

Saturday, February 20, 2021

Daily Bridge Club

Simple Saturday

By FRANK STEWART
Tribune Content Agency

"Simple Saturday" columns are meant to improve basic technique and develop logical thinking.

To do well at bridge, you must know the techniques of bidding and play, but technique won't help if you're thinking about where to go for dinner.

Today's West led a low diamond against 3NT, and East won with the ace and led the queen ... winning. South won a spade shift and forced out the ace of clubs. After West took his king of diamonds, South claimed. Making three.

spade. The opponents pass. What do you say?

ANSWER: You have two reasonable options. One is to rebid two clubs. That bid suggests six or more clubs, but your strong five-carder will suffice. The other option (my choice) is to bid 1NT, showing a minimum balanced hand. You must not bid two hearts, which would be a strength-showing "reverse" and might get you too high.

North dealer
N-S vulnerable

DOWN ONE

West lost focus. He missed dummy's 9-8 of diamonds. West can overtake East's queen with the king, lead the ten to force out South's jack, and cash two diamonds when he takes the ace of clubs. That defense could not give South a ninth trick; since South had not responded in a major suit, he had at most seven major-suit tricks to cash.

South probably had J-x-x-x in diamonds for his bid of 2NT. Moreover, if East had A-Q-x, he might have played the queen at Trick One.

Focus is 50 percent of success.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠ A 8 ♥ K 9 8 7 ♦ 9 8 ♣ K Q 10 9 8. You open one club, and your partner responds one

NORTH
♠ A 8
♥ K 9 8 7
♦ 9 8
♣ K Q 10 9 8

WEST
♠ 5 4 3
♥ 6 5 4
♦ K 10 7 5 4
♣ A 3

EAST
♠ J 10 9 7 2
♥ 10 3 2
♦ A Q
♣ 5 4 2

SOUTH
♠ K Q 6
♥ A Q J
♦ J 6 3 2
♣ J 7 6

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

Opening lead — ♦ 5

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SEEKING A FRIENDLY DUPLICATE BRIDGE?

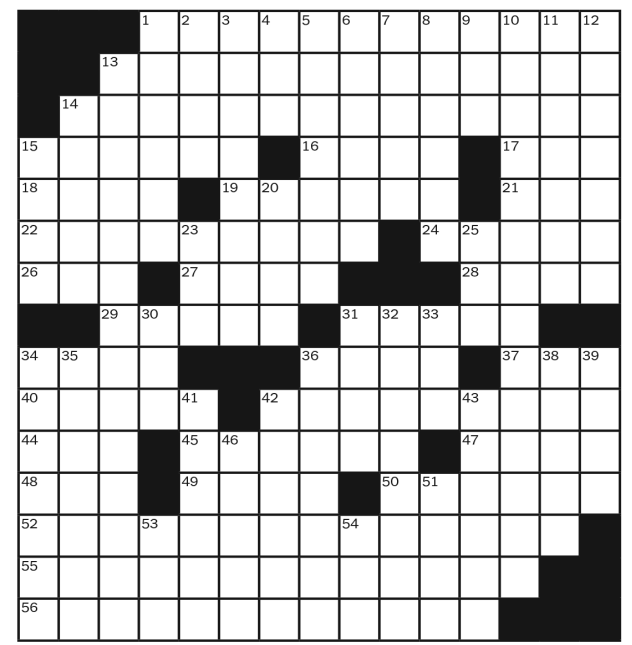
Find five games weekly online at bendbridge.org

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0116

- ACROSS
1 Be in charge ... as a doctor?
13 Remains to be seen, say
14 "Sheesh, just move on!"
15 One of the knights of the Round Table
16 Con ___ (musical direction)
17 Lead-in to some water-dwelling "folk"
18 Car loan nos.
19 How Superman often poses
21 Galoot
22 Small hybrid instrument with six strings
24 Layperson?
26 Where you may be waited on hand and foot?
27 Make tracks
28 "Where are your manners!"
29 Player of Julia in "Julie & Julia"
31 Walk all over the place
34 2008 horror film sequel
36 What frozen foods may do in paper grocery bags
37 "Arthur" airer
40 Visibly dizzy, quaintly
42 One might have a photographic memory
44 Strengthening crosspiece
45 Disassociate, as with a Bluetooth device
47 Bears: Lat.
48 D.O.J. V.I.P.s
49 Bass organ
50 Pennsylvania city where the Delaware and Lehigh Rivers meet
52 World Series opener
55 Command to stop saluting
56 Savory snack in England



