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December 19, 2011

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Issue 31

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## TIDBITS® SINGS 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS by Kathy Wolfe

Most of us are familiar with the popular Christmas tune "The Twelve Days of Christmas." This week, Tidbits has a few more details about each of the gifts received by the singer from his or her "true love," everything from drummers drumming to maids a-milking to swans, geese, turtledoves and the partridge in the pear tree!

- The drum is considered the oldest musical instrument and is also used for non-musical purposes, such as long-distance communication. An Englishman set a world record by playing 400 separate drums in 16.3 seconds in 1995. Ireland's Millennium Drum, constructed of birch plywood and sailcloth, is considered the world's largest drum with a diameter of 15 feet, 6 inches. It was built for Ireland's millennium festivities.

- A set of panpipes consists of from three to 40 tubes, usually cane, but also wood or pottery. The length of the pipes determines the pitch of the note.

- Greek mythology tells of Pan, the god of woods and pastures and the protector of shepherds and their flocks. According to legend, Pan, half-man and half-goat, is the inventor of the panpipe, fashioned from reeds, on which he piped lovely music.

turn the page for more!

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1. LITERATURE: Ollivanders is the name of a shop prominently featured in which series of novels?

2. PSYCHOLOGY: What unnatural fear is represented in disorder oneirophobia?

3. MOVIES: Which Alfred Hitchcock movie features a main character who is confined to a wheelchair?

4. MUSIC: Which rock-and-roll group had a hit with the song “Got to Get You into My Life”?

5. TELEVISION: What is the setting for the TV soap “Another World”?

6. ANCIENT WORLD: Who was one of the chief founders of the philosophy of Cynicism?

7. POETRY: Who wrote the words, “God’s in his heaven/ All’s right with the world”?

8. ART: For what type of work was the 16th-century artist Titian best known?

9. MYTHOLOGY: Who is the Greek goddess of love?

10. GEOGRAPHY: What is the deepest lake in the world?

Laugh a bit with

TIDBITS

Q: What did Frosty’s girlfriend give him when she was mad at him?

A: The cold shoulder!

Now here’s a tip!

by Jo Ann Derson

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• Here’s a great conversation piece: Get a big, shallow bowl or box, fill it with loose snapshots (preferably of holidays past) and set it on your coffee table. People can’t resist photos.

• “I’ve loved this little trick since I saw it used at a party years ago. I serve iced tea (or punch) at most of my get-togethers, and instead of ice cubes, I freeze several pounds of cleaned, de-stemmed white grapes. They are a hit at every party.” -- M.A. in New York

• Need almost-instant party snacks? Try a package of store-bought cheese tortellini. Cook according to package instructions (usually only a few minutes), toss with oil or salad dressing and stick each on a toothpick.

• “A great way to make guests comfortable is to print out a copy of the channel lineup for your cable service provider. You also can print out common remote-control buttons or any remote-control or TV instructions for playing a DVD, etc. This helps us older folks enjoy a few hours of TV time while the younger kids are out at work or school.” -- H.P. in Nebraska

• If you’re serving hot rolls on a buffet, line the basket with aluminum foil before you line it with a towel. They’ll stay warm longer that way.

• Try this tip to avoid overeating at holiday parties: Keep a drink in your dominant hand. You’ll be less likely to graze on high-fat chips and other snack foods. Need a little something? Hope for a veggie platter. But whether it’s veggies or chips, grab a couple and then WALK AWAY from the table before you can hit the dip.

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.

12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS (continued)

• The title “Lord” can be used if a gentleman is a baron, viscount, earl, marquis, bishop, a dignitary of the Church of England or a member of Great Britain’s House of Lords. An aga is a Turkish Lord.

• The cuckoopint is a European plant with bright red poisonous berries and is often referred to as the “Lords-and-Ladies.” Ingesting the berries can result in swelling of the throat, difficulty breathing, burning pain and an upset stomach.

• The 1993 Arizona half-marathon had an interesting entrant, Elizabeth Ursic, who chose to tap-dance the 13.1-mile distance.

• In 1931, a couple set out to win Chicago’s Merry Garden Ballroom dance marathon. They danced over 214 days, with rest periods beginning at 20 minutes per hour, decreasing to zero minutes per hour. They were not allowed to close their eyes for more than 15 seconds. Their record-setting endurance was rewarded with a \$2,000 prize.

• A California cow named simply “Number 289” is the leader in lifetime milk production, with more than 54,070 gallons of milk to her credit. That’s enough to fill more than eight 60-foot tanker trucks. She averaged about 7 gallons a day, compared to about 4.4 gallons for a normal cow. Number 289 lived to be 19 years old, about four times longer than the average Holstein.

