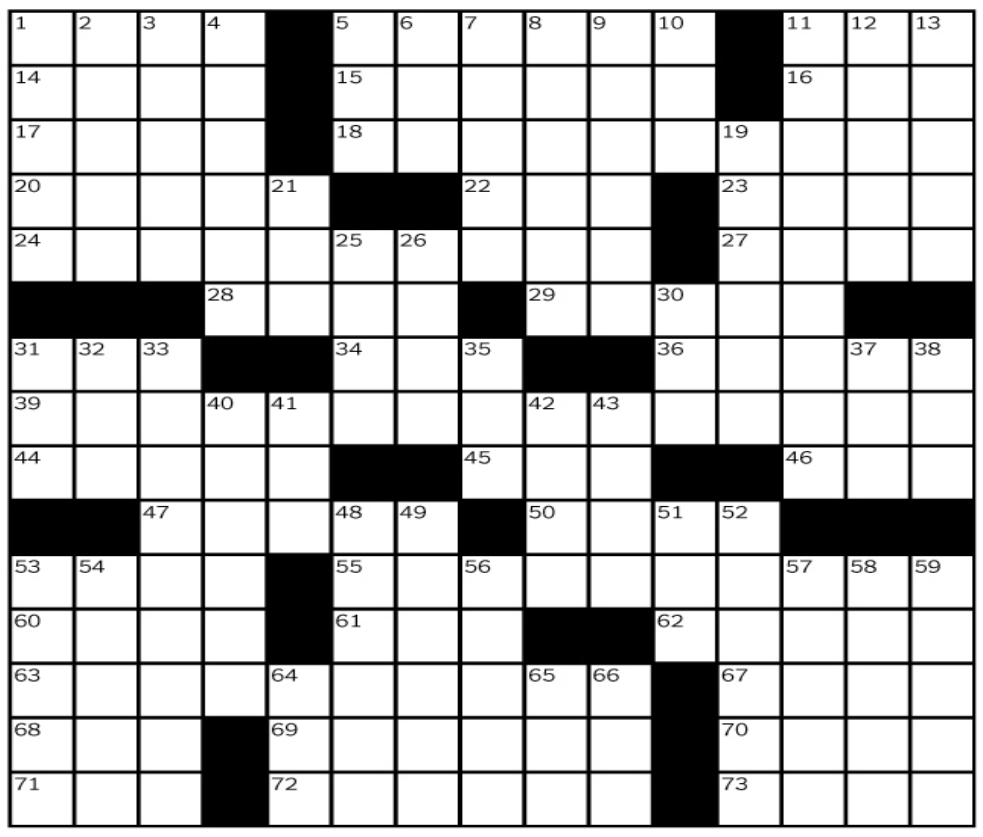
The New York Times

crossword



Across

1 Chews the fat
5 Fiona, e.g., in "Shrek"
11 Hula-Hoops or Furbys, once
14 500 sheets of paper
15 Geronimo's tribe
16 Fury
17 Hankering
18 One knocked off a pedestal
20 Pasture
22 Course guide?
23 C.E.O.'s job: Abbr.
24 Paid postgraduate position at a university
27 Black-eyed ___
28 Cry after hitting a hammer on one's thumb, say
29 Morocco's capital
31 "Much ___ About Nothing"
34 Uncooked
36 Beethoven's "Für ___"
39 Solve a crossword, e.g.?
44 Greeted and seated
45 ___-lacto-vegetarian
46 Old Navy alternative
47 Harnessed, as oxen
50 Mother of Don Juan
53 "You said it, sister!"
55 Put a spade atop a spade, say
60 Barn dance seat
61 Miami locale: Abbr.
62 Cake words in "Alice in Wonderland"
63 Illegal wrestling hold
67 Newswoman Paula
68 "___ You Experienced" (Jimi Hendrix's first album)
69 Sean who wrote "Juno and the Paycock"
70 Like show horses' feet
71 Tavern
72 Walked purposefully
73 Tiny hill dwellers

