Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Daily Bridge Club

Optimistic play

By FRANK STEWART
Tribune Content Agency

"Here's an optimist for you," a club player told me. "A friend of mine hooked up with a much younger woman, and they wound up getting married. He's 82."

"He's an optimist?"

"He bought a house," my friend said, "a half-block from an elementary school."

Today's declarer was no pessimist. At four spades, he took the ace of hearts and optimistically led a trump to finesse with his jack. Next, he cashed the A-K of diamonds, led a third diamond and ruffed in dummy. Alas, East overruffed, led a heart to West, overruffed dummy again on the next diamond and got his ace of clubs. Down one.

ROSY VIEW

South's view of the play was too rosy. After he wins the first trick, he can take the A-K of diamonds, lead a third diamond and discard dummy's last heart as a loser-on-loser (my topic this week).

East can overruff dummy on the next diamond, but South can ruff his losing heart in dummy and pick up the trumps. He loses only one more trick to the ace of clubs, making his game.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠ 8 6 2 ♡ A 8 ◇ A 6 ♣ K J 9 7 6 3. You open one club, your partner responds one heart, you rebid two clubs and he tries two diamonds. What do you say?

ANSWER: This problem is awkward. Partner's two diamonds — a new-suit bid — is forcing. Your two clubs suggested a six-card or longer suit. To rebid clubs again would suggest an even longer and maybe stronger suit. You can't bid 2NT with three low spades. Bid two hearts by default.

North dealer
N-S vulnerable

NORTH
♠ 8 6 2
♡ A 8
◇ A 6
♣ K J 9 7 6 3

WEST
♠ 9 5
♡ Q 10 9 6 3
◇ Q 10 5 2
♣ 8 2

EAST
♠ Q 10 7
♡ K J 7 2
◇ J 8
♣ A Q 10 4

SOUTH
♠ A K J 4 3
♡ 5 4
◇ K 9 7 4 3
♣ 5

North	East	South	West
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	2 ◇	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	All Pass

Opening lead — ♡ 10

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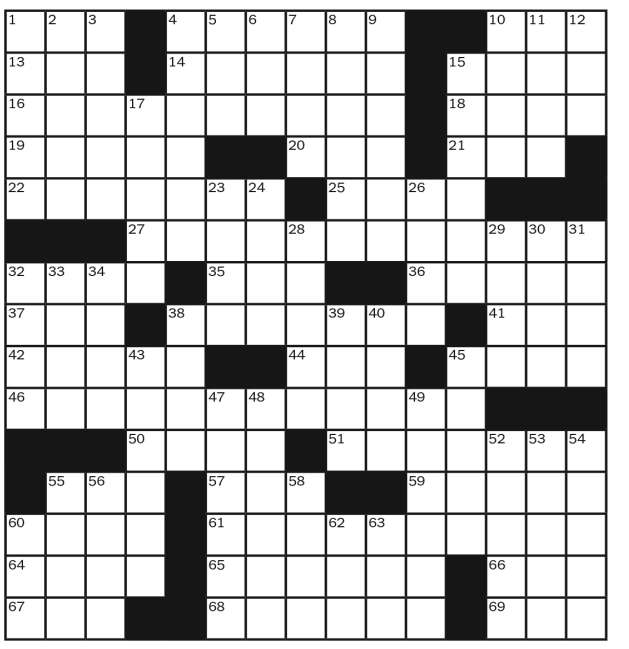
SEEKING A FRIENDLY DUPLICATE BRIDGE?
Find five games weekly online at bendbridge.org

