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TIDBITS® MAKES MUSIC ON  
**PIANOS**  
by Kathy Wolfe

This week, Tidbits tickles the ivories in commemoration of National Piano Month.

- Way back in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century B.C., the ancient Greeks were playing one of the earliest known keyboard instruments, the hydraulis, or water organ, with consisted of pipes with a valve that was opened when the key was pressed, releasing air through the pipe. In the 12<sup>th</sup> century, the keyed stringed monochord was improved upon until it became the clavichord, with sound produced by striking iron strings with small metal blades. The 14<sup>th</sup> century brought the innovation of drawing wire made of iron, gold, silver, or brass through steel plates. Even Leonardo da Vinci got into the act, designing a stringed keyboard instrument in the late 1400s. Sixteenth-century harpsichords had strings that were plucked by quills when keys were pressed.
- The inventor of what has become today's well-known instrument is credited to an Italian harpsichord maker, Bartolomeo Cristofori, who, around 1700, developed the first piano. He called it "un cimbalo di cipresso di piano e forte," which translates, "a keyboard of cypress with soft and loud." It was later shortened to "pianoforte," then later, just "piano." Cristofori's first piano had small leather-covered hammers.

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**PIANOS** (continued):

- Although Cristofori produced about 20 pianos, his first love was harpsichords, and he went back to their production. Three of his original pianos survive today, including a 1720 model, with four octaves, which can be found in New York City's Metropolitan Museum of Art.
- In the mid-1700s, the keyboard expanded to five octaves. The Industrial Revolution ushered in a more powerful piano sound, with the advent of high-quality piano wire and the casting of massive single-piece iron frames. By 1810, keyboards had six octaves, and the modern-day seven octaves by 1820. In 1826, leather and cotton hammer coverings were replaced by felt.
- The piano has earned the nickname "King of the Instruments," because of its phenomenal range. It spans from the lowest note that can be played on a double-bassoon to the highest note that can be played on a piccolo, a full orchestral range. The piano is considered a member of the percussion family because it only makes a sound when a hammer hits a string. It's an independent instrument, meaning it can play melody and accompaniment at the same time.
- About 70% of a piano is wood. There are more than 12,000 parts, of which 10,000 are moving parts. Keys are generally made from hardwoods such as fir, spruce, or sugar pine. Up until the 1950s, piano keys were covered with ebony and ivory (hence, the phrase "tickle the ivories"). When the use of ivory was banned, and ebony became rare and very expensive, the switch was made to plastic.
- The term "grand" was first used to describe a piano



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### TRIVIA NEWSFRONT

1. What name is given to the soft pedal on a piano?
2. What is the last note on a standard 88-key piano?
3. What do you call a scale where you play every white and every black key?
4. What's the name for an electrical coin-operated piano?
5. Name the thin wooden sheet that amplifies the piano's strings.

in 1777. A grand piano has a horizontal frame with strings extending out from the keyboard. Different sizes have different names. A concert grand measures between 7' 3" and 9' 10" (2.2 to 3 m), which a parlor grand is 5' 7" to 7' 3" (1.7 to 2.2 m). A baby grand is about 4' 11" (1.5 m).

- An upright piano's frame and strings are vertical. This is the type typically seen in churches, community centers, and schools. A studio piano is about 42 to 45 inches tall (107 to 114 cm), the shortest cabinet that can house a full-sized action above the keyboard. The spinet piano has the action below the keyboard.
- Although most modern pianos have 88 keys – 52 white and 36 black – the Austrian Bosendorfer company's Imperial concert grand has nine

