

the Local Voice™



December 14, 2023–
January 11, 2024

#433 FREE

OXFORD & OLE MISS

LOCAL NEWS
YOU CAN USE!
FOOD, DRINKS,
ARTS, EVENTS,
ENTERTAINMENT,
AND MORE INSIDE!

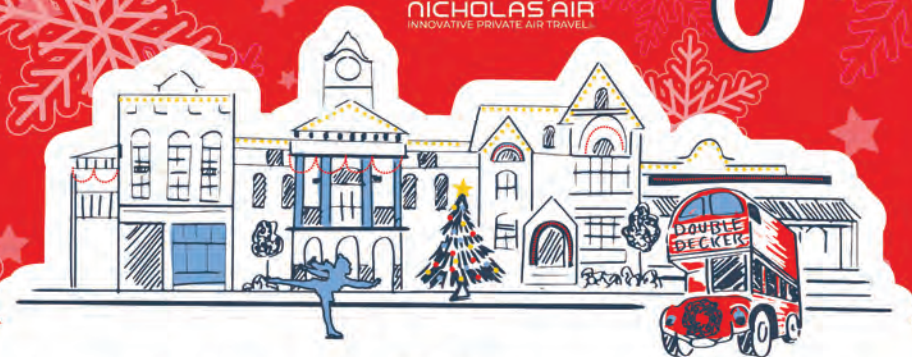


THE LOCAL VOICE™ #433 - FREE - OXFORD - OLE MISS - LAFAYETTE - MISSISSIPPI - FOOD, DRINKS, & ENTERTAINMENT - READ AT MAXIMUM VOLUME™

Holly Jolly Holidays

Presented By:

NICHOLAS AIR
INNOVATIVE PRIVATE AIR TRAVEL



NEW FOR 2023!



SCAN FOR INFO

November 18 - January 7

Ice Skating, Santa & Holiday Cheer in Oxford, Mississippi

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the Local Voice™

Issue #433 · December 14, 2023–January 11, 2024 · Read at Maximum Volume · Oxford, Ole Miss, & North Mississippi

From Saladman to Head Chef: Eric Tait is Bringing Back the Grocery Vibe

One of Oxford, Mississippi's oldest and most prominent establishments, City Grocery, has named Eric Tait its newest chef de cuisine. Once nicknamed "Saladman," Eric now mostly goes by Tait. Now it's his time to shine as he officially takes the helm in one of the most prominent kitchens in a town with a booming dining culture.

Oxford has always had an interesting and dynamic food scene, at least for the

by Nature Humphries

nearly twenty years I've lived here. When I first arrived, I quickly found myself in the middle of the glorious chaos of the Square's restaurant community. This culture remains one of my favorite things about living in Oxford—there is a sense of solidarity among industry workers that endures even as the culinary landscape changes and grows.

Diners who frequent local restaurants often build relationships with the people who work in those spaces. You may have your favorite server or hostess who always greets you by name, or a beloved bartender who recalls your usual order. But how often does the casual diner interact with the kitchen staff? Don't forget that a restaurant's success relies on a healthy collaboration between the more visible customer-facing folks and the back of the house workers who may only emerge from the heat waves of their stations when the shift is over.

Chefs can be mysterious. In a post-Food Network era of celebrity chefs elevated to rockstar status, we have come to expect big personalities in the kitchen. We imagine crisp, clean white coats adorning a no-nonsense professional with crossed arms and serious RBE. It's a familiar trope for the profession, but in my experience most chefs are not so "hard."

Chef Tait definitely doesn't come across that way (see his press photo below for a good sense of his personality). He is young, for sure—but at thirty-three he has already been working in kitchens for seventeen years. More than ten of those years have been in a leadership role.

Tait spent his early childhood in Mobile, Alabama, and eventually moved to Iuka, Mississippi, where he finished high school. He had his earliest food service experience there, first delivering pizzas for Mr. C's Pizza Company, and later working for Freddy T's at Pickwick Lake. After graduation, he moved to Oxford, which he now calls home.

A stint at Lenny's Sub Shop (RIP) preceded his arrival at Bouré, where Tait began to make connections within the restaurant group. Soon he found himself traveling alongside City Grocery founder John Currence to food and wine festivals across the country. He recalls one standout incident when he and Currence arrived at their hotel.

"We were doing the Chicago Food and Wine Festival, and Andrew Zimmern was sitting over with the Foo Fighters in the lobby ... and [John said] let's go talk to these guys real quick. I was like, oh just the most famous TV chef and the [expletive] FOO FIGHTERS!"


Besides getting to meet famous people at big events, Tait's travels with John helped him to hone his approach to all manner of details on the job, including what he refers to as the "politics." "It's all about pleasing people," Tait says.

Indeed, the Grocery is famous for the exemplary hospitality of its staff. They are known to go above and beyond in the execution of service, which is a feat many of their peers aspire to but often fall short of the high-water mark set by Currence's team.

"Chef de Cuisine" continued on page 10 →



Happy Holidays from




City

GROCERY


RESTAURANT GROUP

Founded by CHEF JOHN CURRENCE

WHERE OXFORD EATS



OXFORD MISS. SINCE 1992



City
grocery

OXFORD MISS EST 1992

Snackbar and City Grocery will be open for New Year's Eve serving coursed meals.

Reservations are strongly encouraged!

City Grocery:
662-232-8080

Snackbar:
662-236-6363




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SUNDAY FUNDAY

EVERY WEEK

SUNDAY & MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL PARTY AT THE LIBRARY



Ole Miss BASKETBALL

9-0

VS. CALIFORNIA 12/16

VS. TROY 12/19

VS. SOUTHERN MISS 12/23

VS. BRYANT 12/31

VS. TENNESSEE 1/6



Ole Miss WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

VS. SOUTH ALABAMA 12/18 VS. ARKANSAS - PINE BLUFF 12/21

VS. ALCORN STATE 12/30 VS. ALABAMA 1/4 VS. LSU 1/7



Saturday December 30 12 PM Noon



OLE MISS vs. PENN STATE



The Library is open every day for all legal hours including all Holidays. Yes, we are open on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, and New Year's Day!



WATCH ALL THE BOWL GAMES AT THE LIBRARY!



ROUNDAABOUT OXFORD™

LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT & EVENTS



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on the Square in Oxford, Mississippi

See more events at RoundaboutOxford.net

THURSDAY 12.14.2023

- Moe's: BINGO
 - Old Armory Pavilion: Ice Skating (3-8 pm)
 - Rooster's: THURSDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL
- Ford Center: Holiday Village (1-5 pm)
Lafayette County & Oxford Public Library: Adult Book Club (4:30 pm)
The Powerhouse: Biggest Baddest Art Show Reception (6-7:30 pm)
Proud Larry's: DAVIS COEN

FRIDAY 12.15.2023

- Old Armory Pavilion: Ice Skating (3-8 pm)
 - OPA: HAGGARD COLLINS (6-8:30 pm)
 - Rooster's: PINK SHEETS
- Ford Center: Holiday Village (1-5 pm)
Lafayette County & Oxford Public Library: Storytime (10:30 am)
Oxford-Lafayette County Chamber of Commerce: Small Business Seminar (11 am-12:30 pm)
The Powerhouse: Let Freedom Ring Christmas Party Fundraiser benefitting Oxford Juneteenth (7 pm)

SATURDAY 12.16.2023

- Oxford Square: SANTA RAMPAGE (starts at the Blind Pig at 6:30 pm)
 - Old Armory Pavilion: Ice Skating (11 am-8 pm);
 - Visit with Santa (2-4 pm)
 - Rooster's: MIDNIGHT SHEPHERDS
- Ford Center: Holiday Village (noon-5 pm)
Hollywood Feed: Happy Pawlidsays Adoption Event (10 am-1 pm)
King's Steakhouse: Tacky Christmas Party (9 pm)

SUNDAY 12.17.2023

- Old Armory Pavilion: Ice Skating (1-6 pm)
- Rafters Oxford: JOE AUSTIN & THE TALLAHATCHIES (11:30 am-2:30 pm)

MONDAY 12.18.2023

- The Library: Watch Ole Miss Women's Basketball vs. SOUTH ALABAMA (6 pm)
 - Old Armory Pavilion: Skating Rink is CLOSED
 - Rooster's: MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL; DJ WADE
- Blind Pig: Trivia (8 pm)
Campus Wines: Staff Pick Monday: 10% off staff pick
Kennon Observatory (University): Astronomy Open House (5-7 pm; free)
Lafayette County & Oxford Public Library: Family Storytime (6 pm)

TUESDAY 12.19.2023

- Moe's: Trivia (7 pm)
 - Old Armory Pavilion: Oxford Community Market (3-6:30 pm); Ice Skating (3-8 pm)
 - Rooster's: KARAOKE (5:30 pm); OPEN MIC NIGHT (9:30 pm)
- The Growler: Tuesday Night Chess Club (6-9 pm)
The Pavilion (University): Ole Miss Men's Basketball vs. TROY (6 pm)

WEDNESDAY 12.20.2023

- Funkys: LADIES' NIGHT
 - Moe's Penny Bar: COMEDY OPEN MIC (9 pm)
 - Old Armory Pavilion: Ice Skating (3-8 pm)
 - Rooster's: KARAOKE (5:30 pm-till)
- Campus Wines: Wine Tasting (5-7 pm)
Proud Larry's: ERIC CARLTON & FRIENDS

THURSDAY 12.21.2023

- WINTER SOLSTICE
 - The Library: Watch Ole Miss Women's Basketball vs. ARKANSAS (1 pm)
 - Moe's: BINGO
 - Old Armory Pavilion: Ice Skating (3-8 pm)
 - Rooster's: THURSDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL
- Lafayette County & Oxford Public Library: Baby playdate (9 am)
Proud Larry's: THISTLE RIDGE BAND

FRIDAY 12.22.2023

- Old Armory Pavilion: Ice Skating (3-8 pm)
 - OPA: REESE HORTON (6-8:30 pm)
- Lafayette County & Oxford Public Library: Storytime (10:30 am)
Proud Larry's: A Benefit for Le Bonheur Children's Hospital with TYLER KEITH & THE APOSTLES, WILL GRIFFITH, and MAX HIPPIE

SATURDAY 12.23.2023 FESTIVUS

- Old Armory Pavilion: Ice Skating (11 am-8 pm)
- Proud Larry's: CHARLIE MARS

SUNDAY 12.24.2023

- CHRISTMAS EVE
- Old Armory Pavilion: Skating Rink CLOSED

MONDAY 12.25.2023

- CHRISTMAS
- Old Armory Pavilion: Skating Rink CLOSED

TUESDAY 12.26.2023

- Old Armory Pavilion: Oxford Community Market (3-6:30 pm); Ice Skating (11 am-8 pm)
 - Rooster's: KARAOKE (5:30 pm); OPEN MIC NIGHT (9:30 pm)
- The Growler: Tuesday Night Chess Club (6-9 pm)

WEDNESDAY 12.27.2023

- Funkys: LADIES NIGHT
 - Moe's Penny Bar: COMEDY OPEN MIC
 - Old Armory Pavilion: Ice Skating (11 am-8 pm)
 - Rooster's: KARAOKE (5:30 pm-till)
- Campus Wines: Wine Tasting (5-7 pm)

THURSDAY 12.28.2023

- Old Armory Pavilion: Ice Skating (11 am-8 pm)
- Rooster's: THURSDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL

FRIDAY 12.29.2023

- Old Armory Pavilion: Ice Skating (11 am-8 pm)
 - OPA: OPIE (6-8:30 pm)
- Lafayette County & Oxford Public Library: Storytime (10:30 am)

SATURDAY 12.30.2023

OLE MISS FOOTBALL vs. PENN STATE (noon) in the Peach Bowl

- The Library: Peach Bowl (noon); Ole Miss Women's Basketball vs. ALCORN STATE (3 pm)
 - Old Armory Pavilion: Ice Skating (11 am-8 pm)
- The Pavilion (University): Ole Miss Women's Basketball vs. ALCORN STATE (3 pm)

SUNDAY 12.31.2023

- NEW YEAR'S EVE
 - City Grocery: New Year's Eve Dinner (reservations: citygroceryonline.com)
 - Funkys: OLDIES NIGHT Champagne toast at midnight
 - Old Armory Pavilion: Ice Skating (1-6 pm)
 - Rafters Oxford: Brunch music with ROCKET 88 (11:30 am-2:30 pm)
 - Rooster's: PHARMTRUCK
 - Snackbar: New Year's Eve Dinner (reservations: citygroceryonline.com)
 - SoLa: NYE Brunch (reservations: 662-238-3500)
- The Pavilion (University): Ole Miss Men's Basketball vs. BRYANT (3 pm)
The Powerhouse: CASAblanca New Year's Eve Gala (7:30 pm; ticketed event)

TUESDAY 1.02.2024

- Old Armory Pavilion: Oxford Community Market (3-6:30 pm); Ice Skating (3-8 pm)

THURSDAY 1.04.2024

- The Library: Watch Ole Miss Women's Basketball vs. ALABAMA (6 pm)
- Moe's: BINGO (7 pm)
- Rooster's: THURSDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL

FRIDAY 1.05.2023

- OPA: OPIE (6-8:30 pm)

SUNDAY 1.07.2023

- The Library: Watch Ole Miss Women's Basketball vs. LSU (2 pm)
- Rafters Oxford: JOE AUSTIN & THE TALLAHATCHIES (11:30 am-2:30 pm)



**SQUARE BOOKS
HOLIDAY HOURS**

Christmas Eve

Square Books • 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Square Books Jr. • 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Off Square Books • 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Rare Square Books • CLOSED

Christmas Day

All stores are closed.

