

Tuesday, February 16, 2021

Daily Bridge Club

Great expectations

By FRANK STEWART
Tribune Content Agency

Unlucky Louie is usually a loser in my club's penny game, but he'd had a miserable Monday.

"Maybe you should lower your expectations," I said when he showed up on Tuesday.

"I'm lowering them to the point where they've already been met," Louie growled.

At today's 3NT, Louie took the ace of spades and led a low club to his jack. West won and led another spade, and Louie pitched a diamond from dummy and captured East's queen.

DOWN ONE

Louie next led a club to dummy's queen; a 3-2 break would have given him 10 tricks. When East showed out, Louie groaned and let the jack of hearts ride. West produced the queen, and the defense took three spades for down one.

"My expectations were too high," Louie sighed.

Louie should lead a club to his ace at Trick Two and return a club. If West takes the king, Louie is safe. If West ducks, dummy's queen wins, and then Louie finesses in hearts for at least nine tricks. He also succeeds if West has the singleton ten or nine of clubs.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠ A ♡ J 10 4 2
♦ A K 9 6 2 ♣ Q 6 2. You open one

diamond, and your partner bids one spade. What do you say?

ANSWER: Your options are limited. A rebid of two diamonds would suggest a six-card or longer suit, and a bid of two hearts would be a "reverse," promising more than minimum strength. Bid 1NT. Your distribution isn't balanced, but if your partner insists on a spade contract, your singleton ace shouldn't be a terrible disappointment.

South dealer
N-S vulnerable

NORTH

♠ A
♥ J 10 4 2
♦ A K 9 6 2
♣ Q 6 2

WEST

♠ J 7 4 2
♥ Q 9 7
♦ J 4
♣ K 10 9 5

EAST

♠ Q 8 6 5 3
♥ 8 6 5
♦ Q 8 7 3
♣ 4

SOUTH

♠ K 10 9
♥ A K 3
♦ 10 5
♣ A J 8 7 3

South 1NT	West Pass	North 2♣	East Pass
2♦	Pass	3NT	All 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

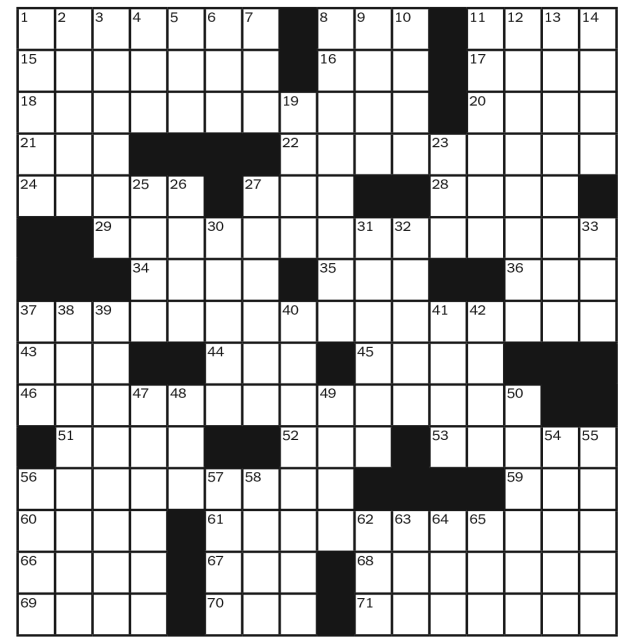
No. 0112

ACROSS

- 1 Fungus-filled, maybe
8 E.R. V.I.P.s
11 "___ homo"
15 "Insecure" actress
16 Alley ___ (flashy basketball play)
17 Cowboy's pal
18 Hard deposit in a bladder
20 Bone-dry
21 Dine
22 Queen's realm?
24 They aren't what they appear to be
27 Boxer's cry
28 Base on balls
29 Legislation often resulting from compromise
34 Placid
35 Norm: Abbr.
36 Word in an alumnae directory, maybe

