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TIDBITS® EXPLORES SOME OF LIFE'S CROSSINGS

by Patricia L. Cook

Tidbits crosses many paths in researching information for your reading pleasure. This issue will look at some familiar crosses and crossings that we all encounter.

- The first type of crossing that comes to mind for most is a railroad crossing. Many drivers encounter railroad crossings every time they drive. Rail lines are prevalent in North America, which highlights the fact that railroads play a huge part in transporting goods and people across this continent.
- Where railroads exist, crossings also exist. Railroad crossings are intersections where a roadway crosses a railroad at-grade. In the United States, they are referred to as grade crossings. In Canada and many other places, they are called level crossings.
- As of 2005, there were 147,681 public grade crossings and 94,583 private crossings in the United States. Public crossings are maintained by a public authority, but private crossings, not intended for public use, are not. They are for the use of the owners of the property and usually on farms or industrial complexes.
- Grade crossings in all countries have always been accident-prone areas. When vehicles or pedestrians cross the paths of trains, trains win. The good news is that in recent years, accident rates have gone down.

turn the page for more!

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by Fifi Rodriguez

1. GEOGRAPHY: What is the third longest river system in the world?

2. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is another name for totipalmate feet?

3. MUSIC: Who is the vocalist for the pop band “Blondie”?

4. U.S. STATES: What state’s motto is, “If you seek a pleasant peninsula, look about you”?

5. BUSINESS: What is the currency of South Africa?

6. LITERATURE: What was the first land Gulliver encountered in the satirical novel “Gulliver’s Travels”?

7. TELEVISION: How many years was the Western drama “Gunsmoke” on the air?

8. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Who was Dwight Eisenhower’s vice president?


9. SCIENCE: What does beta carotene add to food?

10. MOVIES: What animated film featured the theme song “Circle of Life”?

Laugh a bit with **TIDBITS**

Q: How do you know a train is eating?

A: You can hear it go “choo! choo!”



by Jo Ann Derson

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- “Burned rice? No problem. While it’s still hot, carefully remove to a new pot any rice not browned or blackened. Then top it with a single slice of white bread. Allow it to sit for several minutes under a tightly fitted lid. The burned smell is absorbed by the bread, and the rice is fit to eat.” -- M.U. in Michigan
- Plastic holiday tablecloths can be a festive addition to any family celebration. But what to do if you unpack yours and it’s wrinkled? Get those wrinkles out in a hurry with a hair dryer. Set the hair dryer to a low setting, and gently run the warm air over the wrinkles. Then smooth and set the table.
- To freshen rugs without the heavy perfume smell of store-bought brands, simply sprinkle a little baking soda on your carpet and let it sit for about 10 minutes before vacuuming.
- Wrap the lint from your dryer in 6-inch strips of wax paper. Roll it up, twist both ends and you have a perfect fire starter.
- “For light and unbelievably fluffy pancakes, try subbing the water in your recipe with club soda. Yummo.” -- E.S. in Florida
- “Add a few drops of water to votive cups before adding a candle. The wax will float on the water, and when the candle burns down it won’t get stuck in the votive glass.” -- O.J. in Wyoming

Send your tips to Now Here’s a Tip, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475 or e-mail JoAnn at heresatip@yahoo.com.

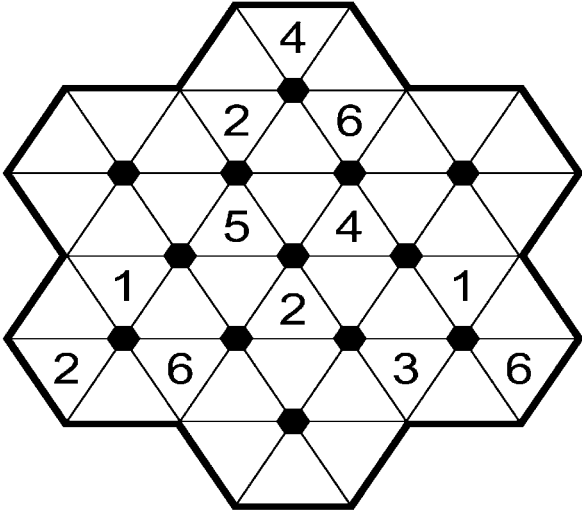
CROSSINGS (continued)

- The U.S. Department of Transportation has reported that crossing accidents between vehicles and trains decreased 84 percent between 1972 and 2009. In 2009, there were 1,900 collisions, compared to 12,000 in 1972.
- Much of the improved safety at railroad crossings has been attributed to the Operation Lifesaver program that was started in Idaho in 1972. The Idaho governor’s office, Idaho Peace Officers and Union Pacific Railroad started the program with a six-week public awareness campaign. Fatalities fell 43 percent in the inaugural year, and within a decade, the program spread all around the country. Canada added Operation Lifesaver in 1981. A national office was created in 1986 for the non-profit organization to support the efforts of the states. The United Kingdom, Estonia, Mexico and Argentina also have Operation Lifesaver programs.
- The warning signs at railroad crossings are similar worldwide. The “crossbuck” or X sign usually contains the words “railroad crossing” in the United States and “railway crossing” in Canada. The “crossbuck” is also called a “saltire” or Saint Andrew’s cross. Saint Andrew was a disciple of Jesus Christ who was martyred on an X-shaped cross as opposed to a traditional cross. The saltire is used in many flags, including Scotland’s, where Saint Andrew is the patron Saint. Nova Scotia, Australia, New Zealand and the U.S. states of Florida and Alabama are others with the saltire on their flags.
- The Scottish flag, a white saltire on a blue background, is believed to be the oldest flag in Europe. The village of Athelstaneford, birthplace of the Scottish flag, has a Flag Heritage Centre and Saltire Memorial.
- The idea for the Red Cross was born in 1859 when a young Swiss man, Henry Dunant, saw soldiers in Italy on a battlefield wounded and dying and not receiving assistance. He organized local people to come to their aid.
- In 1863, five men from Geneva, Switzerland, including Dunant, set up the International Committee for Relief to the Wounded, which later became the International Committee of the Red Cross. This led to the creation of the Geneva Convention, in which 12 governments agreed to offer care for the wounded, and paved the way for medical services to be “neutral” on the battlefield.
- The emblem for the Red Cross was set as a red cross on a white background, the inverse of the Swiss flag. While that emblem has changed a little through the years, the symbol of the Red Cross is recognizable worldwide.

