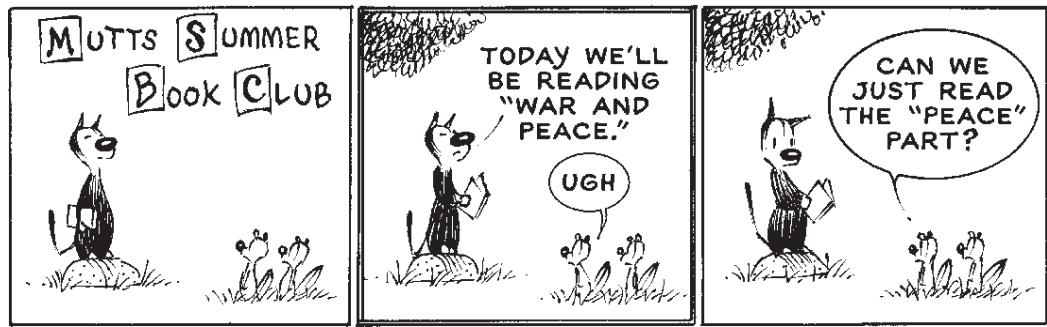


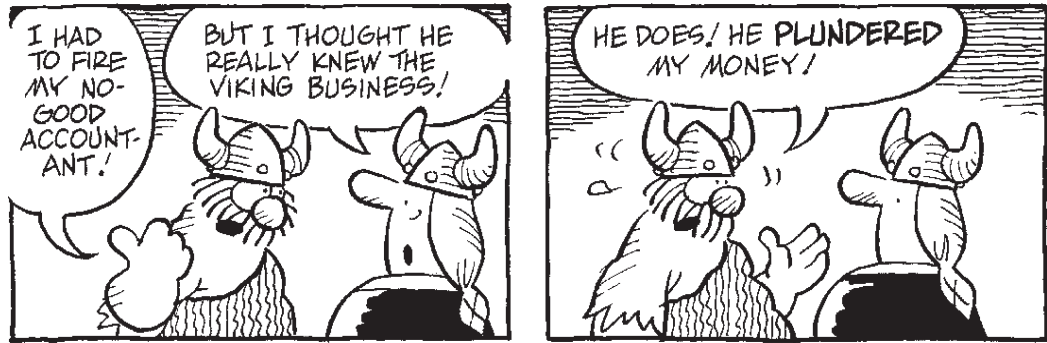
Sherman's Lagoon — By J.P. Toomey



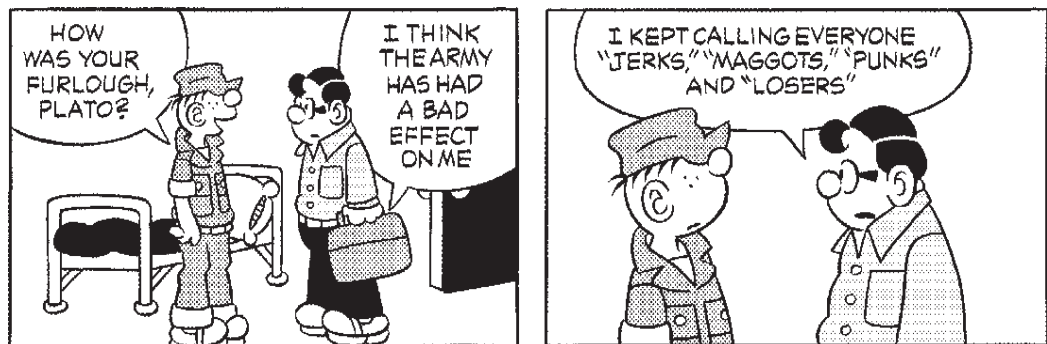
Mutts — By Patrick McDonnell



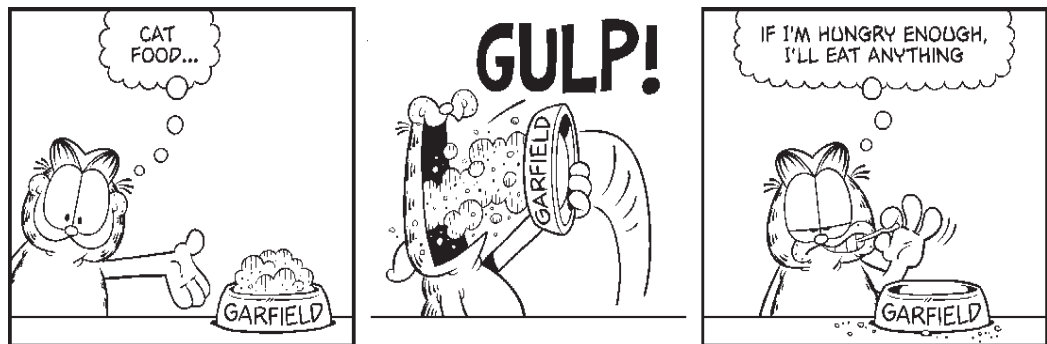
Hagar The Horrible — By Chris Browne



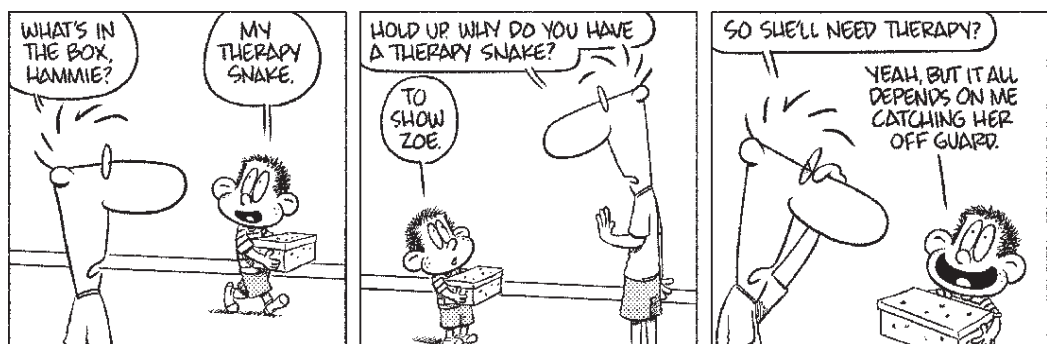
Beetle Bailey — By Mort Walker



Garfield — By Jim Davis



Baby Blues — By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Conceptis Sudoku Challenger

The grid must be so completed that every row, column and 3x3 box has every digit from 1 to 9 inclusive

By Dave Green

		5	6		
	4			8	
9		1	2		6
9	8			3	2
			9		
1	2			4	7
	2	3	4		8
		7			9
		9	5		

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

Answer to yesterday's puzzle

5	2	8	4	9	6	1	3	7
9	1	4	3	2	7	8	5	6
7	6	3	5	1	8	4	2	9
3	7	2	1	5	9	6	8	4
6	5	9	8	4	2	3	7	1
4	8	1	6	7	3	5	9	2
1	9	6	7	3	5	2	4	8
2	4	5	9	8	1	7	6	3
8	3	7	2	6	4	9	1	5

Difficulty Level ★★★

DIRECTIONS:

Fill each square with a number, one through nine.
■ Horizontal squares should add to totals on right.
■ Vertical squares should add to totals on bottom.
■ Diagonal squares through center should add to total in upper and lower right.

THERE MAY BE MORE THAN ONE SOLUTION.

Today's Challenge
Time 8 Minutes
10 Seconds
Your Working Time
__ Minutes
__ Seconds

Word by Word

Stitch (درزة) Darza

A stitch in time saves nine.
Al darza fe heniha towafer tesan.

