SUNDAY PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS ON C7

No. 0124

26

73

THE NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

18

23

27

32

38

70

104

115 116

121

125

33

DOUBLE-CROSSED

BY TRACY GRAY AND TOM PEPPER / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Tracy Gray lives in Sparks, Md., near Baltimore, where she and her husband own and operate a lawn-and-landscaping business. Tom Pepper lives in Eden Prairie, Minn., next door to Edina, of crossword fame. In April he plans to retire from his position of finance director for the city of Eagan after 29 years. Tracy and Tom met at a crossword tournament several years ago and have been exchanging theme ideas ever since. - W.S.

ACROSS

- 1 Getting warm, so to speak
- 6 It was established by a
- 1926 royal charter
- 9 Ulan _, Mongolia
- 14 Be against
- 18 Send, as payment
- 19 No. 1 of 50,
- 20 Former basketball places he played
- 22 Garb in a duck blind, informally
- 23 Way into a garage,
- typically 25 California wine region 60 On the main
- **26** Road-trip guessing game
- 27 Freak (out)
- 28 Tennis star who won at least one Grand Slam title for a record 13 straight years
- 29 Initialism that can include an "h" for "humble"
- 30 Old-timey "OMG!"
- 32 GPS guess 33 Variables in πr^2 and
- 34 Nickelodeon
- competitor 38 Bagless-vacuum
- maker 40 Savvy couple?

star Crosby

- the Kid, nickname for N.H.L.
- Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 4,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/cross

- 44 Grows increasingly more irksome
- 47 Starbucks sizes
- smaller than grandes
- 49 Dove bar, e.g.
- 50 Given as a bequest alphabetically: Abbr. 52 Suffix with mega- or
- star Gilbert ... or the 54 Ones making strong
 - impressions? **56** "Je t'_
 - __'" (words from a beau) 57 Prince Andrew's
 - younger daughter
 - 61 Prominent women's rights lawyer
 - 63 Member of an Iraqi minority
 - 65 Obscure knowledge
 - 70 Violent, maybe 71 Certain laundry-
 - detergent capsule 73 Causing constriction
 - of the pupils 74 Nailed the test
 - **75** 007's alma mater
 - **76** Visual phenomenon created by short
 - flashes of light 78 Linguist Chomsky
 - 80 Dense fog, metaphorically
 - 82 When repeated, a Hawaiian fish 83 Major utility pipeline
 - 87 Whimper 88 It has its pros and
 - cons 90 Part of P.R.
 - 91 Far from wild **93** Pesto ingredient

- Catch Phrase 98 Org. that takes many forms
 - - 99 Five-star 100 Quark-antiquark combo
 - 104 Some entertainers at children's birthday
 - 107 Europe's longest
 - river 110 Trouble
 - 111 O icon 112 Western Hemisphere
 - grp. 113 Legendary firefighter
 - Red 114 Curler's surface
 - 115 Kind of palm cultivated for its
 - fruit 117 Prove wrong
 - 119 Awards show that airs at night,
 - ironically 121 Part of une éclipse 122 Submits an online
 - return 123 Brown. ender
 - 124 '
 - 125 What's more, it's said 126 Down stream?
 - 127 Easy target 128 Buddy of "The Beverly Hillbillies"

DOWN

- 1 Sang one's own praises 2 Humor regarding a
- serious matter 3 "w"-like letters
- 4 Anthony Hopkins, for
- 5 Wi-Fi alternative 6 Complained about getting fleeced?

- 43 Party game similar to 96 For one purpose only 7 Subject of a Sleeves Up campaign
 - 8 French luxury jeweler
 - 9 ABCs 10 Lead-in to therapy
 - 11 Jazz instrument pitched in the key of B flat
 - 12 Peace activist Yoko 13 Classic dorm-room
 - meal 14 Fading process for
 - ieans 15 Deep-toned cousin of
 - an English horn 16 One whose calling is making calls?
 - 17 American Kennel Club designation
 - 21 Stuffing herb
 - **24** Green on the screen 31 QB's passing stat:
 - Abbr. **35** Up to
 - 36 Din from a den
 - 37 Kevstone **39** Put forward
 - 41 TV channel that owns the website The Undefeated
 - **45** Beer in a green bottle 46 Part of a college visit,
 - typically 47 Prepare to swing, say
 - 48 Unseal furtively, as an 62 Tony winner Menzel envelope
 - 50 Floral fragrance note 51 Behave theatrically
 - 53 Restored to mint condition
 - 55 Lesser Antilles native 56 City that's home to three UNESCO World Heritage Sites
- **58** "Go _ __!'' (coach's encouragement) **59** Computer menu with Undo and Redo

