

Saturday, February 6, 2021

Daily Bridge Club

Simple Saturday

By **FRANK STEWART**
Tribune Content Agency

“Simple Saturday” columns focus on improving basic technique and developing logical thinking.

Learning players are taught defensive maxims such as “second hand low” and “cover an honor.” Those can be helpful, but the defenders’ focus should be on “How can we defeat the contract?”

In today’s deal, West leads the nine of spades against 3NT. The lead of a high spade suggests a weak suit. If West’s spades were K-9-7-3, he would lead low. When dummy plays low, how should East defend?

passes. What do you say?
ANSWER: No good bid exists. As most partnerships agree, a jump to three diamonds would be invitational or preemptive. Some players would risk a 2NT response despite lacking a club trick. Others would invent a response of one heart, hoping to survive. All partnerships need a way to force in a minor suit, but not many have agreed on one.

North dealer
N-S vulnerable

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

WEST
♠ 9 8 7 3
♥ 8 6 5 3
♦ K J 6 2
♣ 8

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

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

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

Opening lead — ♠ 9

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CLUB TRICKS

If East follows with the ten, he can hold declarer to one spade trick. If East takes the ace, declarer will get two. But that is irrelevant here. South can set up dummy’s clubs for five tricks and probably has the king of hearts for three more. Given time, he will take nine tricks.

East can’t defeat 3NT with spade tricks. He needs diamond tricks — in a hurry. If East grabs his ace of spades and shifts to the ten of diamonds, the defense can win three diamonds, a spade and a club.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠ K 5 2 ♥ K J 9
♦ A Q 4 3 ♣ 9 7 3. Your partner opens one diamond. The next player

Opening lead — ♠ 9

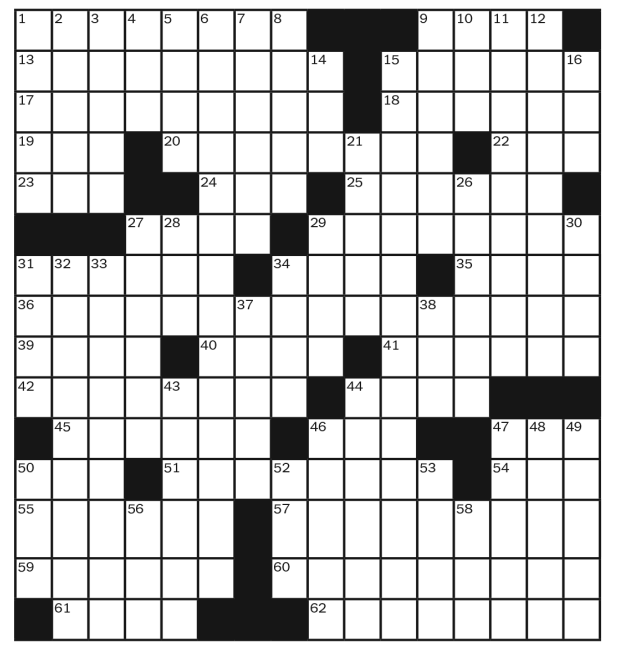
SEEKING A FRIENDLY DUPLICATE BRIDGE?
Find five games weekly online at bendbridge.org

