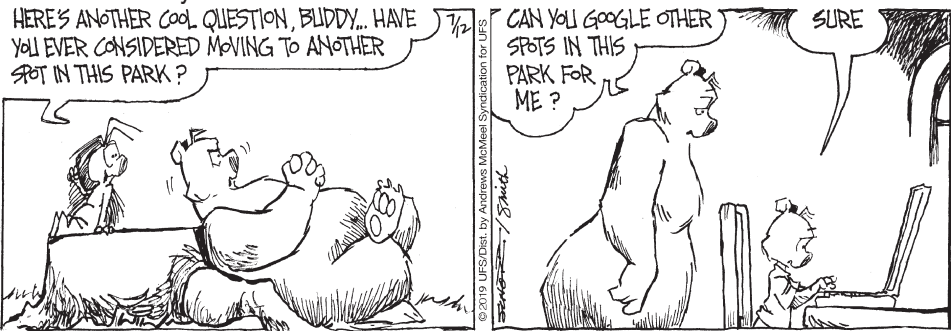


THE BORN LOSER by Art Sampson



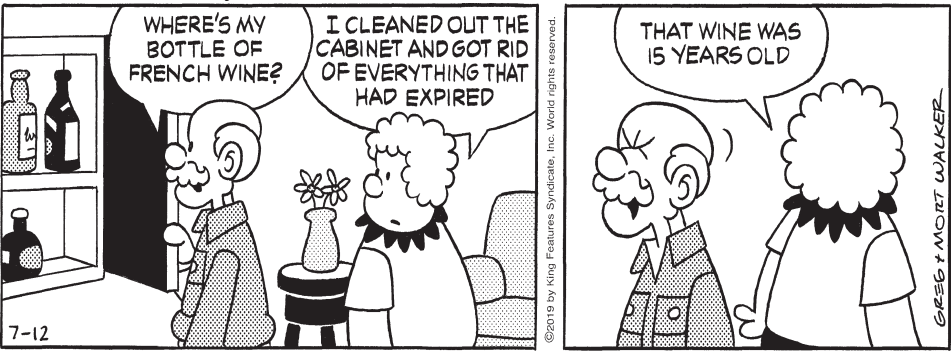
GRIZZWELLS by Bill Schorr



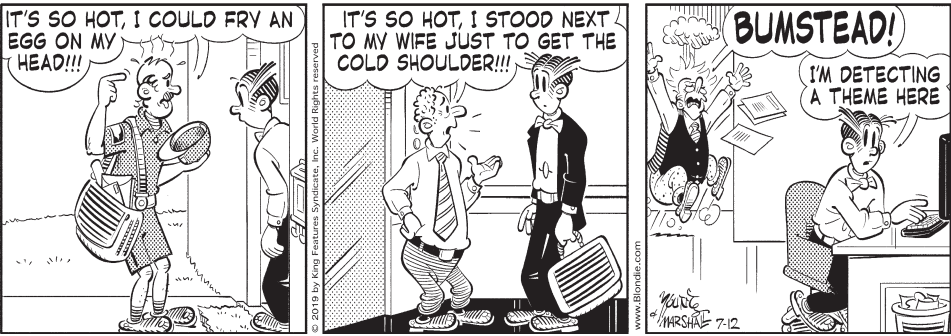
PEANUTS by Charles M. Schulz



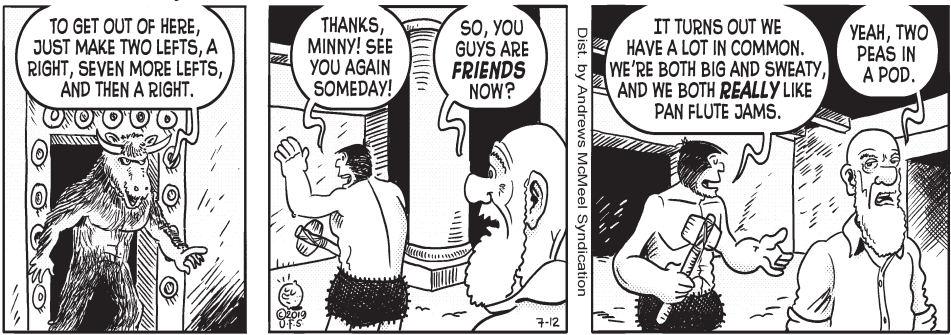
BEETLE BAILEY® by Mort Walker



BLONDIE® by Dean Young



ALLEY OOP® by Dave Graue and Jack Bender



FRANK AND ERNEST® by Bob Thaves



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE® by Dik Browne



GARFIELD® by Jim Davis



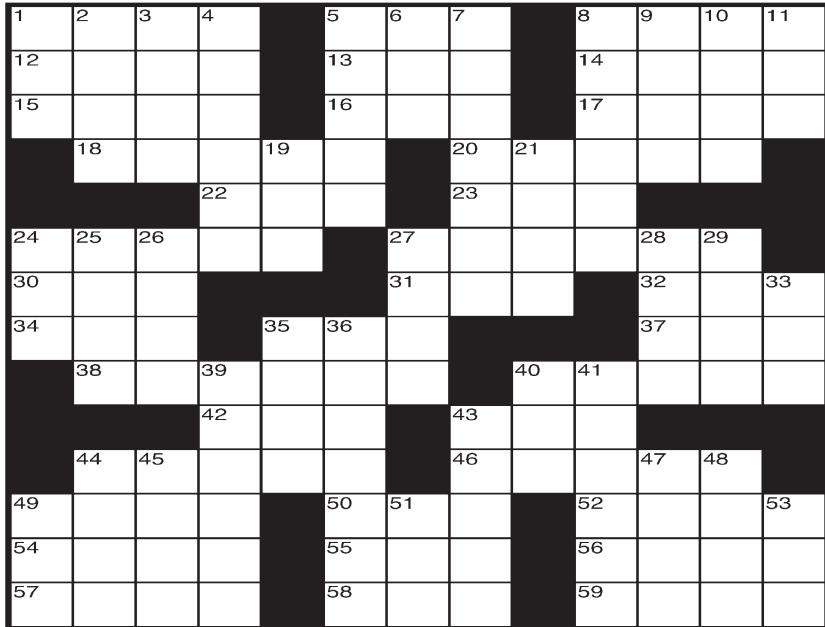
NEA Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- 1 Poisonous serpents
 - 5 Friendly advice
 - 8 Rugged cliff
 - 12 Make keener
 - 13 Olive yield
 - 14 Moon ring
 - 15 Zhivago's beloved
 - 16 Narrow inlet
 - 17 Technical sch.
 - 18 Experts
 - 20 Timex competitor
 - 22 Fighter's stat
 - 23 St.
 - 24 World-weary
 - 27 Coral reefs
 - 30 Zero in on
 - 31 Modern
 - 32 Referee
 - 34 Hi-tech scan
 - 35 Tax-form ID
