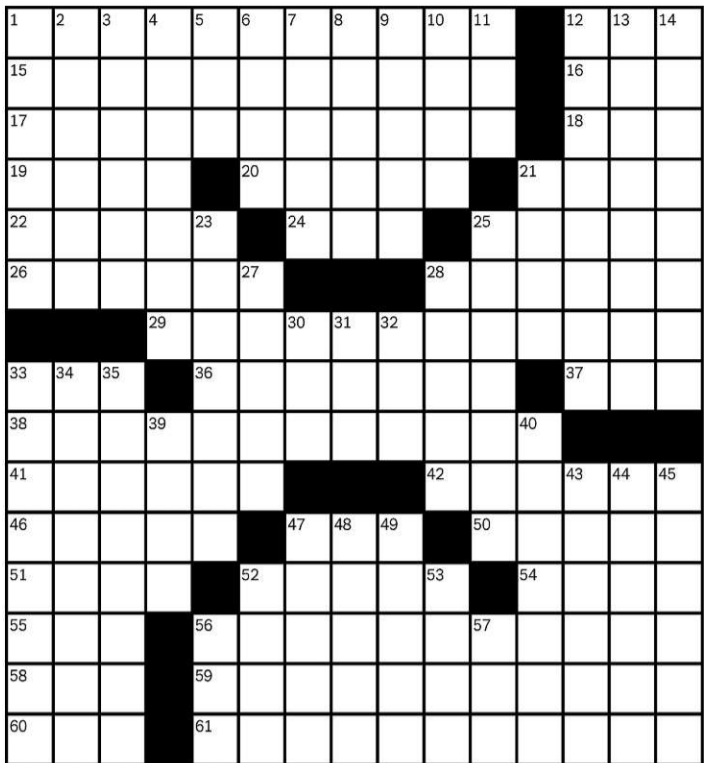


NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

No. 0327

ACROSS

- 1 Decorative, so to speak
- 12 "Local Equals Fresh" sloganer
- 15 Ahead
- 16 E, in a code
- 17 Affliction also known as "cold neuralgia"
- 18 3,600 secondi
- 19 Computer runs
- 20 Company acquired by Panasonic in 2009
- 21 Malarkey
- 22 "Do we have a problem here?"
- 24 LA subdivision?
- 25 Epithet for Bill Clinton
- 26 Some coffee merchants' offerings
- 28 Hackman's "The Royal Tenenbaums" co-star
- 29 One whose work is barely seen?
- 33 "You should keep those details to yourself"
- 36 Slightly off
- 37 Org. that releases an annual list of the year's most interesting contraband
- 38 Some brunch dishes
- 41 Restraining maneuver in judo
- 42 How journalists and detectives may act
- 46 Firs and beeches, but not furs and beaches
- 47 Tahoe runner
- 50 Treat that occasionally catches fire
- 51 Light
- 52 Kitchen gizmo
- 54 Bit of bellyaching
- 55 Served as
- 56 "You win, all right? Geez!"
- 58 Store in oak casks, say
- 59 Spoke before the court
- 60 No no
- 61 Totally missing the big picture



Puzzle by Zachary David Levy

5/1

DOWN

- 1 E-card site with a reduplicative name
- 2 Spread
- 3 Like noble gases, chemically
- 4 Nearest item to pick
- 5 Land consisting predominantly of sedges
- 6 Drop
- 7 Like 97% of the United States, per the Census Bureau
- 8 Old hand at shorthand
- 9 Some choppers
- 10 Dish whose name means "barley" in Italian
- 11 Lilliputian
- 12 "Seems suspect"
- 13 Reductive neologism for a strong female lead
- 14 Figure in Greek mythology who was brought up by a bear
- 21 Hit 22, say
- 23 "Squid Game" and "The Red Sleeve," for two
- 25 Crosses to bear
- 27 Unlit?
- 28 Lacked an alternative

