

Thursday, June 17, 2021

Daily Bridge Club

A missed slam?

By FRANK STEWART
Tribune Content Agency

I continue a series on the loser-on-loser play, one of declarer's most useful techniques. Today's deal was sent to me by Gene Benedict of Toledo, Ohio.

In a pairs event, South played at four spades. West led the deuce of diamonds, and South diagnosed the lead as a singleton and put up dummy's ace. He drew trumps and led a diamond from dummy, winning with the queen when East ducked. South then conceded two diamonds, making five.

three clubs, and your partner bids three hearts. What do you say?

ANSWER: Partner's new-suit bid over your preempt is forcing. Since your three clubs promised a good suit, he would have no reason to act with a poor hand. Your heart support is as good as can be, hence bid four hearts. With 10 6, Q 7 4, 2, A J 10 9 7 4 3, you could bid four diamonds as a cue bid, showing a diamond control and a heart fit.

West dealer
N-S vulnerable

12 TRICKS

Six spades would have been a decent contract (though maybe not so much after West's preempt), and South could indeed win 12 tricks. After South's queen wins the second diamond, he can take the ace of clubs, cash three hearts and lead dummy's queen of clubs.

When East follows low, South throws a diamond: a loser on a loser. When West wins, he must lead a club, and South ruffs in dummy and discards his last diamond.

Readers are always welcome to send deals as well as questions and comments to me at frs1016@centurylink.net.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠ 10 6 ♥ J 7 4 ♦ 2 ♣ K J 10 9 7 4 3. You deal and open

NORTH
♠ A K 5 4
♥ A Q 10
♦ A J 7 3
♣ Q 5

WEST
♠ 10 6
♥ J 7 4
♦ 2
♣ K J 10 9 7 4 3

EAST
♠ Q J
♥ 9 8 5 2
♦ K 10 9 8
♣ 8 6 2

SOUTH
♠ 9 8 7 3 2
♥ K 6 3
♦ Q 6 5 4
♣ A

West 3♣ North Dbl East 4♣ South 4♠
All Pass

Opening lead — ♦ 2

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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

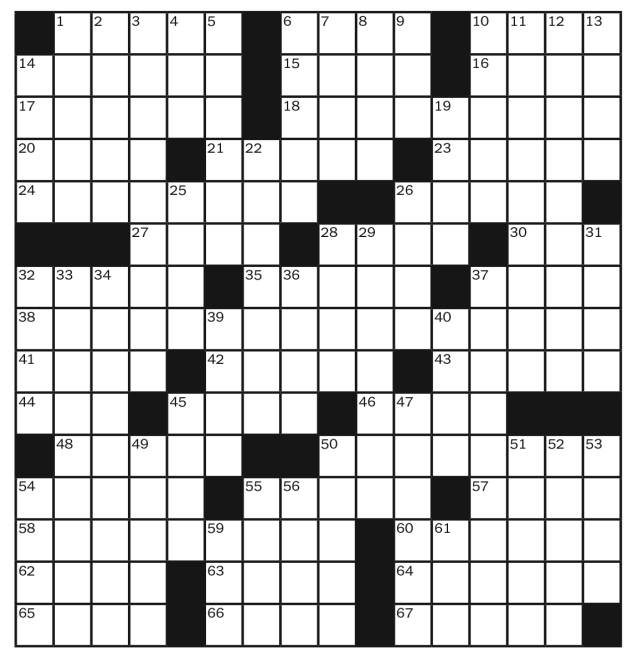
No. 0513

ACROSS

- 1 Thymus, e.g.
- 6 Man's name that can follow "v" or "r" to form an English word
- 10 Blown away
- 14 Food staple referred to as "the gold of the Incas"
- 15 PlayStation's creator
- 16 Prego alternative
- 17 Direction of some subway trains
- 18 Dude, Where's My Car? [1979]
- 20 What's on the agenda
- 21 Excessively showy
- 23 Cheese akin to cheddar
- 24 What's Eating Gilbert Grape [2019]

