

# Elements of Joy



As a native Oregonian, born and raised in Portland, I offer a unique perspective. I have been witness to numerous changes and insurmountable growth. I am constantly looking for new and innovative ways to support our community and neighbors. Whether you're thinking of buying, selling or financing real estate, or just want to stop by, say "Hi," and share ideas, I'd love to hear from you.....Joy

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## Welcome!

I'd like to take a time-out and introduce you to the newest members of our Real Estate family. A special thanks to each and every one of you for your support and ongoing referrals.

## Going Green: The Organic Craze

The organic craze is sweeping the nation. From television, to radio, to your local grocer, going green is the new black. While an organic lifestyle is both healthy and progressive, it can also be expensive. Fortunately, right here in Oregon we have an abundance of affordable green resources and services. Here are just a couple:

▷The "**ReDirect Guide**" is a free publication available throughout the Portland Metro area. Its listings consist of merchants and service providers dedicated to saving energy and the environment. It is a great resource for Oregonians looking to spend locally and save. You can also go to [www.ReDirectguide.com](http://www.ReDirectguide.com) for more information.

▷The **Oregon City Farmers Market** is open from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM located in the Clackamas County Public Services Building parking lot. It is one of many Farmer's markets throughout Oregon that is open to the public. The Farmer's Market is a popular venue for the purchase, sale, and trade of organic food. It is often inexpensive and enjoyable. Each market is unique and offers a great opportunity to meet and mingle with friends and neighbors.

Look for more useful tips in the next issue including 10 tips to buying organic foods and products on a budget.



*A guy shows up late for work. The boss yells,  
"You should've been here at 8:30!"  
The guy replies, "Why? What happened at 8:30?"*

*"If you have built castles in the air your work  
need not be lost; that is where they should be.  
Now put the foundations under them."  
Henry David Thoreau*



## Real Estate Diction

- ▷ **Convenient:** Located on freeway entrance ramp.
- ▷ **Motivated seller:** Has been on market 14 years; owner has died.
- ▷ **Mint condition:** Someone has spilled mouthwash on the carpet.
- ▷ **Natural decor:** Beach mats stapled to walls, murals of nudes and Elvis.
- ▷ **Lots of built-ins:** Previous owner nailed furniture to the walls.
- ▷ **WOW!:** Do not go in alone!
- ▷ **Fixer-upper:** Quick, before it falls down.
- ▷ **Wide-open floor plan:** Previous owner removed supporting walls.
- ▷ **Secluded back yard:** Auto salvage business next door has high fence.
- ▷ **Outstanding:** Sticks out like a sore thumb.

Be sure to look for more humorous glossary terms in next month's issue.

## Protect Yourself & Your Money

Every year millions more Americans become victims of identity theft. In January of 2006 the Better Business Bureau reported 9.3 million Americans were victimized. As the number continues to grow so too does the individual risk. The steps outlined below are to help prevent identity theft and give you an edge.

- ▷ **Choose electronic billing.** Most thieves still obtain personal information through traditional methods. In cases where the method of theft was known, 68.2% of information was obtained off-line versus only 11.6% online. So next time you go to pay that cable bill do so online, save yourself and a tree.
- ▷ **Opt out.** A majority of pre-approved credit offers are only briefly glanced upon and quickly discarded as junk mail. If not shredded, one person's junk can be a thief's fortune. Save time and energy by simply opting out. Go to [www.optoutprescreen.com](http://www.optoutprescreen.com) or call (888) 5-OPT-OUT to have your name taken off the junk mail list.
- ▷ **Check that Credit.** 49% of the 9.3 million victims were alerted to the theft via their own credit report. Federal law permits access to at least one copy of each of the three major credit reports each year. If you stagger the receipt of your free reports and order one every four months you can keep a regular and watchful eye on your credit for free.
- ▷ **Lock up.** Thieves still rely on discarded mail and outgoing mail as a well of personal information. Obtaining a PO box is a great way to prevent loss. It's a small price to pay for piece of mind.
- ▷ **Organize.** Take steps to organize and safeguard your personal information. Make sure to keep your documentation, financial and otherwise, private. Keep your birth certificate and social security card locked up. Purchase a lock box, or hide them in a book on your shelf. A majority of identity theft is jump-started when a social security number is obtained.

