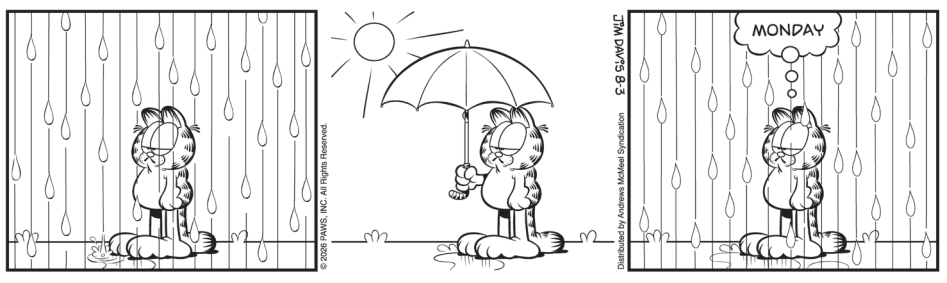
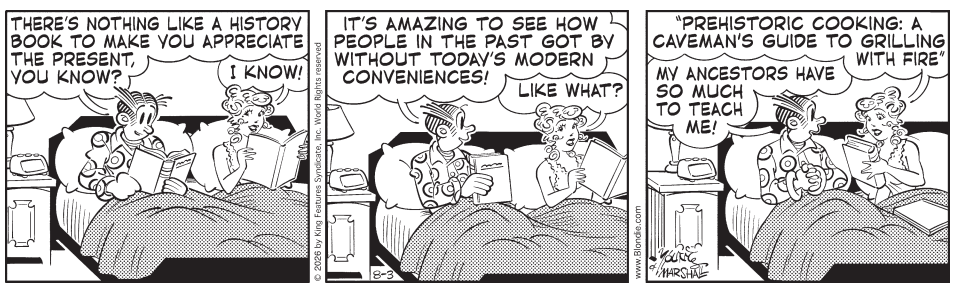
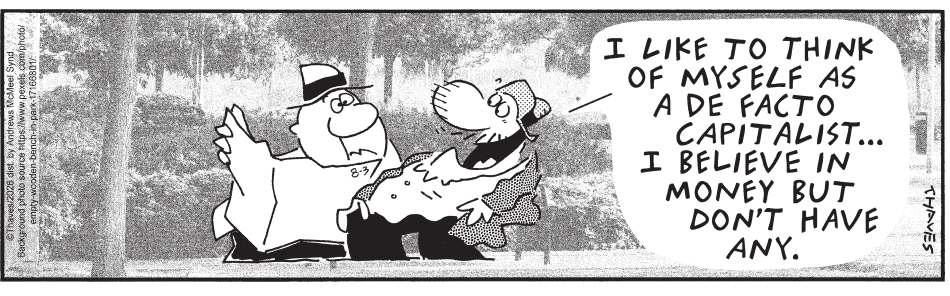
Garfield



