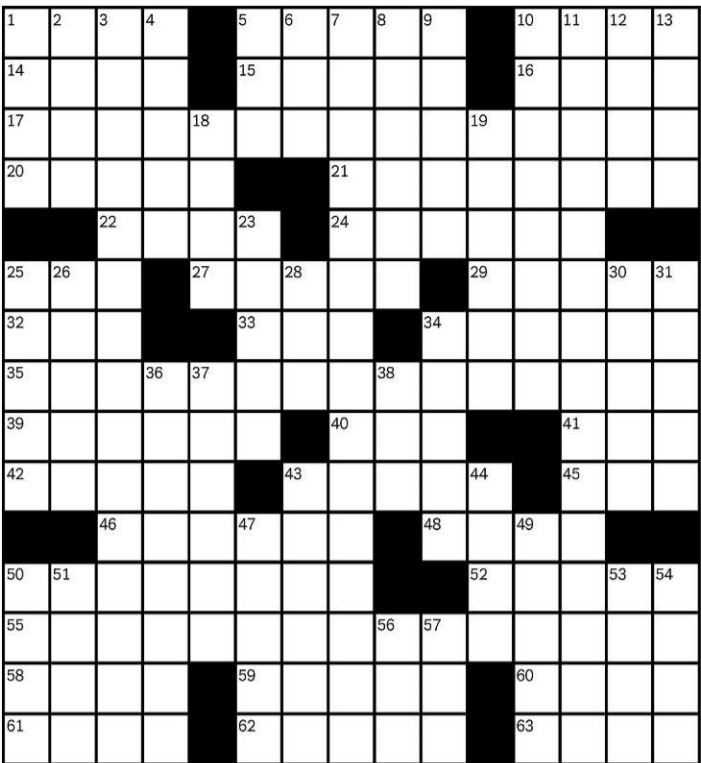


NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

No. 0404

ACROSS

- 1 It may lead to a second opinion
- 5 Shape-shifters?
- 10 Shapeless stuff
- 14 Its flag was solid red with a white elephant
- 15 Home health risk
- 16 Athlete posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom
- 17 One getting in online debates, colloquially
- 20 Buddhist scripture
- 21 Like some relations
- 22 First responder, to many
- 24 Bit of sliding glass door maintenance
- 25 Made a fast break?
- 27 Boorish sorts
- 29 Duke Ellington's "\_\_\_ Doll" [Just like that!]
- 32 Grad. student fellowship funder
- 34 Pioneering agriculturist
- 35 "Lemme be straight with you"
- 39 Turndown?
- 40 Many a short-term rental
- 41 \_\_\_ power trip
- 42 Endorse virtually
- 43 The Clintons' White House cat, so named because of its white feet
- 45 Steered
- 46 The moon's South Pole-Aitken basin, e.g.
- 48 Sign above some real estate signs
- 50 "Map of China" artist
- 52 Blue-blooded
- 55 Anti-jaywalking directive
- 58 Emporium
- 59 "According to reports ..."



Puzzle by Karen Steinberg

5/9

- 60 Onetime iPod model
- 61 Closes
- 62 Fits cozily
- 63 2021 book subtitled "Workers of the World"

DOWN

- 1 Doesn't wonder, say
- 2 Place
- 3 "Please?" prompt
- 4 Hair color blending technique
- 5 Training \_\_\_
- 6 Roman guardian spirit
- 7 Ones most likely to pay out
- 8 Pinched pasta shape
- 9 Traffic problem
- 10 Step before "bake" in certain recipes
- 11 Thinking hard, informally
- 12 Puma or pump
- 13 Alpaca group
- 18 Rows
- 19 Sensitive workplace matters
- 23 One of 32 in the NFL
- 25 Stand

