

Tuesday, January 12, 2021

Daily Bridge Club

Sleeping sickness

By FRANK STEWART
Tribune Content Agency

"I'm so good at sleeping I can do it with my eyes closed." — graffiti
Cy the Cynic, who dates at least three women a week, had contacted a matchmaking service.

"They had me fill out a profile," Cy told me. "It turns out that the only thing I'm compatible with is sleep."

Cy gave four hearts a somnolent play as today's South. He won the first diamond, led a trump to dummy and returned a spade to his queen. West took the king, and the defense cashed two diamonds and led a club. Cy took dummy's ace, came to the ace of spades, led a trump to dummy and ruffed a spade, but when West discarded, the Cynic couldn't avoid a club loser. Down one.

heart, you respond one spade and he rebids two hearts. The opponents pass. What do you say?

ANSWER: This decision is close. You could try for game by bidding 2NT. If your partner had an ideal minimum hand such as 42, A 9 6 5 4 3, A Q, A 8 2, he would raise to 3NT, and you could expect nine tricks. But partners rarely have exactly what you need. Your disciplined call is a pass.

South dealer
N-S vulnerable

NORTH
♠ 8 7 6 5 2
♥ Q J 10
♦ 7 4 2
♣ A 4

FIRST TRICK

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

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

SOUTH
♠ A Q
♥ A K 9 8 7 6
♦ A 8 3
♣ 10 2

South 1♥
West Pass
North 2♥
East Pass

Opening lead — ♦ Q

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠ J 10 9 3 ♥ 2 ♦ K 6 5
♣ K Q 9 7 5. Your partner opens one

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SEEKING A FRIENDLY DUPLICATE BRIDGE?

Find five games weekly online at bendbridge.org

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 1208

- ACROSS**
- 1 9-to-5 activity
 - 5 In heaven, say
 - 10 Like a Saturday crossword
 - 14 Person in a boardroom, informally
 - 15 It's in the details, they say
 - 16 Arthur who wrote "Days of Grace"
 - 17 Meat substitute
 - 18 Cards in Monopoly
 - 19 Put the kibosh on
 - 20 French conductor Boulez
 - 22 Upscale hotel facility
 - 23 Electrical unit
 - 26 "___ relax" ("Breathe")
 - 27 Web-footed diver
 - 28 Things that may be broken when moving?
 - 30 Pic picked in a parlor
 - 32 Gare de l'___, Paris railway station
 - 33 Senegal's capital
 - 34 Where the sheep is in "Little Boy Blue"
 - 37 One totally unlike another ... or what each answer on the edge of this puzzle has?
 - 41 Inscribed stone markers
 - 42 Having no toppings, as a pizza
 - 44 Singer/songwriter DiFranco
 - 47 Rocks, in drinks
 - 48 Pooh's morose friend
 - 49 Complete stranger, slangily
 - 51 Gregor ___, Kafka character who transforms in "The Metamorphosis"
 - 54 Put in stitches
 - 55 Unpleasant encounter
 - 56 Madison Square Garden team
 - 58 "Really?"
 - 59 Bird whose beak inspired Darwin's theory of evolution
 - 60 Fend (off)
 - 64 Flying formations
 - 65 Accustom to difficulty
 - 66 Taiwanese electronics giant
 - 67 Like a Monday crossword
 - 68 In hell, say
 - 69 Off-hours activity

