Atwood Electric, Inc.

1. Popular Sunday

4. Greek goddess

6. Indicates badly

9. Chinese dynasty

7. Popular Mr. T

5. Genetically

distinct variety

8. Consumed

10. NFL great

13. Palm trees

17. Tall, slen-

der-leaved plants

20. Affirmative!

22. A passport is

25. Two outs in

baseball (abbr.)

26. Swiss river

27. Deferential

29. Where a bache-

16. Fungal disease

12. Within

dinner option

2. Oil cartel

3. Agile

of discord

character

Randy

(slang)

lor lives

one

31. Portable

material

of a bird

computer screen

34. A crying noise

36. Sticky, amor-

phous substance

38. Type of acid

43. 16 ounces

track or path

53. Group of

54. Region

toughs

Loch

dried tubers

37. Starchy dish of

40. Partner to "Ma"

45. The Bay State

48. A well-defined

51. Defined period

55. Famed Scottish

57. Blood relation

61. Father to Junior

58. Not around

59. Recipe mea-

surement

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

50. Substitution

This week's crossword, sponsored by:

CLUES ACROSS 1. Garden tool 5. A way to pre-

11. Gratitude 14. Domestic sheep 15. Simpler

18. Cavities containing liquid 19. Large fish-eating bird 21. Ocular protec-

tion index 23. Phil __, former CIA 24. Icelandic poems

28. Pop 29. Device 30. Actor Rudd 32. A pituitary hormone 33. Focus on an

object 35. Corpuscle count (abbr.) 36. Young women's association 39. Not shallow 41. Doctor 42. Furniture

46. Highly spiced stew 47. A way to communicate 49. Almost last 52. Astronomer

44. Hindu male

religious teacher

Carl 56. Small horses 58. A slender tower with balconies 60. A disrespectful

quality 62. Fúlly shaded inner regions 63. Short convulsive intake of breath

CLUES DOWN

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THE HISTORICAL VIEWPOINT

April Fool's Day and Hoaxes were strange creatures, like

By Casey Jarmes | The News-Review

This paper came out on April 2, 2025. Some of you reading may have experienced pranks and chicanery yesterday, a day famed for its association with mischief. The origin of April Fools' Day actually goes to the fourth century, during the reign of Roman Emperor Constantine. Constantine's jesters mockingly told him they could run his empire more efficiently than he could. Constantine, amused, allowed one of his jesters, Kugel, to rule as king for a day. Kugel used his temporary king powers to declare the first of April to be celebrated as a day of absurdity. In honor of King Kugel, I've decided to use this column to recount some of the greatest pranks ever pulled.

Irish satirist Jonathan Swift loved April Fools' and hated astrologers, considering them to be quacks. He particularly despised John Partridge, the writer of popular astrological almanacs. Partridge earned Swift's ire by publicly mocking the Church of England, of which Swift was a priest, and publishing predictions about the deaths of church officials. Most of these predictions failed to come true, because astrology is nonsense. Swift decided to get back at Patridge by publishing his own almanac, under the pseudonym Isaac Bickerstaff, which predicted Partridge would die on March 29, 1708. Patridge, angered, wrote a rebuttal, calling Bickerstaff a fraud. Except, when March 29 came, a letter from the British government published in the newspapers announced that Partridge had died, just as had been predicted. Said letter was of course a fake written by Swift. Mourners came to Partridges's house, as did an undertaker. A gravestone

was even put up, to mark the grave of the very much still living Partridge. Partridge attempted to dispel the hoax by writing a pamphlet explaining he was still alive; Swift countered this by writing that the pamphlet was a hoax written by someone else who was trying to trick people into believing Partridge was still alive. John Partridge remained a public mockery until his actual death six years later.

On April 1, 1957, the BBC documentary program "Panorama" aired a three-minute hoax about a family of spaghetti farmers living in Ticino, Switzerland, showing the farmers picking strands of cooked spaghetti hanging from tree limbs then laying them out to dry. The voice-over helpfully explained that, due to generations of careful breeding, the spaghetti trees all produced noodles of identical length, explaining why they came in the box that way. Eight million people watched the documentary that night. The BBC received hundreds of phone calls, many of them from people asking how to grow their own spaghetti trees. Pasta was an exotic delicacy in England during the fifties, usually coming in Chef Boyardee-style tin cans with tomato sauce, leading many viewers to believe the

story was genuine. A more morally questionable journalistic hoax came in August, 1835, when New York City tabloid The Sun published a six-part series detailing the astounding lunar discoveries allegedly made by famed astronomer John Herschel. According to the Sun, Herschel had built a massive, highly advanced telescope in South Africa, which allowed him to see the moon with perfect clarity, observing forests, oceans and temples. Roaming across the moon's surface

unicorns, bipedal, tail-less beavers, miniature zebras, and a race of humanoids with bat-like wings. These bat-men were divided into a racial hierarchy, with the white ones being the most advanced, because this is a story from 1835. The reports in the Sun ended by claiming the telescope had been destroyed, after its lenses acted like a magnifying glass and burned down the observatory, preventing any further observations. This was, of course, a hoax, perpetrated by The Sun reporter Richard Locke, to increase paper sales and satirize astronomers for often being more influenced by religion than actual science. The hoax was successful, making The Sun go from a failing paper to the most popular in the world, as other newspapers reprinted its stunning story. Herschel, a real astronomer, had nothing to do with the report. Readers believed the story, with churches even planning to send missionaries to the moon. To defend the people of the 19th Century, they lived in a time where more powerful telescopes were reshaping knowledge of the cosmos. Uranus had been discovered by John Herschel's father William in 1781, Ceres had been discovered by Giuseppe Piazzi in 1801, and Neptune would end up being discovered by Johann Galle and Urbain Le Verrier in 1846. It was commonly believed at the time that other planets in the so-

ty, purposeless planets. In January, 1749, advertisements in London newspapers announced a show would be performed by a stunning acrobat, so skilled he could dive into an ordinary wine bottle. The people

lar system must be populat-

ed, under the argument that

God would not create emp-

of London, enthralled by the seemingly impossible trick, sold out the theater. Even the King's son, Prince William Agustus, showed up to watch the impossible. Except, when the time came, the acrobat was a no-show. A theater employee came out and told the crowd that, if the acrobat did not appear, they would be given their money back. One audience member shouted that, if they paid him double, he would fit into the bottle himself. Eventually, a member of the aggravated crowd chucked a lit candle onto the stage, setting it on fire. The crowd rioted, tearing out furniture and dragging it out into the street, where they burned it in a massive bonfire. A story ran in a newspaper after the riot, claiming the acrobat had been paid by a wealthy gentleman to do the same trick privately. When he dived into a bottle, the gentleman corked the bottle, trapping him. It took 23 years for the truth to come out; the perpetrator of the hoax, Duke John Montagu, had been discussing the gullibility of Londoners with his friends, leading to Montagu betting he could fill a theater by advertising something as completely absurd as a man diving into a

quart bottle. The final prank we'll be discussing today can actually be found in this very column. That story about Kugel and Constantine I began the column with? Absolute nonsense. It never happened. In 1983, Boston University History Professor Joseph Boskin was asked by an Associated Press reporter about the origin of April Fools' Day. Boskin decided to prank the reporter, making up a fake story about a fake king on the spot, which the AP published. The actual origin for April Fools' Day

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