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Laugh a bit with **TIDBITS**

Q: What animal can jump higher than the London Bridge?

A: All animals — Bridges can't jump!

**TIDBITS® CROSSES SOME PEDESTRIAN BRIDGES**  
by Patricia L. Cook



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Most bridges span natural obstacles, such as rivers or gorges. Some are strictly utilitarian in nature, serving the purpose of connecting land and people. Others are amazing architectural beauties that accommodate foot traffic along with or instead of automobiles.

- The Chihuly Bridge of Glass in Tacoma, Washington, is a unique pedestrian bridge linking the Museum of Glass with the Washington State History Museum. It is 500 feet long (152 m) with its walkway 70 feet (21 m) above Interstate 705. It displays the fascinating glass artwork of native Tacoma artist Dale Chihuly. Chihuly says he wanted to provide something that was "full of color and offers a joyous experience." Many bridge visitors observe that he accomplished that!
- The Henderson Waves pedestrian bridge in Singapore boasts an interesting design. The curvilinear structure connects Mount Faber Park and Telok Blangah Park 118 feet (36 m) above Henderson Road, making it the highest footbridge in Singapore. The horizontal distance is 899 feet (274 m), and the elevation change is 66 feet (20 m) between the two nature parks. The wavy look of the bridge is stunning when lit up at night, and the bridge provides a great view of the city. It has become a favorite destination for locals as well as tourists.

turn the page for more!

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Donna's Day

Creative family fun

by Donna Erickson

Get Creative With Cow-Print Lampshade

When sprucing up your home for spring, think twice before tossing out a tired-looking, plain-white lampshade and spending money on a new one. You and your school-age kids can brighten it up and give it new life with the miracle of acrylic paint and decorative trim or ribbon. Dream up and paint any designs you like, or give “cow prints” a try. The black shapes are simple for beginners to draw and paint on a lampshade, plus the fun cow-spot look is versatile for a range of decorating styles. While providing a delightful accent to the most contemporary decor, they also add a fresh pop to an easy country style. And if there’s a new baby in the house, the spotted lampshade whimsically accentuates a barnyard theme in the nursery. Since newborns are attracted to black-and-white shapes, this shade will be a favorite with baby from the start. Here’s what you’ll need:

- Cleaned used or inexpensive standard, plain-white lampshade without pleats
- Acrylic paint from crafts stores in black or in the color you prefer for the spots
- Pencil
- Newspaper
- Paintbrush
- Decorative fringe, trim or ribbon to fit around the bottom edge of the shade with a slight overlap.
- Glue gun

Here’s the fun:

1. You might want to start the project with your kids by looking at photos of cows, paying particular attention to various sizes and shapes of their spots. Practice sketching a few spots on paper with a pencil. On a newspaper-covered work surface, fill in the practice spots using paint and a paintbrush. Once you get the hang of it, begin sketching and painting on the lampshade, going from top to bottom. Let dry.

2. An adult should carefully glue the fringe or ribbon in place around the bottom rim of the shade. Let dry. Place on your lamp base.

Extra-bright ideas:

If your kids want to make more cow prints, look around for other decorating items that could be embellished, such as a picture frame, a removable cover of a plain fabric throw pillow, a clay flowerpot or a wastepaper basket.

Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. HISTORY: The Geneva Convention, agreements that define international treatment of prisoners of war, were updated in what year?

2. MYTHOLOGY: What are the nine patron goddesses of the arts called?

3. GEOGRAPHY: The Pyrenees Mountains lie between France and what other country?

4. ANATOMY: Stomatitis is inflammation of what?

5. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Mother Cabrini was the first U.S. citizen to become what?

6. PRESIDENTS: Who was the 14th president of the United States?

7. SCIENCE: What genus do human beings belong to?

8. LITERATURE: In what century did Dante complete “The Divine Comedy”?

9. TELEVISION: On the animated children’s show “Arthur,” what kind of animal does the main character resemble?

10. MATH: What is the square root of 64?

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Now here's a tip!

by Jo Ann Derson

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“My dogs stay outside most of the day now, while the weather is so nice. We bring them indoors when it gets too hot, but for a treat, we will freeze a plastic cup of ice and then chuck the “ice block” on the porch. They lick at it and play with it. It’s like a little doggie water park when they are done.” -- M.E. in Ohio

Finding a summer camp for your kids can be a chore. Check with your child’s school and school friends for recommendations. Also, see if your city’s recreation department is holding any camps. Some county extension offices (agriculture department) offer camps. Many of these are reasonably priced. Don’t delay.

“I have a tip for you. When pouring water into your coffee maker, use a 4-inch funnel, placing it in the tank. It helps to keep from spilling water. Pour slowly!” -- P.T. in Illinois

“To keep the kitchen garbage can from smelling, put meat, vegetables, fruit and peelings in a bread bag, and put it in the freezer until you take it outside for the garbage collector.” -- E.L. in Virginia

“Keep fast-food coupons in your car’s glove compartment. They will be there if you need to drive through, and will be handy for picking up dinner on the way home. If you need them at home, chances are your car is there anyway!” -- F.D. in Alabama

Got paper to recycle? More and more schools are recycling paper as a way to fundraise. Don’t have a kid in school? Drive by and look for a Dumpster or bin that’s labeled. Odds are good you’ll find one. If you don’t, ask!

