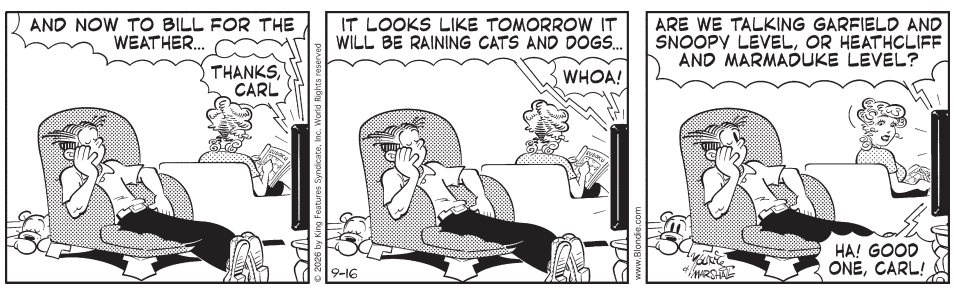
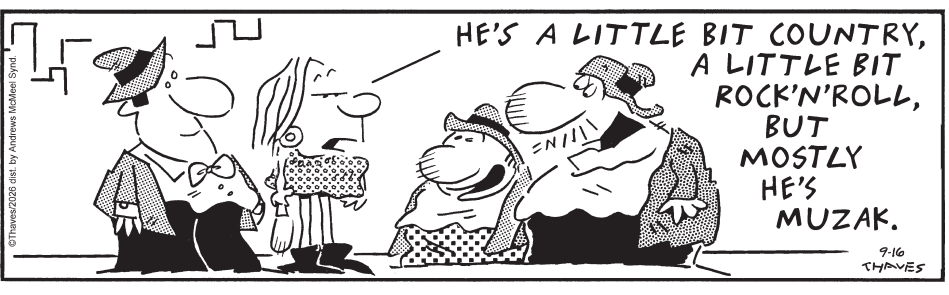
Garfield

