

Tuesday, December 21, 2021

Daily Bridge Club

Looking for a partner

By FRANK STEWART
Tribune Content Agency

Unlucky Louie and I were Christmas shopping for our wives (Louie says his had a Santa clause included in their marriage vows) when we saw a store with a sign: "Gifts for that hard-to-find person."

"I should buy something," Louie said, "have it gift-wrapped, tag it 'To a good partner' and put it under the club's tree."

Louie has trouble finding good partners: His bad luck seems to infect people he plays with. As West in a penny game, Louie led the ace of spades against four hearts: four, three, ten.

and he tries two spades. What do you say?

ANSWER: Partner's new-suit bid is a try for game. He asks you to bid game with any sound single raise or with a fair raise with help for his second suit. With a "double fit," you may make game with fewer than 26 points. Since your spade honors are perfect, bid four hearts. Partner may hold A J 9 5, A Q 10 6 4, A 3, 9 6.

West dealer
N-S vulnerable

NORTH
♠ K Q 4
♥ K 5 2
♦ 7 5 2
♣ 7 5 4 2

WEST
♠ A 8 7 6 5 2
♥ J
♦ K J 3
♣ K J 3

EAST
♠ J 9 3
♥ 9 3
♦ A 10 8 4
♣ 10 9 8 6

SOUTH
♠ 10
♥ A Q 10 8 7 6 4
♦ Q 9 6
♣ A Q

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

Opening lead — ♠ A

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DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠ K Q 4 ♥ K 5 2
♦ 7 5 2 ♣ 7 5 4 2. Your partner opens one heart, you bid two hearts

SEEKING A FRIENDLY DUPLICATE BRIDGE?

Find five games weekly online at bendbridge.org

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 1116

ACROSS

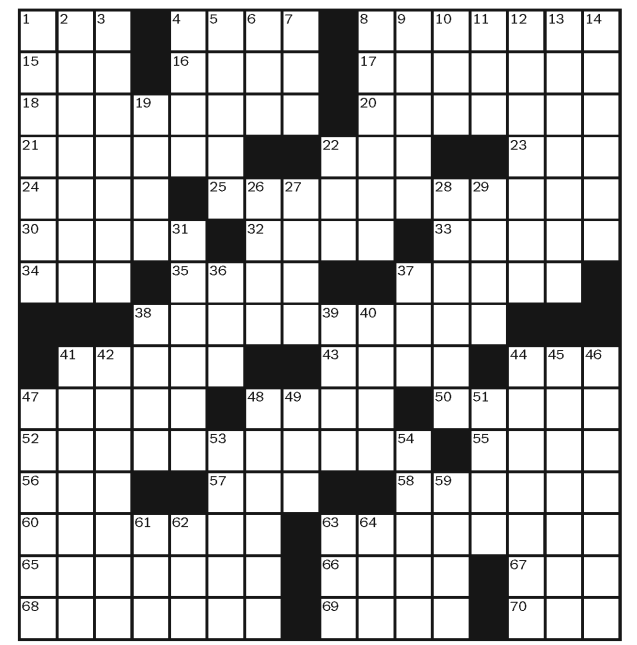
- 1 Key above Caps Lock
- 4 Depletes, as of energy
- 8 Goes on the offensive
- 15 Suffix with expert
- 16 "___ the case!"
- 17 Many an evergreen
- 18 With 63-Across, "The end" ... or what can be said about the novels in the clues for 25-, 38- and 52-Across
- 20 Sometimes it's "not an option"
- 21 Stella ___ (beer)
- 22 Sculler's tool
- 23 ___ score (400 to 1600)
- 24 Prefix with bot
- 25 Author of "The Bell Jar" (1963)
- 30 Sending a Slack message, say

- 32 Secure, as a boat
- 33 NPR host Cornish
- 34 "___ away!" ("Hit me!")
- 35 Paths of lobes
- 37 Actress Mirren
- 38 Author of "Black Beauty" (1877)
- 41 Sealy competitor
- 43 Bit of fishing equipment
- 44 Many a college prof
- 47 Difficult tooth for a dentist to fill
- 48 Help (out)
- 50 Mystical energy fields
- 52 Author of "Wuthering Heights" (1847)
- 55 Slugger Sammy in the 1998 home run chase
- 56 Bit of fishing equipment
- 57 Prey for a barracuda

- 58 "You don't even want to know"
- 60 Question of apathy
- 63 See 18-Across
- 65 Guaranteed
- 66 Met highlight
- 67 Earn the most votes, say
- 68 Abhors
- 69 Some August births
- 70 Inc., abroad

DOWN

- 1 Fairy queen in "A Midsummer Night's Dream"
- 2 Hindu retreats
- 3 Many a character in Kerouac's "On the Road"
- 4 Enthusiastic Spanish approval
- 5 Collect in volume
- 6 One shaking hands and kissing babies, stereotypically
- 7 Weekly show famously filmed in Studio 8H, in brief
- 8 Secret relationship
- 9 Small crown
- 10 El ___ (nickname for the Mexican national soccer team)
- 11 Falcons, on a scoreboard
- 12 Vigorous campaign
- 13 Protein in horns and hair
- 14 Keep one's anger at a low boil



