousands of dollars for them.

On Dec. 9, 1979, scientists announced that smallpox had been eradicated. Carrying about a 30% risk of death for those infected, it remains the only infectious disease affecting humans to have officially been eliminated.

On Dec. 10, 1869, Wyoming granted women the right to vote. Some male supporters were motivated by loneliness as much as or more than justice, since the territory had more than 6,000 adult males but only 1,000 females, and it was hoped the latter would be more likely to settle in the area if they could vote.

On Dec. 11, 1934, following a 13-year struggle with alcohol addiction, stock-broker Bill Wilson took his last sip of booze. The following year, he founded Alcoholics Anonymous, which aimed to treat alcoholism as a disease and not a moral failing.

The Garden Bug

Bird-of-paradise

The bird-of-paradise plant can be toxic to animals, so keep pet access in mind if you choose one. These plants are known to live for more than 50 years with the right growing conditions, not even flowering until they are five or six years old. They can do well in pots indoors, but they grow tall, upward of five feet in some cases, and their leaves love to spread out, so be sure your potted bird-of-paradise has plenty of room.

- Brenda Weaver

Source: www.housebeautiful.com

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Americanisms

"Men can starve from a lack of self realization as much as they can from a lack of bread."
— Richard Wright

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On Dec. 12, 1899, George F. Grant, an African American dentist from Boston, received a U.S. patent for the world's first golf tee. He gave away a few copies of his creation, but was neither a professional marketer or inventor, and made no money on his product before his death.

On Dec. 13, 1942, Nazi propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels detailed in his journal his contempt for the relatively humane treatment of Jews in Italian-occupied territories, stating that, "The Italians are extremely lax in their treatment of Jews. They protect Italian Jews both in Tunis and in occupied France and won't permit their being drafted for work or compelled to wear the Star of David."

On Dec. 14, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln announced a grant of amnesty for his sister-in-law, Emilie Todd Helm, the widow of a Confederate general, under the Proclamation of Amnesty and Reconstruction, which allowed former Confederates amnesty if they took an oath to the United States. While Helm received the pardon, though, she never took the required oath.

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November 30th, 2025

CryptoQuip
answer

If pastors are thirty-one, forty-three or fifty-nine years old, do people say they're prime ministers?

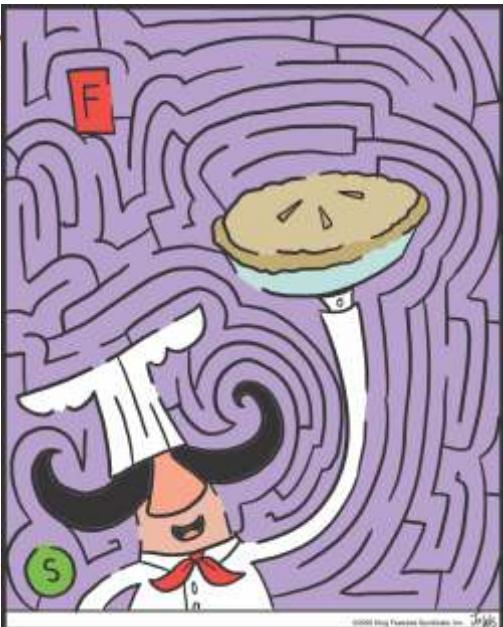
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Five Spot™

Big break

V	O	C	A	L

Song part

Given birth in the diary barn

Bumper sticker

Offered a hint

Volume dimension

First appearance

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

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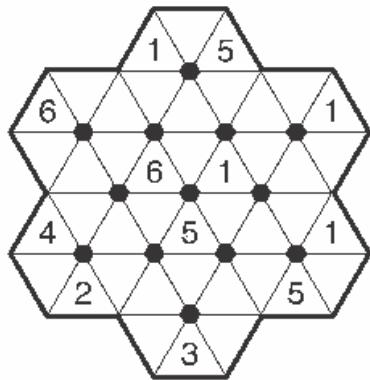
32-009

Answer in the December 14th 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 December 14th Issue



Weekly SUDOKU

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 3-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 14th 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.

