

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ☆☆☆☆☆

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

12/31

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PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

HOW TO PLAY:  
Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ☆☆☆☆☆

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

1/1

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PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

HOW TO PLAY:  
Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

Public Notices

NOTICE

The audit report of the Purchase Line School District for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025 has been filed and is available for public inspection at the office of the Superintendent of the School District.

12/24,12/31,1/7

NOTICE

The audit report of the Indiana Area School District for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025 has been filed and is available for public inspection at the office of the Superintendent of the School District.

12/24,12/31,1/7

NOTICE

MICHAEL J. SUPINKA, ESQUIRE  
SUPINKA & SUPINKA, PC  
Letters Testamentary of the Estate of **CONSTANCE EVELYN ZACK**, late of the Township of Center, Indiana County, having been granted the undersigned, those having claims against said estate are required to present them duly authenticated for settlement, and those knowing themselves to be indebted are required to make prompt payment.

Jennifer Constance Zack  
305 George Street  
Hanover, PA 17331  
12/31,1/7,1/14

NOTICE

BURNS WHITE  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
NOTICE  
Letters Testamentary of the Estate of **Grace E. Marlin** late of White Township, Indiana County, Pennsylvania, having been granted the undersigned, those having claims against said estate are required to present them duly authenticated for settlement, and those knowing themselves to be indebted are required to make prompt payment.

Laurie M. Wincek  
Executrix  
9 Palmer Circle  
Millstone Township, NJ 08535  
12/17,12/26,12/31

Miscellaneous For Sale

COOPER TIRES: (4) winter tread, 215/55R17. \$80. for all. Text (724) 403-0679.

Sunshine Notices

NOTICE

The East Wheatfield Township Board of Supervisors will hold their 2026 Reorganization Meeting on January 5, 2026, at 4:00 P.M., with the Regular Meeting to immediately follow, and the Township Auditors' Meeting will be on January 6, 2026, at 6:00 P.M., at the Township Municipal Building, 215 Buck Stiles Road, Armagh, PA.

NOTICE

The Reorganizational Meeting of the Rayne Township Supervisors will be held Monday, January 5, 2026 at 5:30 P.M. at the Township Building, 140 Tanoma Road, Home, PA 15747 with the regular monthly meeting to follow.

The Reorganizational Meeting of the Rayne Township Auditors will be held Tuesday, January 6, 2026 at 5:45 P.M. at the Township Building, 140 Tanoma Road, Home, PA 15747.

Wendi K. Strittmatter  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Rayne Township

Special Notices

No more cleaning out gutters. Guaranteed! LeafFilter is backed by a no-clog guarantee and lifetime transferrable warranty. Call today 1-855-569-3087 to schedule a FREE inspection and no obligation estimate. Get 15% off your entire order. Plus, Military & Seniors get an additional 10% off. Limited time only. Restrictions apply, see representative for warranty and offer details.

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ASTROGRAPH

Your Birthday

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, 2026

By Eugenia Last

Reconfigure how you live, move forward and use your time and skills. Offer what you no longer need to people who can put your clutter to better use. The joy and freedom you feel from doing what's best for you will exceed your expectations. Personal growth is in the stars.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Restructure your living expenses to fit your budget. Rethink your schedule and fill in any blanks with a pastime or project that makes you feel good and doesn't create debt.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Plan your day strategically. Personal change will positively impact how well you do. Be open to suggestions, and manipulate the information you receive to accommodate your intentions. Stop dreaming and start doing.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Changing your domestic situation may not be well-received, but it will be necessary to reach your goal. Weigh the pros and cons, and consider offering incentives.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Keep your life simple, affordable and running efficiently. Don't mix business with pleasure or offer too much personal information. Be friendly and helpful but on guard.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — A change will give you a unique perspective on life, love and moving forward. It's a good time to shed bad habits and replace them with something new and exciting.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Review your involvements and what's consuming time you don't have to spare. A take-charge attitude will help you gain support, recognition and the opportunity to bring in extra cash.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Expand your circle of friends. An opportunity to use your strengths and skills differently will create additional income. A partnership looks inviting, but it's essential to get what you want in writing.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Consider your needs. Open communication is necessary if you plan to make progress in both personal and professional affairs. Refuse to let someone beat you to the finish line.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Do something you enjoy or that makes you feel good about how you look, what you can do or the prospects that excite you. Refuse to let anyone stand in your way.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Focus on learning, practicing and honing your skills. Keep your eye on your dreams, hopes and wishes, and not on what others want you to do. You must satisfy your needs first.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Learn something new that can upgrade your standard of living and make you less dependent on others. A change of scenery can shift your perspective on how you move forward.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Someone will twist your words if you aren't precise with your facts, figures and promises. Emotions will fester if you get caught in someone's trap or miscalculate the cost of a guarantee.