TIDBITS QUOTE

“It is not good to cross the bridge before you get to it.” - Judi Dench

THIS WEEK'S CELEBRITY BIRTHDAYS

George Brett 5/15/1953

Pierce Brosnan 5/16/1953

Bob Saget 5/17/1956

Chow Yun-Fat 5/18/1955

Kevin Garnett 5/19/1976

Cher 5/20/1946

Mr. T 5/21/1952

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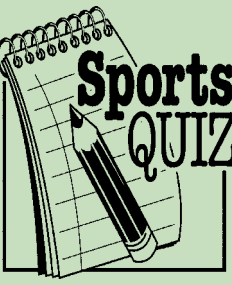
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### Sports Quiz

By Chris Richcreek

1 Who was the first Latin American to win the A.L. Cy Young Award?

2 Name the last baseball team to win the College World Series in its first time there.

3 In 2009, New Orleans quarterback Drew Brees set an NFL record for single-season completion percentage (70.62 percent). Who had held the mark?

4 When was the last time before 2010 that St. Mary's College men's basketball team won an NCAA Tournament game?

5 Sixteen NHL coaches have compiled at least 500 career victories. How many did it with only one team?

6 When was the last time before 2010 that the Italian men's soccer team was ousted in the first round of the World Cup?

7 Who was the youngest super welterweight boxing champion before Saul Alvarez, 20, won the WBC belt in 2011?

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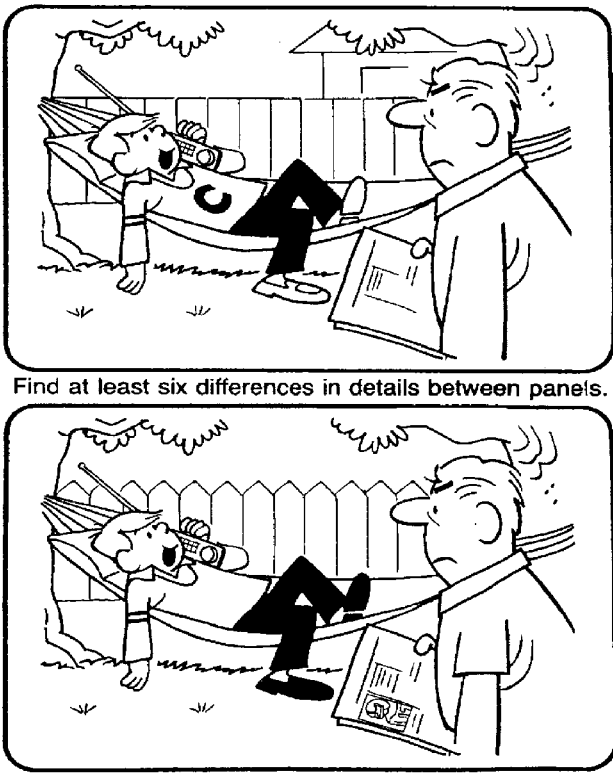
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### HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Letter on sweater is missing. 2. Newspaper is different. 3. Shoes are black. 4. House is gone. 5. Man has short sleeves. 6. Fence is different.

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## SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

### Confusion After Hospital Stay

Anyone who's been in the hospital can remember the feeling of unreality that comes from the noises and sleep interruptions in that environment, not to mention feeling unwell. And going home doesn't automatically make everything fine again: Many seniors experience loss of memory, confusion and

cognitive problems when they're discharged from the hospital.

The National Institute of Aging commissioned a study on this phenomenon, and it was completed by the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. Two hundred seniors age 70-plus who had no previous cognitive or dementia issues were given a Mini-Mental Status Examination upon release from the hospital. This 30-question test only takes a few minutes to administer, and checks for things such as orientation to time and place, calculation, attention and recall. The patient is asked to repeat three words, tell time, know the day of the week, spell a word backward and copy a figure with pencil and paper.

Nearly one-third of those senior patients being re-

### BRIDGES (continued)

opening in 2000, it was closed due to unexpected lateral vibration. In other words, it wobbled, and people were frightened! Following repairs, it reopened in 2002. Now, it is a popular London walking path. The real name for the bridge is the London Millennium Footbridge.

