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TIDBITS® PLAYS A FEW CARD GAMES
by Kathy Wolfe

Pick a card, any card! This week, Tidbits investigates the history of playing cards, as well as some well-known and not-so-well-known card games.

- History points to China as the country of origin of playing cards. A princess in the Tang Dynasty was mentioned in writing as playing the "leaf game" in a record from the year 868. It's believed that playing cards then spread to India and Persia, followed by Egypt, and to Europe by the end of the 14th century.
- Early European cards from the 1300s were illustrated by hand by artists, often painted in gold, and were an expensive luxury afforded only by the wealthy aristocracy. Toward the end of that century, woodcuts were invented, which made the production of cards cheaper and more available to the common man. Once the printing press was invented, cards could be mass-produced, and games became popular across Europe. Cards were made from up to 6 pieces of paper glued together, and were much larger than the cards of today.
- Designs of the cards' suits featured a great variety of symbols – boars, bears, flowers, falcons, lions, rabbits, and cups. By the end of the 1400s, pictures included kings either seated on a throne or mounted on horseback, as well as queens, horsemen, viceroys, and foot soldiers.

turn the page for more

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CARD GAMES (continued):

- Although one side of the card featured artwork, the backs were plain. A plain back created the problem of being easily marked, which could be recognized by an opponent. Since cards were expensive, they had to be returned to the workshop for cleaning. It wasn't until the late 1700s that manufacturers began printing patterns of stars or dots on the back to eliminate the problem.
- It didn't take long for cards to get a bad name. An official ordinance banned playing cards in Bern, Switzerland as early as 1367. In the early 1400s, Franciscan missionary St. Bernadino of Siena preached against card games, and those at his gatherings, known as "Bonfires of the Vanities," threw their cards into the fire.
- In 1480, in France, the familiar suits of spades, hearts, diamonds, and clubs were produced for the first time.
- Playing cards have two different functions, either for gambling or for playing games of skill. When introduced, they were an alternative to more academic games, such as chess, or for games of luck, such as dice. They also offered a different way to tell fortunes.
- The ace of spades in a deck of cards typically has a more ornate design than the others. This practice began in 1712, when England's King James I instigated a tax on playing cards. He required that the ace of spades carry a label or insignia as proof that taxes had been paid, and printing houses began embossing their logos on the ace. This practice led to the catchphrase "not playing with a full deck." Some folks avoided paying the tax by refusing to buy the ace of spades when they purchased a deck of cards. Those playing with only 51 cards were considered stupid, leading to the motto.

TIDBITS
presents
TRIVIA NEWSFRONT

1. How many cards are dealt to each player in the game of Bridge?
2. The solitaire game of Klondike is also known by what name?
3. What year did Microsoft start including Solitaire as part of its Windows product line?
4. Which is the better poker hand, a straight or three of a kind?
5. What poker hand is referred to as a "Forest"?



- Check your dishwasher for food particles, and run a cycle every week with a cup of white vinegar in the bottom. It will clear your lines of yucky mildew buildup and leave it smelling fresh.
- "If you get a small cut, try sprinkling it with black pepper (fine ground). It stops the bleeding right away and doesn't hurt or sting at all. I did this when I accidentally nicked myself in the kitchen. It worked! I rinsed it off after a minute of two, and it still didn't bleed." -- J.J.
- To get your white sneakers clean again, mix a paste of peroxide and baking soda, wet the canvas and rub the paste in with a toothbrush. Rinse and repeat scrubbing as needed. Allow to dry before wearing.
- Save plastic cups from fast-food or convenience-store visits, because they make good containers when you are painting. Pour some paint in the cup



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1240 T.C.H. (That Damm Market)

- Two men from Uruguay, attorney Segundo Santos and architect Alberto Serrato, created the game of canasta in 1939. Although it spread quickly across South America, canasta wasn't introduced in the United States until 1948, when it was known as Argentine Rummy. The game uses 108 cards – two complete decks of 52, plus the four jokers. Players attempt to make matching sets of seven cards of the same rank and "go out" by playing all cards in their hand. The first team to reach 5,000 points is the winner. Santos and Serrato never copyrighted their game, and considered it their gift to the world.
- The English game of whist takes its name from a 17th-century word meaning "quiet, silent, or attentive," with the root of the modern word