**TRIVIA NEWSFRONT** ANSWERS

1. Una corda
2. C
3. Chromatic
4. Nickelodeon
5. Soundboard

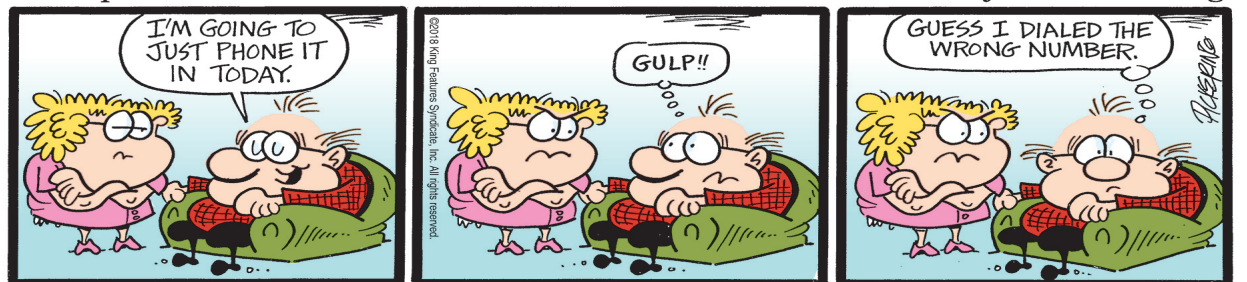
extra bass keys.

- The lower notes of a piano each have two strings, but the majority of the keys' hammers strike three strings each time a note is played. This accounts for the fuller sound of the piano as opposed to a harpsichord, on which

Continued pg.5

by Jeff Pickering

**The Spats**



---  
\* "I like a dark wash on my jeans and have found the perfect pair fitwise, but after repeated washing they tend to lighten up. I use an in-washer dye to freshen up the color, and my jeans go back to dark blue in a snap. You can do the same with once-black pants or T-shirts that have turned faded by using black dye. Just make sure that it's not embroidered, because it'll dye that too." -- R.H.

\* Heading into sniffles season, here's a great tip from E.G.: "Get a roll of toilet paper that's easy on the nose, then squeeze to loosen the center cardboard roll. Remove cardboard. Carefully open the bottom of an empty tissue box and insert the roll of toilet paper, threading the TP from the inside of the roll up through the center. Tape the bottom of the box closed, and then use at will. It lasts longer, it's cheaper and you easily can replace it."

\* Use this teachers' hack to hang a poster in your rental: Apply a piece of low-tack painter's tape to the wall. Run a line of hot glue along the tape and push the poster into place. The poster sticks to the glue, which sticks to the tape on the wall, which is not damaged in any way.

\* "Sunglass cases are excellent cord keepers. I went through so many pairs of earbuds just stuffing them in my backpack, but now the ones I like are safe and secure, along with my charging cord and a cube to plug into the wall outlet if I need it." -- P.A.

\* Recipe substitution: For a cup of heavy cream in sauces (not whipping) try this vegan alternative: 2/3 cup plain unflavored soy milk and 1/3 cup olive oil.

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**GRIN and BEAR IT**



"Son, the time has come for that talk.  
... It's halftime."

# Strange BUT TRUE

by Samantha Weaver

\* It was beloved American humorist Will Rogers who made the following sage observation: "Everything is funny as long as it's happening to somebody else."

\* If you have spent a great deal of time in the Scottish highlands, you might be familiar with the term "sgiomlaireachd." Evidently, the habit of dropping in at mealtimes is common enough there to require a word to describe it.

\* The world's most popular fruit is the banana. In the United States, people consume more bananas than apples and oranges put together.

\* How would you like to brush your teeth with salt, chalk or ground brick? The first tooth powders used with toothbrushes were made of just such materials.

\* Ever wonder why magazine publisher Hugh Hefner chose a rabbit as the symbol of his Playboy magazine? Evidently, when the mogul was a small boy, one of his treasured possessions was a blanket with bunnies all over it.

\* Those who study such things say that Italians drink, on average, 26 gallons of wine every year.

\* The English word "vegetable" comes from the Latin word "vegetare," which means "to invigorate." \*\*\*

**Thought for the Day:** "I divide my officers into four groups. There are clever, diligent, stupid and lazy officers. Usually two characteristics are combined. Some are clever and diligent -- their place is the General Staff. The next lot are stupid and lazy -- they make up 90 percent of every army and are suited to routine duties. Anyone who is both clever and lazy is qualified for the highest leadership duties, because he possesses the intellectual clarity and the composure necessary for difficult decisions. "One must beware of anyone who is stupid and diligent -- he must not be entrusted with any responsibility because he will always cause only mischief." -- Kurt Freiherr von Hammerstein-Equord

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by Linda Thistle

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

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 Handle roughly
- 4 Dog bane
- 8 Back talk
- 12 Past
- 13 Peruse
- 14 Clarinet's cousin
- 15 Mansion staff
- 17 Smolder
- 18 Catches some rays
- 19 Playful water critter
- 20 Moral standard
- 22 Own
- 24 Destroy
- 25 Peace
- 29 Inseparable
- 30 Permanent inmate