continued on next page

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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by Donna Erickson

Recycle Old Records Into Groovy Gifts

Holiday songs abound on the grooves of old 45s and LPs that are no doubt scratched and warped in attics everywhere. But your stored-away keepsakes can have a new life if you get into this holiday gift-making activity. It’s all about warping them even more to create terrific bowls, picture frames, clocks or even a planter for a small holiday poinsettia. First the bowls. You and your kids can change your “oldies but goodies” into unique shapes in less than 30 seconds with these easy directions.

An adult or teen should do the first step of the project. In a well-ventilated room, place a record on a sheet of aluminum foil and set in a preheated, 300 F oven. Keep your eye on the record the entire time it is in the oven. If your oven doesn’t have a window, leave the door slightly ajar to observe the warping of the record, which will occur within 15 to 20 seconds. As soon as it begins to warp, immediately remove it from the oven using oven mitts. You don’t want the record to melt!

With the mitts still on, remove the foil and place the record into a glass or metal mixing bowl that is smaller in diameter than the record, centering the hold of the record in the middle of the bowl. Press the center portion of the record toward the bottom of the bowl. It will harden within seconds into its new, curvy shape. Remove.

Mold several records, and then get the whole family involved in the decorating with some of these ideas:

1. Place a picture in the middle and, using paint in squeeze bottles, draw designs around it.
2. Leave a large molded record as is and use for a tray to hold your collections or holiday cards. It’s especially fun if you chose a record with a holiday song. Or, set a napkin inside and use as an eye-catching container for popcorn, chips or cookies.
3. Glue a mirror in the center and add a self-sticking hanger on the back to display on the wall.
4. Buy an inexpensive clock mechanism at a craft store such as Michael’s, and attach it through the center hole of the record. Glue colorful buttons around the hole to represent each of the 12 hours.
5. Use the molded record as a planter for a growing plant. The hole provides drainage.

Donna Erickson’s award-winning series “Donna’s Day” is airing on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit www.donnasday.com and link to the NEW Donna’s Day Facebook fan page. Her latest book is “Donna Erickson’s Fabulous Funstuff for Families.”

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Pat Sheranian
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Pat Sheranian has been entertaining radio audiences in Utah Valley for years and is back again, only now she has added live video streaming to her show. Pat and her cohosts talk about everything from soup to nuts and viewers can join in the conversation via the chat window. Pat’s resurgence in the broadcasting field is directly related to her improved health and well-being, thanks to the Kyani products that she now swears by and invites all to try.



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Sports QUIZ

By Chris Richcreek

- 1 The past two times the Cincinnati Reds made the playoffs (1995, 2010), they did so despite having only two pitchers win 10-plus games each time. Name two of the four pitchers.
- 2 When was the last time a pitcher captured the A.L. Cy Young Award with 16 or fewer wins in a season before Zack Greinke in 2009?
- 3 In 2010, Baltimore's Anquan Boldin became the fastest NFL receiver to 600 career receptions (98 games). Who had been the fastest?
- 4 When was the last time the Atlantic 10 Conference had five teams make the NCAA Tournament in men's basketball?
- 5 Name the person who was the first general manager of both the Philadelphia Flyers (1967) and the Vancouver Canucks (1970).
- 6 In 2011, Uruguay won the men's soccer COPA America for a record 15th time. What country had been tied with Uruguay at 14?
- 7 In 1988, two boxers, within three days of one another, became the first two to win five world titles in five different weight divisions. Name them.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Banner is different. 2. Bowtie is missing. 3. "Cup cakes" is reversed. 4. Bottle has been added. 5. Tie is black. 6. Register is missing.

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Strange BUT TRUE

- It was English biologist Thomas Henry Huxley who made the following sage observation: "Irrationally held truths may be more harmful than reasoned errors."
- If you put your rubber bands in the refrigerator, they'll last longer.
- It's not just the tiger's fur that has stripes; its skin is striped, too.
- You probably know that the iconic film "Rocky" starred Sylvester Stallone in the leading role, but you might not be aware of the fact that he wrote the script, as well. The sale of the rights to the script came just in time; he had a total of \$106 in his bank account and was trying to sell his dog for lack of the means to feed it.
- In the winter of 1932, Niagara Falls froze solid.

