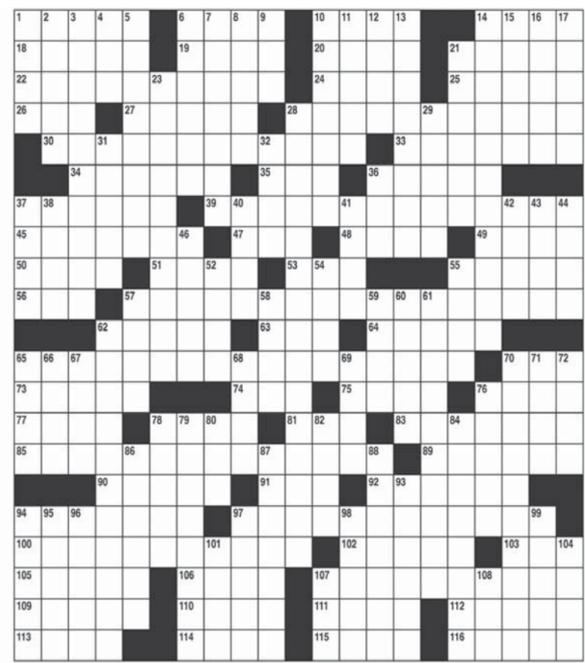




Scratch pad

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Ecclesiastical leader
 - 6 "Get out!"
 - 10 Blood enemy
 - 14 Aussie critters
 - 18 Diaper option
 - 19 Bridge shape
 - 20 French director Clément
 - 21 Martial art whose name means "sword way"
 - 22 Home for Bilbo Baggins
 - 24 West Wing worker
 - 25 A lot
 - 26 A.L. East team: Abbr.
 - 27 Contemptible sorts
 - 28 The ladies-only Western-themed bar I own?
 - 30 Inspector Clouseau or Borat?
 - 33 Peevish
 - 34 Most contemptible
 - 35 Blowup: Abbr.
 - 36 See 9-Down
 - 37 Like some quilt blocks
 - 39 Decoration in a deli case?
 - 45 Tony who managed two World Series championships for the Cardinals
 - 47 Setting for Cardinals home games, briefly
 - 48 Vivacity
- C 2012 The New York Times, distributed by The New York Times Syndicate**
- 49 Neutral tone**
- 50 Parliamentary proceedings, e.g.**
- 51 Romeo or Juliet**
- 53 ___ booster**
- 55 Drained of color**
- 56 "Indubitably"**
- 57 Product of a stable of comic-strip artists?**
- 62 Kentucky college**
- 63 Communication system pioneered by Thomas Gallaudet, for short**
- 64 Greek city where Perseus was born**
- 65 Scaled-down woodwind?**
- 70 Ice-cream container**
- 73 Calendar model**
- 74 Suffix with blast-**
- 75 Eight-time Olympic medalist Apolo Anton ___**
- 76 Condo V.I.P.**
- 77 Art Deco artist**
- 78 Belgradian, e.g.**
- 81 Audiophile's collection**
- 83 Elizabeth with the memoir "Saving Graces"**
- 85 Audibly upset Belgian francophone?**
- 89 Words after "Sure!"**
- 90 Mournful work**
- 91 MSN alternative**
- 92 Musician in the woodwind section**
- 94 Runs through**
- 97 Satirical depiction of the story of Noah?**
- 100 Most important mounted cavalryman?**
- 102 Opposite corner in a romantic triangle**
- 103 Bush league, for short?**
- 105 Jean who played Aunt Martha in "Arsenic and Old Lace"**
- 106 Important positions**
- 107 Alphas**
- 109 Son of Gloria on "Modern Family"**
- 110 Food thickener**
- 111 Big name among radio shock jocks**
- 112 So-called "Butterfly Capital of Alabama"**
- 113 Environmental bane**
- 114 Hand (out)**
- 115 Study of the heavens: Abbr.**
- 116 Attacked**
- 12 "___ Club" (No. 1 hit for 50 Cent)**
- 13 Removes, as a sticker**
- 14 They can provoke knee-jerk reactions**
- 15 Reaching new heights in ballet?**
- 16 Ancient theater**
- 17 Little lad**
- 21 Aussie critters**
- 23 Quick series of social-media posts**
- 28 Something seen at Frankenstein's birthday party?**
- 29 Shopping ___**
- 31 Empty spaces**
- 32 Rhubarb with deep roots?**
- 36 Welcoming necklace**
- 37 DVD remote button**
- 38 Go a mile a minute**
- 40 Woe for some 51-Acrosses**
- 41 Shine**
- 42 Tres + cinco**
- 43 Two-tone treat**
- 44 Georgia senator who helped establish "don't ask, don't tell"**
- 46 Correo ___ (words on foreign correspondence)**
- 52 Hairy hunter of Genesis**
- 54 Big do**
- 55 Elvis ___ Presley**
- 57 Pitch in**
- 58 "The BFG" author**
- 59 Automaker that introduced the Rambler**
- 60 Witch**
- 61 2004 Scarlett Johansson film adapted from "Lady Windermere's Fan"**
- 62 Apt to go Democratic**
- 65 Spit out**
- 66 Actress Sorvino**
- 67 One opposed**
- 68 Big brass**
- 69 Middling**
- 70 Work out spectacularly**
- 71 Beehive, for one**
- 72 Overcome**
- 76 Authority**
- 78 Villainous visage**
- 79 Vegetarian sandwich filling**
- 80 Train syst.**
- 82 Quarters : basketball :: chukkers : ___**
- 84 Abrupt, disconcerting reaction**
- 86 After-dinner volunteer's words**
- 87 Pays de ___ (Nantes's region)**
- 88 Variety of hold 'em**
- 83 Frances who played TV's Aunt Bee**
- 94 Religious leaders**
- 95 ___ President**
- 96 Baldwin offering**
- 97 Central**
- 98 Gets ready to do push-ups, say**
- 99 Title opera heroine who is a Druidic high priestess**
- 101 Kind of boots**
- 104 ETS offering**
- 107 Going nowhere, metaphorically**
- 108 Women's-club event**



