

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

No. 1017

ACROSS

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15 Applebaum Understanding response

16 Amazon smart speakers

17 British singer with the top 10 albums "Crash" and "Brat"

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52 Biblical locale in a Steinbeck title

DOWN

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42 Capital that's home to the oldest university in the Western U.S. (1842)

43 Habituate

44 Upper house of the French parliament

45 With, in Spanish

47 Plant on a pergola

50 __ Lingus

Puzzle by Karen Steinberg

11/21

CAROLYN HAX

Husband asks spouse to annoy his parents



BY CAROLYN HAX
tellme@washpost.com

This column first appeared Nov. 21, 2023.

Dear Carolyn: My in-laws are coming for a visit next week. They're retired, and they moved, before I met my husband, to another country about a five-hour flight from where we live. Last time they visited us, they ended up staying for seven weeks. Yep, seven. They told us they would only stay for "about three weeks" but kept extending it.

My husband was just as miserable as I was but wouldn't ask them to leave. We know they never stay that long with his brother, "Mike," and his wife, "Carla." My husband asked me to talk to Carla since Mike said she's the one who knows how to make their parents leave. Carla told me she gives them the worst room in the house, with the crappiest mattress and towels and no TV. She doesn't let them buy any food or cook, she makes food they don't really like, and she keeps the big TV tuned to what she wants to watch, never their shows. If they break her rules, she complains out loud.

LEXIGO®11-21

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.**

E

G

U

D

E

R

T

N

I

D

O

E

G

1. Math helper

2. Plump and round

3. Eating a meal

4. Former president __ Bush

5. Chip away at

T _ _ _ _

_ _ _ _ _

D _ _ _ _

_ _ _ _ _

E _ _ _ _

ERODE

UNDO

TEEN

GRUDGE

TOGETHER

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My husband wants me to do this, but thinking about being that rude to my in-laws is stressing me out. I want my husband to just talk to his parents and set a reasonable time limit for their visit, but he says he can't because they'd never forgive him. Should I go along with treating my in-laws this way because my husband wants me to? Not sure I can, but I guess I could try.

— Anonymous

Anonymous: Omg. Your husband has the spine of a petunia.

"No, I will not abuse my guests because you can't say no. I can't believe you even asked me that. Their not forgiving you is their problem."

All four of them need family systems therapy, stat.

Assuming he can't or won't consider spinal replacement: You and he decide on a time limit for their visit, plan a trip for the day after that limit, then leave.

Readers, have at it (except "Carla," who scares me a little):

— "Spine of a petunia" indeed. I 100% agree

with Carolyn. From a practical side, though, I'm going to guess these parents never taught the husband how to set practical limits, and probably penalized him for trying. It might help Anonymous to actually sit down with the husband and rehearse the conversation, repeatedly and with variations, several times — and, if he wants, for Anonymous also to be in the room during the call as a "silent coach" to make eye contact, nod encouragingly, etc. Or, if they're both willing, Anonymous might even be the one to do the limit-setting. Not ideal, but far better than the rude-on-purpose solution.

— I think it's a bad idea to have an excuse of leaving on a trip as being why they must leave. Too easy for them to say that they'll look after the house and for spineless husband to agree. I'd ask a friend to visit and tell in-laws and husband that everyone isn't staying there at the same time. In fact, the in-laws must be gone 48 hours before the friend arrives, so the room can be professionally cleaned as she does before all guests.



ALTAN GOCHER Hans Lucas/AFP via Getty Images

Arafan Diane (3) of Guinea shoots the ball while playing against the United States during a group match at the FIBA Under-17 World Cup on June 30, 2024, at the Sinan Erdem Dome in Istanbul, Turkey.

The best high school center in the country won't be playing for UK basketball

BY CAMERON DRUMMOND
cdrummond@herald-leader.com

The top-ranked center in the 2026 college basketball recruiting class won't be playing for Mark Pope at Kentucky.

On Wednesday afternoon, five-star prospect Arafan Diane announced his commitment to Houston from a final shortlist of schools that also included Arkansas, Indiana, Kentucky and Virginia.

Diane is a 7-foot-1 big man who plays high school basketball at Iowa United Prep. Originally from Guinea in West Africa, Diane is ranked by the 247Sports Composite as the No. 13 overall recruit in the 2026 class. That recruiting service also ranks Diane as the best center in the class.

Zach Welch, an analyst for Pro Insight Basketball, told the Herald-Leader in a message that Diane's size and physicality separate him from similar prospects in the high school senior class.

"When paired with his skill level, feel, motor and footwork, it takes him to the next level," Welch

said. "He seems primed to both dominate the paint with his strength, but also to be a true creator with his touch, passing vision, and patience."

