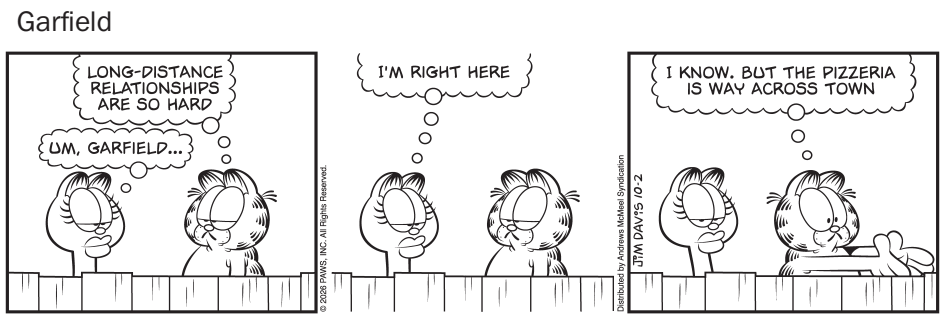
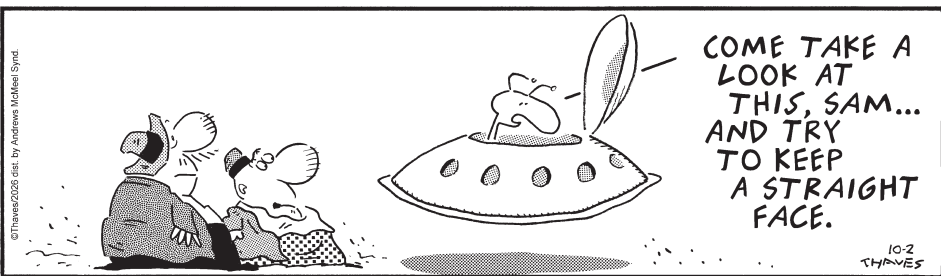
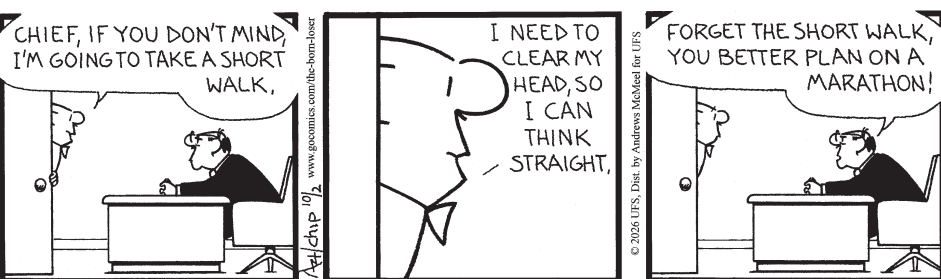