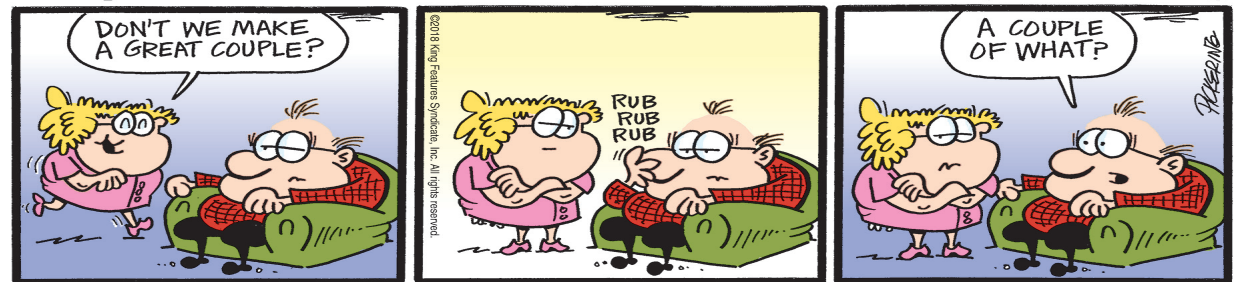
TRIVIA NEWSFRONT ANSWERS

1. 13
2. Canfield
3. 1990
4. A straight
5. 3-3-3-3 (four trees)

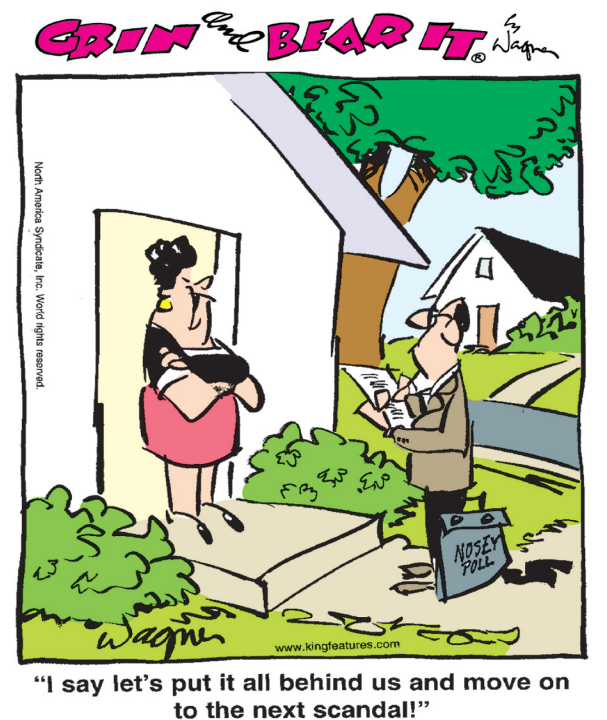
"wistful," defined as "thoughtful or reflective." It was very popular in Britain in the 1700s and 1800s, and is considered the forerunner of bridge. Two teams of two try to win the most out of 13 possible "tricks," with part of the

Continued pg.4
by Jeff Pickering

The Spats



- to use when you are cutting in the edges. Many paint ladders have a spot that accommodates a cup, so it's more secure.
- Have a little empty spray bottle from a travel-size body spray? They are perfect for small cleaning solutions. Add rubbing alcohol to use in cleaning off your glasses or cellphone touch surface. Add window cleaner and store with a half roll of paper towels in your vehicle for quick windshield cleanups.
- "Cheap moving supplies: paper plates. You can put them between your real plates and pans to prevent scratching, or use them as walls to separate items in a box. Store small hardware by folding the plate over and sealing the edges together (don't forget to label it!). And then you can use it for pizza when you move in." -- R.D.



Strange BUT TRUE

by Samantha Weaver

* It was Hungarian psychiatrist Thomas Stephen Szasz who made the following sage observation: "If you talk to God, you are praying. If God talks to you, you have schizophrenia."

