

Friday, January 22, 2021

Daily Bridge Club

Locating the box

By FRANK STEWART
Tribune Content Agency

"I know fine declarers must be able to think outside the box," a club player said to me. "But I can't think outside the box — or inside the box. I don't even know where the box is."

Today's North-South reached the wrong contract; 6NT by North would have been cold. South must have yearned to be declarer since he bid six hearts, and East doubled to request the lead of a spade, the suit North had bid.

West duly led the deuce of spades. Do you see a way for South to succeed? (Think outside the box.)

HURDLE

South cleared the first hurdle when he took the ace of spades. He drew trumps and cashed the A-K of clubs and the A-K of diamonds. Declarer then led dummy's jack of clubs — and pitched his queen of diamonds.

West took the queen of clubs but had only minor-suit cards left. He led a diamond, and South discarded his remaining spades on the ten of diamonds and ten of clubs. Making six.

I suppose that you do have to locate the box before you can think outside it.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠ A Q 6 4 ♥ 7 6
♦ K 10 2 ♣ J 10 4 3. Your partner opens one heart, you respond one

spade, he bids two diamonds and you try 2NT. Partner then bids three hearts. What do you say?

ANSWER: This situation is uneasy since your 2NT was a bit bold. But partner's three hearts is forcing — he suggests six hearts, four diamonds and extra strength — so you must see it through. Bid four hearts and hope for the best.

South dealer
N-S vulnerable

NORTH

♠ A Q 6 4
♥ 7 6
♦ K 10 2
♣ J 10 4 3

WEST

♠ 2
♥ 9 8 4 3
♦ 9 6 5 3
♣ Q 9 8 5

EAST

♠ K J 10 5 3
♥ 5 2
♦ 8 7 4
♣ 7 6 2

SOUTH

♠ 9 8 7
♥ A K Q J 10
♦ A Q J
♣ A K

South 2♥
West Pass
North 2NT
East Pass

Opening lead — ♠ 2

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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. 1218

ACROSS

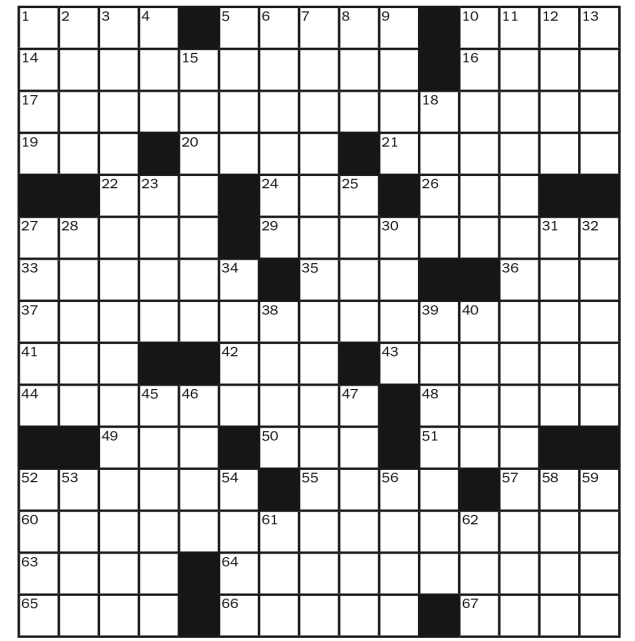
- 1 Vague sense
- 5 Nick _____, football coach who led both L.S.U. and Alabama to national championships
- 10 Look out for, say
- 14 Line outside the entrance?
- 16 State flower of Utah
- 17 Using any means necessary
- 19 The U.S. Open is played on it: Abbr.
- 20 Supermodel Wek
- 21 Caesar and others
- 22 + or -, for a battery
- 24 Recipe abbr.
- 26 Torque symbol

- 27 Kitchen tool for fruit
- 29 What Neptune's chariot was drawn by
- 33 Longtime CBS News host Charles
- 35 Cleared one's cookies?
- 36 PC program suffix
- 37 Setting for forensic investigations
- 41 Bit of needle work
- 42 Conned
- 43 Sacked
- 44 Things typically found in dens
- 48 Rank
- 49 "____ et labora" ("Pray and work": Lat.)
- 50 Like a hoppin' party
- 51 Target of a 1972 ban

- 52 Demi of pop
- 55 Mantel piece
- 57 "Yo!"
- 60 Stereotypical cry from a sailor
- 63 Erin Doherty's role on "The Crown"
- 64 One involved with an operation
- 65 Get-up
- 66 Retreats from the heat
- 67 Some real heady stuff?

DOWN

- 1 Mezza _____
- 2 Modern register at a cashless establishment
- 3 "Let's go!"
- 4 Pkg. insert
- 5 Close up
- 6 Things in the plus column
- 7 People who might tell you to stop, but probably shouldn't
- 8 Org. that endorsed Obamacare
- 9 Court suspensions?
- 10 Square-cut masonry
- 11 George Mallory's famous response to "Why did you want to climb Mount Everest?"



