

Friday, March 19, 2021

Daily Bridge Club

Cy's partner problems

By FRANK STEWART
Tribune Content Agency

Cy the Cynic's social life — he usually dates at least three women a week — had hit a rocky patch, so Cy sent his profile and photo to a local lonely hearts club. "Did they respond?" I asked him. "They returned my photo," the Cynic growled. "They said they weren't that lonely." Cy also has trouble keeping partners; all it takes to keep him happy is perfection. When Cy was today's West in a penny game, he led a heart against five clubs, and East took the king and ace and led the jack of diamonds.

he bids one spade. What do you say? **ANSWER:** Your hand has enough strength to invite game but not quite enough to force, especially if your partner believes in opening lightish distributional hands. Bid 2NT, suggesting 11 or 12 points, balanced pattern and a trick in the unbid suit. If your partner doesn't bid again, you may be where you belong. South dealer E-W vulnerable

NORTH
♠ A Q 8 4 3 2
♥ Q 4
♦ 9 5
♣ 8 7 2

WEST
♠ J 10 7
♥ 10 8 7 3 2
♦ 8 7 3 2
♣ 10

EAST
♠ K 9 6
♥ A K 6 5
♦ J 4
♣ J 5 4 3

SOUTH
♠ 5
♥ J 9
♦ A K Q 10 6
♣ A K Q 9 6

South	West	North	East
1♣	Pass	1♠	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	5♣	All Pass

Opening lead — ♥3

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MAKING FIVE

Declarer won and cashed the A-K of trumps. When Cy showed out, South got to dummy with the ace of spades, led a trump to his nine and took the rest. Making five.

"I'm getting too old to play this game alone," Cy muttered.

The bidding marks South with at least 10 minor-suit cards. His pattern is probably 1-2-5-5. To protect his trump holding, East must lead a spade at Trick Three. He removes South's only dummy entry before South learns about the trump position.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠K96 ♥AK65 ♦J4 ♣J543. Your partner opens one diamond, you respond one heart and

SEEKING A FRIENDLY DUPLICATE BRIDGE?

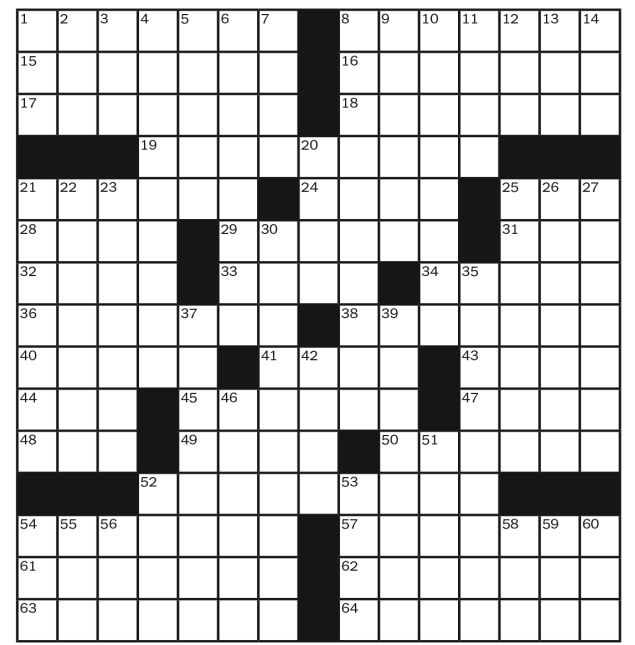
Find five games weekly online at bendbridge.org