111

- 60 Expand upon 64 Antarctica's _
- Shelf 66 Nestlé creamer
- 67 Bothered persistently 68 Not for mass audiences
- 69 When the Battle of Yorktown occurs in "Hamilton
- 72 Took steroids, say 77 Like loud phone conversations in public

126

105

122

- 79 Designed to deter stealing
- 81 T-Bonz dog treat brand
- 83 Word before bag or bar 84 Musical with the
- opening number "Every Story Is a Love Story 85 Sallie Mae products
- 87 University of Montana city 89 Hitchhike

snacks

94

107

113

119

123

127

86 Marshmallow-filled

- 92 Shapiro of NPR 94 Emulates the
- Mongols 95 Old genre for
- 12-Down **97** Z4 or Q50

20

25

29

53

72

112

118

- 99 Judge
- 101 Pool competitions 102 Immature egg cell
- 103 Star of the "Taken" trilogy

120

124

128

101 102

110

114

- 105 Like snow leopards and Siberian tigers
- 106 What tots might go after?
- 108 Easy two points
- 109 "Scram!" **115** ____-American
- 116 Tool for pool
- 118 Old-timey cry of disgust
- 120 Will Smith/Tommy Lee Jones film series, for short

87 "The Addams

90 Algerian

91 Look up to

92 Astronomy

Muse

93 Consumed

greedily

95 Sites for vows

Solidarity

97 Muralist José

98 Moon of Saturn

for his entire

María _

94 Squealed

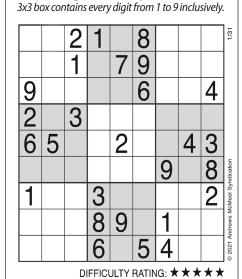
96 Rirthn

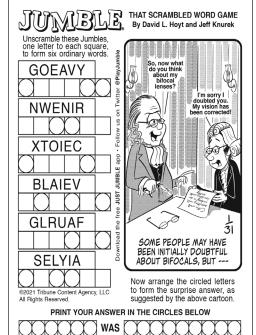
102 Gunk 103 Reggie Miller,

Family" cousin

(\$39.95 a year).

SUDOKU Complete the grid so that every row, column and





Sunday, January 31, 2021

Daily Bridge Club

Good, not great

By FRANK STEWART Tribune Content Agency

"Mediocrates was not the greatest hero in Greek myth, but neither was he the least." — graffiti

Bridge is a game of error; nobody plays perfectly. A deal rarely passes by without at least one player doing something questionable, if not clearly wrong. Often, the par result is achieved when imperfect play and defense cancel each other out.

North-South arrived at four hearts; nothing wrong with the auction. West led the queen of spades, and South played low and won the next spade. He cashed the ace of trumps, then led a diamond to dummy's queen. East took the king and returned ... the jack of trumps.

Declarer won, led a diamond to the ace, ruffed a diamond, ruffed his last spade in dummy and ruffed a diamond. He could get back to dummy with the ace of clubs and discard his club loser on the good fifth diamond. He lost a trump but made game.

Do you think the play and defense were worthy of Mediocrates?

When East took the king of diamonds, he should lead a third spade, forcing dummy to ruff. He dislodges declarer's late entry to the good diamond in dummy. (As it happens, a diamond opening lead would always beat the contract, but I can't fault West's actual lead.)

It seems that South's play was

mediocre. He might ruff his third spade in dummy at Trick Four to return a low club toward his queen. If East takes the king and leads the jack of trumps, declarer can win, unblock his queen of clubs and go to the ace of diamonds to discard his last diamond on the ace of clubs.