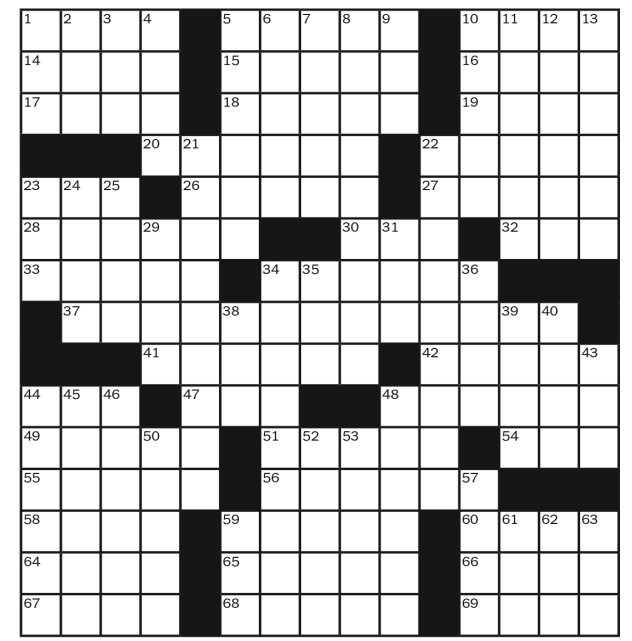
DOWN

- 1 Rainy
- 2 Big name in kitchen utensils
- 3 Arena arbiter, informally
- 4 Single-serving coffee pod
- 5 Venomous snakes with zigzag patterns on their backs
- 6 Drunken, in a way
- 7 Not hidden
- 8 Obsolete home movie format
- 9 They loop the Loop
- 10 Rips into
- 11 Shrewd
- 12 Some French wines
- 13 Take off, as a plane

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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MEMO INCA PESTS
OPEC DEAL EXPAT
WENTDOWNHETUBE
SENIOR STOOL ROE
OPUS POSTOP
CANIGETALIFT
OBISLICEFATED
METZFLEASNAPA
BLEAKLISTS XIS
PASSTHETORCH
COPSTO MOUE
OHOROBOT IGLLOO
CASHINONESCHIPPS
ORIONACRETEES
AETNA TEMP AFRO
    
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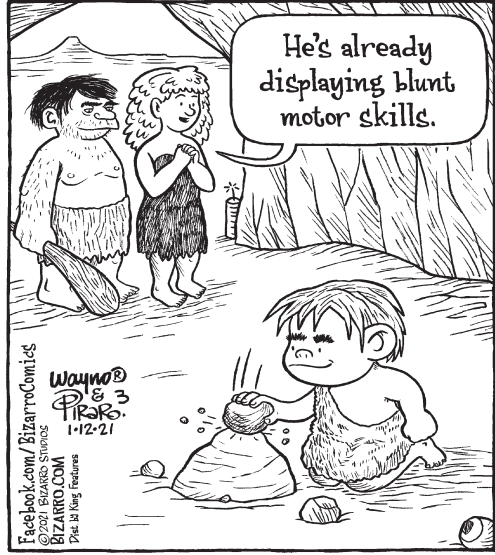
PUZZLE BY ENRIQUE HENESTROZA ANGUIANO

- 21 Method of successive improvement
- 22 In some sense
- 23 Like the year you ring out on December 31
- 24 In a ___ of trouble
- 25 Speedy shark
- 29 Pizza joint in "Do the Right Thing"
- 31 Hubbub
- 34 Fancy notebook brand
- 35 Fuel economy org.
- 36 Foxlike
- 38 Critic's pick, for short
- 39 Tourist city in New Mexico's high desert
- 40 Dublin's land
- 43 Like the year you ring in on January 1
- 44 Land, as a plane
- 45 Seasickness, e.g.
- 46 Some belly buttons
- 48 Forgo
- 50 Bubbleheaded
- 52 Cancel
- 53 Prefix with aggression
- 57 Exchange
- 59 Little lie
- 61 Kind of tear for an athlete
- 62 Stephen of "V for Vendetta"
- 63 Not rainy

