



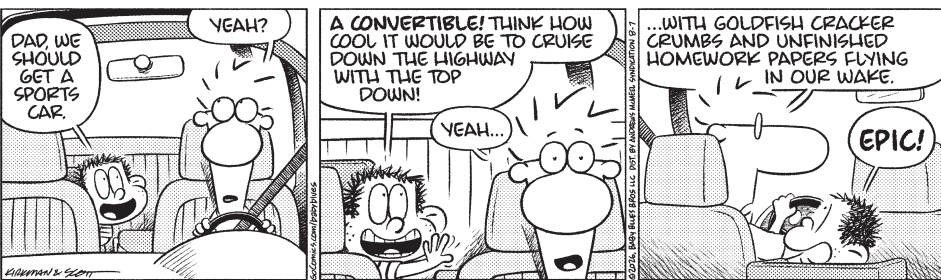
Frank & Ernest



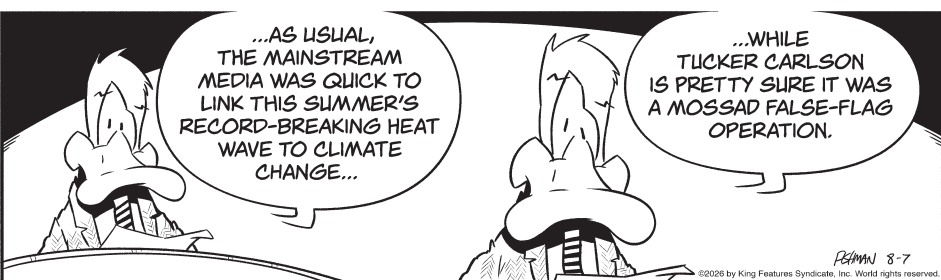
Born Loser



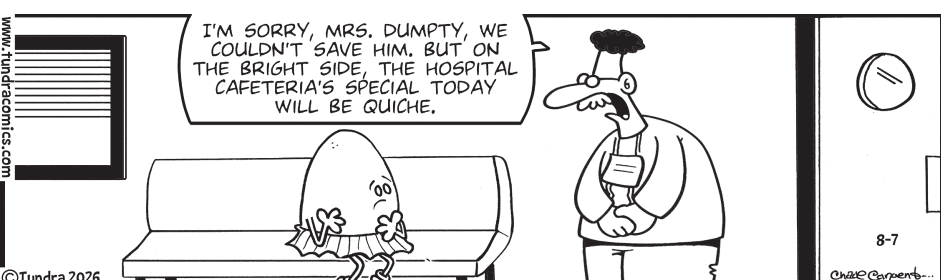
Baby Blues



Mallard Fillmore



Tundra



Crossword — By Thomas Joseph

ACROSS

40 Track athlete

42 Really impressed

43 Game place

44 Some nobles

45 Pub game

DOWN

1 Packed down

2 Crumbly Italian cheese

3 Refuge from a twister

4 That woman

5 Patsies

6 Pet store buys

7 Previously off

8 Platinum record

9 Church leaders

10 Rent agreements

17 Brief vacation

23 Arthur's step-brother

24 Outlaw

26 Ticked off

27 Dorm partner

28 Singer Grande

30 Set straight

31 Coarse-spun cotton

33 19th president

39 Cobbler's tool

41 S&L offering

Yesterday's answer

RE MUS AVAIL
AR ISE LO IRE
DR AMA BIL KS
MA P P E D
TA I ORE S KA
AD HERE STOP
FEEL THE HEAT
FL AK EXHALE
YE T GAP MAD
LA T I SH
TO PAZ REESE
ON ICE EMAIL
WEEKS DITTY

Test your play

1. You are declarer with the West hand at Seven Clubs and North leads the jack of hearts. How would you play the hand?

West
♠ A K 9 7
♥ K 5
♦ 10
♣ A Q 10 9 4 3

East
♠ J 10 8
♥ A 6 3
♦ A Q J 9
♣ K J 5

2. You are declarer with the West hand at Four Spades. North leads the K-Q of diamonds and then the jack, which you ruff. You play the A-K of trump, both opponents following suit. How would you continue?

