On This Date

1291 – A pact was made to form the Swiss Confederation. The anniversary of this founding is celebrated with paper lantern parades, bonfires, and fireworks.

1834 – The Slavery Abolition Act took effect, outlawing slavery in the British Empire.

1893 – Henry Perky received a patent for a machine to make “little whole wheat mattresses,” now known worldwide as shredded wheat. In 1901, he opened a factory in Niagara Falls, New York, which is still producing the cereal today.

Inventor Trivia

Marion Donovan, a post–World War II mother, invented the disposable diaper. This followed her innovative diaper cover with pinless snaps. Pampers went on the market in 1961.

Humor of the Day

“It’s pretty clear now that what looked like it might have been some kind of counterculture is, in reality, just the plain old chaos of undifferentiated weirdness.”

~ Jerry Garcia

Happy Birthday!

Jerry Garcia (1942–1995) was born in San Francisco, California. He is best known for forming the group the Grateful Dead in the ’60s. With albums like American Beauty, the band toured for decades with fans known as “Deadheads” following the band on tour. In the 1970s, Garcia released numerous projects as a solo artist and with other musicians, such as his well-known Touch of Gray album.
Silver Memories

On this date 25 years ago, the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers broke through levees in Illinois, in what became known as the Great Flood of 1993. Storms began in April, and in some places the rainfall was 750% above normal. On August 1, the Mississippi River crested at almost 50 feet in St. Louis and was kept out of the city by the 52-foot high and 11-mile long St. Louis Floodwall. The flood put 30,000 square miles under water, making it one of the worst natural disasters in U.S. history.

Who Said So?

This American newscaster said, “A successful man is one who can lay a firm foundation with the bricks others have thrown at him.”

Root of the Matter

Every cloud has a silver lining

When told that every cloud has a silver lining, you should take heart that some good may come from even the worst situation. This phrase originated with the English poet John Milton, who first wrote, “…did a sable cloud turn forth her silver lining on the night?” Milton wrote that in the dark of night, a black cloud shined a hopeful silvery light upon the earth. After this poem was published, writers often referred to both silver linings and Milton’s clouds, and the saying grew in popularity.

Word Scramble

Y L T L A

A current score or account

ANSWER: DAVBD BRIKLEY

ANSWER: TALLY
On This Date

1610 – Henry Hudson sailed into what is now known as Hudson Bay, thinking he had made it through the Northwest Passage and reached the Pacific Ocean.

1909 – The first passenger flight in Canada was made in Nova Scotia. The Silver Dart airplane flew five times that day before crash landing. Both the pilot and passenger were uninjured. Today, the plane is on display at the Canada Aviation and Space Museum.

1991 – The Viking longship replica Gaia landed in Newfoundland (Vinland) for the 1,000th anniversary of Leif Eriksson’s voyage.

Daily Trivia

The extinct colossus penguin stood about 6 feet 8 inches and weighed about 250 pounds, about the same size as LeBron James.

Humor of the Day

“If it’s anything I can’t stand, it’s yes-men. When I say no, I want you to say no, too.”

~ Jack Warner

Happy Birthday!

Jack L. Warner (1892–1978), born in London, Ontario, was a co-founder and production executive for Warner Bros. Studios in Burbank, California. His career spanned some 45 years, during which he kept pace with rapid changes in the industry. His many box office hits range from The Jazz Singer (1927) to My Fair Lady (1964). Warner was known as an insensitive tyrant at the studio and often banned actors from the executive dining room, saying, “I don’t need to look at actors when I eat.”
Today is Coloring Book Day. The modern coloring book was invented in the 1880s by the McLoughlin Brothers publishing company. They created *The Little Folks’ Painting Book*, illustrated by Kate Greenaway.

**Who Am I?**

I was born into an aristocratic family, and both of my grandmothers served as ladies-in-waiting to Queen Elizabeth. When I was born, my family had been hoping for a boy, and in their disappointment, they did not know what to name me for over a week. My life changed dramatically when the Prince of England proposed to me. We married when I was just 20 years old, and our marriage was an unhappy one. I became known as a humanitarian and was called the “People’s Princess.” Who am I?

ANSWER: Diana Spencer, Princess of Wales

**Mad Science**

Suffer a small scratch, and your blood will run bright red. The same goes for most animals, except for some lizards of New Guinea. Their blood is bright green. Our blood is red due to the iron in our hemoglobin. Strangely, these green-blooded lizards also have hemoglobin, but their blood, bones, muscles, and eggs are green. The green comes from *biliverdin*, a chemical byproduct of the iron in dying red blood cells. Too much biliverdin can kill a human, but these lizards survive with vast amounts. Lots of biliverdin, it turns out, shields the lizards from malaria.

**Punny Business**

Yesterday a clown held the door open for me, which I thought was a nice jester.
On This Date

1492 – Christopher Columbus set sail on the *Santa María*. Two other ships, the *Niña* and *Pinta*, accompanied him. Columbus and crew left Spain to begin the search for a water passage to India. Instead, on October 12, they landed on an island now known as San Salvador in the Bahamas.

1933 – The Mickey Mouse watch was introduced for the price of $3.25. The watch, created by Ingersoll-Waterbury, was such a hit that it saved the Connecticut clock company from bankruptcy. More than 11,000 were sold at Macy’s in New York the first day it was released.

Did You Know?

Henry Thoreau spent nine years writing his masterpiece *Walden, or Life in the Woods*. Thoreau’s writings inspired John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club.

Humor of the Day

“Marriage is the alliance of two people, one of whom never remembers birthdays and the other who never forgets them.”

~ Ogden Nash

Happy Birthday!

**Marcel Dionne**, born in 1951, is a retired Canadian professional ice hockey centre who played 18 seasons in the National Hockey League for the Detroit Red Wings, Los Angeles Kings, and New York Rangers. He was the third of six men to reach the 700-goal plateau. He was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1992. Dionne currently lives in Niagara Falls, Ontario, and owns Marcel Dionne Enterprises. Dionne’s younger brother, Gilbert, also played in the NHL.
Today is Watermelon Day. This favorite summertime fruit is actually a vegetable related to cucumbers and pumpkins. It contains so much water that explorers once used watermelons in lieu of canteens.

Wild Kingdom
The world’s tallest dog was a Great Dane named Zeus. He was 44 inches tall and could reach seven feet four inches when standing on his hind legs. Great Danes were likely bred from two other massive breeds: Irish wolfhounds and old English mastiffs. They were originally bred to hunt wild boars, so the dogs had to be strong and brave. They were nothing like the gentle giants bred today. Over the millennia, these dogs have turned from vicious hunters to perfect family pets.

What’s the Difference?
What’s the difference between hair and fur? Nothing. All hair is made up of keratin, the same stuff that makes up skin, nails, hoofs, claws, and horns. Some people mistakenly think that fur on an animal is denser, but hair on a human’s head is just as dense as fur on an ape or a mouse. In fact, human hair could accurately be called fur. One big difference is whiskers. Whiskers have nerves. When a cat’s whisker brushes an object, the whisker sends signals back to the brain about the cat’s environment.

Word Wise
Which word is not like the others?

- stalwart
- immutable
- dubious
- staunch

ANSWER: Dubious

ANSWER: Steven Tyler, of Aerosmith

What’s in a Name?
This big-lipped American rocker was born Steven Tallarico.
On This Date

1892 – Andrew Borden and his wife, Abby, were murdered at their home in Fall River, Massachusetts. Their daughter, Lizzie, was tried but not convicted of the crime. The case was memorialized in a popular rhyme beginning with “Lizzie Borden took an axe….”

1922 – Every telephone in the U.S. and Canada went dead as AT&T and the Bell System shut down all its switchboards for one minute in memory of Alexander Graham Bell, who had died two days earlier.

1944 – Acting on a tip from a Dutch informer, the Nazi Gestapo captured 15-year-old Jewish diarist Anne Frank and her family.

Did You Know?

Alexander Graham Bell believed that his greatest invention was not the telephone but rather the photophone, which allowed for voice transmission on a beam of light. It was a precursor to modern fiber-optic communication.

Humor of the Day

“I write my own quotes. Except this one. I obviously stole this from somebody really clever.”

~ Brian Celio

Happy Birthday!

Louis Vuitton (1821–1892) walked to Paris as a teenager in search of work. He began as an apprentice trunk maker and packer, and in 1853 he was chosen to be the personal box maker for the wife of Napoleon III. His original design of a stackable rectangular canvas bag replaced the heavy, domed trunks of the day. Vuitton died in 1892, but his fashion brand continues to thrive and is known for its high-quality trunks, luggage, and handbags.
**Today is** Mustard Day. Mustard is an ancient condiment. The Romans mixed unfermented grape juice, known as *must*, with ground mustard seeds to make *mustum ardens*, or “burning must,” which gives us the word mustard.

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**Passing Fancy**

In 1968, comic book writer Robert Crumb published a one-page comic called *Keep On Truckin’*. The title was a twist on the Blind Boy Fuller blues tune *Truckin’ My Blues Away*. The comic was really nothing more than a collection of cartoon men strutting with one big foot in front of the other and the torso reared in a back-heavy slant. Well, much to Crumb’s chagrin, hippies of the 1960s actually began to *truck* down the streets in this outlandish manner. It became a rallying cry for those who wanted to express their individuality no matter how strange their behavior.

