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December 10, 2012

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Issue 2012-50

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**TIDBITS® HEARS  
THE BELLS TOLL BELLS**  
by Patricia L. Cook

This Tidbits will ring some bells of history! Bells have been around for many centuries, including references in the Bible. Long before telephone ringers, ambulance sirens, internet, emails and “tweets,” bells summoned the masses for news, happy and sad.

- Bells are rung at many major life events and occasions, including weddings and funerals in some religions. In earlier centuries bells were also rung to make announcements at community squares. Many churches ring bells at Christmas to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.
- A famous old poem written on December 25, 1864 by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow became one of our best loved Christmas Carols. “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day,” was actually a poem that Wadsworth wrote concerning the sadness of America’s Civil War and the hope for its end. Two stanzas were removed when the poem was set to music by John Baptiste Calkin in 1872. The words, “Peace on earth, good will toward men,” included in the song, come from Luke 2:14 in the Bible.
- Ringling of bells and other noisemakers may have originated with pagans, people who have “little or no religion.” They used the bells to scare away evil spirits.

*turn the page for more!*

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1. TELEVISION: What famous politician did Alex P. Keaton idolize on the show "Family Ties"?
2. MUSIC: Which 1970s song featured the line, "Jeremiah was a bullfrog"?
3. LITERATURE: What literary figure had a loyal companion named Sancho Panza?
4. GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital of Iowa?
5. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What are omnivores?
6. LANGUAGE: How many letters are in the Greek alphabet?
7. ANATOMY: How many pairs of ribs does a human body normally have?
8. HISTORY: In which year did the U.S. space shuttle first fly into orbit?
9. FOOD: What kind of food is mortadella?
11. GAMES: What is the movable device used in the game Ouija to spell out messages?



by Jo Ann Derson

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- Use silicone caulk to make non-skid beads on the bottom of your pet's dishes. They will stay in one place instead of getting scooted all around the kitchen.
- Need a quick ironing job but don't have time to iron? Spray a clean kitchen towel with a mixture of water and a little fabric softener until damp. Pop it in the dryer with the item that's wrinkled. It shouldn't take more than 10 minutes to get all the wrinkles out, and it will smell great to boot!
- While we're on ironing tips, here's a great one from T.C. in Alabama: "If you have mineral deposits on your iron, use a toothbrush and toothpaste (mild abrasive) to polish them off your iron's face. Rinse with water, and next time, use distilled water for steaming."
- "When driving a nail into a plaster wall, first put down a piece of tape at the spot where you'll insert the nail. Tap the nail in right through the tape, then pull away the tape to discard. It often will keep the surrounding plaster from crumbling at the site of the nail." -- W.L. in Oregon
- When your cabinet door magnet locks are too strong, try putting a piece of tape over the magnet. It decreases the strength of the magnet.
- If you paint your radiators, make sure that the paint you use is heat-resistant. To get the best finish, paint while the radiator is warm.

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.

## 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.

	-		x		8
+		+		+	
	÷		+		2
÷		÷		x	
	-		x		20
2		3		15	

DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult  
★★★ GO FIGURE!

1 2 3 4 5 7 8 9 9

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## BELLS AND WHISTLES (continued)

- Traditionally in Anglican and Catholic churches, the church day starts at sunset. So, for many churches the first service of Christmas Day will have bells ringing. These signify the start of Christmas services in many areas. In the United Kingdom (U.K.) it is traditional for the largest bell to be rung four times in the hour prior to midnight; then at midnight all of the bells ring to celebrate Christmas. Many old churches in the U.K. and other European countries have historic bells that have been ringing for centuries.
- One of those old churches, St. Lawrence Church in Ipswich, Suffolk, England, has what is thought to be the oldest set of bells in the world. Dating from about 1450, the set of five bells had not been used for two decades because of the poor condition of the tower that housed them. They were in a tower that was built in 1883, that was very flimsy. In a restoration project funded by donations to the Ipswich Historic Churches Trust, the bells were moved to an older, sturdier part of the building that was built in the 15th century. In September, 2009, the bells rang again, much to the delight of the town. Now when the bells are rung, they are in a part of the church where they can be seen through a glass screen. The building is no longer a church but is part of the Ipswich Town Centre.
- In the Ipswich project, the bells were cleaned at the Whitechapel Bell Foundry in East London. Whitechapel is Britain's oldest manufacturing company, established during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I in 1570. In 1970 the Foundry celebrated 400 years, a quatercentenary! (It is now in its 442nd year.)
- Famous bells from Whitechapel include the Liberty Bell, the Great Bell of Montreal and the largest bell it has ever cast, Big Ben.

continued on next page

## WORDS THAT MAGIC MAZE ● TAKE A HIT

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

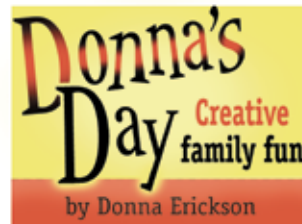
Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

- |            |           |         |           |
|------------|-----------|---------|-----------|
| Architect  | Hitachi   | Hitter  | Whittaker |
| Bronchitis | Hitchhike | Tahiti  | Whittier  |
| Chits      | Hitherto  | White   | Wichita   |
| Graphite   | Hitless   | Whitney |           |

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THIS WEEK'S  
**CELEBRITY BIRTHDAYS**

Judy Dench	12/9/34
Bobby Flay	12/10/64
John Kerry	12/11/43
Bob Barker	12/12/23
Taylor Swift	12/13/89
Archie Kao	12/14/69
Tim Conway	12/15/33



## Shape Up Old Crayons

If your house and car are full of broken and worn-down crayons, don't throw them out! Instead, collect them all in a box or basket and try this easy recycling activity. Keep your kids busy over the holiday break by helping them make new "designer" crayons -- perfect for art projects or party favors at your child's next birthday party.