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

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Page 8 Answer in the December 7th 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. Dogged	— — — — II	Smallest amount	— — — — I
2. Iddle with	— A — — —	State of mind	— L — — —
3. Financial deduction	— I — — —	Unveiling	— U — — —
4. Fill in the	— A — — —	Eye movement	— I — — —
5. Freight liner	— C — — —	North Dakota city	— F — — —
6. Diminish in size	— — — — —	Holy place	— — — — — E
7. Food cupboard	— — N — — —	Bakava or Danish	— — S — — —
8. Shun, like a dog	— — L — — —	Fully fougued	— — — — — N
9. Croc grower	— A — — —	More stable	— — — — — T
10. Runaway walker	— B — — —	Lodger's inn	— — — — —

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Answer in the December 14th Issue

FEAR A KNOT

By: rj
johnson

TM
Doubt? ... or dare!

IKL

PLINCE

PETTM

▼ ARDE

TRIDGE

▼ TSI

MIKS

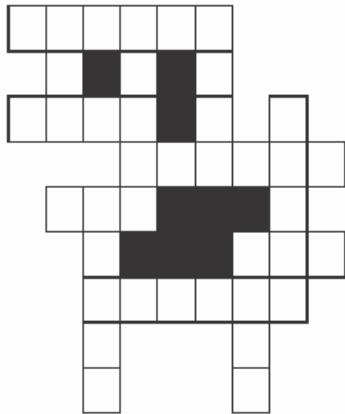
PYML

▼ ADM

▼ RYAPLE

▼ ARELG

▼ TEMI

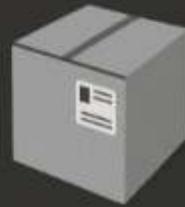


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Unscramble these twelve letter strings to form each into an ordinary word (ex. HAGNEC becomes CHANGE). Prepare to use only ONE word from any marked (♥) letter string as each unscrambles into more than one word (ex. ♥RATHÉ becomes HATER or EARTH or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

Answer in the December 14th issue

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CryptoQuip

It is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter is replaced by another. If you think that X equals U, then I could G throughout the puzzle, so on is accomplished by trial and error.

Code: S equals F

VXYCO YS SYDUM PFY

KYAOJDZJZDII MGOOYXJ

PGMKYIMGIM' OXY SYYJLQDD

JZQA: JEZ VXZZI LQH LQKUZXM.

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Answer in the December 14th issue

STICKELERS

by Terry Stickels

One of the following words does not belong with the others.

Which is the odd one out?

pampero harmattan levante
libeccio khansin fantouche

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Answer in the December 14th 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.

Convey

RAMPIT

Scrub

LANCE

Fox

MEENY

Flaxen

BOLDEN

TODAY'S WORD



"He's a model husband — unfortunately this model happens to be a _____?"

Answer in the December 14th issue

KNIGHT MOVES

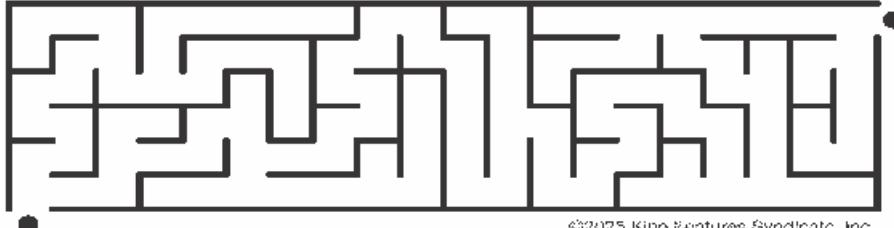
C	E	S
C		I
V	E	R

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 14th issue

Kids' Maze



Answer in the December 14th issue

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Automata Displays

It's difficult to escape holiday shopping, whether you're buying gifts, stocking up for dinner parties or just taking advantage of a sale. And stores make sure to entice you with flashy, tempting displays. Even if you're not a fan of the commercialization of the holidays, store displays can be works of art. But collectors of antique advertising have known this for a long time. Window displays often have the most interesting images, the cleverest ideas and the latest technical effects.

Look at this automaton, which sold for \$1,560 at Potter & Potter Auctions. It originally stood in the window of O.E. Day Jeweler and Optometrist, as written on its mirrored base. Dressed as a harlequin and holding a trumpet, the automaton resembles a medieval herald. When plugged in, it would have bowed to potential customers, offering a royal welcome to the store.