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**Think-tionary**

*nelipot*

A. Someone who walks barefoot

or

B. The largest and most dominant fish in a small pond

**When Was It?**

It was during this year that the first players were elected into the Baseball Hall of Fame and Joe DiMaggio made his major league debut. *Modern Times*, by Charlie Chaplin, was released. The Hoover Dam was fully completed. The Hindenburg made its maiden flight, 14 months before its dreadful disaster. Margaret Mitchell published her novel *Gone with the Wind*, and *Life* magazine was created. When was it?

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**Buy a Vowel**

L _ _ N _ Z _

Treat like a celebrity

ANSWER: LIORIZE

ANSWER: 1936
On This Date

1583 – Explorer Sir Humphrey Gilbert founded the first English colony in North America, near Saint John’s, Newfoundland. The colonists were mutinous, however, and the expedition quickly returned to England. Gilbert’s personal motto was *Quid non?* (“Why not?”)

1858 – The first transatlantic telegraph cable was laid from Ireland to Newfoundland.

1928 – Bobbie Rosenfeld, Jane Bell, Ethel Smith, and Myrtle Cook won Olympic Gold in the 4x100 relay in Amsterdam.

Did You Know?


Proverb of the Day

“The gem cannot be polished without friction, nor man perfected without trials.”

~ Chinese proverb

Happy Birthday!

Maureen McCormick, born in 1956, is best known for her role as eldest daughter Marcia Brady in the iconic sitcom *The Brady Bunch* from 1969 to 1974. After the show ended, she had trouble finding serious acting roles and ended up acting in several Brady Bunch sequels. McCormick married Michael Cummings in 1985 and they have one daughter. In 2016, she appeared on *Dancing with the Stars*, where she was eliminated after week seven in the competition.
Today is Underwear Day. In the Middle Ages, men wore undergarments called *braies*. In the 19th century women wore *shifts* beneath their dresses. Today, underwear comes in cotton, silk, polyester, and even leather.

**Eye in the Sky**

If you were to shout at someone floating next to you in outer space, they wouldn’t be able to hear you. This is because sound travels by making molecules vibrate against each other. On Earth, air and water are full of invisible molecules, and sound travels to our ears by vibrating these molecules. Space, on the other hand, is a vacuum. With no molecules to vibrate, there is no way for sound waves to move. In truth, there are molecules in space, but they are so few and far apart that sound waves have frequencies so low that they cannot be heard by humans.

**Picture of the Day**

An outdoor wedding was not the best choice of venue for the groom’s hay fever.

Now it’s your turn to come up with a good caption.

**Riddle Me This**

I have keys but no locks. I have space but no room. You can enter but cannot go outside. What am I?

ANSWER: A keyboard

ANSWER: ATTUNE

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**On This Date**

1806 – The Holy Roman Empire came to an end when Francis II formally resigned as its emperor after losing territory to Napoleon.

1825 – The Republic of Bolivia was created after a 16-year struggle for independence from Spain. The nation was named after its revolutionary leader, Simón Bolívar.

1926 – Nineteen-year-old Gertrude Ederle became the first woman to swim across the English Channel. The American Olympic champion’s time was 14 hours and 31 minutes, beating the previous record (held by a man) by nearly two hours.

**Celebrity Trivia**

Warhol’s modest family roots influenced his work: it’s thought his mother’s choice of lunchtime staple prompted his Campbell Soup series.

**Quote of the Day**

“An artist is somebody who produces things that people don’t need to have.”

~ Andy Warhol

**Happy Birthday!**

Andy Warhol (1928–1987) was a prolific painter best known for his “pop art” images, including the iconic Campbell’s soup can. He also created portraits of some of the day’s biggest stars, like Marilyn Monroe and Mick Jagger. He enjoyed his celebrity status and was regularly seen in famous New York Night clubs like Studio 54. Warhol also dabbled in other types of art, such as sculpture and photography. His work is said to both celebrate and criticize American culture.
Today is Root Beer Float Day, according to A&W Root Beer. The idea of a scoop of vanilla ice cream floated atop root beer is credited to Frank J. Wisner, who invented the drink in a Colorado Mining Camp.

You Are What You Eat

The next time you fire up your barbeque, skip the burgers and try grilling dessert instead. Load a cast iron skillet with a pear and cranberry crumble topped with granola and bake it on a covered grill for five minutes. Want an alternative to strawberry shortcake? Grill some angel food cake and then add whipped cream, vanilla ice cream, and fresh strawberries. Surprise your guests with some dessert kabobs: Spear pieces of peaches, plums, and nectarines with little squares of pound cake and let it all sizzle over the coals.

Screen Gems

This real estate hotshot says, “Only one thing counts in this life—get them to sign on the line which is dotted.”

Humans love wearing mobile fitness trackers like Fitbits. Now there is an activity tracker for dogs. The WonderWoof Bowtie sends signals to your cell phone so that you can track your pet’s whereabouts and see if they are asleep or active.

Buy a Vowel

G _ _ R M _ T

One who knows about good food

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On This Date

1858 – Ottawa became the capital of Canada. At that time, the House of Commons and Senate were located in the Victoria Memorial Museum, currently the Canadian Museum of Nature.

1888 – Theophilus Van Kannel of Philadelphia received a patent for the revolving door. His invention was intended to replace swinging doors that let in drafts and made it difficult to control the temperature of buildings. Despite some stories to the contrary, there is no evidence that Van Kannel did not like holding doors open for women.

Daily Trivia

The fat in milk contains carotene, which gives the milk a yellowish color. That is why nonfat milk is whiter than whole milk.

Humor of the Day

“If you think you are too small to make a difference, try sleeping with a mosquito.”

~ Dalai Lama

Happy Birthday!

Carl Switzer (1927–1959) is best known for playing Alfalfa in the Our Gang short films from the 1930s. Switzer was a gifted singer and musician, though he was always typecast and did not get many serious acting roles. One of his later roles was a small part in It’s a Wonderful Life. In addition to acting, he bred and trained hunting dogs for some of the Hollywood elite, including Roy Rogers, James Stewart, and Henry Fonda.
Today is Lighthouse Day. The world’s oldest working lighthouse, built by the Romans in the second century, is in Galicia, Spain. The 180-foot Tower of Hercules became a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2009.

Household Tips

It has happened again. You want to cook dinner, but you forgot to defrost your frozen meat. What is the quickest method of defrosting? Place the meat in a resealable plastic bag and submerge it in tepid water, replacing the water as it becomes cold. While submerging your bagged meat in hot water may be tempting, and a quicker thaw, the higher temperature may encourage the growth of bacteria. Another suggestion is to flatten your meat before freezing it to increase the surface area, speeding the thaw.

Word Wise

Which word is not like the others?

- eider
- brant
- petrel
- shrike

Others are seabirds. A shrike is a land-based bird. The answer is: shrike.

Fashion of Yesteryear

Shoulder pads first hit the women’s fashion scene in the 1930s. Designer Elsa Schiaparelli experimented with daring designs and unconventional patterns, fabrics, and colors. She also experimented with shoulder pads, putting them in women’s suits, coats, and dresses. One of the first celebrities to sport shoulder pads was Hollywood starlet Joan Crawford. She was self-conscious about her shoulders, and the costume designer at MGM adopted Schiaparelli’s idea.

Who Said So?

This first lady of New York and the United States said, “Great minds discuss ideas; average minds discuss events; small minds discuss people.”

ANSWER: Eleanor Roosevelt
On This Date

1907 – Bill Miner escaped from a penitentiary in British Columbia, where he was serving time for a train robbery, one of a series of robberies and escapes throughout his life. He had a ballerina tattooed on his arm that the authorities often used to identify him. The movie *The Grey Fox* was based on his life.

1942 – Six Nazi saboteurs were executed by electric chair at the Washington, DC, jail.

1975 – Hank Williams Jr. suffered major head injuries in a mountain-climbing accident. After re-learning how to speak and sing, he became a country music star. His signature look includes a beard and sunglasses that hide his facial scars.

Celebrity Trivia

Kit Kat, the chocolate-covered wafer bar, is a big hit in Japan, in part because *kit kat* translates to “You will surely win.” They are often given as good luck charms to students ahead of school exams.

Humor of the Day

“My bed is a magical place where I suddenly remember everything I forgot to do.”

~ Anonymous

Happy Birthday!

Matthew Henson (1886–1955) was an African American explorer who was best known for being a member of the exploration team of Commander Robert Peary. Trained as a ship’s cabin boy, Henson accompanied Peary on several Arctic expeditions, including when Peary reached the North Pole for the first time. Peary relied heavily on Henson, at one point stating, “Henson must go all the way. I can’t make it without him.” They reached the North Pole on April 6, 1909, with only six of the original 24 men; the rest had turned back.
Today is International Cat Day. Cats have been domesticated for 4,000 years—2,000 years before they were the pets of Egypt’s pharaohs—and they are still the most popular pet in the world.

