

SUNDAY PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS ON C8

THE NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

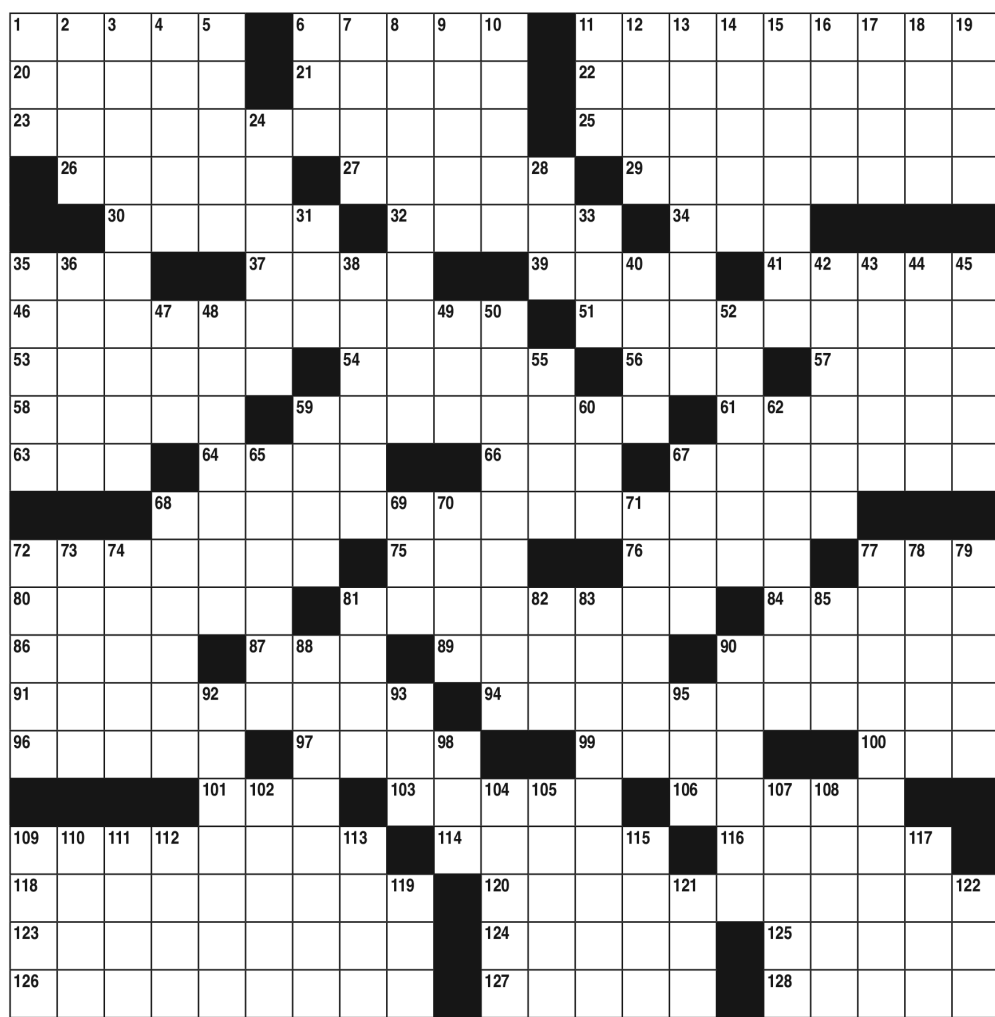
No. 0418

MERGER MANIA

BY DICK SHLAKMAN AND WILL NEDIGER / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Dick Shlakman, who turns 82 next Sunday, is a retired lawyer and corporate executive from Plano, Texas. Will Nediger, 31, is a professional crossword constructor from London, Ontario. Dick saw Will's offer of crossword mentorship on Facebook and reached out for his help. They've now made several puzzles together. "I come up with a theme idea that I think is absolutely perfect," Dick says, "and Will shows me the error of my ways — then suggests how to take that idea and make it ideal." This is Dick's third crossword for The Times and Will's 37th. — W.S.