- Another big city downtown improvement involving a bridge is the 130-foot-long (40 m) Denver Millennium Footbridge that opened in 2002. A distinguishing feature of the bridge is the tilted, 200-foot-tall (61 m) mast that resembles that of a sailboat, a feature that has become iconic to lower downtown Denver. The bridge goes over a railroad easement 25 feet (7.6 m) above street level and is an extension of the popular 16th Street pedestrian mall.
- A bridge with breathtaking views of the Colorado River served as a route for automobiles and trucks for 66 years. The original Navajo Bridge was opened in 1929, replacing a ferry that crossed the river. In 1995, the bridge was restricted to pedestrian use due to the opening of a new, stronger bridge for vehicles. The bridges are side by side and look very similar. They are located in the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area in Arizona; a Navajo Bridge Interpretive Center is there as well.
- Ogunquit, Maine, has a footbridge that crosses the Ogunquit River to a section of beach called "Footbridge Beach." Ogunquit Beach has been maintained as a public park since 1938 and is one of two municipally owned beaches in Maine.
- The Royal Gorge Bridge is 1,053 feet (321 m) above the Arkansas River in Canon City, Colorado. The bridge will support more than 2 million pounds (907 metric tons) and is open to foot traffic as well as automobiles. For those brave enough to walk across, there is a walkway made of 1,292 planks of decking, with about 250 replaced annually. Built in 1929, it is listed on the National Historic Register.
- The original Capilano Suspension Bridge over the Capilano River in Vancouver, British Columbia, was built in 1889. This footbridge is 230 feet (70 m) above the river and is 450 feet (137 m) across. It has been

*continued on next page*



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## Washing Machines Agitate Owners

**Q: Our washing machine is pretty old, and one day when my son was doing laundry the dial made a cracking sound and came off in his hand. Right now we make do by arduously turning the small plastic collar that's left until the wash cycle comes on. However, only one cycle, "permanent press," works properly (goes all the way from start to finish). Is there any way to fix this, or should I start saving for a new washer? – Hannah G., Brattleboro, Vt.**

A: Unfortunately, I'm not sure exactly what the solution would be. If I had the make and model of the washing machine, I could look up common problems and suggested fixes for that brand. I do know that some replacement parts, like the dial, can be ordered, but if the machine is more than several years old, the part may no longer be available. The single-cycle only problem might be a problem with the wash timer, but again, it's tough to know how to fix it. Your best option at the moment is to contact an appliance repair center with the make and model and a description of the problem. A repairman might come out to fully diagnose the issue. If so, ask for any repair estimate in writing before allowing any work to be done.

**Q: I picked up an older washer-dryer set for a good price via an online ad. Everything works fine, except that when the clothes are done washing, they seem to have a lot of lint and stuff on them. Most of it comes off in the dryer, but it's annoying. How can I fix it? – A Reader, via email**

A: Sounds like the washer could have had some kind of lint-trap attachment. Many, many years ago, some upright washers had perforated plastic attachments placed on or near the top of the basin to catch stray lint during the wash and rinse cycles. Contact the person you bought it from and ask if he or she has something like that. You may be able to order the part online as well. Incidentally, many modern washers still have lint traps. They're located in out-of-the-way places and are designed to not need cleaning very often. Check the manufacturer's guide to see if your new washer has a lint trap and for any instructions regarding its maintenance.

**HOME TIP:** Keep your washing machine clean by wiping down the tub periodically with a damp cloth. Twice a year, run the washer through a full cycle with only a cup of vinegar or bleach added.

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## GO FIGURE!

by Linda Thistle


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.

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**Q: I recently inherited a set of American flatware from the 1930s. How can I determine whether it is sterling or plate? -- Susan, Athens, Ga.**

A: Any item with 92.5 percent silver content is considered sterling and is marked as such. Some pieces are identified as coin or pure coin, indicating that it is 90 percent silver rather than the customary 92.5 percent. By international law, silver plate can't be marked as sterling, bear an English hallmark nor have the numerical marking of the better silver grades. Since more than 90 percent of all sterling is marked as such, the other 10 percent must be determined by an expert.

One of the better references is Warman's Sterling Silver Flatware: Value and Identification Guide by Mark F. Moran, which features more than 18,000 listings with current values. This is an essential guide to prominent silversmiths, manufacturers and patterns. It is \$24.99 and available through [www.krause.com](http://www.krause.com).

**Q: I have autographs of several New York Yankee players from 1939, including both Lou Gehrig and Joe DiMaggio. I would like to have the signatures authenticated and possibly find out their value. -- Michael, Holiday, Fla.**

A: One of the better autograph experts is Brian Kathenes, P.O. Box 482, Hope, NJ 07844; [brian@nacvalue.com](mailto:brian@nacvalue.com); and [www.nacvalue.com](http://www.nacvalue.com). He is a certified appraiser of autographs, manuscripts and historical documents and can help you determine values and possibly find a buyer for you.

**Q: I have two framed John Deere advertising items that appear to be quite old. Although I showed the pair to an official at the Dubuque Museum of Art, I was unable to find out anything more than I already knew. Can you help me? -- Lyle, Dubuque, Iowa**

A: There is a club for John Deere enthusiasts in Iowa. The contact information is Two-Cylinder Club Worldwide, P.O. Box 430, Grundy Center, Iowa 50638; [www.john-deeretradition.com](http://www.john-deeretradition.com).

*BRIDGES (continued)*

rebuilt several times and is now part of a 27-acre park that is one of the top tourist attractions in British Columbia.