* * *

Q. I want to check the value of my vase. It is shaped like an urn with two handles on the sides and raised pictures of people and trees. There is a cupid flying above them. It is marked "F. & A. G." on the base.

A. It sounds like your vase is based on the Portland vase a famous ancient Roman vase. Many potteries made copies of it in the 18th and 19th centuries. The most famous and most valuable copies are made by Wedgwood. The mark on your vase was used by the Austrian pottery company of Gerbing & Stephan (located in the present-day Czech Republic) from about 1900 to 1903.



If a figure like this bowed to you from a store window, wouldn't you want to go inside? Electric automata started appearing in store displays in the early 20th century.

The initials stand for brothers Friedrich and Alexander Gerbing, who were running their family's company at the time. The company made majolica, a tin-glazed earthenware pottery, in styles inspired by ancient history, often with historical or mythological scenes. Today, their vases sell for about \$150 to \$200.

* * *

TIP: The general rule about dovetailing: The fewer the number of joints, the older the piece. A drawer made in the early 17th century was either joined with one huge dovetail or was pegged together.

* * *

CURRENT PRICES

Bank, ice cream freezer, barrel shape, crank handle, raised lettering, Save Your Money, And Freeze It, painted, cast iron, 4 inches, \$35.

Fishbowl stand, art nouveau, figural, frog, dancing, suit, and top hat, pierced grass, cast metal, 8 x 9 inches, \$90.

Clothing, moccasins, leather, multi-color beading, stylized beaver and flowers on toe, black velvet cuff, blue trim, cotton lining, Iroquois, c. 1915, 10 inches, \$125.

Textile, panel, embroidered, gold thread, multicolor accents, two peacocks, leaves, flowers, cream Southeast Asian style, frame, 20th century, 24 1/2 x 82 inches, \$500.

Lamp, kerosene, Rubina glass, threaded texture, flared ruffled shade, round base applied ribbed handle and petal feet, 8 1/2 inches, \$1,440.

* * *

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

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STAN SMITH'S TENNIS CLASS



MAKE IT LOOK EASY

It's hard to play well if you are tense. Take a look at some great players in other sports — they often make the game look easy. The best athletes look relaxed and fluid while playing.



Try to find a way to play relaxed, without tension and fear of failure. If you're relaxed when playing, you will have better timing, which can improve your accuracy. Most importantly, it will reduce fatigue and make the game much more enjoyable.

TIDBITS QUOTE

66
99

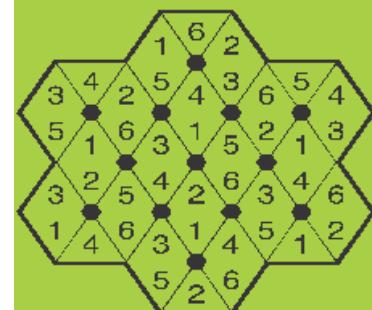
"As far as I'm concerned, being any gender is a drag."

~Patti Smith

November 30th, 2025

SNOWFLAKES

solution



GRIN & BLOW IT



"It survived wars, plagues and evil spells ... and finally fell to an adjustable rate mortgage."

