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BAD DISGUISES

(cont. from Front Cover)

THE WEIRDO IN CLOWN PANTS

* Dennis Hawkins, a 48-year-old Pittsburgh resident, knew he would need a disguise to rob a local bank in 2010. However, he never got the memo about blending into the background or being inconspicuous. His brilliant outfit included a blond wig, fake breasts, and brightly colored clown pants. Although he was trying to look like a typical woman, he didn't bother to shave his beard. He robbed the bank using a realistic-looking toy BB gun he had recently shoplifted. Hawkins got away with an undisclosed amount of cash.

* Shortly after fleeing the scene of the crime, police received call from a clerk at a nearby gas station stating that a man wearing a wig and clown pants was trying to steal a car. Hawkins, now covered in red dye from an exploding dye pack, got into a woman's parked car, at which point she quickly exited the car, taking the keys with her. Hawkins was still sitting the car, trying to figure out his next move, when cops arrived.

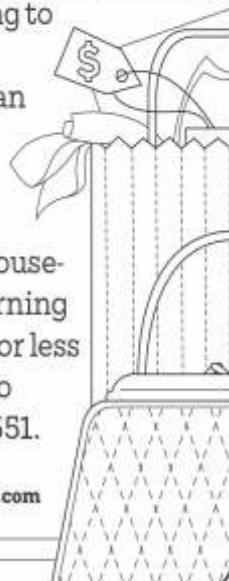
SPIDERMAN

Peter Parker would never have done such a thing, but Daniel Bradley didn't hesitate. In 2012, in Merced, California, Bradley donned a Spiderman costume, grabbed a metal pipe as a weapon, and tried to rob a woman who had just parked her car. When he insisted she hand over her purse, she ran off screaming for the cops.

Fun Fact

American shoppers are expecting to lay out an average of **\$1,007 for gifts** this holiday season, according to Gallup polling, an amount similar to last year's. Households earning \$50,000 or less expect to spend \$651.

Source:
news.gallup.com



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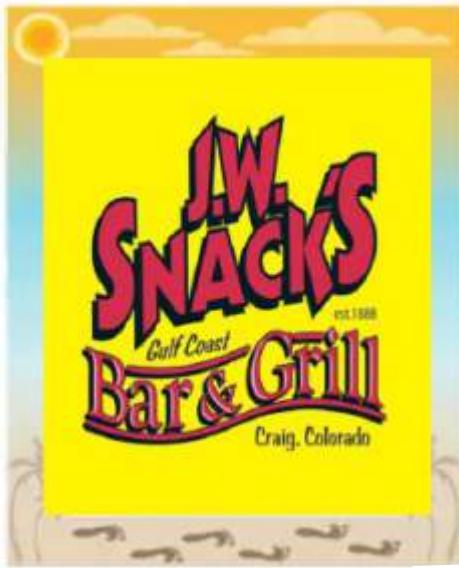


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of locations where *Tidbits* is available.

1

A bystander, having witnessed the unusual crime, called the police. Bradley took off running down the street, hurling the metal pipe into the shrubbery. Surprisingly enough, the Spiderman costume made it easy for the cops to spot him as they responded to the scene. When they asked him why he was wearing a Spiderman costume, 22-year-old Bradley freely admitted that it was part of his disguise. The part of the disguise he had neglected to don was the face mask. Both the bystander and the victim easily identified him.





BAD DISGUISES

(cont. from Page 2)

PAPER OR PLASTIC? PLASTIC!

* In 2012, in Cornwall, England, 41-year-old Jamie Neil and 20-year-old Gareth Tilley were sitting around getting drunk and stoned when they decided it would be a good idea to rob a nearby gas station. Needing a disguise, Tilley grabbed a scarf and wrapped it around his face. But Neil couldn't find another scarf. However, he did find a plastic bag, of the type used for produce at the grocery store. Thus prepared they entered the store, announced the robbery, and because they did not own a gun - Tilley pointed his phone directly at the clerk and threatened to shoot. Unfortunately for the pair, the phone's screen lit up with a soft blue light just then, which guns typically don't do. The clerk refused to cooperate with the big robbery plans and tripped the alarm. Neil head-butted the clerk, and the pair made off with a couple of bottles of booze. The cops examined surveillance footage and were easily able to identify Neil despite his brilliant plastic bag disguise. A cop recognized him walking down the street a couple of days later. They each spent two years in prison.

DARTH VADER: I AM YOUR ROBBER

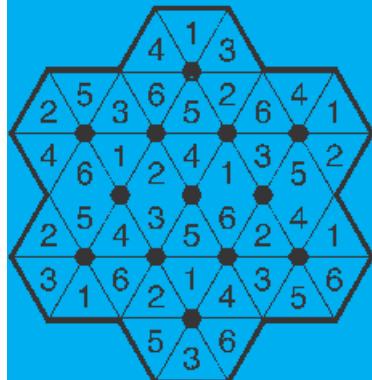
2015 in a galaxy far, far, away, Jacob Mercer went to the dark side and decided to rob a nearby convenience store. To disguise himself for the robbery in Jacksonville Beach, Florida, he donned a Darth Vader helmet, a Darth Vader plastic mask, and a sweatshirt resembling Darth Vader. Instead of using a lightsaber, he used a gun. The stunned store clerk, after realizing it wasn't a joke, lobbed (according to various reports) either a bottle of wine or a glass jar of salad dressing at the evil overlord. They landed square in the middle of Mercer's face, fracturing the plastic mask and cutting him badly. He fled in his car and was shortly apprehended at a house three blocks away where he'd been staying with a friend.

