



Frank & Ernest



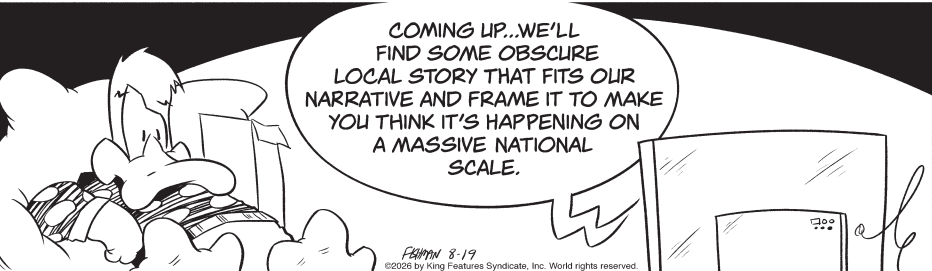
Born Loser



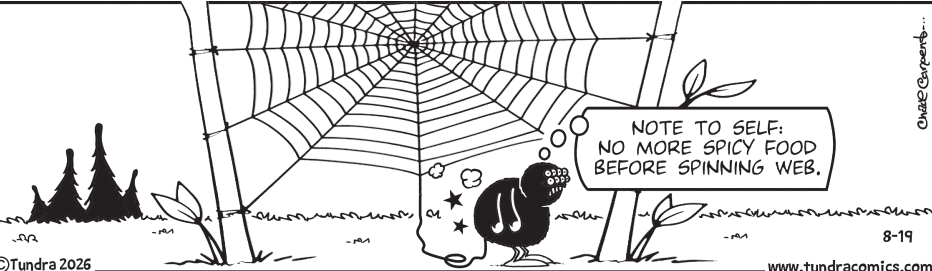
Baby Blues



Mallard Fillmore



Tundra



Crossword — By Thomas Joseph

ACROSS

1 Chowder bit

5 Expand

9 Wash against

11 Hang loosely

12 "Golden Boy" playwright

13 Sprinted

14 Dickens boy

15 Chapter start

17 Curative

19 Take to court

20 Traffic tie-up

21 Game caller

22 Mixes

24 Peach center

26 High-level execs

29 Harden

30 Senate event

32 Furnace's job

34 Scot's denial

35 Portion out

36 In the know

38 Rider's straps

DOWN

39 Staff symbols

40 Call for divine help

41 Walk in water

1 Dress material

2 Gents' dates

3 Primitive primate

4 Yoga need

5 Diploma holder

6 Bigot's problem

7 Police order

8 Doorstop shape

10 Summer top

11 Pull along

16 Put some zest into

18 Ultimate

21 Manual reader

23 Carter's successor

24 Kitchen tool

25 Napoli's nation

27 Target at a party

28 Caught Staff symbol

30 Produc-er's hopes

31 Gaggle group

33 Theater award

37 Dazzle

Yesterday's answer

ELAPSE GELS
LINEAR ARIA
LETSGOCRAZY
EASED
CATS DEPP
ORCA DENIED
PEC GOD TAU
TARTAN TACO
MAID SASH
TOWEL
UGOTTHELOOK
SURE AMELIA
AMOR MERELY

Bridge — By Steven Becker

South dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♦ Q J
♥ Q 7
♦ J 10 9 4
♠ A J 7 5 3

WEST
♦ 8 6 5 2
♥ J 10 8 6 3
♦ 7 6 3
♣ 4

EAST
♦ K 9 7 3
♥ K 9 4
♦ 8 5 2
♣ K 6 2

SOUTH
♦ A 10 4
♥ A 5 2
♦ A K Q
♣ 10 9 8

The bidding:
South 1 ♣
West Pass
North 3 ♣
East Pass

Opening lead — jack of hearts.
The expert's chief stock in trade is his ability to reason well. His logic is seldom the deep sort, but the kind of logic that can be more accurately described as plain common sense.
Consider this deal where it would be easy to go wrong. West leads the jack of hearts, covered by the Q-K-A. If South now plays the queen of clubs and finesses after West follows low, East takes the king and returns a heart to set the contract.
However, this would not be the right way to play the hand. The correct method of play brings the slam home.
The key to the winning approach lies in recognizing that the trump finesse — tempting though it is — jeopardizes the contract without increasing the chances of making it. Even if the finesse worked, the outcome would still hinge on a successful spade finesse.
What it actually boils down to is that if East has the king of spades, the slam can be made, while if West has the king of spades, the slam is lost. Taking the trump finesse is an optical illusion, because the location of the king of trump has nothing to do with making the slam.
Declarer should therefore lead the queen of clubs at trick two and go up with the ace after West follows low. He then returns the queen of spades, planning to finesse.
Whether East covers the queen or jack with his king makes no difference. Whatever East does, declarer cashes three spade tricks as soon as possible, discarding dummy's heart, and all he can lose from that point on is a trump trick.

Tomorrow: A stitch in time.
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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.

