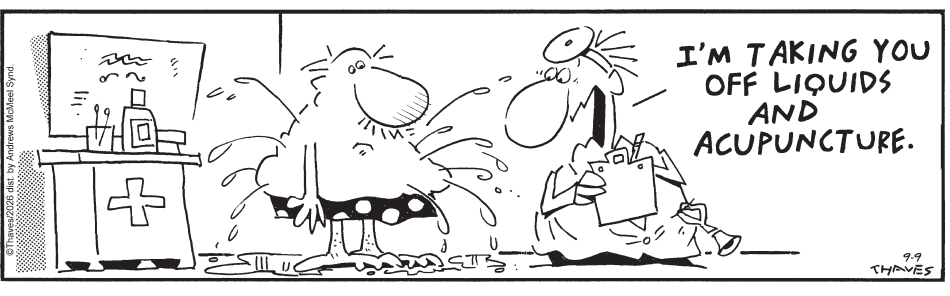
Garfield

Blondie

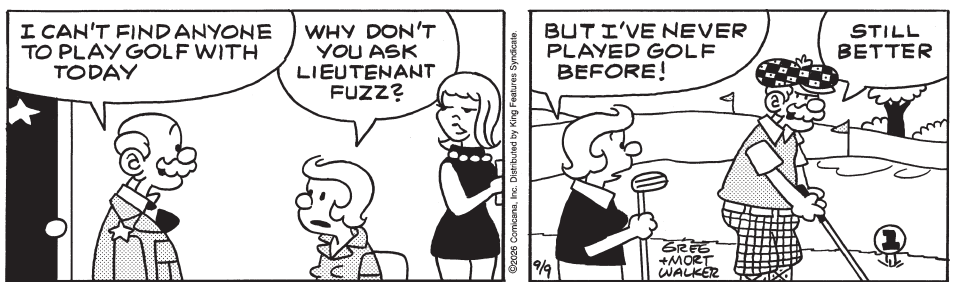
Frank & Ernest



Hi & Lois

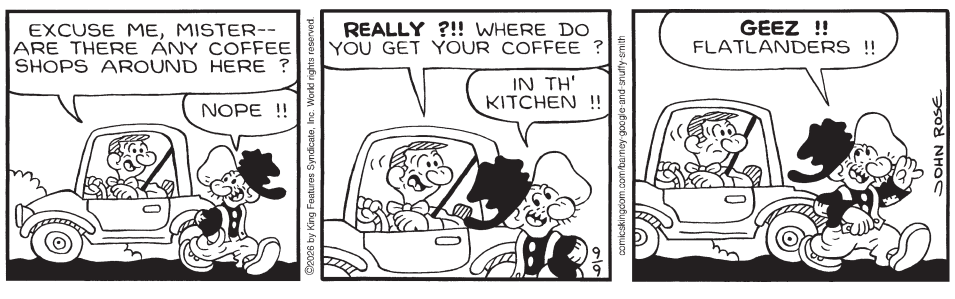
Born Loser

Beetle Bailey



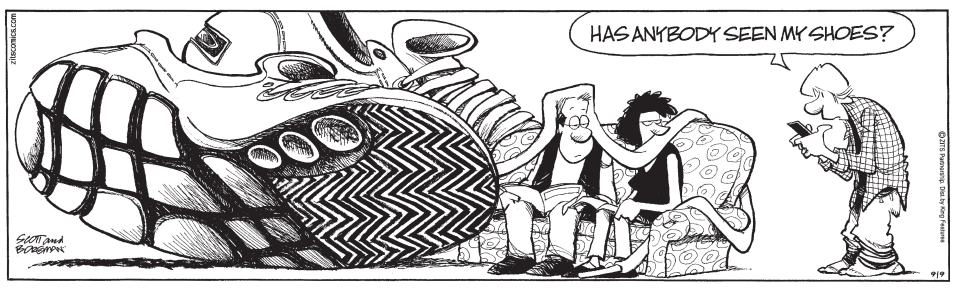
Baby Blues

Snuffy Smith

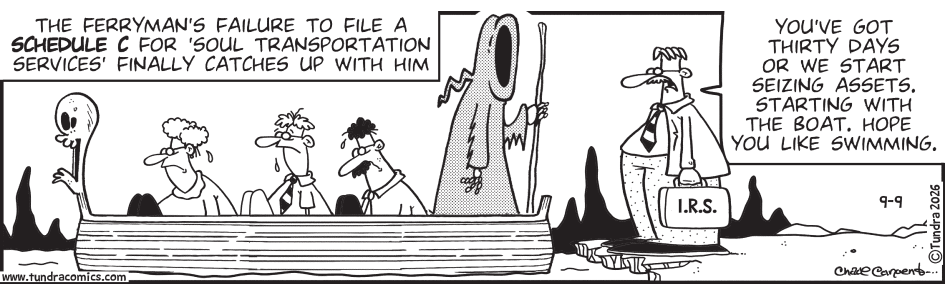


Mallard Fillmore

Zits



Tundra



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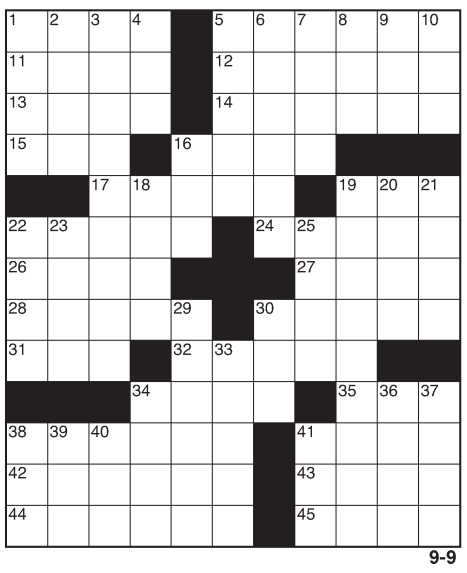
Crossword – By Thomas Joseph

ACROSS
1 Showed sorrow
5 Squeal on
11 Farm unit
12 Scaly pet
13 Meager
14 Intense fear
15 Great weight
16 Ivy League school
17 Heart's place
19 Block up
22 Canary call
24 Barber-shop offering
26 Tiny amount
27 Son of Zeus
28 Yields of fields
30 Extreme
31 Boxer Norton
32 English racing town
34 Ivy League school
35 Ball
38 Champagne cocktail
41 Hawaiian do
42 Region of Spain
43 Singer Redding
44 Houston team
45 Advanced degrees

DOWN
1 Power unit
2 Canyon sound
3 Ivy League school
4 Toe count
5 Solemn ceremonies
6 FBI employees
7 Go around
8 Crew need
9 First número
10 Road goop
16 Parrot or puppy
18 Whole bunch
19 Ivy League school
20 Declare
21 Butte's kin
22 Clock sound
23 Had on
25 Ring of light
29 Fall, for one
30 Take advantage of
33 Schemes
34 Exercise choice
36 Foray
37 Smooch
38 Small rug
39 Rage
40 Upper limit
41 Cut off

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

Yesterday's answer



9-9

Bridge – By Steven Becker

Sometimes you just can't win

North dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A J 10 7
♥ 6
♦ A Q 10 7
♣ A J 7 6

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

EAST
♠ 9
♥ A 9 7 5
♦ 8 5 4 3
♣ Q 10 4 3

SOUTH
♠ K Q 5 4 2
♥ K
♦ K J 9 2
♣ K 8 2

The bidding:

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

Opening lead — six of diamonds.

The opening lead is often a shot in the dark. Good judgment and long experience are helpful in choosing a lead, but even players blessed with these attributes will not always be successful. There are far too many intangibles in bridge — particularly where an opening lead is concerned — for anyone to expect to hit the bull's eye every time.

Take this case from a team match where West, at both tables, was on lead against six spades. At each table West led his singleton diamond, hoping to find partner with either the ace of diamonds or ace of spades, in which case a diamond ruff could defeat the slam.

But the diamond lead proved unsuccessful when at both tables declarer won with the nine, drew trump, cashed three more diamonds and exited with the king of hearts. East took the ace but was endplayed, and South wound up making six for 1,430 points.

Now let's assume West had led the queen of hearts instead, which was his only other feasible choice. East would take the ace and return a diamond, and down the chute the slam would go when East eventually scored a club trick.

In light of what happened — and especially since both Wests were well above average in skill — one can certainly sympathize with them in their choice of leads. Viewed objectively, it would seem that both players made the right lead in theory but the wrong lead in practice.

However, those inclined to judge everything by results — sometimes euphemistically called "hindsight" — would not have the slightest difficulty pointing the finger of blame in the direction of the setting sun.

Tomorrow: An unusual deceptive play.

