

Sherman's Lagoon — By J. P. Toomey



Mutts — By Patrick McDonnell



Hagar The Horrible — By Chris Browne



Beetle Bailey — By Mort Walker



Garfield — By Jim Davis



Baby Blues — By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Conceptis Sudoku

The grid must be so completed that every row, column and 3x3 box has every digit from 1 to 9 inclusive.

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

Difficulty Level ★

Answer to yesterday's puzzle

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

Challenger

DIRECTIONS:

Fill each square with a number, one through nine.
 ■ Horizontal squares should add to totals on right.
 ■ Vertical squares should add to totals on bottom.
 ■ Diagonal squares through center should add to total in upper and lower right.

THERE MAY BE MORE THAN ONE SOLUTION.

Today's 7 Minutes
 7 Seconds
 Your Working Time ___ Minutes
 ___ Seconds

			7		26
					25
	5				25
			7		25
5					25
21	21	26	32	25	

Yesterday's solution

					15
6	1	2	2		11
5	1	8	9		23
9	4	9	8		30
7	6	8	8		23
21	12	27	27	24	

Word by Word

Fox (ثعلب) **Thalab**

A fox is not taken twice in the same snare.
 La yoqai al thalab fe sharaq nafsah maratain.

Numbers لا يوقع الثعلب في الشراك نفسه مرتين

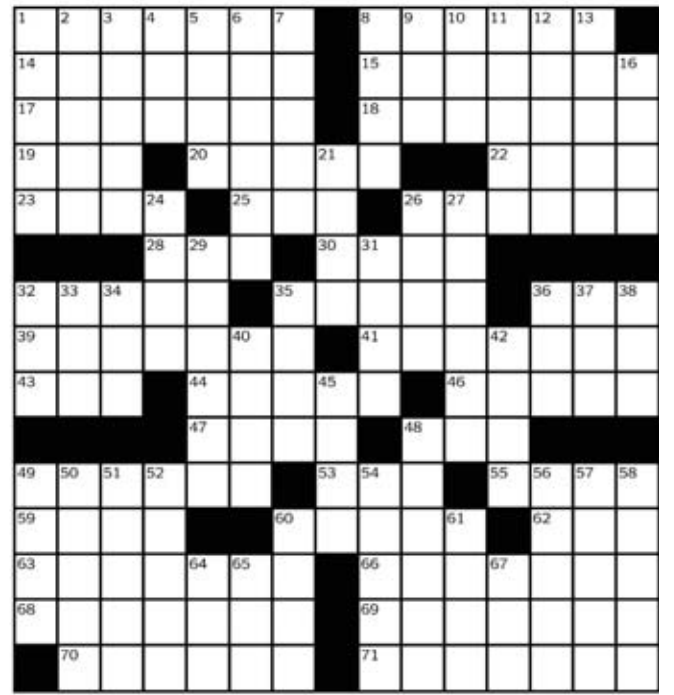
7055 Seven thousand fifty five

٧٠٥٥ Sabat alaaaf wa khamsa wa Khamsoun

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

We asked some favorite Times crossword contributors, "What would you like to do in a daily Times crossword that has never been done before?" This week's puzzles, Monday to Saturday, are the result.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Earthquake-related
 - 8 Some Impressionist paintings
 - 14 You might put a fist through it
 - 15 Things to wear
 - 17 Art supplies since 1903
 - 18 Looney Tunes character with a strong Southern accent
 - 19 Gluttonous sort
 - 20 Requiring constant reassurance
 - 22 As a result
 - 23 Belligerent son of Zeus
 - 25 NNW's opposite
 - 26 Never-before-seen
 - 28 "Last Bow" (Sherlock Holmes story)
 - 30 Plain ____
 - 32 Egypt's ____ Dam
 - 35 Kindergartner's stickum
 - 36 Flapper accessory
 - 39 Director with three films on A.F.I.'s list of 100 greatest movies, all of them silent
 - 41 "I'm Henry VIII, I Am" band
 - 43 Cowboy nickname
 - 44 Give a speech
 - 46 Coupes and sedans
 - 47 Repulsive
 - 48 List-ending abbr.
 - 49 Uses a divining rod
 - 53 PC key
 - 55 Unsubtle performers
 - 59 Southernmost Great Lake
 - 60 Nebraska's largest city
 - 62 Farrow of "Zelig"
 - 63 "The Little Foxes" playwright
 - 66 Laundromat fixture
 - 68 Make room for
 - 69 Sanctifies with oil
 - 70 Discards
 - 71 Actual amount paid
- DOWN**
- 1 Ali G. portrayer ____ Baron Cohen
 - 2 Ballgame bobble
 - 3 Public relations concern
 - 4 Reticent
 - 5 Project Apollo destination
 - 6 Reason for missing work
 - 7 Stops
 - 8 "Back to the Future" hero Marty
 - 9 Lotion ingredient
 - 10 Yuletide quaff
 - 11 "I Love Lucy" role
 - 12 Barb in a bush
 - 13 Fabric used for suits
 - 16 Fall in winter
 - 21 ____ vu
 - 24 Quick on the uptake
 - 26 Start the pot
 - 27 Ogle
 - 29 Smitten
 - 31 Arthur of tennis
 - 32 Parliamentary output



