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VOL. 25 • ISSUE 23

**FREE**

**THURSDAY, MAY 23, 2024**



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Monday - Saturday 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

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# Game on!

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

Level: Intermediate

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

Level: Advanced

## SUDOKU Fun by the Numbers

**Like puzzles?** Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test! **Here's How It Works:** Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

## HONOR AND PRIDE WORD SEARCH

C I H V E H S I Y T R R B F Y U I B R M  
 Y A S S E L R A E F U S I A T U S N K L  
 P E P D E T L I D C O U M V U A F F L O  
 U B G R E G C P O O E T H N K D U P B A S  
 R U D E B E E D G E L G C B C N R S K B  
 M S V B B P V D G E L M C R B C N R S K B  
 P O D M P S K L E T A N E L L A F L S V  
 L L Y O N E V C R E H E Y T C G H O C D  
 A D U S U R I E M R Y R A T I L I M S K  
 T I D M E F B G N Y H I T L S K N A H T  
 O E A U I M M B L D E V R E S B O H U U  
 O R G R E A A N T A E C V F F D O O A K  
 N N C M R F O H F Y I B I H E G A E M O  
 L A E O M V V B A N B R K V P Y N N G R  
 S R N B E E P R R N P K O O R M L I E U  
 G O U D M T C A D V F H E M F E M I E M  
 H A B U O E C N C O R K N I E Y S S A M  
 P T B I R R G C Y S E V U U O M V T U N  
 N O L C Y A I H K E M S E O R E H O F A  
 L R D C E N C N G A L F C V T I E M O F

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

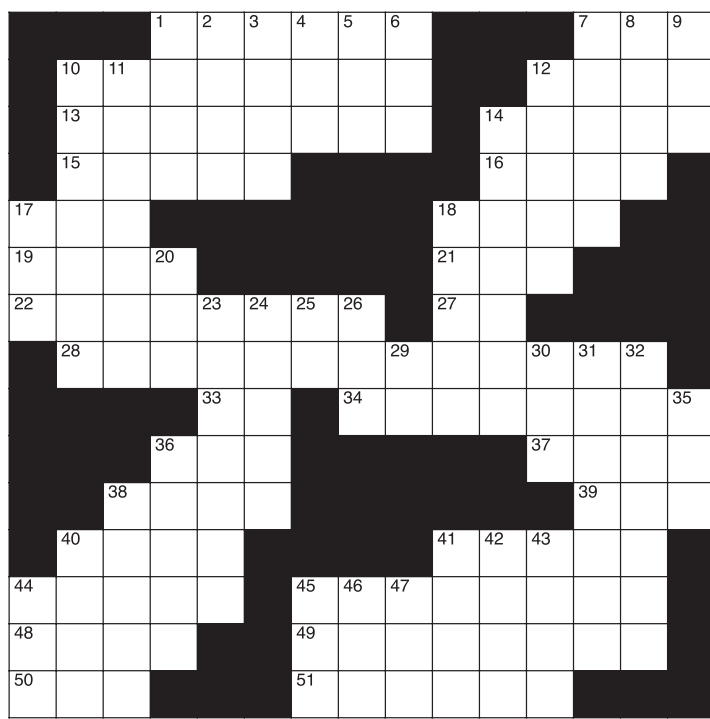
- BRANCH
- CEMETERY
- DRAFT
- DUTY
- ENLIST
- FALLEN
- FEARLESS
- FLAG
- HEROES
- HONOR
- MEMORIAL
- MEMORY
- MILITARY
- OBSERVED
- PLATOON
- REMEMBER
- RESPECT
- SACRIFICE
- SERVICE
- SOLDIER
- SOMBER
- THANKS
- TOUR
- VETERAN

### CLUES ACROSS

1. Lunatic
7. Doctor of Education
10. Able to make amends
12. Tight-knit group
13. Gland
14. Intestinal pouches
15. Fungal spores
16. Erstwhile
17. Engine additive
18. Nasal mucus
19. Fit a horse with footwear
21. Consumed
22. Settle
27. Larry and Curly's pal
28. Basketball's GOAT
33. Exclamation of surprise
34. Made tight
36. Before
37. Actor Nicolas
38. Not hot
39. Talk
40. Pledge
41. Abandon a mission
44. Trims by cutting
45. Aspects of one's character
48. Boxing GOAT's former surname
49. Holy places
50. Body art (slang)
51. Attributes

