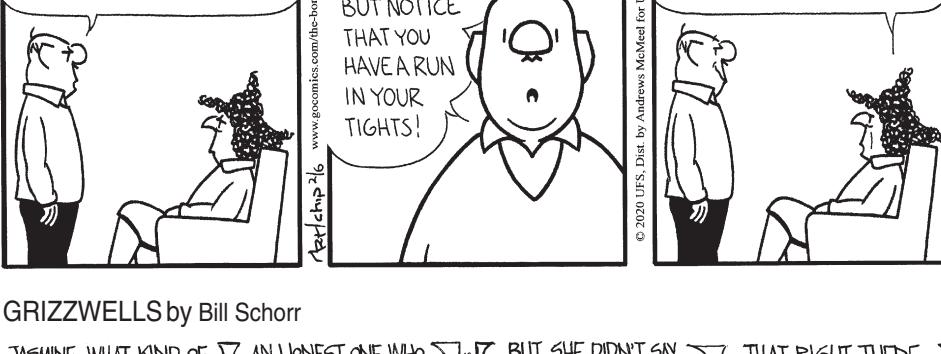


THE BORN LOSER by Art Sampson



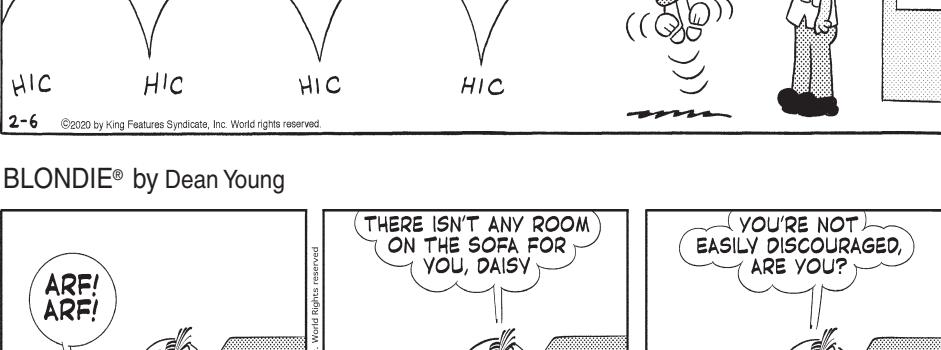
GRIZZWELLS by Bill Schorr



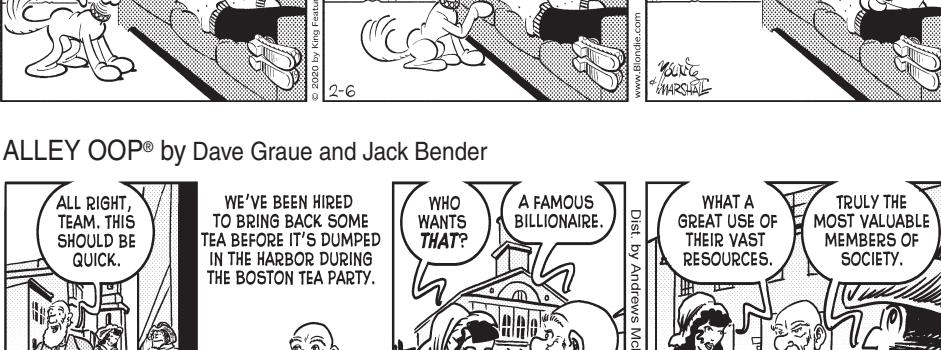
PEANUTS by Charles M. Schulz



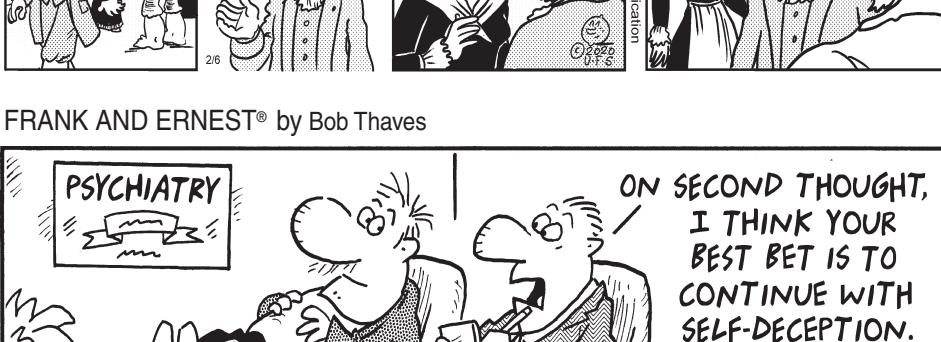
BEETLE BAILEY® by Mort Walker



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

45 Recede gradually  
1 Knew somehow  
5 To-do list entries  
10 Leave stranded  
12 Readily trained  
13 Fly  
14 Egg dish  
15 Agreement  
16 Winery feature  
18 Guitarist — Paul  
19 Racetrack near Miami  
23 Tank filler  
26 Rx givers  
27 Cupola  
30 Straw hat  
32 Licorice flavoring  
34 Sea World orca  
35 Airline employees  
36 Tell imaginative tales  
37 Tribute in verse  
38 Skip stones  
39 Thaw  
42 Son of Val and Aleta

## DOWN

1 Kind of bean  
2 Severe of the news  
3 Not at all willing  
4 Sandbox enjoyer  
5 Brokaw of the news  
6 High card  
7 Threshold  
