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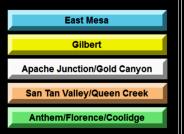


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WORKING LIKE A DOG

Four men, an Engineer, an Accountant, a Chemist and an Office Worker were bragging about how smart their dogs were.

To show off, the Engineer called to his dog and said,

"T-Square, do your stuff." T- square trotted over to a desk, took out some paper and a pen and promptly drew a circle, a square and a triangle. Everyone agreed that was pretty smart.

The Accountant called his dog and said, "Slide Rule, do your stuff."

Slide Rule went out into the kitchen and returned with a dozen cookies. He divided them into 4 equal piles of 3 cookies each. Everyone agreed that was good.

But the Chemist said his dog could do better. He called his dog and said, "Measure, do your stuff." Measure got up, walked over to the fridge, took out a quart of milk, got a 10 ounce glass from the cupboard and poured exactly 8 ounces without spilling a drop. Everyone agreed that was good.

Then the three men turned to the Office worker and said, "What can your dog do?"

The Office worker called to his dog and said, "Coffee Break,

do your stuff." Coffee Break jumped to his feet, ate the cookies, drank the milk, read the paper, gossiped about the other three dogs, claimed he injured his back while doing so, filed a grievance report for unsafe working conditions, put in for Worker's Compensation and went home on sick leave.





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WHEN I TRIED TO TEACH MY DOG HOW TO FETCH...HE JUST DIDN'T GET IT

The awkward moment when you drive your Chevy to the levee and the levee isn't dry.



This is what happens when you're drinking whiskey and rye.



Moments in time THE HISTORY CHANNEL

* On Nov. 24, 1947, the House of Representatives voted 346 to 17 to approve citations of contempt against 10 Hollywood writers, directors and producers who'd refused to cooperate at hearings dealing with communism in the movie industry held by the House Un-American Activities Com-



mittee. The men were sentenced to one year in jail.

* On Nov. 25, 2000, after passing a resolution earlier in the year, the United Nations General Assembly recognized the first International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. The resolution marked the anniversary of the death of three sisters -- Patria, Minerva and Maria Teresa

Mirabal -- who were murdered in the Dominican Republic in 1960.



* On Nov. 29, 2004, Japanese movie monster Godzilla, a mutant born of nuclear radiation fallout, got a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame -- quite a present on his 50th birthday.

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HOLY SCRIPTURE IS A REFLECTION OF WHAT GOD WANTS HIS PEOPLE TO HEAR

* On Nov. 26, 1968, Air Force 1st Lt. James P. Fleming and four other Bell UH-1F helicopter pilots received an urgent message from an Army Special Forces team pinned down by enemy fire. While the first rescue effort failed, Fleming, accompanied by a second pilot, managed to land and pick up the team before discovering



upon return to his base that he was nearly out of fuel. He was eventually awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions.

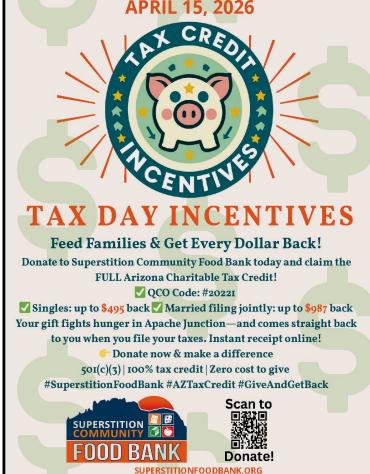
* On Nov. 27, 2015, Pope Francis released a progressive-rock album titled "Pope Francis: Wake Up!" featuring excerpts of the pontiff sermonizing on subjects including peace, the environment and family, and hymns rearranged with guitar and synthesizer.

* On Nov. 30, 1965, attorney Ralph Nader published



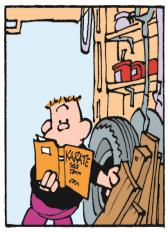
"Unsafe at Any Speed: The Designed-in Dangers of the American Automobile." An immediate best-seller, it also launched the passage of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1966, seatbelt laws in 49 states and other road-safety initiatives.

