



FUN DAY

TIMES



Fun storytime with Grandma

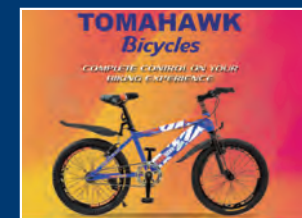
Pic. by Priyanka Samaraweera



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Fun activities to keep boredom at bay

By Cecilia Hewavitharana

Many children have been stuck at home, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with a greater risk of contracting boredom than the virus. Staying home for long periods of time can also have detrimental effects on a child's mental health, especially those without access to outdoor areas.

Therefore, to commemorate Children's Day and address the above issue, here are some ways of keeping occupied indoors, without burdening anyone. (The list excludes more common past times of watching movies, listening to music and playing video games).

Children's Day is celebrated on October 1 in Sri Lanka, Guatemala and El Salvador. While it is observed nationally on different days, World Children's Day is on November 20, the anniversary of the adoption of the 'Declaration of the Rights of the Child' in 1959 by the UN General Assembly.

*There is no Frigate like a Book,
To take us Lands away,
Nor any Coursers like a Page
Of prancing Poetry -
This Traverse may the poorest take
Without oppress of Toll -
How frugal is the Chariot
That bears the Human Soul.*

- Emily Dickinson



Calligraphy

◆ **Reading**

Whether it is a novel, short story, picture book, poem or non-fiction book, reading is an enjoyable way to pass the time and maybe even learn something. Even though movies and TV shows are more popular, a good book can transport a person to a place in ways the cinema or television cannot.

◆ **Writing**

From stories about experiences, to poems about one's pet, to essays on an interesting topic, the possibilities are endless.

◆ **Calligraphy**

This is essentially letters turned into art.

◆ **Drawing / Painting**

Contrary to popular belief, anyone can draw or paint - (some just need more practice) and you don't need fancy or expensive supplies to do it either: a simple pencil and scrap of paper will suffice. More creative options include painting on rocks or pieces of wood.



'Starry Night' by Vincent van Gogh (1889)

◆ **Learning a new language**

This can be done the old-fashioned way with a book or through the internet. The app, 'Duolingo', for example, enables people to learn numerous languages for free and includes endangered languages, such as Navajo, as well as constructed languages, such as Klingon (from the Star Wars franchise).

◆ **Caring for a plant**

Much easier than an animal and does not necessarily require a garden. The method of hydroponics does not even require soil, only nutrient-rich water.



Origami Dragon

◆ **Paper Crafts**

For example Origami (the Japanese art of paper folding), quilling and making mosaics out of scraps of paper.

◆ **Creating / decorating textiles**

Knitting, crocheting and macrame are examples of creating textiles, while embroidery (such as cross-stitch) and applique are examples of decorating them.

◆ **Making jewellery**

Necklaces made of beads or bracelets made of seeds.

◆ **Upcycling**

Upcycling means adding value to old items, such as turning scrap cloth into quilts or stuffed toys and tins into candle-holders.

◆ **Sculpting**

◆ **Making scrap books or journals**

◆ **Exercising**

Exercise in any form, such as dancing, skipping or simply walking.

◆ **Photography**

◆ **Art with pressed flowers or leaves**



Quilling



Macrame

That Special Day

By Manoshi de Silva

Dr. Nalin looked out of his vehicle window, while travelling to his parents' house, which was some distance away from where he lived. He was thinking about how much the neighbourhood had changed since he was a little boy. Only a few of the old buildings were still left. A familiar spot by the side of road, made him step on the brakes and stop the car. There was a supermarket there now, but over 20 years ago, a famous cake shop was at that exact location. His mind raced back to the past; to that special day, on which something unforgettable happened.

An eight-year-old boy held his father's hand and entered the cake shop. They were regular customers. The shop always had nice things to choose from, like different kinds of cakes, éclairs, cupcakes, doughnuts etc. But this day was special. It was 'World Children's Day' so the shop was decorated with colourful balloons. A banner which read, 'Happy Children's Day!' was hanging on the wall.

The boy's father told his son he could get anything he liked. The boy was delighted. He chose a few things. But soon their attention was grabbed by something taking place inside the shop. A shop assistant's loud shouting was followed by a child's crying. The boy and his father turned to see what was going on. The assistant dragged a small boy by the collar of his dirty torn shirt. The manager ran to the phone saying that he would call the Police.