The image features the word "TIDBITS" in a stylized yellow font with a black outline, accompanied by a black swoosh graphic. Below it, the words "GOES GREEN" are written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. To the right of the text is a white recycling symbol (three chasing arrows forming a triangle) inside a white square frame.



November 16th, 2025

Snowflakes solution



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SPORTS STORIES

* It was August 10, 2017. The St. Louis Cardinals were up against the Kansas City Royals. The Cardinals were behind 5 - 4 in the bottom of the sixth. The bases were loaded with only one out left. Yadier Molina stepped up to the plate. Just then, a cat appeared.

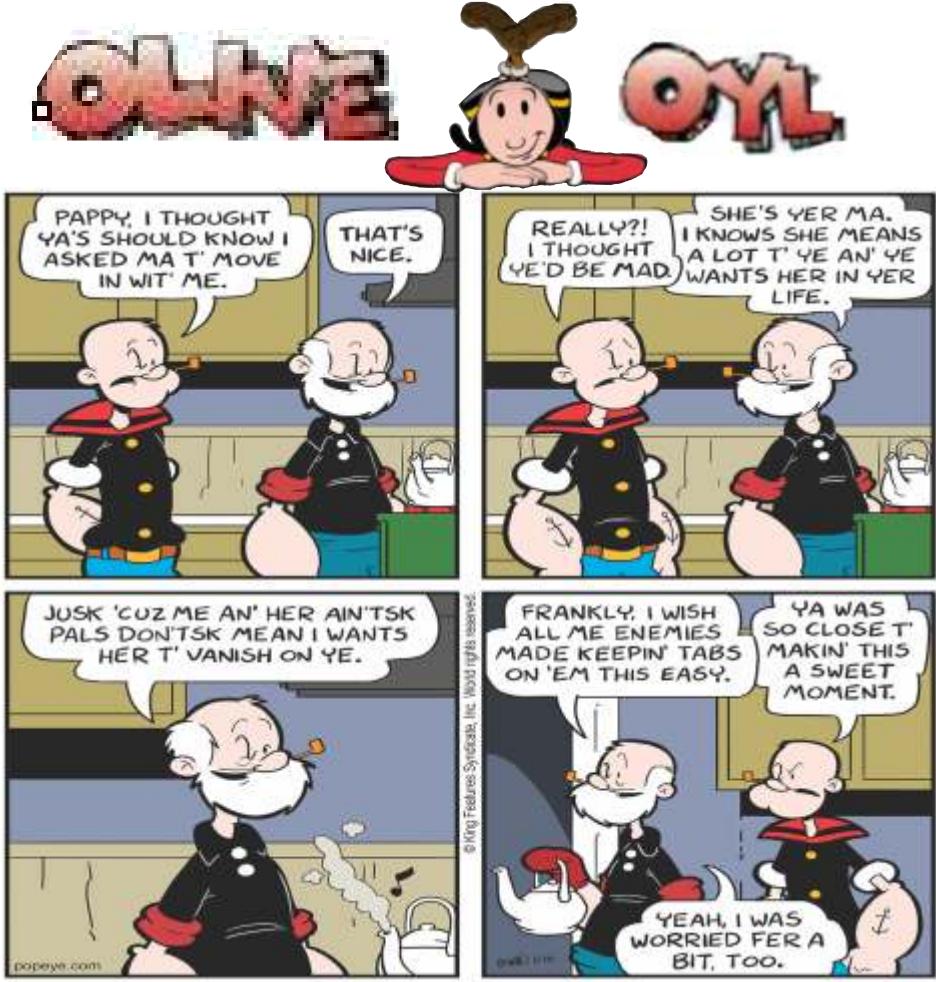
* It was a young tabby. The game halted as the cat zipped here and zoomed there, searching for a way out. The crowd went wild.

* Lucas Hackmann, from the ground crew, went to capture the cat. With 88,000 fans watching, he ran onto the field, cornered the cat, and picked him up. He held the frightened cat like a football and ran for the dugout. The cat fought back. A cheer went up from the crowd for every claw mark, bite, and scratch he received. Hackmann made it as far as the dugout before he dropped the cat in self-defense.

* The cat vanished. Hackmann made a speedy trip to the emergency room. By the time the bleeding stopped, he was already famous, dubbed "The Cat Guy" as the video of the episode ricocheted around the world. Nurses clustered, asking for selfies and autographs.

* Then the game resumed. On the very next pitch, Yadier Molina smashed a grand slam into the stands, and the Cardinals won 8 - 5.

