Horoscope

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- An online journey will lead you in a new direction. A chance to use your skills differently will lead to interesting partnerships. Reconnect with someone you haven't seen in a long time.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- Don't overspend or let anyone take advantage of you financially. Unfinished business will leave you in an awkward position. Damage control will be necessary.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- Use reason when dealing with people delivering ultimatums, and you will find a way to get them to see things your way. A change is likely to happen quickly. Go with the flow, and the result will be better than anticipated.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Helping someone who has assisted you in the past will make you feel good. A sales pitch may entice you, but make sure you can afford the buy-in. Stick to what you can afford.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Listen to someone's plan, but don't make any hasty commitments. Concentrate on your health and emotional well-being. Don't hesitate to do your own thing. Your ideas will be sound.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- Being observant will keep you out of trouble and allow you to make a wise decision. Distance yourself from a situation that is causing confusion or making you feel bad.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -- You can repair a damaged partnership if you are willing to accept some of the blame. An exciting new perspective on something you've always wanted to do will encourage you to take a chance.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- Avoid taking on too much of a financial burden or giving the impression you are capable of doing something you cannot. Take a moment to rethink your strategy. Keep the peace.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- Don't let someone's flirtation or poor judgment lead to a bad decision. The more hands-on you are when making decisions, the easier it will be to control the outcome.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- Don't let your personal life interfere with your work responsibilities. Recognize when someone is taking advantage of you. Focus on getting ahead, not on pleasing someone who doesn't deserve you.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- A hobby or self-improvement project will push you to pursue an exciting path. Reconnect with old friends, and plan a virtual reunion. A forgive-and-forget attitude is favored.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Finish what you start, and honor your promises. A lifestyle change will improve an important relationship. If you have doubts, say what's on your mind and find out where you stand.

Crossword

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

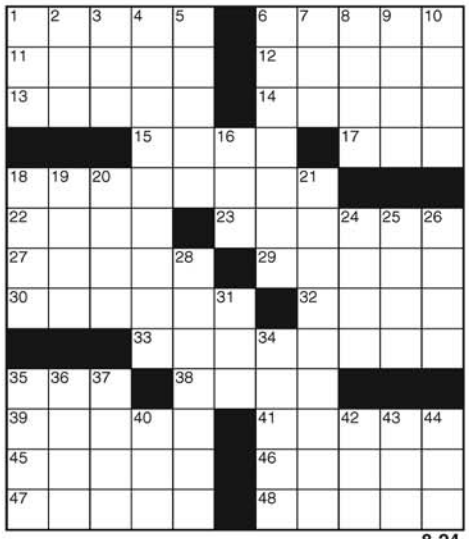
1 Musical phrases
6 Complete
11 Knuckle-head
12 Depart
13 Power provider
14 Saudi Arabia neighbor
15 Harbor boats
17 Stop
18 Hodge-podge
22 Opposed to
23 Wild ones
27 Racing boat
29 Slow mover
30 Postponed
32 Thin coin
33 Tripped
35 Energy
38 Bangkok native
39 Rust, for one
41 Not match, color-wise
45 Harpoon
46 "Seascape" playwright
47 Brass section members
48 Film prize

DOWN

1 Crater part
2 Wedding words
3 In shape
4 Mountain range's edge
5 Play, as a banjo
6 Homer hero
7 Player's peg
8 Not wild
9 Flat
10 Tear
16 Yak it up
18 Schooner pole
19 Machu Picchu native
20 Ticket souvenir
21 Fliers
24 Go to sea
25 Clock reading
26 Winter glider
28 Word compo-nents
31 "Well, that's obvious!"
34 Hong Kong neighbor
35 Swanky
36 Trade fair
37 Docking spot
40 Dapper fellow
42 Jackson 5 hit
43 Cruise setting
44 That woman

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

Saturday's answer



8-24

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.

8-24 **CRYPTOQUOTE**

T S X F L Q M F J I U F I T G R P P R M ,

T Z U X A X Z T J L L G Q I M T M

T Z P R G J T P F S R M P X N R F J I T J

F J P R G R M P F J I D R G M X J .

— H T G F Z K J S X M M T S T J P

Saturday's Cryptoquote: IF YOU HAVEN'T CRIED, YOUR EYES CAN'T BE BEAUTIFUL. — SOPHIA LOREN

Jumble

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

ZOWYO

SLOAS

LXAHEE

BRRAOH

©2020 Tribune Content Agency, LLC All Rights Reserved.

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

Print your answer here: ( ) ' ( ) " ( ) "

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: PHOTO HURRY INVENT SAFELY
Answer: The company went public, which allowed investors to — SHARE THE PROFIT

Alder on Bridge: Which opponent has the monarch?

By Phillip Alder

When the auction is competitive, and your partnership has a good trump fit but insufficient high-card values for game, you should usually apply the Law of Total Tricks. You should bid as high as your combined number of trumps. So, with nine trumps between you, take the bidding at least to the three-level.

North chose to limit his hand immediately, not respond one heart. East's double was responsive. It showed the values to act, but with no clear-cut bid available; typically, no four-card major. South, knowing his partner wouldn't bid two diamonds with fewer than four trumps, raised to three diamonds despite holding a minimum opening. This ended the auction, and then the declarer, Knut Blakset, justified his bidding with excellent card-reading.

East won the club lead with his king and returned a trump. Would you have finessed or gone up with the ace?

The percentage play was to finesse, but Blakset stopped to work out the distribution of the missing honors. East was marked with the club ace-king and a high heart honor. West had to have the other honors to justify his takeout double. So, declarer put up his diamond ace, and West grudgingly dropped the king. Blakset claimed, conceding one spade, two hearts and one club.

East could have made life much harder for South if he had won the first trick with the club ace rather than the king. True, it would have misled West, but that couldn't have mattered here.

08-24-20

North
♠ Q 8 5 2
♥ Q 9 7 4
♦ J 5 4 3
♣ 6

West
♠ K 9 7
♥ A J 6 2
♦ K
♣ J 9 5 3 2

East
♠ 6 4 3
♥ K 10 8
♦ 9 8 6
♣ A K 7 4

South
♠ A J 10
♥ 5 3
♦ A Q 10 7 2
♣ Q 10 8

Dealer: South
Vulnerable: Neither

South	West	North	East
1♦	Dbl.	2♦	Dbl.
3♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♣ 3