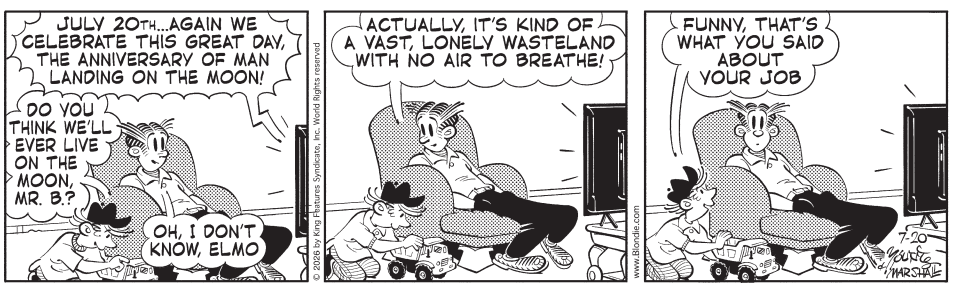
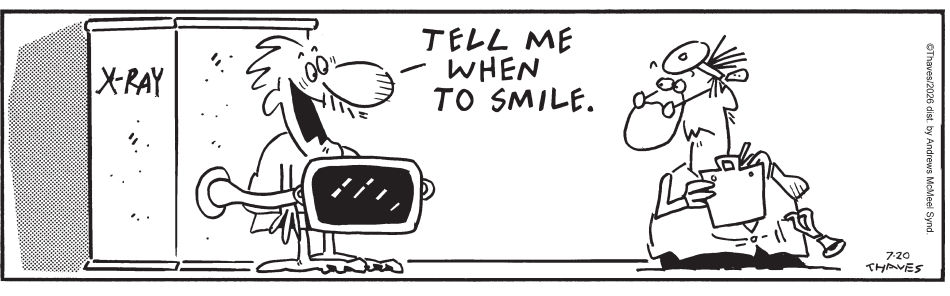
Garfield

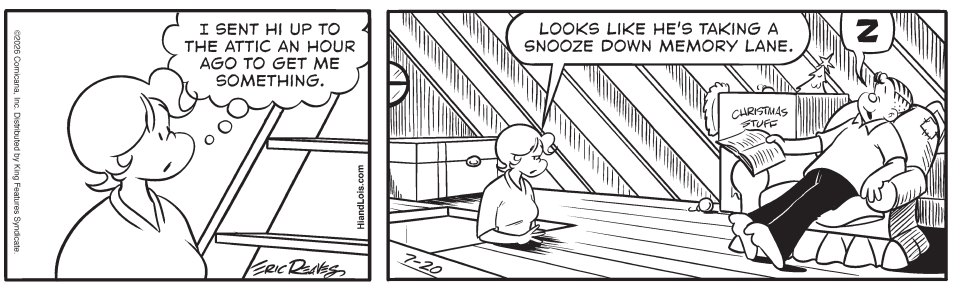
Blondie



Frank & Ernest



Hi & Lois



Born Loser

Beetle Bailey

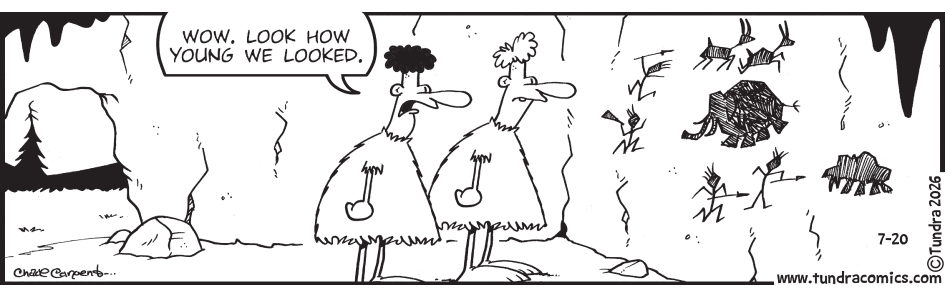
Baby Blues

Snuffy Smith

Mallard Fillmore

Zits

Tundra



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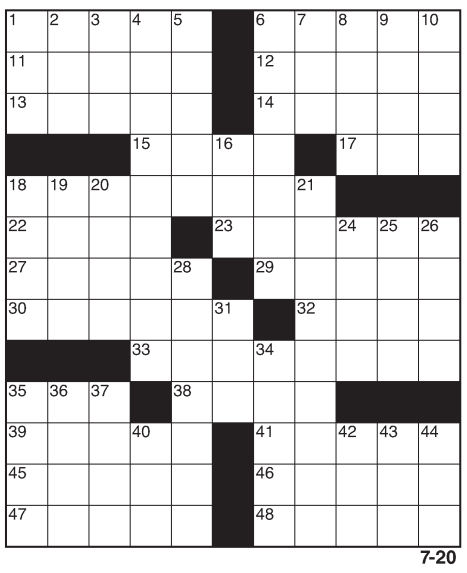
Crossword – By Thomas Joseph