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0102

- ACROSS**
- 1 Delicacy also known as sablefish
 - 9 Band for an awards ceremony, maybe
 - 13 It has wheels and flies
 - 15 Work one’s way through, as a maze
 - 17 Some “M*A*S*H” characters
 - 18 Speed up
 - 19 Mauna _____
 - 20 “That wasn’t just talk on my part”
 - 22 Canceled
 - 23 Show one’s humanity, perhaps
 - 24 Where the flash drive was invented: Abbr.
 - 25 _____ Sword (night sky sight)
 - 27 Vessels for vintners
 - 29 The lion’s share
 - 31 Merck work, for short
 - 34 Aren’t wrong?
 - 35 Actress/YouTube star Koshy
 - 36 Noted relationship in physics
 - 39 Bond
 - 40 Pirate’s activity
 - 41 Word sometimes followed, mysteriously, by an ellipsis
 - 42 Artificial object in orbit?
 - 44 Sci-fi leader of the Resistance
 - 45 So-called “People of the Sun”
 - 46 Shade from the sun
 - 47 Philharmonic sect.
 - 50 Euro forerunner
 - 51 Milk, slangily
 - 54 “He hath but a little _____ face”: Shak.
 - 55 Child’s one-piece outer garment
 - 57 Caribbean locale across the water from Morro Castle
 - 59 Become incapable of parting?
 - 60 Like much Halloween candy
 - 61 “You’re _____!” (reproof)
 - 62 Shanghai or Mumbai
- DOWN**
- 1 Slow down
 - 2 Paper, vis-à-vis scissors
 - 3 Promising area
 - 4 Browns, in brief
 - 5 Actress Russell of “The Americans”
 - 6 Rap sheet, so to speak
 - 7 Dwell (on)
 - 8 Capital on the Cape Verde peninsula
 - 9 “That’s enough out of you!”
 - 10 Musica, for one, in ancient Rome
 - 11 Like some exotic drinks at tiki bars
 - 12 Fits in between?
 - 14 “Family Feud” airer
 - 15 Drink that you could really use
 - 16 “Hi” follower
 - 21 Arthur and Garfield, for two
 - 26 “Très chic!”
 - 27 Level best?
 - 28 Actress Thurman
 - 29 “_____ Up” (N.F.L. feature with in-game dialogue)
 - 30 Smidges
 - 31 Simon of the “Mission: Impossible” movies
 - 32 Do-o-o-pe
 - 33 Dance-based class in a pool
 - 34 German: Freundin :: French: _____
 - 37 Go-ahead
 - 38 Sea urchin in sushi
 - 43 Mortal mother of Dionysus
 - 44 Stopped a ship using the wind, in nautical lingo
 - 46 Fluorescent bulb, maybe
 - 47 Language of southern Africa
 - 48 2020 Christopher Nolan sci-fi thriller
 - 49 Primed
 - 50 Bit of work
 - 52 Bit of work
 - 53 Three o’clock, so to speak
 - 56 Back stroke?
 - 58 Trader _____



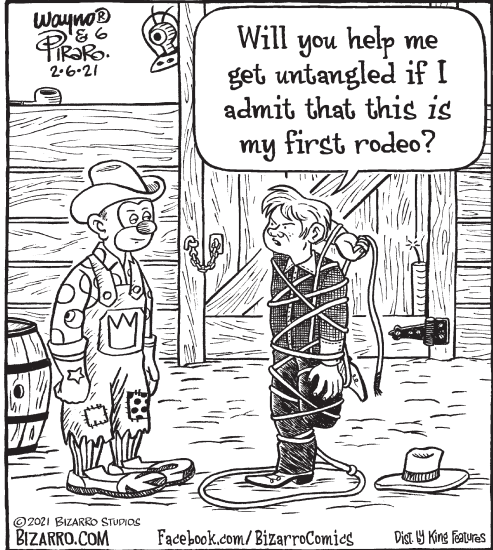
PUZZLE BY JOE DEENEY

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

H I J A C K S A S S N Q U E
I F O R O N E S P A Y U N D
P S Y C H O A C T I V E E P I
H O T S A U C E F E E T
M B A O T T E R E R R S
P O L E D A N C E D A R E S O
G O L D R U S H U P T O Y O U
G E D 2 0 P E R C E N T
F O R E V E R 2 1 R E I
E V E L I N E A P P S T O R E
R E V E L S O L A S T Y E A R
G R O S D E B U G R N A
U R L S O A T M E A L S
S I T A P L U S A V E R A G E
O D E S E E S N O T I C E S
N E D H Y D E T W O S T E P

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BIZARRO



DENNIS THE MENACE



HERMAN



JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

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

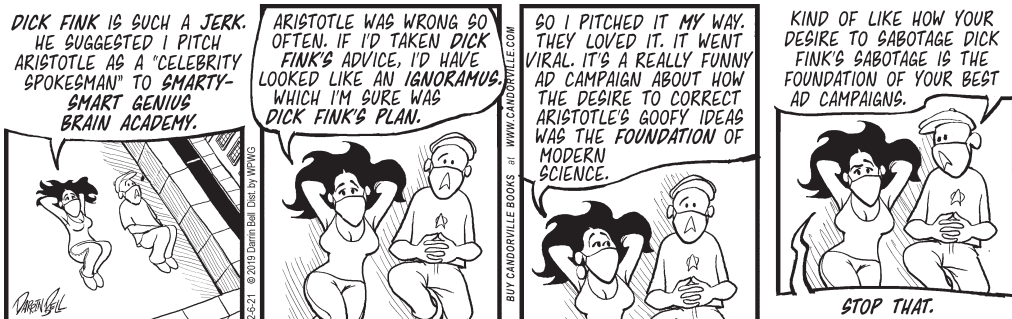
TAAEB
KONTE
LIYEKL
NGOLBE

“_____”