 - 37 Carry with difficulty
 - 38 Get away from
- DOWN**
- 1 Boring tool
 - 2 Thick carpeting
 - 3 Pizarro's conquest
 - 4 Begins
 - 5 Upper body
 - 6 VI halved

Answer to Previous Puzzle

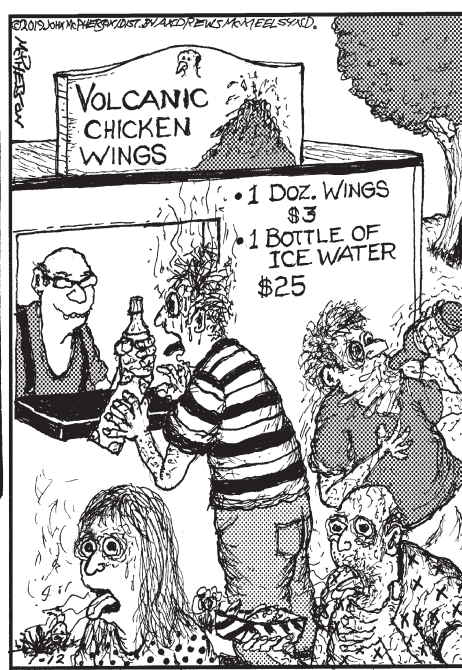


- 7 Soothe
- 8 Woodworking tool
- 9 Indian noblewoman
- 10 As well as
- 11 Obtained
- 19 Small guitar
- 21 Disclose
- 24 Loud thud
- 25 Trevi Fountain coins
- 26 "Lucky Jim" author
- 27 Author — Rice
- 28 Breather
- 29 Chimney deposit
- 33 Nicklaus' org.
- 35 Letter encl.
- 36 Trooper's prey
- 39 Knick-knacks
- 40 Kennel sleeper
- 41 Swallow up
- 43 Nervous
- 44 Seeger or Sampras
- 45 A law — itself
- 47 Dueler's weapon
- 48 Took the plunge
- 49 TV knob
- 51 Whichever
- 53 Aught or naught



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CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



THE LOCKHORNS by Bill Hoest



"WHATEVER HAPPENED TO JUST LIKING SOMETHING WITHOUT POSTING IT ON FACEBOOK, TWITTER, INSTAGRAM AND PINTEREST?"