CROSSINGS (continued)

- Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross, was working in Washington, D.C., in 1861 when wounded Civil War soldiers needed help. She gathered supplies and distributed them for the soldiers. She also read to them, wrote letters for them and prayed with them. Barton was known as the "Angel of the Battlefield."
- Barton's organizational efforts and commitment to helping soldiers along with observations of the International Red Cross at work in Europe led to the creation of the American Red Cross in 1881. Barton was 60 years old and led the new American organization for 23 years.
- Today, the American Red Cross is a part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, which was founded in 1919. These organizations bring aid to victims of disasters throughout the world.
- The building housing the headquarters of the American Red Cross, located in Washington, D.C., was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1965. The building has many historical artifacts, writings and more from the organization's past. An original set of paneled, stained-glass Tiffany Windows, commissioned in 1917 and designed and constructed by Louis Comfort Tiffany, are on display in their original state. The beautiful windows illustrate the most significant values of the Red Cross: hope, faith, charity and love.
- One of the most loved poets of Victorian-era Britain, Poet Laureate Alfred Lord Tennyson wrote the poem "Crossing the Bar." It reads: "For tho' from out our bourne of Time and Place, The flood may bear me far, I hope to see my Pilot face to face, When I have crossed the bar."
- Being a Poet Laureate meant being appointed as a member of the royal household for life. Tennyson was expected to write wonderful poems celebrating national and royal events in Britain.

continued on next page

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- Madame Tussaud started creating her famous wax figures in 1777 and created many models during the French Revolution. She traveled around Europe displaying wax figures (both the ones she created and ones she inherited from her mentor), and she opened her first museum in London in 1831. Today there are branches located in the United Kingdom, Amsterdam, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Vienna, Moscow, Bangkok, Dubai, Berlin and Hamburg, plus five U.S. locations. It's appropriate that there are more locations in American than in any other country, since so many Hollywood celebrities are recreated in the museums. In fact, in 2006, Shiloh, Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie's baby, became the first infant to be memorialized in wax for Madame Tussauds.

- Those who study such things say that apples are more effective than caffeine at waking you up in the morning.

- It's not clear why, but a duck's quack doesn't create echoes.

Thought for the Day: "The trouble with being punctual is that nobody's there to appreciate it." -- Franklin P. Jones

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OVERCOMING THE ODDS:
FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE

Named after Florence, Italy, the city of her birth, Florence Nightingale was born to wealthy parents on May 12, 1820. She felt called by God to help others as a nurse.


- In England in the 1800s, nurses were not valued in society. Being from a wealthy family, Nightingale was expected to marry, raise a family and carry on life in “high” society. Her social circle didn’t look kindly at working-class women. She lived with her parents and sister in Embley Park, Hampshire, England.
- Nightingale was very close to her father. He did not have a son and took great pains to educate her. He taught her Latin, Greek, French, Italian, German, mathematics, history and philosophy. Yet with all of the education he provided, he was opposed to her seeking training as a nurse.
- Nightingale’s desire was not necessarily to be a career woman but to help others in need. She spent 11 years visiting the sick in hospitals. She was greatly encouraged when she visited two St. Vincent de Paul sisters at a convent in Alexandria, Egypt. She felt they were more caring and were better nurses than the ones she had seen in England.
- Nightingale was further encouraged to pursue a medical career when she met Elizabeth Blackwell at a hospital in London. Blackwell was the first woman to qualify as a medical doctor in the United States. Blackwell had overcome great obstacles in pursuit of her medical career and urged Nightingale to keep trying to convince her father to allow her to study. Finally in 1851, when she was age 31, Nightingale’s father gave her permission to seek nursing training.
- Nightingale studied at the Institute of Protestant Deaconesses in Kaiserwerth, Germany. Two years later, she started work at a London hospital for women.
- In March 1853, Russia invaded Turkey, and Britain and France stepped in to help Turkey in what became known as the Crimean War. British soldiers soon became infected with cholera and malaria in great numbers. Nightingale volunteered her services to help the soldiers. She took 38 nurses with her to the army hospital near the conflict.

continued on next page

THIS WEEK'S
CELEBRITY
BIRTHDAYS



John Kerry	12/11/43
Bob Barker	12/12/23
Taylor Swift	12/13/89
Patty Duke	12/14/46
Don Johnson	12/15/49
Benjamin Bratt	12/16/63
Duff Goldman	12/17/74



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.

DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	+		×		17
×		÷		+	
	-		×		5
-		+		×	
	+		+		16
26		10		18	

1 3 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

2				4		7		
	6		2			9		1
		1			5		6	
	8			6			3	
		3			2			7
6	4		1			8		
4					9		7	
	7		5	1				8
		9		8		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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MISTER BREGER By Dave Breger



"I said—after asking you all summer to put them up, you needn't bother now ..."

Holidays & Observances This Week

12/11	National Noodle Ring Day
12/12	Poinsettia Day
12/13	National Cocoa Day
12/14	National Bouillabaisse Day
12/15	Bill of Rights Day
12/16	National Chocolate Covered Anything Day
12/17	National Maple Syrup Day

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Good Housekeeping Chocolate Chip Jumbos

These cookies are super-large and chock-full of everything -- butter, sugar, chips and nuts. You actually spoon out the batter with an ice-cream scoop! Just remember that one of these jumbos is equivalent to six regular-size cookies.

- 3 large eggs
- 1 pounds (4 sticks) butter or margarine, softened
- 1 package (16-ounce) brown sugar
- 1 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 2 tablespoons vanilla extract
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 1/2 teaspoons salt
- 6 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 packages (12-ounce) semisweet chocolate chips
- 1 bag (16-ounce) chopped walnuts

1. Preheat oven to 350 F. In very large bowl, with mixer on medium speed, beat eggs 4 minutes or until light and fluffy. Reduce speed to low; beat in butter, sugars, vanilla, baking soda and salt. Stir in flour, chocolate chips and walnuts (mixture will be very stiff).
2. Line 2 large cookie sheets with parchment paper. Drop dough by level 1/3 cups (or use 2 1/2-inch ice-cream scoop), 2 inches apart, onto prepared cookie sheets.
3. Bake cookies 23-26 minutes or until golden around the edges, rotating cookie sheets between upper and lower racks halfway through baking. Transfer cookies to wire racks to cool.
4. Repeat with remaining dough, reusing the same parchment. Store your cookies in a tightly covered container at room temperature for up to 1 week or in the freezer up to 3 months. Makes about 3 dozen cookies.

