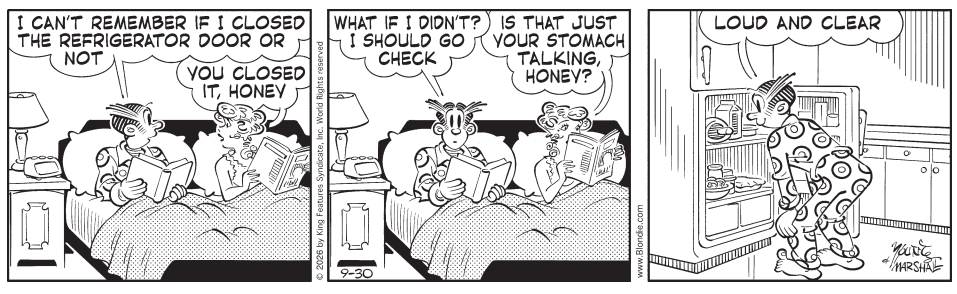
Garfield



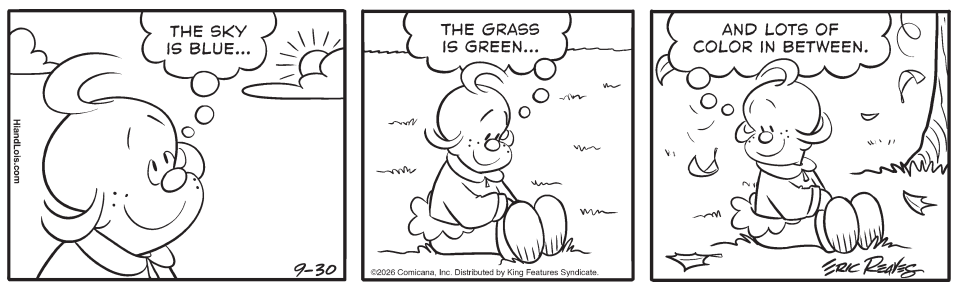
Blondie



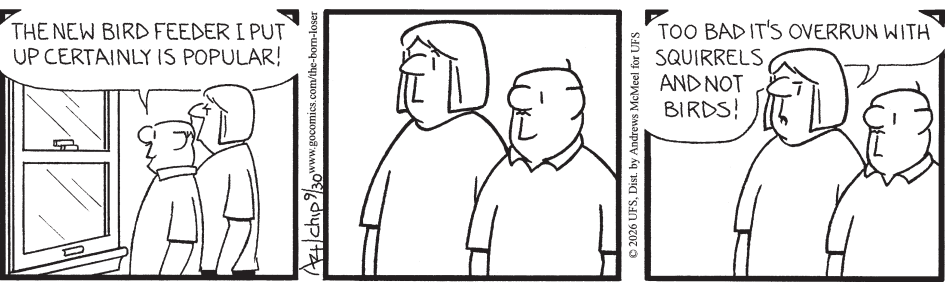
Frank & Ernest



Hi & Lois



Born Loser



Beetle Bailey



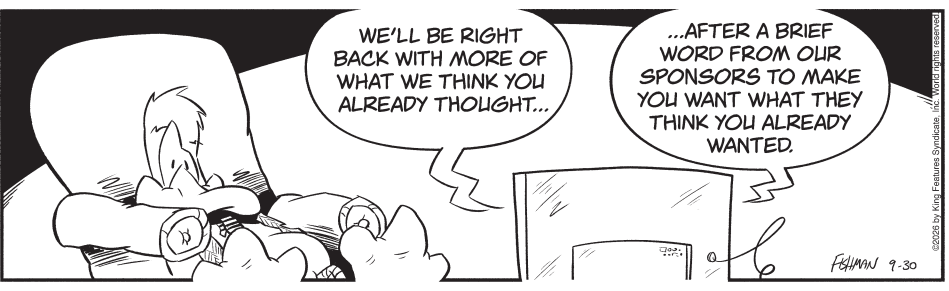
Baby Blues



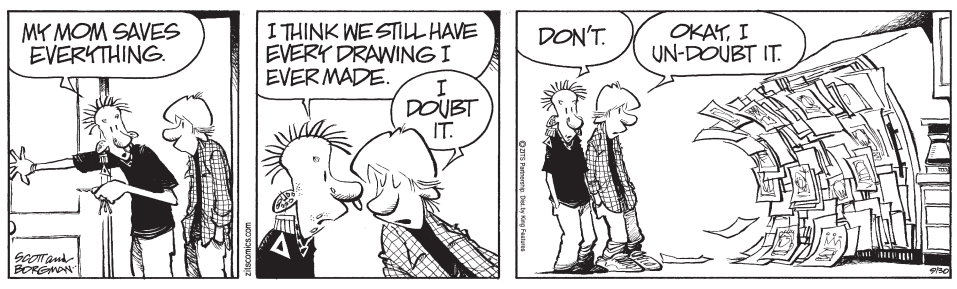
Snuffy Smith



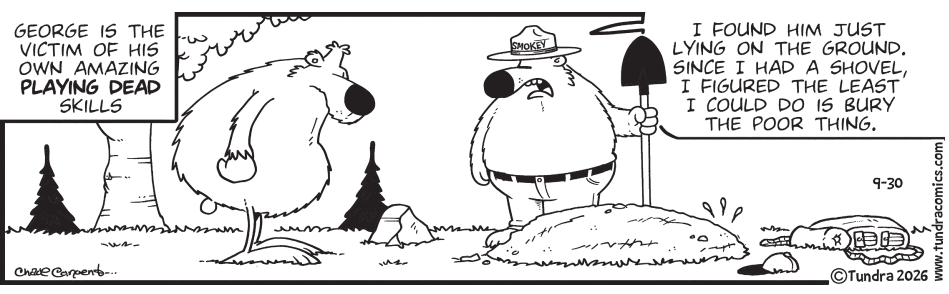
Mallard Fillmore



Zits



Tundra





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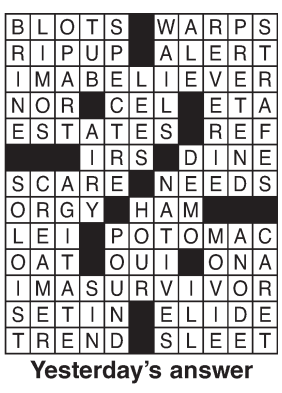
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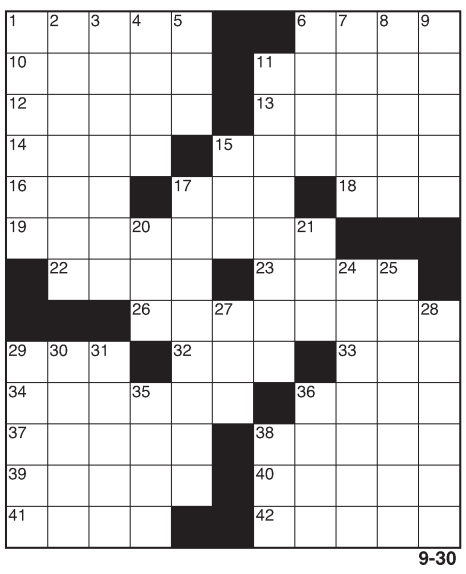
Crossword – By Thomas Joseph

ACROSS
1 Go by taxi
6 Latte topping
10 Resort off Venezuela
11 Eeyore's creator
12 Heathen
13 1980 Tony winner for Best Musical
14 Poet Khayyám
15 Director Spielberg
16 Like the Beatles
17 Start of an ode title
18 Snaky shape
19 1960 Tony winner for Best Musical
22 Cajole
23 Roster
26 2016 Tony winner for Best Musical
29 Quick punch
32 Brief time
33 Wish undone
34 Looks forward to
36 Dance moves
37 1999 Tony winner for Best Musical
38 Painter Edouard
39 Japanese dog
40 Brat's opposite
41 Nevada city
42 Out of style

