

Monday, February 8, 2021

Daily Bridge Club

Rhetorical question

By FRANK STEWART
Tribune Content Agency

"Last week I was asking whether things could get any worse," Unlucky Louie told me in the club lounge. "I meant it as a rhetorical question, but life took it as a challenge."

Louie blames his bad results on bad luck despite all the evidence to the contrary. Louie was South in a penny game. When he opened one spade, North might have raised to two spades with anyone else but chose a conservative INT with Louie.

West led the ten of clubs, and Louie promptly finessed with dummy's queen. East took the king and led a low trump.

LAST TRUMP

Louie won with the king, led a club to the ace and tried a heart to his queen. West won and led his last trump, and when East took the ace and led a third trump, Louie lost a diamond and two more hearts. Down one.

Over-finessing is one of Louie's problems. To assure eight tricks, he wins the first club with the ace and finesses in hearts. He is sure of one heart ruff in dummy to make the contract.

This week: those darned finesses.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠ A 6 5 ♥ 10 8 2
♦ Q 10 8 ♣ K J 7 6. Your partner opens one heart. The next player

passes. What do you say?

ANSWER: This is a judgment call. With perfectly flat pattern, I would settle for a conservative raise to two hearts. Some pairs use "constructive" major-suit raises, and the hand would be quite suitable for a single raise. An aggressive option would be to temporize with a two-club response or, in some systems, a forcing INT response.

South dealer
E-W vulnerable

NORTH

- ♠ 10 3 2
- ♥ 6 4
- ♦ 9 4 3 2
- ♣ A Q 5 3

WEST

- ♠ 7 4
- ♥ K J 9 7
- ♦ K J 7 5
- ♣ 10 9 8

EAST

- ♠ A 6 5
- ♥ 10 8 2
- ♦ Q 10 8
- ♣ K J 7 6

SOUTH

- ♠ K Q J 9 8
- ♥ A Q 5 3
- ♦ A 6
- ♣ 4 2

South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
2 ♥ Pass 2 ♠ 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

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0104

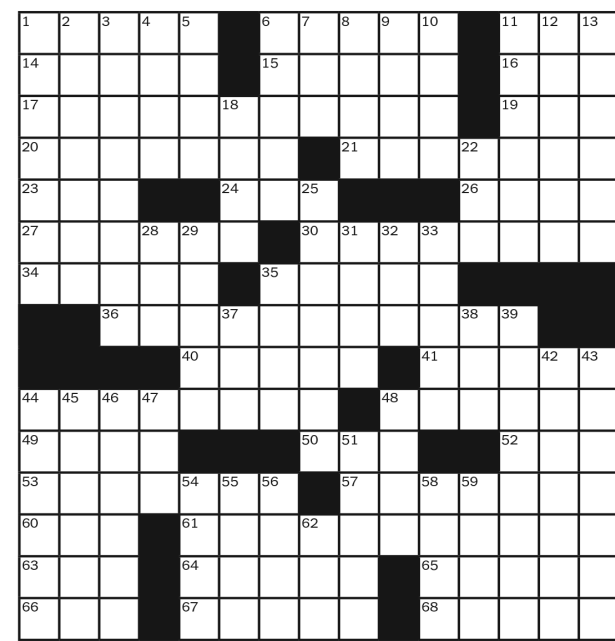
ACROSS

- 1 Has a long shelf life
- 6 The Lone Star State
- 11 Place to recover one's health
- 14 Native Alaskan
- 15 Vigilant
- 16 Arctic diving bird
- 17 Identity of 61-Across
- 19 "The X-Files" agcy.
- 20 Like some reactions and flights during storms
- 21 Blacktop
- 23 Opposite of WSW
- 24 Part of a needle
- 26 Something a diva may sing
- 27 Overhaul, as a show
- 30 Originator of 61-Across
- 34 Teacher's note accompanying a bad grade, maybe
- 35 Rapper Shakur
- 36 Television portrayer of 61-Across
- 40 Singers Bareilles and Evans
- 41 Steer clear of
- 44 Film portrayer of 61-Across
- 48 Contract stipulation
- 49 Lead-in to "man" in superhero-dom
- 50 Flow out, as the tide
- 52 Youngster
- 53 Pain in the lower back
- 57 "Just leave!"

- 60 Back talk
- 61 Co-founder of the Justice League
- 63 Bullring cheer
- 64 Humdingers
- 65 Plainly visible
- 66 Something to write on or crash in
- 67 Ocular inflammations
- 68 Smell or taste

DOWN

- 1 Corporate hierarchies, figuratively
- 2 Property recipient, in law
- 3 Rising concern?
- 4 ___ fish sandwich
- 5 Linger
- 6 Late in arriving
- 7 Inventor Whitney
- 8 "Hercules" character who got her own show
- 9 Rainbows, for example
- 10 Part of an assembly instruction
- 11 Mac browser
- 12 Go ___ (became listed on a stock exchange)
- 13 Japanese dogs
- 18 "I don't want to hear a ___ out of you!"