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



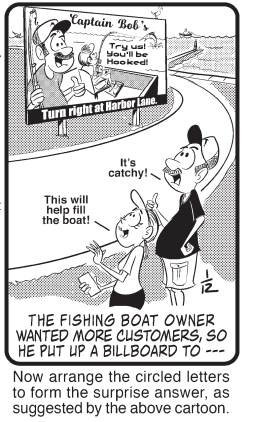
JUMBLE

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

XTREE
MLYOD
BLINEB
JNUIER

Answer here: ○○○○

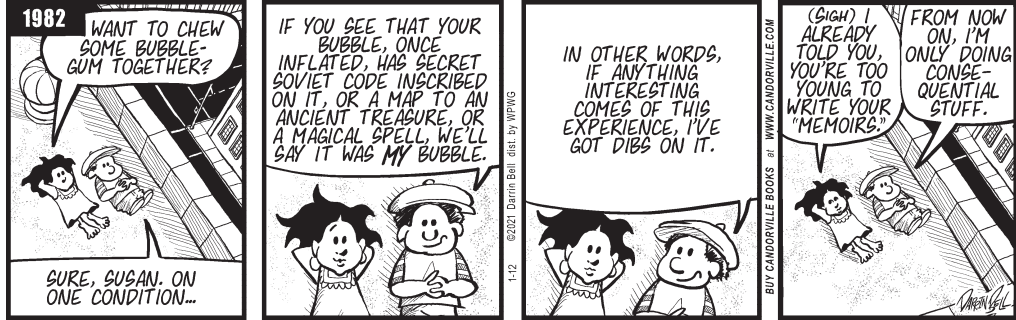
THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME



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

Yesterday's Jumbles: WEAVE HEDGE CLINIC TRENCH
Answer: The horses had been married for years and liked being — HITCHED

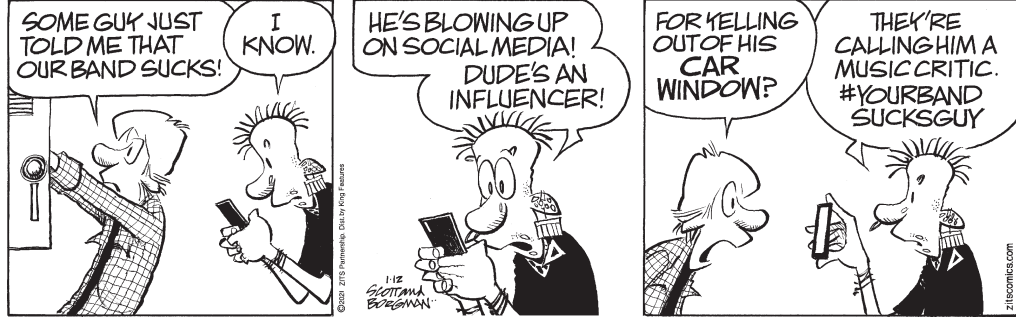
CANDORVILLE



WUMO



ZITS



Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- ACROSS**
- 1 Playfully shy
 - 4 Cooled with cubes
 - 8 Shrubs arranged as barriers
 - 14 Anger
 - 15 It has three numbers and two slashes
 - 16 Staves off
 - 17 *Afternoon social that may include a waltz or three
 - 19 Stay close to
 - 20 Start of a pirate's refrain
 - 21 Matching tops worn together
 - 23 Phobos, to Mars
 - 25 Cry after a golfer's ace
 - 26 "Even ___ speak ..."
 - 29 Goldarn
 - 31 [None of the above]
 - 34 New Mexico art community
 - 35 Wall St. takeover
 - 36 Tom, Dick or Harry
 - 37 U.K. continent
 - 38 *Brewery container
 - 40 Arg. neighbor
 - 41 Hopping joints?
 - 43 Elton John's title
 - 44 Chinese menu possessive
 - 45 Used a stun gun on
 - 46 Jared of "Panic Room"
 - 47 Russo of "Ransom"
 - 48 Panache
 - 50 "Giant" author Ferber
 - 52 "The Piano Lesson" painter Henri
 - 54 Depends (on)
 - 58 Summer TV fare
 - 59 Like the U.S. political system, and a hint to the answers to starred clues
 - 61 Hush-hush
 - 62 Deep sleep
 - 63 B&B, maybe
 - 64 1896 and 2004 Olympics setting
 - 65 Command to a dog
 - 66 Anatomical pouch
 - 30 Swedes' neighbors
 - 32 Noted 2001 bankruptcy
 - 33 Word in a green trio?
 - 36 British landing facility
 - 38 Sheets and pillowcases
 - 39 Sky box?
 - 42 Professor's address
 - 44 Singing syllables
 - 46 Capt.'s underlings
 - 49 Helpers: Abbr.
 - 51 Sherpa's country
 - 52 Convener
 - 53 Carve in stone
 - 55 Colored eye part
 - 56 Italian peak
 - 57 Match audio and video
 - 58 Mandela's land: Abbr.
 - 60 Tales of ___: misfortunes
- DOWN**
- 1 Part of SLC
 - 2 Sundae-topping cookie
 - 3 "All right!"
 - 4 "Famous Potatoes" state
 - 5 Does some necking
 - 6 "Yada, yada, yada" letters
 - 7 Tick repellent
 - 8 Hard thing to kick
 - 9 Vespers
 - 10 Population statistic
 - 11 "Growing business?"
 - 12 Coup d'__
 - 13 Ukr. or Est., once
 - 18 Stadium toppers
 - 22 Barrister's topper
 - 24 Local theater, briefly
 - 26 Bothered big-time
 - 27 Hot spot
 - 28 *Monster.com activity