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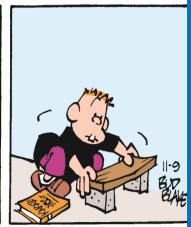


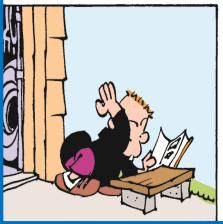
by BUD BLAKE

















THE GOD THAT CREATED THIS WORLD CAN DO ANYTHING HE CHOOSES TO



WEIRD WONDERS

Cawker City, Kansas is home to the World's Largest Ball of Twine. This giant sphere of twine weighs over 20,000 pounds and continues to grow as visitors are invited to add their own strands.



Mecca, California is home to the International Banana Museum. Dedicated entirely to bananas, this museum holds the world's largest collection of banana-related items. From banana-shaped telephones to yellow décor galore.

Beneath a bridge in Seattle lurks a massive troll clutching a real Volkswagen Beetle. Created by local artists, the sculpture has become one of the city's quirkiest landmarks. Its size and location make it feel like something out of a fairytale

Sarah Winchester, heiress to the Winchester rifle for-



tune, built a sprawling mansion that defies architectural logic. Stairs lead to nowhere, doors open into walls, and hidden rooms abound. Legend says the house was designed to confuse restless spirits.

2026 Annual Enrollment Period (AEP) is coming for Medicare enrollees Oct 15 through Dec 7

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"Where the women go, the culture goes." — *Phylicia Rashad*

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MY MOM WOULD WAIT UNTIL MY DOG WALKED OUT OF THE ROOM TO TELL ME WHAT SHE GOT HIM FOR CHRISTMAS



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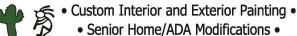
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- 1. SCIENCE: What is the study of clouds called?
- **2. GEOGRAPHY:** Which country's highest mountain is called Ben Nevis?
- **3. ACRONYMS:** What phrase does the acronym GPS stand for?
- **4. TELEVISION:** What beer brand appears in "The Simpsons" animated TV show?
- **5. HISTORY:** When was Earth Day first celebrated?
- **6. ANATOMY:** What is a common name for the condition known as piloerection?
- **7. MOVIES:** Which city was the setting for the movie "The Sting"?
- **8. MATH:** How many yards are in a mile?
- **9. ANIMAL KINGDOM:** What is a baby ferret called?
- **10. FOOD & DRINK:** Which celebrity chef stars on the cooking show "Hell's Kitchen"?

7. Chicago. 8. 1,760. 9. A kit. 10. Gordon Ramsay. (c) 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

Scotland, 4,413 feet high.Global Positioning Sysema

4. Duff.

Answers 5. 1970. I. Nephology. 6. Goosebumps.



CUT COSTS, NOT COMFORT WITH LENTIL SOUP, THE SOUP THAT DOES IT ALL

When times feel uncertain and grocery prices make you wince, there's comfort in knowing that a wholesome, hearty meal doesn't have to cost much. This lentil soup is proof that good food can still be simple, satisfying and kind to your budget.

Lentil soup is one of those beautiful, budget-friendly meals that has been feeding families for centuries and checks every box: It's inexpensive, easy to prepare and full of plant-based protein and fiber. It freezes beautifully, too, which makes it a lifesaver during the upcoming holiday madness. Make a big pot now, freeze some for later, and you've got instant comfort waiting in your freezer -- no drive-thru required.

This base recipe is delicious as-is, but the beauty of lentils is how easily they adapt. Add a handful of sausage if you like, stir in extra veggies or season it with herbs and spices to change the flavor profile from classic to global. You'll find a few of my favorite variations below -- because even comfort food deserves a little variety.

VERY VERSATILE LENTIL SOUP

1 tablespoon olive oil
1 medium onion, diced
4 carrots, chopped
3 celery ribs, chopped
3-4 cloves garlic, minced
6 cups broth (vegetable, chicken or beef)
1 1/2 cups dry green or brown lentils
1 (14.5 ounce) can diced tomatoes with juices
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon black pepper
2 cups fresh chopped spinach, optional

Stovetop Method: In a large pot, saute onion, carrot and celery in olive oil until softened, about 5 minutes. Add garlic and cook for one minute more. Stir in lentils, tomatoes, broth, salt and pepper. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat and simmer, covered, for about 35 minutes or until lentils are tender. Stir in spinach until wilted. Taste and adjust seasoning.

