

4 MILLION  
Readers Weekly  
Nationwide

February 1st,  
2026

# TIDBITS®

Of N.W. Colorado  
The Neatest Little Paper Ever Read

Published by MMR Enterprises Ltd., 2794 County Road 174, Craig, CO 81625, 970-620-6329

Volume 25  
Issue 6



**DOG & CAT  
SUPPLIES & FOOD**

**BOARDING TRAINING**

**970-761-3879**

1111 W. Victory Way,  
Suite 121  
Craig, CO 81625

[rockymountainhappypaws.com](http://rockymountainhappypaws.com)

## TIDBITS CONSIDERS LOVE AFFAIRS

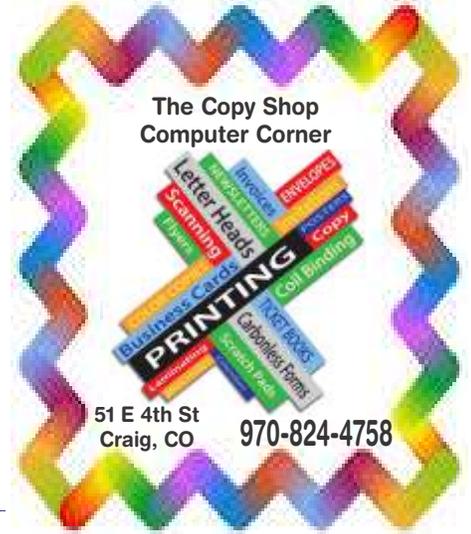
by Janet Spencer

Biologists agree that life's main purpose is to find a mate and leave DNA behind before dying. Here are some examples of outrageously weird ways some creatures accomplish this feat.

### MATING MAYHEM

\* A species of Australian insect-eating marsupial mouse called Antechinus has developed slightly unusual mating habits. The female mates with as many partners as she can find. Her brood is born in the spring, at the height of the insect hatching season. Every single one of her babies is likely to have a different father. She gives birth to three times as many babies as she can possibly support. Only the strongest survive, hidden in her pouch for an inordinately long time (in mouse terms). The others perish.

\* The female Suriname toad transfers her eggs to the male for fertilization. The male then deposits the fertilized eggs on the female's back. Her skin grows over and around the eggs, surrounding each one in a protective bubble like baby bees in a honeycomb. Up to 100 eggs will incubate this way until they reach maturity several months later. They depart from their mother as fully formed miniature adult toads, whereupon Mom sheds her pockmarked skin and goes in search of a new mate. (cont. on page 2)



The Copy Shop  
Computer Corner

51 E 4th St  
Craig, CO 970-824-4758



**THIS PUBLICATION IS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE ADVERTISERS - PLEASE GIVE THEM YOUR BUSINESS WHEN YOU NEED THE SERVICES OR PRODUCTS THEY OFFER!!**

## Laugh a bit with TIDBITS

**Q: What happens to a chipmunk during mating season?**

**A: They get kinda squirrely!**

### WANT TO PUBLISH A TIDBITS® IN YOUR AREA?

We provide the opportunity for success!

Call 1.800.523.3096

[www.tidbitsweekly.com](http://www.tidbitsweekly.com)

Alpine Life Planning  
Strategies, Inc.

Grandma's Way

Full Service Assistance Since 2003!

We work with all major insurance carriers, and then some!

Medicare Questions - We do that too!

Direct Phone 303-944-7604

[www.alps4ins.com](http://www.alps4ins.com)

Think you or your small business can't afford health benefits? Think Again!

HERE TO FLOOR YOU

TLC  
CARPET ONE  
FLOOR&HOME

ROOM by ROOM



1820 W VICTORY WAY  
CRAIG, CO 81625  
970-824-4945

# MJK SALES & FEED INC.

CRAIG, CO.

Fix it - Feed it - Build it

Fix It

**ACE**  
Hardware  
970.824.6581

Feed It

  
PURINA  
970.824.6582

Build It

  
Boise Cascade  
Corporation  
970.329.4396

**LOVE AFFAIRS**  
( cont. from  
Front Cover)

\* Off the coast of California lives a singing fish. The male toadfish builds a nice nest on the sea floor and then manipulates its swim bladder to "sing" a song to woo the ladies. However, there are two different types of male toadfish. The large Alpha toadfish does all the singing and nest-building. The smaller Sneaker toadfish hides nearby. When the Alpha male's song attracts a female, she lays her eggs in his nest. While the Alpha dude is distracted, the puny Sneaker fish dashes in, fertilizes the eggs, and makes a speedy getaway. Clueless Alpha guy then spends weeks guarding the fish eggs that aren't even his, while the female goes on her way in search of a different singing fish to mate with.

\* The pearlfish got its name due to a very peculiar mating method. The male pearlfish darts inside a mollusk, where it uses its swim bladder to create a vibrating song. The shells of the mollusk act as an amplifier, sending the mating call out into the ocean.

When a female pearlfish shows up, she swims away after having her eggs fertilized - but the male remains inside the mollusk, where it dies. The mollusk, finding this irritating, coats the dead pearlfish with the same substance that it uses to coat grains of sand and other annoyances. Therefore some surprised divers cut into their mollusks hoping for pearls, and find instead a pearl-covered pearlfish.

\* Land snails are hermaphrodites, both male and female, meaning that either snail in a mating pair can fertilize the other's eggs. Both are equipped with "love darts" which they use to stab their partner, inserting a packet from an antenna-like projection on their face under the skin of their partner. Some snail species shoot single darts, while some shoot multiple darts, and still others use a single dart to jab their mate repeatedly.