West
♠ K Q J 9 4
♥ K J
♦ 8 5
♣ Q 9 3 2

East
♠ A 10 8 3
♥ A 7
♦ 10 6 2
♣ A J 5 4

1. Win the heart lead with the king, draw all the missing trumps and cash the A-K of spades, hoping to catch the singleton or doubleton queen. If the queen does not fall, lead the ten of diamonds to the ace and return the queen from dummy, planning to discard a spade if South follows low. The overall chance of success with this line of play is about 60%.

If you were to stake the outcome strictly on either a finesse in spades or in diamonds, you would have little more than a 50% chance for the grand slam.

Note that it is far better to play

Tomorrow: When to bid a grand slam.

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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.

8-7 CRYPTOQUOTE

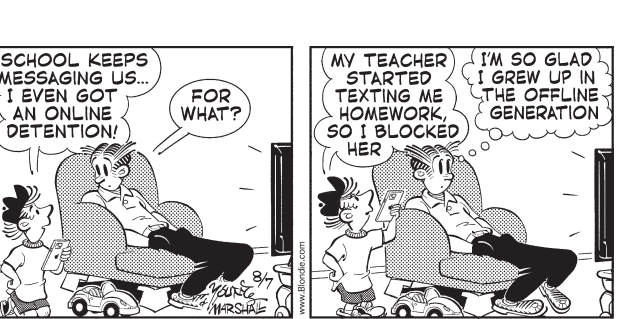
XSLCRARG EOIDZ BFO HRLC FT

BFOG QGOE CSRGR DI

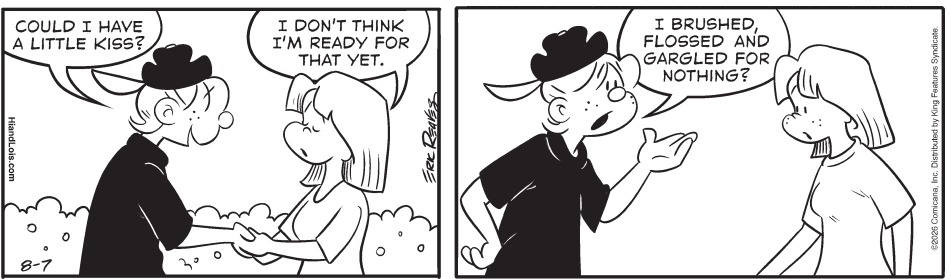
IFERHFQB XSF ZLT QLTZR CF

DC. — ZSDTOL LZSRHR

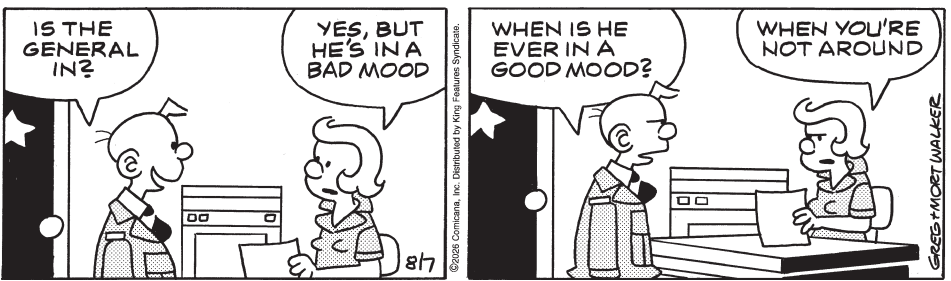
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: IF YOU WANT A PLACE IN THE SUN, YOU'VE GOT TO PUT UP WITH A FEW BLISTERS. — ABIGAIL VAN BUREN



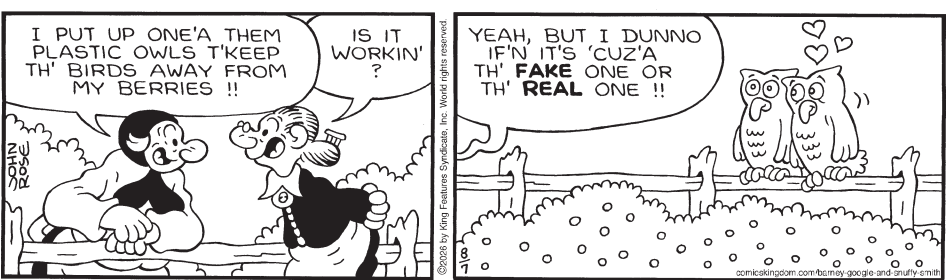
Hi & Lois



Beetle Bailey



Snuffy Smith



Zits



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Word Sleuth

WORD SLEUTH • ORIENTATIONS

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

Thursday's unlisted clue: BRES

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

Friday's unlisted clue hint: STRAIGHT UP AND DOWN

Aligned	Inverted	Offset	Skewed
Canted	Landscape	Portrait	Slanted
Diagonal	Mirrored	Reversed	Tilted
Flipped	Oblique	Rotated	