- 26 Petulant retort
- 27 Wood strip
- 28 Snaziness
- 30 Hill figure, for short
- 32 Pal of Porthos and Aramis
- 35 Key of Beethoven's "Eroica"
- 37 "Qué ___?"
- 38 Who Framed Roger Rabbit [1995]
- 41 C.D. holders, maybe
- 42 Obsess in front of the mirror
- 43 Much-abbreviated Latin phrase
- 44 NPR's Radio Hour
- 45 Memorization
- 46 "Swans Reflecting Elephants," e.g.
- 48 Spur

- 50 How the West Was Won [1969, 2010]
- 54 One of 150 in the Bible
- 55 Award-winning Streep
- 57 Hindu avatar
- 58 O Brother, Where Art Thou? [1990]
- 60 Settings for some courts
- 62 "You said it, sister!"
- 63 Woody and Buzz's owner in "Toy Story"
- 64 What was cool for a long time?
- 65 Supermodel Holiday
- 66 Top dog
- 67 One of a noted quintet



PUZZLE BY NATAN LAST, ANDY KRAVIS AND THE J.A.S.A. CROSSWORD CLASS

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



DOWN

- 1 Sanjay of CNN
- 2 One of about five of blood in the average adult body
- 3 Out of the ordinary
- 4 Partner of here
- 5 "Fiddlesticks!"
- 6 Children, in legalese
- 7 Spur
- 8 Word before child or human
- 9 Manhattan component
- 10 Firebug's activity
- 11 Room for art

- 12 Results of flattery
- 13 ___-free
- 14 Bon mot
- 19 Thom ___ (shoe brand)
- 22 Fundamentally
- 25 Fresh stuff
- 26 Musical featuring the Jellie Ball
- 28 "What ___?"
- 29 Get a load of this!

- 31 Have legs, so to speak
- 32 Beavering away
- 33 More than a couple
- 34 Psy-ops, say
- 36 Scram
- 37 Breeders' documents
- 39 "___ reflection"
- 40 Rug buyer's consideration
- 45 Film that lost to "Green Book" for Best Picture

- 47 Café order
- 49 Valleys
- 50 Low pocket pair in Texas hold 'em
- 51 Charged
- 52 P.R. concern
- 53 Stun, in a way
- 54 Cool, '90s-style
- 55 Like early Elvis records
- 56 Codas
- 59 Chocolate ___
- 61 Elvis's record label

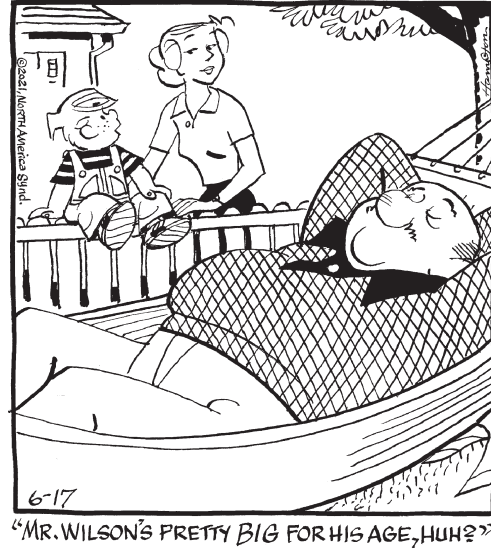
Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 7,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords (\$39.95 a year).

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.

