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Crossword - By Thomas Joseph

Bridge - By Steven Becker

Word Sleuth

Crossword puzzle grid with clues. ACROSS: 1 Make scientist Nikola, 46 Transparent gem, 47 Run-down code, 12 Egypt neighbor, 13 Drops down suddenly, 15 Poem of praise, 16 Writer Stout, 17 Sock part, 18 Madison or Monroe, 20 Minty drink, 23 Young pigeon, 27 Over again, 28 Bear in the air, 29 Internet connector, 31 Uncooperative, 32 Like ears and brains, 34 Commercials, 37 Cloth scrap, 38 Sit-up targets, 41 Satisfies, as a meal, 44 Muscular Japanese dog. DOWN: 1 Cave sound, 2 Foray, 3 Poker payment, 4 Urgent call, 5 Snare, 6 Bends, 7 Jar part, 8 Death notice, 9 Arsonist, for short, 10 Fill completely, 14 Skirt edge, 18 Ruby or garnet, 19 Team spread, 20 Toast, 21 First numero, 22 Was a pioneer, 24 Web address, 25 Inquire, 26 Inlet, 30 Human, 31 Sires, 33 Scrooge cry, 34 Melville captain, 35 Sea wall, 36 Recipe instruction, 38 Church area, 39 Audacious, 40 Order to Fido, 42 Pig's place, 43 Look upon.

Bridge game analysis. South dealer. North-South vulnerable. NORTH: ♠7 6 5, ♥8 2, ♦A Q 9 6 4, ♣A Q 3. WEST: ♠K 8 3, ♥J 9 4, ♦8 3, ♣9 7 5 4 2. EAST: ♠J 10 9 4 2, ♥10 7 6 3, ♦K 5, ♣K 8. SOUTH: ♠A Q, ♥A K Q 5, ♦J 10 7 2, ♣J 10 6. The bidding: South 1NT, West Pass, North 3NT, East 3NT. Experience shows that when a partnership has 26 points or more in their combined hands, a game can usually be made. Tomorrow: A slight misunderstanding.

WORD SLEUTH - LADY. Monday's unlisted clue: WIPERS. Tuesday's unlisted clue hint: TOP-BILLED FEMALE. Avon Bearded Church Cleaning, First Iron Church, My Fair Neighbor Lunch, Pretty Second Young Pink. YESTERDAY'S ANSWER: RAIN RAIN GO AWAY.

DAILY CRYPTOQUOTES - HERE'S HOW TO WORK IT: AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW. One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. 6-2 CRYPTOQUOTE: KYIGXS'Q RYEX WQ ZXNUX. WI OXXP OYI JX NUHLWSXP. WI OXXP OYI JX PXQXSEXP. - XSWUG MSYKK. Yesterday's Cryptoquote: IT'S NOT GARBAGE; IT'S A COLLECTION OF CHARACTER! - OSCAR THE GROUCH

Jumble word game. Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words. EDYNR, HRWFA, EVSINT, RTGAET. THE CEMETERY'S NEW SECURITY GUARD WORKED THE ---. Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Horoscope - By Georgia Nichols

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 a disconcerting day because family discussions will be confusing and out of touch with reality. TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You might be tempted to keep secrets today in the mistaken belief that this is the best course. GEMINI (May 21-June 20) This is a poor day for financial negotiations and money decisions.

be incorrect because you could be the victim of misrepresentation. Postpone decisions, including major purchases, for another day. Tonight: Check your finances. CANCER (June 21-July 22) Today Mercury is in your sign at odds with fuzzy Neptune, which will contribute to confusion. LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You might be tempted to withhold information today because you think it's the best thing to do. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) A friend or a member of a group might tell you something that you want to believe because it's a pie-in-the-sky solution or an intriguing temptation.

nately is. Don't fall for it. Question everything you hear. Tonight: Relax. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Tread carefully when talking to parents, bosses or people in authority today because what you say might not be true. SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) This is not the day to pitch your ideas to someone, to teach a new concept to someone, or to embrace a new philosophy or political ideology. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) This is a poor day for financial discussions or agreements pertaining to wills, inheritances, taxes, debt or shared property.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Discussions with partners, spouses and close friends will be subject to misunderstandings today. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) This is a challenging day at work. You might have the wrong information and waste time doing a fruitless task. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Today it's easy to fall for a "great idea" or think that something is too good to believe. BORN TODAY Actor Tony Curtis (1925), actress, singer, model Diraiba Dilmurat (1992), TV journalist Anderson Cooper (1967)

Jumble word game. Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words. EDYNR, HRWFA, EVSINT, RTGAET. THE CEMETERY'S NEW SECURITY GUARD WORKED THE ---. Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon. (Answers tomorrow) Yesterday's Jumbles: KNACK, STAND, SCROLL, COUSIN. Answer: The tiny offshoots on the tree had no intention of leaving and planned to - STICK AROUND