

Monday, January 25, 2021

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-sluff.

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 INT and he

rebids three spades. What do you say?

ANSWER: Partner’s jump-rebid in his own suit promises a good six-card 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 10 9 7 6, 3 2, A K, K 8 2 — but the odds are against that. Partners never hold ideal hands. Pass and hope he wins nine tricks.

South dealer N-S vulnerable

NORTH ♠ J 8 7 6 ♥ 8 4 3 ♦ K 8 3 ♣ K J 7

WEST

♥ 5 3 ♥ K J 10 2 ♦ 10 6 ♣ 10 9 8 5 2

EAST

♠ 4 ♥ 9 7 5 ♦ J 9 7 2 ♣ A Q 6 4 3

SOUTH

♠ A K Q 10 9 2 ♥ A Q 6 ♦ A Q 5 4 ♣ None

Table with 4 columns: South, West, North, East. Contains card counts and suit symbols.

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

Edited by Will Shortz

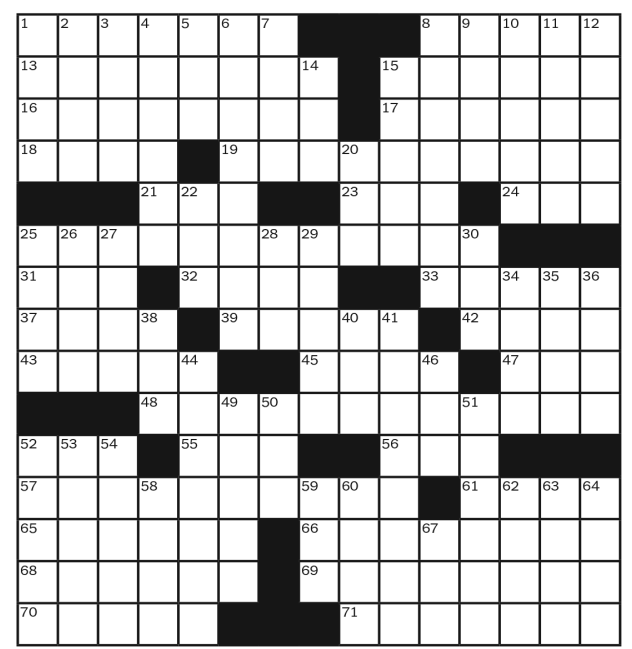
No. 1221

ACROSS

- 1 Prattle
8 Public square
13 Like records stored for research
15 Popeye’s profession
16 Browser’s start-up point
17 Buses, as tables
18 Freshly
19 Nonsense
21 Second letter after epsilon
23 Tic-tac-toe win
24 Prohibit
25 Worthless talk
31 Fury
32 Financial claim
33 Hanker (for)
37 Neighs : horses :: ___ : sheep
39 Landscaper’s tool
42 Raft for a polar bear

DOWN

- 43 =
45 It’s not odd
47 R.N.’s touch
48 Unintelligible jargon
52 “So that’s it!”
55 Itinerary preposition
56 Inexperienced reporter
57 Twaddle
61 Line down the length of a skirt
65 Signing-on info
66 Sudden thought that makes you go “Wow!”
68 Poisons
69 Goes through hurriedly, as during a robbery
70 Jacket alternatives to buttons
71 “Huh?” ... or a possible response to 1-, 19-, 25-, 48- and 57-Across



PUZZLE BY SARAH KELLER AND DEREK BOWMAN

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



- 29 Figure made by lying in the snow and waving one’s arms
30 Sports official, informally
34 Voice below soprano
35 Chocolate/caramel candy
36 Narrow part of a bottle
38 Droop
40 Christmas (December 24)
41 Mao Zedong was its leader
44 1960s hippie gatherings
46 Big Apple sch.
49 Hawks and doves
50 Rebuke to a dog
51 “Pygmalion” playwright, for short
52 Borders
53 Wears, as clothes
54 Amazon’s virtual assistant
58 Icicles and burning candles both do this
59 ___ Lingus
60 Mineral springs
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.