DOWN

- 30 Before, informally
- 31 Suburban attachment?
- 32 Camp bed
- 33 Direction in many a spaghetti western
- 34 Zsa Zsa Gabor entered into it nine times
- 35 Dunks
- 39 Rebel's opposite
- 40 PB&J, e.g., informally
- 43 Greet with a beep
- 44 Bluffer's pronouncement, maybe

DOWN

- 45 Put down on paper
- 47 Comics often printed in black and white
- 48 Pianist
- 49 Dwarf planet in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter
- 52 Tiny opening
- 53 George's computer friend on "The Jetsons"
- 56 NFL coach
- 57 Forte, slangily

ANSWER TO THURSDAY'S PUZZLE:



CAROLYN HAX

Man considers backing out of wedding



BY CAROLYN HAX  
tellme@washpost.com

Dear Carolyn: My friend and his fiancé have invited my ex to their wedding. They met her through me (I am a groomsman) and didn't consult me about inviting her. My ex and I are on decent terms, but I do believe she was unfaithful, resulting in our breakup. I have tried to hide this from my friends who stay in touch with her because I didn't want to disparage her. But now I feel like my feelings have been cast aside — do I bail on the wedding?

— R.

R.: If you don't want to go, then say no to being a groomsman, thank you, and skip the wedding.

But not because anyone "cast aside" your feelings.

Well, maybe your ex did, but that's kind of what breakups are and why they hurt so much.

The couple, though, and your other mutual friends, are doing really the only decent thing available to people in their position: to remain friends with both halves of a broken-up couple and trust them to be mature enough to manage the ick.

You, likewise and appropriately, have chosen the only decent way to

LEXIGO

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. Choose D \_ \_ \_ \_
- 2. Bakery treat \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- 3. Sharp crest R \_ \_ \_ \_
- 4. Ready and willing \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- 5. Evaluate again R \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

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handle your ex's (possible) infidelity. Telling all your friends about something you merely "believe" would be character assassination — not on the menu. You can't blame people for not knowing what you don't even know, or not striking her from the guest list for it.

Your choices are to seek relief from your breakup pain by skipping milestone friendship events, at your friend's and your own expense but likely not at all at your ex's — or you suck up your emotional courage and report for groomsman duty.

Dear Carolyn: I have a toddler and sometimes I'm hit by waves of grief picturing how the "I Love Mommy!!" years will end soon, especially if they end in feelings as complicated as mine are about my mom. We all grow up and apart, right? We probably all feel some resentment for a parent's "human" moments; is it possible to maintain that feeling of "mom means safety and love" even as your child grows?

I'm in therapy and working hard to do things differently, but any tips on how?

— (Dys)functional Mom

(Dys)functional Mom: What you're doing sounds like such a gift for your kid. You're "trying". Holding yourself accountable, working hard, making room for tough feelings and human moments as normal.

Not only are these not minor efforts, they're also pillars of good faith. And given our imperfection, and therefore the certainty we will mess up, forget things, fall short, wear out our welcomes and be disappointments in other ways, I see "good faith" as a catchall for what makes a person "safe" for someone else. Throw integrity onto that list of pillars, and respect for boundaries. Forgiveness. Perspective. A willingness to admit fault. Nothing makes us safer to others than owning our own [stuff]. Nothing makes us less safe than acting it out through others and getting defensive about it. Especially through our kids.

Kids, in turn, need room to find themselves amid everything their adults teach them, to grow into their values and make them their own. If you can model good faith, encourage it in your child, then trust your child's own timeline.

Reports: Plan being made to expand March Madness to 76 teams

Field Level Media

The men's and women's NCAA Tournament fields reportedly will expand from 68 to 76 teams in 2027, though the NCAA denied any final decision has been made.

Following multiple outlets reporting that plans for expansion are expected to be approved by NCAA committees and formalized as soon as May, the NCAA issued a statement later

Tuesday to deny any firm plans.