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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S A G A F L E A S H U L A
T R A P L I B R E I Z O D
A G R A A B O U T A M I L E
R O B I N G R O B I N S
S N O R E A K A D E C A L
O R S M I L A N O
M U F F I N G M U F F I N S
W O N G O A T S R E T
R A I S I N G R A I S I N S
A N T I C S C A R
P A S T E R I O R E V U P
N O T E X A C T L Y T A P I N S
O V E R C O R E R N A I L
W A D S T H O S E T E E M
    
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01/12/21

SUDOKU

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

SOLUTION TO PREVIOUS SUDOKU

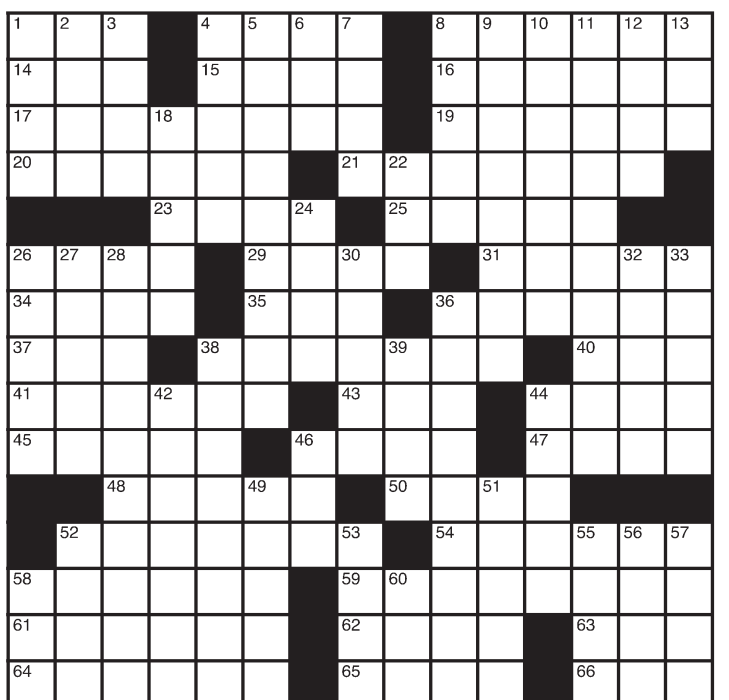
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9 5 4 1 8 7 6 2 3
7 3 6 2 9 4 8 5 1
2 1 8 3 5 6 9 7 4
3 7 1 8 6 2 5 4 9
6 4 5 9 1 3 7 8 2
8 9 2 4 7 5 1 3 6
5 6 3 7 2 1 4 9 8
4 8 7 6 3 9 2 1 5
1 2 9 5 4 8 3 6 7
    
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4 6 8 9 3
3 8 2 4
5 6 3
6 2 8 1
8 2 4
2 5 6 7 8
7 3 5 4 6
    
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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆



By Paul Coulter
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