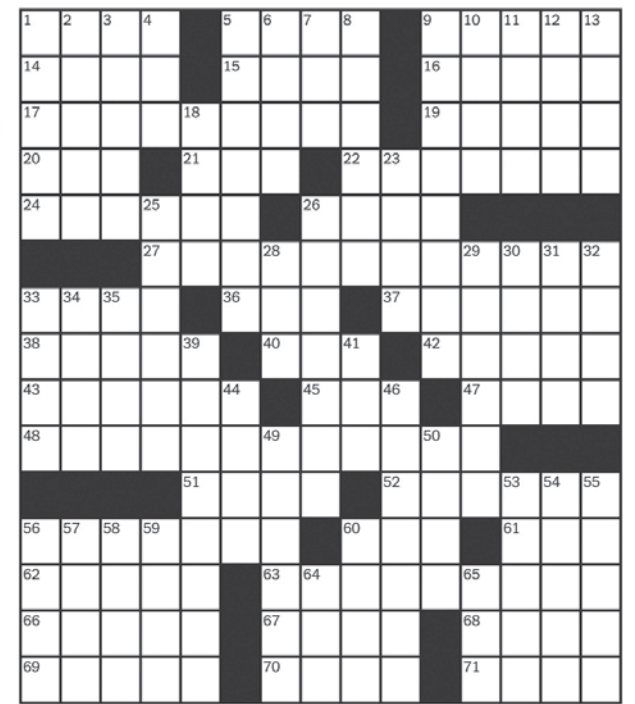
Numbers (الدرزة في حينها توفر تسعا)

7619 Seven thousand six hundred nineteen

٧٦١٩ Sabat alaf wa seto maah wa tesata ashar

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Country invaded in 2003
 - 5 H.S. math class
 - 9 Legendary music club in Lower Manhattan, informally
 - 14 Suffix with refresh or replace
 - 15 Parks of Alabama
 - 16 Spartan serf
 - 17 *V.I.P.'s security agent
 - 19 Resort island near Majorca
 - 20 The Rams of the Atlantic 10 Conf.
 - 21 Scholarship money
 - 22 *Nintendo handheld
 - 24 Disgorges
 - 26 Actress Campbell of "Scream"
 - 27 *Place to plug in a USB cable
 - 33 "Ditto"
 - 36 Utters, informally
 - 37 Does the honors for Thanksgiving dinner
 - 38 Short-sheeting, e.g.
 - 40 Snoring sound
 - 42 Tuscan city
 - 43 Sees eye to eye (with)
 - 45 52, in old Rome
 - 47 Long, single take, in filmmaking
 - 48 *Multiplex, e.g.
 - 51 Stew morsels
 - 52 Exchange vows at the altar
 - 56 *NATO's smallest member, populationwise
 - 60 Stock listings: Abbr.
 - 61 Ariz. neighbor
- DOWN**
- 1 Fill (with)
 - 2 Corporate shuffle, for short
 - 3 Love interest of Pacey on "Dawson's Creek"
 - 4 Amt.
 - 5 "What's right is right" and others
 - 6 Rocky ___
 - 7 Haifa's country: Abbr.
 - 8 Doohickey
 - 9 Monstrous creatures
 - 10 French newborn
 - 11 Smooth-talking
 - 12 Schmo
 - 13 "___ With Me" (Sam Smith hit)
 - 18 Purrer in Peru



PUZZLE BY GARY J. WHITEHEAD

- 23 Opposite of sans
- 25 Act starter
- 26 Shows some affection
- 28 Dispenser candy
- 29 Religious abode
- 30 Baker's need
- 31 Artist Magritte
- 32 Romanov ruler
- 33 Often-filtered messages
- 34 Jason's ship
- 35 ___ Levy, Buffalo Bills coach in the Hall of Fame
- 39 "Don't quit!"
- 41 1980s Pakistani president
- 44 W.W. II-era British gun
- 46 Treater's phrase
- 49 Enjoyed oneself
- 50 Wind tile in mah-jongg
- 53 Insect stage
- 54 Use Goo Gone on, perhaps
- 55 Daisy variety
- 56 Some old PCs
- 57 Snake's shape
- 58 Art Deco notable
- 59 Loaf (around)
- 60 Government overthrow
- 64 Single-stranded molecule
- 65 Part of a tuba's sound

