

Wednesday, June 23, 2021

Daily Bridge Club

A sense of the cards

By FRANK STEWART
Tribune Content Agency

A wiser man than I said that common sense and a sense of humor are similar things, moving at different speeds. A sense of humor is but common sense ... dancing.

"Card sense" is the ability to visualize and manipulate arrays of cards. Some people are born with it, but it can be acquired.

Handling suit combinations, a fundamental skill in dummy play, requires a degree of card sense. You're today's declarer at 3NT. You take the king of spades and count eight tricks: two spades, two hearts, three diamonds, one club. You need a second club.

QUEEN FALLS

If overtricks were a factor, you might lead a club to dummy's jack at Trick Two; West might hold K-x or Q-x. But to assure your game, lead to the ace.

When East's queen falls, you lead the jack, forcing out West's king and setting up your ten. But no matter how the missing clubs lie, you will be safe. If East-West followed low to the ace, you would lead low toward your ten. You succeed even if either defender has K-Q-9-8.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠ A 7 3 2 ♥ 8 4
♦ A 10 5 ♣ A J 5 2. Your partner opens one club, you bid one spade

and he rebids two clubs. What do you say?

ANSWER: This hand would be easy to misjudge. If partner has an ideal minimum such as 4, A K 5, K 6 4, K 10 8 7 6 3, you can make six clubs. To give yourself a chance to get there (or to stop at 3NT instead), bid two diamonds, a new suit, hence forcing. You may have a better idea of your best contract after hearing partner's next bid.

South dealer
N-S vulnerable

NORTH

♠ A 7 3 2
♥ 8 4
♦ A 10 5
♣ A J 5 2

WEST

♠ J 10
♥ 10 5 3 2
♦ 9 7 6
♣ K 9 8 7

EAST

♠ Q 9 6 4
♥ Q J 9 7
♦ 8 4 3 2
♣ Q

SOUTH

♠ K 8 5
♥ A K 6
♦ K Q J
♣ 10 6 4 3

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

Opening lead — ♠ J

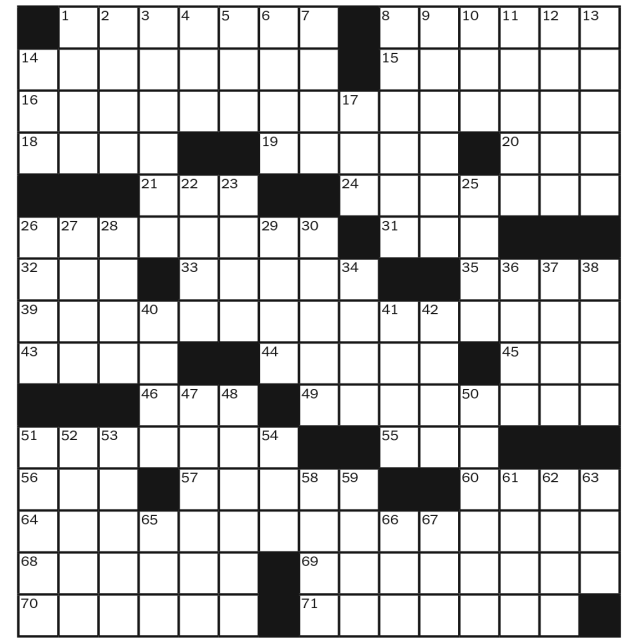
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The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0519

- ACROSS**
- 1 This is the way the world began, per 51-Across
 - 8 Track makers
 - 14 Refuge
 - 15 Form a scab, say
 - 16 At an ungody hour
 - 18 Words before a date
 - 19 Just below C level?
 - 20 OPEC unit: Abbr.
 - 21 Develop wrinkles, say
 - 24 Literature Nobel who penned 71-Across
 - 26 Question from one who's lost
 - 31 Small battery type
 - 32 Away
 - 33 Salon brand with 100% vegan products
 - 35 Throngs
 - 39 Tomorrow's cash flow assessed today
 - 43 Boris Godunov, for one
 - 44 World capital NE of Vientiane
 - 45 ___ lab
 - 46 "Yadda, yadda, yadda"
 - 49 Fictional N.Y.C. locale on children's TV
 - 51 Physics Nobel who co-discovered cosmic microwave background radiation, confirming 1-Across
 - 55 ___-mo
 - 56 Home of the Rosa Parks Museum: Abbr.
 - 57 Fishing net
 - 60 E.P.A. targets since the '70s
 - 64 Classic film series that anticipated the invention of hoverboards
 - 68 Mosey
 - 69 Spots for hoops
 - 70 Conical construction
 - 71 "This is the way the world ends," per 24-Across
- DOWN**
- 1 What do ewe say?
 - 2 "In that case ..."
 - 3 Make good progress
 - 4 Chinese dumpling
 - 5 Man's nickname that omits "old"
 - 6 It's a must
 - 7 [OMG!]
 - 8 "This land," in "This Land Is Your Land"
 - 9 It's west of Yemen
 - 10 "Dig in!"
 - 11 "It was my evil twin!" is not a convincing one
 - 12 ___ octopus, creature so named for its large, earlike fins
 - 13 Like C-O-L-O-U-R or M-E-T-R-E
 - 14 Spot for a soothing scrub
 - 17 All-consonant diner order
 - 22 Reverse, e.g.
 - 23 Rain gutter locale