"What's going on?" the boy's father asked the manager. "He has stolen some food. It's under control Sir, please don't worry. Please tell us if you need anything else," the manager replied politely while dialling on the phone. "Please don't call the Police, I'm sure this can be settled some other way," said the boy's father looking at the poor kid who was still being held by his collar. The manager looked embarrassed and kept the phone down, because he didn't want to upset his customers. He decided to call the Police after they left.

The boy's father walked up to the poor boy who was still crying, shaking

like a leaf.

"Please don't hold him so tightly," he told the shop assistant. "But if I loosen my grip, he'll run away, Sir," the assistant replied. "What did he steal? I will pay for it. Just let him go," the boy's father told the manager.

The manager grinned guiltily and said, "he couldn't get anything. But he was trying to steal!"

"I was not!" the poor boy finally spoke, "I only looked at the cakes." "Why would you look? Can you afford it?" the shop assistant almost yelled at the poor boy.

"Listen, I've been a customer here for a long time. This boy is around my son's age. Please just let him go," the boy's father pleaded. The manager shrugged and nodded his head at the assistant. But he didn't look pleased.

"Today is your lucky day! Thanks to this Sir, you get to go. Don't ever come this way again!" the assistant growled at the boy and pushed him towards the door. But the boy came straight towards the other boy's father, the kind gentleman who had helped him, and fell down to worship him.

The boy's father held the poor kid gently by his shoulders and took him out of the shop, after thanking the manager for pardoning the boy.

"What really happened? You must tell me the truth," he asked the boy. "The cakes looked so nice. I don't have any money to buy them, but I just went closer to look at them. That's when they caught me and accused me of stealing!" the boy replied. There was no food near him nor did he have any icing smeared on his hands. The boy's father knew that he was telling the truth. "What's your name son?" the boy's father asked him kindly. "Nalin," the poor boy replied.

The gentleman and his son, Ruwan, took Nalin back to his small house, which was a little distance away.



Nalin told his parents what had happened. After thanking the kind gentleman, the poor boy's parents told him how good the boy was in his studies but how they couldn't afford to send him to school. The gentleman promised to help Nalin with his studies. He was only one year older than his own son, Ruwan.

Nalin studied hard and excelled at all his school exams. After a few more years, he managed to get into Medical College. "Thank you for helping me change my life, Sir!" Nalin thanked Ruwan's father, when he went to tell him the good news about being selected to Medical College. "That day when I came to the cake shop with my son on Children's Day, my intention was to make that day special for him.

Seeing another child suffer on that same day, a day set aside for children to celebrate their childhood and their rights, broke my heart. Some day when you become a successful man, Nalin Putha, I want you to help other less fortunate children who need help," Ruwan's father told Nalin.

"I will do that Sir, as a tribute to you!" Nalin promised him sincerely.

Dr. Nalin was happy that he helped to make Children's Day special for a lot of children in his ward. In addition, as a habit he helped some children from poor families to continue their education as well.

He was looking forward to tell all this to his parents and to Ruwan's father as well, the person who had truly made Children's Day very special for him, over twenty years ago.

Tomahawk

QUIZ
No.188

Questions for the Tomahawk Quiz No. 188 are based on articles appearing in the Funday Times of September 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2021. All you have to do is to find the answers to the questions given. Write the answers neatly on a postcard. Cut the strip 'Tomahawk Quiz No. 188' seen at the top of this page and paste it on your postcard. Please get your entries certified as your own work by a teacher or parent.

Two lucky winners will receive brand new Tomahawk Mountain Bikes with the compliments of Tomahawk Bicycle Mall

All Funday Times readers between 8 - 15 years are eligible to participate.

(Those who have already won a bicycle are not eligible to participate.)

Closing Date: October 31, 2021

Or fundaytimes1@gmail.com



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QUESTIONS — QUIZ NO. 188

1. Name three of the most widely spoken languages in the world.
2. When rock climbing, who is a 'belay buddy'?
3. What is the famous pyramid shaped mountain situated in the Alps?
4. In which month is World Maritime Day held and what is the theme this year?
5. What is the symbol for infinity and who invented this symbol?



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NOTE

Please log on to the Funday Times website on www.fundaytimes.lk or check out the Sunday Times epaper on www.sundaytimes.lk for additional pages of this week's Funday Times.

We regret that we are unable to announce winners since we are working from home. Stay safe.

