

Monday, March 29, 2021

Daily Bridge Club

Back issues

By FRANK STEWART
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Unlucky Louie was looking a bit frazzled. "How are you feeling?" I asked him in the club lounge. "I'm having back issues," Louie groaned. "You need to see a chiropractor?" "My issues," Louie said, "are with back taxes, back payments and back rent." Louie was declarer at today's 3NT, and West led a spade. Louie won with the ten and swiftly cashed the queen, king and ace of clubs. He would have had nine top tricks if the jack had fallen. As it was, West won the fourth club and led a diamond, and the defense took three diamonds and West's ace of spades. Down one.

he raises to two spades. You try 2NT, and partner bids three clubs. What do you say?

ANSWER: Your partner's bidding suggests a minimum hand with only three-card spade support and long clubs. Your 2NT tried for game, and he rejected. Although you might survive a bid of three spades or a further game-try with three hearts, a pass is your disciplined call. South dealer N-S vulnerable

NORTH
♠ Q 5 3
♥ K 9 6
♦ Q 9
♣ A K 10 9 5

START OVER

I suspect Louie wished he could "back up" and start the play over. The defenders have three diamonds and a spade. Louie is in no danger from West's spades, but he must not set up a fifth trick for the defense in clubs.

At Trick Two, Louie must lead a diamond. He can get back in to lead diamonds twice more, setting up his ten. He wins three clubs, three hearts, a diamond and two spades.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠ K 10 6 4 ♥ A Q 8 ♦ 10 8 5 2 ♣ Q 3. Your partner opens one club, you respond one spade and

WEST
♠ A J 8 7 2
♥ 10
♦ K 6 3
♣ J 8 6 4

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

SOUTH
♠ K 10 6 4
♥ A Q 8
♦ 10 8 5 2
♣ Q 3

South Pass West Pass North 1 ♣ East Pass
2 NT(!) Pass 3 NT 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

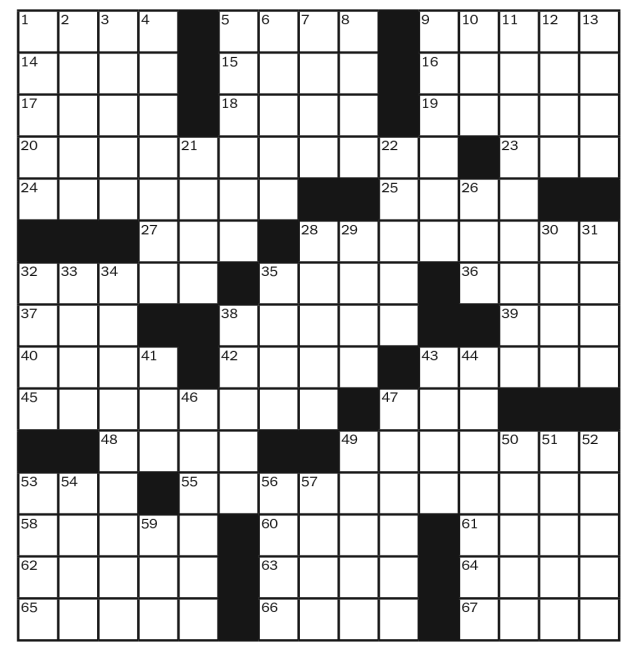
No. 0222

ACROSS

- 1 Players in a play
- 5 In a while
- 9 One of thousands in a Rose Bowl float
- 14 Prussia's ___ von Bismarck
- 15 Fat-removing surgery, for short
- 16 Extreme pain
- 17 Caboose's location
- 18 Ode or sonnet
- 19 Shrink in fear
- 20 "Jeez, lighten up, will ya!"
- 23 Ram's mate
- 24 How extraterrestrials come, we hope
- 25 Think (over)
- 27 U.S. intelligence org.
- 28 Bombarded, as with questions
- 32 Ham it up
- 35 Score in hockey
- 36 Black-tie charity event, maybe
- 37 Sprinted
- 38 As expected
- 39 Long-running CBS drama
- 40 The "I" of I.M.F.: Abbr.
- 42 Abode in Aachen
- 43 Earns
- 45 Pieces of evidence in court
- 47 Grammy winner ___ Nas X
- 48 Replacement for the lira and mark
- 49 Faux fireplace items
- 53 U.S.S.R. intelligence org.
- 55 Like medical expenses you pay for yourself
- 58 Long (for)
- 60 What a wheel connects to
- 61 Author/journalist Quindlen

