



October, 2025

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Volume 29, Number 10

MAYOR SAYS THAT MORE PROTECTED BIKE LANES "ULTIMATE GOAL"



"Real, secure, protected bike lanes throughout the city is the ultimate goal," said Mayor Brandon Johnson. "I don't want there to be any section of the city that doesn't have secure, dedicated bike lanes."

Chicago is on track this year to build it's 500th mile of bikeway. The bike lane does not remove the need for cars in the city. "We have to make sure that our city is inviting for all modes of transportation," he said. The city could conservatively grow by 400,000 people, but could even comfortably see its population jump by 700,000, he said. The construction this year includes records of 15 miles of protected bike lanes and 22 miles of greenway, streets that only cater to bikes, no cars. Cycling is up over 300% in the city since 2019. The ridership of the Divvy bike-sharing system broke its monthly record in August with 995,000 rides, following a record-breaking July.

"We have to take the full responsibility to make all of our roads safer," he said. "A protected bike lane makes the difference between a close call and a tragedy."

The mayor often remembers the old days. He usually takes a used bike he bought nearly two decades ago. He was a teacher at the time and went to work with a mix of cycling and buses, he said. He remembers the old bike being a cheaper way to get around, even before the city's bike infrastructure grew, he said. It's part of why he thinks bikes can spur neighborhood economies by getting people out in the open, then into stores.

"One thing I learned is that there's no section of the city that is unreachable through biking. You do actually get a chance to slow down a bit," he said. "You get a chance to unwind with Chicagoans." It's a good way to unwind."

HIGHER TAXES IN 2026



Illinois is now officially paying the highest property taxes in the nation. Chicago faces a \$1.15 billion projected deficit in 2026, and the city's budget task force's answer is \$1.6 billion in new tax hikes. But the numbers show the city's true budget problem isn't a "revenue challenge", as Mayor Johnson and his task force claim. It's over-spending. Chicago's total expenditures have increased by nearly \$7 billion, up 62% from 2019. Massive pension bills and rising personnel expenses, tied to costly government union contracts, have helped push the city's spending beyond sustainable levels.

Billions in federal aid helped charge Chicago's spending. The city misused temporary funds to cushion post-pandemic downturns, instead locking them into permanent spending increases. Now, with these funds nearly depleted and personnel pension bills rising, the city stares at \$3.5 billion in deficits during the next three years. It spent itself into that hole despite record revenues. Voters have made it clear they're exhausted by property tax hikes, progressive tax schemes and empty promises from City Hall. Plus, Chicago homeowners face uncertainty over delayed property tax

bills. Taxpayers were supposed to pay their second tax installments on August 1, but the county hasn't been able to calculate the final amounts and billions worth of tax bills haven't yet been mailed. The bottom line is, Cook County administrators don't know when the second set of bills will go out. The second issue is groceries. The Associated Press took a poll and 86% of Americans are stressed out by the cost of groceries and 53% said that it is a major source of financial stress. Food prices have increased 28.6% and is outpacing inflation, which rose 25.9%. A typical

Chicagoan pays \$350 a month for groceries. A family can expect to pay \$800 and \$1000. That means a 1% grocery tax can add over \$100 to your grocery bill in a year. Chicago is one of the most heavily taxed cities. The State tax on your grocery bill will be eliminated on January 1, 2026 but our Mayor wants to keep hurting working people with the grocery tax. "People remember the soda tax and so now you got something that's a grocery tax. I think people will have a visceral reaction to it. So it becomes harder to make that case", said Ald. Vasques (40th). And, so it continues. Taxes. Taxes, taxes.

Editorial & Opinions

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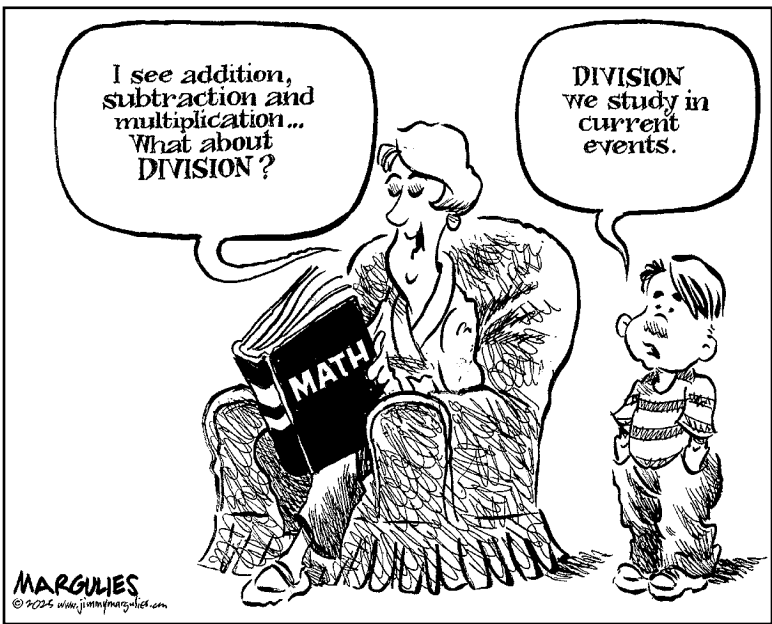
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Moments
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THE HISTORY CHANNEL

- mission the following year when it sank the Yankee ship Housatonic, but sank again, taking its third ill-fated crew with it. Raised again in 2000, it is currently on exhibit in Charleston.

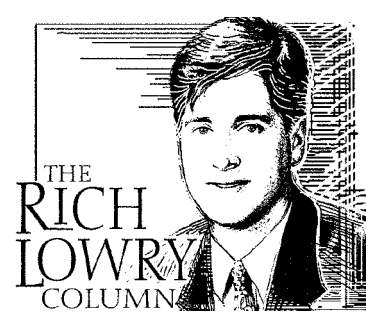
 - On Oct. 13, 1773, French astronomer Charles Messier discovered the first-known spiral galaxy and named it the Whirlpool Galaxy. It would be another three centuries before scientists confirmed that our own galaxy, the Milky Way, is also spiral shaped.
 - On Oct. 14, 1977, pop singer, former beauty queen and spokesperson for Florida orange juice Anita Bryant was hit in the face with a pie by gay rights activist Tom Higgs while speaking at an Iowa event to promote her campaign to repeal anti-discrimination laws protecting LGBTQ people.
 - On Oct. 15, 1864, the world's first successful combat submarine, the H.L. Hunley, went down in Charleston Harbor during a demo run, killing its inventor and namesake along with seven crew members. The vessel was recovered and performed its only successful
 - On Oct. 16, 1964, after conducting a successful nuclear test, China became the fifth nation with atomic bomb capability, after the United States, the Soviet Union, Great Britain and France.
 - On Oct. 17, 1985, magicians Penn & Teller notably responded to "Late Night" host David Letterman's invitation to "surprise" him on their next appearance on his show by unleashing hundreds of cockroaches from a top hat onto his desk. While Letterman was unsurprisingly hardly pleased, he later admitted the stunt made "great TV."
 - On Oct. 18, 1974, singer Al Green was attacked by his former girlfriend, Mary Woodson, in his Memphis home while taking a bath. Woodson dumped a pot of scalding grits on his back before retreating to a bedroom where she killed herself with Green's gun.

Americanisms



"If you can't be kind,
at least be vague."
— Judith Martin

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The siren song of despair

Charlie Kirk was a one-man answer to campus illiberalism. He rose to prominence at a time when university administrators and progressive students were working in league to make campuses no-go zones for conservatives. They effectively banned them from their faculties. They didn't invite them on campus, or if they did, they were liable to disinvite and cancel them. They banned so-called hate speech. They shouted down speakers they didn't like. They created "safe spaces." In short, they did everything they could to render the opposing point of view illegitimate and indefensible.

Kirk showed not only that it was possible to punch through these obstacles and get a hearing, but to win the argument despite them.

He created a student movement that he leveraged into a huge, multifaceted organization and that he mobilized to vote in 2024, to great political effect.

He was provocative, occasionally outlandish and sometimes wrong, but always interesting and brave.

His events on campus should be viewed as a public service. All of the best, most creative college deans could have gotten together to figure out how to routinely get thousands of energized students to events about public affairs, and never managed it. No worries. Kirk figured it out for them. That he was shot while he engaged in an act of peaceful persuasion makes his murder all the more devastating.

Kirk wasn't a literary figure, but his assassination was a little like, say, William F. Buckley or James Baldwin getting gunned down in the midst of their famous 1965 debate at the Cambridge Union.

What Kirk was doing drew on some of the finest traditions of civilized life. Gathering on a hill to hear people speak and argue, like what we saw at Utah Valley University prior to the shot ringing out, is as old as the Phnyx

in ancient Athens.

The university as a battleground of ideas, with clashing worldviews vying for influence, goes back to the Middle Ages. Founded in 1231, the University of Paris quickly became "a forum where great questions of theology, society, and government were analyzed and answered," writes historian Dan Jones.

More fundamentally, language and abstract reasoning make us distinctly human; violence, the tool of brutes, does not. What are young people on the right to conclude from the horror at Utah Valley? Progressives viewed Kirk as a "MAGA troll" (as a New Republic headline put it in the immediate aftermath of his shooting), but for his fans, he was a figure of hope and inspiration.