PUZZLE BY SAM EZERSKY

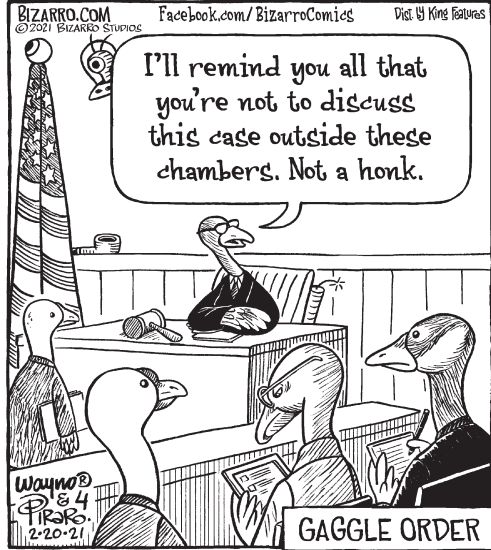
- DOWN
1 Something absolutely adorable, with "the"
2 "___ happens ..."
3 Bad way to be poisoned
4 Galoot
5 So-called "America's Network"
6 "Get what I'm saying?"
7 Like a deaccessioned book, for short
8 Slangy psychedelic
9 Make tracks, quaintly
10 One with a "Yes we can" attitude
11 It was once a challenge to eat
12 Compound found in latex
13 Company at which business always comes before pleasure?
14 Drink from a bowl, maybe
15 Jokes
16 It's below belowdecks
23 What one of the Olympic rings represents: Abbr.
25 Word before or after strong
30 Predate?
31 Polo of TV's "The Fosters"
32 Cans
33 Twitch or Yelp
34 River that begins in the Adirondacks
35 Comment that prompts the reply "Doitashimashite"
36 Bouillabaisse tidbit
38 Chest
39 It's got you covered
41 Actor profiled in the biography "The Immortal Count"
42 Sensational coverage
43 Historic town NW of London where some of the Harry Potter series was filmed
46 Wild cards in "baseball" poker
51 Working hard
53 Man's name that's also a suffix
54 ___ vapour (steamed)

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

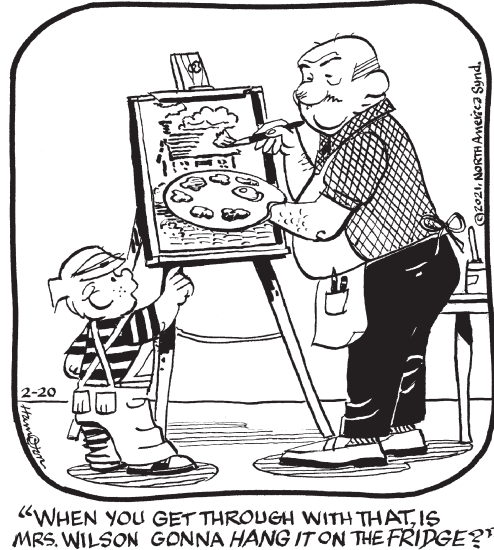


Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 7,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords (\$39.95 a year). Read about and comment on each puzzle: nytimes.com/wordplay.