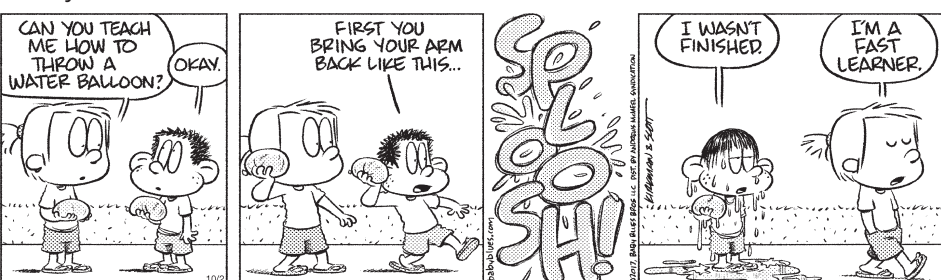
Frank & Ernest



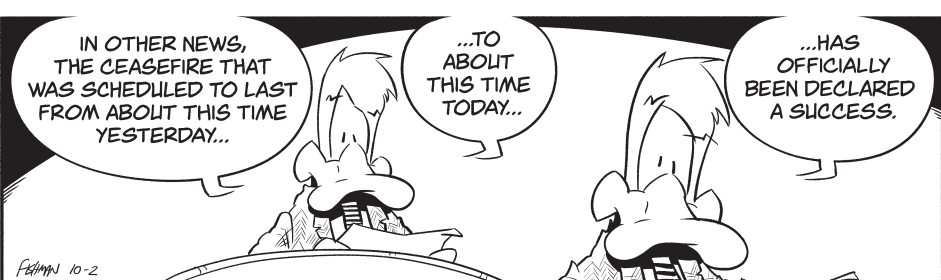
Born Loser



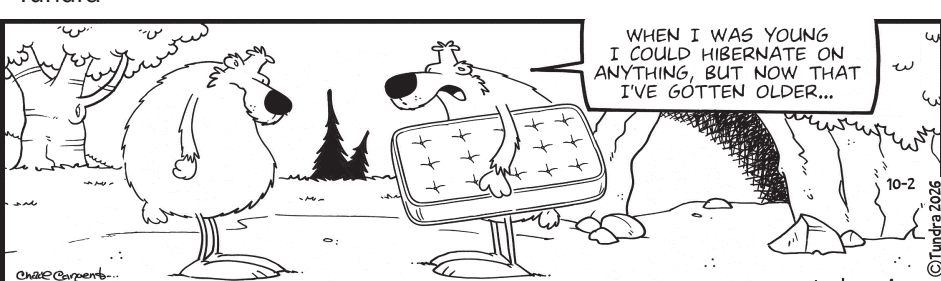
Baby Blues



Mallard Fillmore



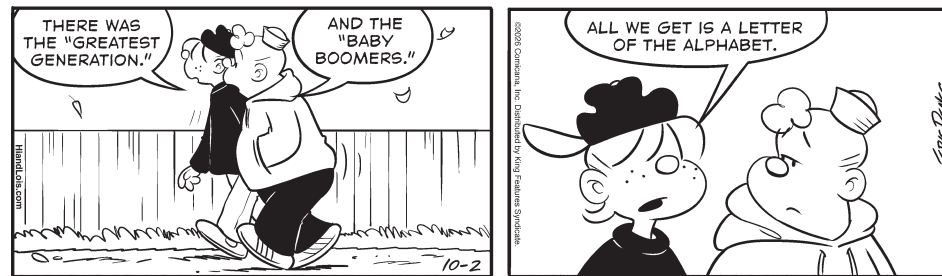
Tundra



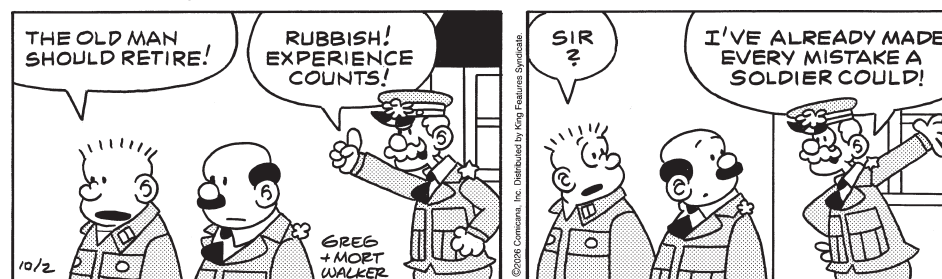
Blondie



Hi & Lois



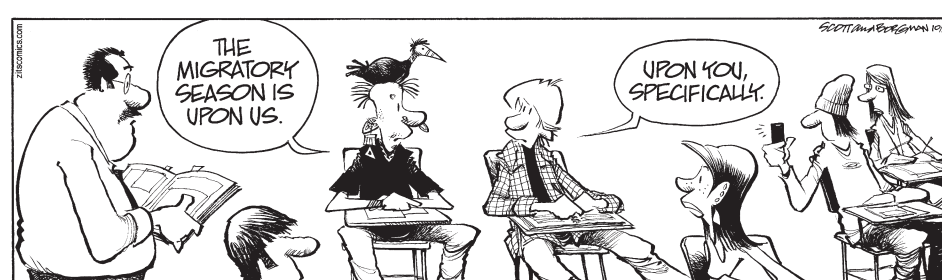
Beetle Bailey



Snuffy Smith



Zits



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Crossword – By Thomas Joseph