- 26 Messy things to eat in a car
- 28 Ending with real or social
- 30 Greek goddess who is the equivalent of the Roman Pax
- 31 Itinerant one
- 34 High \_\_\_
- 36 Ottomans, e.g.
- 37 Hawaiian party settings
- 38 \_\_\_ fly
- 43 Fume
- 44 "Every bad situation is a blues \_\_\_ waiting to happen": Amy Winehouse
- 47 "Life on the Mississippi" memoirist
- 49 "\_\_\_ Doonee," R.D. Blackmore romance
- 50 Crest
- 51 Modern-day locale of the ancient Parthian Empire
- 53 When Holy Week falls
- 54 1960s chimp in space
- 56 Word with hard or high
- 57 Hesitant sounds

ANSWER TO THURSDAY'S PUZZLE:



CAROLYN HAX

Fiancé won't discuss holiday plans



BY CAROLYN HAX  
tellme@washpost.com

**Dear Carolyn:** Although my fiancé is an only child, he is part of a large, extended family. This family has traditions for everything — Easter, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, St. Patrick's Day, Fourth of July, Super Bowl — down to which plates can be used, how the table can be set, the food allowed, etc.

As an only child, he feels immense pressure to please his mom and do all the things. I've initiated conversations about how we'll spend holidays once we're married or have kids — establishing some of our own traditions. My fiancé just looks like a deer in headlights, horrified at the prospect of upsetting the applecart.

I genuinely like his family, but I like my parents and siblings, too. I want us to find a way to celebrate with both sides — not all at once, obviously. But, oh, I should add that his mother doesn't believe in unmarried couples spending holidays with his side, so we've had no holiday tryouts yet.

Fiancé says we'll figure it out once the time comes, but we are getting married in September, and, uh, Thanksgiving comes pretty quick after that.

**LEXICO®**

5-9

Start at the double hexagon. Spell solutions to the clues below by winding your way through the grid. You can backtrack to use letters more than once. **Each new word starts with the last letter of the previous word.**

1. Closer

2. Purify

3. Making income

4. Haggard

5. Decisively defeat

N \_ \_ \_ \_

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_

E \_ \_ \_ \_

\_ \_ \_ \_ \_

T \_ \_ \_ \_

HSYVRRG, 'LNJUVB, 'NININRAB, 'ENIRF, 'REFFIN, 'NANR  
© 2025 WIGGLES 3D GAMES, DIST. BY ANDREWS MCMEEL SYNDICATION

Am I right to be concerned, or am I blowing this up?

— Weighted Down

**Weighted Down:** Is it possible you aren't plotting anywhere near seriously enough to blow up the USS Sweet Mother Control Freak Applecart? Meaning, you say to your fiancé, "If we're postponing tough conversations about the Super Bowl, then we're so not ready for marriage."

Don't get me wrong — it's lovely that an only child is careful not to strand his mother when he marries.

I hope you fold both your families into your new one, even "all at once"! Why not.

But he hasn't faced the IDEA of his difficult emotional work ahead. There's the work to dismantle his terror of upsetting his mother; of shifting his loyalties from parents to partner — without feeling guilt-stricken, or resentful of you for "making" him; of updating his relationship with Mama.

His modeling warm, rational, unflinching limits NOW is their best chance to stay close.

None of which he's even acknowledged needs

doing. By September.

Since when is what his mom "doesn't believe in" binding on you two? "Mom," he says gently. "If my \*future spouse\* doesn't belong at our family \*St. Paddy's Day,\* then I don't, either." Sample script for putting a hard stop to territorial emotional cluckery.

Forget that holidays come "pretty quick," it's that they keep coming. Like challenges do.

Your issue is only about holidays now. But it's one crisis away from becoming about his priorities, his loyalties, his soul — because the foundation of the problem is his inability to form his own beliefs and stand up for them against the emotional pressure of others.

We all need to be able to do this. But he is showing you he can't when the pressure comes from his mother.

And you've shown you can't when the pressure comes from him.

Both of you want life partners who've learned better stress responses than parking your applecart in oncoming traffic.

Insist on it, with a brave, loving refusal to marry "[blank stare]" for an answer.



DALE ZANINE USA TODAY NETWORK

Kentucky starting pitcher Carson Fall (23) reacts to being removed from the game against Georgia at Jack Turner Softball Stadium in Athens on Tuesday.

