

Monday, January 11, 2021

Daily Bridge Club

Fractionally better

By FRANK STEWART
Tribune Content Agency

“Eight out of 24 Americans can’t reduce a fraction to its lowest terms.” — graffiti
Expert declarers look for slight extra chances to succeed. Over a lifetime of play, those chances can matter.

At today’s 3NT, South took the ace of clubs and saw that to lead a low diamond wasn’t safe. If dummy’s queen won, South would lack the entries to set up and cash the diamonds. So South led the king of diamonds.

East won and returned a club. South took the queen, but when he cashed the jack of diamonds, East threw a spade. South took two more high diamonds, then tried a spade to dummy’s jack. East won and led his last club for down two.

you bid two hearts and he returns to two spades. What do you say?

ANSWER: In “Standard” methods, partner’s sequence invites game. Since you have good trumps, a side ace and a helpful queen in his side suit, bid four spades. In the “two-over-one” style, his two diamonds forced to game, so you might bid three spades in case he has slam aspirations.
North dealer
N-S vulnerable

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

WEST
♠ 9
♥ K 8
♦ 8 7 6 5 4
♣ J 10 9 8 3

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

SOUTH
♠ 7 6
♥ 5 4 2
♦ K J 10 9 3 2
♣ A Q

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

Opening lead — ♣ J

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BETTER PLAY

South had a fractionally better play. He leads a spade to dummy at Trick Two and returns the queen of diamonds. If East followed low, South would overtake with the king to continue diamonds. But when East’s ace appears, South is safe.

East will have the singleton ace only one time in 100, but those little chances can add up.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠ A K J 5 2 ♥ A 10 6 3 ♦ Q ♣ 6 4 2. You open one spade, your partner responds two diamonds,

SEEKING A FRIENDLY DUPLICATE BRIDGE?

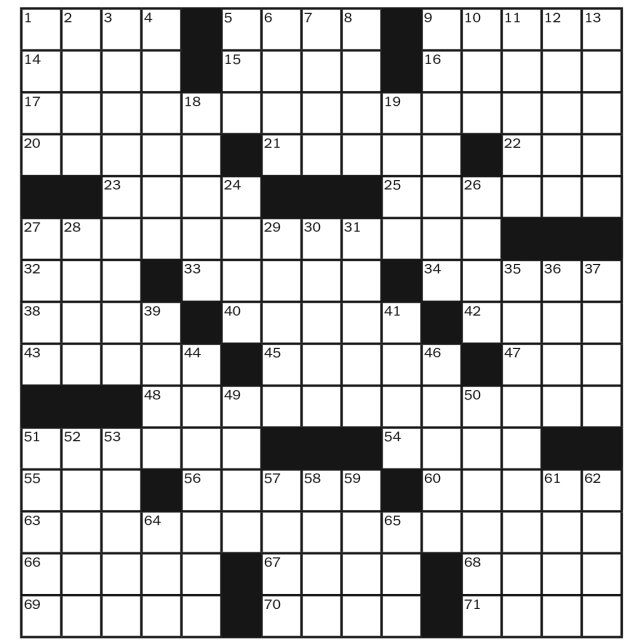
Find five games weekly online at bendbridge.org

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 1207

- ACROSS**
- 1 Message to the office staff
 - 5 Old South American empire
 - 9 Mosquitoes and gnats
 - 14 Grp. that sets oil benchmarks
 - 15 Start a game of cards
 - 16 American living abroad, e.g.
 - 17 Traveled by subway?
 - 20 Mexican mister
 - 21 Seat at the bar
 - 22 ___ v. Wade
 - 23 Magnum ___ (greatest work)
 - 25 Like a recovering hosp. patient, perhaps
 - 27 “Would you call the elevator for me?”
 - 32 Japanese sash
 - 33 Piece of pizza
 - 34 Foreordained
 - 38 Chrissy of “This Is Us”
 - 40 Pet peeves?
 - 42 Wine region of California
 - 43 Dickens’s “___ House”
 - 45 “Naughty” and “nice” things for Santa
 - 47 Letters after nus
 - 48 “Hand me a flashlight”?
 - 51 Admits, as an offense
 - 54 Pouty expression
 - 55 “Well, lookee here!”
 - 56 “Person” that speaks in beeps and boops
 - 60 Home that might melt
 - 63 Use French fries as legal tender?
- DOWN**
- 1 Cuts the grass
 - 2 Fencing sword
 - 3 Amish cousin
 - 4 Tentacled sea creatures
 - 5 Vow before a judge
 - 6 The latest
 - 7 Jargon
 - 8 Cher, e.g., voicewise
 - 9 Remove, as a sticker
 - 10 Part of an office telephone no.
 - 11 Period of rapid growth
 - 12 It’s a no-no
 - 13 Like some ski slopes and prices
 - 18 Pharmacy offerings
 - 19 Certain pueblo dweller
 - 24 ___-evaluation
 - 26 Ending of seven Asian countries’ names
 - 27 Item in a purse
 - 28 Whom Cain slew
 - 29 Drawers for money