BIZARRO



DENNIS THE MENACE



HERMAN



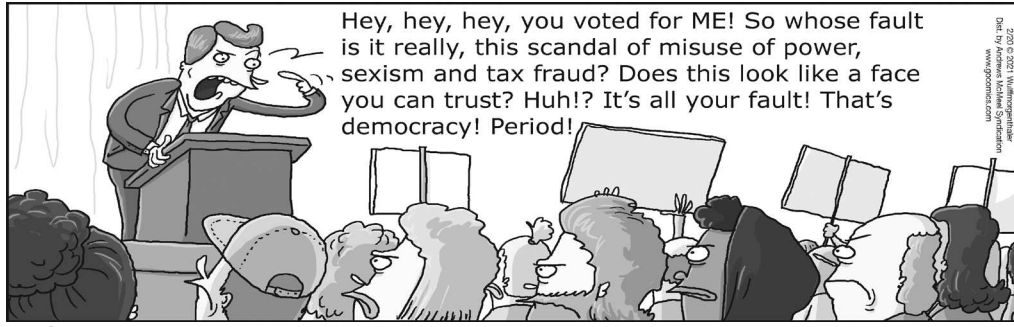
JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.
VANLA
VILDI
TRAEHG
EATORT
Answers: VANILLA, VILDS, TRAHEG, EATORT

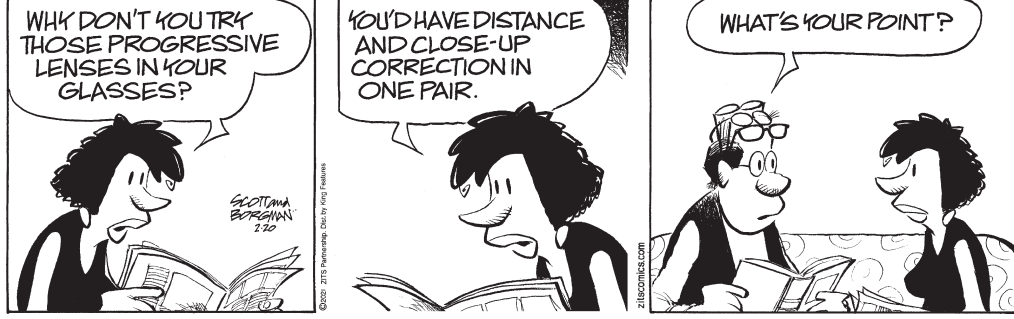
CANDORVILLE



WUMO



ZITS

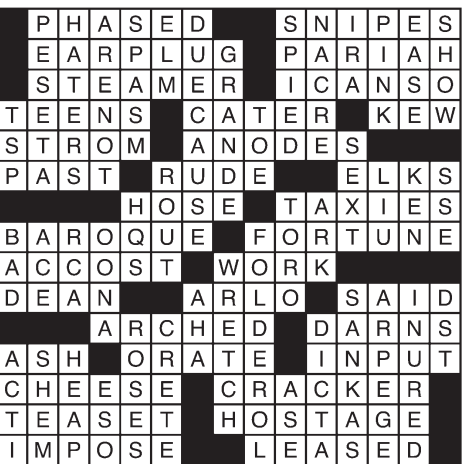


Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- ACROSS
1 "Can't someone else?"
10 Floor
15 Mozart's mother
16 Dressing extreme?
17 Comebacks
18 See 43-Across
19 Set to assemble
20 Best Actress between Hilary and Helen
21 Franklin's bill
22 Inferior
24 Unwanted information, usually
26 Small sewing case
27 Cantore in a storm
30 Member of the first class of World Golf Hall of Fame inductees, 1974
31 Retreated
34 "Voilà!"
37 Expression of mock sympathy
40 Involuntary contraction
43 Genre full of 18-Across
44 Part of an drame
45 Forms a union?
47 More than just talk
48 Single out
49 Appear by surprise
53 Ring site
54 Rushed toward
55 "Either or"
57 Rough
58 "... quaint and curious volume of ___ lore": Poe
59 Really excited
60 Democracy concern
6 "Our ___ is loss, our hope but sad despair": "Henry VI, Part III"
5 Subject of Dante's "La Vita Nuova"
6 Weather ___
7 Gaelic tongue
8 Plastic bag accessories
9 Hot spots' hot spots?
10 Amazon threats
11 Mouse first voiced by Walt Disney
12 Namibia neighbor
13 Prepped, as case
14 Perfume compound
23 Follower of Nanak
25 Unreal
27 Fed chair Powell
28 Graphic intro?
29 "I'll get back to you"
32 Vacationer's need, maybe
33 Good earth
35 One may be heard on safari
36 Get out of hand in a hurry
38 Dresses
39 Becomes more complicated
40 Word on a Monopoly corner square
41 Asset protection plan, briefly
42 Place to play
45 Branded wares, informally
46 Spruce (up)
47 Triumphant
50 Wrinkled-nose cause
51 Study intently, with "over"
52 "Picnic" Pulitzer Prize winner
56 NBA position