Here's how:

First remove the paper wrapper from each crayon. Then, help the kids break the crayons into pieces and put them into piles according to basic colors. Put the pieces according to color, in small, heat-resistant glass jars, such as empty baby-food jars.

With an adult's help, fit a small rack inside a saucepan, and place the jars on the rack. Fill the saucepan with enough water to cover 1/2 inch of the jars. Heat the water until the crayons melt.

Keep an eye on them at all times.

An adult should carefully pour the melted wax into a plastic candy mold tray (available at kitchen-supply stores and craft stores in a variety of fun shapes children like, such as stars, flowers, animals, skates, etc.). Or use ice-cube trays that come in fun shapes.

The wax will harden quickly and pop out of the mold easily. You could put the tray in the freezer for a few minutes to speed up the process.

For added effect, pour a contrasting color into the mold after the first layer of wax has hardened. This will produce a two-tone crayon.

Try out your new crayon shapes on a piece of paper. And for more fun, you can use them as a puzzle. Just let 4- and 5-year olds put the different shapes back into the candy molds.

Extra idea: Keep a crayon handy on the refrigerator for quick note-taking. Simply add a piece of magnet from a magnet strip and set it on the final layer of wax before it completely hardens.

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."



## TRIVIA NEWSFRONT

1. What famous bell tower in Italy leans?
2. The tower is part of a complex of monuments called the Piazza dei Miracolo, which means \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The city of Pisa got its name from a Greek word meaning \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Are there other buildings in the city that lean or are sinking?
5. What famous scientist was baptized in the sinking baptistery in 1565?



By Chris Richcreek

- 1 Where is Tim Wakefield on the list of most career victories by a Boston Red Sox pitcher?
- 2 In 2012, Toronto and Cleveland played the longest Opening Day game in history (16 innings). Which teams played in the previously longest game?
- 3 Who is the only player in NFL history to have eight seasons of at least 290 rushing attempts and 50 receptions?

4 Name the first men's basketball coach to be named both an ACC and a Big East Coach of the Year.

5 Beginning in 1917 with the Seattle Metropolitans, how many times has a U.S.-based team won the Stanley Cup?

6 Who was the last American male runner before Leonel Manzano (silver medal) in 2012 to medal in the Olympic 1500 meter race?

7 In how many of the past 16 Ryder Cups (1981-2012) has the team trailing after the first day of golf play gone on to with the event?

Merry Christmas And A Very Prosperous New Year From



# VETERANS POST

by Freddy Groves

## Holiday Visit Cheers Hospitalized Vets

By now the local Department of Veterans Affairs hospitals know which of their wards will be visited over the holidays by large groups such as the American Legion or the Daughters of the American Revolution. They know which wards, and which patients, might not receive a visit -- from anyone.

This is where you come in.

If you imagine yourself in the place of a veteran who has no local family, it's not hard to understand that a holiday visit from you -- a fellow veteran -- can mean so much.

Make the call to volunteer services. Find out what's needed to fill in the gaps left by the large service organizations. Then call your buddies and arrange to go as a group at the appointed time. Go by yourself if necessary. It's talking the veterans want, the company, the reminiscing, the chatting with others who also served. If you know any active military, ask them along, dressed in uniform.

If you want to provide small gifts, so much the better. Ask the nursing staff on the ward you'll visit whether a selection from the following would be appropriate:

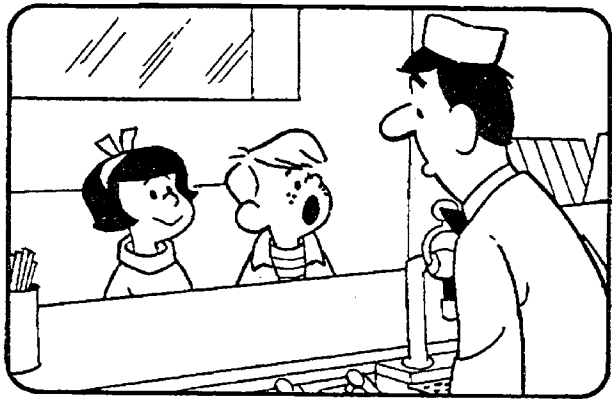
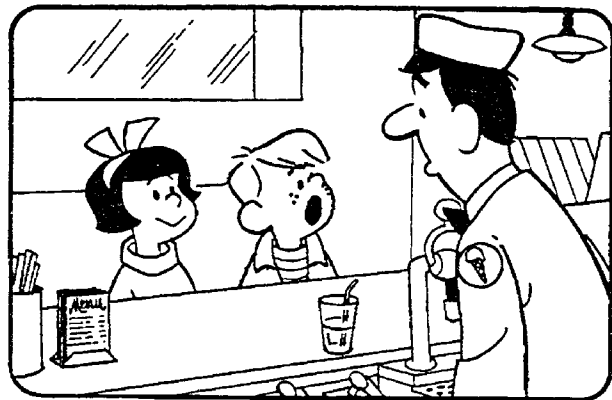
Whitman's four-piece candy sampler, Hershey's Kisses, small candy canes, sugar-free candy, deck of playing cards, pads of paper and mechanical pencils, military caps, small table-top calendar or daily journal, appropriate posters for the wall, puzzle books (word search is best), handkerchiefs, water bottles, slipper socks, a \$5 coupon for the hospital canteen, a card signed by all of you in your group. Collect boxes from shoe stores to hold the gifts. Get holiday paper (plus tissue paper), and if you're fumble fingers, get help with wrapping. The idea is to have one individual present for each veteran.