8 Swiss painter Paul —  
9 Stage backgrounds  
10 Navigation aid  
11 Carson City's state  
12 Lavish attention  
17 Pacino and Hirt  
20 Not susceptible  
21 Truisms  
22 Make sharper  
23 Navigation aid  
24 Contented murmurs  
25 Parka closer  
28 Intellect  
29 This, to Pedro  
31 Among

## Answer to Previous Puzzle

P	H	A	S	E	R	B	O	T	S	N
R	E	L	I	V	E	A	R	O	U	S
E	X	I	L	E	S	L	E	A	U	G
T	N	T	L	O	P					
S	G	T	O	H	O	I	T	E	M	
C	R	O	F	R	E	T	E	R	M	
R	I	P	L	E	E	C	R	I	C	
U	L	T	R	A	H	M	O	F	E	
F	L	E	H	A	I	L	E	I	E	
F	E	N	G	O	W	S	E	S	T	
A	M	B	L	E	R	O	A	C	L	
R	O	B	I	N	S	U	N	F	A	
F	A	C	A	D	E	T	E	T	E	

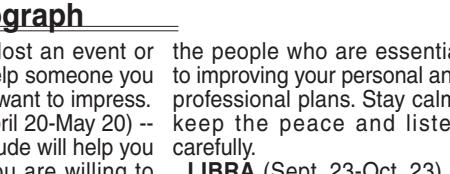
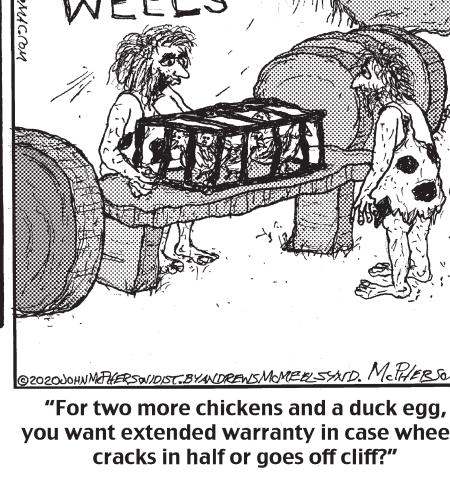
33 Clairvoyance  
35 Mud bricks  
37 Moon or planet  
40 Yard contents  
41 Express gratitude  
42 Haik wearer  
43 Stood up  
44 Bay Area valley  
47 — spumante  
48 Bracken  
49 Undertake  
51 Last mo.  
52 Fritz, to himself  
54 Home tel.