"Expanding the basketball tournaments would require approval from multiple NCAA committees, including the men's and women's basketball committees, and no final recommendations or decisions have been made at this time," the NCAA's statement read.

CBS Sports reported that the NCAA plans for 52 teams to slot into the main bracket and the other 24

teams will face off in 12 games on the Tuesday and Wednesday after Selection Sunday, filling out the Round of 64 with the winners. It will no longer be called the "First Four," with the terminology expected to be "opening round" for the play-ins and "first round" for the Round of 64.

Per ESPN, the NCAA is completing contract negotiations with its media partners. That step must come before votes from the men's and women's basketball commit-

tees, the men's and women's basketball oversight committees, the Division I Cabinet and the Division I Board of Governors.

It would mark the first expansion of the tournament since the field moved from 65 to 68 teams with the addition of the First Four games in 2011. The field had previously been 64 or 65 teams since 1985.

The Big 12 and Atlantic Coast Conference were the leading voices behind tournament expansion, Yahoo Sports reported earlier this month. NCAA president Charlie Baker has also voiced his support.

"I said all along that I think there are some very good reasons to expand the tournament," Baker told ESPN in February. "So, I would like to see it expand."

Howard tabs John Wall as president of basketball ops

Field Level Media

Five-time NBA All-Star and former top overall draft pick John Wall is returning to Washington.

ESPN reported on Thursday that Wall has become the president of basketball

operations at Howard, based in D.C. and a top-ranked HBCU program.

Wall played the first nine seasons of his NBA career with Washington after being selected by the Wizards with the top overall pick of the 2010 draft out of Kentucky. He averaged 19.0 points, 9.2

assists and 4.3 rebounds in 573 career games (561 starts) with Washington.

Wall, 35, served as Howard's honorary captain for the team's game against Norfolk State on Jan. 31. Per ESPN, he reportedly expressed to the school of having an interest in serving as president of basketball operations at the NBA level one day.

Wall will work alongside Howard coach Kenny Blakeney and team general manager Daniel Marks in his new role.

Wall, who did not play in

2019-20, was involved in a blockbuster trade with the Houston Rockets on Dec. 2, 2020, that saw Russell Westbrook sent to Washington. The Wizards sent Wall and a first-round pick in the 2023 NBA Draft to the Rockets for Westbrook and a lottery-protected first-round pick in the same 2023 draft.

Wall played one season in Houston (2020-21), sat out the 2021-22 season with an injury and came back to compete in 34 games with the Clippers in 2022-23. He officially retired from the NBA on Aug. 19, 2025.

NBA

Rockets, Pistons stay alive with Game 5 wins

Field Level Media

Jabari Smith Jr. scored 22 points and Tari Eason added 18 as the Houston Rockets fought off elimination for a second con-

secutive game and crawled back into their first-round playoff series with a 99-93 road victory over the Los Angeles Lakers in Game 5 on Wednesday.

The Rockets trailed 3-2 in the best-of-seven West-

ern Conference series after falling into a 3-0 hole. No NBA team has rallied from a 3-0 deficit to win a playoff series.

The consecutive Rockets victories have come without star Kevin Durant (ankle), who has only played in Game 2.

Pistons 116, Magic 109: Cade Cunningham poured in a career-playoff-high 45 points as top-seeded Detroit stayed alive with a

victory over visiting Orlando in Game 5 of their Eastern Conference first-round series. The Pistons trail 3-2 in the best-of-seven series.

Cavaliers 125, Raptors 120: Dennis Schroder scored 11 of his 19 points in the fourth quarter and James Harden finished with 23 points, rallying Cleveland to a 3-2 lead over visiting Toronto in an Eastern Conference first-round playoff series.