* Superstitious fans and players attributed this remarkable win to the feline, now dubbed Rally Cat.



Repeat After Me:

530 Yampa Ave.
Craig, CO

Suddenly, everyone wanted to know where Rally Cat had gone, and ten thousand people wanted to adopt that cat.

* A fan who lived nearby found the alley cat cowering in a corner. She claimed it was hers, confiscated it, bypassed security, and began walking to her house. Suddenly, Rally Cat was startled and leaped from her arms, disappearing into the night. She admitted her actions to the clamoring media in the hopes that someone would find the cat. The following day, a crew from the St. Louis Feral Cat Outreach (STLFCO) showed up with traps.

* Just 29 hours after the cat rocketed to fame, he was eating tuna inside a trap. The cat was ushered to a safe house.

* For the next month, a battle over custody of Rally Cat ensued. As soon as the news broke that Rally Cat had been found, members of STLFCO were overwhelmed by requests to adopt him, interview him, and pose for pictures with him. Instead, they transported Rally Cat in secret to a vet to be checked out, vaccinated, and chipped, with STLFCO listed as the owner. The Cardinals demanded the cat be turned over to them. The STLFCO announced that the cat would be held in quarantine for rabies testing. STLFCO used the publicity to focus attention on the thousands of other feral cats roaming the streets.

* The Cardinals wanted to adopt the cat as a team mascot, raising him in the clubhouse, trotting him out to show off during games, and inviting reporters to do feature stories. STLFCO thought this was not a suitable environment for a cat. A full-on catfight evolved, STLFCO received death threats. They hired a lawyer to deal with the Cardinals. More headlines ensued.

* STLFCO stood firm. The Cardinals finally backed down and made a generous donation to the cause. Four months later, STLFCO announced that Rally Cat had been adopted, and was now officially retired. His new family, whose identity was secret, reported that Rally Cat likes lounging in his catio, is afraid of the vacuum, and drools when he's happy. His name is now R.C.



STAR
WRECK



* Eugene was a U.S. Army Air Corps pilot during World War II. After the war ended, he began working as a commercial pilot for Pan Am. This was just at the time when Pan Am started offering the first round-the-world trips. Eugene, at age 26, was the 3rd officer on a fateful leg of one of these routes.

* The journey of Pan Am Flight 121 on June 18, 1947, started in Karachi, heading for Istanbul, but things went haywire. Eugene took over for the pilot to give him a break. During that break, one of the four engines began malfunctioning, so Eugene shut it down to prevent overheating. When the pilot returned, he agreed with the decision because planes could usually fly just fine on three engines. The pilot, trying to make it to an airport where repairs could be made, bypassed several chances to land the plane safely - and suddenly, it was too late.

* Under the increased strain, one of the three remaining engines overheated. The heat caused some of the magnesium-based parts to ignite. The engine fell off the wind, severing the gas line and spraying gas. The pilot told Eugene to go tell the passengers to prepare for a rough landing.

* The plane came down hard in the middle of the Syrian Desert at 3:30 a.m. Fifteen on board were killed, including seven crew and eight passengers. But 22 people were still alive. There were only three crew members left: Eugene, a purser, and a stewardess.

* Because the fuselage had been ripped open, many passengers were able to leap directly from the burning plane to the ground below. Eugene, despite having broken rib, helped injured passengers out until the flames became too intense. The last person off the plane died in Eugene's arms.

* In complete darkness, Eugene, as the senior officer, organized triage of the injured. He did not know if a distress signal had been sent, or if anyone knew their location or their situation. When dawn broke, he could see telegraph poles in the distance. He sent one search party to follow the lines in one direction and another party in the other direction. Meanwhile, local tribesmen came upon the wreckage and took the opportunity to loot as much as possible. Shocked survivors barely managed to hold on to what little had been salvaged from the wreckage, including first aid kits, several warm coats, and an inflatable raft that provided shade when propped up.

* One of the search parties found a Syrian military post just 4 miles (6 km) away. Troops arrived at the wreck by mid-morning, and Syrian planes evacuated the 22 survivors to the nearest hospital.

* Although Eugene was awarded a Civil Aeronautics commendation for his efforts after the crash, he was done with flying.



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He resigned from his position with Pan Am. Instead, he became a cop for a short while and then decided that he wanted to be a writer. His writing led him to the burgeoning world of television

* In 1966, a science fiction show that he created became a smash hit. Eugene Wesley Roddenberry, known as Gene, created a show called "Star Trek." In 1985, Gene Roddenberry became the first television writer to receive a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. He was inducted into the Science Fiction Hall of Fame as well as the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences Hall of Fame. Years after he died in 1991, Eugene was one of the first humans to have their ashes carried into space.