If there is no VA hospital near you, think about the nursing homes. Call to inquire if any of their residents are veterans.

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).

## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



FIND AT LEAST 6 DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PANELS.

Differences: 1. Bow is smaller. 2. Menu holder is missing. 3. Glass is missing. 4. Cap is different. 5. Light is missing. 6. Arm patch is missing.

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## BELLS AND WHISTLES (continued)

• Big Ben at Westminster Abbey deserves its name; weighing 13 tons (11.79 tonnes). It was cast (or made) in 1858. While most of the work of the company is with large bells, including all of the equipment needed and installation in church towers, Whitechapel also makes handbells and other small bells.

• While bell ringing, called "change ringing," is most popular in England where it started centuries ago, there are bell ringers all over the world. Most English church bell towers have at least six to eight, but sometimes as many as sixteen bells in a the bell chamber or belfry. There are more than 5000 churches with bells for change ringing in their bell towers in England, while there are fewer than 300 in the rest of the world.

• Change ringing is a performing art, similar to a team sport, in that the team must work together in harmony to ring the bells. It is similar to being a part of an orchestra. Each ringer must learn to do his or her part. There are many change ringing organizations in England. The oldest association is the "Companie of Ringers of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Lincoln" which was started in 1612.

• The first true "peal" was believed to have occurred on May 2, 1715 at St. Peter Mancroft Church in Norwich, England. A peal is "a true touch of at least 5000 changes." This magical ringing typically takes around three hours to ring!

• A strange ban that occurred during World War II was the ringing of bells. Ringing was quickly reinstated when peace returned.

• On January 1, 2000, in celebration of the start of the new millennium, bells were rung all over the world.

• There has been change ringing in North America since 1744 with groups of ringers active in Quebec, British Columbia, South Carolina, Illinois and more at various times. By the middle of the 20th century, change ringing in bell towers had almost completely died out on the continent. Change ringing was occurring some with handbells but the history is slim on that. In the early 1960s there were only seven active bell towers in North America: four in Canada and three in the U.S.

continued on next page

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# Strange BUT TRUE

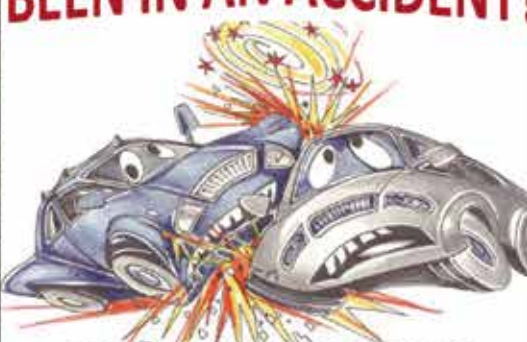
- It was British biologist and author Richard Dawkins who made the following sage observation: "When two opposite points of view are expressed with equal intensity, the truth does not necessarily lie exactly halfway between them. It is possible for one side to be simply wrong."
- If you're like 20 percent of American women, you think your feet are too big.
- Did you ever wonder why we say, "I smell a rat" when we sense that something is amiss? The phrase dates back to a time before effective means of pest control, when it was not uncommon for a home to be infested by rodents. If a rat died inside a wall, the residents wouldn't be aware of it until the smell of the decaying body became noticeable.

- If you'd like to have a festive New Year's Eve but don't want to deal with the crowds in New York City for the iconic ball drop, consider heading to Mount Olive, N.C. Every year the town hosts a celebration in which a 3-foot lighted pickle is dropped into a barrel at midnight.
  - Ancient Romans believed that a sneeze was the body's way of expelling evil spirits that caused disease. Thus, if one tried to suppress a sneeze, it was regarded as an invitation to illness and death.
  - The 14-foot model of the Starship Enterprise that was used during shooting of the original "Star Trek" series is now displayed in the Smithsonian.
  - If you are over the age of 40, you've lived longer than the average gorilla.
  - The first woman to appear on the cover of Business Week magazine, in 1954, was Brownie Wise, the originator of the Tupperware Party.
- Thought for the Day:** "If you don't know where you are going, any road will get you there." -- Lewis Carroll