Stay sharp. The threat is eminent and the numbers continue to grow. Although you may be at risk, by taking preventative steps you can avoid identity theft.



*"Happiness is as a butterfly which, when pursued, is always beyond our grasp,  
but which if you will sit down quietly, may alight upon you."  
Nathaniel Hawthorne*

# Simple & Sweet: A Heart Warming Treat

## Almond Cookie Crunch

Serves 16

- ▷ 1 tablespoon finely chopped blanched almonds
- ▷ 1 medium egg
- ▷ 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- ▷ 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- ▷ 4 tablespoons finely ground almonds
- ▷ 1/2 cup semolina
- ▷ 1/4 teaspoon almond extract
- ▷ Add Confectioners' sugar, for the dusting

1. Preheat your oven to 400°F. Line 1 large or 2 small cookie sheets with parchment paper.
2. Whisk egg and sugar together in a medium bowl until the mixture is thick and creamy. Then sift in baking powder and stir in ground almonds, semolina and almond extract.
3. Wet your hands and roll the almond mixture into 16 balls, each a little larger than a walnut. Dip one side of each cookie into the chopped almonds and place on prepared cookie sheet, 1 inch apart. Make sure the chopped-nuts side is facing up.
4. Bake until risen and very lightly golden for 8 to 10 minutes. Cool on cookie sheet 1 minute, then transfer to a wire rack to cool completely.
5. Lightly dust the tops of your cookies with confectioners' sugar.
6. Enjoy!



