

Friday, January 8, 2021

Daily Bridge Club

Devil of a deal

By FRANK STEWART
Tribune Content Agency

"Let me show you a new game I invented," the Serpent told Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. "I call it 'bridge.'"

The Serpent recruited a fourth from the Land of Nod, and the game began. When Eve was declarer at 3NT, the Serpent, slithering West, led the jack of spades. Eve won in her hand and led a diamond, and the Serpent led the jack.

"I can resist anything except temptation," Eve sighed, and she covered with dummy's queen.

East (of Eden) correctly played low. When Eve continued with the king of diamonds, East took the ace. Eve couldn't set up and cash the long diamonds and she won only eight tricks.

LAST DIAMOND

"Let the jack of diamonds win," Adam grumbled. "You win the spade return in your hand and lead your last diamond to set up the suit. The king of spades is an entry."

"You wear the plants in this family," Eve shrugged, "so maybe you're right."

As for the Serpent, he didn't have a leg to stand on. The game he invented has been vexing people ever since.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠ A Q 5 ♥ A J 8 4 ♦ 7 4 ♣ A K 8 3. Your side is vulnerable. The dealer, at your right,

opens three diamonds. You double, and your partner bids three spades. What do you say?

ANSWER: Discipline demands that you pass. Your double, which obliged partner to respond at the three level, promised about as much strength as you hold. He may have a weak hand with only four spades and may struggle to take even nine tricks. Moreover, bad breaks are likely.

South dealer
N-S vulnerable

NORTH
♠ K 6 4
♥ 6 5
♦ K Q 10 6 3 2
♣ 5 2

WEST
♠ J 10 9 7 3
♥ K Q 10 3
♦ J
♣ J 7 6

EAST
♠ 8 2
♥ 9 7 2
♦ A 9 8 5
♣ Q 10 9 4

SOUTH
♠ A Q 5
♥ A J 8 4
♦ 7 4
♣ A K 8 3

South	West	North	East
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♦	Pass
1 ♥	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 NT	All Pass

Opening lead — ♠ J

©2021 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

SEEKING A FRIENDLY DUPLICATE BRIDGE?

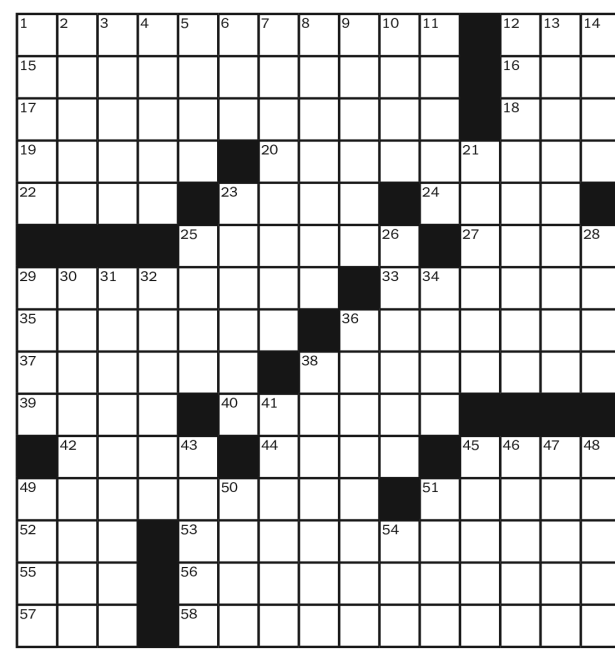
Find five games weekly online at bendbridge.org