• Thanks to L.O. Colvin, we have the milking machine. Back in 1860, he introduced the first suction-type contraption. A sign seen in recent years on the back of a milk truck read: “Modern Milking Machine Company ... All That We Are We Owe to Udders.”

• “Swan” is the 1,471st most popular last name in the United States, which computes to about 20,000 people.

• Swans live on every continent except Africa and Antarctica. The sounds they make vary from whistles to hisses to trumpet-like noises. Beware of the female swan; she will attack anything that presents a danger to her eggs, including dogs, foxes and people.

• The stars Deneb and Albirco mark the head and tail of the swan in the constellation Cygnus. According to mythology, Cygnus was a friend of the son of Apollo, the sun god. When the son fell into the river, Cygnus dove into the water time after time in an attempt to rescue his friend, but to no avail. They myth says Cygnus was turned into a swan by Zeus in order to allow him to dive deeper. The English language uses the word “cygnet” for a baby swan.

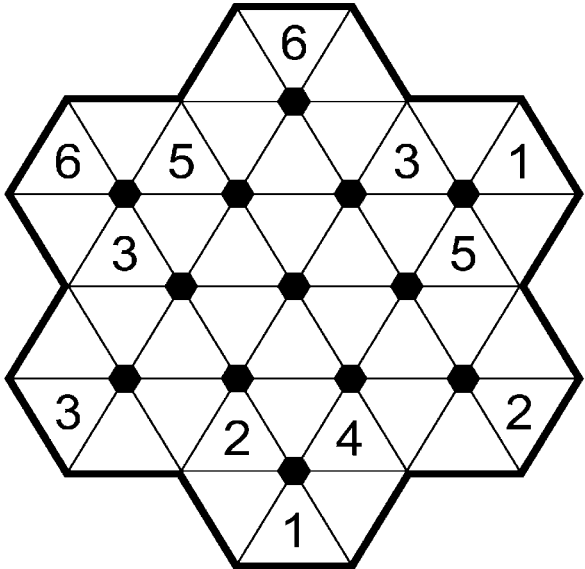
• Although the lifespan of the domestic goose averages 25 years, making it the longest-lived bird, George the Goose of Thornton, England, lived to be nearly 50 years old. Speckle the Goose of Goshen, Ohio, is noted for laying the world’s heaviest egg. It was 24 ounces, twice as weighty as the average goose egg.

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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Donna’s Day

Creative family fun

by Donna Erickson

Home-Cleaning Tips for the Holidays

“It’s dirty work, but someone has to do it!” That has been my catchy refrain the past few months while partnering with Scrubbing Bubbles to reveal its fascinating Dirty Work Index data on women’s attitudes and feelings on cleaning their homes. Did you know that 51 percent of women actually avoid going into someone else’s bathroom? I also was surprised to learn that three out of four women say that the cleanliness of their homes speaks volumes about them personally, and 83 percent are prompted to clean if they’re hosting a party or guests in their home. That can put a lot of pressure on one person, especially this time of year!

Now that we’re in the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, with guests coming and going in our homes, here are some practical and easy cleaning strategies for busy families:

1. Start with the front door.

To keep dirt and grime out of the house before it gets tracked in, remind kids to leave their boots, shoes, and wet and muddy winter gear at the entryway. When guests pop by, I like to add a bit of humor and suggest that they do the “Cha, Cha, Cha” on the entry mat when they arrive. After a few steps, wiggles and laughs, their shoes are clean before they step inside.

2. Think of cleaning as exercise.

It can be hard to get everything you want done during these busy days, so make cleaning do double duty when you can’t squeeze in time at the gym. An active 30 minutes of cleaning can get the blood pumping and heart racing. Add music to the mix, and it will be done before you know it.

3. Get kids to help. You don’t have to do all the tasks alone, especially kid-friendly jobs like shaking rugs, taking out the trash and cleaning the bathroom mirrors.

4. Clear the clutter.

Just before guests arrive at a dinner party, wash and put away mixing bowls and utensils, and be sure the counters are sparkling clean. A clutter-free kitchen makes you feel organized and relaxed.

5. Save the night with candlelight.

Perfection isn’t everything. If you throw a last-minute get-together, don’t worry about dusting every corner. Simply dim lamps and light candles. There is something about candlelight that makes everything glow.

6. Holiday helpers ring in the new year.


When packing holiday decorations in boxes until next year, make it a family affair. Laugh together, tell stories and share cups of cocoa while you get another cleanup job done!