Centennial Memories

On this day 100 years ago, the Allies launched the Hundred Days Offensive during World War I. This was the final campaign of the Great War on the Western Front. A series of attacks finally broke the German line in France that had created a stalemate. The action began with the Battle of Amiens, where 10 Allied divisions, employing more than 500 tanks, created a 15-mile gap in the German defenses. The German army lost 30,000 men, and that day came to be known as “the Black Day of the German Army.”

Root of the Matter

Method to my madness

If there is a method to your madness, then you know that your crazy idea isn’t truly crazy, but you do, in fact, have a plan. This saying comes from William Shakespeare’s play Hamlet, published in 1602. Polonius believes that Hamlet had been driven mad with melancholy, but when he hears Hamlet’s ravings, they do seem to make sense. Polonius says, “Though this be madness, yet there is method in ’t.” Polonius is more correct than he realizes, for Hamlet is merely feigning craziness as he plots his revenge against a foe.

Punny Business

I don’t know why the machine at the coin factory suddenly stopped working. It doesn’t make any cents!
On This Date

1930 – Canada’s Percy Williams established a world record of 10.3 seconds for the 100-metre dash at the inaugural British Empire Games. He had already won two gold medals at the 1928 Olympics.

1930 – Betty Boop made her first appearance in the cartoon *Dizzy Dishes*. The character was modeled after Helen Kane, a famous singer of the 1920s, and Clara Bow, a popular actress in the 1920s.

1971 – Leroy “Satchel” Paige, the pitching legend, was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York.

Daily Trivia

In 1965, at the age of 59, Satchel Paige pitched three scoreless innings for the Kansas City Athletics in a game against the Boston Red Sox. He gave up just one hit.

Humor of the Day

“Fine! He is being passive aggressive with me, and it’s gonna backfire; I’m gonna be active friendly.”

~ Natalya Vorobyova

Happy Birthday!

Pamela Lyndon Travers (1899–1996), born in Australia, was an actress, journalist, poet, and novelist best known as the author of *Mary Poppins* (1934) and its seven sequels. She disliked the 1964 Disney film *Mary Poppins* because she felt that the movie made the character too sweet, and she also disapproved of the animation used in the movie.

She was interested in mythology and spent two summers living among the Navajo, Hopi, and Pueblo peoples studying their mythology.
What’s the Difference?

What’s the difference between vanilla and French vanilla? All vanilla comes from the beans of the tropical vanilla plant. The type of vanilla bean depends on where it is grown, such as beans from Tahiti, Mexico, or Madagascar. French vanilla does not mean the vanilla beans have been grown in France. This term is used exclusively with regards to the French method of making ice cream, which uses an egg-custard base. The addition of eggs makes the vanilla flavor deeper, richer, caramelized, and even slightly floral.

Where Am I?

I stand before one of the most recognizable buildings in the world. At any given moment I could enter to find performances of pop music, classical, musical theater, or dance, even though it is best known as an opera house. The place looks like a series of concrete shells fanning out from each other, a design so fantastic that this place has been named a UNESCO World Heritage site. Some have even called it an urban sculpture that blends perfectly with its waterfront location, rather than just a building. Where am I?

ANSWER: Sydney Opera House, Australia

Name Three

Can you name three herbs that begin with the letter C?

POSSIBLE ANSWERS: chervil, chives, caraway

Buy a Vowel

C _ R _ _ N

Move in an uncontrolled way

ANSWER: CAREEN
On This Date

1876 – Alexander Graham Bell made the world’s first long-distance telephone call. He rang the Bell homestead in Paris, Ontario, using a 13 km-long line strung from Brantford. Soon after, Bell offered to sell the telephone patent outright to Western Union for $100,000. The president of Western Union balked, believing that the telephone was nothing but a toy. Two years later, he said he would consider it a bargain if he could get the patent for $25 million.

1966 – A daylight meteor streaked across the sky from Utah to Canada. It is the only known meteor to skip through Earth’s atmosphere and leave it again.

Did You Know?

Tootsie Rolls were introduced in 1896 by Leo Hirshfield. He named them after his daughter, whose nickname was “Tootsie.”

Humor of the Day

“I told my psychiatrist that everyone hates me. He said I was being ridiculous—everyone hasn’t met me yet.”

~ Rodney Dangerfield

Happy Birthday!

Antonio Banderas, born in 1960, is a Spanish actor who moved to the United States in the early 1990s when he began to receive international recognition for his work in Spain. He is best known in the United States for his roles in Evita and The Mask of Zorro. Banderas also portrayed the voice of “Puss in Boots” in the Shrek series of movies and in the movie Puss in Boots. He has a daughter with his former wife, actress Melanie Griffith.
On this day in 1846, the Smithsonian Institution was created. English
scientist James Smithson, in his will, declared that his estate should go to the
U.S. government as a means to spread knowledge.

Mad Science

This past May, the Kilauea volcano in Hawaii grabbed big headlines for
its large unexpected explosions, but the volcano has been continuously
erupting since 1983, making it one of the longest eruptions ever
recorded on Earth. Granted, the current eruptions are far more
dramatic than previous volcanic activity. Massive fissures spewing
lava and smoke ripped through a residential neighborhood, while
earthquakes measuring 6.9 on the Richter scale shook the island. The
volcano even shot a plume of ash 30,000 feet into the air and sent
boulders into a nearby parking lot.

Think-tionary

gleimous

A. Slimy and full of phlegm or
B. The sparkle of sunlight on water

Toys of Yesteryear

The Wham-O toy company gets
credit for mass-producing brightly
colored Hula-Hoops, but the simple
toy has ancient origins. In 3000 BC,
the Egyptians were fashioning hoops
out of reeds, which were
swung around the waist,
rolled along the ground,
and hurled into the air.
Greek and Roman children made
their hoops out of scrap metal. Even
Eskimo children rolled hoops and
threw spears through them as a form
of target practice.

Word Scramble

C E O S N

Biscuit-like breakfast cake

ANSWER: SCONE

ANSWER: A. My cough was gleimous enough
On This Date

1883 – The first CPR construction train puffed into Calgary, a tent city whose only permanent structures were the barracks of the North West Mounted Police and the stores of the Hudson’s Bay and the I.G. Baker trading companies.

1901 – The first patent for instant coffee was issued to Satori Kato, a Japanese scientist. It was entitled “Coffee Concentrate and Process of Making Same.” He introduced the powdered substance to the public at the 1901 Pan American Exposition.

1909 – The steamship Arapahoe was the first ship to use the radio distress call SOS. The ship found itself in trouble off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, and radioed for help.

Did You Know?

Morse code is still widely recognized, even if it is not as popular as it once was. It is still popular among amateur radio enthusiasts, and navies use it to communicate by signal lamps.

Humor of the Day

“If this is coffee, please bring me some tea; but if this is tea, please bring me some coffee.”

~ Abraham Lincoln

Happy Birthday!

Paul Soles, born in 1930, was one of the original hosts of the CBC’s popular TV program Take 30, which went on the air in 1962. The daytime series evolved into a showcase for serious journalism, airing documentary reports and interviews. In 2001, he played the role of Shylock in the Stratford Festival of Canada production of The Merchant of Venice. For decades, Paul Soles has been a fixture in Canadian theatre, radio, television, and film. Soles and his wife, Lucy, have several children and grandchildren.
Passing Fancy
Chuck Lamb is an unassuming computer programmer from Columbus, Ohio. Like many, he dreamed of one day leaving his office job behind to become an actor. His path to stardom, however, was untraditional. Lamb began taking photos of himself in various bizarre staged death scenes: electrocuted by a toaster in the bath, crushed beneath a fallen window sash. Lamb was rewarded with various roles playing dead bodies on television, namely in police dramas. He developed such a large following that the press called him “Dead Body Guy.”

Wild Kingdom
A white ghost haunted Sweden in 2017, until the mysterious ghost was discovered to be an all-white moose. Due to a rare genetic condition, the moose’s hair and antlers are all white. Black bears in British Columbia are also sometimes born completely white. These white bears, called “spirit bears,” are both rare and revered. In both cases, local authorities have passed laws protecting the animals from hunters.

High Five
Can you name the five deepest canyons in the world?

ANSWER: AORTA

On This Date

1865 – Dr. Joseph Lister became the first surgeon to perform an antiseptic operation using carbolic acid as a disinfectant.

1888 – Bertha Benz, wife of Karl Benz (inventor of the three-wheeler motor carriage), took the first motor trip. Without her husband’s knowledge, she borrowed one of his cars and traveled 100 kilometres to visit her mother. She was gone for five days.

1990 – Sue, the world’s largest, most complete, and best preserved Tyrannosaurus rex skeleton, was discovered in South Dakota by paleontologist Sue Hendrickson. It is now a star attraction at Chicago’s Field Museum of Natural History.

Did You Know?

The 52 cards in a deck represent the 52 weeks in a year. The four suits represent the seasons.

Humor of the Day

“There is nothing so useless as doing efficiently that which should not be done at all.”

~ Peter Drucker

Happy Birthday!

Francois Hollande, born in 1954, was the 24th president of France and a member of the French Socialist Party. He was born in Rouen and entered politics as a town councilman in 1983. He also served as Mayor of Tulle and as a member of the National Assembly. Hollande was a supporter of equality for all and is quoted as having said, “Each country has a soul, and France’s soul is equality.” Hollande left office in 2017 and is a supporter of the current president.
Today is World Elephant Day. Elephants are the largest land animals in the world, weighing up to 24,000 pounds. It makes sense that they sometimes communicate with their feet, sending earthquake-like signals to other elephants.

