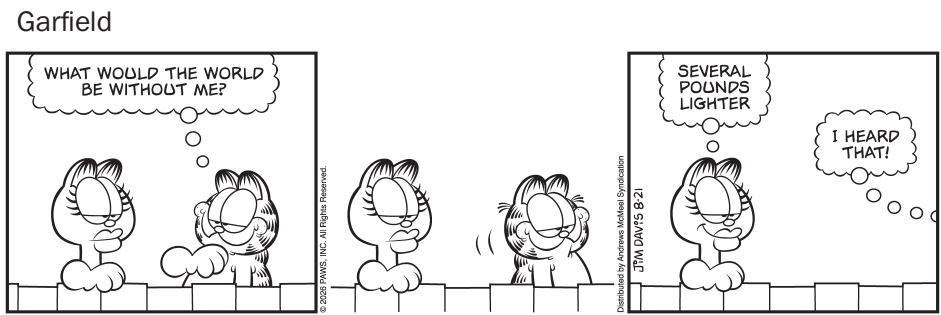
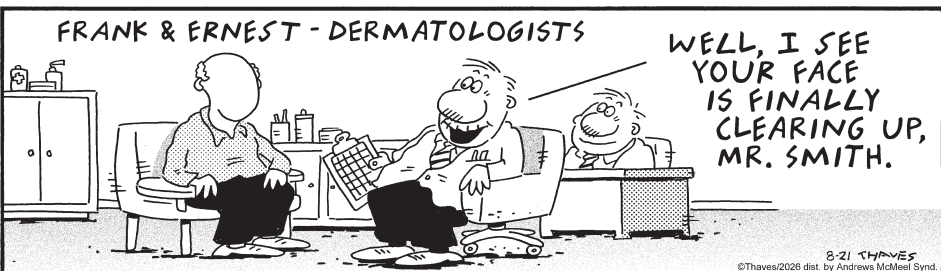
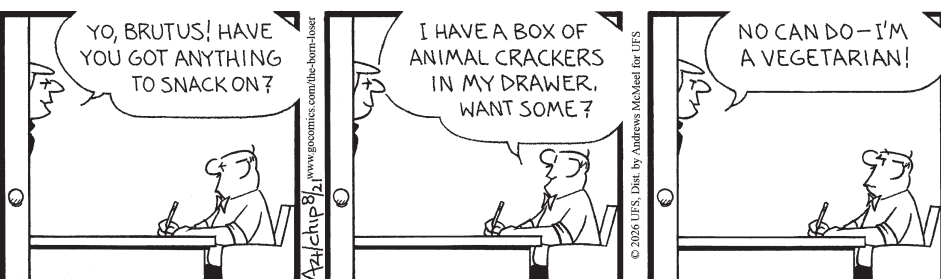




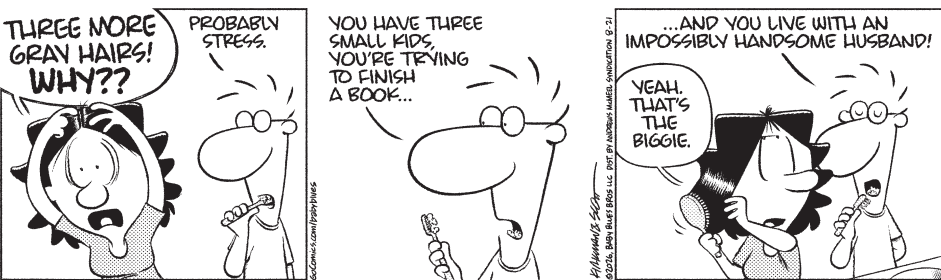
Frank & Ernest



Born Loser



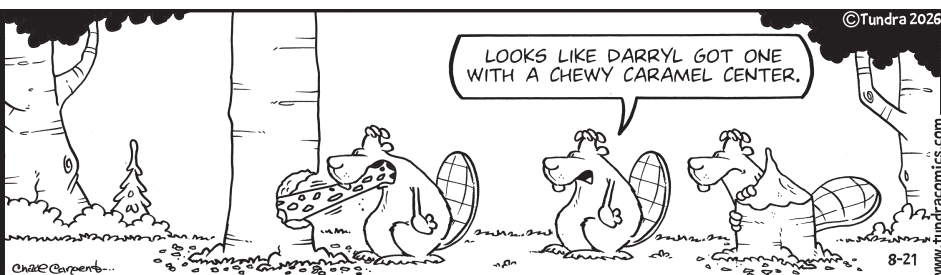
Baby Blues



Mallard Fillmore



Tundra



Crossword — By Thomas Joseph

ACROSS

41 Next to

1 Dull finish

6 Blackjack swimmer

11 Clear sky

12 Fire

13 Like

14 Canary

15 Brief time

16 She loved

18 One, for

19 Carnival

20 Far from

21 Scathing

23 Green

25 Sis and

27 Half of

28 Train stop

30 Quiche

33 Towel

34 Slight, in

36 Clay, later

37 Check out

39 Light

40 Sam of

DOWN

1 Botch

2 Wise

3 John

4 Kicker's

5 Goof

6 Discuss

7 Words

8 John

9 Army docs

10 School

17 Card

22 Easy

24 Uno plus

26 Early

28 Moolah

29 Nervous

31 Quick

32 Burned

33 Pointers

35 Work

38 Cord

42 Singer

Yesterday's answer

8 John

9 Army docs

10 School

17 Card

22 Easy

24 Uno plus

26 Early

28 Moolah

29 Nervous

31 Quick

32 Burned

33 Pointers

35 Work

38 Cord

42 Singer

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

Bidding quiz

Your right-hand opponent deals and bids One Heart, neither side vulnerable. What would you bid now with each of the following four hands?