(cont. on page 3)

Snow Removal  
Landscaping Custom Decks



Kevin James  
970-819-0692

advanced.Sol.llc@gmail.com

**TIDBITS**  
**NUGGET OF KNOWLEDGE**

The male nursery web spider wraps a bug in silk and presents it to a potential partner for her to eat. Sometimes, though he will wrap an empty husk if he got hungry and ate the gift, and sometimes he wraps a dead leaf or twig hoping it will suffice.



Get your FREE copy of Tidbits at these great businesses!

1 Visit [www.southtidbits.com](http://www.southtidbits.com) to see a complete list of locations where Tidbits is available

# Spring Craft & Vendor Show!

March 20th, 21st, 2026 ~ 10 am to 6:30 pm

March 22nd, 2026 ~ 10 am to 4 pm

Centennial Mall  
1111 W Victory Way  
Craig, CO 81625

For more information contact:  
Dawn Bevel @ 970-714-1414



**Easter Bunny**  
Saturday March 21st 2026  
10am to 5pm  
Centennial Mall  
1111 W Victory Way  
Craig, CO  
Get your photos while you wait.  
**\$10.00 each**  
**\$5.00 for additional photos.**



\* When whales and other bony fish die, they drift to the sea floor, where they are colonized and consumed by bone-eating worms. These worms appear to take root in the bones of the fallen, dismantling them gradually through filaments that penetrate deeply into the bones. Scientists were curious when they discovered that every single specimen they examined was female. Where did the male bone-eating worms hang out? Not until they dissected some of the lady worms did the discover that the men are hanging out inside the long, tube-like bodies of the women. In fact, each female hosted up to a hundred different males inside her, each one microscopically small, measuring ' 100,000 times smaller than their mates. Each male continuously fertilizes whatever eggs the female is producing. Unable to eat, they soon die and are replaced by other males who continue the work.

\* It's well known that many insect species, such as ants, termites, and some species of bees, congregate in communities that revolve around the amazing egg-laying capacity of their queen. Less well known is the fact that communities of pistol shrimp operate in the identical manner. The queen shrimp, the largest member of the community, is completely serviced by the resident King shrimp, while being fed and tended to by the myriad servant shrimps that surround her. All of this occurs inside their chosen undersea kingdom, consisting of a large sponge. The pistol shrimp's method of procuring food for the Queen and the colony is to possess spring-loaded claws that launch seawater at the rate of 105 feet per second (32 m), which heats the stream of water to 8,000° F (4,427° C) sending out a shockwave that kills prey instantly. Pistol shrimp also communicate by snapping their claws, warning the community of threats.



**POPEYE**  
By EDDY FERRARINI

AT LEAST I KNOW YOU'LL NEVER ABANDON ME.

SURE, ARE YOU TALKING TO YOUR ANXIETY AGAIN? ... MAYBE.

SPINACHOVIA... OH PEE, OH PEE!

WORRY, WORRY, WORRY!

WE CAME AS SOON AS WE COULD, KING BLOODY WOT'S TH' AWIRFUL CALAMITY YE GOTSK!

IT'S A NIGHTMARE! CATASTROPHK!

PEOPLE ARE SAYING MEAN THINGS ABOUT ME ONLINE! HORRIBLY MEAN THINGS FULL OF TYPOS, CALLING ME MSHH-MASHY AND OVERLY DEPENDENT ON HELP FROM YOU!

WELL, THERE WE GO.

WOT DIDJA MONT US TDOY? STOP THEM!

POORLY SPELLD LABEL CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO STAND!

HERE! PROBLEM SOLVED!

ALL YOU DID WAS CORRECT ALL OF THEIR SPELLINGS.

WHY LET 'EM BE MEAN BUT RIGHT WHEN THEY CAN BE MEAN BUT RIGHT AND GRAMMATICALLY CORRECT?

GIVE ME THAT!



Get your **FREE** copy of Tidbits at these great businesses!

**DARK HORSE LIQUORS**

**FIESTA JALISCO**  
Family Mexican Restaurant

**Hamsters**  
Sweet As Sugar

**VICTORY LIQUORS**

**Carroll's Liquors**

2 Visit [www.nuretidbits.com](http://www.nuretidbits.com) to see a complete list of locations where Tidbits is available



# HASBRO

\* Three Polish brothers moved to the U.S. from Poland shortly after World War I. Herman, Hillel, and Henry Hassenfeld supported themselves by purchasing leftover scraps of fabric from textile and clothing factories and turning them into other products, such as hat liners. This venture, begun in Providence, Rhode Island in 1923, eventually grew into one of the world's largest toy conglomerates.

\* One of the things they made with the fabric scraps was liners for pencil boxes. They then began making pencil boxes, and later expanded into zippered pouches for school supplies. By 1926, they had formed a company called Hassenfeld Brothers Incorporated, with 8 members of the family being the only employees.

\* Next, they also began making their own pencils, finding that pencil sales were steady and reliable. Pencil sales grew steadily over the next several decades, providing income to experiment with other products. They pioneered color-by-number art sets. They filled zippered pencil pouches with basic school supplies, sold as a kit. By 1930 the firm had 200 employees and annual sales of \$500,000.

\* By the late 1930s, the Hassenfeld Brothers experimented by expanding into toy sales. They added medical sets for junior doctors and nurses. Next came a pily make-up kit for girls, followed by modeling clay and the ever-popular Play-Doh. However, the big explosion occurred after the release of Mr. Potato Head in 1952. This was the first toy ever marketed on television. Hassenfeld Brothers subsequently landed the license to distribute Disney merchandise.

