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by Janet Spencer

What's the biggest cultivated crop in the U.S.? That would be grass, in the form of lawns, which out-ranks all food crops grown in the country by acreage. Come along with Tidbits as celebrate National Lawn Care Month!

A BIG CROP

- The United States devotes about one-fifth of its land to agriculture, and the largest single food crop is corn. However, lawns take up three times more acreage than corn. In fact, turf grown in parks, golf courses, and yards takes up more space in the U.S. than corn, wheat, and fruit trees combined. About half of the grass grown in the U.S. is located in micro-plots of American lawns.
- Lawns became fashionable in the 1600s. A lawn was a status symbol. Only the very rich could afford to grow a completely useless crop on their property. Lawns had to be cut by hand with sickles and scythes. But all that changed in the year 1830, when English engineer Edwin Budding invented the lawn mower, inspired by the revolving bladed reel he saw trimming fabric in cloth mills. Lawns began to crop up in public spaces and then on private land. The first lawn care book, "The Art of Beautifying Suburban Home Grounds" was published in 1870. Today, about 85 million households in the United States have lawns.







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Blend

LAWNS (cont'd)

- A lawn absorbs rainfall and prevents run-off. In fact, a lawn is six times more effective at retaining water than a wheat field.
- Lawns are better at producing oxygen than trees, and their season is longer, too. A lawn 50 feet (15 m) by 50 feet produces enough oxygen to meet the needs of a family of four.
- Landscapes that include grass lawns, trees, and shrubs can reduce the air temperature surrounding a home by up to 14°F.
- Lawns are healthier if clippings are left behind. Clippings shade the ground, slowing evaporation. They decompose, providing nutrients. Grass is healthier if allowed to grow taller, which gives it more surface for photosynthesis, and also crowds out weeds.
- The drawback of lawns is that about 80 million pounds of pesticides and up to 70 million pounds of fertilizers are applied to lawns in the U.S. every year, far more per acre than crop land
- The smell of freshly mown grass or newly cut hay is actually the odor of a set of chemical compounds called green leaf volatiles which are given off by the plant when it is injured. Some of the chemical secretions rush to the injury to bind the wound and protect against fungal infections. Other chemicals act as airborne messengers, signaling predatory insects such as wasps who prey upon grassmunching caterpillars. And some chemicals merely taste bad, in order to discourage animals and insects from continuing to eat the plant. Plants downwind of the injured grass will also begin to produce these bad-tasting chemicals to protect themselves in advance of being eaten. This is the reason giraffes have learned to eat from a tree, and then continue to graze upon other trees that are upwind instead of downwind.



- What is the average size of a lawn in the U.S.?
 How many individual grass plants are there in a square inch of lawn?
- 3. How fast does grass grow in a month?
- 4. How many hours will a typical homeowner spend on yard work per week?
- 5. How much money will a typical homeowner spend on lawn and garden products in a year?



- * "Add dryer sheets to storage totes along with clothes and shoes." -- M.W.
- * "Try soaking an ink stain in rubbing alcohol for a few minutes before putting the garment in the wash." -- B.D.
- * A.H. from Texas writes: "If you do a lot of bead work or have children who collect rocks, save your old pill bottles with the labels peeled off to put beads/ rocks/findings into. The pill bottles are clear enough to see what's inside, and it saves money on pricey, specifically designed containers."
- * "When your container of cornstarch is empty, take a dry cloth and wipe it out. Now you can use these canisters for your children's crayons. When there's a

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Monthly Financial Planning Tip From Kailee And Chandra:



"It's time to give your finances a spring cleaning! You can start by gathering and simplifying your assets. Do you have pension plans or RRSP accounts from past employers, or GIC's and term deposits renewing soon? Come chat with us about consolidating and re-balancing those accounts to make them easier to manage while also making the most out of your investment dollars."