Swans take off on a lake near the village of Petrevichi, 165 kms (103 miles) west of capital Minsk, Belarus recently, during the unstable spring weather across Belarus. (AP)

odds 'n' ends

YAKUTSK, Russia: For millennia, extinct mammoths lay undisturbed in the permafrost in Russia's Yakutia region. They have now turned into a source of wealth, and the local government is keen to start tapping it. Mammoth ivory is highly sought after for use in trinkets and jewellery, especially in Asia. The material is promoted by people in the trade as an ethical alternative to elephant tusks. Monique Pean, a jewellery designer whose clients have included Michelle Obama, the former US first lady, has made some of her collections out of mammoth ivory. Yakutia, a vast and sparsely inhabited region shrouded for most of the year in snow and ice, is best known as a diamond and gold-mining area, but it is also the source of 90 percent of the world's supply of mammoth ivory. Last year, 80 tonnes of fossilized mammoth ivory was gathered in the region, according to Nikita Shepelyov, Yakutia's deputy minister for industry and geology. Legislation forbids digging down to excavate frozen mammoths, but anyone who purchases a license — a five-year permit costs 7,500 roubles (\$131.49) — can gather mammoth remains from the surface. In some cases, the spring thaw flushes mammoth carcasses out to the surface. Many professional mammoth collectors speed up the process by using high-powered pumps to disperse the soil. This practice is illegal, because it harms the environment, but it often goes on unchecked because state inspectors cannot monitor what is happening in remote areas. The local government wants to change the tax laws so that mammoth tusks can be taxed in the same way as other commodities dug out of the ground, such as gold and diamonds. (RTS)

