

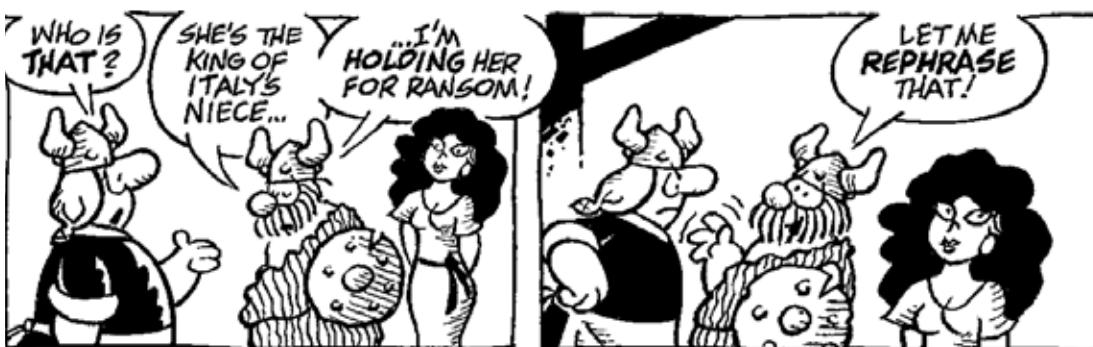
**Sherman's Lagoon** — By J. P. Toomey



**Mutts** — By Patrick McDonnell



**Hagar The Horrible** — By Chris Browne



**Beetle Bailey** — By Mort Walker



**Garfield** — By Jim Davis



**Baby Blues** — By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



**Conceptis Sudoku Challenger**

The grid must be so completed that every row, column and 3x3 box has every digit from 1 to 9 inclusive.

By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

Answer to yesterday's puzzle

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

**DIRECTIONS:**  
Fill each square with a number, one through nine.  
■ Horizontal squares should add to totals on right.  
■ Vertical squares should add to totals on bottom.  
■ Diagonal squares through center should add to total in upper and lower right.

THERE MAY BE MORE THAN ONE SOLUTION.

Today's 6 Minutes  
56 Seconds  
Your Working Time \_\_\_ Minutes \_\_\_ Seconds

17	15	18	19	19
3	5	5	5	18
5	9	5	1	20
4	3	5	1	13
9	9	2	1	21
21	26	17	8	18

Yesterday's solution 22

**Word by Word**

**Take** (خذ) **Khot**  
Take things as they come.  
Khoth al ashya'ala waqieha.

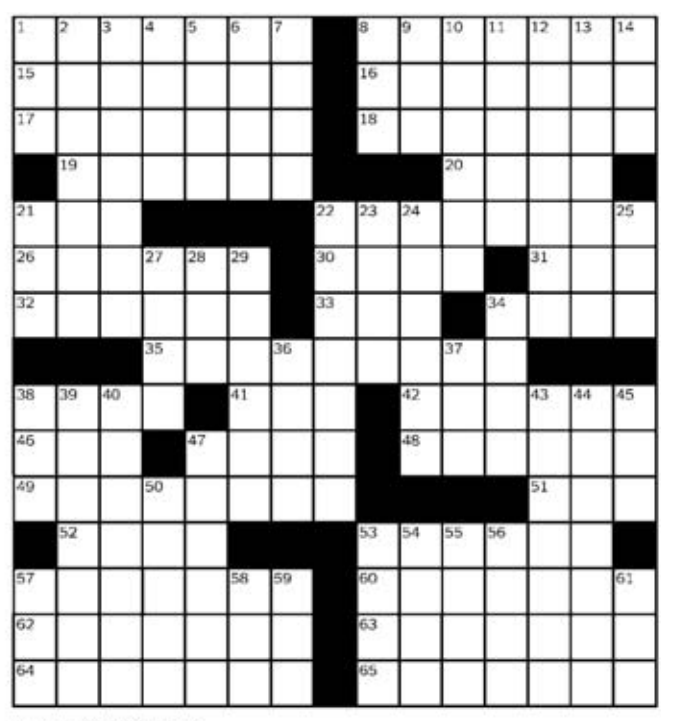
**Numbers** **خذ الأشياء على واقعها**  
**7009** Seven thousand and nine.  
**٧٠٠٩** Sabat alaaf wa tesah.

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Ruling party?
  - 8 Box with handles?
  - 15 Mariner's measure
  - 16 Attire
  - 17 "The Invisible Man" author
  - 18 Settles in, say
  - 19 First in line, in a way
  - 20 And others: Abbr.
  - 21 Game with Wild Draw 4 cards
  - 22 Washington M.L.S. team
  - 26 Set location
  - 30 Vast stretches of time
  - 31 G.I.-entertaining grp.
  - 32 To the rear
  - 33 "\_\_\_": Cyber
- DOWN**
- 1 Blond shade
  - 2 New York State's \_\_\_ Examinations
  - 3 Give a tongue-lashing
  - 4 Contacted via Google Talk, say
  - 5 Outdoor fountain piece
  - 6 Duckbill's tail?
  - 7 Note's counterpart
  - 8 Grand \_\_\_ (wine designation)
  - 9 Permanently exclude
  - 10 Gets juicier, say
  - 11 Fine fiddle
  - 12 Stephen \_\_\_, War of 1812 naval hero
  - 13 Empty, as a fountain pen
  - 14 Extra N.B.A. periods
  - 21 2015 Women's World Cup champs
  - 22 Lays down the law
  - 23 \_\_\_ Nostra