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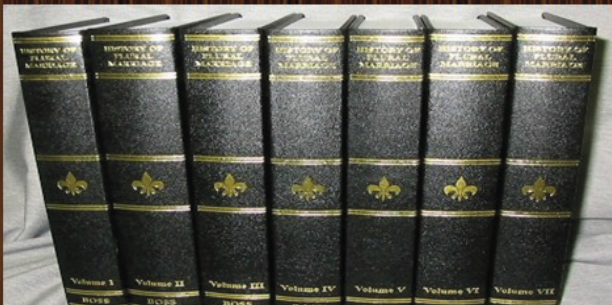
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By Arnold Boss

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-Keepersbooksite

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12					13			14		
15				16				17		
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- |                                 |                  |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |                       |                       |                         |                      |                      |
|---------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Antiaircraft fire             | 23 Blond shade   | 26 Earl Grey, e.g.            | 28 Honda model                | 31 Bartlett or Bosc           | 33 Carpet                     | 35 Congers, e.g.              | 36 Discussion group           | 38 Decked in the ring | 40 Marseilles monarch | 41 Turns to the right   | 43 Lawn glistener    | 45 Loss' oppo        |
| 5 Total                         | 24 site          | 27 About three miles          | 29 Adore                      | 32 Addict                     | 34 Hodgepodge                 | 37 Red Planet                 | 39 Type measures              | 41 Showbiz failure    | 42 Wash               | 43 State with certainty | 44 Destiny           |                      |
| 8 "That's a relief!"            | 25 Slight amount | 28 Grecian vessel             | 31 Interior                   | 33 Grassland                  | 35 Relinquish                 | 38 Sea eagle                  | 41 Have on                    | 42 Clue               | 43 Big Apple letters  | 44 iPhone download      | 45 Vast expanse      | 46 Morning-after woe |
| 12 Volcanic outflow             | 26 crime series  | 29 Close-fitting jackets      | 32 Atheistic                  | 34 Island                     | 37 souvenir                   | 39 Antelope's playmate        | 42 "Uncle Tom's Cabin" author | 44 "Yippee!"          | 45 Potential prune    | 46 Santa —, Calif.      | 48 Festive           | 49 One               |
| 13 CAT scan alternative         | 27 amount        | 30 Close-fitting jackets      | 33 Atheistic                  | 37 Island                     | 39 souvenir                   | 42 "Uncle Tom's Cabin" author | 44 "Yippee!"                  | 45 Potential prune    | 46 Santa —, Calif.    | 48 Festive              | 49 One               | 50 Ids' counterparts |
| 14 Exceptional                  | 28 amount        | 31 Close-fitting jackets      | 34 Atheistic                  | 37 Island                     | 39 souvenir                   | 42 "Uncle Tom's Cabin" author | 44 "Yippee!"                  | 45 Potential prune    | 46 Santa —, Calif.    | 48 Festive              | 49 One               | 53 Moving truck      |
| 15 Type of tennis stroke        | 29 amount        | 32 Close-fitting jackets      | 33 Atheistic                  | 37 Island                     | 39 souvenir                   | 42 "Uncle Tom's Cabin" author | 44 "Yippee!"                  | 45 Potential prune    | 46 Santa —, Calif.    | 48 Festive              | 49 One               |                      |
| 17 Paquin or Faris              | 30 amount        | 33 Close-fitting jackets      | 34 Atheistic                  | 37 Island                     | 39 souvenir                   | 42 "Uncle Tom's Cabin" author | 44 "Yippee!"                  | 45 Potential prune    | 46 Santa —, Calif.    | 48 Festive              | 49 One               |                      |
| 18 Allow                        | 31 amount        | 34 Close-fitting jackets      | 35 Atheistic                  | 37 Island                     | 39 souvenir                   | 42 "Uncle Tom's Cabin" author | 44 "Yippee!"                  | 45 Potential prune    | 46 Santa —, Calif.    | 48 Festive              | 49 One               |                      |
| 19 Brooklyn center fielder Duke | 32 amount        | 35 Close-fitting jackets      | 36 Atheistic                  | 37 Island                     | 39 souvenir                   | 42 "Uncle Tom's Cabin" author | 44 "Yippee!"                  | 45 Potential prune    | 46 Santa —, Calif.    | 48 Festive              | 49 One               |                      |
| 21 Pismire                      | 33 amount        | 36 Close-fitting jackets      | 37 Atheistic                  | 39 Island                     | 42 "Uncle Tom's Cabin" author | 44 "Yippee!"                  | 45 Potential prune            | 46 Santa —, Calif.    | 48 Festive            | 49 One                  | 50 Ids' counterparts |                      |
| 22 Novice                       | 34 amount        | 37 Close-fitting jackets      | 39 Atheistic                  | 42 "Uncle Tom's Cabin" author | 44 "Yippee!"                  | 45 Potential prune            | 46 Santa —, Calif.            | 48 Festive            | 49 One                | 50 Ids' counterparts    |                      |                      |
| 23 Blond shade                  | 35 amount        | 39 Close-fitting jackets      | 42 "Uncle Tom's Cabin" author | 44 "Yippee!"                  | 45 Potential prune            | 46 Santa —, Calif.            | 48 Festive                    | 49 One                | 50 Ids' counterparts  |                         |                      |                      |
| 26 Earl Grey, e.g.              | 36 amount        | 42 "Uncle Tom's Cabin" author | 44 "Yippee!"                  | 45 Potential prune            | 46 Santa —, Calif.            | 48 Festive                    | 49 One                        | 50 Ids' counterparts  |                       |                         |                      |                      |
| 28 Honda model                  | 37 amount        | 44 "Yippee!"                  | 45 Potential prune            | 46 Santa —, Calif.            | 48 Festive                    | 49 One                        | 50 Ids' counterparts          |                       |                       |                         |                      |                      |
| 31 Bartlett or Bosc             | 38 amount        | 45 Potential prune            | 46 Santa —, Calif.            | 48 Festive                    | 49 One                        | 50 Ids' counterparts          |                               |                       |                       |                         |                      |                      |
| 33 Carpet                       | 39 amount        | 46 Santa —, Calif.            | 48 Festive                    | 49 One                        | 50 Ids' counterparts          |                               |                               |                       |                       |                         |                      |                      |
| 35 Congers, e.g.                | 40 amount        | 48 Festive                    | 49 One                        | 50 Ids' counterparts          |                               |                               |                               |                       |                       |                         |                      |                      |
| 36 Discussion group             | 41 amount        | 49 One                        | 50 Ids' counterparts          |                               |                               |                               |                               |                       |                       |                         |                      |                      |
| 38 Decked in the ring           | 42 amount        | 50 Ids' counterparts          |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |                       |                       |                         |                      |                      |
| 40 Marseilles monarch           | 43 amount        |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |                       |                       |                         |                      |                      |
| 41 Turns to the right           | 44 amount        |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |                       |                       |                         |                      |                      |
| 43 Lawn glistener               | 45 amount        |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |                       |                       |                         |                      |                      |
| 45 Loss' oppo                   |                  |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |                               |                       |                       |                         |                      |                      |