GREEN GREEN GRASS OF HOME

- A type of grass called zoysia grows sideways along the ground instead of up, so it needs less mowing. And it tolerates drought well, so it needs less watering. The plant is named after botanist Karl von Zois. A mixture of zoysia and fescue can stay green year-round in the southern U.S. The zoysia stays green in summer and fescue stays green in winter.
- Bermuda grass is one of the most popular varieties of grasses for lawns in warm climates, but it is also one of the most allergenic. The flowers of the plant bloom almost continuously, but they grow so low to the ground that lawnmowers pass right over them. They produce pollen year-round in such prolific amounts that some cities have banned the plant. Bermuda grass is not native to Bermuda. Instead, it's actually considered an invasive species in Bermuda. However, it arrived in the U.S. from Bermuda, and that's how it got its name.

GREAT GRASSES

- Aside from lawns, grasses in general are an amazing group of plants. There are over 12,000 different species of grass, making it one of the most abundant families of plants. The scientific name for the family of grasses is "Poaceae" from the Greek word "poa" meaning "fodder." Grasses are the single most wide-spread plant family, and can be found in areas ranging from jungles to deserts to mountaintops and tidal flats.
- Grasslands account for over 25% of the vegetative cover on Earth, ranging from the savannahs of Africa to the prairies of the Midwestern United States to the steppes of Mongolia. Areas that do not have grasslands include places such as Greenland and Antarctica. Yet, a plant called Antarctic hairgrass grows in Antarctica and is listed by Guinness World Records as the southernmost flowering plant on Earth. There are about 1,400 species of grasses in the United States.

 Continued pg.4

TIPBITS GOES LONG.....

Pall-mall was a game played in England similar to croquet. The mallet used to hit the ball was called a mall, and the game also eventually became known by its shortened name, Mall. The game was usually played on a shady, grassy lawn. Over the course of time, any public walk became known as a mall. Only recently has "mall" come to mean a huge shopping center.

group of children, everyone can have their own crayons. You also can use these canisters for erasers, pins, buttons, beads, etc." -- D.

- * "I do dishes the old-fashioned way: in the dishpan in the sink. I put a second dishpan in the other sink and rinse the dishes over it to catch the water. I then use it to flush the toilet. I can flush at least three times a day with the rinse water. Washing your produce also takes a lot of water that you can catch in the dishpan and use for watering outdoor plants." -- C.S.R.
- * "Instead of using candles during a power failure, most hardware stores and home-improvement centers sell battery-powered lanterns for \$16 to \$20, and some last for days." -- J.P.





by Samantha Weaver

- * It was beloved poet William Wordsworth, best know for helping to launch the Romantic age in English literature, who made the following sage observation: "The best portion of a good man's life is his little, nameless, unremembered acts of kindness and of love."
- * The world's largest bird, the ostrich, may not be able to fly, but that doesn't mean its wings are useless. As the fastest bird on land, the ostrich uses its wings for balance while slowing down and making turns as it runs at speeds of up to 45 mph.
- * In 1994, a man named Robert Puelo started cursing and shouting at employees in a convenience store. When the employees (understandably) threatened to call the police, the man stole a hot dog and ran out. The police were called, and upon arrival, they discovered Puelo outside the store,

unconscious and turning purple. Paramedics were called, but by the time they arrived, it was too late; the man had choked to death on his stolen sausage.

- * Some gourmets claim that the most delicious meat they've ever eaten is roast monkey.
- * Those who study such things say that when a man and a woman who have been romantically involved break up, the pair are more likely to remain friends if it's the woman who initiated the
- * You might be surprised to learn that light doesn't always travel at the speed of light. In fact, light has been recorded traveling as slow as 38 mph.
- * The word "widow" comes to modern English via the Old English word "widewe," which in turn comes from a Sanskrit term meaning "empty."