PUZZLE BY KATHY WIENBERG

- 22 Meat in many an omelet
- 25 Teach
- 28 Adams who played Lois Lane in "Man of Steel"
- 29 Brainy bunch
- 31 Tax return pros
- 32 Batmobile, e.g.
- 33 Eight-related
- 35 Poi ingredient
- 37 Mid-June honoree
- 38 Longoria of "Desperate Housewives"
- 39 Some delivery people
- 42 Weather map lines
- 43 Easing of international tensions
- 44 Racehorse's gait
- 45 Eagle constellation
- 46 Thrown (together)
- 47 Shoot the breeze
- 48 Trucker who relays "bear traps"
- 51 Confer divine favor on
- 54 Leather-punching tools
- 55 Joint malady
- 56 Just
- 58 "Terrible" time for tykes
- 59 Relocate
- 62 Payment ___

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



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.

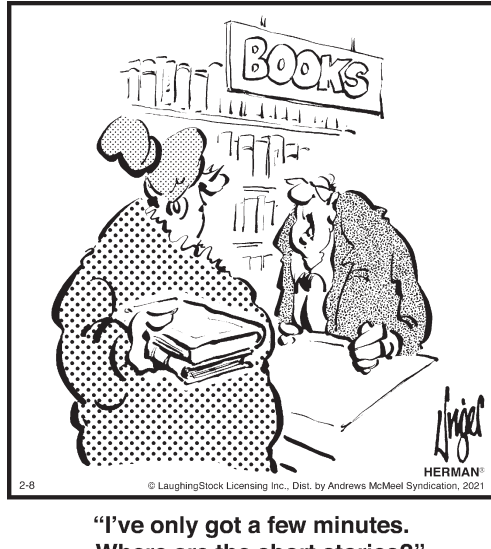
BIZARRO



DENNIS THE MENACE



HERMAN



JUMBLE

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

EHLOL
NRWDA
NOGUTE
MBOCEE

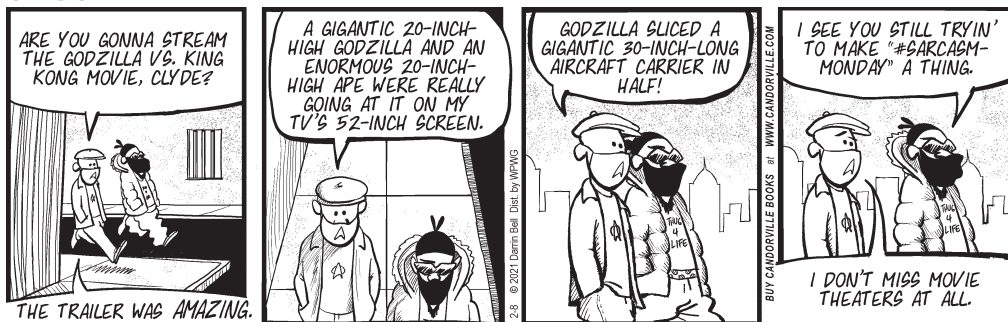
Let's do some easy ones. Ready, set, go! What's two times two?

WHEN ASKED WHAT TWO TIMES TWO EQUALLED, HER STUDENTS ANSWERED ---

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

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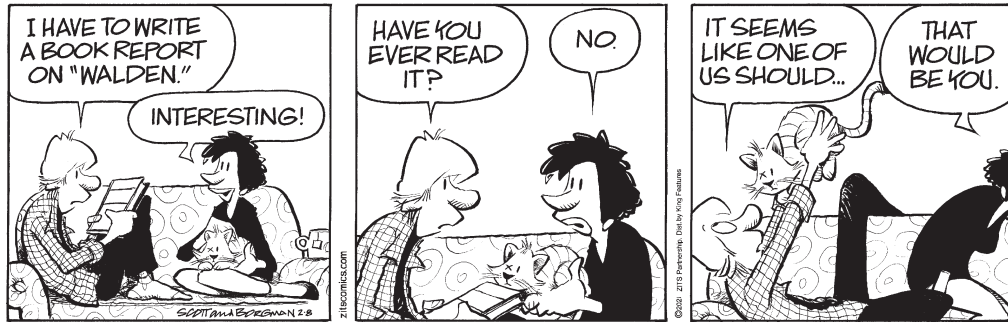
CANDORVILLE