**ACROSS**

40 Some curves

1 Passover bread

6 Aquarium plump fish

11 Broadway story worker

12 Clear sky

13 Woolly ones

14 Note from the boss

15 Cruise in the movies

16 Derby, e.g.

18 Reunion group

19 Stretch of years

20 Writer Tan

21 One-million link

22 Do some city planning

24 Elevator pioneer

25 Trap

27 Whittle down

29 Wreckage

32 Outback bird

33 Apiece

34 Ethan's "Gattaca" co-star

35 Cargo unit

36 Groom's answer

37 Devils' org.

38 Kidney-related

**DOWN**

1 Bring together

2 On the beach

3 James Dasher book

4 Last letter of "Annie"

5 "Annie" extras

6 Peevish

7 Seine season

8 Khaled Hosseini book

9 Leah of "The King of Queens"

10 Bowls book

17 Added a codicil to bill

24 Ball

26 Spray type

27 Fuel for a lorry

28 One-celled creature

30 Arrival announcement

31 Latin dances

33 Heaps

39 Inquire

41 Wall St. debut

**Yesterday's answer**

1. 75 ♥QJ6 ♦KQ9852 ♣J6

2. ♠6 ♥KJ9532 ♦Q74 ♣K65

3. ♠1083 ♥J5 ♦QJ4 ♣KJ872

4. ♠94 ♥Q763 ♦J96532 ♣8

Bridge – By Steven Becker

## Bidding quiz

You are South, and the bidding has gone:

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| 1 ♠  | 1 NT  | Pass | ?     |

What would you bid with each of the following four hands?

- ♠75 ♥QJ6 ♦KQ9852 ♣J6
- ♠6 ♥KJ9532 ♦Q74 ♣K65
- ♠1083 ♥J5 ♦QJ4 ♣KJ872
- ♠94 ♥Q763 ♦J96532 ♣8

1. **Three notrump.** Partner's notrump overall indicates about the same values as an opening bid: 15 to 18 points, balanced distribution and at least one spade stopper. Had partner opened as dealer with one notrump, you presumably would have raised to three on the basis of your strong diamond suit. You should take the same action here, even though it was West who opened the bidding.

2. **Four hearts.** Again, you respond as though partner had opened with one notrump. Opposite that bid, this is a game-going hand, and you might just as well bid game now as later. Alternatively, you could bid three hearts, planning to continue to four hearts if partner rebids three notrump.

3. **Two notrump.** You can't tell whether this is a game-going hand, so you should leave the decision to partner, who knows whether he has a minimum or a maximum for his one-notrump bid. If he is on the lower end of the range, he'll probably pass, while if he is on the upper end, he'll carry on to three notrump.

4. **Two diamonds.** This response instructs partner to pass, which is certainly what you want him to do. The two-diamond bid tells partner that you have a very weak hand and that you believe the combined hands will offer a better chance of making two diamonds than one notrump.

Unfortunately, in some circles this signoff response might fall on deaf ears when the player that bid one notrump keeps right on bidding because he doesn't realize that his partner has a terrible hand. If that is what your partner is apt to do, you should perhaps pass one notrump and let partner suffer there in order to forestall a potentially greater disaster.

**Tomorrow:** Vanishing act.  
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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.

## 10-2 CRYPTOQUOTE

WBE PNQ BQVW BKKZQF GZ

AK WBE GZNQ TBGZMYAQD MB

## GZ. — PYOAT OBPL

**Yesterday's Cryptoquote:** LISTEN! THE WIND IS RISING, AND THE AIR IS WILD WITH LEAVES, WE HAVE HAD OUR SUMMER EVENINGS, NOW FOR OCTOBER EVES! — HUMBERT WOLFE

Word Sleuth

## WORD SLEUTH • YELLOW FLOWERS

DXVSQNKIFDAXVTQ  
NOMJHFCAYSWURPN  
LOJHFDDBDZUUXVTR  
QOILMDBKLCITHTF  
DAHLIAEDBOZYUW  
VTRHEDGQORGNLLK  
IHCYFDOSUCSIBIH  
DRCISUNFLOWERPAP  
OZXRWNIAFWORRAY  
VENIMS AJDAUSRQM  
ONESORMPKJD IHFE

Thursday's unlisted clue: STENGEL  
Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.  
Friday's unlisted clue hint: FAVORITE FLOWER IN HOLLAND