DOWN

- 1 Welsh ___ (dog)
- 2 Had dinner at home
- 3 It may say "Forever"
- 4 Suffering
- 5 Andean animal valued for its wool
- 6 Mythical woman after whom element 41 is named
- 7 Abbr. below "0" on a phone
- 8 Iditarod terminus
- 9 Get stuff ready to go
- 10 Bigheadedness
- 11 Bar from the bathroom?
- 12 Once more
- 13 Muse's instrument
- 21 "At ___, soldier!"
- 22 Enough
- 26 Turkey drumstick, e.g.
- 28 Hocus-___
- 29 Evian and Perrier
- 62 Cove
- 63 Order to someone holding a deck of cards
- 64 Game suggested by the ends of 20-, 38- and 55-Across and 11- and 34-Down
- 65 On/off device
- 66 Fare for aardvarks
- 67 Letters on love letters



PUZZLE BY BARBARA LIN

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



- 30 Alternatively
- 31 Speaker's platform
- 32 Great Lake with the smallest volume
- 33 Tail-less cat
- 34 Alert
- 35 Insect you may swat away
- 38 State school SE of Columbus, in brief
- 41 Lucy of TV's "Elementary"
- 43 Kind of soup often served at a sushi bar
- 44 Sign of online shouting
- 46 Literary Emily or Charlotte
- 47 Places for tiny U.S. flags
- 49 Key for Debussy's "La fille aux cheveux de lin"
- 50 "All righty then ..."
- 51 Italian city known for its salami
- 52 What holds up an ear of corn
- 53 Ukraine's capital, to Ukrainians
- 54 Actress Rowlands
- 56 "Look what I did!"
- 57 Animals in a yoke
- 59 Gun, as an engine

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.

ZLAAP
XCTIO
GFIREU
FUNIFM

Print the answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)
Saturday's Jumbles: HITCH ONION SUPPLY RATHER
Answer: After getting both major synovial joints replaced, he shouted — HIP HIP HOORAY

CANDORVILLE



WUMO



ZITS



Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- ACROSS
- 1 Buckwheat porridge
- 6 Tears, as paper
- 10 Hobbyist's book
- 15 One submitting a tax return
- 16 Operatic solo
- 17 State bordering both Nevada and Canada
- 18 "Almost!"
- 19 Drink brand associated with NASA missions
- 20 Fight off
- 21 "Parking" image, on signs
- 24 "As I see it," to a texter
- 25 Stay alcohol-free
- 27 Ad that spreads awareness, briefly
- 28 Baseball's Musial
- 29 Princess from a galaxy far, far away
- 30 Society newcomer
- 32 Minnesota NFLer
- 34 Slacks
- 36 Second drop-down list, say
- 39 "Kosher" image, on labels
- 42 Garage floor blemish
- 43 Wabbit hunter Fudd
- 46 Forward, to Fellini
- 49 "Just a ___!"
- 51 "Count on me!"
- 52 Blubbers
- 53 "Pow!" relative
- 56 Potatoes often used for fries
- 58 Cape ___, Mass.
- 59 "Registered" image, on product names
- 61 Draw out
- 63 DIY furniture brand
- 64 Fridge forays
- 67 Diet-friendly
- 68 Blab
- 69 Boredom
- 70 Eccentric
- 71 Creative pursuits, with "the"
- 72 Yard-grooming tool
- DOWN
- 1 Fast-food co. serving buckets
- 2 Feel sick
- 3 Aptly named clean-up basin
- 4 Speaker's ers or urns
- 5 Sports spot
- 6 Some rodent homes
- 7 Baghdad's land
- 8 Alluring poster
- 9 Long stories
- 10 Add to the staff
- 11 Poetic salute
- 12 Elk
- 13 28-Across nickname
- 14 Chinese tea
- 22 Help
- 23 Poetic bird of one word
- 25 Mont Blanc, e.g.
- 26 Arthur of "The Golden Girls"
- 28 King Kong's home
- 31 Patting-the-baby's-back goal
- 33 "Picnic" playwright
- 35 Petulant state
- 37 Book jacket blurbs
- 38 "His Dark ___": fantasy trilogy
- 40 Defendant's story
- 41 Hosting the roast
- 44 Use the feed bag
- 45 OR attendants
- 46 Go up
- 47 Ritualistic kind of doll
- 48 Kidnap
- 50 Surly mutt
- 54 Singer Baker with eight Grammys
- 55 Manufacturer
- 57 Stony debris
- 59 Count (on)
- 60 Gael or Breton
- 62 Lap-loving pet
- 65 Past ___: late
- 66 ___ Loins of Beef: Bugs Bunny character