PUZZLE BY BARBARA LIN

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

S	L	I	M	J	I	M	L	I	M	B	E	R	
L	I	N	E	E	M	U	P	I	D	E	A	T	E
U	P	S	T	O	R	E	T	E	T	R	A	D	
G	O	Y	A	S	D	E	G	D	E	B	I	T	
G	U	N	S	J	E	W	E	L	D	E	L	I	
O	T	C	T	I	R	E	O	U	T	Q	E	D	
M	O	T	H	E	R	N	A	T	U	R	E		
D	E	A	R	T	O	G	E	N	I	E	S		
Q	U	A	R	T	E	R	E	S	T	S			
R	L	S	E	R	N	E	S	T	O				
C	L	E	M	S	E	L	M	A	S	O	B	E	
O	P	I	U	M	T	A	I	S	W	O	O	P	
D	A	N	C	E	R	I	L	I	K	E	D	I	
E	I	T	H	E	R	D	E	V	I	L	I	S	
S	N	O	O	T	S	Y	E	S	L	E	T	S	

- 30 Nail the test
- 31 Dog walker’s need
- 35 Reason some people move to the Cayman Islands
- 36 More than amazing
- 37 Dot’s counterpart in Morse code
- 39 Microwaves
- 41 Long part of a rose
- 44 Hurricane that was the subject of 2006’s “When the Levees Broke”
- 46 Keeping a stiff upper lip
- 49 Any minute now
- 50 Should, informally
- 51 Hot après-ski beverage
- 52 Alternative to Chicago’s Midway
- 53 Put forward, as a theory
- 57 Dinghy or dory
- 58 First word of a fairy tale
- 59 Six years, for a U.S. senator
- 61 Abbr. on a O button
- 62 ___ buco
- 64 Sweetie pie
- 65 Leaf-turning time: Abbr.

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.

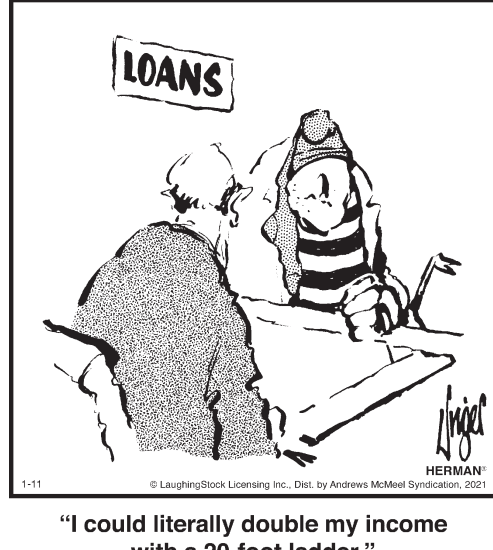
BIZARRO



DENNIS THE MENACE



HERMAN



JUMBLE

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

VAWEE
GEHED
CCNILI
NTCREH

Print the answer here: _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: DOILY FLUID THORNY DRAGON
Answer: He had the small dent in his wife's car repaired to keep her from — "FIND-DING" OUT