December 26th

All stores resume their regular hours.



New Year's Day

Square Books • 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Square Books Jr. • CLOSED
Off Square Books • CLOSED
Rare Square Books • CLOSED

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MON-FRI OPEN 5 PM-TIL
SATURDAY 11 AM-TIL
SUNDAY 10:45 AM-3 PM
CLOSED THU DEC 21-WED DEC 27

**YOUR HEADQUARTERS
TO WATCH
OLE MISS BASKETBALL**

**SEC OPENING GAME
5 PM SAT JAN 6
OLE MISS VS. TENNESSEE**

Go Rebels!

SUNDAY BRUNCH: 10:45-3 PM
Famous *Bloody Marys*
\$3 Mimosas plus live music 11:30-2:30
12/17 JOE AUSTIN 12/31 ROCKET 88

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"THE MAD HATTER"



New Year's Eve Weekend

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 30:
PEACH BOWL WATCH PARTY!
NOON OLE MISS VS. PENN STATE**
**SUNDAY DECEMBER 31:
NEW YEAR'S EVE**

Open for **SUNDAY BRUNCH** 10:45 am
with live music by **ROCKET 88**

NYE PARTY 5 PM-TIL...
MUSIC BY DJ DRUMM
Ring in the new year at Rafters!

NEW YEAR'S DAY
Rafters is open Noon-Til for the Bowl Games



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SUN 11 am-9 pm **BAR OPEN TIL...**
OPEN CHRISTMAS EVE TIL 4 PM
CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY MONDAY, DEC 25
OPEN REGULAR HOURS NEW YEAR'S EVE
CLOSED NEW YEAR'S DAY MONDAY, JAN 1

Live Music 6-8:30 pm
Friday DEC 15 Haggard Collins
Friday DEC 22 Reese Horton
Friday DEC 29 Opie
Friday JAN 5 Rheagan Skelton





WORDS FOUND IN
"SEASON'S GREETINGS"

TV King Crossword

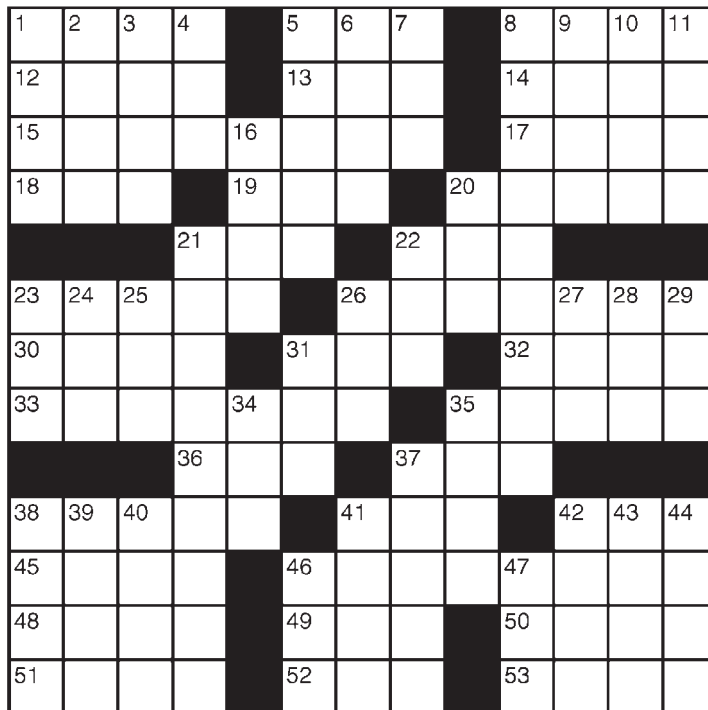
ACROSS

- 1 North --
- 5 Green prefix
- 8 Oodles
- 12 Writer Kingsley
- 13 As well
- 14 Capri, e.g.
- 15 Souvenir seller
- 17 Move like a butterfly
- 18 Tours season
- 19 Snaky fish
- 20 Ceases
- 21 Solidify
- 22 Twitch
- 23 Shroud city
- 26 He can hold his head high
- 30 "Dream on!"
- 31 Zero-star review
- 32 Santa's runway
- 33 Old English Sheepdog feature
- 35 Skilled
- 36 Tramcar contents
- 37 "-- the season"
- 38 Poker ploy
- 41 Fish propeller
- 42 Spa sounds
- 45 Protracted
- 46 Decorative paper
- 48 "There!"
- 49 Santa's helper
- 50 Penne -- Vodka
- 51 Uppity one
- 52 Ambulance initials
- 53 Lunch hour

DOWN

- 1 Leaf
- 2 Skip
- 3 Biography
- 4 Ballpark fig.
- 5 Lucy's pal
- 6 "Neato!"
- 7 "Alley --"
- 8 Prepaid stocking stuffers
- 9 Capital on a fjord
- 10 Radar image
- 11 Collections
- 16 Beheld
- 20 -- Lancelot

- 21 Eloquent person's talent
- 22 Can metal
- 23 Indent key
- 24 GI entertainers
- 25 Tease
- 26 Cowboy's sweetie
- 27 Nemesis
- 28 Dandy guy
- 29 Newt
- 31 Bakery purchase
- 34 Canine cry
- 35 "-- Misbehavin' "
- 37 Squabbles
- 38 Diner orders
- 39 Cash
- advance
- 40 Loosen
- 41 Motion picture
- 42 Folksinger Guthrie
- 43 Saintly ring
- 44 Bridge
- 46 "My word!"
- 47 Pallid



MAGIC MAZE

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
Unlisted clue hint: AN AFTERNOON NAP

- Agreeing
- Eating
- Generations
- Grannies
- Grins
- Oneness
- Oranges
- Roasting
- Seniors
- Singers
- Singsong
- Stars
- Tangerines
- Teens
- Tree

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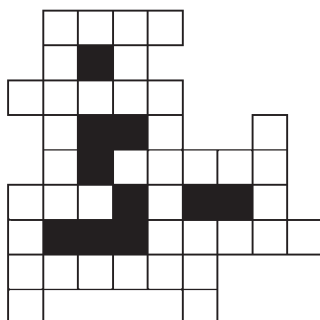


FEAR KNIGHT

By: rj johnson

DOUBT? ... OR DARE!

- HET
- NECTIE
- TERIA
- INRE
- HASGRI
- ♥GLE
- ♥IETD
- ♥ELTSS
- ♥ATR
- EGERDE
- LENCO
- ♥AGTO



Unscramble these twelve letter strings to form each into an ordinary word (ex. HAGNEC becomes CHANGE). Prepare to use only ONE word from any marked (♥) letter string as each unscrambles into more than one word (ex. ♥RATHE becomes HATER or EARTH or HEART). Fit each string's word either across or down to knot all twelve strings together.

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5 8 6 4 3 6 5 4 5 4 5 7 3
N H F D B R I I G S H Y E
4 6 7 5 8 3 6 7 6 8 2 3 6
P I O T E P E U N A B E D
7 6 8 3 4 8 4 7 4 8 5 6 5
H S L R E T L A I H T V I
8 5 6 2 5 8 5 2 5 7 3 8 5
H M I E E I F C U V S G N
3 7 2 7 6 7 8 7 6 8 7 8 3
I E A O S P H T I L I I S
7 8 2 8 4 6 3 7 4 7 4 2 3
O G U H L T T N L S U T E
2 4 2 4 8 4 3 2 4 8 2 3 8
I S O I T O N U N E S T D

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.



the Local Voice PUZZLE PLAYGROUND

SUDOKU

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

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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- ACROSS**
- 1 Picked instrument
 - 6 Type of small grocery store
 - 12 Bobby light source
 - 20 Viva voce
 - 21 Spoil, as "my parade"
 - 22 Roast joke
 - 23 Like baggy clothes
 - 25 Winter wreath ornament
 - 26 Gave away temporarily
 - 27 Money, informally
 - 29 Jagger of the Stones
 - 30 "Raggedy" doll
 - 31 Monty Python tune about a logger
 - 37 Addams who created Morticia
 - 40 Quick attack
 - 41 Cover girl Macpherson
 - 42 "— gratia" ("by the grace of God")
 - 43 Dwell in the company of
 - 46 Outer: Prefix
 - 47 "— the Night" (2007 Joaquin Phoenix film)
 - 49 Had to admit a goof-up
 - 50 "Behold!" to Caesar
 - 53 Totally bummed out
 - 55 Stuff in a sty
 - 56 Avian hooters
 - 58 Texas banner
 - 61 Big twitch
 - 63 Safari sight
 - 65 Envoy's asset
 - 66 "There — comparison"
 - 67 Chinese black tea with a smoky flavor
 - 72 Anita of jazz
 - 75 Env. notice
 - 76 Estrada of TV
 - 77 Ones staring
 - 81 Best Actress winner for "The Farmer's Daughter"
 - 84 Grammy winner Bareilles
 - 87 "And how!"
 - 88 German city on the Elbe
 - 89 With 115-Down, "Piece of cake!"
 - 91 Web page
 - 93 Slacks
 - 94 Extra charge
 - 96 Pea-souper in England
 - 98 Anticavity gp.
 - 99 Supreme Norse god
 - 101 "I love you," to Luisa
 - 103 Jane in an 1847 novel
 - 104 Go bankrupt, say
 - 108 Del.-to-Vt. direction
 - 110 Bakery treats
 - 111 Snootiness
 - 112 Noisy tigers
 - 116 Cite famous people as friends
 - 120 Method for calculating a quotient ... or what occurs eight times in this puzzle?
 - 123 Accepted, as conditions
 - 124 Made flush
 - 125 Maggot, e.g.
 - 126 Sailor's dining place
 - 127 Shows as an "encore"
 - 128 Clifflike
- DOWN**
- 1 Tennis need
 - 2 Skin soother
 - 3 Lunch hour
 - 4 "Be right there"
 - 5 Classic theater
 - 6 Liverpool or Leeds native
 - 7 Horse bit
 - 8 Morse bit
 - 9 Conundrum
 - 10 Of yore
 - 11 Trig measure
 - 12 Slice (off)
 - 13 Zoo attraction
 - 14 Gondola city
 - 15 Smart — (cocky sort)
 - 16 Guitar riffs
 - 17 Year, in Brazil
 - 18 Roughly half of all adults
 - 19 Beginning to mature?
 - 24 Amusement
 - 28 Frightful dino
 - 31 Chilling Chaney
 - 32 Strong desire
 - 33 "Selena" actress, to her fans
 - 34 Nonalcoholic beer brand
 - 35 Georgia city near Atlanta
 - 36 Ornamental street tree
 - 37 Bivalve mollusks
 - 38 Ask for moola
 - 39 Brand of skin care and cosmetics
 - 40 Turkey, e.g.
 - 44 Pleasant odor
 - 45 Do some yard maintenance
 - 46 Poet's twilight
 - 47 Major battle
 - 48 Crude model of a despised person
 - 51 Choke up
 - 52 Give the OK
 - 53 Strong desire
 - 54 Big mil. alliance
 - 57 Dull, dark bluish-gray
 - 59 Decorative sewing case
 - 60 Burlap bags
 - 62 Most cunning
 - 64 — uncertain terms
 - 68 Pricy liver spread
 - 69 Superhero creator Lee
 - 70 Agcys., e.g.
 - 71 "Nifty!"
 - 72 Chum from way back
 - 73 El — (treasure city)
 - 74 Vying venues
 - 78 Uplift
 - 79 Whirlybird blade
 - 80 Drawn-out battle
 - 82 Six-pt. scores
 - 83 Driver's 180
 - 85 Year, to Caesar
 - 86 Garnet, e.g.
 - 90 Ladd of "Shane"
 - 92 Shows lip-curling contempt
 - 94 Holiday tree
 - 95 "Orinoco Flow" vocalist
 - 97 Texter's "I'm shocked!"
 - 99 Carry to excess
 - 100 Spanish explorer Hernando
 - 101 Grew vigorously, old-style
 - 102 Former Disney exec Michael
 - 105 Sword types
 - 106 Duck type
 - 107 Mosaic maker
 - 108 Autumn mo.
 - 109 Manicurists file them
 - 112 Divests (of)
 - 113 Ireland, in Ireland
 - 114 Be a drifter
 - 115 See
 - 116 "Rambo" setting, briefly
 - 117 Era or eon
 - 118 "— Doubtfire"
 - 119 Fluffy lap dog, for short
 - 121 Safari sight
 - 122 Safari sight

