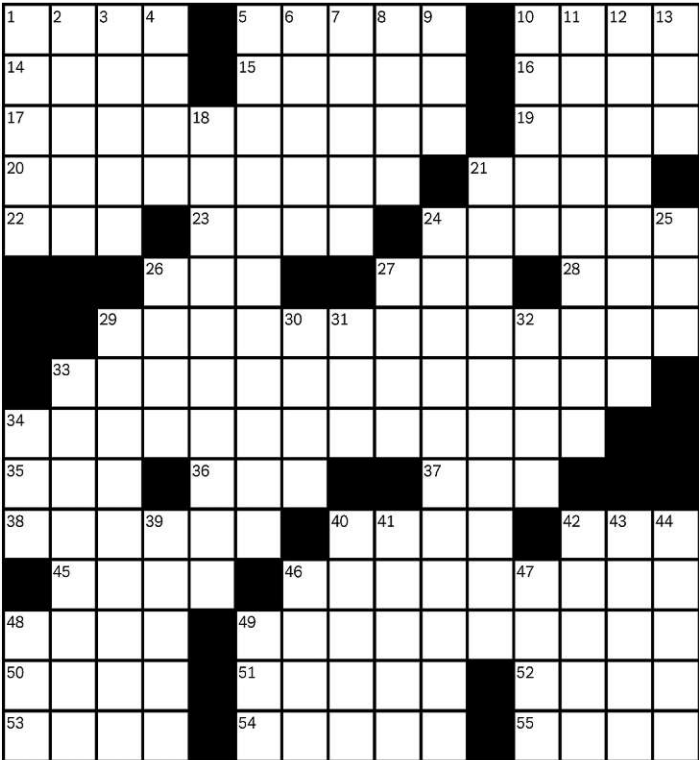


NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

No. 0724

ACROSS

- 1 Bit of radiological work
5 Component that may emerge from Earth's asthenosphere
10 What drones might be mistaken for
14 Dudes
15 Dirt pie ingredients
16 As it's happening
17 Criminals in the oil industry?
19 "Your guide to a better future" website
20 It makes one red in the face
21 Animals considered divine messengers in Shinto culture
22 Aperitif with black currant liqueur
23 Not full-bodied
24 Like a politically diverse U.S. state
26 When doubled, like a perfect outcome
27 Start of a protest
28 "Mark Twain" biographer
29 Not show-stopping?
33 Segue into a thesis statement
34 "Don't sweat the small stuff!"
35 Spanish diminutive suffix
36 Fire
37 One of 17 in Monopoly: Abbr.
38 Drinks are on me!
40 Terminal datum
42 Like a strong bond
45 Mine line
46 Group with defining traits?
48 Foul mood
49 Tropical fruit with white flesh and a deep-red rind
50 All the ____
51 "That much is obvious"
52 A tall one may be inflated



Puzzle by Geoffrey Schorkopf

8/28

DOWN

- 1 Insulting talk, informally
2 U.S. soccer legend ____ Lloyd
3 Fox or Foxx
4 Warning next to a suspicious link, perhaps
5 Venus, or sometimes Mercury
6 Lingo
7 Silly sorts
8 Cry from a toddler during snack time
9 Jack or jenny
10 Bad gut feeling?
11 Text that's often unread
12 Stretttccched out
13 Place
18 Modern deception
21 Cookware sometimes used over campfires
24 "Drop it!"
25 Language of Barbados: Abbr.
26 Tool for a sting

- 27 Hons
29 Words said while preparing to leave
30 School described as "the chief nurse of England's statesmen"
31 Follower of "Doctor" or "That's"
32 Bring on
33 Run into trouble
34 Gay ____ (1970s movement)
39 Serve a function
40 Fixin' to
41 Element whose name comes from the Greek for "inactive"
42 Tracts
43 Singer whose album titles represent ages
44 Recipient of Emmys in different categories for the same role
46 Respond to the alarm
47 "Is the whole world against me?"
48 Guru's honorific
49 "Cool" quantity

ANSWER TO THURSDAY'S PUZZLE:



CAROLYN HAX

She's bailing on her best friend's birthday



BY CAROLYN HAX
tellme@washpost.com

Dear Carolyn: One of my best friends is turning 30 in September and hosting a big Dirty Thirty party. We've talked about this for years, she's always wanted to have a big party, and we all know how important this is to her. Our other best friend lives in a different state but has said for years that she will be there, until today when she texted me and the birthday friend that she won't be able to make it because it is her husband's birthday as well, and the only time they can have a weekend without their baby, an adorable 1-year-old. She has bailed on each of our friend's birthday parties for the last seven years because of her husband's birthday — which I get, prioritizing your husband is super important — but she promised this would be the one she would come to. And now she bailed again. She's claiming it's more about getting a weekend alone without their baby, it's the only weekend they can do it. I don't really believe that, since she let us know two months before the party. Though my sister just had a baby and I totally get how it would be nice

