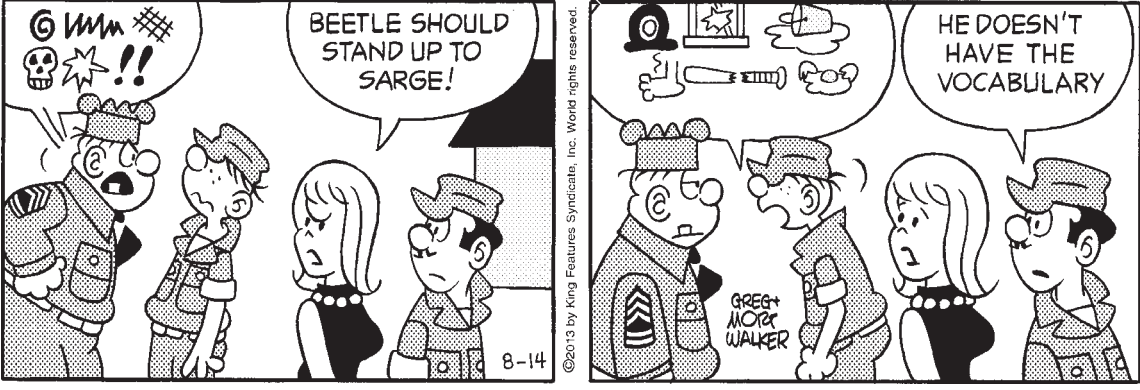


Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Heloise
• Hints from Heloise

Season cast iron with shortening

Dear Heloise: Several years ago, I bought my wife a new cast-iron frying pan that is now starting to develop small rust spots on the cooking surface. I later learned that cast-iron pans are supposed to be "seasoned" to prevent this from happening. Can this pan be fixed, or should we just buy a new one? And what is the proper care of cast-iron cookware? – Jim T., via e-mail

Don't throw out the pan! Rust can develop when the pan is air-dried or even scrubbed with steel wool. The pan should be washed and dried immediately. Many cooks (me included) put the pan back on the still-hot stove burner to dry.

To season or re-season, use hot water, only a drop of soap and a nylon scrubbie or plastic brush to clean (never place the pan in the dishwasher). Rinse and dry well. Then, to season, use melted vegetable shortening. Wipe it all around the pan until the entire surface is covered. Place in a 375 F oven, upside down on a cookie sheet. "Bake" for an hour. Turn the oven off and let the pan cool completely before taking it out. – Heloise

P.S.: Wipe the pan with a little vegetable oil on a paper towel every time you clean it to prevent rust.

DON'T WASH

Dear Readers: Are there certain foods you should never wash before cooking? According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, raw meats and poultry should NOT be washed because of possible cross-contamination from the juices spreading to the sink, counters, dishes and utensils. Cooking meats thoroughly will kill all the bacteria that may be present.

People sometimes soak meat, like country ham, because they think it reduces the salt content. But the USDA advises that this does not remove much salt anyway, so don't. – Heloise

NO-STICK S'MORES

Dear Heloise: I have a hint that I wanted to share. We love making s'mores around the campfire but don't like the mess that the sticky marshmallows make on our hands.

Instead of taking the marshmallow off the stick with our hands, I make the s'more while the marshmallow is still on the stick. I have someone else hold the stick while I use two pieces of graham cracker to sandwich the marshmallow, and then just pull the stick out. No more sticky marshmallow all over your hands. – Julie Kane, Shippensburg, Pa.

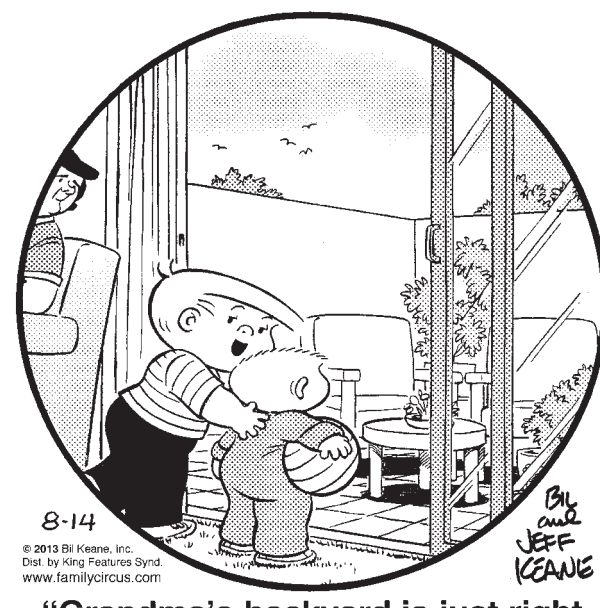
STORING PIE

Dear Heloise: My family loves eating pies, both store-bought and homemade. Do all pies have to be refrigerated? – Gayle L., via e-mail

No, not all pies need to go in the refrigerator. Pies that contain eggs (for example: pumpkin, cream or custard pies) should be refrigerated. Fruit pies, however, don't have to be refrigerated (unless your kitchen is on the warm side) and can be kept at room temperature for about two days, if they last that long. Most people prefer to keep all types of pies in the refrigerator. – Heloise

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/14

This is a logic-based number placement puzzle. The goal is to enter a number, 1-9, in each cell in which each row, column and 3x3 region must contain only one instance of each numeral. The solution to the last Sudoku puzzle is at right.