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0512



PUZZLE BY TRACY GRAY

ACROSS
1 Bill-rejecting vote
4 Took a dip?
10 Parent's cure-all, briefly
13 Number on a foam finger
14 Cost of an online banner or pop-up
15 Piece of cake?
16 Kidney or heart
18 Give the go-ahead
19 Guadalajara gal pal
20 ___ mode
21 Joke
22 Seeds on hamburger buns
25 Lollygag
27 Georgia's official vegetable
32 Grenoble gal pal
35 "Little" car in a Ronny & the Daytonas hit
36 Stellar start?
37 Florist's vehicle, typically
38 Suddenly change course
41 Sound of a lightning bolt
42 "Fingers crossed!"
44 Grp. with the hits "Evil Woman" and "Do Ya"
45 Billy or tom
46 Inexpensive table wine
50 Provincial schoolteacher stereotype
51 Short-brimmed hat known as a bunnet in Scotland
55 Org. that launched WaterSense in 2006
57 Co-___ (condo alternatives)
59 Cold hard cash
60 ___ program
61 Specialized lab equipment for drying
64 Fairy tale foe
65 Go by
66 Triage sites, for short
67 Alberto ___ (hair care brand) ... and a hint to 16-, 27-, 38-, 46- and 61-Across
68 Home security component
69 Setting in "Charlotte's Web"

DOWN
1 Massive pop stars?
2 Genre featured at Tokyo's Comiket convention
3 Folkloric creatures at snowy altitudes
4 A slice of Italy?
5 Brouhaha
6 "I'm beyond frustrated!"
7 Lovesick
8 And others, in Latin
9 "You're welcome," in Spanish
10 ___ torch
11 Top-billed performer
12 Word with war or far
15 Arcade "money"
17 Plant source for tequila
23 Strategic starting piece in a jigsaw puzzle
24 Fill to excess
26 It's more than a pocketful of rye
28 "Two Women" actress Sophia
29 Chichén ___ (Mayan ruins city)
30 Like some interviews
31 "That's a negatory!"
32 Tel ___, Israel
33 Hawaiian for "strong," which, when doubled, means "very strong"
34 Privy to, as a secret
38 Fashion icon Wang
39 Singing animated snowman
40 Thwart
43 Greasy hairstyling product
45 "I totally agree!"
47 Hordes
48 Skewer
49 Powerful tool for compaction
52 Seafarers' sanctuaries
53 Well-caffeinated, perhaps
54 Colorful flower with a "face"
55 Therefore
56 The 18th at Pebble Beach, notably
58 Diagnostic image
60 www.fda.___
62 Emotional highs
63 Grp. that supports American troops

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

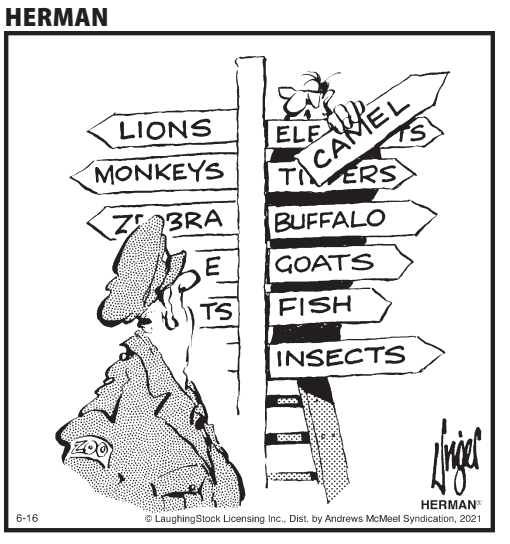
S	O	F	A		I	B	E	A	M	S		G	P	S
T	W	I	X		M	U	S	C	A	T		L	E	E
I	N	R	E		F	R	A	N	K	O	C	E	A	N
N	E	E		B	I	N		E	E	R	I	E	S	T
G	R	E	W	I	N	T	O		F	A	V			
		S	O	R	E		P	L	U	G		F	E	Y
E	P	C	O	T		K	E	E	N	E		I	P	O
C	L	A	S	H		I	N	N		S	P	R	I	G
H	O	P		C	A	N	T	O		P	E	S	C	I
O	W	E		O	L	G	A		H	A	R	T		
			S	N	L		B	L	A	C	K	S	E	A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

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



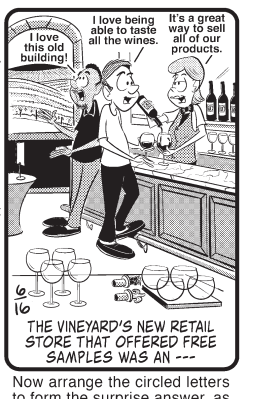
"Did you see which way the camel went?"

