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April 6th,  
2025

# TIDBITS®

Of N.W. Colorado  
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Issue 14

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## TIDBITS®

### CHEERS FOR SOME BASE BALL GREATS

by Kathy Wolfe

March 28 marked the Opening Day of Major League Baseball, and this week, *Tidbits* pays tribute to some of the greatest baseball players of all time with some on and off diamond facts.

\*When Will Mays passed away at age 93 in 2024 as the oldest living Hall of Famer, only five other MLB players had hit more home runs than he had. With 660 homers and 3,293 hits, after 23 seasons, the Alabama born Mays retired with a batting average of .301. Mays was the 1951 Rookie of the Year, played in 24 All Star games and four World Series, and led the National League in home runs four times. The only player to do so, Mays earned a combination .300+ career batting average with 600 home runs and 12 Gold Gloves.

\*Carl Yastrzemski is in second place for the most career MLB games played with 3,308, and third place overall for number at bats, at 11,988. He played his entire career with the Boston Red Sox from 1961 at age 21 until his retirement at age 44 in 1983, during which he achieved 3,419 hits (8th place in career hits), 452 home runs, and 18 selections to the All Star Game. He remains the Red Sox's all time leader in career RBIs, runs, hits, singles, doubles, total bases, and games played, and also has the record for the most games with a single team.

(turn to page 2 to read on)

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**LOL**

### Laugh a bit with TIDBITS

Q: A man leaves home, takes three left turns, and is on his way back home, when he sees two men in masks waiting for him. Who are they?  
A: The catcher and the umpire!

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## BASE BALL GREATS (cont. from Front Cover)

\* In his 27 seasons in the MLB, Nolan Ryan pitched in four different decades, racking up a record number of strikeouts, at 5,714, and a record 7 no hitters. He played first for the New York Mets, followed by the California Angels, Houston Astros, and Texas Rangers. The Angels, Astros, and Rangers have retired Ryan's uniform number. His first no hitter was in 1973 while pitching for the Angels. His final no hitter came along in 1991 when as a Ranger. In 1979, Nolan Ryan was the highest paid MLB player, with a four year, \$4.5 million contract with the Astros. The Mets drafted Ryan when he was 19 and he retired at age 46 with the Rangers in 1993. He still holds 51 MLB records.

\*Lou Gehrig was the first MLB player to have his uniform number retired. The New York Yankees retired No. 4 six months after the slugger's retirement following his diagnosis of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, now commonly referred to as "Lou Gehrig's Disease." During his 17 seasons with the Yanks, he played in 34 World Series games as winner in 6 out of 7 Series. Gehrig still holds the record for the most seasons with at least 400 total bases, a feat achieved five times. In 1932, he was the first 20th century player to hit four home runs in a game. He was a seven time All Star, a two time MVP, and had a career batting average of .340. Gehrig began experiencing symptoms of ALS midway through the 1938 season, and his performance began to steadily decline

\*Not only did the legendary Ty Cobb hit .300 in 23 consecutive seasons and reached .400 three times, his record career batting average of .367 still stands.



There was only one year that Cobb didn't bat .300, his rookie year (.238) when he was mourning the death of his father. Cobb's father named him after the ancient city of Tyre, now part of modern day Lebanon. Cobb played 24 seasons in the majors, 22 of them with the Detroit Tigers. During that time, he set 90 MLB records, and still held 43 of them when he retired in 1928. His combined total of runs scored and RBIs (4,065) remains the highest, as does his record of 54 times stealing home. With 2,654 hits, 521 home runs, and a career batting average of .344, it's no surprise that Ted Williams is considered one of the best hitters in the history of baseball. Williams played his entire career, 1939 to 1960, with the Boston Red Sox. In 1958, at age 40, this 19 time All Star was the AL batting champion for the 6th time. In 1941, he achieved a batting average of .406, and is the last player to have a batting average over .400 in a single season, a feat that remains unsurpassed to this day. Ted

Williams' baseball career was voluntarily interrupted twice, the first time to serve as a Marine Corps pilot during World War II, and then again as a combat aviator in

the Korean War when he successfully landed a burning shot up plane. Following his retirement from baseball, Williams became a renowned fisherman, authoring three books on the subject and hosting numerous TV shows. Upon his death in 2002, Williams donated his body to science.

\*One week after his MLB debut with the Seattle Mariners, Ken Griffey, Jr. hit the first of his 630 home runs. He had been the first overall pick in the 1987 MLB draft. When Junior was 3, the Griffey family had moved to Cincinnati where Ken Griffey Sr. was playing for the Reds. In 1989, Ken Griffey Sr. joined the Seattle Mariners, creating the first father/son duo to play side by side in MLB. The pair were teammates for 51 games between 1990 and 1991, and hit back to back home runs in a 1990 game against the California Angels. Junior became a Cincinnati Red in 2000 and remained there until 2008. He finished his career back with the Mariners, after a 22 year career of honors, including 13 times as an All Star selection, 10 Gold Glove Awards, 1992 MVP of the All Star Game, and 1997 AL MVP. When he was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2016, he achieved 99.3% of the vote on his first ballot.

\*Fifteen time All Star Roberto Clemente had recorded 3,000 hits, two World Series championships, and four NL batting championships by the end of the 1972 season, during 18 seasons with the Pittsburgh Pirates. On Dec. 31 of that year, the 38 year old set out on a humanitarian mission to Nicaragua, which had been hit by a devastating earthquake. His plane, loaded with supplies for the victims crashed shortly after takeoff, taking the lives of all five aboard.

# TIDBITS

## GOES GREEN

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## Sports Stories.....