* That iconic symbol of the Old West, the Pony Express, was based on the mail system used throughout the Mongol Empire in the 13th century. However, the Mongol riders often covered 125 miles in a single day, which was faster than the best record held by a Pony Express rider.

* Someone with way too much spare time discovered that a quarter has 119 grooves on its edge.

* What's in a name? A great deal, it turns out, if you're talking about housing prices. Those who study such things say that a house on a "boule-

vard" is valued at over one-third more than the same house that has "street" in its address.

* Confectioner Milton Hershey suffered through founding two candy companies that ended in failure, then succeeded on his third attempt, and finally sold that company and used the proceeds to found the Hershey Company. After all his hard work, though, he seemed to be less interested in enjoying the fruits of his labors than in helping others. In 1909 he established the Hershey Industrial School for Orphaned Boys, and 10 years later he donated control of the company to a trust for the school. Today the institution is called the Milton Hershey School, and it continues to have a controlling interest in the candy company.

* Southern California has more cars than India has cows. If cows are sacred in India, what does that say about how Californians feel about their automobiles?

Thought for the Day: "Men are not against you; they are merely for themselves." -- Gene Fowler

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Bandleader Kyser
- 4 Equitable
- 8 Frizzy hairdo
- 12 Hockey surface
- 13 Andy's pal
- 14 Circulate
- 15 Historic time
- 16 Twist
- 18 "Aida" composer
- 20 Expert
- 21 Food
- 24 Poolroom supply
- 28 Bring together
- 32 Hammer or sickle
- 33 Inseparable
- 34 Casino machines
- 36 "Kitchy- —!"
- 37 Young female
- 39 Remorseful
- 41 Milkmaid's place
- 43 Analgesic target
- 44 — long way
- 46 Fortunetellers' reading matter?
- 50 Recite a verb's forms
- 55 Verily
- 56 Notion
- 57 "— Brockovich"
- 58 Uncooked
- 59 Consider

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15				16				17				
18			19				20					
			21		22	23		24		25	26	27
28	29	30					31		32			
33				34				35		36		
37			38		39				40			
41				42		43						
			44		45			46		47	48	49
50	51	52				53	54			55		
56					57					58		
59					60					61		

- 60 Transmit
- 61 Type measures
- 10 Deteriorate
- 11 Have bills
- 17 Sphere
- 19 Dict. info
- 22 Body powder
- 23 Urban hang-out
- 25 Mischievous Norse god
- 26 Swag
- 27 — gin fizz
- 28 Gear teeth
- 29 Not procrastinating
- 30 Pianist Peter
- 31 Sicilian spouter
- 35 Grad student's income
- 38 Blockage of a
- sort
- 40 Genetic letters
- 42 "Skip to My —"
- 45 Quite some time
- 47 Muse's instrument
- 48 Intend
- 49 Cutting implements
- 50 "El —"
- 51 Praise in verse
- 52 Born
- 53 Exist
- 54 Can matter

DOWN

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CARLYNE LEE COOKBOOKS



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 phone 250-836-3181 or 1-877-812-3181

NATHAN'S BEEF STIR-FRY

- 3-4 ounces cooked, lean beef, cut in strips
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 1/2 cup green pepper, cut in strips
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1/2 cup celery, cut in strips
- 3 cups cooked rice
- 1/2 cup of any cooked leftover vegetables
- soy sauce to taste black pepper, optional

Melt butter over medium heat. Stir-fry meat and onion for a few minutes. Add celery and peppers. Stir-fry one minute. Add cooked rice and vegetables. Stir until it is hot. Add soy sauce and pepper to your taste. So easy and delicious!
(This recipe is from my "MAKE DELICIOUS MEALS WITH LEFTOVERS" cookbook available at Three Valley Gift Shoppe, Buckingham, DeMilles, Swan Lake and The Painted Bird Book store in Sicamous.

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: G equals H

U QLTULYL PIL EGPCTF ILYLV
GUZBGGUJL MKZLV FMVJ. DPC
BPCTF EMD UZ'E QLLI RD VCTL
PK ZGCRQ.