It's also important to realize that Kirk worked diligently and effectively to bring disaffected kids into mainstream politics. He pushed back against anti-semitism and other poisonous influences. The far-right envied and hated him.

It would be natural for Utah Valley to become the Right's equivalent of Kent State in the 1970s, a shattering experience, and a radicalizing one.

Charlie Kirk did it the right way, and now he's gone. He espoused the Christian faith, and what did it get him? He believed in open debate, and it left him defenseless unto his enemies. He did his enemies the favor of taking their arguments seriously, whereas (presumably) one of them used a bullet to silence him forever.

To quit on persuasion, though, is the counsel of despair. Political violence in a free society is always wrong. There's no substitute for convincing our fellow citizens, and we should also assume — as Kirk did, even with the odds stacked heavily against him — that they can be convinced by good arguments made sincerely and passionately.

Kirk's murder will long be remembered as a symbol of the irrationality and hatred of this era, with, one fears, worse to come. His life's work, on the other hand, is a testament to how one person can, with enough pluck and talent, move the needle of our politics.

Kirk fought back against illiberalism, and his supporters — when the shock and grief subsides — should be equally committed to his mission.

Rich Lowry is editor of the *National Review*.

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Publisher and owner: George Rimel
Executive Editor and owner: Joyce A. Rimel
Graphic Design/Production: Lisa Rode
OCTOBER 2025

All information, letters to the editor (must have name, address and telephone number) to be considered for publication. Lakeview Newspaper is owned and published by J2 Associates, Inc. and distributed from Diversey to Lawrence, Roscoe Village to Racine in Chicago, Illinois. Subscriptions are \$28.00 per year by mail. Checks or money orders only made payable to J2 Associates, Inc.

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VETERANS ★ POST ★

by Freddy Groves

The VA health and benefits mobile app

The VA Health and Benefits mobile app is very well done, and having the app can make it a lot easier for veterans to manage VA business directly from a phone or tablet. Many apparently agree, because by this summer there were over 3 million downloads of the app and 1.4 million use it every month.

There are several tools in the app, with the one for health care possibly being the most valuable. With the health care tool, you can send (and receive) secure messages to and from your health care team, see your appointments and put them on your calendar, get your records for vaccines and refill your prescriptions.

The benefits tools portion of the app can help you review your claim and appeal status, submit more evidence for your claims and check your disability rating.

The payments tool will let you see the payments the VA has sent you and update your direct deposit information.

If you have VA-related travel (mileage only) claims, you can now do that right on the phone. Coming soon: lab and test results viewable right on your phone.

But the tools aren't the only things you'll find on the app. Being able to show your status as a veteran can come in handy if you're in a store that gives a discount to veterans — you'll have the proof right there on your phone. You can locate the VA facilities near you and quickly access the VA's crisis line. You'll have secure sign-in with fingerprint or face recognition for access.

For more info about the app, see mobile.va.gov/app/va-health-and-benefits. You'll find the download links for both iOS and Android. On that page you'll also find a few short videos done by veterans who talk about their experiences with the app. If you want more information about the app, put "VA benefits app" in a search engine.

If you need help with the app, call 800-698-2411. They're available 24/7.

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

- Sloths might be the only mammals that don't fart.
- Austrian-American composer Arnold Schoenberg feared the number 13 so intensely that he deliberately misspelled his opera "Moses und Aron" to have 12 letters instead of 13. He also died on July 13, 1951, which would seem to confirm his phobia.
- The first round of women's golf was played in 1811 — four centuries after the sport was invented.
- Almost all of the first major television networks — NBC, ABC and CBS — still exist today, but the second network to get off the ground, the DuMont Television Network, is mostly forgotten, though it aired the first two seasons of "The Honeymooners" and "Mary Kay and Johnny," which is widely considered to be the first sitcom.
- Believe it or not, May is Zombie Awareness Month, which celebrates zombie media and recognizes ways to prepare for a zombie apocalypse. Participants are encouraged to wear gray ribbons to spread awareness of the potential dangers of the undead.
- In 2023, North Dakota was named the best state for surviving a zombie apocalypse.
- We obtain 60% of our energy intake from just three plant species — rice, wheat and maize.
- Spiders recycle webs by eating them.
- The sitcom "30 Rock" was known for its fast-pace writing, with one reporter calculating in 2014 that there was an average of 7.44 jokes per minute.
- After "It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown" first aired in 1966, Charles Schulz's California office was inundated with shipments of candy sent from kids who were upset that Charlie Brown only got rocks in his Halloween goodie bag.

Thought for the Day: "Liberty means responsibility. That is why most people dread it." — *George Bernard Shaw*

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SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Seniors and social media

The list of scams against seniors keeps getting longer and longer. Just when we have a handle on the various types of fraud, here come new ones. But there's one area where we do have some control: social media.

One place I've always been concerned about (and therefore have never joined) is the small neighborhood social media chat groups. So much gets talked about, and people generally feel safe because, after all, they're chatting with their neighbors. But you never really know who's watching online. And you never really know what small piece of information could be the one that puts you at risk — especially if a thief has been following the group and assembling your innocent chat as clues.

Beware what you say online. If you announce on social media that you're about to take a vacation, that's a clue to a thief that your house will be empty at a certain time. Or if you announce online that you'll be joining an art class every Tuesday morning, or if you post your unlisted phone number in reply to someone's question, etc.

Another place that's jam-packed with information is newspaper funeral notices that are posted on social media. The "survived by" information is gold for thieves. With those names, plus the date and time of the funeral, thieves know when a house is likely to be empty.

Friend requests are another source of concern with social media. Beware, and be selective. Be certain you know who you're letting in.

Never click a link in social media, or anywhere else. Just don't. You don't really know where it goes.

Before you take your first step into social media, be certain you know how it works. Get good advice on how to fix your privacy settings so you're not as vulnerable.

Remember: Seniors are targets.

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KOVELS® Antiques & Collecting

By Terry and Kim Kovel

Faux Bois

For thousands of years, artisans have found ways to make one material look like another. The history of furniture is filled with examples, like wood painted to resemble marble, metal, lacquer or other expensive or exotic materials. Sometimes, other materials are sculpted or painted to look like wood.

The faux bois ("false wood") technique was popularized in France in the mid-1800s, although its roots go deeper. Garden furnishings made of reinforced concrete sculpted into tree or branch shapes were displayed at the 1867 Paris Universal Exhibition. Since then, the fashion for faux bois has grown, and the term can now refer to any material, like ceramic, plastic or metal, painted to look like wood.

This 20th-century ceramic garden seat is decorated to look like a wooden barrel but is better suited to outdoor seating. Estimated at \$500 to \$700, it sold for \$2,394 at DOYLE Auctioneers & Appraisers in New York. It's a testament to the continuing popularity of the faux bois style.



A wooden barrel sold for more than \$2,000? No, it's a ceramic garden seat made to look like a wooden barrel.

Q: I am interested in an appraisal of this hankie along with the letter. The hankie has Franklin Delano Roosevelt's signature embroidered in one corner along with the words "Happy Days." The letter that came with it is on stationery from the White House, dated September 5, 1933, and reads "The President asks me to extend his hearty congratulations upon the birth of your son," who was named Franklin Delano, "and to send you herewith a small memento for his namesake." It is signed by M.A. LeHand, Private Secretary.

A: Franklin Delano Roosevelt was elected president in 1932 and won re-election three times, serving until his death in 1945. "Happy Days Are Here Again," written in 1929, was his campaign song in 1932. The phrase "Happy Days" appears on some merchandise from his first campaign. Textiles like bandannas and hankies were popular campaign items and are pop-

ular political collectibles today. Yours, along with the letter, would probably be worth about \$200 to \$350. If the letter had Roosevelt's signature, it would be worth more. If you are looking for a formal appraisal or more information, a political collectors' club, like American Political Items Collectors (<https://apic.us/>) or an auction house or dealer that handles political collectibles or celebrity memorabilia, like Hake's Auctions (hakes.com) or RR Auction (rrauction.com) may be able to help you.

TIP: Wool weavings attract moths and should be turned twice a year. Some say you should also spray them with moth repellent, or at least put them outside in the sunlight for a few hours each summer and fall.

CURRENT PRICES

Toy, horse, rocking, painted, red center handle, green rockers, wicker chair back, two-sided, 19 x 39 inches, \$35.
Picture, watercolor, landscape, autumn, trees on riverbank, signed, R. Bellitti, frame, 19 x 16 inches, \$55.
Sampler, family record, flowering vine border, Philemon Draper, silk on linen, frame, 1856, 22 x 22 1/2 inches, \$1,875.

For more collecting news, tips and resources, visit www.Kovels.com

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by Jo Ann Derson

- "To remove spots from suede, try using an art gum eraser." — J.C. in Florida
- Wet weather can affect your outdoor appliances, making rust a problem sometimes. This even happens to the metal end of a lightbulb in an outdoor fixture. Coat threads of the light bulb with petroleum jelly to keep it from rusting and becoming hard to remove.
- To remove scuffs from your linoleum floors, simply cut a small "X" into a tennis ball and push the tip of your broom handle into it. When you come across a sticky spot while sweeping, flip the broom and rub the spot with the tennis ball.
- "As you pack away your pool

supplies, you might want to save the water wings for this cruise/duty-free alcohol hack: Use blow-up arm floaties to protect your liquor bottles while being transported in luggage. Use one or a set depending on the size of the bottle." — T.T. in Georgia

- Boots will be coming out of storage soon, or new boots will be purchased, while the pool supplies will be packed away for the winter. Save your pool noodles to keep boots sitting upright. Simply cut a pool noodle to the height of the boot top and insert. Lo and behold, the boots won't flop over. This extends the life of the boot.