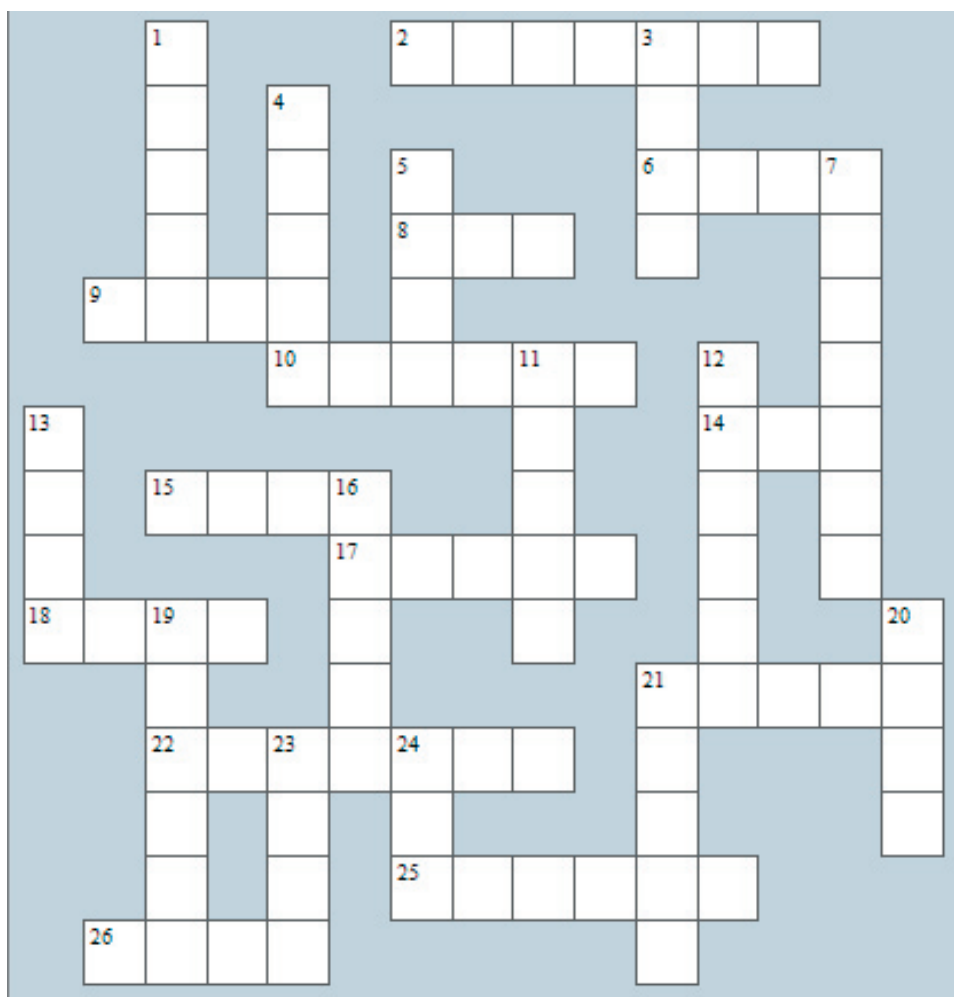
## Crossword Corner

### Across

2. Distorted
6. Post-WWII Alliance
8. Mineral Source
9. Comely
10. \_\_\_\_\_ Rico
14. Tack on
15. Body Partner
17. Prepared to Fire
18. Corner of a Diamond
21. Lend \_\_\_\_\_
22. Ordinary
25. Sycophants
26. Kelly or Wilder

### Down

1. Smart Society
3. England's Blair
4. Drink Noisily
5. Body of Laws
7. Admitted
11. Darkroom Solution
12. Fixed Portion
13. Swedish Car
16. Crippled
19. Easy
20. Univ. Teacher
21. Edgar's Second Name
23. African River
24. Whichever



## Your Trivial Pursuit

How many shopping malls are there in the United States?

Be the first to call me at 503.657.7047 with your answer and **win movies tickets for two!**



## Local Happenings

▷The year is 1972. The first call made on a cellular phone is placed in New York. Bobby Fischer defeats Boris Spassky to become America's first chess champion in Iceland. And more importantly the first **Hacky Sack is invented in Oregon City**. John Stalberger and Mike Marshall take what was once a bean bag foot toss and rename it Hacky Sack.

The game quickly becomes recognized and the National Hacky Sack Association is formed in 1975. Still today Hacky Sack is entertaining the masses. From college campuses and state parks, to national competitions and our own backyards, its popularity stays strong. So next time your in Oregon City grab a sack and hack away.

▷Then funny-ha-ha it up at your neighborhood pub! Right here in Oregon City we have our very own comedic gold mine. Every month a new comedian breezes through the OC packing a bag of jokes guaranteed to make you chuckle over a chilled brew and a burger. Take a date, a friend, mom or dad and enjoy a laugh. **The Wichita Pub** is located at 19140 South Molalla Avenue, Oregon City, OR 97045.



*Last night I played a blank tape at full blast. The mime next door went nuts.*

*Steven Wright*



## Thanks

Let me take this opportunity to thank all of you for your continued support and readership. I hope this newsletter is both entertaining and informative. Your feedback is appreciated and encouraged. I look forward to hearing from you in the future. If you need anything just drop me a line.

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## Presidential Perks

▷**James Buchanan** was the only president to not have been married. His niece, Harriet Lane took over as First Lady.

▷**Woodrow Wilson** is the only president buried in Washington D.C.

▷**John F. Kennedy** was the only president to win a Pulitzer Prize for his novel 'Profiles in Courage'.

▷**Abe Lincoln** was the only President to receive a patent. Why? He invented a means of buoying vessels over shoals.

▷**Richard M. Nixon** was the first president to visit all 50 states.

▷The candy, Baby Ruth was named after the birth of **Grover Cleveland's** daughter, Ruth.

▷**Andrew Jackson's** tombstone does not mention that he served as a president of the United States.



## Client of the Month

Special thanks go out this month to **Sue and Jim Smith** of South East Portland. Thank you for your business and continued support and congrats on your wonderful new home!