Down

1 Harsh and brusque
2 Eaglet's nest
3 Breakfast order with a hole in it
4 Like gym socks
5 Dunderhead
6 4.0 is a great one: Abbr.
7 Kramden of "The Honeymooners"
8 Cream-filled pastry
9 Mount Everest guide
10 McCain or McConnell: Abbr.
11 Squirming
12 Kitchen magnet?
13 Shoulder muscles, for short
19 African antelope or Chevrolet
21 Jane or John in court
25 Threadbare
26 Hit, as a fly
30 ___ Paese cheese
31 C.I.O.'s partner
32 Repeated cry when sticking a stake in a vampire
33 1957 Disney dog movie
35 "___ Let the Dogs Out"
37 Cousin of calypso
38 Mind reading, for short
40 Big name in toy trains
41 Tattoos, slangily
42 Dastardly
43 Pro ___ (like some law work)
48 Cause's partner
49 Avis rival
51 Ram's mate
52 One of the Gabor sisters
53 Beeb comedy
54 Actress Tierney of "ER"
56 Catch, as a dogie
57 Salt Lake City native
58 "Can we turn on a fan or something?!"
59 Manages, as a 71-Across
64 Denials
65 Brit. reference work
66 Bill the Science Guy

Yesterday's solution

D	O	H	A	Q	A	T	A	R		P	H	O	T	O
O	B	A	M	A	C	A	R	E		A	T	R	A	P
G	O	B	A	N	A	N	A	S		S	E	E	M	E
R	E	A		D	I	L	L		C	T	S	C	A	N
A	P	N	E	A		I	S	T	H	A	T	A	L	L
C	A	E	N			N	E	N	E			R	E	Y
E	R	R	O	R		E	A	T	S	U	P			
S	T	O	L	A	V				T	H	E	S	O	N
			A	G	E	N	T	K		S	T	O	N	E
P	J	S			S	E	A	L			C	R	E	W
T	A	U	B	E	T	A	P	I		P	O	T	T	S
B	R	I	A	R	S		I	N	R	I		D	I	D
O	U	T	T	A		L	O	G	I	N	N	A	M	E
A	L	O	E	S		I	C	E	S	K	A	T	E	S
T	E	R	S	E		M	A	R	K	Y	M	A	R	K

horoscope

Capricorn (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)
Use your inquisitive faculties to more readily acquire valuable knowledge. What previously confused you will now become crystal clear.

Aquarius (JAN. 20-FEB. 19)
Being unrealistically concerned about your financial affairs could cause you to make some bad decisions. You'll work things out more constructively if you stay focused.

Pisces (FEB. 20-MARCH 20)
A close friend of yours who has a good track record is likely to be the purveyor of some valuable information. Have him or her repeat it over and over again until you fully understand it.

Aries (MARCH 21-APRIL 19)
Even though you are anxious to resume control over an endeavor, it behooves you not to make any changes if things are running smoothly. Leave well enough alone.

Taurus (APRIL 20-MAY 20)
You need to be open-minded and flexible, just in case some unexpected changes need to be made to right a foundering situation.

Gemini (MAY 21-JUNE 20)
Making the most out of each new development as it occurs should help stabilize your position. Even if your strategy could never be a permanent fix, all it has to do is serve your present needs.

Cancer (JUNE 21-JULY 22)
If you've been helping others advance an important endeavor, stay the course regardless of a change in leadership. Chances are, all will turn out well.

Leo (JULY 23-AUG. 22)
Instead of being given to you directly, a great opportunity might come your way through an intermediary. Be ready and prepared to expand upon what it offers.

Virgo (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)
Your ideas and those of your mate's might not be too far apart, so instead of acting on your opinions alone, attempt to merge the two. It should prove to be the better way to go.

Libra (SEPT. 23-OCT. 23)
If you look out only for your own interests, you'll be putting limitations on what you can achieve. When you include others in your thoughts, greater rewards for everybody can be realized.

Scorpio (OCT. 24-NOV. 22)
The secret to success is to be a doer instead of merely a contemplator. If you fearlessly face your adversaries, you'll find them to be paper dragons.

Sagittarius (NOV. 23-DEC. 21)
Several important interrelated situations can be satisfactorily finalized if you handle them in an orderly fashion instead of doing things in fits and starts.

bridge

Doug Coupland, a Canadian novelist who popularized the term Generation X, said: "Only losers make decisions when things are bad. The time to rejig your life is when it's seemingly smooth."

When playing bridge for money, those who are losing often overbid, trying to recoup their losses. They would do better to go home. Winners, not losers, should be pushing.

In this deal, though, South's problem is how to avoid four losers during the play.

South is in four spades. West leads the diamond four: ace, king, seven. East takes the spade queen with his ace and continues with the diamond queen. What should declarer do?

The three-spade overcall isn't textbook, because the suit quality is not ideal, but it would be the choice of most experts. The 7-4-1-1 distribution has extra trick-taking potential. Note North's raise to four spades. He correctly did not bid three no-trump, when he might have had to win every trick from his own hand.