- Each cookie: About 425 calories, 25g total fat (11g saturated), 45mg cholesterol, 265mg sodium, 50g carbohydrate, 3g dietary fiber, 6g protein.

For thousands of triple-tested recipes, visit our website at www.goodhousekeeping.com/recipefinder/.

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE (continued)

- Nightingale was appalled at the conditions of the army hospital. The lack of hygiene and good elementary care available to the British soldiers was causing and prolonging a lot of the health issues. She started a campaign to improve the quality of nursing in military hospitals. She also encouraged the soldiers by establishing recreation and reading rooms at the hospitals.
- In 1856, Nightingale met with Queen Victoria and Prince Albert and gave evidence of the horrible conditions to the 1857 Sanitary Commission. This resulted in the Army Medical College being formed.
- Also, Nightingale founded the Nightingale School & Home for Nurses at St. Thomas Hospital and became involved in training nurses for employment in workhouses that were established for the poor.
- Known as “The Lady with the Lamp” for her habit of making rounds at night, Nightingale was and will always be remembered as a national heroine in England. Worldwide recognition is given to her in the Nightingale Pledge that is taken by new nurses, and the annual International Nurses Day is held on her birthday.

I'LL TAKE A DOZEN

There are some units of measurement that are just odd. For instance, the words knot, carat, cubit, ream, bale and dozen. Let's spend about 40 dozen words looking at the ins and outs of dozen.

- A dozen equals 12 things. Eggs, doughnuts, flowers and more are often measured in dozens.
- The word dozen is a contraction of the Latin word duodecim, which means two plus 10. The root “duo” also appears in duodenum, the first part of the intestines, which happens to be about 12 inches (30.48 cm) long. Some language and math historians believe that a dozen is one of the earliest groupings, hence there are a dozen cycles of the moon in a cycle of the sun. There are a dozen months in the year, and watches and clocks are based on 12 hours of A.M. and 12 hours of P.M.
- In the Bible, there are 12 tribes of Israel in the Old Testament, and Jesus chose 12 men to be his disciples in the New Testament. But these groups were never referred to as a dozen!
- Do you know the significance of giving a dozen roses? Even though many don't think of this, it is said to convey that the gift giver is thinking of the recipient all 12 months of the year. True love!

continued on next page

Collecting by Larry Cox

Q: While sorting through an old box of clothing buttons, I found two that were political, a “Housewives for Ike” and an “RFK in ‘68.” Both are 2 1/2 inches high and in excellent condition. I have been offered \$50 for both, but I think that might be a little low. — Bethany, Chesterfield, Mo.

A: I found both of your buttons in an auction catalog, “Hake's Americana Auction No. 197. The Ike button was valued by Ted Hake for \$100, and the RFK portrait button, which is considered extremely rare, at \$175.

Q: I have an RCA console television set, Model 17T, which was originally purchased in about 1950. I hope you can tell me its value. — Arlene, Haverhill, Mass.

A: I checked with three collectors who seem to agree that your set is probably worth in the \$75 to \$150 range. Televisions produced after 1948 are fairly common and do not create that much interest with collectors. As with most collectibles, there are always exceptions such as the 1975 Panasonic “Flying Saucer” model (\$600) and the 1960 Philco “Predicta” (\$500).

Q: I have a pair of Swarovski crystal candlesticks, about 2 1/2 inches tall, both marked on the bottoms. Could you give me an estimated value of their worth and when produced? — Dee, Sun City, Ariz.

A: I recommend you get a copy of “Collecting Swarovski: Identification and Price Guide” by Dean A. Genth (Krause Books) to determine the value of your candlesticks. Your other alternative is to hire the services of a professional appraisal in your area. If you hire an appraiser, you should expect to pay for this service.

Q: I have a large collection of 78-rpm recordings, mostly Victor Red Seals and many recorded on just one side. The artists include Alma Gluck and Paul Whiteman. What are records of this vintage worth? — George, Albuquerque, N.M.

A: Most Victor Red Seal recordings from the early years of the last century are valued in the \$1 to \$5 range depending on artist, desirability and condition. Caruso made recordings at Victor, but the most valuable are those issued on other, earlier labels such as Pathe and Zonophone.



Break Time!



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ACROSS

1 Aries animal

4 Mariner's venue

7 Dutch cheese

11 Notion

13 Peculiar

14 Loosen

15 Witty poet Ogden

16 Zero

17 React in horror

18 Southern speech

20 Neap, for one

22 Charged particle

24 Looseleaf notebook

28 Green-eyed

32 Paris river

33 Eager, and then some

34 Spigot

36 Contemporary of Virgil

37 Whom Jason jilted

39 Transport to Oz

41 Tangles

43 Trouble

44 Mr. Gingrich

46 Broomstick passenger

50 Apple's center

53 Noah's boat

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 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61

55 Traditional tales

56 Renders speechless

57 Regret

58 Ogler's look

59 Charlotte's creations

60 "Family Guy" daughter

61 Newcomer to society

DOWN

1 Peel

2 Hebrew month

3 Small plateau

4 Bart, to Homer

5 Tend texts

6 Wing it

7 12-Down playwright

8 "CSI" evidence

9 Billboards

10 Swab the deck

12 Comedy that debuted on Broadway in 1933

19 Privy

21 Affront (Sl.)

23 Kook

25 Prima donna

26 Oklahoma city

27 Start over

28 Gets stuck

29 Divisible by two

30 Verdi opera

31 Perched

35 "Wham!"