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

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

MIGER
SURHE
DMLEUO
PZRIEP



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

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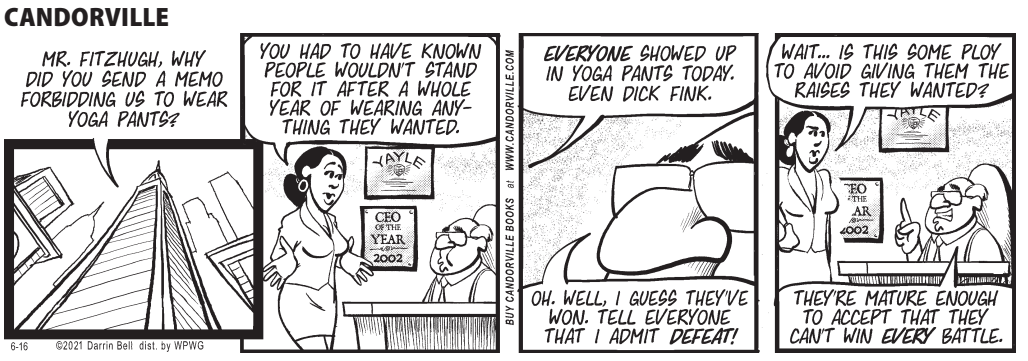
Ans. here: " ○○ - ○○○○ - ○○○ "

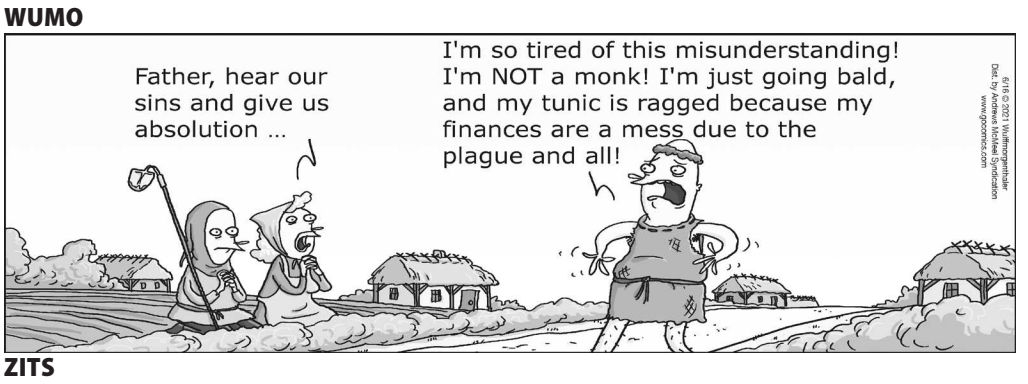
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: MOVIE VOUCH BEACON CHOOSE
Answer: The horse asked for new horseshoes because he thought it would — BEHOOVE HIM