\* Led by a succession of Hassenfeld children and then grandchildren, the company continued to grow. Their single most popular product, introduced in 1964, was the entire G.I. Joe franchise. With the firm's popularity soaring, the Hassenfeld Brothers decided a name change was in order. In 1968, they shortened the name to Hasbro.

\* By the 1980s, Hasbro was the nation's 6th best-selling toy maker, with revenues of \$225.4 million. In 1984 the firm acquired Milton Bradley, the nation's 5th best-selling toy maker. Next it acquired Parker Brothers. By now Hasbro surpassed Mattel to become the biggest toy company in the world.

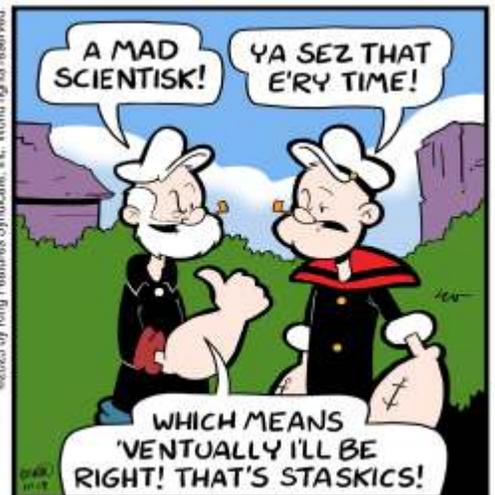
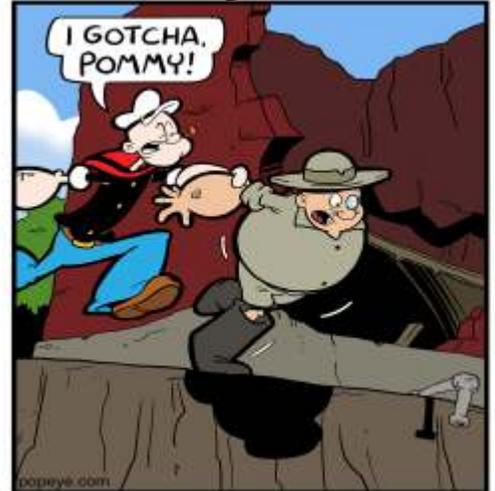
\* However, there were flops along the way. Lawn darts garnered negative publicity after several deaths. The product was yanked off the shelves. A squirt gun shaped like a hypodermic needle raised ire of parents.

\* One of their biggest mistakes was in trying to out-Barbie Mattel. In 1986, Hasbro introduced Jem, a fashion doll introduced as both a record producer and purple-haired rock musician.

While Jem posted strong initial sales, her popularity quickly faded, and she was retired after only one year. In 1988, Hasbro introduced Maxie, a doll scaled to match Barbie's dimensions, allowing her to wear Barbie clothing. Maxie lasted two years. Hasbro never again tried to clone Barbie. However, they breathed new life into their G.I. Joe series by releasing set of G.I. Joe figures that were only 3.5 inches (9 cm) tall. \* Today, Hasbro has gobbled up much of the competition. They distribute most of the biggest toys of our day: Tonka, Transformers, Sesame Street characters, Cabbage Patch Kids, and many more. They pull in over \$6 billion in revenue each year, unsurpassed by any toy company on the planet.



# OLIVE OYL



©2023 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

**The Place For Great American Food!**

Open Daily For Breakfast & Lunch 5 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Dine In Or...Carry Out For Your Convenience!**

**970.824.1764**

**337 W Victory Way  
Craig, CO**



# BLUE LIGHT

\* Light-emitting diodes, or LEDs, pervade our entire world. They're in our computers, phones, watches, billboards, TVs, and more. LED lights don't get their colored glow from plastic coverings, which protect the electronics. LED colors come from the electronics themselves.

\* The world's first LED light was invented by GE in 1962. It glowed red. A few years later, Monsanto created a green LED. With only green and red LEDs available, their use was limited. What was needed was a blue LED in order to produce every color of the rainbow. Every electronic corporation chased blue light.

\* A Japanese engineer named Shuji Nakamura worked for a small chemical company in Japan called Nichia. The company produced calcium phosphate used in fluorescent lights. When red and green LEDs were invented, the firm expanded into the manufacture of the semiconductors used in these diodes. By the late 1980s, the company, competing against larger corporations, needed a new product.

\* In 1988, Nakamura went to the company's founder and asked for a laboratory and the funding to pursue blue light. The founder agreed. The boss knew that blue LEDs would transform the world of lighting. At the time, incandescent bulbs gave off more heat than light. But blue LEDs would need to be invented in order to have white LED light-bulbs.

\* Nakamura's first move was to spend a year in Florida, where a friend worked in a lab that created the machines that made the crystals used in semiconductors. Because Nakamura was not allowed to use the company's state-of-the-art equipment, he learned to repair their damaged machines. When he returned to Japan, he built his own machine from the ground up.

\* All research focused on using two minerals to produce blue light: zinc or gallium. The problem was that the crystals had to be 100% pure, which was nearly impossible. Nakamura tore down and rebuilt his crystal-building machine often. Then he hit pay dirt. The machines used in Florida sprayed atomized gallium into a vacuum, where it settled and crystallized. Nakamura's innovation was adding a stream of air that pushed the mist to the bottom. This resulted in a purity never before achieved, which made a pale blue light.



**Towing and Recovery**  
**970-824-7669**  
**After Hours Telephone**  
**970-620-1902**



**Light, Medium & Heavy Duty Towing**  
**Lockouts**  
**Road Side Assistance & Transportation**

**CALL US FOR:**

\* Just then, his boss retired, and the reins were handed over to his son-in-law, who felt that pursuing blue LEDs was a waste. He ordered Nakamura to cease. Nakamura refused. In 1992, he was a presenter at a conference in St. Louis. Yet, his blue LED light was not powerful enough. He needed to boost output.

