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Crossword — By Thomas Joseph

Bridge — By Steven Becker

Word Sleuth

- ACROSS**
- 1 — mater
 - 5 Campfire treats
 - 11 Campus area
 - 12 Greet from a distance
 - 13 Arm bone
 - 14 Eventually
 - 15 Boxing great
 - 16 Pleased look
 - 17 Heartless
 - 19 Got together
 - 22 In the area
 - 24 Blow away
 - 26 Barracks beds
 - 27 Concerning
 - 28 Clan symbol
 - 30 Wilson of the Beach Boys
 - 31 Enjoy Aspen
 - 32 Distant
 - 34 Cameo stone
 - 35 Chick holder
 - 38 Visit briefly
 - 41 Nicholas II, for one
 - 42 Seoul citizen
 - 43 "Don't look —!"
 - 44 Right away
 - 45 Young kangaroo
- DOWN**
- 1 Blue hue
 - 2 Temporary calm
 - 3 Tubular pasta
 - 4 Oklahoma city
 - 5 Used four-letter words
 - 6 Folder type
 - 7 Kitchen fixture
 - 8 Checkers choice
 - 9 Greek vowel
 - 10 Tofu base
 - 16 Stomach
 - 18 Trick
 - 19 Policy statement
 - 20 Pound of poems
 - 21 Freshman, usually
 - 22 Play parts
 - 23 Library item
 - 25 Catalan painter
 - 29 Extreme fan
 - 30 Go a round
 - 33 Jeff of ELO
 - 34 Ready for customers
 - 36 Hunter's quarry
 - 37 Dreary shade
 - 38 Reggae's fore-runner
 - 39 Young one
 - 40 Spanish gold
 - 41 — Mahal

Yesterday's answer

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

East dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ 3 2
♥ Q 6 3
♦ Q 3 2
♣ K Q J 10 6

WEST

♠ 6 5
♥ 9 8 7
♦ 10 9 8 7
♣ 5 4 3 2

EAST

♠ J 4
♥ K J 10 2
♦ K J 6
♣ A 9 8 7

SOUTH

♠ A K Q 10 9 8 7
♥ A 5 4
♦ A 5 4
♣

The bidding:
East South West North
1♣ 2♣ Pass 3NT
Pass 6♣

Opening lead — two of clubs.

The serendipity factor

Now, my friend John, an inveterate pinochle player who never had a kind word to say about bridge — though he understood the game — was at the club one day and there weren't enough players for a pinochle game. So he consented to play bridge just for kicks.

On the very first deal, he picked up the South hand and got to six spades. John is a pretty good card player and saw right away that he couldn't make 12 tricks even though he got a club lead and ruffed East's ace. There simply was no entry to dummy to cash the clubs.

But John thought that if he ran all his trumps, the defenders might blunder and let him make the contract. So he cashed the ace of spades, continued with the ten and was about to play the king when East rudely interrupted and said, "It's my lead." You see, John had forgotten he was playing bridge, not pinochle, and that the ten was not second in rank to the ace.

But his inadvertent mistake proved to be just what the doctor ordered. After winning the ten with the jack, East was forced to return a club or lead from one of his kings, so John wound up making the slam.

Nowadays, John doesn't play much pinochle anymore. You just can't tear him away from the bridge table!

Tomorrow: Wrong signal.
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WORD SLEUTH

COUNTRIES WITH A RIVER BORDER

Q O L I F C Z W T Q N A K I F
C Z W L U G E R M A N Y R P Y
M J H E A U S T R I A C Z N A
X U S Q A G N L H B J G E I U
C Z X V T D U C R M N A V A G
P N O L J H A T E O C I A P U
A Y W C V T R N R L L V I S R
P N L K I I G W A O E T S C U
B Z X W U X A S B C P A S R R
P O M L J Y E I G E D L U B E
A Y X W U T S M L I Z A R B P

Tuesday's unlisted clue: DANE

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Wednesday's unlisted clue hint: U.S. RIO GRANDE NEIGHBOR

Austria	China	Norway	Spain
Bolivia	Colombia	Peru	U.S.A.
Brazil	Germany	Portugal	Uruguay
Canada	Latvia	Russia	

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DAILY CRYPTOQUOTES — HERE'S HOW TO WORK IT:

A X Y D L B A A X R
is L O N G F E L L O W

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. Each day the code letters are different.