PUZZLE BY PATRICK BERRY

- 33 Ship, to its captain
- 34 Stuff rubbed on skis
- 35 "In the Colony" (Kafka story)
- 36 Fisherman's purchase
- 37 Not fooled by
- 38 Blockhead
- 40 Eye piece
- 42 A lot
- 45 Uniform-wearing group
- 48 Component of natural gas
- 49 Indira Gandhi International Airport site
- 50 Show the ropes to
- 51 Radioer's "I'll do it"
- 52 Doesn't stay on the shelves
- 54 Badge wearer
- 56 ____ acid
- 57 Bowlful next to a restaurant's cashier
- 58 Most prudent, as advice
- 60 Dollar bills
- 61 Foppish neckwear
- 64 "____ in the Morning" (radio show)
- 65 Fruit drink suffix
- 67 Fruit drink brand

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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

Scratch pad

odds 'n' ends

WINSTON-SALEM, North Carolina: A woman who sparked an international furor online after posting a photo on Facebook last week of her dog with its mouth duct-taped shut has been charged with animal cruelty in North Carolina, police said.

But Katharine Lemansky, 45, will be allowed to keep the chocolate lab-mix named Brown after authorities in Cary, North Carolina, said they found no signs of injury or detectable hair loss on the dog's muzzle.

"Taping the dog's muzzle shut was a terrible decision on Ms. Lemansky's part," Cary Police Captain Randall Rhyme said in a statement on Monday.

"At the same time, it's important to also note that our animal control officers who physically examined both Brown and her littermate found the dogs to be very well cared for, which is why we did not and could not remove them from the owner."

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) urged North Carolina officials on Tuesday to remove the dogs from Lemansky's care and to ban her from future pet ownership if she is convicted.

Concern for Brown the dog spread rapidly after its photo was posted online Friday along with the caption, "This is what happens when you don't shut up!"

Police departments in Florida and Connecticut, two states where Lemansky was believed to have ties, said their communication systems were inundated with phone calls and emails from around the world about the case. (RTRS)

NORMAN, Oklahoma: A suburban Oklahoma City police officer picked up an unusual subject found wandering along a rural road.

Norman police Officer Kyle Canaan says it took a little pushing, pulling and some animal feed, but he got the miniature donkey nicknamed "Squishy" into the back of his patrol car and out of harm's way Tuesday morning.

Canaan responded after a woman found the animal on the loose. She told local media she had a pen to keep the donkey in but no way to get it there. (AP)

BERLIN: One penguin is dead and two others are missing at the Dortmund Zoo and police in Germany say they are investigating a possible string of crimes there.

One Humboldt penguin was found dead in the zoo's flamingo cage on Monday morning and two others are missing, police spokesman Marco Mueller said Tuesday. He says police are trying to determine if someone stole the birds or if they had somehow escaped.

"The loss breaks our hearts," zoo director Frank Brandstaetter told reporters in Dortmund, saying the 1-year-old birds had been born and raised at the zoo. (AP)



A street artist dressed as Charlie Chaplin performs in Sao Paulo, Brazil on Dec 1. Sao Paulo is the most populous city in Brazil, South America and the Southern Hemisphere. (AP)

contract bridge

By Steve Becker

Famous Hand

South dealer.
 East-West vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ A 10 7 4 3
 ♥ 9 6 3
 ♦ 10 9 6 5
 ♣ A

WEST
 ♠ K J 8
 ♥ K 10 7 5
 ♦ 7
 ♣ 10 9 8 7 5

EAST
 ♠ 9 6 2
 ♥ J 8 2
 ♦ A K J 8 3 2
 ♣ 4

SOUTH
 ♠ Q 5
 ♥ A Q 4
 ♦ Q 4
 ♣ K Q J 6 3 2

The bidding:

South 1♣ West 1♠ North 3♠ East 3NT
 Opening lead: ♠ five of hearts.

This deal occurred during the 1970 world championship match between Italy and the United States.

At the first table, with a U.S. pair North-South, West led the five of hearts against three notrump. Declarer won East's jack with the queen, played a club to dummy's ace and led the three of spades to his queen. West won with the king and returned the king of hearts to declarer's ace.

When South next cashed the king of clubs, he got a rude shock when East discarded the eight of diamonds. The contract was now in serious danger, since South's apparently sure nine tricks had suddenly dwindled to seven.

South did not panic, however, and made the contract anyway. He cashed the Q-J of clubs, led a spade to dummy's ten and, after the finesse succeeded, cashed the ace of spades. When the opposing spades split evenly, he was home free.

At the second table, the Italian North-South pair also got to three notrump, and again a heart was led. Declarer won with the queen, played a club to the ace and, just like his counterpart, led a low spade to the queen, losing to the king.

But at this point, West, Bob Hamman, returned the eight of spades! He knew that the clubs were divided 5-1, something South did not yet know. Not surprisingly, declarer put up dummy's ace. From his viewpoint, he had nine almost certain tricks and could not afford to finesse the ten of spades, risking disaster if the finesse lost and the opponents switched to diamonds.

Once the ace was played, South had no chance, and he finished down two, giving the U.S. an 11-IMP gain on the deal.

Tomorrow: It's so easy to go wrong.



"THAT'S MY NEW CROCKPOT... RIGHT NEXT TO MY OLD CROCKPOT."