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

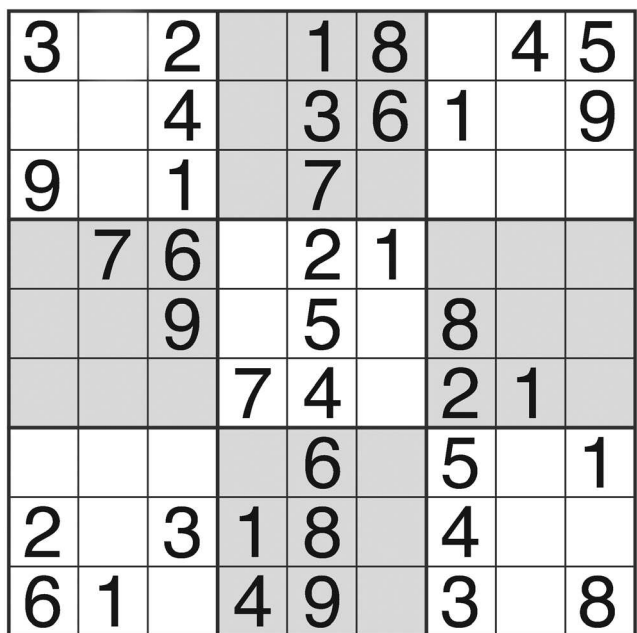
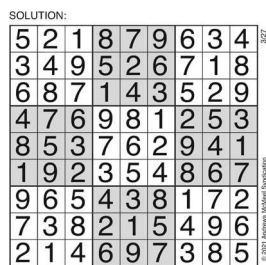


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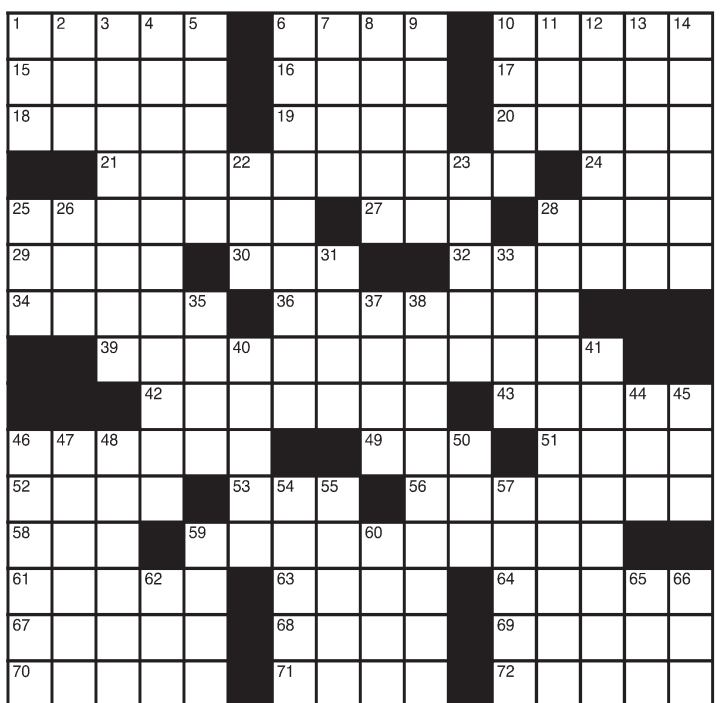
SUDOKU

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: ★☆☆☆☆



By Don Gagliardo
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