Cryptoquip

NK OUV ZFWF YQTEFM NL T
HUINLP WNLP ZNJA AUQOKNFQM
N FIYFEJ OUV ZUVQM HF
TL FGTLMFV FGTMFW

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THAT UNPRODUCTIVE MAN'S TRAIL IS DIVERGING AHEAD. WHICH PATH MIGHT THE FALLOW FELLOW FOLLOW?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals E

Bridge • Steve Becker

South dealer. North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♦ K 9 3
♥ J 10
♦ 10 6 3
♠ A K 10 8 5

WEST
♠ J 4
♥ Q 4 3 2
♦ K Q 8 7 2
♣ 7 6

EAST
♠ Q 10 7 6 5
♥ 6 5
♦ A 9 4
♣ J 4 2

SOUTH
♠ A 8 2
♥ A K 9 8 7
♦ J 5
♣ Q 9 3

The bidding:
South West North East
1♥ Pass 2♣ Pass
2♥ Pass 3♥ Pass
Opening lead — king of diamonds.

Step Into My Parlor ...

Here is a case where a shrewd defender laid a clever trap for declarer to turn what appeared to be a certain loss into a tidy gain.

West, the hero of the tale, began by leading the king of diamonds against four hearts. Next came a low diamond to East's ace, followed by another diamond, ruffed by declarer.

South now crossed to dummy with a club, led the heart jack and, after East played low, finessed. It was here that West made a most insidious play. Instead of taking his queen, he allowed the jack to win the trick!

Declarer swallowed the bait -- hook, line and sinker. Convinced that East had the queen, and certain he was about to make the contract with an overtrick, South led dummy's ten of hearts and repeated the finesse.

West pounced on the ten with the queen and played a fourth round of diamonds. South ruffed with the king of trumps and cashed the ace, hoping to find the two missing hearts evenly divided. But when East showed out, declarer, out of trumps, had to go down two, losing a trump and a diamond to West at the end.

Note that if West wins dummy's jack of hearts at trick five, declarer makes the contract ruffed, since a diamond continuation can be ruffed in dummy. Note also that if South does not take the second trump finesse but cashes his A-K of hearts instead, he retains control of the hand. West would then have the high trump, but declarer plays clubs until West ruffs, after which South scores the rest of the tricks.

West's ingenuity notwithstanding, in the final analysis it was South's greed for an overtrick that led to his downfall. He should have followed rule No. 1: Making the contract is always the first priority.

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Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 43 Help 45 Other-worldly partner? 47 "Return the bread" 51 Attend 52 Started a new wordplay 54 Steadfast jobs 55 Mainlander's souvenir 56 Pop flavor 57 Tackles' team-mates 58 Allow 59 Uncomplicated

DOWN 1 Eastern bigwig (Var.) to fly down to ability 2 Queue 3 Prob-ability 4 Traffic jam 5 Pent (up) 6 "Got a Secret" 7 Ruth — Gingsburg 8 Swirly pattern 9 Humored 10 Story 11 A long time 16 Mediocre 20 San Francisco's — Hill

23 America's uncle 24 Place to fly down to 25 Brought charges 27 Noon on a sundial 29 Corn spike 30 Attempt 32 Flimsy 34 Enthusiastic approval 37 — de mer 39 Cattle, old style 42 Tranquil 44 Slow-witted student 45 Lecherous look 46 Nickel, for one 48 Old portico 49 Congers, e.g. 50 June 6, 1944 53 Born

Yesterday's answer 8-14

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | | | | 13 | | | 14 | | | |
| 15 | | | 16 | | | | 17 | | | |
| 18 | | | | | 19 | 20 | | | | |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | | 26 | | 27 | 28 | | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | | | 32 | | 33 | | 34 | | 35 | |
| 36 | | | | 37 | | 38 | | 39 | | 40 |
| 45 | 46 | | | 42 | | 43 | | 44 | | |
| 45 | 46 | | | 42 | | 43 | | 44 | | |
| 45 | 46 | | | 42 | | 43 | | 44 | | |
| 51 | | | | 52 | 53 | | | | | |
| 54 | | | | 55 | | | | 56 | | |
| 57 | | | | 58 | | | | 59 | | |