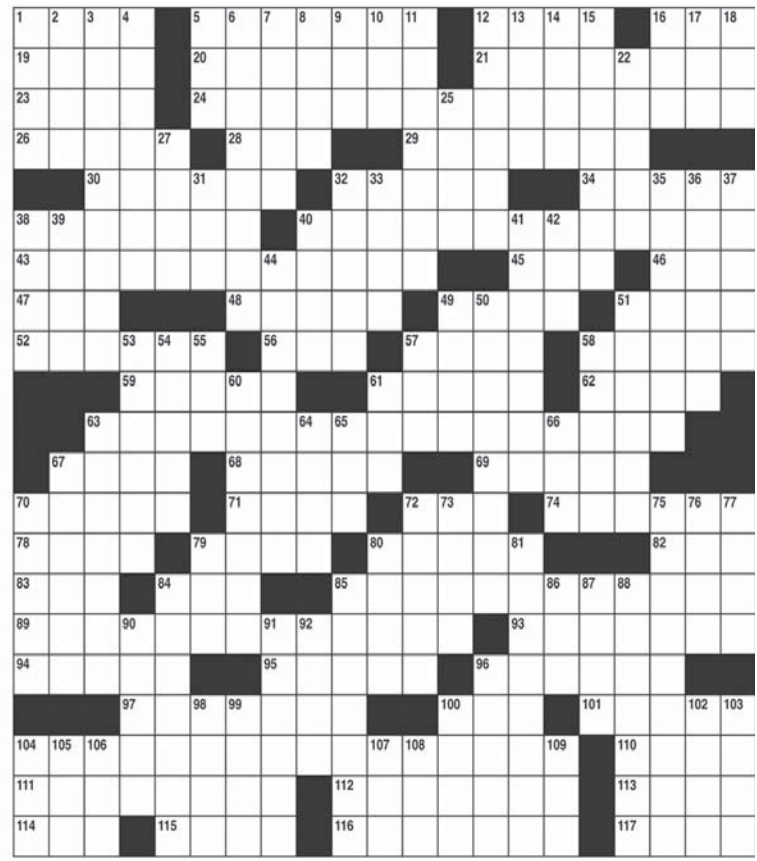


NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 Neighbor of Sudan
 - 5 Queen in the "Star Wars" movies
 - 12 Basics
 - 16 Things that people like to have ripped?
 - 19 First sentence of a news story
 - 20 Party animal
 - 21 Comedian who was a regular on "The Steve Allen Show"
 - 23 Sources of lean meat
 - 24 Comparatively strong, ...
 - 26 Grime
 - 28 "Yo!"
 - 29 Went by
 - 30 Fearful
 - 32 1998 De Niro thriller
 - 34 Highway noise barriers
 - 38 One who's in it but doesn't win it
 - 40 Egyptian leader obsessed with his appearance?
 - 43 Certain Lincoln Center soprano?
 - 45 It may pop on a plane
 - 46 Dietary std.
 - 47 China's Chiang _____
 - 48 Yes or no follower
 - 49 Light on one's feet
 - 51 Submissive
 - 52 Fleet
 - 56 "Totally awesome!"
 - 57 Bit of food ... or feud?
 - 58 Part of a house
 - 59 Peach _____
 - 61 ____-frutti
 - 62 Buttonhole, e.g.
 - 63 Shooting craps while waiting for one's train?
 - 67 Actress Hatcher
 - 68 All skin and bones
 - 69 "I had a dream, which was not all a dream" poet
 - 70 George Eliot's "____ Marner"
 - 71 Finely decorated
 - 72 Antagonist
 - 74 Much of Mongolia
 - 78 Automaker sold by G.M. in 2017
 - 79 Territory
 - 80 White undercoat
 - 82 Broadbrim, e.g.
 - 83 Inits. for getting around the Loop
 - 84 Protagonist in David Foster Wallace's "Infinite Jest"
 - 85 Comment from a cook who cools the cheese sauce before serving?
 - 89 Woodwind that's O.K. to play?
 - 93 Something that's free of charge
 - 94 Weapon seen on the Kenyan flag
 - 95 Big stinks
 - 96 Done, slangily
 - 97 Units for binge watchers
 - 100 Actor Patel of "Lion"
 - 101 "Don't ____ me"
 - 104 Cupid's catchphrase?
 - 110 Part
 - 111 Attention hog's cry
 - 112 Vigilant
 - 113 "The Dukes of Hazzard" spinoff
 - 114 Intimidate
 - 115 One of eight in "The 12 Days of Christmas"
 - 116 Egg-shaped Hasbro toys introduced in 1971
 - 117 Certain soft drinks, informally
- DOWN**
- 1 Score marking
 - 2 Powerful engine, for short
 - 3 Nighttime Cartoon Network programming block
 - 4 Wipe off the map
 - 5 Start of MGM's motto
 - 6 Quaint "I believe"
 - 7 Like Wrigley Field's walls
 - 8 Brave
 - 9 Landon who lost in a landslide
 - 10 Pastoral locale
 - 11 Big name in 1980s-'90s TV talk
 - 12 State capital that's the setting of "Ironweed"
 - 13 Betty _____
 - 14 Mean, lowdown sorts
 - 15 Court conference
 - 16 CNN commentator
 - 17 The Cougars of the West Coast Conf.
 - 18 Determination in a prenatal exam
