



Crossword

By Thomas Joseph

ACROSS

1 Carry

5 Irritated

11 Sailor's call

12 Nabokov novel

13 Script unit

14 Bureau

15 Machinery part

16 Drill parts

17 Savory taste

19 Tree flow

22 In the future

24 Spare

26 Goes bad

27 Rocker Clapton

28 Extravagant showiness

30 Slyly disparaging

31 Lyric poem

32 Clarifying words

34 High point

35 Bit of humor

38 Sizzling strip

41 Recipe direction

42 Stuck at a port, perhaps

43 Opera set in Egypt

44 Past and present

45 Be rife

DOWN

1 Soft

2 River to the Mississippi

3 Leave speechless

4 Needle feature

5 Assert

6 Hamper

7 Brighton brews

8 Shark feature

9 Series-ending abbr.

10 Calendar box

16 Naughty

18 Schooner pole

19 Narrow neckwear

20 Parched

21 Tempo

22 Jason's ship

23 Ship storage

25 TV's warrior princess

29 Cuffs alternative

30 Kinsey topic

33 Where-withal

34 "Angels in America" topic

36 Staff member

37 Mass unit

38 In shape

39 Superb serve

40 Psaki of MS NOW

41 Plopped down

Yesterday's answer

WADE SPLAT

AGILE NEATO

GRASSHOPPER

TEEN PUB TAT

RENOIR POSE

SEVER APES

ABEL CLEFT

VANS ALDERS

OTT ENO DOT

WHISKEYSOUR

EERIE SORTA

DRESS WASP

Bridge

By Steven Becker

Basic card-reading

East dealer. North-South vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ A 8 2

♥ K 6 3

♦ Q 8 5 4

♣ A Q 6

WEST

♠ 10 6 3

♥ 9 5 2

♦ 10 7 3 2

♣ J 10 8

EAST

♠ 9 4

♥ A Q J 8 7 4

♦ J 9 6

♣ K 4

SOUTH

♠ K Q J 7 5

♥ 10

♦ A K

♣ 9 7 5 3 2

The bidding:

East 1♥ South 1♠ West Pass North 4♠

Opening lead — two of hearts.

Card-reading is the process by which a player can determine the makeup of the unseen hands and, as a result, play his cards to best advantage.

Consider this deal from a national pair championship. At most tables, South arrived at four spades after East had opened the bidding with one heart. But the real challenge of the hand depended not so much on whether the spade game was reached as it did on whether declarer made 10 tricks or 11. In pair events, an extra trick is worth its weight in gold.

Those declarers who bid and made just ten tricks received an under-average score on the deal. They lost the opening heart lead, later finessed the queen of clubs unsuccessfully and eventually finished with 10 tricks, losing a heart and two clubs.

The declarers who made 11 tricks fared much better, achieving a multiple tie for top by scoring 650 points instead of 620. These Souths paid homage to East's opening bid and quite reasonably decided that East had to have the king of clubs.

Accordingly, after East won the heart lead with the jack and returned a diamond, these declarers won with the ace, drew three rounds of trump, played a club to the ace, a diamond to the king and then a low club toward dummy.

When West followed with the ten, they played dummy's six and were rewarded for their perspicacity when East was forced to win with the king. The club duck, though only a minor challenge to anyone versed in card-reading, earned these Souths a top score.

Tomorrow: Out of the darkness.

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Word Sleuth

WORD SLEUTH • FEWER RATHER THAN LESS

I I E M B Y V S Q N K H E B Y

W T S R I O L J G E B B Y W U

R P N E K L I G D A B Z X V S

Q O M S T S E U G K I G E C S

A D O L L A R S Y W U S Q T P

N L J H F S D E D E S C U A Y

X V U S K Q E I K N P D N M K

D J H O C H I L D R E N R F E

C A O E L P O E P N O I B O Z

Y B Y X V U T R T P A W R Q W

P O M S P E T S S R A C L F K

Tuesday's unlisted clue: TRAFFIC

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Wednesday's unlisted clue hint: GROCER'S SACKS

Apples	Children	Guests	Students
Books	Days	Miles	Words
Candidates	Dollars	People	Workers
Cars	Friends	Steps	

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Horoscope

By Georgia Nichols

Happy Birthday for Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2026:

You're engaging, determined and assertive. You have strong beliefs and strong reactions. This is the final year of a nine-year cycle for you. Take inventory of your life. Let go of people, places and things that have held you back. Do some internal and external housecleaning. Commune with nature.

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)

★★★★ Even though your work routine might be interrupted today, this is a productive day. Parents should be extra vigilant because this could be an accident-prone day for your kids. Social plans might suddenly change. Athletes should be careful to avoid injuries. Tonight: Get better organized.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Parents should be vigilant to avoid accidents with their kids today. You might impulsively socialize with someone today, or the reverse -- you might cancel plans. Meanwhile, you'll put out a lot of energy to make home improvements today. You might even surprise yourself. Tonight: Play!

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Stay light on your feet, because your daily routine might change today. A small appliance might break down or a minor breakage could occur, or someone surprising might appear at your door. Meanwhile, you're full of clever ideas! Guard against accidents. Tonight: Cocoon at home.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Pay attention to everything you say and do because this is potentially an accident-prone day. Meanwhile, keep an eye on your possessions and money to avoid loss, theft or damage. (Something unexpected.) Guard against impulse purchases especially during the Moon Alert. Tonight: Interesting discussions.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ You're restless and impatient today because you want new thrills and chills! This is why you might be impulsive and do whatever you can to break free of your daily routine. Guard against impulse spending, which is likely. Be aware of the restrictions of the Moon Alert. Tonight: Check your money.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ You're eager for something fresh and different today! You want to see new places and meet new faces. You certainly want to learn new things! Fortunately, with both Mercury and Venus in your House of Communications, you'll charm everyone you meet. Tonight: You're in charge.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ This is a restless day for you. However, you're not the only one restless. Very likely, a friend or a member of a group will do something that catches you off guard. Yes, it's that kinda day -- unpredictable! Your inner rebel wants to break free. Tonight: Enjoy time alone.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Be aware that you might be surprised by authority figures today. ("Busted!") Forewarned is forearmed. Likewise, a friend or a member of a group might surprise you or catch you off guard in some way. Or perhaps you will meet someone who is unusual and different. Tonight: Be friendly.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Authority figures are unpredictable today. Meanwhile, plans related to travel, higher education, publishing, medicine and the law might suddenly change. Or you might bulldoze your way into a situation that matters to you. That's because it's easy to be impatient with restrictions today. Tonight: Be modest.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Keep an eye on issues related to banking, inheritances, shared property, taxes and debt, because something unexpected might occur. You're certainly willing to stand up for your rights and defend your best interests. Meanwhile, travel is unpredictable. Friendships are cozy! Tonight: Future travel plans?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ You might attract someone to you today who is suddenly aggressive or in-your-face. This might relate to an unexpected situation about shared expenses, shared property or inheritances. It might even relate to taxes or debt. Be aware that your relations with authority figures are smooth and supportive today. Great! Tonight: Check your finances.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Your work routine might be interrupted today. Likewise, relations with partners and close friends are also subject to change and surprises. This is because people feel impulsive. You want to break free of any restrictions. Personally, you would love to travel for pleasure and do anything for a change of scenery. (Well, not anything.) Tonight: Warm discussions.

Jumble

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

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

TTACR

CMPHO

UAUCVM

KLAACJ

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Answer here:

Yesterday's Jumbles: SIGHT ALOHA FALCON FURROW

Answer: When the politicians went for a balloon ride, the balloon was -- FULL OF HOT AIR