\* His next breakthrough came when he experimented with a mineral mix previously overlooked: aluminum gallium nitride. This did the trick. The result was a bright glowing blue LED light - thirty years after the first red LED was invented. The announcement was made in 1992, and by 1994, Nichia was turning out a million blue LEDs per month. The company released the world's first white LED in 1996. Today, Nichia is one of the world's largest manufacturers of LED lights.

\* Despite his heroic contribution, Nakamura was rewarded with a paltry salary increase. When he went to work for a U.S. firm, Nichia sued him, but he eventually won.

\* Nakamura won the Nobel Prize in Physics in 2014. He now holds 2088 patents and works at the University of California, where he invents the next generation of LED lights. In 2010, just 1% of residential lighting sales were LED. By 2022, that had risen to 50%. By the mid 2030s, nearly all lighting sales will be LED.

**January 25th, 2026**

**Word Spiral Answer**

**BARBECUER**



**I don't know how birds learn mating rituals.**  
**I guess they just wing it!**

## Fun Fact

In 1901, Connecticut became the first U.S. state to implement a speed limit for automobiles. Motor vehicles could be driven no faster than 12 miles per hour in cities and 15 miles per hour in the countryside.

Source: thepatelfirm.com

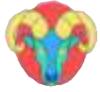
© 2026 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.



Neil & Jess  
 CRAIG COLO  
**LOADOUT LIQUORS**  
 EST 1978  
**1800 W Victory Way**  
**Craig CO 81625**  
**970.824.5168**



**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) Although you're getting kudos and other positive reactions to your suggestions, don't let the cheers drown out some valid criticisms. It's better to deal with them now rather than later.



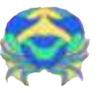
**Taurus** (April 20 to May 20) Following your keen Bovine intuition pays off as you not only reassess the suggestions that some people are putting in front of you but also their agendas for doing so.



**Gemini** (May 21 to June 20) You continue on a high-enthusiasm cycle as a new project that you've assumed takes shape. You're also buoyed by the anticipation of receiving some good news about a personal matter.



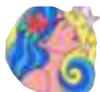
**Cancer** (June 21 to July 22) Your eagerness to immerse yourself in your new assignment is understandable. But be careful that you don't forget to take care of a pressing personal situation as well.



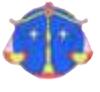
**Leo** (July 23 to August 22) This is a good time to learn a new skill that could give the clever Cat an edge in an upcoming competition for workplace opportunities. On another note, enjoy the arts this weekend with someone special.



**Virgo** (August 23 to September 22) You could risk creating an impasse if you insist on expecting more from others than they're prepared to give. Showing flexibility in what you'll accept could prevent a stalemate.



**Libra** (September 23 to October 22) Although you can weigh all the factors of a dispute to find an agreeable solution for others, you might need the skilled input of someone you trust to help you deal with an ongoing situation.



**Scorpio** (October 23 to November 21) The good news is that your brief period of self-doubt turns into a positive "I can do anything" attitude by midweek. The better news is that you'll soon be able to prove it.



**Sagittarius** (November 22 to December 21) This is a good time for Sagittarians to start making travel plans while you can still select from a wide menu of choices and deals – and not be forced to settle for leftovers.



**Capricorn** (December 22 to January 19) Like your zodiac sign, the sure-footed Goat, you won't allow obstacles in your path to keep you from reaching your goal. Don't be surprised by who asks to tag along with you.



**Aquarius** (January 20 to February 18) Let your head dominate over your heart as you consider the risks that might be involved in agreeing to be a friend's co-signer or otherwise acting as their backup in a financial matter.



**Pisces** (February 19 to March 20) Resolve to close the door and let your voicemail take your phone calls while you finish up a task before the end-of-week deadline. Then go out and enjoy a fun-filled weekend!

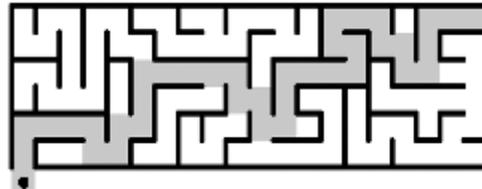


**BORN THIS WEEK:** Your capacity for care and compassion helps bring comfort to others. You could serve as a reliable foundation to many.

© 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

January 25th, 2026

Kids' Maze Solution



January 25th, 2026

KNIGHT MOVES  
Answer

C	E	D
E		H
I	A	V

ACHIEVED

Get your FREE copy of Tidbits at these great businesses!



3

Visit [www.freeetidbits.com](http://www.freeetidbits.com) to see a complete list of locations where Tidbits is available

**THIS WEEK'S CELEBRITY BIRTHDAYS**

Lisa Marie Presley	02/01/1968
Christie Brinkley	02/02/1953
Morgan Fairchild	02/03/1950
Alice Cooper	02/04/1948
Barbara Hershey	02/05/1948
Tom Brokaw	02/06/1940
James Spader	02/07/1960

**TIDBITS**

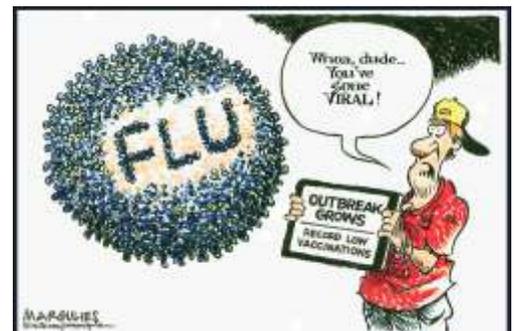
**HOCUS-FOCUS** BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Man is looking the other way. 2. Mouth is open. 3. Necktie is missing. 4. The is different. 5. Nose is smaller. 6. Armrest is different.