- Canada has another, even longer and higher, suspended footbridge. This bridge, 600 feet (182 m) long and 152 feet (45 m) high, is over Eagle Canyon in northwestern Ontario. While not as well known as the Capilano Bridge, it does attract over 30,000 brave visitors per year.
- While not intended as a footbridge, the Bosphorus Bridge in Turkey over the Bosphorus Strait, was the site of a famous tennis match in 2005. Played between Venus Williams and Turkish star Ipek Senoglu it was the first-ever competition to take place between two continents. The 4,954 foot-long (1.5 km) Bosphorus Bridge was completed in 1973 after many years of consideration. It links Europe and Asia.
- The next time you cross a footbridge, whether short or long, wide or high, think about the engineering and architectural work that went into its design and construction. Bridges are pretty amazing structures.

## OVERCOMING THE ODDS: WILMA RUDOLPH

Wilma Rudolph was born on June 23, 1940, in Clarks-ville, Tennessee, and weighed only 4.5 pounds (2 kg). She was unhealthy from the start of life. But as the sev-enteenth of 20 children, she had a large family around to encourage her growth and success.

- As a tiny baby, Rudolph overcame scarlet fever and pneumonia when many died of the diseases. When she was four she contracted polio, the dreaded crippling disease that devastated so many lives at the time. It left her with a crippled leg, and doctors said she would never walk.
- Tiny Rudolph had parents who would not give up on her. They had also been told that they could not raise a big family on the small income of a railroad porter and a maid, yet they were doing it.
- Rudolph's mother drove her daughter to a hospital in Nashville for tests. The doctors said that with years of daily massages her leg "might" be saved. The "might" was all her mother needed to hear. The family massaged her leg daily, and weekly trips were made to Nashville for other treatments.
- Rudolph was almost walking by the time she was six. By eight, she was fitted with a leg brace and then a

*continued on next page*

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## To Your Good Health

By Paul G. Donohue, M.D.

### Potassium Plays Many Roles In Body

**DEAR DR. DONOHUE:** A recent blood check showed that my potassium was high. I was told to stop eating bananas and drinking orange juice. I also was told to return to the doctor's office the next week. I did. They took another blood sample. They told me nothing more. What happens when potassium is high? -- F.H.

**ANSWER:** Potassium has many important jobs. It keeps the body's electrical charges balanced. It's involved in transmitting nerve signals. It's needed to keep the heart beating and muscles contracting. It takes part in keeping the body neither too acid nor too alkaline. High blood potassium raises blood sugar, weakens muscles, causes nausea and vomiting, and triggers erratic and dangerous heartbeats. When the level is very high, potassium paralysis and death occur. Your potassium must not have been all that high. You had no symptoms. The causes of a high blood level include kidney illnesses, nonworking adrenal glands, a lack of insulin, sudden death of body cells, overuse of potassium supplements and medicines like beta blockers. The blood level of potassium can be read erroneously as high when the patient, during blood collection, keeps clenching and unclenching arm muscles. It rises when blood cells break apart in their journey from a patient's arm to the laboratory. It could be your reading was high because of either of these situations. It's hard to come up with an explanation that indicts an illness with raising potassium on one occasion and not keeping it raised for a short while. The electrolytes -- sodium, potassium, bicarbonate and chloride -- are not well understood by most people. Yet they are responsible for many body ailments. Readers can read about these minerals in the booklet describing their function. Write to Dr. Donohue -- No. 202W, Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. Enclose a check or money order (no cash) for \$4.75 U.S./\$6 Canada with the recipient's printed name and address. Please allow four weeks for delivery.

**DEAR DR. DONOHUE:** Swallowing became a real problem for me. Food would get stuck on its way to my stomach. I tried all sorts of over-the-counter medicines, but nothing worked. I saw a gastroenterologist, who put a scope down my swallowing tube. He discovered that there was a constricting ring of tissue at the bottom of it. How did I get it? He opened it with a balloon. Can it come back? -- C.W.

**ANSWER:** You're talking about a Schatzki (SHOT-ski) ring. It is as you say -- a fold of tissue encircling the lowermost part of the esophagus, and it does cause food to hang up there. How did you get it? Some theorize that reflux of stomach acid into the esophagus explains why it developed. Acid reflux is a fancy way of saying heartburn. However, people can have reflux and a Schatzki ring but not have any heartburn symptoms. Meat and large pieces of bread are the foods most likely to get stuck. Stretching the ring with a balloon or other device usually fixes the problem. However, it can come back, and it often does. Because recurrence is common, many doctors put their patients on medicines that suppress stomach acid production.

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King Crossword

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**ACROSS**

1 It's a long story

5 "The Talk" network

8 Make over

12 Demo-graphic of a sort

14 Still

15 Implode

16 "The — on the Floss"

17 Away from WSW

18 With unfriendli-ness

20 Beg

23 Writer Vonnegut

24 Injure

25 Institution of higher learning

28 Use a shovel

29 Impressive formation

30 Legislation

32 Miner, perhaps

34 Leaning Tower city

35 Ninth Greek letter

36 Thread

37 Asian sultanate

40 Conger, e.g.

41 Ireland

42 Conversation

47 Plankton

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15									16			
			17				18	19				
20	21	22				23						
24					25					26	27	
28				29					30		31	
	32		33					34				
			35					36				
37	38	39					40					
41					42	43				44	45	46
47					48							
49					50				51			

**DOWN**

1 Pouch

2 Past

3 Solidify

4 Glistening

5 Manage somehow

6 Ralph Kramden's carrier

7 Mirrorlike

8 Distant

9 Satan's

component

Framework

Antelope's playmate

Zodiac sign

Without (Fr.)

specialty

"The Farmer in the —"

Having no siblings

McNally partner

Paris airport

Third degree?

