

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

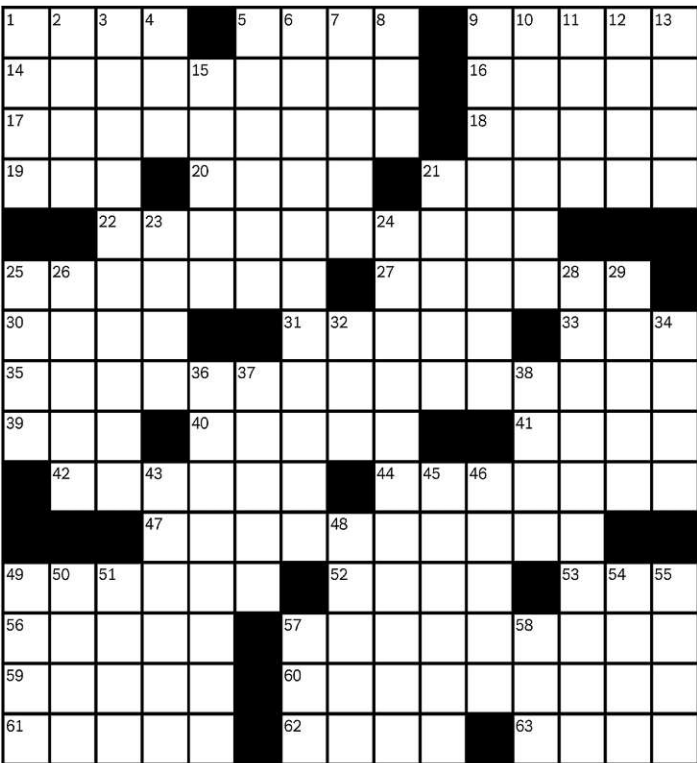
No. 1031

ACROSS

- 1 A large quantity
5 Where one may park to see the Super Bowl
9 Boot
14 Humans, gorillas and chimpanzees
16 Like a skunk's tail
17 Hot-weather coolers
18 "Mangia!"
19 It's cool while it's hot
20 Funny Fey
21 Upset
22 Green bay?
25 Emerged (from)
27 Old-fashioned "w00t!"
30 Earth goddess in "Das Rheingold"
31 Overlay
33 Caroline Kep-
nes thriller written partly in the second person
35 Cookie mar-
keting units
39 Opposite of the Latin "odi"
40 Handled press agents?
41 Stinky ____ ("Toy Story 2" antagonist)
42 Web host?
44 Some diving briefs
47 "We should get out of here"
49 Actress/singer Steinfeld
52 Easily crushed
53 Cone ____ (iconic Jean Paul Gaultier undergarment)
56 Lineup
57 Prayerful form of worship
59 Option at a dealership
60 "See ya!"
61 Flops
62 Move, informally
63 Word with sound or snake

DOWN

- 1 Something a workaholic is unlikely to say



Puzzle by Juliana Tringali Golden

12/5

- 2 Predator in a pod
3 Point in a film when an iconic song sets the scene
4 Caught
5 The Onion's output
6 Provided entrees
7 Wild
8 Mother of a hinny
9 Yosemite
10 City across the Rio Grande from El Paso
11 "No ____ mal" ("It's not bad," in Spanish)
12 Repeated cry at a kegger
13 Sort
15 Channing of "Blink Twice"
21 Hit the ceiling
23 Human rights lawyer
24 "Wow, pretty sweet!"
25 Apt anagram of GAMES minus M
26 Decorates
28 Emmy-winning actress for "The Bear"
29 Get on (it)
32 "Hurry!"
34 A smartphone has many of these
36 Suspicious looks
37 Island home of what may be the world's oldest living olive tree (2,000+ years)
38 The UAE is in it
43 "Let me check with them"
45 Port of Spain?

ANSWER TO THURSDAY'S PUZZLE:



CAROLYN HAX

Pair is dealing with only one-sided attraction



BY CAROLYN HAX
tellme@washpost.com

This column first appeared Dec. 5, 2022.

Dear Carolyn: A guy I REALLY like just told me that, although he likes me too, he is not physically attracted to me and therefore can't see starting a serious relationship. This was after three increasingly amazing dates where we laughed so much and flirted so hard that I, a life-long atheist and cynic, began to wonder whether maybe soulmates really are a thing. I'm 33 (so not super young), but I don't have a lot of serious relationship experience and am wondering whether this is why? Maybe I am shooting outside of my attractiveness league? Who knows.

The question is: What am I supposed to do now? I gained some pandemic pounds that I could probably lose. I would also probably be attractive to more guys if I learned how to do my makeup better. But I know those things are superficial. What really smarts is that I could have that much chemistry with someone (a true first

LEXIGO®

12-5

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.**

W

S

E

R

D

E

V

T

A

T

R

I

S

1. Drops by

2. Car part

3. Brings back to life

4. Avoided a collision

5. Discourage

V

R

D

for me), then have some-thing as silly as my appear-ance ruin it.

