Horoscope

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- A unique idea, coupled with moderation and expertise, will lead to productivity and enthusiasm. Romance and self-improvement are favored.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Step outside your comfort zone if someone puts you on the spot. Be willing to walk away from a situation that makes you uncomfortable. Concentrate on fitness, health and happiness.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Don't get angry; get moving. Avoid risky situations. Look at the facts, practice social distancing and avoid disruptive influences.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- Let go of the past before it becomes a burden. Pour your energy into living life your way. Lower your overhead if it will put your mind at ease. Do the right thing at all costs.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -- You'll have plenty of ideas, but trying to do everything will be futile. Concentrate on what you enjoy doing most and give it your all. Build success on a solid foundation.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- Be tight-lipped when dealing with prying people. Don't let compliments go to your head or encourage you to trust someone you don't know well. Focus on getting things done.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- Set the stage for success. Pay attention to details and present what you have to offer with clarity and confidence. Don't feel pressured to act fast; time is on your side.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- Keep an open mind, but be sure to question anything that contradicts your beliefs. You don't have to agree with someone to get along with them. Be willing to meet halfway.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- Don't get into a spat with someone who has his or her own agenda. You'll get the freedom to do your own thing if you let others do as they please. Personal growth is encouraged. Romance is favored.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Be a good listener, channel your energy into something constructive and refrain from letting others upset you. Be accountable for your actions, and protect what you have worked so hard to acquire.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Your emotions won't lead you astray. Nurture meaningful relationships and improve your life. How you treat others will determine how much help you receive when you need it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- Don't get thrust into something that doesn't suit you in order to accommodate someone or avoid unpleasantries. It's essential to stand up for what you want and to be responsible for what happens.

Crossword

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

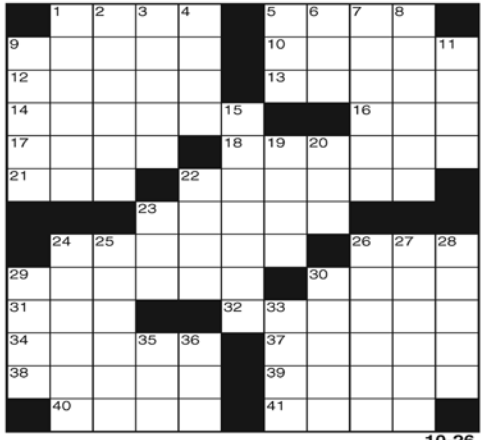
1 Speech problem
5 Musical work
9 Javelin's kin
10 Singer Summer
12 Fancy neckwear
13 Hold up
14 Long looks
16 Angry state
17 Different
18 Tremors
21 Bread choice
22 Taps instruments
23 Aussie marsupial
24 After-dinner wine
26 Parrot or puppy
29 Car-washing aid
30 Not wild
31 Sandwich meat
32 Frightens
34 Make blank
37 Like good sentries
38 Painter Edgar
39 Ditties
40 Hardens
41 Poker payment

DOWN

1 In conclusion
2 As a precaution
3 Get a goal
4 Tennis star Sampras
5 Unmatched
6 "The Raven" writer
7 Different
8 Traps
9 Intense beam
11 Ensign's answers
15 Crossword components
19 Hideous
20 In the style of
22 Tennis legend Bjorn
23 Boxer Norton
24 Some tires
25 Tribute
26 Mom or dad
27 Come into view
28 Exams
29 Storage spot
30 Hawk's grasper
33 José's house
35 Used a chair
36 Snaky shape

C	O	S	T	■	■	C	U	M	I	N
O	P	I	U	M	■	I	N	A	N	E
M	E	L	B	A	■	T	O	R	T	S
I	R	E	■	D	A	Y	■	K	I	T
C	A	N	O	E	S	■	G	E	M	S
■	S	T	R	I	P	B	A	R	E	■
■	■	■	A	R	E	A	S	■	■	■
■	P	O	L	A	R	B	E	A	R	■
M	A	R	S	■	S	Y	S	T	E	M
E	R	A	■	R	E	F	■	T	E	E
T	A	N	G	O	■	A	L	I	V	E
E	D	G	E	S	■	T	O	L	E	T
R	E	E	L	S	■	■	B	A	S	S

Saturday's answer



10-26

Cryptoquote

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.

10-26 CRYPTOQUOTE

P X D V S C P P B C U M X P V M X R L K. X M V Z R U P G X U U V U U U R I I C H C V M P S C P P X N F X C E K N F C M L P X X Z R H K X I C P.

— N M E O V Z N R O X C U

Saturday's Cryptoquote: ABHOR A KNAVE AND PITY A FOOL IN YOUR HEART, BUT LET NEITHER OF THEM UNNECESSARILY SEE THAT YOU DO. — LORD CHESTERFIELD

Jumble

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

TAMLE

SAAIL

RHITTS

UJRINO

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

Answer here: THE

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: BIRCH CHURN NAPKIN JAGUAR
Answer: Most of the bats were flying out of the cave, but a few decided to — HANG BACK

Alder on Bridge: One at a time, not two at a time

By Phillip Alder

This was a wild deal at a Bridge Base Online duplicate. What do you think of the auction? What happened in five diamonds doubled after West led the heart seven?

The basic principle for North is that if he is willing to bid five diamonds, he should get there immediately. Bidding four then five gives the opponents a fielder's choice -- double or bid higher -- after they have already exchanged some information. Here, though, if North had jumped to five diamonds, would East have bid five hearts or doubled?

Note that five hearts has to fail unless South strangely leads a spade. But six clubs is unbeatable!

Against five diamonds, West would have done best to lead his singleton. Double dummy, the contract goes down two if East wins with the spade queen and immediately gives his partner a spade ruff, then West shifts to a heart. If East cashes the spade ace before delivering the ruff, that results in down one.

At the table, though, unsurprisingly, West led the heart seven. Declarer won with dummy's ace, ruffed a club, cashed the diamond ace, crossed to the diamond king and ruffed the last club. Then he exited with the heart jack. Now East should have led a high heart. Even if South were 4=2=7=0, giving a ruff-and-sluff couldn't cost. Instead, he cashed the spade ace, but then he led his last club. South sluffed his spade loser and ruffed on the board to make the contract.

10-26-20

North
♠ K 8 6 4 3
♥ A 4
♦ K 7 4 3
♣ 7 5

West
♠ 10
♥ 7 2
♦ 9 8
♣ J 10 9 8 6 4 3 2

East
♠ A Q 7 5
♥ K Q 10 8 5 3
♦ —
♣ A K Q

South
♠ J 9 2
♥ J 9 6
♦ A Q J 10 6 5 2
♣ —

Dealer: South
Vulnerable: North-South

South	West	North	East
3♦	Pass	4♦	4♥
Pass	Pass	5♦	Dbl.
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Opening lead: ♥ 7