Daily Bridge Club

The key card

By FRANK STEWART Tribune Content Agency

"My partner disliked my bidding in this deal," a fan writes. "She said I should have tried for a grand slam. Something is wrong with her logic or my play. I didn't take even 12 tricks.'

North might have had a different hand for her raise to three spades. If her king of clubs were the king of hearts, seven spades would be cold. South could have probed, starting with a red-suit cue bid.

My fan says West led the ten of clubs against six spades: jack, queen, ruff. South drew trumps, tried unsuccessfully for a 3-3 diamond break, lost a heart finesse to West's king and lost a second heart at the end.

MAKEABLE

The slam was makeable. South draws trumps with the A-J and leads dummy's king of clubs: ace, ruff. She takes the ace, queen and king of diamonds. When West discards, South leads dummy's seven of clubs and discards a heart: a loser-on-loser. West takes the eight but must lead a heart from the king or yield a ruff-

Never bid an iffy slam without the seven of clubs!

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠4 ♥975 ♦J972 A Q 6 4 3. Your partner opens one spade, you respond 1NT and he

rebids three spades. What do you say? ANSWER: Partner's jump-rebid in his own suit promises a good sixcard suit (rarely, a seven-card suit) with 15 to 17 high-card points. It's possible you have a game if his hand is ideal — he might hold A K 10976, 3 2, A K, K 8 $^\circ$ – but the odds are against that. Partners never hold ideal hands. Pass and hope he wins nine

South dealer N-S vulnerable

> **NORTH ♦** J 8 7 6 ♥843 **♦ K 8 3** ♣ K J 7

WEST **EAST ♦** 53 **♡KJ102** ♥975 ♦ J 9 7 2 \Diamond 10 6 **4** 10 9 8 5 2 ♣ A Q 6 4 3

> **SOUTH A** K Q 10 9 2 $\heartsuit A Q 6$ **♦ A Q 5 4** ♣ None

South West North East Pass Pass **3** ♠ Pass Pass All Pass

Opening lead — ♣ 10

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SEEKING A FRIENDLY DUPLICATE BRIDGE?

Find five games weekly online at bendbridge.org

The New York Times Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Prattle 8 Public square
- 13 Like records stored for research
- 15 Popeye's profession
- 16 Browser's
- 17 Buses, as tables 57 Twaddle
- 18 Freshly 19 Nonsense
- after epsilon

- 24 Prohibit
- 25 Worthless talk
- 32 Financial claim
- **37** Neighs: horses ___ : sheep

- 43 =
- 45 It's not odd 47 R.N.'s touch
- 48 Unintelligible jargon 52 "So that's it!"

61 Line down the

65 Signing-on info

go "Wow!"

69 Goes through

hurriedly, as

during a robbery

alternatives to

response to 1-, 19-, 25-, 48-

and 57-Across

HERMAN

68 Poisons

70 Jacket

71 "Huh?"

B|E|L|I|K|E|T|H|A|T

CRIMESCENE

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

0 R B I T S Z I P S R D A

A D I E U T A C T R O L L S E T S N U B R I S E S T R E A S U R E T R O V E S

C L O U D W I L L O R E

O D O R B E A R U T T E R H E M P U R R T S E T S E

O N E M A N A R M Y T A T A

STRIPSTEAK

M A I N T H E M E A B O U T T H E A U T H O R

buttons

a possible

that makes you

- 55 Itinerary preposition
- **56** Inexperienced start-up point reporter
- 21 Second letter
- 23 Tic-tac-toe win
- 31 Fury
- 33 Hanker (for)
- 39 Landscaper's
- 42 Raft for a polar bear

DOWN

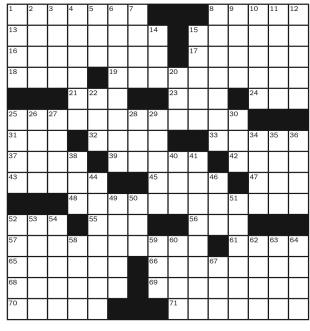
- 2 Scientology
- 4 Where spiders
- 5 Way cool
- length of a skirt of "North by Northwest" 66 Sudden thought
 - 7 Alternative to Prego
 - Sinatra
 - (replacing)
 - __ the Greek"
 - 14 Old NASA
 - vehicle 15 Great Dane
 - informally
 - __ Aviv, Israel 22
 - 25 Match up (with) 26 Baghdad's land
 - 27 Boyfriend
 - 28 Bartlet of "The Clampett of The Beverly Hillbillies'

- ___ Men, group with the 2000 hit "Who Let the Dogs Out'
- founder _ Hubbard
- 3 Highest point
- get their information?
- 6 Actress Saint
- 8 1957 title role for Frank
- **9** In _
- 10 March goes out like this, as the expression goes
- 12 Pyromaniac's
- moon-landing
- of cartoons,
- 20 Short hairstyle

- West Wing" or

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 1221



PUZZLE BY SARAH KELLER AND DEREK BOWMAN

- 29 Figure made 41 Mao Zedong by lying in was its leader the snow and **44** 1960s hippie waving one's
- 30 Sports official, informally
- 34 Voice below soprano 50 Rebuke to a
- 35 Chocolate/ caramel candy
- 51 "Pygmalion" **36** Narrow part of a
- bottle 38 Droop

(December 24)

40 Christmas

playwright, for short 52 Borders

53 Wears, as

49 Hawks and

doves

dog

- burning candles both do this gatherings 46 Big Apple sch.
 - Lingus
 - 60 Mineral springs

54 Amazon's virtual

assistant

58 Icicles and

- 62 Individually
- 63 Singer/lyricist Paul 64 Classic
- computer game set on an island
- **67** "Gangnam Style" singer

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.

