Horoscope

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Taking a unique approach to an old idea looks promising. Refuse to let a past connection interfere with your life. Avoid extreme situations and overindulgent individuals.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- A change regarding how you earn your living or handle money is favored. Refuse to let anyone push you in a direction that will leave you at a loss.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- A change of attitude or approach will give you the leverage you need to gain support. The proper protocol will be necessary to avoid a setback. A partnership is overdue for an adjustment.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Don't trust anyone with information that is sensitive. Take more time to assess your health and finances. Take care of professional responsibilities in order to avoid complaints.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Use common sense and offer alternatives that are in line with what's best for everyone. A positive change at home will ensure that you don't disrupt a relationship.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- As long as you can keep the peace without having to do something that may jeopardize your position, reputation or opportunities, you'll come out on top. Romance is favored.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -- Spend more time helping others and less time trying to manipulate situations to suit your needs. Relationships require trust, patience and equality to stand the test of time.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- Invest in something that will help you raise your earning potential. Physical fitness is favored. A meaningful relationship will undergo a change that leads to added benefits.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- Get things done on time in order to avoid criticism. If you do a good job, it will lead to rewards. Take care of your responsibilities, and live up to your promises.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- Make personal improvements. Use your intelligence to come up with an idea that will help you get ahead. Physical fitness is encouraged.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- By taking a unique path, you will discover the talents and skills you didn't realize you possessed. A change of plans will work in your favor, and an opportunity will bring you closer to someone special.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- What you accomplish will far exceed your expectations and set a precedent that will give you the incentive to combine your working and living spaces to achieve optimum efficiency and lower your overhead.

Crossword

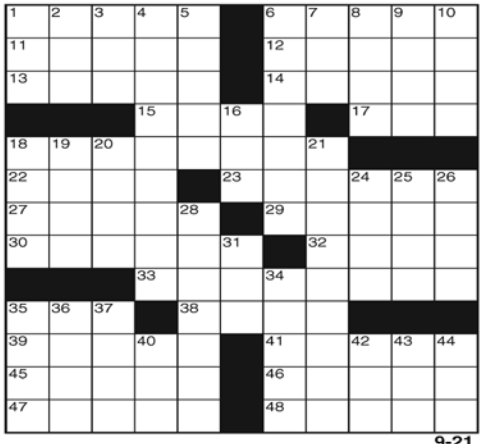
CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS
1 Twin of Romulus
6 Bank offerings
11 Hollywood worker
12 "Adam Bede" author
13 Israel's Meir
14 Audacity
15 Historic times
17 Friend of Frodo
18 In the outdoors
22 Town
23 Wild
27 It's in vein
29 Danger
30 Boring tools
32 Equips
33 Travel bag
35 Spying org.
38 Verve
39 Improvise on stage
41 Wrong
45 Mandy of "This Is Us"
46 Variety show
47 Beg
48 So far

DOWN
1 Cloth scrap
2 Sense of self
3 Singer Tormé
4 Experiences
5 Intent look
6 Photog's cover
7 Bullring cry
8 Broadcasts
9 Flaring star
10 Goblet part
16 Braying animal
18 "Dancing Queen" group
19 Doozy
20 Marsh hopper
21 Defeats
24 Opera solo
25 Band's bookings
26 Different
28 Defeated decisively
31 Knight's title
34 Pageant topper
35 Scout's base
36 Pop star
37 Lotion additive
40 Nest egg acct.
42 Vining plant
43 Take to court
44 Harden

S	L	I	C	E	■	D	U	P	E	D
P	E	C	O	S	■	I	N	A	N	E
A	G	E	N	T	■	P	O	T	T	S
R	U	S	S	I	A	■	■	O	R	K
E	M	U	■	M	U	D	P	I	E	S
R	E	P	■	A	T	E	A	S	E	■
■	■	■	S	T	O	C	K	■	■	■
■	D	O	R	E	M	I	■	M	E	H
P	O	T	S	D	A	M	■	A	X	E
A	G	O	■	■	T	A	H	I	T	I
C	R	O	W	E	■	T	I	D	E	S
E	U	L	E	R	■	E	V	E	N	T
S	N	E	E	R	■	D	E	N	T	S

Saturday's answer



9-21

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.

9-21 **CRYPTOQUOTE**

M G Z K N M W N D V V X U Z D A G C Z

E L B X P I V D M A X C B X T

D W D N M B Z E X Z G T N E N M N B K

E X . — D C T H X P G H T X

Saturday's Cryptoquote: I FIND THE GREAT THING IN THIS WORLD IS NOT SO MUCH WHERE WE STAND AS IN WHAT DIRECTION WE ARE MOVING. — O.W. HOLMES

Jumble

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

ONGIG

GOYFG

BRUYGB

UUTFER

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Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

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: LYRIC MESSY VORTEX AUTUMN
Answer: Ben Franklin was able to invent bifocals because of his ability to — "VISUAL-EYES"

Alder on Bridge: Defending when seeing 28 cards

By Phillip Alder

Novelist Holly Lisle wrote, "If you don't accept responsibility for your own actions, then you are forever chained to a position of defense."

When a bridge player is on defense, he usually takes responsibility for his actions -- although sometimes he needs to be guided by his partner.

Today's deal occurred during the bronze-medal playoff in the Polish League Final Four. This was the first live bridge event in Poland since the coronavirus lockdown. It was played in Warsaw over the last weekend of June.

Sitting East and West were Wlodzimierz Starkowski and Michal Kwiecien. They defeated four spades. Looking at all 52 cards, can you see how they did it after West led the diamond ace?

East's three-diamond response was preemptive. With game-invitational values or more, he would have responded two no-trump. This pushed North-South into the thin game.

Upside-down signals have been the norm in Poland forever. They even lead low from doubletons and the middle card from a tripleton.

Under West's diamond ace, East signaled with the 10, the high card showing an odd number and the very high card being a suit-preference signal for hearts. So, at trick two, West shifted to a heart.

Declarer played a trump off the board, but East hopped up with the king and returned his second heart. Then, when West got in with his spade ace, he gave his partner a heart ruff.

09-21-20

North
♠ Q 10 9
♥ A K Q
♦ 8 7
♣ K 9 8 3 2

West
♠ A 8
♥ 10 9 5 4
♦ A K Q 9 3
♣ 7 5

East
♠ K 6 4
♥ J 8
♦ 10 6 5 4 2
♣ J 6 4

South
♠ J 7 5 3 2
♥ 7 6 3 2
♦ J
♣ A Q 10

Dealer: West
Vulnerable: Both

South	West	North	East
	1♦	Dbl.	3♦
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

Opening lead: ♦ A