

Tuesday, May 11, 2021

Daily Bridge Club

Tipping point

By FRANK STEWART
Tribune Content Agency

A player came to me in the club lounge with a request. "Give me one tip that will help me be a better declarer," he said. How would you have responded to that?

At today's four hearts, South ruffed the third diamond and took the K-A of trumps. When West discarded, South cashed the queen of trumps and started the clubs. He would have been safe if the suit had split 3-2, but the 4-1 split ruined him. (East refused to ruff on a second club lead from dummy.) The result was down two.

ONE TRICK

South saves one trick by not taking the queen of trumps, but he can actually make his game. The most important principle of dummy play that I know: When a contract looks tough, and trump control may be an issue, attack your side suit early.

After South takes the king of trumps (or after ruffing the third diamond), he leads the king and a low club. East discards, and South wins and ruffs a low club in dummy. He can keep control and is almost sure to succeed however the cards lie.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠ A 8 7 6 3 ♥ K 9 3
♦ K 3 2 ♣ K 7. You open one spade, and your partner bids two hearts. What do you say?

ANSWER: This is a textbook problem. To raise to three hearts is correct. Partner's response promises at least five hearts. (Strictly speaking, he promises a suit with which he could accept a raise with three-card support.) If he had only four hearts, he would have an alternative response — even a temporizing response in a three-card minor.

North dealer
N-S vulnerable

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

WEST
♠ K J 5 2
♥ 4
♦ Q J 10 9
♣ J 10 8 3

EAST
♠ Q 10 9 4
♥ J 10 8 6
♦ A 8 7 5
♣ 9

SOUTH
♠ None
♥ A Q 7 5 2
♦ 6 4
♣ A Q 6 5 4 2

North	East	South	West
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 NT	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
3 NT	Pass	4 ♥	All Pass

Opening lead — ♦ Q

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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. 0406

ACROSS

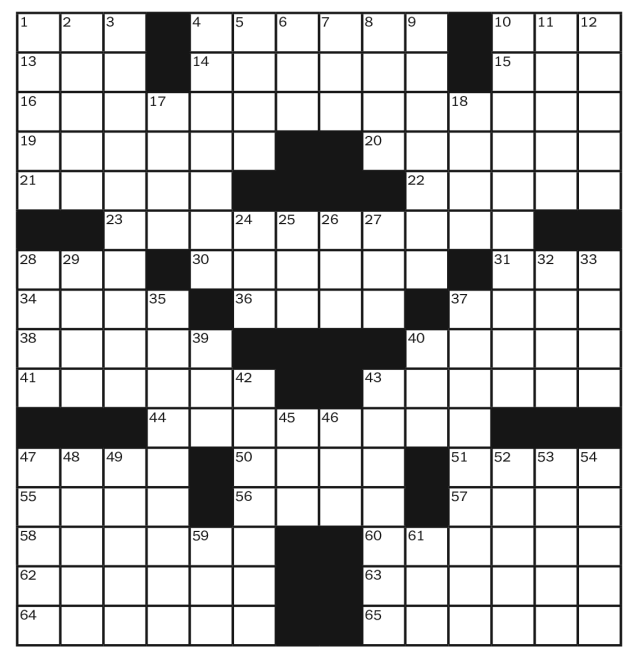
- 1 ___ Technica (popular website with tech news)
- 4 Place for meals on wheels
- 10 Org. since Nixon's presidency
- 13 Chest muscle, for short
- 14 Demi with the 2017 hit "Sorry Not Sorry"
- 15 Kind of story
- 16 "Omigosh, girl!"
- 19 "Reckon so?"
- 20 Quagmire
- 21 Specifics, in slang
- 22 "Uh, yeah!"
- 23 "Dang, girl!"
- 28 Scare word
- 30 Northwest airport, familiarly

- 31 "To ___ by silence, when we should protest, makes cowards out of men": Ella Wheeler Wilcox
- 34 Hand grenade, in slang
- 36 Important part of a bloodhound
- 37 Figure in Final Fantasy
- 38 Camera setting
- 40 Grain storage spots
- 41 "Leaving already?"
- 43 Supports for choirs
- 44 Inhabitants
- 47 Problem that's holding things up
- 50 Little croaker
- 51 Newsstand display, for short

- 55 City whose first two letters are its state's postal abbreviation
- 56 Longhorns, e.g.
- 57 Place for a pizza
- 58 New York theater on the National Register of Historic Places, with "the"
- 60 Food critic's asset
- 62 Romantic composer Gustav
- 63 Do a favor
- 64 Remained
- 65 Swift to soar to the top of the charts?