WUMO



ZITS

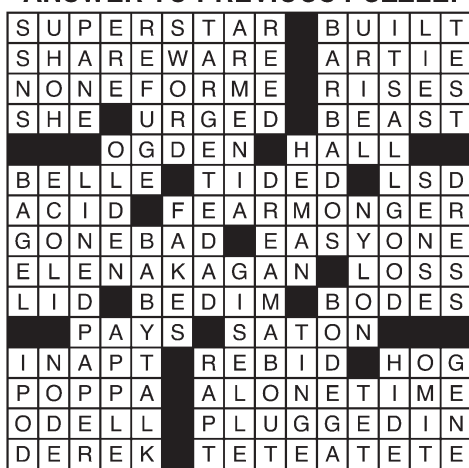


Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- ACROSS**
- 1 Swedish pop group with the hit "Chiquitita"
- 5 Top dog
- 10 Trojan War hero
- 14 Stroller, in Sheffield
- 15 Give up, informally
- 16 Serenity "before the storm"
- 17 Foamy tubful for unwinding
- 19 Excessive publicity
- 20 Needlelike engraving tools
- 21 Mae ___, first Black woman in space
- 23 Airer of Tyler Perry's "The Oval"
- 24 Harmonic
- 25 "Last Week Tonight" network
- 27 Lumber on a diamond
- 33 Deli sandwich, initially
- 34 Nobelist Wiesel
- 35 Use the exit
- 36 On the ___, quarreling
- 38 Inn offering a morning meal, briefly ... or a hint to six puzzle answers
- 41 Whole heap
- 42 Turns to soup, as ice cream
- 44 Mystical vibe
- 46 Jest
- 47 Bryan Cranston crime drama
- 50 Investigative journalist Nellie
- 51 "Check it out for yourself!"
- 52 Bird in Liberty Mutual ads
- 54 Ali of "Love Story"
- 57 Artist's board
- 61 Loafing around
- 62 Fish-and-chips coating
- 64 Old Russian ruler
- 65 Hosp. trauma pro
- 66 Caramel-filled candy
- 67 Shift and Tab
- 68 Praises highly
- 69 Small bills
- DOWN**
- 1 Police dept. alerts
- 2 Very dry, as Champagne
- 3 Infant's source of nourishment
- 4 Easygoing pace
- 5 Help a robber, say
- 6 Experiment sites
- 7 Links org.
- 8 Assassin's assignment
- 9 Greek goddess of wisdom
- 10 Trojan War hero
- 11 Blue birds
- 12 Purina rival
- 13 Marvel-ous heroes?
- 18 Do not disturb
- 22 Retail complex
- 24 Like many first-time workers
- 25 Cold War threat
- 26 Clearer, as a sky
- 28 Priest's robe
- 29 One-named "Chandelier" singer
- 30 Icon with a left-facing arrow
- 31 Be of use to
- 32 Bear in a kid's bed
- 37 Walks drunkenly
- 39 Name, as a knight
- 40 Bikini top
- 43 Toffee candy bar
- 45 Journalist ___ Rogers St. Johns
- 48 Author Allende
- 49 Period "ushered in"
- 53 Paris subway
- 54 Rocking Jagger
- 55 Axilike tool
- 56 Potter's material
- 57 Jab
- 58 Elementary lesson
- 59 Marketing prefix
- 60 Greek matchmaker
- 63 Tulane URL ending

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:



02/08/21

SUDOKU

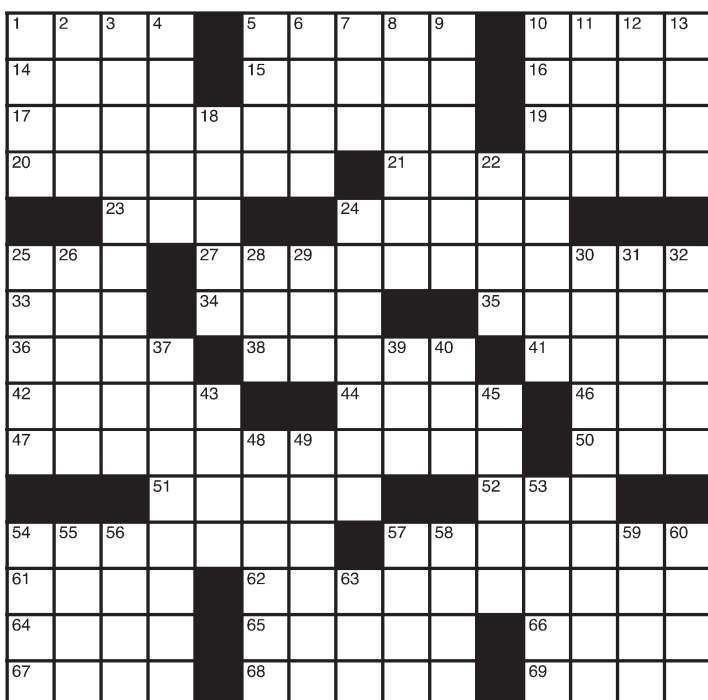
Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

SOLUTION TO PREVIOUS SUDOKU

9	5	1	6	8	2	3	7	4
6	4	3	7	9	1	8	2	5
2	8	7	3	5	4	9	1	6
8	7	2	9	3	6	4	5	1
1	3	4	2	7	5	6	8	9
5	6	9	1	4	8	2	3	7
4	1	6	8	2	7	5	9	3
3	2	5	4	1	9	7	6	8
7	9	8	5	6	3	1	4	2

	5	4		8				2
9	6	2						3
	7		1	6	2			5
8		6	2	1				4
2	4			9				8 3
	1			3	8	6		7
	9		8	2	1			7
	8					2	1	4
6				4			5	9

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆



By Jared Goudsmit
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