PUZZLE BY DAMON GULCZYNSKI

- 12 "Wow!," quaintly
- 13 Rafts
- 15 Seasonal seafood delicacy
- 18 Foe of Caesar
- 23 Extra-bright
- 25 Way
- 27 _____ Mesa, Calif.
- 28 Academy offering
- 30 Obedience class command
- 31 Mike Piazza, beginning in 2006
- 32 Poorly kept
- 34 Mideast capital
- 38 Hold for another year, say
- 39 Censure
- 40 Way
- 45 Really fancies
- 46 Not fancy at all
- 47 Center of a circle or square, maybe
- 52 Future D.A.'s hurdle
- 53 [Gulp!]
- 54 Thereabouts
- 56 Some members of the fam
- 58 Source of the word "trousers"
- 59 W.W. I battle locale
- 61 One of the Beastie Boys
- 62 Fella

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



BIZARRO



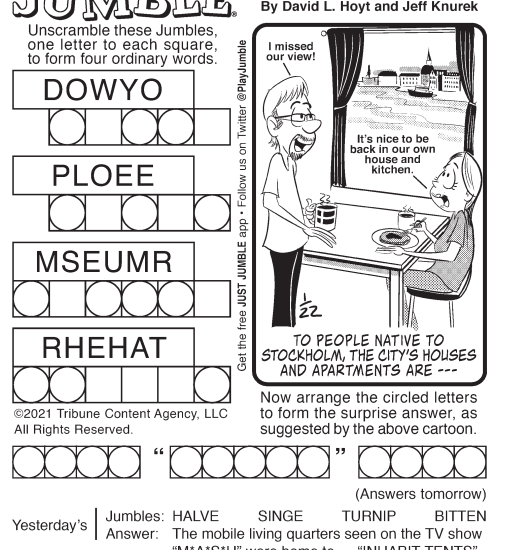
DENNIS THE MENACE



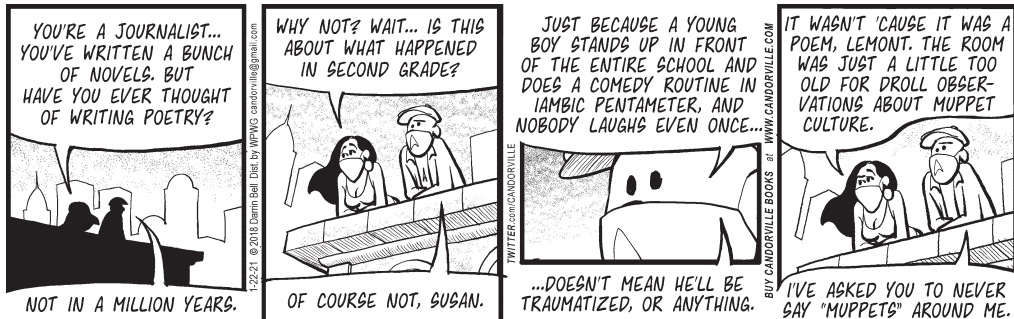
HERMAN



JUMBLE



CANDORVILLE



WUMO



ZITS

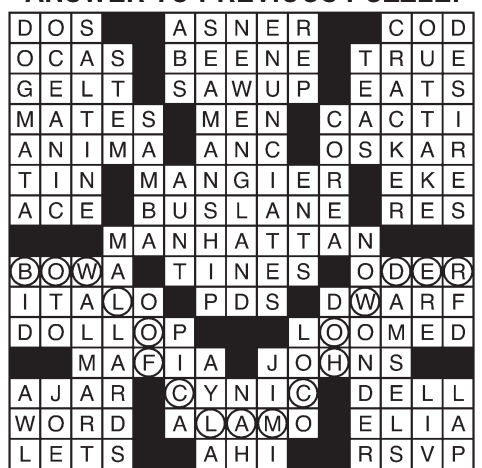


Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- ACROSS**
- 1 Hard to rattle
- 6 Easy-to-read sign
- 10 Two-time Cy Young winner Jacob deGrom and teammates
- 14 "The Metamorphosis" author
- 15 Big show
- 16 Miami Heat coach Spoelstra
- 17 Gather
- 18 Difficult golf shot?
- 20 Liftoff approx.
- 21 Approximately
- 23 "____, right?!"
- 24 Breakfast spot for golfers?
- 27 Deck chair wood
- 28 Sports standout
- 32 Ophthalmology concerns
- 34 Dismissive sound
- 37 Tool that only works in water
- 38 Low-quality golf equipment?
- 42 Número pequeño
- 43 WNBA broadcaster
- 44 Fretted fiddles
- 45 Easygoing folks
- 48 Desk set
- 49 Golf simulator shot?
- 55 State in two time zones
- 58 Wide variety
- 59 Italian diminutive suffix
- 60 Place to meet single golfers?