MLB



Situated at the southern tip of New York State's Otsego Lake, the small village of Cooperstown, population about 3,000, is home to the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum; one of America's most popular destinations.

The Hall became an idea in 1935, when plans were formed to celebrate the upcoming centennial celebration of baseball in 1939. At that time, Cooperstown was considered the birthplace of baseball, the site where native Abner Doubleday had developed the game in 1839. (That story was later discredited by historians.) The Hall was established by Stephen Carlton Clark, heir to the Singer Sewing Machine fortune. Clark's idea was to bring tourists to the community that had been deeply affected by the Great Depression and Prohibition. He was responsible for its construction, and the building was dedicated on June 12, 1939.

The first five inductees into baseball's Hall of Fame were Ty Cobb, Babe Ruth, Honus Wagner, Christy Mathewson, and Walter Johnson, all chosen in 1936. About 20 more were selected before the Hall's official opening. Ty Cobb received more votes than any of the other first four inductees, with 98.2%, Mathewson 90.7%, and Johnson at 83.6%. No other inductee received as high of a percentage as Cobb until Tom Seaver received 98.84% in 1992. Ken Griffey passed up Seaver's record in 2016 with 99.32%.

Only about 0.6% of MLB players have been elected to the Hall of Fame since 1936. It's not always an easy task to be elected - it took Joe DiMaggio three times on the ballot.

The Baseball Writers Association of America is the organization responsible for electing Hall of Fame members. About 450 writers participate every year. Each writer may vote for up to 10 players. As of January, 2025, there are 351 members of the Hall, including 277 former players. 118 members have been inducted after their death, including four who died after their selection was announced. Players, managers, umpires, executives, and baseball pioneers are all eligible for induction. A player must be named on at least 75% of the voters' ballots. If a candidate is named on at least 5% of the ballots cast, he is eligible to be named again, but will be removed if he has been on the ballot 10 times without election. The player's name is also removed if he has been retired 15 years.

Up until 1945, all players were eligible, including active ones. In 1946, a waiting period of one year after retirement was instigated. Since 1954, a player must be retired five years and have 10 years of major league experience to be eligible for the Hall of Fame. The five year waiting period was waived for Roger Clemente, who had played for the Pittsburgh Pirates for 18 seasons. Clemente was elected to the Hall of Fame in March 1973, about 2 1/2 months after his death in a plane crash enroute to Nicaragua on a humanitarian mission following a devastating earthquake there.

Yankee slugger Lou Gehrig was elected to the Hall of Fame in a special election in 1939 following his diagnosis of ALS.

Only one baseball player has ever been elected unanimously, Yankees pitcher Mariano Rivera in 2019. Eight others have achieved over 98% -- Derek Jeter, Ken Griffey Jr., Tom Seaver, Nolan Ryan, Cal Ripken Jr., Ty Cobb, George Brett, and Ichiro Suzuki. Suzuki was elected in 2025 with 99.7% just one vote shy of unanimously.



1. Name the golfer from Spain who won the Masters in 1994 and 1999 and was captain for Europe in the 2012 Ryder Cup.
2. Pro track league Grand Slam Track was founded in 2024 by what four-time Olympic gold medal-winning American sprinter?
3. Who was fired as head coach of the Chicago Blackhawks four games into the 2008-09 NHL season?
4. What short-lived (1989-90) winter pro baseball league for players ages 35 or older (32 for catchers) included teams like the St. Petersburg Pelicans, the West Palm Beach Tropics and the Orlando Juice?
5. What was the name of the turbojet-powered vehicle that driver/designer Art Arfons used to claim the land speed record three times from 1964-65?
6. What Soviet/Russian figure skater, along with husband Sergei Grinkov, won gold medals in the pairs event at the 1988 Calgary and 1994 Lillehammer Winter Olympics?
7. Businesswoman and philanthropist Joan Whitney Payson was co-founder and served as president of what Major League Baseball team from 1962-75?

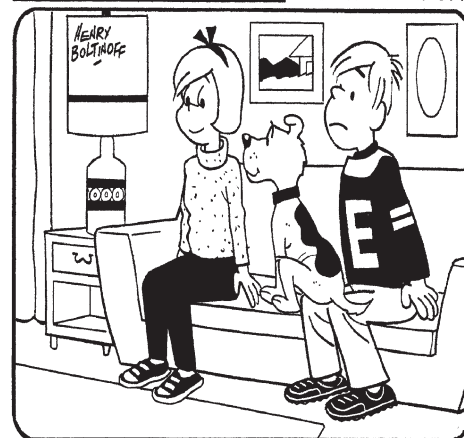
### Answers

1. Jose Maria Olazabal.
2. Michael Johnson.
3. Denis Savard.
4. The Senior Professional Baseball Association (SPBA).
5. The Green Monster.
6. Ekaterina Gordeeva.
7. The New York Mets.

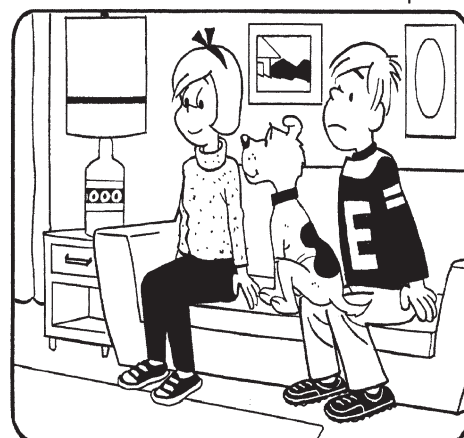


## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Drawer handle is different. 2. Picture on lamp is reversed. 3. Stripes on sleeve are higher. 4. Spot on dog's back is smaller. 5. Curtain is shorter. 6. Design on lamp is different.