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	11		12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19		
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116	117	118							119				120		121	122						
123												124						125				
126												127										128



Late Fall by Doll Russell

I sink into darkness around the time of fall
 My body responds with slower metabolism (hibernation mode)
 All I do is eat and sleep, eat and sleep
 Clouds have taken away the sun and there is no light
 Except when I open the refrigerator door
 I stand soaking in the light and stuffing my face with anything I can find
 As my girth grows so does my dark mood
 And I wallow in my failures and go to sleep
 I dream of sunny days
 When the warmth of the sun shined on me
 Inspiration filled my mind with poetry and
 Excitement for a new flower or vegetable in my little garden
 I could wait to eat because eating was second, even third
 To experiencing the fascinating world outside
 A new rose, a red tomato, a green jalapeno
 And plucking lime green worms from my tomato plants
 The hundreds, if not thousands of 13-year locusts
 That climbed up from the ground
 Crawling onto every plant, tree or post that stuck out of the ground
 Their red bug-eyes and wet wings and bodies warming in the sun
 Waiting to fly off, if only my dog, KT, didn't eat them first
 Those days when inspirations came like whispers on the wind
 Tickling my mind with such joy in the sun
 Waking from the dream, there is still no sun
 A cold wind blows across the fields
 I look out the window and the pond is visible now
 I can see it since the leaves have dropped from the trees
 This view is a reason we bought this house
 It is magnificent
 The ducks fly over and land on the pond
 They paddle around it in the evening light
 And I watch as the clouds that cross the sky
 Catch the light of the unseen setting sun
 The colors are pink, orange, and dark blue-gray
 Then a silver sliver of moon appears high in the sky
 And I find myself in awe at the beauty of this painting
 But then night falls
 Darkness is here again but it comes with an expectation
 To see the scene tomorrow so that I can go on
 Into the darkness
 Even into winter
 Even into dark
 Dark even into
 Into dark even
 Into
 Dark
 Even into dark 🍷

Peace on Earth, Goodwill to All?

The Palestinian terrorist group, Hamas (Islamic Resistance Movement) is fighting to eradicate Israel and her people.

Many have compared their war to 9-11, in which 2,977 were killed and thousands of others injured. As of December 11, 2023 the death toll in Israel has topped 17,000, with 47 percent being under the age of eighteen. Entire families have been kidnapped and tortured in the caves of Gaza. Many have been murdered, including children. Even though many hostages have been released, it will take a different kind of release for them to ever heal from the atrocities that have been unleashed upon them, if they can heal at all. All of this amidst a season dedicated to love and hope and healing, brotherhood and sisterhood. Go figure.

In the Hebrew scriptures Psalm 34:14 says, "Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it." (ESV) I see very little seeking and pursuing of peace in this warring. Yes, hostages have been released under a negotiated temporary ceasefire, but the goal of Hamas and Israel is still to wipe out each other.

"They have treated my people's brokenness superficially, claiming, 'Peace, peace,' when there is no peace." (Jeremiah 6:14, CSB)

Here in the United States, antisemitism has reared its ugly head on college campuses, leading to the resignation of the president of the University of Pennsylvania, Liz Magill, for the lack of decisive action to stop the antisemitism on campus. Two other university president's jobs hang in the balance.

According to Hebrew scripture, Israel's beginnings can be traced back beyond 1000 BC and Abraham and his sons Isaac (Judaism) and Ishmael (Islam). For centuries the kingdom of Israel was invaded and destroyed by the Assyrians, Babylonians, Persians, Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Fatimids, Seljuk Turks, Crusaders, Egyptians, Mamelukes, Islamists, and others. To say that Israel is war-torn and war-weary is in no way hyperbolic. (To be fair, Israel has committed atrocities itself.)

Following these wars Israel was ruled by the Ottoman Empire for four hundred years, changing dramatically during World War I. Since then Israel has faced unrest and persecution

through the Zionism Movement, the Nazi reign, and the Holocaust. In 1948 there was the Arab-Israeli War, the Suez Crisis (1956), the Six-Day War (1967), the Yom Kippur War (1973), the Lebanon War (1982), the First (1987) and Second (2000) Palestinian Intifadas, and the Hamas Wars (2006–2023).

The Middle East is not only the cradle of civilization, it is the cradle of the most of the world's major religions.

This makes it even more tragic—that followers of these faiths appear to do more destruction and decimation than unification and peace.

Many have read or heard of the World War I Christmas Truce of 1914, when for a few hours on the Western Front, German and Allied forces laid down their weapons and exchanged the singing of Christmas hymns and carols. It wasn't a lasting peace, rather a respite from killing and a moment of hope and grace.

I wonder, what would have to happen for there to be a Christmas Truce of 2023 that actually became a lasting peace? It would take a miracle. But the seasons of Chanukah and Christmas are all about miracles!

We all have our wars to fight. Some are internal, some external. We fight within ourselves to do no evil, rather good. We fight with others over greed, differing opinions, and, sadly, over our differences in color, nationality, gender, sexual orientation, and even our various faiths. What can any of us do to change this? We can do a lot. Most of it falls under the umbrella of acts of love, kindness, and compassion and doesn't take a gargantuan amount of effort.

Particularly in a day and time when anti-Semitism is on the rise and racial tensions are ever present, we need love, kindness, and compassion more than ever. So go the extra mile. Give another smile. Say, "Thank you," more often, give more hugs, stand up for and stand by the oppressed, go hunting for good will, live with an open heart, and live with open hands.

...and that's the View from The Balcony.

Randy Weeks is a Licensed Professional Counselor, a Certified Shamanic Life Coach, an ordained minister, a singer-songwriter, and an actor. Randy may be reached at randallweeks@gmail.com. Happy Holidays To All! 🍷



“Stairway to Something” by Jenna Mason

Until I was on crutches, I'd never paid attention to the fact that Oxford's two best bars are sanctioned off by stairs. Perhaps I would have if I'd had a disability, or if I wore heels like most Oxford women, their pedicured toes peeking out of precarious stilettos. But I live in flip flops February to November, which is how I ended up on crutches to begin with. I'd slipped in a crosswalk after a hasty rainstorm had doused the Oxford Square in July, 2019.

Three days after an orthopedic surgeon reconstructed my kneecap, I painstakingly ascended the stairs to the City Grocery bar. I needed to prove to myself that things would eventually get back to normal, and normal meant meeting the same two friends on that balcony every Thursday afternoon for happy hour.

It's fitting that one has to hike up a flight of stairs to reach the City Grocery bar. To blend in with the regulars there—lawyers, professors, accomplished writers, successful real estate agents—is an accomplishment in itself. They've climbed their way up, and they matter. I've penned a couple opinion pieces that some of them have read and respected, but I'm typically the lone patron that also waits tables. The day a local artist introduced me as a “writer” to someone there, I nearly choked on my wine.

I'm not the first to marvel at the magic of this bar and this balcony. A smattering of golden nameplates dot the bar, denoting

longtime patrons and their standard drink order. It's an elite honor, and uniquely Oxonian. No one who dares ask for a nameplate will ever get one. The first rule of the nameplates is: You do not talk about the nameplates.

When I want to feel detached and clever and respected, City Grocery is where I go. I'm smart enough to hang with the lawyers and professors as they talk politics and roll eyes at folks who don't share their stances. I'm dumb enough to banter with the bar manager over the Saints and the Falcons, knowing my team is the one that will always suck. I'm neurotic enough to philosophize with a fellow regular over the meaning of life and love.

At least, I used to be those things.

During the six-month recovery from my injury, I floundered magnificently. Medication made my brain murky and stunted my sleep. I was broke because I couldn't wait tables and depressed because I couldn't do much else either. That symbolic hike up the City Grocery stairs seemed puerile as I watched “normal” slip further off in the distance.

Laundry and dishes piled up in my new place, and late freelance assignments piled up on my laptop. Most nights I fed my children cheap pizza or cheaper ramen noodles.

And I drank. A lot.

I didn't have the energy to don any of the masks that had kept me comfortable at City, so I increasingly took my drinking across the Square to the Blind Pig. The way down is a lot easier than the way up.

The Blind Pig is the rec room of Oxford's downtown service workers. The chalkboard marquee on the sidewalk whispers, “Welcome to the Basement of Dreams.” Its staircase tunnels beneath a boutique that sells wispy strips of tissue for young college girls to wear out on the town. When they aren't on the clock, industry folks retreat to the cavernous space below to play pool, throw darts, and catch up over Jameson shots and PBR tallboys. Political pontificating and philosophical posturing are more entertainment than any kind of shibboleth. No mask is required.

For years, I'd stopped into the Pig for a beer after busy night shifts at Saint Leo. Once I could drive again, I started showing up earlier in the afternoons, antsy to get out of the house in which I'd been stuck for two months. I'd order a shot and a beer and

hook my laptop up to the secret outlet on the underside of the bar so I could try to be productive a while longer.

The Pig was the only place I ordered Jameson. It's the standard industry shot around here, though we older folks generally just sip ours. After a week or so of my new routine, the day bartender would preemptively pour my Jamo while I crept down the steps, clutching the handrail and a single crutch. When I told him I was giving up whiskey for Lent, he started waiting until I sat down to ask, “Whatcha havin' today, Jen?”

Five days later, I answered, “Eh, gimme a Jameson” and followed my order with some bullshit about Sundays always being Feast Days even during Lent, which is technically orthodox, but in this case was just convenient. The bartender just smiled some good-natured something about going easy on ourselves sometimes.

Spending afternoons at the Pig brought a new cast of characters into my drinking life, friends whose lives more closely aligned with my own. When it was slow, servers and bartenders would cluster down by the POS, drifting in and out of the side door to take smoke breaks in the alley. The night bartender would ask about my kids, reminding me if I ever needed anything, *anything*, she loved kids and she'd totally be happy to babysit or pick them up from the library or even run by the grocery store for me. Whatever I needed.