You're in luck!  
The hunt is over!  
Customized items  
you will love!

<https://www.facebook.com/PatriciasParables>



**Droppin Skulls Tannery**

**Animal Hide Tanning/Preservation**

**970-620-6601**  
**405 Breeze St.**  
**Craig, CO 81625**



**Five Spot™** Winter wonderland

S	N	O	W	Y	Type of owl or egret
					A team gets four in football
					Free or saber
					A noted Day
					Carnival feature
					Motivation

© 2026 King Features Synd., Inc. 32932

Answer in the February 8th 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

© 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

Answer in the February 8th Issue

# BINGO

Are You Ready for Some Fun?!  
 Then Grab Your Dauber & Get '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

# Weekly SUDOKU

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

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!

© 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

Answer in the February 8th 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.

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

© 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

Page 8 Answer in the February 8th Issue

# Even Exchange

by Donna Pettman

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

1. Stand up for	F	Rely upon	P
2. Iron or powder	— T —	Olympic award	— D —
3. Oak fruit	C	Decorate	D
4. Airlane garage	— — — A —	Closest implement	— — — L —
5. Burn down	R	Physic contact	U
6. Weather prediction	— — — R	Spice and soon	— — — N
7. Florida citrus	O — — — —	Rural homestead	G — — — —
8. Snap into	R	Dismal	I
9. Barrister	L — — — —	Finn's buddy	S — — — —
10. Remove whiskers	H	Sophisticated	U

© 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

Answer in the February 1st Issue

Repeat After Me:

Complete Sales & Service

Serving N.W. Colorado for over 75 years!

I Deserve New Jewelry

KESTER JEWELRY Exclusive Jewelry

970-824-6343 530 Yampa Ave. Craig, CO

Like Us On Facebook

### 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!



"Well, it's that time again to regret you didn't marry a woman!"

Mean  
LIMPY \_\_\_\_\_

Hue  
DEASH [ ] [ ]

Bask  
LOWLAW [ ] [ ]

Garb  
TRAITE [ ] [ ]

TODAY'S WORD

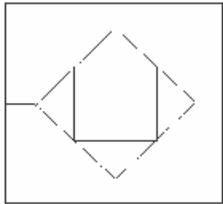
Answer in the February 8th Issue

### STICKELERS

by Terry Stickels

Below is a figure built by using different-sized square sheets of paper.

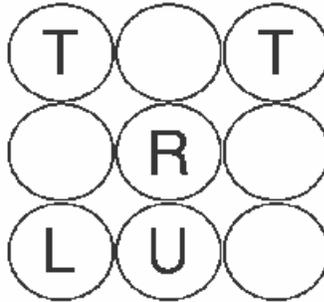
What is the minimum number of these square sheets needed to construct this figure?



©2026 King Features Syndicate

Answer in the February 8th issue

### WORD SPIRAL



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.

©2026 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Answer in the February 8th Issue

### KNIGHT MOVES

C	S	L
I		I
T	K	P

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.

© 2026 King Features Syndicate

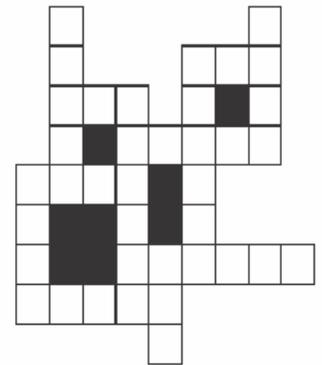
Answer in the February 8th Issue

### FEAR KNIGHT

By: rj Johnson

DOUBT? ...OR DARE!

- ERD
- EIDREV
- ♥TERHA
- ♥ERHA
- NCRTHE
- ZAD
- CEHT
- HITL
- ♥OTD
- TREZHO
- ♥AKDER
- ♥AHEL



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 February 8th Issue

### 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. So solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: L equals U

HTBI RUL GBXMLDCB ADIR  
 GBUGQB WU AUOB WU  
 LVXDEIB'M JDGEWDQ, HTDW  
 CU RUL CU? WTEJVBI VEBO.

©2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

Answer in the February 8th Issue Page 9

**YOUR LOCAL SHIPPING EXPERTS**

**NORTHWEST PACK & SHIP**

Shipping  
Drop-Off  
Returns

Partners: UPS • FedEx • USPS

**970-620-4148**

595 BREEZE ST, SUITE 500  
CRAIG, CO 81625



## Paper Valentines

For many of us, receiving paper valentines may be the stuff of school days - a piece of the past. The tradition goes back much further, of course and wasn't always just for kids. The first commercial valentines in America were made by Ester Howland in Massachusetts in 1850. They were made with paper lace and featured written verses. Before then, people exchanged home-made valentines. Surviving examples are collected as folk art today. The one shown here, preserved in a frame with fabric backing, dates to the mid-1800s and sold at Jeffrey S. Evans & Associates for \$279. It is an example of scherenschnitte (literally "scissor cuts"), a paper-cutting art that originated in Germany and was later brought to America. It was especially popular among the Pennsylvania Dutch. It features hearts, tulips, and birds known as distelfinks (a name for European goldfinches that means "thistle-finch"), all of which were favorite motifs. Scherenschnitte could be made for any festive occasion, or simply as artwork. We know this one must have been a Valentine because it is inscribed with a verse commemorating "the fourteenth day of February."