South dealer N-S vulnerable

WEST

♠ QJ92

NORTH ↑ 10 8 $\heartsuit 765$ **♦ A Q 6 5 2** ♣ A 7 2

 $\diamondsuit 108$ **♦ KJ93** ♣ J 8 6 5 4 3 **SOUTH ↑** A 7 5

South 1 ♥ 2 ♥ West North East Pass Pass 3♡ Pass Pass

 \Diamond 7 4

♥ A K 9 8 4 3

Opening lead — ♠ Q

Judge

102 Marienbad, for

perhaps

111 The foolhardy

hockey player

114 Astrological ram

116 Coatrack parts

DOWN

1 Contrived

flavoring

2 Biscotti

117 Kvetch

PAUL COULTER ACROSS Apollo's home 7 Cartesian

concept 11 Edwards, in 14 Spitting sound

105 Sting 18 Early ball game 19 His given name was spelled with 107 In pieces 109 Big name in horseshoes in 110 Pig out

20 Former French 21 Ride, but not in a nice way

22 The troublesome 115 Part of HMS soccer player ___ 25 Fragrant root used in perfumes

26 Actor Morales 27 Covent Garden

architect Jones 28 Sprightly 29 Chop finely 30 "Sure"

31 Biol, and chem. 32 Genetic 'messenger'

33 Many a Degas

34 The bombastic archer 39 The Destroyer, in Hinduism 42 Appearance

43 2020, por

ejemplo 44 The frugal lacrosse goalie 50 Printer function

port 55 Unassuming 56 Dash lengths 57 Point a finger 58 "Downton

Abbey" title

54 Mideast gulf

bottle 62 Fisherman with 63 The daredevil baseball pitcher $\overline{\text{Be}}$ at, e.g.

71 Scolds, with

80 Back talk

81 The politically

ambitious

86 Nintendo debut

88 "Dies __": hymr

1/31/21

xwordeditor@aol.com

sprinter

of 2006

59 Open, as a

♣ K 10 "out" 72 Live wire's opposite 73 First name in mystery 74 Pro 75 Vintner's prefix 76 European auto

4♡ All Pass

©2021 Tribune Content Agency, LLC

EAST

∧ K 6 4 3

♥ J 10 2

LOS ANGELES TIMES SUNDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

61 Brain and spinal "SPORTSCAST" By 89 Power source 3 Go back over 33 "Piano is not my 90 The lucky 4 Mythical forte," e.g. cord: Abbr. football receive 34 Reindeer in

trickster 5 Biloxi-to-Mobile "Frozen" 99 Masterful 35 "Don't worry 6 Sawbones 100 Feverish. about me' Mischievous 36 Polite address mavbe

Slow party, say

38 Dinghy drivers MIT Chanel designer 39 Org. funded by Saarinen "If I Dean's em

again ... address ending 41 11 For the seen worse" 12 Early hr. 45 Apple variety 13 On a tight schedule 46 Prefix with byte

14 Louisiana's 47 Mediterranean county sailing vessel counterpart 15 Request help

16 Halloween charity 17 What history

24 Ship's-keel

constellation

31 Herring prized for its roe

118 Principal, for 119 Magazine VIPs repeats? 120 "Dilbert" intern Whopper 121 Scornful smiles topper 23 Condo, e.g.

53 Unhip type 57 Honk 58 The America's

48 Milk source 49 Authorize 50 Passel 51 City WSW of Bogotá

59 One-eighty

60 With "and

Cup trophy, e.g.

and 67-Down

occasionally

canto

music 52 "Absolutely!"

78 Brian of ambient 79 Env. contents 82 Salmon serving 83 Fla. NBA team

equivalent of

ingredients for

the BBC

85 Muslim leader

some diets

84 Italy's

86 Omelet

bien!' 64 "Today" co-host

Kotb 65 Floor coverings

66 LAX listings

67 See 60-Down

"American

69 Managed care

gps. 74 "Tosca" tune

75 Make the first

76 Aroma

77 One often

seen in Wood's

68 One of three

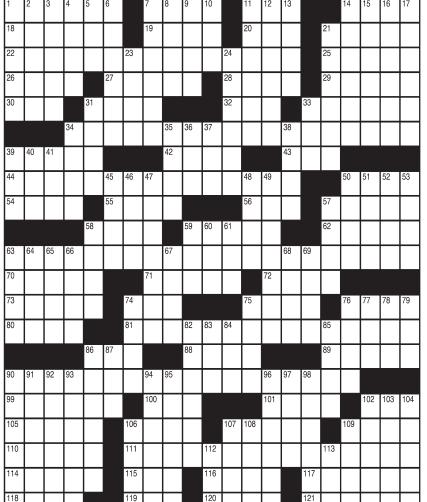
NBA career talked down 104 Australia's _ Rock 106 "Hard Road to Glory" author

©2021 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

107 Cool drinks 108 "We have met the enemy and he is us" toon 109 "My treat"

112 Antipollution

org. 113 "At Seventeen" singer Janis _



Seeking a friendly duplicate bridge? Find five games weekly online at bendbridge.org