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YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

NFL HALL OF FAME 2026

PAUL RAO
SHRINEMENT
KICKERO
CRET
REHTNAP
SEETCELE

Horoscope

— By Georgia Nichols

Happy Birthday for Friday, Aug. 7, 2026:

You have radical ideas and you're determined. You love to explore, test and discover. This is a year of learning and teaching. Take time to renew your spiritual or religious beliefs. Explore philosophies that give you a better self-awareness and get you closer to the true meaning of your life.

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 fantastic day to schmooze with others. A sudden change of plans might cause you to see new places and meet new faces! Stay light on your feet and be ready for anything. People are warm and friendly. Enjoy yourself! Tonight: An unusual discussion.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ An unexpected boon or favor might come to you from a surprising source today. This could help you in your job or lead you to another job. You might suddenly get a boost in your health. An unexpected financial favor, cash or gift might come to you

as well. Sweet! Tonight: Check your possessions.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Today is full of surprises and electric energy! New romance might begin. A sudden introduction or acquaintance might make you sit up and listen. Surprise opportunities to travel might occur. Someone powerful will probably impress you. Tonight: Be alert.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ This is a restless day for you. You might want to stock the fridge, because something unexpected could impact your home scene. Surprise company might drop by. You might hear from family. An unexpected but powerful discussion about shared resources might take place. Tonight: Enjoy privacy.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Stay on your toes today. Unexpected events will bring you in touch with others -- friends, members of groups, siblings and relatives. You might meet someone unusual. Or someone you already know might surprise you. You also might have a powerful exchange with someone, perhaps a partner. Tonight: Be friendly.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Something unusual might

occur today that affects your job or your work. It might be surprising news from a boss. Alternatively, something unexpected might affect your health or even your pet. It might relate to news from a parent, boss or an authority figure. Stay tuned. Tonight: You're high-viz.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ This is a fabulous day to schmooze! You feel friendly, sociable and eager to meet others. Unexpected opportunities to travel might put you in touch with someone new and exciting. Romance can blossom! All kinds of opportunities are potentially possible today. Stay flexible! Tonight: Learn and explore!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Stay in touch with your bank account and anything to do with shared property and the resources of others, because a pleasant surprise might occur today. Today is full of all kinds of possibilities, and most of them are favorable. For example, a hidden romance might begin. Tonight: Check your finances.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ You might be happy to meet someone new today who is unusual. Something to do with your social contacts with friends and groups will surprise you. Many people

will encounter an unexpected flirtation or romance. Stay alert. Tonight: Keep your eyes open.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Today is full of surprises, and for your sign, these surprises could impact your job, finances and reputation. In all likelihood, whatever happens will be favorable. It might be minor; it could be major. Keep your eyes open. If you're asked to take on new responsibilities, say yes. Tonight: Be aware.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ A surprise opportunity to travel or explore avenues in publishing, the media, medicine and the law might drop in your lap today. Alternatively, you might receive an exciting invitation. Keep an open mind, because today is full of fun-loving detours! Tonight: Socialize!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Your home routine might change today. Small appliances could break down or a minor breakage could occur. Stock the fridge, because surprise company might drop by. Possibly financial news will please you. This is the kind of day where detours and surprises catch people off guard, but for the most part, the outcome is fun and pleasurable. Tonight: Relax.

JUMBLE

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

OSLSA

FNTIU

GUHFTO

LTSFYO

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Yesterday's Jumbles: ERUPT FRAUD WRENCH VISION
Answer: The court case against the manufacturer of the faulty windows was — OPEN AND SHUT

Jumble

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

What do you think? Looking good, right?

Wow! Just think, I doubted it would work.

8/7

AFTER SEEING HOW WELL HIS HAIR TRANSPLANT TURNED OUT, HIS WIFE SAID ---

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

(Answers tomorrow)