

Thursday, April 21, 2022

Daily Bridge Club

Stock excuses

By **FRANK STEWART**
Tribune Content Agency

“How are your stocks doing?” I asked Unlucky Louie. He has been beating his head against Wall Street for years.

“Poorly,” Louie sighed. “I think God created stock analysts just to make weather forecasters look good.”

Louie’s powers of bridge analysis aren’t great. When he was today’s East, West led the jack of diamonds against four hearts, and South won with the queen and let the ten of trumps ride.

Louie took the queen and led a low spade. South won, forced out West’s ace of trumps and won the spade return. He drew trumps, lost a club to the ace and claimed 10 tricks.

FINESSE

Louie should beat the contract. When he takes the queen of trumps, he can infer that West has the ace. If South had it, he would cash it before trying a finesse, or take the king and finesse against East. But if West has the ace of trumps, South has everything else.

Louie’s best chance is to shift to the ace and deuce of clubs. When West takes the ace of trumps, he gives Louie a club ruff.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold: ♠ A K ♥ 10 9 8 7 2
♦ A Q 4 ♣ 7 6 3. You open one heart, and your partner bids one spade. The

opponents pass. What do you say?

ANSWER: To describe a balanced, minimum opening bid, bid 1NT. A rebid of two hearts would suggest a six-card suit. You have no other suit to show, and you can’t raise to two spades with a doubleton in support, even the A-K. True, your lack of a club stopper is unpleasant, but you have no alternative call.

South dealer
N-S vulnerable

NORTH
♠ 10 9 4 3
♥ K J 4
♦ K 6
♣ K Q J 9

WEST
♠ J 5 2
♥ A 5
♦ J 10 9 5
♣ 10 8 5 4

EAST
♠ Q 8 7 6
♥ Q 6 3
♦ 8 7 3 2
♣ A 2

SOUTH
♠ A K
♥ 10 9 8 7 2
♦ A Q 4
♣ 7 6 3

South 1♥
West Pass
North 2♣
East Pass

West Pass
North 3♥
East Pass

Opening lead — ♦ J

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

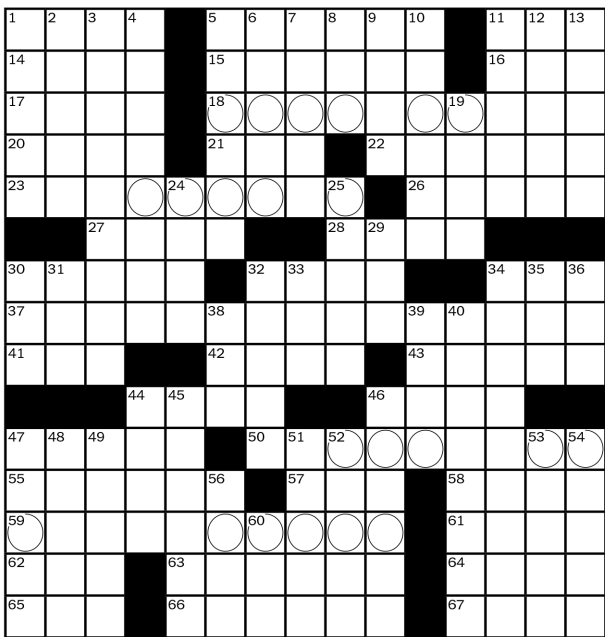
The New York Times
Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0317

- ACROSS**
- 1 Something to click
- 5 Pigeons on a platter
- 11 ___ trivia
- 14 Astronomical news
- 15 Term of address for many a respected elder
- 16 Strand in a cell
- 17 Serious schlep
- 18 *Secure
- 20 Monstrous sort
- 21 Nail polish brand with an “I’m Not Really a Waitress” shade
- 22 Give permission to
- 23 *Trick
- 26 Some frozen drinks
- 27 Global manufacturer of chemical products
- 28 What Graham Greene called a “failure of imagination”
- 30 Unflinching
- 32 Requested pickup time on many online orders
- 34 “How’s it goin’?”
- 37 What to do before the answers to the starred clues will make sense
- 41 Boom times
- 42 Voting bloc
- 43 Didn’t wax, say
- 44 Incense, in a sense
- 46 Senate majority leader from 1996 to 2001
- 47 Like men’s double-breasted suits, e.g.
- 50 *Speck
- 55 Destination of the first marathon (490 B.C.)