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Word Sleuth

WORD SLEUTH • INCUBATING FATHERS

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

Tuesday's unlisted clue: DOLLOP

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
Wednesday's unlisted clue hint: **Flightless New Zealand Icon**

Betta fish	Emu	Ostrich	Sandgrouse
Buttonquail	Jacana	Penguin	Seahorse
Cassowary	Jawfish	Pipefish	Tinamou
Doves	Lumpsucker	Rhea	

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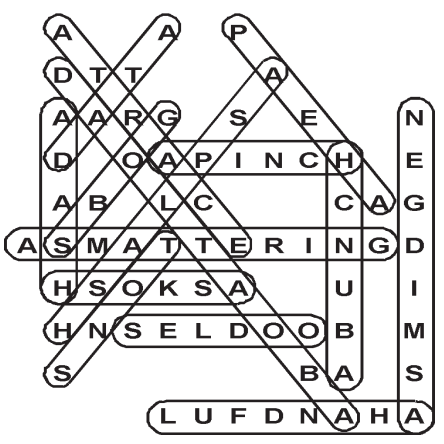
9/9

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

UNMEASURED



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.

9-9 CRYPTOQUOTE

B T L V Q W O Z T V J R J Z W O Q S Y V Q W Z C , U L V O T K S V Q W Z C V Q J V Y X S G G O M T P S R S P W Z V Q S Q S J P V . — G L H B K J L Y K T Z V C T K S P B

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THERE ARE SO MANY DIFFERENT WAYS IN WHICH TO NAVIGATE THIS SO-CALLED LIFE. BE OPEN TO EXPERIENCING MORE THAN ONE. — STERLING K. BROWN

Horoscope

– By Georgia Nichols

Happy Birthday for Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2026:
You're inquisitive, nurturing and responsible. You're also resourceful, organized and innovative. It's time for new beginnings, adventures and major changes in your life. Keep your eyes open for new opportunities and be ready to act. Prepare for leadership. What you do now will bring great benefit 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 solid day for you because you're motivated to work and accomplish something. This is half the battle. Motivation is everything. Roll up your sleeves and dig in. Talk to co-workers and friends. Be of service if you can. Tonight: Get organized.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Today the Moon will move into your fellow Earth sign, which will encourage a more lighthearted approach to life. Enjoy socializing with others. Explore romance. Your involvement with sports and the company of children will be rewarding. Tonight: Socialize!

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You have lots of mental energy today, which is why you want to share your ideas and information with someone. As the day wears on, home and family discussions will become more important. Tonight: Relax at home.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ For a large part of this day, the Moon is in your Money House. During the Moon Alert, be smart and restrict your spending to food and gas. If you want to buy something, fill your databank first. Do your research, then act once the Moon Alert is over. Tonight: Stimulating discussions.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Today holds the promise of fun socializing and romantic escapades. Reach out to someone you care about. Keep things light and enjoy talking to someone. After the Moon Alert is over, cash flow, shopping and money will be on your mind. Tonight: Check your money.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Today has a vague, lighthearted, dreamy quality until the Moon Alert is over. However, once the Moon moves into your sign to join the Sun and Mercury, it's all systems go! Go do that voodoo that you do so well. Tonight: You win!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ You're a social person, which is why you need others in your life. This day begins with a strong desire to talk to others or be involved in groups. However, after the Moon Alert, you need some peace and quiet. Treat yourself to solitude in beautiful surroundings. Tonight: Enjoy peace and quiet.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ For the first part of this day, you're high-viz. People notice you more than usual. You might have to do some damage control. Keep this in mind. After the Moon Alert, make an effort to talk to a friend or be involved with a group. This will be rewarding. Tonight: Be friendly.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Initially, you might feel a strong sense of escape today. You might want to run away and join the circus. You want to do something different! Take it easy, especially because this feeling will simmer during the Moon Alert, which makes you feel a bit rudderless. Later in the day you're high-viz! Tonight: You're admired.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Postpone important financial negotiations or banking decisions until the Moon Alert is over today. Initially, you can do your research and get your facts. But wait until you're on solid ground. Welcome any opportunity to travel, learn and explore your world. Tonight: Explore!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ This morning you have to cooperate with others, which means you might have to go more than halfway. (It's not a big deal.) However, after the Moon Alert, you might make progress tying up loose ends and dealing with red tape matters related to shared property and banking. Tonight: Check your finances.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Go along to get along today, especially at work. Do what you can. After the Moon Alert today, the Moon will be opposite your sign, which means you have to be cooperative. Just take baby steps. Make no demands on yourself or on others. Easy does it. Tonight: Cooperate.

Jumble

JUMBLE®

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

LWRCA
DYADD
FRNOUF
NYBTOU

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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

AFTER THE HUGE PILLOW FIGHT, THE FEATHERS WERE ---

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

Ans. here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: TIGER CLING WINNER JINGLE
Answer: There wasn't a cloud in the sky when the new king began — REIGNING