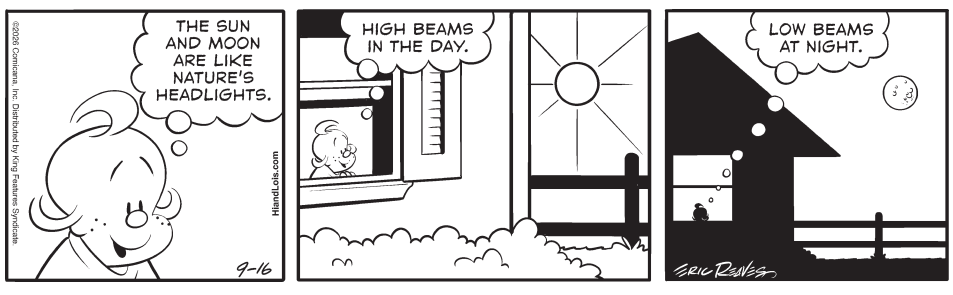
Blondie



Frank & Ernest

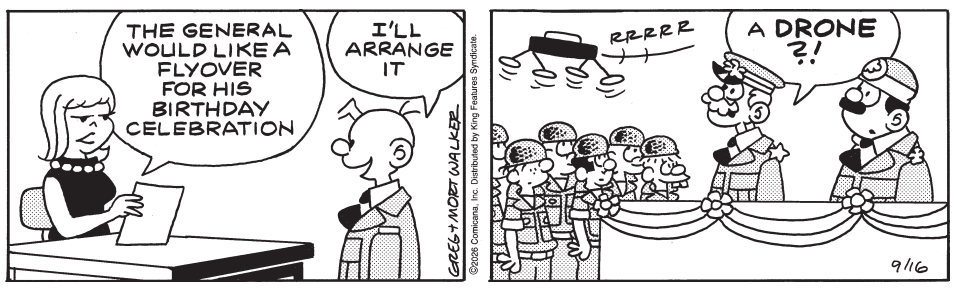


Hi & Lois



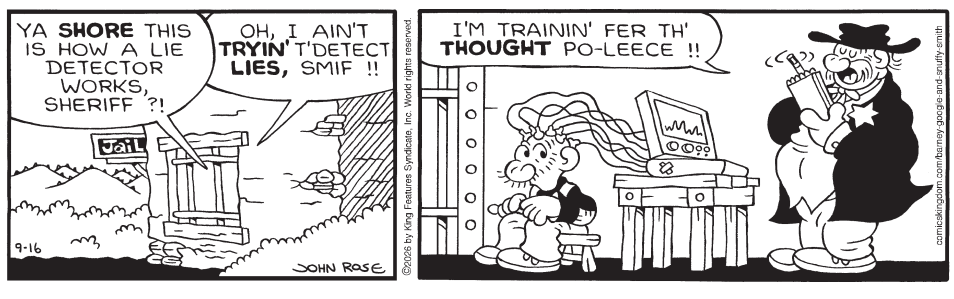
Born Loser

Beetle Bailey

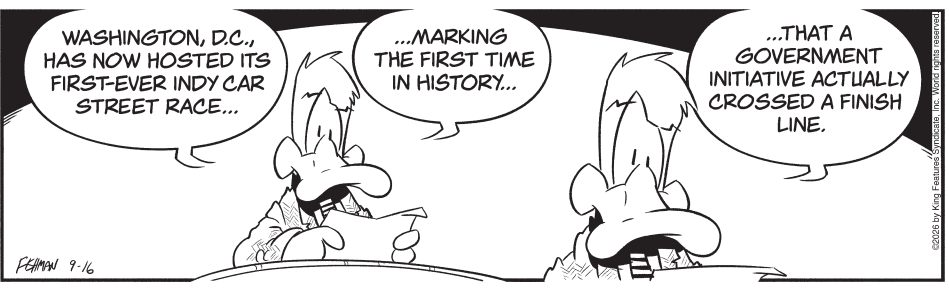


Baby Blues

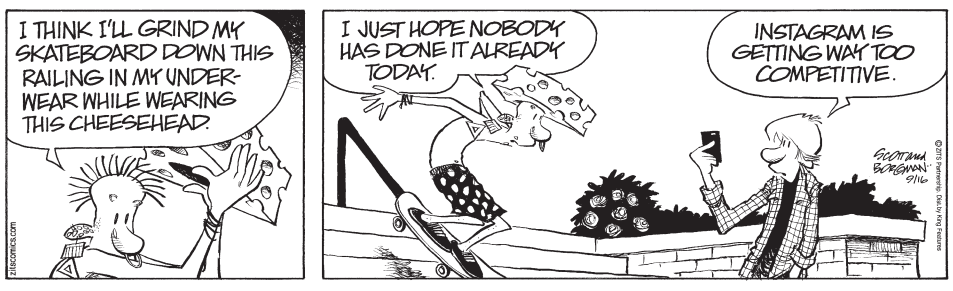
Snuffy Smith



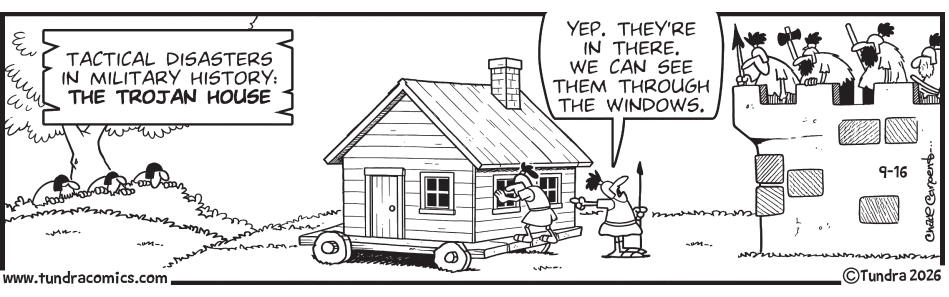
Mallard Fillmore



Zits



Tundra



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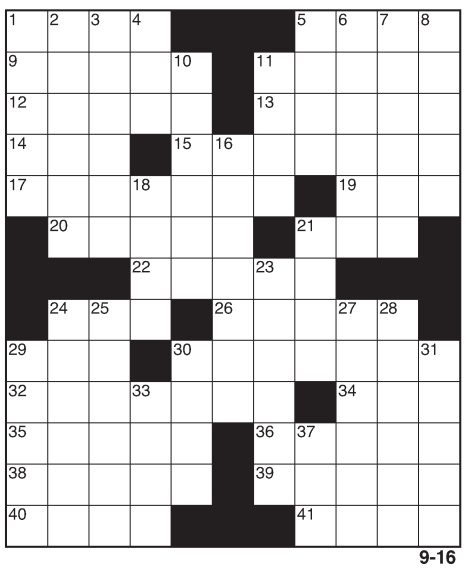
Crossword – By Thomas Joseph

