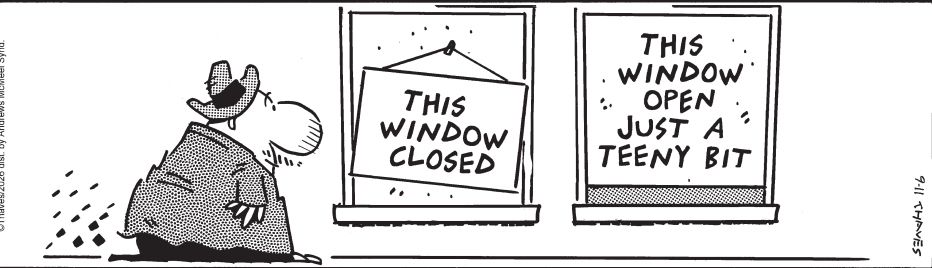




Frank & Ernest



Born Loser



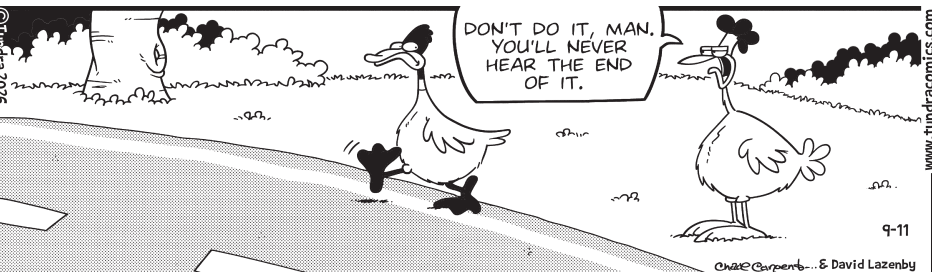
Baby Blues



Mallard Fillmore



Tundra



Game of the Week

Crossword — By Thomas Joseph Bridge — By Steven Becker Word Sleuth Bidding quiz Jumble

ACROSS

1 Martial arts schools

6 College study

11 Ridiculous

12 Up

13 Bright

14 Texan tree

15 X in a letter

17 Scottish isle

18 Blacken

20 Lowly worker

22 Suffering

23 One who might ask for your hand

26 Record company

28 Kaaba setting

29 Burden-some

31 Deli choice

32 "Dog-gone!"

33 Tedious sort

34 Night fliers

36 MP's quarry

38 Gets up

40 Cheated, in slang

43 Love to pieces

44 UV stopper

45 High-strung

46 Fixes

DOWN

1 Poorly lit

2 Stop — dime

3 Best

Supporting Actor winner for "The Subject Was Roses"

4 Studio sign

5 Uses a needle

6 Atlas page

7 Terrific

8 Best

Supporting Actor winner for "Terms of Endearment"

9 Accept-able

10 Painter

Magritte

16 Relaxing resort

18 Farm sight

19 Verve

21 Avenue liners

23 Novel need

24 Fight memento

25 Unexciting

27 Class-room needs

30 Can. neighbor

33 Hard stuff

34 Babysit-ter's bane

35 Staff member

37 Which person

39 Notice

41 Complete

42 — Plaines

Yesterday's answer

9 Accept-able

10 Painter

Magritte

16 Relaxing resort

18 Farm sight

19 Verve

21 Avenue liners

23 Novel need

24 Fight memento

25 Unexciting

27 Class-room needs

30 Can. neighbor

33 Hard stuff

34 Babysit-ter's bane

35 Staff member

37 Which person

39 Notice

41 Complete

42 — Plaines

Bridge

— By Steven Becker

Bidding quiz

Your partner opens One Diamond, both sides vulnerable, and the next player bids One Spade. What would you bid with each of the following four hands?

1. ♠KJ5 ♥A96 ♦Q83 ♣AQ74

2. ♠62 ♥J8 ♦KQ952 ♣KQ63

3. ♠A5 ♥AQJ4 ♦QJ ♣KJ852

4. ♠A4 ♥J7 ♦AQJ62 ♣KQ102

1. **Three notrump.** This is the most descriptive bid you can make. The jump to three notrump, whether an opponent intervenes or not, shows a balanced hand, usually 4-3-3-3, with scattered strength and 16 or 17 high-card points. To that extent, three notrump is a slam try. When the bid is made after a suit overcall by an opponent, the notrump bid also indicates at least one stopper in the opposing suit.

2. **Two clubs.** Your hand is not quite strong enough for a jump-raise to three diamonds, which would commit your side to game, and is too strong for a simple two-diamond bid, which would not be forcing and could result in missing a game.

In these situations, where your values lie midway between a single and double raise, the best approach is to bid a side suit first, planning to support partner's suit later. This allows your side to stop under game when partner has a minimum opening bid.

3. **Two clubs.** Here there is obviously a very good chance for game, but where it lies is at this moment uncertain. The best approach under the circumstances is to try to describe your hand to partner as accurately as possible, and this can best be done by beginning with a two-club response.