She'd started assuring me of this the first time I clambered down on crutches, but she said the same to the other single moms who would stop by during her shift. One bartended opposite shifts at the Pig, and the other served around the corner at Bouré. We dubbed ourselves “Team Badass Mom,” even though we all felt like failures. We'd take turns reminding each other that “bad moms don't worry they're a bad mom” and each try our damndest to believe it.

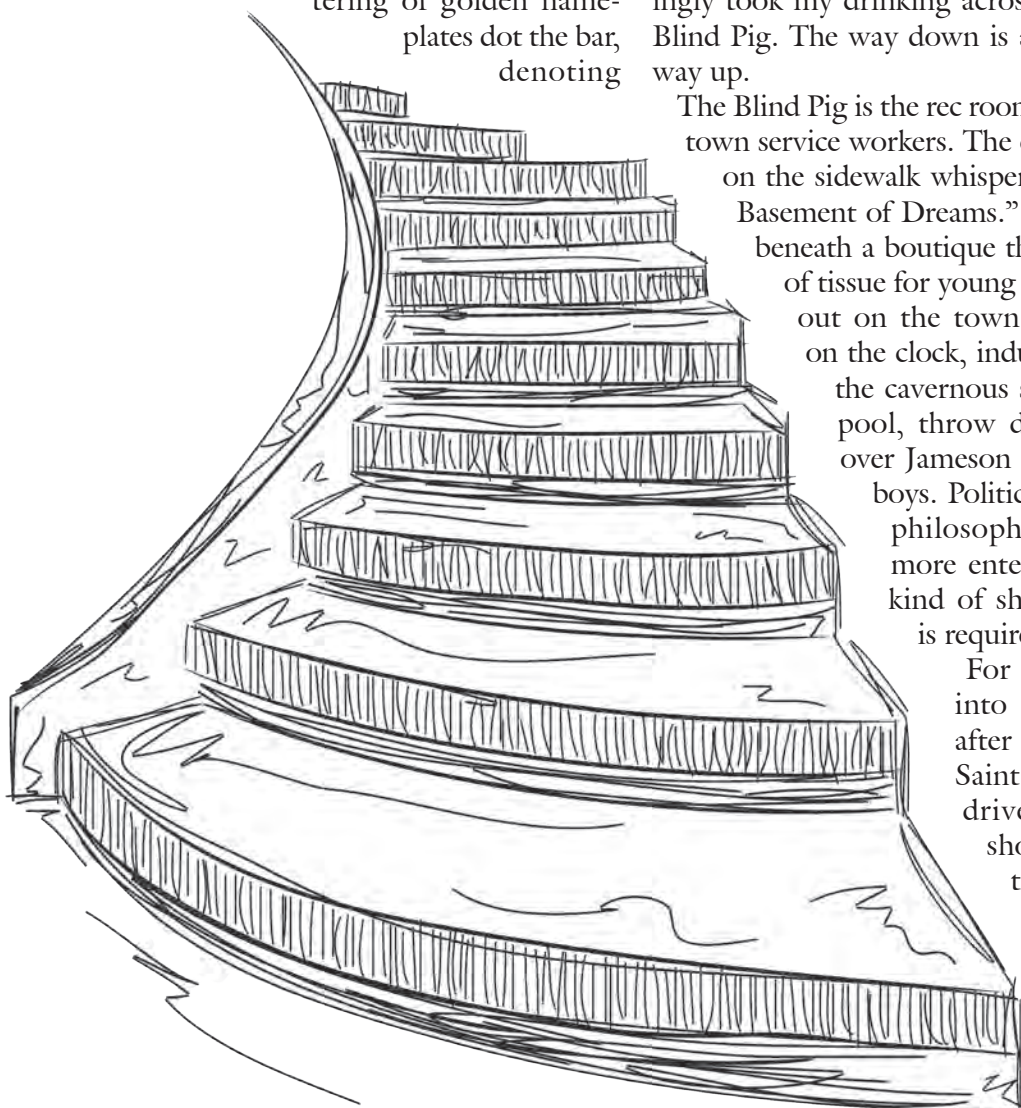
If I lingered much longer, a new crowd of servers and cooks would filter in, fresh off their day shifts. Around 7:30 or 8 pm, each of us would have to decide whether to call it or to double down after checking that we had enough in the bank to Uber ourselves home.

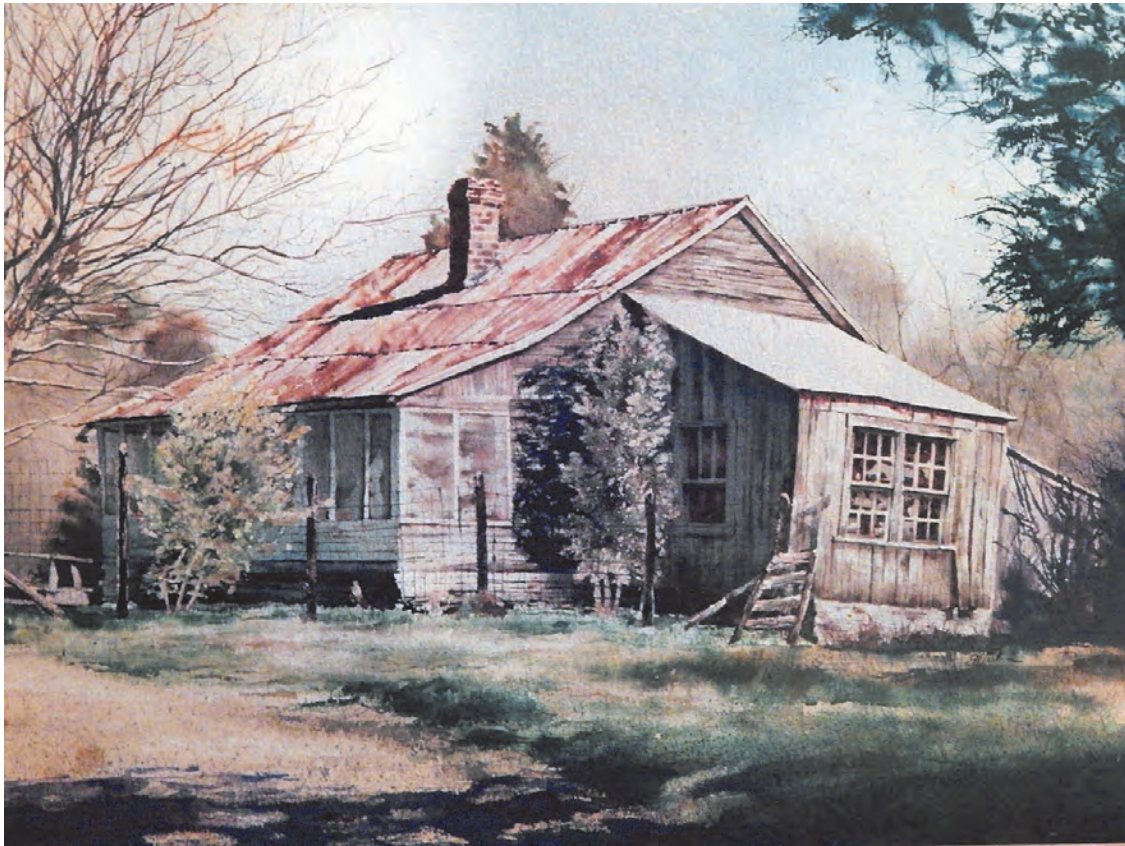
As long as I stuck to crappy beer after the first Jameson or two, happy hour at the Pig would be a brief and welcome escape. If not, I'd likely end up crying on a friend's shoulder in the alley before the night was over. I might flip off an ex who infiltrated my safe space with a pretty young blonde beside him.

That only happened once, right at the bottom of the staircase. It's why I gave up whiskey for Lent.

Or tried to, anyway. The way down is a lot easier than the way up.

Jenna Mason is a freelance writer and editor in Oxford, Mississippi. She can be reached at shoelessjennamason@gmail.com. 





REMEMBRANCE
by Stephen Humphries

When I was a boy my grandmother told me I was just born an old man. Of course grandmothers don't lie, so I knew it had to be true, but I didn't understand it then. Now, a grown man - at seventy, even an old man - though not yet having achieved my grandmother's wisdom, I still don't know what she meant or why she said it. Maybe she said it because I've always liked old things - drafty old houses, decrepit barns, silent dusty churches, and cemeteries in the dead of winter. I like musty old books, records that go round and round on a record player, and old TV shows that held true to the verities of love and honor, sacrifice and duty, where the good guy always wins, but only after learning a lesson. I like doing many things the old way - pouring cornbread batter into bacon grease sizzling in a cast iron skillet, hand cranking a freezer of fresh peach ice cream, fishing for bream or perch from the pond bank with a cane pole. I sit surrounded by modern inventions - a computer, a laptop, a tablet (definitely NOT my grandmother's letter writing tablet), a cell phone - all waiting to record my thoughts as ones and zeroes on unimaginably small transistors. I prefer my fountain pen. It may stain my fingers with ink, but it connects them to the paper (itself an ancient invention), paper that then touches someone else's hands.

I like remembering. I can't help but wonder if - even hope that - by remembering we are remembered, that remembering solidifies the fluid past. I wanted to say that remembering keeps the past alive, but even educated Yankees know Faulkner's words: *The past is never dead. It's not even past.* For them and perhaps many others those words represent an interesting intellectual exercise, but Southerners, especially Mississippians, know those words to be true. We know that behind the shimmer of an August afternoon, all that was still is, that beneath autumn's leaves and winter's frost, the past awaits, unsummoned, ready to burst forth. It's not so much remembering in fresh growth when spring comes.

Some people say that I remember too much, that I live too much in the past. To them I quote the words of another poet, not a decadent Southern gentleman but a New York Jew. *Preserve your memories. They're all that's left you.* 📺

"Peace on Earth" a song by Kyle Kite

when i was a kid i lived in the suburbs
i thought tv was actual life
i dreamed of a laugh-track kinda future
where everything wrapped up clean and nice

and there was peace on earth
peace on earth
peace on earth

with every little heartbreak i collected
the picture got static-y and hard to see
there's a quiet kind of bitterness in disappointment
it makes you forget that you forgot to believe

in peace on earth
peace on earth
peace on earth

a cynical voice screams like a siren
in every grave and news headline
it says, "justice is a joke and we're all the punchline
and only a fool falls for the lie

of peace on earth
peace on earth
peace on earth"

i've grown too old for cynicism
and cheap answers on tv
but when i was a kid i was on to something
and i've still got two hands and this foolish dream

of peace on earth
peace on earth
(working for) peace on earth

peace on earth
(fighting for) peace on earth
(dreaming of) peace on earth



Walt Wheat

5h · 🌐

Attention any and all you "It's not Christmas until Bruce Willis blablablas Takanomi Tower (or Plaza or whatever the hell it is)" douche clowns....ANY of the rest of us could just as easily say "It's not Christmas until Tom Hanks knocks out his rotten tooth with a rock and an ice skate blade in a cave on an uncharted island somewhere in the Pacific Ocean". If his character's calculations were correct it was very likely Christmas Eve when he did that. Secondly there are at least Christmas/Nativity-like themes in Castaway. He used his knowledge of astronomy to find salvation just like the 3 Kings used theirs to follow "Yonder Star" to Baby Jesus in Bethlehem. Thirdly, when he woke up there were "Christmas gifts" all over the beach. Fourthly, next time you see him he's lean and mean because he started a diet and exercise program after New Years like we all do. Granted he had no choice which is why he was successful. Hell you could even say it's a Thanksgiving movie too!! His plane went down the day after Thanksgiving and he found himself in a new world to claim for his own and didn't even have to wipe out the indigenous population to do so!! Bruce Willis just shoots a bunch of Krauts at a Christmas party gone north. Get the f&@k outta here with "Die Hard is a Christmas movie".
[#castawayIsaChristmasmovie](#)

Chef de Cuisine ...continued from page one

Tait likes to run his kitchens with a sense of silliness and camaraderie. The kitchen environment can be overwhelming, with the sweltering atmosphere next to a sizzling grill, the bodies bustling to and fro; the back of the house is no place for timid souls. But it doesn't have to be grim or tedious. A fast-paced kitchen will thrive with the right leadership. Tait manages to keep morale high while holding the chaos at a controllable level for successful service. Tait's team benefits from his youthful enthusiasm, which is backed up by a strong work ethic and the heightened level of adulting required to raise his young son, Brady.


