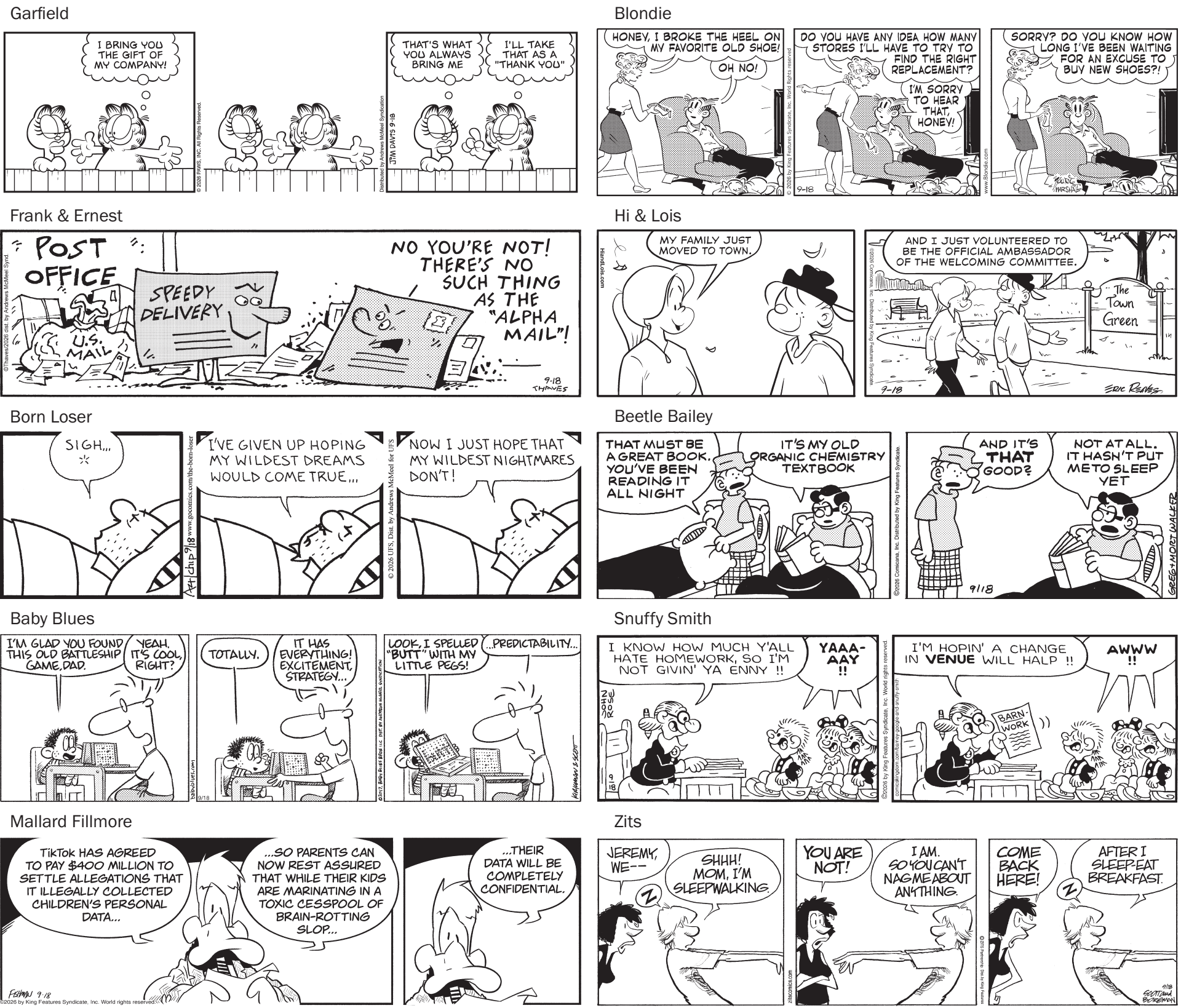


Crossword – By Thomas Joseph

Bridge – By Steven Becker

Word Sleuth

ACROSS

43 Trout homes

44 Without break

45 Dunder-heads

46 Work breaks

DOWN

1 Former Spanish coin

2 Rustic transport

3 Show interruptions

4 Direction suffix

5 Dread-locks wearer

6 Fastens down

7 Rocker Clapton

8 They prevent rolling

9 Climb

10 Lewd looks

17 Brink

22 Unruly crowd

24 Bond rating

26 Nemesis, for one

28 Big arteries

29 Water tester

31 Con-vincing need

32 Dueling

33 Physicist Nikola

35 Goof

38 Out of the wind

42 Count starter

CRIB CREAM

AIDA PAELLA

IRIS ENAMEL

NIGHTCAP

POPUFS FOOLSCAP

OPALS SAMBA

LEI ALMOST

SCREWCAP

WHITECAP

BABIED DAYO

AGENTS USER

TONGS PEST

Yesterday's answer

1 Former Spanish coin

2 Rustic transport

3 Show interruptions

4 Direction suffix

5 Dread-locks wearer

6 Fastens down

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31 Con-vincing need

32 Dueling

33 Physicist Nikola

35 Goof

38 Out of the wind

42 Count starter

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

Test your defensive play

You are West, defending against Four Spades after South opened with three spades and was raised by North to four. You lead the king of hearts, on which East plays the ace of hearts, East plays the six and South the eight. Which card would you now play at trick three?