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](http://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 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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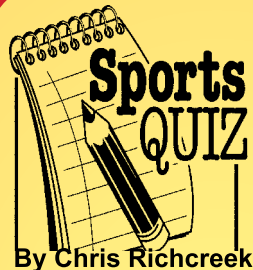
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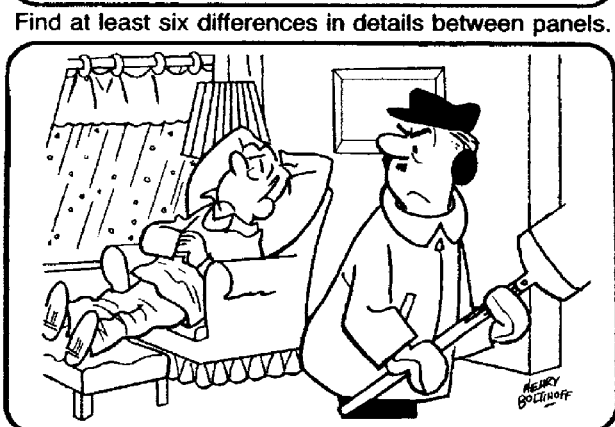


By Chris Richcreek

- 1** Who was the last pitcher before Seattle's Felix Hernandez in 2010 to have at least 30 quality starts in a season?
- 2** In the decade of the 1950s, a future Hall of Fame pitcher had the most losses during the 10-year span. Name the pitcher.
- 3** Name the last defensive lineman to be a Heisman Trophy finalist before Nebraska's Ndamukong Suh in 2009.
- 4** When was the last time the Hawks played in the NBA Finals?
- 5** Twice in the 1980s, the NHL had Stanley Cup Finals featuring two Canadian teams. Name the teams and the years.
- 6** Cadel Evans won the Tour de France cycling race in 2011 at the age of 34. Who is the oldest winner of the event?
- 7** In 2011, Rory McIlroy set a record for lowest four-round score at golf's U.S. Open with a 268. Name two of the four to hold the old record of 272.

## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Differences: 1. Picture is different. 2. Window has curtains. 3. Shovel is different. 4. Tree is missing. 5. Ottoman has no skirt. 6. Lampshade is different.

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## Strange BUT TRUE

- It was megalomaniacal French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte who made the following sage observation: "Four hostile newspapers are more to be feared than a thousand bayonets."
- Orchids are lovely flowers, and many people dedicate years to growing them and finding rare specimens. If you're like most people, though, you probably don't realize that the word orchid comes from the Greek word "orchis," which means "testicle."
- Records show that the town of Helena, Montana, had more millionaires per capita than any other city in the world -- way back in 1888.
- In the early 1970s, a British plumber named John Hancock replaced an antique toilet in the home of John

## 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS (continued)

- In order for it to be made into jewelry, other metals must be added to gold, creating an "alloy." If your ring is 18-karat gold, it is 18 parts pure gold and six parts other metals.
- Nevada is the leading gold-mining state in America, producing 79 percent of the nation's supply. South Africa leads the world. It takes more than two tons of South African rock to yield less than one ounce of gold.
- It's believed that the calling bird in the song is actually the mockingbird, a bird with the ability to imitate the sounds of other birds. One such bird was heard to imitate the songs of 32 different birds during a 10-minute period.
- Can you identify the famous family who lived at 1313 Mockingbird Lane? It was television's Herman Munster family — Herman, Lily, Grandpa and Eddie.
- A hen begins laying eggs when she is about 20 weeks old. If a farmer uses artificial lighting, the hen will begin laying at a younger age. If she is exposed to about 15 hours of light per day, she will lay more eggs. The average hen lays about 250 eggs in a year.
- A member of the pigeon family, a turtledove is noted for its purring coo. It differs from the mourning dove, although the two are often mistaken. Don't look for turtledoves in America, as they live mainly in Europe, Asia and Africa.
- The Turtledove Folk Club of Coatesville, Pennsylvania, is an organization for music lovers, specifically those who want to preserve and promote folk music and dance.
- A partridge is most generally known as a quail or a bobwhite. There are about 150 varieties of partridges. Some parts of America refer to a partridge as a ruffed grouse. If you plan to keep a partridge as a pet, have plenty of grains, plant shoots and insects on hand. A typical bobwhite might consume as many 15,000 weed seeds a day, a tremendous help to farmers.
- If someone offers you a Comice, Seckel, Winter Nelis, Kieffer, Leconte, Anjou, Bosc or Garber, he is offering you an item obtained from a pear tree. Over 800,000 tons of pears are produced annually in the United States, with the state of Washington leading the nation in fresh pear production. The average American eats about 3.1 pounds of fresh pears a year.

continued on next page

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Lennon, then kept the old toilet for the rest of his life. In 2010, after Hancock's death, his heirs put it up for auction. Even the auction house was surprised when the former Beatle's throne fetched a whopping \$14,740.