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**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) With change dominant this week don't be surprised to find new emerging facts that could put a slant on a situation and offer you another choice. Think it through before you decide.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) There could be some lingering problems from a previous matter that involved a decision you felt you had to make. Resolve the situation with your strong Taurean no nonsense approach.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) The Gemini's carefully made plans could be undone by someone's unexpected decision. Getting the full story behind a surprise move can help you decide how to deal with the matter.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) Recently uncovered information might put a new light on a situation you thought had been resolved. Keep an open mind about possible changes that you might have to consider.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) With a potential revision of an old agreement, you can't beat the Big Cat for knowing how to sharpen a "clause" to the best advantage. Meanwhile, someone close could have the news you've been waiting for.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) Certain issues in the workplace could put you in the middle of a dispute you'd rather not deal with. Express your honest feelings before the pressure to take sides builds up.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) You might feel uneasy disagreeing with someone you've been close to. But your relationship should be able to withstand and even thrive when you confront your true feelings.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) A romantic situation seems to be creating more confusion than you can handle. If so, own up to your feelings. The sooner you do, the better your chances are for working things out.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) With change directing the Archer's aim, consider a second look at your plans and see where they might benefit from a revision. In other news, a workplace matter is close to a resolution.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) New contacts help you learn some important information about upcoming developments. The week calls for the Sea Goat to be more flexible than usual in a number of matters.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) With both change and uncertainty in your aspect, you might feel less confident in a previous decision. This is OK. Check it out and see where it could be modified, if necessary.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) Old relationships that seemed to be sinking are buoyant again, and new relationships are benefiting from Cupid's loving care. This could be a good time to make a major move!

**BORN THIS WEEK:** You prefer making your own path, but you'll go our of your way to help someone in need. You define what it means to be a true trailblazer.

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THIS WEEK'S **CELEBRITY BIRTHDAYS**

John Ratzenberger	4/6/47
Jackie Chen	4/7/54
Robin Wright	4/8/66
Kristen Steward	4/9/90
Mandy Moore	4/10/84
Joel Gray	4/11/32
Claire Danes	4/12/79

**TIPBITS**

**March 30th, 2025**

Go Figure!					
answers					
3	+	8	×	7	= 77
+		-		+	
9	-	1	÷	2	= 4
×		+		×	
5	+	4	-	6	= 3
=		=		=	
60		11		54	

## Puzzles4Kids

### Answer

C	U	C	K	O	O	C	R	A	N	E
A	T	R	O	W	L	O	N	D	O	A
B	I	R	A	V	E	N	R	A	I	L
D	I	R	E	S	H	H	A	W	K	
S	T	O	R	K	U	K				
W	A	N	E	N	E	V	U	L	T	U

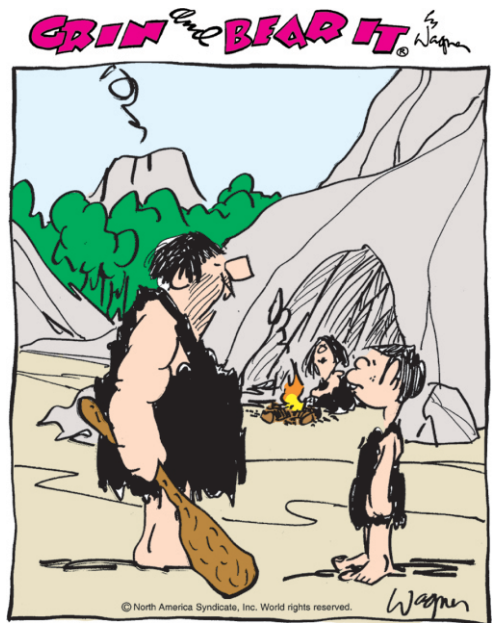
## More Baseball Facts

\*Although Pete Rose holds the record for the most at bats (14,053), the most games played, (3,562), and most hits (4,256), the Cincinnati Reds slugger nicknamed "Charlie Hustle" was permanently banned from baseball, including induction into the Hall of Fame for gambling on baseball. During his career from 1963 to 1986, Rose was Rookie of the Year, a 7 time All Star, and 3 time World Series winner. Pete Rose and Ty Cobb are the only MLB players with more than 4,000 hits. In 1990, Rose pleaded guilty to tax evasion and served five months in a Marion, Illinois minimum security prison. Pete Rose was banned from Hall of Fame induction, but the Hall contains several exhibits of Rose's baseball career.

\*Lou Gehrig's record of 2,130 consecutive games held for 56 years. Baltimore Orioles shortstop Cal Ripken, Jr. broke it in September 1995. Between 1981 and 2001, Ripken played in 3,001 games, and set the record of 2,632 consecutive games, a record he still holds.

\*The Yankees drafted shortstop Derek Jeter out of high school, and he played four seasons in the Minors before his MLB debut in 1995. Jeter is in 6th place in career with the Yanks, the team qualified for the post season 17 times, and Jeter played 158 post season games, and MLB record. During his 2000 season, he was both the All Star Game MVP and the World Series MVP. When this five time World Series champion was elected to the Hall of Fame in 2020, he received 396 of 397 possible votes.

(cont. on page 8)



"I think we need to have that chat, son ...  
now that we can talk."





\* On April 7, 1961, President John F. Kennedy sent a letter to Congress endorsing America's participation in an international campaign to preserve ancient temples and historic monuments in Egypt's Nile Valley. The campaign was initiated by UNESCO with the aim of saving sites threatened by the construction of the Aswan High Dam.