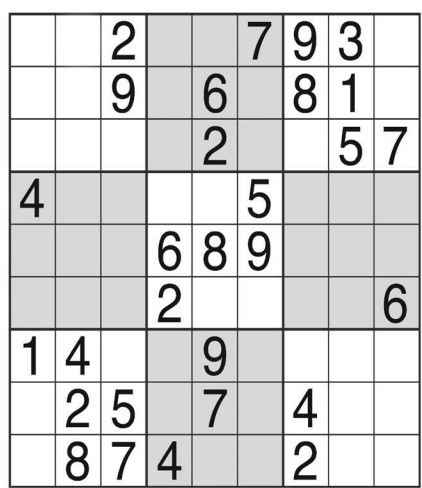
- ACROSS**
- 1 Men are pigs (after she's through with them, anyway!)
 - 6 The "A" of James A. Garfield
 - 11 Naysayers
 - 20 Lower-cost option on a popular rideshare app
 - 21 Egg: Sp.
 - 22 Frontiersman's headgear
 - 23 Result of a merger between Quaker Oats and Greyhound?
 - 25 Maintaining equilibrium
 - 26 Discourage
 - 27 Soft drink concentrate, e.g.
 - 29 "Night on Bald Mountain" or "Finlandia"
 - 30 With 18-Down, what has four legs and sprints?
 - 32 Musician who was booed in 1965 for playing electric guitar
 - 34 Letters before Gerald R. Ford and Ronald Reagan
 - 35 Luau instrument, for short
 - 37 Zoom
 - 39 Corner
 - 41 Second-longest human bone, after the femur
- DOWN**
- 46 Result of a merger between Kraft and Hershey's?
 - 51 Result of a merger between Google and Planters?
 - 53 Like the wights on "Game of Thrones"
 - 54 Best of the best
 - 56 Spelling ____
 - 57 What Santa checks twice
 - 58 R-rated
 - 59 Rulers' staffs
 - 61 Fire name?
 - 63 On the ____
 - 64 Poet Lazarus
 - 66 Prefix with thermal
 - 67 Bad sound for an engine
 - 68 Result of a merger between Hasbro and Nikon?
 - 72 Bird like the Canada goose or arctic tern
 - 75 LummoX
 - 76 Cheese offered tableside at Italian restaurants, informally
 - 77 Recipe amt.
 - 80 Eagle constellation
 - 81 Passive acquiescence
 - 84 Voice a view
 - 86 Firm decision maker?
 - 87 Revolutionary Guevara
 - 89 Klum of "Project Runway"
 - 90 "My love," in Madrid
 - 91 Result of a merger between Procter & Gamble and Jacuzzi?
 - 94 Result of a merger between Hormel and Instagram?
 - 96 Warehouse
 - 97 10 to 10, say
 - 99 ____ reform, cause for the Marshall Project
 - 100 Middling grade
 - 101 Pub choice
 - 103 Shot across the bow?
 - 106 ____ Waldorf, the so-called "Queen B" on "Gossip Girl"
 - 109 Leaves nothing to the imagination
 - 114 Measured
 - 116 "Been there, done that" feeling
 - 118 Disney's world
 - 120 Result of a merger between Ralph Lauren and Starbucks?
 - 123 "Stop your foolishness outside!"
 - 124 Not on
 - 125 Chops up finely
 - 126 Was uncomfortably hot
 - 127 Basil-based sauce
 - 128 ____ Allen, one of the founders of Vermont
 - 10 Iraqi city on the Tigris
 - 11 Kimono accessory
 - 12 Natural talent
 - 13 ____ Young-White, comedian/correspondent for "The Daily Show"
 - 14 Lead-in to an Indiana "ville"
 - 15 ____ Ng, author of the 2017 best seller "Little Fires Everywhere"
 - 16 Piehole
 - 17 "Oops!"
 - 18 See 30-Across
 - 19 Part of a musical note
 - 24 Held forth
 - 28 "Two thumbs down" review
 - 31 Answer to "Are you asleep?" that can't be true
 - 33 Drift off to sleep
 - 35 Ordinary
 - 36 "Eh, not really"
 - 38 1981 hit Genesis album whose name resembles a rhyme scheme
 - 40 Balls in the sky
 - 42 Little sounds
 - 43 Muscular
 - 44 "Who's there?" response
 - 45 Nancy who served as the first female member of the British Parliament
 - 47 Come together
 - 48 Like some thinking
 - 49 A.O.C., e.g.
 - 50 Meets
 - 52 Evening prayer
 - 55 Come together
 - 59 Raw material?