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**top ten**

**BOND GIRLS**

1. Ursula Andress
2. Honor Blackman
3. Diana Rigg
4. Eva Green
5. Barbara Bach
6. Famke Janssen
7. Michelle Yeoh
8. Lotte Lenya
9. Jill St. John
10. Carole Bouquet

Source: EW.com

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**TIDBITS**

**NUGGET OF KNOWLEDGE**

A program named "The Woodland Trust Christmas Card Recycling Scheme" was run in the United Kingdom (UK) from 1998 to 2011. Its purpose was to pressure the government to introduce curbside (kerb) recycling and encourage the people of the UK to recycle more. It was also to raise awareness of the need for more trees in the UK. When the "scheme" ended, more than 600 million cards had been recycled enabling the Trust to plant more than 200,000 trees.

**BELLS AND WHISTLES (continued)**

- The installation of change ringing bells at the new National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. in 1963 stoked the energy for new ringers in North America. Today The North American Change Ringers Guild, officially chartered in 1972, has more than 560 members with about 50 active bell towers in North America.
- The London-based "Ancient Society of College Youths" is one of the oldest ringing societies, started in 1637. They have members all over the world.
- While bell-ringing is an old and refined form of music, it is also popular in Christmas stories and songs that have nothing to do with classic bell tower tunes. Christmas bells are in many classic Christmas songs: "Jingle Bells," "Silver Bells," and "Christmas Bells are Ringing," are three well-known Christmas carols that have been passed down for generations.
- Santa Claus and his reindeer jingle bells as they fly through the sky. Bells are attached to the reindeer harnesses and Santa's sleigh.
- You have probably heard the saying "Every time a bell rings, an angel gets his wings". Most remember this saying from the movie "It's a Wonderful Life," but over a hundred years ago this was a very common saying.

**FAMOUS LANDMARKS OF THE WORLD: MACHU PICCHU**

One of the most intriguing ancient sites in the world sits at a high elevation in the Andean mountains of Peru in South America.

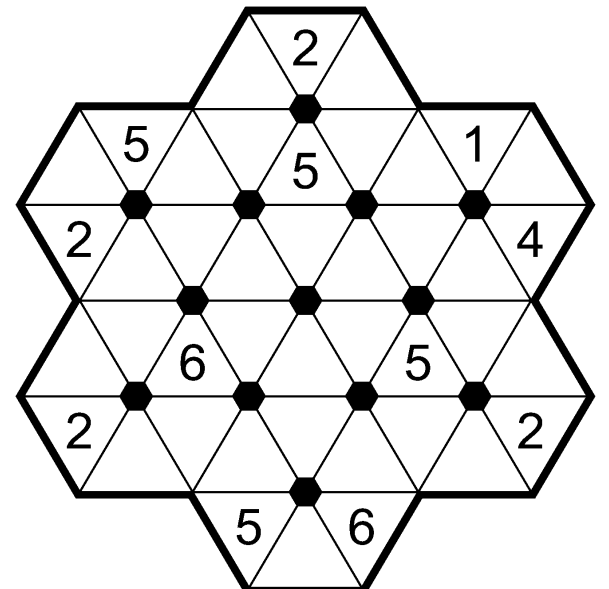
- The magnificent setting sits 9,060 feet (2,761 m) above sea level. Covering 5 square miles (12.95 sq km), Machu Picchu is the most unusual urban creation known that was built by the ancient Incan Empire. The terraces, ramps and giant walls look as if they were cut naturally in the rock escarpments but they were built by the Incans.
- Machu Picchu means "Old Peak" in the local Quechuan language. The Incas may not have been the first people to use the mountaintop site but they were the ones who turned the site into an extraordinary city.
- The ruins of the old civilization sit high in the clouds above the Urubamba River. There are remains of palaces, baths, storage rooms, temples and about 150 houses. The structures are carved from the granite of the mountain top and are architectural and aesthetic wonders. Many of the giant building blocks weigh 50 tons or more (45 metric tons +) but are fitted together in such a way as to not allow a thin knife blade to be inserted in the mortarless joints.