DOWN

- 1 Gardener's annoyance
- 2 Actress Witherspoon
- 3 They're not really to blame
- 4 Says a prayer over
- 5 Steak sauce brand
- 6 Some mobile homes, for short
- 7 Animal that, despite popular belief, is usually lactose intolerant
- 8 Manhattan Project subject
- 9 Herky-jerky, as movements
- 10 Event for antique lovers
- 11 Crew



PUZZLE BY AMANDA CHUNG AND KARL NI

- 12 Mariana Trench, e.g.
- 17 Get out the ___
- 18 One who takes a bow before success rather than after?
- 24 ___ garden
- 25 Language akin to Thai
- 26 Ends of some exciting games, for short
- 27 Persian Gulf land, in brief
- 28 Inseparable buds
- 29 Approximately
- 32 Composer Stravinsky
- 33 "Untouchable" agent
- 35 & 37 "Wow, girl!"
- 39 "Wham!"
- 40 Follower of yes or no
- 42 Place for a sensor in tennis
- 43 Jupiter has a "great" one
- 45 Facilities in England
- 46 It's just an act
- 47 Fakes
- 48 Gently sting, as with cold
- 49 Welcome in Waikiki
- 52 To no ___
- 53 Very beginning
- 54 Unattractive facial expression
- 59 Dungarees brand
- 61 Defense org.?

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.

INNOO
LAGEE
LDCEDU
FTAIYR

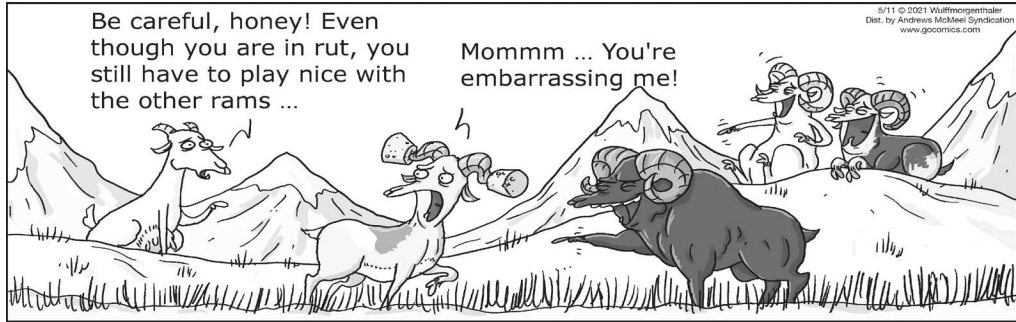
THE " " " " " "

Yesterday's Jumbles: PLANT RATIO HECTIC SESAME
Answer: Of all the movies featuring felines of Africa, "Panthera leo" has the — LION'S SHARE

CANDORVILLE



WUMO



ZITS



Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- ACROSS**
- 1 Urges to attack, with "on"
- 5 Actor Hawke
- 10 Chew (on)
- 14 Help out during exercises, as in a gym
- 15 LP player
- 16 One of a model's repertoire
- 17 *Youthful blush, say
- 19 Common country suffix
- 20 Palindromic magazine
- 21 ___ Alamos, NM
- 23 Oil field?
- 24 Look up to
- 26 *Idler at the shore
- 28 Double-crosser
- 29 Lavish bash
- 31 Spanish rice dish
- 32 Not commissioned, after "on"
- 34 Author Jaffe
- 36 Like Lady Liberty's crown
- 37 Hit from behind ... and what the answers to starred clues are?
- 40 Farrier
- 43 Quite a distance
- 44 Cocksure
- 48 Coming from the heart?
- 50 "Your guess ___ good ..."
- 52 Solver's cry
- 53 *Parlor piece
- 55 Docking places
- 57 Cold War mil. program
- 58 Gate announcement, briefly
- 59 Modern mining target
- 60 Cantina cooker
- 62 *Frank holders
- 67 Causing yawns, often
- 68 Archer's weapon
- 69 Mine entrance
- 70 Central Iowa city
- 71 Watch partner
- 72 Peter or Paul (but not Mary)
- DOWN**
- 1 Cold War state: Abbr.
- 2 Wall St. news
- 3 "Les Misérables" girl
- 4 Bob or weave
- 5 Collectibles like ticket stubs and matchbooks
- 6 Not just any
- 7 Gardening tool
- 8 Bracelet site for one on house arrest
- 9 "Outta luck!"
- 10 Docs who don't specialize
- 11 Especially
- 12 Usually
- 13 Lost it
- 18 Musical pitch indicator
- 22 Close call
- 24 Trauma ctrs.
- 25 Maple extract
- 26 Perk from work
- 27 Two of them are better than one
- 30 When tripled, a 1970 WWII film
- 33 Minotaur's island
- 35 Santa ___: dry winds
- 38 Clear the board
- 39 Deplete, as a bank account
- 40 Grill-cleaning solution
- 41 Gangster
- 42 One of the Wright brothers
- 45 Plunders
- 46 Old TV dial letters
- 47 Really good time
- 49 Deadly
- 51 Heavy carpet
- 54 Put on a pedestal
- 56 Facing the pitcher
- 61 "Happy Days" diner
- 63 ___-la-la
- 64 Palme ___: Cannes award
- 65 Actress Long
- 66 Philharmonic sect.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