- When you're in an unpopulated area and gaze up at the night sky, it's easy to be overwhelmed by the profusion of stars. But what's truly overwhelming is this: All the stars that are visible from Earth represent only 0.000000000000001 percent of all the stars in the known universe.
- You may not be aware of this, but there is a new fad that is catching on among some groups across the country: tall biking. Hobbyists construct bicycles with normal-sized front and rear wheels, but with frames and seats that extend anywhere from 6 to 10 feet off the ground. Some riders actually use these bikes to joust, using lances made out of PVC pipe and foam rubber. It's unclear, however, exactly how the riders mount their steeds.

**Thought for the Day:** "If you wish to be loved, show more of your faults than your virtues."  
-- Edward Bulwer-Lytton

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# OVERCOMING THE ODDS: SCOTT SMILEY

From despair to hope to victory, Scott Smiley has met overwhelming challenges head-on and triumphed. Check out the story of this inspiring individual, an injured soldier who credits his faith, family and friends with his remarkable recovery from devastating injuries.

- Life looked very promising for Scott Smiley back in 2003. He had recently graduated from West Point and married his high school sweetheart. Following his completion of Ranger school, he was deployed to Iraq in October of 2004.
- In April of 2005, as a lieutenant in charge of a combat team platoon, Smiley’s life changed forever. He and his men approached a car with a nervous driver, who immediately raised his hands in the air. Smiley ordered the man to get out of the car, but seconds later, the driver set off a bomb. Shards of shrapnel sliced through Smiley’s eyes, shredding the optic nerves and penetrating his brain.
- Smiley was put on an emergency airlift and transported to Washington, D.C.’s Walter Reed Hospital, where he remained unconscious for two weeks. During that time an ophthalmologist worked for eight hours on his right eye, attempting to save its sight. Unfortunately, when Smiley woke up, he was informed that he was partially paralyzed and permanently blind.
- Smiley admits his “spirit was crushed” and that he felt he had no reason to live or any purpose in life. He was advised to take medical retirement. Instead, he made the courageous choice to fight his way back, firmly believing there was a place for him in the military. He took advantage of the Army’s new willingness to allow certain seriously injured soldiers to remain in the service.
- After numerous surgeries and months of exhausting physical therapy, including re-learning how to walk, Scott Smiley returned to active duty.
- Smiley was accepted into Duke University’s business school, where he earned a master’s degree in Business Administration. Soon he was teaching leadership classes to West Point cadets.
- Smiley’s list of accomplishments and adventures has continued to grow since his injury. He has been skydiving, gone snow skiing and surfed solo in Hawaii. Although he had never mountain climbed before Iraq, he reached the summit of Mount Rainier with a group of climbers in 2007. With two hiking poles, he was able to keep his balance, listening for the footsteps of the person in front of him. Smiley was the recipient of an ESPY (Excellence in Sports Performance Yearly) award in 2008. With the help of an Army buddy, he participated in the West Point triathlon. He has also been awarded the Army’s MacArthur Leadership Award, given to those officers who demonstrate “duty, honor, and country,” as well as the honor of being named the Army Times’ 2007 Soldier of the Year.

continued on next page

### 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!

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### Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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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



“Hold on a minute, Gertrude—I think somebody’s at the door ...”

### Holidays & Observances This Week

12/18 International Migrants Day  
12/19 Dickens’ “A Christmas Carol” published, 1843  
12/20 Hanukkah Begins  
12/21 Crossword Puzzle Day  
12/22 First Day of Winter  
12/23 Festivus  
12/24 Christmas Eve

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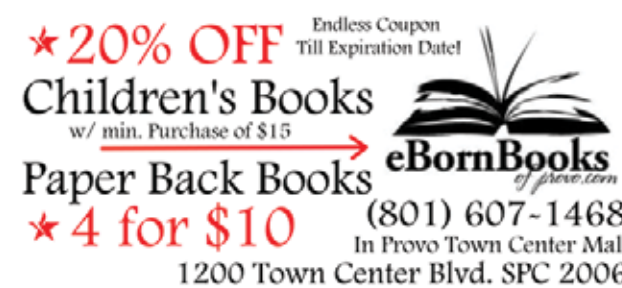


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Solase Massage Orem - For Your Body, Mind, and Skin. Come Relax.	206 East University Pkwy.	(801) 802-0113
Yogurtland Orem - Exclusive flavors and amazing discoveries.	534 East University Pkwy.	(801) 225-5440
Kaesung Academy Springville - Learn to defend against bullies.	236 South Main Street	(801) 489-6838
Magleby 's Springville - Try our Daily Specials & Chocolate Tower Cake.	198 South Main Street	(801) 374-6249
UPS Springville - Come on in for your Shipping needs!	224 South Main Street	(801) 491-9744

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## Good Housekeeping

### Seafood Salad Cucumber Cups

Nestle sweet shrimp and crabmeat salad in a refreshing cucumber shell and top with tart, jewel-like pomegranate seeds for an elegant holiday appetizer.