38 Hearty brew

40 Tier

42 Honey bunch?

45 Verifiable

47 — the line (behaved)

48 Saskatchewan tribe

49 KFC additive

50 Crow's cry

51 Have debts

52 CSA soldier

54 Small barrel

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top ten

ANCIENT METHODS OF BIRTH CONTROL

1. Mercury
2. Silphium
3. Papaya
4. Cotton
5. Common Rue
6. Dong Quai
7. Blue Cohosh
8. Pennyroyal
9. Queen Anne's Lace
10. Lemons

Source: Listverse

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TIDBITS NUGGET OF KNOWLEDGE

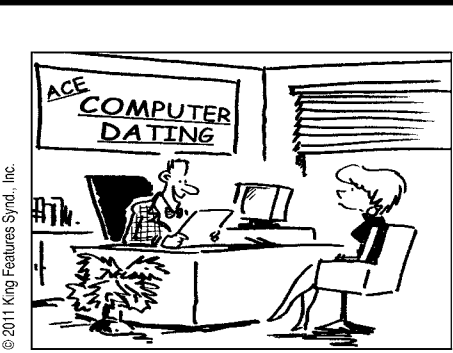
There are seven fundamental principles of the Red Cross, national and international: Humanity, Impartiality, Neutrality, Independence, Voluntary Service, Unity and Universality. The Red Cross relies on donations of time, money and blood to function as an organization. An average of 91 cents of every dollar spent by the Red Cross is spent on humanitarian programs and services.



The Spats



by Jeff Pickering



"You're lovely, _____
rich ... well, look at this ... the
computer picked *me* as your date!"

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!

Outlaw

GOURE

Agree

PAC CET

Walk

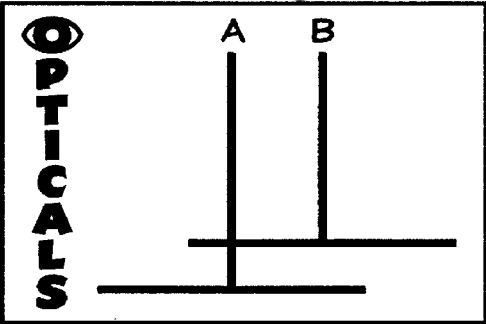
CH RAM

Total

RENITE

TODAY'S WORD

KIDBITS



OF THE TWO figures above, A and B, which one's height and width are equal?

Answers: Figure A.

A CHEERFUL ADDITION! To solve this problem, you must replace the letters in the AlphaMath puzzle with the digits 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8 and 9, so that you have a correct addition problem. The same letters get the same digits. See if you can get a higher total than we did.



Our answer: E=9, G=2, N=8, O=3, X=1, M=7, A=5, S=4. (922 + 832 = 1754).

IT'S MAGIC! Use the numbers 1 through 10 to fill in our Magic Square. The numbers in each horizontal row and vertical column should total 37. We've filled in six of the squares. The rest is up to you.

	11	17	
16			12
	19		
			18

Answers: First row: 8, 11, 17, 1. Second row: 16, 2, 7, 12. Third row: 3, 19, 9, 6. Fourth row: 10, 5, 4, 18.

The bridge above contains 10 supporting words. We give you the first letter of each, plus plenty of hints.

1. Commercial announcements.
2. To criticize harshly.
3. Superman and Batman have them.
4. A small dent or nick.
5. A female sheep.
6. To strike out (baseball).
7. To erode away gradually.
8. Disorder or chaos.
9. Mischievous children.
10. Type of bird.

Answers: 1. Ads. 2. Bash. 3. Capes. 4. Ding. 5. Ewe. 6. Fan. 7. Gnat. 8. Hops. 9. Imps. 10. Jay.



To Your Good Health
By Paul G. Donohue, M.D.

Antibiotics Usually End Kidney Infection

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: I am recuperating from a kidney infection (pyelitis). The doctor did a culture of my urine, which showed a gram negative rod. What kind of infection is that? -- S.B.

ANSWER: The more common urinary tract infection is infection of the bladder -- cystitis. Pyelitis (PIE-uh-LITE-iss), now usually called pyelonephritis, is an infection of the kidney itself. It is a much more serious infection, and one that usually makes people take to their bed.

Pyelitis causes high fever often alternating with chills. People have intense flank pain, the side area between the lowest rib and the upper part of the pelvis. The infection also might make people urinate more frequently and with pain. These two signs, however, are more apt to indicate bladder infection.

The most frequent cause of pyelitis is the bacterium E. coli. Bacteria are classified into two large groups based on how they react to a stain used to visualize them with a microscope. The stain is the Gram stain, named after the doctor who devised it. Bacteria are either gram positive or gram negative. A gram positive bacterium turns blue with the stain; a gram negative turns red.

Bacteria also are classified by their shape. Some are elongated sticks -- rods. Others are oval-shaped. E. coli is a gram negative rod.

Pyelitis is a situation that calls for immediate and usually intravenous antibiotic treatment. It responds promptly to such treatment. The temperature often returns to normal within two days.

The booklet on urinary tract infections describes both upper urinary tract infections (kidney -- pyelitis) and lower urinary tract infections (bladder -- cystitis). Readers can obtain a copy by writing: Dr. Donohue -- No. 1204W, 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: I have seborrheic keratoses and have had them for many years. Doctors say nothing can be done. I had them cut off and frozen off, but they come right back. Can you help?

ANSWER: Seborrheic (SEB-uh-REE-ik) keratoses are brown, warty-looking spots on the back, chest, arms, legs and sometimes the face. They are not cancers and don't become cancers. There may be only a few, but there can be hundreds of them. Their cause is a mystery, but they appear at older ages, so aging is somehow involved. A doctor can scrape them off or freeze them. They might come back, but they can be retreated if they do. The tendency to develop them is inherited.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: Years ago, after the birth of my son, the doctor said I had milk leg. It was very painful. What would this be called today? -- A.R.