- "For troublesome-to-open jars — pickles and such — use a pair of standard dishwashing gloves. It's a great gripper, especially if your hands are the least bit moist." — D.L. in Indiana

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Health



Understanding the Association Between ‘The Pill’ and Cancer

DEAR DR. ROACH: I want to point out a serious health concern. My daughter turned 40 last year and got a mammogram that came back with a shocking diagnosis of stage 3 micro-invasive carcinoma. She underwent three surgeries, the last of which was a double mastectomy. I read that cancer incidence increases with hormone usage that is greater than five years in a row. My daughter’s doctor prescribed “the pill” to her for much greater than five years and never even warned her of the risk. How many other women are unaware of the risks? In many cases, these women are busy, young professionals as my daughter is. They are using the pill because it is so easy. Please warn them and their parents. — M.R.

ANSWER: The association of combined oral contraceptives with breast cancer is controversial. Many large studies, such as the Nurses’ Health Study, didn’t find an association between “the pill” with breast cancer, either while a woman is using it or after she stops. There have been some studies that have shown an increase in risk, but the magnitude of the risk is small. In a large Danish study, the overall increase in risk was about one additional case of breast cancer in 8,000 women taking the pill for a year. For women under 35, the risk was one case in 50,000 women per year. The studies that showed a risk for breast cancer did not show an increased risk when women took them for longer. Oral contraceptives certainly have risks. Blood clots are more common among users. They have side effects that can be very bothersome and sometimes prevent women from using them. However, there is an overall improvement in mortality risk among users because even in 2025,

having a baby puts a mother’s life at risk, and oral contraceptives are effective at preventing pregnancy.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am a healthy male, age 65. I get 7-8 hours of sleep most nights, but during the night, I typically wake up three to four times with a very full bladder. So, I use the bathroom, then return to bed. My question is, where do my kidneys get all the water to make so much urine? I’m not drinking during the night, and I don’t drink anything before I go to sleep. Where is it coming from? This does not happen during my waking hours. — B.F.

ANSWER: When you drink or even eat food with a high water content, this fluid will be absorbed into your blood, but it takes time. Once it’s in your blood, it will then be filtered by your kidneys to make urine, but this, too, takes time. In general, I tell my patients to stop drinking 4 hours or more before bedtime. People who have kidneys that aren’t at 100% function may need an even longer time so that they can urinate all the fluid out. There are other considerations. Many men and women over 60 develop swollen legs during the day due to leaky blood vessels and valves in the veins. Taking in excess salt worsens this problem. The fluid will go back into the blood overnight, and it can easily be enough fluid to fill the bladder. Compression stockings can reduce the amount of fluid in the legs. Finally, the body has a system for reducing urine output at night (the antidiuretic hormone is secreted at night to prevent you from having to get up), and in some people, this system fails. The hormone can be given nasally in these cases, but since it can affect blood sodium levels, it needs to be used very judiciously.

Man Waiting for Hip Replacement Is Torn Between Surgeons

DEAR DR. ROACH: My husband is 72 years old and on a waiting list for a hip replacement due to severe osteoarthritis. The surgeon he was referred to is quite young, has been performing anterior minimally invasive hip replacements for five years, and does about 250 per year.

Originally we had asked to be referred to a different surgeon who has 30 years of experience, but we were told that older surgeons, although very experienced, do not do this procedure. Instead, they tend to do what they were initially trained to do, which includes cutting through muscle and tendon to access the hip. Apparently this causes a lengthier recovery period. What are your thoughts on this? — D.M.

ANSWER: In general, I do not recommending telling a surgeon which specific type of surgery to perform. You place yourself in the surgeon’s hands and expect to be treated to the best of their expertise. Depending on your particular issues, one type of surgery may be better than another, but only a surgeon can decide this. I reviewed the published literature on minimally invasive surgery versus conventional surgery. Not everyone is a candidate for the minimally invasive procedure. There are some benefits to the minimally invasive surgery such as less postoperative pain, reduced hospital stay, and less blood loss. However, there has been no consistent benefit shown for infection rates and complications such as dislocation or fracture near the prosthesis. There also isn’t evidence of any revision of the procedure. Some studies have suggested a higher rate of nerve injury with the mini-mally invasive procedure. Since there are some short-term but no proven long-term benefits to the mini-mally invasive procedure, I advise you to find a surgeon you trust and listen to their recommendation for the right pro-cedure in your husband’s case.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I have a couple issues with my bladder and a sleep aid. I am an 81-year-old male in fairly good health. I have a difficult time getting back to sleep after getting up to empty my bladder. My solution for this was to take a melatonin tablet after each trip back to bed. This seemed to help. However, I researched melatonin online and found that some people, my wife included, can get nausea and stomach cramps from using it. While this does not happen with me, I’m wondering if taking 3 mg per night could be harmful to me, given the reaction my wife gets. — J.T.M.

ANSWER: Although melatonin is generally safe, it can cause some side effects. In addition to the stomach cramps, peo-

ple have reported vivid dreams or nightmares, short-term depression, dizziness, and headaches. A few people find the medication helpful enough that they are willing to live with these side effects, but many people will give up and try a different treatment for sleep. If melatonin isn’t causing you any side effects, then it is likely safe for you. Many people use melatonin, and although long-term safety has not been proven in trials, it is increasingly unlikely that any long-term adverse effects haven’t been discovered.

Here Are Changes People Can Make Now To Avoid Dementia Later

DEAR DR. ROACH: The females in my family on my mother’s side seem to develop dementia/Alzheimer’s on a fairly regular basis. It seems to become noticeable once the women are in their mid-70s or so. We girls are concerned as we head toward our elderly years and wondered which sort of diet or supplemental changes we should look into? There seems to be so many articles and opinions that it’s hard to know where to start. On the positive side, our father’s side of the family seems healthy and robust well into their 80s and 90s. Our extended family has females ranging from their mid-30s to 71 years of age. Are we being overly concerned? Could this be a genetic thing? Any suggestions would be helpful in calming some real fears that we have. — E.J.

ANSWER: I don’t think supplements are going to be the answer for dementia. I haven’t seen any good data to support any of the supplements I see that are touted to prevent, slow, treat or cure dementia. I do think that diet may help slow dementia, and one of the best diets according to the studies that have been done so far remains a Mediterranean-style diet. This includes plenty of fresh fruits and vegetables, whole grains, nuts and legumes, fish (especially fatty fish), limited amounts of red meat, and minimally processed foods. Alcohol is increasingly likely to be problematic, and I recommend against more than occasional alcohol use for people who want to minimize

their risk of dementia. Regular moderate exercise has a pretty clear protective effect. Although cognitive exercises like games and puzzles help improve memory short-term, it’s not clear that they are preventing or delaying the onset of dementia. Advanced imaging, such as PET scans, are beginning to show the ability to diagnose Alzheimer’s dementia in people with early symptoms. Early treatment to attack amyloids in the brain with lecanemab or donanemab slows the progression of dementia by approximately 25% to 30%.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I cared for my ailing mother, and even though I tried to minimize my stress, I gained a lot of weight and still have my “cortisol belly.” I need to get healthy! — D.H.

ANSWER: aking care of a family member is always stressful. Taking care of yourself as well is hard, and most of us aren’t able to eat, sleep, exercise, and take good care of ourselves as well as we should during a period of time when we are taking care of others. Most of us have other demands, including family and work. Although I often see the term “cortisol belly,” it isn’t the slightly elevated level of stress hormones that causes the abdominal weight gain. (People who have Cushing’s syndrome develop a particular type of abdominal weight gain as a result of dramatically elevated cortisol levels, as a result of a tumor, or by taking high doses of steroids.) In your case, it’s more likely that the result of not having healthy behaviors lead to your weight gain. Losing abdominal weight is achieved through the same ways you would lose weight anywhere. I won’t ever say it’s easy, but a combination of a healthy diet and regular exercise is going to improve your health, whether you lose a pound or not. I don’t recommend medication treatment to lose weight unless a person is very overweight (“morbidly obese” is the precise medical term) or has medical complications related to their weight.

Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu.

Financial

Concert ticket prices are soaring, and busting Gen Z’s budgets

The average cost of a concert ticket in 2024 was \$135.92. Gen Z fans – those born between 1997 and 2012 – are paying much more for concert tickets than previous generations did when they were young adults. Gen Z respondents to a survey taken last year, admitted to overspending on live events. Fear of missing out was cited as a top rea-

son. Another survey taken by AAA, the automobile owners group and Bread Financial, a financial services company, found that Gen Z and millennials were willing to spend more and travel farther to attend live events than older generations are. One young lady attended seven concerts in the United States and Canada. She spent \$8,400 on tickets, merchandise and travel for the shows. “I just feel like live music is something that makes me feel alive”, she said. “It’s a moment in time that is different than just lis-

tening to music on Spotify or on my record player.” About 50 years ago, fans of Bruce Springsteen paid as little as \$8, or \$44 adjusted for inflation, to see him perform on his Born to Run Tour. Costs rapidly rose over the next few decades. “The price of the average concert ticket increased by nearly 400 percent from 1981 ti 2012, much faster than the 150 percent rise in overall consumer price inflation,” said Alan B. Krueger in an address at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 2013. After people were cooped

up inside during the Covid 19 pandemic, attendance at concerts and other large gatherings surged. In 2023, the top 100 tours around the world brought in a record-breaking \$9.2 billion, up 65 percent from 2019. On Taylor Swift’s Eras Tour, which grossed over a record \$2 billion, the average ticket price was \$1,088 in 2023. Demand driven dynamic pricing systems put into place by ticket sellers have also resulted in higher prices. But this did not come into play when one young adult

tried to buy tickets for Beyonce’s tour. He was able to purchase for \$200 each ticket through a Ticketmaster pre-sale that was available only to Citi credit and debit card holders. According to Ticketmaster, prices for the shows were set at \$105.25 and \$4,769.52, including service fees, and the cheaper seats. “I probably could’ve flown back and forth to visit my family two to four times with the money I spent”, said this young man.

