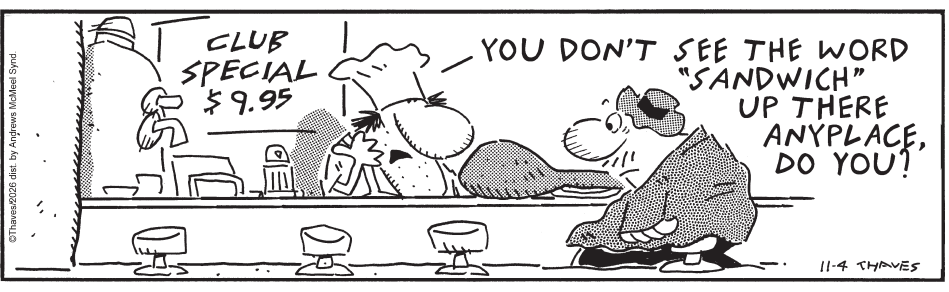
Garfield



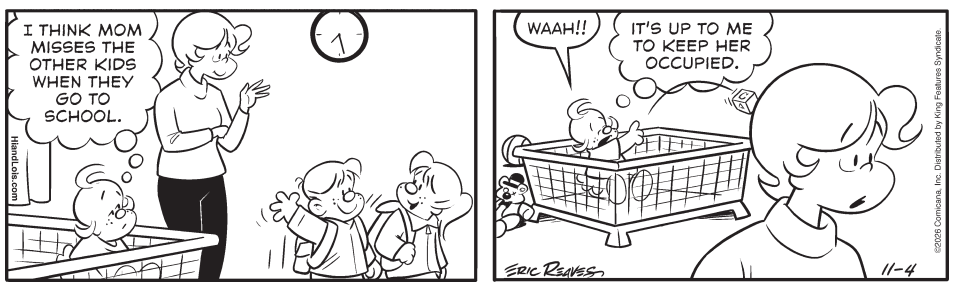
Blondie



Frank & Ernest



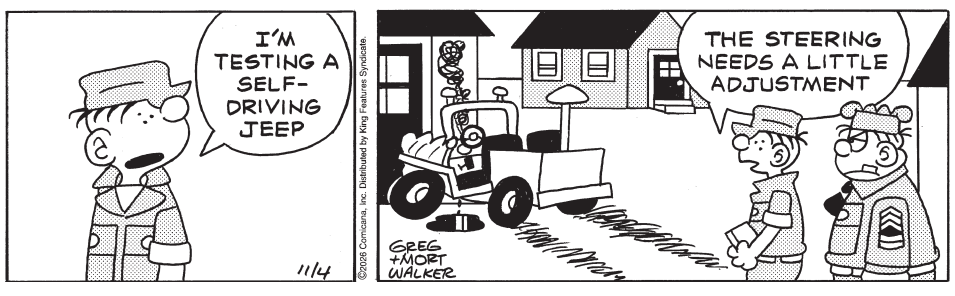
Hi & Lois



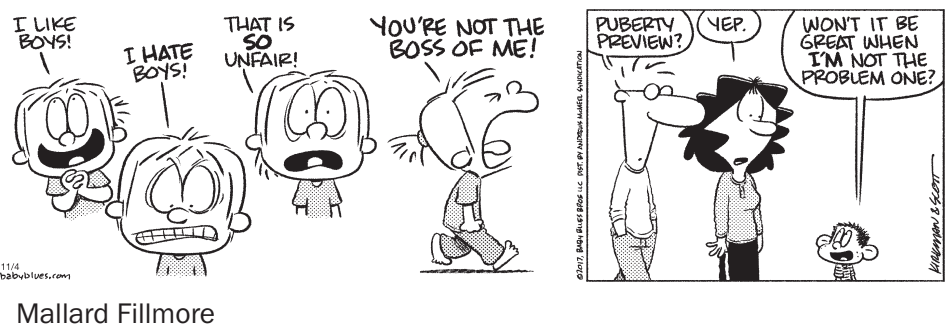
Born Loser



Beetle Bailey



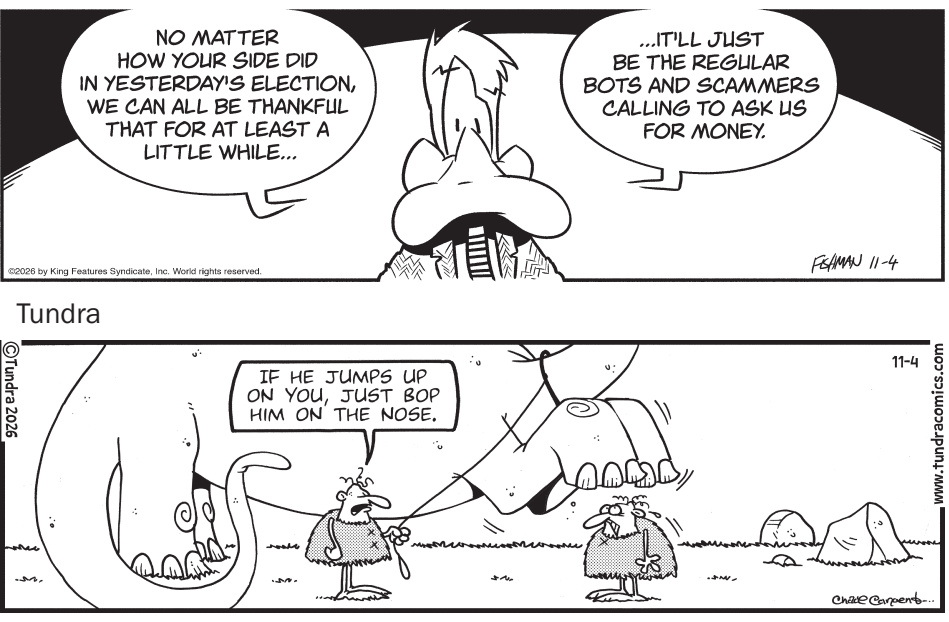
Baby Blues



Snuffy Smith



Mallard Fillmore



Zits



Tundra



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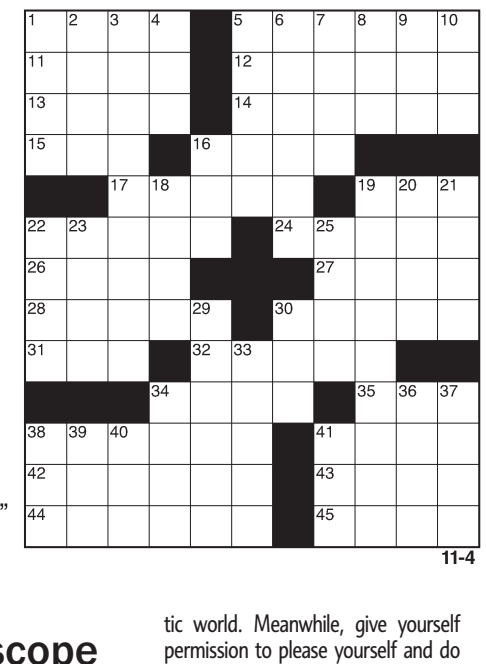
Crossword – By Thomas Joseph

ACROSS
1 Quick jab
5 Chicken
11 Not at home
12 "The Taming of the Shrew" role
13 Singer Seeger
14 Tolerated
15 Sturdy wood
16 Formerly owned
17 Raring to go
19 Soho saloon
22 Castle light
24 Shorthand pro
26 Thor's father
27 Singer Redding
28 Musical sounds
30 Third planet
31 Bonanza stuff
32 Brahma believer
34 Cape Town currency
35 Greek X
38 Preparing to fire
41 Debt reminder
42 "The Taming of the Shrew" role
43 Staff member
44 Bothers
45 Frost work