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			

- 31 "Golly!"
- 32 Snakes
- 34 Chew away (at)
- 35 Gross
- 36 Dentist's suggestion
- 37 Coarse
- 40 Funeral stand
- 41 Sea flier
- 42 Pepper or York
- 46 Kill a bill
- 47 Hexagonal state
- 48 Fresh
- 10 A few
- 11 Palm reader, maybe
- 16 Futile
- 19 Finished
- 20 Love god
- 21 Melody
- 22 Substantial
- 23 War god
- 25 Go under
- 26 Unknowing
- 27 Earl Grey and kin
- 28 Some ever-greens
- 30 Poland's Mr.
- Walesa
- 33 Urban bird
- 34 Merriment
- 36 Battle
- 37 Guns the engine
- 38 Black-and-white snack
- 39 "Do — others ..."
- 40 Cereal choice
- 42 Dine
- 43 Greek vowel
- 44 Keanu, in "The Matrix"
- 45 Pair

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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

### SHEILA'S SUMMER FRUIT TORTE

- 1/2 cup soft butter
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 large eggs
- 1 cup flour
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2-3 sliced peaches or nectarines or plum halves
- 3/4 cup blueberries or blackberries

Preheat oven to 350F. Grease a 9 inch pan. Beat butter, sugar and vanilla until light. Mix in eggs, flour, baking powder and salt. Pour batter into pan. Put the fruit over the batter. Sprinkle with a small amount of sugar and cinnamon. Bake for 45 minutes. Serve at room temperature. What a wonderful dessert!!

(This recipe is from my best seller "LUSCIOUS BERRY AND FRUIT DESSERTS". (DeMilles always has a good supply of all 15 of my cookbooks.)

## 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: P equals S

GLCH QTA FTRVBHE RGH  
 PVDF RGH BTARASVHS KTPRHE  
 TF GVP KSVCLRH KSTKHSRQ?:  
 "FT ESHPP KLPPVFD."

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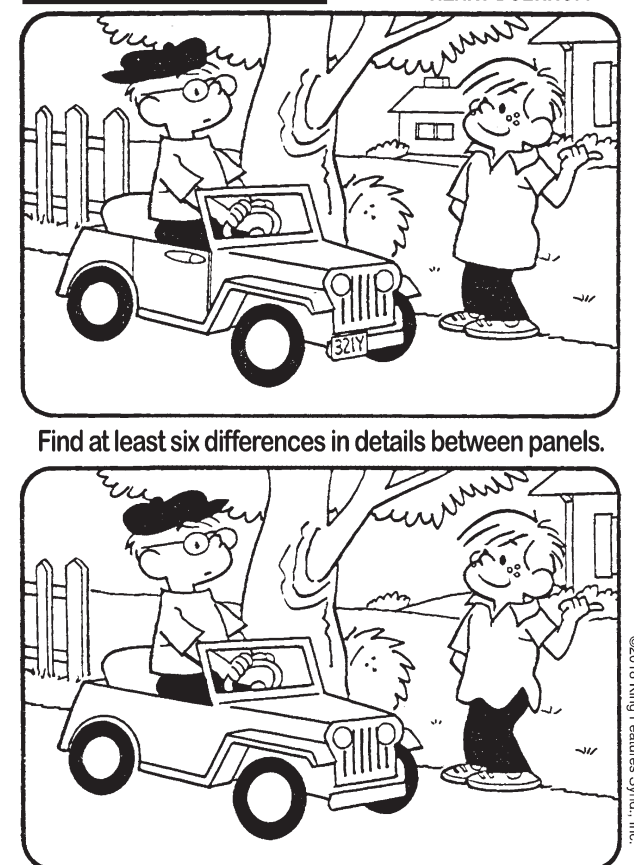
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**HOCUS-FOCUS** BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Fence is shorter. 2. Cap is reversed. 3. Car door is missing. 4. House is missing. 5. License plate is missing. 6. Shirt is different.