John Currence recalls watching Tait essentially grow up in the restaurant group. "Our relationship goes back, gosh, almost twenty years to when he first came to Bouré. Eric was a kid, and Eric acted like a kid, and then he grew up into a young adult who still wanted to be a kid," said Currence. But after a break from City Grocery Restaurant Group, armed with the maturity and perspective gained from fatherhood and life experience, Tait returned to City asking for a second chance.

"When he came back on board, he was the backbone of ... the restaurant," Currence said. "It was very easy for me to see, and he has done nothing except impress me and everyone around him with his dedication and ability."

The Grocery has been through many eras in its thirty-plus years of service. A testament to that longevity is the loyalty of so many of the staff who have been with the restaurant for ten or even twenty years, which is generally unheard of in the high turnover culture of restaurants. When I asked Tait why he thought people stay at the Grocery for so long, he said "When you cook, sometimes you have a mother—the mother sauce, something left over from the batch before. Then you always save a little bit, and it keeps that flavor, the essence of this is what you don't want to lose. There's always been a little bit of mother personality [here]."

It is a thread that carries through over time. As people come and go, they leave their marks on the history of a place. It's up to the next generation to honor and continue that tradition while remaining true to their own role in the story. Regardless of the inevitable menu changes, you will always be able to get the famous shrimp and grits if you want it, and you will always walk away from a City Grocery experience feeling that authenticity.

One aspect of Tait's approach in the kitchen is what John calls the "humble nature of his food." City Grocery has long held a reputation for being a place for special occasions, somewhere to go for celebrations and elegant dates and an extraordinary dining experience. And while the Grocery is still that place, it is also becoming more of a neighborhood restaurant where friends can have a fun, relaxing lunch or enjoy a sophisticated dinner on any given night. Currence says he has always aimed for the Grocery to serve food that is approachable—quality-driven but recognizable—rather than over-reaching and trendy. This love for the craft shines through in Tait's approach to cooking and his eagerness to learn and grow.

"He's cooking from his heart," said Currence. "I think people who are into food love to be able to connect with the person who is cooking for them." 



Eric Tait. Photo by Newt Rayburn.



The Local Voice Editor Nature Humphries and City Grocery Chef de Cuisine Eric Tait at the Grocery's upstairs bar.

The following is a selection from a forthcoming collection of writing by people incarcerated in Mississippi. It has been edited sparingly for clarity.

CONTENT WARNING: SELF-HARM.

Prison Through the Holidays by Anthony Wilson

During the holidays here in prison my mind is a battle field within itself. Worry and stress fills it about loved ones and friends and how they are doing during these holiday times. What they eating and all joy and happiness that fills their hearts and homes. I sit here in a state prison unit in a high-risk lock down zone. All this one-man cell has to offer is 4 solid walls closing in slowly. It is a special tray we get for Thanksgiving.

Turkey, Dressing, Peacan Pie. Good it was. Wait year around for holidays to come just for the special tray we get.

Writing home some few weeks before the holidays I didn't receive a letter back. Mom never received it by a month later when I called home and video chatted her and my brother so I guess I can't blame them huh. It just prison during the on and off shifts of the holidays I guess.

It is slow time of year. Especially for the guys who family isn't there anymore.

Those time of year hurts inside. I'm an anti social person who doesn't trust many people at all any more so their really nobody to talk to about feelings and how stuff bothers me in here. This year the holidays represents a year since my 13-year-old son, 12 at the time tried to commit suicide, the girl I was trying to build a relationship with decided to do some things I wish she would not have allowed to happen, I guess. I'm a better man today after seeing a hidden enemy could prevail and turn away ones who are without ever letting me know reasons or chance for explanation.

Couple months after all these, I laid a razor to my own throat for first time in my life, just ain't have the heart to end it and admit defeat to life and those against me. They may be hard but holding on to me own righteousness thru won my blessings in store.

It's the first year my oldest brother, whom is handicap, was in a state group home.

After 40 years he had to be taking away for my own sisters greed of money from my [money] who is disabled, living off a disability check each month. Wanting to leach off other people, her own family lost our family the family members.

Christmas is still a couple weeks away and my son won't even have a conver-

sation with me yet after missing last years birthday plans. He swears I don't care but love him unconditionally and care more than he will ever know. I have my own so-called members of family of folk to think for this situation. Makes me want to cover up and leave it cause it's turned in to hurt and destroy its own members and family for the greed of money, lost love & loyalty but I won't cause some of us have to stand, own its core concepts and beliefs or it will fade away entirely and be nothing any more.

My birthday is right after New Years and I'll be 33. It's 2023 and I'm beginning the year sober of 4 months, with goals way higher than I've set to achieve myself since being in prison. So even though the holidays are hard on us behind bars, I've found resilience in them as milestones of failure that can only lead to a brighter success no one but a few believed I would ever become.

Thru these holidays, I'll just stay prayed up and depend on our father up high to see me thru the stress and hurt of em.

I hope all the people I love and care about in this world are safe, happy and enjoying all the presents and food more than anything. That is what helps me get thru them.

Here in unit 29, the chaplain comes around with a little bag of canteen and hygiene for all the guys in the system for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.


Today we get our other seasonal commissary pack the commissioner passes out in the system. Most the system now is waiting for the tray we get on Christmas. It's one the only things we have to look forward to these holidays and milestone of a New Year ahead and the old one dead.

Happy Holidays from Prison By Anthony Wilson

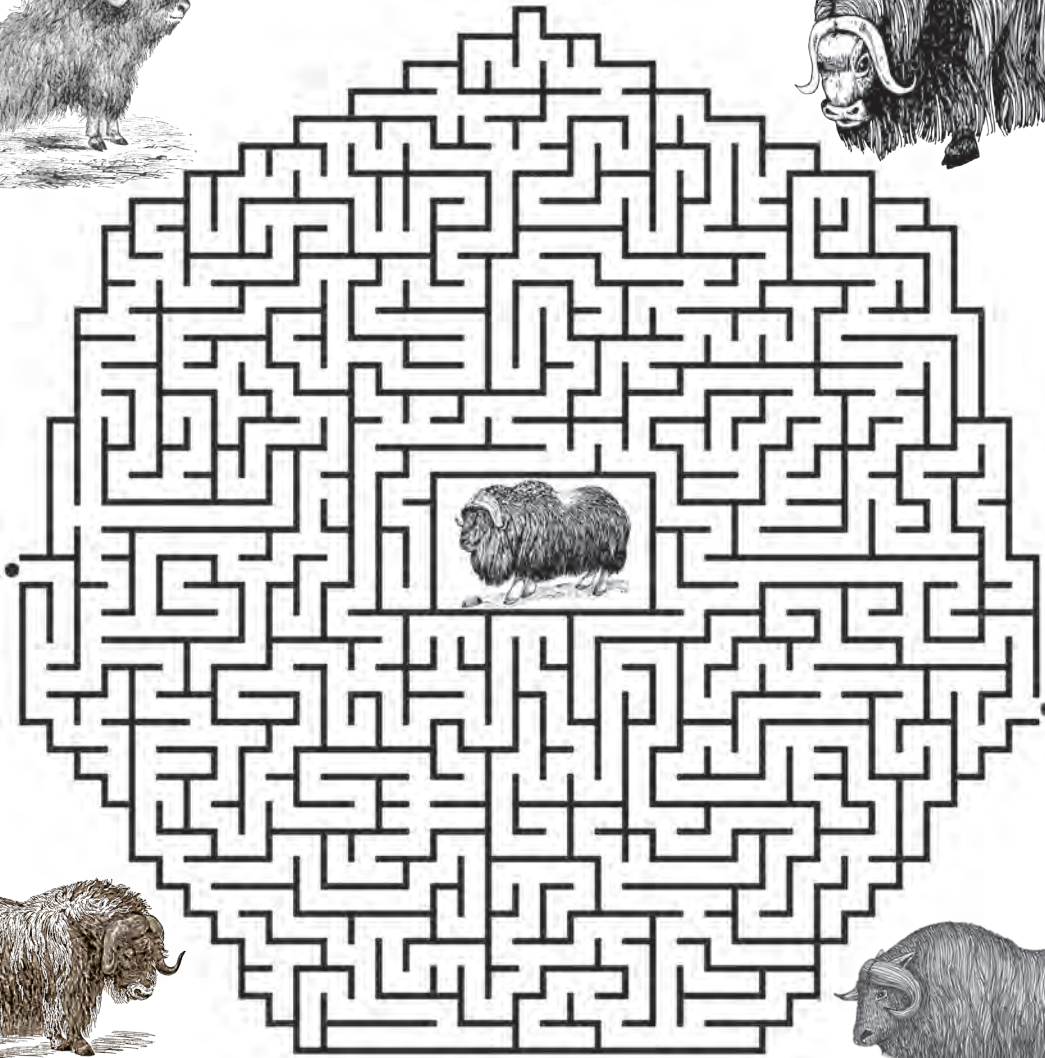


Anthony Wilson is an inmate writer at Mississippi State Penitentiary. "Prison through the Holidays" is an excerpt from Vox's forthcoming collection, *Unit 29: New Writings from Parchman Farm*.

Founded in 2014, VOX Press's **Prison Writes Initiative** has provided educational opportunities for hundreds of incarcerated people in the Mississippi prison system.

"Teaching students to read and write can provide invaluable skills for newly released inmates who are entering the job market. Prison Writes Initiative will enhance job-seeking, critical thinking, and reading/writing skills through the study of creative writing," said program director Louis Bourgeois. 

TV Mega Maze



Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- GEOGRAPHY:** Which famous highway that stretches across the United States is sometimes known as the Will Rogers Highway?
- MUSIC:** Which country did the pop group ABBA come from?
- TELEVISION:** What article made Frosty the Snowman come to life in the popular TV special?
- FOOD & DRINK:** What is colcannon?
- U.S. STATES:** Which state is home to the Volcanoes National Park?
- MOVIES:** What is the name of the acapella group that Anna Kendrick joins on *Pitch Perfect*?
- INVENTIONS:** Who invented the Barbie doll in 1959?
- MATH:** How many tablespoons are in 1 cup?
- LITERATURE:** What is the title of the sequel to *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by Roald Dahl?
- US PRESIDENTS:** Which elected president is the only one to fail to gain his party's nomination for a second term?

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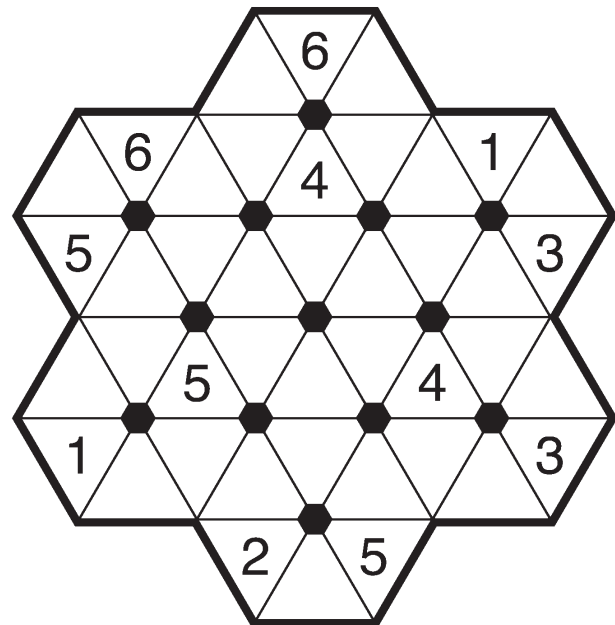
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Answers: 1. Route 66 2. Sweden 3. A magic hat 4. Mashed potatoes and cabbage 5. Hawaii 6. The Barden Bellas 7. Ruth Handler 8. 16 9. *Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator* 10. Franklin Pierce.