ANSWER: I've never heard the term "milk leg" used by a doctor, but I have seen it in print. Today the condition is called thrombophlebitis (THROM-boh-flea-BITE-iss) -- a clot (thrombo) in an inflamed vein (phlebitis). In milk leg, the vein is the femoral vein, the large leg vein. It can be a complication of pregnancy even today.

Dr. Donohue regrets that he is unable to answer individual letters, but he will incorporate them in his column whenever possible. Readers may write him or request an order form of available health newsletters at P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

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I’LL TAKE A DOZEN (continued)

- The original movie “Cheaper By the Dozen” was based on the 1948 autobiographical book written by Frank B. Gilbreth Jr. and Ernestine Gilbreth Carey, two of the children of efficiency experts Frank Bunker Gilbreth, Sr. and Lillian Moller Gilbreth. The couple had a dozen children, and the book is based on a comment that the father was often heard saying when people asked him why he had so many children. He’d say, “Well, they come cheaper by the dozen, you know.”
- Two more “Cheaper By the Dozen” movies were made in 2003 and 2005, but they were not based on the real family or book. The only similarities were that the family had a dozen children and a lot of chaos! Steve Martin and Bonnie Hunt starred in those movies.
- A baker’s dozen is a collection of 13 items, instead of a normal dozen of 12. The tradition, usually just used in the baking industry, started in the 13th century, and continues today at many bake shops around the world.



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Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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PetBits™

Dog’s Cough a Worrry

By Samantha Mazzotta

DEAR PAWS’S CORNER: My friend has a Border Collie mix, “Jeffy,” who is about two or three years old. He snorts or coughs at least 10 or 15 times a day, and when he does, a copious amount of mucus comes out of his nose. Can you tell me what causes this and how to remedy it? – B.P., Prince George, Va.

DEAR B.P.: Coughing in dogs can have a number of causes, ranging from allergy to serious infection. The first thing your friend needs to do is take Jeffy to the veterinarian to rule out a dangerous illness like kennel cough or other infection, or an injury.

Your friend should let the vet know how long Jeffy has had this cough, if he was recently boarded or regularly goes to doggy day care, and if his shots are up to date. Jeffy also should be regularly treated with a heartworm preventive; if he isn’t, your friend must let the doctor know. If Jeffy dealt with a recent flea infestation, let the vet know.

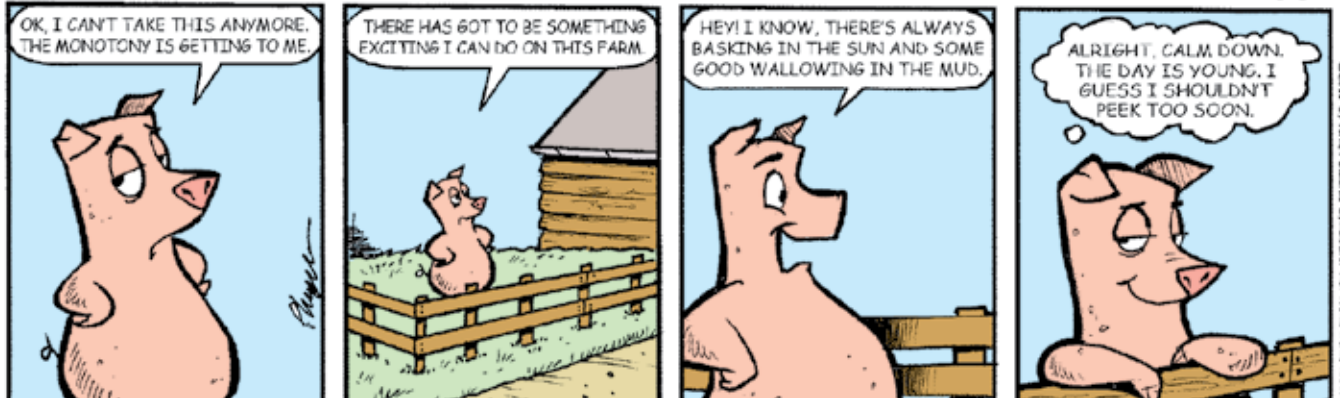
If Jeffy is diagnosed with an illness -- respiratory infections can happen to any dog -- the vet will determine the type of infection and prescribe medicine to treat it. He also may prescribe a cough suppressant to give the dog a little relief from the coughing.

If Jeffy gets a clean bill of health, your friend will want to look into other causes of his cough and mucus, such as seasonal allergies, a food allergy or an environmental allergy such as dampness and/or mold in the house. Treatment, along with reduced exposure to the allergen that’s causing the problem, can make a big difference.


Send your question or tip to ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw’s Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. For more pet care-related advice and information, visit www.pawscorner.com.

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



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by Freddy Groves

Incentive Bonuses Sometimes Go Awry

The Department of Veterans Affairs uses bonuses to retain employees, and they spend a lot of money doing that. Specifically, last year they spent \$111 million to retain 16,487 employees.

However, the VA’s Office of Inspector General found that of the incentives it studied, 80 percent were either questionable or weren’t justified, bringing the unsubstantiated amount to \$1.06 million of the total spent.

To be fair, the VA does use financial incentives to keep people in positions that are hard to fill or that require employees who have special qualifications. According to the criteria for awarding incentives, there must be a scarcity of candidates who can fill the position, efforts to recruit new employees must have been unsuccessful and the job must require special abilities.


The problem with this \$1 million in incentives is that there

wasn’t adequate documentation, information was missing from case files (annual reviews, for example, to determine if a bonus was deserved), incorrect salary surveys were used to determine amounts of incentives, documents were signed off without question, financial limits were exceeded and there was a lack of training and oversight.