6 sprigs fresh dill  
2 lemons  
2 teaspoons Dijon mustard  
1 pinch cayenne (ground red) pepper  
Salt  
3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil  
8 ounces 16- to 20-count shrimp, shelled and deveined  
2 large (1 pound each) seedless (English) cucumbers  
8 ounces refrigerated lump crabmeat, picked over  
2 tablespoons snipped chives  
1/4 cup pomegranate seeds

1. Separate dill leaves from stems; reserve separately. From lemons, finely grate 1/2 teaspoon peel and squeeze 1/4 cup juice into large bowl. Reserve rinds.

2. To peel and juice, whisk in mustard, cayenne and 1/2 teaspoon salt. Whisk in oil in slow, steady stream, until blended. Dressing can be refrigerated up to 3 days.  
3. In 4-quart saucepan, combine dill stems, lemon rinds and 8 cups water. Heat to boiling. Reduce heat to maintain gentle simmer. Add shrimp; cook 3 minutes or until just opaque, stirring. Drain. Rinse under cold water until cold; drain. Discard dill and lemon. Coarsely chop shrimp. Shrimp can be refrigerated overnight.

4. Trim cucumbers; cut into 1/2-inch-thick slices. With melon baller, scoop out centers of slices without cutting through bottoms.  
5. Finely chop 1 tablespoon dill leaves. Gently fold into dressing along with shrimp, crabmeat and chives.  
6. Fill each cucumber cup with 1 tablespoon salad mixture. Garnish with pomegranate and dill. Makes about 36 pieces; serves 12.

„ Each serving: About 75 calories, 4g total fat (1g saturated), 42mg cholesterol, 300mg sodium, 3g carbohydrate, 1g dietary fiber, 7g protein.

For thousands of triple-tested recipes, visit our website at [www.goodhousekeeping.com/recipefinder/](http://www.goodhousekeeping.com/recipefinder/).

### SMILEY (continued)

- In 2010, Smiley was appointed commander of the U.S. Army Warrior Transition Unit, becoming only the second wounded officer to assume such a position and the first blind active-duty officer. His responsibilities include overseeing the recovery and rehabilitation of about 200 armed forces members at the Army Medical Center at West Point. Hoping to inspire others, he has recently released his autobiography “Hope Unseen.” But his greatest accomplishment remains being a father to his two young sons.
- “We all have tough times. It’s about understanding them and moving forward.” – Scott Smiley

### CHRISTMAS BITS

Here are just a few fun and interesting facts you may not know about the holiday season, from toys to trees to songs.

- Twenty-four electricians, standing on scaffolding, string 5 miles of wire containing 30,000 lights on New York City’s Rockefeller Center Christmas tree every year. The tree stands between 75 and 90 feet tall (23 to 27.4 m) and is usually at least 50 years old. The Center’s first tree went up in 1933 with 700 lights. The annual tree lighting was televised for the first time in 1951. When it’s time to take the tree down, it’s recycled into three tons of mulch.
- Do you remember the Cabbage Patch Kids craze of Christmas 1983? Within the first six months on the market, there were more than two million sold. Consumers stood in line for hours hoping to purchase a doll, even suffering broken bones when crowds turned violent. Coleco Toys chartered planes to bring 200,000 more dolls per week from its Hong Kong factories. Each of the homely dolls came with its own birth certificate and adoption papers. A 21-year-old art student was responsible for the creation of the dolls.
- The year before the Cabbage Patch craze, two of the most popular Christmas toys were Pac Man and the Rubik’s cube. Ten years before that, everyone wanted a mood ring!
- The word “wassail” can have several different meanings. Since the Middle Ages, people in England have held a traditional ceremony of singing and drinking to the health of trees, hoping to scare away evil spirits that keep apple trees from bearing a good harvest the following autumn. The term also refers to the salute Waes Hail from an old English phrase, translating “good health.”
- Wassail can also mean the hot mulled beverage frequently consumed during the holidays. It can be apple cider with several spices and topped with slices of toast or a recipe of wine mixed with brandy or sherry with added apples or oranges. For those who go “a-wassailing,” it can mean going caroling from door to door or going to the orchards to sing to the trees.

*continued on next page*



**Q: I recently found a “Happiness Bird” in custard satin made by Fenton Glass in an antique shop in Joplin, Mo. I was told that it was made in about 1955. I paid \$150 for it and was told by a neighbor that it is rare and priceless. — Betty, Springfield, MO**

**A:** Since you are from the “Show Me” state, I will show you that neighbors aren’t necessarily right. According to “Warman’s Fenton Glass” by Mark F. Moran, your bird is worth about \$40. Incidentally, custard satin was a matte finish introduced by Fenton in 1971 and available in several colors, including Blue, Crystal Velvet, Lime Sherbet and White.