Picture of the Day

*This guy gives a whole new meaning to the term “airhead.”*

Now it’s your turn to come up with a good caption.

Riddle Me This

What American rock group has four men who don’t sing?

ANSWER: Mount Rushmore

Eye in the Sky

The Milky Way galaxy, home to our solar system, is on a collision course with the Andromeda galaxy. Although these two galaxies are 2.5 million light-years apart, gravity is pulling them together at 402,000 kilometers per hour, set to collide in four billion years. Luckily, each galaxy is so big, and the stars within each galaxy are so far apart, that it is unlikely that stars will collide. Our sun and planets will live on in a new galaxy, dubbed Milkomeda.

Word Wise

Which word is not like the others?

Fuji

Everest

Rainier

Etna

ANSWER: Mount Everest is not a volcano; the others are.

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On This Date

1930 – Ontario native Guy Lombardo and his band the Royal Canadians recorded their hit “Go Home and Tell Your Mother.”

1961 – Construction began on the Berlin Wall. East Germany built it to prevent a “brain drain” of educated young people to the west. The wall stood as a symbol of oppression until November 1989.

1980 – The sunken merchant ship HMS Breadalbane was discovered in the Northwest Passage near Beechey Island. She had been crushed by polar ice and submerged in 1853. The well-preserved vessel is the world’s northernmost found shipwreck.

Cinema Trivia

The motion picture Psycho (1960) is now regarded as one of Alfred Hitchcock’s best efforts, but initially it received very mixed reviews. Walt Disney so detested the film that he banned Hitchcock from entering Disneyland.

Humor of the Day

“I ain’t afraid to love a man. I ain’t afraid to shoot him either.”

~ Annie Oakley

Happy Birthday!

Annie Oakley (1860–1926) was born Phoebe Ann Mosey to poor parents in rural Ohio. She learned to shoot at an early age to help support her family. After winning a contest against a traveling sharpshooter, she joined his traveling show, and the two became both an act and a couple. The name Oakley came from the Cincinnati neighborhood where she and her husband lived. She joined the Buffalo Bill Wild West Show and continued her shooting career well into her 60s. She won her last award in 1924.
Today is International Lefthanders Day. Are lefties really more creative than righties? Science now shows that lefties are better at divergent thinking, the ability to explore many possible solutions, which guides creativity.

You Are What You Eat

Potatoes have gotten a bad rap as either a starchy, high-calorie food or a fat-laden fried food. The opposite is true. When eaten as a simple baked or roasted potato, these humble root-tubers are packed with vitamins B6 and C, magnesium, and loads of fiber. And don’t skin your potatoes. Most of the potato’s benefits are in the skin or just beneath it, including more potassium than a banana. Potatoes are also soft and easily broken down, helping to promote a healthy digestive system.

Screen Gems

This gleefully wicked comic book super villain says, “As my plastic surgeon always said, if you gotta go, go with a smile.”

The Melomind headset measures brain activity to monitor stress levels and then delivers music attuned to your mind’s state, allowing you to better understand and guide your mind toward relaxation. Melomind promises a wellness journey to harmony and stability.

Gadgets & Gizmos

Buy a Vowel

F _ _ L _ R _

Lack of success

ANSWER: FAILURE

ANSWER:

Jack Nicholson as the Joker in Batman (1989)
On This Date

1880 – The Cologne Cathedral was completed 632 years after building began in 1248. It was badly damaged during World War II but later repaired. The church is the largest gothic cathedral in northern Europe.

1932 – The Philips Radio Company made its one-millionth radio. Philips began operations in 1891 producing lightbulbs and then diversified into radios in 1927.

1953 – The Wiffle ball, a ball that curves when it is thrown, was invented by David Mullany. He made it for his 13-year-old son. Back then, when you struck out, you “whiffed,” hence the name.

An Apple a Day Keeps the Doctor Away

The earliest version of this phrase is a Pembrokeshire proverb dating to the 1860s: “Eat an apple on going to bed, and you’ll keep the doctor from earning his bread.”

Quote of the Day

“Magic is who I am on the basketball court. Earvin is who I am.”

~ Ervin “Magic” Johnson

Happy Birthday!

Earvin “Magic” Johnson, born in 1959, is a retired basketball player. After being the number one pick in the 1979 NBA draft, he played point guard for the Los Angeles Lakers for 13 seasons. Johnson was a member of the gold medal-winning “Dream Team” at the 1992 Olympics. He announced that he had HIV in 1991 and briefly left the NBA but returned to play 32 games for the Lakers in 1996. Johnson has become a successful businessman and an advocate for HIV/AIDS prevention.
Today is Creamsicle Day. Traditional creamsicles consist of a vanilla ice cream pop surrounded by orange flavored ice—a delicious hybrid of ice cream and a popsicle. Today, creamsicles come in dozens of flavors.

Household Tip
Suffering a cut is commonplace, and so is covering your cut with a bandage and having that bandage fall off. It is both frustrating and too common. Improve your bandage by cutting slits in the wings and then wrapping the thin strips in an X pattern around your finger or over your knuckles. To cover the tip of your finger, cut wide triangles into the sides of the bandage to make it look like an hourglass. You can now fold the bandage over your fingertip and securely affix the wings to each other.

Who Said So?
This writer and Holocaust survivor said, “The opposite of love is not hate; it’s indifference.”

ANSWER: ELIE WIESEL

Fashion of Yesteryear
Out of the Harlem dance halls of the 1930s came the zoot suits of the 1940s. These exaggerated suits had massive shoulder pads, sprawling lapels, and pegged pants (to prevent dancers from tripping). A zoot suit was actually a store-bought suit bought two sizes too large, then tailored at home to the exact specifications of the wearer. The ostentatious nature of the suit was a political and social statement. Minority men from working-class neighborhoods donned the suit as a means to demand attention and proclaim self-confidence.

Word Scramble
RCOSUC
Support in times of hardship

ANSWER: SUCCOR
On This Date

1057 – In events later used in one of Shakespeare’s greatest tragedies, the Scottish king Macbeth was killed by Malcolm Canmore, son of King Duncan I, whom Macbeth had murdered 17 years before.

1877 – Thomas Edison decided that *hello* would be a more appropriate greeting when answering the phone than *ahoy*, as suggested by Alexander Graham Bell.

1945 – Japanese Emperor Hirohito announced to his people that he had accepted the terms of surrender demanded by the allies, effectively ending World War II.

Celebrity Trivia

Ben Affleck and actor Matt Damon have known each other since childhood. Affleck encouraged Damon to try acting, and they pooled their money to pay for audition expenses.

Quote of the Day

“The person, be it gentleman or lady, who has not pleasure in a good novel, must be intolerably stupid.”

~ Jane Austen

Happy Birthday!

Ben Affleck, born in 1972, is an American actor, writer, and director who has starred in a number of hit movies. You may know him from *Good Will Hunting*, *Pearl Harbor*, and *Armageddon*. Affleck was married to actress Jennifer Garner from 2005 through 2017. In addition to his work in Hollywood, he has also been active in charity work for a number of causes, including childhood hunger and stem cell research. He is an avid poker player who has won several tournaments.
What Am I?
At first, I was hand operated. Servants would pull on a cord that allowed me to turn lazily. It wasn’t until 1886 that my form was updated, utilizing water power to turn my blades with a belt. With the advent of electricity, my use skyrocketed, especially in factories where I was used to keep both products and hard-working employees cool. I was next used in hotels and restaurants to increase the comfort of patrons. While an air conditioner will likely keep you cool during the summer months, I am just as likely to provide a cool breeze. What am I?

ANSWER: A ceiling fan

What’s the Difference?
What’s the difference between table tennis and ping-pong? First of all, table tennis is an Olympic sport with more formalities. Serious table tennis players do not like their sport to be called ping-pong. In table tennis, a serve must be thrown upward more than six inches and hit from behind the table’s baseline. In ping-pong, you can just serve it any way you like. Scoring in table tennis goes up to 11 points, with players having two serves at a time. Ping-pong goes up to 21 points, with players serving five times each.

What’s in a Name?
This former Bond girl and Medicine Woman was born Joyce Penelope Wilhelmina Frankenberg.

ANSWER: Jane Seymour

Word Scramble
K R E U T N Y
Built and supplied complete and ready to operate

ANSWER: TURNKEY
On This Date

1812 – Facing what he incorrectly believed to be superior forces, American General William Hull surrendered Fort Detroit without a fight to the British Army.

1829 – The original Siamese twins, Chang and Eng Bunker, arrived in Boston. They were born to Chinese parents in Siam (Thailand). Experts still disagree on whether they could have survived a separation.

1969 – The first Canada Summer Games opened in Halifax-Dartmouth. The games are held once every two years and alternate between winter and summer games.

1989 – A solar flare created a geomagnetic storm that disrupted power throughout most of Quebec and caused auroras as far south as Texas. It even led to a halt of all trading on Toronto’s stock market.

Did You Know?

The Venus flytrap feeds primarily on ants, not flies.

