



The Around Town Paper



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Thank you

Thank-You From The Around Town Paper

The Around Town Paper – Final Edition Before Christmas

As the snow settles over our little corner of Manitoba and the days grow softer with twinkle lights and familiar melodies, we find ourselves reflecting on the magic that truly carries a community: the people who make it feel like home.

To our readers: Thank you for showing up with curiosity, kindness, and community spirit. Thank you for supporting local businesses, cheering on local creators, and taking the time to write, message, and share your joys and concerns. You remind us every single week why this paper exists – because a province is stronger when it's connected.

To our advertisers: Your trust and support are the backbone of this little paper. You are the builders, the dreamers, the risk-takers, and the heartbeat of our region. By choosing to advertise with us, you make it possible to keep a local voice alive and thriving. We appreciate you more than words on a page can express. Thank you for allowing us to highlight your businesses, your services, and your dreams.

So from our family at The Around Town Paper to yours: Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and thank you for another wonderful year.

May your days be peaceful, your gatherings warm, and your hearts light. We'll see you again on December 31st for our New Year's edition, refreshed, re-inspired, and ready for another year of celebrating the people, places, and stories that make our region shine.

With gratitude and holiday magic, ~The Around Town Paper

Why does Santa use GPS?



He doesn't want to be a lost Claus.



What did one Santa hat say to the other?

You go on ahead.



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Why do reindeer wear bells?

Because their horns don't work!



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Aries (Mar 21–Apr 19)

You're ready to tackle a project you've been avoiding, and once you start, the momentum surprises even you. Midweek brings a small but meaningful win — celebrate it.

Taurus (Apr 20–May 20)

A conversation you've been dreading turns out to be far easier than expected. Stay steady and practical; your grounded energy keeps others calm.

Gemini (May 21–Jun 20)

Your social side sparks back to life this week. Someone reaches out with unexpected news — don't overthink it, just enjoy the connection.

Cancer (Jun 21–Jul 22)

Your intuition is louder than usual, especially about family or home matters. Trust it. A small shift in routine brings surprising comfort.

Leo (Jul 23–Aug 22)

You're feeling bold again, and others notice. A leadership opportunity may pop up — take it, even if it's small. It will open doors.

Virgo (Aug 23–Sept 22)

You're in an organizing mood, and it pays off. Clearing physical or emotional clutter creates space for something new and deeply needed.

Libra (Sept 23–Oct 22)

Balance returns this week after a recent wobble. Expect harmony in a relationship that felt off. Your charm diffuses tension beautifully.

Scorpio (Oct 23–Nov 21)

Your focus sharpens, especially around money or long-term plans. A strategic choice now sets you up for a strong start in the new year.

Sagittarius (Nov 22–Dec 21)

You're restless but inspired. Follow the spark — a creative idea or small adventure lifts your mood and reminds you what freedom feels like.

Capricorn (Dec 22–Jan 19)

You're preparing for a major mindset shift. Let go of the pressure to hold everything together alone. Support shows up right when needed.

Aquarius (Jan 20–Feb 18)

Your brain is buzzing with ideas. Before running with all of them, pick the one that feels most aligned — that's the one with legs.

Pisces (Feb 19–Mar 20)

You're feeling reflective and soft this week. A message, memory, or moment nudges your heart in a meaningful direction. Let it.



Why don't Christmas trees knit? Because they always drop their needles!

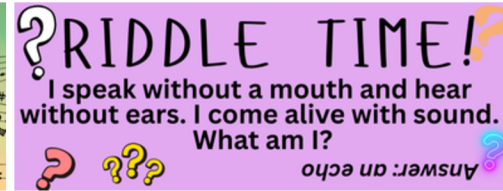


People Pleasing - There's a tender reason so many of us slip into people-pleasing: We want to be loved, understood, and accepted. Somewhere along the way, we learned that being easy, helpful, or agreeable made life smoother — for others, at least. And while that instinct comes from a caring place, it can slowly make us feel smaller inside, as if our own needs matter a little less each time we say “yes,” even when our heart whispers “no.”