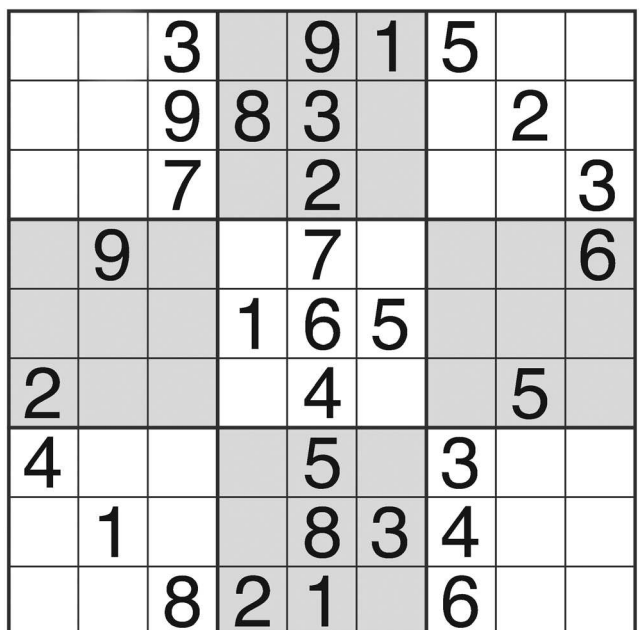
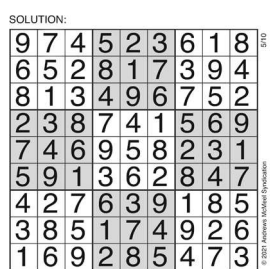


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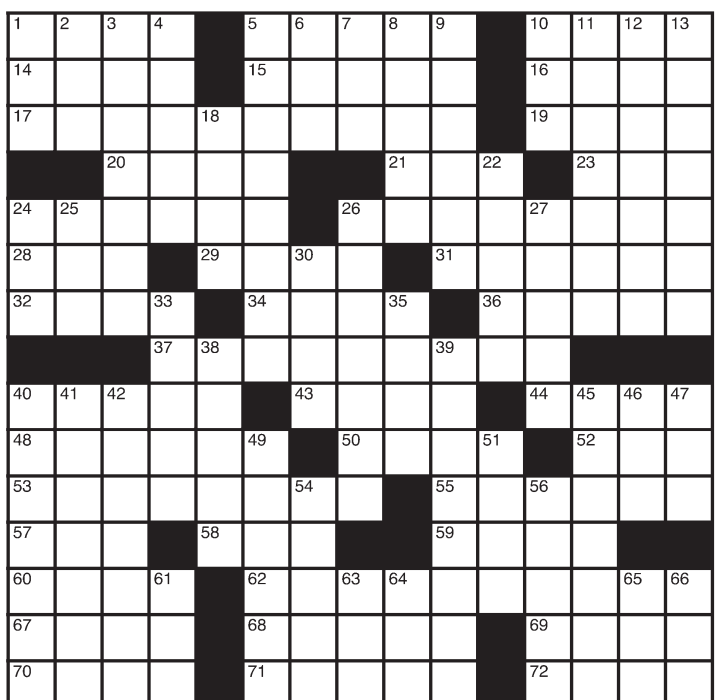
SUDOKU

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 Tom Locke
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