

"DEAR ASK A DOG, HOW CAN I STOP MY DOG FROM BEGGING FOR FOOD?"

BARK! BARK! BARK! BARK! BARK! BARK!

THAT'LL DO IT

SWITCH HIS TREATS FROM BACON TO KALE CHIPS

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TM DAVIS 10-14

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chp 10 | 4

I USED TO LACK SELF-CONFIDENCE...

BUT THEN A THERAPIST CONVINCED ME THAT I'M NO DIFFERENT THAN ANYONE ELSE,

NOW I LACK CONFIDENCE IN EVERYONE!

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PANEL 1: GIRL: ZOE WANTS TO DO A TAP DANCE/FAZZOO ACT FOR THE SCHOOL TALENT SHOW? BOY: WHAT?

PANEL 2: BOY: SHE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT SHE'S DOING. SHE'LL EMBARRASS HERSELF!

PANEL 3: GIRL: DOESN'T STOP YOU FROM PLAYING RACQUETBALL. BOY: HA HA.

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Mallard
FACT CHECKS
The **FACT CHECKERS**

THE CLAIM:

CNN AND MS NOW CLAIM THEIR JOURNALISTS WERE DENIED ACCESS TO THE WHITE HOUSE AFTER TRUMP DECLARED A BAN ON "FAKE NEWS."

FACT CHECK:
MOSTLY FALSE

"JOURNALISTS" IS A BIT OF A STRETCH.

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EDMUND 10-14

10-14

I THINK MAYBE WE SHOULD SURRENDER.

CHARLES CROMER

TODAY I THINK I'LL MAKE EITHER CRÈME ANGLAISE, CRÈME PÂTISSÈRE OR CRÈME BRULÉE

THEY ALL SOUND SO FANCY

I KNOW!

DESSERTS ALWAYS SOUND BETTER WHEN YOU CAN'T PRONOUNCE THEM

KEVIN'S MACDONALD

10-14

Hand-drawn.com

ERIC ROBERTS

MOM NEEDS SOME ATTENTION, DAD.

WHAT MAKES YOU SAY THAT?

SHE'S MAKING ME BABYSIT.

WE'RE GOING OUT TO DINNER!

ERIC ROBERTS

Illustration by Eric Roberts

GEEZ, DOC !!
I THOUGHT YA SAID
THAT DAN'L JEST
STUBBED HIS TOE !!

HE DID !!

**HE WUZ UP ON
TH' ROCKY RIDGE
TRAIL AT TH'
TIME !!**

JOHN
N. ROSE

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comickingsdom.com turney googe and snuffy smith

JEREMY! I'VE BEEN TEXTING YOU ALL MORNING!

SORRY, I LOST MY PHONE.

BUT MY MOM LET ME BORROW HERS.

PLING! TIME TO TAKE YOUR HORMONE PILLS!

MY INSINCERE CONDOLENCES.

HOW MUCH TO BUY YOUR SILENCE?

SCOTT M. WILLIAMS

ACROSS

1 Engine gunk

5 Sketched

9 Very unpopular

11 Irritate

12 Pueblo material

13 Gave a score to

14 Tear

15 Thwarting

17 Hard at work

19 Originally called

20 Spa room

21 Spot to jot

22 Columbus' birthplace

24 Director Spike

26 Oil barrels

29 Heir, at times

30 Like water for pasta

32 Preparing to strike, maybe

34 Reed of music

35 Fury

36 Deeply impressed

38 Acted out

39 Low cards in pinochle

40 Fruit tree

41 Seed holders

DOWN

1 Presentation aid

2 Hams' needs

3 Perfect place

4 Coming-out girl

5 Start a hand

6 Eye part

7 Made flat

8 Doorstop shape

10 Give meaning to

11 Prudish person

16 Continually

18 Olympics sled

21 Painter Klee

23 Source

24 Canadian dollar

25 Puzzle

27 La Scala city

28 Glibly deceived

29 Rascal

30 Swallow, e.g.

31 Shot in the dark

33 Lewd look

37 Tiny taste

Yesterday's answer

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

Defender avoids a booby trap

East dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH			
♠ 9 6 2			
♥ A Q			
♦ 10 3			
♣ A 9 7 5 4 3			
WEST		EAST	
♠ K 10 3		♠ J 8 5	
♥ 10 8 6 5 3		♥ K 9 4	
♦ J 4		♦ Q 9 7 6 2	
♣ J 8 6		♣ Q 2	
SOUTH			
♠ A Q 7 4			
♥ J 7 2			
♦ A K 8 5			
♣ K 10			

The bidding:
East **South** **West** **North**
 Pass 1 NT Pass 3 NT

Opening lead — five of hearts.

It is said that every weapon devised by the will of man sooner or later leads to an effective counter-weapon that acts as an equalizer. I don't know whether this is literally true or not, but I do know that in bridge, many situations arise where an equivalent principle applies.

This deal occurred in a team-of-four match. At the first table, West led a heart against South's three-notrump contract. East took dum-

my's queen with the king, returned a heart to the ace. Declarer now played a low club to the 10, losing to West's jack, and West returned a heart to South's jack.