That's the part I don't know how to deal with.

— Crushed! But, Like, Really Crushed

Crushed! But, Like, Really Crushed: Yeah, that sucks.

Besides his saying it out loud, though — who does that? — it's pretty common. And I think you might be overstat-ing the connection between physical attrac-tion and appearance. Movies/TV shows remind us of this all the time. They're filled with people who are "paid to be looked at," and we just as often shrug at them as feel the pull of attrac-tion. We can see someone as objectively beautiful and feel nothing beyond that.

It is absolutely appro-priate to apply that logic to your own experience. In fact, it makes a lot more sense to do that — to recognize that beauty and physical attraction are two separate things — than to apply differ-ent rules to yourself and conclude that someone's lack of attraction can only be

explained by your own beauty deficit.

If you want to work on your appearance anyway, to make your-self feel better, then great. Be the steward of your body that you want to be, that your body deserves, that aligns with your values, preferences, tastes and schedule. For you. Learn how to feel good.

As long as you're doing that, then a nega-tive review from some-one might still sting — of course — but it won't be an existential hit.

Just make sure you also nurture the long-range emotional, intel-lectual and charismatic aspects of attraction, too. Specifically: Net-work for friendship, not dates. It may not be completely feasible, but getting to know people as friends will make room for the chem-istry of like-mindedness to develop organically into physical attraction.

Doesn't always happen, but it happens enough to be worth reorienting your social life — especially be-cause, worst case, you have a bigger, more like-minded network of friends.

Front Row owner was 'very hurt' by NASCAR tactics

Field Level Media

After Denny Hamlin, co-owner of 23XI Racing with Michael Jordan, took the stand for the first two days of testimony in 23XI and Front Row Motor-sports' antitrust lawsuit against NASCAR, it was co-plaintiff Bob Jenkins' turn to take the stand Wednesday in Charlotte. Jenkins, the sole owner of Front Row Motorsports since 2005, detailed how NASCAR pressured team owners to sign the updated charter with minimal time to review the terms. Jenkins, who had a three-car team during the 2025 NASCAR season, also declared none of his sea-sons as a NASCAR team owner have ended in a profit, sharing that he has

lost an average of \$6.8 million per season -- in-cluding \$8 million during 2022.

Yet he testified he has been willing to keep fund-ing a team because of his love for the sport. He felt compelled to join the case alongside Hamlin and Jordan when he was both-ered by NASCAR telling teams they would need to cut costs -- considering he has consistently operated at a deficit.

Front Row Motorsports and 23XI raced this past season without a charter, the NASCAR-built system that assures teams of cer-tain guarantees, financial and otherwise. The two teams refused to sign the updated charter agreement in September 2024.

Jenkins testified that he was "honestly very hurt"

by a "take-it-or-leave-it-offer" from NASCAR that allowed teams just six hours to review the 112-page document before a midnight deadline on Sept. 6, 2024.

He asked for an exten-sion but testified that NAS-CAR commissioner Steve Phelps informed him nego-tiations were closed and the charter copy was only for review purposes at that point.

"Joe Gibbs felt like he let me down by signing," Jenkins testified. "Not a single owner said, 'I was happy to sign it.' Not a single one."

And yet, Jenkins under-stood why the other 13 team owners felt com-pelled to "blindly sign" the document when it was presented with a remarka-bly quick deadline.

"Some of these owners have \$500-\$600 million facilities, long-term spon-sors. They couldn't walk away from that," Jenkins testified.

NASCAR attorney Law-rence E. Buterman doubt-ed Jenkins' claims of the money he has lost as a

team owner, accusing him of hiding figures that could make Front Row's finances

appear more sustainable.

Buterman also ques-tioned why Front Row pays

drivers just 8.5% of the 25% NASCAR pays in team revenues.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Field Level Media

Wednesday's Top 25

No. 9 Oklahoma 103, N.C. State 98 (OT): Freshman phenom Aali-yah Chavez scored a sea-son-high 33 points as the Sooners (8-1) outlasted the Wolfpack (5-4).

No. 6 Michigan 82, Central Michigan 40: Olivia Olson piled up 21 points and 11 rebounds as the Wolverines (7-1) pulled away from the Chippewas (5-3) in Ann Arbor, Michi-

gan.

No. 7 Maryland 92, Mount St. Mary's 44: Oluchi Okananwa was one of five Terrapins (10-0) to score in double figures as they sprinted away from the visiting Mountaineers (2-5).

No. 8 TCU 84, In-carnate Word 56: Dono-vyn Hunter scored 21 points to push the Horned Frogs (9-0) past the Cardi-nals (1-5) in Fort Worth, Texas.

