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230. JOB WANTED

Carpentry-Painting Kitchens & Baths, Doors /Windows Honest/Dep. 25 yrs. exp. Licensed and Insured. Veteran Owned. Ref. 606-369-6472

375. FIREWOOD FOR SALE

FIREWOOD FOR SALE Seasoned Hardwoods 240 pieces. \$120 per truck load, picked up. \$140 delivered. Call for Details: 606-615-5026

510. HOMES FOR SALE

Home for Sale 123 New Hampshire Dr. Ashland KY 3 Bedroom, 1 ½ Bath, 2 Car Garage, ½ Basement, Forced Air Gas and Electric A/C Russell School District, \$225k Call 606-923-4307 or 606-329-1119

630. APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Raceland and Ashland 2BR APT for Rent No Pets, 606-922-9710

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Horoscope

FOR MONDAY

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Today your ruler Mars has moved to the top of your chart, arousing your ambition, which could create conflict with authority figures. Don't be surprised if your emotional experiences are more intense today. (You might even attract intense people to you.) Easy does it. Tonight: Check your finances.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) The Moon is opposite your sign today, which happens for two and a half days every month. When this occurs, it means you have to be accommodating and compromise a bit with someone else, especially a spouse, partner or close friend. Meanwhile, in the next six weeks, your desire to travel will be strong! Tonight: Listen.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You have to put your needs second to the demands of someone else today. You're not being a martyr -- you're stepping up to the plate. Commendable! In the next six weeks, inheritances and shared property might be confrontational. (What fun.) Tonight: Work.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) It's Monday, and today is a mixed bag. The Moon makes you feel protective, nurturing and affectionate to others. (This is good.) However, Mars is now opposite your sign for six weeks, which could create tension with others. Patience, grasshopper. Tonight: Play!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You have mixed messages today. In one way, you want to relax at home. You might want to play hooky and have some fun! Nevertheless, today Mars has moved from fun-loving SAGITTARIUS into business-minded CAPRICORN, which means it's time to get to work. Tonight: Cocoon.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You want to talk to someone today; you have something to say! (Yes, you're involved with family discussions and home repairs.) Meanwhile, Mars changes signs today, giving you the courage to be yourself for the next six weeks. Seek romance, sports and amusing diversions! Tonight: Conversations.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) For the next six weeks, Mars will move across the bottom of your chart, creating more activity where you live. You'll work hard to get things done, but tension with family might arise. Harmony is important to you, but so is family. Let go of some of your expectations in order to promote a pleasant atmosphere. Tonight: Maintain your belongings.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Today the Moon is in your sign heightening your emotions. However, when the Moon is in your sign, things tend to go your way. (Yay!) Meanwhile, today Mars moves into your House of Communications for six weeks, increasing your daily pace and making you identify with your ideas. Tonight: You're in charge.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) All hail SAGITTARIUS! The Sun, Mercury and Venus are in your sign! Today, however, you want to be low-key and enjoy some privacy. Mars has just moved into your Money House to stay for six weeks, making you identify more with your possessions. (You'll shop more.) Tonight: Enjoy privacy.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Ta da! Today fiery Mars moves into your sign for the first time since Jan./Feb. 2024. The next six weeks will be a time of great activity! You will work hard to further your own interests and assert yourself among others. You will defend your best interests! Tonight: Be friendly.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) People notice you today. Some will know personal details about your private life. This continues to be a popular, friendly time for you; however, do be aware that there might be someone out there who does not have your best interests at heart. Be careful. Tonight: You're admired.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) It's Monday, and you want to get outta Dodge, or at least explore your own neighborhood. Meanwhile, the next six weeks are the perfect time to formulate goals and start to pursue them. (The best in two years) Enjoy physical activity and competitive sports. Look for win-win solutions. Tonight: Broaden your horizons.