ACROSS
1 Make ready
5 Loft setting
9 Kidney-related
11 Indian coin
12 Steer clear of
13 Wed in haste
14 Orange tuber
15 Ballooned
17 Got wind of
19 Place
20 Un-adorned
21 Barracks bed
22 Davis of "Jezebel"
24 Spots on TV
26 Felt unwell
29 Had supper
30 Joined a bee
32 Like ready-to-eat shrimp
34 French friend
35 Brown tint
36 Strike group
38 Opposition
39 Tubular pasta
40 Rational
41 Thomas Hardy heroine

DOWN
1 Victims
2 Make over
3 Tooth layer
4 Spot to jot
5 Zodiac animal
6 Twin of Artemis
7 Do over
8 Poor
10 Caron of "Gigi"
11 Clarinet part
16 Flipped out
18 Research spots
21 Con quarters
23 Busy
24 Wise goddess
25 Intensify
27 Galahad's mother
28 Exorcism targets
29 Farm animals
30 Wow 'em at the comedy club
31 Has a banquet
33 Green hue
37 Fishing aid

S	E	E	F	I	T		C	A	F	E
E	R	M	I	N	E		A	R	E	A
C	R	U	E	L	S	U	M	M	E	R
			L	A	T	T	E			
	B	O	D	Y		T	A	R	S	
I	L	L	S		S	E	T	U	P	S
R	A	D		C	A	R		N	A	P
K	N	I	F	E	D		P	I	C	A
	K	E	E	L		S	I	N	E	
			S	L	I	C	E			
I	S	I	T	O	V	E	R	N	O	W
M	U	S	E		E	N	C	O	R	E
P	E	A	R		S	E	E	D	E	D

Yesterday's answer



9-16

Bridge – By Steven Becker

The Grand Slam force

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 7 3
♥ K J 10 4 2
♦ A K J 8
♣ J 6

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

EAST
♠ K 8 6 4 2
♥ A 9 6 5
♦ 6 3
♣ 9 4

SOUTH
♠ A 9
♥ —
♦ Q 10 7 4 2
♣ A K Q 10 8 3

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	4 ♦	Pass
5 NT	Pass	7 ♦	

Opening lead — queen of spades.

There are many slam-oriented conventions, but one of the most valuable is the so-called Grand Slam Force. The GSF is not a new convention, but it has not been generally accepted as a working tool by the average bridge player. This is rather strange, since the GSF is easy to use and hard to abuse. Furthermore, there are many more points than usual at stake when the occasion for its use arises.

Let's see how the convention works on this deal after North's jump-raise to four diamonds. At this point, South should feel certain of a small slam and should seriously consider the possibility of a grand slam.

The potential grand slam in diamonds does not depend on how many points or aces North has; rather, it rests solely on the question of whether North has the A-K of trump. If North has them, a grand slam is virtually certain. If North does not have both of them, South should settle for a small slam.

Accordingly, South leaps to five notrump — the Grand Slam Force — asking his partner to bid seven of the agreed trump suit if he has two of the top three trump honors.

North duly bids seven diamonds, which is easily made. In bidding the grand slam, North does not consider his holdings in the other three suits; he simply obeys South's command to define his trump holding. With only the ace or king of trump, North would bid six diamonds.

The only danger associated with using the GSF is that one player or the other might misread it as part of the Blackwood Convention asking for kings. The Blackwood five-notrump bid asking for kings, however, is always preceded by a four-notrump bid asking for aces, so there should be no confusion in this regard.

Tomorrow: The point of no return.

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Word Sleuth

WORD SLEUTH • SPARE —

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

Tuesday's unlisted clue: TOMATO

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

Bedroom	Charger	Minute	Ribs
Bulb	Fuse	Moment	The rod
Button	Glasses	No expense	Toothbrush
Capacity	Key	Parts	

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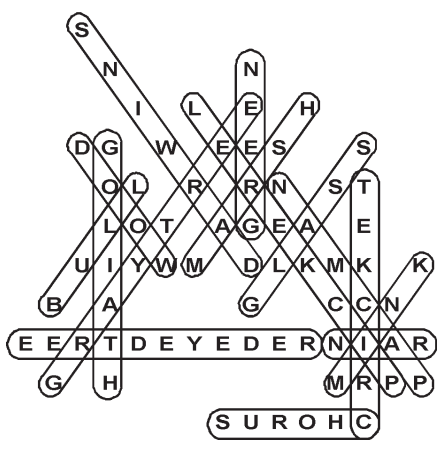
9/16

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

— FROG



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.