NORTH

7 6 5 2

A Q 8 4

A K 7

WEST

A 3

A K Q 7

6 5 2

Q 10 8 3

This problem comes from the book "More Killing, Defense, at Bridge" by the brilliant, Scottish player/writer Hugh W. Kelsey.

The correct play at trick three is the queen of hearts! You should play the queen even though you know your partner has the missing ten of hearts (because he did not play high-low to show a doubleton).

When declarer ruffs the heart and plays a trump, you grab the ace and lead another heart to kill dummy's jack. East ruffs and declarer overruffs, but South later loses a club trick and goes down one. This was South's hand at the start:

Tomorrow: A most improbable outcome.

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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.

9-18 CRYPTOQUOTE

MNN YPS ODQYPH MWS VWJRS

SBASWGOSQYH, DJY DT

KPGVP YPS ASWTSVY

HSAYSOC SW GH OMRS.

— ZGWLGQGM KDDNT

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: WE ARE ALL OF US STARS, AND WE DESERVE TO TWINKLE.

— MARILYN MONROE

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WORD SLEUTH

EGOCENTRIC WORDS

O J G D A X V S P F N K I F C

A X V R S E Q O U O L J H E Y

C A X V E T Z E R R P N L J R

H F D B Y O G I X E V T R P O

O M K Y R O G E R G I G E D G

S O G E L T N E G O T I A T E

B Z G X S A N D I E G O W U L

T O R I Q O N L J V I E G G L

N F O D S C A P E G O A T E A

O G E R P C M H O G E M A A B

E N O G E B Y X W V T S R P C

Thursday's unlisted clue: TUSK

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

Friday's unlisted clue hint: CLASSIC TOY BRICK

Allegory

Begone

Begot

Categorize

Egoist

Forego

Fuego

Gregory

Megohm

Moviegoer

Negotiate

Oregon

Prego

San Diego

Scapegoat

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9/18

Horoscope

– By Georgia Nichols

Happy Birthday for Friday, Sept. 18, 2026:

You are charismatic, sensitive and artistic. You are also private and introspective. This is a year of new beginnings, adventures and major changes! Keep your eyes open for new opportunities and be ready to take action. What you do now will bring great benefits in the future.

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)

★★★ This is a poor day to challenge anyone. You won't be pleased with the results. (You might come off worse than when you began.) Nevertheless, it's in your best interest to work hard. You can also make improvements at home. Romance and finances are blessed. Tonight: Explore and learn.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ It's important to think big today. Enjoy socializing and working with greater projects. Communications will go well today

because you're convincing. Having said that, don't push your luck at work. Avoid conventional choices. Today is the day to go big or go home. Tonight: Check your finances.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Focus on home, family and a parent. Work colleagues are supportive today. However, discussions with kids and perhaps an older friend might fall flat. Go with what works today, and what works is your desire to work to boost your income! Tonight: Be cooperative.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ This is a poor day to ask for permission or approval from authority figures, parents or the police. Instead, use your energy, drive, communication skills and winning charm to go after what you want on your own terms. Believe in yourself! Tonight: Work.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Don't give in to worry today. Remember: Worry is like a rocking chair. It gives you something to do but get you nowhere. Instead, focus on making where you live look more attractive. Why not entertain. Trust your moneymaking ideas today, because you have divine protection. Tonight: Socialize.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Today your Ruler Mercury is opposite stern Saturn, which prompts serious thinking. You might wonder about your place in the world. You might feel isolated or lonely. Perhaps you have to say goodbye to a loved one. Your best choice is heavy mental work. Tonight: Relax.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ Today Mercury is in your sign at odds with Saturn, which is the classic time for the ending of things, especially close relationships. Discussions will be serious. Someone might be critical of the relationship. You might have to report to an authority figure.

Tonight: Study and discussions.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Your best option today is to work hard at whatever is in front of you. Mental work will be the best choice. In fact, if you do work hard, you will probably impress authority figures with your diligence and steady application. It's actually an opportunity to look good. Tonight: Check your money.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ Children might be an increased responsibility today. You also might be involved with younger people in some fashion. Discussions

about creative projects, the education of children and sports will be serious and perhaps restrictive in some way. Tonight: You're strong.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ A serious discussion with a parent, boss or someone in a position of authority might take place today. If you are displeased with what happens, this is not the day to express your views. When working today, take breaks so that you can keep your spir-its up. Tonight: Enjoy privacy.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Writing projects and issues related to medicine or the law might be onerous today. You might feel like you have bitten off more than you can chew. Don't be discouraged. Tackle what is in front of you in small bits. "Drip, drip, drip, and soon a large pot is full." Tonight: A friendly discussion.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ You might feel discouraged about financial matters or your fair share of something, especially if you're discussing inheritances, shared property, taxes, debt or insurance issues. Be reassured that your ability to improve your job and your health will make a difference to your future this year. Tonight: You look good to someone.

JUMBLE

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

GLLAE

CNHCI

ATIVNE

SNTISI

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Answer here:

Jumbles: ISSUE HOWDY WAFFLE LONGER

Yesterday's Answer: When the client asked about her wedding dress, the seamstress said — "SEW" FAR, "SEW" GOOD

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

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Billboards are the best way to reach people

These will drive patients right to us.

9/18

THE NEW URGENT CARE FACILITY PUT UP BILLBOARDS, WHICH THEY CONSIDERED TO BE ---

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