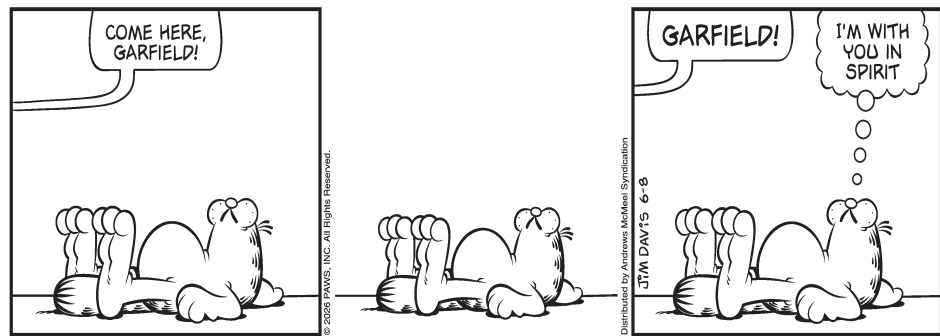
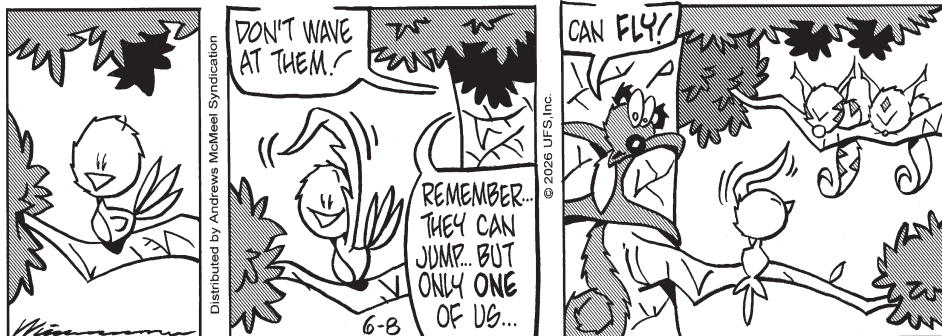