Nonclerical

Therefore

"M\*A\*S\*H" locale

At a turning point

Smooth-talking

Facility

Burn remedy

— and Peace"

Straight

Airline employees

2009 Broadway musical set in Nigeria

Abacus component

Anger

Incite

Ticklish

Muppet

Raw rock

Sine — non

Coffee vessel

Affirmative

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top ten

ASTHMA TRIGGERS

1. Secondhand Smoke
2. Dust Mites
3. Pets
4. Mold
5. Pest infestations
6. Weather
7. Exercise
8. Certain Foods
9. Pollen
10. Stress

Source: [www.docstoc.com](http://www.docstoc.com)

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TIDBITS

NUGGET OF KNOWLEDGE

If you want to climb a bridge, not just walk across it, the place for you may be the Sydney Harbour Bridge in Sydney, Australia. Rated as one of Lonely Planet's top 10 biggest adrenaline rush experiences, BridgeClimb Sydney has escorted climbs that take you to the highest point on the top of the arch which is 440 feet (134 m) above the water. // More than 2.5 million climbers have paid to have the experience.

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KIDBITS

Riddle Card

1. Why did the fly fly?
2. Why is my cup of tea stronger than yours?
3. Why is the letter "E" like London?
4. If a chicken could talk, what kind of language would it speak?
5. Why is a loaf of bread four weeks old like a mouse running into a hole?

Answers: 1. Because the spider spied her. 2. Because it is all my tea (a little bit). 3. Because it is the capital of England. 4. Fowl (tough) language. I'm afraid. 5. Because you can see it's stale (tail).

IT'S ALPHABET SOUP TIME! To solve this problem you must replace the letters in our AlphaMath puzzle with the digits 0, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9, so that you have a correct addition expression. The same letters get the same digits. See if you can get a higher total than we did.

Our answer: C=6, H=5, E=8, F=9, O=2, D=4, M=9, A=0, L=7. (6583 + 3224 = 9807.)

DON'T WORK OVERTIME SOLVING THIS ONE! Pictured below are two puzzle grids for you to fill in. Hints are given for each word. The words in grid A contain the same letters as the corresponding words in grid B.

1. Found out about.  
2. Keen interest; greedy.  
3. Heard in church.  
4. To listen to.

Answers: 1. On-to-oon. 2. Avid-d-iva. 3. Amen-name. 4. Hear-hare.

1. Comic drawing (sl).  
2. A prima donna.  
3. Word used to describe.  
4. Has long ears.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

DON'T GET ANTSY TRYING TO SOLVE THIS ONE!

You'll find all kinds of ants in the dictionary. We have 14 words in mind that end with "ant." The "elephant" in our picture should give you an idea of what to look for. Try to find them using the following hints.

1. What ant helps to put out fires?
2. What ant is found in car engines?
3. What ant reminds you of puff pastries?
4. What ant smells nice?
5. What ant pours wine?
6. What ant buys and sells?
7. What ant is worn on a chain?
8. What ant makes the air dirty?
9. What ant provides all kinds of food?
10. What ant is dull and never goes anywhere?
11. What ant hates school?
12. What ant is good with numbers?
13. What ant is the smartest?
14. What ant never changes?

Answers: 1. Hydrant 2. Coolant 3. Croissant 4. Deodorant 5. Restaurant 6. Merchant 7. Pendant 8. Pollutant 9. Decant 10. Stagnant 11. Truant 12. Accountant 13. Brilliant 14. Constant

Illustrated by David Coulson

**WILMA RUDOLPH (continued)**

special high-topped shoe. At this time she was finally able to start school.

- Rudolph's older brothers played basketball with a peach basket mounted on a pole in their yard, and she loved to join them. She was very determined and would play for hours. One day when her mom came home from work, she noticed her daughter playing without her special shoe. She was playing barefoot. She never wore the special shoe again and was walking normally like everyone else.
- Rudolph played basketball in high school and set a Burt High School scoring record of 803 points in 25 games. Coach Ed Temple of Tennessee State University saw her play basketball but was more impressed by her speed than her scoring ability. He recruited her to join his summer "track camp."
- The camp was the start of a fantastic track career for Rudolph. She worked hard and qualified for the 1956 Olympics in Melbourne, Australia, during her senior year in high school. She was part of the 400-meter relay team that won a bronze medal. This was after only one year of training.
- Rudolph ran track at Tennessee State and studied for a teaching degree. She also set her sights on the 1960 Olympics in Rome, Italy. She was a standout at those games. With her long legs, the crowd lovingly nicknamed her the "black gazelle" and "Chattanooga Choo-Choo."
- The little girl who was not expected to walk, and didn't walk until she was eight years old, thrilled the crowds when she won three gold medals. She won the individual 100- and 200-meter races and was on the 400-meter women's relay team that won. Rudolph became the first woman in history to win three gold medals in track and field at an Olympics.
- She went on to be a wife and mom to four children and a teacher of great influence to her students. She was inducted into the Black Athletes Hall of Fame in 1973 and the National Track and Field Hall of Fame in 1974. An NBC movie was made about her based on her autobiography, "Wilma."
- An Olympic teammate, Bill Mulliken, said of Rudolph, "She was beautiful, she was nice, and she was the best." The remarkable lady died in Nashville in 1994 at age 54.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★ ★**

★ Moderate    ★ ★ Challenging  
★ ★ ★ HOO BOY!