DOWN

- 7 Disreputable newspaper
71 Jane Pauley and Rachel Maddow
1 Hard lemonade brand
2 Thomas in the Basketball Hall of Fame
3 Paper you take to go on a trip?
4 "Dapper" guy
5 "Able was I ___ I saw Elba"
6 "No ___!" (or its response)
7 "Without question"
8 Ocean dweller so named for its roundish, silvery body
9 Terse caution
10 Building detail
11 Govt. testing site for air and water quality
12 Area between Virginia and Georgia
13 Small creases, as in foil
14 Small whirlpool
19 Causing the lips to pucker
23 The "O" of B.Y.O.B.
25 They get dropped for emphasis
26 Tiff
27 Under ___ (brand of athletic wear)
30 Greeting in Honolulu



PUZZLE BY ROSS TRUDEAU

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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MCRIB DRIP SCAM
ELISA IAGO CASA
SAFER WRAPPARTY
ANTENNAE TUNDRA
OYL MAT ION
CUBANCIGARS
UNTI EMT DOGS
STEM IOTAS AMAL
SONS SEA AMNIO
CLUBHOPPING
MIA OAF ARE
INTERN FLAXSEED
SUBREDDIT ACUTE
TSAR EYRE MORAL
SETS REED STOLI

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- 31 Like the sky on cloudless nights
32 Do some improv
33 "___ Miz"
37 Number one, as on a chart
38 Complained about ad nauseum
39 "Should have listened to me!"
40 Accepting that one can't do better
41 "Wow, that's 2 funny!"
- 42 Little kiss
47 Expeditions by knights
48 ___ Intrepid (N.Y.C. carrier museum)
49 Gaelic language
50 Protests during an anthem, say
54 "... but I could be wrong"
55 Bulb units
56 Córdoba : Nicaragua :: ___ : Cuba
- 57 Transport up a bunny slope
58 Maisie Williams's role on "Game of Thrones"
62 In good physical shape
63 V.J. employer, once
64 ___ Kosh B'gosh
65 Iconic Andy Warhol subject

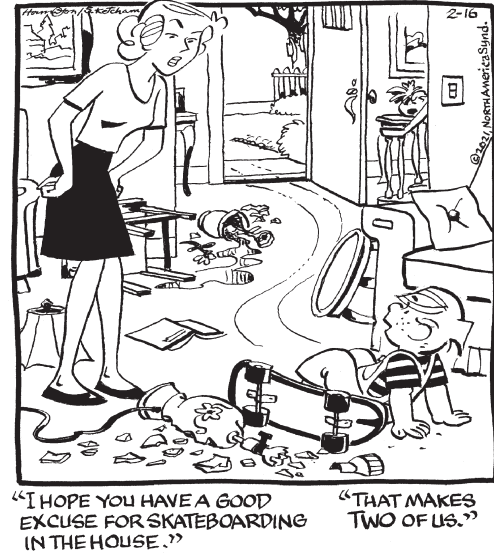
Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 7,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords (\$39.95 a year).

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.

CNIEM
TMSPO
LYOCIP
MELRIB

THEY TRIED TO BE AS EFFICIENT AS POSSIBLE AT THE CLOCK FACTORY BECAUSE ---

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

Yesterday's Jumbles: GIANT THINK SPRAIN KITTFEN
Answer: Eric Gugler's 1933 Oval Office redesign was underway and things were — TAKING SHAPE