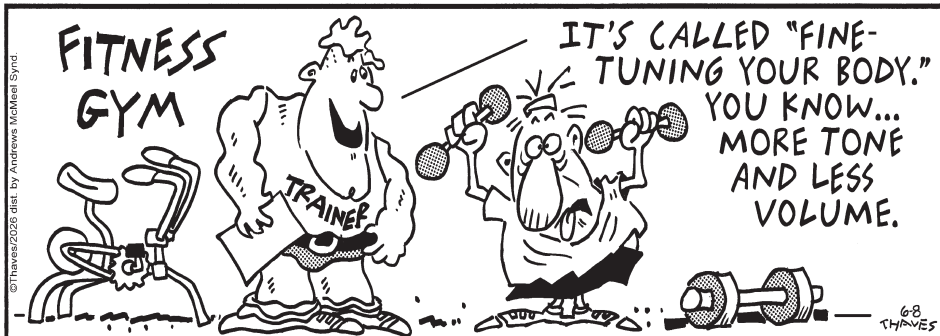
GARFIELD



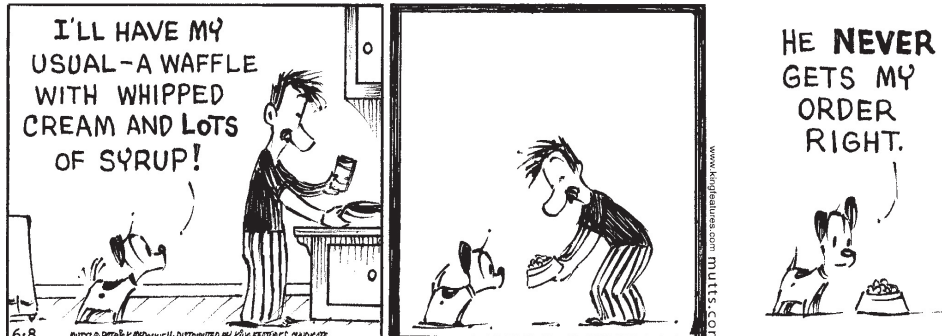
ROSE IS ROSE



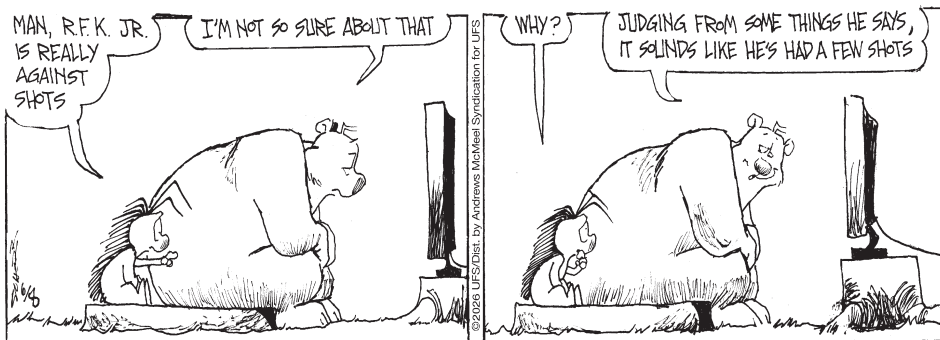
FRANK & ERNEST



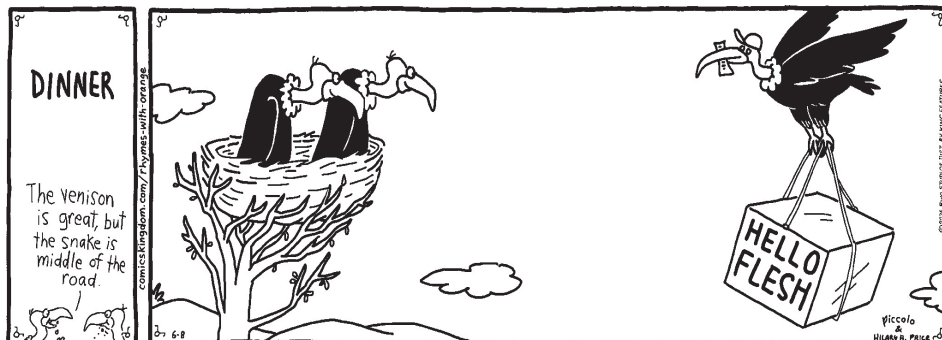
MUTTS



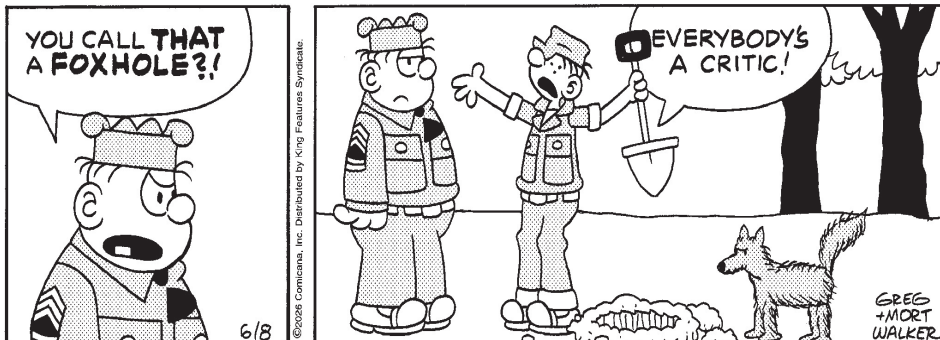
THE GRIZZWELLS



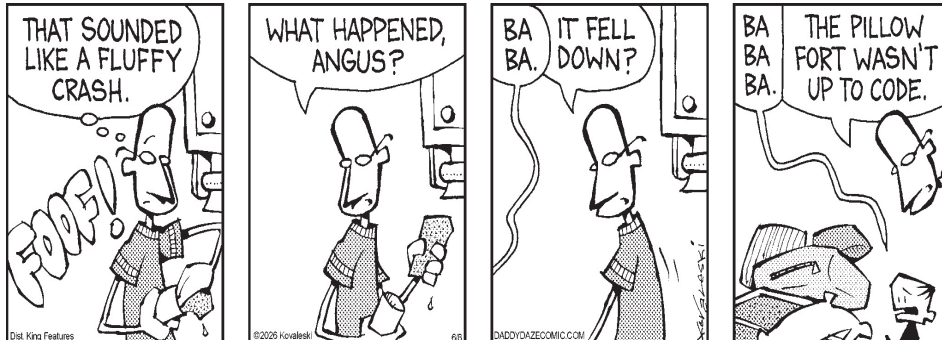
RHYMES WITH ORANGE



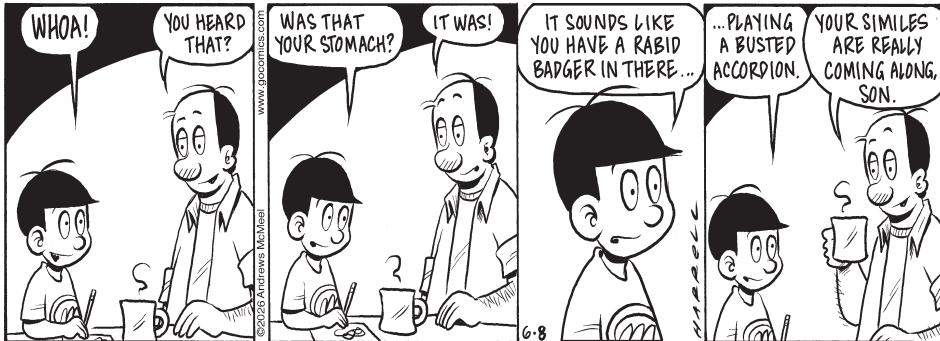
BEETLE BAILEY



DADDY DAZE



ADAM DAILIES



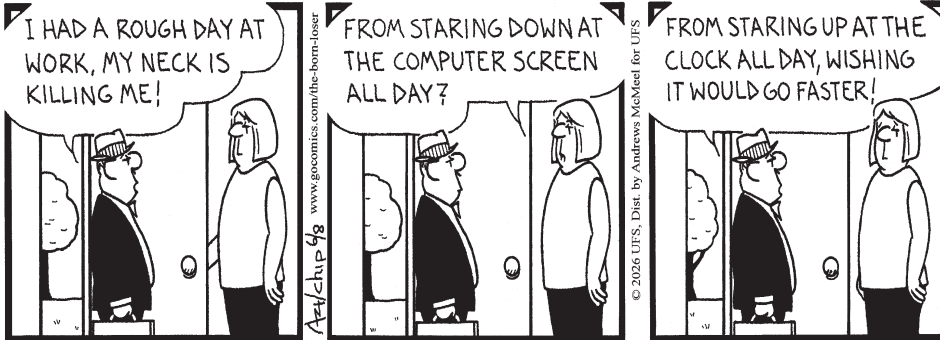
MODERATELY CONFUSED



REALITY CHECK



THE BORN LOSER



Shortcuts
by jeff harris

Opening Up To
Pinecones

Open For Business

Pinecones may open and close many times to release seeds before falling to the ground.

Pinecones open and close depending on the weather. Warm, dry weather causes the pinecone to open, while cool, damp weather causes the pinecone to close.

Most pinecones take about two years to reach maturity.

Some types of pinecones will remain on the tree for as long as 10 years.

Family Tree

All members of the conifer family of plants produce cones. While pine trees represent the largest family of conifers, other conifers include cedars, cypresses, firs, hemlocks, junipers, larches, redwoods, spruces and yews.

The ancient Celts and ancient Romans both used pinecones as a symbol of fertility.

Cone Heads

Can you spot all six differences between these two scenes?

GAME ANSWERS:
1. Eyes are moved.
2. Ear is missing.
3. Nose is smaller.
4. Head is shorter.
5. Branch is missing.
6. Pinecone is moved.

Many species of dinosaurs ate pinecones.