According to the OIG’s report, the VA was often lax about it: Extra salary increased didn’t always stop when they were supposed to, with extra payments continuing until it was brought to someone’s attention. In one case, a senior executive received a hefty retention bonus and shortly after received a second one. There was no documented justification.

Based on the OIG’s sample of selected facilities that uncovered the 80 percent problem rate, it’s recommended that in the next 12 months, 100 percent of incentive payments be reviewed and unnecessary payments stopped. If you want to report wrongdoing in VA Programs and Operations, call 1-800-488-8244, or send email to vaoighotline@va.gov.

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.



by JoAnna M. Lund

Chocolate Chip Peanut Butter Cookies

What’s a holiday without a few holiday goodies -- not too festive, that’s what! This ultra-easy cookie should brighten things up.

1/2 cup cold water
1 1/2 cups nonfat dry milk powder
Granular sugar substitute to equal 1/2 cup sugar, suitable for baking
3/4 cup reduced-fat peanut butter
2 teaspoons vanilla extract
2 cups reduced-fat baking mix
1/4 cup mini-chocolate chips

1. Place cold water in a 2-cup glass measuring cup. Stir in dry milk powder until mixture makes a smooth paste. Cover and microwave on HIGH (100 percent power) for 45 to 60 seconds or until mixture is very hot but not to the boiling point. Add sugar substitute. Mix well to combine. Cover and refrigerate for at least 2 hours. (What you’ve just made is fat-free and sugar-free sweetened condensed milk!)

2. When ready to make cookies, preheat oven to 375 F. In a large bowl, combine cooled milk mixture, peanut butter and vanilla extract. Add baking mix. Mix well to combine. Stir in chocolate chips. Shape into 36 (1-inch) balls. Place balls on an ungreased baking sheet. Flatten each ball with a fork.

3. Bake for 6 to 8 minutes. Remove cookies from baking sheets and cool on wire racks. Makes 12 (3 cookies each) servings.

• Each serving equals: About 203 calories, 7g fat, 8g protein, 27g carb., 349mg sodium, 1g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 1 1/2 Starch, 1 Meat, 1 Fat.



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TIPBITS


WORD POWER

Unscramble this word:

VEENOBCEENL

This word means: *Desire to do good to others; goodwill; charitableness*





Moments in time
THE HISTORY CHANNEL

- On Dec. 18, 1620, the Mayflower docks at what today is Plymouth, Mass., and its passengers disembarked to begin their new settlement, Plymouth Colony. The winter of 1620-1621 was brutal, and by spring, only 52 of the original 102 Mayflower passengers were still alive.
- On Dec. 16, 1773, in Boston Harbor, a group of Massachusetts colonists disguised as Mohawk Indians board three British tea ships and dump 342 chests of tea into the harbor in protest of the British Parliament’s Tea Act of 1773. The value of the tea was more than \$700,000 in today’s currency.
- On Dec. 14, 1909, workers place the last of the 3.2 million 10-pound bricks that pave the Indianapolis Motor Speedway in Indiana. Since then, all but a 1-yard-wide strip at the start-finish line has been buried under asphalt. Kissing those bricks after a successful race remains a tradition among Indy drivers.
- On Dec. 13, 1916, a powerful avalanche kills hundreds of Austrian soldiers in barracks near Italy’s Mount Marmolada. Over a period of several weeks, avalanches killed an estimated 10,000 Austrian and Italian soldiers.
- On Dec. 17, 1961, a fire at a filled-to-capacity circus in Brazil kills more than 300 people and severely burns 500 more. The cause of the fire was never conclusively determined, but it may have been the result of sparks from a train passing nearby.
- On Dec. 15, 1973, Jean Paul Getty III, the grandson of American billionaire J. Paul Getty, is found alive near Naples, five months after his kidnapping by an Italian gang. Getty had initially refused to pay his 16-year-old grandson’s \$17 million ransom, but finally agreed after the boy’s severed right ear was sent to a newspaper in Rome.
- On Dec. 12, 1980, American oil tycoon Armand Hammer pays \$5,126,000 at auction for a notebook containing writings by the legendary artist Leonardo da Vinci. The manuscript, written around 1508, contained 72 loose pages featuring some 300 notes and detailed drawings, all relating to the common theme of water and how it moved.

HUBERT - - By Dick Wingert



"No-siree! Haven't missed this bus once in the last three weeks!"

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SHAKESPEAREAN FEMALE CHARACTERS

MAGIC MAZE

T C Z W U R P M J H E A L C Z

X U S Q N L J A L O I V I A G

P O R T I A T E C N Z E R D X

A D I S S E R C A V T C E N R

P A N L I (K A T H E R I N A) J

H E I L D N I L A S O R O R C

A Y U M W T V T R P P T G I N

L J K I R G E C B Z O A X M W

U S R P O E D U R T R E G A N

M L A I L E H P O J I B L G E

D B A Y X W A I L E D R O C U

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Beatrice	Gertrude	Katherina	Rosalind
Cleopatra	Goneril	Miranda	Titania
Cordelia	Hermia	Portia	Viola
Cressida	Juliet	Regan	

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I-15 updates

I-15 CORE Project Summary

Utah is making an important investment to restore and expand I-15 to support economic development and improve transportation throughout the state. I-15 CORE will renovate I-15 in Utah County to meet transportation demands through the year 2030.

The project will:

- Add two lanes in both directions from Lehi Main Street to Spanish Fork Main Street
- Extend the express lane in both directions from University Parkway in Orem to Spanish Fork
- Rebuild and reconfigure 10 freeway interchanges and replace 63 aging bridges
- Use 40-year concrete pavement along the entire corridor.