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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**LAFF - A - DAY**

"Your Honor, if it please the court, may we have a postponement till tomorrow? Stuck zipper."

**KIDBITS**

**Junior Whirl**  
by Hal Kaufman

**SANTA'S AMAZING GIFT LIST**

THIS IS only a game, of course, but let's suppose that Santa will make available the gifts named below to anyone who finds them in this letter maze. How many can you puzzle out?

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

**Pogs** **Books** **Ties** **Watch** **Ball** **Drum** **Belt** **Boat** **Knife**

**Paints** **Balloon** **Tenpins** **Camera** **Gloves** **Trumpet** **Skates** **Film** **Engine**

**Horse** **Pen** **Train** **Jacks** **Bat** **Oboe** **Gum** **Mug** **Sled**

Connect adjacent letters horizontally, vertically or diagonally to spell names. Perhaps you can find others.

**YULETIDE RING!** Will she or will she not get that Yuletide ring? Pick line 1, 2, 3, or 4 and trace it through.

**BORN WINNER!** Devilish Dan will wager that he was born in 1842. Take him up on his bet and you will discover it's a bet he can't lose. Why is that?  
It was the number of his hospital room.

**SUM NUMBER!** Get out your calculator for this. It seems the prime number 37 has a rather unusual characteristic. Multiply it by 3 and the result is 111. Multiply it by 6 and the result is 222. Multiply it by 9 and the result is 333.  
Now then, multiply 37 by continuing step-ups of three: 12, 15, 18, 21, 24 and 27, and see if the three-digit pattern continues, or if there's a break in the spell.  
Just for fun, indeed, see what happens when you multiply by 30.

**MACHU PICCHU (continued)**

- The ancient city is invisible from below and completely self-contained. The agriculture is and was sufficient for the residents with natural springs for drinking and crop production.
- Yale history professor, Hiram Bingham, is given credit for "discovering" Machu Picchu in 1911. In fact, the Incan people and others had already found the area! He "rediscovered" it and brought it much fame by revealing what he saw in lectures, news articles and books after his return.
- The Inca civilization is one of the ancient cultures that has been studied for centuries. Back in the time of Columbus' "discovery" of America, the Incan Empire was in control of most of South America. A mysterious culture, the Incans had phenomenal abilities in construction, agricultural, and organization that are still apparent in the high mountains of the city of Machu Picchu.
- The Incas were overthrown by the Spanish in 1532 and their culture became virtually unknown until discoveries such as Bingham's revealed much of their history years later.
- It is believed, through much of the archeological evidence, that Machu Picchu was an important ceremonial center for the Incas. In 2001, Peru's first president of Andean Indian descent, Alejandro Toledo, celebrated his inauguration at Machu Picchu.
- Even though the ancient city is not easy to get to, there are thousands of tourists who flock there every year. In fact, the Peruvian government introduced new tourist limits in 2011 to protect the historical sites.
- Train and bus rides now take tourists to the top of the mountain that is Machu Picchu today. In Bingham's time in the early 1900s mules and hiking were the only way to go. When the trails and old city were cleared of overgrown brush after years of neglect, well-constructed roads with pavement and drainage were discovered. The Incas had set up a nice system that was ahead of their time.

*continued on next page*



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**TIPBITS**

**WORD POWER**

Unscramble this word:

**G A C Y A P M N O O L**

This word means: *The science or art of bell ringing.*



**Moments  
in time**  
THE HISTORY CHANNEL

- On Dec. 13, 1621, under the care of Robert Cushman, the first American furs to be exported from the continent leave for England aboard the Fortune. During the crossing, the Fortune was captured by the French, and its valuable cargo of furs was taken. Cushman was detained on the Ile d'Dieu before being returned to England.
- On Dec. 14, 1799, George Washington, the first U.S. president, dies at age 67. Two days earlier, he rode out into a freezing sleet to survey business affairs on his estate. He returned home late for a dinner engagement and refused to take the time to change out of his wet clothes. The next day, Washington developed a severe respiratory infection and died the following day. His last words were "'Tis well."
- On Dec. 16, 1811, the greatest series of earthquakes in U.S. history begins in the Mississippi River Valley near New Madrid, Mo., when a quake of an estimated 8.6 magnitude slams the region. The earthquake raised and lowered parts of the Mississippi Valley by as much as 15 feet and changed the course of the Mississippi River.
- On Dec. 10, 1915, the one-millionth Ford car rolls off the assembly line at the River Rouge plant in Detroit. Between 1908 and 1927, Ford sold more than 15 million Model Ts in all; they initially cost \$850 (about \$20,000 in today's dollars).
- On Dec. 11, 1946, the United Nations votes to establish the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) to provide relief and support to children. Only two countries have failed to ratify the treaty -- Somalia and the United States.
- On Dec. 15, 1973, Sandy Hawley becomes the first jockey to win 500 races in a single year. Hawley achieved his historic win aboard Charlie Jr., in the third race at Maryland's Laurel Park race track.
- On Dec. 12, 1989, hotel magnate Leona Helmsley receives a four-year prison sentence, 750 hours of community service and a \$7.1 million tax fraud fine in New York. Helmsley became the object of loathing and disgust when she quipped that "only the little people pay taxes."