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0212

- ACROSS**
- 1 Star Bucks, say?
 - 8 Trap
 - 15 Gal Gadot, by birth
 - 16 Major retail outlets
 - 17 A famous one is often connected with a school
 - 18 True celeb
 - 19 It's always up to something
 - 21 Let someone know if you can go
 - 24 "___ be in England ..."
 - 25 Sister channel of HGTV
 - 28 Carrier for many a 15-Across
 - 29 Influenced
 - 31 Follower of boo or woo
 - 32 Company whose most famous product once claimed it "does what Nintendo'n't"
 - 33 Fail miserably
 - 34 Melon seeds?
 - 36 One of the few gemstones that naturally occur in a single color (olive green)
 - 38 Goes past
 - 40 Russian prince nicknamed "Moneybag"
 - 41 It may be added to the mix
 - 43 Trick
 - 44 Sum of the first three prime numbers
 - 45 Beast vanquished by Oedipus
 - 47 Bath occupant, say
 - 48 Record finish?
 - 49 Cope, with "it"
 - 50 Semisynthetic fabrics
 - 52 "You can figure it out"
 - 54 Dangerous compound to mix with bleach
 - 57 Postdelivery announcement, maybe
 - 61 Italian dessert topped with crumbled macaroons
 - 62 It flows with the wind
 - 63 One who's out of action?
 - 64 Player of Warren Buffett in "Too Big to Fail"



PUZZLE BY GRANT THACKRAY

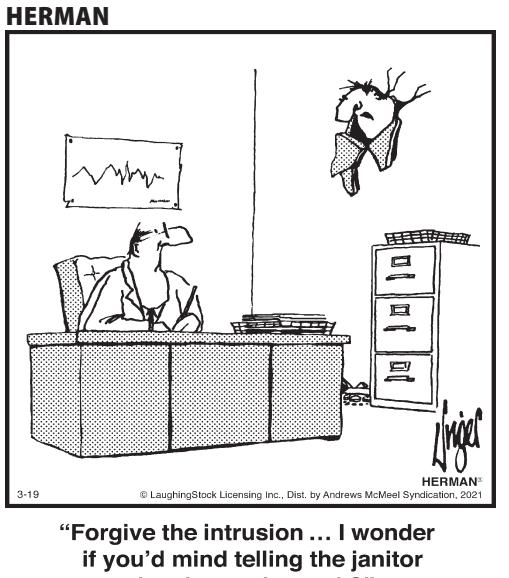
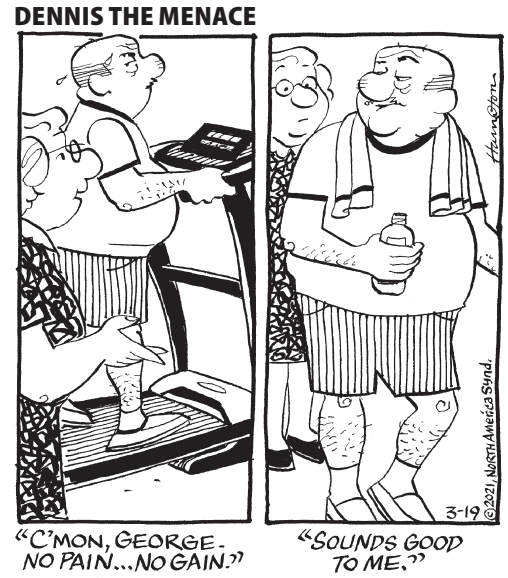
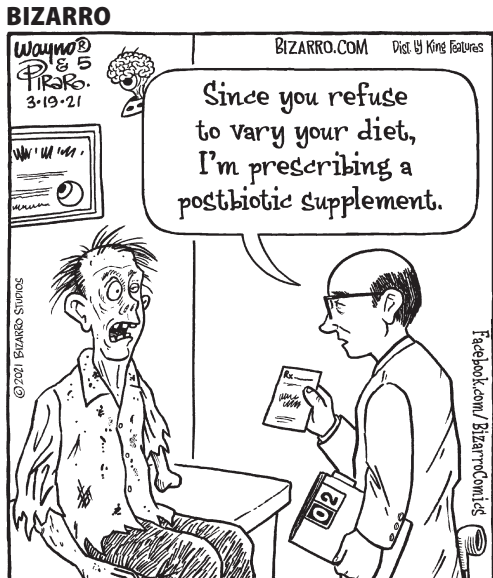
ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