Quote of the Day

“The magic doesn’t come from within the director’s mind, it comes from within the hearts of the actors.”

~ James Cameron

Happy Birthday!

James Cameron, born in 1954, is a screenwriter, producer/director who developed an interest in movies early. He wrote the screenplay for his movie The Abyss during his high school biology class. He has written, produced or directed many of the box office hits of the past 30 years, including The Terminator, Aliens, The Abyss, True Lies, Titanic, and Avatar. He married Suzy Amis in 2000, and they have one son and two daughters. He also has a daughter from a previous marriage.
Today is Wave at Surveillance Day. It has become a modern fact of life that security cameras are everywhere. The next time you see one, take a second to wave at the camera and let them know you’re watching back.

Think-tionary

egrote

A. Accidentally send a memo or email to the wrong person
   or
B. To fake an illness in order to avoid work

Root of the Matter

Pull the wool over your eyes

If you pull the wool over someone’s eyes, then you have deceived them. This saying likely comes from the era in which men wore powdered wigs, which resembled lambs’ wool. They wouldn’t be able to see clearly if their wigs fell over their eyes. Perhaps this phrase is even related to court, where some judges wore wigs when they sat on the bench. If the wool were to fall over their eyes, then they might bear responsibility for a severe miscarriage of justice.

Garden Party

One single tree is large enough to make 170,100 pencils or 8,333 sheets of paper. It also takes about 22 mature pine trees to build a house. These are ways that we use trees, but if we keep them in the ground, they are vital organisms. In one year, just one acre of trees can absorb the amount of carbon dioxide a car makes when it travels 26,000 miles and make enough oxygen for 18 people.

Buy a Vowel

D _ L _ V _ R

Take to a person or place

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On This Date

1835 – Solymon Merrick patented the first wrench, a tool for tightening bolts and nuts.

1896 – Gold was discovered in Bonanza Creek in the Klondike region of Canada’s Yukon Territory. A gold rush began the following year.

1939 – The Wizard of Oz premiered in New York City. It was the first movie to use the combination of color and black and white film. Judy Garland and Mickey Rooney actually appeared onstage for 30-minute song and dance routines between showings of the film.

Daily Trivia

The tombstone of Mel Blanc, the famed voice of cartoon characters Bugs Bunny, Sylvester the Cat, Tweety Bird, and Porky Pig, reads:

“That’s all folks.”

Quote of the Day

“Personality is the glitter that sends your little gleam across the footlights and the orchestra pit into that big black space where the audience is.”

~ Mae West

Happy Birthday!

Mae West (1893–1980) was an actress, singer, and comedian. She began performing as a child, and her career continued until the late 1970s. West was known for writing a 1928 play called Diamond Lil about a smart and easygoing woman from the 1890s. The character was a hit, and West revived it many times throughout her career. She was known for saying, “You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough.”
**Bookworm**

When a young man gets expelled from his prep school, he decides to spend a few days in New York City rather than face his parents. His stay in the city, however, does not go well. Each attempt to act adultlike—checking into a hotel, visiting a nightclub, looking up an old friend—fails miserably, and he declares that the world is full of “phonies.” The only one he can love is his kid sister, a young soul who has not yet been jaded by the world. What book is it?

*J.D. Salinger. The Catcher in the Rye by*

**Mad Science**

A group of fanciful scientists recently published a paper exploring some wacky origins of life on Earth. 540 million years ago, there was a sudden diversification of life, known as the Cambrian Explosion, when animal life branched into new species. The scientists hypothesize that this new life evolved from a meteor bearing an extraterrestrial virus. Furthermore, some scientists even contend that fertilized octopus eggs, riding a frozen comet, crashed into the sea, bringing this creature from a distant planet.

**Riddle Me This**

First you eat me and then you get eaten. What am I?

*ANSWER: A fishhook*
On This Date

1227 – Genghis Khan, the Mongol leader who forged an empire, died in camp. He may have succumbed to injuries incurred during a fall from a horse in the previous year.

1587 – Virginia Dare, granddaughter of Governor John White of the Colony of Roanoke, became the first English child born in the Americas.

1957 – The U.S. military detonated a nuclear device at its Nevada Test Site. Patrons at Las Vegas hotels watched the mushroom cloud while they drank cocktails. The test was part of Operation Plumbbob, the most controversial test series in the continental United States.

What Big Eyes You Have

Giant squids have the largest eyes in the world, the size of soccer balls. Deep in the ocean those large eyes are useful in spotting their predator, the sperm whale.

Humor of the Day

“When whenever you want to marry someone, go have lunch with his ex-wife.”

~ Shelley Winters

Happy Birthday!

Shelley Winters (1920–2006) was an American actress who appeared on stage and screen. She was known for her roles in The Great Gatsby, A Place in the Sun, and The Diary of Anne Frank, the last winning her an Oscar for best supporting actress. Winters was politically minded, briefly addressing the marchers outside Selma, Alabama, during the march there for civil rights. She was married four times, including to long-time companion Gerry DeFord, whom she married hours before her death.
Wild Kingdom

In 2015, the Los Angeles Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals awarded its annual Hero Dog Award to a cat named Tara. When the cat’s four-year-old owner was attacked by an off-leash dog while riding his bike, Tara sprang into action. The cat leaped fiercely onto the dog and chased it away from the scene, forcing the dog to release his bite on the boy’s leg. Tara the tabby was a true hero, saving the boy before things could have gotten much worse. On Tara’s award for Top Dog, the word dog was scratched out and appropriately replaced with cat.

Passing Fancy

In China, it was once considered illegal to own a dog. After all, another mouth to feed was considered the province of the rich and not very communist. Today, though, owners are falling in love with dogs, but for a strange reason. Dogs are being groomed and dyed to resemble other animals. Chows are transformed into pandas. Golden retrievers become tigers. Poodles are combed to imitate camels. Despite China’s communist roots, the grooming isn’t cheap, and can cost hundreds of dollars.

Who Said So?

This unofficial poet laureate of America said, “In three words I can sum up everything I’ve learned about life: it goes on.”

ANSWER: ONESIE

ANSWER: Robert Frost
On This Date

1812 – “Old Ironsides” (the USS Constitution) won a battle against the British frigate HMS Guerrière off the coast of Nova Scotia.

1839 – Louis Daguerre’s photographic technique was introduced. It needed only 20 to 30 minutes of exposure compared to a previous eight-hour requirement.

1914 – Quebec offered Belgium four million pounds of cheese as a form of wartime support.

1919 – The Kingdom of Kabul gained its independence and changed its name to Afghanistan.

Inventor’s Quiz

Q: Which was invented first: the Band-Aid, the teabag, or bubble gum?

A: The teabag was invented in 1908. The Band-Aid was invented in 1920, and bubble gum in 1928.

Quote of the Day

“Dress shabbily and they remember the dress; dress impeccably and they remember the woman.”

~ Coco Chanel

Happy Birthday!

Coco Chanel (1883–1971) was a French fashion designer. She was raised in a convent, where she learned to sew. Chanel was among the first to create fashionable clothing that did not require a corset. She designed her famed interlocking CC monogram in the 1920s. Chanel also developed the iconic Chanel No. 5 perfume. Her earnings made her one of the wealthiest women in the world. Although linked with many influential men, she never married.
Today is World Photo Day. Everyone in the world is encouraged to take a photo and share it in order to create a snapshot of humanity. What can we learn when we see the world from a billion different perspectives?

**Picture of the Day**

*The pack must have smelled the bacon sizzling downriver.*

Now it’s your turn to come up with a good caption.

**Word to the Wise**

The word *spa* comes from the town of Spa in Belgium, famous for its natural mineral springs that brought visitors seeking rejuvenation in ancient Roman times. This is why the term today is used to describe wellness centers, beauty parlors, and Jacuzzis. The term *spa* was even used to describe soda fountains.

**Who Am I?**

I was born into a wealthy family, thanks to my father’s invention of a drill bit for drilling oil wells. I made my own name, however, as a controversial Hollywood director and producer. I also was an accomplished aviator, establishing my own aircraft company and setting a new land speed record. In 1950, I sent myself into seclusion and earned the reputation as an eccentric, which my move to the Desert Inn in Las Vegas only seemed to reinforce. Who am I?

ANSWER: Howard Hughes

**Word Wise**

Which word is not like the others?

- epistle
- missive
- loge
- dispatch

ANSWER: A loge is a private theater box.
On This Date

1944 – Major David Currie’s squadron captured the French village of St. Lambert, thereby blocking a vital German escape route from France. Major Currie became the only Canadian to receive the Victoria Cross for action in Normandy who did not die in the process of earning it.

1977 – NASA launched Voyager 2, an unmanned spacecraft, toward Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune, and then on toward interstellar space. It carries a 12-inch copper phonograph record containing greetings in dozens of languages, samples of music, and sounds of nature. The spacecraft has now been operational and in contact with Earth for 45 years.

Did You Know?

Elephants in Myanmar (formerly Burma) have been known to silence bells hung around their necks by clogging them with mud so they will not be heard when stealing bananas.

Proverb of the Day

“Judge not your beauty by the number of people who look at you, but rather by the number of people who smile at you.”

~ African proverb

Happy Birthday!

