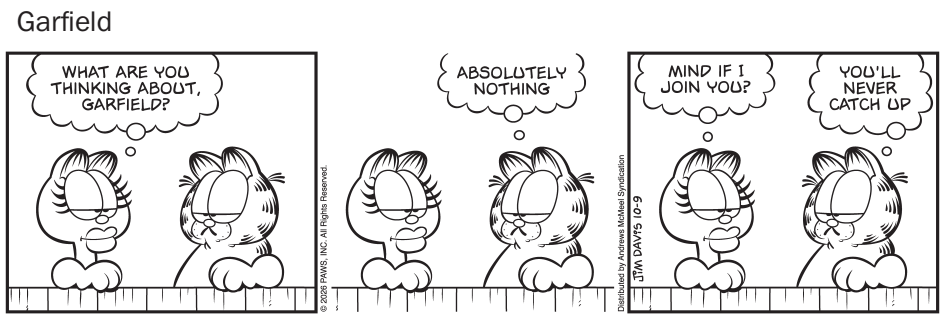




Frank & Ernest



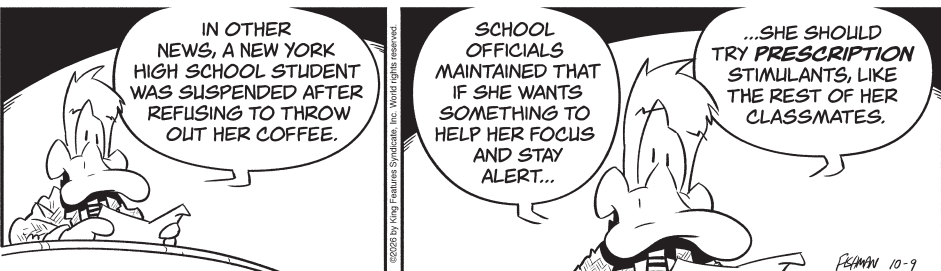
Born Loser



Baby Blues



Mallard Fillmore



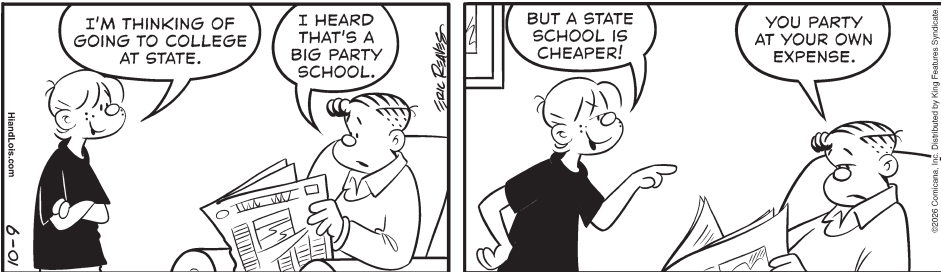
Tundra



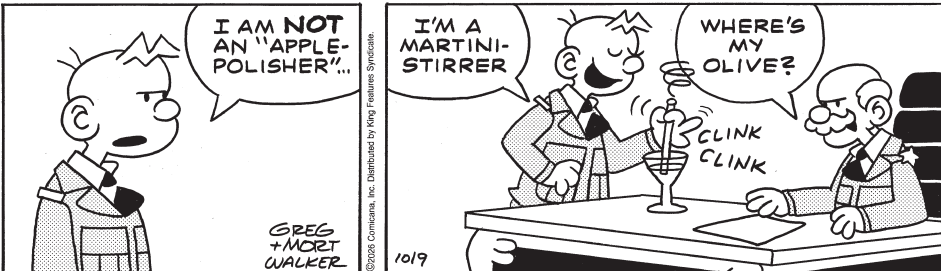
Hi & Lois



Beetle Bailey



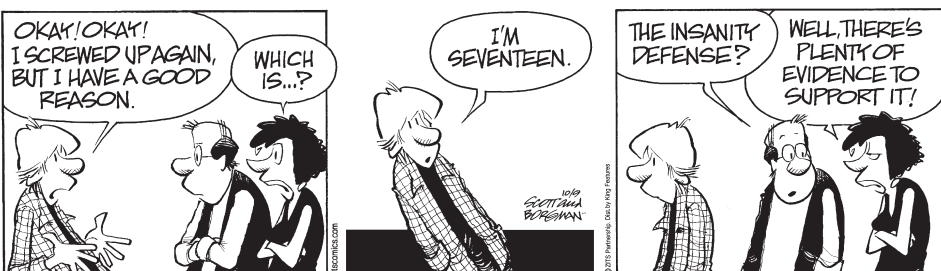
Snuffy Smith



Zits



Word Sleuth



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Crossword – By Thomas Joseph