OTTO GINS ILLS
CRAN ACORN NOLA
COMEDIEFFECT
APPARATS VIEWS
MEARA OBIES
TWELFELFTEPS
ONTHELEFT SLOE
MOE RIM CDC MOM
ARAB MAHARISHI
NAMANAMES
BOAST DINAR
GAYLY IRRITATE
COFFOOTFOOTABLE
AREA ROOMS ROAD
NEWT EGOS TOSS

- DOWN**
- 1 Chilly quality
 - 2 Eagles' org.
 - 3 Comedian Shaffir
 - 4 Unnecessarily spell out, in a way
 - 5 Sporty Chevy
 - 6 Accepts, as a lesser charge
 - 7 Noted speaker of more than 20 languages
 - 8 Swell
 - 9 Cry heard by Alice in "Alice in Wonderland"
 - 10 Released in segments

- 11 Trick, in slang
- 12 Scrap of food
- 13 "No ___!"
- 14 Musical acuity
- 20 Speckled, say
- 21 Letup
- 22 Arms repositories?
- 23 Drifter
- 25 It's usually around 9/10 of a pound
- 26 Adds, as a disk to a disk drive
- 27 Mollycoddles
- 30 Accessory that might hang out of a waistcoat
- 35 Bowlers
- 37 Dreaded fate for a samurai
- 39 Adult and then some
- 42 Sharp increase
- 46 Coating produced by oxidation
- 51 Lost
- 52 Heap love (on)
- 53 One of 3,365 in U.S. Route 20
- 54 4x4, for one
- 55 Rapper Kool ___ Dee
- 56 TV/film star who became a pro wrestler
- 58 Storage option
- 59 "___ to a Superhero," Weird Al's parody of "Piano Man"
- 60 "___ out!"

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.



JUMBLE

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

TUYHO
SIDYA
PCEDTI
DMSETO

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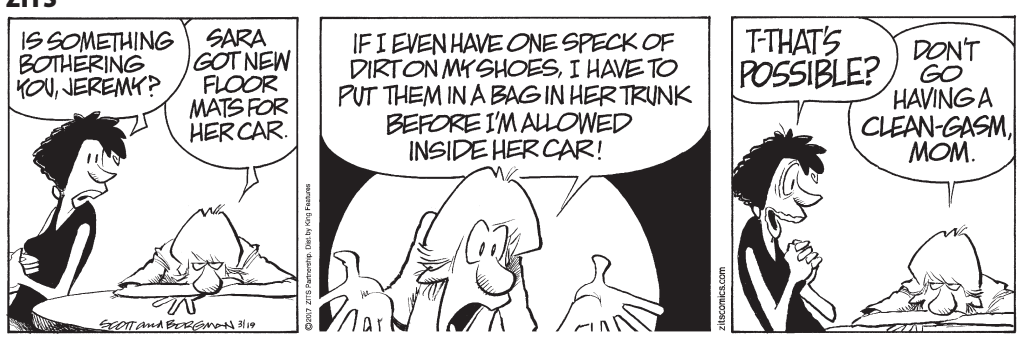
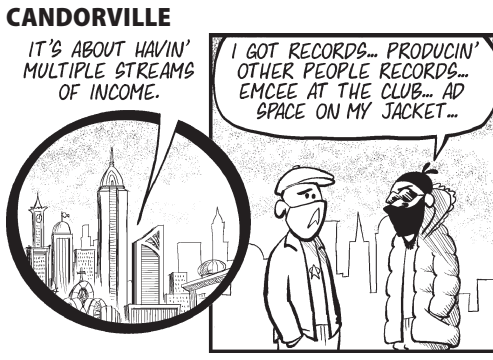
NOT EVERYONE BELIEVES THAT MARRIAGE IS FOR THEM, BUT THOSE WHO DO ---