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Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

YOU'VE OFFICIALLY TAKEN THIS "TEXTING THING" TOO FAR. YOU REALLY JUST ASKED ME HOW TO SPELL A WORD FOR A TEXT THAT YOU THEN JUST SENT ME?

Answers: 1. Hydrant 2. Coolant 3. Croissant 4. Deodorant 5. Restaurant 6. Merchant 7. Pendant 8. Pollutant 9. Decant 10. Stagnant 11. Truant 12. Accountant 13. Brilliant 14. Constant

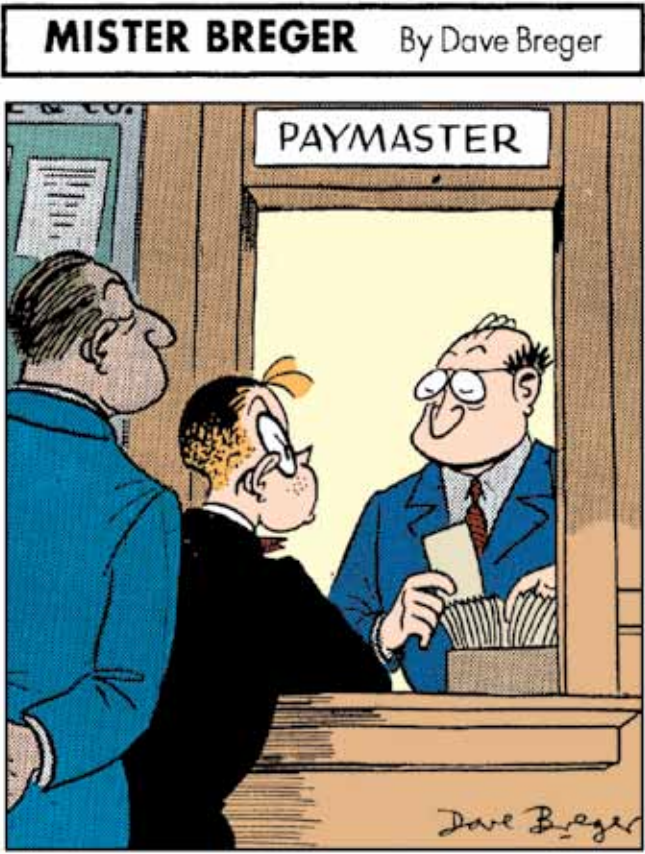


ROLLER SKATES

Inventors and adventurers started trying to figure out how to get wheels on feet as far back as the 1700s. The first skates were not very maneuverable. Dr. James L. Plimpton of Medfield, Massachusetts, started the craze that really got roller skating going. His new design helped children and adults glide for hours of fun — and, yes, resulted in some broken bones and bruises!

- Dr. Plimpton’s 1863 patent was for wooden skate platforms with four wheels each, made to be strapped onto ordinary shoes. He earned more than \$2 million in royalties and license fees. (That was in 1863. Imagine that in today’s dollars!)
- The first public roller skating rink opened at Newport, Rhode Island, in 1866, under the guidance of Dr. Plimpton. He actually called his rink a “parlor” and invited the press and high society people to skate there. He wanted the sport to be for the aristocrats. He toured the country teaching and demonstrating dance, ballet and ice skating techniques that were adapted for roller skating.
- The first roller rinks were small, and the best used maple flooring. With the small size and the push to only appeal to high society, the real craze for skating wasn’t growing much. By the late 1870s and early 1880s, rink owners started making changes. Some hired orchestras as they tried to attract more adults and children to the sport.
- The largest roller skating rink in history was the Grand Hall of London, which was open from 1890 to 1912. It was 68,000 square feet (6,317 sq m). Most of the rinks today are about 14,000 square feet (1,300 sq m).
- Another noteworthy skating rink opened in 1908 at Madison Square Gardens in New York City. Many rinks opened in the United States and Europe. The sport of roller skating had arrived.
- During the early 1900s, roller skating became a favorite activity both inside and outside. As the sport became more popular, the comfort and design of the skates improved.