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

CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: X equals S

QRLM IBG ZVQZIX OLA ARL
GMKBMABVVZNVL GJOL AB
KVUTN TBGMAZUMX, U'W XZI
IBG'JL WJZQM AB XKZVL.

CryptoQuote

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, **A** is used for the three L's, **X** for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each week the code letters are different.

AOJ RJHQMR AN FJ TNBJR UC
AOJ IYJQAJCA NV QTT QYYNIQMA
KYJCZHKAUNMC.

- VYUJRYUXO MUJADCXOJ

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		25
+		÷		x	
	-		x		28
+		x		+	
	+		x		26
23		28		22	

DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

1 2 4 4 5 6 7 8 9

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STICKELERS [sic]

by Terry Stickels

How many anagrams can you find for each of the words below? We found 14 total for all four words.

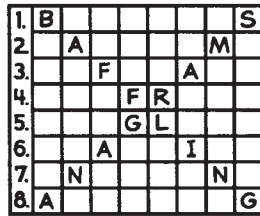
Are there more?

- 1) praised
- 2) garden
- 3) pores
- 4) arrest

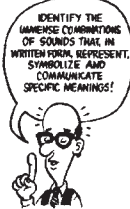
Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

FIND THE BIG WORDS!



Illustrated by David Coulson



Using the definitions and the anagrams below, you must find the eight eight-letter words that fit into the framework pictured on the left. For each definition, the letters in the two anagram words must be unscrambled and used to form the work asked for.

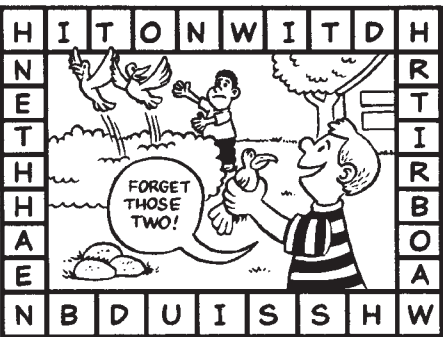
DEFINITION:

1. Where outlaws hide out.
2. Famous Carnegie Deli sandwich.
3. Invented by Ben Franklin.
4. Where bats hang out.
5. Night criminals.
6. What waiters expect.
7. Ancient mythical horses.
8. What young actors are.

ANAGRAM:

- sand + bald
- aims + trap
- fail + cobs
- ribs + flee
- slag + burr
- yurt + gait
- coin + runs
- pigs + rain

Answers: 1. Badlands, 2. Pastarami, 3. Bifocals, 4. Baffles, 5. Burglars, 6. Gratitude, 7. Unicorns, 8. Aspiring.



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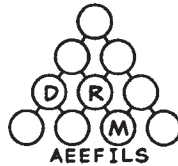
DON'T RUN A "FOWL" OF THIS ONE! Hidden in the above frame is a famous old saying. You can find it by reading every other letter as you go around counterclockwise. The trick is finding the right first letter.

Answer: Starting with the "A" in the right-hand rail: "A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush."

A SHORT MATH TEST! See if you can arrange the digits 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 so that when two of the digits are multiplied by one of the digits, the product will contain the remaining two digits.

Answer: 13 x 4 = 52

CHAIN REACTION! Take the seven letters printed below our diagram and place them in the circles so that eight four-letter words can be read, top to bottom, along the connecting lines. All the words will begin with the letter in the top circle.



Answers: Top to bottom, left to right: Fads, fade, fare, farm, fire, firm, film, file.

Even Exchange by Donna Pettman

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

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|---------------------|-------------|
| 1. Juicy citrus | O _ _ _ _ _ | Farm cooperative | G _ _ _ _ _ |
| 2. July or February | _ _ N _ _ _ | Cave opening | _ _ U _ _ _ |
| 3. Decanter | _ O _ _ _ _ | Bulge or Gettysburg | _ A _ _ _ _ |
| 4. Rock 'n' roll king | _ _ V _ _ _ | New York island | _ _ L _ _ _ |
| 5. Not as speedy | S _ _ _ _ _ | Rose or tulip | F _ _ _ _ _ |
| 6. Ration | _ _ _ _ T _ | Give permission | _ _ _ _ W _ |
| 7. Sudden light burst | _ _ A _ _ _ | Poker hand | _ _ U _ _ _ |
| 8. Loose coins | _ _ _ _ G _ | Monopoly game card | _ _ _ _ C _ |
| 9. Happy, like St. Nick | J _ _ _ _ _ | Pet parrot's name | P _ _ _ _ _ |
| 10. Brutal one | _ E _ _ _ _ | Be vainglorious | _ O _ _ _ _ |





Plants Perfect for the Holiday: Christmas Cactus

This group of showy succulents called Holiday Cacti bloom during popular American holidays. *Schlumbergera bridgesii*, Christmas cactus, has notched edges but they are not pointed or toothed. *Schlumbergera truncata* has more notched stems (like a serrated edge) and blooms earlier, closer to Thanksgiving. Aside from the leaf differences between holiday cactus, both have tubular, brightly colored flowers. There is also the Easter cactus (*Rhipsalidopsis gaertneri*, formerly *Schlumbergera gaertneri*), which have smoother leaf edges with no notches, and need a much longer cool and low light period to form flowers. Easter cactus plants have flat, star shaped flowers, easy to set apart from the other holiday cacti's elongated blooms. This plant blooms from March until May. There are around 300 hybrid varieties of these cacti, leading to even more species names. None of them are true cactus; they are succulents that grow wild in South American jungles.

About Holliday Cactus

Before you buy plants from local outlets, check them carefully to be certain they appear healthy and free of pests such as mites, mealybugs, and scale insects. There are many internet sources for buying plants by mail—simply do a search for holiday cactus or Christmas cactus. With proper care this houseplant can flower for thirty years or more.

Keeping your plant blooming

Do not place your Christmas cactus houseplant near a bright window. In their native habitat these plants grow in tree branches and rock crevasses as understory plants, so they prefer mostly filtered sunlight. Indoors, a bright window with a sheer curtain can provide optimal light. Morning sun is ideal. The plant favors temperatures between 60 and 70 degrees F (15–21 C), with average to high humidity levels. Keep the soil evenly moist during flowering. Placing a tray of pebbles filled with water beneath the Christmas cactus container is a good way to add more humidity to the home. Avoid exposing the plant to cold drafts, unvented heaters, or rough handling. Night temperatures above 70 F (21 C) may inhibit its bud development.



Holiday cacti add a fun, tropical touch to Christmastime!
(Photo by MSU Extension/Michaela Parker)

cactus is fine and shallow and can be damaged by overfertilization. Stop fertilizing in September to reduce vegetative growth and help stimulate bud formation on strong stems; resume fertilizing after the blossom period.

Outside, the plants will thrive on the north side of the home or on the north side of a fence or other building. This will provide the light screening necessary to keep the plant from burning. The *Schlumbergera*, or Christmas cactus, does not grow in special cactus soil. Instead, it needs well-draining soil that retains a bit of moisture. A mixture of one part potting soil to two parts peat moss and one part perlite is ideal. Alternately, potting soil mixed with orchid mixture or pine bark will provide a good medium.

Re-pot the plant when it's really needed, but the cactus actually flowers best when it is pot bound. There are tell-tale signs of stress that include (1) reduced flower bud formation, (2) flower bud abortion, (3) reduced new stem growth, (4) shriveling of the younger stems even when well-watered, (5) "self-pruning" or dropping of younger stem segments, and (6) development of small, hair-like adventitious roots at the bases of many stem segments. Another sign of possible root loss is abnormally prolonged moisture in the soil because of the lack of healthy roots to extract soil moisture during normal transpiration. When repotting, choose a container that is only 1 to 2 inches bigger in diameter than the current one. A pot larger than that can retain too much moisture or invite insects and plant diseases. Pruning a Christmas cactus after it blooms may promote more blooms the following season. Cut sections with a sharp, sterile implement at the section joint. This will promote more branching at the cut. **TV**

Displaying your plant

To encourage more stems, grow your Christmas cactus as a hanging plant or place it where it has room to drape. You won't need to worry about touching thorny spikes as you do with other types of cacti.

Keeping a Holiday Cactus for next year

Moisture is important to the health of a Christmas cactus. The plant requires frequent and thorough watering during its active growth in spring and summer, with the soil staying slightly moist. Allow the plant's moisture levels to drop and dry out some between watering intervals, but don't let it dry completely. Never let the Christmas cactus sit in water, as this will lead to stem and root rot.

From June to August, feed your Christmas cactus using a good quality, balanced, soluble or granular fertilizer, such as a 10-10-10. If using full strength according to label directions, fertilize monthly. Otherwise, cut the fertilizer rate to about 25 percent of what is recommended on the label and fertilize with each watering. This will fuel the flower development and prompt your Christmas cactus to bloom by holiday time. The root system of the Christmas



"William Faulkner Nobel Laureate"

Our finest hour tolled some 4,700 miles from Lafayette County, Mississippi, as King Gustaf VI of Sweden presented the 1949 Nobel Prize in Literature to William Cuthbert Faulkner. But in the last blink of Jefferson's eye, Stockholm would now come to Oxford. And more than Grand John knew, or we could have imagined, here they would come. **TV**

Rooster's
BLUES HOUSE
KARAOKE
EVERY
WEDNESDAY
5:30 PM - TIL

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Ajax Diner

Mon-Thu: Lunch 11 am-2:30 pm;
Dinner: 4:30-9 pm
Fri-Sat: 11 am-9 pm
Delivery: Fetcht

Big Bad Breakfast

Mon, Wed-Fri: 7 am-1 pm
Sat-Sun: 8 am-2:30 pm
Closed Tue
Early Bird Special:
Wed & Thur 7-9 am: 10% off

Boure

Mon-Thu: 11 am-10 pm
Fri-Sat: 11 am-10:30 pm
Bar: Mon-Wed 4 pm-midnight;
Thu-Fri 4 pm-1 am;
Sat noon-1 am
Delivery: Fetcht

City Grocery

Mon-Sat:
Lunch: 11:30 am-2:30 pm;
Dinner 6-10 pm;
Fri & Sat till 10:30 pm
City Grocery Bar
Mon-Sat: 4 pm-till
Happy Hour 4-6 pm:
M-F \$1 off wells & domestics

Funkys

Mon-Thu: 2 pm-1 am
Fri: noon-1 am
Sat: 11 am-1 am
Sun: 11 am-9 pm
Delivery: Fetcht
Mon: \$5 Octanes
Tue: \$5 Grape Gatorade
Wed: LADIES' NIGHT:
\$5 Skinny Bitches
Thur: \$3 domestics

The Library

Mon-Fri: 3 pm-1 am
Sat: 11 am-1 am
Sun: 11 am-9 pm
Happy Hour 3-7 pm
Mon-Fri \$1 off all drinks

McCormick's

Mon-Sat: Breakfast: 6:30-11 am;
Lunch: 11 am-2 pm;
Wed-Sat: Dinner: 2-9 pm
Bar: 2 pm-till
Sun: 6:30 am-2 pm
Wine & Whiskey Wednesday:
2-for-1 glasses of house wine; \$1
off whiskey
10% UM discount

Moe's BBQ

Mon-Sun: 11 am-10 pm
Penny Bar open 3 pm
Delivery: Fetcht
Happy Hour 3-6 pm:
Mon-Fri 1/2-price apps,
2-for-1 wells, wines & domestics
Monday Night Football:
50¢ wings + \$1 PBR (dine-in only)
Tue: TRIVIA
Wed: COMEDY MIC NIGHT
Thu: BINGO
Sun: Service Industry Night:
25% off 6-close @ Penny Bar

Ollie's Donuts

Sun-Sat: 5:30 am-1 pm

OPA!