Cynthia Nicholas (1957–2016) achieved fame at the age of 16 when she swam across Lake Ontario in 15 hours and 10 minutes. She went on to swim the English Channel a total of 19 times, including five two-way trips. She was inducted into the International Swimming Hall of Fame in 2005 and served in the Ontario legislature from 1987 to 1990. She practiced law in Scarborough, Ontario, and was parliamentary assistant to Ontario’s solicitor general from 1989 to 1990.
Today is World Mosquito Day, celebrating the scientific breakthrough by Sir Ronald Ross that connected mosquitoes to malaria. Ross’ discovery led to many medical cures and treatments for mosquito-borne diseases.

Eye in the Sky

Earth’s seasons have nothing to do with how close the planet is to the sun. Instead, the seasons are dependent upon the tilt of Earth on its axis, which makes certain areas get more sunshine. However, there is a point in the year when Earth is closest to the sun, because its orbit is not a perfect circle, but an oval-shaped ellipse. The moment when Earth is closest to the sun is known as **perihelion**, and for the northern hemisphere, it often occurs in January, in the middle of winter.

High Five

Can you name the five busiest traffic intersections in the world?

Buy a Vowel

S _ _ R C _

A place of origin

Gadgets & Gizmos

*Belty* is so much more than a belt. It loosens on its own if you’ve overeaten at dinner and tightens when you stand up from the table. If you’ve been sitting at your office desk for too long, it will vibrate to remind you to get up and move around. A new version even has a built-in phone charger.
On This Date

1919 – Edward, Prince of Wales (later Edward VIII and Duke of Windsor), arrived in Quebec to officially open the Quebec cantilever bridge over the St. Lawrence River. The bridge had suffered two major collapses, in 1907 and 1916, killing 88 people. The new design was hailed as a marvel of engineering. The Quebec bridge was designated a National Historic Site of Canada in 1995.

1961 – Country music singer Patsy Cline recorded the vocals to Willie Nelson’s Crazy. It became her signature song.

Daily Quiz

The “night parrot” of Australia is considered one of the most elusive birds on Earth. Fewer people alive today have seen one with their own eyes than have ever walked on the moon.

Quote of the Day

“Nobody roots for Goliath.”

~ Wilt Chamberlain

Happy Birthday!

Wilt Chamberlain (1936–1999) was a professional basketball player who played for the Warriors, 76ers, and Lakers. At 7'1" and 275 pounds, he was known by the nickname “The Big Dipper” since he had to dip his head through doorways. During his playing days, he earned many accolades, including four MVP awards. He is the only player to score 100 points in a single NBA game. After he retired from the league, he would sometimes perform with the Harlem Globetrotters in exhibition games.
Today is Senior Citizens’ Day. There are over 40 million senior citizens in the U.S., proving there’s a lot to celebrate today. How to celebrate? Try exercise. After all, regular exercise is shown to slow the aging process.

Fashion of Yesteryear
Jelly shoes are women’s shoes made of PVC plastic. They get their name from their plastic, jelly-like sheen. The origins of the shoe are unclear. One story is that in 1981, Preston Haag traveled to Brazil, where he discovered all the local women wearing the shoes. The women all worked at the Grendene company, a local shoe manufacturer. The former bank president struck up a deal with the shoe company and introduced jelly shoes at the 1982 World’s Fair. One year later, he scored a deal to sell the shoes at Bloomingdale’s in New York City.

You Are What You Eat
At the end of the 19th century, immigrants from China went to Peru to work in sugar plantations and mines and build railroads. They brought with them their traditional Chinese cuisine, which over the decades was blended with Peruvian food to create a new cuisine known as *chifa*. Today, chifa is considered an authentic Peruvian food and is served everywhere. The most common dishes are *chaufa*, a fried rice made with common Peruvian ingredients like chicken and fried fish, and *tallarin*, an egg noodle made with chicken.

Name Three
Can you name three musical instruments that begin with the letter T?

List: trombone, triangle, tambourine
Possible answers: tuba, trumpet, triangle

Word Scramble
IKBNL
Shut and open quickly

Answer: BLINK
On This Date

1902 – The Cadillac Automobile Company was formed. It was named after the French explorer who founded Detroit in 1701.

1938 – Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers appeared on the cover of LIFE magazine. The glamorous couple offered people an escape from the dreariness of the Great Depression.

1964 – The Beatles gave their first Canadian concert in Vancouver. They played songs from their new album, Something New. The top ticket price was $5.25.

Daily Trivia

Henri Cartier-Bresson started a tradition of testing new camera lenses by taking photographs of ducks in urban parks. He never published the images but referred to them as “my only superstition” as he considered it a “baptism” of the lens.

Humor of the Day

“If they can make penicillin out of moldy bread, they can sure make something out of you.”

~ Muhammad Ali

Happy Birthday!

Henri Cartier-Bresson (1908–2004) was a French humanist photographer who pioneered street photography. He had an innate ability to capture the decisive moment that made a great candid shot. Cartier-Bresson studied art, literature, and English at the University of Cambridge and then traveled the world taking pictures. He became famous for his photos of Gandhi’s funeral in 1948 and his coverage of the end of the Chinese Civil War in 1949.
Today is Be an Angel Day, a chance for you to do good deeds and commit random acts of kindness for strangers. You don’t need to have angel wings or a celestial choir to act as someone’s guardian angel.

Think-tionary

uhtceare

A. A rabbit’s burrow dug under the roots of an old tree

or

B. To lie awake before dawn worrying

ANSWER: B. My uhtceare is always bad before my first day back to school.

When Was It?

In was in this year that the American explorer Hiram Bingham stumbled upon Machu Picchu, the Lost City of the Incas. Proctor and Gamble introduced Crisco shortening. Groundbreaking began in Boston for the construction of Fenway Park. Roald Amundsen won the race to be the first to the South Pole. When was it?

ANSWER: 1911

What’s the Difference?

What’s the difference between annual, perennial, and biennial flowers? The entire life cycle of an annual, from seed to flower to death, lasts just one year. Perennials grow and bloom year after year, thanks to hardy bulbs and root systems that preserve cells over the winter. Biennials require two growing seasons to fully flower. The first season they produce roots, stems, and leaves, which live through the winter. Then, during the second season, they flower and form seeds, which fall to repeat the cycle.

Word Scramble

I D B L E B R

To fall in small droplets

ANSWER: DRIBBLE
On This Date

1541 – Jacques Cartier arrived at the Iroquois village of Stadacona during his third trip to Canada and began to build Charlesbourg-Royal. Located at the western tip of Cape Diamond, it was the first French fort in Canada and first French settlement in North America.

1917 – The city of Berlin was allowed to change its name to Kitchener due to wartime anti-German sentiment.

1943 – Trans Canada Airlines (TCA) began transatlantic military passenger and postal delivery service.

1967 – The Anglican Church of Canada voted to allow divorced persons to remarry.

I Dream of Jeannie Trivia

Barbara Eden’s midriff-baring costume was a big hit, but she was covered up for the first 10 episodes. It was not censorship but rather because she was pregnant.

Quote of the Day

“Intense feeling too often obscures the truth.”

~ Harry Truman

Happy Birthday!

Barbara Eden, born in 1931, is an American actress best known for her iconic role in the TV sitcom I Dream of Jeannie. She studied acting in school and played a number of roles in TV and film before being cast as Jeannie in 1965. The show ran for five years and was a runaway success. Eden’s career continued afterward, and she made appearances in movies and TV shows up until 2016. She also wrote a memoir of her life entitled Jeannie Out of the Bottle, which debuted on the New York Times bestseller list.
Where Am I?

I stand on the shore of the deepest lake in the British Isles, containing more freshwater than all the lakes in England and Wales combined. On the lake’s western shore is a castle dating back to the 13th century. The water of the lake is very murky, due to the high peat content. Perhaps this contributes to the aura of mystery that has surrounded the lake since 1933, when a motorist named George Spicer claimed to see a monster on its shores. Where am I?

ANSWER: Loch Ness, Scotland

Set the Record Straight

When we visit museums and see famous sculptures from ancient Greece, all the sculptures are white stone. But in ancient Greece, sculptures were almost always brightly painted. Thousands of years caused the paint to fade or disappear. Part of the reason we think sculpture should be white is because the most famous artists of the Renaissance, like Michelangelo and Donatello, sculpted white stone, thinking they were copying the Greeks.

Garden Party

No one likes weeds in their garden. The best time to weed is after a rain, because the water loosens the roots. Mulch is also important. Not only does it prevent weeds but it helps the soil retain water.

On this day in 1973, a bank robbery in Stockholm, Sweden, went wrong, forcing the thief to take four bank employees hostage. Interestingly, after the hostage crisis, the four hostages became sympathetic to their tormentor, giving rise to the term “Stockholm syndrome.”

Word Wise

Which word is not like the others?

- disburse
- amass
- accrue
- hoard

Other words mean to gather or collect. The word to disburse is to pay out. The

ANSWER: To disburse is to pay out; the others mean to gather or collect.
On This Date

79 – Mt. Vesuvius erupted for the first time in recorded history, destroying southern Italy’s cities of Pompeii, Stabiae, and Herculaneum. The volcano exploded without warning, covering Pompeii in a layer of ash nearly 13 feet deep. The other two cities were buried under mud and debris. Archaeologists have uncovered what life was like in Roman times from the volcanic ash-preserved remains of the cities. Vesuvius is still active.