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

H	T	M	L	C	H	E	F	P	S	A	L	M
O	W	E	S	I	O	T	A	E	E	R	I	E
W	O	R	D	S	A	L	A	D	G	A	P	E
T	A	M	W	O	E	I	R	A	T	E		
O	M	A	H	A	E	N	O	S	G	M	T	
				N	O	T	H	I	N	G	B	U
				T	H	I	R	D	S	E	I	N
S	W	I	M	P	A	N	S	I	D	O	S	E
P	O	S	I	T	O	P	E	N	S			
C	O	U	C	H	P	O	T	A	T	O	E	S
A	L	P	R	O	L	E	B	A	N	G	S	
				P	R	I	E	D	G	E	E	I
S	E	O	U	L	H	U	M	B	L	E	P	I
E	A	S	E	L	A	R	A	B	M	E	N	D
T	R	E	S	S	T	I	N	S	U	R	G	E

Scratch pad

odds 'n' ends

LONDON: A British driver has survived a major crash in his Ferrari, an hour after he bought it. Local police called it a "miracle escape," but the car was not so lucky.

South Yorkshire Police posted Twitter photos of the smoking, wrecked car, saying it "went airborne (and) burst into flames" beside a highway in northern England.

The Ferrari 430 Scuderia, worth about £200,000 (\$260,000) new, ended up a burning heap in a field.

The police said in a Facebook statement that the driver "only had minor cuts and bruises" after Thursday's smash, but they also detected "a sense of damaged pride."

The force said the driver told officers: "I've only just got it, picked it up an hour ago."

Police urged local drivers to take care on the roads. (AP)

QUEBEC CITY: There are lucky men, and then there's Jules Parent.

For the second time in nine years, the 69-year-old Quebec retiree has won a million Canadian dollars playing the lottery.

Parent muses, "Was I born under a good star?"

He showed up at lottery offices to pick up a check for \$1,222,069 after winning the jackpot from an online play worth \$3.20. Loto-Quebec places the odds of such a bet at about one in 23 million.

Parent also won \$1 million back in 2008.

He said Thursday that gambling is one of his favorite pastimes along with walking, hunting and fishing, and he intends to keep playing. He also plans to build a new home.

In Parent's words: "It won't be a castle, but it will be in the modern style." (AP)

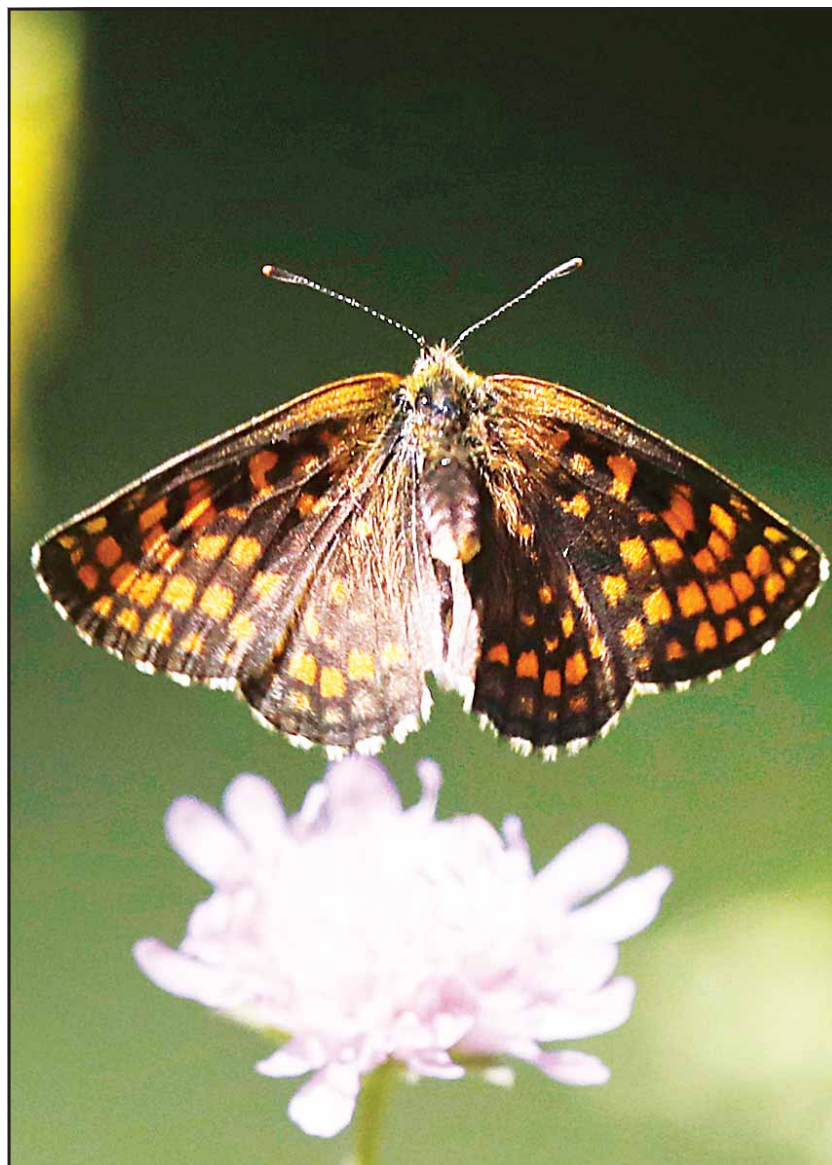
SAN DIEGO: A surfer attacked by a shark earlier this year recalled punching the predator and digging her fingers into its eye as she was dragged below the waves off Southern California.