7 - 9 AGE GROUP

Fill in the vowels to name the animals.

rh_n_	c_w
z_br_	c_m_l
c_t	r_bb_t
t_g_r	m_nk_y
m__s_	g__t

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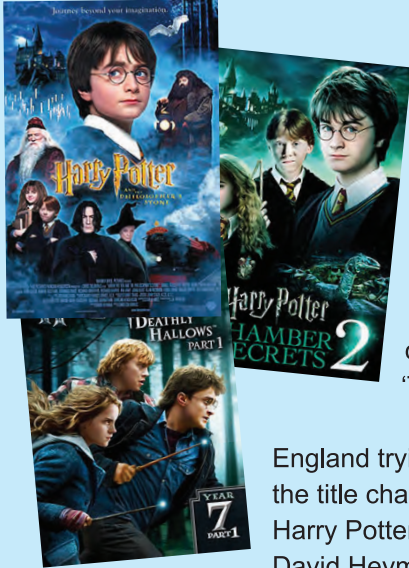


Daniel Radcliffe



Daniel Jacob Radcliffe is an English actor and producer. He is best known for playing the titular protagonist in the Harry Potter film series during his adolescence and early adulthood.

Daniel was born on July 23, 1989 in West London and is the only child of a literary agent, Alan George Radcliffe and a casting agent, Marcia Jeannine Gresham. Did you know that Daniel already knew he wanted to act at the age of five? He started acting in school plays when he was in primary school.



First Big Break

At the age of ten Daniel made his acting dream a reality when he had his debut in the 1999 BBC television adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic novel 'David Copperfield', playing the role of a young David. This was followed by his cinematic debut in 2001's 'The Tailor of Panama'.

Talent scouts were scouring England trying to find the perfect fit to play the title character of J.K. Rowling's beloved Harry Potter novels, and in 2000 producer David Heyman found him.

He saw Daniel while attending a play in London and asked him to audition, and J.K. Rowling herself said, "having seen Dan Radcliffe's screen test I don't think Chris Columbus could have found a better Harry."

Daniel has won numerous awards for his Harry Potter performances, including Best Performance in a Feature Film: Leading Young Actor (Young Artist Awards) in 2001.

Over the next 10 years, he played the lead role in seven sequels, culminating with 'Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows' – Part 2 (2011). During this period, Radcliffe became one of the highest-paid actors in the world, earned worldwide fame, popularity, and critical acclaim and received many accolades for his performances in the series.

In addition to the Harry Potter films, Daniel has honed his acting skills on Australian television.

From Screen to Stage

This talented young actor has taken both movie and theatre world by storm. In addition to his film awards he has also won a Drama Desk award for his performance in Peter Shaffer's stage play 'Equus', about a boy who loves horses, performed in London and also on Broadway (In New York).

Radcliffe has contributed to many charities, including Demelza Hospice Care for Children and The Trevor Project, aimed at preventing teen suicides. The latter charity gave him its Hero Award in 2011.