\* On April 8, 1994, the body of grunge rocker Kurt Cobain was discovered at his home in Seattle by a workman. The heroin-addicted, troubled artist had died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound, leaving behind fellow rocker Courtney Love, his wife, who had reported him missing, and toddler daughter Frances Bean Cobain.

\* On April 9, 1859, 23-year-old writer Samuel Langhorne Clemens received his steamboat pilot's license. He navigated his own boats for two years until the Civil War put a halt to steamboat traffic, and in 1861 penned a humorous travel letter signed "Mark Twain," a pseudonym he would continue to use as a popular author for nearly five decades.

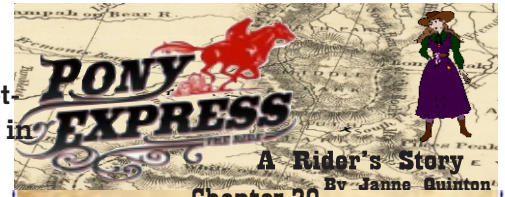
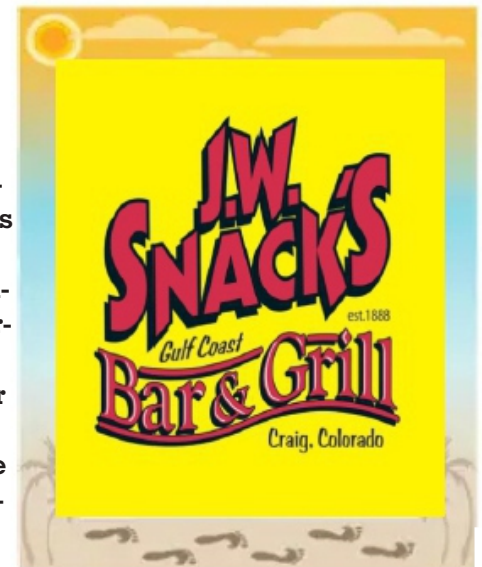
\* On April 10, 1975, 41-year-old Lee Elder became the first Black golfer to play in the Masters, considered the sport's most prestigious event. The Professional Golfers' Association, organizer of the main professional tours played by men in North America, hadn't approved participation by African Americans in events it cosponsored until 1952.

\* On April 11, 1979, Ugandan dictator Idi Amin fled the capital of Kampala as Tanzanian troops and forces of the Uganda National Liberation Front began to close in. Two days later, Kampala fell and a coalition government of former exiles took power. Amin, who was notorious for his brutality, escaped to Libya and eventually settled in Saudi Arabia, where he died in August 2003.

\* On April 12, 1861, the American Civil War began after Confederate forces fired on Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor, South Carolina.

\* On April 13, 1360, a hailstorm killed an estimated 1,000 English soldiers in Chartres, France. One survivor described it as "a foul day, full of mist and hale, so that men died on horseback."

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May 31st, 1860  
10:30 p.m.

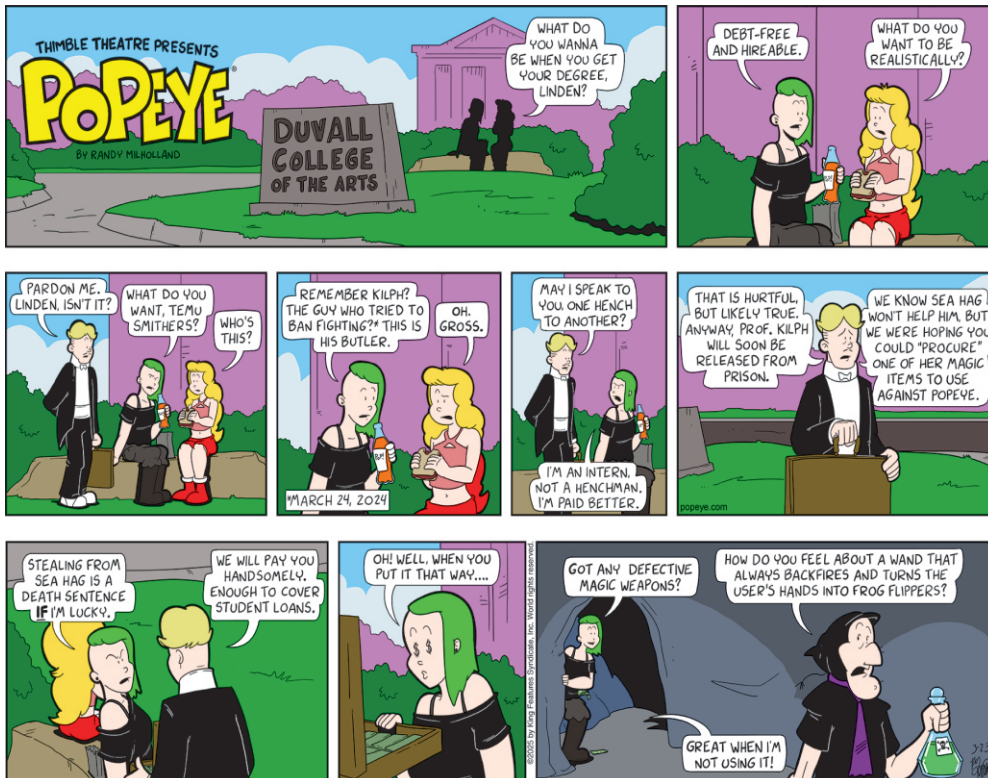
spent all day long planning out what to do about this mysterious stranger. Set up in the parlor downstairs at the inn, I was able to watch people come and go all day long. And that's when I think I saw him. His head nearly touched the top of the door! His clothes were none like I have ever seen! And he had a look in his eyes that reminded me of trouble. He went off pushing through the crowds after supper and disappeared to whichever one of these rooms is his upstairs. I asked around and no one knew what his name was. Even the innkeeper told me he registered only as 'Mister'. Mister? Mister what?