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Legals

Beverage Notice

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE

Notice is hereby given that PHO CATERING MANAGEMENT INC, DBA PHO HOUSE, located at 1895 vendor way suite #120, Lexington, Fayette County, Kentucky 40509, intends to apply for a NQ2 Retail Drink License with the Kentucky Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

The license will authorize the applicant to sell distilled spirits, wine, and malt beverages (beer) by the drink for on-premises consumption in connection with a bona fide restaurant operation.

Any person, association, corporation, or body politic may protest the granting of this license by writing the Kentucky Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control within thirty (30) days of the date of this publication. IFL0336226 May 1 2026

Beverage Notice

Post Time Lexington 3, LLC, d/b/a Two Keys Tavern, with a mailing address of 271 West Short Street, Suite 100, Lexington, Kentucky 40507, hereby declares its intention to apply for a Quota Retail Drink License, an NQ-4 Malt Beverage Drink License, and a Limited Non-Quota Package License no later than May 4, 2026. The business to be licensed will be located at 503 S. Upper Street, Lexington, Kentucky 40508. Post Time Lexington 3, LLC is a Kentucky limited liability company, the primary owners and managers of which are Carlo Vaccarezza, 271 West Short Street, Suite 100, Lexington, Kentucky 40507, DeuceCo, LLC, 490 Curry Avenue, Lexington, Kentucky 40508 and Seth Bennett, 490 Curry Avenue, Lexington, Kentucky 40508. Any person, association, corporation, or body politic may protest the approval of the license by writing the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, 500 Metro Street 2NE33, Frankfort, Kentucky, 40601, within (30) days of the date of legal publication. IFL0335909 May 1 2026

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE

Notice is hereby given that LONG HUA 5 INC, DBA Takumi Asian Bistro, located at 1060 Chinese Rd Ste 148, Lexington, Fayette County, Kentucky 40502, intends to apply for a NQ2 Retail Drink License with the Kentucky Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

The license will authorize the applicant to sell distilled spirits, wine, and malt beverages (beer) by the drink for on-premises consumption in connection with a bona fide restaurant operation.

Any person, association, corporation, or body politic may protest the granting of this license by writing the Kentucky Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control within thirty (30) days of the date of this publication. IFL0336235 May 1 2026

Legals & Public Notices

Legal Advertisement

The Urban County Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on Monday, May 11, 2026 at 1:30 pm, Council Chambers 2nd floor Government Center Building, 200 E. Main St., to consider Variance Appeals, Conditional Use Appeals, Administrative Appeals and other items. To view the list of applications or for further information please see https://www.lexingtonky.gov/government/boards-commissions/board-adjustment or call the Division of Planning at (859) 258-3160. IFL0331625 May 11 2026

Legal Notice

The Lexington Public Library (LPL) is seeking statements of qualification from established individuals, firms, or teams interested in providing interior signage consultation, fabrication, and installation services for six library locations in Lexington, KY. All interested responders should visit the Library website at www.lexpublib.org/rfp to obtain the required information package, which will be available from May 1, 2026.

For information, contact Kate Baughman at: Lexington Public Library 140 East Main Street Lexington, KY 40507 Email kbaughman@lexpublib.org. IFL0334334 Apr 29, May 1 2026

Auctions

Auctions

Large Estate Auction Saturday, May 2, 2026 @ 10:00 am 301 Corinth Rd, Irvine, KY 40336

ANTIQUES - CAR - PERSONAL PROPERTY Nice collection of antique furniture, clocks, lamps, UK collectibles, appliances and more... Call Ronnie @ 859-494-9305 or www.chuckmarshall.com Chuck Marshall, Broker/Auctioneer

CHUCK MARSHALL Auctions & Real Estate

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Garage Sales

Multi Family Garage Sale Lexington 395 Monticello Blvd. Fri May 1 / Sat May 2.

Service Directory

Lawn/Garden/Landscaping/Trees Painting, Staining, Pressure Washing, Trimming, Mowing, Mulching Call Tommy (859) 338-4884