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November 16th, 2025

Super Crossword

Answers

DRI	M	A	P	R	T	C	A	G	R	U	B	M
RAG	T	I	M	E	A	U	R	A	L	E	F	O
EQUAL	I	Y	I	Y	I	S	I	S	I	S	I	A
DUAN	F	C	O	F	F	M	F	R	G	F	R	I
ELAND	G	M	A	G	D	D	N	E	A	R	R	A
AIM	R	G	R	A	B	B	E	A	G	L	E	T
SPUDS	E	A	M	C	O	T	O	C	S	T	C	R
TONI	D	E	A	I	D	E	R	O	D	E	N	T
FSTAT	F	C	H	A	M	P	I	O	N	S	H	I
WHO	A	L	T	Q	U	I	M	U	D	E	B	B
DAMN	E	M	I	S	S	I	N	M	P	O	S	S
EMEND	O	A	F	O	T	O	C	S	T	C	R	A
JESUIT	I	E	D	I	N	G	F	E	N	C	O	S
ASHIEST	S	T	E	R	E	B	U	S	P	Z	Z	E
EVICT	SHAQ	F	U	S	T	Y	U	S	T	O	R	E
DEMUR	ORHUGO	E	E	E	E	R	T	O	N	G	A	A
IRATE	EMOTIONS	I	S	I	C	K	N	E	S	S	C	K
TAXFS	LAJINIO	G	O	I	O	E	R	E	I	E	R	E
	DDF	KOS	H	M	S	H	M	S	T	S	T	S



What's red, looks like a bucket, is shaped like a bucket and holds water?

A red bucket.

What's blue, looks like a bucket, is shaped like a bucket and holds water?

A red bucket in disguise!



HAPPY
THANKSGIVING



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You might feel like you have all the answers right now. But it might be wise to listen to other ideas before you decide to close the lid on other possibilities.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Bovines give and expect loyalty, so it might not be easy to reconcile with someone you feel let you down. Why not ask a neutral party to set up a clear-the-air meeting?

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Anticipating the holidays with family and friends fuels your must-do Gemini energies. But try to pace yourself so that you'll be up for whatever comes along later.

(June 21 to July 22) More background information might come through regarding a decision you expect to make. Be sure to check the source carefully before you move.

(July 23 to August 22) The strong, nurturing nature of the Lion comes through this week as you reach out to family and friends in need of your warm and loving support.

(August 23 to September 22) A relationship that has almost totally unraveled could be close to being restored with more effort on your part to be more patient and less judgmental.

LIBRA September 23 to October 22) Your sense of fair play is strong this week, which can cause a problem with a longtime relationship. But in the end, you'll know what decision to make.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) You might not know all the facts behind an unwelcome development, so keep your Scorpion temper in check and resist lashing out at anyone.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) This is a good time to reinforce relationships with family, friends and colleagues that might have been overlooked in recent years.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Family situations continue to thrive. Business associations also improve. Some holiday plans might have to be shifted a bit. Be flexible.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Avoid any influence of negative energy in this week's aspect by not allowing small problems to grow into large ones. Work them out immediately.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) A friend might need advice on how to deal with a challenge to their moral values. And who better than you to give the honest answer? Good luck!

BORN THIS WEEK: You have a sense of honor and determination that is palpable and inspires others to follow your lead.

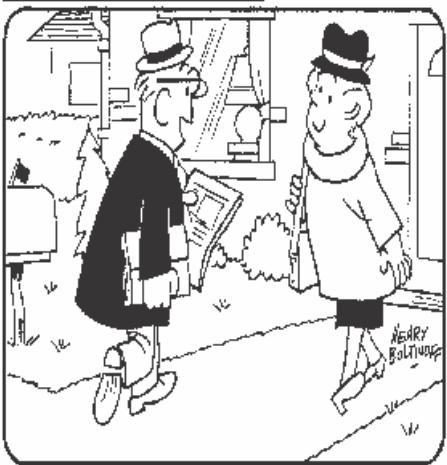
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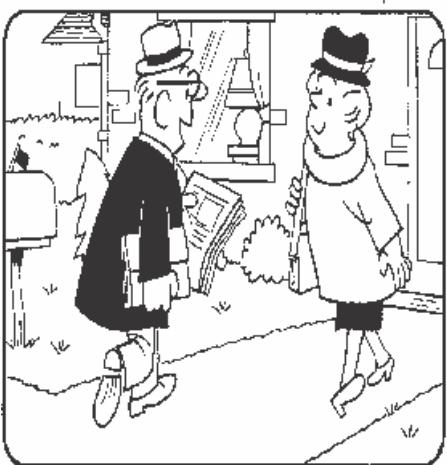
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



6. Umbrella is taller. 2. House in background is taller. 3. Tree is smaller. 4. Differences. 1. Lamp is November 2. Date is October 3. Date is October 4. Umbrella is taller. 5. House in background is taller. 6. Tree is smaller.

November 16th, 2025

Word Spiral Answer

ACCUSABLY

THIS WEEK'S CELEBRITY BIRTHDAYS

Billy the Kid	11/23/1859
Pete Best	11/24/1941
Joe DiMaggio	11/25/1914
Johannes Bach	11/26/1604
Bill Nye	11/27/1955
Randy Newman	11/28/1943
Louisa May Alcott	11/29/1832

TIDBITS



The Spats



by Jeff Pickering



"He's here, but I'm not getting near him."