Also, nailed on the wall behind the register desk I noticed something important. A hand drawn map of where all the rooms are. Seems like every sleeping room is upstairs except the innkeeper's. Looked like his room is in the basement.

I quickly wrote what I could remember from the map onto some scraps and started writing who was staying in what room. There are ten rooms, and I learned who is staying in nine of them after talking around and meeting new people here in Lucasville. This means only one room could be the mysterious stranger's.

I'm in my room, and the sounds of everyone turnin' in for the night is all I have to decide when to make my move.

Yup. You guessed it. We're gonna steal from the thief.





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On the Farm

P	L	A	N	T	Sow
					Flower part
					Fancy candle
					Dirt
					Part of the proceeds
					Charger or dobbins

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

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02504



## BINGO

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

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

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

Hungry?  
Get your munch on  
at the Concession  
Stand Both Days!!

44 W Victory Way  
(on the corner of Victory  
Way & Breeze St.) Craig,  
CO

## KNIGHT MOVES

S	C	U
O		P
A	S	I

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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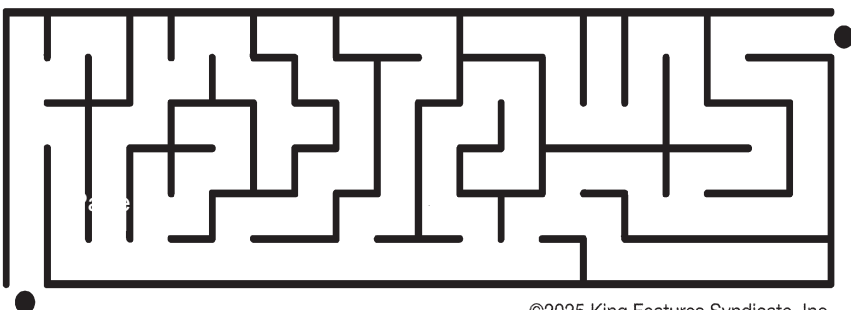
## WORD SPIRAL

N		U
		M
E	T	

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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## Kids' Maze



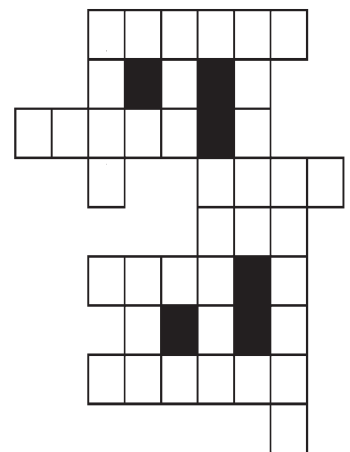
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## FEAR KNOT

By: rj johnson

DOUBT? ...OR DARE!

- NEH
- PUMEST
- ♥LERFI
- MEAF
- PEMCAN
- ♥RMA
- ECFL
- ♥ERN SO
- ♥EAL
- HEIRUM
- ♥ATHEC
- ♥ITNH



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

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**ALL PUZZLE & QUIZ ANSWERS  
WILL BE IN NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE  
UNLESS STATED OTHERWISE!**

## Even Exchange by Donna Pettman

Each numbered row contains two clues and two 6-letter answers. The two answers differ from each other by only one letter, which has already been inserted. For example, if you exchange the A from MASTER for an I, you get MISTER. Do not change the order of the letters.

- |                        |           |                      |           |
|------------------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|
| 1. Mr. Hood            | ___ B ___ | Pitcher's resin      | ___ S ___ |
| 2. Schubert's creation | ___ Z ___ | Disney and Whitman   | ___ S ___ |
| 3. Lure                | ___ C ___ | Every bit            | ___ R ___ |
| 4. Not very tall       | ___ O ___ | Tee or jersey        | ___ I ___ |
| 5. Hatchling           | ___ H ___ | Use a computer mouse | ___ L ___ |
| 6. Center              | M ___     | Play the violin      | F ___     |
| 7. Chap                | ___ E ___ | Trail                | ___ O ___ |
| 8. Rendezvous          | ___ Y ___ | Have faith in        | ___ U ___ |
| 9. Turtle's casing     | ___ L ___ | Ledge                | ___ F ___ |
| 10. Orion              | ___ T ___ | Long for food        | ___ G ___ |

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## Puzzles4Kids by Helene Hovanec

### 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:

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

XIBU IPMJEBZ JT DFMFCBUFE

BU B HBT TUBUJPO?

BQSJM GVFM'T EBZ?

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## Weekly SUDOKU

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

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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## STICKELERS by Terry Stickels

Below are four squeezer puzzles.  
Can you find the correct word to be placed in the middle of each to create two new words, one front-end, one back-end?  
Here's an example of how it works:

ever GREEN horn

- 1) slip \_\_\_ age
- 2) over \_\_\_ over
- 3) play \_\_\_ work
- 4) tide \_\_\_ melon

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## GO FIGURE!

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

	+		×	7	= 77			
+		-		+				
	-		÷		= 4			
×		+		×				
	+		-		= 3			
=		=		=				
60		11		54				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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## CryptoQuip

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

Clue: I equals Y

ITE FGOQQI HOS'M JZUU MWOM

WGOCI, JEUHEQOF VEI

UZMMZSV TCGF MWGFG.

WG'U DEFQI FGHTVSAODQG.