PUZZLE BY ASHISH VENSGARKAR

- 25 Dalai ___
- 26 "I ___ bite"
- 27 Shades
- 28 James played by Beyoncé in a 2008 biopic
- 29 Gym shorts material
- 30 Notions
- 34 Actress Hathaway
- 36 Ye ___ Shoppe
- 37 Supply at a barbecue
- 38 Airline assignment
- 40 Head of a country, informally
- 41 Chuck
- 42 Container for nitroglycerin, say
- 47 Dot in "i" or "j"
- 48 King of music
- 50 Hairstyle popularized by the Beatles
- 51 ___ Blue Ribbon
- 52 Bring joy to
- 53 Shiny button material
- 54 Day after 66-Down: Abbr.
- 58 "That was close!"
- 59 Two-time Emmy winner Remini
- 61 27, to 3
- 62 Family member, in rural dialect
- 63 French possessive
- 65 Keystone ___ (character in slapstick comedy)
- 66 Day before 54-Down: Abbr.
- 67 Einstein's German birthplace

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



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

BIZARRO



DENNIS THE MENACE



HERMAN



JUMBLE

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

GTURN
NYUTI
YRSPYU
SULSEN

Print your answer here:

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

We need to go! Sounds stuffy, but I'm in.

Let's register! I'm in!

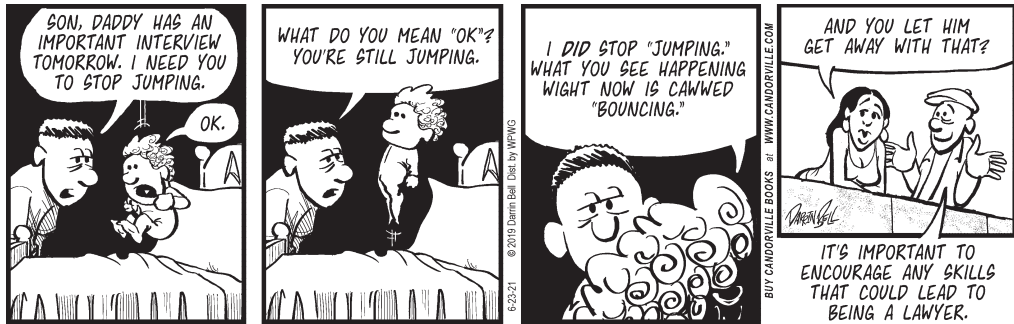
THERE WAS A NASAL PASSAGES SEMINAR, SO THE MEDICAL STUDENTS SAID ---

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

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: AGILE THANK PIMPLE DROWSY
Answer: When the hikers headed out into the national forest, the forest ranger said — HAPPY TRAILS