VNARE
CNEUL
RMYIGL
RMNAAT

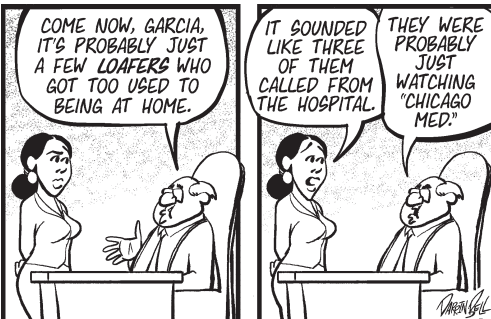
THE YOUNG PITCHER STRUGGLED TO THROW A BREAKING BALL BECAUSE THERE WAS A ---

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

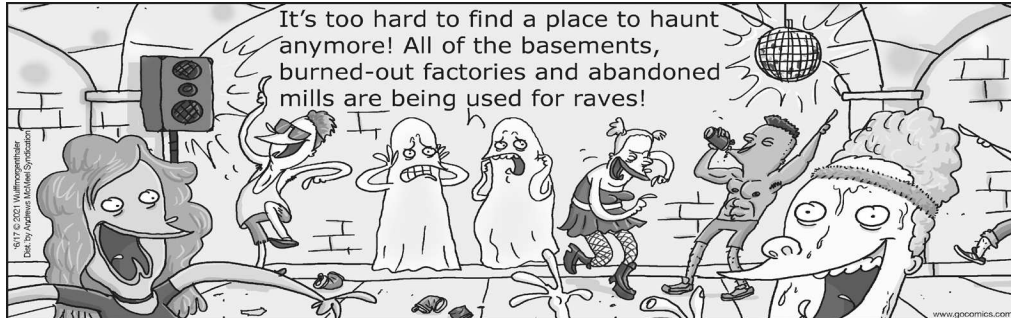
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GRIME USHER MODULE ZIPPER
Answer: The vineyard's new retail store that offered free samples was an — "EM-POUR-IUM"

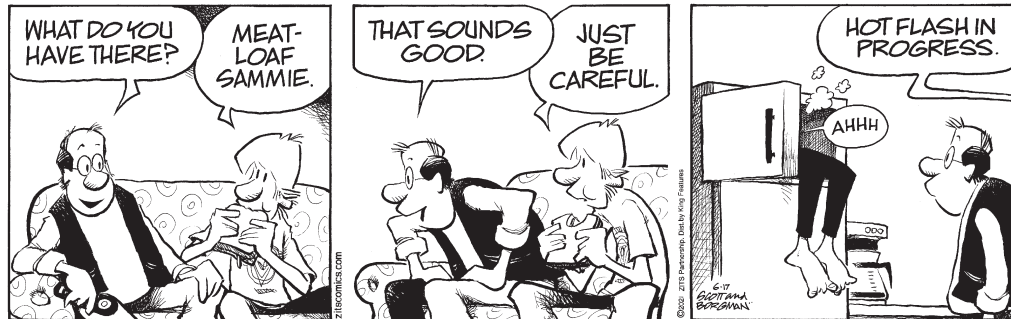
CANDORVILLE



WUMO



ZITS



Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

ACROSS

- 1 Jokingly
- 6 Cashed, as a bad check
- 11 "The ___": Uris novel
- 14 Far from cramped
- 15 Bakery offering that's always free?
- 16 Orangutan, e.g.
- 17 Best Actress Oscar nominee for "The Dark Angel" (1935)
- 19 Rage
- 20 Wasatch Mountains ski resort
- 21 Recreation with skis or sneakers
- 22 Swamp thing
- 24 Unpretentious ancestry
- 27 Religious devotion
- 29 GPS approx.
- 30 8 Series automaker
- 31 Drawing contest?
- 36 Contended
- 40 Felony, e.g.
- 43 "Auld Lang ___"
- 44 Reduced-rate hotel offering
- 45 Big gp. of towers?
- 46 Fort Collins sch.
- 48 Tycoon
- 50 Former First Lady behind the "Let's Move!" initiative
- 57 "Modern Family" actress Winter
- 58 In the old days
- 59 "And so ..."
- 62 Cab alternative
- 63 Courageous ... like 17-, 24-, 40- and 50-Across?
- 66 Key that will get you out of a window
- 67 One Time?
- 68 Shadowfax, to Gandalf
- 69 Library reminder
- 70 "A League of ___ Own"
- 71 Tom who voices Woody in "Toy Story" films

DOWN

- 1 Destructive 2017 hurricane
- 2 Yuletide tune
- 3 Golf announcer's call before a potential victory putt
- 4 Mötley Crüe piece
- 5 Lab-coated TV educator
- 6 Afghanistan's capital
- 7 Adler of Sherlock Holmes fame
- 8 Artist's trunk?
- 9 Paramore genre
- 10 "Rats!"
- 11 Hispaniola nation
- 12 Kitchen wear
- 13 Catcalls
- 18 Pluto, but not Goofy
- 23 Tequila plant
- 25 British pianist Hess
- 26 Coral phenomena
- 27 Lunches with Jif
- 28 "Perhaps"
- 32 "Rush Rush" singer
- 33 Hardly an orange-free st.

