

Thursday, March 4, 2021

Daily Bridge Club

Good technique

By FRANK STEWART
Tribune Content Agency

Unlucky Louie's youngest daughter had started kindergarten. "I asked her what she learned on the first day," Louie told me. "She said, 'Not much, I guess. We have to go back again tomorrow.'"

Part of proficiency at bridge is learning the many techniques of play. Against today's 3NT, West leads the seven of spades: three, nine, king. South expects that West has the A-J, so South must set up nine tricks without letting East gain the lead.

FINESSE

The actual South knew about "avoidance" technique, so he finessed in diamonds through East: South led a heart to dummy and returned a diamond to his jack.

The finesse won, but when South took the ace next, West threw a heart. South could win only eight tricks — three diamonds, three hearts, a club and a spade — before East got in.

South should lead dummy's ten of diamonds at Trick Three, planning to let it ride. If East's queen covers, South takes the ace, returns a heart to dummy and leads a second diamond to his eight.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠ 6 3 ♥ K Q J
♦ K 10 5 3 2 ♣ A 6 4. You open one diamond, and your partner responds

one heart. What do you say?

ANSWER: No call is ideal, but you must do something; your partner is an unpassed hand, and his response in a new suit is forcing. To bid 1NT with worthless spades or rebid the mangy diamonds is unattractive. Raise to two hearts. If your hand looks suitable, be willing to raise a major-suit response with decent three-card support.

North dealer
Neither side vulnerable

NORTH

♠ 6 3
♥ K Q J
♦ K 10 5 3 2
♣ A 6 4

WEST

♠ A J 8 7 4
♥ 9 5 4 2
♦ 6
♣ Q 10 8

EAST

♠ 10 9 5
♥ 8 7 3
♦ Q 9 7 4
♣ K 7 2

SOUTH

♠ K Q 2
♥ A 10 6
♦ A J 8
♣ J 9 5 3

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

Opening lead — ♠ 7

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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. 0128

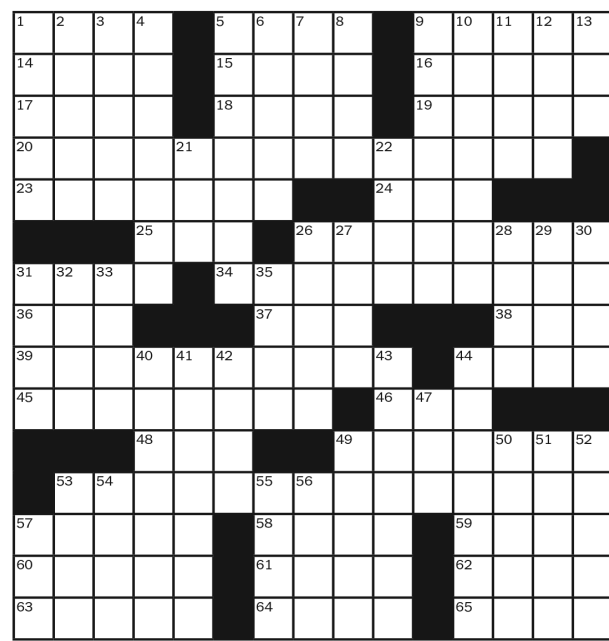
ACROSS

- 1 Singer Del Rey
- 5 Giant walking combat vehicle in "Star Wars" films
- 9 Stuffs
- 14 Not just occasionally
- 15 Blue shade
- 16 Without backup
- 17 Poppycock
- 18 Release, as a song, in modern lingo
- 19 "OK, you win"
- 20 Something directly following a penultimate position — that is to say, diametrically opposed to a primary one
- 23 Gracefully send away
- 24 Passing comment?
- 25 Girl group with the 1999 #1 album "FanMail"
- 26 90s, say
- 31 Lie in the sun
- 34 Like a n oven
- 36 Demographic figure
- 37 "Bullet" in a food fight
- 38 Female kangaroo
- 39 Golden blades that may be tenderly chew'd by equine or bovine beings
- 44 None of it is good, as the saying goes
- 45 One committing insurance fraud, maybe
- 46 Prospector's find
- 48 ___ Halles (central food market in Paris, once)
- 49 It may end with a reality check