Thought for the Day: "The great thing about getting older is that you don't lose all the other ages you've been." -- Madeleine L'Engle

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Weekly Sudoku Puzzle Sponsored by

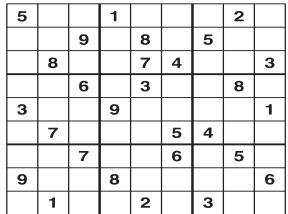


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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



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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Carlyne Lee lives in the Shuswap and is Author of 15 Cookbooks. For more information or to purchase your own copies of her books you can 250-836-3181 or 1-877-812-3181

BANANA-WALNUT-COCONUT COOKIES

3/4 cup butter or margarine 1 cup brown sugar 1/2 cup white sugar 2 teaspoons vanilla 1 cup buttermilk or sour milk 2 small bananas, mashed 2 cups flour 1 teaspoon baking soda 1/4 teaspoon salt 2 1/2 cups large flake rolled oats 3/4 cup chopped walnuts 3/4 cup shredded or flaked coconut

Beat first 4 ingredients. Add the milk and bananas. Mix in the sifted flour, soda and salt. Fold in the last 3 ingredients. Bake in 350F oven on ungreased cookie sheets for about 10-12 minutes. Delicious and so good for you!! (This recipe is from my cookbook called "COOKIES AND BARS".) All of my books can be found at THREE VALLEY LAKE CHATEAU GIFT SHOPPE, grocery stores in Malakwa, DeMilles and other fruit stands.

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: W equals T

WZT RQIVTAWTI HTOVTIQWTDK

QWWTCVWTH WF CQJT QAKWZGAM

EFIJ. KFB RFBDH OQK ZT EQO

MIQOVGAM QW OQEO.

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- **Emanation**
- 5 Comedian **DeLuise**
- 8 Edinburgh dweller
- 12 Quarrel
- 13 budget
- 14 Color quality
- 15 Think about
- 17 Erstwhile Peruvian
- 18 Mean
- 19 Animal shelter
- 21 Corroded
- 22 H.H. Munro's pseudonym
- 23 Handy Latin abbr.
- 26 Bobby of hockey lore
- 28 Celebrate
- Cheer (for)
- 31 33 Still
- 35 Guns the
- engine 36 Literary cate- 56 Part of N.B. gory
- 38 With 46-Down, shared fairly
- 40 Scarlet
- 41 Bound
- 43 Billboards
- 45 Black eye, e.g.
- 47 Proof that you're who you say you are

- 10 11 12 13 14 15 17 16 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 35 34 36 39 40 37 38 42 43 47 50 46 48 49 45 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59
- 51 Galley lineup 52 Shopper, e.g.
- 54 Thing
- 55 Part of "to be"
- 57 Metallica
- drummer Ulrich
- 58 Homer's neighbor
- 59 From the start
- **DOWN** Spore cases
- Word after 10-Down
- 3 Carry on

- 4 Bewildered from old age
- 6 Inseparable 7 Report card
- data Scoundrel 9 Underhanded 42 Pie nut one
- 10 Fairy tale starter 11 Blue hue 16 Grooving on
- 20 Listener 23 Work unit 24 Pirouette pivot
- 25 Magician 27 Agt.

- 29 First lady 5 Unsteady, as 30 Leary's drug 32 Platitudes 34 Coached
 - 37 Type measures
 - 39 Probability
 - 44 Diving gear 45 Seethe
 - 46 See 38-Across
 - 48 Prayer ending 49 Actress
 - Russo 50 Sketched
 - 53 Tramcar contents

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GRASS FACTS

- Grasses evolved to grow at the base of the plant instead of at the tip. This makes it easier to recover when it is grazed, mowed, trampled, or burned.
- The first grasses ever cultivated by humans were probably wheat and barley. Agricultural grasses grown for their edible seeds are called cereals or grains. Three cereals - rice, wheat, and maize (corn) - provide more than half of all calories eaten by humans. Of all crops grown by humans, 70% are grasses.
- Fossilized dinosaur dung from the Cretaceous period 66 million years ago shows remnants of plants very closely related to modern bamboo and rice. Bamboo is the tallest species of grass.