DOWN
1 Mama's mate
2 Has debts
3 "The Taming of the Shrew" role
4 Iris setting
5 Lower in esteem
6 Rope parts
7 Foray
8 What's more
9 Sculpting medium
10 Mom's mate
16 "Gross!"
18 Skin woe
19 "The Taming of the Shrew" role
20 Mile or meter
21 "Non-sense!"
22 Visitor to Oz
23 Scent
25 Swamp croaker
29 Singer Twain
30 Goal
33 Silver bar
34 Tire holders
36 Take cover
37 Gossip bit
38 Census question
39 S&L offering
40 Got together
41 Upper limit

L	I	P	A	■	■	C	U	B	E	D
A	D	A	P	T	■	I	R	E	N	E
M	I	C	R	O	M	A	N	A	G	E
P	O	M	■	R	I	O	■	N	I	P
S	T	A	T	I	C	■	S	I	N	E
■	S	N	E	E	R	■	P	E	E	R
■	■	■	A	S	O	N	E	■	■	■
P	R	O	S	■	D	O	C	K	S	■
R	A	R	E	■	O	N	S	I	T	E
I	D	A	■	R	T	E	■	M	A	I
M	I	C	R	O	S	E	C	O	N	D
P	A	L	E	D	■	D	A	N	C	E
S	L	E	D	S	■	■	D	O	E	R

Yesterday's answer



11-4

Bridge – By Steven Becker

A matter of good technique

West dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 9 7 2
♥ K J 7 4
♦ A 10 9
♣ 10 8 3

WEST
♠ K J 10 5 4
♥ 9 8 6 5 3 2
♦ J
♣ 4

EAST
♠ Q 6
♥ 10
♦ K 7 6 5 3 2
♣ 9 7 6 5

SOUTH
♠ A 8 3
♥ A Q
♦ Q 8 4
♣ A K Q J 2

The bidding:

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	Pass	1 ♣
Pass	1 ♥	Pass	3 ♣
Pass	3 ♦	Pass	4 NT
Pass	5 ♦	Pass	6 ♣

Opening lead — jack of diamonds.

This deal comes from a rubber-bridge game. South's bidding certainly left something to be desired, but, since the final contract was reasonable and he made the slam, we need not belabor the point.

West led the diamond jack and the outcome hinged on declarer's play to the first trick. Had he let the jack ride, East would have taken the king and returned a diamond to sink the slam.

But South recognized the implicit threat of the lead and put up dummy's ace. Moreover, he thoughtfully dropped his queen on the ace, and it was only this careful combination of plays that enabled him to make the slam.

South next drew four rounds of trump and cashed the A-Q of hearts before leading a diamond to the 10-9. East could do no better than take his king and return a spade. Declarer won with the ace, crossed to the dummy with a diamond and discarded two spades on the K-J of hearts to finish with 12 tricks.

Now let's suppose declarer had not played the diamond queen on the ace. In that case, he would have gone down at least one, assuming proper defense.

Thus, if he drew trump, cashed the A-Q of hearts and then led the queen of diamonds, East would refuse to win the trick, and South would finish down two, losing two spades and a diamond. And, if declarer instead led a low diamond rather than the queen, East would, of course, take the king, and again South would go down two.

By dropping his queen under the ace, declarer assured the slam regardless of how the adverse cards were divided or how the defenders played. The unblock guaranteed scoring four heart tricks by creating a sure entry to dummy later in the play.

Tomorrow: Opportunity knocks but once.

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Word Sleuth

WORD SLEUTH • **CALIFORNIA'S HIGHWAY 1**

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

Tuesday's unlisted clue: DUTCHESS

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

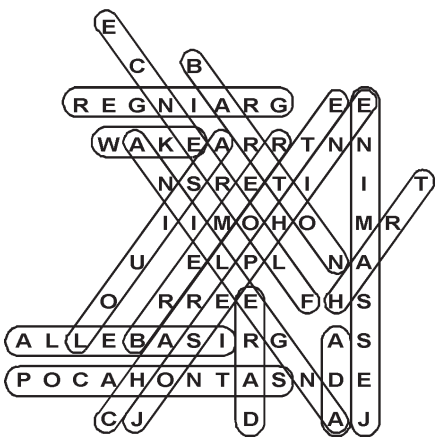
Big Sur
Cambria
Cayucos
Leggett
Malibu
Mendocino
Monterey
Pacifica
Pismo Beach
San Francisco
San Simeon
Santa Cruz
Santa Monica
Sausalito
Ventura

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11/4

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

U.S. COUNTIES NAMED FOR WOMEN



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.