This edition of Shortcuts is sponsored by Cone N. the Barbarian.

I'm as tough as they come.

Where do pinecones do their banking? At a branch office.

Word Search

Can you find the hidden words? Search carefully because some words are backward or diagonal.

CONIFER DAMP YOUR TOPICHERE
CYMBAL CONE ADIALENYOEELS
SYMBOL HEAT OFERCPPUNFDAY
SCALES COOL SHGUYRIGIDPAC
SPRUCE PINE ESROECLNFAROR
POLLEN BOB APESWOONEJOYS
WOODY YEW SMSLWCBNULLDB
CEDAR DRY BANCALMJELLOL
WARM FIR ADDORCYEARBOY
CHARMOSTAROWP

The pinecones of some species of pines, including the jack pine, knobcone pine and lodgepole pine, will open only after being exposed to the heat of a wildfire.

What do you get when you cross a pinecone with a late-night talk show host? Cone N. O'Brien.

The sugar pine tree produces the longest pinecones. Some measure more than 60 cm (24 in.) in length.

The coulter pine tree produces the heaviest pinecones. Some may weigh more than 4 kg (9 lbs.).

All pine trees produce male and female pinecones. The woody structures most people recognize as pinecones are all females that contain seeds. The much smaller and spongier male pinecones produce pollen.

How do you describe two pinecones that are stuck together? Cone-fused.

The plates that spiral around a pinecone are called "scales." Each scale contains two seeds.

Where do pinecones go for amusement? Coney Island.

For more information: www.csuchico.edu/gateway/_assets/documents/pinecone-diversity.pdf or www.ypsilibrary.org/2020/12/pine-cones/

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