



THE BORN LOSER by Art Sampson



GRIZZWELLS by Bill Schorr



PEANUTS by Charles M. Schulz



BEETLE BAILEY® by Mort Walker



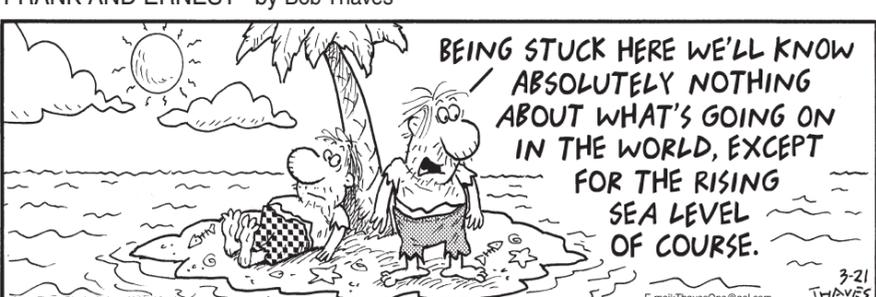
BLONDIE® by Dean Young



ALLEY OOP® by Dave Graue and Jack Bender



FRANK AND ERNEST® by Bob Thaves



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE® by Dik Browne



GARFIELD® by Jim Davis



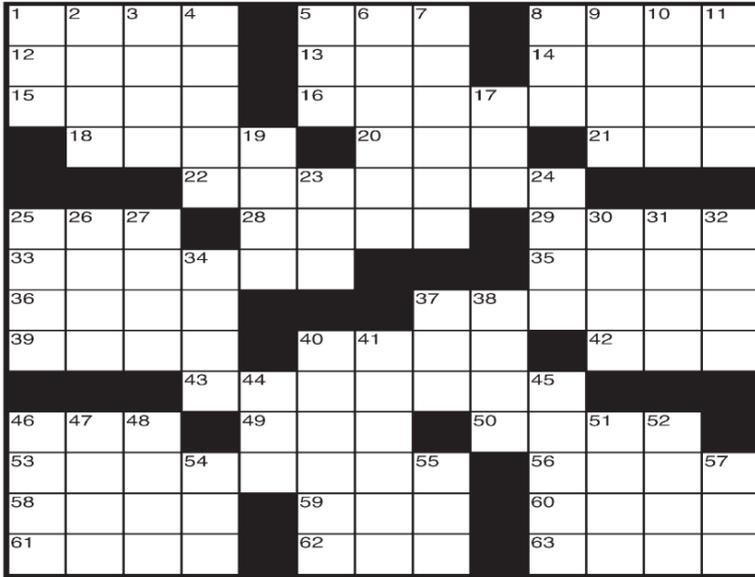
NEA Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- 1 Gentle
 - 5 "The Real World" channel
 - 8 Winner's medal
 - 12 Unwrap
 - 13 Gleeful shout
 - 14 Brain wave
 - 15 Water the house-plants
 - 16 Sikhism or Taoism
 - 18 Twosomes
 - 20 Daystar
 - 21 That, to Juanita
 - 22 Most cautious
 - 25 Like 7 and 11
 - 28 Memorable first
 - 29 Europe-Asia range
 - 33 Curbed
 - 35 Absent
 - 36 Stoic founder
 - 37 Tree secretions
 - 39 Chooses
 - 40 Prominent nose
- DOWN**
- 1 Booster seat user
 - 2 Limited
 - 3 PC list
 - 4 Grant money for
 - 5 Taint
 - 6 Grad student's bane
 - 7 Prizes
 - 8 Temporary job
 - 9 Comics dog

Answer to Previous Puzzle

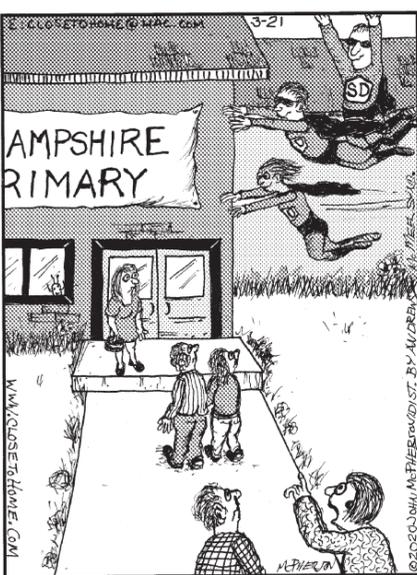
S	T	E	P	P	R	E	S	F	U	N
C	U	B	A	E	A	S	T	U	T	A
A	T	O	N	O	R	C	A	M	E	M
M	U	N	D	A	N	E	G	E	S	E
B	A	L	S	A	H	O	S	T	A	S
I	R	E	I	D	O	L	A	N	N	E
D	I	V	E	R	I	R	E	D	O	U
Z	I	N	G	E	R	R	U	N	G	S
B	R	A	S	V	I	B	R	A	N	T
Y	E	N	S	P	I	N	E	G	O	S
T	A	T	I	S	L	E	S	H	I	P
E	L	I	P	I	E	S	T	A	R	S

