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*Kentucky State Study 2023; conducted by Coda Ventures

TUESDAY, JULY 22 BRIDGE

More to it than meets the eye

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A Q 9 4
♥ A 10 9 2
♦ 9 7 4 3
♣ Q

WEST
♠ J 10 8 7 5 2
♥ 5
♦ A K J 6
♣ J 8

EAST
♠ K
♥ 7 6 3
♦ 8 5
♣ 10 9 7 6 5 3 2

SOUTH
♠ 6 3
♥ K Q J 8 4
♦ Q 10 2
♣ A K 4

The bidding:

South West North East
1♥ 1♠ 2♠* Pass

*Heart support, 11+ points

Opening lead — king of diamonds.

If you're a careful cardplayer, you take nothing for granted. For example, take this case where South is in four hearts and West leads the K-A-6 of diamonds. East ruffs the third diamond and returns a club to dummy's queen.

Superficially, there seems to be nothing to the rest of the play. South draws trump and sooner or later takes a spade finesse. Surprisingly, the queen loses to East's king, and South goes down one.

Bad luck, you could say, but the fact is that declarer had a sure thing

and failed to cash in on it. Granted that West was much more likely to have the king of spades for his spade overcall than East, South should not have relied solely on that probability.

After winning the club at trick four, declarer should cash the A-K of trump and A-K of clubs, discarding two spades from dummy. He then runs all his remaining trumps, producing this position as the last trump is led:

North
♠ A Q
♦ 9

West
♠ J 10
♦ J

East
♠ K
♣ 10 9

South
♠ 6 3
♥ 8

At this point, South knows that West's last three cards are the jack of diamonds and two spades, which might or might not include the king. When the heart eight is led, West is forced to discard a spade, whereupon South discards dummy's nine of diamonds.

When South next leads the spade three and West produces the jack, it becomes folly to attempt a finesse, because West's last card is known to be the jack of diamonds. Declarer therefore goes up with the ace, catches East's king and so makes the contract.

Tomorrow: It's all in the spots.

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SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku

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

Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★

7/21

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Difficulty: ★★

7/22

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Horoscope

FOR TUESDAY

ARIES (March 21-April 19) This is another relatively laid-back day. You'll be happy to take a backseat and work alone or behind the scenes, because you're not quite ready to get out there and fly your colors. Having said that, with Mars in your House of Employment, you're no slacker. Enjoy the beauty of your daily surroundings. Tonight: Excitement!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Short trips, conversations with others and appointments or visits with siblings and friends will please you today. In particular, you might want to share your hopes and dreams for the future with someone. Sometimes the feedback of others can be illuminating (or not). Tonight: You're restless.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Fair Venus is in your sign now, which makes it easy for you to be charming and diplomatic with everyone. (You feel good about yourself.) However, if you're thinking of shopping for wardrobe items, check the Moon Alert, because this is a poor day. Save your money. Tonight: A friendly surprise.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) This is a relatively laid-back day; however, you are interested in what's going on in the world. This could be the news of other countries, posts on social media or your own plans to travel or study elsewhere. Whatever the case, you're ready to "think big." Tonight: Pay attention.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Mercury is already slowing down in your sign before it goes retrograde on Friday. This can be maddening, because you're making goofy mistakes, forgetting things, misplacing items and changing or missing appointments. But basically, this is small stuff. Relax -- you can handle it. Tonight: Explore!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You feel comfortable dealing with partners, close friends and the general public today, because you have focused energy and a desire to talk to others. However, it will be in your best interests to be cooperative and defer to someone, if you're comfortable doing this. Listen to what they say. Tonight: Check your finances.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Romance with someone "different" might occur for some of you today. Certainly, you're intrigued with distant places, and many are traveling or making travel plans. Meanwhile, you look great in the eyes of others because the Sun is casting you in a flattering spotlight. Sweet! Tonight: Someone might surprise you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Make plans to enjoy yourself today. Grab a power breakfast or a long lunch, or get out and have coffee with a friend. Sports events and playful times with kids will appeal to you. Basically, you need to socialize and satisfy your urge for a little adventure. Do something! Tonight: Possible equipment glitches.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Mars at the top of your chart makes you ambitious, while Venus opposite your sign enhances your ability to negotiate. (Excellent combination.) This can help you explore issues about shared property and shared responsibilities. Do your homework, but postpone decisions until tomorrow. (Check the Moon Alert.) Tonight: Be vigilant.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) It's important to get more sleep or more rest. (Do yourself this favor.) Meanwhile, this is a great day to express your ideas to someone, who will hopefully listen to what you have to say. Group activities will also appeal to you. Tonight: Home routine changes.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Although you might be focused on financial matters or purchasing something, be aware of the restrictions of the Moon Alert. Do your homework, but wait until tomorrow to act. It's a poor time to buy ground transportation, cellphones or computers. Tonight: Be careful.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Your creative juices are flowing today! This is a fantastic day for artists and anyone who wants to tap into their imagination. Social outings, sports events and playful activities with kids will appeal to you. Romance will be joyful. Tonight: Be alert.

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