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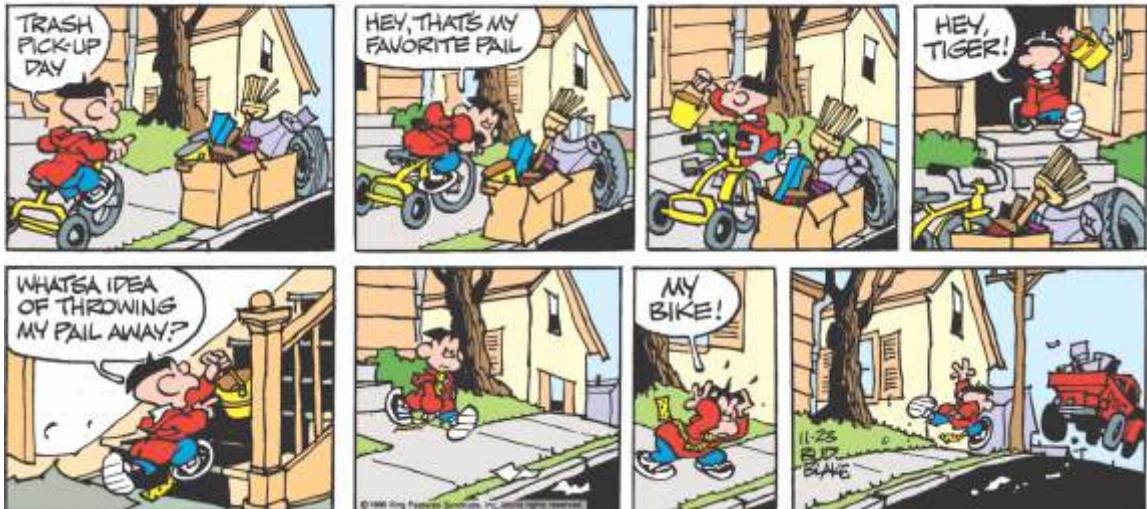
November 30th, 2025

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

TIGER



Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

* The blocks of the Washington Monument are held together by gravity and friction, rather than mortar.

* Ancient Romans gave a hard "no" to the practice of eating butter, with Pliny the Elder referring to butter as "the choicest food among barbarian tribes." Why? Mainly because they used it for treating burns and thus thought of it as a medicinal salve rather than food.

* Pencils have never been made from lead.

* The leather diamond patch on the outside of backpacks, called a "lash tab," was initially used by mountaineers to secure their gear.

* Harvard University is older than calculus.

* Some research has shown that up to 40% of a worker ant colony may remain idle while their comrades soldier on with the labor.

* Heinz Ketchup has a "speed limit" of .028 miles per hour, set by the company as an indicator of the product's consistency.

* "Watching paint dry" is an actual occupation for some folks, requiring an observation of the changing colors and particles of the substance as it dries, both on walls and under a microscope.

* Manhattan, New York's most popular transportation hub, Grand Central Terminal, is radioactive.

* The tradition of serving ham at Christmas comes from the Norse festival of Yule, where a boar was sacrificed to honor the deity Freyr.

Thought for the Day: "A strong nation, like a strong person, can afford to be gentle, firm, thoughtful and restrained. It can afford to extend a helping hand to others. It's a weak nation, like a weak person, that must behave with bluster and boasting and rashness and other signs of insecurity." ~ Jimmy Carter

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by BUD BLAKE





* If you are traveling with pets, you know to bring something for them to drink out of. If you have ice in a container, they can lick the ice to stay hydrated, but it doesn't slosh around or spill easily.

* For moister and softer cookies, use honey as a substitute for a third of the sugar in your cookie recipe.

* "At a party, a cup of red wine spilled on one of my throw pillows. I love the pillow, since it is just the right size and really soft, but I could not get the stain out. So I covered it with a new fabric. I ended up doing all the assorted pillows in the same fabric, and it made a big change in the room. I wish I had done it sooner." ~ I.F. in Pennsylvania

* "Keep venetian blinds from sticking to one another and discourage dust by rubbing them down individually with a sheet of fabric softener. This effect will last at least a month in my experience." ~ S.F. in Alabama

* "Have a headache? Try drinking a couple of glasses of a sports drink. This works for me and my friends. Maybe we just need to be drinking more water, but the sports drinks get us back on track more quickly than medicine most times." E.L. in Colorado

* Bringing some plants indoors? Use Styrofoam packing peanuts in the bottom of pots when planting. They aren't as heavy as rocks, and they do just as good a job. The pots will be easier to move around should you need to move them.

