Today is Rounds Resounding Day. Celebrate by singing your favorite rounds, catches, or canons. “Row, Row, Row Your Boat” and “Three Blind Mice” are perennial favorites, as is “Frere Jacques (Are You Sleeping?).”

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: David Brinkley

ANSWER: TALLY
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.
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

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

ANSWER: Steven Tyler, of Aerosmith.

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.
**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.

**Think-tionary**

**nelipot**

A. Someone who walks barefoot

or

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

ANSWER: A. The nelipot’s feet had grown hard

**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?

ANSWER: 1936

**Buy a Vowel**

L _ _ N _ Z _

Treat like a celebrity

ANSWER: LIONIZE

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*. ©ActivityConnection.com – The Daily Chronicles EXTRA!
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
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.”

Gadgets & Gizmos

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

ANSWER: GOURMET

ANSWER: Alec Baldwin as Blake in Glengarry

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**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.

**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.”

**Word Wise**

Which word is not like the others?

- eider
- brant
- petrel
- shrike

*ANSWER: A shrike is a land-based bird; the others are seabirds.*

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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.

Word Scramble

U R J O R

One sworn to deliver a verdict

ANSWER: JUROR

Punny Business

I don’t know why the machine at the coin factory suddenly stopped working. It doesn’t make any cents!
On this day in 1930, Betty Boop first appeared in the cartoon *Dizzy Dishes*. She was a caricature of the American jazz singer Helen Kane. Kane filed an unsuccessful lawsuit claiming Boop infringed upon her image.

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
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: SCONÉ
Today is Garage Sale Day. You may find a treasure. Take the guy who found a copy of the Declaration of Independence, an official copy commissioned by John Quincy Adams himself, which was worth half-a-million dollars.

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?

3. Grand Canyon, Arizona, United States, 5,697 feet deep
2. Indus Gorge, Pakistan, 11,488 feet
1. Yarlung Zangbo, Tibet, China, 19,715 feet deep

ANSWER: AORTA

Buy a Vowel
_ _ R T _
The body’s main artery
ANSWER: AORTA
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.
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.”

Gadgets & Gizmos

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.

Buy a Vowel

F _ _ L _ R _

Lack of success

ANSWER: FAILURE

ANSWER:

Jack Nicholson as the Joker in Batman (1989)
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

R C O S U C

Support in times of hardship

ANSWER: SUCCOR

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Today is Relaxation Day, so choose the method of relaxation that works best for you. Try a warm bath, a massage, some yoga, a long hike, listening to music, or maybe even doing some yard work.

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

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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

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.

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.

Buy a Vowel

D _ L _ V _ R

Take to a person or place

ANSWER: B. I want to egrote tomorrow to catch a afternoon baseball game.

ANSWER: DELIVER
Today is Black Cat Appreciation Day. Black cats have a reputation as bad luck, but in some cultures they are exactly the opposite. In Japan, single women own black cats to increase their chances of finding love.

**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.

**Word Wise**

Which word is not like the others?

- gallium
- radium
- uranium
- radon

*ANSWER: Gallium is not radioactive; the others are radioactive.*

**Riddle Me This**

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

*ANSWER: A fishhook*
Today is Serendipity Day. Serendipity is when good things happen by chance. Forget all your plans and make space to allow good things to happen naturally on their own. Choose to be pleasantly surprised.

**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

**Buy a Vowel**

_ N _ S _ _

An infant’s one-piece garment

ANSWER: ONESIE

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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

*The others are letters or messages.*

ANSWER: A loge is a private theater box.
Today is World Mosquito Day, celebrating the scientific breakthrough by Sir Ronald Ross that connected mosquitos 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.

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**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.

**Name Three**

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

- Trumpet
- Trombone
- Tambourine
- Triangle

**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.

**Word Scramble**

IKBNL

Shut and open quickly

**ANSWER:** BLINK
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

_IDBLER

To fall in small droplets

ANSWER: DRIBBLE
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.”

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.

Word Wise
Which word is not like the others?

- disburse
- amass
- accrue
- hoard

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

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.

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!"

Word Scramble

A Y D R M I

A countless number

ANSWER: MYRIAD

Riddle Me This

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

ANSWER: THE BARK OF A TREE
Today is International Tongue Twister Day. Tongue twisters are more than just grammatical fun; they are also employed as a means to improve diction. Picking a peck of pickled peppers improves Peter’s speech!

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.”

ANSWER: SOLARIUM

Buy a Vowel

S _ L _ R _ _ M

A glass-enclosed porch

ANSWER: SOLARIUM

The Princess Bride (1987)

ANSWER: Mandy Patinkin as Inigo Montoya in
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
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.
**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*

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**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.

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**Word Wise**

Which word is not like the others?

rotunda cupola

belfry vestibule

*ANSWER: A vestibule is a small foyer. The others are roof domes or towers.*
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.

**Punny Business**

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

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.

**Word Scramble**

E L A P T

A fold in cloth

ANSWER: PLEAT
Think-tionary

_jehu_

A. A fast and furious driver
   or
B. An animal bladder used as a canteen to carry water

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

Today is Frankenstein Day. Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, the author of _Frankenstein_, was born on this day in 1797. Her gothic masterpiece is considered the first work of science fiction ever written.
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