\* \* \*

**Q.** I am curious about the bronze sculpture my father purchased from an estate sale around 1950. He converted the sculpture into a lamp. The sculpture shows a woman in a draped gown with one hand raised and the other arm outstretched. It is 27 inches high and weighs 26 pounds. I did not find any markings or signatures. Where was it made, when was it made, who was the artist and is there any value?

\* \* \*

*Ancestors Treasures*  
 Consignment, Antiques & Specialty Shops  
 ancestors-treasures-cass@gmail.com  
 (970) 620-4289

The No. 1 Spot to Find That Special Something For Everyone! And Now Check Out Our Furniture Location Just Across From The Main Store!!

**A.** Bronze sculptures like yours were common decoration in the late nineteenth to early twentieth centuries. They were often made in the art nouveau style of the time. The most famous were made in France, but some were made in other European countries and the U.S. as well. They were often copies of sculptures by famous artists. Many were made into lamp bases, like yours. Unmarked bronze sculptures or lamp bases usually sell for about \$200. We have not been able to identify its maker, but a book like "The Encyclopedia of Bronzes, Sculptures & Founders" by Harold Berman may help. A library or museum in your area may have a copy.



\* \* \*

**TIPS on framing paper documents and prints:** No glue, transparent tape, or rubber cement. No scissors - don't trim anything. No pencils or pens, and don't try to rewrite an autograph. No staples or clips. No extremes of temperature or humidity. No direct sunlight - it fades the ink.

\* \* \*

### CURRENT PRICES

**Clothing**, bodice, Edwardian, needle lace collar, frilly trim, French knot embroidery, trapunto, bracelet length sleeves, button back, cotton, 1905, 18 inches, \$110.  
**Furniture**, chest, hinged lid, twig decorated, robin's egg blue paint, applied stars and crescent moons, shaped bracket base, 20th century, 23 1/2 x 33 1/2 inches, \$450.  
**Glass-Venetian**, lamp, electric, figural, fruit basket, multi-color, turquoise blue base, paper label, Murano, c. 1980, 8 1/2 x 9 inches, pair, \$2,065.

\* \* \*

For more collecting news, tips, and resources, visit:

[www.kovels.com](http://www.kovels.com)

(c) 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

**TIDBITS QUOTE**

"The world is well supplied with spiders whose male ancestors died after mating. The world is bereft of spiders whose would-be ancestors never mated in the first place."

~ Richard Dawkins

## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



January 25th, 2026

**FEAR & KNIGHT**  
 answer

I	S	M	U						
N		A	P	R	O	M			
A	T	O	N	E	S	P			
O		I	E	T					
		C	A	T	N	I	P		
					E	M	U		
					F	I	A	T	
					G				
					H				

**THE Y-NOT SHOP**  
Smoke Shop & Other Curiosities

**More than just a smoke shop!**

**WE HAVE MOVED!! COME VISIT OUR NEW LOCATION AT  
239 E. VICTORY WAY**

**WHERE WE WILL STILL OFFER A WIDE SELECTION OF SMOKING  
ACCESSORIES & OTHER CURIOSITIES PLUS SO MUCH MORE!**

**970-439-0785**

## Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- \* The Statue of Liberty was originally brown.
- \* Parrotfish are among the sleepest of sea creatures, averaging around a good 13 hours of rest per night. When not dozing, they spend as much as 90% of their time eating algae that grows on coral reefs.
- \* Reindeer eyes change color according to the seasons- they're golden in the summer and blue during winter.
- \* The U.S. Postal Service employs a sharp-eyed group of folks whose job is to determine where to send letters and packages with illegible addresses. They work their magic at the USPS Remote Encoding Center in Salt Lake City, Utah, the first facility of its kind and now the only one still standing.
- \* Just 43 people have been known to have "golden blood," the rarest of blood types.
- \* Potatoes are potato plants that also grow tomatoes. The hybrid occurs when a tomato plant is grafted on a potato plant, a relatively easy thing since they're both members of the solanum genus of the nightshac family.
- \* Leonardo da Vinci's famous painting "The Last Supper" originally included Jesus' feet.

- \* Portland, Oregon, was named in a coin toss in 1845 between Asa Lovejoy and Francis Pettygrove when the two couldn't agree on a suitable moniker for their new land claim.
- \* Cacti aren't native to most deserts.
- \* The human stomach can expand to hold as much as a 2-liter soda bottle, since its inner surface, the mucosa, is lined with folds called rugae that unfold and stretch out to accommodate food as it arrives.



**Thought for the Day:** "If you break your neck, if you have nothing to eat, if your house on fire, then you got a problem. Everything else is inconvenience."  
~ Robert Fulghum  
© 2026 King Features Synd., Inc



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



Here's what to watch and where to watch it for the week of Jan. 26, 2026:

- ON NOW:** "The Smashing Machine" (R)- HBO Max
- ON NOW:** "Drops of God" (Season 2) - Apple TV
- Jan. 27:** "33 Photos From the Ghetto" (Documentary) - HBO Max
- "Mike Epps: Delusional" (Comedy Special) - Netflix
- "Wonder Man" (Season 1) - Disney
- Jan. 28:** "Megan 2.0" (PG-13) - Netflix
- "Shrinking" (Season 3) - Apple TV
- "The Wrecking Crew" (R) - Prime Video
- Jan. 29:** "Bridgerton" (Season 4, Vol. 1)- Netflix

© 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



## TIDBITS GOES LONG.....

Hermaphrodite sea slugs have a protracted battle when mating. Each slug can be either male or female, and the battle is over which one has to carry the eggs, a chore with they both wish to avoid. Alas, the loser is the one who is first stabbed with the lance of fertilization.



