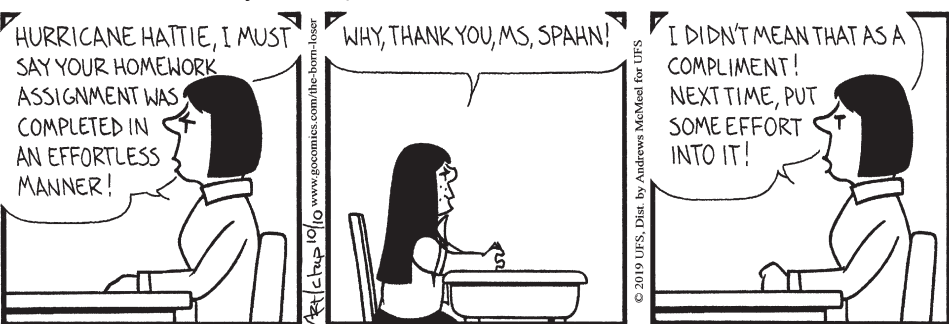
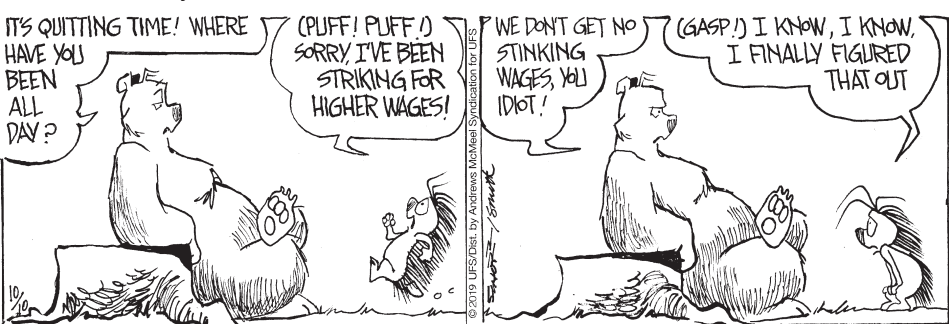