Mon DEC 4: 4 pm-9 pm
Tue-Thu+Sun: 11 am-9 pm
Fri-Sat: 11 am-10 pm
Tues & Thurs: 2-for-1 Lemonadas
Wed: 1/2-off house wines &
Martinis
Fri: \$5 Margarita
Delivery: Fetcht

Quack's

Wed-Thu: 4 pm-1 am
Fri-Sat: 11 am-1 am
Sun: 11 am-9 pm
Happy Hour 4-6 pm W-F:
2-for-1 wells, \$1 off all beer
Wed: All Day Happy Hour
Friday: Free Fri-day (Free side of
fries with hot dog purchase)
Sun: Chicken and Waffles,
brunch specials

Rafters

Mon-Fri: 5 pm-1 am
Sat: 11 am-until
Sun: Brunch: 10:45 am-3 pm;
\$3 Mimosas

Rooster's

Mon-Fri: 5 pm-1 am
Mon: MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL;
DJ WADE + \$4 Pitchers + \$1
Rooster Shot +\$5 Domestics
Tue: KARAOKE (5:30 pm)
OPEN MIC NIGHT + 2-for-1s
Wed: KARAOKE + \$4 Vodka &
Whiskey + \$5 Domestics
Thu: THURSDAY NIGHT
FOOTBALL + LADIES NIGHT +
\$1 Lemon Drop + \$3 Well
Vodka + \$5 domestics
Fri & Sat: LIVE MUSIC

Saint Leo

Tue-Sun:
Lunch 11 am-3 pm
Bar & Pizza 3-5 pm
Dinner 5-10 pm
Brunch Sat & Sun:
10:30 am-3 pm
Happy Hour 3-5 pm:
\$10 Pizzas, Bubbles + Fries,
\$6 Wine & Cocktails

Tallahatchie Gourmet

Mon-Wed: 11 am-2:30 pm
Thurs-Fri: 11 am-9 pm
Brunch Sat & Sun
11:30 am-3 pm
Delivery: Fetcht

Snackbar

Tue-Thu: 4-10 pm
Fri-Sat: 4-10:30 pm
Happy Hour 4-6 pm:
\$2 domestics, \$4 drafts,
\$6 select wines, \$8 select
classic cocktails, small plate &
oyster specials
Tues: INDUSTRY NIGHT
Wed: Super HH 8:30 pm-till:
\$8 cocktails + special menu
items at the bar

SoLa

Wed-Thur: 5-9 pm,
Fri-Sat: 5-10 pm
Sun Brunch: 11 am-2 pm
Delivery: Fetcht
Happy Hour 5-7 pm
\$5 fresh Margaritas
+ 1/2-price kimchi fries Fri & Sat
Wed: Spaghetti Night + \$5 wine
Thu: Ramen & \$5 Rosé

Volta Taverna

Mon-Thu: 11:30 am-9:30 pm;
Fri-Sat: 11:30 am-10 pm;
Happy Hour 4-6 pm:
\$1 off all drinks
**1/2-price Margaritas &
Mojitos every Mon, Thu &
Sat**



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| Ajax Diner | Common Ground | Heartbreak Coffee | Ming's Kitchen | Pizza Den | Subway |
| B's BBQ | Costa Mexican | Hempville CBD | Moe's BBQ | Pizzashop | Tallahatchie |
| Bim Bam Burgers | El Agave | Honey Baked Ham | Mugshots | Proud Larry's | Gourmet |
| Blind Pig | El Charro | Jake's Craft BBQ | Noodle Bowl | R&R Cookies | Tarasque |
| Boure | El Mariachi | Kabuki | Oby's | Raising Cane's | The Sipp |
| Byrd House Cafe | Fergndans Pizza | King's Steakhouse | Ole Coop | Rocky Mountain | Taco Shop |
| Casa Mexicana | First Watch | Krystal | OPA! | Chocolate | Toyo |
| Chicken on a Stick | Fox's Pizza Den | La Perla Tapatia | Oxford Burger | Rosati's | Venice Kitchen |
| Chicken Salad Chick | Funkys | Lamar Yard | Company | SmallCakes | Walk Ons |
| China Royal | Good Day Cafe | The Landshark | Oxford Creamery | SoLa | Yaya's |
| City Hall | Greenline | Lenora's | Oxford Gourmet | South Depot Taco | Yugo |
| Cheesecake | Guthrie's Chicken | Living Foods | Oxford Nutrition | Southern Coop | and more! |



Mitchell Driskell
the **Local Lawyer**

Barstool Briefs

Short Stories on Legal Affairs

Strange BUT TRUE

- Sweden has a ski-through McDonald's.

- The world's most expensive perfume, **Clive Christian No. 1 Pas-sant Guardant**, will set you back a cool \$143,000 for a 30 ml bottle. Of course, it does come in a flask stud-ded with 2,000 diamonds.

- A 2018 psychology study found that millionaires who earned their wealth are moderately happier than those who inherited it.

- **George Washington** moved his slaves in and out of Pennsylvania every six months to avoid their tak-ing advantage of a law whereby slaves residing in the state for longer peri-ods could claim their freedom.

- One billion hours of video are watched on **YouTube** every day.

- When **Peter Benchley** had trou-ble coming up with a title for his novel *Jaws*, his dad suggested *What's That Noshin' on My Leg*.

- Bored with your limited supply of cuss words? Try learning **Latin**, which contains about 800 obscenities to **English's** approximately 20 (depending on how we define the latter).

- Folks who have difficulty recall-ing someone else's name shortly after they've met can blame it on the "next-in-line-effect," or having too much anxiety about themselves and what they'll say next to focus on the name of someone to whom they were just introduced.

- A cyberchondriac is someone who scours the internet looking for details about their illnesses.

- Actor **Frankie Muniz**, who starred as the titular character in the TV series *Malcolm in the Middle*, doesn't recall his time on the show, due to multiple concussions and TIAs (transient ischemic attacks).

- **Fyodor Dostoevsky** wrote *The Gambler* to pay off his gambling debts.

- **Thought for the Day:** "Don't confuse your path with your desti-nation. Just because it's stormy now doesn't mean you aren't headed for sunshine later. Don't lose faith."

—Trent Shelton **TV**

As for the legal commentary, legal protection of invention is important, for sure, but I am happy to let other lawyers handle it. While \$65 million in legal fees is a lucrative engagement, nothing sounds worse than devoting a decade of my professional life to commercial litigation between Masimo (worth \$4.2B) and Apple (worth \$2.7T) over the sensors in a watch and a clippy-thing. The thought reminds me to be thankful that I get to repre-sent real people and real families.

The Sackler's Stink

The **Sackler** family are the SOBs who own **Purdue Pharma** and flooded **America** with **OxyContin** while knowing it was highly addictive and it was being wrongly prescribed and while claiming the exact opposite. Purdue, the company, has agreed to a Bankruptcy deal that has the Sacklers paying in half their wealth, \$6 billion, in exchange for both Purdue and the family receiving immunity from ever being sued again, even by people who have objected to and opted out of the bankruptcy case. That deal is in front of the **Supreme Court** now for approval or rejection.

A number of OxyContin victims objected to the bankruptcy deal because of the immunity-from-law-suit provision arguing why should the Sacklers keep half, \$6 billion, when it has been proven that the Sacklers were intimately involved with the false mar-keting of OxyContin that has ruined countless lives.

The arguments were both complex and simple. Against the deal—these people are pieces of crap and should not get any protection. For the deal—the Sacklers have moved all their per-sonal money overseas and if we do not take the deal then we won't get any of that money (nevermind that the **United States** could claw that money back through criminal prosecutions if the politicians had the guts to allow prosecution).

Interesting case, not legally interest-ing, it is just a bankruptcy approval, but interesting in how it illustrates that the rules are made by and for the super-rich. Merry Christmas!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

It has been a fantastic year for your **The Local Lawyer®**. This was my first full calendar year at the **Tannehill Carmean** firm (after 21 years at the **Oxford** office of a statewide firm) and could not be prouder to be practicing at Tannehill Carmean and doing the kind of work I have. The firm is looking forward to big things in 2024—maybe we start a Podcast or have a Christmas parade float next year. Maybe we sponsor an **Oxford Pickleball Championship**, or hire **Juice Kiffen** for a social media colab.

Regardless, here at the end of this year, in the last column of the year, please bear me one marketing mes-sage—remember that your **The Local Lawyer®** and Tannehill Carmean does just about all types of law that regular people and families need—wills, estates and trusts, real estate, contracts, tax law, small business law, construction, criminal law, family law and divorce and custody, and personal injury.

Tannehill Carman's six lawyers makes it the largest firm in Oxford that does not primarily represent large companies. My personal, direct email address is in the bio on this page, or call our office and ask for me, or visit our website. Have a happy holiday season and a wonderful new year!

*Mitchell Driskell has practiced law and written nature-themed poetry for twenty-two years. He is currently with the Tan-nehill & Carmean firm (voted Oxford's Best Law Firm every year since 2010). You can reach him at 662.236.9996 or mitchell@tannehillcarmean.com. He practices personal injury law, criminal law, and family law. **TV***

Your Apple Watch is Dirty

The **International Trade Commis-sion** issued an order to halt the impor-tation of certain **Apple Watches** into the United States last week. Medical device-maker **Masimo** makes, among other things, that clippy thing the nurse puts on your finger that mea-sures your pulse and the amount of oxygen in your blood.

Masimo claims that the Apple Watch's "pulse oximeter," a blood oxygen sensor in newer models, is a copy of Masimo's patented clippy-thing device. The ban was issued after Masimo convinced the ITC that Apple has stolen valuable clippy-thing tech-nology. **Biden** can overturn the ban and Apple can appeal, but the ban is a major victory for Masimo which claims it has spent over \$65 million on lawsuits against Apple to protect its patented technology. Sixty-Five Million!

In 2013, Apple met with Masimo about incorporating Masimo's sensor in the Apple Watch. Masimo says that it insisted on either using Masimo-manu-factured sensors in the Apple Watch or developing a new Apple-watch sensor that performed up to Masimo specs, but Apple wanted pieces of Masimo's technology to make a "good enough" sensor in the Apple Watch because Apple felt that the Apple Watch did not need to perform to clinical-levels of accuracy.

This dispute ended the Masimo-Apple relationship. Masimo says that Apple then poached a ton of Masimo employees who, at Apple, used Masimo-protected information to design the Apple Watch's blood oxygen sensor. The Apple-Watch-import ban goes into effect December 25 so get a new Apple Watch now if you want your blood oxygen levels sensed.



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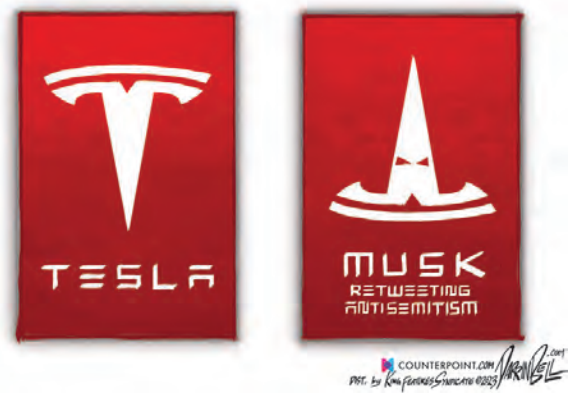
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GRIN and BEAR IT by Walpura



"Now get back out there and fight for your honor, your school and my job!"



Americanisms



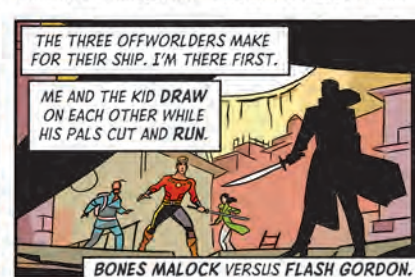
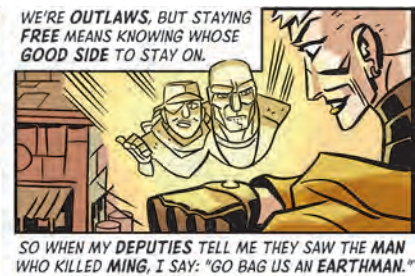
"I firmly believe you should never spend your time being the former anything."
— Condoleeza Rice

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



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MINI SUDOKU

5				6	2
	2			1	5
	1	3		5	
	5	2			
		5			3

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 6-box square contains all of the numbers from one to six.