DANVILLE, Indiana: Some daring deer approached a group of hunters in central Indiana and one was so unafraid that it licked the barrel of a shotgun and allowed one of the men to stroke its neck. Perhaps they knew the men were hoping to bag a turkey? Leon Champagne says the young animals didn't have their mother with them "to teach them what is dangerous." Champagne, of Indianapolis, told WXIN-TV that he and his friends encountered the inquisitive animals over the weekend in Hendricks County. One of the men, Corey Cook, recorded video showing the deer wandering toward the camouflaged men who are hidden in the undergrowth. The video shows one nuzzling the barrel of a gun in the waning afternoon sunlight. Champagne calls it a "once in a lifetime encounter." (AP)

COPENHAGEN, Denmark: The Norwegian government has reversed a 40-year-old ban to allow 19 kinds of reptiles to be held as pets. Norway's Agriculture and Food Ministry which also handles laws concerning domestic animals published a list Thursday allowing nine species of snakes, seven kinds of lizards and three types of turtles as of Aug 15. Amphibians are still not legal in Norway. According to Norwegian Web-based news site Nettavisen, the Norwegian Food Safety Authority estimates there are about 100,000 illegal reptiles and it was difficult to enforce such a ban. Iceland is the only other Nordic country banning these animals, Nettavisen said. (AP)

Conceptis Sudoku

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

By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

Answer to yesterday's puzzle

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

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 Challenge
Time 1 Minutes
32 Seconds
Your Working Time ___ Minutes
___ Seconds

By Louis Mark

1					27
				9	30
	8				30
		7			32
22	23	23	28	23	
Yesterday's solution					
9	9	9	7		29
9	8	7	1		34
9	7	9	1		25
8	9	8	1		26
35	33	33	10		27

Word by Word

Learn (تعلم) Taalom

Never too old to learn.
Laisa letaalom sen yaqif endaha.

Numbers ليس التعلم سن يقف عندها.

7554 Seven thousand five hundred fifty four

٧٥٥٤ Sabat alaaf wa khamso maah wa arbaah wa khamsoon

contract bridge

By Steve Becker

Defense is a logical process

North dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ Q J 7 3
♥ K Q 10
♦ K 6
♣ Q J 6 2

WEST
♠ A 5
♥ 9 7 6 4 2
♦ Q J 10 8
♣ K 4

EAST
♠ 4 2
♥ 8 5 3
♦ 9 7 4 3 2
♣ A 8 5

SOUTH
♠ K 10 9 8 6
♥ A J
♦ A 5
♣ 10 9 7 3

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 4 ♠

Opening lead — queen of diamonds.

A great deal of what is called good card play is based on making assumptions about how the unseen cards are divided. These assumptions are often wrong, but that doesn't mean it was wrong to make them; on the contrary, it would be impossible to play good bridge without making some assumptions that prove false.

For example, let's say you're West in today's deal and lead the queen of diamonds against four spades. Declarer wins with dummy's king and returns a low spade to his king,

which you take with the ace.

You are now at the critical point of the play. If you shift to the king and another club, partner wins and gives you a ruff, and the contract goes down one. But if you play anything else, declarer makes the hand.

Now how can you be expected to know at trick three that the king of clubs is the killing play? The answer is that you don't know — but you should make the play anyway!

It is based on the principle that your primary goal as a defender is to defeat the contract. You know from what you can see in your own hand and dummy that declarer must have either the ace of hearts or ace of clubs in addition to the king of spades and ace of diamonds he has already shown up with.

He may, in fact, have both of the missing aces, but you must dismiss that possibility because it would mean that the contract cannot be defeated. Instead, you should credit partner with one of them, and, going one step further, that one should be the ace of clubs. This is because if he has that card, you can beat the contract, while if he doesn't, you almost surely can't.

It is true that hoping your partner has a particular card frequently turns out to be only wishful thinking, but it is nonetheless the right way to play the game.

Sunday: The perfect recipe.