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CARD GAMES (continued):

skill being players' ability to remember which cards have already been played. Perhaps the name takes its name from the fact that players may not speak about their hand or even signal their partner.

- In the game of gin rummy, Aces are the lowest card, not highest as in other games. Elwood T. Baker and his son Graham invented the game in New York City in 1909. The strategy is to improve the hand dealt by forming matching sets, known as melds, while eliminating "deadwood," all those that don't fit into any meld. There are two types of melds – sets of 3 or 4 cards with the same rank, such as 7s, 8s, or 9s, and runs of 3 or more cards of the same suit in sequence.
- Folks in America have been playing Solitaire since the late 1800s. In England, the game is called Patience, and was first included in a book of card games in 1870, "Illustrated Games of Patience," written by Lady Adelaide Cadogan.
- The deck of cards used in the game of Pinochle is rather unique. It's just 48 cards, with two of each suit of Nines, Tens, Jacks, Queens, Kings, and Aces. There are no cards for the numbers two through eight. The rank of cards is also unusual with the Ace as the highest, followed

by 10, K, Q, J, and 9. Players accumulate points by winning tricks or by achieving certain combinations of cards. The player achieving a combination of the Queen of Spades and the Jack of Diamonds has scored a "Pinochle," worth 40 points. The word itself comes from the French word binocle, meaning eyeglasses. German immigrants brought the game to America, mispronouncing and misspelling the French word, so that the game became known as Pinochle.

- The game of UNO uses a deck of 108 cards broken down into four colors, red, green, blue, and yellow. The first player to score 500 points is the winner. The game was invented in 1971 by a Reading, Ohio, barber who enjoyed playing Crazy Eights with his son. The family enjoyed the new variation on Eights so much, they saved up \$8,000 and had 5,000 copies of the game manufactured, selling them out of the barbershop. The game gained in popularity, and in 1981 Robbins sold the rights to the game for \$50,000, plus royalties of 10 cents per game.

**FOOD OF THE WEEK:
CRACKER JACKS**

"Buy me some peanuts and Cracker Jack," goes the old favorite song. How much do you know about this popular snack? Follow along as Tidbits focuses on Cracker Jacks, something we've been munching since 1896, perhaps the first "junk food!"

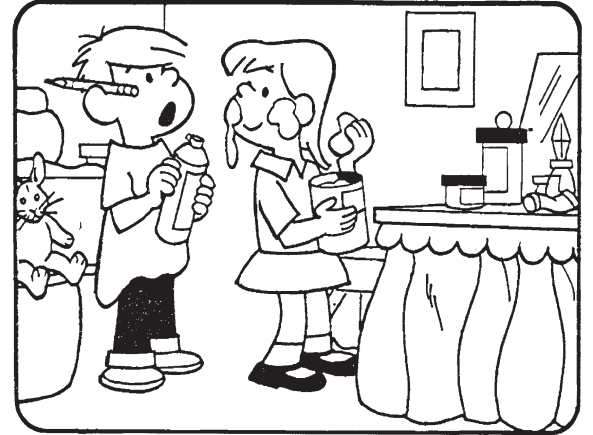
- It all started with a popcorn stand in Chicago operated by a German immigrant named

Continued pg.5

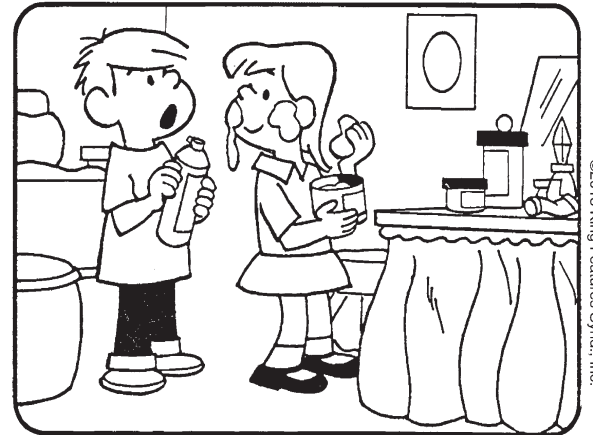
TIDBITS QUOTE

"Bridge is such a sensational game that I wouldn't mind being in jail if I had three cellmates who were decent players and who were willing to keep the game going 24 hours a day." – Warren Buffett

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Pencil is missing. 2. Buny is missing. 3. Shirt is different. 4. Can is smaller. 5. Picture is missing. 6. Ruffie is different.

