

A proclamation of Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving has long been an American tradition, famously dating back to the Pilgrim settlers at Plymouth Colony. The observance was celebrated at different times and in different places, and the tradition was strongest in New England.

It wasn't until the Civil War that it was established as a fixed national holiday.

In the darkest depths of the American Civil War, in 1863, President Abraham Lincoln set aside the last Thursday of November "as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise."

The website Abraham Lincoln Online notes that: "According to an April 1, 1864, letter from John Nicolay, one of President Lincoln's secretaries, this document was written by Secretary of State William Seward, and the original was in his handwriting. On October 3, 1863, fellow Cabinet member Gideon Welles recorded in his diary how he complimented Seward on his work. A year later the manuscript was sold to benefit Union troops."

Washington, D.C.

October 3, 1863

By the President of the United States of America.

A Proclamation.

The year that is drawing towards its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God. In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity, which has sometimes seemed to foreign States to invite and to provoke their aggression, peace has been preserved with all nations, order has been maintained, the laws have been respected and obeyed, and harmony has prevailed everywhere except in the theatre of military conflict; while that theatre has been greatly contracted by the advancing armies and navies of the Union. Needful diversions of wealth and of strength from the fields of peaceful industry to the national defence, have not arrested the plough, the shuttle or the ship; the axe has enlarged the borders

of our settlements, and the mines, as well of iron and coal as of the precious metals, have yielded even more abundantly than heretofore. Population has steadily increased, notwithstanding the waste that has been made in the camp, the siege and the battle-field; and the country, rejoicing in the consciousness of augmented strength and vigor, is permitted to expect continuance of freedom. No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy. It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American People. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquillity and Union.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, this Third day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States the Eighty-eighth.

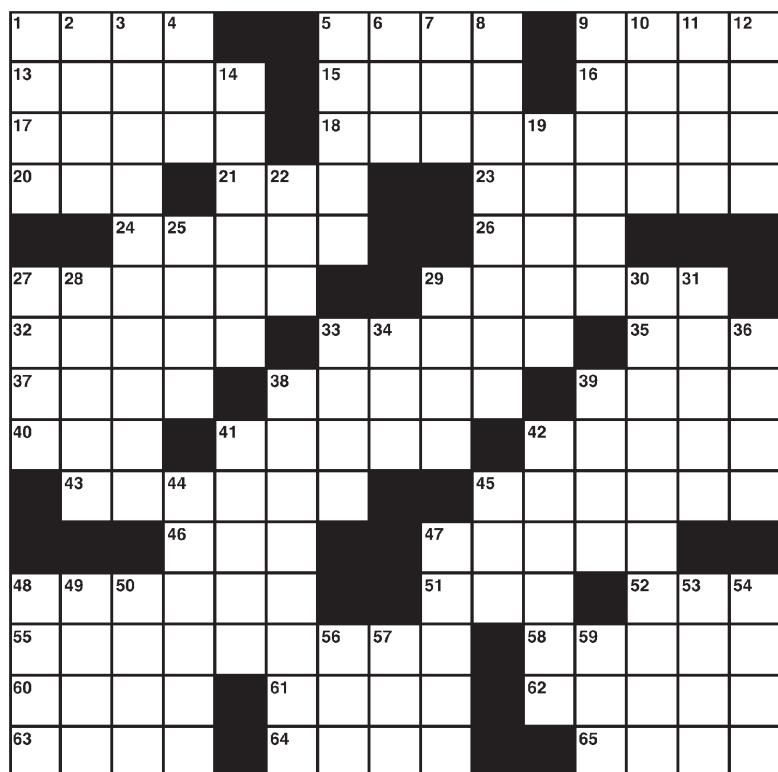
By the President:

William H. Seward,
Secretary of State

The Nugget Newspaper Crossword

By Jacqueline E. Mathews, Tribune News Service

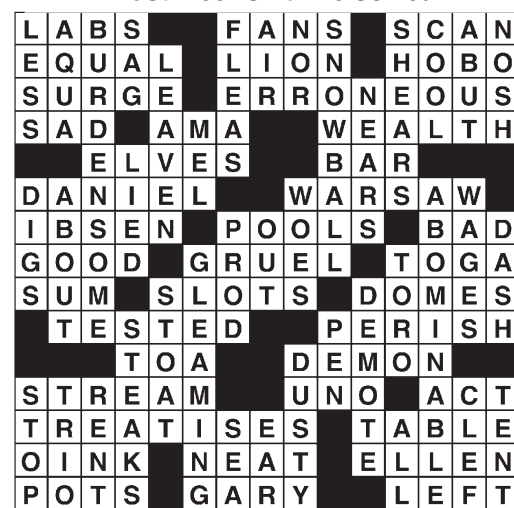
- ACROSS**
- 1 Mattress preference
 - 5 Conceal
 - 9 Pitfall
 - 13 Needed a doctor
 - 15 "Blame ___ Rio"; Demi Moore film
 - 16 Coat hanger material
 - 17 Forest opening
 - 18 Limits
 - 20 Long-eared animal
 - 21 Name with Fannie or Ginnie
 - 23 Truthful
 - 24 Dog
 - 26 Cleaning cloth
 - 27 Worker's pay
 - 29 Bemoan
 - 32 Similar
 - 33 Train track pieces
 - 35 Break a fast
 - 37 Eggy drinks
 - 38 Went ___; was widely viewed on YouTube
 - 39 Profuse; luxurious
 - 40 "Be quiet!"
 - 41 Small restaurant
 - 42 Terra ___; brownish-orange earthenware
 - 43 Be present at
 - 45 President Harding
 - 46 As hairy as an ___
 - 47 Henry or Peter
 - 48 Like casual clothing
 - 51 Ruby or scarlet
 - 52 Fail to keep up
 - 55 Ridiculous
 - 58 Tiny fruit
 - 60 Villain
 - 61 Bug spray
 - 62 Reveal the misdeeds of
 - 63 Trial run
 - 64 June honorees
 - 65 "Auld Lang ___"
- DOWN**
- 1 Long story
 - 2 Paints for Rembrandt
 - 3 Night watchman's need
 - 4 One of the Kennedys
 - 5 Took on employees
 - 6 Suffix for meteor or graph
 - 7 ___ and don'ts; rules
 - 8 Captivate; enchant
 - 9 Sudden jab of pain
 - 10 Houston college
 - 11 Performing ___; ballet, theater, etc.
 - 12 Bothersome person
 - 14 Reserved; modest
 - 19 Meanders
 - 22 At ___ rate; whatever the case
 - 25 Acorn droppers
 - 27 Without
 - 28 Kauai greeting
 - 29 One not to be trusted
 - 30 Switzerland's WWII position
 - 31 1 of the 5 senses
 - 33 Orange peel
 - 34 "You ___ what you eat"
 - 36 Other ___; besides
 - 38 Land surrounding a winery
 - 39 Actor Jack ___
 - 41 Ocean measurement
 - 42 Frankness
 - 44 Archer's need
 - 45 Misery
 - 47 Mertz & Flintstone
 - 48 ___ machines; Vegas attractions
 - 49 Singer Patti
 - 50 "___ is not to reason why..."
 - 53 Cosmetics brand
 - 54 Autry or Kelly
 - 56 Pasture cry
 - 57 Can cover
 - 59 ___ Cruces, NM



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

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— Last Week's Puzzle Solved —



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