DOWN
1 Complete
2 Language of biblical times
3 Object of fear
4 Structural girder
5 Sandy color
6 Lincoln's bill
7 Green shade
8 Pays to play
9 Where-withal
11 Like some auto finishes
15 Musical note
17 21-Down, informally
20 Cheering cry
21 Well output
24 Orchestra section
25 Bald spot covers
27 — amis (my friends)
28 Get snug
29 "Aladdin" villain
30 Came to
31 Wash-room sight
35 Analogy words
36 Comic Carvey
38 Travel aid



Yesterday's answer



9-30

Bridge – By Steven Becker

The battle for survival

East dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ K 8
♥ K 5
♦ A J 5 4 3
♣ 7 6 3 2

WEST
♠ Q 7 3
♥ Q J 10 9 2
♦ 8
♣ K 10 5 4

EAST
♠ J 10 5 2
♥ 8 6 4
♦ Q 10 7 6
♣ Q 9

SOUTH
♠ A 9 6 4
♥ A 7 3
♦ K 9 2
♣ A J 8

The bidding:

East	South	West	North
Pass	1 NT	Pass	3 NT

Opening lead — queen of hearts.

Safety plays take many forms, but the underlying principle is always the same: In order to protect against an unfavorable distribution of the adverse cards, declarer risks losing a trick he might not have to lose.

The large family of safety plays need not be memorized. They should suggest themselves automatically when a threatening set of circumstances arises.

In this deal, South sees he has only seven tricks immediately available at three notrump, and that the best source of additional tricks lies in the diamond suit.

The normal way of approaching the diamonds is to cash the king and then lead low toward the A-J, intending to finesse the jack. But this method of play is better designed to gain the maximum number of diamond tricks than to fulfilling the contract.

The trouble with playing the diamonds in this fashion is that it does not protect against the possibility that East was dealt four diamonds to the Q-10. Since South will most likely not be able to make the contract in that case, he should try to guard against this eventuality.

He can protect himself fully by winning the opening heart lead in his hand and playing a low diamond to the ace. When both opponents follow, the contract becomes assured. A low diamond is next returned from dummy.

If East shows out, South wins with the king and leads a diamond toward the jack to assure four diamond tricks. If East instead follows with a low diamond, declarer plays the nine. If West wins the trick, it means the diamonds were divided 3-2 and the contract is made. If West does not win the trick, four diamond tricks are again certain.

Note that it doesn't help East to play the ten on the second diamond in the actual deal. In that case, South wins the king and returns the nine to produce the same result.

Tomorrow: 13 is the magic number.

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Word Sleuth

WORD SLEUTH • VASE DESIGNS

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

Tuesday's unlisted clue: VERDICT

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
Wednesday's unlisted clue hint: MESSAGE HOLDER AT SEA

Amphora	Ewer	Hourglass	Trough
Bud	Fishbowl	Posy	Trumpet
Column	Fluted	Square	Urn
Cylinder	Gourd	Teardrop	

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9/30

DAILY CRYPTOQUOTES – HERE'S HOW TO WORK IT:

A X Y D L B A A X R
is L O N G F E L L O W

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

9-30 CRYPTOQUOTE

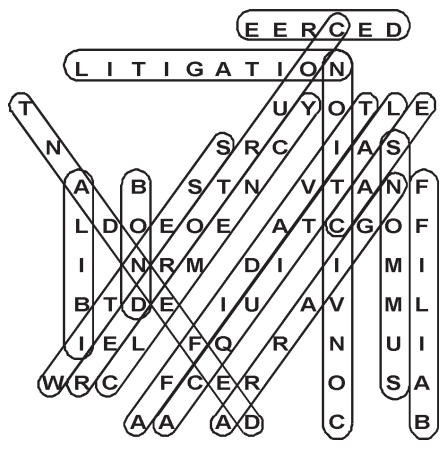
Q I K ' D D P T X V D X K A X L W D P N I G X , E V E B . N X D ' R Z H R D U I L V N Y W K U W K D P X T V W K .