2-6

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CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



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"For two more chickens and a duck egg, you want extended warranty in case wheel cracks in half or goes off cliff?"

## Astrograph

your needs. Host an event or pitch in and help someone you care about or want to impress.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) -- A positive attitude will help you advance. If you are willing to adapt, you will make substantial gains. Make a change for the right reasons, not to prove a point.**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) -- Don't be too open about your feelings or wants. You are best off waiting until you know where you stand before you reveal your thoughts and intentions.**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) -- Intimacy will improve your life and a relationship with someone special. Concentrate on getting along with others, not on trying to outdo someone.**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- You can become what and who you want to be by taking action. Alter your way of thinking, if necessary, or change the way you present yourself to the world. Choose your destiny.**PISCES** (Feb. 20-March 20) -- Don't reveal personal secrets. Listen more and talk less. If you show interest in others and are willing to help the underdog, you will gain ground. Self-improvement and romance are encouraged.**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) -- Take care of domestic issues. Alter your surroundings to suit**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Investment opportunities may not be as they appear. Take your time and part only with money you can afford to lose. Put more time and effort into fitness, diet and improved health.**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Professional endeavors should be your focus. Pay attention to

the people who are essential to improving your personal and professional plans. Stay calm, keep the peace and listen carefully.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- Your achievements will affect the way others respond to you. Do what's right. Taking a path that complements what you do best will lead to the success you wish for.**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- Destinations that provide a cultural shift will be eye-opening. Engage in events or pastimes that brought you joy in the past. New friendships look promising.**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Pleasure trips that provide excitement and adventure will entice you. Don't get so wrapped up that you lose sight of your safety. Maintaining physical, emotional and mental balance will be necessary.**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- What you pursue will lead to a deep connection with someone who will broaden your outlook. Your contributions will result in additional popularity and respect.

## Bridge

## ONE DEAL BEGAT TWO CONTRACTS

Lewis Carroll claimed, "It's a poor sort of memory that only works backward."

Not always! If your memory works backward to yesterday, you will recognize this deal, although it has been rotated to make South the declarer.

Yesterday, North was in 7 diamonds. At one table, East led the heart ace, conceding a ruff-&amp;sluff on which declarer's spade loser evaporated. At the other table, East led the spade queen, which defeated the grand slam.

Today, South is in 6 spades. How does that contract fare?

We are looking at the 2019 European Champions Cup match between England and Greece. In the open room, the auction duplicated yesterday's, reaching 7 diamonds. Michael Bell led the spade queen to defeat the grand.

In this auction, Alexander

Allfrey's 3-diamond response was an echo from the past, showing a good hand with spades &amp; diamonds. 5 hearts &amp; redouble showed 1st- and 2nd-round controls in hearts. Then, when Andy Robson (South) passed over East's six-heart sacrifice, he was inviting his partner to bid higher. So, assuming his partner had good trumps, North went on to 6 spades.

After West led a club, declarer won with his king, cashed his top trumps &amp; claimed his contract exactly.

As you have no doubt noticed, West's lethal lead was his singleton diamond queen, which East would have ruffed with his singleton spade queen. West also gets a trump trick.

No doubt West suggested that his partner should have doubled the final contract, Lightner, to ask for an unusual lead, which is usually the first bid by the declarer.

North 02-06-20

♠ 10 5 4

♥ —

♦ A K J 9 8 6 2

♣ A 10 5

West ♠ J 3 2

♦ Q

♥ K 9 8 3

♦ A Q J 10 7 6 5 4 2

♣ Q 8 7 4 2

East

♠ Q

♦ —

♥ —

♦ —

♣ Q 9 6

South

♠ A K 9 8 7 6

♦ —

♥ 10 7 5 4 3

♦ K 3

♣ —

Dealer: South

Vulnerable: East-West

South West North East

1♣ Pass 3♦ 4♥

5♥ Dbl. Redbl. 6♦

Pass Pass 6♦ All Pass

Opening lead: ??

North

West

South

East

North

West

South