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On Nov. 24, 1947, the House of Representatives voted 346 to 17 to approve citations of contempt against 10 Hollywood writers, directors, and producers who'd refused to cooperate at hearings dealing with communism in the movie industry held by the House Un-American Activities Committee. The men were sentenced to one year in jail.

On Nov. 25, 2000, Air Force 1st Lt. James P. Fleming and four other Bell UH-1F helicopter pilots received an urgent message from an Army Special Forces team pinned down by enemy fire. While the first rescue effort failed, Fleming, accompanied by a second pilot, managed to land and pick up the team before discovering upon return to his base that he was nearly out of fuel. He was eventually awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions.

On Nov. 27, 2015, Pope Francis released a progressive rock album titled "Pope Francis: Wake Up!" featuring excerpts of the pontiff sermonizing on subjects including peace, the environment and family, and hymns rearranged with guitar and synthesizer.

On Nov. 28, 1929, a month after the stock market crash, Ernie Nevers, of the Chicago Cardinals, scored a record 40 points in a single game, playing against the Chicago Bears.

On Nov. 29, 2004, Japanese movie monster Godzilla, a mutant born of nuclear radiation fallout, got a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame - quite a present on his 50th birthday.

On Nov. 30, 1965, attorney Ralph Nader published "Unsafe at Any Speed: The Designed-in Dangers of the American Automobile." An immediate best-seller, it also launched the passage of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1966, seatbelt laws in 49 states and other road-safety initiatives.

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The Garden Bug

Hardy mums

Unlike "florist mums" that are grown only for fall flowering and treated as annuals, "hardy mums" are cold-hardy garden perennials. These plants grow best in rich soil with a slightly acidic to neutral soil pH (6.2 to 7.0). Good drainage is needed to avoid root rot. Hardy mums are photoperiodic, meaning they bloom in response to shorter days and longer nights, so don't plant them near street lights; artificial lighting wreaks havoc with their flowering.

- Brenda Weaver

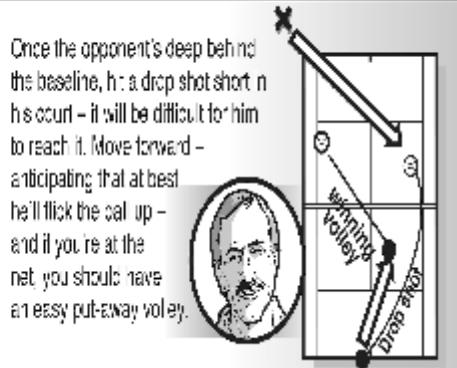
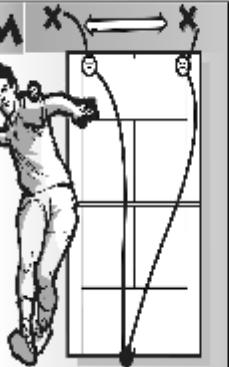
Source: www.thespruce.com

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STAN SMITH'S TENNIS CLASS

KEEP THEM ON THE MOVE

A good strategy is to hit lobbing topspin shots deep into the corners several times in a row - the ball should take a high bounce, forcing the opponent far behind the baseline.



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Crewel Embroidery

Some antique arts fade in popularity, but are never truly lost. Embroidery is one of them. There are surviving examples of embroidered fabric that date back thousands of years. By comparison, the embroidery of 17th and 18th century Europe and Colonial America seems much more modern. This was the heyday of the craft. It had grown increasingly accessible to amateurs and was established as an important part of women's education. Queen Mary II who co-ruled England with her husband William III from 1689 to 1694, was known for the crewel embroidery practiced at her court. "Crewel" is a broad term for embroidery made with wool thread. Many types of stitches are used and designs often have images like flowers and animals in vibrant colors and thick textures. The furniture and decoration style known as William and Mary came to the American colonies a little later than the monarchs' reign in England; the American William and Mary period is generally considered to have lasted from about 1690 to 1720. This of course included embroidery. William and Mary furniture experienced a revival around the 1930s. This vintage mirror, which sold for \$600 at Leland Little Auctions, was made about that time. Its frame features the crewel embroidery in the style of the 17th to 18th century, with traditional plants and animals as well as a couple in period costumes.

This mirror with an embroidered frame was made in the 20th century in the style of the William and Mary period.



Q. I am closing an old country store. All the decor was made up of old antiques. I have two "wooden molds for barrels or baskets" and would like to know if they are worth anything.

A. The "country store" look is a popular decorating style. Molds for baskets or barrels may interest collectors of antique tools, or a collector may want to display them as folk art. Some basket molds can sell for high prices.

Earlier this year, a signed Shaker basket mold, 9 inches in diameter and 6 inches tall including its maple handle, sold at auction for more than \$500. Basket makers' tools without a known maker, date and origin sell for lower prices. Smaller, unsigned basket molds can sell for less than \$50. We recommend contacting an auction house that specializes in Americana, country antiques or folk art.