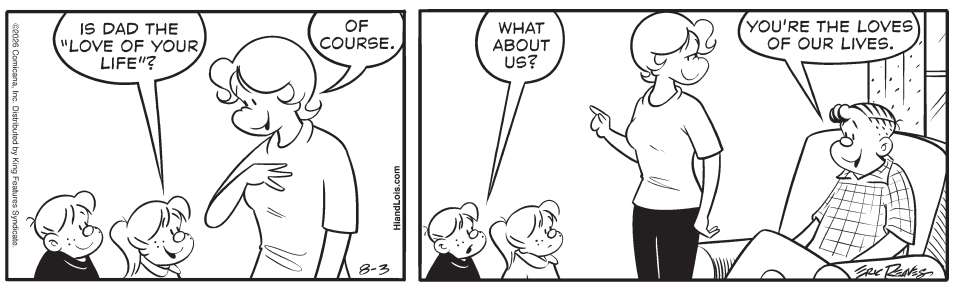
Blondie



Frank & Ernest

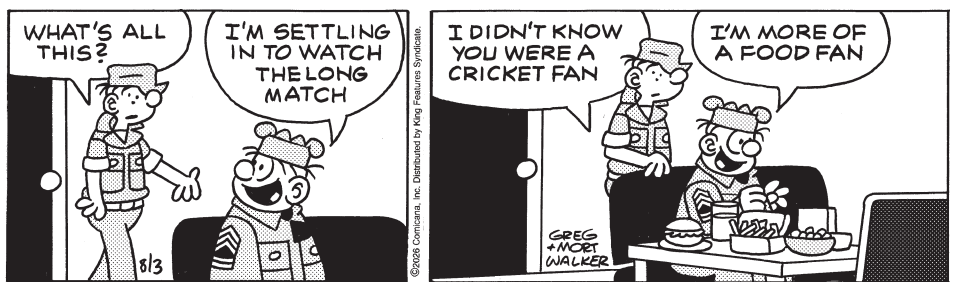


Hi & Lois



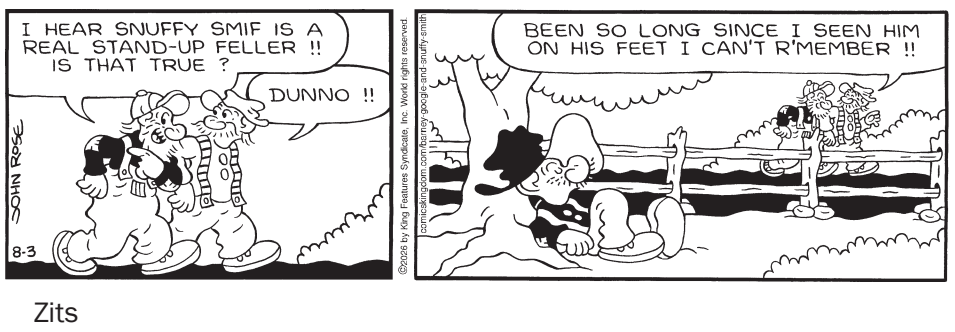
Born Loser

Beetle Bailey



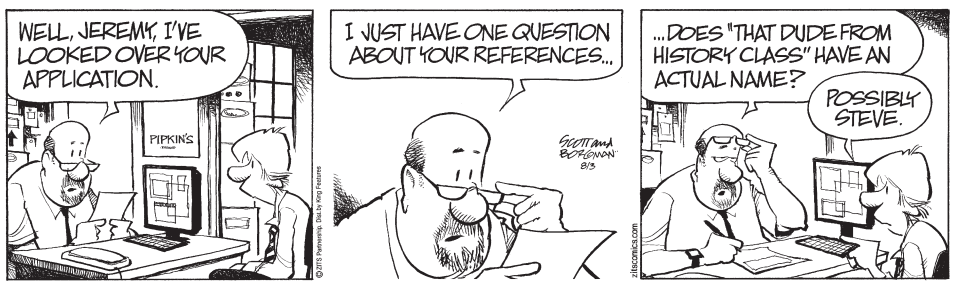
Baby Blues

Snuffy Smith

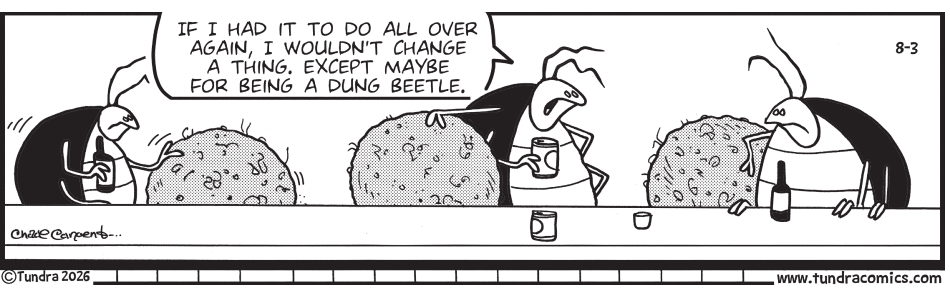


Mallard Fillmore

Zits



Tundra



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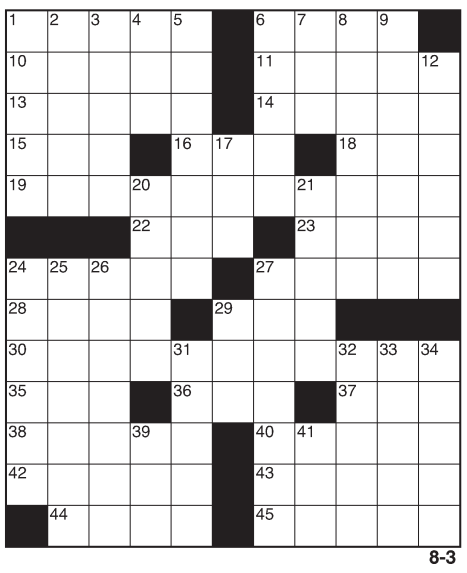
Crossword – By Thomas Joseph

