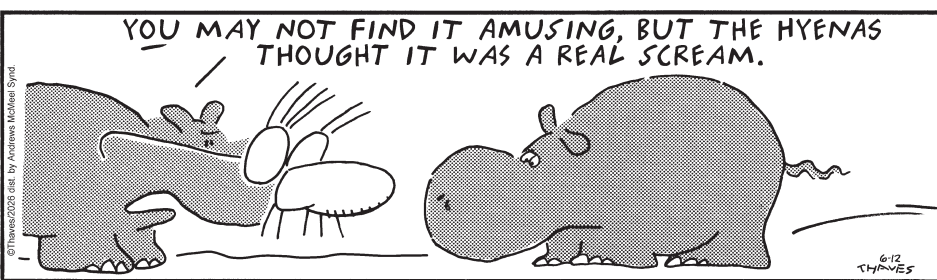
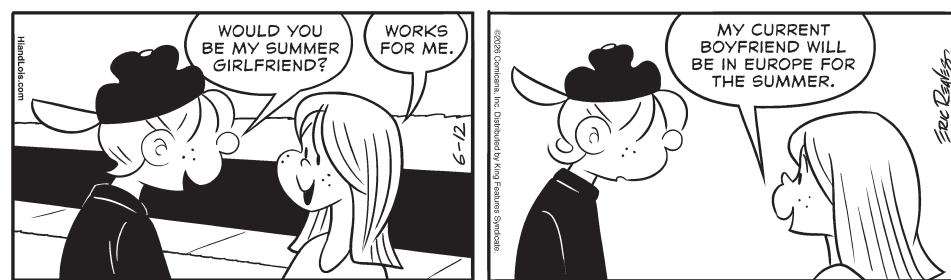