If you've ever felt tired from trying to keep everyone else comfortable, please know you're not alone. It's a heavy kind of quiet exhaustion — the kind that doesn't always show on the outside but builds on the inside.

And the truth is, you deserve relationships where you don't have to earn your place. Your wants, your boundaries, your voice — they all count. Sometimes the kindest thing you can do is to be honest about what feels right for you and communicate your needs.

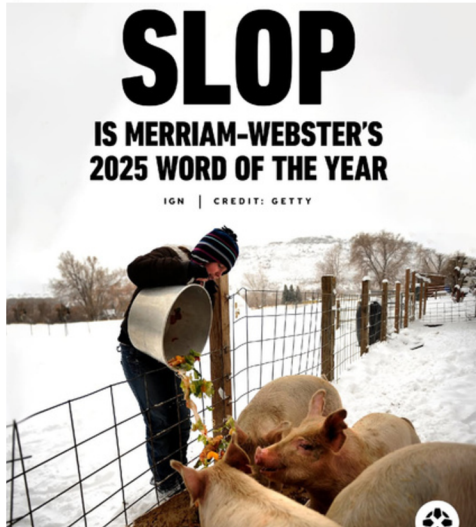
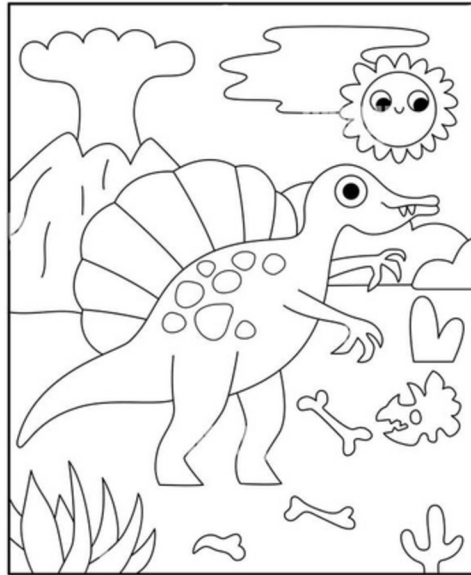
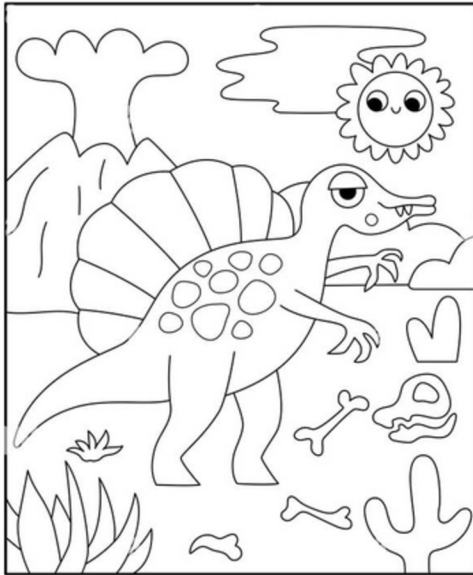
You can begin this shift with simple, honest language — small sentences that honor your truth without closing your heart. Phrases like, “I'm not able to do that,” or “That doesn't work for me,” create space for your well-being to take priority. And as you practice, you'll find that honoring your boundaries feels less like letting others down and more like finally cultivating inner peace and genuine happiness within yourself.