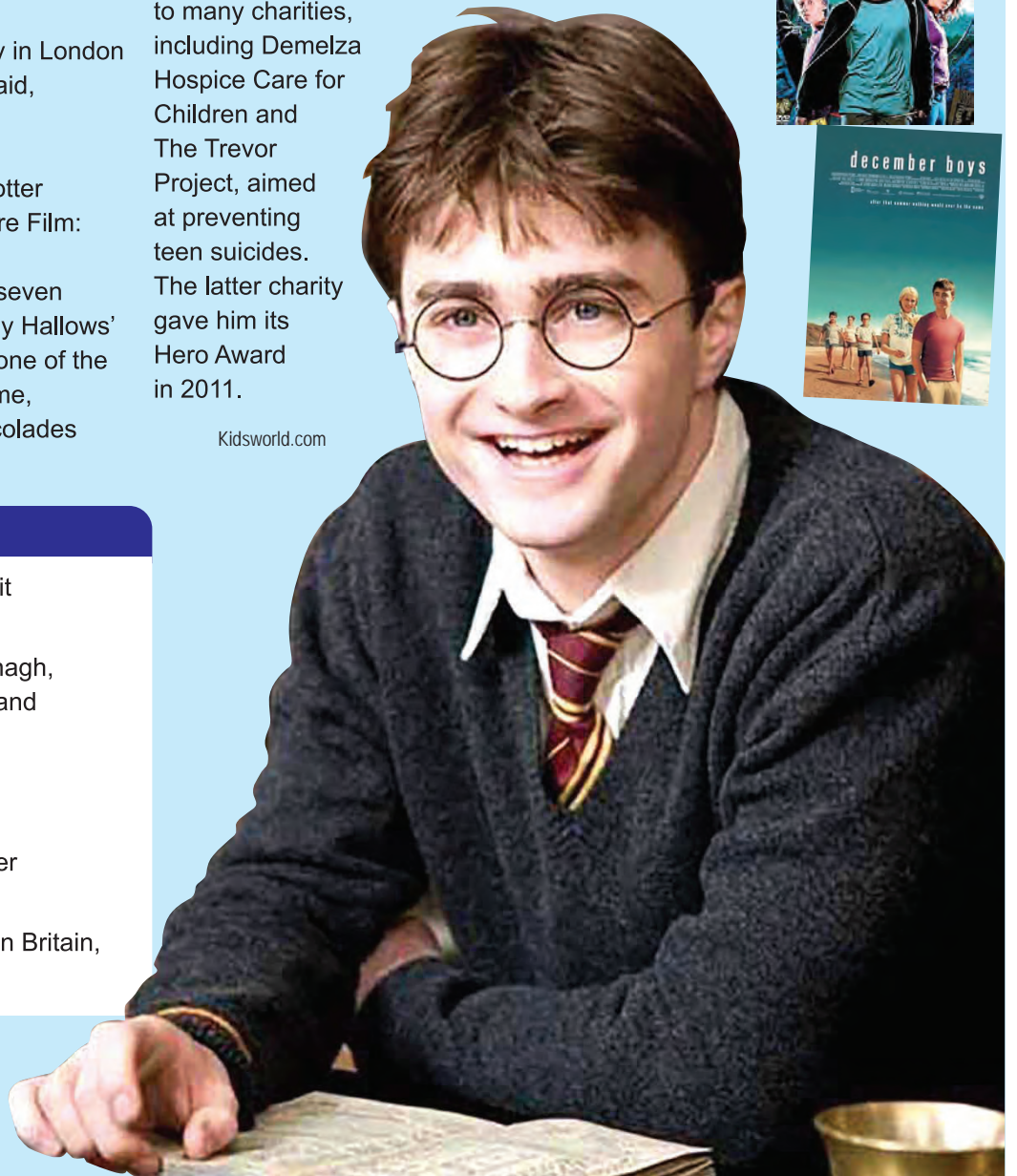
Kidsworld.com



Did You Know?

- Daniel is the youngest non-royal to have his portrait displayed in London's National Portrait Gallery.
- Daniel has acted in a play by co-star Kenneth Branagh, who portrayed Professor Lockhart in 'Harry Potter and The Chamber of Secrets' (2002).
- Daniel likes Punk Rock and his favourite band is 'The Hold Steady'.
- In 2007 he published several poems he wrote under the pen name Jacob Gershon.
- Despite being one of the wealthiest young people in Britain, Daniel says he spends the most money on books.

Daniel Radcliffe



September 28**Critically-endangered tortoises released in Madagascar**

Conservationists are releasing a thousand critically-endangered radiated tortoises back into the wild in Madagascar.

The radiated tortoise – named after the yellow lines on its shell – can only be found on the island of Madagascar. Their numbers in the wild have dropped harshly from 12 million in 2000, to just three million now, due to an increase in poaching and trafficking.

The big release in Madagascar is part of a project by the Turtle Survival Alliance (TSA), which will hopefully mean that more than 26,000 rescued tortoises can eventually be re-introduced back into the wild.

"This historic reintroduction represents a critical juncture for the TSA-Madagascar program and our country's iconic radiated tortoise," said TSA-Madagascar Director Herilala Randriamahazo.

"If we can establish a reliable and effective method to return confiscated tortoises to their native landscape in protective communities, then we can begin to draw down the massive numbers we are supporting in captivity. The persistence of our treasured radiated tortoise in nature depends on it."

The tortoises have been moved from a rescue centre in Tsihombe, in southern Madagascar, to a six-hectare area of forest, whose location is being kept a secret for their safety.

The TSA are currently looking after around 25,000 radiated tortoises, who have all been rescued from poachers that were going to sell them for meat or into the illegal pet trade.



Of the 1,000 tortoises to be released, around 30 – 40 of them will have special GPS tracking devices attached to their shells to help the conservationists keep an eye on them.

"The release of these first 1,000 tortoises epitomizes TSA's long-term commitment to responsibly returning animals to their rightful place in the wild," said Rick Hudson, President of Turtle Survival Alliance.