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ASTROGRAPH

Your Birthday

FRIDAY, JANUARY 2, 2026

By Eugenia Last

An emotional shift is underway regarding how you see yourself and your direction. A change of scenery or residence or in how you use your space and time requires more thought. A new look, a change of heart and financial correction will serve a purpose and offer comfort.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — You need to give more thought to how you promote and use your skills. Forward thinking is a must and will help you attract input from those striving to meet current demands.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — It's necessary to have a clear outcome before sharing your plans with someone you want to support. A change to your lifestyle or residence will require your physical and financial input.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Take part in events that allow you to use your skills, experience and knowledge to your advantage. Keep the momentum going by setting dates for future get-togethers. Set a tight budget.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Take a breather. Examine your situation at home and at work and consider the improvements you can implement that can make your life easier. An open discussion will be revealing.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Talk matters through rather than stewing over what's brewing. Have a solution and a back-up plan in place to ease your mind. Make plans with a loved one and share your intentions and long-term goals.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Take pride in what you do and how you look. An energetic approach to health and looking your best will enhance your confidence. A commitment looks promising, and a unique lifestyle choice is inviting.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — You'll get much farther if you choose to use charm over criticism. Show compassion, concern and, if possible, hands-on help. Nurture a meaningful relationship.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Put your head down and get whatever job you have lined up for today out of the way. Keeping busy will help you shed any emotional baggage that's weighing you down.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Seize the moment, share your thoughts, network, gather information and consider all your options. Show enthusiasm and make a commitment that will bring you closer to someone special.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — You'll be walking a tightrope when dealing with conflict. Don't start something you cannot finish. Keep situations in perspective and your emotions under control. Busy yourself with self- or home improvements.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — You have more options than you realize, and putting yourself in unique scenarios will spark your imagination and empower you to chase your dreams. Set a budget and begin your adventure.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Review your finances and budget with regard to something you want to pursue. Be careful not to exaggerate or give someone a false impression regarding how you feel or what your intentions are.

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Help Wanted

Penns Manor Area School District is accepting applications for the following position:

Boys' Track and Field Assistant Coach 1

Stipend: \$3,354.97 Available: Immediately

Deadline: January 9, 2026 by 3:00 PM

Please visit [www.pennsmanor.org](http://www.pennsmanor.org) for complete details.

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Autos For Sale

2016 CHEVY TRAX AWD Needs Battery, Runs. \$1000. OBO. (724) 465-5555 Ask for Jason or Chad

BRIDGE

North 12-31-25

♠ A 10 6 3

♥ 10 8 5

♦ 4

♣ A 9 8 4 2

West

♠ Q 7 2

♥ A J 3

♦ A Q 10 9 2

♣ J 6

East

♠ 4

♥ Q 9 4

♦ K J 7 6 3

♣ Q 7 5 3

South

♠ K J 9 8 5

♥ K 7 6 2

♦ 8 5

♣ K 10

Dealer: South

Vulnerable: Neither

South 1 ♠

West 2 ♦

North 4 ♠

East All pass

Opening lead: ♦ A

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2025

By Phillip Alder

OFF THE BEATEN BRIDGE PATH

The book "Bridge Crosswords" by Jeff Chen (Master Point Press) is what it sounds like: 52 crosswords with a bridge theme, although most of the clues are not bridge related. The crosswords vary in complexity from easy (Monday New York Times level) to challenging (Thursday NYT difficulty).