CANDORVILLE



WUMO



ZITS



Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- ACROSS
1 Tripoli's country
6 College grad
10 Kill, as a dragon
14 Thorny plant
15 Latina toon explorer
16 Scrabble piece
17 If Nicholson sang, danced and acted, he might be called ___
20 GQ or Cosmo
21 Photographed
22 Inhumane
27 Salty drops
31 Big game in PCs
32 ___ pork: Chinese dish with pancakes
35 "High" afternoon meal
36 Forbidden
38 Series of missed calls
40 If Robinson left En Vogue to sing in Jerry Garcia's group, she might be called ___
43 Dog food seller
44 Crop up
46 Soul, to Sartre
47 Polar parka
50 Passionate about
51 Winona of "Stranger Things"
53 Brings good luck to
55 Taunt
58 Drone or worker
59 If Tomlin came from San Fernando, she might be called ___
67 Trim, as a photo
68 Dry forecast
69 Religious doctrine
70 Credit card balance, say
71 Benchmarks: Abbr.
72 Jerk or twitch
- 7 Cyberchortle
8 Web addresses
9 Subject with numbers
10 Georgia or Washington
11 Pot cover
12 It may be blonde or pale
13 "Roundabout" rockers with a positive name
18 Word before hand or land
19 Capitol feature
22 Cave hanger
23 Plato's school, with "the"
24 Paid back, as a purchase incentive
25 Tweezer targets
26 Whirlybirds
28 Realizes, as a goal
29 Entertains with a bedtime story
30 Give in to gravity
33 Recital rebuke
34 Flower bed tool
37 Province on four Great Lakes
39 Spooky
41 Bass ending
- 42 Pendulum direction?
43 Links standard
45 Seemingly forever
48 Orange-yellow gemstones
49 Ukraine's capital
52 The Nile runs through it
54 Detectives' aids
56 Bosom buds, in texts
- 57 Nouveau-Mexique, par exemple
59 TV screen type
60 Fury
61 Easy throw
62 Laid low
63 Cut (off)
64 JFK alternative
65 Maximum borders?
66 Off-candied veggie

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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SASIS OWAR PASSS
ALOE LOBE ACTOF
PINC HGRIPI PERIL
LEAST MATURE
OCCUR HONE ICEE
SAID LIFTT TICKET
SITEMAP HBO
ONEDAY ANSWER
REF RLISTINE
POCKETDIAL ADDS
ERIE TANG BREST
ACCEDATEAT
SHAPE SWIPELEFT
EIDER TAMP ELBA
DARN DYES SKID

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02/16/21

SUDOKU

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

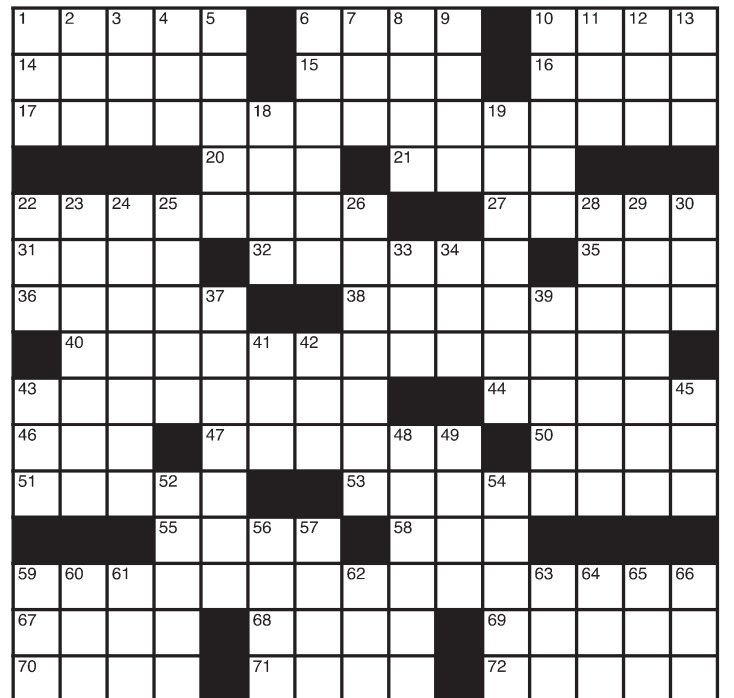
SOLUTION TO PREVIOUS SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

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DOWN

- 1 JFK's successor
2 Nest egg initials
3 Flickable lighter
4 Go on and on
5 Kitchen allure
6 Samuel Barber's ___ for Strings

By Pawel Fludzinski and John Witzke
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