Frank & Ernest



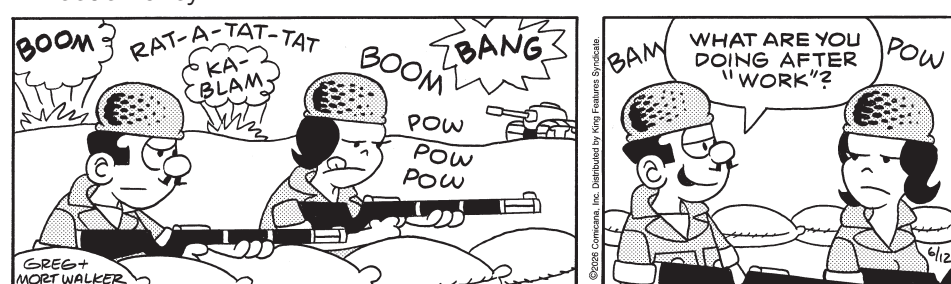
Hi & Lois



Born Loser



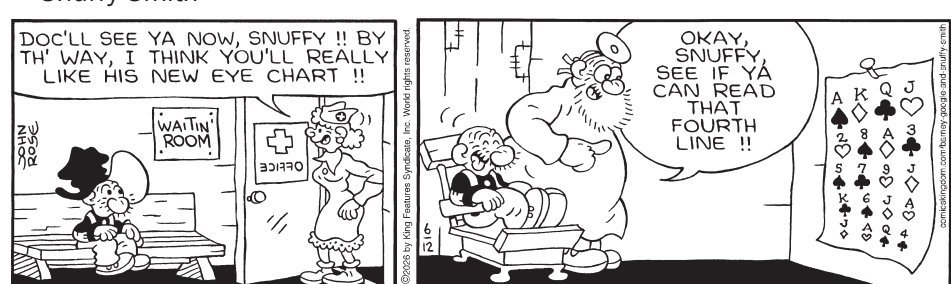
Beetle Bailey



Baby Blues



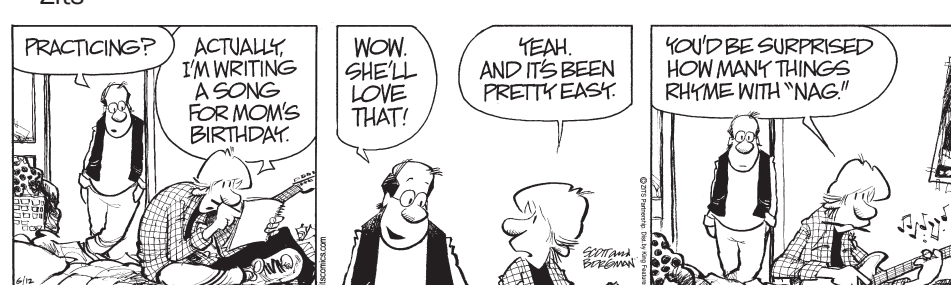
Snuffy Smith



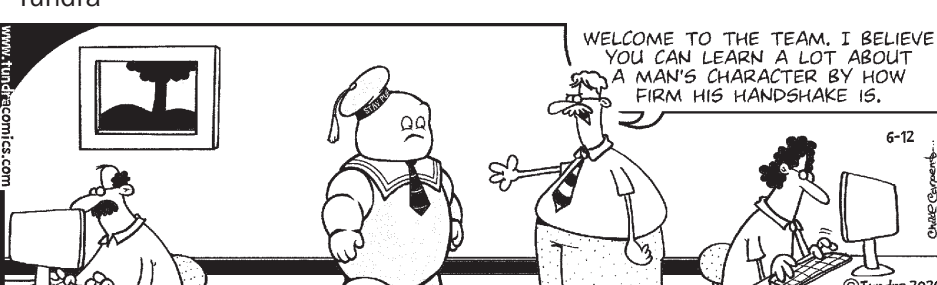
Mallard Fillmore



Zits



Tundra



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## Crossword - By Thomas Joseph

## Bridge - By Steven Becker

## Word Sleuth

### Bidding quiz

You are South and have the following hand, both sides vulnerable:  
 ♠10♥AKQ93♦A82♣AK104

1. The bidding has gone:  
 South West North East  
 1♥ Pass 2♥ Pass  
 3♣ Pass 3♥ Pass

2. The bidding has gone:  
 South West North East  
 1♥ Pass 1♠ Pass  
 3♣ Pass 3♠ Pass

3. The bidding has gone:  
 East South West North  
 3♠ Dble Pass 4♥ Pass

What would you bid now?  
 \* \* \*

1. Four diamonds. You might feel tempted to simply bid four hearts because partner might not have much of a hand, given his bidding so far. However, it costs you nothing to make a slam try by bidding four diamonds. Partner does not need much for 12 tricks to materialize. For example, he might have as

little as ♣953♥J1062♦KQ74♣73, in which case you'd certainly want to be in six.

2. Three notrump. Things are no longer as promising as they were when you opened the bidding. Partner probably has six spades, but the fact that he has lots of spades doesn't add anything to your values. Furthermore, partner may have no more than six or seven points, although his strength is unlimited at this stage. You therefore try to put a stop to the auction by bidding three notrump and leave the rest to partner.

3. Pass. The purpose of East's preemptive bid is to make things difficult for you, and he certainly has succeeded so far. There are three main actions you can consider under the circumstances, and any of them could prove right or wrong. One is to pass, which is admittedly conservative. Another is to bid four spades, inviting partner to bid a slam. The third possibility is to raise four hearts to five. There is no clear-cut answer, but the conservative view will probably work out best in the long run.

Tomorrow: Never say die.  
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### DAILY CRYPTOQUOTES - HERE'S HOW TO WORK IT:

A XYDLB 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.

### 6-12 CRYPTOQUOTE

E X X V S E X S M D U E W O P L O G

W F S E V U F O W S U W D V S P Z W F S

G P D X . — K O X X O E J A S L L S W W

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THE LEAST PRODUCTIVE PEOPLE ARE USUALLY THE ONES WHO ARE MOST IN FAVOR OF HOLDING MEETINGS. — THOMAS SOWELL

## WORD SLEUTH

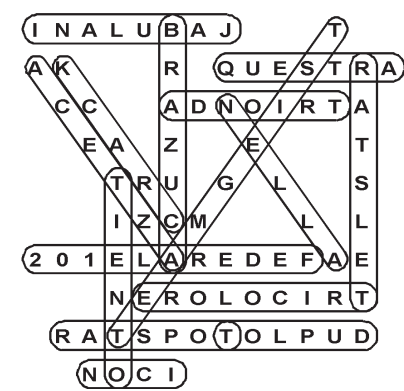
WORDS MADE FROM STATE ABBREVIATIONS  
 Y N J F C Y C V R O L H E B X  
 U R O L I D E O B Y M V S Q N  
 K H E B I Y C F N W E T R O L  
 J G E R B E Y A L D M N W U R  
 P C O L A N N K N O O I I G D  
 B L Z X V T S I Q D R R O M K  
 F I G E C A C Y W D I A L N I  
 W U S Q P P N E E A A D L L J 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