- 53 The cat's meow, baby. Dig?
- 57 Follower of pigs or cows
- 58 Be plentiful
- 59 In perpetuity
- 60 Country sound
- 61 Black-and-white swimmer
- 62 Name meaning "born again"
- 63 Shipment
- 64 Actor Damon
- 65 Till section

DOWN

- 1 Drink from a machine
- 2 Colorful kind of shirt
- 3 Common congestion points
- 4 Figure skater, for one
- 5 With more of the same sort
- 6 Donna ___, 2014 Pulitzer winner for "The Goldfinch"
- 7 Confess openly
- 8 Mistake, of a sort?
- 9 Agreed to tie the knot
- 10 North African capital
- 11 Work
- 12 "That most odious and antisocial of all passions": John Stuart Mill
- 13 Date
- 21 Pioneering I.S.P.
- 22 Four-star



PUZZLE BY STEVE MOSSBERG

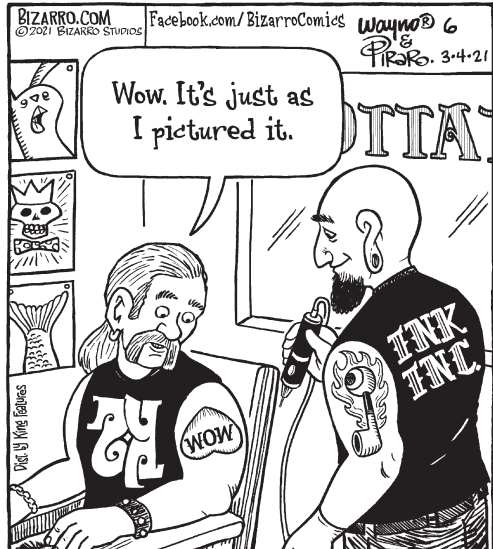
- 26 Wiped out
- 27 Human rights lawyer Clooney
- 28 Number two
- 29 What crystal jellies do when disturbed
- 30 Views
- 31 ___ Men (one-hit wonder group of 2000)
- 32 Food thickener
- 33 Janitor's janglers
- 35 Decides
- 40 Not doing a darn thing
- 41 Cry toward the end of a list
- 42 Source of some omega-3s
- 43 It may be rolled out for exercise
- 44 Competitor of 21-Down
- 47 Cartoonist Chast
- 49 Tape recorder button
- 50 Torn asunder
- 51 TV producer Chaiken
- 52 Funerary burners
- 53 Classic name in audio equipment
- 54 Shakespeare character who says "How sharper than a serpent's tooth it is / To have a thankless child!"
- 55 Model in a science classroom
- 56 Computing prefix
- 57 Alternative to an ellipsis

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.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



BIZARRO



DENNIS THE MENACE



HERMAN



JUMBLE

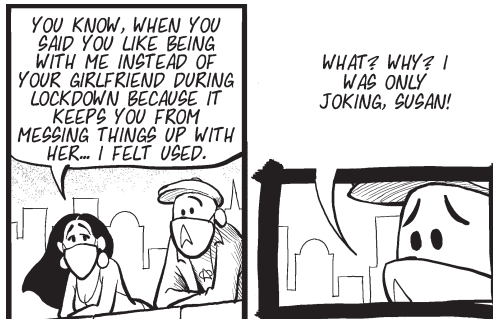
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DJEUQ
TRBHE
DMELOU
SCCUTA

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

Yesterday's Jumbles: GIVEN MERGE FREELY BESIDE
Answer: The lawyers who had faith that teaming up would result in success were — FIRM BELIEVERS