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday’s Jumbles: TROLL BENCH IGUANA EATERY
Answer: After spotting a grizzly, the hikers decided that they wouldn’t — BEAR TO THE RIGHT

CANDORVILLE



WUMO



ZITS



Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- ACROSS**
- 1 Big name
 - 10 Put together
 - 15 Early program marketing method
 - 16 Clarinetist Shaw
 - 17 Passing words
 - 18 Comes up
 - 19 Byron’s “_____ Walks in Beauty”
 - 20 Pressed
 - 21 24-Across’ love, with “the”
 - 22 “God in His wisdom made the fly / And then forgot to tell us why” poet Nash
 - 23 Campus building word
 - 24 21-Across’ love
 - 27 Satisfied for now, with “over”
 - 29 Trip-taking aid
 - 32 Biting
 - 33 Alarmist
 - 35 Been in the fridge for too long
 - 37 “That I can answer!”
 - 38 Justice who clerked for Thurgood Marshall
 - 40 Bottom-line bumper
 - 41 Spill preventer
 - 42 Shroud
 - 43 Presages
 - 44 Uses Venmo, say
 - 46 Held for a more opportune time
 - 48 Not suitable
 - 50 Bridge action
 - 51 Harley-Davidson’s NYSE symbol
 - 54 Household nickname
 - 55 Self-reflection period
 - 57 The “O” in football’s OBJ
 - 58 Ready to be turned on
 - 59 Shemar’s “Criminal Minds” role
 - 60 Two-person exchange
 - 30 Make _____
 - 31 Get ready, as for a fancy dinner
 - 33 Forges
 - 34 Common toothbrush material
 - 36 Speech that’s hard to follow
 - 39 Ballet whose title heroine dies in Act I
 - 43 Barrio market
 - 45 With 48-Down, only its Touch is still in production
 - 47 Trace amount
 - 48 See 45-Down
 - 49 Joint
 - 50 Mesmerized
 - 51 Surprise party cry
 - 52 Leave unsaid
 - 53 Trait carrier
 - 56 Saigon New Year
- DOWN**
- 1 Figures to protect, briefly
 - 2 “Here comes trouble!”
 - 3 Glazier’s job
 - 4 “Blood hath been shed _____ now”: Macbeth
 - 5 Harbor
 - 6 Symbol of military power
 - 7 Marketing tailored to personal tastes
 - 8 Georgia neighbor
 - 9 Oboist’s need
 - 10 Rihanna’s birthplace
 - 11 One of the archangels
 - 12 “We’re cool”
 - 13 Rests
 - 14 Final, e.g.
 - 22 Long-ago
 - 23 10-Across dude
 - 24 Everything _____
 - 25 Food recall trigger
 - 26 Binder filler, perhaps
 - 28 Fervently hope for

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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

02/06/21

SUDOKU

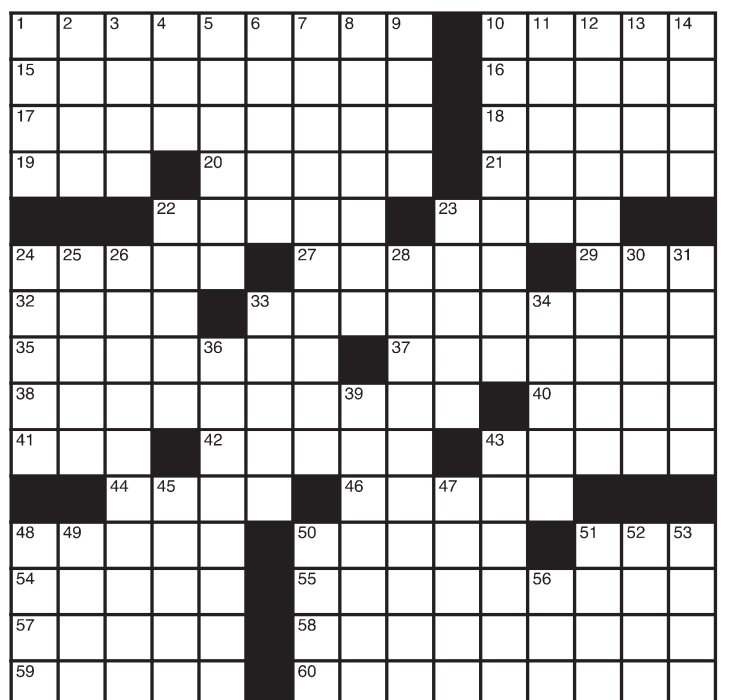
Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

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

SOLUTION TO PREVIOUS SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★



By Ezra Brauner
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