2025 KING FEATURES SYNDICATE

Horoscope

FOR TUESDAY

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Travel, school issues or legal and medical matters might be difficult today, which is why you would rather do something else. Nevertheless, duty calls. Fortunately, discussions about banking and shared property will benefit you or your home and family. Tonight: Happy news.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) This is a poor day for financial discussions or to ask for a loan because someone or something will block your way. Accept that this is the tenor of the day and lower your expectations. Later in the day, relations with someone close to you are warm and helpful. Tonight: Warm discussions.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) This is a poor day to ask authority figures for approval, favors or permission. Their response will be, "Talk to the hand." Timing is everything. Instead, be helpful and supportive with co-workers. Issues related to your health and pets are reassuring. Tonight: Happy feelings.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Tread carefully at work today, because bosses and supervisors might be critical or demanding. Don't waste time being resentful. Do what is expected of you, then carve out some time for fun, because romance and playful diversions await you this evening. (A reward!) Tonight: Socialize!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Parents must be patient when dealing with their kids today, because things are challenging. Obstacles will arise. Your kids might be unhappy. Similarly, social occasions and romantic events might disappoint you as well. However, tonight a complete turnaround is a pleasant reprieve. Tonight: Contentment.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Expect little when dealing with parents and partners today, because people are unyielding. If you want to ask for help or a favor (or something more), table this request for another day. Instead, count on your own optimism to boost your happiness late tonight. Because it will! Tonight: Optimistic discussions.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Can you hum the tune to the "Song of the Volga Boatman"? "Yo! Heave ho! Once more ..." Yes, it's that kinda day, which is why you might feel discouraged or overwhelmed. But this is temporary. The good news is a financial benefit or favor could come your way tonight. Ka-ching! Tonight: You're encouraged.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Children might be an increased responsibility today. Social outings or sports events might be met with difficulties and delays. A flat tire? Whatever it is, it's no fun. Fortunately, by tonight, the Moon in your sign is dancing with Jupiter. "Tra la, tra la, it is to laugh!" Tonight: You're happy.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You're an optimist. You need to believe in a better tomorrow. Well, that's exactly what you can believe in today, because tomorrow will be better. Today you might feel depressed or restricted by something or someone holding you back. It might be related to parents or responsibilities with home and family. Courage! Tonight: Quiet strength.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Steer clear of arguments with others today. Not only will they be pointless, they could ruin your day. (Who needs that?) Be choosy about whom you talk to because, ironically, a friend or a member of a group will lift your spirits tonight! Go figure. Tonight: You're popular.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Someone might refuse you money or help today. Or they could be difficult about something that you own. (You won't be happy.) However, tonight something will make you happy, and you'll project an image of success and affluence to everyone. (A complete turnaround.) Tonight: You look good!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Today you want to break out of a rut, but you can't because certain barriers are holding you back. Authority figures might restrict your freedom. Something is discouraging. Nevertheless, a chance to travel or explore social outings or fun activities with kids will delight you late in the day. Tonight: Travel, learn, expand your world!

2025 KING FEATURES SYNDICATE

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15 BRIDGE

Famous Hand

North dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ 10 8 5 2

♥ J 4

♦ A Q 8 2

♣ Q 7 6

♠ A 4

WEST

♠ 7 6 3

♥ J 4

♦ J 10 9 5 4 3

♣ 10 9

EAST

♠ K Q J 9

♥ 10 9 7 3

♦ A 8 2

♣ 8 2

SOUTH

♠ A 4

♥ K 6 5

♦ K

♣ K Q J 7 6 5 3

The bidding:

North

1 ♦

2 ♦

4 ♠

East

Pass

Pass

Dble

South

2 ♣

4 ♣

6 ♣

West

Pass

Pass

Opening lead — seven of spades.

The outcome of most deals depends on a combination of luck and skill. Sometimes the two come in equal measures, but on other occasions one factor far outweighs the other. In this deal from the 1991 world team championship, luck played a much greater role, but a certain degree of skill was required to take advantage of it.