- Timothy grass is a grass commonly cultivated, cut, and baled for the purpose of feeding livestock. It's named after American agriculturist Timothy Hanson, who convinced farmers in the northern U.S. that it could grow just as well in colder regions as it does in the south.
- Cogon grass sports blades of grass that are so sharp they act like little knives. The edge of each blade is embedded with silica crystals that act like the teeth of a saw. The edges are sharp enough to cut the mouths of animals trying to feed upon it. Even the roots have barbed edges, cutting the roots of competing plants up to four feet (1.2 m) deep.



Pampas grass grows tall with feathery plumes often collected by people to serve as decorations. The word "pampas" is a South American term meaning "plain" and the plains of South America are the plant's native habitat. Pampas is an invasive weed that is hard to kill. Each plant can produce over a million seeds during its lifetime.



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Amazing Plants ERGOT

- Ergot is a toxic parasitic fungus that attaches to the seed heads of grasses such as rye, sorghum, and wheat. Bread made from seeds contaminated with ergot can affect any unlucky person or animal who eats it.
- Ergot contains alkaloids that constrict blood vessels. This causes a host of problems, ranging from nausea and seizures to gangrene and death. It affects the brain as well, causing hallucinations and hysteria.
- Throughout history there are stories of entire villages becoming sick with what was called "dancing mania" referring to convulsions and collapse, or "St. Anthony's fire" referring to peeling, blistered skin. Even livestock who ate ergot-contaminated grains fell victim, and typically would lose their hooves, tails, and ears before dying.
- In order to propagate, an ergot spore must land on the open flower of a grass plant. This is why it commonly affects rye (which has an open floret) and rarely oats (with a closed floret.) The spore must have access to the flower's stigma, where it mimics a growing seed in the plant's ovary, hijacking the nutrition that the rye plant intended to use to nourish the seeds.
- The ergot remains in the ovary of the grass plant, where it resembles a grass seed. Under the proper cool moist conditions, the ergot bursts into bloom, producing very tiny mushrooms, the size of a grain of rice. It then drops a small sticky sweet pod to the ground, and inside the pod are millions of spores. Insects attracted to the sweet coating help spread the spores to other plants, and the wind

Amber Waves











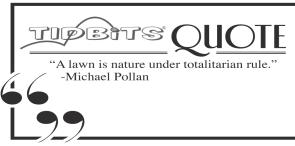
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WALK Sorrento BC







disperses the rest.

- A French doctor named Thuillier was the first to understand that the mysterious disease that killed so many of his patients was caused by the consumption of contaminated rye bread. After a great deal of sleuthing, he noted that ergotism was a disease suffered only by poor rural people and not by rich urban people. He realized that poor rural people ate rye bread which was cheap and readily available, while wealthier people in cities preferred the more expensive white bread made from wheat. His efforts to alert the populace fell on deaf ears. It was two centuries later before a researcher named Louis Tulasne, who was illustrating the life cycle of the rye plant, realized that ergot was a fungus separate from the plant, and that it has poisonous qualities.
- Today, rye seeds are given a salt bath. The healthy seeds sink, while the ergot-infected imposters float to the top, where they can easily be scooped off. Ergot spores cannot survive if they are buried under more than an inch of soil, so deep plowing reduces the infection rate. The spores cannot survive more than a year, so farmers alternate crops with varieties that are not susceptible to infection. If wild pastures are mowed before the grasses flower, ergot contamination is reduced.



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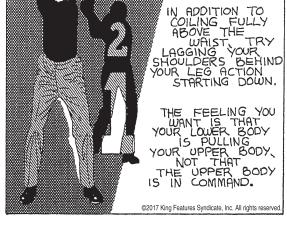
ERGOT (cont'd)

- Ergot outbreaks are uncommon in developed countries due to these preventative measures. However, in less wealthy countries, ergotism still occurs. In 2001 an outbreak in Ethiopia was traced to contaminated barley following ideal conditions for an outbreak: moist weather, cool temperatures, and a delayed harvest. Barley flowers stay open longer when the weather is cool and wet, giving ergot a greater opportunity to infect the plant.
- Ergot also has medicinal properties under the right conditions. Extracts from the plant can be used to relieve migraine headaches and reduce bleeding after childbirth. Ergot is the species from which LSD was first created.