And you will probably enjoy "Bridge Table or What's Trump Anyway?" by Maggy Simony (Booklocker.com). The author looks primarily at social bridge, but many famous players are mentioned.

There is only one deal included -- see today's diagram. It purportedly cost John Bennett of Kansas City his life on Sept. 29, 1929. He and his wife, Myrtle, had been playing a "friendly" session against neighbors Myrna and Charles Hoffman.

It first appeared in The Bridge World magazine and is surely an invention.

After a very light opening bid, an overcall and a thin jump to four spades, West led the diamond ace, then shifted to the club jack. Declarer won in his hand and took the percentage play in trumps, cashing the king and ace. Now he had to go down. Mrs. Bennett, realizing that her husband could have won 10 tricks, made some uncomplimentary comments about his ancestry. Mr. Bennett leant across the table and slapped his wife. She went into the bedroom, came out with the family gun, and killed her husband.

However, she walked free from the court because she was charged with murder one, which requires the crime to be premeditated, which this clearly was not. She should have been charged with manslaughter.

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BRIDGE

North 01-01-26

♠ 8 7 3

♥ K 5

♦ A Q J 7 3

♣ J 6 4

West

♠ A 10 6 4 2

♥ J 8 7 4

♦ 5 2

♣ 9 3

East

♠ Q 9

♥ 10 9 6 2

♦ K 8 6

♣ Q 10 8 7

South

♠ K J 5

♥ A Q 3

♦ 10 9 4

♣ A K 5 2

Dealer: South

Vulnerable: Both

South 1 NT

West Pass

North 3 NT

East All pass

Opening lead: ♠ 4

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, 2026

By Phillip Alder

GOOD BOOKS RETURN TO THE MARKETPLACE

Here are four good bridge books from England: "Bridge for the Connoisseur" by Hugh Kelsey, "The Rabbi and the Weaker Sex" by David Bird and Ron Klinger (originally titled "Kosher Bridge 2"), "Playing to Win at Bridge" by Ron Klinger (all Weidenfeld & Nicolson), and "Card Play Technique" by Victor Mollo and Nico Gardener (Master Point Press).

Kelsey discusses 58 interesting deals. The rabbi book is humorous and instructive. Klinger gives 90 problems, moving from elementary to intermediate and on to advanced.

The Mollo and Gardener book covers all aspects of declarer play and defense, with quizzes at the end of each chapter. Originally published in 1955, this edition has been modernized by Mark Horton, editor of Bridge Magazine.

Here is a deal from this book. South is in three no-trump. West leads a low spade and East puts up the queen. What should declarer do?

South has seven top tricks: one spade (given the lead), three hearts, one diamond and two clubs. He can get the other winners from diamonds, but if that finesse is losing, East will return a spade. Here, as you can see, if South takes the first trick, he goes down, losing one diamond and four spades. But as long as declarer ducks the first trick, which the authors say requires willpower, the contract is safe.

East returns his second spade and West wins, but he has no entry. And if spades were 4-3, South would lose at most one diamond and three spades.

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CELEBRITY CIPHER  
by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

“ E P Y P G G P V H W E B X M H G W E R Z L I F  
U L S X P M L 3 6 5 U L S X R P P F . V G H E X L  
S P P A P I X . ” — W H I S X G R G L A U L H W Z X T

Previous Solution: “For somebody to paint an entire landscape of visual imagery with just sheets of words — that’s magical.” — Mos Def

TODAY’S CLUE: *W equals M*

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CELEBRITY CIPHER  
by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

“ R W O T L K O E R T A B Z O Y D O B I H P Z T R  
R W B R Y O P W T S C X W B U O B Z O Y D O B I ,  
L S R I B R W O I R W B R Y O P W T S C X W B U O B  
Z O Y P T S C . ” — M . F . E W O P R O I R T Z