No. 14 Baylor 112, Southeastern Louisiana 47: Darianna Littlepage-Buggs and Taliah Scott both secured double-doubles as the Bears (8-1) ran away from the visiting Lions (2-4).

No. 15 Vanderbilt 81, Virginia 68: Mikayla Blakes scored 28 points to

power the Commodores (9-0) to a victory over the Cavaliers (6-3) in an ACC/SEC Challenge game at Nashville.

No. 17 Kentucky 64, Miami 28: Tonie Morgan scored 23 points to help the Wildcats (9-1) beat the host Hurricanes (5-3).

No. 19 Tennessee 65, Stanford 62: Talaysia Cooper scored 19 points and the game-winning basket with six seconds left to lead the visiting Vols (6-2) over the Cardi-nal (8-2).

No. 24 Oklahoma State 73, North Texas 55: Haleigh Timmer scored 23 points to help the Cowgirls (9-1) get a road win over the host Mean Green (5-3).

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Legals & Public Notices

Norfolk Southern Requesting Proposals for CNOTP Stabilization Project
Norfolk Southern is requesting proposals for the CNOTP Stabilization Project. Please complete the survey confirming your participation for this project HERE: <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=9kaXfWu-VkyBu2eykF-P-P1oF0NzJ8BOohRZGZqgRz9UOU8zVlIZRFMyVDJWSWDJC-M0M2SVM0STVJWS4u> by **December 12, 2025** if you plan on participating. Do not respond if you are not attending. **To request the project documentation, please email Leah Fletcher at Leah.Fletcher@nscorp.com.** The mandatory pre-bid meeting and job showing for this project will be held at **1:00 PM EST on Monday, December 15, 2025** at 233 Shoreland Dr, Walton, KY 41094 (38.92230085720402, -84.62505589257181). Any questions can be directed to Manager Construction Services, Will Graham at (404) 245-0097. The contractor's scope of work is to include:

- Roadbed Grouting at MP 12.5 – Rice Industrial Lead – Florence, KY
- Roadbed Grouting at MP 16.6 – Richwood Industrial Lead – Richwood, KY

Pre-bid meeting attendees should bring Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) including safety hardhat, eye and hearing protection, reflectorized vest, flashlight, and steel-toed footwear and plan on inspecting the worksite. Attendees without PPE available for their use may not be allowed onto the worksite location. Pre-bid meeting attendees are restricted to the meeting location listed above and are not permitted to enter other areas of Railway's property without proper escort by an Officer of Norfolk Southern. **Bids are due via email to Leah.Fletcher@nscorp.com by Noon EST on December 23, 2025.** In order for your bid to be considered, you must submit the following documents: Completed Proposal Form
Completed Bid Sheet
Certificate of Insurance to comply with Tier 1 Requirements (must include CGL coverage within 50ft of a railroad)
List of 3 completed projects similar in scope to this project.
In addition, you must submit the following required affidavits with your bid or it will be disqualified:

- Illegal Immigrants - required
- Subcontractors - required
- Annual Bidder Status - required
- Qualified Bidder Status - as applicable
- Resident Bidder Status - as applicable

Bids will be scored on price and time to complete. Contractors must be enrolled in eRaisafe, have completed Roadway Worker Protection training, have experience with on-track equipment, and meet the requirements under 49 CFR 214, 49 CFR 243 or the drug testing requirements of 49 CFR 219. Please contact **Will Graham via email at William.Graham@nscorp.com**, with any technical questions concerning this project. Please contact Leah Fletcher with any contracting questions.
IPL0294267
Dec 5,8,10 2025

Notice of Self Storage Sale
Please take notice Citidel Self Storage - Lexington located at 133 N. Locust Hill Dr., Lexington, KY, 40509 intends to hold a public sale to sell the property stored in the following units stored at the Facility. The sale will occur as an Online auction via www.storage-treasures.com on 12/9/2025 at 10:00 AM. Unit #2211; Unit #2231; Unit #2242; Unit #2345; Unit #2423; Unit #2709; Unit #2903. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. 7568-326819
IPL0295180
Dec 5 2025

BARGAIN HUNTER?
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Beverage Notice
Example of Public Notice When Applying for an ABC License
South Upper Market LLC, with a mailing address of 535 S. Upper Street, Unit 161, Lexington, KY 40508 herby declares its intent to apply for NQ Re-tail Malt Beverage Package license. The business to be licensed will be located at 535 S. Upper Street Unit 161, Lexington, KY 40508. The sole member of South Upper Market LLC is Rayyan Iqbal. Any person, asso-ciation, or body politic may protest the approval of the license by writing the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, 500 Mero Street, 2 NE 33, Frankfort, Kentucky, 40601 within (30) days of the date of the legal publica-tion.
IPL0296068
Dec 5 2025

Service Directory
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