Instant Pot: Follow saute instructions as in stovetop directions up to "bring to a boil." Cook on Manual/Pressure Cook

for 9 minutes, then allow a natural release for 10 minutes. Add spinach after cooking.

Slow Cooker: Combine all ingredients (except spinach) and cook on Low for 6-8 hours. Stir in spinach at the end.

Optional Add-Ins for Variety

Smoky Sausage: Saute 1 (13 ounce) smoked sausage (like kielbasa) with the vegetables. Add 1/2 teaspoon smoked paprika and 1/4 teaspoon dried thyme.

Easy Being Green: Add 1 (8 to 10 ounce) package of mixed power greens such as kale, chard or spinach. Top with avocado and a squeeze of lemon juice.

Mediterranean: Add 1 tablespoon Italian seasoning and 1 (15 ounce) can cannellini beans. Top with Parmesan.

Curry Comfort: Stir in 1 tablespoon curry powder, 1 teaspoon turmeric, and finish with a squeeze of lime and a swirl of coconut milk.

Southwest Style: Add 1 tablespoon chili powder, 1/2 tablespoon cumin and 1 (14.5 ounce) can fiesta style corn. Top with a dollop of sour cream or avocado slices.

When you need an easy, nourishing meal that keeps you grounded through the holiday hustle, lentil soup is your new best friend. It's hearty, healthy and humble -- proof that comfort food doesn't have to cost much.

And here's a little secret:

Every bowl you freeze now is a gift to your future self. On a cold blustery night, when the house is busy and you're too tired to cook, you'll have homemade comfort ready in minutes.

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Hearty lentil soup made with pantry staples -warm, satisfying, and easy on the budget PHOTO CREDIT: www.JasonCoblentz.com

Lifestyle expert Patti Diamond is the penny-pinching, party-planning, recipe developer and content creator of the website
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ACROSS

- 1 Ella's style 5 Haydn nickname
- 9 Oklahoma city
- "Hell no fury ..."
- 13 Pitcher
- 14 Goose egg
- 15 Long-snouted mammals
- 17 "Mazel -!'
- 18 Actress Ryder
- 19 Puccini work
- 21 ICU worker 22 Tablecloth
- material
- 24 Broadway production
- Silent
- 28 Pesky insect
- 31 Poetic dusk
- 32 Khan title
- "Hail, Caesar!"
- ad
- 36 Rep.'s rival
- 37 Blue shade
- "It's nobody business
- 40 Yes, to Juan 41 Least desir-
- 43 Iraqi currency "Entourage" character
- South Pole region
- 51 Corp. boss

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8 Incendiary

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9 Feelers

10 Couturier

Christian

11 Thomas -

Edison

23 Mosque lead-

24 Stock holder

25 Maui souvenir

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20 Identify

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- 53 Bandleader Puente
- 54 Lith., once Evening, in an 55 Art Deco
 - master 56 Leftovers rec-
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 - 1 "Candida"
 - playwright 2 Kid's plea
 - 3 Envelope
 - abbr. Supposition

 - 5 Anti-fur org.

7 For each

- 6 Shock partner 29 Director

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- DuVernay
- 46 Garbage barge
 - Neither here there

30 Aviv preceder 35 Golf's Ernie

39 Intent look

41 Some WWII

vets

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44 Bickering

e.g.

45 Bar mitzvah,

16 Raggedy doll 42 Unrefined

22 Olympic sleds 43 Title for Judi

Colors lightly

Lancelot

50 Preschooler

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DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

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Just Like Cats & Doqs

by Dave T. Phipps

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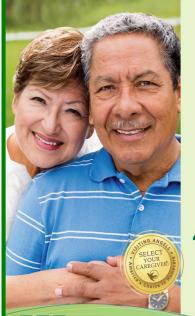
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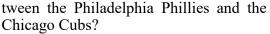


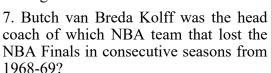
by Ryan A. Berenz

- 1. What Racing Hall of Fame jockey from Puerto Rico won eight U.S. Triple Crown series races from 1974-85?
- 2. FootJoy is a leading brand of shoes, gloves and apparel made for what sport?
- 3. What caused umpire Bill Haller to eject Baltimore Orioles manager Earl Weaver from a game versus the Minnesota Twins on Aug. 2, 1969?