Send your tips to:

Now Here's a Tip

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Wishing Well®

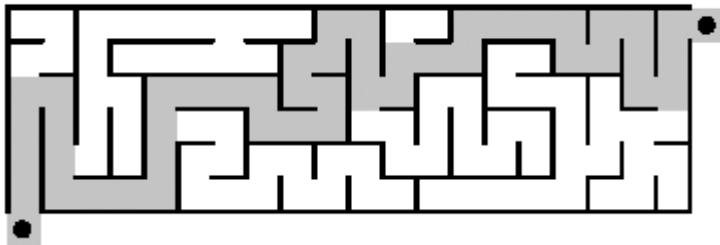
2	4	6	8	7	2	5	3	6	2	3	7	2
S	B	D	E	A	W	S	A	I	E	S	P	E
6	7	2	7	6	8	7	8	3	6	7	8	5
S	E	T	R	P	S	S	T	O	E	O	E	P
7	2	4	8	4	8	2	6	3	7	6	8	6
N	S	O	E	S	M	U	L	C	A	I	O	L
7	3	6	5	8	5	7	4	2	7	4	7	2
L	I	L	R	F	E	V	S	C	I	S	C	C
3	7	2	5	7	8	3	7	5	6	8	6	8
A	T	E	A	O	C	L	R	D	U	O	S	W
7	5	6	8	2	8	2	5	4	6	5	8	3
Y	J	I	O	S	R	S	O	A	O	Y	K	E
8	6	8	3	8	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	4
E	N	R	V	S	Y	E	S	N	Y	T	E	S

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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Kids' Maze Solution November 30th, 2025



Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS





Make Rosemary Cashews for Holiday Giving

This time of year, my holiday traditions begin with a gathering of five neighborhood friends for an early-morning coffee klatch at one of our houses. We originally met when our sons were just 5 years old, and our friendship continued through Cub Scout activities, softball games, bike rides, and picnics at the neighborhood park. Off they went to college, and now we attend their weddings together.

Since we still live within blocks of one another, we take turns hosting the annual get-together. For the one in charge, it's an opportunity to use our fanciest or quirkiest tableware for serving fruit, pastries and coffee. We exchange little memorable, sometimes homemade gifts, too.



I like to bring something from my kitchen, like this rosemary cashew appetizer/snack I prepared last year. The tasty cashews were such a hit that I decided to make the recipe in multiples this year and fill up wide pint-sized canning jars that I picked up at the store. Tied with a holiday ribbon, gift tags, and a shiny mini-sized gold ornament for extra bling, it is a unique, personalized gift to have on hand to give to the hosts of family holiday parties and other events we attend.

Make these in an afternoon with your school-aged kids who can assist in doing a step or two. For starters, let them take charge of pulling the fresh rosemary leaves off the stems before you chop the fragrant herb with a sharp knife. Then put the kids in charge of decorating and writing the tie-around gift tags.

ROSEMARY CASHEWS

- 3 cups roasted, unsalted cashews
- 1 heaping tablespoon minced fresh rosemary leaves
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon salt
- 1 1/2 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted
- 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper (optional)



Preheat oven to 350 F. Spread the cashews in one layer on a cookie sheet and bake for about 6 minutes, or until warm and lightly toasted. Combine the rosemary, brown sugar, salt, melted butter and pepper (if you want an extra kick) in a large bowl. When the cashews are heated, immediately pour them in the bowl with the spice butter mixture. Toss thoroughly. Cool and serve. Store in an airtight container up to two weeks.

Cook's Note: If you prefer, substitute 1 tablespoon pure maple syrup for 1 tablespoon brown sugar.

* * *

Donna Erickson creates relationships and community through food and fun. Find more to nourish and delight you at:

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Out on a Limb



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by Gary Kopervas

EMILY GETS IN THE SPIRIT OF BLACK FRIDAY SHOPPING

KOPERVAS

TIDBITS GOES LONG.....

One Iowa family tried to make their own gender-revealing cannon using colored powder and gunpowder poured into a pipe. However, they accidentally created a pipe bomb. When the fuse was lit and the bomb went off, Granny was hit by shrapnel, and died.



Errors In Benefits Decisions

I'm all in favor of processing veterans benefits claims as fast as possible, but not like this. It appears that a senior VSR (veterans service representative) was authorizing claims decisions at such a fantastic rate that it came to the attention of the VA Office of Inspector General. In a legitimate decisions process, there are several steps involved in handling a claim, including doing interviews, looking at the issues, checking the evidence and so forth. After all the steps are correctly completed and a decision is made about an award (which includes granting or denying claims), the whole file is sent to a senior VSR to review for accuracy and to authorize. That senior review, one assumes, involves actually looking at a file, at the data and evidence involved, and at the claims processor's conclusion. This is where the senior VSR skipped steps - and managed to process 19 times the number of claims as anyone else in the country. He did this by spending less than five minutes on each file, where others across the country averaged 21 minutes per file. When queried about that, directors said it was "not physically possible" to do that many claims and have them be correct. During one period of time, it was learned that the VSR was processing a claim every one to three minutes, meaning that files weren't being opened at all.