continued on next page



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Without Fail

I’ve written here before about the Freeport Flag Ladies. Perhaps you’ve visited their website [www.freeportflagladies.com] and looked at the long list of things they do for our service personnel in harm’s way. The ladies have hosted on their website thousands of photos taken when they meet with troops who have a stopover at the airport in Bangor, Maine. I don’t have to tell you what it means to family members to have those last-minute photos, the final steps on U.S. soil, before the troops fly to hostile areas. The ladies make sure each one gets a special handmade lucky penny card, a smile and a hug. They hold fundraisers; send weekly cards and care packages, with special ones going to the combat hospitals; make visits to veterans homes ... the list of what these ladies do is very, VERY long. And for the most part the costs come out of their own pockets. Ask why they do it, and they’ll tell you it’s an act of love and gratitude for our military. What touches my heart is that since Sept. 11, 2001, these ladies have stood on a corner in Freeport, Maine, each Tuesday morning without fail. Wind, rain, snow, blistering heat (yes, even in Maine), they’ve been out there with their flags, reminding us -- and honoring those who serve. Now, with the coming 10th anniversary of 9-11, the ladies are going hold a three-day special event. To pull this off, they’re hoping to get \$1 from each of 30,000 people to be able to pay for it. For all they do, I think we can do better than one dollar each, don’t you? The Freeport Flag Ladies 9-11 10th Anniversary 17 School St. Freeport, ME 04032

Write to Freddy Groves in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or send e-mail to columnreply@gmail.com.



- On May 19, 1836, during a raid, Comanche, Kiowa and Caddo Indians in Texas kidnap 9-year-old Cynthia Ann Parker and kill her family. Adopted into the Comanche tribe, she lived a happy life, marrying a warrior and having three children, until Texas Rangers recaptured her in 1860. They forced her to return to live again among Anglo-Americans after killing her husband.
- On May 16, 1849, the New York City Board of Health finally is able to establish a hospital to deal with a cholera epidemic that, before it ends, kills more than 5,000 people. The disease spread when boat passengers escaped from a mandatory quarantine.
- On May 18, 1861, an obscure California newspaper relates how first lady Mary Todd Lincoln took it upon herself to appoint Mr. W.S. Wood as superintendent of Public Buildings. The article suggested that Mrs. Lincoln had been smitten with Mr. Wood’s handsome features, luxuriant whiskers and graceful carriage.
- On May 20, 1873, Levi Strauss secures the necessary patents for canvas pants with copper rivets to reinforce the stress points. Unable to sell a large supply of canvas in the California mining camps, Strauss had hit on the idea of using the durable material to make work pants for miners.
- On May 17, 1943, the crew of the Memphis Belle, one of a group of American bombers based in Britain, becomes the first B-17 crew to complete 25 missions over Europe. A fictional film about the B-17, called “Memphis Belle,” was released in 1990.
- On May 21, 1955, unknown singer Chuck Berry paid his first visit to a recording studio and cut “Maybelene.” The song became a No. 1 R&B hit and a No. 5 pop hit. It helped that DJ Alan Freed played the record for two hours straight during his WINS radio show.
- On May 22, 1969, legendary actor Paul Newman makes his onscreen racing debut in the action-drama film “Winning.” Newman played Frank Capua, a struggling race car driver who must turn around his fortunes by winning the biggest race of them all -- the Indianapolis 500.



Choosing the Right Doggie Day Care  
by Samantha Mazzotta

**DEAR PAW’S CORNER:** I was wondering how to choose the right day-care center for my dog, “Chet,” a medium-size Collie mix. Price is a consideration, though it seems that all these day cares are pretty expensive. I’d like to find a place to board him for two weeks while my family goes on vacation. -- Barbara C., Atlanta

**DEAR BARBARA:** It’s clear that you’re already thinking through some of the requirements a day care or boarding center will need to meet before placing Chet there. You’re looking for longer-term care that includes overnight care, but which provides an active environment for an energetic dog. Here are a few questions to ask each prospective care provider:  
--How long has the facility been open? How much experience do the owners have in boarding dogs?  
--Are certified dog trainers on staff? How much training do other staffers have?  
--Will a certified trainer be on duty at night?

--Talk with one of the trainers; ask specific questions about how training is handled.  
--Can you drop in and tour the facility at any time during normal business hours?  
--Ask for a look at the actual living area for boarding dogs to make sure Chet will be provided for adequately.  
--How does the facility screen dogs for health or behavior problems? How does it handle behavioral issues and fights?  
These are just a few of the questions you should ask when visiting prospective day-care centers, in addition to the usual questions about cost, day-care rules and so on. If you don’t have a good feeling about a facility, move on.

Send your questions or comments to ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw’s Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. Find more pet advice and resources at www.pawscorner.com.

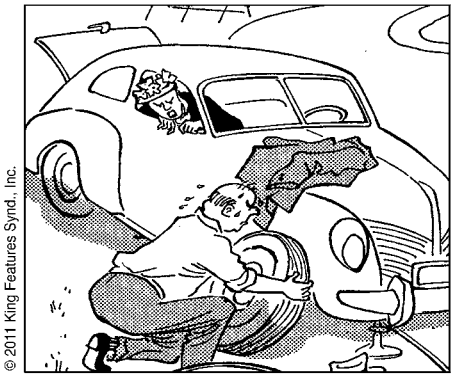
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Strange  
BUT TRUE

- It was the multitalented Pierre Beaumarchais -- born in the 18th century, he was a revolutionary in both France and America as well as a watchmaker, diplomat, musician, spy, inventor, publisher and arms dealer -- who made the following sage observation: “It is not necessary to understand things in order to argue about them.”
- If you live in Florida, you probably won’t be surprised to learn that there are more than 3,000 different species of mosquitoes.
- The experts claim that roses don’t really have thorns. Botanically speaking, thorns are considered to be modified branches and are difficult to break off the stem. What roses have are known as prickles, which are just outgrowths of the stem’s outer skin -- and they are, fortunately, much easier to break off.