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

• In a remote area of Colombia called Los Pinos, some students have to get to school on a zipline up to 800 meters long.

• A teaspoon of a neutron star would weigh over a trillion tons.

• Chock Full o’ Nuts coffee does not contain nuts. It’s named for a chain of nut stores that the founder converted into coffee shops.

• During the Middle Iron Age, spears were placed into the graves of some young men. The reason isn’t clear, but some think it may have been a military send-off similar to the modern 21-gun salute.

• While worms make up the majority of their diet, robins won’t mind if you leave out a dessert tray. In fact, they’re partial to pastry dough, fruit cake and coconut cake.

• In 1998, a Georgia student was suspended for wearing a Pepsi shirt to “Coke in Education Day.”

• American cheese was invented in Switzerland in 1911 by Waltz Gerber and Fritz Stettler to lengthen the shelf life before being shipped overseas.

• According to Guinness World Records, Veronica Seider’s eyesight was so keen that she could recognize people from more than a mile away.

• In 2010, a man became stranded for days near Wollaston Lake, Saskatchewan. With no way to call for help, he cut down four wooden power poles with an ax, causing an outage to the nearby community, and SaskPower sent a helicopter crew to investigate. They found the man and escorted him back to safety.

• When Joel Burger married Ashley King in 2015, Burger King paid for the ceremony.

• In India, escalators in Delhi metro stations feature “sari guards” to prevent women’s long garments from getting trapped.

Thought for the Day: “It does not matter how slowly you go so long as you do not stop.” — *Confucius*

top 10 movies

1. **Demon Slayer: Kimetsu no Yaiba - The Movie - Infinity Castle** (R) Zach Aguilar, Ryan Bartley
2. **The Conjuring: Last Rites** (R) Patrick Wilson, Vera Farmiga
3. **Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale** (PG) Michelle Dockery, Joanne Froggatt
4. **The Long Walk** (R) Cooper Hoffman, David Jonsson
5. **Toy Story** (G) Tom Hanks, Tim Allen
6. **Weapons** (R) Julia Garner, Josh Brolin
7. **Hamilton** (PG-13) Lin-Manuel Miranda, Phillipa Soo
8. **Freakier Friday** (PG) Jamie Lee Curtis, Lindsay Lohan
9. **Spinal Tap II: The End Continues** (R) Christopher Guest, Michael McKean
10. **The Sound of Music** (G) Julie Andrews, Christopher Plummer

Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. TELEVISION: What was the name of the dog on “The Brady Bunch”?
2. U.S. CITIES: Which major U.S. city was called Yerba Buena until 1847?
3. GEOGRAPHY: Where is Bryce Canyon National Park located?
4. HISTORY: Where did the Renaissance begin?
5. MOVIES: What is the nickname of the serial killer in “The Silence of the Lambs”?
6. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Who was the 20th president of the United States?
7. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: How many amendments are in the United States’ Bill of Rights?
8. ASTRONOMY: What type of galaxy is the Milky Way?
9. MUSIC: Which rock band sings the theme song to “The Big Bang Theory”?
10. LITERATURE: What is the last name of the family in “Little Women”?

Answers

1. Tiger.
2. San Francisco.
3. Utah.
4. Florence, Italy.
5. Buffalo Bill.
6. James A. Garfield.
7. The first 10 amendments (of 27 to date).
8. Spiral.
9. Barenaked Ladies.
10. March.

Sports QUIZ

by Ryan A. Berenz

1. Pitcher Larry Sherry, 1959 World Series MVP, and his brother, catcher Norm Sherry, played together on what Major League Baseball team from 1959-62?
2. Woody Strode, who played for the NFL’s Los Angeles Rams (1946) and the CFL’s Calgary Stampeders (1948-49), received a Golden Globe Award nomination for his acting role in what 1960 gladiator movie?
3. What two-sport pro athlete played with the NBA’s Los Angeles Lakers and San Francisco Warriors (1964-65), and Major League Baseball’s Chicago White Sox (1967) and Minnesota Twins (1969-70)?

4. Julie Krone became the first female to win a Triple Crown race when she jockeyed what horse to victory at the 1993 Belmont Stakes?
5. Name the Ukrainian boxer who became the first undisputed world heavyweight champion in 24 years when he beat Tyson Fury in May 2024.
6. What is the nickname of the University of Delaware’s athletic teams?
7. What multinational sports entertainment franchise was founded in 2000 by twin brothers Steve and Dave Jolliffe?

Answers

1. The Los Angeles Dodgers.
2. ?Spartacus.?
3. Cotton Nash.
4. Colonial Affair.
5. Oleksandr Usyk.
6. The Fighting Blue Hens.
7. Topgolf.



“Caught Stealing” (R) — The way Austin Butler (“Eddington”) continues building on his career with stand-out leading roles is quickly propelling him into one of the top movie stars of our decade. Although his latest film has an incredible supporting cast (Zoe Kravitz, Regina King, Liev Schreiber and more!), Butler’s performance as baseball-star-turned-bartender Hank Thompson is pivotal in this vibrant crime thriller. Still carrying trauma from a car crash that injured him and killed his friend, Hank is a shell of who he once was as he battles an alcohol addiction and emotional unavailability. When his British punk neighbor, Russ (Matt Smith), abruptly leaves for London, he leaves Hank his cat to care for. Having to shuffle in between their apartments for the cat, Hank is then greeted by a pair of Russian mobsters who are looking for Russ and won’t take “no” for an answer. The aftermath that ensues is chaos upon chaos that not a single viewer could predict. You can rent the film when it releases digitally on Sept. 30! (Amazon Prime Video)

“Monster: The Ed Gein Story” (TV-MA) — Ryan Murphy’s “Monster” anthology series generated a large viewership (as Murphy’s series always do) with its seasons about serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer and the murder case involving the Menendez brothers. His next season is gearing up for its premiere on Oct. 3, with eight episodes detailing the life of suspected serial killer Ed Gein. Charlie Hunnam (“Sons of Anarchy”) portrays the killer who was nicknamed “The Butcher” of Plainfield, Wisconsin, in the 1950s. Laurie Metcalf (“Lady Bird”) plays his

mother, Augusta, who had a haunting effect on her son, while Tom Hollander (“The White Lotus”) transforms into film director Alfred Hitchcock (“Psycho”). Somewhat surprising is the inclusion of pop singer Addison Rae in the cast; she landed her first TV role as teenager Evelyn Hartley. (Netflix)

“Weapons” (R) — This comedy-horror film, led by Josh Brolin (“Brothers”) and horror aficionado Julia Garner (“Wolf Man”), pulled in \$264 million worldwide after a \$38 million cost, making it quite the success financially. It also received rave reviews from horror fans and film critics, so it might be the perfect watch for you if you’re looking for something more terrifying than the other suggestions! The film follows a third-grade class of 17 children who go missing in a very eerie way. All the children escaped from their houses at exactly 2:17 a.m. and ran to an unknown destination, where they’re nowhere to be found. The teacher of the third-grade class, Justine (Garner), becomes the primary suspect behind their disappearances. But when no evidence points to her, and the police prove to be lackluster, one of the parents, Archer (Brolin), starts conducting his own investigation. The story is told in a nonlinear way, leaving viewers to wonder if Justine and Archer will put the pieces together quickly enough to find and save the missing kids. Rent it now. (Fandango at Home)

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Courtesy of MovieStillsDB

From left, Liev Schreiber, Austin Butler and Vincent D’Onofrio star in “Caught Stealing.”

Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS

WHEN YOU TAKE LESSONS, NEVER BE SHY ABOUT ASKING QUESTIONS — PARTICULARLY WHEN SOMETHING ISN'T CRYSTAL CLEAR. THE REASON IS THAT PLAYING CONSISTENTLY GOOD GOLF REQUIRES KNOWING NOT ONLY WHAT TO DO BUT WHY.

YOUR ULTIMATE GOAL IS TO KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT YOUR SWING TO BE ABLE TO SELF-CORRECT WHENEVER IT BEGINS TO FALTER.

SO ALWAYS GO TO THE ROOT OF THINGS BY SEEKING THE REASONS AS WELL AS THE MECHANICS.

Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS

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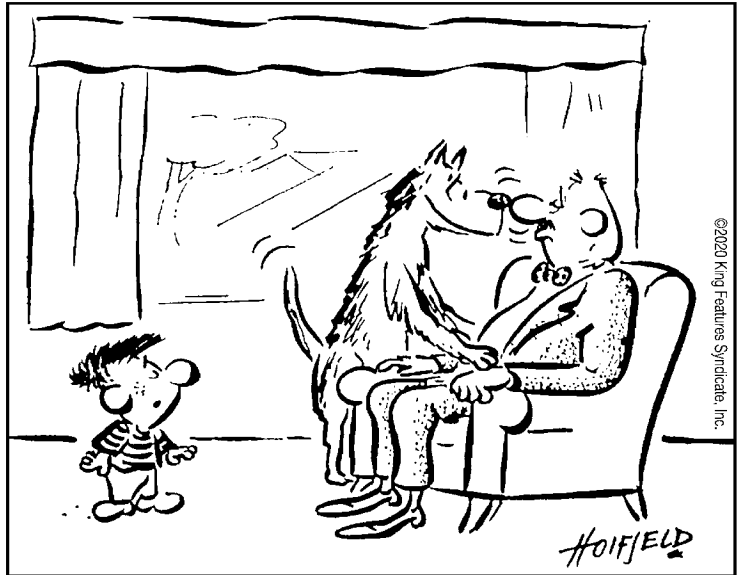
STAN SMITH'S TENNIS CLASS

DOUBLES: WHO'S GOT IT?

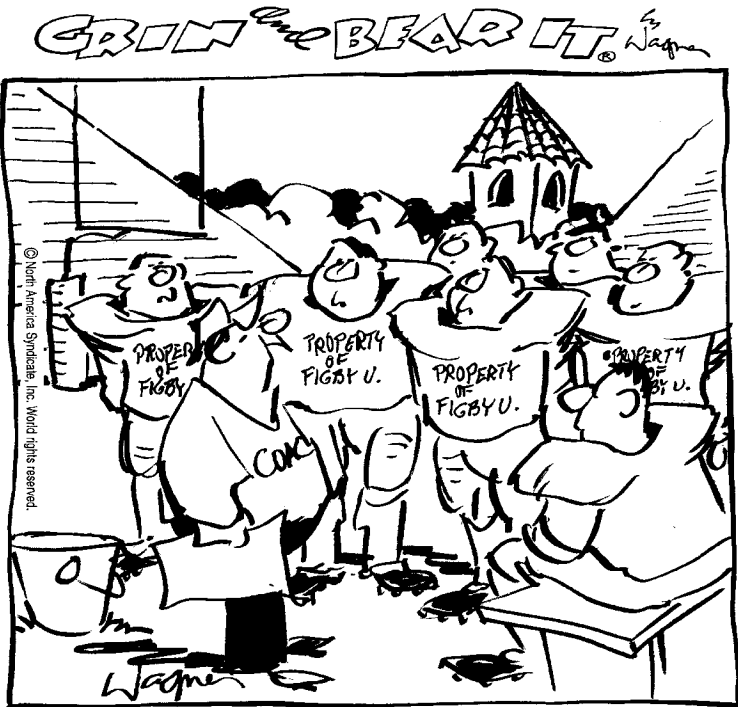
Before the action starts, it can be helpful for a doubles team to decide who should hit certain balls. This is particularly important for balls that land between players. It can be embarrassing during play when a ball bounces between you and your partner and no one tries to hit it!

Usually, the player who would hit it with a forehand should take the shot, but sometimes the player closer to the ball might be in a better position. Create guidelines such as “John takes short lobs down the middle. Jim gets lobs over John’s head.”

LAFF - A - DAY



“He’s an Eskimo dog.”



“Forget about last week’s upset. ... Concentrate on this week’s upset!”

Give Backyard Barbecues a Boost with Easy Crowd-Pleasers

FAMILY FEATURES

Classic burgers and hot dogs might get the spotlight during backyard barbecues, but tasty sides and twists on tradition are what take your cookout to the next level. Since no meal is complete without Bush's Baked Beans, chef James Briscione turns to these hearty Hamburger Baked Beans, which provide a twist on a cookout favorite with seasoned ground beef combined with baked beans. Simply cook ground beef with onions then add ketchup, mustard and baked beans, stirring everything together until heated through. With their sweet and savory flavor, Bush's Baked Beans perfectly complement whatever is on the table, whether you're hosting a backyard barbecue or heading to a neighborhood potluck. They make it easy

to bring big flavor and a dish that everyone will enjoy – no extra prep required. Varieties like Original and Brown Sugar Hickory are musts for your next cookout, and the Vegetarian version makes Briscione's go-to Grilled Chile Rellenos a new grilling favorite. It's an easy vegetarian recipe with some zing, as poblano chiles are stuffed with baked beans, peppers and onions then covered with cheese and grilled. "Bush's Baked Beans bring a depth of flavor and texture that works with anything on the grill," Briscione said. "They hold their own next to barbecue and can also be the base for easy, delicious dishes that bring people together." To complete your cookout and please potluck crowds with more delicious recipes, visit bushbeans.com.



Hamburger Baked Beans

Grilled Chile Rellenos

Prep time: 20 minutes
Cook time: 40 minutes
Servings: 6

- 6 large poblano chiles
- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 medium onion, finely chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 2 jalapenos, seeded and chopped
- 1/2 red bell pepper, finely chopped
- 1/2 cup chopped fresh cilantro
- 1 teaspoon cumin
- 1 can (28 ounces) Bush's Vegetarian Baked Beans, drained
- 1 1/2 teaspoons hot sauce
- 12 ounces pepper jack or Monterey Jack cheese, coarsely grated, divided
- salt, to taste
- freshly ground black pepper, to taste

Cut poblano chiles in half lengthwise to create boats for filling; scrape out seeds. In nonstick skillet, heat olive oil. Add onion, garlic, jalapenos, red bell pepper, cilantro and cumin; cook over medium heat until golden brown, about 4 minutes. Remove pan from heat and stir in vegetarian baked beans, hot sauce and 8 ounces cheese. Add salt and pepper, to taste. Spoon mixture into hollowed chiles and sprinkle with remaining cheese.

Preheat grill to medium heat. Arrange chiles on grill away from heat. Cook until chiles are tender and cheese is browned and bubbling, 30-40 minutes. Remove from grill and serve.



Grilled Chile Rellenos

Hamburger Baked Beans

Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 5 minutes
Servings: 4

- 1/2-1 pound ground beef
- 1/2 small onion, diced
- 2 tablespoons ketchup
- 1 teaspoon spicy mustard
- 28 ounces Bush's Original Baked Beans

In skillet over medium heat, cook ground beef with onion. Drain fat. Add ketchup, mustard and baked beans. Stir together until heated through.

Fresh, Flavorful Ways to Win Your Tailgate Gathering

FAMILY FEATURES

It's time to tailgate. Load up your favorite yard games, put on your team's colors and pack the cooler with drinks and game day foods to get in the spirit. For some, the real action takes place before kickoff, whether you're in the parking lot or watching from the comfort of home with fellow diehard fans. To be the star of your next tailgate or homegate, make sure you've got fuel for the party with convenient dips that perform at an MVP level. This Bloody Mary Dip combines a pair of game day favorites – the taste of a morning libation with a savory snack – to calm nerves before the players take the field. It's made and served with Dandy Celery from Duda Farm Fresh Foods, which boasts a legacy of quality, innovation and consistency in celery cultivation since 1926. Its produce

is crispier, sweeter and less stringy, redefining the veggie that's a perfect teammate for tailgate dips. Or you can stick with a classic in this Skinny 7-Layer Dip, which layers familiar flavors like garbanzo beans, avocado and shredded cheese but pairs them with nonfat Greek yogurt in place of full-fat sour cream to create a better-for-you game day bite. For an especially nutritious snack, scoop it using Dandy Celery, which is available year-round, packed with flavor and low in calories, making it a smart choice for snacking and cooking meals throughout the game. Plus, it's 95% water, high in fiber to leave fans feeling full and refreshed and packaged fresh and crisp with no preservatives. To find more ways to tackle tailgating menus, visit dudafresh.com.

Skinny 7-Layer Dip

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 cans (15 ounces each) garbanzo beans, drained and rinsed
- 2 teaspoons hot sauce
- 6-8 tablespoons water
- 2 ripe avocados
- 1 lime, juice only
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/3 cup Dandy Celery, minced
- 1 cup fresh cilantro, finely chopped
- 1/3 cup onion, minced
- 1 1/2 cups nonfat plain Greek yogurt, plus additional for garnish, divided
- 2 medium tomatoes, diced
- 2 packages Dandy Radish MiniSticks
- 2 cups low-fat cheddar cheese
- 1 cup sliced black olives
- 10 cilantro leaves

In skillet over medium-high heat, heat oil and garlic until softened and lightly browned. Add garbanzo beans and hot sauce. Cook 3 minutes, stirring frequently. Scrape contents of pan into food processor, add 6 tablespoons water and process until smooth. Add 1-2 tablespoons water as necessary to get puree to spreadable consistency. Transfer bean mixture to bowl to cool before assembling dip. Cut avocados in half and remove pits. Scoop out flesh and cut into 1-inch chunks. In food processor, process avocado chunks, lime juice and salt until mostly smooth. Set aside until ready to assemble.



In small bowl, mix celery, cilantro, onion and 1 1/2 cups Greek yogurt. To assemble: Using spoon or plastic bag with tip removed for piping, distribute garbanzo bean mixture evenly among 10 small containers. Add layer of avocado puree in same manner. Sprinkle layer of diced tomatoes over avocado puree in each container. Add layer of radish sticks. Distribute Greek yogurt mixture evenly over cups. Divide cheese over cups then layer black olives. Garnish with dollop of Greek yogurt and cilantro leaf.