 - 22 Holiday meal
 - 25 Came down
 - 27 Long lunch?
 - 31 It's to be expected
 - 32 Leveled
 - 33 Eleven: Fr.
 - 35 Cheesy dish
 - 36 Seminal symbol of mass production
 - 37 Lose
 - 38 Paul who sang "Lonely Boy"
 - 39 King who said, "Nothing will come of nothing"
 - 40 Woman's name that means "truth"
 - 41 Disloyalty
 - 42 Loft filler
 - 44 Director of 1991's "Mississippi Masala"
 - 49 Genesis brother
 - 50 Early Beatle
 - 51 Sam who ran the bar on "Cheers"
 - 53 Unconcerned with right and wrong
 - 54 Parts of supermarkets
 - 55 & 57 Very nearly
 - 58 Topic at the Kinsey Institute
 - 60 32-ounce purchase at 7-Eleven
 - 61 Mining supply
 - 63 Free
 - 64 Chasm
 - 65 It decreases a QB's rating: Abbr.
 - 66 Busy hosp. areas
 - 67 Best of the best
 - 70 Knee-highs, e.g.
 - 72 Doesn't know for a fact, say
 - 73 ____ buco
 - 75 Secreted signal
 - 76 El _____
 - 77 Cricket rival of Harrow
 - 79 Material once set afire and put in a catapult
 - 80 Grasp, informally
 - 81 Human, typically, diet-wise
 - 84 Announcement upon a grand arrival
 - 85 Entertainment with camels, maybe
 - 86 It sank after W.W. II
 - 87 Go cold turkey
 - 88 Said
 - 90 Goaltender Dominik _____
 - 91 Wrinkle-free, say
 - 92 Lincoln's place
 - 96 Wild
 - 98 Old-movie dog
 - 99 ____ Valley
 - 100 Give a beating
 - 102 Go forcefully (through)
 - 103 1979 Roman Polanski film
 - 104 Inc. relative
 - 105 Win on "Hollywood Squares"
 - 106 "I shall return," e.g.
 - 107 Des-Moines-to-Dubuque dir.
 - 108 Add years
 - 109 Sentence fragments: Abbr.



Scratch pad



This photo taken on Jan 24 shows wild swans at the Swan Lake after a snowfall in Rongcheng national swan nature reserve in Rongcheng City, east China's Shandong province. (AFP)

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

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

Answer to yesterday's puzzle

5	4	3	9	8	6	2	1	7
6	8	2	7	4	1	5	3	9
9	7	1	2	5	3	6	8	4
2	3	8	6	1	9	7	4	5
4	1	9	5	7	8	3	6	2
7	5	6	3	2	4	1	9	8
3	2	4	1	9	7	8	5	6
1	9	7	8	6	5	4	2	3
8	6	5	4	3	2	9	7	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 9 Minutes
4 Seconds
Your Working Time ____ Minutes
____ Seconds

By Louis Mark

			8		29
		2			34
				2	22
9					22
					22
35	15	28	22	28	28

Yesterday's solution

					5
3	2	2	1		8
1	1	2	1		5
2	1	3	2		8
1	2	1	1		5
7	6	8	5		8

Word by Word

Pudding (حلى) Halwa

The proof of the pudding is in the eating. Bei mathaq toraf jawdat al halwa.

Numbers بالمذاق تعرف جودة الحلوى.