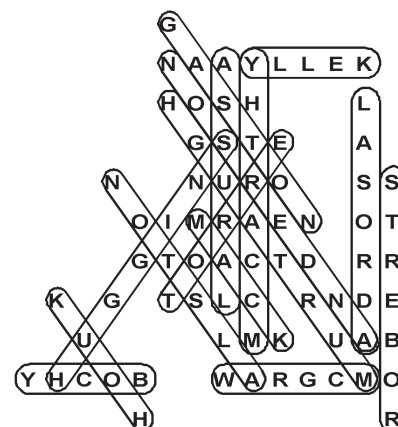
|          |           |          |           |
|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| Begonia  | Dandelion | Lotus    | Rose      |
| Crocus   | Hibiscus  | Marigold | Sunflower |
| Daffodil | Iris      | Orchid   | Yarrow    |
| Dahlia   | Jasmine   | Pansy    |           |

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10/2

## YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

## REPEATING WORLD SERIES WINNING MANAGERS



Jumble

## JUMBLE

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

RUEHS  
EVFRE  
BELMME  
IETLIC

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Yesterday's Jumbles: ELUDE WHIRL DIVERCE  
Answer: The hiker was offered a free ride down the mountain, but — HE DECLINED

## 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, Oct. 2, 2026:

You're gregarious, intelligent and pleasure-loving. You like to inform and guide others. This is a year of building and construction. The structures you build might be internal or external. Simplicity is key. Take charge of your health. Physical exercise will play an important role. Stay grounded and levelheaded.

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 creative day for you. Because you're the artisan of the zodiac, tap into your talents and make something, art or explore one of your many hobbies. However, avoid intense discussions with partners, spouses and friends. Keep things light. Tonight: Relax at home.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ In your heart, you want to be helpful to a family situation or whatever is going on at home because you feel sympathetic. However, conversa-

tions with others might be too loaded with emotions, too powerful. Skate through this day by avoiding crazy moments. Tonight: Discussions.  
GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★ Power struggles with romantic partners, as well as power struggles with your kids, are par for the course today. Be patient and cut everyone some slack. You don't have to be right. Things don't have to go your way. Lighten up and be gentle. Tonight: Check your money.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ You're a good saver and generally careful with your money. However, today confusion about your money, your earnings or even something you own might be at play, which in turn triggers family arguments about shared property and shared costs. Run for cover. Tonight: You win!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Today you're in touch with your muse, which means your imagination is heightened and you might spend time daydreaming. However, you can also do some wonderful artistic work or explore new ideas. Meanwhile, you might have sympathy for someone and do what you can to help them. Tonight: Enjoy privacy.  
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ Among many things, you are the sign of service, which is why you're willing to help those in need. This quality might arise today if you discover someone who needs your help, perhaps someone behind the scenes. Unfortunately, disputes about money and possessions might also arise. Tricky. Tonight: Be friendly.  
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★ Avoid power struggles with others, especially romantic partners, your kids or anyone in the hospitality industry or the entertainment world. You don't like to rock the boat. You like to keep the peace and keep everyone happy. Protect your own peace of mind today. Tonight: You're admired.  
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Your desire to help a co-worker or pet, or to explore self-help care for yourself might be at odds with someone else's ideas, especially someone at home or within the family. Learn as much as you can so you can arm yourself with information to support your ideas. Tonight: Explore and learn.  
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ This is a romantic and affectionate day for many of you. You also might feel very caring toward children. Even the arts will flourish

today. However, an intense encounter with a friend or a member of a group might be a bit overwhelming. Tonight: Check banking and finances.  
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ You might convince a third party to help you or your family today because you feel concerned. Nevertheless, a conversation with a parent, boss or someone in authority might be demanding. They might want you to account for yourself. (Yikes.) Tonight: Listen and cooperate.  
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★ Steer clear of controversial topics today. These could quickly become power struggles instead of rational discussions. In either case, you might still pursue your desire to help someone in need because your idealism is aroused. (You always want to save the world before bedtime.) Tonight: Get better organized.  
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Even though disputes about shared property or how to share expenses might arise today, you will do your best to be supportive to co-workers and people who want to help you. Explore romance and playful opportunities today. Live it up! Tonight: socialize!