Bloody Mary Dip

Recipe courtesy of Laughing Spatula on behalf of Duda Farm Fresh Foods
Prep time: 5 minutes
Servings: 8

- 8 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 3 tablespoons tomato paste
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 3 tablespoons pimento olives, chopped
- 2 tablespoons onions, chopped
- 2 tablespoons bacon, chopped

- 1/4 cup chopped Dandy Celery, plus additional whole sticks for serving, divided
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon granulated garlic
- olives, for garnish
- tomatoes, for garnish
- crackers, for serving

In large bowl, combine cream cheese, tomato paste, Worcestershire sauce, pimento olives, onions, bacon, 1/4 cup chopped celery, salt, pepper and garlic. Mix well. Transfer to serving dish. Garnish with skewered olives and tomatoes. Serve with celery and crackers to dip.

Crime

Shooting on the 5000 block of North Winthrop Avenue.

Shooting on West George Street and North Seeley Avenue

Shooting on the 2000 block of West George Street.

Burglary on the 2300 block of North Clark Street.

Burglary on the 1800 block of North Byron Street.

Shooting on the 1800 block of North Cleveland Avenue.

Shooting on the 2500 block of Souh Leavitt Street.

Theft on the 3300 block of North Halsted Street.

Assault on the 3500 block of North Milwaukee Avenue.

Theft on the 1500 block of West Wellington Avenue.

Theft on the 2800 block of North Burlington Street.

Assault on Walton and State Street.

Theft on the 100 block of West Elm Street.

Burglary on the 800 block of Sherican Road.

Theft on the 3200 block of North Leavitt Street.

Vandalism on the 800 block if West Lawrence Avenue.

Theft on the 2000 block of West Roscoe Street.

Vandalism on the 4900 block of North Marine Drive.

Assault on the 3400 block of West Irving Park Road.

Theft on the 4500 block on North Lincoln Avenue.

Theft on the 3500 block of North Broadway.

Vandalism on the 400 block of West Hobbie Street.

Theft on the 1800 block of West Lawrence Avenue.

Theft on the 3800 block of North Lincoln Avenue.

Assault on the 800 block of North State Street.

Assault on the 1800 block of West Cornellia Avenue.

Assault on the 3500 block of North Clark Street.

Vandalism on the 300 block of West Evergreen Avenue.

Theft on the 2300 block of North Clybourn Avenue.

Theft on the 3000 block of North Broadway.

Theft on the 1000 block of North Ashland Avenue.

Assault on the 3100 block of North Paulina Street.

Theft on the 900 block of North Rush Street.

Theft on the 3600 block of North Southport Avenue.

Theft on the 1700 block of West Fullerton Avenue.

Assault on the 2100 block of North Sheffield Avenue.

Theft on the 5500 pf North Clark Street.

Vandalism on the 5600 block of North Kenmore Avenue.

Theft on the 4000 block of North Ravenswood Avenue.

Theft on Chicago Avenue and State Street.

Theft on the 1500 block of North Sheffield Avenue.

Assault on the 2100 block of North Clybourn Avenue.

Assault on the 800 block of West Lawrence Avenue.

Theft on the 2500 block of North Elston Avenue.

Burglary on the 2400 block of West Sherwin Avenue.

Shooting at North Kedzie Avenue and West Lawrence Avenue.

Shooting on the 5000 block of North Winthrop Avenue.

Shooting on the 6200 block of North Rockwell Street.

Shooting on West George Street and North Seely Avenue.

Burglary on the 3000 block of North Marshfield Avenue.

Burglary on the 1800 block of West Byron Street.

Theft on the 3600 block of Touhy Avenue.

Theft on the 1500 block of West Wellington Avenue.

Shooting on the 3500 block of Leavitt Street.

Burglary on the 6500 block of North Hamilton Avenue.

Vandalism on the 7200 block of North Ridge Boulevard.

Burglary on the 3600 block of North Springfield Avenue.

Theft on the 4700 block of North Elston Avenue.

Assault on the 6300 block of Fairfield Avenue.

Assault on the 3100 block of West Addison Street.

Vandalism on the 800 block of West Lawrence Avenue.

Theft on the 3200 block of West Leavitt Street.

Burglary on the 800 block of West Sheridan Road.

Theft on the 2000 block of West Roscoe Street..

Vandalsim on the 4900 block of North Marine Drive.

Assault on the 2300 block of West Irving Park Road Road.

Theft on the 4500 block of North Lincoln Avenue.

Theft on the 6400 block of North Clark Street.

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COP ALLEGEDLY GUILTY OF GUN SMUGGLING

Kevin Rodriguez, a Chicago police officer, is accused in federal court of using his law enforcement credentials to buy an assault weapon, (AR style rifle) and a second firearm, for a man who then allegedly smuggled the guns into Mexico for sale.

Rodriguez, 27, faces conspiracy and other charges in a nine-page indictment. A Chicago Police Department spokesperson said Rodriguez was relieved of his police powers in July and is on a no pay status.

He was allegedly paid \$2000 and three days later, allegedly given another \$632.

In recent years, as the police department has struggled to get out from under a federal order requiring sweeping changes, scandals involving the mishandling of guns have affected two other South Side police districts.



What’s Hot In Hollywood & Gardening

HOLLYWOOD — In 1982, I photographed **Scott Strader**, who was a guest star in “The Facts of Life,” “Gimme a Break!” “CHiPS,” “General Hospital,” “Trauma Center,” the original “Karate Kid” (1984), and “Different Strokes.” ... Then nothing. When he landed the lead role in the major film “Jocks” (1987) and was billed above “Law & Order” star **Mariska Hargitay** and “Shaft” legend **Richard Roundtree**, he thought: “Next stop ... stardom!” But nothing came, and Strader knew he had to reinvent himself: “Acting is too uncertain, and you can’t control your own destiny. I thought there must be something better! I had an idea about a healthy energy drink utilizing the iconic lotus flower. Blood, sweat and tears later, I came up with Lotus Plant Power, a healthier alternative to mainstream energy drinks like Red Bull.”

Saying that Strader is a multimillionaire would be an understatement, but this month, he launches his newest drink: Plant Pop soda. He admitted, “Now the only acting I do is as a real-life entrepreneur.”

Our most recent James Bond, **Daniel Craig**, is back, and this time, he won’t be kissing another man like he did in “Queer” (which bombed). Instead, he’ll be the top-line actor in the third “Knives Out” movie, “Wake Up Dead Man.” It is due in theaters on Nov. 26 and hits streaming on Dec. 12. **Josh Brolin**, **Glenn Close**, **Mila Kunis**, **Jeremy Renner**, **Andrew Scott** and **Kerry Washington** co-star.

The former 007 has also been confirmed for director **Greta Gerwig**’s “Narnia: The Magician’s Nephew,” opposite **Carey Mulligan**.

Dracula sucks again! This time, he’s in love in French director **Luc Besson**’s fantasy-horror romance “Dracula: A Love Tale,” with **Caleb Landry Jones** playing the Prince of Darkness. Two-time Oscar winner **Christoph Waltz** co-stars, and the musical score was composed by “Beetlejuice Beetlejuice”’s **Danny Elfman**. It is a smash in France already and will open here in 2026.

“The Naked Gun” (2025), which starred **Liam Neeson** and “Baywatch” babe **Pamela Anderson**, had soft ticket sales, so presto — a romance was leaked between its two stars! But it barely made its money back before the romance was dubbed a fake!

Kim Novak — star of 31 major motion pictures including “Picnic,” “The Man with the Golden Arm,” “Pal Joey,” and “Vertigo” — was dubbed one of the last living legendary stars of the Golden Age of Hollywood when she received the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Venice Film Festival.

In 1956, she had a secret love affair with **Sammy Davis Jr.** (Interracial romances were taboo then.) But when her boss, **Harry Cohn**, head of Columbia Pictures, threatened Davis with a mob hit (yes, these things happened), they ended their romance.

Now 50 years later, Novak’s worried that her biopic,



Courtesy of Lotus Plant Power
Entrepreneur/former actor
Scott Strader

starring **Sydney Sweeney**, will be more about her salacious forbidden affair with Davis than her illustrious career. It’s called “Scandalous!” ... Ya think?

HOLLYWOOD — **Robert Redford** couldn’t stay away from moviemaking. No, he’s not acting, but he is one of the executive producers of the AMC psychological-thriller series “Dark Winds,” which has been renewed for its fourth season. It stars **Zahn McClarnon**, a Native American who played tribal police chief Mathias in A&E’s “Longmire” for six seasons and Hanzee Dent in season two of “Fargo.” He’s starred as Joe Leaphorn in “Dark Winds” since 2022.

The search for the next James Bond continues, and at least two actors are out of the running.

Austin Butler confessed, “No calls as far as that goes, but I love that man! Would I play James Bond? I don’t think that would be a good idea. Because I’m an American. I can do an accent, but that would be kind of sacrilegious. Those movies meant so much to me, but I think that it’s gotta be somebody who is from [England].”

On the other hand, when Butler was asked if he would play a villain, he said, “That would be alright. I’d do that!”