### CLUES DOWN

1. How one feels
2. American Nat'l Standards Institute
3. Information
4. Licensed for Wall Street
5. Keyboard key
6. Born of
7. Choose to represent
8. Small European freshwater fish
9. Everyone has their own
10. Line from the center of a polygon
11. Lebanese city
12. Type of watercraft
14. A way to twist
17. Soviet Socialist Republic
18. Greek island
20. Medical practitioner
23. \_\_\_ DeGaulle, French President
24. Partner to "oohead"
25. Atomic #52
26. Santa's helper
29. Rapper \_\_\_ Rule
30. Month
31. Word formed by rearranging letters
32. Nullifies
35. Young woman ready to enter society
36. Unemployment
38. Weight unit
40. Formal party
41. Computer language
42. Residue formula in math
43. Duty or responsibility
44. Part of (abbr.)
45. Time zone
46. Body part
47. Nucleic acid



## CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

- Solve the code to discover words related to memorial holidays. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 9 = R)
- A. 12 14 25 14 26 3 9 11**  
Clue: Protective forces
- B. 1 3 26 26 25 24**  
Clue: Fight
- C. 19 3 9**  
Clue: Conflict
- D. 23 20 22 20 9**  
Clue: Pay homage

Answers: A. military B. battle C. war D. honor

# Riddle me this...

Riddle: What 5-letter word typed in all capital letters can be read the same upside down?



Answer: SWIMS

— Puzzle answers on page 6 —



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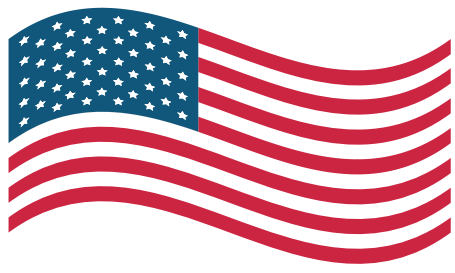
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# VIEWPOINT

## Slices of life

### The day they tried corn



By **JILL PERTLER**  
Columnist

It was a serious day in the garden. Various vegetables gathered to witness the much-anticipated criminal fraud case against corn. Corn had filed a countersuit claiming defamation of character and vegetative discrimination. These historic proceedings would hopefully answer the question plaguing the human and plant kingdoms since the dawn of time: Is corn a grain or vegetable?

Corn entered the courthouse amid chants of, "Grain, grain, grain," from the other vegetables in attendance. Broccoli and cauliflower threw quinoa at him.

The bailiff, a head of iceberg, rolled in and asked everyone to be seated. "Let us start this mess," he said.

In opening arguments, corn, who represented himself, argued that although technically a grain by standard definition, he deserved the title of vegetable based on his longstanding position next to mashed potatoes on the dinner plate. "Everyone knows you only include one starch with a meal," he said. "That makes me the vegetable by default."

The rest of the vegetables, not possessing a grain of

intelligence of their own, called an expert witness to the stand. Dr. Bunsen Honeydew, of Muppet fame, testified under oath that corn has been associated with politically incorrect terms. "Words like high fructose, saturated fat and processed food products are not language worthy of vegetables," he said.

At that moment, celery went limp and fainted. He was carried out by a large family of zucchini who arrived late and couldn't find a space to sit.

Corn objected to Honeydew's testimony, saying the doctor's obvious fruity family history, not to mention surname, disqualified him as a vegetative expert. Corn then went on to highlight the nutritional and health benefits of himself. He was over-ruled.

During the commotion, kale lost his cool and let out a series of expletives. After a heated exchange, jalapeno

hailed him out of the courtroom. Kale later made bail.

Beet testified he believed corn was beat, even though the ruby red root had previously made a covert contribution to corn's legal expenses with a note that read, "Give me some sugar." The two, at a much later date, became the sweetest of friends.

Cabbage corroborated beet's statement and added information that sounded a little roughage around the edges.

Next, onion took the stand and provided layers and layers of testimony that made everyone cry. Artichoke was particularly

choked up.

Throughout the process, corn was all ears.

Not all vegetables were so outspoken. Beans sat on the fence stating they didn't give a toot about the matter while pumpkin made funny faces throughout the day. Carrot remained silent during the proceedings, afterward reporting to the press he "didn't care at all."