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# Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- \* Africa is the only continent with land in all four of Earth's hemispheres.
- \* Programmer Terry Davis, who suffered with schizophrenia, spent a decade working on an operating system to "talk to God."
- \* The highest golf course in the world is the Tuctu Golf Club in Morococha, Peru, sitting 14,335 feet above sea level at its lowest point.
- \* Vladimir Putin's grandfather worked as a chef for Rasputin, Lenin, and Stalin.
- \* Bluetooth technology was named after 10th-century King Harald Bluetooth, who united Denmark and Norway, just like technology united computers and cellphones.
- \* Colonel Sanders got fired from a dozen jobs, was a lawyer who once assaulted his own client in court, started a restaurant that went out of business, and found himself broke at the age of 65. That's when he started KFC.
- \* The Mayans drilled holes in their teeth to insert semiprecious stones.
- \* North Korea's 105-story Ryugyong Hotel, nicknamed "The Hotel of Doom," is one of the world's tallest unoccupied building.
- \* Iceland has an official book-buying season that runs from September through December. More than half of all the books sold in the country are purchased during the month before Christmas.
- \* Australian compass termites construct their mounds on a north-south axis.
- \* According to a study of 79,777 patients, violent criminals had a much lower level of cholesterol than nonviolent individuals.
- \* Linonophobia is a fear of string.
- \* Hasbro has a "Monopoly Speed Die" and an official rule-book for "extreme" Monopoly variants.
- \* Composer Richard Wagner used to preserve his own nose hair clippings for posterity.

\*\*\*

Thought for the Day: "If you always have something in your life that you're trying to improve upon, then every day you have a reason to get out of bed, and you have a reason to achieve something and feel good." -- Nick Offerman  
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March 30th, 2025

## CryptoQuip answer

Being that my son's wife borrowed a large amount of money from me, is she my debtor-in-law?

## Word Spiral Answer

### QUADRANTS

## Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



## Fun Fact

It is estimated it would take about **two years and eight months** for a spacecraft to leave Earth for Mars, undergo a "waiting period" there, then return to Earth. Mars is at its closest position to Earth only about every 2 years, so a craft reaching Mars must wait out its orbit around the sun before the craft can attempt to fly back to Earth.

Sources: [www.space.com](http://www.space.com),  
[www.britannica.com](http://www.britannica.com), [earthsky.org](http://earthsky.org)

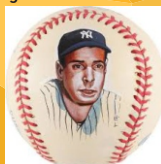
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## More Baseball Facts (cont. from page 4)

- \*Only five MLB players have hit five home runs in one game - Pete Schneider (1923), Lou Frierson (1934), Cecil Dunn (1936), Dick Lane (1948), and Parker DePasquale (2023).
- \*In 1974, Nolan Ryan recorded MLB's fastest pitch, 100.9 mph, a record that would hold until 2010, when it was broken by Cincinnati Reds' Aroldis Chapman.
- \*The record for all time home runs in a single season is held by Barry Bonds, with 73. Bonds also has the record for career home runs with 762, although several observers dispute this due to speculation that Bonds used performance enhancing drugs during his career. Bonds surpassed Hank Aaron's record of 755 in 2007. Only two other players have surpassed 700 - Babe Ruth and Albert Pujols. Yankee slugger Aaron Judge broke Roger Maris' 1961 record of 61 single season home runs in 2022. Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa had beaten Maris' record in 1998 and 1999, but the two were also named in baseball's steroids scandal.
- \*In 1975, Pittsburgh Pirate Rennie Stennett made history when he had seven hits in his seven at bats in a nine inning game. The Pirates trounced the Chicago Cubs 22-0 that day. In 2016, another player, Brandon Crawford of the San Francisco Giants, had a seven hit game, but the game went into extra innings, leaving Stennett's record intact.
- \*Only two MLB players have spent their entire career with one team for at least 23 seasons - Carl Yastrzemski of the Boston Red Sox and Brooks Robinson of the Baltimore Orioles.
- \*Three players have a record of hitting a home run in eight straight games - Pittsburgh Pirate Dale Long in 1956, and New York Yankee Don Mattingly in 1987, and Seattle Mariner Ken Griffey Jr. in 1993.
- \*Only "The Star Spangled Banner" and "Happy Birthday" outrank "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" as America's most recognizable songs. It was written in 1908 by Jack Norworth and Albert Von Tilzer, neither of whom had ever attended a baseball game. Fans still sing along during the seventh inning stretch of MLB games.

## TIDBITS NUGGET OF KNOWLEDGE

During the 1941 season, Yankee Joe DiMaggio set what has been described as "unbreakable." This center fielder had at least one hit in 56 consecutive games, MLB's longest hitting streak, during which his batting average was .408. No one else has even come close, although Pete Rose did record 44 games in 1978.





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1. Who was the first to record "Delta Dawn"?
2. Name the singer who wrote and released "Blowin' in the Wind."
3. Belinda Jo Carlisle was lead singer for which band?
4. Who wrote and released "Bad Medicine"?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "Your lips on mine are soft as dew, Your kiss is so divine, Your eyes are like the skies of blue, And stars that brightly shine."

**Answers**

1. No, it wasn't Tanya Tucker, although hers was the best known, nor was it Helen Reddy, although she topped the charts with her cover of the song. The first to release the song was Bette Midler on her debut album in 1971.

**TIDBITS QUOTE**

"...Yet today I consider myself the luckiest man on the face of this earth. I have been in ballparks for seventeen years and have never received anything but kindness and encouragement from you fans."

