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**November 30th**  
**2025**

# TIDBITS

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## TIDBITS FOCUSES ON

### TONGUES

by Kathy Wolle



The tongues of animals and humans are fascinating muscles that merit a little investigation. *Tidbits* presents some fascinating facts about the properties and functions of tongues.

\* The human tongue measures between 3 and 4 inches (7.6 - 10.2 cm) from the back to the tip, about as long as a credit card. There are eight distinct muscles in a human tongue, four that aid speech and swallowing and four that control the position in the mouth. They're the only muscles in the body that work independently of the skeleton, and are one of the body's strongest and most flexible muscles.

\* The tongue's upper surface is called the dorsum, and is the part that's visible when the mouth is open. The lingual septum is a piece of tissue that separates the left and right sides of the human tongue with a vertical groove.

\* If you say, "It's on the tip of my tongue," it means you know something, but just can't remember it right at that moment. It's about to be said, and may well be recalled very soon, but the information can't be summoned up just then. The official name for the tip of the tongue is the apex.

\* Tongues are like fingerprints - no two are alike. Every person's tongue print is unique in shape and texture and can even be used for verification of identity. Even the tongues of identical twin do not resemble each other.

\* There are about 10,000 microscopic taste buds on a human tongue, which have a short life span and are constantly renewing themselves, regrowing about every 10 to 14 days.

(go to page 2 for more talk on tongues)

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**Q: Do you know how to turn your tongue into a superhero?**

**A: You just bite it real hard. It will become Thor.**

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# TONGUES

(cont. from Front Cover)



All those little bumps on your tongue are not taste buds, but rather, hair-like papillae on which the taste buds live. Taste can be perceived on all parts of the tongue, not just on certain areas.

\* In addition to their location on the tongue, taste buds are also spread out across the roof of the mouth and the back of the throat.

\* There are five basic tastes that taste buds detect - sweet, sour, salty, bitter, and umami. Umami is a savory taste, such as that of meats, shellfish, mushrooms, and broths. For decades it was believed that certain zones of the tongue are specialized for the five tastes, according to a paper written in 1901 by German scientist David Hanig. He developed a tongue taste map showing that salty taste is covered that each taste bud contains a mixture of 50 to 100 receptor cells, enabling each to perceive any of the five distinct tastes.

\* As we grow older, we frequently undergo a decline in our taste sensitivity, due to a decrease in the number of taste buds and a reduction in size of those remaining. Unfortunately, this, along with damaged or worn-out taste buds, often leads to a decrease in appetite and loss of enjoyment of food.

\* Besides aging, taste can be affected by hydration, which plays a vital role in how food tastes. Saliva breaks down the food we eat, allowing flavors to become more accessible to the taste buds.

\* Your tongue can alert you to certain health concerns, such a bright red color indicating a Vitamin B12 or folic acid deficiency. A yellow tinge could be a symptom of a buildup of bacteria or dead cells, while a white coating or spots might signal oral thrush, an overgrowth of yeast.

\* In the animal kingdom, the giant anteater boasts a tongue that is two feet (61 cm) long. This 90-lb. (40.8 kg.) mammal uses its tongue to hunt ants and termites in tight spots and might consume as many as 30,000 creepy-crawlies a day. The anteater's tongue connect to its sternum rather than its throat, enabling the creature to flick its tongue as fast as 150 times per minute.

\* The tongue of an 18-foot-tall (5.5 m) giraffe measures over 21 inches (54 cm). It's dark in color, a blend of purple, blue, and black, coated with melanin, which serves as a protector against sunburn. this 4,200-lb. (1,930 kg) animal with a 6-foot (1.8 m) neck uses its tongue to strip leaves off high treetop branches, consuming about 75 lbs. (34 kg) of leaves and twigs a day.

\* There are upwards of 4,000 species of frogs that can grab object wiith their tongues faster than the blink of a human eye. Thi is due to the tongue being connected at the front of the lower jaw, rather than at the back of the throat. The frog's tongue is shaped such that it can wrap around its prey and secure iit firmly. It's also covered with sticky mucus that allows the tongue to stick to the prey. The tongues of several species are able to pull in prey several times the frog's weight.

\* the sun bear extracts honey from beehives with its 10-inch-ong (25 cm) tongue.

It has the longest tongue of all bears, but the sun bear is actually the smallest of all bears. Its maximum weight is about 145 lbs. (65 kg), eating about 10 lbs. (4.5 kg) of food a day.

\* The tongue of a chameleon is twice as long as the animal itself. The 47.2-inch (120 cm) tongue can shoot out toward its prey in a fraction of a second, accelerating from 0 to 60 mph (96 km/hr) in 1/100th of a second. If humans had the same tongue-to-body ratio, we'd have tongues ranging from 10 to 12 feet (3 to 3.7 m) long.

\* the mouth of a woodpecker isn't big enough to hold its tongue, which can be up to a third of the bird's total body length. The woodpecker houses its tongue by wrapping it around its skull. The tongue, made of bone, cartilage, and muscle, winds behind and onto the top of the head when it's not reaching deep into crevices looking for grubs.

\* A penguin's tongue has no taste buds, but rather lots of spiky bristles made of the fibrous protein keratin, the same substance that composes human hair and nails. The bristles act like a fish hook, enabling the penguin to grab a slippery, wriggly fish and move it down the throat. The penguin's tongue has more bristles than a hairbrush.



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## SPORTS STORIES: The Highland Games

The Highland Games are mainly associated with Scotland and are competitive strength events that celebrate Scottish and Celtic culture. This week, *Tidbits* heads to the hills to investigate the segments of this obscure 900-year-old sport.]

\* The Games were first historically referenced during the time of King Malcolm III, ruler of the Kingdom of Scotland from 1058 to 1093. Malcolm challenged men to race up Craig Choinnich Hill overlooking the village of Braemar with the purpose of finding the fastest runner to serve as his royal messenger. This race remains part of the Braemar Highland Games.

\* The Caber Toss is simply throwing the big wooden poles a certain distance. The word "caper" has Gaelic origins, with the word "cabar" referring to the a wooden beam. The person tossing the caber is appropriately dubbed a "tosser."

In the Scottish games, the caber is typically crafted from a larch tree and measures 16 to 20 feet (5-6 m) long, weighing 90 to 150 lbs. (40-70 kg). The objective is to toss the caber so that it turns end over end. The winner is not the one who tosses the lg the farthest, it's the one who can complete the most consecutive tosses during a set time limit. Some competitions require the tossers to wear a kilt during the event. The sport is believed to have its beginnings in the Scottish Highlands, when lumberjacks need to move logs across crevices in order to bring them home.