Landsat-9: NASA have launched a new super satellite

NASA have launched a new high-tech satellite into Earth's orbit, which will capture incredibly accurate images of our planet and how it has changed over time. The Landsat-9 is the latest in a series of Earth-observing spacecraft, the first of which was launched in 1972.

Over the last 50 years, the previous Landsat models have given us amazingly clear pictures of how the Earth is being impacted by climate change and natural disasters, with the newest in the series being able to provide even more detail and accuracy.

The pictures taken already will be compared to new images, and will allow scientists to track the world's changing coastlines, farming patterns, deforestation and growth of urban towns and cities.

These pictures can then inform governments or environmental organisations on steps to take to help the planet.

"We've assembled an amazing history of how the planet has changed over the last half century," explained Dr. Jeff Masek, NASA's Landsat-9 project scientist.

The satellite was launched on an Atlas rocket from Vandenberg Space Force Base in California

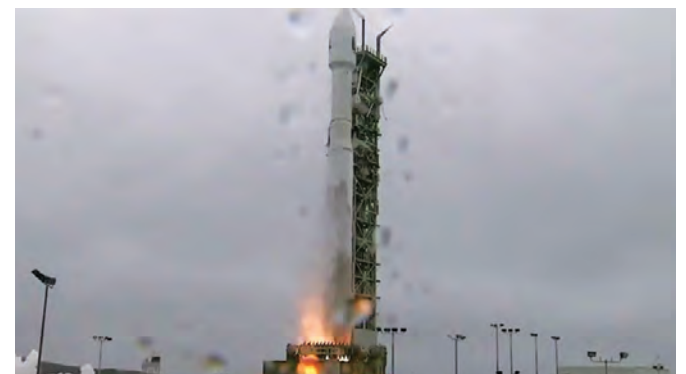
and will orbit at an altitude of 700 km above the Earth's surface.

The Landsat programme has been providing satellite imagery for 50 years but is very expensive to keep working.

Landsat-9 is expected to cost almost \$1 billion over the course of its life, while there are some companies who are able to send satellites into space for a fraction of that.

However, the pictures the Landsat sends back to Earth are free and available for anyone to study, whereas privately owned satellites will charge a lot of money for the images they collect.

The Landsat-9 is so powerful, it can even keep track of the behaviour of



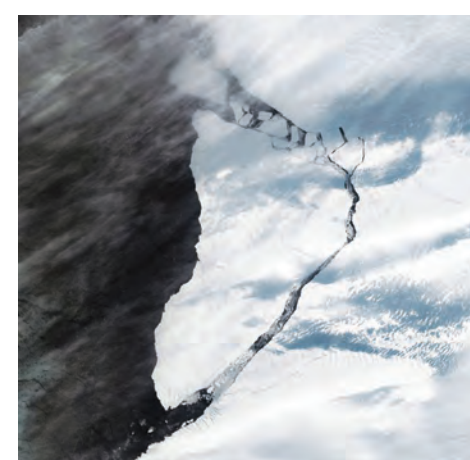
The rainy weather in California cleared shortly before lift-off so that everyone could see Landsat-9's Atlas rocket leave the launch pad via video stream.

animals, and has monitored wombats, woodpeckers and walrus in the wild.

It can also help countries recover after major natural events like floods or volcano eruptions, fires, hurricanes and insect outbreaks.



The Landsat satellites have been tracking the deforestation of the Amazon.



An image taken from the Landsat of a giant iceberg as big as Greater London breaking away from Antarctica.

Source : CBBC Newsround

September 28

News in Pictures



Milan, Italy ▲
Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg is surrounded by members of the media as she arrives for a three-day Youth for Climate summit.



Moscow, Russia ▲
Dogs and their owners at a ceremony to present the 2021 Golden Pet Awards at the Federation Tower of the Moscow International Business Centre.



Pyramiden, Norway ▲
A hungry polar bear looks for food along the shore, in the Svalbard archipelago.

Bangkok, Thailand ▲
Anti-government protesters shelter from a police water cannon vehicle during a demonstration calling for the resignation of the prime minister over the government's handling of the COVID-19 crisis.



Idlib, Syria ▲
Vaad al Tamer, a lawyer whose husband and two children were killed in airstrikes, has opened a kindergarten for disabled and orphaned children.



Kashmir, India ▲
Engineers and the media inspect the Zojila tunnel which when completed will connect Kashmir with Ladakh union territories in Baltal 100 km east of Srinagar.