- 57 ___-roaring
- 58 Words that may scare off a buyer
- 59 *Riot
- 61 Afflictions
- 62 Number of a certain rear bowling pin
- 63 The hair of one’s chinky chin chin, maybe
- 64 Get on board
- 65 Neighbor of Bolivia: Abbr.
- 66 ___ manual
- 67 Optometrist’s offering, casually

- DOWN**
- 1 Being pulled along
- 2 Short-legged herding dog
- 3 Totally misses ... or totally surveys
- 4 Uncouth untruth
- 5 Watering hole in many westerns
- 6 Wisecracks
- 7 Leave with no strings attached?
- 8 QB stat: Abbr.
- 9 Bitter feeling
- 10 Words repeated while scrolling through a Netflix list, perhaps
- 11 Voyager 1, for one
- 12 Cry to end a pin
- 13 Makes, as cakes
- 19 ___ to the bottom
- 24 Having mucho dinero



PUZZLE BY DANIEL BODILY AND JEFF CHEN

- 25 “___ of Sunset” (Bravo series)
- 29 Galoot
- 30 Disco-dancing enthusiast on “The Simpsons”
- 31 Select
- 32 Company whose name comes from a term in the game of Go
- 33 Farm outbuilding
- 34 Popular site for holiday gift orders
- 35 Application
- 36 Many a prof has one
- 38 ___ Attack (card game variant)
- 39 Uncommon bills
- 40 Some hairstyles in punk fashion
- 44 ___ O’s
- 45 “Wait!”
- 46 Expires
- 47 Certain Pan-Africanist, informally
- 48 Air up there
- 49 Flip-flop
- 51 Keynote, e.g.
- 52 Car part that moves rhythmically
- 53 What a jalapeño has that a habanero lacks
- 54 One of England’s so-called “home counties”
- 56 Boat that’s good in shallow water
- 60 Took off

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

Read about and comment on each puzzle: [nytimes.com/wordplay](https://www.nytimes.com/wordplay).

BIZARRO



DENNIS THE MENACE



HERMAN



JUMBLE

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

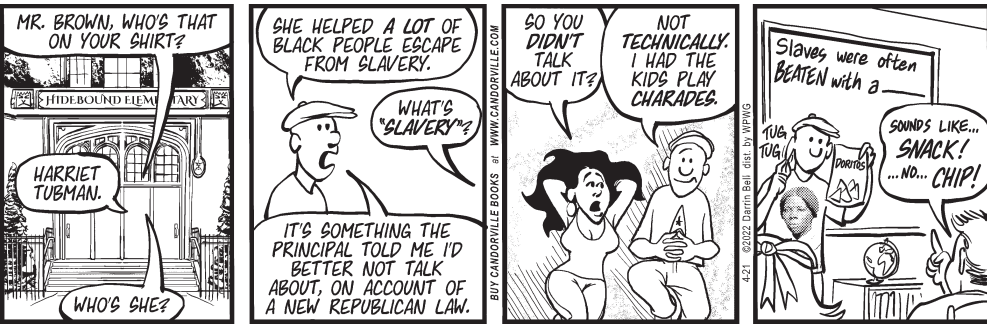
GANIA
DMYUD
BKUREE
TMOINO

Print your answer here: _____

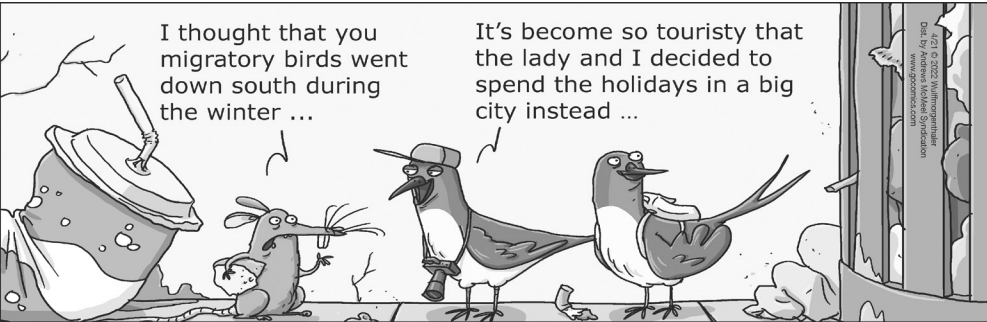
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday’s Jumbles: MONTH SPICY PREFIX PLACID
Answer: It was the rabbits’ first time sleeping in a tent, and they were — “HOPPY” CAMPERS

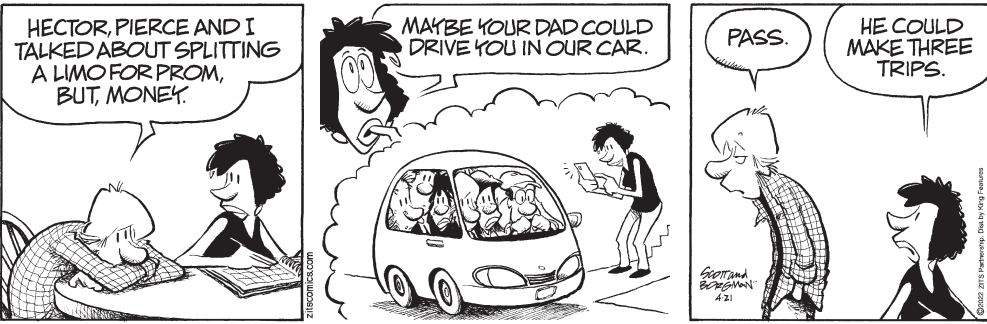
CANDORVILLE



WUMO



ZITS



SUDOKU

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

SOLUTION TO PREVIOUS SUDOKU

SOLUTION:

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★☆

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

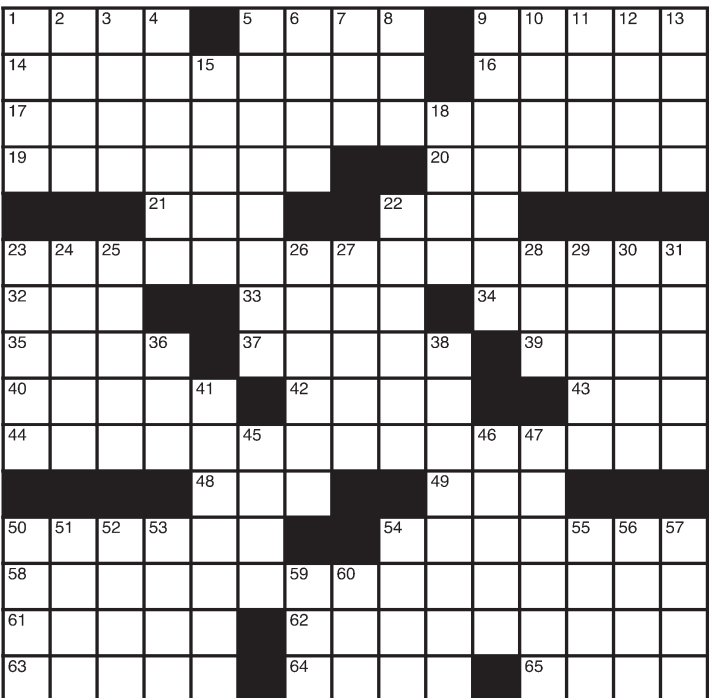
Edited by Patti Varol and Joyce Nichols Lewis

- ACROSS**
- 1 Epic ___
- 5 Family unit
- 9 App with Social and Promotions tabs
- 14 Instrument for a Swiss mountaineer
- 16 “The Big Bang Theory” co-creator Chuck
- 17 Mission to go after imaginary germs?
- 19 Perfume samples
- 20 Loads
- 21 Old French coin
- 22 “I’m so mean, I make medicine sick” boxer
- 23 Military vessel in terrible condition?
- 32 Calendar col.
- 33 Sporty Camaro
- 34 Huge herbivore
- 35 Site to find a handmade wedding dress, perhaps
- 37 Powerful sharks
- 39 Ventura County tourist town
- 40 Parting word
- 42 Epic party
- 43 ___ Toy Barn: “Toy Story 2” shop
- 44 Antitrust lawsuit, perhaps?
- 48 Hard water?
- 49 Abbr. on a pill bottle
- 50 Crowning point
- 54 Break down
- 58 Doubleheader feature, and what are literally found in 17-, 23-, and 44-Across
- 61 Benefit
- 62 Feature of many a TV show summary
- 63 Aptly named novelist Charles
- 64 “I feel ___”: “It’s like you know me!”
- 65 “Madam Secretary” actor Tim
- 4 Alphabet soup
- bite
- 5 Guardians of the Tree of Life
- 6 “Gigi” playwright Anita
- 7 Dada pioneer Jean
- 8 22.5 deg.
- 9 Montana’s ___ National Park
- 10 Sunbeam speck
- 11 Number for soprano Pretty Yende
- 12 Hemoglobin mineral
- 13 Optometrist’s concern
- 15 Nash of “When They See Us”
- 18 Hand ___: sushi order
- 22 With no overhead added
- 23 Cook, as bao buns
- 24 One-up
- 25 Piney ooze
- 26 Good for farming
- 27 Hungarian wine
- 28 “The Chi” airer, briefly
- 29 Traditional religious garment
- 30 As a whole
- 31 Composure
- 36 Fashion designer Jenny
- 38 No longer large
- 41 Angry speaker’s droplet
- 45 Tres y cinco
- 46 “August: ___ County”
- 47 Plateau
- 50 Energy snack brand for kids
- 51 Nesting site
- 52 Frozen Four org.
- 53 “Joke, joke”
- 54 Hobby farm measure
- 55 Where it’s fun to stay, per the Village People
- 56 Evangelist’s quality
- 57 2021 award for Naomi Osaka
- 59 Degrees for EEs
- 60 Unreturned serve

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:



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By Stella Zawistowski
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