TIP: If a thread in a woven fabric, carpet or sweater pulls or tears, do not cut it. Get a crochet hook or large pin and weave the thread into the fabric.

* * *

CURRENT PRICES

Doll, Mattel, Barbie, Happy Holidays, Special Edition, blond, long hair, red dress, silver sash, box, 1988, 11 inches, \$110

Music, accordion, Venice, Bakelite black, three buttons, faux mother-of-pearl keys, strap, case, Italy, mid-1900s, 7 1/2" x 15", \$260.

Furniture, chest, campaign, camphor-wood, two parts, drop-down desk between two drawers over three long drawers, turnip feet, 1800s, 42 1/2 inches, \$1750.

* * *

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

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Amber Waves

DUDES, NOW THAT WE'VE AGREED ON A NAME AND CREATED OUR IMAGE, THERE'S ONE LAST THING.



WHO KNOWS HOW TO PLAY DRUMS OR GUITAR?



SERIOUSLY! HOW CAN I ROCK THE MASSES IF THE BAND CAN'T EVEN SHRED? THAT'S IT. I QUIT!



NICE, OUR FIRST BAND BREAK UP. THAT'S SO METAL!



by Dave T. Phipps

TIDBITS QUOTE

"There's a subtle difference between looking like a master of disguise and looking like a complete moron."

~ Andrew Greiner



Black Phone 2 (R) Mason Thames, Ethan Hawke

Regretting You (PG-13) Allison Williams, McKenna Grace

3. Chainsaw Man - The Movie: Reze Arc (R) Kikunosuke Toya, Tomori Kusunoki

4. KPop Demon Hunters (PG) Arden Cho, May Hong

5. Bugonia (R) Jesse Plemons, Aidan Delbis

6. Back to the Future (PG) Michael J. Fox, Christopher Lloyd

7. Springsteen: Deliver Me from Nowhere (PG) Jeremy Allen White, Jeremy Strong

8. Tron: Ares (PG-13) Jared Leto, Greta Lee

9. Stitch Head (PG) Asa Butterfield, Joel Fry

10. Good Fortune (R) Keanu Reeves, Blanca Araceli

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Strange BUT TRUE

- * The home team must provide the referee with 36 footballs for each National Football League game.
- * Only three countries in the world are entirely surrounded by one other country.
- * Research has shown that individual breathing patterns, including the timing, volume and rhythm of chest movements, can be used to identify people with up to 97% accuracy.
- * The world's rarest hair and eye color combo is red and blue, respectively.
- * Scientists trained rats to drive cars (custom-made from plastic cereal containers and small wires), and while the rodents' original motivation was Froot Loops, they surprisingly appeared to love going for joy rides as well.
- * People spend roughly 10% of their waking hours with their eyes closed.
- * Hydrothermal vents created by fissures on the sea floor in areas of significant tectonic plate activity can pump out fluids at temperatures hot enough to melt lead.
- * The human brain runs on less power than a 60-watt light bulb.
- * Bagels were one given to women as gifts after childbirth. Some pregnant women even wore bagels on necklaces as protection, or ensured that bagels would be present in the room where they would deliver.
- * There is cellphone service at the summit of Mount Everest.
- * Pixar technical director Galyn Susman, while on maternity leave, was notified that 90% of the movie "Toy Story 2" had accidentally been deleted and the studio's on-site back-up had failed. Fortunately, she had copies of the film on her laptop, which was carefully carried back to the studio.
- * In Iceland, there are 13 mischievous "Yule Lads" rather than one Santa, who leave either gifts or rotten potatoes in children's shoes.

* * *

Thought for the Day: "When you're happy you enjoy the music but when you're sad you understand the lyrics." ~ Frank Ocean

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Americanisms



"Where the women go,
the culture goes."
— Phylicia Rashad

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November 16th, 2025

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Five Spot™

Solution

S	C	A	R	F
S	C	A	R	E
C	R	A	V	E
C	O	V	E	R
L	O	V	E	R
G	L	O	V	E



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TIDBITS GOES LONG.....

Bank robber Willie Sutton was a master of disguise, often showing up dressed as a Western Union messenger, a maintenance man, a cop, a diplomat, or a window cleaner. He once escaped prison by dressing as a prison guard.

FUNNY QUOTES BY FAMOUS PEOPLE



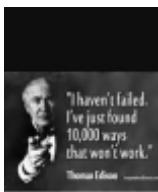
"If you are not yelling at your kids, you are not spending enough time with them."
—REESE WITHERSPOON



"Never go to bed mad. Stay up and fight."
—PHYLLIS DILLER



"Behind every great man is a woman rolling her eyes."



"I haven't failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work."
Thomas Edison



"The secret to a happy marriage? Do whatever your wife tells you."
Dessa Washington



"I always cook with wine. Sometimes I even add it to the food."
—W.C. FIELDS



* When hammering a nail, try this save-your-finger trick: Use a clothespin to hold the nail steady, and then use your hammer to drive it in. Hammering into the wall? Push the nail through a strip of cardboard, and hold the cardboard over the right spot. No more banged up fingers or thumbs!