**TIPBITS GOES LONG.....**

Seasonal Affective Disorder or S.A.D. is commonly called the "winter blues" and is a type of depression tied to the changes in the amount of sunlight. It was formally described and named in 1984 by the National Institute of Mental Health. Geographical locations that are dark or cloudy during the winter have a higher prevalence -- Florida residents experience just a 1.4% occurrence, while New Hampshire has a 9.7% incidence.



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

**Diabetes Advice and Goals**

**DEAR DR. DONOHUE: What advice can you give to senior citizens with type 2 diabetes? -- W.S.**

ANSWER: People with either type 1 or type 2 diabetes have similar goals and are given fairly similar advice. Type 2 diabetes used to be called adult onset diabetes and often can be controlled with oral medicines and diet. Type 1 diabetes used to be called juvenile diabetes, and it requires insulin treatment. Those older designations are misleading. Many type 2 diabetics have to take insulin. People with diabetes ought to have a meter that provides the blood sugar (plasma glucose) reading. It's impossible to adjust medicine or diet without such information. The first reading in the morning, before taking food, ought to be in the range of 70 to 130 mg/dL (3.9 to 7.2 mmol/L). The blood sugar meter is not expensive, and is easy to use. In addition, hemoglobin A1C, another measure of sugar control, should be less than 7 percent. This value is obtained only a couple of times a year. Since diabetes is a risk for developing heart attacks and strokes, diabetics are obliged to control the other risks for those two common conditions. Those are blood pressure, which should be less than 140/90 and preferably under 130/80. Cholesterol ought to be lower than 200 mg/dl (5.2 mmol/L). LDL cholesterol (bad cholesterol) is best kept under 100 (2.6) and the optimum reading for triglycerides (blood fats) is now set at 100 mg/dL (1.13 mmol/L). Diabetics ought to have yearly eye exams.

Since obesity is common in type 2 diabetes and since modest weight loss (a 5 percent to 7 percent reduction in body weight) can help, calorie reduction is important. Increased activity controls blood sugar and body weight. The goal is 30 minutes of moderate exercise on most days of the week. Diabetics should get instructions in diet control from a dietitian. In general, 50 percent to 55 percent of calories come from carbohydrates, 15 percent to 20 percent from protein and 30 percent from fats. The booklet on diabetes presents this illness and its treatments in detail. Readers can obtain a copy by writing: Dr. Donohue -- No. 402W, 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: My husband was discovered to have sleep apnea. He is now on CPAP (continuous positive airway pressure) at night. The problem is that he sometimes gets up as many as 14 times a night to void. I have him on a nonprescription sleep preparation, but he still gets up. Lack of sleep makes him angry. -- L.C.**

ANSWER: You're directing your efforts in the wrong direction. His prostate gland is making him get up during the night. His gland doesn't allow his urinary bladder to completely empty. He urinates only in dribs and drabs. Medicines can enhance bladder emptying. And there are many office procedures that don't entail long surgery or long recovery that can open up his drainage system. Take your husband to a urologist.

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.

**MACHU PICCHU (continued)**

Hiking is still possible for tourists who prefer more adventure. There are many stairs at Machu Picchu; in fact, more than 100 individual staircases, many of them carved somewhat miraculously from single slabs of stone.

**CHRISTMAS CARDS**

The first Christmas cards were issued to raise awareness of people in need. In 1843, Sir Henry Cole, in England, wanted to help those living in desolate conditions.

Sir Henry was a writer of children's books, handbooks for art and design and many more ventures. He was involved in public service for more than 50 years, including assisting with the postal service.

Being a man with many personal and business friends and acquaintances, and considering that people would hand write their Christmas greetings, he felt that he didn't have time to write them. In 1843, he commissioned artist John Calcott Horsley to design a card that would depict the poor living conditions under which many lived. His idea was to raise awareness and encourage help for the poor.

Ironically, the card that Horsley made for Sir Henry Cole caused quite a stir of criticism. The happy family on the front of the card included a child sipping wine! As in today's society, this was not acceptable behavior. In spite of the inappropriateness, the Christmas card was a hit.

Neither Cole nor Horsley had any idea of the impact their Christmas cards would have on Britain, later America and even the world over. By 1880 the design and development of cards would become big business and open up opportunities for writers, artists, printers and engravers.

The first Christmas cards were not religious in nature. They usually were quite plain with depictions of animals, winter scenes, girls, dolls and more. A few had drawings of angels.

*continued on next page*

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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★★**

★ Moderate   ★★ Challenging  
★★★ HOO BOY!

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Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



**PetBits**

**DEAR PAW'S CORNER:** We're going to adopt a kitten from a litter that our neighbor's cat had. We've never had a cat before. I hear they're easy to house train. How do we do that? -- Sara in Helena, Mont.