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Community Events

Blue Cottage Collective is hosting **Mother's Day Market** Sat May 6 9-3pm The Gathering Place 350-30th St Salmon Arm

Notch Hill Hall Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast, Book and Plant Sale. 8:30-11:30am Adults\$7. Children 10 and under \$3.50

The men of Notch Hill Town Hall Association want to show Mothers they are appreciated by serving a **Yummy Pancake Breakfast Sunday May. 14th** at the hall. 8-11:30am. \$7 (kids under 10-\$3.50). First 50 mothers receive a gift!

White Lake Fire Dept 36th Annual Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast, Sunday, 14th May 8-11am at White Lake Community Hall. Breakfast cooked and served by Fire Dept Members. Funds raised support local student bursaries, donations to local causes - health and education.

The 5th Ave Seniors Centre will hold a Mothers Day Pancake Breakfast on Sunday May 14 from 8:00 to 12:00. 170 5th Ave SE Salmon Arm.

H2O4U Customer Appreciation Day is Saturday May. 6. Join us for Free Burgers and lots of in house specials. 11am to 3pm. There will childrens activities including chalk art contest in parking lot (weather permitting)

Shuswap Fly Fishers meet 2nd Thursday of each month. 5:30pm at Yans Restaurant. Next meeting May 11th. Call Al for more info at 250-804-5166

Sorrento Lions Club Spring Cleaning Garage Sale will be held at Sorrento Memorial Hall, 1150 Passchendaele Road, Sorrento, on Saturday May 27th from 9am to 3pm. If you have any household items that are taking up space and that you would like to donate, please call either Wayne Kembel at 250 675 4742 or Brian Butcher at 250 675 3248 for further information regarding pick-up and delivery options. Please do not give us large appliances, mattresses, upholstered furniture, clothes or computer electronics.

Sorrento Glee Club Presents Celebration In Song Fri May 5 and Sat May 6 at 7pm Sorrento Memorial Hall Tickets \$10 from choir members 250 675 2126/ 250 675 3518 Refreshments available

Sorrento Drop in Society Sat. May 13, 8am to noon Annual Garage Sale, Pancake Breakfast and Raffle 1148 Passchendaele Donations accepted on Fri. May 12. 1 to 4pm Contact 250 675 0065

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Dismay
MARAL
Twist
GLEAN
Calm
BESALT
Gone
STABEN

TODAY'S WORD

TODAY'S WORD

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. Bird's branch	c	Australian city	T _						
2. Weeping tree	w	Bed cushion	P						
3. Canonized one	_ A	Work period	T						
4. Calvary sword	B	More secure	F						
5. Debonair like Dan	_ A	Water ladle	1						
6. Closing moments	E	Clinchers	s						
7. High-pitched cry	N	Like snow	т						
8. Fictitious prose	V	Swedish prize-giver	В						
9. Prizefighter Sonny		Lend an ear	E						
10. Behind schedule	D	Linger	R						
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Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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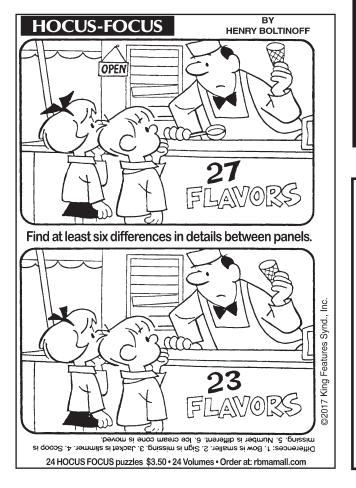
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PAW'S CORNER By Sam Mazzotta

Calming a Fearful Dog

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: My little Schnoodle, "Daisy," hates noises, thunder, firecrackers and more -- but only indoors. We can be outside and have large trucks go by with air brakes squealing, and she doesn't care. But ordinary house noises, like windows creaking, have begun to bother her recently. Last year I got a new front door and it really cracks and creaks in the afternoon when it gets hot. She is petrified of this, shaking and panting the entire time. Please help, as we are at our wits' end. -- Pam, via email