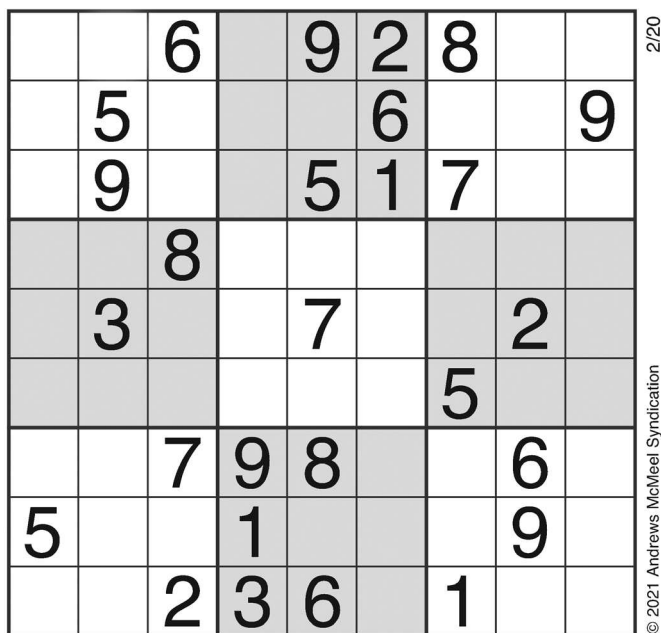
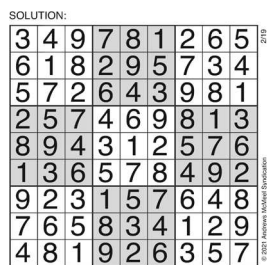
ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:



SUDOKU

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

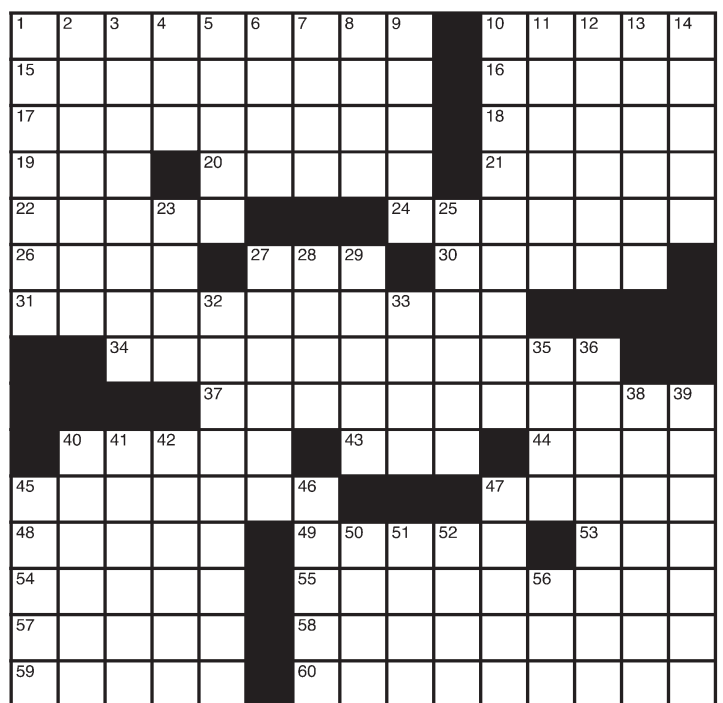
SOLUTION TO PREVIOUS SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★★

DOWN

- 1 Limited-access internet area
2 The least bit
3 Show how



By Craig Stowe
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