\* the Stone Put is similar to modern-day shot put, but uses a large stone rather than the 16-lb.(7.26 kg) steel shot used in the Olympics. The weight of the Highland Games stone varies between 20 and 30 lbs. (9.1 - 13.6 kg). The sport originated when the Scottish farmers needed to clear the rocks from their fields in order to plant crops.

\* The Scottish hammer throw uses a round 22 lb. (10 kg) ball attached to a 4-ft.-long (1.2 m) shaft of wood, bamboo, rattan, or plastic. The athletes stand with feet in a fixed position, then whirl the hammer over the head before throwing it over the shoulder, twisting the upper body nearly 180 degrees. The world record distance is 132 ft., 3 inches (40.31 m).

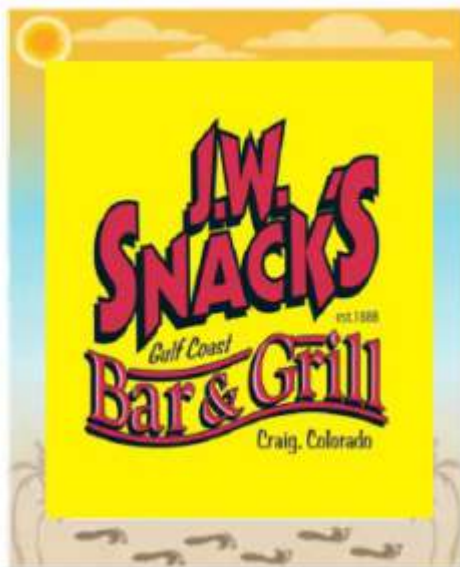
\* The sheaf toss uses a 20-lb. (9 kg) bundle of straw that has been wrapped in a burlap bag. The athletes use a pitchfork to throw the sheaf over a horizontal bar that gets progressively higher as each round is completed.

The world record was set in 2019, with American Spencer Tyler tossing the sheaf over a bar 37 ft., 1 inch (11.3 m) high.

\* In the Weight for Height event, competitors throw a 56 lb. (25.4 kg) weight with one hand over a progressively raised bar.

\* A less strenuous and more humorous part of the Highland Games is the Haggis Hurling, in which participants throw haggis as far as possible while standing on a whiskey barrel. And what is haggis? It's a Scottish dish made from sheep's heart, liver, and lungs, mixed with onion, oatmeal, and suet, encased in the animal's stomach and boiled for three hours. In the event, the haggis must be lifted with both hands and launched forward with mighty throw.

\* The Games are more than just athletic events. Music and dancing play an integral part of the celebrations, with bagpipes, fiddle, drum and Gaelic harp competitions. Pipe bands open and close the games' ceremonies, often with multiple groups joining together. Highland dance competitions are held in the games, a tradition that dates back to at least the 16th century.



**November 23rd, 2025**

**Sticklers Answer**

- 1) Australia 2) Belize 3) hepatology  
4) Puccini 5) Washington Senators  
6) Euler's identity 7) silver

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## TIDBITS GOES GREEN



The three "R"s of green living are Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. The most important concept is to reduce - reducing the use of disposable plastic water bottles and jugs, plastic grocery bags, and single-use coffee pods.

## Fun Fact

- A jellyfish and a cucumber are each 95% water.
- 70% of the human brain is water.
- A person can live about a month without food, but only about a week without water.
- Each day, we lose a little more than a cup of water when we exhale moisture.

Source:  
[seametrics.com](http://seametrics.com)

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## COOKIES

The holiday baking season is almost upon us, giving *Tidbits* the opportunity to celebrate National cookie Day on December 4, by presenting some facts about a few of our favorites.

\* Gingerbread can be traced to the 1400s, but it wasn't until the reign of Queen Elizabeth I of England (1558-1603), the daughter of King Henry VIII, that gingerbread was fashioned into human shapes. It was her practice when hosting elaborate royal banquets to have the dough made into the likenesses of her important guests and dignitaries, forging the way for gingerbread figures. According to legend, those who practiced folk medicine created gingerbread men as love tokens for young women seeking a husband

. If the woman could persuade the man of her choice to eat the cookie, he would instantly fall in love with her. The current record for the world's largest gingerbread man is held by the employees of a Norwegian IKEA store, who connected a 1,435 lb., 3 oz. (651 kg) cookie in November, 2009. The scrumptious dough includes the fragrant spices of ginger, cinnamon, cloves, allspice, and cardamom.

\* Stroopwafels have their origins in the Netherlands, where they were first made during the late 1700s, when bakers were using up leftover scraps and crumbs from other creations by forming them into two layers of dough held together with a syrup filling. The word "stroopwafel" literally translates "syrup waffle." The oldest known written recipe is from 1840.

\* Snickerdoodles are the favorite of many, with their sugar cookie-type dough rolled in white sugar and cinnamon. They are most likely German in origin, with their unusual name a variant of the word "Schneckenudel." Others will argue that the name is just a nonsensical word without a particular name.

\* Why is shortbread called short? This cookie type takes its name from its crumbly texture. "Short" was the term used in medieval times to describe pastry that was dry and sandy, resembling biscuits as opposed to long and stretchy dough. Similarly, the word "shortening" refers to fat that is added to make a short or crumbly texture.

\* Although your Chinese take-out order most likely includes fortune cookies, these little confections actually trace their beginnings to Japan in the 1800s. They were brought to the United States in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century by Japanese immigrants. Fortune cookies were reportedly first served in the U.S. in the early 1900s at San Francisco's Golden Gate Park's Japanese Tea Garden. The cookies were made by hand with the paper fortune inserted into the baked dough while it was still warm and flexible, then formed into its familiar shape around the fortune. The fortune cookie machine was invented in the late 1960s by 69-year-old Edward Louie of San Francisco's Lotus Fortune Cookie Company. The machine automatically folded the dough and slipped in the fortune. The world's largest fortune cookie manufacturer is Wonton Food, Inc., with their Queens, New York factory cranking out up-wards of 4.5 million cookies every day. The company started out as a noodle shop in a small Chinatown location in 1973. The nephew of their founder actually composes the fortunes that are inserted into the millions of cookies.

\* They may not sound good to most, but Philly cheesesteak cookies are a real thing, a recipe that includes cheddar cheese, beef jerky, onions, and dried pepper flakes. These little bites are then frosted with tomato cream cheese. Likewise, Sriracha peanut butter cookies won't be for everyone, with ¼ cup of Sriracha sauce adding a spicy kick to this confection.