- 60 Quintana ____ (Mexican state that's home to Cancun)
- 62 Mayhem
- 65 Land governed by the House of Grimaldi
- 67 Obedience school command
- 68 More hackneyed
- 69 A head
- 70 A head
- 71 Best-case scenarios
- 72 Clipper parts
- 73 "You can't fire me!"
- 74 Italian poet Cavalcanti who influenced Dante
- 77 Procrastinator's problem
- 78 [Bo-o-o-oring!]
- 79 In essence
- 81 Where heroes are made
- 82 Sass
- 83 Co-founder of the N.A.A.C.P.
- 85 Word that, when spelled backward, becomes its own synonym
- 88 Member of the inn crowd?
- 90 One of the Canterbury pilgrims
- 92 One doing the lord's work
- 93 In which you might do a deep dive
- 95 Mistruth
- 98 JAMA contributors
- 102 Tool in a wood shop
- 104 Shred
- 105 ____ hole
- 107 Battery part
- 108 Language group related to Yupik
- 109 Birkin stock?
- 110 From scratch
- 111 Quinceañera, e.g.
- 112 Man's name that spells a fruit backward
- 113 Passed-down stories
- 115 "Stop stalling!"
- 117 "The slightest" or "the foggiest" thing
- 119 Oscar-winning lyricist Washington
- 121 Classic Pontiac
- 122 Phishing target, for short

SUDOKU

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



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

JUMBLE

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

KAHESN
CAPECT
FRVEYI
SPIOEM
TGUINO
SYRAGS

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

PRINT YOUR ANSWER IN THE CIRCLES BELOW



LOS ANGELES TIMES SUNDAY CROSSWORD

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

"DIRECTOR'S CUT" BY JOE DEENEY

ACROSS

- 1 Get gray, say
- 8 Iraq port city
- 13 Knighted English composer
- 18 Bust of Pope Paul V sculptor
- 19 Language family including Finnish and Hungarian
- 20 "I Hope You Dance" singer
- 21 "Marvel hero with a red-white-and-blue costume"
- 23 "Soviet newspaper"
- 24 Like a racehorse's hooves
- 25 Apple pie order
- 26 Last-second online auction bids
- 27 OXO tool
- 29 Comet, to some
- 30 Summer hrs. along the Mississippi
- 32 Humdingers
- 34 "Hunk"
- 36 "Take only the best"
- 38 Android alternative
- 39 Halloween decoration
- 40 "Family Guy" kid with a football-shaped head
- 41 ____ Beta Kappa
- 42 Diva's numbers
- 44 Base-level rideshare option
- 46 Host before Carson
- 49 "Instrument played with mallets"
- 53 "Citrus used to flavor tea"
- 57 Cattle catchers
- 58 Cantina fare
- 59 '60s-'70s epithet based on a 21st-century Emmy-winning drama
- 60 Appliance found in Provence?
- 61 Survivalist
- 62 Okra or orca unit
- 63 "Dracula" author
- 64 Phisher's crime
- 68 Throat problems
- 70 Grand Canyon sights
- 71 "Turkey's area"
- 72 "Symbol of worthlessness"
- 74 Cravings
- 75 Slightly lit