ACROSS

1 Showed over

6 Finish, as a skirt

11 Bakery come-on

12 Best Picture winner in 2025

13 Settle the bill

14 Pharmacy stock

15 Aide: Abbr.

17 Till section

18 Account

20 Touch on

22 PC key

23 Guard

26 Square or circle

28 Director Almodóvar

29 Lease signers

31 Poker prize

32 To boot

33 Church leader

34 Walk through water

36 Cry

38 Highway ramps

40 Hotel workers

43 List of candidates

DOWN

1 Grammys category

2 Pitching stat

3 With 8-Down, northern force

4 Tickle

5 Siestas

6 Suffered from

7 Between travel points

8 See 3-Down

9 Spur on

10 Fail to fail

16 Road sealer

18 Ordeal

19 Court star

21 Dances

23 Stock holders

24 Field yield

25 Carryall

27 Choice of colors

30 Gift from Santa

33 Smooth-ing tool

34 Sunset site

35 Car bar

37 Aussie birds

39 Match part

41 Failure

42 Sow's site

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

11 12

13 14

15 16 17

18 19 20 21

22 23 24 25

26 27 28

29 30 31

32 33

34 35 36 37

38 39 40 41 42

43 44

45 46

Bridge – By Steven Becker

Test your play

Amusing incidents occasionally occur in major tournaments. For example, some years ago a young Polish pair, representing their country for the first time in the annual world championship, reached a dreadful grand-slam contract.

After the opening lead was made and dummy appeared, declarer could see that his partner had greatly overbid his values. Declarer looked at dummy, then looked at his partner and said: "That dummy is an insult to Poland!"

If you were West on the following layout, you might have similar feelings if you reached Six Spades due to partner's overoptimism after you opened two notrump. However, they don't allow you to back up and change the contract, so the question is, how would you proceed after North leads the ten of clubs? (Assume the missing trumps are divided 3-1 or 2-2).

West

- ♠ K Q 10 9
- ♥ A K 3
- ♦ A 10 2
- ♣ A 3 2

East

- ♠ A J 8 7 6
- ♥ 7 6
- ♦ Q 5
- ♣ J 6 5 4

The only genuine chance for the slam is to find South with the doubleton K-Q of clubs, as well as the king of diamonds. So you lead a low club from dummy, and South, luckily for you, produces the queen.

You next cash three rounds of trump (South turns up with three of them) and continue with the A-K and another heart, ruffing in dummy. Now you play the club five, taken by South with the king. You hope South will return a diamond away from the king, which would hand you the slam, but he smartly exits with a heart instead.

After discarding a diamond from your hand and ruffing the heart with dummy's last trump, you return the queen of diamonds, covered by the king and ace. Miraculously, you are now on the verge of making the contract if North holds the jack of diamonds. You hope he started with a hand such as:

♠ 5 ♥ Q 10 8 2 ♦ J 8 4 3 ♣ 10 9 8 7

If that's what he was dealt, he will be a dead duck when you next play the queen of spades in this position:

North

- ♠ J
- ♥ 9 8

West

- ♠ Q
- ♥ 10
- ♦ 3

East

- ♠ 5
- ♥ J 6

South

- ♦ 9 7 6

Whatever North discards on the spade queen, you make the contract. Of course, you must be sure to congratulate your partner on his brilliance in contracting for such a dreadful slam!

Tomorrow: A maximum-security case.

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DAILY CRYPTOQUOTES – HERE'S HOW TO WORK IT:

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

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.

10-9 CRYPTOQUOTE

S O L A Q Q S K U C U T S N L Q F

X A A D R D A Q Q A W F E R A U R D A

F E B U Y A B L Q S H . — O D A K

V U K Q U M W

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: YOU CAN ALWAYS TELL A PERSON'S REAL CHARACTER AND PERSONHOOD BY THOSE WHO CLOSELY SURROUND HIM, ESPECIALLY IF THEY'RE FAMILY. — CHUCK NORRIS

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Word Sleuth

WORD SLEUTH • LAKE MICHIGAN PORTS

UKIDFDAXV TQAOMR

J H F C N M A H N R U B A Y O

W E U N N A Y R P N L A J H B

F D E B A O L A H S O N E K R

Z A X T V G T L B T R A N Q A

O O M U S K E G O N M C I K H

I C H O F I D K N H E S C B S

Z O Y W G Y N V U I T E A R N

Q N O N R L L A K A D I R H R

F T D A C A A Z M X W U W G U

V O G A C I H C T N O M L E B

Thursday's unlisted clue: DOUGLAS

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Friday's unlisted clue hint: — **Burghoff** was Radar in M*A*S*H