North
♠ Q
♥ K Q J 10
♦ A 6 5 3 2
♣ A Q J

West
♠ 10 8 4 2
♥ 8 7 5 3 2
♦ 4
♣ 6 3 2

East
♠ A
♥ A 9 6
♦ K Q J 10 9 8
♣ 7 5 4

South
♠ K J 9 7 6 5 3
♥ 4
♦ 7
♣ K 10 9 8

Dealer: East
Vulnerable: East-West

South	West	North	East
			1 ♦
3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	All pass

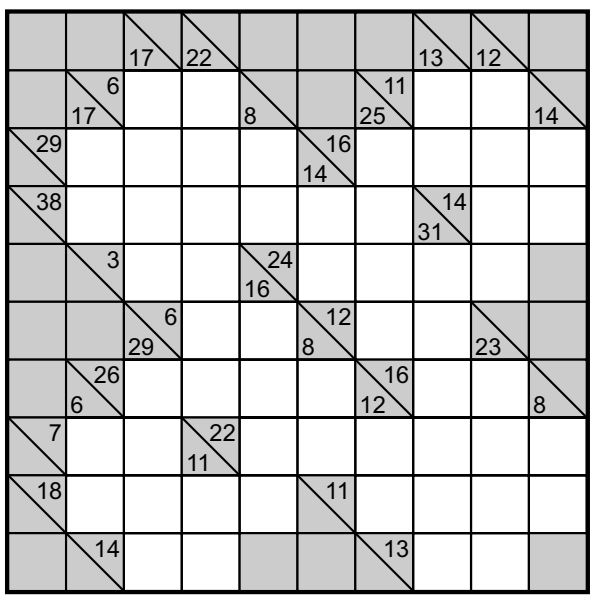
Opening lead: ♦ 4

What was West's lead? Presumably either a singleton or low from a tripleton. In the latter case, there is no danger, but what if West is itching to overruff?

Here, if South ruffs low, West overruffs and shifts to the heart eight. East wins and leads a third diamond, promoting another trump trick for West. The defenders take one heart and three spades.

Instead, South should discard his heart at trick three, cutting the communication between the defenders. He then ruffs the third diamond and is overruffed, but wins the next trick in his hand, draws trumps and claims.

kakuro



A Kakuro consists of a playing area of filled and empty cells similar to a crossword puzzle. Some black cells contain a diagonal slash from top left to bottom right with numbers in them, called "the clues". A number in the top right corner relates to an "across" clue and one in the bottom left a "down" clue. The object of a Kakuro is to insert digits from one to nine into the white cells to total the clue associated with it. However no digit can be duplicated in an entry.

Yesterday's solution

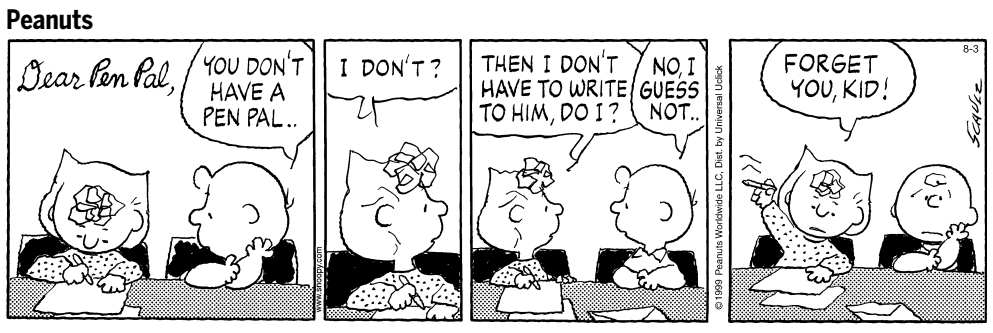
		5	6	9	7		5	1	3
	1	6	8	4	2	5	9	3	7
	2	7	9		4	6		4	8
	4	8		2	9	8	6		
	6	9	8	4		9	7	6	8
			5	1	2	7		1	7
	9	3		3	1		8	4	9
	6	4	8	9	3	7	1	2	5
	8	1	4		8	9	7	3	

comics

Dilbert

F-minus

Peanuts



Drabble

language tips

BETTER CHINESE

1.盘古
(pán gǔ)
Pan Gu

盘古是中国上古神话中开天辟地的神。河南省泌阳县南有一座盘古山，传说此山是当年盘古开天辟地，创造万物的地方。

(pán gǔ shì zhōng guó shàng gǔ shén huà zhōng kāi tiān pì dì de shén 。hé nán shěng bì yáng xiàn nán yǒu yī zuò pán gǔ shān ，chuán shuō cǐ shān shì dāng nián pán gǔ kāi tiān pì dì ，chuàng zào wàn wù de dì fāng 。)

According to Chinese legend, Pan Gu is the creator of the universe. There is a mountain called Mount Pangu, about 15 km south of Henan's Miyang County. It is said to be the place where Pan Gu created the world.