CANDORVILLE



WUMO



ZITS



Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

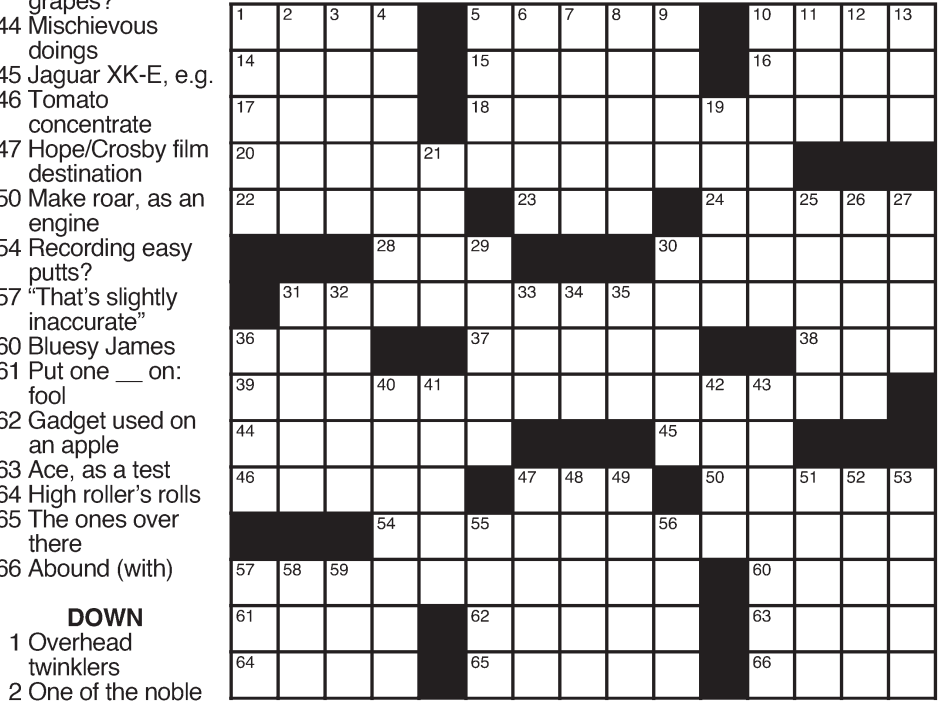
Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- ACROSS**
- 1 Story like “Roots”
 - 5 K9 Advantix II targets
 - 10 Dance that tells a story
 - 14 Capturing device
 - 15 Cuba ___ rum cocktail
 - 16 Former Lacoste partner in sportswear
 - 17 Taj Mahal city
 - 18 5,000 feet, roughly
 - 20 Providing post-bath garb to red-breasted singers?
 - 22 Keep a roomie awake, maybe
 - 23 Letters before an alias
 - 24 Window sticker
 - 28 Surg. areas
 - 30 Chocolate-filled cookie
 - 31 Doing poorly in baking class?
 - 36 Became the champ
 - 37 Farm bleaters
 - 38 Like many SSA payment recipients
 - 39 Growing dried grapes?
 - 44 Mischievous doings
 - 45 Jaguar XK-E, e.g.
 - 46 Tomato concentrate
 - 47 Hope/Crosby film destination
 - 50 Make roar, as an engine
 - 54 Recording easy putts?
 - 57 “That’s slightly inaccurate”
 - 60 Bluesy James
 - 61 Put one ___ on: fool
 - 62 Gadget used on an apple
 - 63 Ace, as a test
 - 64 High roller’s rolls
 - 65 The ones over there
 - 66 Abound (with)
 - 4 Two that match, as socks
 - 5 Flier on a pole
 - 6 Heavenly scales
 - 7 Kindle download
 - 8 Dutch-speaking Caribbean island
 - 9 Alien-seeking org.
 - 10 “And he ... HE ___! ... The Grinch carved the roast-beast!”
 - 11 Israeli weapon
 - 12 Enthusiastic online “Ha-ha!”
 - 13 Beverage suffix
 - 19 “___ I don’t?”: challenging words
 - 21 Foam-based ball
 - 25 Piled-stones memorial
 - 26 Authors Rice and Tyler
 - 27 Suffered defeat
 - 29 6-Down and 11 others
 - 30 Beethoven’s love
 - 31 Polynesian Disney princess
 - 32 Watts and volts
 - 33 Rich holiday drink
 - 34 Long-nosed fish
 - 35 L.A. commuter org.
 - 49 Looks untowardly toward
 - 51 Curriculum ___: resumé
 - 52 Loosen, as a knot
 - 53 Song of worship
 - 55 Treaty
 - 56 Spare in a Brit’s boot
 - 57 Currently
 - 58 Egg cells
 - 59 Talking stuffed bear of film

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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

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By Jeffrey Wechsler
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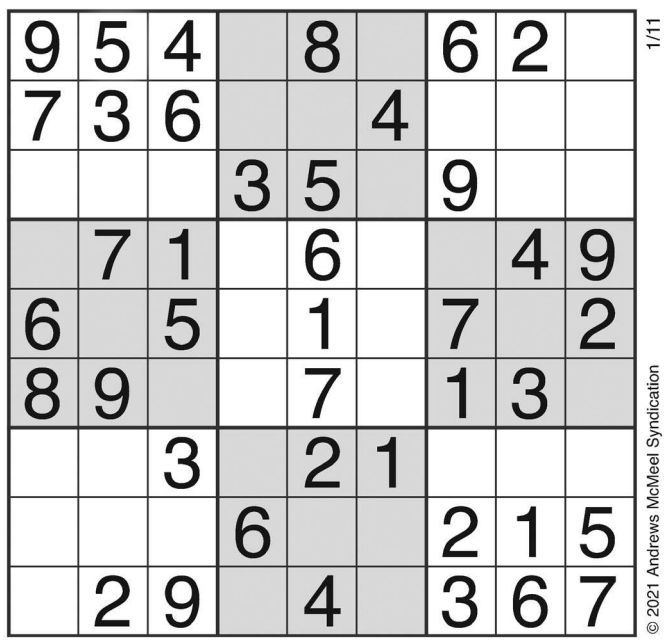
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SUDOKU

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

SOLUTION TO PREVIOUS SUDOKU

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



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

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