## OLIVE OYL







Does your palate — and budget — lean more toward restaurants with drive-through windows attached and lean less toward a Michelin star rating? If so, then these five podcasts are for you:

**\* Doughboys** - Hosted by comedians Mike Mitchell and Nick Wiger, this weekly podcast has a premise of reviewing fast food/sit down chain restaurants. But their loyal listeners (like this one Redditor) say, "The food part of the podcast hasn't really been what I care about in years. I would listen to them talk about anything." For example, in a recent episode, the boys and their guest discussed sci-fi franchises and past Tennessee adventures before reviewing Denny's Good Fortune menu.

This summer, they reviewed three big pizza chains, Panera's new croissant sandwiches, and Pinkberry frozen yogurt all while discussing old video games and James Bond movies. (Headgum.com)

**"A Hot Dog is a Sandwich"** - "Mythical Chefs" Josh Scherer and Nicole Enayati welcome a wide range of guests in their podcast, like Oscar-winning actress Brie Larson who discussed "the good to the bad, to the what in the heck?" about potluck dinners. They also had on "burger scholar" George Motz to discuss the best regional hamburgers around. Other episodes suck you in with quirky topics like "Pro Chefs Rank Halloween Candy" and "Pro chefs Rank Nostalgic Ice Cream Truck Treats." We can all toast to topics like "Which Restaurants Have the Best Free Bread?" and "What's the Worst Holiday Food?" (Mythical.com)

**\* "The Drive Thru Review"** - "The Drive Thru Review" — This no-frills monthly podcast features lengthy discussions about menu items that are served in paper bags (such as chicken and pickles) and the ever-popular pizza chain rankings, but they also delve into industry news and lawsuits. A recent episode introduced us to the Russo Firm, a personal injury and class-action group that has filed several claims against McDonald's, Wendy's and Arby's about the quality and size of their portions. Hopefully, this December will include another "Year in Drive Thru Review" like it did in 2024, so we can all reflect on the calories that we consumed driving down the interstate. (TheDriveThruReview.com)



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### Don't Forget These Gems

**"The Sporkful"** — While not specifically about fast-food cuisine, specifically about fast-tood cuisine, this three-time James-Beard-Award-winning podcast does have plenty of content for the casual diner. Guests include pizza legend Patsy Grimaldi, who trained at Lombardi's, first pizzeria in American history. Author Malcolm Gladwell was also a guest and called flavored seltzer "an abomination." In addition, you'll meet a group of Jewish senior citizens who gather at a Wendy's in Palm Desert, California, for their weekly Shabbat meal. (SiriusXM.com)

**"Fast Food Film Friends"** — This podcast hosted by pals Nathan and Kevin combines their love of films with their love of combo meals. They reviewed this year's Best Picture Winner "Anora" while scarfing down Burger King's Million Dollar Whopper. While you can't bring your messy Carolina BBQ Burger from Shake Shack to the theater to watch a blockbuster like "Twisters," you can listen to the "Film Friends" take on boh in the privacy of your own home or vehicle. (FastFoodFlimFriends.com)

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**Customer:** What would you recommend from the menu?

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**Customer:** Yuck! I'd never eat anything that came from an animal's mouth.

**Waitress:** Okay. How about some eggs!




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November 23rd, 2025

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H	O	L	E	S	
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**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) This is a good time to let your intrepid Aries temperament take charge. Your strong leadership skills will help settle still-unresolved situations. Support comes from a surprising source.



**Taurus** (April 20 to May 20) Your problem-solving talents shine as you move to cool down heated emotions. You also inspire trust in all parties when you act with careful consideration of their feelings.



**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) A long-delayed commitment begins to look better to you. But there's still a crucial fact or two that you need to know about it. Meanwhile, a health problem needs to be taken care of.



**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) Don't waste time trying to learn why someone you relied on is wavering in their support of your stand on a workplace issue. Move on with the help of more steadfast allies.



**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) Relationships enter a brighter period, both at home and in the workplace. Prospects also look good for single Leos and Leonas, who can expect a welcome visit from Cupid.



**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) Those mixed signals that were complicating your live are giving way now to clear, definitive guidelines. This makes it easier for you to weigh your options and make decisions.



**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) Ask your partner for an explanation of what seems to be a sign of strain in your relationship. The sooner you understand the problem, the sooner you can both act to resolve it.



**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) A new challenge in the workplace holds an exciting promise for the future. But be aware of the fact that you haven't been told about all the demands you might have to meet.



**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) Your financial picture brightens as you get into sorting out realistic goals from those that are not reachable at this time. "Caution" remains your fiscal watchword.



**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) You're deep into your new project, which is just fine. But don't neglect your family and friends. Spending time with people you care for is always a wise investment.



**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) Past feelings are suddenly reawakened. This could make you emotionally vulnerable. Be careful about decisions that you might be asked to make at this time.



**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) You've come to a place where you'll be facing important decisions that can affect your future. Rely on your strong moral compass to guide you toward making the right decision.

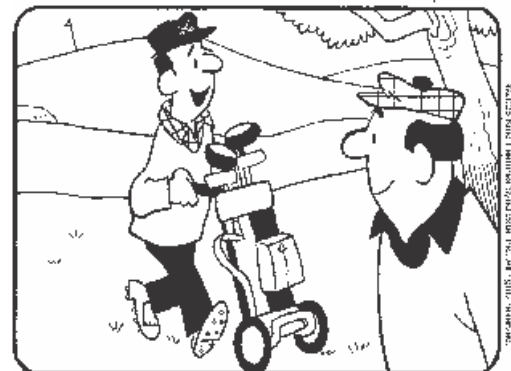


**BORN THIS WEEK:** You're gifted with both natural wisdom and wit - a good combination for success as a writer, a teacher and, most importantly, a parent.

## HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Club is missing. 2. Man has less hair. 3. Cap is different. 4. Nose is different. 5. Shoe is different. 6. Golf bag is missing.

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**THIS WEEK'S CELEBRITY BIRTHDAYS**

Ben Stiller	11/30/65
Bette Midler	12/01/45
Britney Spears	12/02/81
Brendan Fraser	12/03/68
Jelly Roll	12/04/84
Frankie Muniz	12/05/85
Andrew Cuomo	12/06/57

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On Dec. 1, 1992, police in Lilly, Pennsylvania, were summoned to video store after a concerned passerby reported seeing a gunman inside, only to come face-to-face with a promotional cardboard cutout of a gun-toting Denzel Washington from the thriller "Ricochet." The no-doubt amused cops chose to use the experience as a training day.