- 10 Durocher and Tolstoy
- 11 Carvey of "Wayne's World"
- 17 — and outs
- 19 Quaff with sushi
- 23 Disposed of
- 24 Pulls pasta
- 25 Ricelike
- 26 Heart-felt
- 27 Force
- 30 Stir up
- 31 Part of A.D.
- 32 Perchance
- 34 Grab a snack
- 37 Informer
- 38 Barely manages
- 40 Kits and cubs
- 41 Deletes a file
- 44 Nonflying bird
- 45 First P.M. of India
- 46 Mashed potato serving
- 47 Cereal grains
- 48 Diligent insects
- 51 Third-rate
- 52 Pinnacles
- 54 Figured out
- 55 Sweetie-pie
- 57 Mauna —



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CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



"Look! Super delegates!"

THE LOCKHORNS by Bill Hoest



"WE DON'T HAVE ANY CARRY-ON BAGGAGE, BUT WE DO HAVE SOME WALK-IN LUGGAGE."

Astrograph

Your Birthday

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2020

When you head in a new direction, don't burn bridges. Remaining well-connected will come in handy. A change is overdue, but sufficient preparation will be necessary to meet the requirements specified. Don't get frustrated, upset or vindictive. See the potential in what's being offered, and proceed without hesitation.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- An emotional matter will surface if you are required to deal with a problematic individual. Get your facts straight and use diplomacy to avoid backlash. Focus on creative pursuits and a healthier lifestyle.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- Diplomacy will work wonders for you today. If you offer solutions and help people, an unanticipated reward will come your way. Romance will enhance your life.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- Be straight with whoever you deal with today. If you mislead someone, you will end up in a compromising position. Emotional situations will escalate quickly. Protect your reputation.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- Don't hesitate when it comes to profitable situations. Be sure to take advantage of an opportunity. Positive changes at home or in meaningful relationships are featured. Celebrate with a loved one.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Busy yourself with home improvements. Look at real estate or invest in something you believe in, but don't compromise your financial situation. Time is on your side, so don't feel pressured.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Indulge in exciting conversations. Listen carefully and consider what's valid and what isn't. An idea you have will go over well with someone you like. Romance is encouraged.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- You can make significant headway in your plans. An innovative approach to something you've been working toward will bring new meaning to your life. Communication and travel are favored.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- Social events will lead to a chance meeting with someone you find inspiring. You will realize what you've been missing and make adjustments that will encourage positive change. Romance is featured.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Don't be fooled by someone using manipulative tactics. Ulterior motives are present. Before you engage in a partnership, you should find out what you will have to contribute.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- If you are quick to react, you will get what you want. Positive changes in your personal and professional lives will lead to new beginnings. A makeover will lead to compliments.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- An experience will remind you of something from your childhood. Use memories to reinvent something you used to enjoy doing. A heart-to-heart conversation with a loved one is encouraged.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -- If you exaggerate or mislead someone, the truth will come out. The quicker you put an end to pending problems, the sooner you will be able to move on.

Bridge

PLAY YOUR RICHES WITH GREAT CARE

Francis Bacon wrote, "Riches are a good handmaid, but the worst mistress." That is an interesting notion, & if he had been a bridge player, perhaps he would have had a deal like today's in mind.

How should South play in four hearts after West leads the diamond king?

In the auction, North used a transfer bid, showing five or more hearts, then offered his partner a choice of games. South selected 4 hearts, though here passing three no-trump would have been sensible because he could have anticipated taking 5 hearts, 1 diamond & 3 clubs.

Declarer won the diamond lead with his ace, played a trump to the dummy, then led the spade two: jack, king, ace. Accurately, West returned a trump. Declarer won in hand and led the spade six. Guided by his partner's jack at trick three, West put up the spade queen so that he could play his last trump, stopping the spade ruff in the South hand. Now declarer had to hope for a 3-3 club split, but he didn't get it and finished down one.

South needed the spade king for his opening bid, but he didn't need it to make his contract. If he had had two low spades, he would have counted these 10 tricks: 5 hearts, 1 diamond, 3 clubs and a spade ruff in hand. At trick two, declarer should have led a spade from hand. Whatever the defenders did, they couldn't have stopped South from obtaining a spade ruff in his hand as the contract-fulfilling trick.

Whenever you can take a ruff in the short-trump hand, it is almost certain to be the right play.

North		03-21-20	
♠	5 4 2		
♥	A J 10 9 2		
♦	8 3		
♣	7 6 2		
West		East	
♠	A Q 7 3	♠	J 10 9 8
♥	7 6 3	♥	5 4
♦	K Q J 9	♦	10 6 2
♣	10 3	♣	J 9 8 5
South			
♠	K 6		
♥	K Q 8		
♦	A 7 5 4		
♣	A K Q 4		
Dealer: South			
Vulnerable: North-South			
South	West	North	East
2NT	Pass	3♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass
Opening lead: ♦K			