DOWN

- 1 Ottawa-based media org.
- 2 Take on, as tenants
- 3 Mythological lyrist
- 4 Boundless
- 5 Jeweled headgear
- 6 Oxford, to Oxonians
- 7 Fruta en una colada
- 8 City in NW Germany
- 9 "Breaking Bad" actor ____ Paul
- 10 Arrived headfirst, perhaps
- 11 General Mills cereal
- 12 Landmark health legislation, briefly
- 13 A la King?
- 14 Jump to one's feet
- 15 Talked back to
- 16 List-shortening words
- 17 Transfer ____
- 19 Fish sauce taste
- 20 Health care provider: Abbr.
- 22 Floating above, say
- 26 Like Waldo's shirt, in kids' books
- 27 Inflation meas.
- 28 Russian cabbage?
- 31 MTN ____
- 33 Mountain footwear, maybe
- 35 Pass out
- 36 ____-All-Del
- 37 Heat up again?
- 40 Matches, as a bet
- 42 Stage backdrop
- 43 Gives a thumbs-up, perhaps
- 44 Raised
- 45 Leaning
- 47 Spend time in a cellar, perhaps
- 48 Returned, as a football kick
- 49 Cultivated
- 50 Houston Texans coach Smith
- 51 "Carmen," e.g.
- 52 Henri's "Hi"
- 53 Symbol of authority
- 54 Pfizer rival
- 55 More than just talk
- 56 Language of southern India
- 59 Temperamental
- 62 (The) big leagues
- 65 Bank charge
- 66 French alternative
- 67 Has at
- 68 Dandy fellows
- 69 Move
- 70 Bengals, on scoreboards
- 72 Accompanying
- 73 Bite like a puppy
- 75 Tight-lipped
- 77 Do something
- 78 Bit of fishing tackle
- 79 Santa Monica Mountains' ____ Canyon
- 81 U.S. ____ 1, East Coast hwy.
- 82 Immune system component
- 83 Picturesque language
- 84 English church honorific
- 85 Furry friend
- 87 WWI battle city
- 88 One of a quartet of '50s singing siblings
- 89 Domed top for a threaded fastener
- 90 Relatives of Tony's
- 91 Polite two-word English term of address
- 92 Oranjestad native
- 95 Actress Davis
- 98 Fast-food NYSE ticker symbol
- 100 Beer foam
- 101 Mad ____: word game
- 103 Rule that Gandhi opposed
- 104 "¿__ pasa?"
- 105 ____ Starkey, longtime drummer for The Who
- 106 Once possessed

Seeking a friendly duplicate bridge? Find five games weekly online at bendbridge.org

Sunday, April 25, 2021

Daily Bridge Club

Breaking even

By FRANK STEWART
Tribune Content Agency

Two players brought me today's deal from a team match at my club.

"We were lucky not to lose a pile of points," they said.

"What happened?"

"I opened one club," the player who had been North told me. "You would have opened one spade."

"That's my style with 5-5 in the black suits," I said. "I get the major suit mentioned quickly and make it harder for the opponents to come in. But many experts would open one club."

"I jumped to two diamonds," South said, "and showed my club support next."

"And I bid six clubs," North shrugged. "The trumps lay unluckily, and I went down one. We were fortunate because at the other table, North-South got to six diamonds, and declarer also lost two clubs there."

Were North-South lucky or unlucky?

As to the bidding, six clubs was an unlucky contract, but South's bid of three clubs was wrong. It said that his jump-shift to two diamonds — a try for slam — was based on a great club fit. South should have rebid three diamonds; his solid six-card suit needed to be trumps. Then North-South might reach the best contract of six diamonds.

North-South were luckier than they knew since six diamonds was cold. After South takes the ace of hearts,

he comes to the king of spades, leads a trump to dummy's nine, discards a club on the ace of spades and ruffs a spade. When East-West follow, South ruffs his king of hearts in dummy and ruffs another spade. He can draw trumps, go to the ace of clubs and take the good fifth spade for his 12th trick.

North dealer
N-S vulnerable

NORTH
♠ A 9 7 6 3
♥ A
♦ 9 5
♣ A 8 6 5 2

WEST
♠ 10 8 5
♥ J 10 9 7 4
♦ 6 4
♣ K 10 9

EAST
♠ Q J 4 2
♥ 8 6 5 3 2
♦ 8 7 3
♣ Q

SOUTH
♠ K
♥ K Q
♦ A K Q J 10 2
♣ J 7 4 3

North 1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass 6 ♣

East Pass 2 ♣ Pass 3 ♣ All Pass

South 2 ♣ Pass 3 ♣ All Pass

West Pass 3 ♣ All Pass

Opening lead — ♥ J