- 4. How many touchdowns did Seattle Seahawks running back Shaun Alexander score in the first half of a 48-23 win over the Minnesota Vikings on Sept. 29, 2002?
- 5. What NBA expansion team had a 7-44 record before finally winning its first road game at the Atlanta Hawks on Feb. 8, 1975?
- 6. What two brothers, both rookie pitchers, started against each other in a 1986 game be-



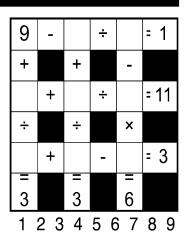


1. Angel Cordero Jr.
2.Golf
3. Weaver was smoking a cigarette in the dugout.
4. Five (four rushing, one receiving).
5. The New Orleans Jazz.
6. Mike (Phillies) and Greg (Cubs) Maddux.
7. The Los Angeles Lakers.
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Answers

GO FIGURE!

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.



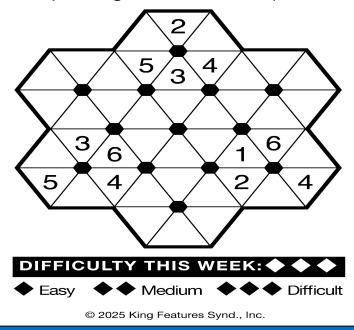
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I'M PRETTY SURE I SEIZED THE WRONG DAY

SHOMELTHRES

by Japheth Light

There are 13 black hexagons in the puzzle. Place the numbers 1 - 6 around each of them. No number can be repeated in any partial hexagon shape along the border of the puzzle.



THE GOD THAT CREATED THIS WORLD CAN DO ANYTHING HE CHOOSES TO DO

Amber Waves DUDES, NOW THAT WE'VE AGREED OUR MAGE, THERE'S ONE LAST THING. WHO KNOWS HOW TO PLAY DRUMS OR GUITAR? WHO KNOWS HOW TO PLAY DRUMS OR GUITAR? WHO KNOWS HOW TO PLAY DRUMS OR GUITAR? WHO KNOWS HOW TO THE MASSES IF THE BAND CAN'T EVEN SHRED? THAT'S IT. I QUITI BAND BREAK UP. THAT'S SO METAL!









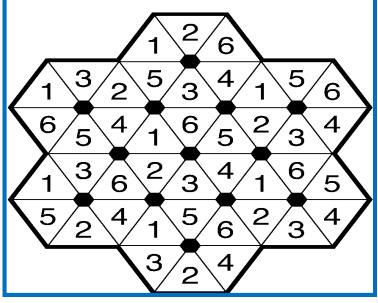
Stickelers Answer

- 1) Australia 2) Belize 3) hepatology
 - 4) Puccini 5) Washington Senators
 - 6) Euler's identity 7) silver

A RIGHTEOUS GOD WILL ALWAYS ABHOR SIN

SHOMELUKES

solution



SLOW DOWN! IT'S A NEIGHBORHOOD NOT A RACE TRACK

STICKELS [sic].

Here are some analogies:

1) Rome: Italy:: Canberra: __?_

2) Ceylon: Sri Lanka:: British Honduras: ?

3) Heart: Cardiology:: Liver: __?_

4) Magic Flute: Mozart:: Tosca: __?_

5) Bob Gibson: St.Louis Cardinals::

Walter Johnson: __?_

6) $C^2 = A^2 + B^2$: Pythagoras' theorem::

 $e^{i\pi} + 1 = 0:$?

7) Cu: Copper:: Ag: __?__

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SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

SOCIAL SECURITY INCREASE FOR 2026

The news is in, a week late this year due to the current government shutdown: The expected increase in Social Security benefits will be 2.8% for 2026.