Previous Solution: “Tomorrow is the first blank page of a 365 page book. Write a good one.” — Singer Brad Paisley

TODAY’S CLUE: *R equals J*

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Sunshine Notices

NOTICE

The Tri-County Workforce Development Board (TCWDB) hereby advises all interested parties of the following public meetings for the 2026 Calendar Year. The Executive Committee meetings will be virtual and the TCWDB meetings will be hybrid at the Belmont Complex, 450 Butler Street, Kittanning, PA 1516201. TCWDB hereby advises all parties wishing to participate, call (724) 282-9341, X-104 no later than 4:00 pm the day preceding the meeting in order to receive information.

Tri-County Workforce Development Board Meetings  
Executive Committee/WDB

Date	Meeting	Executive Meeting Time	Board Meeting Time
1/16/26	Executive Committee	8:00 AM	N/A
2/20/26	Executive Committee	8:00 AM	N/A
3/20/26	Executive Committee/TCWDB	8:00 AM	9:30 AM
4/17/26	Executive Committee	8:00 AM	N/A
5/15/26	Executive Committee	8:00 AM	N/A
6/19/26	Executive Committee/TCWDB	8:00 AM	9:30 AM
8/21/26	Executive Committee	8:00 AM	N/A
9/18/26	Executive Committee/TCWDB	8:00 AM	9:30 AM
11/20/26	Executive Committee	8:00 AM	N/A
12/11/26	Executive Committee/TCWDB	8:00 AM	9:30 AM

Public Notices

NOTICE  
IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
OF INDIANA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA  
CIVIL DIVISION  
No.: 1618-CD-2025-1

ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS, LLC  
Plaintiff

v.

KENNETH R. LAWSON, KNOWN HEIR OF PAUL W. LAWSON A/K/A PAUL WESLEY LAWSON, DECEASED; PHILLIP K. LAWSON, KNOWN HEIR OF PAUL W. LAWSON A/K/A PAUL WESLEY LAWSON, DECEASED; WILLIAM M. LAWSON, KNOWN HEIR OF PAUL W. LAWSON A/K/A PAUL WESLEY LAWSON, DECEASED; UNKNOWN HEIRS, SUCCESSORS, ASSIGNS, AND ALL PERSONS, FIRMS OR ASSOCIATIONS CLAIMING RIGHT, TITLE, OR INTEREST FROM OR UNDER PAUL W. LAWSON A/K/A PAUL WESLEY LAWSON, DECEASED  
Defendant(s)

NOTICE

UNKNOWN HEIRS, SUCCESSORS, ASSIGNS, AND ALL PERSONS, FIRMS OR ASSO-  
CIATIONS CLAIMING RIGHT, TITLE, OR INTEREST FROM OR UNDER PAUL W. LAWSON  
A/K/A PAUL WESLEY LAWSON, DECEASED

You are hereby notified on that on **September 12, 2025**, Plaintiff, **ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS, LLC** filed a **Complaint** against you in the Court of Common Pleas of **INDIANA** County, Pennsylvania, Docket No. **1618-CD-2025-1**, wherein Plaintiff seeks to enforce its rights under its loan documents.

If you wish to defend, you must enter a written appearance personally or by attorney and file your defenses or objections in writing with the Court. You are warned that if you fail to do so the case may proceed without you and a judgment may be entered against you without further notice for the relief requested by the Plaintiff. You may lose money or property or other rights important to you.

YOU SHOULD TAKE THIS NOTICE TO YOUR LAWYER AT ONCE. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A LAWYER, GO TO OR TELEPHONE THE OFFICE SET FORTH BELOW. THIS OFFICE CAN PROVIDE YOU WITH INFORMATION ABOUT HIRING A LAWYER. IF YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO HIRE A LAWYER, THIS OFFICE MAY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE YOU WITH INFORMATION ABOUT AGENCIES THAT MAY OFFER LEGAL SERVICES TO ELIGIBLE PERSONS AT A REDUCED FEE OR NO FEE.

