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Horoscope

FOR FRIDAY

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Today the Sun changes signs, which will help you work hard and hustle your buns in the next four weeks. You want to work smart. Check the Moon Alert today. In the meantime, get your ducks in a row. Tonight: Get organized. TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Lucky you! Once a year the Sun sits in the most fun-loving part of your chart, and this starts today and lasts for four weeks. It will be a great time for vacations, social outings, sports, the arts and fun activities with kids. Enjoy! Tonight: Socialize. GEMINI (May 21-June 20) For the next four weeks, your main focus will turn to home, family and your private life. You might be involved with a parent. Nevertheless, this is still fun-loving time with opportunities for short trips, conversations, writing and chances to boost your income. Tonight: Relax. CANCER (June 21-July 22) The pace of your days will accelerate in the next four weeks. Travel will appeal to you. You'll be very eager to share your ideas with others. This is a strong window for those who write, sell, market or communicate for a living. Tonight: Conversations. LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Today the Sun leaves LEO to move into VIRGO for four weeks, shifting your focus to money, cash flow, income and your values. This will be the time to examine your relationship to the things you own. Does your stuff serve your needs, or give you a problem? Tonight: Check your possessions. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Once a year, the Sun is in your sign for four weeks. This begins today. That's good news, because this will recharge your energy! You'll be more concerned with your own personal matters, and less with the world at large. You'll make an attractive impression on others. Yay! Tonight: Enjoy solitude. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) As your personal year is ending, the next four weeks are the perfect time to set some goals for your year ahead. Goals give you a clearer focus on what's important and more clarity in decision-making. They also give you better control over your future and a sense of purpose. Tonight: Enjoy solitude. SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) The next four weeks will be popular! Everyone wants to see your face. This is also a good window to bounce your hopes and dreams for the future off others to get their feedback, which might help you. Meanwhile, travel for pleasure if you can. Bon voyage! Tonight: Be friendly. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Once a year the Sun is at the top of your chart, casting you in a flattering spotlight. This lovely blessing lasts for four weeks, and it begins today. Obviously, this is the time to demand the advantage. Go after what you want, because others will admire you. Tonight: You're noticed. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) In the next four weeks, you'll have wonderful opportunities to travel and explore avenues in publishing, the media, medicine, the law or higher education. This blessing comes once a year, so use it to your advantage! Meanwhile, friends and partners are charming. Tonight: Learn and explore! AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Your desire to be the best that you can be will be strong in the next four weeks. Because of this, you might join a gym or modify your diet. You might take a course or learn something new. Travel will also appeal to you, along with publishing and the media. Work is supportive. Tonight: Check your finances. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Once a year the Sun sits opposite your sign for four weeks. This starts today. Note: This influence will rob you of your usual energy, which means you will need more rest. Take naps. Respect your need for more sleep. Focus on partnerships. Tonight: Listen and cooperate.

2025 KING FEATURES SYNDICATE

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 22 BRIDGE

Bidding quiz

You're the dealer, neither side vulnerable, and have opened One Diamond. Partner responds Three Diamonds (forcing). What would you bid now with each of the following hands?

- ♠ KJ ♥ AQ7 ♦ KQ863 ♣ KJ4
- ♠ 93 ♥ 84 ♦ AK872 ♣ AJ93
- ♠ K85 ♥ J7 ♦ AJ94 ♣ KQ82
- ♠ AQ4 ♥ 83 ♦ J87532 ♣ AK

1. **Four notrump.** Partner can be expected to have from 13 to 16 points for his three-diamond bid, which puts you in the 33-point zone usually required for 12 tricks. A small slam is thus practically certain, while a grand slam is a possibility. The number of aces partner holds is the key to how far to go, so you invoke the Blackwood convention.

If partner responds five diamonds, showing one ace, you pass; if partner bids five hearts (two aces), you bid six diamonds; and if partner responds five spades (three aces), you bid five notrump, asking for kings. If the response to this is six diamonds, showing one king, you bid seven diamonds.

2. **Four diamonds.** Here your opening bid is a minimum, and you indicate this by rebidding in minimum terms. If partner next bids five diamonds, you pass.

However, if partner indicates

interest in a slam by bidding four hearts or four spades over four diamonds, you should bid five clubs. This cannot be construed as strong bid because your previous four-diamond bid announced a minimum hand. Five clubs in this sequence simply shows first-round control of clubs.

3. **Three notrump.** This is not a pleasant rebid, considering your weakness in hearts, but three notrump offers a better chance for game than any other contract.

It is possible that the best spot is five diamonds, but there is no sensible way of finding out whether an 11-trick contract is superior without going past three notrump. If partner passes three notrump, the odds favor making it.

4. **Four clubs.** A slam is definitely possible, despite your minimum high-card values, and is surely worth investigating. Partner might have something like: ♠83 ♥AJ5 ♦AK106 ♣Q652, and this typical three-diamond response would provide an excellent shot for six.

If partner responds to four clubs with four diamonds, you would be entitled to make still another slam try by bidding four spades. If partner then retreats to five diamonds, ignoring both invitations to slam, you would have to respect his signoffs and abandon the effort.

Tomorrow: A matter of priorities.

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SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku

4			5				1	
		3	8					7
				1		3		2
	3	4				6		
5	2		6	3			8	
9		6			8			
				8	9	4		6
		5						
3			2				7	

Difficulty: ★★★★★

8/22

Answer to previous puzzle

8	7	6	3	5	4	1	2	9
4	2	1	9	7	8	3	6	5
5	3	9	6	1	2	7	8	4
7	9	5	1	6	3	2	4	8
6	4	2	7	8	5	9	3	1
1	8	3	2	4	9	5	7	6
2	5	8	4	3	1	6	9	7
3	1	7	8	9	6	4	5	2
9	6	4	5	2	7	8	1	3

Difficulty: ★★★

8/21

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