Diane's commitment to the Cougars came on his 18th birthday.

Kentucky's recruitment of Diane included hosting him for an official visit in September. This came after UK offered Diane a scholarship in July. When that arrived, it made Diane the first center in the 2026 recruiting class to collect a UK scholarship offer.

Diane took an official visit to each of his five finalists. UK was first up from this group. Houston, Diane's eventual choice, got the last visit in his recruitment.

"He is just a genuinely great young man," Jana Scharnberg — the general manager of Iowa United, Diane's high school team — told the Herald-Leader earlier this year. "He has an incredible work ethic. He is just full of joy. He's a fierce competitor on the court. He steps on the court and it's business, and he wants to get the job done. He wants to win. There is an elite level of

competitiveness there."

Pope was unable to use a family connection to help land Diane in Lexington. Damon Archibald, a former college player and coach who is also Pope's brother-in-law, is Diane's coach at Iowa United.

Diane is the first player in the 2026 recruiting class to commit to Houston.

The Cougars also beat out the Wildcats, among other schools, for one of the top big men in the 2025 recruiting class. Freshman big Chris Cenac Jr. has started all four of Houston's games this season and is averaging 10.8 points and a team-best 9.0 rebounds per contest.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR KENTUCKY BASKETBALL RECRUITING?

With Diane off the board, there are still several uncommitted prospects left in the 2026 recruiting class who hold a UK scholarship offer.

Kentucky is not actively recruiting all of these players, though. A key example came earlier this week when five-star point guard Deron Rippey Jr. trimmed his list of schools under consideration to five, leaving out the Wildcats.

Wednesday is the final day of the early signing period for college basketball recruits. Kentucky doesn't have a commitment from the high school senior class.

Five-star small forward Baba Oladotun also made his college commitment Wednesday. Oladotun chose Maryland from a final list of schools that also included Arkansas, Georgetown and Kentucky.

In the near future, Kentucky's most likely commitment option is five-star power forward Christian Collins, who is set to chose between Kentucky, Southern California and UCLA.

The Breeders' Cup has come to Lexington 3 times. What was the impact on the city?

BY LIZ CAREY
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Editor's Note: As Lexington celebrates the 250th anniversary of its founding, the Herald-Leader and kentucky.com each day throughout 2025 will share interesting facts about our hometown. Compiled by Liz Carey, all are notable moments in the city's history — some funny, some sad, others heartbreaking or celebratory, and some just downright strange.

The Breeders' Cup first came to Lexington in 2015 — marking a significant achievement for Keeneland and the city.

The two-day event serves as the world championships of thoroughbred racing and brings together horses from around the world to compete for money, titles and other awards. The event features 14 different races, each designed to crown a champion in a specific division, with the ultimate race, the Breeders' Cup Classic, helping determine the American Horse of the Year.

The Breeders' Cup attracts an international field, with horses, trainers and jockeys coming in from all over the globe. Oct. 30 and 31, 2015, marked the first time Keeneland hosted the prestigious event.

The highlight of that event was American Pharoah's victory in the Breeders' Cup Classic. That win made him the first horse in history to complete the American Grand Slam of thoroughbred racing — winning the Kentucky Derby, the

Preakness Stakes, the Belmont Stakes and the Breeders' Cup Classic in the same year.

The event was considered a success for Lexington, with record crowds and a substantial economic impact on the city. The event returned to Keeneland in 2020 and 2022, and another return is planned for 2026.

The 2022 event was estimated have a nearly \$82 million economic impact on the city, including \$30.5 million in on-track spending; \$33.6 million in off-track spend-

ing, like hotels, retailers and transportation vendors; \$900,000 in state and local tax revenue; and \$7.7 million in payroll for on-track jobs.

It attracted visitors from all 50 states and 18 countries, and marked the second-highest economic impact in the Breeders' Cup history at the time.

Next year's event is planned for Oct. 30 and 31, with tickets set to go on sale next year. In the past, tickets have ranged in price from \$75 to \$504 on Friday, between \$125 to \$689 on Saturday, and between \$200 and \$1,568 for both days.

More information on the event is available at breederscup.com.

Have a question or story idea related to Lexington's 250-year history? Let us know at 250Lex-Ky@gmail.com.

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Announcements

Clubs & Organizations

Lanes View HOA seeks bids for 2026 moving and landscaping of residential neighborhood common areas. Request RFP at: lanesview@gmail.com. Submit bids by Dec. 3, 2025 via email or mail to P.O. Box 963, Versailles, KY 40383.

Merchandise

Miscellaneous

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