— E W N N W X P I N W Q V B

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: WE MAY ENCOUNTER MANY DEFEATS, BUT WE MUST NOT BE DEFEATED. — MAYA ANGELOU

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

LEGAL TERMS



Horoscope

– By Georgia Nichols

Happy Birthday for Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2026:

You value justice and honesty. You're fair-minded, focused and compassionate. This is a year of work and building foundations, both internally and externally. Simplicity is key. Take charge of your health. Explore martial arts or yoga. Exercise will play an important role. Stay grounded and levelheaded.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ A busy, chatty day! Your communication skills are excellent. Wait until the Moon Alert is over to commit to any important decisions or ideas. Tap into your creative talents today. It's also a lovely day to schmooze and enjoy sports and kids' activities. Tonight: Lively discussions.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ After the Moon Alert today, you're on your game when it comes to financial matters, shopping and wheeling and dealing. In particular, you have energy to make home improvements, especially to recycling, garbage areas, plumbing and bathrooms. Tonight: Check your money.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Today the Moon is in your sign dancing with Mars, Neptune and Pluto, which is empowering. You have lots of mental energy to talk to others and get things done. You'll enjoy socializing. You might convince someone to see your views about politics, religion or philosophical ideas. Tonight: You win!

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Family discussions and home repairs are on your mind, and today you might use some persuasion to improve your finances. Be clear when talking to bosses and authority figures. Accept invitations to socialize today, because you're happy to talk to someone and share your ideas. Tonight: Enjoy privacy.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Discussions with friends, groups and organizations will be lively today! You might discuss a makeover or improving something. This is a high-energy day full of appointments, errands and productivity, especially after the Moon Alert is over. Tonight: Be friendly.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ People notice you today, which is a good thing, because you make an excellent impression on everyone. Others see you as positive, friendly and breezy yet powerful. If you're in a position to help someone, you will. Postpone financial decisions until after the Moon Alert today. Tonight: You're admired.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ The Sun and Mercury are in your sign, which makes you eager to get out and talk to someone. Issues related to politics, religion, higher education medicine or the law might be an important discussion today. Romance is also in the mix. Tonight: Learn something new.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Be aware of the restrictions of the Moon Alert today. However, after that, go after what you want! You're in a strong position today, and you might use your money, resources and influence to help someone at work. You also might make improvements at home. It's your call. Tonight: Check your finances.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You might have to go more than halfway when dealing with others today, which is a small thing. Discussions about travel, publishing and education will appeal. Meanwhile, this is a popular day for you. Enjoy the company of younger people. Discussions with partners and spouses might be intense. Tonight: Be cooperative.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You make a great impression on everyone at this time because the Sun is high in your chart. (This happens only once a year for four weeks.) This is a productive day. Discussions about finances and shared property will go your way. Relations with a friend might be flirtatious. Tonight: Get better organized.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Although relations with partners and spouses might require patience, this is actually a fun-loving, sociable day for you. Make an effort to enjoy the company of others. Explore new ideas about politics, religion, higher education, medicine and the law. It's also a flirtatious, romantic day! Tonight: Enjoy socializing.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You might prefer to relax at home today. Although, something might interrupt your home routine. Travel will appeal. You also have a lot of energy to make home improvements and possibly some elegant home purchases -- after the Moon Alert is over. Tonight: Cocoon at home.

Jumble

JUMBLE®

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

OTBDU

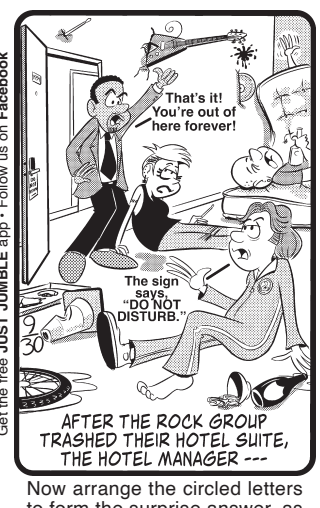
BCNAI

EDUNDS

HESNKA

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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

() () () () () () **THE** () () () () ()

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: SKIMP HOUSE LOCALE IMPACT
Answer: The witch didn't need a rod and reel to catch fish because she could — CAST A SPELL