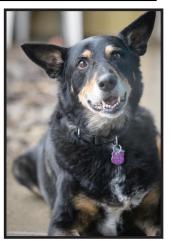
DEAR PAM: If the issue started over the past year, have the veterinarian check her out thoroughly. Not just her hearing and sight, but for any underlying conditions. While Schnoodles are less prone to certain health conditions of their parent breeds (poodle and Schnauzer), they could still suffer from inherited conditions. According to the AKC, autoimmune thyroiditis is one possibility; behavioral changes like excessive anxiety are among the symptoms of this condition. However, even completely healthy dogs can develop a phobia to noise, perhaps because they attach a negative experience to a specific noise. In that case, TLC and training can help, along with medication if needed. Talk to the vet about Daisy's noise phobia and work out a treatment and training plan, if possible. For example, use anti-anxiety medication for a time to help Daisy stay calmer, but then begin replacing meds with positive-stimulation training. This is done by making the sound that causes anxiety, but giving Daisy a favorite treat or praise each time the sound is made. There's more to it than I have room to explain here, so consider working with a trainer to help Daisy handle that creaky door.

Send your tips, questions or comments to ask@pawscorner.com. (c) 2017 King Features Synd., Inc.



250-832-7376

Buttons doesn't look like your typical Bathing Beauty but does she love the water, even if it just a Kiddie pool in the back yard. Buttons was reluctantly brought to us after her guardian had to move and could not take her with her. Buttons is very definitely a Senior Dog, who has definite Senior needs. Like some of us as we age we can get a little



cranky about stuff. So has Buttons. She is not fond of other dogs or children. They just try her patience too much. Peace and quiet and a very nice walk are what she is looking for. A home were she could be somebody's companion would be ideal. Buttons does have arthritis in one of her back hips so is on supplements. However, that has not slowed her down very much. She does need some Dental work done and a small lump removed so while we are waiting for that she can certainly be visited. Buttons is the type of dog that is an example of why we are here. She may not be the cutest dog (bathing beauty banner non withstanding) anymore, or the perkiest we have here but she really does deserve to find a wonderful retirement home. When we pet her she just lights up with joy.

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SCRAMBLERS

solution

- 1. Alarm; 2. Angle;
- 3. Stable; 4. Absent

Today's Word

SALESMAN

Even Exchange

- 6. Finale, Finals Perch, Perth
- Willow, Pillow 7. Whine, White
- Saint, Stint 8. Novel, Nobel
- Saber, Safer Dapper, Dipper 10. Tardy, Tarry

9. Liston, Listen

The carpenter desperately attempted to make anything work. You could say he was grasping at saws.

TRIVIA NEWSFRONT ANSWERS nth. an average of 3.8 hours per week ing and summer working on the law meowner spends about \$360 is care products and gardening

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



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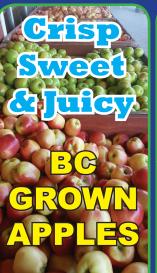
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Tax News

from Susan Grimes at H&R Block Salmon Arm

The tax deadline for personal income taxes is fast approaching. If you haven't yet filed you can still come in – we will do our best to get your taxes prepared on time for you. Our office is going to look very busy – don't let that put you off – it doesn't mean that there is not a tax preparer available to see you. If you have a balance due to CRA it is important to file on time or you will receive a late filing penalty as well as interest on your debt. If you have a refund it is still important to file on time - processing of GST credits, premium assistance, supplement payments etc. may be delayed if you haven't filed by May 1st

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our clients for their continued patronage. We sincerely appreciate you all and welcome the opportunity you give us to put our expertise to work ensuring that you pay the least taxes to CRA. Hours of operation after May 1st will be Monday – Friday 9-5pm. Come and see us for all your tax and bookkeeping needs. You'll be glad you did.

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