ACROSS
1 Helpers: Abbr.
6 Sheep sounds
10 Sugary
11 Cider fruit
13 Asian peninsula
14 Push away
15 Yale rooter
16 Sock part
18 Spectrum color
19 Rihanna hit
22 Neckline shape
23 Finished
24 Rabbits' cousins
27 Salad green
28 Smell
29 "Right you —!"
30 Rihanna hit
35 Nourished
36 Good times
37 Blend
38 Ready for war
40 Hackneyed
42 Brings up
43 Boring tool
44 Nimble
45 Minimum amount

DOWN
1 Crooked
2 Muscular, in slang
3 Letter stroke
4 Player's peg
5 Park art
6 Uncovered
7 King Kong, for one
8 Sanction
9 Jacket pair
12 Town leaders
17 Wallet bill
20 Plain to see
21 Sophia of "Two Women"
24 Question after a javelin throw
25 Sticks
26 Driving aid
27 New Age token
29 Band blaster
31 Lathered up
32 Friendly señorita
33 Tiny amounts
34 Bring to bear
39 Blunder
41 Regret

	C	A	S	A		B	I	R	D	
C	A	B	A	L		A	R	I	E	S
A	M	O	N	G		L	A	P	S	E
B	E	A	K	E	R	S		K	E	N
E	R	R		B	E	A	R	E	R	S
R	A	D	A	R	S		A	N	T	E
			S	A	T	U	P			
A	R	C	S		O	N	T	I	M	E
B	E	A	T	E	R	S		B	E	A
B	A	N		B	E	A	V	E	R	S
O	R	A	T	E		V	E	R	G	E
T	U	D	O	R		E	R	I	E	S
	P	A	N	T		D	Y	A	D	

Saturday's answer



8-3

Bridge – By Steven Becker

Famous Hand

West dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

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

WEST	EAST
Ron Rubin	Mike Becker
1 ♠	2 ♣
3 ♣	3 ♦
4 ♣	4 ♦
4 NT	5 ♣
6 ♦	6 ♠

Most players — good, bad or indifferent — bid naturally rather than artificially. When they bid hearts, they usually have hearts; when they bid clubs, they usually have clubs; and so on.

But in the top echelons of bridge there are an ever-increasing number of pairs who employ very exotic methods and often bid suits that have nothing to do with their actual holdings in these suits.

One pair in this category who did exceedingly well in national championships during a 15-year period are Ron Rubin and Mike Becker (this writer's brother). They held the East-West cards in the 1978 Vanderbilt team championship and got to six spades as shown.

By way of explanation, and not for instructional purposes, here is what their bids meant:

One Spade: Normal opening bid, but denies more than 16 high-card points.

Two Clubs: Artificial game-forcing bid asking West to describe his distribution.

Three Clubs: I have a void in hearts, diamonds or clubs, and a rather freakish hand.

Three Diamonds: Tell me more.

Four Clubs: The void is in clubs, and my distribution is 7-3-3-0! (The number of steps taken over three diamonds describes West's distribution.)

Four Diamonds: What are your high-card values?

Four Notrump: I have 14 to 16 high-card points and five controls (an ace is two controls, a king one).

Five clubs: Where are your controls located?

Six diamonds: I have controls in all three suits and extra honors in hearts and diamonds. (Had Rubin been weak in any suit, he would have bid five of that suit. Thus, if he had held ♠ AKxxxxx ♥ AJx ♦ Qxx ♣ —, he would have responded five diamonds.)

After Mike Becker, who had made four artificial forcing bids in succession, closed the auction with six spades, he was asked by South what kind of hand West had indicated by his five bids. Becker wrote down that he expected his partner to have: ♠ Kxxxxxx ♥ AKx ♦KQx ♣ —!

Tomorrow: It all adds up to 13.

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Word Sleuth

WORD SLEUTH • MIDTERM ELECTIONS

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

Saturday's unlisted clue: COB

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

Ballot	Congress	Mail-in	Polls
Campaign	Debate	Majority	Senate
Candidate	Delegate	Minority	Turnout
Caucus	Incumbent	Platform	

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8/3

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.