* "Exfoliation can be easy if you already have a bag or jar of Epsom salts. Soak in a warm bath and rub the salts over your skin to gently scrub dead skin away. A little essential oil might help, too!" — D.D. in Florida

* Got plastic packaging that is a pain to get open? Use your can opener, run along the sides, to break into your packages. It works!

* To get keys on a key chain easily, use a staple remover to create an opening to slip the keys on. It is very effective and will keep you from being frustrated.

* A great use for those old knee high stockings (no runs!): Stuff with a mix of crystalized kitty litter and scent boosting beads you find in the laundry aisle.

You can stuff these in stinky shoes to freshen and deodorize. The litter wicks away moisture from sweaty feet, and the scent boosters last for a good long while.

* "Need a new look for a favorite sweater? Change out your buttons. It's such a small thing and a big change in look!" — E.L. in Massachusetts

* Skunk run-in? Try this mix before you buy pricey de-stink shampoos at the pet store. Mix a quart of 3% peroxide, a teaspoon or two of dish soap, 1/4 cup of baking soda and quart of room temp water. Apply to pet, and work deep into the fur. Massage in for five minutes and rinse thoroughly.

Send your tips to:

Now Here's a Tip

628 Virginia Drive
Orlando, FL 32803.

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November 16th, 2025

Five Spot™ **Solution**

S	C	A	R	F
S	C	A	R	E
C	R	A	V	E
C	O	V	E	R
L	O	V	E	R
G	L	O	V	E

—KNIGHT MOVES—

Answer

T	C	E
S		S
D		I
N	N	I
2	7	4

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Make Slow-Cook Applesauce for a Tasty Fall Treat



DONNA ERICKSON'S BEST BITES

It wasn't exactly a pretty picture when an unexpected snowfall blanketed the Twin Cities on a weekend a few years back. We simply weren't ready for the cold temps and a whiteout of fall colors at the very same time that our World Series hopes were dashed when the Yankees triumphed over the Twins with a three-game sweep. Since we were feeling and acting noticeably glum in our household, it was a moment to step up to the plate with the familiar adage that I had repeated to the kids when they were young and the lemon of life had just turned sour on their hopes and dreams: "OK, you guys, when life gives you lemons, make lemonade."

But we don't grow lemons in Minnesota so we proceeded to do the next best thing. We rooted through the closet for mismatched mittens and hats, went out in the backyard to our spindly apple tree, picked our last 10 apples from snow-laden branches, and collectively mused, "So when life gives you 10 juicy apples, turn them into applesauce!" And this is exactly what we did.

For a change of pace, we put aside our traditional stove-top recipe and instead sliced and diced all 10 apples, and tossed them in the slow cooker with some water, sugar, and a dash of cinnamon. It was a success!

As the apple sputtered and gurgled to their own rhythm, the sweet and fragrant apple-cinnamon aroma permeated every room of our house. As for life lessons, once we put a positive spin on the situation, we enjoyed cozy indoor time together, and we were no doubt the better for it. You don't need a "when life gives you lemons" moment to reap the benefits of this yummy and aromatic recipe. Just count up 10 apples, and you're on your way to a special fall treat. Here's what you'll need to turn the apples into 5-6 cups of tasty homemade applesauce:

10 large apples, peeled, cored, and sliced or cut into chunks

1/2 cup water
1/4 to 1/2 cup sugar
1 tsp. cinnamon
Pinch of nutmeg (optional)

Stir ingredients together in a slow cooker. It should be about 3/4 full. Set on the low setting and cook for about 8 hours. Mash with a potato masher before serving for a smoother mixture, if you wish. Enjoy on hot breakfast cereal, granola, pancakes and waffles in the morning, as a snack in the afternoon, or over vanilla ice cream for dessert after the evening meal.

* * *



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

www.donnaerickson.com

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Go Figure!					
answers					
8	+	4	÷	1	: 12
+		+		+	
9	-	6	+	7	: 10
×		+		÷	
5	+	3	÷	2	: 4
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85		13		4	

November 9th,
2025



FEARLESS
KING

answer

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I	K	O
N	C	R
R	E	O
A	A	N
N	U	B
E		

November 9th,
2025



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Don't Believe Every Rumor

The numbers are small - only 100 or so veterans come down with it every year - but this cancer is especially deadly: male breast cancer. Beginning in 2024 it was added as a presumptive on the VA's list of illnesses that were automatically covered, courtesy of the PACT Act, due to toxin exposure.

And now it's been yanked off that list, per a couple of internet websites and street rumors that are flying fast and furious. Word is that any veteran with a diagnosis of male breast cancer is going to have to scramble and fight to get the VA to accept that it was caused by exposure to toxins and provide treatment. Except....is it really true, that it's been deleted from the list?