Mayorga, Spain ▲
Villagers take part in the El Vitor procession, the first in two years because of coronavirus, which commemorates the arrival of the relics of Saint Turibius at his birthplace.

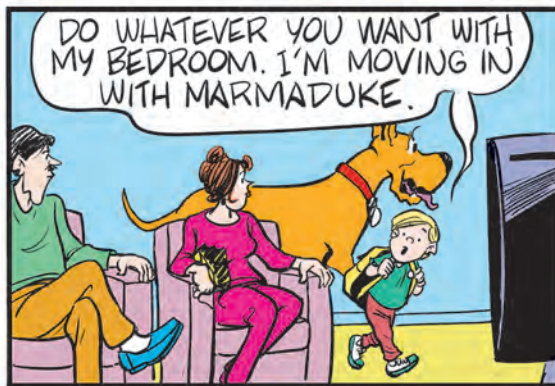
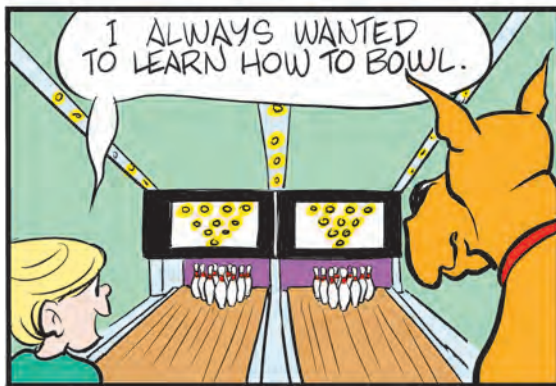
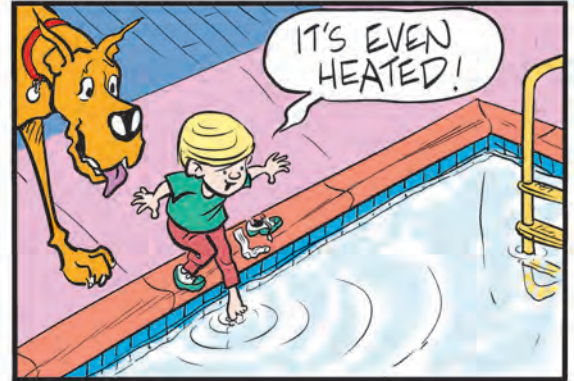
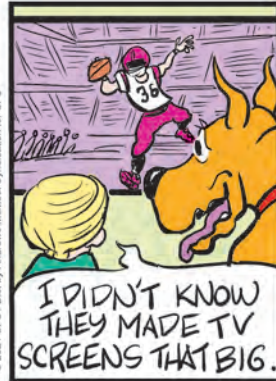


Ayutthaya, Thailand ▲
A resident steers his boat over a footbridge through a flooded neighbourhood as Tropical Storm Dianmu caused flooding in 30 provinces.



Van, Turkey ▲
A drone picture of a flock of sheep being brought down from highlands by stock breeders to warmer areas before winter.

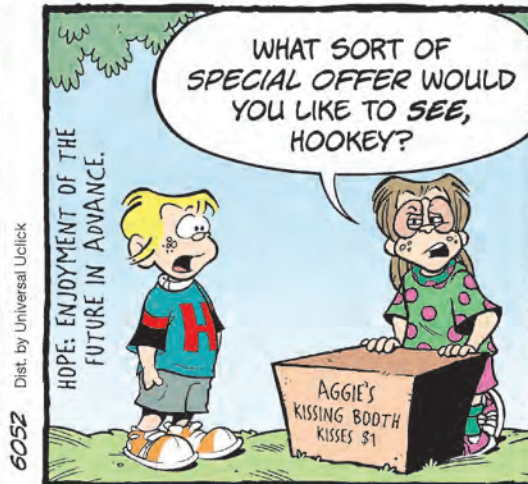
Source: The Guardian



DOG GONE FUNNY RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA

THE SHAEFERS HAVE OZZIE, A WEST HIGHLAND TERRIER POODLE MIX. OZZIE IS ALSO A RESCUE. OZZIE HAS SOME 'INTERESTING' SNACK CHOICES, SO ONE DAY THE SHAEFERS GAVE OZZIE A CHOICE OF TREATS: A CARROT OR A PIECE OF BACON. OZZIE CHOSE THE CARROT!

Ginger Meggs



Rugrats