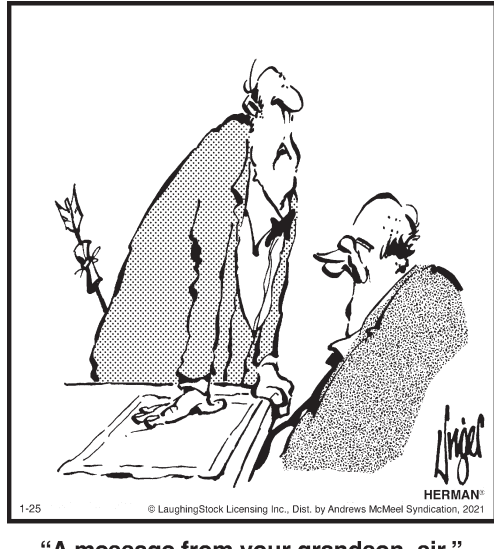
BIZARRO



DENNIS THE MENACE



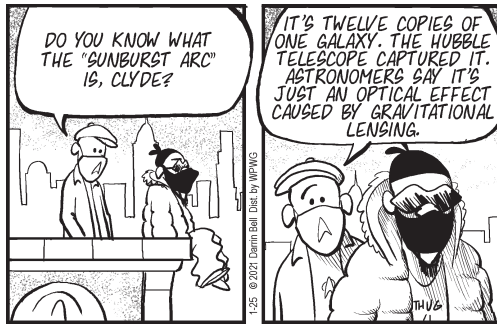
HERMAN



JUMBLE

Jumble puzzle with scrambled words and a cartoon illustration.

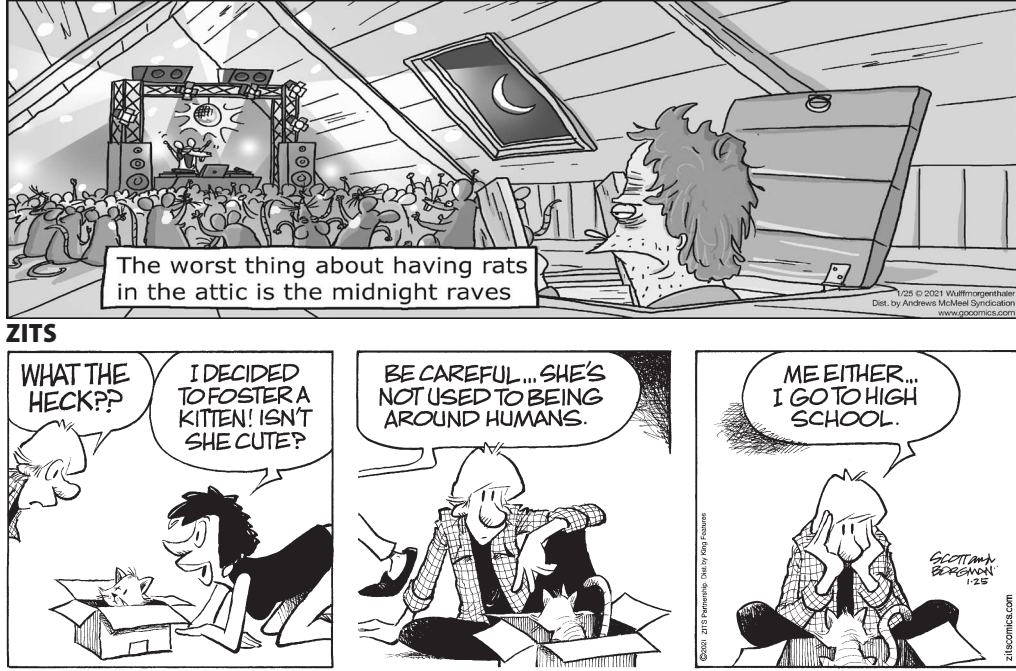
CANDORVILLE



WUMO



ZITS



Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

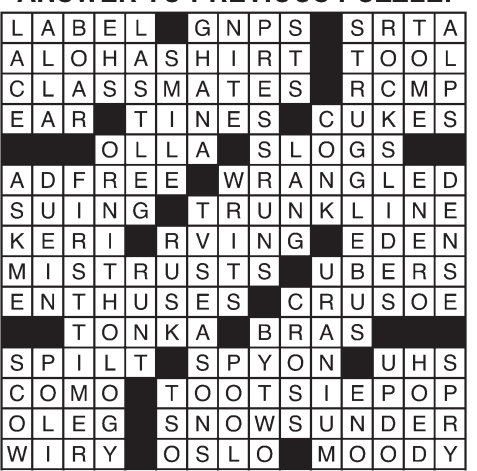
ACROSS

- 1 Hesitant sounds
4 Grand ___ Auto: 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 manufacturer’s goods
20 Sent out
22 Inspiring Greek group of nine sisters
23 U.S. Forest Service mascot since 1944
26 ___ and found
29 Peace of mind
30 Hightailed it
31 Namesake of a new wing, often
32 Dolphin communication method
35 Oregon city south of Salem
36 4, in 2 + 2 = 4
39 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 row of circled letters
63 AAA service
64 Author Asimov
65 Lawful
66 Night before
67 Rock or pop
68 Traditional piano key wood
69 Like half a deck of cards