For the average monthly benefit of \$2,015, that equates to an increase of \$56, up to \$2,071 for 2026 for a single person. For a couple, the \$88 increase will net a \$3,028 monthly benefit for 2026.

The actual Social Security increase will be less, however, because, as is typical, the Part B cost has gone up. A \$21.50 increase will bring the monthly cost up to \$206.50, and that comes out of the Social Security benefit.

The COLA (cost of living adjustment) is calculated every year by the price index from third quarter 2024 to third quarter 2025. Once again they've used the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W), which many think is the wrong index. (How many of us are clerical workers?) To be more accurate, the Social Security increase should be calculated by the Consumer Price Index for Elderly People (CPI-E), as that has the costs and expenses more in line with where seniors spend money.

Meanwhile, Medicare open enrollment will be in effect until Dec. 7. You still have time to look over your options and see if you need to make some changes. For example, are you taking different drugs? Visiting your doctor more now? Then there is your current plan -- has the cost changed or any of the benefits you get?

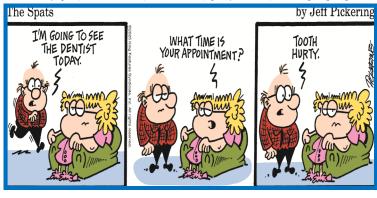
You can review plans in your area at Medicare.gov/plan-compare.

Remember, scammers are everywhere and would love to have your Social Security information. They'll approach in person, via mail, on the internet or over the phone. Don't give out your personal information!

If you suspect fraud, you can make a report at oig.ssa.gov/report or call the Inspector General's Fraud Hotline at 800-269-0271.

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PLEASE DON'T FEED THE BIRDS - ALFRED HITCHCOCK



It's almost the end of the year and time for your digital cleanup. The decluttering project almost everyone forgets—until their phone storage is full, their inbox is chaos, and every login feels like a scavenger hunt. The end of the year is the perfect checkpoint to clean things up so you can start fresh.

Begin with your inbox. Search for newsletters you never read, receipts you don't need, and notifications from apps you no longer use. Unsubscribe from anything that doesn't serve you anymore, then bulk delete old promos and updates. Create a few simple folders like Bills, Personal, and Work so important messages have a clear home going forward.

Next, tackle your files. On your computer, tablet, and phone, delete duplicate photos, blurry screenshots, and outdated documents. Move what matters into clearly labeled folders—by year, project, or topic. If there are files you'd be heartbroken to lose, this is your



Make Money On Purpose

"Year End Digital Cleanup" with Mike Lamb

reminder to back them up to an external drive or a reputable cloud service.

Then, review your apps and accounts. Remove apps you haven't opened in months. Turn off notifications that constantly interrupt you. While you're at it, update important passwords and enable two-factor authentication on key accounts like email, banking, and cloud storage.

Finally, clean up your digital "visual noise." Organize your desktop, clear old tabs and bookmarks you'll never visit again, and simplify your home screen so your most-used tools are front and center.

Digital clutter quietly drains time and focus. A few focused hours of cleanup before the end of the year

can make your devices feel new again, protect your information, and give you a calmer, more organized start to the year ahead.

If you don't declutter, there are risks.

Slower Devices & Reduced Productivity compounding into lost time and lower productivity.

Increased Security Risks - Neglect makes you more susceptible to data breaches, phishing, and identity theft.

Higher Stress & Mental Overload
Digital mess is mental mess. A chaotic
inbox, a crowded desktop, or a phone
full of notifications adds invisible stress
to your day making it harder to find
what you need, make decisions, and
stay focused.

Over time, even simple tasks feel harder than they should. So, declutter and make your life easier

A GOOD THING ABOUT ARIZONA IS THAT IT'S TOO HOT FOR ANYONE TO BE WAITING IN MY BACKSEAT TO KILL ME

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Find at least six differences in details between panels.



are added to newspaper.