Brussels sprouts were unable to join the discussion, as they spoke no English and their translator was lost in translation.

Finally, in the midst of broccoli's heady and flowery testimony, a teary-eyed tomato stood up and made an announcement. "I'm not who

you think I am," he said. "I've been living life as a vegetable, but since the day I sprouted I've always known I am a fruit!"

A hush went over the crowd. The peas were not pleased and rolled off in a huff. They'd planned for months to announce their status as seeds and now tomato had stolen the limelight

Meanwhile, eggplant embraced tomato muttering through his sobs, "I've never felt like myself either. Perhaps I'm a fruit as well."

Iceberg demanded order, but chaos ensued, as one by one, vegetables became fruits. Taking advantage of the hullabaloo, corn slipped

quietly out the back door. He was met there by butter and salt, who'd been waiting, as planned, with a get-away vehicle. The three drove off into the sunset, never to be seen again, or at least not for a week or two.

The moral of the story? It may sound corny, but it doesn't matter what other people call you as long as you've got good friends. That, and corn goes best with a little butter and salt. You might want to try it.

Jill Pertler is an award-winning syndicated columnist, published playwright and author. You can read more and follow her column on the Slices of Life page on Facebook.

## Weekly connection

### Why does God allow suffering – part 2



By **SCOTT CERNEK**  
Columnist

In last week's article, I wrote about something that is used by many people in our world to push their innate knowledge that God is loving, and that He created everything in this world including oneself.

It is easy for some to dismiss what the Bible says everyone knows to be true just because we can't accept that a loving God allows evil and suffering in our world. In Romans 1:20 we read, "For since the creation of the world God's invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that men are without excuse." What this tells me is that every human being has internal understanding that God is real and powerful because we can see a magnificent creation that shows us the handiwork of an ingenious creator, who is the God of

the Bible.

I wrote last week that God originally wanted mankind to live innocently and sinlessly in a paradise known as the Garden of Eden. God had great fellowship with the first man and woman there until they were seduced by an evil fallen angelic being named Lucifer, or Satan. Satan was created as the most beautiful creature you could ever imagine. His beauty and intelligence caused him to become conceited and proud. Thus, he rebelled against God hoping to become greater than God Himself. His enticement and ultimate

corruption of Adam and Eve led to the curse of sin being imputed to all mankind. Not only did man now need a Savior, but the whole world became corrupted by sin and God's plan of redemption was set in order.

The problem of sin that began in the Garden of Eden continues to this day with so much deception and evil in the world that we see gross sin and suffering everywhere. Some cannot understand how a loving God could allow things to become like this and since they can't resolve the question they ignore the truth in their hearts. The truth that God is pure love and that He calls out for them to turn to Himself and receive His only begotten son, Jesus Christ, into their hearts to make them right with God.

Why does God allow suffering? Number one, because it shows mankind

our absolute need for a Savior. It draws mankind to look outside of ourselves for answers and hope. If everything was perfect now on this earth, we would never need God's help and we wouldn't receive Him for forgiveness and eternal life. We wouldn't have a reason to give ourselves completely to God in faith trust Him. God allows suffering, sickness, and pain so that people will run to Him for help and receive His wonderful gift of eternal life through faith in His son, the Lord Jesus. This involves humility to admit that we need God, but the truth is we do need God and we are lost without Him.

Secondly, God also allows suffering because it clearly shows the difference between God's character of forgiveness and restoration and that of Satan's horrible wickedness. God wants us to see the evil and emptiness that Satan offers and instead run to God's arms for protection and salvation. In this way we give and receive absolute and perfect love to our redeemer

because we see how much greater God's ways are than those of Satan's.

Finally, He allows suffering because He wants us to engage in the battle against Satan and sin and let God work through us to bring His truth to a hurting world. We should never be "sideline Christians" when we have so much blessed truth and hope of eternal life to share with a lost and dying world that desperately needs the hope of Christ.

God has everything that He wants to give us, but He will not force His way into our hearts and minds. Suffering is a part of His plan, and He demands that we trust that He is good, kind and loving and that He will heal every hurt and right every wrong someday. In the meantime, do not doubt His goodness and love. Cling to Romans 8:28: "For we know that God works all things together for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purpose."

Until next week, God bless!

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## Page 2 puzzle answers

PUZZLE 1

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

PUZZLE 2

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

CROSSWORD

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