



Crossword — By Thomas Joseph

ACROSS

1 Tag info

2 Make a retraction

11 Musical work

12 Lined up

13 Mardi Gras wear

14 Hitchcock film

15 Mont Blanc, for one

16 Olympian leader

17 Silly

19 Eggy drink

22 News summary

24 Rude push

26 Bickering

27 News article

28 Got up

30 Some golf clubs

31 Groan inducer

32 Title holder

34 Enjoy the tub

35 Marital promise

38 Hitchcock film

41 Diner order

42 Win back

43 Fourth-down play

44 Orbital point

45 Inquires

DOWN

1 Deep sleep

2 Milky gem

3 Hitchcock film

4 Reproachful sound

5 Turn red, maybe

6 Follows

7 Coral isles

8 Compass trace

9 Japanese drama

10 First prime number

16 Micro-wave, in slang

18 Brussels-based org.

19 Hitchcock film

20 Kitchen sight

21 Setting items

22 Rough voice

23 Words from Caesar

25 Take on

29 Lulu

30 Tattoos, slangily

33 "The Duke"

34 Small setback

36 Easy two-pointer

37 Chooses

38 Monk's title

39 Gym unit

40 Sense of self

41 Hotel feature

Yesterday's answer

19 Hitchcock film

20 Kitchen sight

21 Setting items

22 Rough voice

23 Words from Caesar

25 Take on

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Bridge — By Steven Becker

Extra chance

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ A 7 2

♥ 6 5 2

♦ J 10 4

♣ K 8 5 3

WEST

♠ 6 5 4

♥ K 9 4

♦ 8 6 5

♣ Q J 9 2

EAST

♠ K 9

♥ A 10 8

♦ 9 7 3 2

♣ 10 7 6 4

SOUTH

♠ Q J 10 8 3

♥ J 7 3

♦ A K Q

♣ A

The bidding:

South 1 ♠

West Pass

North 2 ♠

East Pass

Opening lead — queen of clubs.

Most deals require nothing more of declarer during the play than proper technique. "Fancy" plays such as squeezes and coups might attract more attention, but in the long run sound technique will win a great many more points than all the so-called fancy plays combined. Consider this deal from a team contest where both North-South pairs reached four spades. At one table, declarer won the opening club lead with the ace and finessed the jack of spades, losing to East's

Tomorrow: Maintaining trump control.

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Word Sleuth

WORD SLEUTH • IN THE AIR

Y Y U Q N J F C Y V R O L H E

B X U R O L I E T B Y V S Q N

K H Y G M G E S B Y W T R O L

J M G T O E I S B Y W U R P N

K I A F I M G E D B Z X V S Q

O Z M E S D S N L K I C G E C

A Y T W T P I P R Z L U S Q P

N L H I U S R M J O Z H F E C

A Y A X R V U A U S P I Q W P

N M Z K E P J D Y H H A R E F

E C E K O M S E S A G B V D Z

Tuesday's unlisted clue: OKRA

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

Cloud Dampness Dew Drizzle Fog Gases Haze Humidity Moisture Smog Smoke Spray Spritz Steam Vapor

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Horoscope

— By Georgia Nichols

Happy Birthday for Wednesday, Aug. 12, 2026:

You are sensible, well-meaning and responsible. You are also independent-minded and seek to benefit humankind. Socialize and enjoy your world this year; your desire for life is at a pinnacle. Nurture the happiness and beauty you have within. Let your guard down and loosen up a bit! 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 the perfect time to hatch some new ideas and plans, perhaps related to vacations, your kids or an artistic project that appeals to you. Even though it's a sudden decision, it might lead to more stability in the future. Tonight: Socialize with others.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ This year you can improve your home or move to a better home. Likewise, you can improve your family relations. Meanwhile, today's Solar Eclipse is exactly the energy you need to make a sudden decision that can ultimately solidify things the way you want. Tonight: Relax and enjoy yourself.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Today's Solar Eclipse might prompt you to make a radical decision that will push you in a new direction that broadens your world. This might relate to your siblings, relatives or neighbors. Or you might secure a friendship or a relationship with a group. Tonight: A discussion.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ The New Moon today is a dazzling Solar Eclipse that takes place in your Money House, which could trigger a new way of thinking for you about how you want to handle your money and how you want to earn it. The result might be more reliable. Ka-ching! Tonight: Check your belongings.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Today a dazzling Solar Eclipse takes place in your sign. This will give you the impetus to make a sudden decision that ultimately brings more security or stability to your world. You might see a way to boost your future income. Tonight: You're strong.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Because today's Solar Eclipse is taking place in a hidden part of your chart, it could make you excited and restless in a vague way. You might feel you want to begin something new. Or you might want to bounce ideas off someone. Get ready to act on your feelings. Tonight: Do some thinking.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ You're a social sign, and today the Solar Eclipse is in your House of Friendships making you entertain some radical ideas about your relationship with a friend or your relations with a group. You might even come up with some unusual goals for the future. Tonight: Friendships.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Today is the classic day to explore some ideas that affect your life path in the future. They might even be radical. They might be different from anything you've ever done before. Nevertheless, go with what moves you, because it will likely secure your future. Tonight: You're admired.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ You are the traveler of the zodiac. Today's Solar Eclipse will encourage you to do something unusual, even radical. It might relate to publishing, higher education, medicine, the law or travel. Go for it.

Decide to shape your future. Tonight: Learn and explore!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ This is an interesting day because the Solar Eclipse might prompt you to think about a new approach to shared property, inheritances or whatever you own jointly with someone else. What you decide might ultimately be a more sensible decision. Tonight: Check your finances.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Today the Solar Eclipse is taking place directly opposite your sign, which will encourage you to think of a radically new approach to your closest relationships. Don't hesitate to share these ideas with someone, because it could be a game-changer. Tonight: Genuinely listen to someone.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ This is the perfect day to entertain new ideas related to your job, your health or your pet. This is because you might make a sudden decision that somehow leads to greater future security for you. Ironically, it might be a radical decision. Are you up for it? Tonight: Get something done.

Jumble

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

PLYAP

MREUL

LLRPAU

GHENLT

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Yesterday's Jumbles: CROSS KNIFE Answer: When they toured the available lots in the new development, they were — "SITE-SEEING"

(Answers tomorrow)

BOOGIE GENTLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

8/12

I understand that I'm your last client.

Afraid so. I just can't chase business and do the work anymore.

HE WASN'T MAKING ENOUGH MONEY AS AN ELECTRICIAN, SO HE DECIDED TO ---

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