

Wednesday, February 17, 2021

Daily Bridge Club

Percentage play

By FRANK STEWART
Tribune Content Agency

"There are 130,000 baseball diamonds in the U.S. (but that's just a ballpark figure)." — graffiti

You need not be a math whiz to play bridge, but a basic knowledge of percentages is helpful. At today's slam, South won the first heart in dummy and led a club to his jack. If the finesse had won, he could have played safe in trumps by leading a diamond to dummy and returning a trump, planning to put in the ten if East played the nine. But West had the king of clubs and also got his king of trumps. Down one.

and he bids two clubs. What do you say?

ANSWER: One option is to jump to four clubs (forcing, since a raise to three would be invitational) and let your partner make a slam move if he wishes. My choice would be a "fourth-suit" bid of two hearts, asking partner to continue describing his hand. I would drive this hand to slam if he offers any encouragement.

North dealer
N-S vulnerable

NORTH
♠ Q754
♥ K74
♦ AQJ
♣ Q87

WEST
♠ K9
♥ Q952
♦ 542
♣ K653

EAST
♠ J
♥ J863
♦ 1098763
♣ 102

SOUTH
♠ A108632
♥ A10
♦ K
♣ AJ94

North 1♣ East Pass South 1♠ West Pass
2♣ 6♠ All Pass

Opening lead — ♠2

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BETTER PLAY

South's play would work if East had the king of clubs or if either defender had the singleton king of trumps: 63 percent. Was there a better percentage play?

South can win the first heart with the ace and cash the ace of trumps. He takes the king of hearts, ruffs dummy's last heart and cashes three diamonds for club discards. South then leads a trump, and when West wins, he is end-played. This play wins when South's play does (unless East has all three missing trumps), plus when West has K-x of trumps.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠ A 10 8 6 3 2 ♥ A 10 ♦ K ♣ A J 9 4. Your partner opens one diamond, you respond one spade

SEEKING A FRIENDLY DUPLICATE BRIDGE?

Find five games weekly online at bendbridge.org

The New York Times Crossword

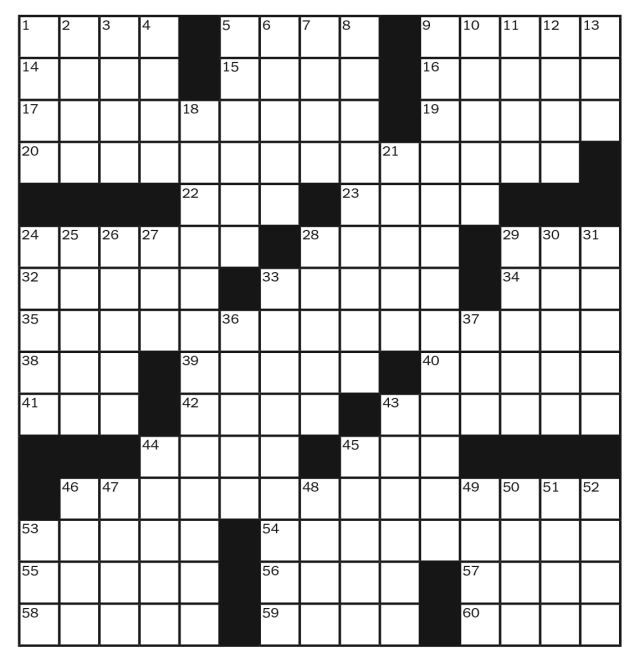
Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0113