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CRACKER JACKS
(continued):

- Fritz Rueckheim. Fritz had been selling popcorn for 25 years before his brother Louis invented a method of separating the kernels of molasses-coated popcorn, which previously stuck together in sticky clumps during manufacturing. The brothers then added peanuts to the mix.
- The product was named Cracker Jack after a salesman sampled it and proclaimed, "That's crackerjack!", a phrase that, at that time meant "exceptionally fine" or "of excellent quality." The name was registered as a trademark, and "The More You Eat, the More You Want" became its sales pitch.
- A waxed, sealed package was created in 1899 by Henry Eckstein, further enhancing the sales of Cracker Jacks. Sales took a giant leap in 1908 when composers Jack Norworth and Albert Von Tilzer released the hit song "Take Me Out to the Ball Game." Ironically neither of the two had ever "root, root, rooted for the home team," having never attended a ball game.
- In 1912, the company began adding small prizes to each box, outdoing their competition who only enclosed coupons in packages that had to be redeemed by mail. In keeping with their baseball popularity, prizes in 1914 included a set of 144 baseball cards, and a 176-card set in 1915. Each card measured 2 ¼" x 3" (5.7 x 7.6 cm) and included such baseball greats as Honus Wagner, Ty Cobb, "Shoeless" Joe Jackson, Christy Mathewson, and Charles Comiskey.
- Collectors who happen to have a Cracker Jack

Ty Cobb card in mint condition claim its worth at over \$4,400, while a Joe Jackson card in mint condition might fetch twice that much. The Cracker Jack card series are the only ones to feature players from baseball's short-lived Federal League.

- Other early prizes included decoder rings, plastic figurines, booklets, stickers, and temporary tattoos.
- In 1916, the package had a new feature, two mascots, Sailor Jack and his dog Bingo. Fritz Rueckheim modeled Jack after his grandson, who passed away shortly afterward at age 8. Fritz loved the image so much that he had it carved on his tombstone. Bingo was based on a stray dog, whose real name was Russell.
- Cracker Jacks were first advertised on television in 1955, sponsoring the CBS game show "On Your Account." Ads appeared over the years until 1984, when they were discontinued. The 1999 Super Bowl featured a brand-new ad for Cracker Jacks, the first in 15 years.
- In 2004, the New York Yankees tried replacing Cracker Jacks with the toffee-flavored snack Crunch 'n Munch at home games. This action was quickly rescinded after a huge protest by fans.
- Frito-Lay has owned Cracker Jack since 1997. In 2016, the company announced that the packages would no longer contain prizes. In an attempt to keep up with the times, the package now features a code good for a download to play games on the Cracker Jack app through Google Play.



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Shuswap Property Maintenance has seasonal/year round full time and part time positions available. The positions cover mowing, trimming, fertilizing, weed control, aerating, dethatching, yard cleanups, small landscape projects, winter snow removal and hand weeding/deadheading/garden care. We cover the Blind Bay, Eagle Bay, and Sorrento areas. **Incentive bonuses are being offered!** Start Immediately! Call 250-803-2138 for more info. Submit your application to spm2007@telus.net

Community Events

Shuswap Naturalist meeting, Tues., May 8th at 7 pm at the Salmon Arm Secondary School, Sullivan Campus, 1641- 30 St. NE in the library. Di Wittner will share her biologist perspective of her recent trip to Africa. Everyone Welcome.

SPRING CLEANING?

Our 4th annual Garage Sale will be held on May 26th from 8:00 am – 3:00 pm at the Sorrento Memorial Hall, 1150 Passchendaele Road.

If you have any household items that are taking up space and would like to donate, please call Wayne Kembel at 250-675-2616 or email sorrentolionsclub@yahoo.ca for further information regarding pick-up and delivery options. Please NO large appliances, mattresses, upholstered furniture, clothes or computer electronics.