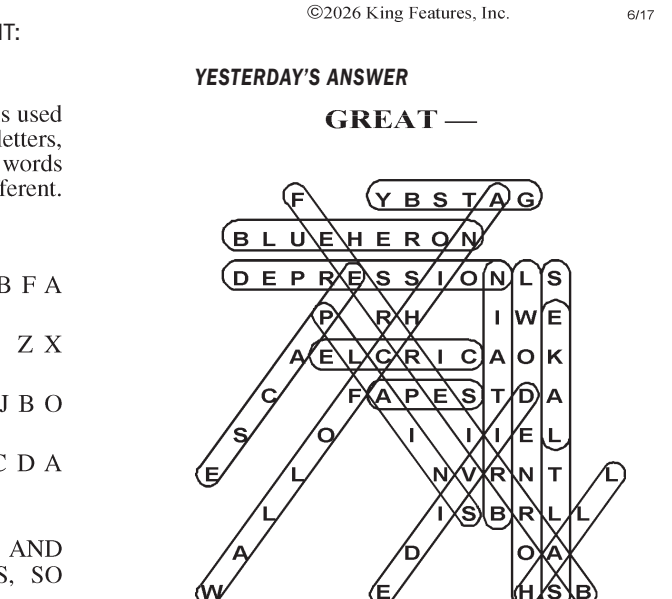
6-17 CRYPTOQUOTE

J B O V O K T B J D S C D G O B F A
W R D X O P Z O R N J K C C Z X
B O F P E H D Q E A F T F K H A J J B O
A E X . — V K C C K F Z Q F M C D A
V K C C K F Z A

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: LIFE IS SHORT AND THERE WILL ALWAYS BE DIRTY DISHES, SO LET'S DANCE. — JAMES HOWE

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

G R E A T



Horoscope

— By Georgia Nichols

Moon Alert: Avoid shopping (except for food and gas) and important decisions from 3:15 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. EDT today (12:15 a.m. to 5:30 a.m. PDT). After that, the Moon moves from CANCER into LEO. Happy Birthday for Wednesday, June 17, 2026:

You want to improve human society. You have progressive ideas, and you're imaginative, tenacious and persuasive! This is a year of service to others. Take care of yourself so you can be a support for those who turn to you for guidance, comfort and courage. Personalize your home. 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)
★★★ Your verbal skills are great today. However, parents need to cut their kids some slack because power struggles might arise. Romance can also suffer from ego conflicts and issues related to power and control. Tread carefully. Tonight: Socialize.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Your well-meaning intentions might backfire on you when dealing with parents and authority figures

today. Perhaps you're coming on a little too strong. You have definite ideas about decorating. You also might want to entertain at home. Lighten up. Tonight: Relax at home.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Steer clear of conflict with others, especially about controversial subjects like politics, religion and racial issues. They could turn into nasty arguments. The Sun is in your sign and you're powerful right now! Finances favor you. Be careful talking to others today. Tonight: Interesting discussions.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Try to avoid power struggles about money and financial control today. These issues might arise. If it's not about money or how to spend money, it could be about a specific possession, something you own. Fortunately, with Venus in your sign, you'll be tactful. Tonight: Check your money.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Today the Moon is lined up with fair Venus, making you eager to get out and socialize. In fact, you want to party! The problem is that at the same time, the Moon is opposite Pluto, which means you might butt heads with partners, spouses and close friends about social plans. Tread carefully. Tonight: You win!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ People admire you today. Furthermore, your relations with friends and groups are warm and smooth. Nevertheless, some kind of undercurrent might put you at odds with someone related to your work, your pet or even your health. Patience is your best friend today. Tonight: Enjoy solitude.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ You like to get along with others because you like harmony in your surroundings. Initially today, you will feel warmhearted to a friend; however, a difference of opinion could lead to a clash (perhaps with your kids) that could be nasty. Use your diplomatic skills to steer through this day. Tonight: Be friendly.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Power struggles with authority figures — parents, bosses, teachers and the police — might arise today. You also might find yourself at odds with spouses, partners or close friends. (That covers quite a population.) Travel and do something different. Run away! Run away! Tonight: You're admired.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Power struggles with family members, parents and bosses might create challenges for you today. Fortunately, you have energy to work