Thursday's unlisted clue: TANGO  
 Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.  
 Friday's unlisted clue hint: WISCONSIN PLUS NEBRASKA

Candid Code Cola Condor  
 Decade Floral Inland  
 Mainland Malawi Mama Mandarin  
 Memorial Nectar Papa

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### YESTERDAY'S ANSWER NAMES OF FIFA WORLD CUP OFFICIAL MATCH BALLS



## Horoscope

- By Georgia Nichols

**Moon Alert:** There are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions today. The Moon is in TAURUS. Happy Birthday for Friday, June 12, 2026:

You're self-contained, enthusiastic and perceptive. You approach life with optimism and curiosity. This is a year of fresh beginnings and major changes. Be ready to take action, show initiative and define your goals. What you do now will bring great benefits in the future. Prepare for leadership. 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)  
 ★★ Tread carefully today. You're eager to get out and talk to others. In fact, short trips and an opportunity to teach and share your ideas will please you. However, you might be touchy about money matters or something that you own. Practice patience. Tonight: Check your money.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20)  
 ★★ Today the Moon is in your sign, which can give you a slight advantage over all the other signs.

However, it is lined up with fiery Mars, which can make you easily irritable. You might not show it, but you will feel it. Be reasonable. Fake it to get by. Tonight: You're strong. GEMINI (May 21-June 20)  
 ★★ Strong feelings might be building up within you behind the scenes or in a secretive way. (You might be aware of this; you might not be.) However, this is why you might feel easily irritated or quick to anger. This is a fleeting influence. Stay chill. Tonight: Solitude.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22)  
 ★★ Today you'll need to be patient with a friend or even a member of a group because you might feel reactive. Perhaps you are too quick to jump to conclusions. Perhaps you are too quick to take offense. Well, you are a sensitive sign. We know this. And so it goes. Tonight: Be friendly.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22)  
 ★★ When talking to VIPs, bosses, parents and people in authority today, you might be challenged because either they are a bit angry or you are. Either way, don't do anything to get in their bad books. What's the upside to that? Tomorrow is a fine day. Tonight: Be modest.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)  
 ★★ In discussions with others, if you drift into controversial subjects, an argument might break out because you have strong feelings about things today, especially issues that are important to you. Why not avoid controversy, thereby avoiding anything nasty? Tonight: Something to learn.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)  
 ★★ Use your skillful means today to avoid arguments about shared property, shared responsibilities, taxes or debt. You might still feel angry, but you don't have to get involved with someone to make matters worse. Be cool. After all, you want to have a happy day. Tonight: Check your finances.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)  
 ★★ You are a passionate sign and you can have strong reactions. Today the Moon is opposite your sign lined up with Mars, which means you might be easily irritated by someone close to you -- a spouse, partner or close friend. Knowing this annoyance is temporary, deal with it gracefully. Tonight: Be welcoming.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)  
 ★★ Remember that you need more sleep this month. And today in particular you might feel angry or

irritated with a co-worker, a customer or someone related to your job or any task that you set for yourself today. Cool your jets so you can accomplish as much as possible without being upset. Tonight: Be efficient.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)  
 ★★ Parents will have to be extra patient when dealing with their kids today. Likewise, romantic partners will have to be extra patient when dealing with each other. For that matter, anyone involved in the arts, sports events or the hospitality industry will have to practice patience today. Don't blow your top. Tonight: Socialize.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)  
 ★★ Do what you can to keep the family peace today. This will benefit everyone, including yourself. Meanwhile, this is a playful day! Look for opportunities to schmooze. Get out and make things happen! It's a big world. Tonight: Rest at home.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20)  
 ★★ This is the classic day to give into irritation when talking to siblings, relatives and neighbors. Don't do this. Why be miserable? Display fortitude. Take the high road; the view is better. This way you're happier, and so is everyone else. Tonight: A short trip?

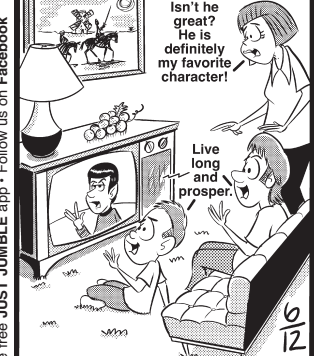
**Jumble**  
 Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



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### THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



VIEWERS OF GENE RODDENBERRY'S "STAR TREK" THOUGHT THE VULCAN WAS ---  
 Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Yesterday's Jumbles: MOTTO PANDA REFUSE  
 Answer: When it came to training for races, the sprinter was — STEADFAST