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 1204

- ACROSS**
- 1 One who takes stock
 - 12 Can you believe it?!
 - 15 Fear of public places
 - 16 Sticky stuff
 - 17 Tending (to)
 - 18 Half of a frozen foods brand
 - 19 Makes a splash
 - 20 Tapes, say
 - 22 Trees symbolizing death in Celtic culture
 - 23 Crumb
 - 24 Speculative fiction writer Stephenson
 - 25 Go away
 - 27 Before thou knowest
 - 29 Company that owns Rotten Tomatoes
 - 33 Neighbor of Ciudad Juárez
 - 35 On a par with
 - 36 Prepared
 - 37 6-9 months?
 - 38 They're involved in the scheme of things
 - 39 File extensions
 - 40 1986 sci-fi film sequel
 - 42 Pair of skivvies?
 - 44 Writers Patchett and Brashares
 - 45 Tousele
 - 49 Chopped in or out, say
 - 51 Figure that goes through the roof in December?
 - 52 QB's stat: Abbr.
 - 53 Director of two Best Picture-nominated films of the 2010s
 - 55 Issa of comedy
 - 56 "Unforgettable ... With Love" Grammy recipient
 - 57 Author
 - 58 Lineup on a city block
- DOWN**
- 1 Absurdly exaggerated
 - 2 Dexterous
 - 3 As yet
 - 4 Sets off
 - 5 Young woman
 - 6 Brand for determining if you're expecting
 - 7 World's deepest river
 - 8 Survivor at the end of "Hamlet"
 - 9 Long-legged waders
 - 10 Fifth of fünf
 - 11 Steely Dan singer Donald
 - 12 1973 Jim Croce hit
 - 13 Rage quitter, maybe
 - 14 Tavern in the same town as Krusty Burger
 - 21 Leaves home?
 - 23 It bears repeating
 - 25 View from a highland
 - 26 Long-legged waders
 - 28 Communicates nonverbally, in a way
 - 29 Ending with love or snooze
 - 30 Powerful spirits
 - 31 British P.M.'s residence, informally
 - 32 Young woman
 - 34 Things to draw or cast
 - 36 Los Angeles suburb bordering Griffith Park
 - 38 Sticky stuff
 - 41 Not on time for
 - 43 Communicates nonverbally, in a way
 - 45 One of the racing Andrettis
 - 46 Like a prize that's still up for grabs
 - 47 Wooden leg?
 - 48 Venerable advisers
 - 49 Org. whose website has a Social Security Resource Center
 - 50 School house?
 - 51 Tarot reader, e.g.
 - 54 Tweet attachment, at times



PUZZLE BY PATTI VAROL AND DOUG PETERSON

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



- 26 Long-legged waders
- 28 Communicates nonverbally, in a way
- 29 Ending with love or snooze
- 30 Powerful spirits
- 31 British P.M.'s residence, informally
- 32 Young woman
- 34 Things to draw or cast
- 36 Los Angeles suburb bordering Griffith Park
- 38 Sticky stuff
- 41 Not on time for
- 43 Communicates nonverbally, in a way
- 45 One of the racing Andrettis
- 46 Like a prize that's still up for grabs
- 47 Wooden leg?
- 48 Venerable advisers
- 49 Org. whose website has a Social Security Resource Center
- 50 School house?
- 51 Tarot reader, e.g.
- 54 Tweet attachment, at times

Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 7,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords (\$39.95 a year). Read about and comment on each puzzle: nytimes.com/wordplay.