2.女娲
(nǚ wā)
Nu Wa

中国上古神话传说中的创世女神，用黄土仿造自己的模样创造了人。女娲造人的另一种说法是，女娲和哥哥伏羲兄妹二人结合繁衍了人类。

(zhōng guó shàng gǔ shén huà chuán shuō zhōng de chuàng shì nǚ shén ，yòng huáng tǔ fǎng zào zì jǐ de mú yàng chuàng zào le rén 。nǚ wā zào rén de lìng yī zhǒng shuō fǎ shì ，nǚ wā hé gē ge fú xī xiōng mèi èr rén jié hé fán yǎn le rén lèi 。)

According to Chinese legend, Nu Wa is the goddess who brought life to the world, creating human beings from mud in her own image. Another version of the legend says Nu Wa and her elder brother Fuxi married and produced human being offspring.

— From *Read stories and learn Chinese*, by Li Jin and Tian Zhihua. Beijing Language and Culture University Press.

BETTER ENGLISH

司法拍卖
Judicial sale

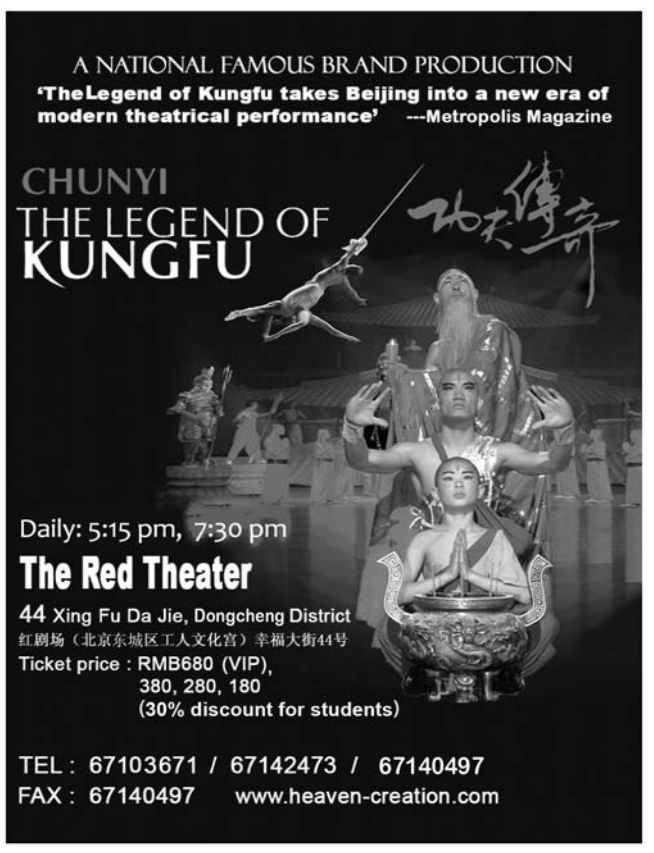
最近，浙江省高级法院与淘宝网合作开通的"司法拍卖平台"完成"首拍"，引发各界热议。

Judicial sale就是"司法拍卖"，也可用judicial/court auction来表示，指人民法院将查封、扣押、冻结的被执行人财产(sealed, seized and frozen assets of the defendant)，在被执行人逾期不履行义务时，依法以公开竞价的方式卖与出价最高的竞买人，并用所得金额清偿债务的执行行为，是人民法院执行中的一种强制处分措施。

For example:

Ouyang Shuying, deputy secretary-general of the China Association of Auctioneers, said on Thursday the online auctions violated laws and regulations on judicial sales, and warned that such activities could disturb the market order.

中国拍卖协会副秘书长欧阳树英周四表示，此次网拍违反了司法拍卖的有关法律法规，并称此举会扰乱市场秩序。

很多网民都认为通过淘宝这样的third-party platform(第三方平台)进行司法拍卖能够increase transparency(提高透明度)并且prevent under-the-table operations(杜绝暗箱操作)；而欧阳树英则指出Taobao is not a qualified auctioneer(淘宝不具备拍卖资质)，这样做会disturb the market order(扰乱市场秩序)。

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