**Q: We have a stamp collector’s book from the early 1930s, filled with several hundred stamps, with and without postmarks. There also are some first day covers. How can I have this collection evaluated and appraised? — Pat, Surprise, Ariz.**

**A:** There are several stamp dealers in your area. C & C Coin & Stamps is located at 3404 North 24th St., between Indian School and Thomas in Phoenix, and offers free appraisals. BJ’s Stamps is at 6342 West Bell Road, also in Phoenix. If you want a more formal appraisal, I recommend the services of a professional who specializes in personal property. Two senior members of the American Society of Appraisers in Phoenix are Barbara June Bradbury (480) 947-2378, and Betty Goldfield (480) 502-2679. When hiring the services of an appraiser, don’t hesitate to ask for credentials and references.

**Q: I have my brother’s “Da Nang Vietnam” jacket from about 1967. It features a map of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia stitched in the design. This jacket is now more than 40 years old, and I need to know if it is worth keeping. — Katherine, Aurora, Colo.**

**A:** Your jacket is probably worth in the \$50 to \$100 range, depending on condition and desirability.

**Q: I have a baseball bat that is marked “Hillerick & Bradsby, Made in USA, Louisville, KY.” It is a “Johnny Bench” bat, approved by the Little League. What is it worth? — Albert, Evansville, Wyo.**

**A:** Your bat is worth in the \$10 to \$25 range.








**CHRISTMAS BITS (continued)**

• We've all seen the red kettles manned by bell-ringing volunteers every December. The Salvation Army, the second-largest charity in America, had its first kettle fundraiser in 1891 in San Francisco. Within six years, it was a nationwide program. It now has more than three million volunteers and raises upwards of \$120 million each holiday season.

• We hear a lot about myrrh and frankincense this time of year, but what exactly are these two substances? Myrrh comes from a small thorny shrub in the Commiphora species that grows in rocky terrain. It's the gum resin of the shrub that is produced as a reaction to a cut through the bark and into the sapwood. Ancient Egyptians used myrrh, a very valuable commodity, for embalming mummies. Myrrh's medicinal qualities also made it a good dressing for wounds. In religious ceremonies, it was used on the incense altar in the Jerusalem tabernacle. Today, myrrh is still used in liniments and salves for abrasions, arthritic aches and skin ailments. Like myrrh, frankincense is also a resin, obtained from the Boswellia tree. Because of its rich fragrance, it's used for incense, perfumes and aromatherapy. Burning this substance can repel mosquitoes. It can be ingested internally and is a traditional medicine for digestive ailments.

• What would Christmas be without the work of Johnny Marks? This songwriter brought us "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree," "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" and "A Holly Jolly Christmas," among others. All in all, this talented man had 94 songs to his credit.

THIS WEEK'S CELEBRITY BIRTHDAYS		
	Katie Holmes	12/18/78
	Jake Gyllenhaal	12/19/80
	Chris Robinson	12/20/66
	Ray Romano	12/21/57
	Diane Sawyer	12/22/45
	Susan Lucci	12/23/46
	Ryan Seacrest	12/24/74

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**Just Like Cats & Dogs**

by Dave T. Phipps



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**Outing a Sore Spot for Nosey Dog**

By Samantha Mazzotta

**DEAR PAW'S CORNER:** This weekend I took my dog "Marty," a dachshund-beagle mix, out to some property, where she sniffed and sniffed and dug and sniffed and sniffed. I think she had her nose buried in the rocky soil for so long that she gave herself a rather large (maybe the size of a nickel) blister on her upper lip. It's not puffy — just a raw patch under her nose, and she licks at it. I saw something saying that canola oil or olive oil might help chapped lips, but this seems like a larger area. Any tips? — Matt P., via email