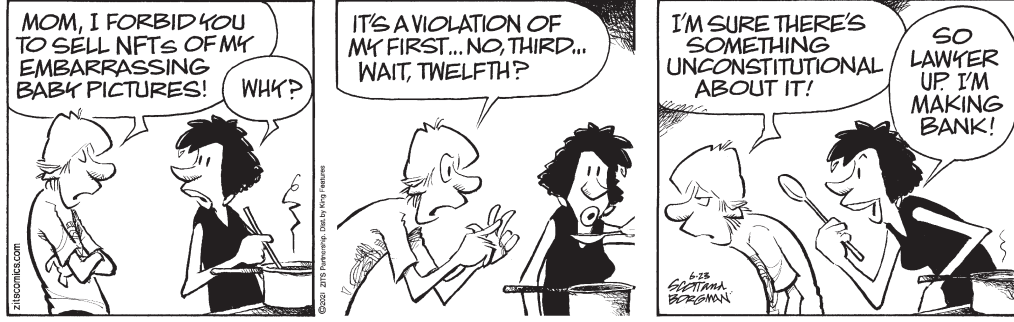
CANDORVILLE



WUMO



ZITS



Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- ACROSS**
- 1 Digital money
 - 6 Welcomed at the door
 - 11 "Happy little trees" painter Ross
 - 14 Elder Obama daughter
 - 15 Ad
 - 16 Sci-fi vehicle
 - 17 Netflix series about unintended consequences of new technology
 - 19 Cal. airport not in its namesake city
 - 20 Arcing shot
 - 21 Like money in a poker game
 - 22 Some "Rocky" settings
 - 23 Historic chapters
 - 25 "___ la France!"
 - 26 Embezzler's dread
 - 27 Actors sans lines
 - 29 Campground support
 - 31 Google
 - 33 Uses a needle
 - 34 "___ out!"
 - 35 Dutch colonist
 - 37 Per ___
 - 39 "Get a room!" elictor, for short
 - 42 Pants, briefly
 - 44 Fashions
 - 48 Part of a southpaw's ring repertoire
 - 51 Insignificant person
 - 52 TV host with her "OWN" network
 - 53 Fruity antacid
 - 55 ROFL relative
 - 56 Colorful cereal brand
 - 57 Homes high up
 - 59 Green prefix
 - 60 Efron of "High School Musical"
 - 61 On earth
 - 63 Spacewalk initials
 - 64 Image on some birth announcements
 - 65 Hirsch of "Into the Wild"
 - 66 Hibernation location
 - 67 Itty-bitty
 - 68 "Alas!"
 - 39 Was overcome with emotion, informally
 - 40 Corrupt
 - 41 Like some violets
 - 43 Loan sharks
 - 45 Draco Malfoy, to Harry Potter
 - 46 Classic Lugosi character with an aversion to the ends of 17-, 29-, 48- and 61-Across
 - 47 Cuddled, in a way
 - 49 Line on many bills
 - 50 Quietly
 - 54 "___ on the ___!": director's cry
 - 57 Pay to play
 - 58 Sows, e.g.
 - 61 Operate
 - 62 Punk rock offshoot
- DOWN**
- 1 Insignias
 - 2 Some diet soda has one
 - 3 College football powerhouse
 - 4 [not my mistake]
 - 5 Maori dance with rhythmic chanting
 - 6 Exorcist's target
 - 7 Gets in
 - 8 Took a downturn
 - 9 "Everything's fine!"
 - 10 Postal motto word
 - 11 Reason to skip lunch, maybe
 - 12 How some candid comments are made
 - 13 Enthusiastic supporter
 - 18 "Jersey Shore" aier
 - 22 ___ check: test of character
 - 24 Belgrade resident
 - 26 Aver
 - 28 Rusty nail liquor
 - 30 Silly person
 - 32 Munich address
 - 36 Cheered for
 - 38 Whimper

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:



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SUDOKU

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

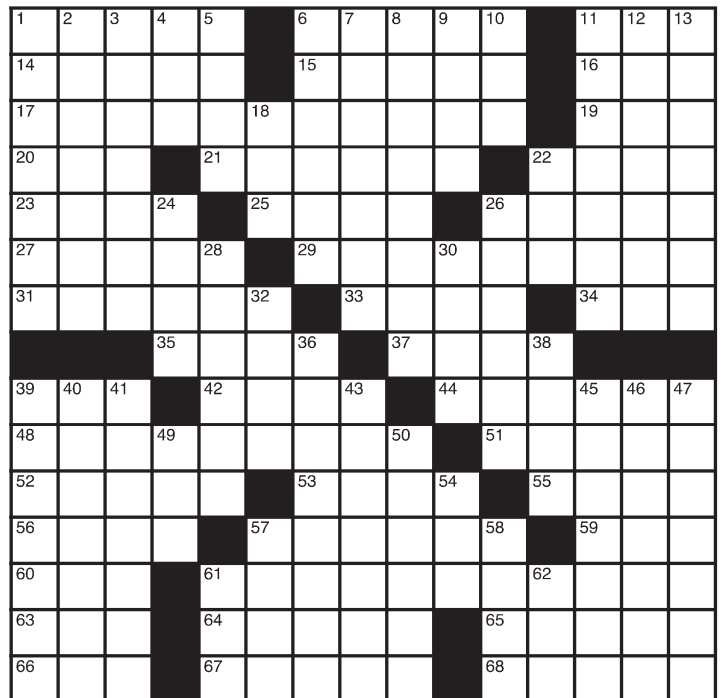
SOLUTION TO PREVIOUS SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

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By Kevin Christian
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