LEXIGO® 8-28

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. Books a venue in advance R _ _ _ _ _
2. Derision _ _ _ _ _
3. Combine M _ _ _ _
4. Removed _ _ _ _ _
5. Figures out D _ _ _ _

RESERVES, SARCASM, MERGE, ERASED, DECEIVES
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to get a weekend alone. Still, does it really have to be during the weekend we've talked about for years? I tried talking to her about it, but she got upset and just said I was making her feel guilty and she wanted to get off the phone. The other reason it is so hard to talk about it is that I hate her husband, and we have fought about it many times. So, she thinks I'm just hating on him and saying she shouldn't put him first, when I'm just trying to get her to prioritize our friend on this important milestone since she has missed all the rest. Am I letting my hatred for him cloud my judgment, or is she being a bad friend? — Friend

Friend: I'm going with: (a) Clouded judgment. But not for the reason you think. I'm not saying you're too biased to see it's A-OK for her to prioritize her husband, even on the weekend she promised to her friend. What you're missing is the bind your friend is in, and how complicated it can be to marry the person your best friends despise. She is in this marriage,

with baby now. She knows you loathe her husband. Her husband knows his wife's besties loathe him, yes? So how much support do you think she's getting to leave the baby with him to go see her friends? On his birthday? Or flip it: How much pressure is she under not to go? In her own mind if not from him. Out of state, she's probably able to put all this stress in a box somewhere. She can be friends with you two in peace on her own phone. But every year, the shared birthday drags it out again. It is almost comically easy not to pull or squeeze the person in the middle if you commit to it. Not for the Big Birthday, sure, but Just-fine 29, Sorta-fun 31? For your friend, why not, move the party. You bring up "bad friend." Let's switch to good friends: Hers, now, would offer her forgiveness for a deliberate reset. Replace pressure and disappointed vibes with soft, nonjudgmental, listening ones. "I didn't mean to guilt you. I hear your stress. I'm here." You want friends to keep their party promises, yes. But the support ones count even more.



ANGELA WEISS/AFP TNS

U.S. figure skater Alysa Liu attends the 2026 ESPY Awards at the David H. Koch Theater at Lincoln Center in New York on July 15, 2026.

Liu is stepping away from skating, but she's not retiring

BY CHUCK SCHILKEN, LOS ANGELES TIMES
The Tribune Content Agency

LOS ANGELES

Alysa Liu is stepping away from skating again. The first time, following her bronze medal at the 2022 world championships, Liu considered herself retired at age 16. This time, six months after becoming the first American woman to win Olympic gold in skating since 2002, the 21-year-old athlete says she's simply taking a year off

from the sport and is already planning her return. "I will not be competing this season," Liu wrote Monday on Instagram. "I always want to challenge myself in new ways, so my artistry & skating can evolve. It's important to me that my sport reflects my personal growth. I'm gonna take the time to recalibrate, fine-tune things & whatnot. "So fear not, I'll be back, & in the meantime I'll be rooting for my teammates near & far. See yall soon!!"

Born in Clovis and raised primarily in Oakland, Liu won back-to-back U.S. championships in 2019 and 2020 at ages 13 and 14. In February 2022, she finished seventh at the 2022 Beijing Olympics. Less than two months later, Liu announced on Instagram that she was "done with my goals in skating [and] i'm going to be moving on with my life." During her two years off, Liu hiked to Mount Everest base camp with friends, enrolled at UCLA and focused on herself. "I found what I like and what I didn't like," Liu said earlier this year. "Really got to know myself, because [when] I had skating, I didn't really know myself. I couldn't know myself. I only ever did one thing." She returned to skating in 2024 on her own terms, with a new look that included a halo hairstyle and a "smiley" piercing in the tissue connecting her upper lip to her gums. A gold medal at the 2025 world championships set the stage for her triumph at the Milano-Cortina Games. While her last break was an effort to get away from skating, Liu told NBC Sports that this time she will continue training to improve her "overall artistry, spins, jumps, everything." "I really want to improve my skating, and I wanted to take the time to do that for myself and just to evolve, and then I'll be back after that is done," Liu said. "But I'll still be cheering on all my competitors and my teammates, and I'm really excited." She added that "logically and emotionally and physically, this just makes the most sense" and "I just felt this was right. So I'm trusting my instincts."