and get things done. If relations are challenging, then pivot and channel your energy into working for results that will please you. Tonight: Learn and explore.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ It might be tough to avoid money squabbles today. Initially, you have specific ideas about spending money. In fact, money might come to you today. Unfortunately, some challenges will arise. Venus opposite your sign will save the day because you are charming with everyone right now. Tonight: Check your finances.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ You have no choice other than to cooperate with others today to keep the peace and to achieve what you want to do. If you can avoid power struggles and instead choose a playful outlet — socializing with friends, sports or fun activities with kids — you'll be happier. Tonight: Listen and cooperate with others.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Struggles related to your health, parents and your work might be a challenge today. Instead, play hooky and escape with some fun socializing. Sports events, fun activities with kids and romantic adventures will appeal. You also might choose to relax at home. Tonight: Get better organized.

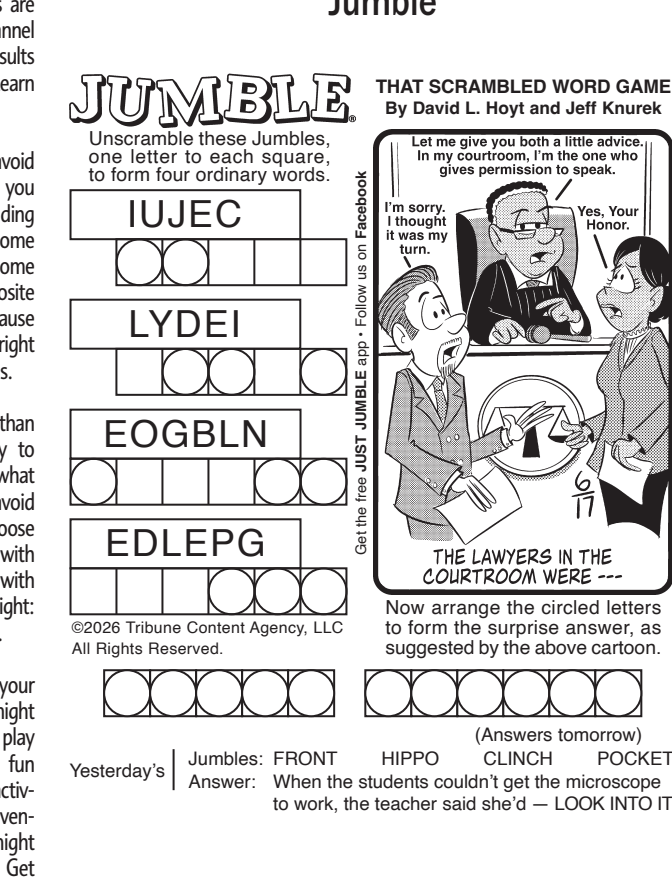
JUMBLE

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

I U J E C
L Y D E I
E O G B L N
E D L E P G

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Let me give you both a little advice. In my courtroom, I'm the one who gives permission to speak.

I'm sorry, I thought it was my turn.

Yes, Your Honor.

THE LAWYERS IN THE COURTROOM WERE ---

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

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: FRONT HIPPO CUNCH POWCKET
Answer: When the students couldn't get the microscope to work, the teacher said she'd — LOOK INTO IT