Differences: I. Leg is moved. 2. Door is larger. 3. Tree is smaller. 4. Mailbox is taller. 5. House in distance is not as wide. 6. Pages



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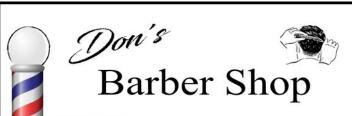
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CryptoQuip

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: L equals T

H LERSQRCF HJYRMSM PI

IMSCXE HMLVPMO VHDOSJ

RCLP H FHDDSMW HCJ XMRSJ

"FRQS YS HDD WPNM YPCSL!"

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.1am-3pm

Treasure Box II 300 W Apache Trail, Apache Junction, AZ



Local Food Trucks, Crafters & Vendors 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Superstition Museum 4087 E Apache Trail, Apache Junction, AZ

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9:00 AM-4:00 PM Superstition Museum 4087 E Apache Trail, Apache Junction, AZ

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Salsa Contest
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9:00am-3:00pm
Treasure Box II

Treasure Box II 300 W Apache Trail, Apache Junction, AZ

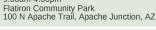
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Bands, Car Show, Vendors, Food Trucks, Jerky Contest & More 9:00am-4:00pm Flatiron Community Park





For more information Contact

Kathy Barr Phone Number: 480-239-5288 Email: thetreasureboxtwo@gmail.com



PCSK9I DRUGS ARE REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES TO STATINS



DEAR DR. ROACH: In a recent column, you wrote about reducing cholesterol levels with the help of statins along with a PCSK9i, such as Repatha or Praluent. My question is: Are these PCSK9is at all beneficial if one cannot take statins? -- D.C.S. **ANSWER:** Yes, PCSK9 inhibitors are very effective at lowering cholesterol and reducing the risk of heart attacks in high-risk people. Because these drugs are given by injection and are quite expensive, they are not usually the first-line treatments. We have decades of experience using statins, so they remain the first choice for

most. However, if a person cannot take a statin, or one of the alternatives such as bempedoic acid, then PCSK9i drugs are a very reasonable choice. In people with familial high cholesterol and extraordinarily high levels of cholesterol, combination therapy with two or three drugs (a statin, a PCSK9i and sometimes ezetimibe) is frequently used.

DEAR DR. ROACH: My wife had COVID and has lost most of her smell and taste. This has lasted for two years. She is in her late 70s. Strong flavors like barbecue sauce and onions can be detected. Is there any hope that her condition will improve? -- P.M. **AN-SWER:** Most people recover their loss of smell after COVID. Having had this for two years is a bad sign; however, the fact that she does have some sense of smell is a good sign. The most effective treatment for the loss of smell after a viral infection is olfactory training. The same scents that were used in clinical trials can be purchased online. Recent evidence has shown that a supplement combination, ultramicronized palmitoylethanolamide and luteolin, along with olfactory training, led to greater improvement. The dose used in studies was 770 mg.

DEAR DR. ROACH: My adult daughter (62) was diagnosed about three years ago with a skin disorder called prurigo nodularis. Her dermatologist has tried three different injections, but they're not working. She still gets very itchy breakouts. Please give me your thoughts and more information about this. -- K.M.A. **ANSWER:** Prurigo nodularis is an uncommon disease that affects about one person per 1,000. I have seen a handful of cases, and fortunately the cases I've seen have responded well to potent steroid creams. Regular use of skin lotions, avoiding scratching especially at night (I recommend cotton gloves), and sometimes antihistamines like Benadryl are also the first-line therapies. If a patient needs more effective treatment and only has a limited area of itching, then a dermatologist will often inject the area with a high-potency steroid. Since it sounds like this hasn't been successful for your daughter, there are other options. One is a topical cream called ruxolitinib. About 45% of people responded to this treatment, compared to 20% who responded to a cream without an active drug. Ultraviolet light (narrowband ultraviolet B) showed about 80% effectiveness. For people in whom none of these therapies work, a very expensive injection treatment, dupilumab (Dupixent) or a similar drug called nemolizumab (Nemluvio), can be used, although the response rate is not as good as desired (roughly 40%). Since many people with prurigo nodularis have other skin diseases, and some may have (or develop) depression or obsessive skin-picking, these conditions may also need to be treated to successfully improve symptoms.