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The Spats



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



King Crossword

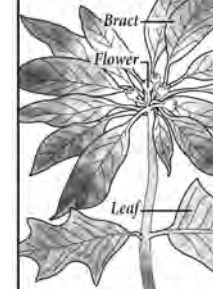
Answers

Solution time: 26 mins.

B	A	M		O	E	D		S	H	O	U	T
L	E	E		I	D	E		L	I	B	R	A
I	R	A		L	I	M	O	U	S	I	N	E
P	I	N		S	T	O	V	E				
S	E	T	S		O	N	A		E	L	L	A
			A	P	R		L	I	M	P	I	D
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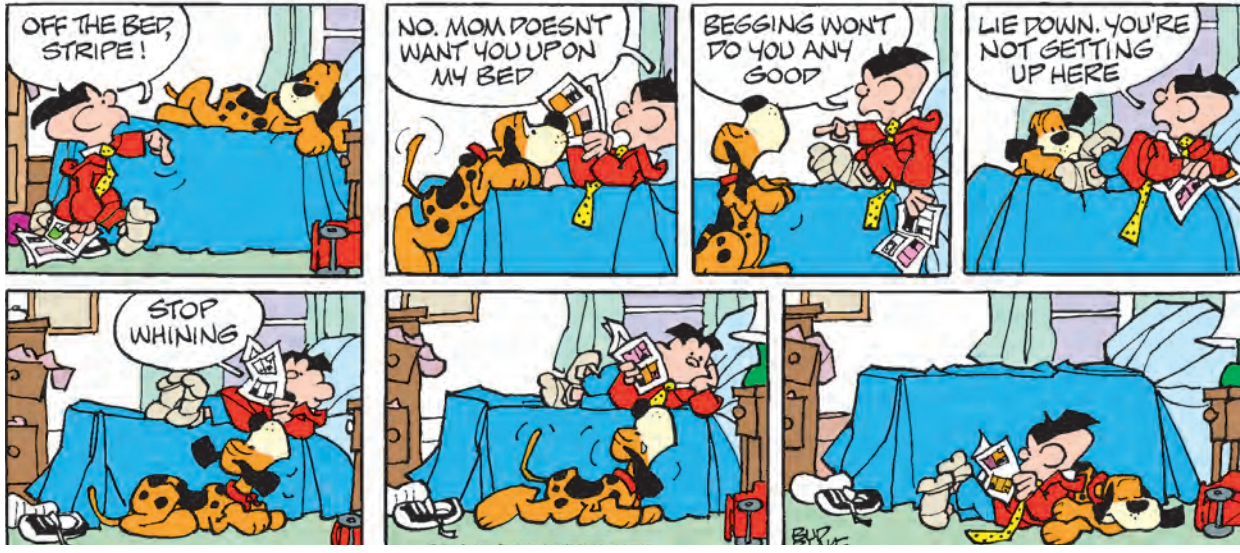


The Garden Bug



A healthy poinsettia will have attractive, intact bracts (the "petals"). Check the soil; it shouldn't be very wet or very dry. If the little yellow buds in the center, which are the actual flowers, look tight, the quality of the plant is good. This holiday favorite is a sensitive plant, so wrap it in paper for the trip home to guard it from wind and cold. Place it in a protected area that has bright, indirect light. - Brenda Weaver

Sources: millcreekgardens.com www.housebeautiful.com



WORD LADDERS

Can you go from STORE to AMONG in 6 words?
Change one letter for each rung in the ladder.

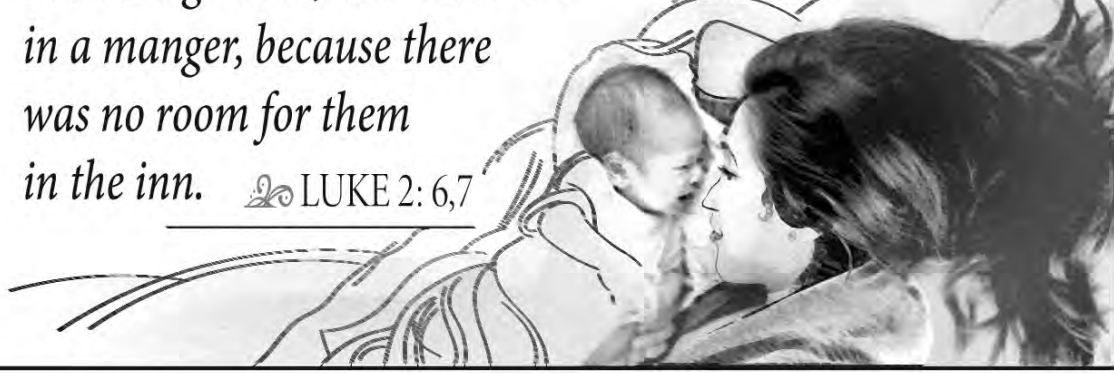
STORE

AMONG

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 **THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE**

So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. LUKE 2: 6,7



top ten

Highest-Earning Entertainers OF 2023

1. Genesis \$230 million
2. Sting \$210 million
3. Tyler Perry \$175 million
4. Trey Parker & Matt Stone \$160 million
5. James L. Brooks & Matt Groening \$105 million
6. Brad Pitt \$100 million
7. Rolling Stones \$98 million
8. James Cameron \$95 million
9. Taylor Swift \$92 million
10. Bad Bunny \$88 million

Source: Forbes

SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!



"When I said give him everything you've got—
I didn't mean your _____!"

Fewest

STEAL

Companion

SECTOR

Lift

ARISE

Vast

GATER

TODAY'S WORD





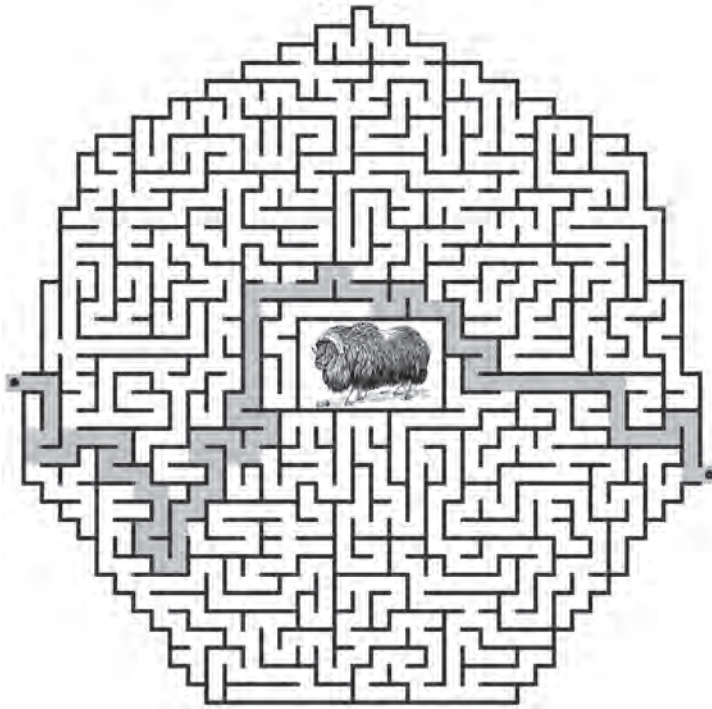
Super Crossword

Answers

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

Mega Maze

Solution



Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

CryptoQuip

answer

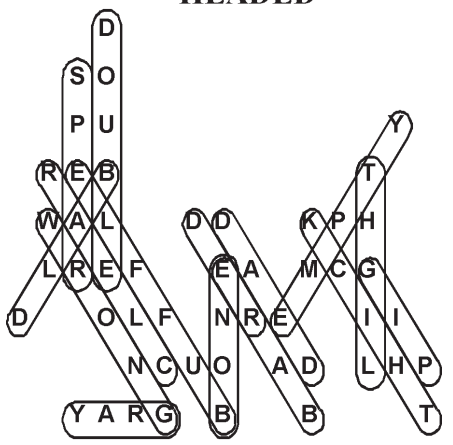
Why do the inhabitants of a certain Southeast Asian island always seem so fearful? Because they're Timor-ous.

CryptoQuote

answer

Remember, if you ever need a helping hand, it's at the end of your arm.
— Sam Levenson

HEADED



Even Exchange

answers

1. Reveal, Repeal
2. Peach, Poach
3. Fasten, Faster
4. Devote, Denote
5. Quick, Quirk
6. Right, Light
7. Twine, Twice
8. Breach, Breath
9. Saber, Sober
10. Lively, Lovely

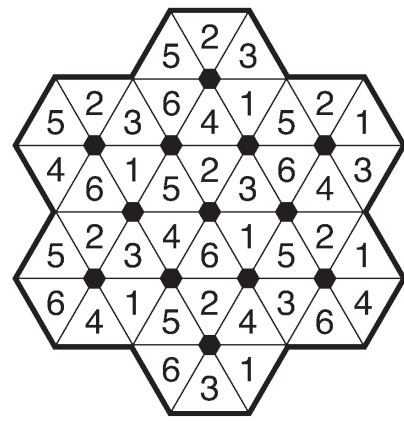
Go Figure!

answers

8	÷	4	+	4	6
-		-		x	
7	÷	1	-	6	1
x		x		÷	
9	x	5	÷	3	15
9		15		8	

SNOWFLAKES

solution



SCRAMBLERS

solution

1. Least
2. Escort
3. Raise
4. Great

Today's Word

TITLE

WORD LADDER

Answer

STORE, STONE, ATONE,
ALONE, ALONG, AMONG

SCRAMBLERS

solution

1. Least
2. Escort
3. Raise
4. Great

Today's Word

TITLE

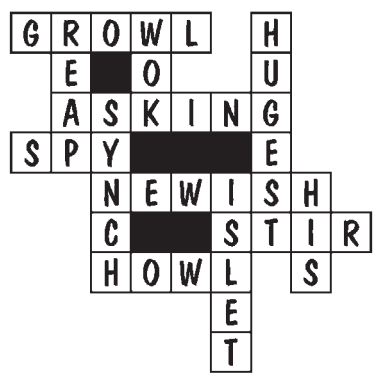
Stickelers Answer

1) SPAGHETTI does not belong with the others. All of the other words are misspelled.

MINI SUDOKU

Answer

5	4	1	3	6	2
3	2	6	4	1	5
6	1	3	2	5	4
4	5	2	6	3	1
2	6	5	1	4	3
1	3	4	5	2	6



FEAR KNOT

answer



the Local Voice™



December 14, 2023–
January 11, 2024

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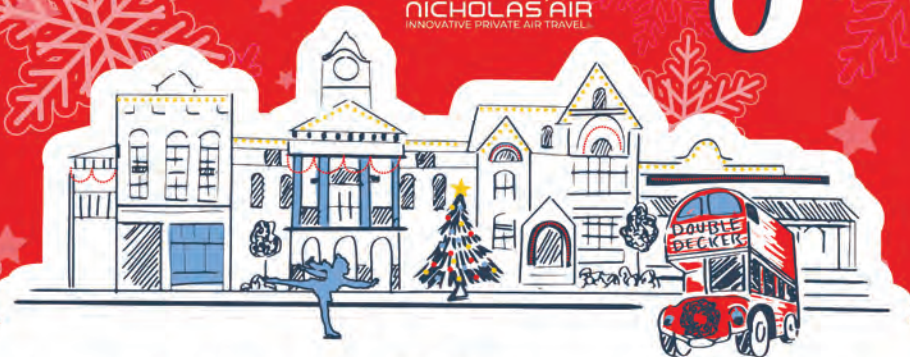


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