- ACROSS**
- 1 Fair
 - 5 Mary Lincoln's maiden name
 - 9 Some drought-resistant plants
 - 14 James of jazz
 - 15 Leader in a kaffiyeh
 - 16 Two- or four-seater, maybe?
 - 17 "Smile!"
 - 19 Like tomes, typically
 - 20 Address by a Sacramento N.B.A. player?
 - 22 Padre's hermana
 - 23 Expansive septet
 - 24 Make bubbly
 - 28 Hibernation stations
 - 29 Concern of the Citizens United decision, for short
 - 32 Sharp-shooting Curry
 - 33 Mass ____
 - 34 Around 16 mg of niacin, e.g.
 - 35 Game notes for a New Orleans N.B.A. player?
 - 38 Officiate, informally
 - 39 :) :)
 - 40 "I give!"
 - 41 Surgery sites, for short
 - 42 Things that sometimes clash in orchestras?
 - 43 Amounts at risk
 - 44 Top ____
 - 45 Variety show segment
 - 46 Charlotte N.B.A. player in charge of recycling?
 - 53 "Oof, that was bad"
 - 54 Gutter attachment
 - 55 Write an ode about, perhaps
 - 56 Wetlands denizen
 - 57 TV show that launched more than 200 songs onto the Billboard Hot 100
 - 58 Work of cartography
 - 59 Tree house?
 - 60 Appear
- DOWN**
- 1 Not be serious
 - 2 Home of the Anasazi State Park Museum
 - 3 Ocular woe
 - 4 Add (on)
 - 5 ____-weenie
 - 6 Rolex rival
 - 7 Put-down
 - 8 Impersonating, in a way
 - 9 Totally adorable
 - 10 Grateful?
 - 11 Trendy
 - 12 Silicon Valley specialty, familiarly
 - 13 Get to
 - 18 Make an effort to get swole
 - 21 Corral
 - 24 ____ Blaster (classic arcade game)
 - 25 Thin air

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

M	I	L	D	E	W	E	Y	M	D	S	E	C	E		
I	S	S	A	R	A	E	O	O	P	P	A	R	D		
K	I	D	N	E	Y	S	T	O	N	E	A	R	I	D	
E	A	T	A	N	T	C	O	L	O	N	Y				
S	H	A	M	S	A	R	F	W	A	L	K				
B	I	P	A	R	T	I	S	A	N	B	I	L	L		
C	A	L	M	S	T	D	N	E	E						
T	H	I	S	T	O	O	S	H	A	L	L	P	A	S	S
O	A	T	H	U	E	R	I	M	E						
P	R	O	Q	U	A	R	T	E	R	B	A	C	K		
P	L	U	S	T	R	Y	O	K	N	O	W				
P	E	D	E	S	T	A	L	S	E	R	A				
E	D	Y	S	B	R	I	E	F	M	O	M	E	N	T	
S	O	O	T	A	Y	N	I	T	S	A	L	O	T		
O	N	U	S	R	A	G	T	V	H	O	S	T	S		



PUZZLE BY MATTHEW STOCK

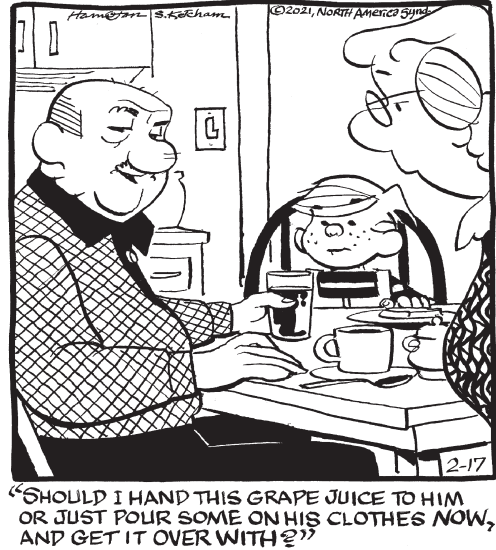
- 26 Some barriers to entry in the shipping business?
- 27 Candy Crush or Angry Birds
- 28 Places for aces
- 29 Pierce slightly
- 30 Best-selling musical artist whose album titles represent ages
- 31 Sights along Paris's Champs-Élysées
- 33 Studied secondarily
- 36 Hybrid feline
- 37 Messenger molecule
- 43 Coarse-grained rock that splits easily
- 44 Car company founded in 2003
- 45 Writer Nin
- 46 Bit of typing by someone who's all thumbs?
- 47 Recover
- 48 Flavorers in Italian cookery
- 49 Dungeons & Dragons and others, for short
- 50 4,100+ mile river that drains 11 countries
- 51 One-on-one Olympic event
- 52 Overflow (with)
- 53 "Up" vote

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.