**TIDBITS QUOTE**

“To play a wrong note is insignificant; to play without passion is inexcusable.”  
- Beethoven

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**PIANOS** (continued):

a single string is plucked. There are a total of 230 strings to accommodate the 88 keys. Each string has about 165 pounds of tension. The greater the tension of the string, the better the sound quality and the louder the sound.

- Because thicker strings vibrate at a lower rate than a thin string, they produce lower pitches.
- Although we refer to the “C” closest to the middle of the keyboard as “middle C”, it’s not the exact middle of the keyboard. That is actually the space between E and F above “middle C.”
- The name Engelhard Steinweg might not be familiar, but his company certainly is. In 1853, Steinweg Americanized his name to Henry E. Steinway and his family received their first piano patent in 1857. They began building pianos one by one. The Steinway is the choice of 98% of concert pianists. A new Steinway 9-ft. concert grand will set you back between \$160,000 and \$200,000.
- At one time, the honor of world’s longest grand piano belonged to an 11’8”-long (3.58-m) instrument manufactured by the Charles H. Challen Company in 1935. It weighed over 2 tons. In 2005, at age 16, New Zealand teenager Adrian Mann decided to build a piano entirely by hand, working in a farm shed. Four years later, the result was an amazing instrument measuring 18.7 feet (5.7 m) in length. After a nationwide tour of New Zealand, the piano returned home to Mann’s workshop, available for public view.
- The first electric piano was introduced in the late 1940s. Metal tines replaced the strings and an electromagnetic pickup similar to those on an electric guitar was used. Digital pianos were brought to the market in 1980. Yamaha, Japan’s first piano manufacturer, established in 1887, introduced its popular Clavinova digital piano in 1985.
- Canadian manufacturer Heintzman Pianos built the official piano for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. Chinese pianist Lang Lang played the 9-ft. (2.74 m) Crystal Piano for the first time at opening ceremonies. The instrument was later sold at auction for \$3.22 million, making it the most expensive piano in the world.
- Piano tuners recommend that a new piano be tuned four times the first year, with each change of seasons, and twice a year after that.
- American homes, businesses, churches, and institutions are home to more than 10 million pianos.

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**FOOD OF THE WEEK:  
ARTICHOKES**

This week, let’s have a look at the artichoke, a member of the Asteraceae family.

- Botanically, the artichoke is a perennial plant that is part of the thistle family, with its origins in the Mediterranean. In ancient Greece it was known as

“Ankinara,” and was heralded for its medicinal qualities. Greek author Homer mentioned it in his writings in the 8<sup>th</sup> century B.C. As a food, it was consumed only by wealthy citizens, and poor people were not allowed to eat them.

- Artichokes were introduced to France, the Netherlands, and England in the 1500s, and were brought to the United States in the 19<sup>th</sup> century in the 1800s by French and Spanish immigrants. However, they weren’t widely

**Continued pg.6**

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FLASHBACK  
By Mick Harper



1. What artist wrote and released "Poetry Man"?
2. Who originally released the R&B hit "Our Love"?
3. Paul Weller, singer and guitar player, and Mick Talbot, keyboard player, formed the first incarnation of which band?
4. Levi Stubbs was the lead singer for which R&B group?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric, "I'll be over at ten, you told me time and again, But you're late, I wait around and then I went to the door, I can't take any more."

Answers

1. Phoebe Snow, in 1974 on her debut album with the same title. It was her first song to hit the charts.
2. Natalie Cole, in 1977. Twenty years later, Mary J. Blige released a cover of the song.
3. The Style Council. The band grew to include a drummer and vocalist, and then others depending on the song project.
4. The Four Tops.
5. "Build Me Up Buttercup," by The Foundations, in 1968. Colin Young had just joined the group, and that was their first hit. In 2003, Young created an updated version using the Surrey (U.K.) police department as backup. Profits went to a fund in memory of a murdered local girl.