~ Lou Gehrig,  
 Farewell address

**Just Like Cats & Dogs**

by Dave T. Phipps



2. Bob Dylan, in 1962. The song didn't get much attention when it first came out, but it ended up as No. 14 on the Rolling Stone list of 500 greatest songs of all time and went into the Grammy Hall of Fame.
3. The all-female The Go-Go's, organized in 1978.
4. Bon Jovi, in 1988.
5. "So Many Ways," by Brook Benton, in 1959. Benton (born Benjamin Franklin Peay) had three songs top the R&B charts that year, and "So Many Ways" stayed there for three weeks.

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\* There's no end to the quick time-savers and innovations in the kitchen. Today's homemakers are likely to have a full-time job already. Here's one for those mornings when you want to get a little fancy, but don't have all day: Make hash browns in a waffle iron. Parboil shredded potatoes the night before. Store in the refrigerator in a plastic bag. Generously oil your waffle iron and scatter precooked potato shreds on. They cook twice as fast, and have all of the double-sided crispiness of pan-fried.

\* Freeze leftover wine for use in cooking. Use and ice-cube tray for uniform measuring.

\* Want to hard-cook many eggs at once? Bake the eggs in the oven 325-350 for 30 minutes, then submerge them in ice water for 10 minutes. Peel and enjoy.

\* "Tension rods can be used in cabinets to separate cookie sheets and have them stored upright. Use two shorter ones mounted vertically in the cabinet, and slide the sheets right in. You can also use a dish rack to store pot lids upright. This is something I do, and my cabinets are nice and organized." -- R.L. in Indiana

\* Try prep cooking once a week for as many elements of that week's meals as possible. Chop veggies, saute or even brown meats for casseroles or prep slow cooker bags. It does save time if you are able to cook two meals at once, say, roast two chickens: one for tonight's dinner and another for chicken enchiladas later in the week.

\* I only buy my bread when it's two for one. I freeze it in half loafs, so I always have fresh bread, even if my nest is empty now! -- D.D. in Maryland

Send your tips to: Now Here's a Tip  
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**The Garden Bug**

The three main types of root systems are called "taproot," "lateral root" and "heart root" (also known as "oblique root"). **Tap root systems** are very stable. Some common species with tap roots are oaks, pines, hickory, sweet gum, tupelo and walnut.

**Tree roots**

**Lateral root systems** spread widely under the tree and help distribute its weight. Most trees have a lateral root system. **Heart (or oblique) root systems** get their stability from the weight of the root "ball." If the soil is very wet, a strong wind can make the tree and its root ball rotate in the ground, like a ball-and-socket joint. - Brenda Weaver

Sources: [aplustree.com](http://aplustree.com), [vicstreeservice.com](http://vicstreeservice.com)

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1. GEOGRAPHY: Mount Everest is part of which mountain range?
2. MOVIES: Which color film was the first to win an Academy Award for Best Picture?
3. ASTRONOMY: Which planet in our solar system is believed to be the windiest?
4. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Where is the U.S. Constitution stored?
5. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of lemurs called?
6. TELEVISION: Which city is the setting for the dramatic series "The Wire"?
7. GEOLOGY: Which country has the most active volcanos?

8. LITERATURE: Which character in a Charles Dickens novel famously said, "Please, sir, I want some more"?
9. ART: Which Dutch artist is considered a master of light and shadow, creating dramatic effects in paintings?
10. SCIENCE: What is an ectothermic animal?

Answers

1. The Himalayas.
  2. "Gone With the Wind."
  3. Neptune.
  4. The National Archives.
  5. A conspiracy.
  6. Baltimore, Maryland.
  7. Indonesia.
  8. Title character in "Oliver Twist."
  9. Rembrandt.
  10. Cold-blooded.
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**TIGER**



The staffing cuts at the Department of Veterans Affairs continue. As of today, another 585 non-mission-critical or duplicate contracts are terminated, out of 90,000 existing contracts totaling \$67 billion. This will put \$900 million back in the kitty to be spent on veterans, their caregivers, families and survivors. That's a lot of money.

It makes me wonder how those contracts came to be in the first place. The canceled contracts covered such services as taking minutes at meetings, leadership coaching, mentoring staff, creating meeting agendas and creating PowerPoint slides (laughingly called "executive support.") Are those not things that staff should be doing? These contract cancellations are on top of the additional 1,400 probationary positions that were eliminated (employees who had worked for the VA for less than a year), saving \$83 million to be spent on veterans for benefits, services and health care. Meanwhile, plans continue to fill 300,000 mission-critical positions at the VA that were exempted from the hiring freeze. These include: 94,000 nurses, 8,300 psychologists, 12,000 pharmacists and 3,000 physical therapists -- all hands-on for care of veterans. I do, however, worry about the VA Office of Inspector General in all of these cuts. I hope cool heads prevail and they take a moment to realize just how much money the VAOIG saves by identifying, investigating and auditing VA waste. At this time I can't find any mention of staff cuts at the VAOIG, thankfully. Recent updates on their activities show scam-mers being caught for fraud (\$1 million), fraud (\$300,000) and more fraud (\$392,000). In the last 12 months, the OIG has derailed schemes totaling \$3 billion being stolen from the VA. If anything, I would wish that the VAOIG be listed as a "mission critical" department and have their staff doubled. My second wish would be that the penalties (prison time, fines and restitution) also be doubled. Too often the criminals seem to only get a slap on the wrist for their scams against the VA.