\* "For pastry cooking, try grating frozen butter into the flour. It cuts in better and will stay cool longer. This helps when I am making shortbread, as the flour and butter need to be combined. I don't end up having to put it in the fridge to cool it back down." ~ C.S. in South Carolina

\* Freshen stuffed animals by securing a few in a pillowcase and adding a fabric softener sheet. Put in the dryer on low heat for 20 minutes, then remove and brush out the fur if necessary while still warm.

\* "Schedule important doctor's checkups, like your annual physical and dental cleaning in the same month each year, so you will know when they are coming up. I use my birth month. My mom always has hers done in February." ~ E.D. in Massachusetts

\* Here is an ingenious way to store markers: Collect enough toilet paper rolls to fill a shoe box standing upright. Paint or decorate the outside of the shoe box with brightly colored paper or paints. Fill with the rolls and they are kept standing uniformly across the box. Much better than a messy bin, where you can't see the colors that are on the bottom.

\* When you are finished pan frying something, add a bit of water to the pan and put it back on the still warm burner while you eat. When you come back to clean up after dinner, the pan drippings will slide right off!

\* If you've been de-cluttering as a part of your New Year's resolutions and you came across old pairs of eyeglasses, know that you can donate them to any Lions Club in your area. They redistribute the glasses to those who cannot afford the prescription, and they take reading glasses too!

Send your tips to:

Now Here's a Tip  
628 Virginia Drive  
Orlando, FL 32803

© 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

Get your **FREE** copy of **Thibbits** at these great businesses!

Visit [www.innovative.com](http://www.innovative.com) to see a complete list of locations where Thibbits is available

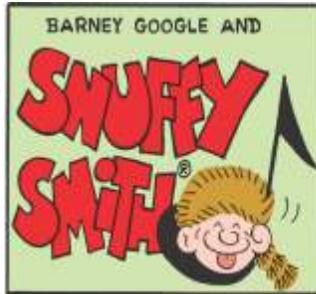
## HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINGOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. When is looking the other way. 2. Mouth is open. 3. Necktie is missing. 4. Tie is different. 5. Nose is smaller. 6. Armrest is different.



**RIGHT WAY DRIVER'S EDUCATION ACADEMY**

<p><b>CDL TRAINING SERVICES OFFERED:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ELDT Certification</li> <li>FMCSA Certification</li> <li>Courses for Classes A, B, &amp; C Commercial Licenses</li> <li>3rd Party Final Driving Test</li> </ul>	<p><b>DRIVER CERTIFICATION SERVICES OFFERED FOR:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1st Time Student Driver</li> <li>Reinstatements</li> <li>30 Hr. Online or Classroom Courses</li> <li>6 Hr. Driving Course with Instructor</li> <li>Colorado State Permit Testing &amp; Final Driving Tests</li> </ul>
---	---

970-824-7669

Visit our website:  
[www.rightwaydriversed.com](http://www.rightwaydriversed.com)

Find & Like Us On:

Get your FREE copy of Tibbits at these great businesses!

Visit [www.tibbits.com](http://www.tibbits.com) to see a complete list of locations where Tibbits is available

470 Washington St.  
Craig, CO

970-824-2271

- 5 Tanning Bed Stations  
Lay Down or Stand Up
- One Time Visit or Multiple Visit  
Package Pricing
- Large Variety of Tanning  
Products Available

Open 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
(No Appointment Necessary)

Test Your Knowledge

- LITERATURE: Who was the first Canadian to win the Nobel Prize in Literature?
- MYTHOLOGY: What is the home of the Greek Gods?
- LANGUAGE: Which language is the second most spoken in Canada?
- HISTORY: Which explorer sailed around Africa to discover a trade route between Europe and India?
- MOVIES: What is the name of "Elle Woods' Chihuahua in "Legally Blonde"?
- GAMES: In what year was the original Pac-Man video game released?
- TELEVISION: What is the name of the town where "Heart of Dixie" is set?
- FOOD & DRINK: Which popular fruit has seeds on the outside?
- MEDICAL TERMS: What is the common name for alopecia?
- GEOGRAPHY: In which country are the Cliffs of Moher located?

Like & Follow Us On

Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS

TRY THE FOLLOWING TO HELP YOU MAKE MORE OF THOSE TASTY SHORT PUTTS. SWING THE PUTTER BACK TWICE AS FAR AS NORMAL, THEN STROKE THROUGH THE BALL A LITTLE EASIER.

THIS TECHNIQUE HAD OFTEN SMOOTHED MY STROKE AND RE-ESTABLISHED MY CONTROL OVER THE PUTTERHEAD, MOSTLY BY IMPROVING MY TEMPO. CHANCES ARE IT WILL DO THE SAME FOR YOU.

Kids' Maze



ANSWER IN FEB. 8TH ISSUE ©2026 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

ANSWERS ON PAGE 15



TIGER

by BUD BLAKE

READY, TIGER? HERE COMES BONNIE

BETTER NOT. SHE'S A GIRL

HERE COMES JULIAN

NO! HE WEARS GLASSES

AH! HERE'S HUGO

NOPE - HE'S GOT PACKAGES

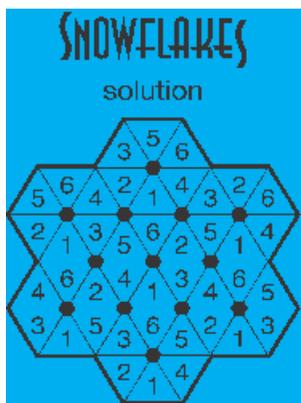
I QUIT! I'M SICK OF LISTENING TO YOU

I CAN'T WASTE MY DAY WAITING FOR YOU TO PICK A PERFECT TARGET!