The Salmon Arm Tennis Club, located at the top of Okanagan Ave SE (3440 Ok Ave) beside Little Mountain Park, is hosting its annual Open House on Saturday, May 5th from 9am 'til 2pm. Everyone is welcome! We will have a FREE pancake breakfast starting at 9am, with fun tennis events like junior courts, "1-racquet doubles", mini tournaments and "Test Your Serve" with a radar gun running all day.

Pancake Breakfast Mother's Day May 13 Seniors 5th Ave. Activity Centre Free carnations to first 50 Mothers

Sunnybrae Seniors Hall !! Sat. May 19 THE LEGENDARY COUNTRY BREAKFAST! \$8 (under 12 \$4) 8-11am Fresh Cooked ! Delicious!!

Shuswap Association of Writers will be presenting CAFÉ LIT Friday, May 11, from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm in the Balmoral Room, Prestige Harbourfront Resort. Admission: \$20.00 to the public, \$2.00 discount for SAW members. Cash bar, refreshments provided.

Perfect Pie, April 27 to May 12 at Shuswap Theatre An emotionally charged drama tracing the lifelong connection of two women and their struggle to heal the past. Tickets at shuswaptheatre.com or Intwined Fibre Arts, 81 Hudson Ave

Silver Creek Comm. Association is hosting the SASS Jazz Band on Saturday April 28th from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. We will be holding a cupcake sale at that time too. Admission is by donation. Silver Creek Spring Fling Craft and Trade Show Sunday April 29th from 10:00 to 4:00.

non profit event info send to info@tidbitsshuswap.com

Monthly Texas Holdem Tournaments in the Shuswap
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TIDBITS GOES LONG.....

The four kings in a deck of cards represent French King Charlemagne (King of Hearts), Julius Caesar (King of Diamonds), King David of Israel (King of Spades), and Alexander the Great (King of Clubs).

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POKER

- Poker is considered a "vying game," which means that instead of playing all their cards out, players make bets as to who holds the best card combination.
- It's entirely possible for the pot to be won by a hand that is not the best. This is accomplished by players bluffing the others out of play, deceiving the others about the true value of the cards in hand. In fact, at one time, the game of Poker was known as "Bluff."
- It's possible that the game's origins are in a domino-card game played by China's emperor in the 10th century. Other experts claim that it traces its beginnings to 16th-century Persia. In 17th-century France, a game known as Poque was quite popular, in which players were dealt three cards, then bet and bluffed as a key part of the game. French immigrants to North America brought Poque along with them, especially to the New Orleans area, where it was played as early as 1829 with a 20-card deck. The game expanded up the Mississippi River through crews on riverboats, with the first documented game of poker on a steamer taking place in 1834. By that time, the game used a 52-card deck.
- Poker was popular among both North and South soldiers during the Civil War. As immigrants moved west after the war, the game became the standard in saloons of the Wild West.
- Five-card draw is the most familiar version of poker, with players allowed to try to improve their hand by discarding unwanted cards and being dealt new ones.
- The highest possible hand in five-card draw is the Royal Flush, a straight which consists of the Ace, King, Queen, Jack, and 10 of the same suit. The next best hand is a straight flush is any five cards in a sequence of the same suit, followed by four of a kind. A flush is five cards of the same suit, but not in a sequence.
- A poker player might refer to cards in his hand as "one-eyed royals." That's poker lingo for the three face cards that show only one eye – the Jack of Spades, Jack of Hearts, and King of Diamonds. All other face cards show two eyes.
- Robstown, Texas, claims it is the birthplace of Texas Hold'em, a variation of poker, asserting that it was first played there in the early 1900s. A group of Texas cardplayers first saw the game in 1959 in its original form when Aces were low. It was just called Hold'em then, and the four men introduced it in Las Vegas in 1967, naming it after their home state. One of the main differences from poker is that in draw poker, players bet twice, while in Texas Hold'em, they bet four times. The game didn't take off immediately in Vegas, and for several years, the Golden Nugget Casino was the only one to feature the game. Its popularity