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE**

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



- PUZZLE BY JOON PAHK**
- 24 International humanitarian grp.
  - 25 Period
  - 27 College student's accumulation
  - 28 Lyricist Gershwin
  - 29 Out of jail, conditionally
  - 34 National Spelling Bee aier
  - 36 Pierce portrayer
  - 37 Avail oneself of
  - 38 Election Day in the U.K.
  - 39 Milliners' accessories
  - 40 Somewhat firm
  - 43 Appropriated
  - 44 Noted recovery program
  - 45 "Selma" setting: Abbr.
  - 47 Donors, often
  - 50 Prince Eric's love
  - 53 Flats: Abbr.
  - 54 \_\_\_-chic (fashion style)
  - 55 Genesis son
  - 56 Singer Amos
  - 57 One may be laid at your doorstep
  - 58 "I'll take that as \_\_\_"
  - 59 GPS fig.
  - 61 Swineherd's workplace



Geese come in to roost at the Martin Mere Wetlands Centre near Burscough in north west England on Oct 14. Up to 40,000 pink footed geese can be seen on the Wetlands Trust Reserve at dawn and dusk as they spend winter in Great Britain after flying from Greenland and Iceland. (AFP)

**odds 'n' ends**

**DETROIT:** A new website showcasing artworks owned by the federal government chronicles the history of the United States as portrayed by artists over the past two centuries, offering an easy way to find works by favorite artists or discover pieces that may be in display nearby.

The US General Services Administration, which oversees federal buildings across the nation, owns more than 26,000 paintings, sculptures, prints and other works from the 1850s to the present. Many are displayed in federal buildings and courthouses.

The Detroit Institute of Arts, which has hundreds of such artworks, was hosting an event Thursday heralding the GSA's Fine Arts Collection website. The website allows users to find works by specific artists or discover pieces in a state or specific area.

"No one has seen all of these works in person, but now we have the opportunity to understand the breadth of the collection," GSA's Art in Architecture and Fine Arts Director Jennifer Gibson said on the agency's website. "This site brings it all together for the first time and provides a portrait of America as seen by its artists."

In addition to the GSA-owned pieces at public buildings, thousands of New Deal-era works are on long-term loan to museums, universities and nonprofits, including more than 350 at the Detroit Institute of Arts that have been used as part of special displays. (AP)

**contract bridge**

By Steve Becker

**Eliminating the Impediments**

East dealer.  
Neither side vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ 8 6  
♥ 9 7 2  
♦ K 7 4 2  
♣ A 5 3 2

**WEST**  
♠ 9 5 3 2  
♥ Q J 10 4 3  
♦ 10 3  
♣ 9 6

**EAST**  
♠ K 10 7 4  
♥ 8 6 5  
♦ Q 9 5  
♣ Q 10 8

**SOUTH**  
♠ A Q J  
♥ A K  
♦ A J 8 6  
♣ K J 7 4

The bidding:  
East Pass South 2♣ West Pass North 2♦  
Pass 2NT Pass 3NT  
Opening lead — queen of hearts.

West leads a heart, and South sees that there are four finesses two in spades, one in diamonds and one in clubs that can be taken.

The problem is that there are only two apparent entries to dummy for the purpose of taking the four finesses. Nevertheless, all the finesses can be accomplished by making judicious use of the spot cards.

South wins the heart and leads the seven of clubs to the ace. He then returns a low club to the jack and cashes the king, leaving his four of clubs as an entry to dummy's five.

Declarer performs a similar feat in diamonds. He leads the eight to the king, finesses the jack on the return and cashes the ace. That leaves the six as an entry to dummy's seven.

South next crosses to the five of clubs to take his first finesse in spades and then to the seven of diamonds for the second finesse. This work done, he then claims 13 tricks.

It can be seen that declarer can easily spare the seven of clubs and eight of diamonds when he leads them to dummy. They are not at all significant as high cards, but they must be gotten out of the way if declarer is to score the maximum number of tricks.

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Dozens of major websites including Netflix, Uber and the BBC went down simultaneously on Thursday in some areas of the United States, but were soon up again in most cases.

The cause of the crashes remained unclear, but some appeared connected to trouble at a cloud service relied on by companies, although that did not stop the social media rumor and conspiracy mill from going into overdrive.

"We're aware that members are experiencing issues streaming on all devices," streaming television service Netflix said in a tweet at its customer service Twitter account.

"We're working to resolve the problem."

Netflix spokesman Joris Evers told AFP that the outage was the result of "technical issues" at an UltraDNS cloud service provided by Neustar and affected mostly US subscribers.

"UltraDNS is working to address the issue," Evers said. "We apologize for the inconvenience."

Neustar confirmed in a tweet that there was an issue with its UltraDNS. Internet trouble tracker CurrentlyDown.com displayed a list of two dozen websites that were or had been out of service during the day. (AFP)



Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.