The bidding shown took place in the semifinal match between Iceland and Sweden. The Icelandic North-South pair reached six clubs,

and West led a spade in response to his partner's lead-directing double.

The spade lead would seem to doom the slam, since it establishes a second winner for the defense before the ace of diamonds can be driven out, and the opposing hearts are not divided 3-3. But declarer didn't panic. He won the ace of spades and cashed all seven trumps, keeping the ten of spades and A-Q-8-2 of hearts in dummy.

This left East in a hopeless position. Unable to keep all four hearts, the high spade and the ace of diamonds, he elected to discard the diamond ace. South then cashed the diamond king to make the slam, losing dummy's last heart at the end.

Not to be outdone, in the other semifinal match between Brazil and Poland, the Polish declarer wound up at the same contract — and made all 13 tricks!

At this table, due to the vagaries of the Polish bidding system, North became declarer at six clubs, and East led the king of spades. After taking dummy's ace, declarer also ran seven clubs, but here East could not see the ten of spades in declarer's hand and decided to keep four hearts and the ace of diamonds. When North next cashed the spade ten, East could not guard both diamonds and hearts, and declarer scored the rest of the tricks.

Tomorrow: Quantitative analysis.

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16 BRIDGE

Quantitative analysis

East dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ A 8 2

♥ J 8 3

♦ K 7 5

♣ K 8 6 4

WEST

♠ K 10 7 6 3

♥ J 8 3

♦ K 8 6

♣ J 5

EAST

♠ Q 4

♥ Q 10 7 5 4

♦ 3 2

♣ Q 10 9 3

SOUTH

♠ J 9 5

♥ A 6

♦ A Q J 9 4

♣ A 7 2

The bidding:

East

Pass

South

1 NT

West

Pass

North

3 NT

Opening lead — six of spades.

Declarer frequently holds up an ace in notrump play, but there are times when it is much wiser to take the ace at once. The issue can be resolved only if declarer carefully weighs the merits of each case before acting.

Consider this deal where West leads the spade six against three notrump. Should South play low from dummy at trick one, or should he play the ace?

When the deal occurred, declarer played low, and East won the trick with the queen. Back came a spade, covered by the nine and ten, and declarer ducked again. A third

spade then drove out the ace.

South had no choice but to try the diamond finesse, and when West won the ten with the king and cashed his remaining two spades, the contract went down one.

Subsequent analysis revealed that declarer would have made the contract had he played the ace of spades at trick one and then tried the diamond finesse. With the spades blocked, East-West could not have run the suit, and South would have scored nine tricks. The question, therefore, is whether South erred by holding up the ace initially.

The answer lies in which play — going up with the ace or ducking it — offers the best chance for the contract in the long run.

South should reason that, assuming West's six is his fourth-best spade, East has only one card higher than that — the seven, ten, queen or king. Presumably it is not the seven, since with a combination including the K-Q-10, West would have led the king rather than the six. Therefore, East's high spade is either the ten, queen or king.

Declarer can gain by ducking at trick one only if East's high spade is the ten. But if East has either the queen or king, playing the ace assures the contract. The odds are thus 2-1 in favor of playing the ace, making it by far the better choice.

Tomorrow: Sylvia learns how to finesse.

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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

5

6

4

3

9

3

6

1

6

3

7

2

9

7

5

4

6

6

9

5

2

1

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4

2

9

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7

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Difficulty: ★

12/15

Answer to previous puzzle

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4

1

3

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7

6

7

3

5

9

8

6

1

2

4

Difficulty: ★★★★★

12/14

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

2

7

5

8

4

6

2

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4

1

6

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5

2

9

2

7

6

8

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1

6

9

7

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8

2

4

3

Difficulty: ★★

12/16

Answer to previous puzzle

3

2

1

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7

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1

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3

8

Difficulty: ★

12/15