BIZARRO



DENNIS THE MENACE



HERMAN



JUMBLE

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

CUTOS
PTENI
GIESNN
TREGER

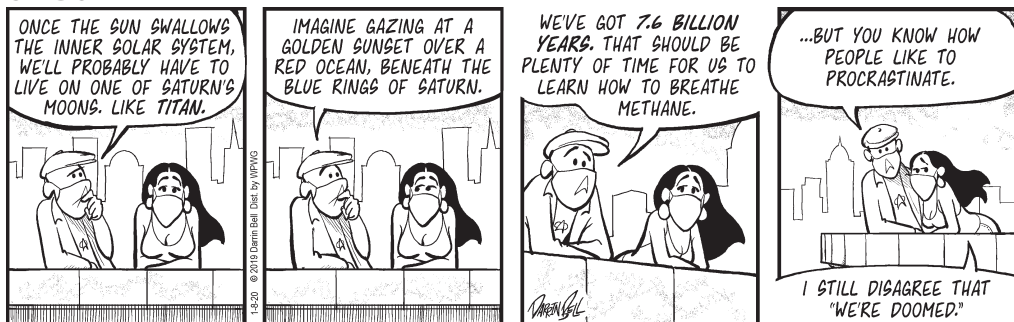
WHEN THEY LOOKED AT THE AVAILABLE LOTS IN THE NEW DEVELOPMENT, THEY WERE ---

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

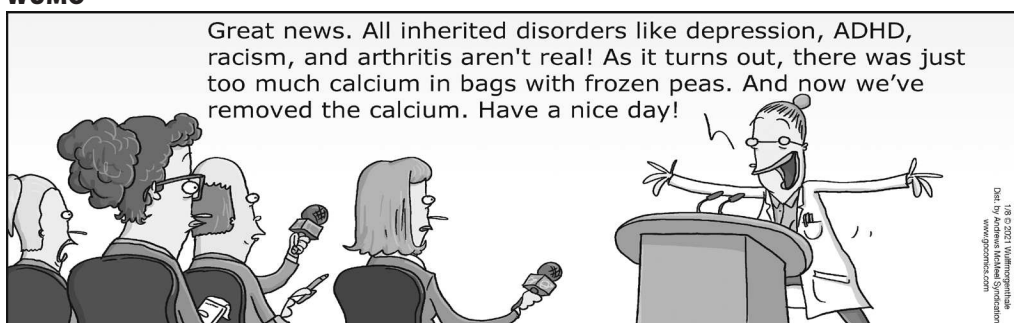
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: KIOSK TOPAZ FUMBLE TYCOON
Answer: The pool player bet he would win, but after missing the shot, he would be — OUT OF POCKET

CANDORVILLE



WUMO



ZITS



Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- ACROSS**
- 1 Architectural recess
 - 5 Good enough
 - 9 Grad
 - 13 "A New Day Has Come" singer
 - 14 Like Erté's art
 - 15 Compensate
 - 17 Full of anticipation
 - 18 Subject to being wiped out
 - 20 Source of some TV content
 - 22 Kardashian matriarch
 - 23 "We ___ alone"
 - 25 Genetic connection
 - 27 Bridge protectors
 - 30 Promotional giveaways
 - 32 Explosive initials
 - 33 "Bob's Burgers" sibling
 - 35 Fellows
 - 36 Sports bet based on total points scored ... or a hint to answering four puzzle clues
 - 39 Chamonix peak
 - 41 Retro ski resort sight
 - 42 Inexact no.
 - 45 Like a busy chimney sweep's clothes
 - 47 Collide with
 - 50 Impediment to walking down a hallway
 - 52 Bleeping editor
 - 53 Hawkeye State campus town
 - 55 Recommendation for better health
 - 58 Evil fairy played by Angelina Jolie
 - 61 Kurylenko of "Quantum of Solace"
 - 62 In a heap
 - 63 Bravo preceder
 - 64 It's not optional
 - 65 Tibetan honorific
 - 66 Alka-Seltzer jingle word
 - 67 International gas brand
 - 37 Nair rival that originally had "N" as its first letter
 - 38 Horror icon, for short
 - 39 Web service since 1993
 - 40 Parsons of old Hollywood gossip
 - 42 Stores on a farm
 - 43 Trio in funny shorts
 - 44 Storm often chased
 - 45 Mischief-maker
 - 46 "Sorry Not Sorry" singer Lovato
 - 48 "Give ___ break!"
 - 49 Chant
 - 51 Summarize
 - 54 Come across as
 - 56 Inspirin maker
 - 57 Lowdown
 - 59 HHS agency
 - 60 Touchscreen touch

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

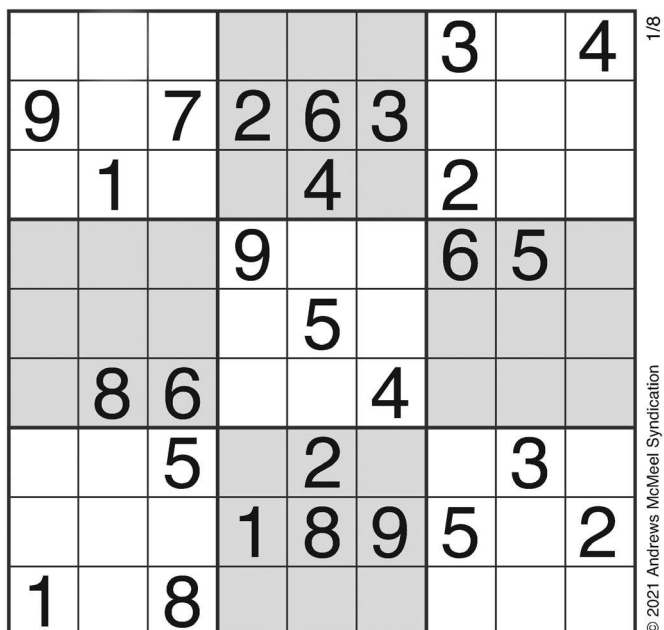
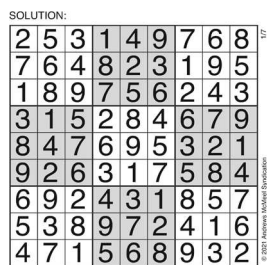


01/08/21

SUDOKU

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

SOLUTION TO PREVIOUS SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

© 2021 Andrews McMeel Syndication