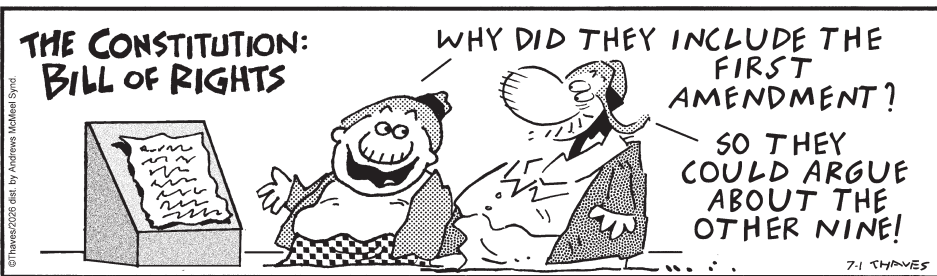


Frank & Ernest



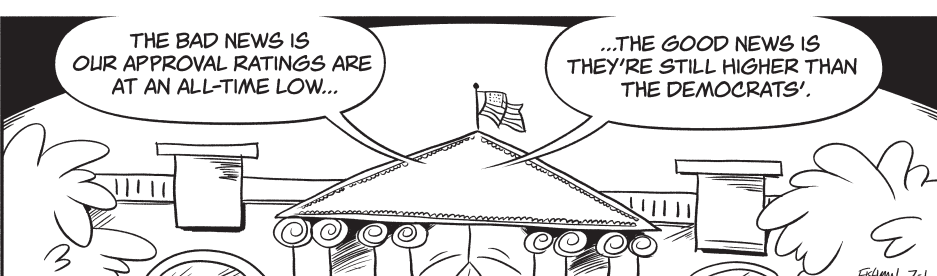
Born Loser



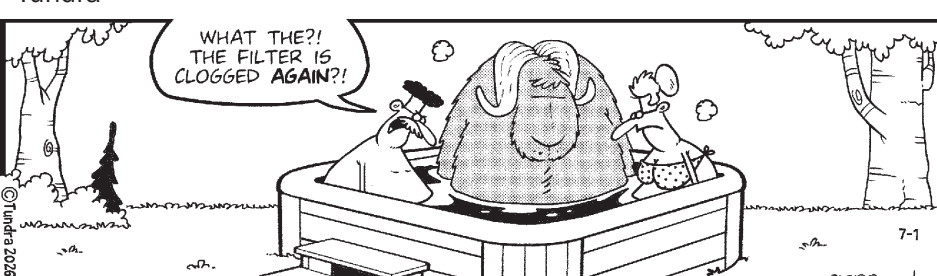
Baby Blues



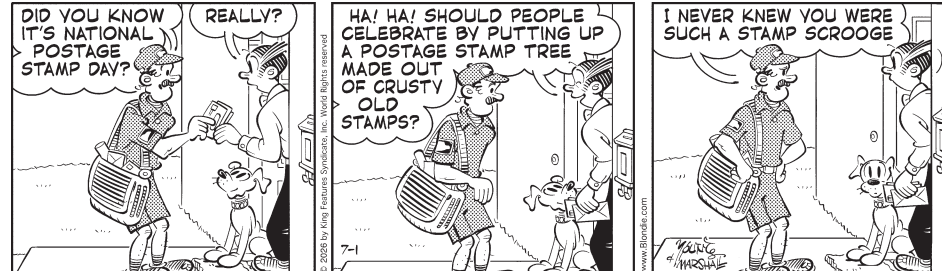
Mallard Fillmore



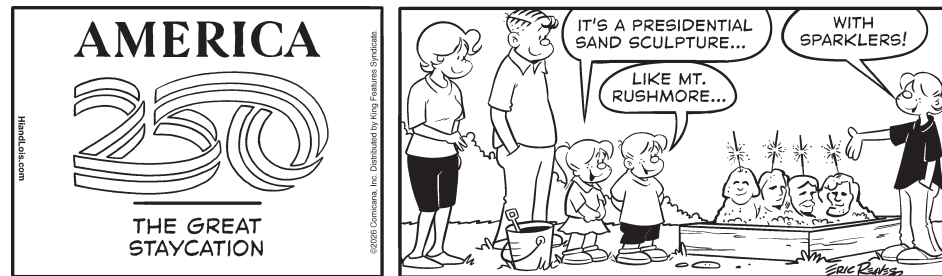
Tundra



Blondie



Hi & Lois



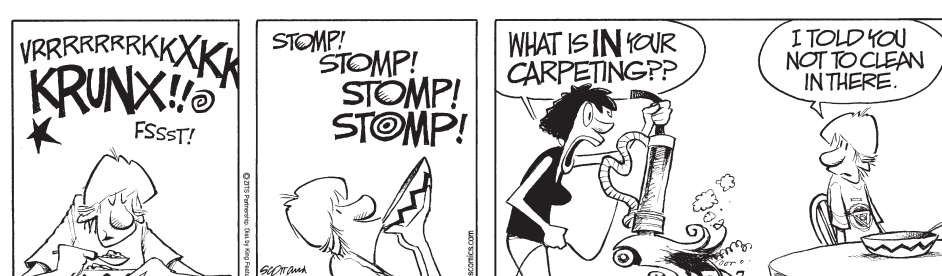
Beetle Bailey



Snuffy Smith



Zits



Crossword - By Thomas Joseph

Bridge - By Steven Becker

Word Sleuth

- ACROSS**
- Adds up
 - Not busy
 - Shortly
 - Composed
 - Upper limits
 - Meringue base
 - Soldier's ID
 - Green stone
 - Old market
 - Swelled head
 - More placid
 - Funny fellow
 - Soaked
 - Have something
 - Recycling bin bottles
 - Passport, license, etc.
 - Get smart
 - Minuscule
 - Makeshift bookmark
 - Edit menu choice
 - Kindle
 - Brown seaweed
 - Frees of suds
 - Some sheep
 - Goes by
- DOWN**
- Dickens boy
 - "Not — dare!"
 - Price addition
 - Stomach ride
 - Antlered animal
 - Glacial period
 - "Shoot!"
 - Cabin piece
 - High trains
 - Dessert tray choices
 - Ruby or garnet
 - Top performance
 - Simple swimming stroke
 - Goes through
 - Pretentious music
 - Good-man's music
 - Wide shoe letters
 - Soldiers
 - Some golf clubs
 - Tomb-stone lawman
 - Diva's piece
 - Luau music maker
 - Original
 - Battle-ship letters
 - Notice
 - Snaky shape

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

- Yesterday's answer**
- Simple
 - Tomb-stone
 - Goes through
 - Pretentious music
 - Good-man's music
 - Wide shoe letters
 - Soldiers
 - Some golf clubs
 - Swimming stroke
 - Diva's piece
 - Luau music maker
 - Original
 - Battle-ship letters
 - Notice
 - Snaky shape

Two shots are better than one

North dealer. North-South vulnerable.

NORTH

- ♠ J 9 8
- ♥ A Q 6
- ♦ K 8 6 2
- ♣ K J 5

WEST

- ♠ 7 2
- ♥ J 10 9 4 2
- ♦ Q 7 3
- ♣ 9 6 4

EAST

- ♠ 6 4 3
- ♥ 8 7 5 3