On Dec. 2, 2023, KISS completed their final "End of the Road" tour at New York City's Madison Square Garden with a performance featuring the band's digital avatars. After the actual musicians left the stage, their virtual versions launched into a performance of "God Gave Rock and Roll to You."

On Dec. 3, 1847, escaped slave-turned-abolitionist Frederick Douglass, assisted by philanthropist Gerrit Smith, published his first anti-slavery newspaper, The North Star. The title referred to the bright star Polaris that helped guide fleeing slaves to the North, and freedom. The paper later merged with Smith's under the new name Frederick Douglass' Paper.



**The Garden Bug**

**Theophrastus (c. 372–c.287 BC)** was a Greek philosopher who is regarded as **the founder of botany.**

In his two ancient works, *Enquiry into Plants* and *On the Causes of Plants*, he covered the descriptions, classifications, distribution, propagation, germination, and cultivation of more than 500 species and varieties of plants. - Brenda Weaver

Source: [www.cartage.org](http://www.cartage.org)

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On Dec. 4, 1942, a group of Polish Christians in Warsaw, led by Zofia Kossak and Wanda Filipowicz, put their own lives at risk by setting up the Council for the Assistance of the Jews. As their fates were not clear, it is also uncertain whether their mission was ultimately successful.

On Dec. 5, 1873, Bridget Landregan was found dead in the Boston suburb of Dorchester, the first victim of Warren Avenue Baptist Church Sexton Thomas Piper, aka the Boston Belfry Murderer. His second victim, Mary Sullivan, was killed the following year, and his third and fourth victims in 1875 and 1876. Piper was finally arrested and confessed to all four crimes, and was hanged in 1876.

On Dec. 6, 1921, the Irish Free State (later renamed Eire and now known as the Republic of Ireland), comprising four-fifths of Ireland, was declared, ending a five-year struggle for independence from Britain.

On Dec. 7, 1909, the U.S. Patent Office granted chemist Leo Baekeland a patent for "a method of making insoluble products of phenol and formaldehyde," the first synthetic plastic. Dubbed Bakelite after its inventor, it would be marketed as "the material of 1,000 uses."

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**November 23rd, 2025**

## Even Exchange answers

- |                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Bacon, Baron   | 6. Night, Sight    |
| 2. Lodge, Ledge   | 7. Appeal, Appear  |
| 3. Insert, Invert | 8. Grand, Grant    |
| 4. Camper, Tamper | 9. Brick, Brisk    |
| 5. Greet, Great   | 10. Policy, Police |



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					Type of conflict
					Aspiration
					Sources of news or entertainment
					Uncovered

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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Answer in the December 7th 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 7th Issue

## BINGO

**Are You Ready for Some Fun?!  
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## Weekly SUDOKU

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

	-	2	+		=	13
-		+		-		
	+		÷		=	9
x		÷		+		
	+		-		=	2
=		=		=		
15		1		13		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 8 9

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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 with the MASTER for an L, you get MISTER. Do not change the order of the letters.

1. Fetch	— — — — — G	The very edge	— — — — — K
2. Report card entry	— — — — — D	Fruit of the vine	— — — — — P
3. A garment	— — — — — N	Proportions	— — — — — S
4. Bread ingredient	— — — — — U	Ground surface	— — — — — O
5. Nip	— — — — — I	Ruler's measurement	— — — — — U
6. Fire engine device	— — — — — D	Pantry	— — — — — R
7. 100 pennies	D — — — — —	Shirt neckline	C — — — — —
8. Flower	— — — — — B	Eageriness	— — — — — D
9. Gemmer over	R — — — — —	Clean	S — — — — —
10. Get the better of	— — — — — W	Garment	— — — — — F

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Answer in the December 7th Issue



# FEAR KNIGHT

By: rj johnson

DOUBT? ...OR DARE!

GPE  
♥ RIPDOT  
OSSIA  
TPOL  
NEOGHI  
♥ DSA  
IRPD  
CRAHN  
♥ INP  
GLASNO  
♥ TEPDO  
♥ YOGR

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.

Answer in the December 7th issue

## CryptoQuip

It is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. You think that equals O. It will equal O. Think again. The puzzle's foundation is a cryptogram by the author.

Clue: I know P

Z< ISYDPXY SXD DBZXDII PCQ,  
KPPDH-DBXOD PX KZKDH-EZEO  
HOSXY PNC, CP IOPINO YSH  
DBOH'XO IXZGO GZEZYDOXY?

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Answer in the December 7th issue

## STICKELERS

by Terry Stickels

Here's a question you'll ponder for more than a few minutes:

Can you find two numbers that will make 100,000 when multiplied together? Neither number contains a zero.

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Answer in the December 7th 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!

List

LEAST

Rarely

MODELS

Much

REAGOL

Require

GLOBIE

**TODAY'S WORD**

Answer in the December 7th issue

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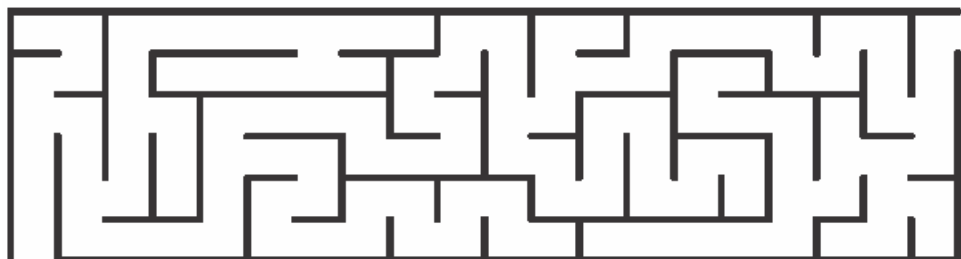
E	I	P
O		M
U	M	R

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 7th issue

## Kids' Maze



Answer in the December 7th issue

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## Saffron Teapots

There's nothing like a hot drink on a cold day! How about a hot chocolate? Spiced apple cider? Maybe a warm cup of freshly steeped saffron? That last one might sound odd to us, but it's a popular drink across many cultures and has been for hundreds of years. Saffron, a spice made from the stigma of a type of crocus, has been prized for its flavor, color, fragrance and purported health benefits since antiquity. As a drink, it can be steeped as an herbal tea (or, as some tea purists insist, tisane or herbal infusion) on its own or with other spices or herbs; or it can be blended with tea leaves to add color and flavor to the brew. Saffron tea was fashionable for time in Victorian England, with special teapots made specifically for it, like this one made by silversmith Charles Fox in the mid-1800s. It sold for \$218 at World Auction Gallery. It is about 4 inches tall. Saffron teapots were smaller than common teapots and meant to brew small quantities. Saffron tea would have been a luxury, taken only a little bit at a time. Throughout the long history of its use, saffron has always been, and still is, expensive. At some points in history, it has been worth its weight in gold, or even more!