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ARTICHOKES (continued):

- grown in America until the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The ancients believed that eating artichokes would secure the birth of a male child to a pregnant woman.
- The artichoke plant grows to a height of 4.6 to 6.6 feet (1.4 – 2 m) tall, and can spread up to 9 feet (2.74 m) in diameter. An artichoke is really just a flower bulb that hasn't bloomed, and if it's left alone, a lovely pink or purple flower, 7 inches (17.8 cm) in diameter, will appear out of the globe. Each flower head has silvery-green leaves 20 to 32 inches (50 to 82 cm) long. The part of this vegetable that we eat is actually the bud, with the fleshy heart at the end of each leaf petal.
  - The average artichoke plant produces about 20 artichokes a year.
  - Artichokes are the primary flavor of popular Italian liqueur called Cynar. This 33-proof dark brown liqueur, launched in 1952, has a bittersweet flavor, and is usually mixed with orange juice.
  - The world's top artichoke producer is Italy, followed by Spain, France, and Egypt. Nearly all of the United States' artichoke crop is produced in California, with shipments of nearly 4 million cases of artichokes a year, adding over \$50 million to the state's economy annually. The

community of Castroville refers to itself as the "Artichoke Center of the World," and an artichoke festival is held there every Spring, where an Artichoke Queen is crowned. In 1947, the festival's first year, that queen was none other than Marilyn Monroe!

- Although artichokes are a little labor-intensive to eat, the reward is well worth the effort. They are rich in antioxidants, Vitamins C, K, and B-complex. They also contain copper, calcium potassium, iron, manganese, and phosphorus. A substance called cynarin present in artichokes helps improve liver and kidney functions, aiding in detoxing the body and improving digestion. Some studies indicate that extract from artichoke leaves may slow down the growth of leukemia cells.
- There are 60 calories in a medium artichoke.
- To cook an artichoke to perfection, boil it in a large pot of water, lightly salted, until a skewer pierces through the middle easily. Garlic and lemon may also be added to the water to enhance the flavor. The time varies from 20 to 40 minutes, depending on the size of the vegetable. Most folks dip the leaves in butter or a dressing, and pull the leave through their teeth to get to the fleshy end. When all the petals are off, the heart, the tastiest part, remains to be prepared as a side dish or added to salads or pasta.



PHOTO: Sandra Bullock, Cate Blanchett in "Ocean's 8" Photo Credit: Warner Bros.

"Ocean's 8" (PG-13) -- The Ocean crime serial gets another installment, this one a twist, chockablock with ladies, headed by Debbie Ocean (Sandra Bullock), sister of the late Danny Ocean. Fresh out of prison, Debbie assembles a team of highly capable chicks to execute a bril-



liant plan: Their target is an uncommonly expensive necklace that rarely has seen the light of day, and they'll have just hours to access it at a Met gala where it's being watched every second. It's just as heisty and cool as the others in this series, filled with tech and tricks and a plan with many moving parts. The ensemble includes: Cate Blanchett, Helena Bonham Carter, Mindy Kaling, Anne Hathaway, Rihanna, Sarah Paulson and Awkwafina, the tiny Asian comedian and rapper, as a squirrely street magician/hustler.

"Hearts Beat Loud" (PG-13) -- In this sweet, funny, music-laced drama, Nick Offerman (of "Parks and Rec" fame) and newcomer Kiersey Clemons star as Frank and Sam, a father-daughter duo who record a song, upload it to the web and experience unexpected popularity that threatens to upend their lives. Free-spirited Frank is a widowed record-store owner, a sort of hipster whose dreams of be-

ing a musician never quite died. Sam is on the cusp of college, which is far away and promises to be a life changing experience. After their jam-session-turned-viral-hit, Frank must confront a sobering role as a parent -- to let go -- while the serious Sam entertains thoughts of straying from her med-school path.


"Superfly" (R) -- Famed music video director Director X takes on the blaxploitation genre in the updated reimagining of "Superfly." Set in Atlanta and starring Trevor Jackson in the central role, "Superfly" follows the story of Youngblood Priest, picked at a young age by mentor Scatter (Michael Kenneth Williams) to grow a cocaine empire and bring the drug game in to the 21st century -- that is, until a rival gang called Snow Patrol and a hood named Juju (Kaalaa "KR" Walker) threaten to muscle Priest out. He sets his sights on one final score to get out of the game. What it lacks in a compelling storyline is made up for with superb styling.

"Distorted" (R) -- What happens when the perfect apartment is out to get you? Christina Ricci stars as Lauren, who moves into a luxury apartment facility called The Pinnacle with her husband. All the amenities a modern family could ask for, including subliminal messages in the high-tech walls and full surveillance at every turn. She enlists the help of a cyber intelligence investigative journalist Vernon Sarsfield (John Cusack) for help in foiling her keepers' plans.