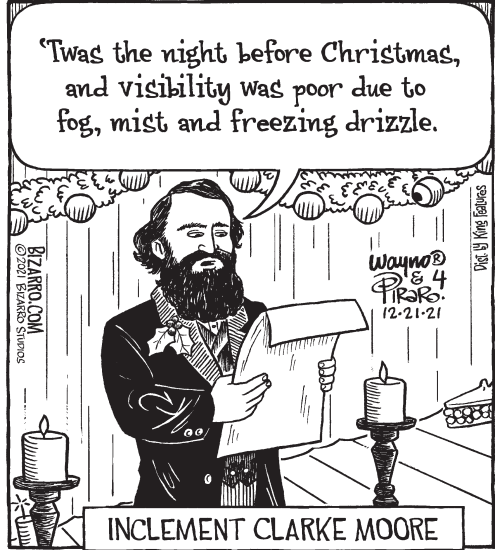
PUZZLE BY DREW SCHMENNER

- 19 Yogi Bear or Fred Flintstone
- 22 Egg: Prefix
- 26 It often has a gym and pool
- 27 The "1" in a 15-1 record
- 28 Dish associated with the Valencia region of Spain
- 29 Slow period
- 31 Overhead support for interstate signs
- 36 Tiny messenger
- 37 ___-haw
- 38 Asia's ___ Sea
- 39 Popular name for an Irish girl
- 40 Swollen mark
- 41 "Can't say who"
- 42 Snooty
- 44 N.F.L. all-star game
- 45 Makes an enthusiastic attempt
- 46 Wrong turn in a maze
- 47 Repaired
- 48 American Kennel Club list
- 49 Former Time Warner partner
- 51 Leningrad's land, for short
- 53 Visorless cap
- 54 Letters heard after "cow," "pig" and "horse"
- 59 "___ the night before Christmas ..."
- 61 Chalk one up?
- 62 Horace's "___ Poetica"
- 63 Narrator of "On the Road"
- 64 Charlemagne's domain: Abbr.

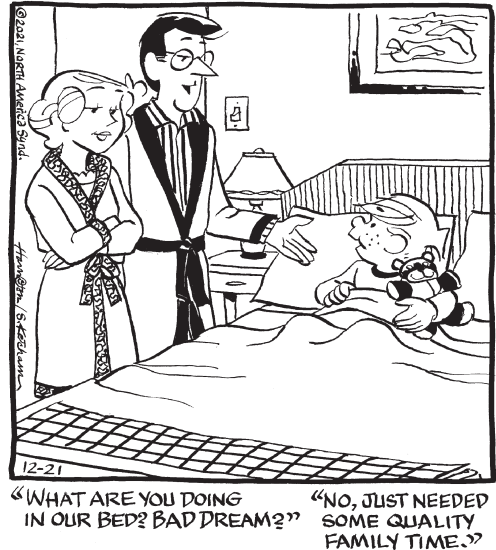
ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



BIZARRO



DENNIS THE MENACE



HERMAN



JUMBLE

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

THALC
WSOHE
DUELSG
GANROD

THE COLLEGE OFFERED EARTH SCIENCE PROGRAMS THAT WERE CONSIDERED TO BE ...

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

Answer here: ○○○○○○

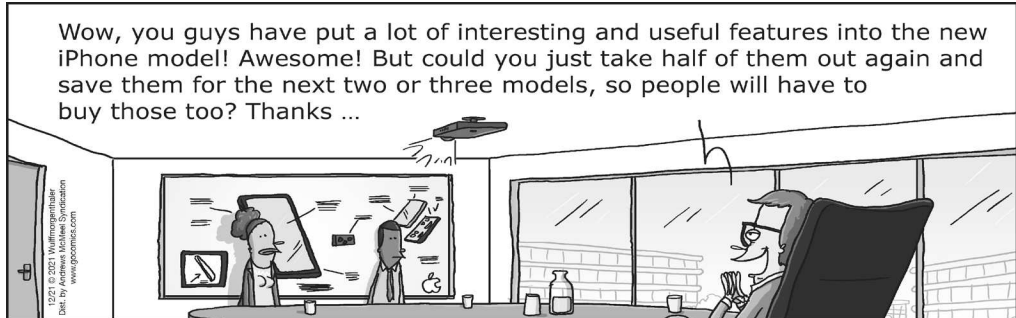
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: CLOWN ABATE EXHALE SNEEZE
Answer: She was learning to use Microsoft's spreadsheet program and thought it was — EXCELLENT