8-3 **CRYPTOQUOTE**

E Z M M A K Z B C Z M U L Z D S Z

U L S B B X Q M A K V H A N J S I Z Q F

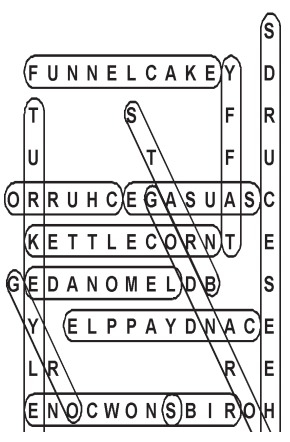
U Z Q F X Q M A K V U L A S U .

— K Q J Q A C Q

Saturday's Cryptoquote: HOW QUICK TIME GOES BY NOW, COMPARED TO WHEN YOU WERE A KID. SUMMER USED TO LAST FOREVER. NOW IT'S TWELVE WEEKS. — JOHN GOODMAN

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

STATE FAIR FARE



Horoscope

– By Georgia Nichols

Happy Birthday for Monday, Aug. 3, 2026:
You're focused, courageous and energetic. You're also adventurous, impulsive and self-disciplined. This is a fun-loving year. Your zest for life is at a pinnacle! Enjoy socializing with others. Nurture the happiness and beauty you have within. Let your guard down and loosen up a bit. Have fun!
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 lovely day for you! The Moon is in ARIES dancing beautifully with lucky Jupiter and the Sun. It is also lined up with gentle Neptune, making you empathetic and tuned in to your surroundings. You feel warm and friendly to everyone and concerned for their welfare. Tonight: You're powerful.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ This is a feel-good day! You'll enjoy time spent alone in private moments or solitude because you're sensitive to the problems of others today. This will heighten your feelings of compassion and encourage you to be helpful to someone in need. Enjoy relaxing at home. Tonight: Solitude.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ You're interested in the world today! You want to know what's going on, and you want to talk to others. In particular, you might feel sympathetic about a friend or a group, which, in turn, might prompt you to become involved in a charitable organization. Your Spidey sense is also heightened today. Tonight: Be friendly.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ People notice you today. You can use this to your advantage if you want to set an example, especially an example that is caring, compassionate and generous to others. You also feel confident about your finances today. You might shop for something big! Tonight: Be modest.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ Your desire to expand your world is strong today. Not only are you interested in travel, you're also interested in big ideas and making progress through medicine or the law in a way that benefits others. Because your idealism is aroused, you want to help people in need. Tonight: Explore!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You're happy to work alone or behind the scenes today. Nevertheless, you might do fundraising or use the wealth and resources of someone else to benefit others. With Mars high in your chart, your ambition is aroused. Plus, you're interested in talking to younger people, perhaps to rally your troops. Tonight: Check your finances.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ This is a popular day, and you're eager to schmooze, especially with members of the general public. You might have a strong connection with a partner, spouse or close friend. Your sympathies are aroused, perhaps for someone close to you. Tonight: Be cooperative.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ You make a fabulous impression on others today, which is something you can use if you want to persuade someone about something that is dear to your heart. This could be about a charitable cause, or it might be something that is work-related or even related to your health. Tonight: Get organized.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Do something different today. You're keen for adventure! This is a marvelous day to schmooze. Accept invitations to socialize. Romantic interests as well as playful times with kids will delight you. You feel particularly concerned about the welfare of children today. Tonight: Relax and socialize!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Today you might want to help a family member. You're certainly sensitive to the needs of family members right now. You might research ways to get funding or help for someone who needs assistance. Personally, travel and a chance to do something different appeals to you. Tonight: Home and family.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ You're an idealist who is concerned about the welfare of society. Today you might be on your proverbial podium or out there with petitions because you care about a cause. Your imagination is heightened today, which promotes artistic fantasies. Tonight: A lively discussion.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ If you can do something to help others, especially related to your job, you will. You feel sensitive to the concerns and problems of someone. You might be personally generous with your own funds, or look for ways to encourage others to be generous as well. Tonight: Check your belongings.

Jumble

JUMBLE

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

GTANR

TNSRO

SISKDE

RSEUQA

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

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Facebook

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

Print your answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: BOSSY MUSIC SUMMON ZOMBIE
Answer: The underwater science team won a grant thanks to their great — "SUB-MISSION"