NEW TV RELEASES

- "Chicago P.D." Season 5
- "Modern Family" Season 9
- "Scooby-Doo and the Gourmet Ghost"
- "This Is Us" Season 2
- "Scorpion" The Final Season

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### SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the CAPITAL letters below to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word to complete the gag!

Close  
**BRANEY**   

Search  
**FARGOE**   

Pop  
**STURB**   

Mislead  
**DUELED**   

**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. Quicker	_ _ _ _ _ R	Adhere	_ _ _ _ _ N
2. Grumble	_ _ _ _ A _	No longer a child	_ _ _ _ W _
3. Partner of Lewis	_ _ A _ _	Counter worker	_ _ E _ _
4. Stay behind	L _ _ _ _	Root spice	G _ _ _ _
5. Actress Andrews	_ _ _ _ E	Chef Child	_ _ _ _ A
6. Use TNT	_ L _ _ _	Animal	_ E _ _ _
7. Frogman	_ I _ _ _	White cliffs port	_ O _ _ _
8. Wiggle like a worm	_ _ _ _ M	Shoot a water pistol	_ _ _ _ T
9. Edible fruit pulp	_ L _ _ _	Like some daisies	_ R _ _ _
10. Water ladle	_ I _ _ _	Elegant, like Dan	_ A _ _ _

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**Laugh a bit with TIDBITS**

Q: Why was the piano player arrested?  
A: Because he got into treble!

**Just Like Cats & Dogs** by Dave T. Phipps



PAW'S CORNER By Sam Mazzotta

**Kids Choosing Pocket Pets**

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I decided my 10-year-old daughter was ready to have a pet after watching her interact with friends' dogs and cats. When I asked her if she'd like to have a kitten, she said she would rather have a pet hamster. I'm surprised, as I thought she really liked taking care of cats. What are your thoughts? -- Jared L. in Indianapolis

DEAR JARED: There may be a couple of reasons why she asked for a much smaller pet. Perhaps, after experiencing different dogs and cats, she decided she doesn't want the responsibility of caring for a bigger pet. Or, she may think that asking for a smaller, less costly pet would make you happy.

That said, having a hamster for a pet can be very rewarding. They do require quite a bit of care -- their cages must be cleaned regularly, they must have the right balance of nutrients in their food, and they react badly to temperature changes and other stressors. As long as she does the research and is ready for the responsibility of caring for a pocket pet, she should do fine. In fact, kids today may be gravitating toward pocket pets rather than larger pets. A survey by RightPet found that children ages 10 to 17 preferred a pet rat to a dog or cat (cats were second, followed by dogs).

The survey didn't investigate why so many kids were into rats. (Though I'm sure parents who were dreading being asked for a pony are breathing a sigh of relief.) Your daughter may be following a trend toward owning a pocket pet, or maybe just would like a smaller pet.

Send your tips, questions or comments to ask@pawscorner.com. (c) 2018 King Features Synd., Inc.

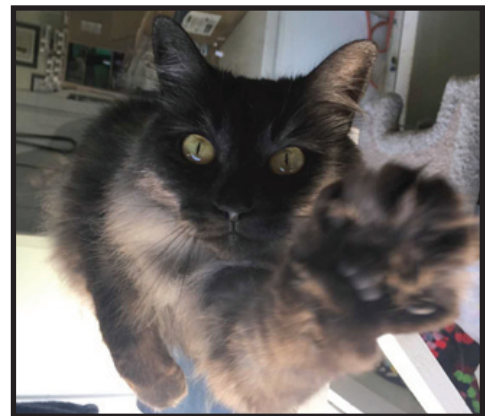


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solution

1. Nearby; 2. Forage;
3. Burst; 4. Delude

Today's Word

**YOURSELF**

**Even Exchange**

answers

1. Faster, Fasten
2. Groan, Grown
3. Clark, Clerk
4. Linger, Ginger
5. Julie, Julia
6. Blast, Beast
7. Diver, Dover
8. Squirm, Squirt
9. Flesh, Fresh
10. Dipper, Dapper

**CryptoQuip**  
answer

Have you noticed the sign the couturier posted on his private property?  
"No dress passing."



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





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