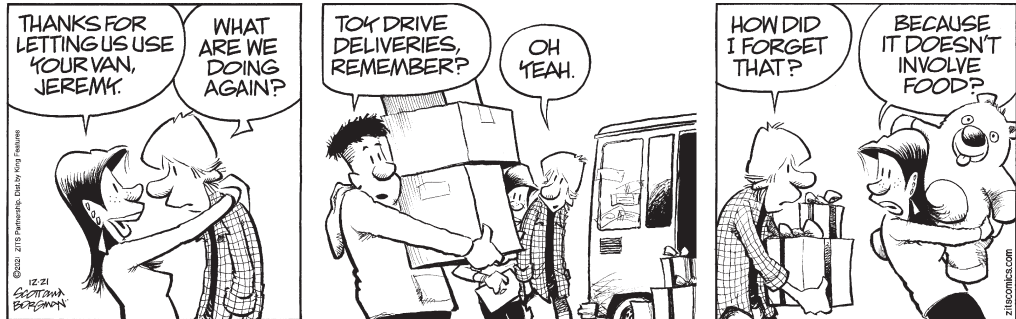
CANDORVILLE



WUMO



ZITS



Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- ACROSS
- 1 *With 4-Across, researcher's wear
- 4 *See 1-Across
- 8 Nested newborns' noises
- 14 Be off
- 15 Major employer?
- 16 Like some quaint lamps
- 17 "Get it?"
- 18 Back
- 19 Old-fashioned type
- 20 *Briefs alternative
- 23 Soccer cheer
- 24 Lena of "Riviera"
- 25 Feast with poi
- 26 50 Cent piece, e.g.
- 27 Send-ups
- 31 Sixth sense: Abbr.
- 32 2021 World Series champs: Abbr.
- 33 Relish
- 35 "Garfield" dog
- 36 *Jewel-encrusted film noir title bird
- 41 Curly cabbage
- 42 Vocally twangy
- 43 Nothing
- 44 Pound sound
- 47 Buffet with guacamole and salsa
- 51 Chekov's early "Star Trek" rank: Abbr.
- 52 Give (out) sparingly
- 54 Musical finale
- 55 CPR expert
- 56 *Sock hop attire
- 60 Seize, as an opportunity
- 62 ___ proprietor
- 63 Poe's "Annabel ___"
- 64 Infuriate
- 65 Latin 101 verb
- 66 Finish
- 67 Checked for prints
- 68 With 69-Across, Iditarod front-runner ... and a hint to the answers to starred clues
- 69 See 68-Across
- DOWN
- 3 Secession approved in a 2016 U.K. referendum
- 4 Three-time Grammy-winning singer Vikki
- 5 Valuable minerals
- 6 Asian nurse
- 7 Alpine region in Italy and Austria
- 8 Sportscaster Bob with 29 Emmys
- 9 Asks (for), as a loan
- 10 "Evil Woman" rock gp.
- 11 Legendary city of gold
- 12 Jargon with words ending in -ay
- 13 Church feature
- 21 Strand at sea
- 22 Poe's ___ Morgue
- 28 Backstabber
- 29 Christmas ___
- 30 Aptly palindromic ABBA hit
- 34 "The Last Jedi" villain Kylo
- 35 The end of time?
- 36 Top-level computer list
- 37 Elite athletes
- 38 Lucrative, as a contract
- 39 Smart-whip link
- 40 Europe's ___ de Genève
- 41 Prepared for a proposal
- 44 Common Sunday newspaper insert
- 45 Supported from the bleachers, with "for"
- 46 Progressive spokeswoman
- 48 Heated to bubbling
- 49 Glandular prefix
- 50 Like family-friendly films
- 53 '50s Ford failure
- 57 "You snooze, you ___"
- 58 "Frozen II" sister
- 59 Gardener's purchase
- 61 Tom Brady, before he became a Buc

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:



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SUDOKU

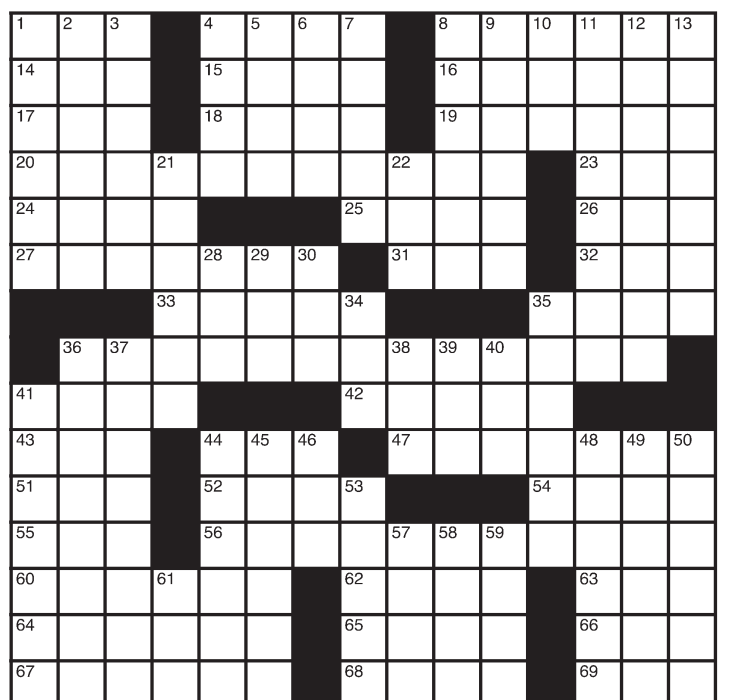
Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

SOLUTION TO PREVIOUS SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆



By Kurt Krauss
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