This tiny teapot used for steeping saffron in Victorian England, sold at auction for a little more than \$200. For the same price, you could get about an ounce of saffron.

**Q:** I have not been able to identify the mark on a beautiful vase. It has the letters "RH" inside a shield underneath a crown, all in red. Any idea who the company is?

**A:** This mark was used by Rober Hanke Porcelain Factory from about 1900 to 1918. The factory was founded in Ladowitz, Bohemia, Austria (now Ledvice, Czech Republic), in 1882 and operated until 1945.

They made decorative porcelain and giftware, some of which resembles the more expensive Amphora porcelain made in the nearby Turn-Teplitz region. Vases like yours generally sell for about \$50 to \$100 today. Pottery and porcelain made in the regions formerly called Bohemia and Czechoslovakia are popular with collectors. A club like the Czech Collectors Association ([czechcollectors.org](http://czechcollectors.org)) may have more information.

\* \* \*

**TIP:** Don't place any sticky tape on the top of a teapot. The decoration may come off with the tape. Secure a top with dental wax or earthquake wax.

\* \* \*

### CURRENT PRICES

**Purse**, mesh, enamel, multicolor flowers, white and green ground, serrated fringe, metal frame, chain strap, Whiting & Davis, art deco, 5 1/2 x 4 1/2 inches, \$95.

**Castor jar**, blue crackle glass, enamel flower vine, silver plate frame, mechanical lid, Pairpoint, 12 inches, \$180.

**Canton**, basket, chestnut, pierced sides, blue rim, shell handles, under plate, pierced rim, c. 1850, 5 x 10 x 9 inches, \$250.

**Sampler**, verse, three alphabets, numerals, three flowering plants, frame, signed, dated, Phebe Snow, LEOMinster, Massachusetts, 1821, 11 1/2 x 18 1/2 inches,

\$695.

**Walrath**, cider set, stylized branch with leaves and fruit, brown ground, angled handle, slightly tapered, pitcher, four mugs, marked, c. 1910, pitcher 7 1/2 inches, five pieces, \$2,500.

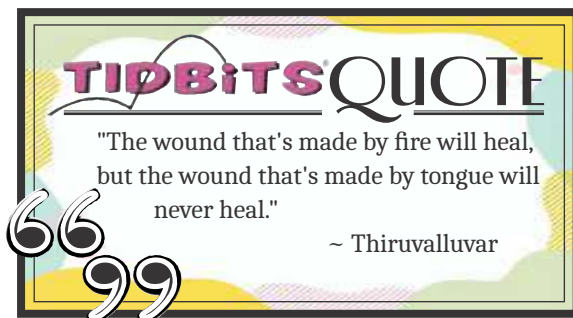
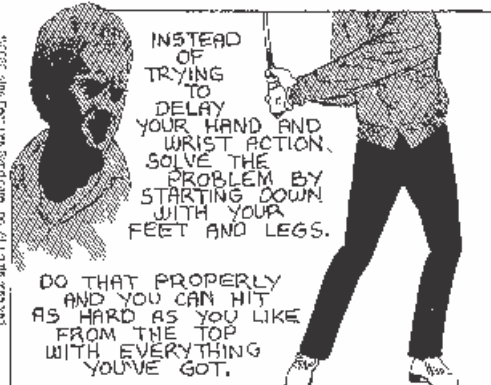
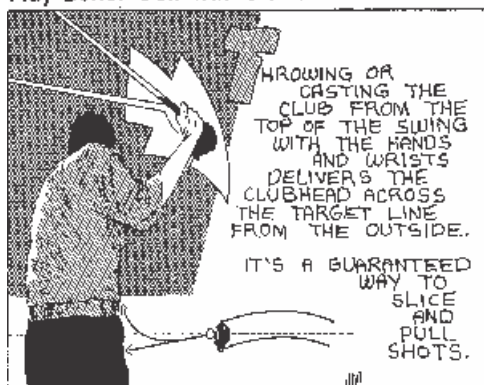
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For more collecting news, tips and resources visit:

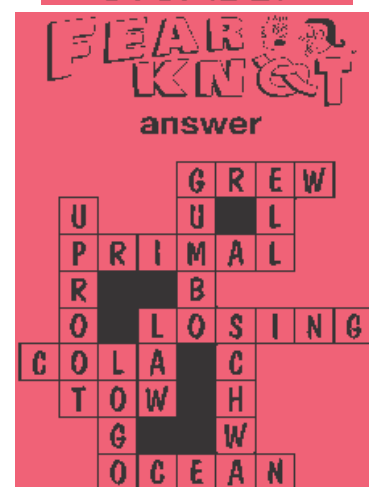
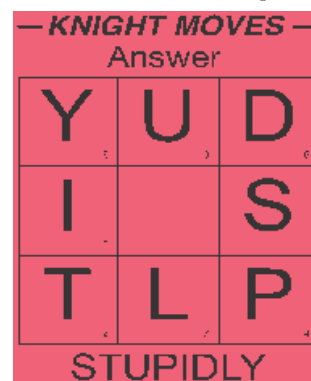
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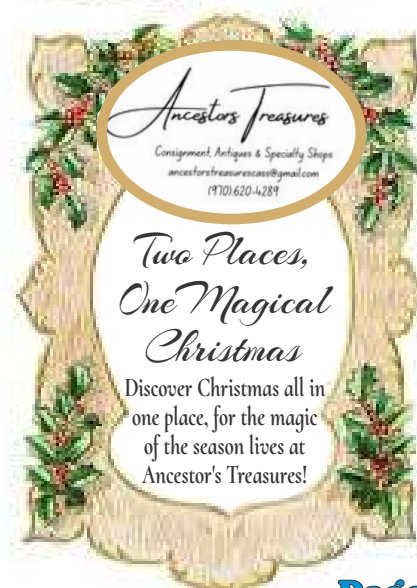
## Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