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SCRAMBLERS

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Swoop
GULPEN
 Taunt
LESASH
 Rebuke
CLODS
 Consume
SIGNET

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. Texan capital | ___ _ _ _ I _ | English author, Jane | ___ _ _ _ E _ |
| 2. Be a busybody | ___ N ___ _ | Reporter's exclusive | ___ C ___ _ |
| 3. Discussion subject | ___ _ P ___ _ | Gin's companion | ___ _ N ___ _ |
| 4. Tart tasting | ___ I ___ _ _ | Well again | ___ E ___ _ _ |
| 5. Mickey's pet | ___ _ U ___ _ | Greek philosopher | ___ _ A ___ _ |
| 6. Peter Pan's Darling | ___ E ___ _ _ | Breezy | ___ I ___ _ _ |
| 7. Fail to recall | ___ _ _ _ T | Faked a signature | ___ _ _ _ _ D |
| 8. Long-winded | ___ _ _ D _ | Fret | ___ _ _ R _ |
| 9. Fry quickly | ___ _ _ T _ | Gravy | ___ _ _ C _ |
| 10. Alternate route | ___ _ T ___ _ | Eat with gusto | ___ _ V ___ _ |



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grew in the 2000s, and it is now one of the most popular forms of poker.

- When Wild Bill Hickok was shot dead in the back of the head by Jack McCall in Deadwood, Dakota Territory in 1876, he was playing poker at Nuttal & Mann's Saloon. The poker hand he had at the time consisted of the Aces and Eights of both black suits, clubs and spades. Consequently, Hickok's final hand has come to be known as the "dead man's hand."



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PAW'S CORNER By Sam Mazzotta

Pets and Neighbors: Don't Get Personal

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I'm in charge of writing the monthly newsletter for our neighborhood association. This month, I want to publish a warning to one of the homeowners who regularly lets their dogs run off leash and into the streets. However, the head of the association made me take out the article ahead of publication. Why? It's a safety issue. -- Concerned HOA officer in Georgia

DEAR CONCERNED: While you're right about letting dogs run loose in the street being a safety issue, calling the offender out by name in the neighborhood newsletter is not the way to go. It sounds like the head of the association didn't explain all the reasons why it's a bad idea. For one thing, singling out a neighbor by name -- even if that person is the only one letting their dogs run off leash -- can have legal ramifications for the association. That can get expensive. Even if things don't get that heated, that neighbor probably knows that you write the newsletter, and you could become the target of their ire.

Talk to the association head face-to-face or by email and ask what can be done to address this issue. Chances are, the neighbor has already been notified by the association. Another option is for the association head or the directors to remind everyone at the regular meeting, without singling anyone out. Or, a notice can be put in the newsletter that also does not single out any residents -- one that reminds everyone of the association rules or any relevant city ordinances.

I know you want to act more quickly, but you're working as part of a group of neighbors. So work with them to address this problem.



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SCRAMBLERS
 solution

1. Plunge; 2. Hassle;
3. Scold; 4. Ingest

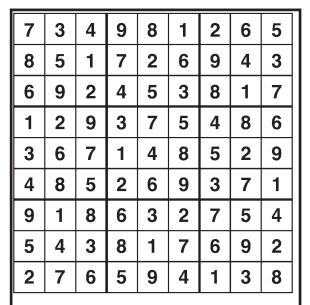
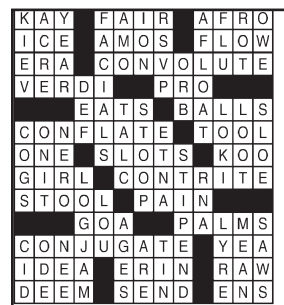
Today's Word
CANINE

Even Exchange
 answers

1. Austin, Austen
2. Snoop, Scoop
3. Topic, Tonic
4. Bitter, Better
5. Pluto, Plato
6. Wendy, Windy
7. Forget, Forged
8. Wordy, Worry
9. Saute, Sauce
10. Detour, Devour

CryptoQuip
 answer

I believe one should never hitchhike after dark. You could say it's been my rule of thumb.





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