Why Didn’t I Think of That?

Mr. Bernard Sadow reinvented the suitcase by adding wheels in 1972. He met strong resistance on early sales calls, when he was told that men would not accept suitcases with wheels.

Humor of the Day

“It’s just a job. Grass grows, birds fly, waves pound the sand. I beat people up.”

~ Muhammad Ali

Happy Birthday!

William Wilberforce (1759–1833) was an English politician best known for his work to abolish slavery. Wilberforce believed in the importance of religion, morality, and education, and his work directly contributed to the passing of the Slavery Abolition Act of 1833, which outlawed slavery in the British Empire. He was also one of the founders of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. A movie about his life starring Benedict Cumberbatch was released in 2007.
**Today is** Wayzgoose Day. A *wayzgoose* is an entertainment given by an employer to employees. It developed when master printers held a party for their apprentices at the end of summer, when the daylight began to fade.

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**Mad Science**

They called James Harrison “the man with the golden arm,” thanks to a rare antibody in his blood that could be used to make a life-saving medication. Sometimes, the immune system of an expectant mother can turn on her own baby, destroying the unborn child’s red blood cells. Harrison’s antibodies were critical to making a medicine known as anti-D immunoglobulin, a medicine that would prevent these rare but fatal complications. Harrison donated blood more than 1,100 times, saving the lives of over 2.4 million babies, including Harrison’s own daughter.

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**Root of the Matter**

*Steal my thunder*

If you have *stolen someone’s thunder*, then you have won all the acclaim meant for them. This saying goes back to 1704, when playwright John Dennis devised a wonderful new method for creating the sound of thunder for his play. The play flopped and closed. William Shakespeare’s new play *Macbeth*, however, was a hit, and Shakespeare stole Dennis’s method for creating the sound of thunder. Dennis was quoted as saying, “Damn them! They will not let my play run, but they steal my thunder!”

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**Word Scramble**

A Y D R M I

A countless number

ANSWER: MYRIAD

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**Riddle Me This**

What goes around and around the wood, but never goes into the wood?

ANSWER: The bark of a tree
On This Date

1835 – The *New York Sun* perpetrated “The Great Moon Hoax,” a series of articles about the supposed discovery of life on the moon. The articles described fantastic creatures, including unicorns and humanoids. The reports were meant as satire, but the public swallowed the story.

1937 – The Ontario Legislative Assembly at Queen’s Park, Toronto, announced a delay of school openings due to a polio epidemic sweeping southern Ontario.

1944 – The German garrison in Paris surrendered to Allied forces. To his credit, the German commander General Dietrich von Choltitz disobeyed Hitler’s orders to destroy the city.

Daily Trivia

Von Choltitz’s defiance of Hitler was portrayed in the 1966 movie *Is Paris Burning?* and also a 1965 book by the same title.

Quote of the Day

“To achieve great things, two things are needed; a plan, and not quite enough time.”

~ Leonard Bernstein

Happy Birthday!

Leonard Bernstein (1918–1990) was a composer, conductor, author, music lecturer, and pianist. In addition to being the longtime director of the New York Philharmonic, he also wrote the music for many popular shows, including *West Side Story*, *Peter Pan*, and *On the Waterfront*. He won eight Grammy Awards for his music as well as a Grammy for Lifetime Achievement. His musical score for *West Side Story* is credited for helping bridge the gap between classical and popular music.
Passing Fancy

This strange new pastime combines adventure with the satisfaction of a well-pressed shirt. It’s extreme ironing! It began in 1980, when Tony Hiam wanted to make fun of his brother-in-law’s obsession with ironing. Hiam began to iron in random places: mountaintops, airplane terminals, and atop telephone booths. The “sport” has since taken on a life of its own, with athletes setting their ironing boards atop Mount Everest and underwater in Key West, Florida. This “extreme sport” has even inspired copycats, such as extreme cello playing.

Golden Memories

On this day in 1968, Arthur Ashe became the first African American to win a prominent U.S. tennis tournament, the U.S. Open at Forest Hills. Ashe would go on to win several Grand Slam titles, co-found the Association of Men’s Tennis Professionals (a tennis union), write columns for the Washington Post, and compose a history of black athletes. Like Jackie Robinson did for baseball, Ashe was truly a trailblazer for minorities in the sport of tennis. His grace-under-pressure style of play was valuable both on and off the court.

Screen Gems

This adept swordsman tells the inept leader of his gang, “You keep using that word. I do not think it means what you think it means.”

On This Date

1498 – The master artist Michelangelo was commissioned to carve the Pietà. This work has interested historians for centuries because the sculpture does not feature the perfect human proportions that are the hallmark of Michelangelo’s work.

1883 – Mount Krakatoa, an island volcano in the Dutch Indies (now Indonesia), erupted with violent explosions that destroyed two-thirds of the island and killed about 36,000 people.

1946 – Animal Farm, by George Orwell, was published in the U.S. The allegory is based on totalitarianism and injustice taking place in the Soviet Union. It is included in the list of Great Books of the Western World.

Daily Trivia

The full moon always rises at sunset and sets at sunrise.

Quote of the Day

“If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.”

~ Mother Teresa

Happy Birthday!

Mother Teresa (1910–1997) was an Albanian-Indian Catholic nun. She joined the Sisters of Loreto at age 18 and took her religious vows three years later. She is internationally known for her work with India’s poor and campaigned throughout her life for the most marginalized in Indian society. She was fluent in five languages and occasionally traveled outside India for humanitarian reasons. She was canonized by the Catholic Church in 2016 and is recognized by the Church as Saint Teresa of Calcutta.
Today is Women’s Equality Day, in commemoration of the adoption of the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, which guaranteed women the right to vote. For women, the fight continues in the workplace and at home. A woman’s job really is never done.

Wild Kingdom

Scientists think they have come up with a wonderful new pet, a glowing fish dubbed the GloFish. The fish are zebra fish that have been altered to include genetic material from fluorescent glowing corals or glowing jellyfish. With the addition of this genetic material, GloFish emit any bright neon color you could choose: red, green, orange, blue, purple, or pink. There is just one catch. If the fish are released into streams or ponds, there is a chance the released fish could breed with local fish and pass on the strange glowing genes.

Who Said So?

This scientist and popular guide to the cosmos said, “Life would be tragic if it weren’t funny.”

ANSWER: Stephen Hawking

Picture of the Day

The kitten found the warmest and coziest blanket in the house.

Now it’s your turn to come up with a good caption.

Word Scramble

C S E L O A

Comfort or consolation

ANSWER: SOLACE
On This Date

1660 – John Milton’s books were burned in London because of the author’s attacks on King Charles II. Milton is best known for his epic poem *Paradise Lost.*

1938 – At a poetry reading given by Archibald MacLeish, another poet set fire to some papers in a fit of jealousy in order to disrupt the recital. That jealous poet was Robert Frost.

1939 – Luftwaffe pilot Erich Warsitz flew the world’s first practical jet-powered airplane, the *Heinkel He 178.* It remained airborne for seven minutes.

Weather Trivia

A *virga* is an observable streak of rain that falls from a cloud but evaporates before reaching the ground. In North America, it is commonly seen in the western United States and the Canadian prairies.

Humor of the Day

“A man who writes for a living does not have to go anywhere in particular, and he could rarely afford to if he wanted.”

~ C.S. Forester

Happy Birthday!

C. S. Forester (1899–1966) was an English novelist best known for his *Horatio Hornblower* novel series. Forester wrote over 30 novels, plus plays and short stories. He also wrote children’s books to encourage his youngest son to finish his meals. Some of his works were used in films, such as *The African Queen.* Unable to join the military for health reasons, during World War II, Forester wrote propaganda for the Allied Powers.
Eye in the Sky

A lunar eclipse happens when the moon passes through Earth’s *umbra*. In other words, Earth blocks the sunlight that shines on the moon. This can happen up to four times a year, and on these nights the moon is often still visible, but it is bathed in an eerie red tint, which we call a blood moon. However, a blue moon never really appears blue. This is just the term we use for the second full moon that falls within one calendar month. Blue moons are fairly rare, with one occurring only once every 2.7 years on average.

What Am I?

I was at first nothing more than a plank of wood, used to play a hitting game originally invented by French monks in the year 1100 BC. In 1874, I took my first modern form, blending solid wood with strings. Made of solid wood, I was too heavy, so I was changed to laminated wood, which is many thin layers bonded together. Over the years, I have changed to become even lighter and sturdier, using metal, aluminum, and graphite in my body. What am I?

ANSWER: A tennis racket

Word to the Wise

The term *wanderworts* was added to the dictionary. It means any word borrowed from another language. Some *wanderworts* of note are *harissa*, a spicy North African chili paste, and *kombucha*, a Japanese fermented tea drink.

Buy a Vowel

V _ L _ _ R

Plush woven fabric

ANSWER: VELOUR
On This Date

1937 – The Toyota Motor Company was founded by Kiichiro Toyoda. Today, it is the largest company in Japan, with about 350,000 employees.