Chiming in, **Glen Powell** recently admitted, “I’m Texan. A Texan should not play James Bond.” Gentlemen, the film will be made by an American company, Amazon MGM Studios, and no one has even asked you yet!

Thirty-five-year-old **Aaron Taylor-Johnson** is still the 007 frontrunner. He has two films completed and is currently shooting the crime thriller “Blood on

Snow,” co-starring **Benedict Cumberbatch**.

Ryan Reynolds will play Dead-pool again in “Avengers: Doomsday” (due in December 2026), but first he’ll be the top-line actor in “Animal Friends,” with **Jason Momoa** and **Vince Vaughn**. It comes out in May 2026. Reynolds will also star in Apple TV+’s action-adventure film “May-day,” opposite **Kenneth Branagh** and **Maria Bakalova**.

We can’t forget Wolverine, **Hugh Jackman**, who’s just completed the biographical musical “Song Sung Blue.” **Kate Hudson**, **Michael Imperioli** and **Jim Belushi** co-star. Jackman and Hudson play a down-on-their-luck couple who perform in a **Neil Diamond** tribute band. It’s due on Dec. 25.

Oscar winner **Jessica Chastain** (“The Eyes of Tammy Faye”) stars in the supernatural-horror film “Other Mommy,” along with **Karen Allen** (who starred in “Raiders of the Lost Ark” and two “Indiana Jones” sequels). It opens in May 2026.

“La La Land” (2016) and “Poor Things” (2023) Oscar winner **Emma Stone** has two films slated for this year. A black comedy called “Eddington,” with **Joaquin Phoenix**, **Pedro Pascal**, **Luke Grimes** and **Austin Butler**, hit screens back in July. Next up is her sci-fi thriller “Bugonia,” with **Jesse Plemons**, which opens on Oct. 24.

Pedro Pascal, who is not been on the record about his sexuality despite being 50 and never having been married, was courted by director **Todd Haynes** for his corrupt cop film “De Noche.” Pascal will star opposite 32-year-old **Danny Ramirez**, who plays his lover. Maybe we’ll know more about Pascal’s sexuality by how convincingly he can cop a feel!



Courtesy of AMC
Zahn McClarnon (“Longmire,”
“Fargo” and “Dark Winds”)

celebrity extra

by Dana Jackson

Q: When does the new season of “Elsbeth” start? Also, is anyone else from “The Good Wife” or “The Good Fight” going to join the show? — S.B.

A: Season three of the hit CBS series “Elsbeth” returns Sunday, Oct. 12, at 9:30 p.m. ET, with Carrie Preston returning as the quirky attorney she originated on “The Good Wife” and later played on its spin-off, “The Good Fight.” The first character to cross over to “Elsbeth” was Carter Schmidt, who is played by Christian Borle.

This coming season, Sarah Steele, who previously played Melissa Gold, will appear. The franchise’s creators, Robert and Michelle King, told Entertainment Weekly that Steele was “at the top of the list of actors from ‘The Good Fight’ that we wanted back.” They claimed, “She can read a medical chart and make it funny.”

Guest stars for season three also include Anna-Leigh Ashford (“Happy Face”) and William Jackson Harper (“The Good Place”). In the season premiere, Stephen Colbert will play a fictional version of himself as a late-night talk show host, alongside Amy Sedaris (“Strangers with Candy”) and Andy Richter (“Conan”).

Q: I heard that the teen show “Euphoria” is coming back to HBO. Will it have the same cast? Aren’t they too old now to be high schoolers? — P.M.

A: Yes, “Euphoria” is gearing up to start filming its third season this coming January with most of its original cast scheduled to return. It’ll have been four years since season two ended, but the new season will wisely take place after a time jump. Zendaya, Jacob Elordi and Sydney Sweeney have all become huge stars since the series debuted, but they haven’t forgotten their roots and are expected to return.

Other stars returning include Hunter Schafer, Alexa Demie and Maude Apatow. Eric Dane, who was sadly diagnosed with ALS this past year, is also expected to return, but he recently had to bow out as a presenter at the Emmy Awards at the last minute for unknown reasons.

Sharon Stone (“Basic Instinct”) recently confirmed that she has signed on with the show. It’s not known what role she’ll play, but the Oscar-nominated star will surely make a memorable impression.



Courtesy of CBS
Carrie Preston as Elsbeth Tascioni
in “Elsbeth”

Q: I saw that the film “Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale” just released in theaters. Is it really the final film of the franchise? — O.B.

A: With the film “Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale” out now, it would appear that the final chapter of the beloved British historical dramas has been written. “Downton Abbey”’s creator Julian Fellowes told Entertainment Weekly that this current film is the conclusion of the saga that he’s been telling since 2010. He said it’s the last time we’ll see this generation of characters. However, according to EW, “the door has been left open for potential prequels, spin-offs following the children of these characters, and more.”

In the meantime, you should check out the HBO series “The Gilded Age,” if you haven’t. Fellowes is the co-showrunner of the historical drama with Sonja Warfield, and it has recently been renewed for a fourth season. It takes place about three decades before “Downton Abbey” and has a star-studded cast that includes Christine Baranski (“The Good Fight”) and Carrie Coon (“The White Lotus”).

Send me your questions at
NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com.

The Garden Bug

Sometimes called roly-poly or woodlouse, *Armadillidium vulgare* are more closely related to shrimp and crayfish than insects. They are nocturnal, feeding on algae, fungus, moss, bark and all kinds of decaying plant and animal material. The females lay 100-200 eggs per brood, typically having 1-3 broods per year. The



Pill bugs

eggs are carried in a pouch on her belly. The babies hatch after 3-4 weeks, and may stay in the pouch for 2 more weeks to grow a little more. A pill bug can live up to 2 years.

- Brenda Weaver

Source: alabamawildlife.org

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The Garden Bug

Ailanthus altissima, known as Chinese sumac or tree-of-heaven, is native to China. In the late 1700s, it was brought to the U.S. as an attractive, fast-growing ornamental tree. Since then it has spread throughout much of North



Tree-of-heaven

America, filling fields and forests with its dense thickets, destroying habitats and crowding agricultural fields and roadsides. It can regrow even when most of the plant is thought to be removed, and it is tolerant of poor soil and drought.

- Brenda Weaver

Sources: www.invasive.org, www.nature.org

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The Garden Bug

Try freshening up older clay pots with paint, mosaics, stucco or gluing items like shells, buttons, etc. It helps mismatched pots look more uniform, and gives your garden or patio some fresh color, without the cost of replacing all your pots. - Brenda Weaver

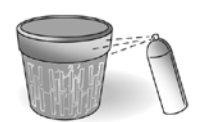
Inspect used pots for cracks, damage, mold and mildew. Clean and repair each pot.



Let dry. Sand surface lightly, then refinish.



When finished and completely dry, seal with clear water-proof finish.



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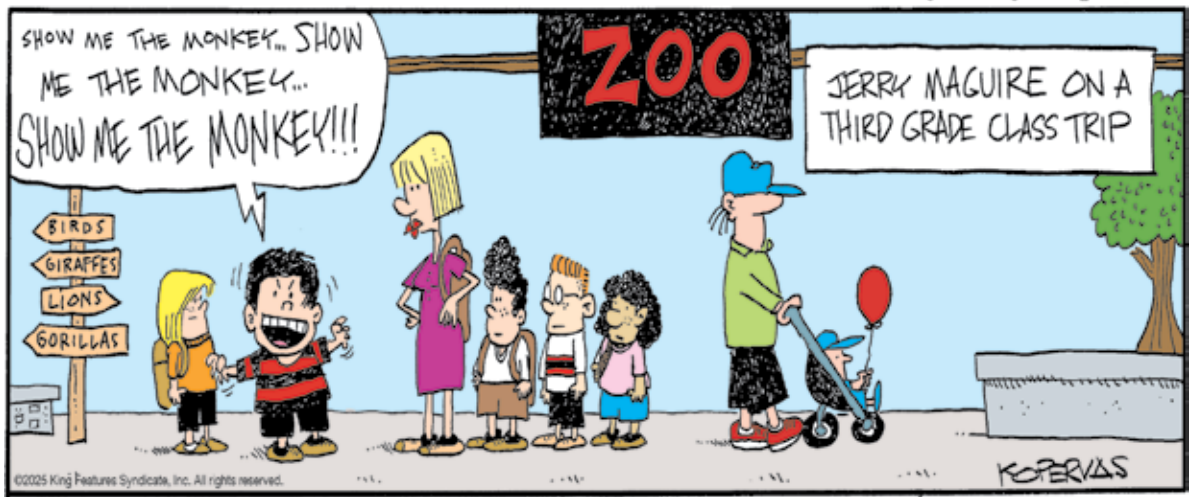
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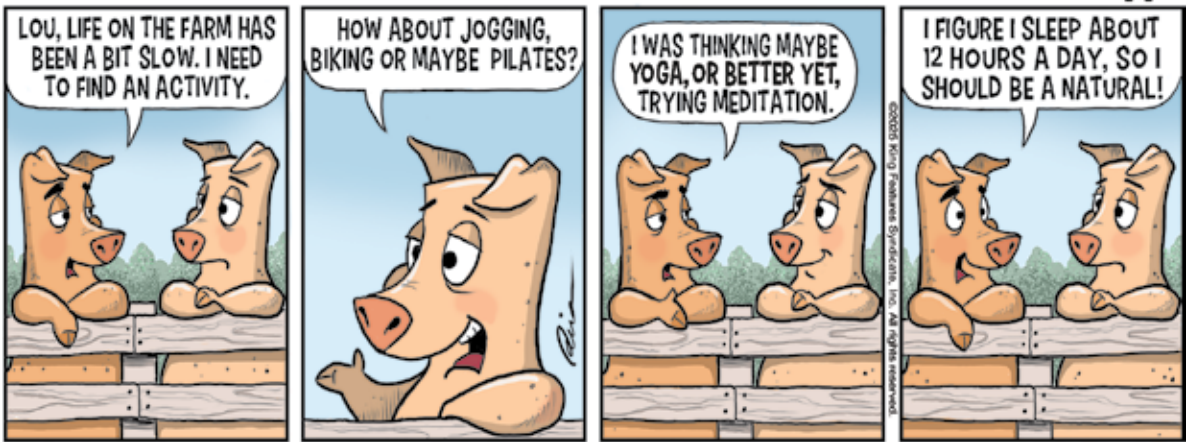
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