DOWN

- 1 Not prudent
2 Swamp gas
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
24 ___ flakes: cereal
25 Body part thoughtfully tugged on
27 PlayStation maker
28 Sloth’s hangout
31 Fool
33 Norsk Folkemuseum city
34 Macademia ___

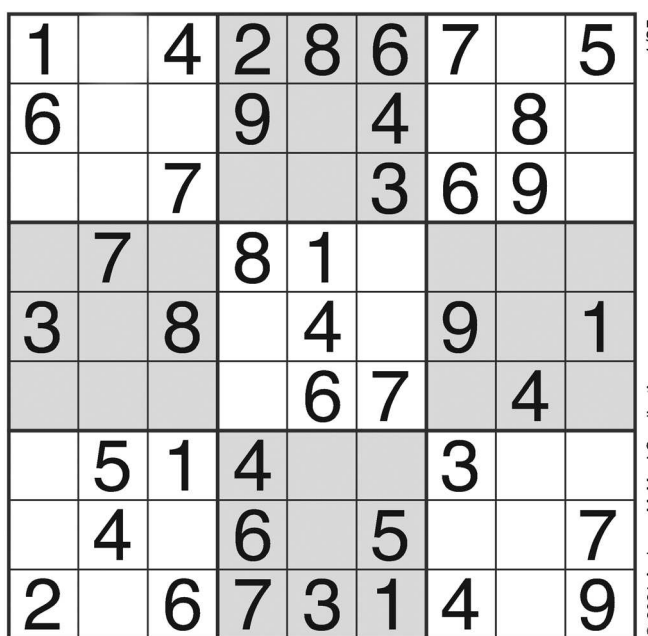
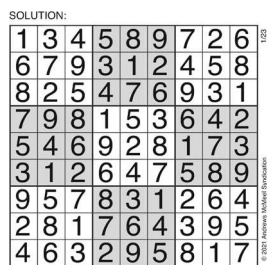
ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:



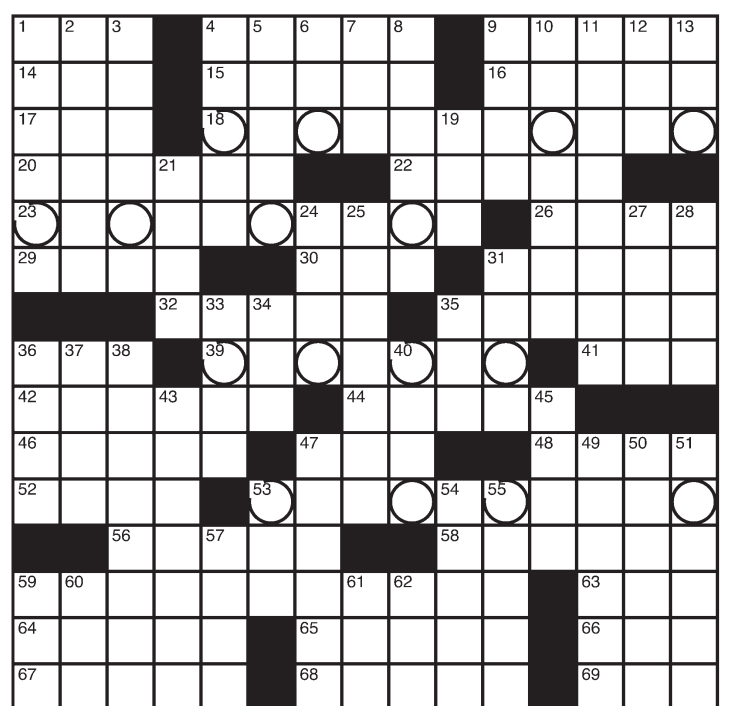
SUDOKU

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: ★☆☆☆☆



By Craig Stowe ©2021 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

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