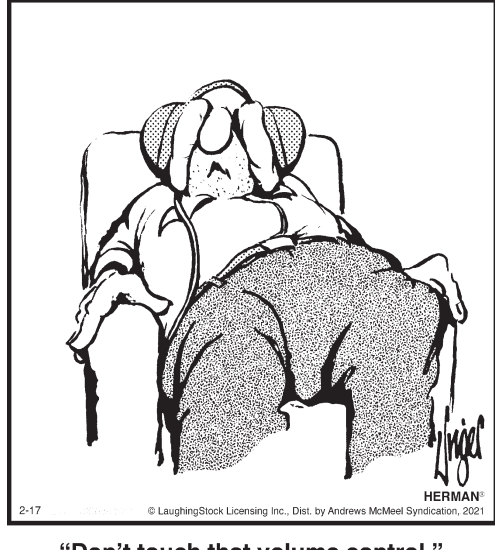
BIZARRO



DENNIS THE MENACE



HERMAN



JUMBLE

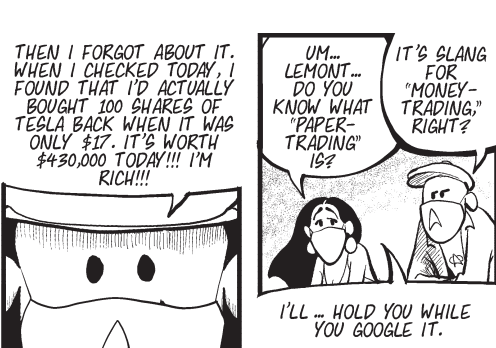
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NYHEO
LEWDL
GNAAEM
RHAWTT

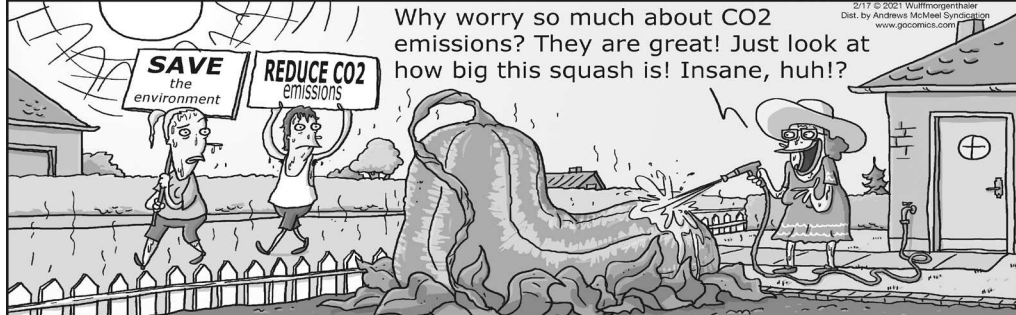
Answer here: _____

Yesterday's Jumbles: MINCE STOMP POLICY LIMBER
Answer: They tried to be as efficient as possible at the clock factory because — TIME IS MONEY