1. ♠ 743 ♥ 6 ♦ AKJ3 ♣ AKQ95
2. ♠ AQ83 ♥ QJ74 ♦ A6 ♣ KJ6
3. ♠ 4 ♥ 8 ♦ AKQJ752 ♣ AJ85
4. ♠ A8 ♥ Q752 ♦ AK ♣ J7643

1. **Double.** The best way to show the strength of this hand is to start with a double. A simple overall of two clubs would not adequately address the game possibilities and might lead to missing a good game contract in spades, diamonds, clubs or even notrump.

It is true that a takeout double of one major suit tends to imply good support for the other, but this does not mean that such support is absolutely guaranteed. The more important consideration is to show the general strength of a hand, and the double in this case serves that purpose best. You plan to bid two clubs over partner's anticipated one-spade response and in that way show the true nature of your hand.

2. **One notrump.** The choice here lies between a double and an overall of one notrump. The notrump bid is preferred because it shows your point count and balanced distribution in one fell swoop.

A double could lead to trouble. If, for example, partner responded with two clubs or two diamonds, you would be faced with a difficult problem. A pass could easily turn out to be wrong, and a rebid of two notrump would be dangerous opposite a partner who might have no values. The one-notrump overall delivers the full message and does so at the lowest possible level.

3. **Five diamonds.** This is not the type of hand with which you leave the opponents room to exchange information at a low level. The leap to five diamonds is a tactical measure from both an offensive and defensive standpoint, and as such serves as a double-edged sword. For example, if the opponents have a good fit in spades, they will have a tough time finding it at the five-level. Also, if the opponents pass or double, it may well turn out that five diamonds will make or go down a trick or two, while the opponents can make four or five hearts or spades.

4. **Pass.** Lacking adequate support for spades and diamonds, it would be wrong to double, and it would be equally dangerous to overcall in clubs with such a shabby suit. The best action is to pass and hope the opponents get too high.

Tomorrow: Now you see it ... now you don't.
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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.

8-21 CRYPTOQUOTE

OMD'X CV JVTLHVRR EYXN

MXNVJ BVBMBHV'R NVWJXR.

OMD'X BQX QB EYXN BVBMBHV

ENM WJV JVTLHVRR EYXN

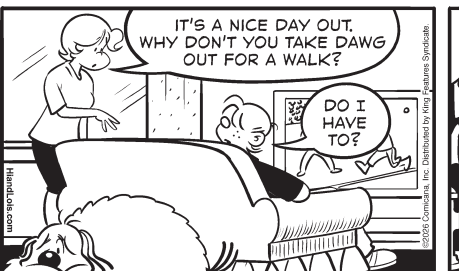
FMQJR. — IYGY NVDOJYZ

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: I'M CAPTIVATED BY YOU, BABY, LIKE A FIREWORKS SHOW. — TAYLOR SWIFT

Blondie



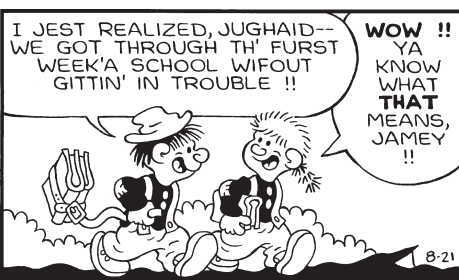
Hi & Lois



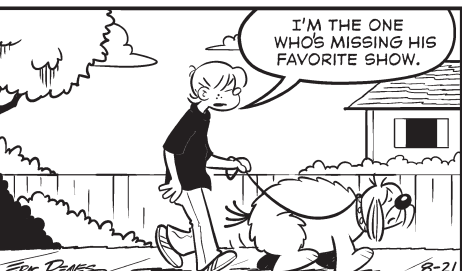
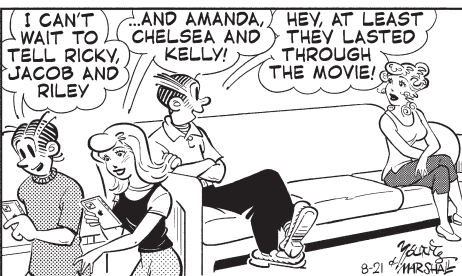
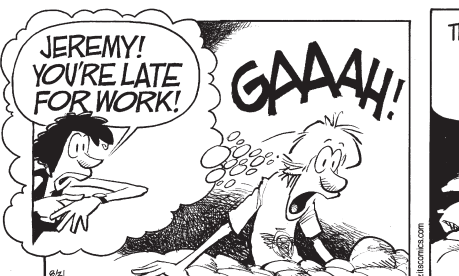
Beetle Bailey