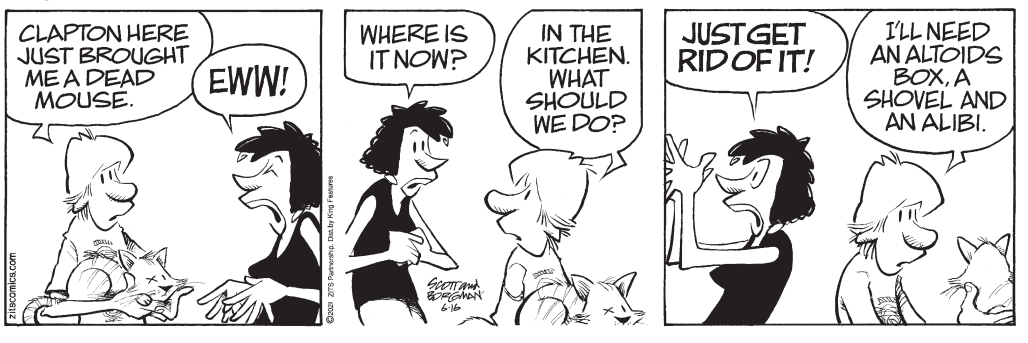
CANDORVILLE



WUMO



ZITS



Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS
1 One working with dishes
5 They change on birthdays
9 Vegan, e.g.
13 Reviewer's "10"
14 Absolut rival, familiarly
15 First name in jazz singing
16 "Excuse me ... "
17 What golfers hit, with "the"
18 Send for delivery
19 Traditional flowers used in Indian weddings
21 Fad
22 Just learning about
23 Justice Kagan et al.
24 Another time
27 Flood stopper
29 Dishevels, as hair
31 Tel __
32 Baseball bounce
35 Marsh plant
37 Strauss opera based on a Sophocles tragedy
39 __-fi
40 Creepy look
42 "Ghostbusters" ghost
43 "Casablanca" star, informally
44 Divvy up
45 Come into view
48 Turn it down
51 Asia's __ Peninsula
52 Party drink option, no corkscrew required ... and what's in each set of circles?
56 "Odelay" musician
57 "Queen of Salsa" Cruz
58 __ rug
59 Wilcox daughter in "Howards End"
60 Relish the taste of
61 Social sensitivity
62 Cabs, say
63 Shopping cart unit
64 Disapproving sounds

DOWN
1 Pull an all-nighter
2 "LOL!"
3 At any time
4 Certain equality advocate
5 Lopsided
6 Aspen transport
7 Group with lodges
8 Member of the fam
9 "You Gotta Be" singer
10 Minnesota's __ Omar
11 "Tru Calling" actress Dushku
12 Masking and others
14 Like lento music
20 Family tree subject
21 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame city
23 Bad things
24 Gremlin and Pacer
25 Avocado dip, for short
26 Vino venue
28 First lady
30 Long battle
32 Browser standard
33 Black-and-white treat
34 Hair line
36 Luau accessory
38 Electric bill unit
41 Settle
43 They're depressed by drivers
45 Old flame?
46 Author Binchy
47 Spanish folk hero
49 Truism
50 Once around the sun
52 Rhythm
53 Portfolio options, for short
54 Place for a figurative pain
55 Dines
57 CBS series with multiple spin-offs

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

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

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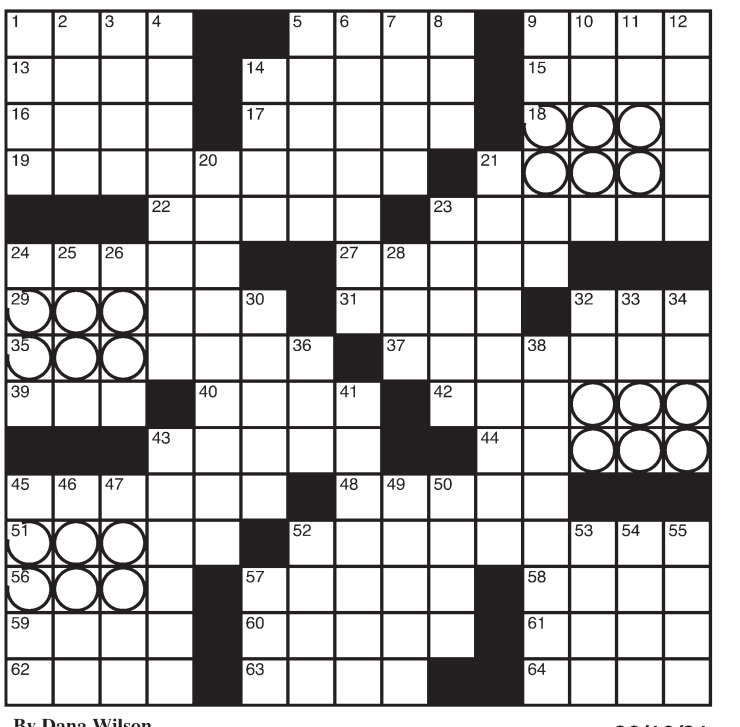

By Dana Wilson
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SUDOKU

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

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

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

SOLUTION TO PREVIOUS SUDOKU

SOLUTION:

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

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