November 23rd, 2025



## MERRY CHRISTMAS





# Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- \* The Great Pyramid of Giza was the tallest structure in the world for more than 3,800 years.
- \* More than 400,000 illnesses are caused by spoiled Christmas leftovers.
- \* Royal Air Force uniforms in World War II included a pants button that served as a compass.
- \* Those lovely aromas of candy and popcorn breezing down the sidewalks of Disney's Magic Kingdom's Main Street, U.S.A. are brought to you courtesy of scent machines called "Smellitizers" that release fragrances throughout the parks.
- \* Spider silk is stronger than steel.
- \* Gambia's citizens elect their political leaders using marbles rather than paper ballots in the voting booths, a method that was adopted in 1965 due to the country's low literacy rate.
- \* Humphrey Bogart never actually said "Play it again, Sam" in the film "Casablanca."
- \* High-heeled shoes exert more pressure on the ground than a skyscraper, which is why they're even banned at certain historical sites such as the Acropolis in Athens, to prevent damage to the ancient stone.
- \* The phrase "Don't mess with Texas" was coined to discourage road littering.
- \* The first zippers were for shoes, when inventor Whitcomb Judson was granted a patent for a rudimentary form that he called the "clasp-locker," an alternative to lengthy shoelaces.
- \* Ernest Hemingway's brother established his own micronation.
- \* Jackie Robinson was the first student athlete to letter in four sports at UCLA. Curiously, baseball was his worst sport in college.
- \* Olo, a color described as a "blue-green of unprecedented saturation," has only been viewed by five people in a laboratory, as it's beyond the range of normal human visibility.
- \* Washington State designated Sasquatch as its official state monster.
- \* There are an estimated 3 million shipwrecks in the ocean.

\* \* \*

Thought for the Day: "A sign of intelligence is an awareness of one's own ignorance."

-- Niccolo Machiavelli

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**November 23rd, 2025**

**CryptoQuip**  
answer

A thieving admirer of French artwork walked into a gallery and cried "Give me all your Monet!"







\* "When there are big family jobs to be done (like getting ready for the holidays), we write all the tasks down on slips of paper and put them in a hat. We take turns choosing tasks until all the paper is divided out. Sometimes we trade, but we all get a fair chore list." ~V.O. in Oregon

\* "Let one person be responsible for putting prep dishes, pots and pans in the dishwasher while another prepares the bird and side dishes for the table. You will be halfway done with dishes by the time the meal is over." ~M.A. in Washington

\* Leftover bread can be re-purposed as croutons or breadcrumbs. In fact, this is an excellent job for kids. With clean hands and a butter knife, older children can cut leftover rolls into manageable size pieces.

Spray with olive oil cooking spray and bake at a low temperature (225 F) to dry out. Or crumble stale bread into crumbs and store in the freezer.

\* If you love to burn candles, then the odds are good that you have a lot of candle "ends" that can no longer be used. You can purchase new wicks at the craft store and make a new candle from your leftovers. Simply scrape out the leftover wax into a clean tin can with one end removed. Set this can into a pot on your stove top. Add a few inches of water, and boil to melt the wax. Then, holding the wick in place, you can pour the melted wax back into a candle-safe jar to let cool. Burn away!

\* If you have ever had a tough time threading a needle, try this trick. Spritz the end of the thread with a shot of hairspray. It makes the thread stiffer, and it goes right through with no fuss.

Send your tips to:

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November 23rd, 2025



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

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





## Chef John's Turkey Casserole

Prep Time: 15 mins. Cook Time: 40 mins.  
Total Time: 55 mins. Servings: 8  
Yield: 1 (9 x 13 inch) casserole

### Ingredients:

1 tsp. salt, or to taste  
12 oz. egg noodles  
3 tbsp. unsalted butter  
3 tbsp. all purpose flour  
3 1/2 cups cold milk  
1 (10.5 oz. can) condensed cream of mushroom soup  
1/2 cup diced red bell pepper  
1/2 cup diced green bell pepper  
1/4 cup chopped green onion  
1 tsp. garam masala or curry powder  
1 tsp. dried tarragon  
1 cup shredded pepper jack cheese  
3 cups cubed skinless cooked turkey  
5 oz. crushed potato chips

Gather all ingredients. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).

Fill a large pot with lightly salted water and bring to a rapid boil. Cook egg noodles at a boil until almost cooked through yet still firm to the bite, about 4 minutes, stirring occasionally. Drain.

Melt butter in a large saucepan over medium heat. Whisk in flour; cook and stir until light golden, about 3 minutes.

Pour in milk, whisking constantly. Stir in soup, bell peppers, green onions, garam masala, and tarragon; bring to a simmer and cook for 2 minutes.

Combine cheese mixture, turkey, and noodles in a large bowl until evenly incorporated pour into a large casserole dish. Sprinkle chips on top, slightly pressing down with the tines of a fork.

Bake in 350 degree preheated oven until top is golden brown and sauce is bubbling, about 30 minutes.

\*courtesy of Allrecipes.com featuring Chef John.

### Out on a Limb



by Gary Kopervas



### The Spats



by Jeff Pickering

November 23rd. 2025

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### Super Crossword

Answers

MEANT	SNOWCAP	STOWAGE
OWNED	MINFOIA	PARADISE
JANEALEXANDER	RIDDLES	
ONS	GOI	AGHIC
REALBAD	KEITHURBAN	
RICKYMARTIN	NFIN	
ABOO	RALLYING	IRATE
MES	ASAN	AIYSONFHIX
ARTBRUT	STOLC	MAYDESO
DIALUP	COENS	MIN
AARONPAUL	CLTON	JOHN
ODE	WATTS	BOOBOO
ESPOUSE	MIREED	HOBBITS
DIRKBENEDICT	CUTS	SCI
SPODC	ALGERIAN	APAL
RIGG	DICKGREGORY	
MELISSALEO	SEERESS	
UPON	ORELSE	YAH
SCROLLS	CONNIEFRANCIS	APU
TORNADO	ALIEN TO	REUNE
STEEPEN	REDDEE	POPE

## Americanisms

"You cannot correct an old person every time they say something offensive. You would never make it through Thanksgiving dinner."  
— Stephen Colbert

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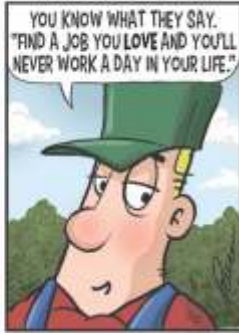
## TIDBITS GOES LONG.....