After SEC Tournament loss, UK softball faces wait to learn NCAA Tournament fate

BY JON HALE  
jhale@herald-leader.com

Kentucky softball's hope of extending its 15-season NCAA Tournament streak is now in the hands of the selection committee.

The No. 13 seed Wildcats were blown out 8-0 by the No. 12 seed Georgia Bulldogs in an SEC Tournament first-round game Tuesday. Now coach Rachel Lawson and her players face a tense five-day wait to learn their postseason fate.

Kentucky will head to Sunday's selection show

with a 29-26 record. The Wildcats were 7-17 in SEC regular season play.

That record might not look like a team worthy of an NCAA Tournament bid on paper, but Kentucky entered Tuesday ranked 33rd nationally in the RPI due in large part to the strength of the SEC, which grew even more difficult this year with the addition of powerhouse programs Oklahoma and Texas.

Kentucky has lost its last five games. There was hope the team was turning a corner in early April with four straight nonconference wins against Mar-

shall, Boston and Western Kentucky, but that momentum was halted when No. 12 South Carolina swept the Wildcats in a three-game series the next weekend.

With the chance to boost its NCAA Tournament resume in the SEC Tournament in Athens, Georgia, on Tuesday, the Wildcats fell behind early after Georgia scored three runs in the bottom of the first inning. The Bulldogs added five more runs in the fourth inning. Kentucky tallied just three hits, triggering the SEC's run rule to end the game

after five innings.

Kentucky last missed the NCAA Tournament in 2008, Lawson's first year as coach. There was no NCAA Tournament played in 2020 when the NCAA ended all spring sports seasons in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but at 20-4 UK looked well on its way to another postseason berth when the season ended. UK did reach the NCAA Tournament a year ago with an 8-16 SEC record and a similar RPI ranking.

Jon Hale: (859) 414-6776, [JonHale\\_HL](#)

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**Legals**

**Notice of Self Storage Sale**

Please take notice Stor All - Man O War located at 2750 Palumbo Dr., Lexington KY 40509 intends to hold a public sale to sell the property stored in the following units stored at the Facility. The public sale will occur as an online auction via [www.storage-treasures.com](#) on 5/16/2025 at 11:00AM. Unit #0244; Unit #0419; Unit #0621; Unit #1029. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions may apply. IFL0230516 May 9 2025

**Notice of Self Storage Sale**

Please take notice Stor All - Palumbo located at 2670 Palumbo Dr., Lexington, KY 40509 intends to hold a public sale to sell the property stored in the following units stored at the Facility. The public sale will occur as an online auction via [www.storage-treasures.com](#) on 5/16/2025 at 10:30AM. Unit #1011; Unit #1126; Unit #2016; Unit #2123. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions may apply. IFL0230522 May 9 2025

**Caterer's liquor license**

MWS Inc. dba Seasons Catering 333 North Ashland Ave. Lexington, KY 40502 hereby declares its intention to apply for Caterer's license no later than 4.1.2025. The licensed premises will be located at 333 North Ashland Ave. Lexington, KY 40502. The owner and president is/are Matthew Stoddart 101 Manitoo Pl. Nicholasville, KY. Any person, association, corporation, or body politic may protest the granting of the license by writing the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control 500 Mero Street 2NE33 Frankfort, KY 40601 within thirty (30) days of the date of legal publication. IFL0232371 May 9 2025

**Announcements**

**WE ARE BACK!**

Versailles Road Storage is OPEN and ready to serve you with your self storage needs. Located at 1216 Versailles Road, Lexington, KY. 859-259-1235

**Auctions**

**Garage Sales**

**Andover Hill Community Yard Sale**

Todds Rd & Andover Village Drive Saturday May 10 9 AM - 2 PM Look for Signs at entrance

**Andover Forest Neighborhood Garage Sale**

Man 'O War & Todds Rd Saturday, May 10th

**Animals**

**Dogs**

**Jack Russell puppies for sale!** Puppies will have 1st set of shots and dewormed once by the time of sale. For more information please Call/text Paul at 8593961055

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