Leanne Ericson told ABC News' "Good Morning America" on Friday that she initially thought a curious seal was bumping the underside of her surfboard at San Onofre Beach near San Diego on a sunny day last April.

Suddenly she was knocked from the board into the water and a 10-foot great white chomped her leg.

"I felt it grab me and pull me down," she said. "My only concern was my breathing."

Ericson aggressively fought back as the juvenile shark gripped her right thigh and descended fast. She punched the creature and when she rammed her fingers into an eye, it "felt like I was digging out a cup of Jell-O," she said. (AP)



A butterfly takes off from the flower in a forest on the outskirts of Minsk, Belarus on July 28, 2017 during a sunny summer's day. (AP)

contract bridge

By Steve Becker

Bidding quiz

You have the following hand, both sides vulnerable:

♠ K95 ♥ — ♦ KJ87 ♣ AQ10863

1. **You bid One Club**, and partner responds One Heart. What would you bid now?

2. **You bid One Club**, and partner responds One Spade. What would you bid now?

3. **Partner bids One Diamond**, and you raise to Three Diamonds. Partner bids Four Clubs. What would you bid now?

4. **Partner bids One Spade**, and your right-hand opponent bids Two Hearts. What would you bid?

1. **Two clubs.** This was a promising hand at the start, but when partner responds in hearts, much of the glamour disappears. To be void of a suit adds value to a hand, but not when the void is in partner's suit.

The heart response warns of potential danger ahead, so your best action is to indicate a minimum opening by rebidding two clubs. Later events may restore the original promise of your hand, but until a fit is discovered, you must proceed warily.

2. **Two diamonds.** There is some question whether your limited high-card values justify a reverse, but there is no better call available. Bidding clubs followed by diamonds

shows not only longer clubs but extra values, and that is what you have after partner responds one spade.

Alternative bids are two spades and three clubs, but neither represents your hand as well as two diamonds.

3. **Four hearts.** You should have a diamond slam firmly in mind, but it is best at this point to cuebid hearts to show first-round control of the suit and interest in slam. Blackwood is not desirable when you have a void, since partner's response would not tell you exactly how far to go in most cases. The most flexible action here is to cuebid and await partner's next call.

4. **Three clubs.** There are two schools of thought in this type of situation. One school would favor an immediate cuebid of three hearts to identify your heart void and thus suggest a slam. The other school would advocate bidding your best suit first, planning to cuebid hearts next.

We believe it is somewhat better to bid clubs first. One reason is that an immediate cuebid would result in permanent suppression of your strong six-card suit; another reason is that an immediate cuebid would suggest better spade support than K-9-x.

Tomorrow: Look before you leap.



"BEDTIME? BUT CAN'T I STAY UP TILL DAD TEACHES HIM A THING OR TWO?"