In the days of ancient Rome, a royal banquet of exotic foods and delicacies usually contained the tasty treat of sugared flamingo tongues.





## Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps



## Helping Other Veterans Over the Holidays

The holidays are here, and for many veterans they won't be very merry. It's one struggle after the other, and the holidays just bring additional burdens.

There are presents to buy for the kids, there is the weekly dilemma of how to maneuver the rising costs of groceries, etc. We want to step in, but sometimes the needs seem endless and we don't know if or how we can help. But, we can. Even a small effort on our part can go a long way to helping fellow veterans make the holidays a little less of a struggle. If you're a member of a veterans group, like the American Leg-

ion or Disabled American Veterans, you're in a perfect position to give some real assistance to other veterans. Here are some ideas to get you started, either as part of a group or individually:

\* Call Voluntary Services at the closest VA medical center and ask what you can do. You might be asked to run the parking lot shuttle and bring veterans from their car to the door. You might be asked to do one-on-one visits with patients who don't have friends

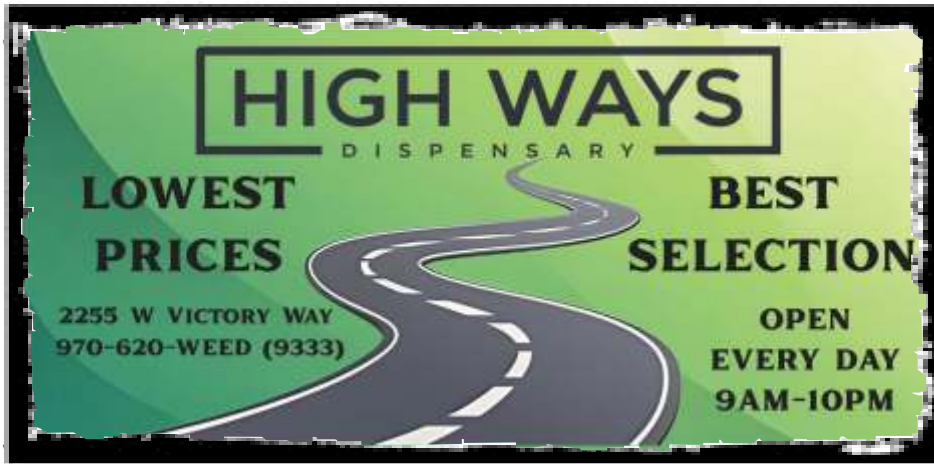
or relatives to stop by. You might be asked to read to patients with vision problems. If your group is big enough (as well as having a good budget), you might want to host a holiday party for a whole ward, with food, drinks and presents for each patient. Hint: You can seek donations from the community to defray the cost of purchases.

\* Take a local veteran and family under your wing and ask what they need, whether it's meals, presents for the kids, a warm pair of boots or some home repairs.

\* Work a shift at a homeless shelter that serves a large population of veterans. You might be cooking, serving meals at the tables or helping veterans find warm winter gear among the donated coats and gloves.

Whatever you do, your help will have an impact.

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November 23rd, 2025

Word Spiral  
Answer  
FEMINISTS

### Holidays & Observances This Week

11/30	National Meth Awareness Day
12/01	Rosa Parks Day
12/02	Special Education Day
12/03	International Baboon Day
12/04	National Cookie Day
12/05	World Soil Day
12/06	St. Nicholas Day

November 23rd,  
2025

### SCRAMBLERS

solution

1. Stage;
2. Drudge;
3. Blithe;
4. Menace

Today's Word

LAUGHING





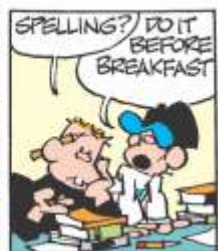
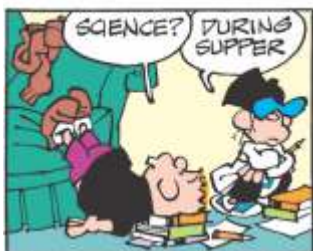


## Why Do We Turn Down Help?

All too frequently we seniors don't ask for help when we need it, using as an excuse that others need it more. Sound familiar?

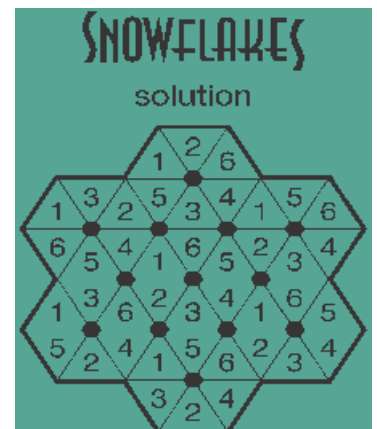
Our local senior center decided to host a free holiday dinner a few weeks before Christmas this year. It was to be a full turkey dinner, with several courses, a sit-down affair with table service from the Community Club at the high school. They needed to limit it to 100 people, and advance sign-up was required. Color them amazed when a full week after the announcement, there were still well over 50 dinner slots available. Staff starting manning the phones, calling senior center members to ask if they'd heard about the dinner. Yes, people had heard. Yes, it sounded lovely. But no, they wouldn't be signing up for it. Other people, many stated, needed the free dinner more. This did not surprise me. After all the times I've talked to seniors around me about how it was OK for them to go to the food bank, that it was OK to ask for help - no, I wasn't shocked that many were turning down a free holiday dinner at the senior center. Does this describe you? Someone who would turn down free things, saying that others might need it more? There's more to it when we decline help, other reasons, if we're going to be honest with ourselves. Mostly we fear loss of independence. Somehow we equate getting help at the food bank - or a free turkey dinner - with not being able to take care of ourselves, thus possibly inviting scrutiny from others who might start questioning our ability to manage our lives. I was not surprised when the senior center changed their promotion for the free dinner to say they would welcome donations, and the rest of the slots filled up.