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. (c) 2025 North America Synd., Inc. All Rights Reserved

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- 1. Is the book of Nathan (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
- 2. Though Paul was born in Tarus of Cilicia, where was he brought up? Jerusalem, Shiloh, Jericho, Damascus
- 3. What 8-year-old boy served as king of Jerusalem for 100 days? Shamgar, Jehoiachin, Adino, Sisera
- 4. From John 5, who stirred up the water at the pool of Bethesda? Priest, Angel, Wind, Jesus
- 5. Who was Jacob's firstborn as found in Genesis 35? Reuben, Ehud, Joshua, Elah
- 6. From Judges 1, who fed 70 kings at his table? Benaiah, Nebuchadnezzar, Adoni-bezek, or Mephibosheth

ANSWERS:

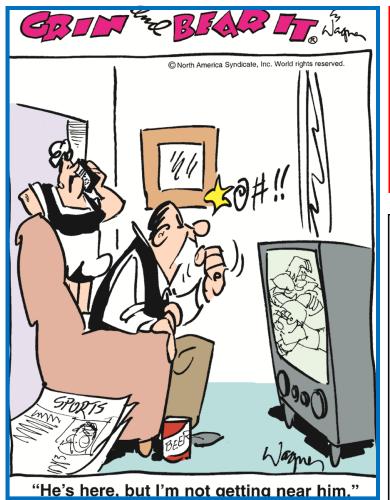
- 1) Neither
- 2) Jerusalem
- 3) Jehoiachin
 - 4) Angel
- 5) Reuben
- 6) Adoni-bezek

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EVERY STORM WILL EVENTUALLY RUN OUT OF RAIN



MY DOG UNDERSTANDS SEVERAL WORDS. I DON'T UNDERSTAND ANY BARKS. MY DOG IS SMARTER THAN I AM

CryptoQuip

answer

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Answers	Answer				
Solution time: 25 mins.	5 9 6 1 3 8 4 7 2				
SCAT PAPA ADA HATH EWER NIL	8 7 3 4 9 2 5 6 1				
ANTEATERS TOV	4 1 2 6 7 5 8 9 3				
W N O N A	2 6 4 8 5 9 1 3 7				
P L A Y M U M G N A T E E N A G A A V E	1 8 5 7 6 3 9 2 4				
N I T E D E M T E A L	7 3 9 2 4 1 6 5 8				
E L S E S S I W O R S T D I N A R S	3 4 7 5 8 6 2 1 9				
A R I A N T A R C T I C	6 2 8 9 1 7 3 4 5				
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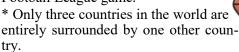
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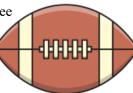




By Lucie Winbourne

* The home team must provide the referee with 36 footballs for each National Football League game.





- * Research has shown that individual breathing patterns, including the timing, volume and rhythm of chest movements, can be used to identify people with up to 97% accuracy.
- * The world's rarest hair and eye color combo is red and blue, respectively.
- * People spend roughly 10% of their waking hours with their eyes closed.
- * Hydrothermal vents created by fissures on the sea floor in areas of significant tectonic plate activity can pump out fluids at temperatures hot enough to melt lead.
- * The human brain runs on less power than a 60-watt light
- * Bagels were once given to women as gifts after childbirth. Some pregnant women even wore bagels on necklaces as protection, or ensured that bagels would be present in the room where they would deliver.
- * There is cellphone service at the summit of Mount Everest.
- * Pixar technical director Galyn Susman, while on maternity leave, was notified that 90% of the movie "Toy Story 2" had accidentally been deleted, and the studio's on-site backup had failed. Fortunately, she had copies of the film on her laptop, which was wrapped in blankets and carefully carried back to the studio.

* Scientists trained rats to drive cars (custommade from plastic cereal containers and small wires), and while the rodents' original motivation was Froot Loops, they surprisingly appeared to love going for joy rides as well.

* In Iceland, there are 13 mischievous "Yule Lads" rather than one Santa, who leave either gifts or rotten potatoes in children's shoes.

> Thought for the Day: "When you're happy you enjoy the music, but when you're sad you understand the lyrics." -- Frank Ocean

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