SUDOKU PUZZLE - LEVEL: BEGINNER

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

SPOT THE 10 DIFFERENCES



SUDOKU SOLUTION

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

Dear Ruby, Every year I swear I'm going to "keep it simple" at Christmas, and every year I fail. I'm working full-time, the kids still expect the magic, my partner is great but somehow

doesn't see half the work that needs doing, and my extended family treats me like the default party planner, baker, shopper, and emotional support hotline. I am exhausted. I'm wrapping gifts at midnight, cramming baking between work and laundry, and saying yes to every potluck, Secret Santa, and "could you just quickly?" Favor. By Christmas Eve, I'm so burnt out I don't even enjoy it. How do I reduce the stress without feeling like I'm "ruining Christmas" for everyone?
– Drowning in Tinsel

Dear Drowning in Tinsel, Let's start with this: If Christmas requires you to exhaust yourself into a state of resentment, it's not "magic," it's unpaid labour with twinkle lights. You are not ruining Christmas. Christmas is ruining you and that needs to change. Here's the hard truth wrapped in a soft bow: You've accidentally become the Christmas Manager. As long as you keep quietly making it all happen, everyone else gets to believe it "just works out." So the first step in reducing your stress is to drop the invisible job title. Nothing wrong with rest and relaxing during the holidays. Everyone else does it.

Have you got something to ask Ruby?

Email: writerubyrealtalk@gmail.com

****All names changed for posting in The Around Town Paper****



Which of Santa's reindeer has bad manners? Rude-olph!
What do Santa's helpers learn in school? The elf-abet!
What's an Arctic wolf's favourite time of year? The howl-idays!
What falls constantly but never gets hurt? Snow!

Holiday Movies: A Little Christmas Magic

There's a reason we return to Christmas movies year after year. In the middle of busy schedules and endless to-do lists, they give us permission to slow down and breathe.

Whether it's a familiar classic or a new holiday release, Christmas movies offer warmth, gentle humour, and a reminder that kindness still matters. The stories are simple on purpose; imperfect people, meaningful moments, and the quiet reassurance that things can turn out okay.

This time of year, that kind of comfort feels like a gift. Sometimes all we need is a cozy film, a warm drink, and a reminder that a little Christmas magic still goes a long way.





cars word search



t m e c h a n i c a l b r e a k d o w n i t e i
n c o n d u c t e u r c e n i l o s a g w h l v
a e s k a e r b e h t n o t u p o t r r e g i s
l c e v i r d o t c d o o h o u d u y t x i u k
o n p t v i m u r e v i r d d p e c u a h l h a
v e f w l b r l x l r d w h e e l o k t c d l e
u s y c p n d l e i h s d n i w r n e b v a s r
y s g l p s t r e e t e r u t i o v c l x e m b
p e c i g l a u t o r o u t e d g e a a o h s n
t l k e c i v r e s n o i t a t s r l n c l e i
n e i m h t d n s c u p i l d k e t g g k i e n
s m o n o s p a c e k m s n c r n a e i c a r a
f e s i r b e r a p a i l u v x n b i s m g b v
c r c o n d u i r e l t r u g v a l u n n f m i
n o i t t s s a g a h t b w l k p e s r b o p n
p t s e k p r e n i e r f e p l n r s u n n h i
u o e f n v w h i g h w a y l f e p e t d o a m
o p m e t c l i g n o t a n t t i y l m f i r d
k a u u y i l e e h w g n i r e e t s x b m e h
l c c e t i r u c e s e d e r u t n e i c a d u
a t y w a r c e i b f g d e l b a t o p a c e d
x h e l o c r e p i w d l e i h s d n i w o i l
o t k u y w l k w u r o s i v o r t e r s f u u
n e e d l v l r o r r i m w e i v r a e r k v y

mechanical breakdown
rearview mirror
decapotable
CLIGNOTANT
PAREBRISSE
enpanne
L'HUILE
street
truck
hood
cle

cinturedesecurite
steering wheel
conducteur
seat belt
MONOSPACE
todrive
VOITURE
KLAXON
wheel
horn
car

windshield wiper
l'essuieglace
retrovisor
gassttion
turnpike
minivan
driver
CAMION
CAPOT
ROUE
oil

toputonthebreaks
l'autoroute
windshield
headlight
gasoline
highway
volant
phare
ROUTE
PNEU
RUE

station service
convertable
turnsignal
L'ESSENCE
CONDUIRE
FREINER
breaks
frien
tire
key