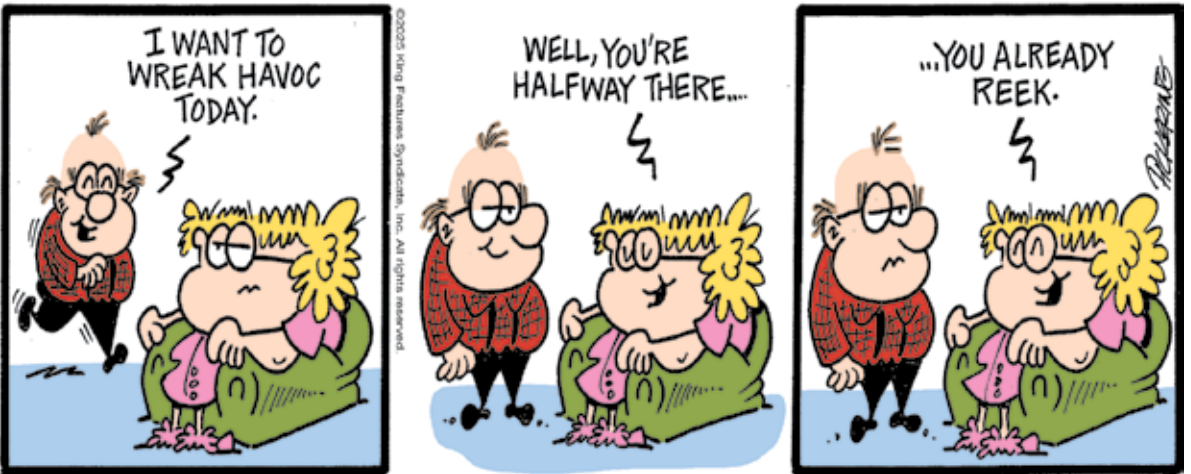
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



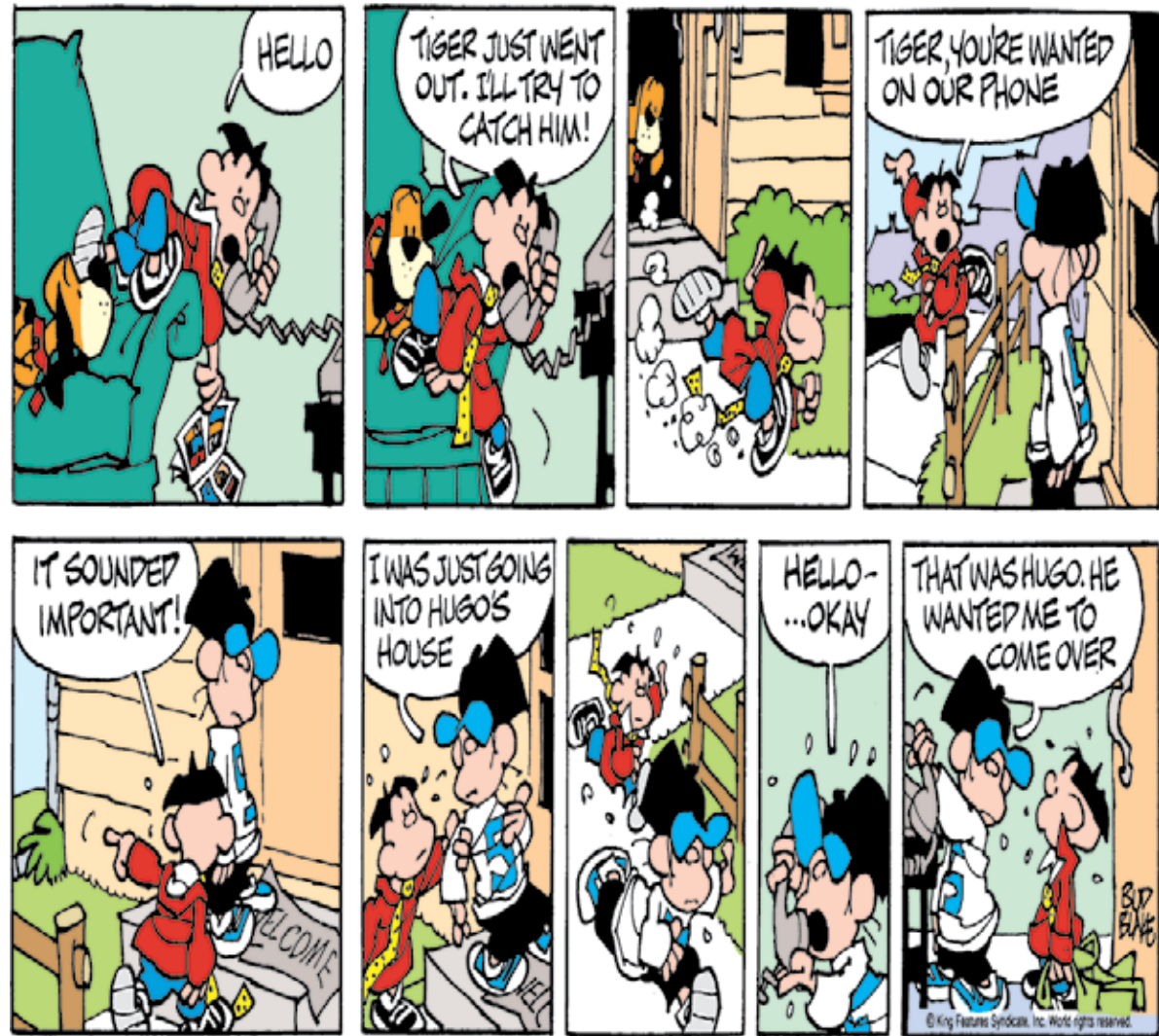
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



Puzzles4Kids

by Helene Hovanec

RIDDLE SEARCH – FAIRY TALE ELEMENTS

Look up, down, and diagonally, both forward and backward to find every word on the list. Circle each one as you find it. When all the words are circled, take the UNUSED letters and write them on the blanks below. Go from left to right and top to bottom to find the answer to this riddle: **What fairy tale character is an expert on time?**

ANIMAL	C	R	O	W	N	P	G	F	L	E
CASTLE	O	A	E	H	O	R	M	L	G	C
COTTAGE	T	D	S	C	I	A	C	I	A	
CROWN	T	U	O	T	A	N	I	M	A	L
ELF	A	N	O	I	L	C	D	H	N	A
GIANT	G	I	G	W	T	E	E	O	T	P
GOOSE	E	C	L	H	R	S	N	R	O	K
HERO	R	O	E	O	O	S	C	S	W	I
HORSE	G	R	K	S	L	Q	U	E	E	N
KING	O	N	I	A	L	L	I	V	R	G
MAIDEN										
OGRE										
PALACE										
PRINCESS										
QUEEN										
TOWER										
TROLL										
UNICORN										
VILLAIN										
WITCH										

Riddle answer: _____

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



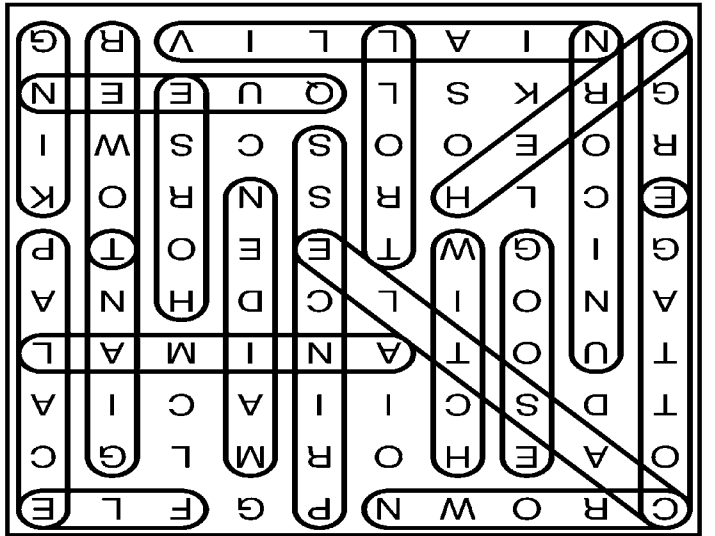
Differences: 1. Paper is longer. 2. Mirror is moved. 3. Man's left arm is not showing. 4. Light is different. 5. Hood is different. 6. Pants are different.

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



Riddle Answer: Goldi-locks.



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