8-19 CRYPTOQUOTE

OD BUCJZF HXZN CL XUD,
"IZKK, UMM, OUDRZ CJZ RZXC
CJQMP DLH'KK ZSZF NL, DLH
JUSZM'C ZSZM CJLHPJC LB
DZC." — UMM EHFFD

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: SOMETIMES A TRUE ORIGINAL DOESN'T NEED TO CHANGE A THING.
— BILLY DEE WILLIAMS

Horoscope — By Georgia Nichols

Happy Birthday for Wednesday, Aug. 19, 2026:

You're dynamic, focused and organized. You present a serious face to the world and have a desire to change society. This is a year of new beginnings, adventures and major changes. Grab new opportunities and be ready to act. What you do now will bring great benefits 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)
★★★★ Although mild quarrels might arise about how to share the expense of something, don't let this rankle you. Instead, focus on socializing, the arts, sports and fun activities with kids. This is a great day to schmooze! Tonight: Check banking details.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Tread carefully when talking to family members, spouses, partners and close friends, because things are tense today. Furthermore, Mars in your House of Communications makes you more aggressive. Pull in your reins a bit. Keep things light.

Tonight: Be cooperative.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ There are two options available to you today, which is quite appropriate for a GEMINI (the Twins). You can get caught up in squabbles with siblings, relatives, neighbors and work colleagues -- or you can play hooky and have fun doing whatever you want. (No-brainer.) Tonight: Focus on your health.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Romantic partners must be patient with each other. Likewise, parents must be patient with their kids. Meanwhile, it's the perfect day to redecorate and tweak your digs. You might even entertain. Get some physical exercise. (Even dancing for three minutes.) Tonight: Socialize!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Today the Sun, Mercury and Jupiter are in your sign; however, the Moon is at odds with your Sun, triggering domestic arguments and tension with people at home. Fortunately, fair Venus, in your House of Communications, will smooth your words. Dish out the sweetness. Tonight: Relax at home.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Something going on behind the scenes today might make you feel disgruntled. This mood might

affect how you speak to others. Not good. Instead, throw your energy into interacting with friends, groups and organizations. You also might buy something beautiful today. Tonight: An interesting conversation.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ This continues to be a great time for you to buy wardrobe items, which is not a bad idea, because you like to look your best. Did you know that the sign of LIBRA has domain over haute couture? This is why you always look good. Avoid money squabbles today. Use your energy to work. Tonight: Maintain your possessions.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Today the Moon is in your sign at odds with the Sun, right at the top of your chart. This means you should avoid quarrels and power struggles with bosses, parents, teachers, VIPs and the police. Instead, dabble in secret love affairs, or explore avenues in travel, medicine, the law and publishing. Stay out of trouble. Tonight: Define future goals.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Steer clear of controversial subjects today, because they will irk you. (Naturally, you have opinions.) Instead, decide to have fun with a friend or a group. Explore new ideas

and try to learn something new. It's also a passionate day. Hmmm.

TAPRICE (Privacy. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Avoid squabbles with a friend today. Likewise, don't get caught up fighting a member of a group, because what's the point? Today is challenging. Even partners and close friends might annoy you. Instead, focus on goals, your career and earning some brownie points with bosses, parents and authority figures. Tonight: Be friendly.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ There's a high probability that you might have a public argument with someone today. In fact, you might be at odds with a boss, parent, teacher, VIP or the police. This is not a good idea. The upside is not favorable. Your best option today is to work hard and get organized. That's a winning choice. Tonight: Be modest.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Don't get bogged down in arguments about politics, religion or racial issues today, which is easy to do! Instead, focus on socializing with others, exploring sports, enjoying playful times with kids and expressing your creative talents. Great choice. Tonight: Explore!



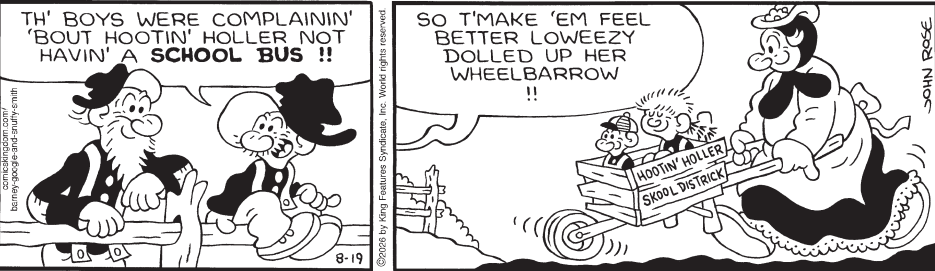
Hi & Lois



Beetle Bailey



Snuffy Smith



Zits



Name your Game!

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•Card Games •Casino Games and MUCH MORE!
bdtonline.com/games

Word Sleuth

WORD SLEUTH • THINGS FOUND IN THE GARDEN THAT DON'T GROW

FRPMJLGDAXVSQNK
SILEFEDAXVTQOMJ
HIFEMWCSAYWURPN
LJLHROSDEHSFDEB
ZXVLTRNMRMOQOUM
KIHFETAGDBISZTY
WVTNRROBRAHHEAQ
ONULFKTINEHFCTD
CRADZXWLAIDNUSV
PUESR(BIRDBATH)QO
NBMKJISALOGREPH

Tuesday's unlisted clue: SWAT

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

Arbor Gate Rain barrel Sundial
Berb frame Hose Shears Trellis
Birdbath Pergola Sheds Trowel
Chimes Pruners Statue

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YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

REPLACE THE T'S WITH B'S TO MAKE A NEW WORD

AS YES
LER BE
NTSRWE
DLPDEA

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“ - ”

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: MUMMY COVER SUMMER WISELY
Answer: The former bodybuilder still remembered his workout routine thanks to — MUSCLE MEMORY

Jumble

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

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

ASYES
LERBE
NTSRWE
DLPDEA

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“ - ”

(Answers tomorrow)

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