Astrograph

Your Birthday

FRIDAY, JULY 12, 2019

Look at the bright side of life. Embrace accepting people who are ready to venture into unfamiliar territory with you. You can make a difference if you use your sense of what's right. Positive thoughts will bring remarkable results.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- Get out and mingle with people who make you smile. Don't waste time on those who can see only the negative and always criticize. Make romance and socializing priorities.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- You may want to rethink your plans. Make adjustments that will offset what someone else has decided to do. Depend on only yourself if you want things to run smoothly.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Precision and detail will be required when dealing with home and family issues. Make sure your personal documents are up-to-date. A change of

scenery will lift your spirits.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- Don't let a negative individual bring you down. Surround yourself with people who enjoy the same things you do. If someone complains, suggest they join you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- Taking a day trip or attending a reunion will be enlightening. Sharing the experience with a loved one will lead to positive changes. Romance is encouraged.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- You can enthusiastically talk about what you want to do without actually going overboard or overspending. With a practical plan in place and an enthusiastic attitude, much can be accomplished.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Listen to common sense, not some harebrained idea that someone is trying to sell you. A change should be made because it is beneficial, not because you want to impress someone.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- Do something because it's what's best for you. Don't alter your plans if someone

decides to pull out after agreeing to participate.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -- Easy does it when you are tinkering with someone's emotions. Getting along with your peers will be in your best interest if you want to avoid being left out.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- An opportunity may not turn out as planned. Make sure you have your facts right before you ask others to get involved. A change of plans will affect you physically.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- As long as you are consistent, you can avoid controversy. Kindness and understanding will help ease any stress between you and someone you care about. Romance is recommended.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- Try to avoid getting caught in someone else's plan, or you'll end up taking care of responsibilities that will eat into the time you should be spending taking care of your own affairs.

Bridge

North 07-12-19

♠ K 8 5 2

♥ J 10 7

♦ Q 6

♣ K Q 9 4

West East

♥ Q J ♠ 10

♠ A K Q 6 5 2 ♠ 9 4

♦ 4 3 ♦ 9 8 7 5 2

♠ A 8 7 ♣ 10 6 5 3 2

South

♠ A 9 7 6 4 3

♥ 8 3

♦ A K J 10

♣ J

Dealer: South

Vulnerable: Both

South West North East

1♠ 2♥ 3♥ Pass

4♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: ♥A

TWO IMPORTANT RULES FOR AN UPPERCUT

At the former Computer Museum in Boston, they sold a button claiming: "Usenet isn't a right. It is a right, a left, and a swift uppercut to the jaw."

An uppercut in bridge tries to knock out declarer. But there are 2 important things to keep in mind when you are planning one. They are highlighted by this deal.

How should the defense go against four spades? West cashes two top hearts, learning that East started with a doubleton. What next?

North's three-heart cue-bid showed at least three-card spade support and game-invitational values or more -- the so-called cue-bid raise. (In contrast, if North had jumped to three spades, that would have been pre-emptive, a weak hand with four-card support.)

West can see three defensive tricks: two hearts and one club. Since declarer surely has the diamond ace and king for his opening bid, the defense's only chance for a fourth trick lies in the trump suit. However, if West leads another heart now, and East ruffs it, declarer will not overruff. Instead, he will discard his solitary club, a textbook loser-on-loser play.

Before going for an uppercut, take all of your side-suit tricks. So, West must cash the club ace at trick three.

Then, when wanting partner to ruff for an uppercut, lead a loser, not a winner. West continues with a low heart. (If you lead a winner, you tell partner not to ruff.)

Here, when East ruffs with his spade 10 at trick four, it uppercuts declarer's ace and promotes a trump trick for West. "... and out!"