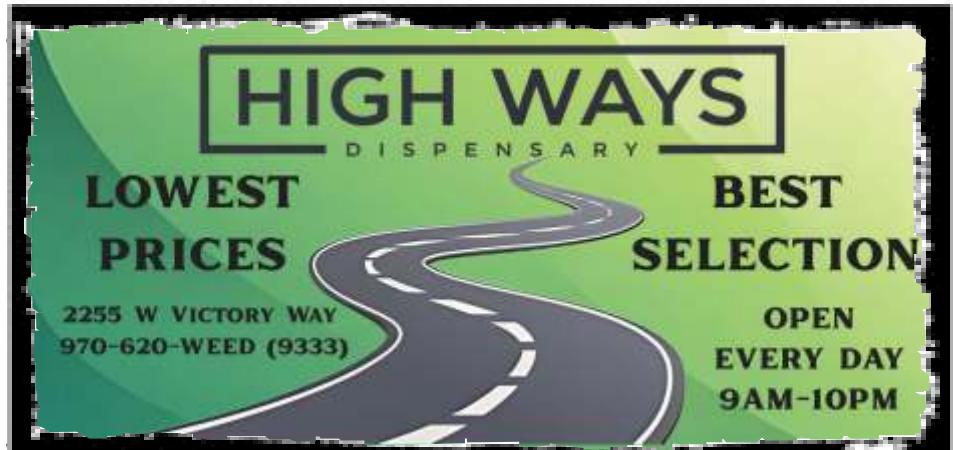
Apparently not. People were asleep at the switch when male breast cancer was classified as a "reproductive" cancer when it was first added to the PACT list of presumptives. That kind of error left the door open to deleting it from the list of presumptives - just when it's needed most. Historically, only 1% of breast cancers have been in male patients, but in recent years that number has doubled. Only the category of the illness has changed, moving it away from considering it a "reproductive organ," which it is not.

And yes, I have a special interest in this topic. Several years ago a close relative died of male breast cancer. He'd been a Marine, a forward radio operator, in Vietnam where he was sprayed too many times with Agent Orange. When he came back he was stationed at Camp Lejeune with its contaminated water. A double whammy if there ever was one.

If you need to apply for VA health coverage, go online to www.va.gov and click on "Health Care." If you need help getting started, call the health benefits hotline at 877-222-8387.



TIGER





SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Social Security Increase For 2026

The news is in, a week late this year due to the current government shutdown: The expected increase in Social Security benefits will be 2.8% for 2026.

For the average monthly benefit of \$2,015, that equates to an increase of \$56, up to \$2,071 for 2026 for a single person. For a couple, the \$88 increase will net a \$3,028 monthly benefit for 2026. The actual Social Security increase will be less, however, because, as is typical, the Part B cost has gone up. A \$21.50 increase will bring the monthly cost up to \$206.50, and that comes out of the Social Secur-

ity benefit. The COLA (cost of living adjustment) is calculated every year by the price index from third quarter 2024 to third quarter 2025. Once again they've used the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W), which many think is the wrong index. (How many of us are clerical workers?) To be more accurate, the Social Security increase should be calculated by the Consumer Price Index for Elderly People (CPI-E), as that has the costs and expenses more in line with where seniors spend money. Meanwhile, Medicare open enrollment will be in effect until Dec. 7. You still have time to look over your options and see if you need to make some changes. For example, are you taking different drugs? Visiting your doctor more now? Then there is your current plan — has the cost changed or any of the benefits you get? You can review plans in your area at Medicare.gov/plan-compare.

Remember, scammers are everywhere and would love to have your Social Security information. They'll approach in person, via mail, on the internet or over the phone. Don't give out your personal information!

If you suspect fraud, you can make a report at oig.ssa.gov/report or call the Inspector General's Fraud Hotline at 800-269-0271.

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Even Exchange

answers

1. Hammer, Hamper	6. Heard, Heart
2. Lever, Never	7. Bolder, Border
3. Faster, Foster	8. Lofty, Lefty
4. Camel, Cameo	9. Firale, Finals
5. Daily, DAILY	10. Gripe, Grime

CryptoQuip

answer

Country musician who was famous for giving overly dramatic renditions of songs: Hammy Wynette.

Wishing Well®

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

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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November 16th, 2025

Stickelers Answer

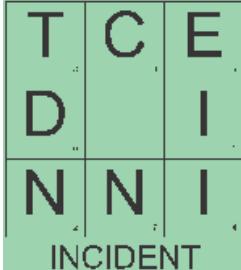
post DATE line
author SHIP builder
apple JACK knife
work STATION master

SCRAMBLERS

solution

1. Worse; 2. Desert;
3. Hamper; 4. Meteor

Today's Word
MOTHER'S



A crossword puzzle grid with a 16x16 grid of squares. Some squares are blacked out, while others are white. Numbered entries are placed in the white squares, with some entries spanning multiple squares. The grid is organized into rows and columns, with some squares being part of multiple entries.

Super Crossword

PONTIFICATION

ACROSS	46 Super angry	86 Snobs	124 10 laurel	31 Citizen	77 May workers
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20 Proprietor	das" at the	me out"		37 Marritt rival	roes
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43 Making a	Galactica"	123 Fls relative			

Answer in the November 30th Issue