CANDORVILLE



WUMO



ZITS



SUDOKU

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

SOLUTION TO PREVIOUS SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

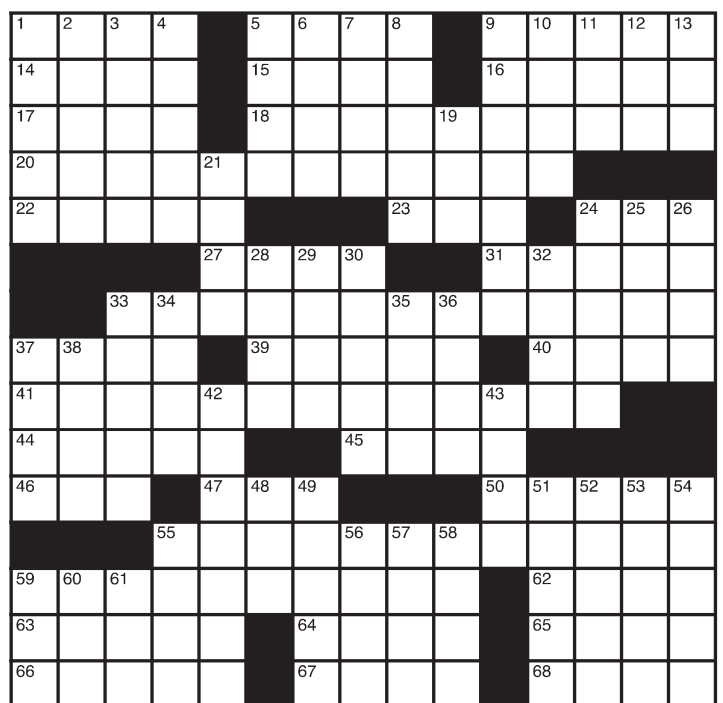
Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- ACROSS**
- 1 "___ All That": 1999 movie
 - 5 Diver's gear
 - 9 "Fancy seeing you here!"
 - 14 Hoof it on a bad knee, say
 - 15 Ecstatic internet shout
 - 16 Driver's choice
 - 17 Oberlin's state
 - 18 "We tried, but this won't work"
 - 20 Give up on
 - 22 Superman's makeup?
 - 23 Fashion plate
 - 24 Kerfuffle
 - 27 Construction girder
 - 31 Dubuque denizen
 - 33 Serve as a reminder
 - 37 Mic ____: triumphant move
 - 39 Finnish company that created Angry Birds
 - 40 James Patterson hero ____ Cross
 - 41 Do an accountant's job
 - 44 Cheapen
 - 45 Subtle summons
 - 46 Run-of-the-mill
 - 47 Nonsense
 - 50 Yellowfins, e.g.
 - 55 Write briefly and quickly
 - 59 Cause of a crash
 - 62 Family ____
 - 63 Cup or star
 - 64 Emerald City princess
 - 65 "Haven't decided yet"
 - 66 Uses WhatsApp, say
 - 67 Eject
 - 68 Tibetan title
 - 7 Meddlesome
 - 8 Nonsense companion?
 - 9 Black-and-white dessert
 - 10 Ian who plays Bilbo Baggins
 - 11 It might be adjusted in Photoshop
 - 12 Kang and Kodos, on "The Simpsons"
 - 13 "Affirmative"
 - 19 Sellout letters
 - 21 Sacha Baron Cohen alter ego
 - 24 Mil. truants
 - 25 "You wouldn't ___!"
 - 26 Black gemstone used to make beads
 - 28 Snooze inducer
 - 29 Auth. unknown
 - 30 Gun
 - 32 Actor Epps
 - 33 Fish story notable
 - 34 Backs (out)
 - 35 Popular video game series, with "The"
 - 36 Unruly groups
 - 37 Scot's Scotch order
 - 38 Yahoo
 - 42 Foreshadows
 - 43 R&B great James
 - 48 Ending with malt
 - 49 Ache
 - 51 "___ we meet again"
 - 52 Fashionista Kamali
 - 53 Likely roster for the big game
 - 54 "I'm outta here"
 - 55 Bar fier
 - 56 Rice-shaped pasta used in salads
 - 57 Acronymic anxiety about being excluded from the fun
 - 58 Group with pledges
 - 59 The 1% in 1% milk
 - 60 Flabbergast
 - 61 Sales ____

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

L	I	B	Y	A		A	L	U	M		S	L	A	Y			
B	R	I	A	R		D	O	R	A		T	I	L	E			
J	A	C	K	O	F	A	L	L	T	R	A	D	E	S			
					M	A	G			S	H	O	T				
B	A	R	B	A	R	I	C		T	E	A	R	S				
A	C	E	R		M	O	O	S	H	U	T	E	A				
T	A	B	O		P	H	O	N	E	T	A	G					
					D	A	W	N	O	F	T	H	E	D	E	A	D
P	E	T	S	T	O	R	E		A	R	I	S	E				
A	M	E		A	N	O	R	A	K		I	N	T	O			
R	Y	D	E	R		S	M	I	L	E	S	O	N				
							G	I	B	E		B	E	E			
L	I	L	I	O	F	T	H	E	V	A	L	L	E	Y			
C	R	O	P		F	A	I	R		D	O	G	M	A			
D	E	B	T		S	T	D	S		S	P	A	S	M			

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By Julian Lim
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- DOWN**
- 1 Slackens the pace
 - 2 Drum kit item with a pedal
 - 3 "Into the Wild" star Hirsch
 - 4 Took the mic
 - 5 "Just saying," in 66-Across
 - 6 Kappa preceder