Declarer then led the king of clubs and overtook it with dummy's ace. When East's queen of South was able to run dummy's clubs and make four notrump.

The same contract was defeated the second time after a heart led by West, losing to the king, and a heart return by East to dummy's ace. Again, declarer led a low club to the ten, but here West allowed South's ten to win the trick! As a result, declarer could not run dummy's clubs and finished down two.

Both declarers were very much aware of their own mistakes and their toes in playing the clubs. They realized that the best chance for the contract was to find East with the Q-x or J-x of clubs, in which case they would score five club tricks after losing the ten to West's jack or queen.

The second declarer ran an unusually inspired defense as West found the countermeasure to defuse South's plan. West sacrificed a club trick by refusing to take the jack, but his side got three tricks back in exchange.

Tomorrow: Sylvia.
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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.

10-14 CRYPTOQUOTE

E Z H I V G Z A D Q N V I M T V

Q D Z B T D N O V Q G T D H V V I Z N

X V I U Z N E T Z K D G T D N G Z Q N.

— U D Q G Q L R D D R D Q X D

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: I WOULD'N'T BE SERENA IF THERE WASN'T A VENUS. — SERENA WILLIAMS

RIGHT-HANDED

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

Tuesday's unlisted clue: DOG

nds in the diagram. They run in all directions -
up, down and diagonally.

ted clue hint: **Palm-Forward Tennis Swing**

lad-hand	New hand	Sure hand
ired hand	Offhand	Two-hand
our hand	Old hand	Unhand
eft-hand	Right-hand	

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Happy Birthday for Wednesday, Oct. 4, 2026:

You're adventurous, imaginative and curious. You're also independent-minded and a keen traveler. Make time for reflection this year to renew your spiritual or religious beliefs. Explore philosophies that will give you greater 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

RIES (April 21-April 19)

★★★ This is a fantastic day to travel and do anything to expand your world! Sports events, kids' activities, the theater and the arts will be exciting choices. You'll also feel sympathetic to people in other countries. You might even act on this feeling in a practical way. Tonight: Learn something.

AURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★ You are the financial wizard of the zodiac, and today is an excellent day for financial negotiations and discussions about shared property, mortgages, taxes, debt and inher-

itances. You'll be sympathetic but practical.

Tonight: Check your finances.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Today you might attract someone very interesting to you. This person might be logical, informed and sensitive. They might have bright ideas that they express very directly. In turn, you'll feel revved up for these conversations and perhaps will come forth with your own clever suggestions. **Tonight:** Listen to someone.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Today you might be in a position to help someone or put the needs and wants of someone else before your own. You might be financially generous or see ways to encourage others to be helpful. Whatever you do will likely earn the respect of some. (Hey, good press is always nice.) **Tonight:** Work.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ This is a high-energy, playful day! Enjoy schmoozing with friends. Sports events, fun activities with kids, the entertainment world and spending time with others will be great choices. Do something that pleases you today. Romance with someone of an age difference might happen. **Tonight:** Socialize.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ You might make some home improvements today or pay bills and secure your home in a better way. Instead of home improvements, this could translate into helping a family member as well. Stock the fridge, because your home routine might change. Tonight: Relax at home.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ You will negotiate strongly on your behalf, or for anything that you want to do today. You might represent a group or a friend. Not only will you be persuasive and charming, you'll also be practical and sensible. Whatever you do today, you will do with a keen balance. Tonight: An interesting discussion.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Financial discussions will go well today. You might see ways to boost your income. At work you will persevere and won't overlook details because your mind is focused and ready to create order out of chaos. People will listen to you. Tonight: Check your possessions.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ You're in the driver's seat today because the Moon is in your sign dancing beautifully with Mars, Saturn and Neptune. You know what you want to achieve and you will do so even if you are interrupted by

someone unusual and unexpected. Tonight: You're in charge. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Today you might use the resources of someone else, perhaps a partner, to help someone in need. This person who is in need might be a family member, or they could be someone far way in a distant land. Lately, you are involved with creative, younger people, perhaps from your past. Tonight: Enjoy solitude. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ You might attract someone a bit aggressive to you today. However, this person might help you deal with friends and groups to get things done, especially if you want to help someone in need. This isn't surprising, because you hope to make the world a better place. Tonight: Be friendly. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ You're high-viz, which means people notice you today. They see you as sympathetic, strong and proactive, which is a good thing. This puts you in a position where you can convince others to listen to your ideas and perhaps jump on your bandwagon and fight for a worthy cause. Tonight: Be modest.

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

JYFIF

CEORF

PCAEST

EESCUX

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Print your “  **”**

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's	Jumbles:	FACET	VILLA	WALLOP	ADRIFT
	Answer:	The frog's cousin never forgot anything, thanks to his — “TOAD-AL” RECALL			

Get the free **JUST JUMBLE** app • Follow us on Facebook

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

Are you kidding me?

If you think anyone is paying this, you're crazy!

Everyone's upset. I just work here.

PARKS REC

\$2.00 Per Visitor

10 14

WHEN THE TOWN BEGAN CHARGING TO USE THE PARK, IT WAS A ---

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