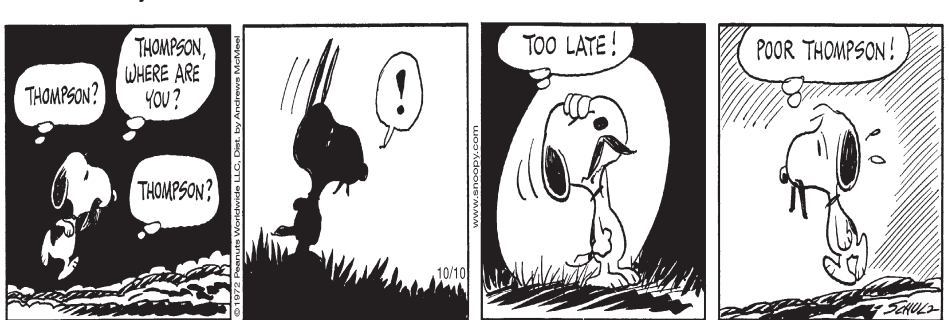
THE BORN LOSER by Art Sampson



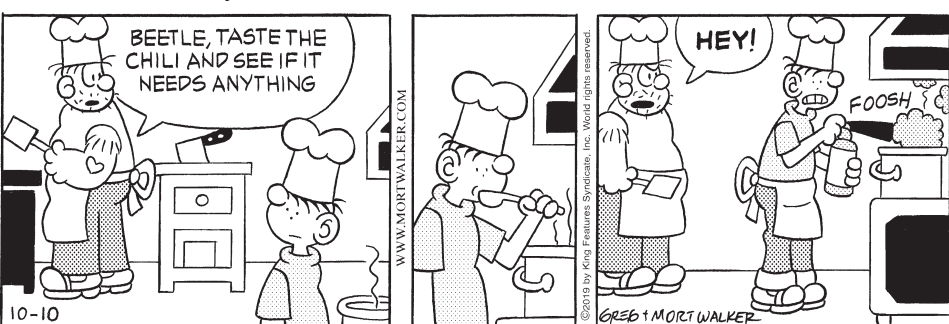
GRIZZWELLS by Bill Schorr



PEANUTS by Charles M. Schulz



BETLE BAILEY® by Mort Walker



BLONDIE® by Dean Young



ALLEY OOP® by Dave Graue and Jack Bender



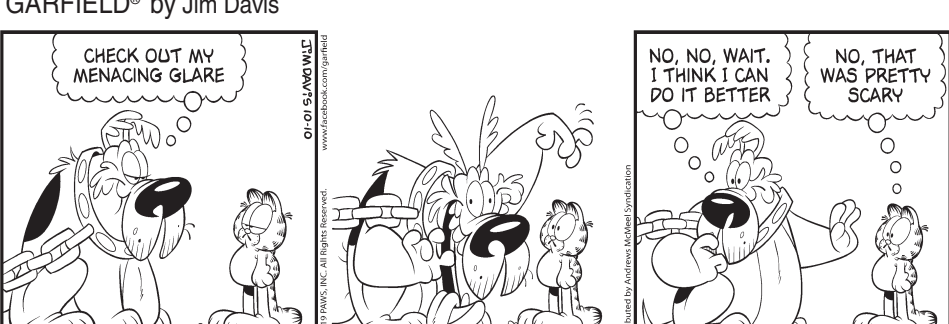
FRANK AND ERNEST® by Bob Thaves



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE® by Dik Browne



GARFIELD® by Jim Davis



NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- 1 Gator cousins
- 6 Blank
- 11 Chewy candy
- 12 Kind of wire
- 13 Crabby
- 14 Brings up
- 15 Rationed out
- 16 Twins, e.g.
- 17 Plug away
- 19 Kittens' cries
- 23 Large cask
- 26 Lohen-grin's love
- 28 Spring month in Paris
- 29 Fighting fish
- 31 Sporty fabric
- 33 Promises
- 34 Brown and simmer
- 35 Take advantage of
- 36 Employ
- 39 Deli order
- 40 Ms. Garr
- 42 Egg on

44 Actress Tyne —

- 46 Maxim
- 51 Artemis' twin
- 54 Coloring need
- 55 Texas border town
- 56 Be present
- 57 Plant life
- 58 Aspect

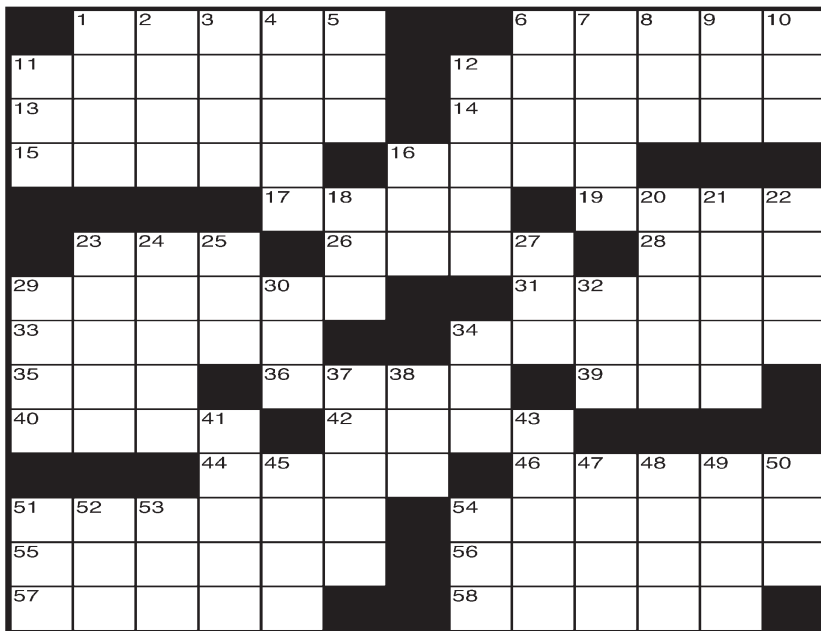
DOWN

- 1 Prepare an apple
- 2 Undersized pup
- 3 Curved molding
- 4 King and queen
- 5 Farm enclosure
- 6 Swedish import
- 7 Light refractor
- 8 Crunch targets
- 9 So-so grade
- 10 Bradley and Snead
- 11 Name, to Pierre

Answer to Previous Puzzle



- 12 Admirals' jails
- 16 Sun, in Mazatlan
- 18 French article
- 20 Spam, maybe
- 21 Cumberbund's place
- 22 Flank
- 23 Pick on
- 24 Sigh or murmur
- 25 Ultimate degree
- 27 IRS time
- 29 Ring event
- 30 Embers, finally
- 32 Test tube site
- 34 Ms. Arthur
- 37 Ice hut
- 38 Singer — Orbison
- 41 Lazybones
- 43 — Vader
- 45 Swit co-star
- 47 Numbers to crunch
- 48 Pro votes
- 49 Home run descriptor
- 50 Come to a conclusion
- 51 Chatty alien
- 52 Close friend
- 53 Gold, in Mexico
- 54 Gown go-with



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CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



Rodney Vark attempts to be the first person to cross the Atlantic via zip line.