- ♦ J 5
- ♣ Q 10 7 2

SOUTH

- ♠ A K Q 10 5
- ♥ K
- ♦ A 10 9 4
- ♣ A 8 3

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♠	Pass
3 ♠	Pass	4 NT	Pass
5 ♠	Pass	5 NT	Pass
6 ♠	Pass	7 ♠	Pass

Opening lead — jack of hearts. Assume you're in seven spades and West leads the jack of hearts. Offhand, it might seem that you need a successful club finesse to land the grand slam, but further study reveals that you have much better than a 50% chance for the contract.

Accordingly, you win the heart lead with the king and draw three rounds of trump, finding them divided 3-2. You then cash the A-K

Tomorrow: A crucial defensive play.
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of diamonds, and when both opponents follow suit, your chance of making the grand slam rises to 100 percent.

You next play the A-Q of hearts, discarding the 10-9 of diamonds, and ruff a diamond, establishing dummy's eight as a trick. A club to the king allows you to discard your eight of clubs on the eight of diamonds, and you make the grand slam without risking a club finesse.

Note that in adopting this method of play, you do not at any point relinquish your chance of making the contract via a successful club finesse. If the diamonds turn out to be divided 4-1 when you cash the A-K, you still discard the 10-9 on the A-Q of hearts and fall back on the club finesse.

The applicable principle is a very common one. Whenever the outcome appears to depend on the favorable location of a particular card — in the present case, the queen of clubs — declarer should look for an alternative line of play that reduces or eliminates the luck factor associated with a finesse.

A different way of stating the same principle is to say that declarer should always try to find an approach that gives him two chances to make the contract instead of only one.