I-15 CORE More Than Halfway Finished

I-15 CORE is more than 50 percent complete. So far, crews have moved an estimated 5 million tons of dirt and laid down more than 1 million yards of concrete pavement. That averages out to 60,000 to 80,000 yards of fresh concrete a week. "To reconstruct a full interstate system in 35 months is an aggressive timeline, and we're on pace to meet that aggressive timeline," said Dal Hawks, I-15 CORE project manager. I-15 CORE is on schedule and on budget to be finished by December 2012

A YouTube animation to help drivers learn how to navigate the new Provo Center Street interchange can be viewed at <http://youtu.be/rr0eF03mU-w>. Drivers can stay informed about this and other I-15 CORE construction activities by signing up for weekly email updates at udot.utah.gov/i15core, following the project on [facebook.com/i15core](https://www.facebook.com/i15core) and twitter.com/i15core and receiving text updates by texting [i15core](https://www.i15core.com) to 53535.

The Provo Center Street interchange is one of 10 freeway interchanges being rebuilt or replaced as part of I-15 CORE. The entire freeway is being rebuilt from Lehi to Spanish Fork, a distance of 24 miles, using new 40-year concrete pavement. **I-15 CORE is on schedule for completion in December 2012.**

Spanish Fork Community

SFHS is performing the well known musical **A Christmas Carol** on December 8, 9, 10, 12 @ 7P

The Nebo Chorale & Philharmonic Orchestra Presents ☐Christmas Memories☐ Fri Dec 16 @ 7PM, Spanish Fork High School Auditorium ☐Free Admission

Tabitha's Way is holding a **Christmas dinner Dec 24 Noon** ☐3P, for needy families in our community. They are expecting around 500 people and need help with donations, food, clothing, and just helping hands. High Chaparral 495 South Main SF

Spanish Fork City invites you to the 19th Annual Festival of Lights through New Year's - Jan 1, 2012 Running nightly from 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Canyon View Park, 3300 E. Powerhouse Rd. You can buy gift certificates at the Spanish Fork City Office (40 South Main) or at the Parks & Recreation Office (775 North Main) for \$5.

****Listen to the holiday music on 99.9 FM while you drive through the displays.**

Info on more activities are available at www.spanishfork.org

Springville News

Jolley's Ranch Winter Recreation

Season passes for Jolley's Ranch Winter Recreation are on sale now.

Great family gift for Christmas. Equipment rental is included with pass price for cross country skiing and snow shoeing. Tube rental is extra.

Purchase passes from the Parks Department in the Community Services Building 443 South 200 East or call 801-489-2770.

November City Source Newsletter Online @ <http://www.springville.org>

Santaquin News

POLICE ADVISORIES:

Please note that the winter parking regulations begin November 1st! Please remember that parking on the city streets or in the right-of-ways carries a fine until March 31st.

1st offense: \$20 2nd offense: \$30 3rd offense: \$50

Payson News

"Stop Chasin' - Shop Payson!" December 2011

Dec. 6. 11:45 am, BIZ Of Month: Utah Trikes, Ashley Guy, Bravo!

40 S. Main, Payson, trikes@utahtrikes.com, 801.804.5810

12:00 pm Biz Leads Networking Group, Utah Trikes, 40 S. Main. Payson

Dec. 7. 6:00 pm Payson City Council Meeting 435 W. Utah Avenue, Payson, Utah
Biz of Month, Utah Trikes, Ashley Guy Recognition & Quarterly Report by Chamber Pres. Eric Buchanan

Dec. 9. 11:00 am, Fuji House Ribbon Cutting & Grand Opening, Meng & Amy Ung
Japanese Cuisine \$10, 17 South Main, Payson, Utah, 801.465.4018

Dec. 15. 11:30 am -1:00 pm Payson Area Chamber of Commerce Christmas Party
Potluck, \$5 gift, Moore Plaza, 887 E. 100 N. Suite #2B,

Dec. 21. 6 pm Payson City Council Meeting 435 W. Utah Avenue, Payson, Utah.

Dec. 25. Merry Christmas To All!

Please visit our website: paysoncitychamber.com

Pleasant Grove News

PG Orchestra and Choir Rehearse ☐Messiah☐

Rehearsals for the Pleasant Grove Orchestra and Choir's production of "The Messiah" have started. If you would like to join us, choir rehearsals are Sunday evenings starting at 7 pm in the Choir Room at Pleasant Grove High School. Orchestra rehearsals are Saturday mornings from 8 to 10 am in the lower level of the library.

The performance will be December 9 at 7 pm at the PG High School Auditorium.

ANSWERS

SPORTS QUIZ

1. Pete Schourek (18) and John Smiley (12) in 1995; Bronson Arroyo (17) and Johnny Cueto (12) in 2010.

2. Kansas City's David Cone was 16-5 when he won the A.L. Cy Young Award in the shortened 1994 season.

3. The Colts' Marvin Harrison accomplished it in 102 games.

4. It was 1998 (George Washington, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Temple and Xavier).

5. Bud Poile.

6. Argentina.

7. Thomas "Hitman" Hearns and Sugar Ray Leonard.

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Go Figure!

answers

8	+	9	x	1	17
x			÷		+
4	-	3	x	5	5
-		+		x	
6	+	7	+	3	16
26		10		18	

Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. Missouri-Mississippi

2. Webbed

3. Deborah Harry

4. Michigan

5. The rand

6. Lilliput

7. 20 years

8. Richard Nixon

9. Color

10. "The Lion King"

WORD POWER

ANSWER

BENEVOLENCE

SCRAMBLERS

solution

1. Rogue; 2. Accept;

3. March; 4. Entire

Today's Word:

CHARMING