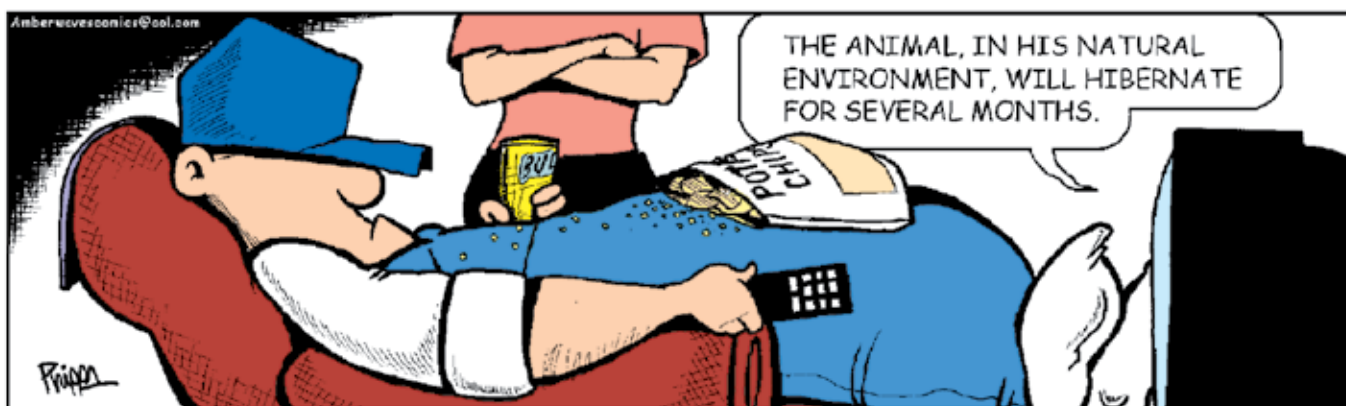
**DEAR MATT:** First, I have to caution that it's always wise to consult your dog's vet. With that out of the way, I'd say the best thing to do would be to treat the raw patch like you would a blister or a raw patch on your own nose. Keep the area clean, rub a bit of Neosporin over it two or three times daily and watch it closely.

Marty probably will lick off the antibiotic ointment within a minute or two of application, but in such small quantities it isn't a problem to ingest. A Band-Aid probably will cause more discomfort and trouble than it prevents. You also can ask your vet for topical medicine to reduce any discomfort and thereby reduce her licking of the area so it can heal faster. If it is indeed just a raw patch caused by friction, the area should heal up within a few days. But do keep a close eye on it: If the patch looks like its getting infected or otherwise changes for the worse, take Marty to the vet right away.

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](http://www.pawscorner.com).

**Amber Waves**

by Dave T. Phipps



by Freddy Groves

**Make It Easy on Your Survivors**

Do you keep your service files organized? Most of us don't, unless pushed. But here's something to consider: Can your family easily find what it needs to handle your affairs if something happens to you?

Here are a few documents your family will need to lay their hands on quickly:

--Your DD214 or service equivalent. If you don't have your discharge papers, send for them.

--A list that includes Social security number, branch of service, dates of service, date and place of birth. Include all the places you were stationed, and dates.

--Immunization record, birth certificate and will. (You do have one, right? And it's updated, not one you wrote 20 years ago?) Add your government life-insurance policy, copy of all marriage certificates and divorce decrees and copy of children's birth certificates.

Download online (or send away for) the following blank

forms, to be kept in the file: Application for United States Flag for Burial Purposes; Claim for One Sum Payment Government Life Insurance; Claim for Monthly Payments National Service Life Insurance; Application for Standard Government Headstone or Marker.

If you have an ongoing claim with the Department of Veterans Affairs, put all related documents in a separate file, newest at the top. Keep several sheets of blank paper in the file so you can note the date, time and whom you spoke with whenever you call the VA so the information is always current.

Go online to [www.vba.va.gov](http://www.vba.va.gov), click Veteran Services, then Survivors. Scroll down and look for any additional information that might apply to you. Send for the appropriate forms. Print out the VA Benefits for Survivors pamphlet and put it in the file, or call the VA (1-800-827-1000) and have one sent to you.

You only need to do this once. When you've assembled and organized your information, you just need to keep it updated.

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](mailto:columnreply@gmail.com).



by JoAnna M. Lund

**Holiday Rice Pudding**

You can never get too much of a good thing. Take a taste of this luscious rum raisin rice pudding made with sour cream, and see if you don't agree.

- 1 (4-serving) package sugar-free instant vanilla pudding mix
- 2/3 cup nonfat dry milk powder
- 1 1/2 cups water
- 1/3 cup fat-free sour cream
- 1 teaspoon rum extract
- 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 3/4 cup raisins
- 2 cups cold cooked rice
- 6 tablespoons reduced-calorie whipped topping

1. In large bowl, combine dry pudding mix, dry milk powder and water. Mix well using a wire whisk. Blend in sour cream, rum extract and nutmeg. Add raisins and rice. Mix well to combine.
2. Evenly spoon rice mixture into 6 dessert dishes. Top each with 1 tablespoon whipped topping. Lightly sprinkle additional nutmeg over the top of each, if desired. Refrigerate at least 15 minutes. Makes 6 servings.

• Each serving equals: 168 calories, 0g fat, 5g protein, 37g carb., 282mg sodium, 1g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 1 1/2 Starch, 1 Fruit.

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**Moments in time**  
THE HISTORY CHANNEL

• On Dec. 23, 1888, Dutch painter Vincent van Gogh, suffering from severe depression, cuts off the lower part of his left ear with a razor while staying in Arles, France. He later documented the event in a painting titled "Self-Portrait With Bandaged Ear." During his lifetime, van Gogh sold only one painting.