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

Answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: EMCEE FORTY ROTARY SPOKEN
Answer: They leased a home instead of buying one because it was their — "PREFER-RENTS"



Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- ACROSS**
- 1 Scrape remnant
 - 5 Get off topic
 - 10 Hurly-burly
 - 13 Natural feeling
 - 14 Sharing word
 - 15 Like the top stripe of a pride flag
 - 16 Analytical diagrams of Tuesday rush hour traffic in Paris?
 - 18 "I've heard enough, thanks"
 - 19 Amazed feeling
 - 20 Apt rhyme for "sincerely"
 - 21 Port SSE of Sana'a
 - 22 Sports shoe feature
 - 24 "Hurrah!"
 - 25 Code opener
 - 26 SoCal team
 - 28 One of two tarot card groups
 - 30 Deli favorite with a floral garnish?
 - 34 30-day mo.
 - 36 N.J. town across from northern Manhattan
 - 37 "... he drove out of sight": Moore
 - 38 Rodent that's a Broadway star?
 - 43 Charm
 - 44 Take advantage of
 - 45 Japanese noodle
 - 46 Leaves for dim sum
 - 49 Easy to pick up
 - 53 Rascals
 - 54 Come in
 - 56 Blintz topping
 - 57 Larry O'Brien Championship Trophy org.
 - 58 Mobile device for the unhip?
 - 60 Swampy spot
 - 61 Get-go
 - 62 "Cupcake Wars" fixture
 - 63 Some replacement sites, for short
 - 64 Greeted wordlessly
 - 65 Forms a union
 - 34 Enjoyed a lot, with "up"
 - 35 Chemistry class measurement (it's 5 for this puzzle's grid)
 - 39 Book after Joel
 - 40 It may be gross
 - 41 Simona who won Wimbledon in 2019
 - 42 Prefix with Pen
 - 46 Channel for reality show fans
 - 47 Backspace over
 - 48 Broadcast
 - 50 Trees of a kind, often
 - 51 Improved
 - 52 Typical winter highs at the summit of Mt. Washington
 - 53 Facts and figures
 - 54 Teal relative
 - 55 Nov. honoree
 - 58 Barnyard mom
 - 59 Method

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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

03/19/21



DOWN

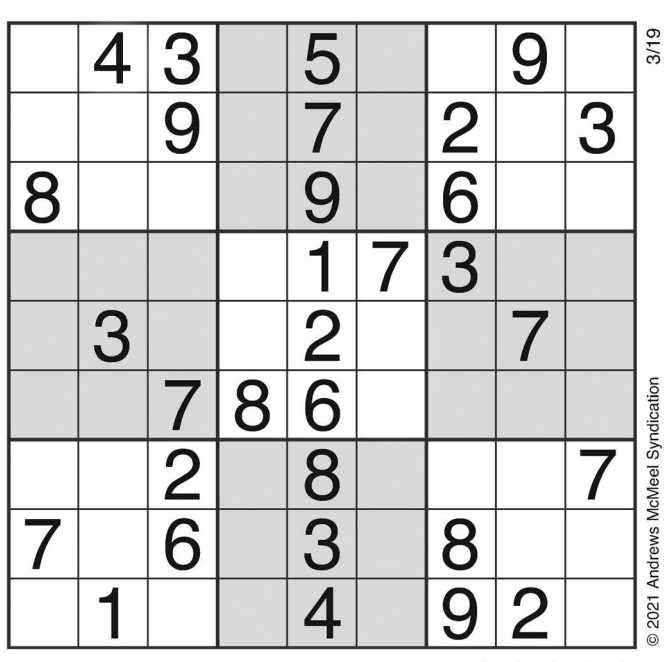
- 1 Shrub often toxic
- 2 Pub ___

By Mark McClain
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03/19/21

SUDOKU

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



SOLUTION TO PREVIOUS SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★