A VERY FLAKY SET OF PUZZLES

by Dustin Foley

Each of the first three puzzles will lead to a final answer word. These
three words can be used to solve the final puzzle. Good luck!

A FLAKY CROSSWORD

The snowflake-shaped grid below consists of six smaller snowflake-shaped segments. Each segment's numbered center will be surrounded by six 7-letter words, each word entered in the direction indicated by the arrows. Clues for these words are grouped by the segment's number. However, within each segment, you must determine which answer goes along which side. The clues in each group have been ordered alphabetically by answer.

1
- Accept, as conditions (2 wds.)
- Putting money in the pot
- Act of dodging
- Noticeably ugly building or statue
- ✗ Puccini, or a Kentucky Derby winner
- False (2 wds.)

2
- Paper Mate's Pink Pearl products
- Mariners' home
- Like certain cats or twins
- "Just do it" and "Have it your way" are two
- 40, 60, 75, or 100, for many light bulbs
- Nunchaku, uzis, and scimitars, e.g.

3
- Ballgames have at least nine
- Staples of O. Henry stories
- Where Yogi steals baskets from
- One who brags or is careful about their appearance
- They may be paid to kidnappers
- Victory

4
- Its obstruction in your throat causes choking
- Perennial (hyph.)
- Signs up for a class
- Clouds of space dust
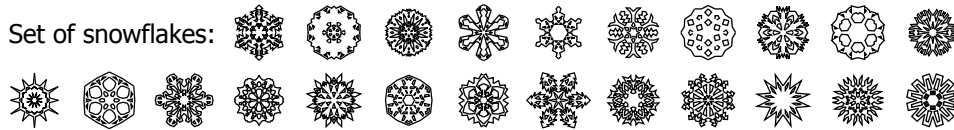- ✗ Varieties of an egg nog spice
- Big name in dictionaries

5
- She disappeared with her navigator in 1937
- Manner in which to be biased, breathing, or raining
- Medical issues often caused by muscle strains
- Lost in thought
- Stubbornly continue
- Dynamic cooperation

6
- Pantomimer's partner in charades
- Puts inside
- Sushi alternative
- Uplifting emoticons
- Homing (in on)
- With more kick, flavor-wise
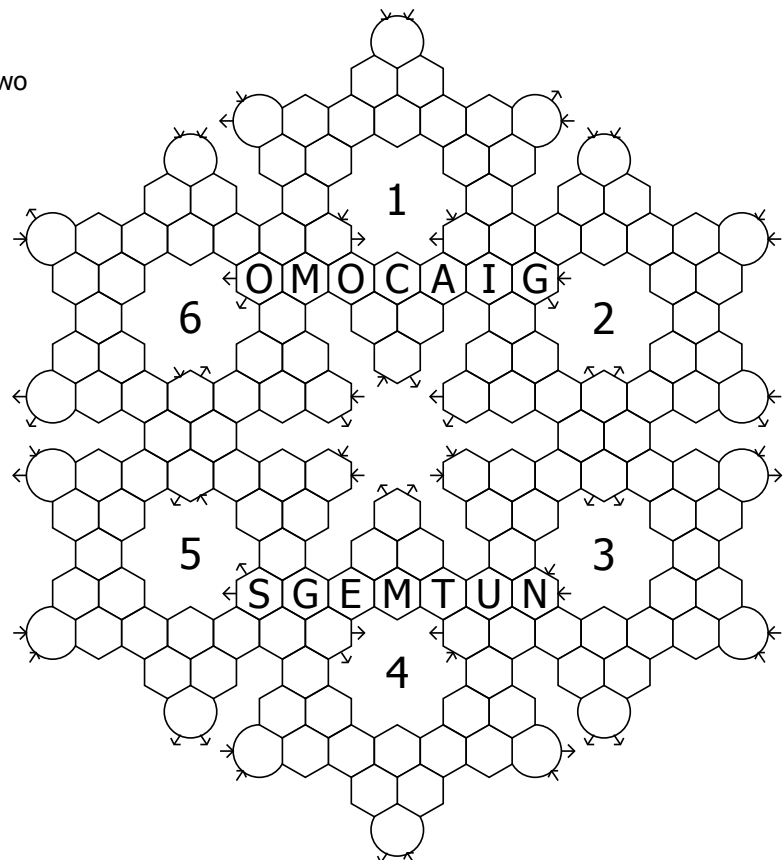
A FLAKY CRYPTOGRAM

The titles of eleven holiday songs (some classic, some modern) have been encrypted below. The same letter-to-unique-snowflake substitution was used for every song. However, due to some holiday trickery, one letter in each song has been replaced with an incorrect snowflake. Keep track of which letters have been replaced, and what letters replaced them.

Set of snowflakes:

	Which letter was replaced?	What replaced it?
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		

FLAKY LOGIC

Cold weather has partially iced over these four areas of land, and you're in charge of plotting out which squares are ice and which are dirt. A square contains a number **if and only if** it is a "dead end" - that is, it does not have two or more adjacent squares of the same surface type.