- 62 Soup veggies
- 64 Sporty Camaro
- 65 "That Is NOT a Good ____": Mo Willems children's book
- 66 Food pkg. info
- 67 Like ungeons, typically
- 68 Support at sea
- 69 Makes more bearable
- DOWN**
- 1 Made tracks?
- 2 Non ____: not so much, in music
- 3 One working a security detail, perhaps
- 4 Mike and ____: candy
- 5 "Fast & Furious" staple
- 6 Indra Gandhi's father
- 7 ____ change
- 8 Harpo Productions CEO
- 9 Go-ahead
- 10 German chancellor since 2005
- 11 "The Night Circus" novelist Morgenstern
- 12 Record for later
- 13 Scant
- 19 Pickle herb
- 22 HP product
- 25 Nerdy type
- 26 Stable supply
- 29 Top choices
- 30 Fidel's successor
- 31 Golf balls, e.g.
- 32 Salacious stuff
- 33 Lilliputian
- 34 Indian VIPs
- 35 Clotheshorse
- 36 First answer in the first-ever published crossword
- 39 Polite assent
- 40 All of us
- 41 POTUS, per Article II, Section 2
- 46 Payment option
- 47 Uncultured one
- 48 Soup veggie
- 50 ____ Express: fast-food chain
- 51 Impulses
- 52 Pick up the tab
- 53 Dazzled
- 54 Formally records, as a golf score
- 55 "Look what ____!"
- 56 Uber CEO
- 57 Oodles
- 61 Asset in darts
- 63 Mauna ____

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

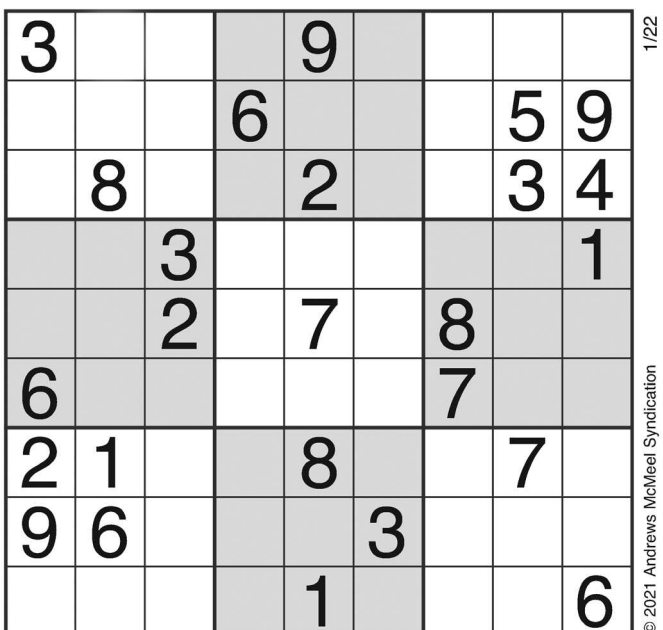
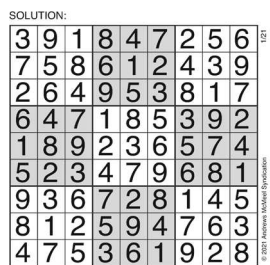


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SUDOKU

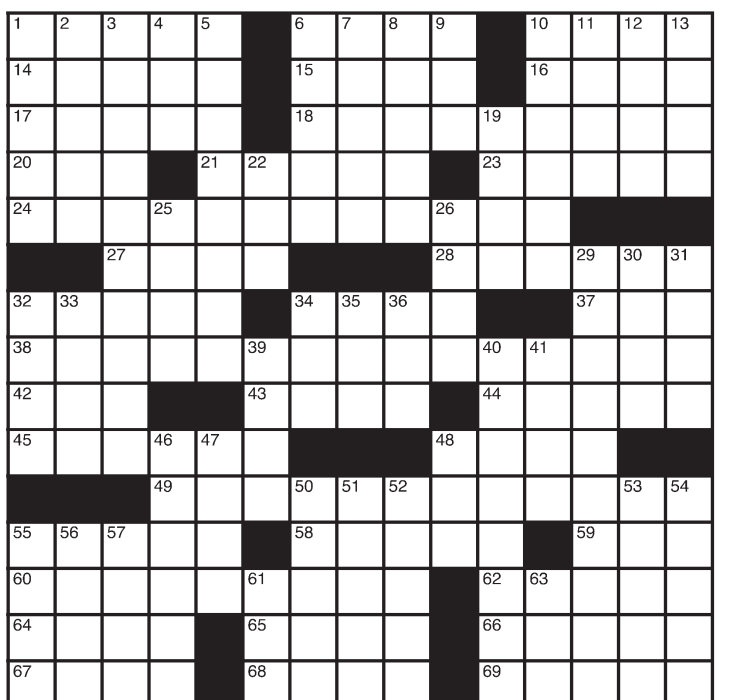
Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

SOLUTION TO PREVIOUS SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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By Bruce Haight
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