**DEAR SARA:** Congratulations on your soon-to-be new pet! A kitten is a lifelong responsibility, so learn as much as you can before you bring the kitten home. Kittens who have reached the right age to be adopted -- at least eight weeks and preferably 12 weeks, that have been fully weaned -- should be easy to housetrain. A couple of factors might make this training take a bit longer: if the kitten is from a "barn cat" family or from a feral mother, or if the kitten has any hidden health issues. Most cats develop similar elimination habits no matter their environment. They look for a protected place with loose soil so they can bury their waste. In their distant non-domesticated past, they likely did this to stay hidden from predators. Consider purchasing a covered litter box that does not have a mechanical scooper arm -- the automated scooper action could traumatize the kitten.

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**Holidays & Observances This Week**

- 12/9 Christmas Card Day
- 12/10 Human Rights Day
- 12/11 National Noodle Ring Day
- 12/12 Poinsettia Day
- 12/13 Ice Cream Day
- 12/14 National Bouillabaisse Day
- 12/15 Bill of Rights Day

**Kitty Potty Training**  
By Samantha Mazzotta

The day your kitten comes home, show it around the house, with the new litter box as the first stop. Place the kitten into the box and let it sniff around. In the days that follow, if you see your kitten scratching the floor and/or turning in place, pick him up and place him into the litter box, using encouraging words. You may need to do this for a few days -- most cats get it pretty quickly, though. As soon as possible -- even the same day -- after getting your kitten, schedule an exam with the veterinarian. Your kitten will need to be checked for hidden diseases or parasites, general health and given required vaccinations and license. Doing so will save you tons of trouble in both house training and serious health issues.

Send your questions or comments to [ask@pawscorner.com](mailto: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).

**CHRISTMAS CARDS (continued)**

- The first appearance of Christmas cards in the United States was in 1874. Bavarian-born lithographer, Louis Prang, is often referred to as the "Father of the American Christmas card."
- Prang ran a successful printing company in Boston during the late nineteenth century, producing high quality reproductions of famous art work and greeting cards, using a technique called chromolithography. Prior to his cards, Christmas cards were rarely exchanged in America. His cards were among the first to depict religious scenes.
- U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower issued the first official Christmas card from the White House in 1953. Now, a common practice, the official White House cards are usually designed by prominent American artists and depict White House scenes. In 1961 there were just 2000 recipients of the official cards; by 2005 there were 1.4 million!
- One of the largest greeting card companies in the world, Hallmark, has done remarkably well with Christmas cards, wrapping paper, ornaments and more. All kinds of cards are made by the company started by two brothers in 1910 in Norfolk, Nebraska. They moved to Kansas City, Missouri shortly after to be near a bigger market of customers. The slogan, "when you care enough to give the very best," was adopted in 1944.
- The international headquarters for Hallmark are located at Crown Center in Kansas City. The Mayor's Christmas Tree, one of the tallest in the nation, is erected at Crown Center Square every year. The Hallmark Visitor Center is fun any time of year, with free admission. There are many great exhibits, including one where you can press a button to create a bow that you can keep as a souvenir.
- Another free Christmas goody happened a few years ago in Germany. In 2004, the German post office gave away 20 million scented stickers for Christmas cards with smells like fir trees, cinnamon, gingerbread, and more. What a "scent-sational" idea!

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**Good Housekeeping**  
Chocolate Gingerbread Cake

Baked in a decorative tree Bundt pan, this chocolate gingerbread cake spruces up holiday parties with ease.

2 cups all-purpose flour  
3/4 cup unsweetened cocoa  
1 1/2 teaspoons ground ginger  
1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder  
1/2 teaspoon baking soda  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
3/4 cup (1 1/2 sticks) butter (no substitutions), softened  
3/4 cup packed brown sugar  
3/4 cup granulated sugar  
1 tablespoon grated, peeled fresh ginger  
3 large eggs  
1/4 cup blackstrap molasses  
1 cup low-fat buttermilk  
2 cups semisweet chocolate chips  
1 tablespoon confectioners' sugar, for dusting

- Preheat oven to 325 F. Coat 12-cup decorative tree Bundt pan with nonstick baking spray.
- On sheet of waxed paper, sift together flour, cocoa, ground ginger, baking powder, baking soda and salt.
- In large bowl, with mixer on medium-high speed, beat butter and sugars until creamy. Beat in fresh ginger. Reduce speed to medium; beat in eggs, 1 at a time, then molasses, scraping bowl occasionally with rubber spatula.
- Add flour mixture alternately with buttermilk, beginning and ending with flour mixture. Beat just until combined, scraping bowl occasionally with rubber spatula. Fold in chocolate chips.
- Pour batter into prepared pan. Bake 1 hour or until toothpick inserted in center of cake comes out clean. Cool in pan on wire rack 10 minutes. Invert onto wire rack and carefully remove pan. Cool completely on wire rack.
- Before serving, dust with confectioners' sugar. Serves 12.

• Each serving: About 475 calories, 22g total fat (13g saturated), 78mg cholesterol, 225mg sodium, 70g total carbs, 4g dietary fiber, 7g protein.