The number indicates the distance you can travel in a straight line from that dead end, before hitting an edge or a different surface type. All ice in an area will form a single, connected region. There are no 2x2 regions that consist of a single surface type. An example area and its solution are at the right.
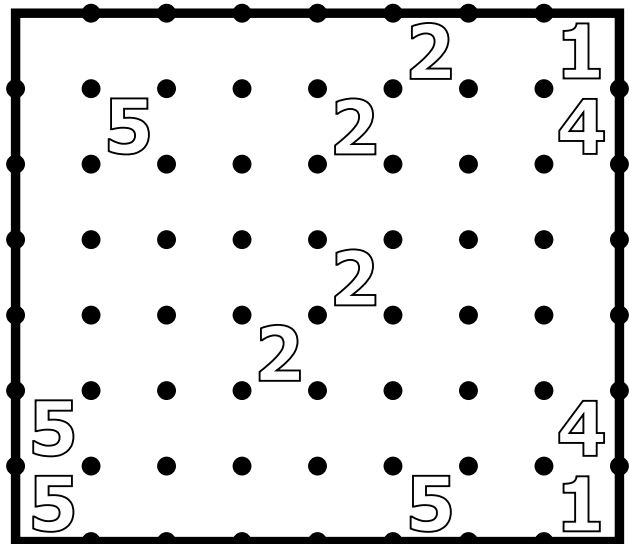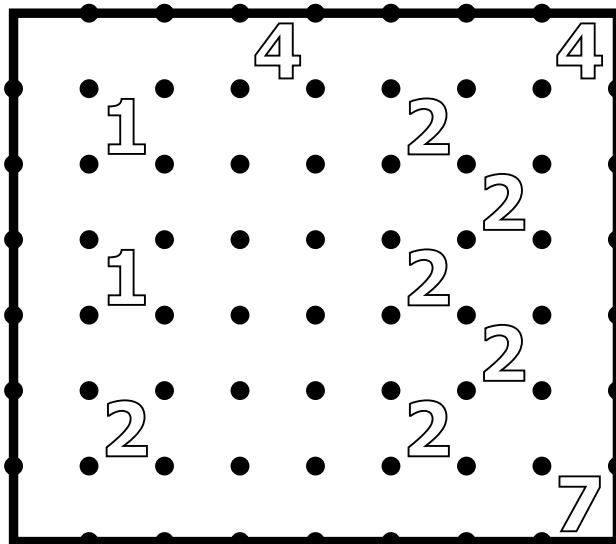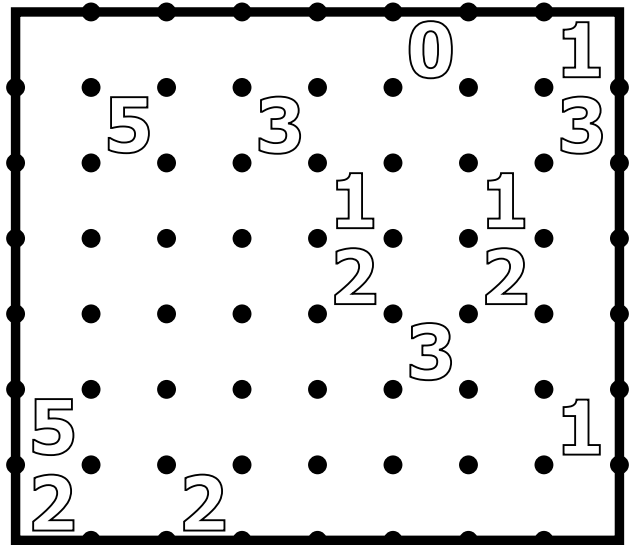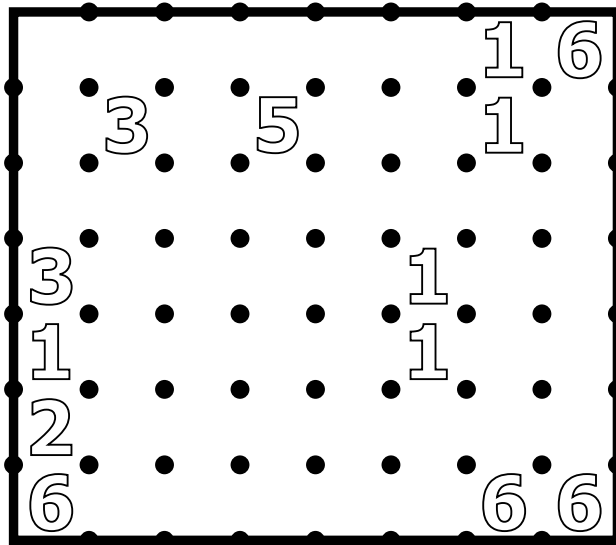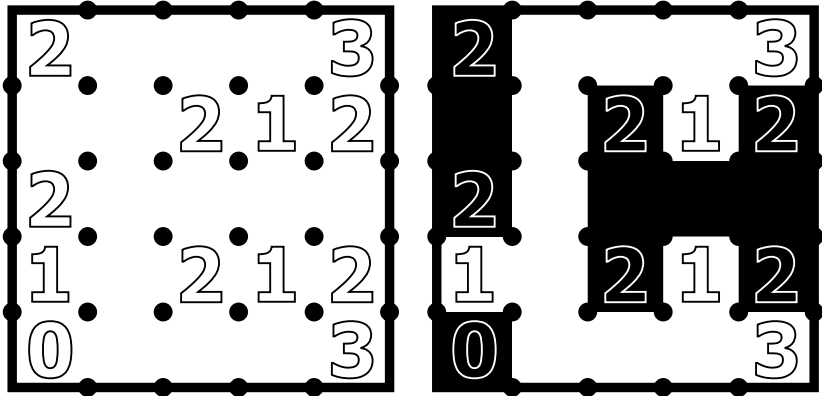
A FLAKY RIDDLE

The flurry below uses the answers from the previous three puzzles. Two of those answers are the same length; take the noun and place it in the top row, and take the verb and place it in the bottom row. Finally, take the remaining answer in the middle row. You'll then reveal the answer to the following riddle:

What do mathematicians make in the winter?