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by BUD BLAKE

November 23rd. 2025








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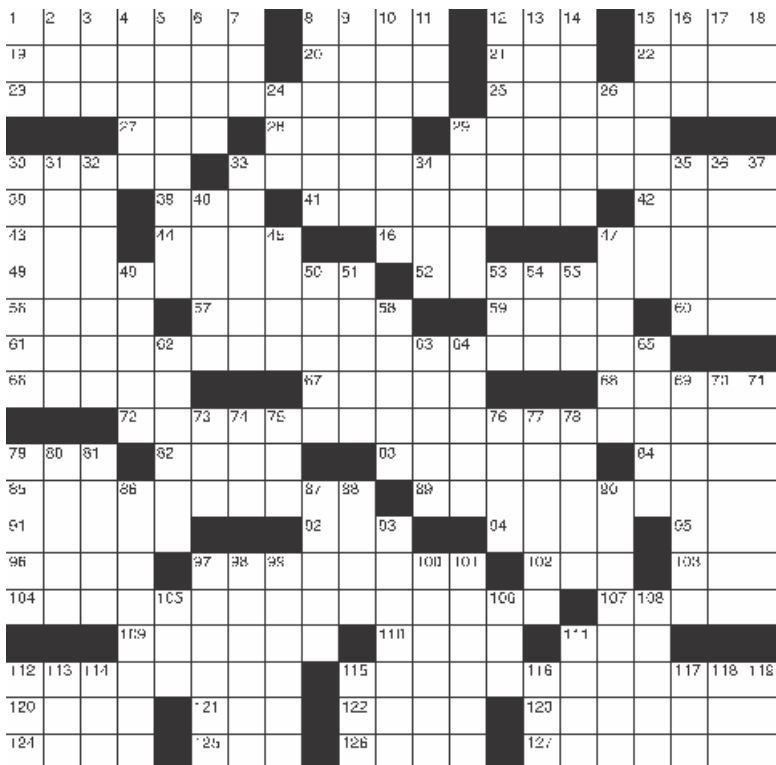
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Answer in the December 7th Issue

## Super Crossword

"NO SURRENDER!"

<p><b>ACROSS</b></p> <p>1 Covered deceptively, as walls</p> <p>8 Info to you</p> <p>12 Bygone rival of Delta</p> <p>15 Widenspread</p> <p>19 More than-filled</p> <p>20 "My I am now"</p> <p>21 Virus for Fluor</p> <p>22 English prep school</p> <p>23 "Assuming this is"</p> <p>26 Very angry</p> <p>27 "Illustrious"</p> <p>28 Large burger</p> <p>29 Fastest down</p> <p>30 Chop to bits</p> <p>33 Far enough not to be in danger</p> <p>38 Unlock, in verse</p> <p>39 Russian interceptor, in brief</p> <p>41 T unicates</p> <p>42 Corp. VIPs</p> <p>43 Cover, org.</p> <p>44 Easy victory</p> <p>46 Beer barrel</p> <p>47 Halls a little</p> <p>48 Priced play's section</p>	<p>52 "Yes, that's what I said"</p> <p>56 F gun skater</p> <p>57 Boston basketballer</p> <p>58 Beginner, in slang</p> <p>60 Jazz wailer</p> <p>61 "Maintain self-control"</p> <p>66 "The Mary Tyler Moore Show"</p> <p>68 "The Mary Tyler Moore Show"</p> <p>69 Advice that may calm someone</p> <p>91 Cindy wrap</p> <p>92 Pro at CPR</p>	<p>94 In (in its original place)</p> <p>95 Summer, in Scissors</p> <p>96 Writer Bagnold</p> <p>97 Set in motion</p> <p>102 Kyo of "Star Wars"</p> <p>103 Atmosphere</p> <p>104 2008 movie by John L. Parker Jr.</p> <p>107 Helsinki natives</p> <p>109 Sounds</p> <p>110 Head in Nise</p> <p>111 His styles</p> <p>112 Camp in the w, e.g.</p> <p>115 Subject of the adage "formed by the starts of nine long answers in this puzzle"</p> <p>120 To's query</p> <p>121 Observed</p> <p>122 Dative</p> <p>123 Plane pilot</p> <p>124 Boatloads</p> <p>125 Singer Rita</p> <p>126 Cover "Hoy"</p> <p>127 Belt holes</p>	<p>2 "Widened-scho"</p> <p>3 Palm Pilot</p> <p>4 Character for college sports</p> <p>5 Split to bits</p> <p>6 Wiggly fishes</p> <p>7 Sell &amp;</p> <p>8 Singers Ross and Kroll</p> <p>9 A Latin room</p> <p>10 City south of Topeka, KS</p> <p>11 Gibbon, e.g.</p> <p>12 Old TV tube</p> <p>13 Beneficial to both sides</p> <p>14 Lorry</p> <p>15 Patronize</p> <p>16 TGI Fridays</p> <p>17 Lemony</p> <p>18 Terminate</p> <p>24 Military doc</p> <p>25 "Yin-yin" hrs.</p> <p>29 Terminate</p> <p>30 Trust (in)</p> <p>31 20th Greek deity</p> <p>32 Splitting</p> <p>33 Magic charm</p> <p>34 Glenn of the Eagles</p> <p>35 Quiz wizzes, perhaps</p> <p>36 Key next to a record</p>	<p>37 Newark's county</p> <p>40 Lawn bowling variety</p> <p>45 Soft mineral</p> <p>47 Indiana river</p> <p>49 Fills totally</p> <p>50 Gawk</p> <p>51 Fathered</p> <p>53 Linking word in Ludwig</p> <p>54 "Hath — sister?"</p> <p>56 Shakespeare</p> <p>55 "That's idyl"</p> <p>58 Detailed evaluations, in brief</p> <p>62 Affix with psats</p> <p>63 Bidirectional</p> <p>64 Tartrate, e.g.</p> <p>65 Throm of Radiohead</p> <p>69 Using hero's language</p> <p>71 Kids of boomers</p> <p>73 Nav. office</p> <p>74 Blue fms</p> <p>75 Bygone U.K. record label</p> <p>76 Old Hollywoods — Code</p> <p>77 Whole</p>	<p>78 Ice bond</p> <p>79 Sailing</p> <p>80 Partner of Slurm</p> <p>81 Lay neighbor</p> <p>86 Approaching gradually, as a film scene</p> <p>87 Sixth Greek letter</p> <p>88 Archaic</p> <p>90 Fee fast</p> <p>93 Tarn clothes</p> <p>97 "True proceed"</p> <p>98 More prying</p> <p>99 Cold brew, informally</p> <p>100 "But wait, — more"</p> <p>101 Really vexes</p> <p>105 Japanese dance-drama</p> <p>106 "No kidding!"</p> <p>108 Violist</p> <p>111 "Whip it" rock band</p> <p>112 TV brand</p> <p>113 Granola</p> <p>114 Party card game</p> <p>115 Mushy food</p> <p>116 "Yodel" record</p> <p>117 To the —</p> <p>118 Owns eye</p> <p>119 Trauma mtr.</p>
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