7771 Seven thousand seven hundred seventy one

vvvv Sabat alaf wa sabou maah wa wahed wa saboun

contract bridge

By Steve Becker

It's a delicate operation

South dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ K J 3
♥ 8 4 2
♦ Q 10 8 5
♣ A K 7

WEST

♠ 10 8 7 2
♥ K Q 10 5
♦ 6 3
♣ Q 9 6

EAST

♠ A Q 9 5
♥ J 9 7 6 3
♦ 7 2
♣ J 3

The bidding:
South 1♦
West Pass
North 3♦
East Pass

Opening lead king of hearts. Most game-going hands are played in notrump or a major suit, largely because it is easier to score nine or 10 tricks in those contracts than 11 in a minor suit. But hands do occur where the best contract is five clubs or five diamonds, and here is a case in point. South opened one diamond, raised by North to three diamonds (forcing). Since South's hand was suit-oriented and his partner had avoided notrump, it seemed that the

best shot for game was probably five diamonds, so South bid it straight-away.

West made the normal lead of the king of hearts, and this gave declarer a chance to show his wares. He could see three potential losers — two spades and a club — and his primary task was to limit himself to one spade loser, if possible.

So, after winning the heart and cashing the Q-A of diamonds, he led a low club toward dummy, planning to play the seven if West followed low. But West put up the nine, forcing declarer to win with the king.

A heart was ruffed and another low club led. This time West had to play low, and the seven lost to the jack. East could do no better than return a heart, ruffed by South.

Declarer then led a club to the ace, returned to his hand with a trump and discarded two of dummy's spades on the 10-8 of clubs. As a result, his only losers were a club and a spade.

In bringing home the contract, South went to great lengths to prevent the dangerous opponent — West, in this case — from gaining the lead while he developed his clubs. Had South instead made the lazier play of the A-K and another club, West could have defeated the contract by shifting to a spade.

Sunday: Good partnership defense.

odds 'n' ends

SAN FRANCISCO: Veterinarians successfully used alternative medical treatments such as acupuncture on three wild animals burned in the Southern California wildfires, although one patient — a 5-month-old mountain lion — did keep eating his fish-skin and corn-husk bandages, vets at the University of California, Davis said Wednesday.

Rescuers brought two adult bears, one of them pregnant, and the young mountain lion to veterinarians with the state Department of Fish and Wildlife and the university after the animals were hurt in the largest wildfire in state history. They were found in the Los Padres National Forest, whose mountains stretch through badly burned areas of Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: It won't put a smile on her notoriously pouty face but Grumpy Cat, the feline who became an internet meme and a hugely lucrative brand, has just won \$710,000 in court.

The famously moody-looking moggy was at the centre of a copyright infringement case in a California federal court which culminated with the jury ruling in favour of her human pet Tabatha Bundse. The dispute was sparked by a deal signed between Granade Beverage and Bundsen over the use of Grumpy Cat (real name Tardar Sauce) in a line of iced coffee drinks. (AFP)

WASHINGTON: Technology won't always save us.

A man blindly following his GPS app has driven an SUV with two passengers on board into an icy lake in the northeastern state of Vermont, local police said.

The trio — friends from out of state driving a borrowed car — escaped unharmed, local media and police in the city of Burlington said in their report of the January 12 incident.

The unnamed driver of the Jeep Compass "followed the GPS directions, which advised to go straight, and upon following this he went down the boat ramp onto the ice," the report read.

The vehicle initially slid, but the ice on the surface of Lake Champlain quickly cracked and the Jeep sank. (AFP)

ATHENS, Ohio: A student newspaper in Ohio is getting some social media love meant for the award-winning movie with the same name.

The Post of Ohio University in Athens has the Twitter handle @ThePost, which some people have assumed belongs to "The Post" movie. Steven Spielberg's real-life 1970s drama about The Washington Post this week was nominated for the best picture Oscar, while Meryl Streep earned her 21st best actress nomination. (AP)

Rimini: France has conquered the home of ice cream for the fourth time after winning the 2018 Gelato World Cup at a food gala held in the Italian city of Rimini.

France beat 11 other countries to take the ice cream crown, with Spain and Australia taking second and third place, while previous winner and fellow gelato giant Italy had to sit out the eighth edition of the competition.

Gelato World Cup rules have always barred the holders from participating in the following edition of the tournament, which is held every two years, but that rule has been removed for 2020, allowing France, announced winners on Tuesday, and Italy to clash cones for the first time. (AFP)