THE LOCKHORNS by Bill Hoest



Astrograph

Your Birthday

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2019

Not everyone will have your best interests at heart this year. Choose your comrades carefully. Know that everyone has a price, including you, and that it's time to come to terms with what you want and how much it will cost. Change only what needs to be fixed. **LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- Problems at home can be solved with a little understanding. Listen to what others propose and consider where and how you fit into what needs to be done. Patience will pay off. **SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- You've got this. Stay focused and let your imagination, intelligence and experience help you gain ground and achieve what you set out to do. Romance is on the rise. **SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Don't overreact. An emotional matter will be misleading. If you let your feelings consume you, it will lead to a mistake. Focus on your responsibilities, not on what others are

doing. **CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Put your plans in motion. The changes you make will help you recognize what you want to do next. Trust and believe in your ability to make a difference. **AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- Don't let change disrupt your day. Consider what's happening and who is masterminding the changes, and whether it's beneficial for you to take part. Protect your money, possessions and passwords. **PISCES** (Feb. 20-March 20) -- You'll have too many options. Take a serious look at what's available and choose whatever makes the most sense. You need to take the bull by the horns if you want to succeed. **ARIES** (March 21-April 19) -- Take an overall view of what's going on around you to avoid being taken for granted. If someone asks for too much, refuse them with no hard feelings. **TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) -- You're heading in the right direction. Change can be exciting if you oversee every step. Live in the moment and make the most of whatever comes your way. Romance is apparent. **GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) -- Look for opportunities. Do your research and verify what's being offered. Don't expect everyone to be honest. Emotional tactics will be used to manipulate you. Proceed with caution. **CANCER** (June 21-July 22) -- Express your thoughts and check out new possibilities. Socializing will lead to exciting encounters that will spark your imagination. Personal gains, love and better health should be priorities. **LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Keep busy and focus on finishing what you start. Someone will complain if you fall short on a promise. Don't let someone else's change disrupt your plans. **VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Expand your knowledge. Listen, learn and experiment. Getting together with people who share your beliefs will encourage you to do something that will improve your life. Romance is encouraged.

Bridge

A SUIT COMBINATION THAT IS DECEPTIVE
Peter De Vries, who was a novelist and editor, wrote, "The universe is like a safe to which there is a combination, but the combination is locked up in the safe."
I felt a bit like that after checking the right way to play the club suit in today's deal. If you needed three tricks, what would you do?
North might have opened the bidding with two aces and one king, but when he passed, and partner opened one no-trump, he used Stayman before jumping to game.
West, even though he knew four hearts were coming down in the dummy, had no reason to worry, given his strong sequence.
As declarer, I could see 6 top tricks: two spades, two hearts & two clubs. Two more winners were readily available from the

diamonds, but what about trick nine? The opening lead strongly suggested that the hearts were not splitting 3-3. So what about clubs?
If the six missing cards were splitting 3-3, everything would work. If East had four including an honor, there was no chance. But what if West had four? What would East's doubleton be? There were four possible low-doubletons, but I cashed the club ace, crossed to the club king (happy to see the queen appear) and led a third round toward dummy's 10. Now I lost only two hearts, one diamond and one club.
I was feeling happy, but when I consulted the literature, I found that it is better to cash the king, then play low to dummy's 10 -- why?
I suppose this allows for West's having five clubs.

		North	10-10-19
		♠ K 6	
		♥ A 7 5 4	
		♦ 8 7 5	
		♣ A 10 5 4	
West		East	
♠ J 4		♠ Q 10 9 7 2	
♥ Q J 10 9		♥ 8 3	
♦ A 9 6		♦ 10 4 3 2	
♣ J 9 6 3		♣ Q 8	
		South	
		♠ A 8 5 3	
		♥ K 6 2	
		♦ K Q J	
		♣ K 7 2	
		Dealer: West	
		Vulnerable: East-West	
South	West	North	East
1NT	Pass	Pass	Pass
2♣	Pass	3NT	All Pass
		Opening lead: ♥ Q	