- Statistics show that after having her first child, a woman’s driving sees a measurable improvement.
- The name of the great state of Missouri comes from a Native American word meaning “town of large canoes.”
- A man named Henry Budd, before his death in 1862, directed in his will that if his sons, William and Edward, grew moustaches they would receive nothing from his estate. In further discrimination against facial hair, one Mr. Fleming, a British upholsterer, left 5 pounds in his will to each of his mustached employees, but double that to those who were clean-shaven.
- Those who study such things say that the Atlantic Ocean is getting 1.2 inches wider every year.
- If you enjoy apricots, be sure you don’t accidentally swallow the pits -- they contain substances called cyanogenetic glycosides, which, once they reach the digestive tract, are converted to cyanide.

Thought for the Day: “Half of the modern drugs could well be thrown out of the window, except that the birds might eat them.” -- Dr. Martin Henry Fischer

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

Amber Waves

The Garden Bug

The Aztec culture believed that ingesting or smoking morning glory seeds were a means of connecting with the gods. The Chontal and Mazatec tribes of Mexico believed not only that strong spiritual energy existed within these plants, but also that living within the actual flowers were spirits that could commune with them and impart divine knowledge. Source: www.entheology.org

Holidays & Observances This Week

5/15 National Chocolate Chip Day  
5/16 Love a Tree Day  
5/17 Pack Rat Day  
5/18 International Museum Day  
5/19 Boy’s Club Day  
5/20 National Bike to Work Day  
5/21 Armed Forces Day

ANSWERS

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Go Figure!

answers

4	-	1	x	7	21
x		+		-	
8	÷	8	+	3	4
-		x		x	
9	x	2	+	5	23
23		18		20	

Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- 1949
- The Muses
- Spain
- The mouth
- A saint
- Franklin Pierce
- Homo
- 14th century
- Aardvark
- 8

ROLLER SKATES (continued)

- Through the years since their invention, roller skating has gone in and out of fashion. In the 1960s and 1970s, when roller skating and disco dancing were combined with music, it seemed the public was in love with the sport. There were over 4,000 roller-discos in operation, and Hollywood helped increase interest by making movies about skating.
- In 1979, two hockey-playing brothers from Minneapolis, Minnesota named Scott and Brennan Olson found an antique pair of roller skates. It was actually a very early pair that used in-line wheels rather than George Plimpton’s four-wheeled design. The brothers were impressed with the in-line design and began working on a new design using the best things they saw in the old model but using new materials. They attached the skates to good quality ice hockey boots, used polyurethane wheels and added a rubber toe-brake to their design.
- The Olson brothers founded the company, Rollerblade, Inc., and “rollerblade” became the new term for in-line skates. Rollerblades definitely took a lot of the market away from traditional roller skates. But they did something really cool and important too. More people started exercising, rolling along paths and zipping through parking lots on wheels!

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## Selling Your Home

Many potential sellers are sitting out the real-estate market and waiting for prices to rise again. But if you need to sell now, there are ways to get the most money for your home. First, don’t try to sell it yourself. An agent or broker will have tools that aren’t available to you: Multiple Listing Service, contacts with other agents, knowledge of the area, pricing comparisons (known as “comps”) and more. At the same time, you’ll need a savvy agent, and it’s up to you to ask questions before you sign with one. The little things can add up: Will the agent hold an open house? Will the agent put your house on the weekly “caravan” where other agents tour your property? Will potential buyers be financially pre-screened? Does the agent have contacts with mortgage lenders to be able to link up with pre-approved buyers who are just beginning to look? What is the marketing plan for your property? On which online sites will your home be listed?

There are some steps you can take to have your house looking its best. Here are some recommendations:

- Have a home inspection done in advance so there are no surprises during negotiations with a buyer. Either have those things fixed or be prepared to take a lower price. As a general rule, a buyer wants a place to move into, not move into and fix.
- De-clutter. Throw out or store elsewhere items that make your home look smaller than it is. Take personal photos off the wall. Clear out closets so it looks like there’s plenty of space. (If you’re not sure if you’ve de-cluttered enough, take photos and study them. That’s how the space will look in sale flyers. If there is still too much stuff, move it out.) Ask a friend for an unbiased opinion.
- Clean. If necessary, hire a professional service to clean floors and appliances.
- Paint. A neutral color is more pleasing to a wider number of potential buyers.
- Have the yard manicured and keep it mowed and trimmed at all times. Invest in pots of colorful flowers.
- Make sure there are enough lamps in each room to make the space seem bright and open. Leave open the drapes for more natural light when the house is being shown. Finally, don’t make any expensive changes unless your agent suggests it might be necessary.