**Go Figure!**  
answers

8	÷	4	+	9	11
+		×		÷	
2	×	4	+	3	11
×		-		+	
1	×	6	+	7	13
10		10		10	



**Weekly SUDOKU**  
Answer

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



**Thieves Don't Always Do Prison Time**

The reports from the VA's Office of the Inspector General are mind-boggling outlines of just how low scammers will go to steal money, and just how much they are able to take. Not all of them, however, will do prison time. A recent report indicates that one man was able to scam over \$1 billion by creating fake medical drug and device claims. This scheme used tele-medicine as well as phone calls, the internet and junk mail to con vulnerable people into handing over their personally identifiable information. Armed with that information, the thieves were able to generate fake doctor orders and use their partner pharmacies, tele-marketers and equipment suppliers to ship out unneeded medicine and medical items - and get paid for it all to the tune of \$1.45 billion. The head thief, CEO of the medical software company behind all the fraud, is not likely to have time to enjoy the fruits of his ill-gotten cash because, at age 79, he's been sentenced to 15 years in prison and fined over \$452 million in restitution.

Then there is the guy who stole VA grants to the tune of \$1.3 million (and DOL grants for half a million) while pretending to run a non-profit homeless veterans shelter. He didn't just apply for grants once, he did it multiple times. And not only did he spend some of that cash on himself, but he pretended to provide counseling services that the veterans never received. While he could have received up to 10 years in federal prison, he was only sentenced to 42 months, followed by supervised release. On the other hand, there is the pain doctor who is managing to not go to prison even after knowingly billing for multiple tests on the same patient on the same day. Instead, it's been called civil, not criminal, but he does have to pay \$13.6 million under the False Claims Act. How is it the theft of that amount of money doesn't result in prison time?

© 2026 King Features Synd., Inc.

**FiveSpot** Solution

C	H	O	S	E
S	C	O	N	E
C	A	N	E	S
L	E	A	N	S
S	N	A	I	L
P	L	A	I	N

January 25th 2026

**PUZZLE ANSWERS**

**Even Exchange**

Donna M. Pellman

- |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Jungle, Jingle | 6. Scoop, Sloop   |
| 2. Vault, Fault   | 7. Pantry, Paltry |
| 3. March, Marsh   | 8. Flint, Flirt   |
| 4. German, Herman | 9. Health, Wealth |
| 5. Diror, Diver   | 10. Glass, Grass  |

**CryptoQuote**  
answer

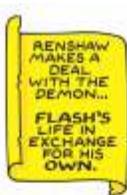
Words are often seen hunting for an idea, but ideas are never seen hunting for words.  
— Josh Billings

**SCRAMBLERS**  
solution

1. Confer; 2. Innate; 3. Vintage; 4. Scheme

Today's Word

**VOTERS**



**HIGH WAYS**  
DISPENSARY

**LOWEST PRICES**      **BEST SELECTION**

2255 W VICTORY WAY  
970-620-WEED (9333)

**OPEN EVERY DAY  
9AM-10PM**

**Tidbits® Says..**

SHOP IN OUR HOMETOWN

SHOP. LOCAL.



**WHEN IT'S  
TIME TO  
CHANGE  
DOCTORS**

**SENIOR  
NEWS LINE**

by Matilda Charles

Now and then, not too often but sometimes, you hear that audible click and come to the realization that you need to change doctors. Maybe it's because once again you don't feel like your doctor is really listening to your concerns. Maybe it's because once again tests are ordered without you getting a clear explanation about why they're necessary. Maybe it's because your health concern doesn't seem to be getting better. Maybe it's because you see the physician assistant (PA) when you expect to see the doctor. Or maybe it's just because you have a gut feeling you should go elsewhere. Whatever the reason, it the time comes to make a change, it won't be easy if you've been with your current doctor for a long time. Your first step, once you've decided to do this, is to "interview" another doctor. You'll need to call around to see who's taking new patients or inquire among friends for recommendations. Then check out the doctor online with reviews given by other people. Look at Healthgrades (www.healthgrades.com). Or do an online search with the doctor's name. Be sure the doctor is in your insurance network and make an appointment. Go in with a written list of questions and make notes. When you find a doctor you'd like to see in the future, you'll need to have your records transferred from the old doctor. And that's where I part company with advice I was given. I'm told that it's best to transfer your records to a new doctor before you go to the first appointment. You'll need to decide for yourself. My preference was to meet the doctor first before records were transferred, and to not let the current medical practice know I was leaving until I was certain. If you find the right doctor, the difficulty will be worth it.

**Test Your Knowledge**

Get your FREE copy of Tidbits at these great businesses!

Visit [www.nwcotidbits.com](http://www.nwcotidbits.com) to see a complete list of locations where Tidbits is available

1. Short story author Alice Munro, 2013.
2. Mount Olympus.
3. French.
4. Vasco da Gama.
5. Bruiser.
6. 1980.
7. Bluebell, Alabama.
8. Strawberries.
9. Hair loss.
10. Ireland.

**Holidays & Observances This Week**

02/01	American Heart Month
02/02	Play Your Ukulele Day
02/03	Dump Your Significant Jerk Week
02/04	Halfway point of winter
02/05	National School Counseling Week
02/06	Pay a Compliment Day
02/07	Send a Card to a Friend Day



**Americanisms**



"I never ran my train off the track, and I never lost a passenger."  
— Harriet Tubman

Looking for fun stuff to do?  
Check out area events page at:  
[www.nwcotidbits.com](http://www.nwcotidbits.com)