Snuffy Smith



Zits



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QQOMJHFCAYWURPN

SLJSTARTINGHFD

LYZXRVTRGNIYALP

QIAOMEGNIDRAOBK

IOSWHFVTDBZYZWVT

RNQTLEREHKOOLO

LSTREAMINGNIRI

TAHWPNDARRIVING

KLNEHTDNAIOHFD

AEDSIHTRAETHZXWV

USRGNIKOOCERUOY

Thursday's unlisted clue: COB

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

Friday's unlisted clue hint: SOLICITING NEW EMPLOYEES

And always
Arriving
Boarding

Departing
Hear this
Listen
Look here

On sale
Or never
Playing
Starting

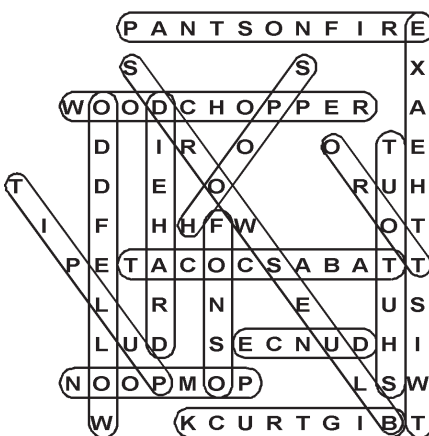
Streaming
What
You're cooking

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8/21

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

MY FAVORITE KENTUCKY DERBY HORSE NAMES



Jumble

JUMBLE

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

SBSIA

EANVR

ARZHDA

TCINTA

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Yesterday's

Jumbles: LIMIT MINOR BEHAVE RUNNER

Answer: Showers dampened her horseback ride, and she hoped Mother Nature would — REIN IN THE RAIN

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



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

(Answers tomorrow)

Horoscope

— By Georgia Nichols

Happy Birthday for Friday, Aug. 21, 2026:

You're resourceful, pragmatic and imaginative. You are also realistic and driven to achieve your goals. This is the perfect year to kick back and relax. Enjoy socializing and relating to others. Let your guard down and loosen up a bit! Old friends might reappear to rekindle relationships.

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 want adventure and stimulation! Something interesting! You also might make practical plans related to the law, medicine, higher education or publishing. Yet, you feel playful even though relations with someone close to you might be strained. Tonight: Learn something.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Even though relations with co-workers might be cool today, discussions about finances, money, debt and how to cover expenses at home will go well. You feel secure in practical ways even though everything isn't

perfect. But then, when is it ever?

Tonight: Check your finances.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ This is an excellent day to talk to others. Someone older or wiser might have something to contribute.

Why not stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before you? Meanwhile, romance, as well as relations with kids, might be strained.

Tender patience is key. Tonight: Be friendly.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ It might be in your best interests to listen to the advice of parents, bosses, teachers or the police. It could benefit you. In fact, it might benefit your job as well as your earnings now or in the future. Admittedly, relations with a family member or parent might be strained. Tonight: Work.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Social outings and time spent with kids, as well as romantic get-togethers, can be enjoyable. You might learn something valuable and helpful. Don't let a conversation with someone older ruin your day or shake your confidence in yourself. This is your day. Tonight: Socialize!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Although you might have financial worries today or feel pinched in the money department (join the

club; we number in the millions), family relations are warm. In fact, you might be encouraged by the offer of help -- in practical or monetary terms -- that can come your way. Tonight: Relax at home.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Today is a mixed bag. You'll enjoy talking to others, especially siblings, relatives and neighbors. Groups will be supportive. However, you might feel disappointed or unloved in a close relationship -- a partner or marriage. This might be the culmination of something that started 14 years ago. Tonight: A conversation.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ This is an excellent day for financial decisions and discussions with bosses and authority figures about your job, even your health. Someone behind the scenes might be critical. "You can't please everyone, and you can't make everyone like you." -- Katie Couric. Tonight: Check your money.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Today the Moon is in your sign dancing with your ruler lucky Jupiter, as well as stern Saturn. In a curious way, this boosts your confidence, while at the same time, it makes you cautious and practical. Don't worry if things are strained with

a friend or a member of a group. It happens. Tonight: You're strong.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Because relations with a parent, boss or someone in authority might be strained today, your impulse might be to pull back and hide somewhere, preferably with some food that's a wonderful guilty pleasure. I think this is a good idea. If it's raining outside, seek shelter. Tonight: Enjoy privacy.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Friendships are warm and supportive today. Some are upbeat and jubilant; others are steady, practical and beneficial. Enjoy making plans and goals with someone today. Unfortunately, romance with someone "different" or far away might be discouraging. (This might be temporary.) Tonight: Be modest.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Many issues related to your job and your work are rewarding right now. In fact, many of you are in a new job or feeling fulfilled from your work, which is a wonderful thing. This is apparent to others as well. Nevertheless, funds from a different source might be disappointing. It is what it is. Tonight: You look good to others.