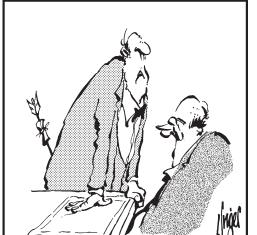
BIZARRO BIZARRO, COM



DENNIS THE MENACE



"My DAD's Playin' Golf Today...But Don't WORRY...HE ALWAYS PRAYS WHILE HEPLAYS!"



"A message from your grandson, sir."

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME one letter to each square to form four ordinary words SEGSU **NADKR PRIELT** THEIR NEW MATTRESS CAME WIT A MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE, **SAQHUS** Now arrange the circled letters

SPLICE HANGAR Saturday's The terrestrial gastropod mollusk was in a lazy

TECH SUPPORT at SEAWORLD HQ











ZITS I DECIDED TO FOSTER A WHAT THE HECK?? KITTEN! ISN'T SHE CUTE?





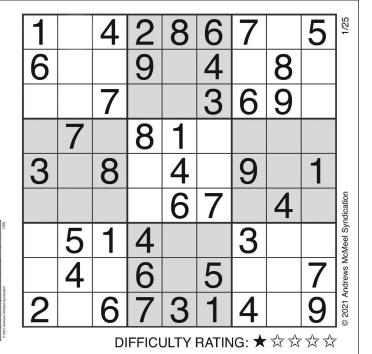


SUDOKU

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

SOLUTION TO PREVIOUS SUDOKU

SOLUTION:								
1	3			8	9	7	2	6
6	7	9	3	1	2	4	5	8
8	2	5	4	7	6	9	3	1
7	9	_	1		_	6	4	2
5	4	6	9	2	8	1	7	3
3	1	2	6	4	7	5	8	9
9	5	7	8	3	1	2	6	4
2	8	1	7	6	4	3	9	5
4	6	3	2	9	5	8	1	7



mood and feeling a bit - SLUGGISH

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

- **ACROSS** 1 Hesitant sounds
- Grand
- video game
- 9 A and B, for blood 14 Long of "Third
- Watch' 15 Gung-ho
- 16 Finnish bills 17 Method 18 Entirety of a

goods

20 Sent out 22 Inspiring Greek group of nine

manufacturer's

- sisters 23 U.S. Forest Service mascot
- since 1944 and found
- 29 Peace of mind 30 Hightailed it 31 Namesake of a
- 32 Dolphin communication method 35 Oregon city south

new wing, often

- of Salem $36 \, 4$, in 2 + 2 = 439 Indoor tanning
- aid 41 Reuben bread 42 Put-down

44 Inception

- 46 Lighter brand 47 Degree for a CFO 48 [Purchase
- at your own risk] 52 Floride, par
- exemple 53 Out-of-office investigator 56 Late-night host
- O'Brien 58 Whip (up), as grub 59 Tumbling seed, and a hint to each
- letters 63 AAA service 64 Author Asimov 65 Lawful

row of circled

67 Rock or pop 68 Traditional piano key wood 69 Like half a deck

of cards

66 Night before

- Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis **DOWN** 35 Pair of madmen? 51 Slow-boiled, as 1 Not prudent
 - 3 Final approvals 4 Conical home
 - 5 "Jude the Obscure" author Thomas
 - 6 Big head on the set 7 Nourished 8 Writer Capote
 - 9 Lunar New Years 10 Holiday fireplace blazer 11 "Orange Is the
 - New Black" extra 12 Geological period 13 Toronto-to-D.C.
 - dir. 19 Mangy dog 21 Hawaiian strings flakes: cereal
 - 25 Body part thoughtfully tugged on
 - 27 PlayStation maker 28 Sloth's hangout 31 Fool
 - 33 Norsk Folkemuseum city

34 Mácadamia _

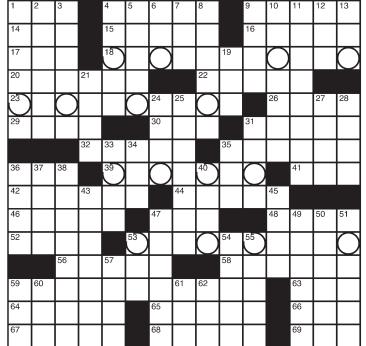
- 36 Evaluate, with 37 Army outfit 38 Female '80s
- arcade sensation 40 Like neat freaks 43 As good as expected
- 45 Graffiti signatures
- 47 Mix at a party 49 Irish pooch
- Convection oven need 54 Water escape
- route 55 Unc's spouse

prunes

- 57 "Good one!" is up!" 59 "The 60 Employ
- 61 Tot's mealtime protector 62 Prefix with

50 Smitten friendly **ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:**





By Craig Stowe ©2021 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

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