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Legals

Legals & Public Notices

Housing Development Alliance, Inc., a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, is issuing a Request for Proposals (RFPs) from qualified accounting firms for an audit of its financial information and preparation of its IRS Form 990 for fiscal year ending June 30, 2026. Bids should include as separate line items the cost of preparing the year-end financial statements and the cost of preparing the Form 990 (for H.D.A.). H.D.A., Inc. receives state and federal funding as well as foundation grants and private donations. H.D.A., Inc. wishes to have the audit presented to the board on or before February 15, 2027. Sealed responses including references must be submitted by 12:00 p.m.(noon) on September 21, 2026, either by mail to Housing Development Alliance, Inc., Attn: Audit Committee, PO Box 7284, Hazard, KY 41702 or by hand delivery to our office at 2871 North Main Street, Hazard, KY. H.D.A., Inc. reserves the right to reject any or all bids. H.D.A., Inc. is an equal opportunity employer and proposal submissions by women or minority owned entities are encouraged. Contact Amie Bedwell at 606-438-5830 or email amie@hdahome.org for more information.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES QUALIFICATIONS BLUE GRASS AIRPORT FAYETTE COUNTY, KENTUCKY CONCOURSE AND TERMINAL EXPANSION

PROPOSALS must be submitted to LFUCAB on or before September 17, 2026, at 2:00 PM local time. LFUCAB will not accept late submissions. In response, six (6) hard copies and one (1) digital copy of the written proposal and letter of interest are to be submitted by interested firms.

THE PROJECT LFUCAB completed its Terminal Area Plan (TAP) in 2025. The Future LEX program identifies a new concourse and terminal expansion as a priority capital investment. The project is anticipated to include approximately eight (8) new aircraft gates with potential future expansion, a new terminal headhouse, passenger gate lounges, concessions, restrooms, passenger boarding bridges, apron improvements, and associated building systems. The new concourse will connect to the existing terminal and must be designed to operate concurrently with ongoing airport operations. Phased construction planning and coordination with TSA, airlines, and other airport tenants will be required.

THE CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be purchased at Lynn Imaging, 328 Old Vine Street, Lexington, KY 40507, 859-255-1021, www.lynnimaging.com.

RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS. The LFUCAB reserves the right to reject any and all RFQ's, or to accept any RFQ's in which it deems to be the most advantageous to the public and to the LFUCAB. If LFUCAB accepts a qualified firm pursuant to this RFQ, the final award is contingent upon the review and execution of a contract agreement that is agreed upon by both parties. Costs to Prepare Responses: LFUCAB assumes no responsibility or obligation to the respondents and will make no payment for any costs associated with the preparation or submission of proposals.

LEXINGTON-FAYETTE URBAN COUNTY AIRPORT BOARD
IPL0368894
Aug 28 2026

LEGAL NOTICE

THOMAS JONES DBA THE BODY SHOP, 109B CROSSFIELD DR. VER-SAILLES KY 40383, 859-873-0504, TINA SCOTT/REGIONAL ACCEPT CORP, 2018 FORD FOCUS VIN#1FAD-P32JL215799 THOMAS JONES DBA THE BODY SHOP HAS INTENTIONS TO OBTAIN A NEW TITLE FREE AND CLEAR OF ALL PRIOR LIENS UNLESS A WRITTEN OBJECTION WITHIN 14 DAYS OF THIS PUBLICATION
IPL0367750
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LEGAL NOTICE

The Fayette County Extension District's most recent audit and adopted budget can be viewed anytime on the Department for Local Government's Public Portal website. If you would like to view our most recent financial statement, please visit us at our home office located at 1140 Harry Sykes Way Lexington, KY 40504, during our normal office hours of 8:00am - 4:30pm. This ad was paid for by Fayette County Extension Office dollars." http://kydlgweb.ky.gov/ Per KRS 65A.080(2)
IPL0369364
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Legals & Public Notices

NOTICE OF RFP

The Lexington & Fayette County Parking Authority has released RFP-2026-BFM-02 for Sump Pump Replacement and Modernization in the Courthouse Garage. Please email Jared Daugherty at jdaugherty@lexpark.org for more information or to receive the RFP documents.
IPL0368767
Aug 26-28 2026

Beverage Notice

Beverage Notice
Cooper Haus LLC, mailing address 938 Manchester St, Suites 1102 and 1103, Lexington, KY 40508, hereby declares its intentions to apply for Quota Retail Drink, Special Sunday Retail Drink, and NQ4 Malt Beverage Drink licenses no later than September 1, 2026. The licensed premises will be located at 938 Manchester St, Sies, 1102 and 1103, Lexington, KY 40508. The sole owner is CBZ Holdings, LLC with an address of 936-938 Manchester St, Lexington, KY 40508. Any person, association, corporation or body politic may protest the granting of the license(s) by writing the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, 500 Mero St 2NE33, Frankfort, Kentucky, 40601 within thirty (30) days of the date of legal publication.
IPL0369445
Aug 28 2026

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