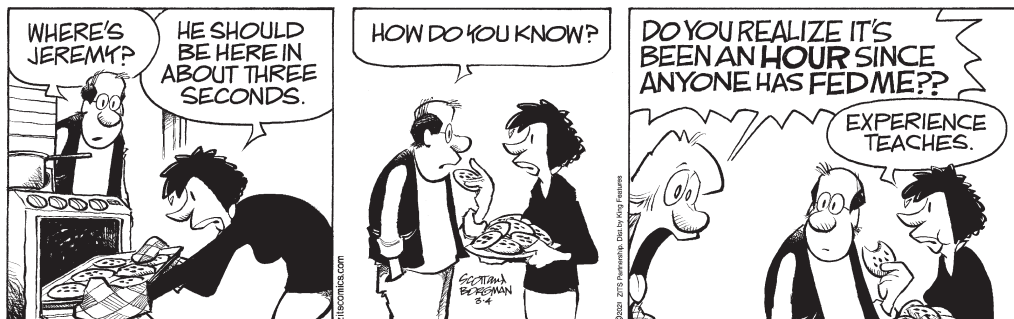
CANDORVILLE



WUMO



ZITS

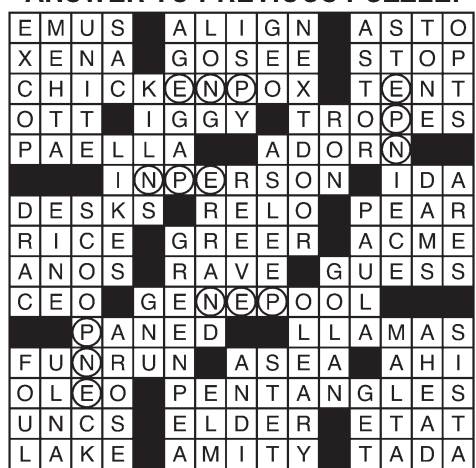


Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- ACROSS
- 1 Logo of The Hartford
- 5 Less noble
- 10 Pueblo people
- 14 Thick book
- 15 Amazon assistant
- 16 Spoonbill kin
- 17 Circuitous
- 19 Daily vitamin, e.g.
- 20 Puzzled
- 21 Some German imports
- 23 PreCheck org.
- 24 Plump
- 26 Unfilled, as a schedule slot
- 28 Many MIT grads
- 29 Roleo surface
- 31 "Expand on that," in improv comedy
- 32 LummoX
- 35 Quite a stretch
- 36 No-frills card game
- 40 Emperor after Galba
- 41 State bordering Arizona
- 42 Like a quarter's edge
- 45 Podcast interruptions
- 46 "LOTR" menace
- 49 Short nightgown
- 52 Turin title
- 54 "___ have what she's having"; quip from "When Harry Met Sally..."
- 55 Super sexy
- 57 "I'll pass"
- 58 "On the double!"
- 60 In person ... and like 17-, 26-, 36- and 49-Across?
- 62 "Howdy ... you just get here?"
- 63 "Looking 4 Myself" R&B singer
- 64 Each
- 65 Wall St. index
- 66 Fresh
- 67 ___ Martin Cognac
- DOWN
- 1 Attack from above
- 2 Mosey
- 3 Tickle
- 4 Parental units?
- 5 Ewes do it
- 6 "L.A.'s Finest" actress Jessica
- 7 Gangnam District city
- 8 Ooze with
- 9 Formally approve
- 10 Trendy
- 11 Where to find departure info?
- 12 Beer named for a Czech city
- 13 Christmas and Easter
- 18 Mexico's national flower
- 22 Office address abbr.
- 25 "You can observe a lot by watching" speaker
- 27 2020 US Open winner Naomi
- 30 Pranks
- 32 "The Pianist" Oscar winner
- 33 Beef broth soup
- 34 Italian volcano
- 36 Like ninjas
- 37 Ennui
- 38 Sci-fi vehicles
- 39 "Twelfth Night" duke
- 40 "Only the Lonely" crooner
- 43 Slate slate, briefly
- 44 Inept one
- 46 Saved, in a way
- 47 Hallmark Channel fare
- 48 Goosebumps-inducing
- 50 Potala Palace city
- 51 Scottish vacation sites
- 53 Accomplish much
- 56 Golf course areas
- 59 Draw
- 61 Sample

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:



03/04/21

SUDOKU

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

SOLUTION TO PREVIOUS SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

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