• On Dec. 22, 1900, the first car to be produced under the "Mercedes" name is delivered to its buyer, Emil Jellinek, an Austrian car racer and auto dealer to the rich and famous. In exchange for buying 36 of the cars, the auto company agreed to name its new machine after Jellinek's 11-year-old daughter, Mercedes.

• On Dec. 24, 1923, President Calvin Coolidge touches a button and lights the first national Christmas tree to grace the White House grounds. The tree was the first to be decorated with electric lights -- a strand of 2,500 red, white and green bulbs.

• On Dec. 20, 1957, rock 'n' roll star Elvis Presley receives his draft notice for the United States Army. He served in Company D, 32nd Tank Battalion, 3rd Armor Corps in Friedberg, Germany, where he attained the rank of sergeant.

• On Dec. 25, 1962, "To Kill a Mockingbird," a film based on the 1960 Pulitzer Prize-winning novel of the same name by Harper Lee, opens in theaters. The Great Depression-era story of racial injustice and the loss of childhood innocence is told from the perspective of a young Alabama girl named Scout Finch.

• On Dec. 21, 1975, in Vienna, Austria, Carlos the Jackal leads a raid on a meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), killing three people and taking 63 hostage. Carlos managed to evade international authorities until 1994, when French agents captured him hiding in the Sudan.

• On Dec. 19, 1986, Michael Sergio, who parachuted into Game Six of the 1986 World Series at New York's Shea Stadium, is fined \$500 and sentenced to 100 hours of community service. Sergio had landed on the infield with a "Let's Go Mets" banner in the first inning of the sixth game between the Mets and the Boston Red Sox.





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R E S A R F W V V T A C L O C

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

Charyn	Grand	Logan	Tsangpo
Colca	Hells	Nine Mile	Valla
Fish River	Horseshoe	Shnizow	Waimea
Fraser	Kings	Tara River	

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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.

**Speaker's Bureau**  
A representative of the project may be available to meet with your group to give a project overview or explain current activities. For more information call 888-415-2673

**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](http://udot.utah.gov/i15core), following the project on [facebook.com/i15core](https://facebook.com/i15core) and [twitter.com/i15core](https://twitter.com/i15core) and receiving text updates by texting [15core](tel:15core) 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

**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](http://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.  
**Shopper Sitter Service** We understand the pressures of Christmas. Let us help alleviate some stress by taking your kids for 4 hours while you get some last minute Christmas preparations done. We will tend your children (ages 5-11) on Thursday, December 22 from 1-5:00 pm. and keep them busy with movies, crafts, games, and prizes. **ONLINE REGISTRATION ONLY** from Nov. 28-Dec. 21. Cost is \$10 per child. Space is limited to the first 30 kids registered. Advanced registration only, no drop-ins.

### 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](http://paysoncitychamber.com)**

### Pleasant Grove News

**TipSoft Tool: Help Fight Crime**  
*Citizens can send anonymous text and web tips to the PG Police Department.*  
Pleasant Grove Police Department has announced a new service to allow members of the public to provide anonymous tips to law enforcement. The service, called TipSoft, was recently announced as a statewide initiative involving more than 50 law enforcement agencies throughout the State of Utah. *Citizens can submit anonymous tips to Pleasant Grove Police through the Web or by sending a text message to [274637](tel:274637) with the keyword **PGPD Tip***

**ANSWERS**

**SPORTS QUIZ**

1. Arizona's Randy Johnson had 30 quality starts in 2002.
2. Philadelphia's Robin Roberts had 149 losses (and 199 wins) for the decade.
3. Warren Sapp of the University of Miami, Fla., in 1994.
4. It was 1961, when they were the St. Louis Hawks.
5. Montreal and Calgary, in 1986 and 1989.
6. Firmin Lambot was 36 when he won it in 1922.
7. Jack Nicklaus (1980), Lee Janzen ('93), Tiger Woods (2000) and Jim Furyk ('03).

— **King Crossword** —

*Answers*

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

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

— **Weekly SUDOKU** —


**Answer**

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

— **Go Figure!** —

**answers**

2	x	9	-	7	11
+		-		+	
8	x	4	-	9	23
x		x		-	
1	+	5	÷	3	2
10		25		13	



**Trivia test**  
by Fifi Rodriguez

1. The "Harry Potter" books
2. Fear of dreams
3. "Rear Window"
4. The Beatles
5. Bay City
6. Diogenes
7. Robert Browning
8. Painting
9. Aphrodite
10. Lake Baikal in Siberia, Russia

**WORD POWER**  
ANSWER  
**GRISWOLD**

**SCRAMBLERS**  
*solution*

1. Divert; 2. Ornate;
3. Savor; 4. Circle

*Today's Word:*  
**NOTICED**