ACROSS
1 Make ashamed
6 Strong winds
11 Rich dessert
12 Precise
13 Added
14 First Indian prime minister
15 Spur on
17 Sprint
18 Speaks like Porky Pig
22 Gasp for air
23 Generous diner
27 Birch's cousin
29 Garlic unit
30 Gets a point
32 Formerly owned
33 Window blockers
35 Nile serpent
38 Give off
39 Fixed proportion
41 Floppy cap
45 Sports surprise
46 Furious
47 Fire remnants
48 Egyptian city

DOWN
1 Had lunch
2 Cereal buy
3 Gallery fill
4 Peacocks, notably
5 Body pump
6 Nonbrand
7 Chopping tool
8 Cowardly Lion portrayer
9 Beige
10 Knock for a loop
16 Acquire
18 Relaxing resorts
19 Soft mineral
20 Take apart
21 Makes spitting sounds
24 Do some modeling
25 At any time
26 Cincinnati team
28 Prepares leftovers
31 Total
34 Leg bone
35 Blue hue
36 Dines late
37 Swanky
40 Course peg
42 Uncooked
43 Greek vowel
44 Toe count

M	A	P	L	E	■	F	E	T	C	H
A	V	A	I	L	■	A	G	I	L	E
N	E	R	V	E	■	T	O	N	E	D
I	N	S	E	C	T	■	■	E	R	G
A	G	O	■	T	E	E	N	A	G	E
S	E	N	■	I	N	J	U	R	Y	■
■	■	■	M	O	N	E	T	■	■	■
■	C	L	I	N	I	C	■	O	P	S
H	E	A	D	S	E	T	■	C	E	O
A	R	M	■	■	S	I	S	T	E	R
R	E	B	A	R	■	O	H	A	R	E
P	A	D	R	E	■	N	O	V	E	L
S	L	A	T	Y	■	S	E	E	D	Y

Saturday's answer



7-20

Bridge – By Steven Becker

Famous Hand

North dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 6 5 3
♥ 8 4 2
♦ A 9 8 5 2
♣ K Q

WEST
♠ Q J 8
♥ K Q 10 9 7
♦ 6 4
♣ 10 9 2

EAST
♠ K 10 7 2
♥ 6 5
♦ K 7
♣ 8 7 6 4 3

SOUTH
♠ A 9 4
♥ A J 3
♦ Q J 10 3
♣ A J 5

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
Pass	Pass	1 ♦	1 ♥
3 ♦	Pass	3 NT	

Opening lead — king of hearts.

This fascinating hand appears in "Spotlight on Card Play" by Robert Darvas and Paul Lukacs. West leads the king of hearts, East following suit with the five, and the question is how declarer should proceed so as to give himself the best chance of making three notrump.

Let's first assume that South takes the king with the ace and tries a diamond finesse. East wins and returns a heart, and South goes down one.

Let's next assume that South ducks the king of hearts, playing the three on it. If West leads another heart, South easily makes four notrump. But if West gives proper weight to his partner's play of the five of hearts — the lowest heart available — he does not lead another heart, realizing South has the A-J.

So West instead shifts to the queen of spades and continues the suit even if declarer ducks the queen and jack. In this case, South also goes down one, eventually losing a heart, three spades and a diamond.

It might therefore seem that declarer is doomed no matter what he does on the first trick, but that is not quite so. In fact, he stands a very good chance of short-circuiting the defense if, at trick one, he plays the jack of hearts on West's king!

West would have to be truly inspired to stop leading hearts after this extraordinary play, since he would naturally assume that South started with the A-J alone. This would be consistent with East holding the 6-5-3 and signaling mildly with the five.

West would almost surely play another heart at trick two to force out the ace. South could then afford to win with the ace and attempt the diamond finesse, guaranteeing the contract whether or not the finesse succeeded.

Tomorrow: Steppingstone to success.

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Word Sleuth

WORD SLEUTH • HOLD THE PHONE

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

Saturday's unlisted clue: LIME

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
Monday's unlisted clue hint: PHONE THAT EATS QUARTERS

Car phone	Earphone	Homophone	Saxophone
Cellphone	Euphone	iphone	Sousaphone
Dial phone	Geophone	Megaphone	Xylophone
Diaphone	Headphone	Otophone	

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7/20

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.