11-4 **CRYPTOQUOTE**

P B M M N H T Y D S C

N A C S P B U N B Y S

E Y A C Q S N . — B D Q S M B C B I A N

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: OF COURSE I TALK TO MYSELF. I LIKE A GOOD SPEAKER, AND I APPRECIATE AN INTELLIGENT AUDIENCE. — DOROTHY PARKER

Horoscope

– By Georgia Nichols

Happy Birthday for Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2026:
You're a charming communicator. You're objective, clear-sighted and intellectually perceptive. This is a year of learning and teaching. Take time to renew your spiritual or religious beliefs. Explore meditation, prayer or philosophies that give you better self-awareness and get you closer to the true meaning of your life.
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)
★★★★ Relations with partners, spouses and close friends are excellent today! In fact, a platonic relationship could turn romantic. It's a fantastic day for romance, as well as dealing with members of the general public. Sports, fun socializing and activities with kids will please you. Tonight: Get organized.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ A work-related romance might be blossoming for many of you. Others might see ways to use money and resources from work to improve your job and your domestic world. Meanwhile, give yourself permission to please yourself and do exactly what you want to do today! Let go of what you no longer need. Tonight: Socialize!
GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Social occasions, romantic get-togethers and fun times with kids are on the menu for you today. Enjoy schmoozing with everyone! You'll be emphatic in discussions related to your job and work. A sense of enthusiasm will pervade your day! Tonight: Relax at home.
CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ This is wonderful day to socialize, especially with younger people. You will also enjoy entertaining at home or doing something to make your home look more attractive. Relations with family members will be warm and mutually generous. You might see ways to boost your income. Tonight: Discussions.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You're happy with your surroundings today and pleased to interact with others. Your energy is pumped, in part because you're in contact with family members you haven't seen in a while. This is a feel-good, romantic day! Home and family issues (including home improvements) will please you. Tonight: Enjoy your favorite surroundings.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Today the Moon is in your sign, which means things will tend to go your way. Discussions about finances and your possessions will go well. However, commit to nothing important, because today is a Moon Alert all day! Do your homework and prepare to act tomorrow. Tonight: Interaction with others is important.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ You'll find it easy to charm everyone today because you're enthusiastic and happy! You might have strong ideas about financial matters, especially issues related to the past. Be smart and postpone speaking up about these ideas until tomorrow. You can organize your thoughts today. (See the Moon Alert.) Tonight: Peace and quiet.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ You're enthusiastic to talk to everyone today because you have something to say! This is all well and good, but be aware there's a Moon Alert all day today, which means postpone important decisions until tomorrow. Nevertheless, you make a great impression on everyone, including authority figures. Tonight: Friendly discussions.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You continue to be high-viz today. In particular, friends and groups are supportive of you. Issues related to higher education, publishing, the media, medicine and the law will shine. Behind-the-scenes research can pay off. But wait until tomorrow to share your ideas. Tonight: You're admired.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You're happy with the impression you create on everyone today, and you're pleased with the practical and financial support from another party or your spouse or partner. Do something different today to expand your world! (See the Moon Alert.) Tonight: Learn something new.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ You're powerful. You look good to everyone and your style of relating to those who are close to you (as well as members of the general public) is positive! Travel is blessed. Romance with someone from afar or someone different might be meaningful. Tonight: Check your finances.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Today you're happy because financial and practical support is forthcoming, and this is reassuring! In particular, it makes you feel better about your job. Be prepared to go more than halfway when dealing with someone else. It's just what's happening today. Be conciliatory. Tonight: Cooperate.

Jumble

JUMBLE®

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

ADRRA

TUYPT

HCNRCU

CRAOCD

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.

Answer here: ( ) ( ) ( )

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: THUMB BUSHY CATTLE MOTIVE
Answer: If you get tagged while playing tag, just accept the fact, and think — SO BE IT

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