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WORD SLEUTH • CANADA DAY

OUR PNLREVAEBSJC
HFYROTIRRETEDBI
CONFEDERATIONFT
YEKCOHZXNKHVTC
RQBSTSAOCOWTOER
MKIEHFIODBDZYLA
WVTRUNRMOUNTIES
QONLIQKOTTAWALI
HFD MSTAMPEDEC PA
ZXOWVPURYSELPAM
UDSSECNIVORPRMQ

Tuesday's unlisted clue: ICELAND

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

Arctic	Maple Leaf	Provinces	Stampede
Confederation	Maple syrup	Quebec	Territory
Dominion	Mouties	Red and white	Two coasts
Hockey	Ottawa	Rockies	

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DAILY CRYPTOQUOTES - HERE'S HOW TO WORK IT:

A XYDLB AAXR
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.

7-1 **CRYPTOQUOTE**

P M Z I A U R B P Q M E P X P M E P M Z P
Q M J I A U Z L Q S E U P M D J
U P B A S R U S J S I F Q M B W L P V Q M
W L P F A X P U V R U Y P W . — P U V R
D I V D P Z Y

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THE BEST WAY TO GUARANTEE A LOSS IS TO QUIT. — MORGAN FREEMAN

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

UK SUPERMARKETS

W A I S T N R E O G
P O O C E H T E U
P D O O F S & M P T

Horoscope

- By Georgia Nichols

Moon Alert: Caution! Avoid shopping (except for food and gas) and important decisions from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. EDT today (4:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. EDT). After that, the Moon moves from CAPRICORN into AQUARIUS. Happy Birthday for Wednesday, July 1, 2026.

You are deeply sensitive and introspective. You're also empathetic and compassionate. This year is the completion of a nine-year cycle for you. Take inventory of your life. Let go of people, places and things that have held you back. Do some internal and external housecleaning. Clear the decks.

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)
★★★★ Communications with friends and members of groups are lively today! You have lots of mental energy when it comes to talking to others. This means you'll be persuasive. However, later in the day, stay flexible. Plans might change and someone new might be on the scene. Tonight: Be friendly.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ You can express yourself in a direct manner today, especially if

talking to parents, VIPs or authority figures. This makes you appear confident. Nevertheless, double-check financial matters, especially later in the day, because something unexpected might catch you off guard. (You snooze, you lose.) Tonight: You're admired.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You have strong opinions today, especially when discussing controversial ideas related to politics, religion or racial issues. Because today includes sudden impulses and spontaneous activities, take a breath and think before you speak so you have no regrets later. Tonight: Explore and learn.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Issues related to shared property, taxes, debt or inheritances might arise today. (Anything related to jointly held matters or your partner's wealth.) Keep your eyes open, because something unexpected might occur that affects your own wealth and assets. Tonight: Check your finances.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Your best choice today is to be easygoing and friendly with others. Be accommodating and helpful, because today the Moon is opposite your sign, which means you don't have the edge -- other people do. Just accept this. In two weeks, you

will have the edge! But not today. Tonight: Listen and cooperate.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You're keen to work and get organized today. You might be making to-do lists and thinking about ways to improve your health. (The list part is always fun and satisfying, isn't it?) However, something unexpected might catch you off guard at work. Be vigilant about your pet today. Tonight: Work to get better organized.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Be open to all kinds of possibilities today, because unexpected social invitations might come your way. A surprise flirtation might occur. You might become more deeply involved in the arts -- actively or through appreciation. Parents should be extra vigilant with their kids. Tonight: Enjoy socializing!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Family discussions will be direct and to the point today because someone wants to make issues very clear. (That someone might be you.) Nevertheless, later in the day, your home routine will be interrupted. Small appliances might break down. A minor breakage could occur. Someone might appear at your door. Tonight: Relax at home.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You're convincing when

talking today because you say what you mean and mean what you say. Meanwhile, it's important to know this is a mildly accident-prone day for you. Your daily routine might suddenly change. Pay attention to everything you say and do to stay happy. Tonight: Conversations.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Keep an eye on your money and possessions today because something unexpected could impact them. For example, you might find money; you might lose money. Definitely protect what you own against loss, theft or damage. Tonight: Check your belongings.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Today the Moon is in your sign, which is invigorating. Plus, it gives you a slight bit of good luck, which is an edge over all the other signs. That's why this is an excellent day to negotiate for something on your own behalf. Try it. Tonight: You win!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ This is a solid week for you because you're able to establish a nice balance between work and play. However, today you probably feel a bit restless. You have that feeling you're waiting for the other shoe to drop. (Let's hope it's in the same size.) Tonight: Enjoy privacy.

JUMBLE

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

TFIHA
EUSMO
PRGMUY
BTUETR

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Print the answer here: ○○○○○○○○○

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: PRINT WHILE BALLAD BIGGER
Answer: The instructions that came with her fancy new lamp made for some — LIGHT READING