Algoma Belmont Burnham Burns Harbor Chicago Escanaba Green Bay Holland Kenosha Ludington Manistee Muskegon Oconto Racine Waukegan

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YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

CHICAGO MARATHON NEIGHBORHOODS

Y L K

C H P L N A

P H T O A E K

N O I P T R O T S E W K R A P

P W O N O R O L I L V

A O L A O O N H E I I

G T T T L N R T L P E

E D S O E D E U T W C

H L E W H I V O T N

G R E E K T O W N T W I S I I

E L L I V Y E L G I R W L

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Jumble

JUMBLE

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

O P I S L

P R U P E

U A A R R O

H H C T T A

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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Her doctor said that she absolutely can tell us apart by scent, voice, and tiny details.

That sounds right. She's lucky to have a mother and an aunt who love her so much.

10 9

WHEN THE TWINS SPOKE AT THE SAME TIME, SOMETIMES THEY WOULD ---

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

“ O O O O O - O - O O O O O ”

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: EXILE MOUTH TIDBIT SHAGGY Answer: When they found listening devices in their office, — IT BUGGED THEM

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Horoscope

– By Georgia Nichols

Happy Birthday for Friday, Oct. 9, 2026:

You're an excellent problem-solver. You pay attention. You are perceptive, mindful and sensitive. This is a slower paced year. Take time to rejuvenate your energy. Focus on business and personal relationships, and make sure you hang out with people who have your back, people who are kind and helpful.

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)

★★★★ Today you will have to go more than halfway when dealing with others, which is no biggie. This simply requires that you be present, accommodating and willing to go along to get along. Be aware that a partner, spouse or close friend might surprise you today. Tonight: Listen and cooperate.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ This is a productive day for you. You're energetic and up for new ideas and new ways of doing things. Be flexible today, because your work

routine or something related to your health or your pet might require a new approach. Are you up for it? Tonight: Get better organized.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Stay light on your feet today. Unexpected invitations might come your way. Social outings, sports events and fun activities with kids might offer exciting but unexpected detours. Parents should be vigilant about their kids to avoid accidents. Work colleagues are supportive. Tonight: Have fun!

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ Relax at home today if you can. Having said that, something unusual might take place. Someone unexpected might drop by. Home repairs might arise. Family news might be exciting. To cover all your bases, stock the fridge so you're ready for anything. Tonight: Take it easy.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Unexpected short trips, visits, new faces and new places will make this an exciting day! Stay flexible so you can go with the flow, which might be changing throughout this day. Actually, your hands might be on the rudder and you are steering these changes! Tonight: Interesting conversations.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ Keep an eye on your money and possessions today, because something unexpected could impact them. Protect what you own against loss, theft or damage. However, you might see a new and original way of making money. Conversations with daily contacts are pleasant. Tonight: Check your money.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ The Moon is in your sign today dancing with unpredictable Uranus and fiery Mars, triggering an impulsive energy that is exciting! It's hard to say what will happen today, but you're up for anything! Say yes to invitations from friends and groups. Fly your colors! Tonight: You win!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ This is a restless day for you but you're ready to defend yourself and speak up, especially with authority figures. Fortunately, with Mercury in your sign, you're an effective communicator right now. And Venus in your sign makes you smooth and charming! Shop for wardrobe goodies. Tonight: Enjoy solitude.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ A friend might surprise you today. Or you might be active with a group that suddenly takes a new turn or adopts a new agenda. Travel plans will appeal. Be ready for sudden

changes that might affect banking, insurance issues, taxes, debt or inheritances. Tonight: Be friendly.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ People notice you more than usual today, which is curious, because your relationship with a boss, parent or someone in authority might have a surprise in store for you. Someone might throw you a curveball. (This surprise could be pleasant, or not.) You'll defend yourself about financial issues. Tonight: You're admired.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ You're an idealist who wants to make the world a better place. Today in particular, you're excited about a cause or something related to publishing, the law or medicine. You feel you can make strides if you play your cards right, and of course, you can. Tonight: Explore!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Keep an eye on your banking details, as well as other red-tape issues regarding taxes, debt, inheritances and insurance matters, because something unexpected might occur. Remember, you snooze, you lose. Meanwhile, travel and love with someone "different" might hold thrilling opportunities. Tonight: Check your finances.