OIG reviewed a sample of claims done by that VSR over a six-month period and estimated that 84% of the claims had errors. And errors, when it comes to disability claims, mean granting claims, denying claims and awarding money. In this case, the errors came to an estimated \$2.2 million in wrong payments. There are too many questions at this point to know how the situation will conclude. But we want to know: Is that VSR still employed? Will denied claims automatically be reviewed? And will overpaid benefits need to be repaid? Veterans deserve better than this.

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November 30th, 2025

SCRAMBLERS

solution

1. Slate; 2. Seldom;
3. Galore; 4. Oblige

Today's Word

DOLLARS

Stickelers Answer

The answer is $3,125 \times 32 = 100,000$

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Holidays & Observances This Week

12/07

Civil Aviation Day

12/08

Universal Human Rights Month

12/09

World Techno Day

12/10

Human Rights Day

12/11

Day of the Horse

12/12

Gingerbread House Day

12/13

Ice Cream Day

Amber Waves

OWEN, I CALLED YOU OVER HERE BECAUSE THANKSGIVING IS COMING AND WE NEED TO PRACTICE.



RELATIVES WILL BE VISITING AND ASKING FOR CHRISTMAS LISTS, SO SHOW ME ADORABILITY...



GIVE ME CUTE SMILES, BIG ENERGY AND WHEN ASKED, JUST TELL ALL OF THEM YOU'VE BEEN GOOD!



by Dave T. Phipps

BEST TO GO OVER THIS OUT HERE, STUFF SAID IN FRONT OF PARENTS TENDS TO GET BACK TO SANTA.



The Spats

OUR MARRIAGE IS LIKE A WALK IN THE PARK...



by Jeff Pickering

November 30th, 2025

Even Exchange

answers

1. Bring, Brink	6. Larder, Larder
2. Grado, Grapc	7. Dollar, Collar
3. Ration, Ratios	8. Arbor, Ardor
4. Flour, Floor	9. Rhine, Shine
5. Pinch, Punch	10. Outwit, Outfit

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SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Stay Calm to Foil Scammers

This is a new scam, but then it's what we expect from thieves - yet another way to steal from us. This one involves our innocent-seeming bank debit card, a scammer and a pair of scissors.

Here's how it works:

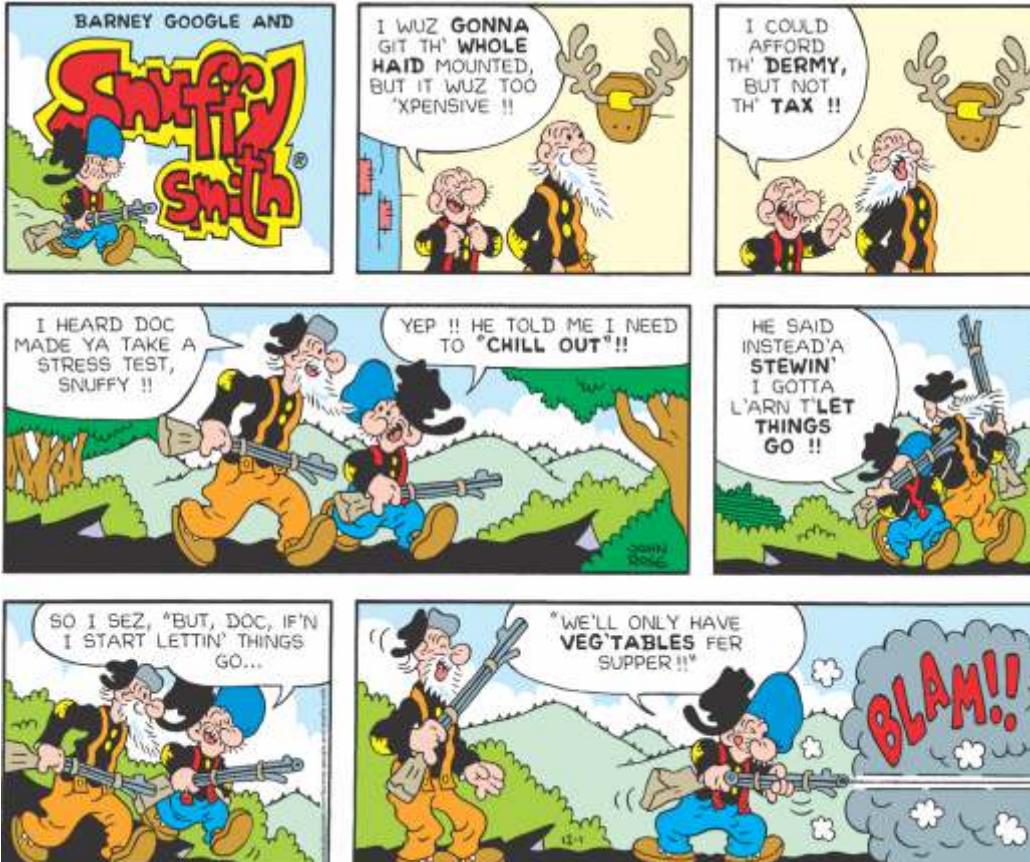
You'll get a call from someone claiming to be from your bank who says there is fraudulent activity happening on your account, and they need your help. You'll be told that you need to act fast before you lose all your money. The scammers will tell you to cut up your debit card, but not to cut up the little microchip on the card. Put all the pieces, they'll say, in an envelope and leave it at your door, because a bank "official" is going to rush over to take possession of the evidence. Oh, and there will be one last little detail they'll need - your bank PIN. By that time, if you're sufficiently rattled, you'll willingly tell them the number. A scammer will quickly show up at your door to grab the envelope. Armed with that little card chip and your PIN, they can quickly empty your account.

The key is for you to not get rattled, to not let scammers direct your actions.

If you're suspicious about any call, hang up! It's OK (even preferable in this case) to be rude! Call the bank or company on their official number and ask if they were trying to contact you about fraudulent activity on your account.

If your debit card (or any card) expires and the bank or company sends you a replacement, cut up the old one. Be sure to cut through the chip, the magnetic strip on the back and the numbers as well as your name. Divide them up in multiple trash bags to keep the pieces apart. Remember: Stay calm to defeat the scammers.

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November 30th, 2025

Super Crossword

Answers

P	A	P	E	R	D	D	A	T	A	T	W	A	R	I	F	C
S	U	D	S	I	E	R	I	M	U	P	R	I	C	E	T	0
I	H	A	P	P	L	I	C	A	B	E	N	C	E	N	S	E
N	A	S	O	N	U	S	I	O	W	F	S	T				
	N	A	S	O	N	U	I	O	W	F	S	T				
	C	U	T	U	P	A	T	A	S	A	F	E	D	I	S	T
	O	P	E	A	B	M	W	U	S	H	O	N	S	C	E	O
	N	S	A	R	O	U	T	K	I	G	E	W	R	M	S	
	F	I	R	S	T	C	L	A	Y	U	I	E	A	R	D	M
	I	I	I	A	C	F	I	T	I	N	F	W	R	S	A	X
	D	O	N	T	G	F	T	C	A	R	I	F	D	A	W	Y
	E	N	G	E	L		R	E	I	N	S		S	O	B	I
	S	U	C	C	C	E	D	T	O	T	H	C	T	H	O	N
	A	D	S	E	D	O	M		S	U	E	A	N	N	K	O
	T	R	Y	F	O	R	S	I	Z	E	T	P	Y	T	E	L
	S	A	R	A	N		E	M	I	S	I	U	E			
	E	N	I	D	I	N	I	T	A	T	E	R	A	I	R	
	A	G	A	I	N	T	O	C	A	R	H	A	G	E	F	I
	N	O	I	S	E	S	T	E	T	E	D	O	S			
	R	O	U	G	I	S	I	T	P	E	R	S	E	V	E	R
	C	A	N	I	S	E	A	R	E	A	V	I	A	R		
	A	T	O	N	D	R	A	P	S	S	T	O	N	C	H	F





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