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**March 30th, 2025**

Weekly SUDOKU												
Answer												Sticklers Answer
1	4	7	8	9	3	2	6	5	Here's one way to solve the puzzle. Your way may be different: 12+3+4+5+67+8+9=100			
3	2	5	1	4	6	7	9	8				
8	9	6	7	5	2	3	4	1				
7	5	4	2	8	9	6	1	3				
6	1	9	3	7	5	4	8	2				
2	8	3	4	6	1	5	7	9				
4	3	2	6	1	8	9	5	7				
5	6	1	9	3	7	8	2	4				
9	7	8	5	2	4	1	3	6				





## Holidays & Observances This Week

4/6	Teflon Day
4/7	Metric System Day
4/8	National Library Day'
4/9	Appomattox Day
4/10	National Siblings Day
4/11	World Parkinson's Disease Day
4/12	National Only Child Day

## Americanisms



"Any fool can make a rule,  
and any fool will mind it."  
— Henry David Thoreau

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**KOVELS** Antiques  
By Terry and Kim Kovel  
& Collecting

### Solar Models

Solar eclipses have fascinated observers for thousands of years. The ancient Greek philosopher Aristotle pointed to the round shadows that appear during eclipses as evidence that the Earth is round. European Renaissance figures like Nicolaus Copernicus, Galileo Galilei and Isaac Newton paved the way for more widespread interest in and more advanced devices for learning about the orbits of planets around the sun. One such device was the orrery, believed to have been invented in the early 1700s. The name comes from the Earl of Orrery, whose commissions helped popularize them. The orrery is a kind of planetarium that models the position and motion of planets relative to the sun. This one was made about 1900 and sold for \$630 at Donley Auctions.



The sphere in the center, made of brass, represents the sun. A small globe on a wooden arm represents Earth, with a smaller sphere connected to it by a wire for the moon. Another small sphere closer to the sun stands for Venus or Mercury, one of the planets whose orbit lies between Earth and the sun. The gears and chains that allow the arms to move are visible, and the base is labeled with the seasons and months of the year as well as the names of the 12 zodiac constellations. It makes an effective teaching tool to show how Earth revolves around the sun but remember that it's not an accurate model of the solar system.

\*\*\*

Q: I have an old bottle of Crown Royal with the seal intact bought at Thule Air Base from 1956 to 1958. Before we crack it open at a celebration, I thought I should make sure we weren't doing something foolish. Do you have any thoughts on valuation?

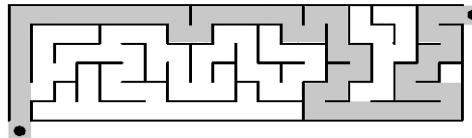
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### Kids' Maze Solution



A: We have seen unopened Crown Royal bottles from the 1950s sell for about \$200 at auctions. If the original box and bag are included, the price will be higher. Vintage Crown Royal bottles tend to sell at house sales and estate auctions. They may also sell at sales of whiskey or liquor bottles held by national auction houses.

\*\*\*

TIP: When stacking dinner plates, put a piece of felt or paper between each plate. Never put more than 24 in one stack.

\*\*\*

### CURRENT PRICES

Dental, toothbrush, electric, Bugs Bunny, carrot shape, detachable head, figural stand, battery operated, box, Sears, 1973, 9 1/2 inches, \$35.

Thermometer, M.A. Finnell, Renaissance Revival style, walnut case, carved leafy crest, mid-1800s, 57 x 13 inches, \$250.

Brass, coffee set, coffee pot, lid, folding handle, sugar, lid, six cups, round tray, silver and copper inlay, damascened, tray 14 inches, coffee pot 6 inches, nine pieces, \$375.

World's Fair, vase, amethyst glass, iridescent finish, art nouveau mount, view of Cascade Gardens, St. Louis, 1904, 4 inches, \$740.

Silver-Mexican, wine bucket, urn shape, gadrooned rim, lion's mask ring handles, lobed lower body, round foot, beaded rim, marked, Sanborns, c. 1960, 9 1/2 x 10 inches, \$1,405.

For more collecting news, tips and resources, visit:

www.Kovels.com

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## SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

## Starting a Garden Indoors

The many feet of snow on the ground where I live is an indication of just how far I am from starting a vegetable garden this year. However, it's not too early to start vegetable seeds indoors.

Not all vegetables are good candidates for starting inside from seed (root vegetables such as carrots won't do well started in shallow containers), but peppers, onions, and spinach are good candidates to start indoors. Later, I'll add seedlings for more variety, including marigolds to repel garden pests.

On my to do list:

Schedule the guy with his tiller to come break up the ground in a month. There's no sense in renting a heavy machine I'll have to operate.

Order a load of mulch for delivery later to be spread for weed control and preserving moisture in the soil.

Cut the milk cartons I've saved over the winter into seed germination pots. A 3 inch depth will be deep enough - and they're free. A layer of plastic wrap will serve as a humidity dome.

Collect from my neighbor all the icepop sticks her grandchildren have left so I can use them as plant markers. Be sure the indoor grow light works, that I don't need a new bulb.

But most fun of all the things on my to do list will be choosing the seeds and deciding what to grow. Catalogs have been arriving (they all also have websites), each more beautiful than the last. If you have no yard, consider container gardening. If you have a sunny location, you can grow peas, strawberries, lettuce, potatoes, spinach and so much more right outside your door. Do an online search for "container vegetable garden" for advice on the size of containers to use, the type of soil and a list of vegetables that should not be planted next to each other.

March 30th, 2025

## Even Exchange answers

- |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Wordy, Worry   | 6. Pride, Prize   |
| 2. Rivet, River   | 7. Sanity, Vanity |
| 3. Beside, Reside | 8. Cairo, Cairn   |
| 4. Tiger, Tiber   | 9. Degree, Decree |
| 5. Detail, Detain | 10. Child, Chili  |

— KNIGHT MOVES —  
Answer

U	N	T
A		C
S	R	I

CURTAINS