9-16 CRYPTOQUOTE

M C O B O X B O M E N O J V F T W X K' M

B O X R R V J O O F B O G O K Y O O R

C F L J L O O M R E Y O W X K A O.

— P T O O K R X M E Y X C

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: SOMETIMES YOU'VE GOTTA HIDE THE MEDICINE IN THE FOOD. YOU CAN'T SLAP SOMEBODY IN THE FACE WITH FACTS ALL THE TIME. — MICHAEL B. JORDAN

Horoscope

– By Georgia Nichols

Happy Birthday for Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2026:
You're exuberant, energetic, positive and progressive. You have humanitarian principles and a desire to help others. This year you reap the benefits of all your hard work! Expect power and leadership in your activities. It's a busy year. Seize opportunities. Promotions, kudos and acknowledgement will be yours.
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)
★★★★ Your idealism is aroused today, perhaps because you feel sympathy for the suffering of someone far away. Because you are proactive by nature, you might do something to help in any way that you can. Pay attention to what you say and do today. Expect detours. Tonight: Explore and learn!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Keep an eye on your property and belongings to save them from loss, damage or theft. Something unexpected might impact financial discussions or shared property. Meanwhile, you might do fundraising or speak on behalf of a cause that is dear to your heart. Tonight: Check your finances.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Be prepared to go more than halfway when dealing with others today. This is because cooperation is your best bet to achieving your own goals. Home and family are your focus. Playful activities, puzzles and mysteries will intrigue you. Tonight: Listen and cooperate.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Today you're willing to help someone, especially if you can improve something at work or related to your health. With Mars in your sign, you have the energy to make things happen! Meanwhile, family discussions and home repairs are likely. Tonight: Get to work.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ This is a playful day! You're energetic and opinionated. Romance is compelling, which might mean new flirtations or a new love. You'll enjoy tweaking your digs and entertaining at home because you have a strong need to talk to others and be involved with stimulating discussions. Tonight: Socialize!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Your home routine will be interrupted today. Small appliances might break down or a minor breakage could occur. Stock the fridge because surprise company might drop by. Family discussions could be important. Someone needs help or your sympathy. Tonight: Relax at home.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Pay attention to everything you say and do today because this is a mildly accident-prone day. Be alert. Meanwhile, it's a fast-paced day and you have a lot to do. Make time for a sympathetic discussion with a partner or close friend who might need comfort or encouragement. Tonight: Be mindful.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ This is an excellent day to shop for wardrobe goodies for yourself. You're in the mood to buy something a bit stylish, perhaps even exotic. (Did you know that SCORPIO has domain over underwear?) You like to look good -- from the skin out. Tonight: Check your money.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Today the Moon is in your sign dancing with Neptune, Pluto and Uranus -- all the outer planets. Romance will be tender and appealing. You might personally consider a makeover or doing something to transform your image. Meanwhile, stay tuned, because a friend or partner might surprise you. Tonight: You're in charge.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ You might choose to work alone or behind the scenes today. Perhaps this is because you feel tenderhearted about a situation. It's a good thing that relations with friends are supportive, because your interactions with a spouse, partner and maybe a close friend are challenged. Patience is your best ally. Tonight: Privacy.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ A conversation with a friend (probably a female) will be powerful today. Very likely, this is because of your ideals or feelings of concern for the well-being of someone. Whatever happens, it's reassuring that you make such a good impression on authority figures right now -- because you do. Tonight: Friendships.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ You're high-viz today, which means people notice you more than usual. Be careful, because something unusual might catch you off guard. Meanwhile, you won't be afraid to show your tender side. You feel sympathetic for a particular cause. You're attracted to luxury. Tonight: You're admired.

Jumble

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

ORTAI

MRPEI

LEWLFO

RUFTOH

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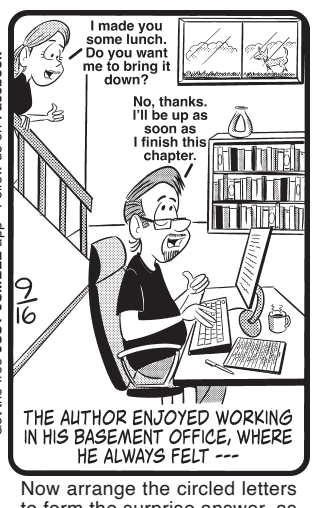
THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



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

" ____ " ____ ____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: JUDGE CATCH BITTER FLOPPY
Answer: The family dog decided to build his own doghouse as a — PET PROJECT