INDIANA COUNTY COURT ADMINISTRATOR’S OFFICE  
COURTHOUSE, 2ND FLOOR  
INDIANA, PA 15701 • TELEPHONE: (724) 465-3955

BROCK & SCOTT, PLLC  
Attorney for Plaintiff  
(844) 856-6646

12/31

Special Events

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CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 “— you listening?”  
4 Daddy  
7 Diplomacy  
11 Not at all strict  
12 Azure  
13 Eastern nurse  
14 “Harper Valley —”  
15 Stops a fast  
16 Glass square  
17 Chinese boat  
19 Kilt pattern  
21 Bothered  
23 Dirt  
24 Dugout  
26 Reverberate  
28 Lofty poem  
29 Flightless bird  
31 “— the word”  
35 Extinct bird  
37 Actress — Thompson  
39 “The Raven” poet

40 Apple remnant  
42 Lake on the California-Nevada border  
44 Injury mark  
46 Propelled  
48 Accusation  
50 Restless  
53 Raja’s wife  
54 Father or son  
56 Contend  
57 Word of agreement  
58 Like a sticky bun  
59 Oklahoma town  
60 Tableland  
61 Blushing  
62 “— Miserables”

DOWN

1 “Sound of Music” setting  
2 Pro —  
3 Inspected  
4 Flat surface  
5 — of this world

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

6 Nuisance  
7 Saloon  
8 Maker of fine violins  
9 Waterway  
10 Subsequently  
12 Lab vessel  
18 Paid athlete  
20 Wood type  
22 Judged  
24 Food fish  
25 Commotion  
27 Rotating part  
30 That girl  
32 Dramatic disruption  
33 Low

34 Perceive  
36 Simple wind instrument  
38 Made amends  
41 Assoc.  
43 Paved way (Abbr.)  
44 Dishonor  
45 Woody stems  
47 Held sway  
48 Stuff  
49 Arab VIP  
51 Facet  
52 Some votes  
55 “— Ventura: Pet Detective”

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9	10
11				12				13			
14				15				16			
17				18			19	20			
		21				22		23			
24	25				26	27					
28				29	30			31	32	33	34
35			36		37			38		39	
			40	41			42	43			
		44	45			46	47				
48					49		50			51	52
53					54	55			56		
57					58				59		
60					61				62		

12-31

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CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 RR depot  
4 — of the tongue  
8 Exam  
12 Timetable abbr.  
13 Indian garment  
14 Bewildered  
15 Insect secretion  
16 Identical sib  
17 Called, British style  
18 Repeat  
20 Shoots  
22 Protective cover  
24 No longer popular  
25 Sports org.  
26 — Pan Alley  
27 Tummy muscles  
30 Program-  
ming problem  
32 Mend  
34 Faucet  
35 DDE’s nickname  
36 Nip  
38 Cry of discovery  
39 Hair goo  
40 Light run

41 Swamp  
43 Race an engine  
44 Wall Street animal  
46 Waters down  
50 Foray  
52 Eager  
53 “The Sun — Rises”  
56 Opposite of SSW  
57 Country  
58 Roller coaster feature  
59 Pool stick  
60 Black  
61 Monocle  
62 Sixth sense, for short

DOWN

1 Going-out-of-business event  
2 Pamphlet  
3 Heavenly being  
4 Defunct plane  
5 “— & Order”  
6 Showy flower  
7 Locate precisely

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

8 Fortune-teller’s deck  
9 Birthright seller  
10 Dispatched  
11 Labels  
19 Round body  
21 Try for office  
23 Hippie’s home  
26 Math branch, for short  
27 With a quick look (3 wds.)  
28 Scrooge’s cry  
29 Health resort  
30 Oversize

31 Guitar relative  
33 Most importantly (2 wds.)  
37 — tide  
40 Jacuzzi feature  
42 “— House”  
43 Reddish  
45 “Peanuts” character  
46 Painter Salvador —  
47 Director — Reitman  
48 Connect  
49 — gin fizz  
51 Profound  
54 Family guy  
55 Harvest goddess

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