1963 – Civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his “I Have a Dream” speech. He originally prepared a short speech about the sufferings of African Americans attempting to realize their freedom in a society of discrimination. He was about to sit down when gospel singer Mahalia Jackson called out, “Tell them about your dream, Martin!”

Flower Trivia

Most varieties of hydrangeas produce pink flowers in alkaline soil and blue ones in acidic soil. White hydrangea flowers do not change their color.

Quote of the Day

“Life is a blank canvas, and you need to throw all the paint on it you can.”

~ Danny Kaye

Happy Birthday!

Nancy Kulp (1921–1991) was an American actress best known for her role as Miss Jane Hathaway on the TV show The Beverly Hillbillies. Kulp only got into acting by coincidence. She was working for the publicity department at MGM and one of the directors convinced her to take up acting. She soon began landing small roles in film and TV. She was nominated for an Outstanding Supporting Actress in Comedy Emmy award for her role as Miss Hathaway.
Today is Bow Tie Day. Bow ties originated during the Prussian War, when Croatian mercenaries used bow ties to tie their short collars shut. They became a men’s fashion accessory in 18th-century France.

Gadgets & Gizmos

The PancakeBot is an entirely new way to enjoy pancakes. It is a “printer” that dispenses batter in patterns of your choosing onto a griddle. You can load your own designs or browse through a variety of preloaded options. You could eat pancakes in the shape of a lion, the Sydney Opera House, or a VW bus.

What’s in a Name?

This big band singer turned leading actress was born Doris Mary Ann Kappelhoff.

ANSWER: Doris Day

Fifty Years Ago

On this day 50 years ago, tens of thousands of Vietnam War protesters crowded the streets of Chicago during the Democratic National Convention. Eugene McCarthy, an anti-war candidate, challenged his party and the notion that the United States needed to intervene in Vietnam to thwart the spread of communism. Outside the convention, McCarthy’s supporters battled police, and the protest turned into a full-scale riot. The televised clashes helped turn popular opinion against the war.

Word Wise

Which word is not like the others?

rotunda    cupola
belfry    vestibule

Roof domes or towers. Leading to a larger space; the others are.

ANSWER: A vestibule is a small foyer.
On This Date

1966 – After two years as a star on the show, Mia Farrow withdrew from the cast of the prime-time TV drama *Peyton Place* at the urging of her husband, Frank Sinatra.

1991 – The Supreme Soviet, the parliament of the U.S.S.R., suspended all activities of the Communist Party. This marked the end of the party’s 75-year controlling regime in the Soviet Union.

2005 – Hurricane Katrina’s storm surge caused 53 different levee breaches in greater New Orleans, submerging 80% of the city.

Geography Trivia

The Atacama Desert is the driest place in the world. Some parts of it have not received rainfall in more than 400 years. It is located in the rain shadow of the Andes Mountains in South America.

Quote of the Day

“There are things I want to say: They are very important to me, and, not being a writer, I do it through movies.”

~ Richard Attenborough

Happy Birthday!

Richard Attenborough (1923–2014) was an English actor, filmmaker, and politician. He is famous for many films, including *The Great Escape* (1963), *Miracle on 34th Street* (1994), *Jurassic Park* (1993), and *Gandhi* (1982), which won two Academy Awards, for Best Picture and Best Director. Attenborough served in the film unit of the Royal Air Force during World War II. He was a Member of Parliament from 1993 until his death in 2014.
Fashion of Yesteryear

The Kayan people of Myanmar are known for a unique cultural fashion accessory: neck rings. Starting at five years old, girls wear heavy brass coils around their necks. As the years go by, rings are added, making the neck appear to lengthen. The neck is not getting longer, however. The weight of the rings presses down on the collarbone, even compressing the ribs. Why do the Kayan women wear these rings? Scientists think they might want to symbolize long-necked dragons, important animals in Kayan folklore, but the women say they wear them because it is tradition.

What’s the Difference?

What’s the difference between empathy and sympathy? Empathy is often confused with pity or compassion, but it is much more than that. It is the ability of one person to comprehend another’s situation, be it real or fictitious, and truly share and feel their emotions. Sympathy is a feeling of care or concern for another. You are concerned for someone, but do not feel what they feel or share their distress. Sympathy can sometimes grow into empathy, which then evolves into compassion, or the desire to lessen another’s suffering.

Punny Business

I was going to make a belt out of watches but I figured it would just be a waist of time.

Word Scramble

E L A P T

A fold in cloth

ANSWER: PLEAT
On This Date

1146 – A conference of European leaders outlawed the crossbow. By banning such an effective weapon, the leaders believed that they had ended wars for all time.

1682 – William Penn sailed from England on this day and went on to establish the colony of Pennsylvania. A 37-foot bronze statue of him has stood atop City Hall in Philadelphia since 1894.

Penn Statue Trivia

A gentlemen’s agreement that no structure should rise above the Penn statue was violated in 1986 when a taller building was erected, bringing about a supposed curse on local sports teams. The curse ended in 2008 when the Phillies won the World Series, just 16 months after a small Penn statuette had been affixed to the top of the new Comcast Center.

Humor of the Day

“Normal is nothing more than a cycle on a washing machine.”

~ Whoopi Goldberg

Happy Birthday!

Mary Shelley (1797–1851) was an English novelist, biographer, and travel writer who is best known for her book Frankenstein. Shelley conceived the story during a summer in Switzerland with her husband, Percy Bysshe Shelley. He collaborated with Mary on the novel, and historians still debate how much of the work was his. Shelley was a feminist ahead of her time and strongly believed that women were capable of being intellectual equals.
Think-tionary

**jehu**

A. A fast and furious driver

or

B. An animal bladder used as a canteen to carry water

*ANSWER: A. As a jehu myself, I feel comfortable driving in New York City.*

When Was It?

It was during this year that Western Union discontinued its telegram service. Iran announced that it had successfully enriched uranium for the first time. After being stolen and missing for two years, Norwegian police found Edvard Munch’s painting *The Scream*. Julian Assange launched his controversial *Wikileaks* website. When was it?

*ANSWER: 2006*

You Are What You Eat

The future of food may be coming sooner than we think. While 3-D printers are becoming popular in manufacturing, some think that printers will also be creating customizable meals out of food concentrates that cater to our favorite tastes, colors, and dietary needs. Some also believe that humans will move away from animal sources of protein toward another plentiful source: bugs. For those who may feel squeamish with the thought of eating bugs, companies will offer insect protein powders that could make burger patties and mashed potatoes.

Buy a Vowel

_ N _ L _ T _ R _ L

Affecting one side, not mutual

*ANSWER: UNILATERAL*
On This Date

1527 – John Rut wrote to King Henry VIII noting that there were 14 French and Portuguese fishing vessels in the harbor. It was the first recorded letter written from Canada.

1897 – Thomas A. Edison received a U.S. patent for his kinetoscope, a device for producing moving pictures.

1997 – Princess Diana of England died along with her companion, department store heir Dodi Fayed, when their car crashed in Paris while trying to evade the paparazzi.

A Deep Thought

Challenger Deep in the Mariana Trench is the deepest known point in Earth’s oceans. The bottom is 10,924 meters (35,840 feet) below sea level. In 1960, it was visited by the manned bathyscaphe Trieste. If Mount Everest, the highest mountain on Earth, were placed at this location, it would be covered by more than one mile of water.

Humor of the Day

“For fast-acting relief, try slowing down.”

~ Lily Tomlin

Happy Birthday!

James Coburn (1928–2002), in a career spanning 45 years, made over 70 film and 100 television appearances. His breakthrough role was as the knife-wielding Britt in The Magnificent Seven (1960). A capable, rough-hewn leading man, his lanky physique made him a perfect tough guy in numerous roles in westerns and action films, such as The Magnificent Seven, Hell Is for Heroes, and The Great Escape. Coburn was also interested in fast cars and is credited with introducing Steve McQueen to Ferrari cars.
Today is Diatomaceous Earth Day. Diatomaceous earth is a clay-like soil made from the fossilized remains of tiny aquatic organisms called diatoms. It is used to detoxify food, purify water, and as a natural insecticide.

Root of the Matter

*A taste of your own medicine*

If you give someone a *taste of their own medicine*, then you are inflicting upon them the very wrong that they did to you. This saying comes from one of Aesop’s fables, where a traveling salesman sells a medicine that he knows does not work. When this salesman falls ill, the townspeople give him the very medicine that was so ineffective. He quite literally gets a taste of his own medicine.

Toys of Yesteryear

In 1923, Beatrice Alexander created the Madame Alexander doll, impeccably crafted dolls fashioned after celebrities and famous fictional characters. By the 1960s, the company was America’s leading doll manufacturer.

Mad Science

A new understanding of Earth is gaining traction, the theory of a flat Earth. Believers forego the notion that Earth is a globe. You might assume that flat Earth theorists refuse to accept science. Many, however, do believe in the scientific method. What they disbelieve are scientists. Supporters of the flat Earth theory believe that those in power control knowledge. Flat-earthers are keen on separating knowledge from powerful scientific institutions and putting it in the hands of the people, even if those people think that Earth is flat.

Word Scramble

I L U L Q

A large stiff feather

ANSWER: QUILL