You plan to bid hearts at your next turn, and in that way identify a holding of four hearts and at least five clubs. This will hopefully put partner in position to determine the best final contract.

4. **Two spades.** This hand offers a strong potential for slam, but you don't have the values to undertake it unilaterally. The best way to apprise partner of the slam prospects is by means of a cuebid. This indicates first-round spade control and implies good diamond support, which you certainly have.

How the bidding continues depends largely on partner's reaction to the cuebid. If he keeps bidding in minimum terms, you would reluctantly have to settle for less than slam. But if partner shows any interest at all, you should not stop short of six.

Tomorrow: Eliminating the luck factor.

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Word Sleuth

WORD SLEUTH • **THINGS WE PITCH**

I K H E B Y W T R O L L J G E

B Y W T U R P N K I G A D B Z

L X V S P E N N I E S S Q O M

H L K I G I O E C A A O Y T W

U S A S Q P R H N L F P U J H

E G A B R A G C S T I O U Q F

E C A R T Y X A S E T R V U S

S Q P N T F E M K U S P J E H

F J U N K D O E H C N R L Y B

Z Y E X I V U S T R Q A O A P

E T I S P M A C O M S L M H K

Thursday's unlisted clue: CAPS

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

Friday's unlisted clue hint: RUBBISH

A fit Hay Manuscript Sales

A shutout Horseshoe Pennies Softball

Campsite Ideas Proposal Tent

Garbage Junk Quilts

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Horoscope

— By Georgia Nichols

Happy Birthday for Friday, Sept. 11, 2026:

You're observant, strategic and empathetic. You're also organized and have the courage of your convictions. Take time to socialize and enjoy your life this year. Nurture the happiness and beauty you have within. Let your guard down and loosen up a bit! Have fun but remember your goals.

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)

★★★ Be careful because most of this day is a Moon Alert, which can promote creative, outside-the-box thinking; however, it can also promote unrealistic, crazy decisions. Write down your imaginative ideas. Don't act until the Moon Alert is over.

Tonight: Listen and cooperate.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Due to the Moon Alert, today holds lots of creative opportunities for you! If you work in the arts or you make art, you will be wildly imaginative. It's also a great day to

schmooze and have fun. However, avoid shopping (except for food and gas) and important decisions. Tonight: Work.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ You're focused on home and family and perhaps a parent more than usual. Tread carefully when making important decisions today because there's a Moon Alert. Enjoy playful times. Restrict spending to food and gas. Tonight: Socialize.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ Be careful in discussions with others. Don't trust a sudden decision or idea because today is a Moon Alert. Stick to business as usual. Family discussions and home repairs might occur. This is a great day to socialize and schmooze! Tonight: Relax at home.

★★★ You have to be careful today because the Moon Alert is taking place in your Money House. This means you'll be tempted to make financial decisions. You'll be tempted to shop and spend money. However, be smart and restrict your spending to food and gas. Tonight: A new idea?

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Today the Moon Alert is taking place in your sign, which is why

you might feel a bit adrift or indecisive. Don't act on a sudden decision that occurs to you. Don't shop (except for food and gas). Relax and enjoy the company of others. It's a great day to schmooze and take it easy. Tonight: Check your money.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ Your ruler Venus is going to be in your House of Money for the next six weeks, encouraging you to spend money on beautiful things. It can also attract money to you. Both these things will increase your focus on money. Restrict spending during today's Moon Alert! Be wise. Tonight: You win!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ This is a great day to schmooze with friends and get in contact with people in groups and organizations. Don't volunteer for anything during the Moon Alert. Don't agree to anything important. Use today to spitball ideas and enjoy the company of others. Tonight: Enjoy privacy.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ You are a future-oriented sign. Because today's Moon Alert is taking place at the top of your chart, you might have some far-out ideas about future plans and goals. Jot them down. Save them for future

consideration. Don't act on them today. Tonight: Be friendly.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Your interest in publishing, the media, medicine, the law and higher education is stronger than usual right now. You might have some ideas and plans cooking on the back burner. Be aware that today's Moon Alert affects those very areas! (Whaaat?) Do nothing. Tonight: You're admired.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Be careful, because today the Moon Alert is taking place in one of your Money Houses. Therefore, avoid decisions about banking, shared property, taxes, debt and mortgages. Do your homework. Get your facts. Do not act until the Moon Alert is over. Tonight: Explore and learn.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ Today the only Moon Alert opposite your sign all year is taking place. Don't agree to anything important when talking to spouses, partners and close friends. Don't volunteer for anything. Just coast. Be especially suspicious of ideas that just pop into your head. Forewarned is forearmed. Tonight: Check your finances.

Jumble

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

Y M S T U

Y F N T I

D S Y W E A

E T C N D E

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I don't mind paying for this site.

It's cheaper than a hotel.

THEY WERE ABLE TO SET UP AT THE CAMPGROUND AFTER PAYING AN ---

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

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: KNOWN EAGLE WILLOW SHREWD
Answer: They were done drilling for water, and everything was — WORKING WELL