- 34 "30 Rock" creator
- 35 Singer Reed
- 37 TV's "Barefoot Contessa"
- 38 Genesis twin
- 39 "So here's the ___"
- 41 Monterey milk
- 42 1-Down relief org.
- 47 Be convincing
- 49 Code of silence
- 50 Confounding layouts
- 51 Like some coffee and ales
- 52 Snap
- 53 Baggly
- 54 World-weariness
- 55 Yellowish brown
- 56 6th of December?
- 60 Participant in a Mac-vs-PC argument, maybe
- 61 Payout determinant
- 64 Kinda-sorta
- 65 BBQ residue

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

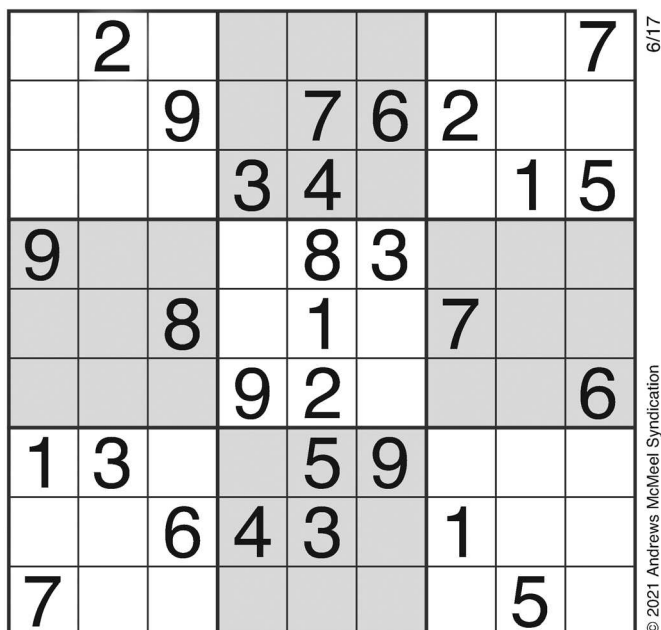
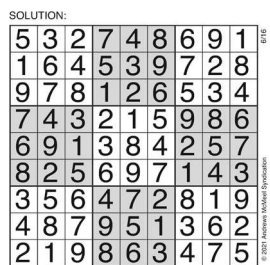


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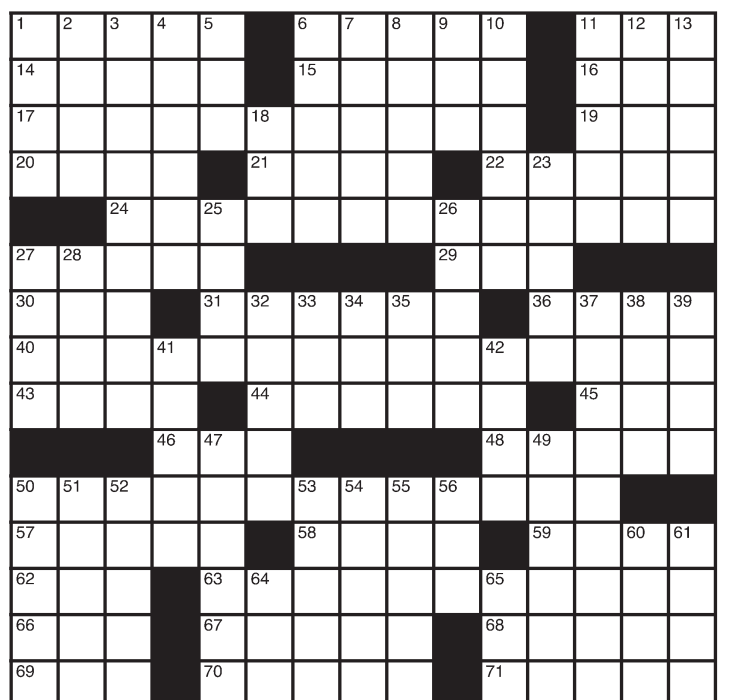
SUDOKU

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 August Miller
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