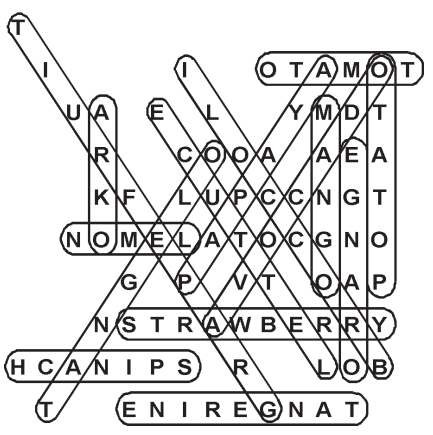
7-20 CRYPTOQUOTE

O K F Y B D A A F I H E A F . E B D A A F I G L A C V L O K O K F V F L Q K O Z N W G Z B B Z A F M O K L Y Q B . — O Z Y L A Z I I L B Z Y

Saturday's Cryptoquote: IT'S A SURE SIGN OF SUMMER IF THE CHAIR GETS UP WHEN YOU DO. — WALTER WINCHELL

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

FRESH FROM FLORIDA



Horoscope

– By Georgia Nichols

Happy Birthday for Monday, July 20, 2026:
You are cheerful, friendly, vibrant and energetic! This is a year of new beginnings, adventures and major changes in your life. Keep your eyes open for new opportunities and be ready to take the initiative. Define goals. 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)
★★★ Be patient with others today, because the Moon is opposite your sign, which means you will attract strong people to you. Discussions with partners, spouses and close friends will be lively. Express your creative talents. Today you're in touch with your muse. Tonight: Listen and cooperate.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Financial discussions will go well today. In fact, you will feel generous to family members and, likewise, they might be generous to you. Nevertheless, avoid confrontation with parents and authority figures, which might be power struggles. You don't need this. Tonight: Get better organized.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Interactions with kids will be lively. You might be attracted to competitive sports. You also might find yourself in a power struggle with a sibling or in a discussion about politics or religion that is a tad confrontational. However, you will support a friend or group today. Tonight: Socialize!

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Family discussions about money might be a tad aggressive, especially because someone behind the scenes seems to be steering the show. If you suspect this, walk away. Ironically, you are prepared to be generous, but not if someone demands this of you. Tonight: Relax at home.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Issues with those who are closest to you might be challenging today. Things might come down to a power struggle or a challenge of egos. Meanwhile, you will be interested in your involvement with friends and groups, which could be competitive. Your idealism is aroused today. Tonight: A lively discussion.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You're willing to work hard for your money today, which is why you might spend it just as fast. In part, this is because travel and exciting adventures are appealing right now. You also might be involved with a charitable society today. Avoid power struggles, especially related to kids and romantic partners. Tonight: Check your money.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ You have lots of mental energy today, which is why you might get into a little argument with someone. Ask yourself if it's a worth it. You prefer a harmonious day! Your charitable involvement with friends or groups will be appreciated. Do what you can. Even a small kindness makes a difference. Tonight: You win!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Avoid power struggles with parents, bosses and people in authority (including the police). Meanwhile, behind the scenes research will pay off in discussions about shared property, inheritances, taxes and debt. Friends will be supportive today. Go with what feels good. Tonight: Enjoy privacy.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ A discussion with a friend or a member of a group will be lively today! It could relate to your desire to help children in need. Or it might be related to the arts. Whatever the case, you have strong opinions today! Tonight: Be friendly.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Power struggles about money and possessions might take place today. If so, you won't hesitate to speak up to authority figures -- parents, bosses, teachers, VIPs and the police -- to defend your own best interests. Actually, today you have the best interests of family at heart. Tonight: You're noticed by others.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Be careful of a ruthless desire to get ahead today, which might tempt you to coerce others into doing what you want. In fact, proceed with caution. Instead, use your energy to make travel plans or pursue avenues in higher education, medicine, publishing or the law. Tonight: Explore and learn.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Don't be too pushy at work today, especially if you're trying to introduce improvements. (There are none so deaf as those who are wearing headphones.) Meanwhile, you might make improvements at home or within your family; this is more doable. Co-workers might be generous to each other today, which is a good thing. Tonight: Check your finances.

Jumble

JUMBLE

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

NEEFC

APCEE

RGSNTI

ECOCRS

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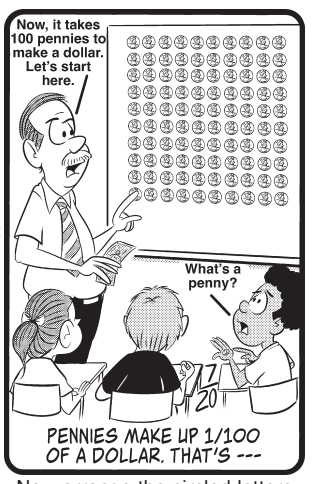
THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



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

◯◯◯ " ◯◯◯ - ◯◯◯◯ "

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: FLUSH ITCHY SAILOR COARSE
Answer: The definitive book about the St. Andrews Golf Course tells the — "HOLES" STORY