

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

No. 0425

ACROSS

1 Cold War alliance

11 Quick shots

15 "It's just me here"

16 Sch. that joined the Big Ten in 2024

17 Booked it

18 Certain diagnostic technique

19 Skinny

20 Mind

21 Inits. in eight-bit gaming

22 Ready for use

24 R&B singer Ella _____

26 Lean sirloin cut

29 Positive thinker's word

30 Lead-in to -verse

31 Certain swimming event

34 Passage in a mystery novel?

38 Like nine U.S. presidents while in office

39 Daytime _____

40 Toretto, female protagonist of the "Fast and the Furious" films [Oy!]

41 Number that stands for letters, in brief

44 You may find it hard to swallow

45 Language in which the first five counting numbers are nung, song, sam, si, ha

48 Some makeshift percussion instruments

49 Prepares for a marathon, in a way

55 Wyndham alternative

56 Award-winning actress for "The Bear"

57 Urban irritant

58 Entered with heavy, awkward steps

59 Doth possess

60 Things feared in the 80s and 90s?

DOWN

1 She "learned" Arabic in December 2015

2 Home to the Bahla Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage Site

3 They often have sliding doors

4 "Fighting" Big Ten team

5 Skip over

6 Stops briefly to rest

7 Ran through some laundry, say

8 _____ saltado (traditional Peruvian dish)

9 Commensurate (with)

10 Formally give

11 "Hang on!"

12 Light touch from a decorator?

13 Like foods recommended for an upset stomach

14 Measurer of passing time

23 Styles of music

24 Primary

25 "... plus all the rest"

27 "Baby _____ You" (Shirelles hit)

28 Actor Dev of "Lion"

29 Jon M. _____, director of 2024's "Wicked"

30 An Olympian might pretend to take a bite out of it

32 Turkey's Cape Baba is its westernmost point

33 _____ big

35 [What is it this time?!]

36 Tell-all Reddit sesh

37 Fell apart in spectacular fashion

42 "My child is on the honor roll" and others

43 Not go to bed

44 Foolish sort

45 Common component of a date

47 Certain phone pop-up

48 Swanky

50 Setting for "Gladiator"

51 Leche drinker

52 Work that debuted at the Cairo opera house in 1871

53 Annoying plumbing problem

54 Producers of stains

Puzzle by Adrian Johnson

5/30

CAROLYN HAX

Girlfriend is fine with her family's excesses



BY CAROLYN HAX
tellme@washpost.com

Dear Carolyn: I was very fortunate that my parents raised me to appreciate simplicity and avoid greed and excess.

Now I'm in love with a wonderful woman whose family lives what I consider a toxic lifestyle. Examples: They serve too much food for parties and holidays — more than can be eaten not just on that day, but on several days; they exchange so many useless gifts at every giving occasion (Christmas, birthdays, Mother's Day, Father's Day, etc.); their closets are stuffed with more clothing and shoes than you could wear in a lifetime; their home is overflowing with furniture, tchotchkes and other useless things.

Since we've gotten more serious, I've mentioned just a couple of times to my girlfriend how damaging her parents' and siblings' lifestyle is. Recently, she snapped at me to let up on being "so judgmental" about her family.

I always thought we were on the same wavelength, since she herself lives pretty simply. Now I'm afraid her more minimalist lifestyle is because she's just starting out, and she'll eventually adopt her

LEXICO®

5-30

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.

A

V

F

Y

S

G

E

R

S

L

A

M

C

1. Gung-ho

E _ _ _ _

2. Directs you to another

_ _ _ _ _

3. Horror movie sound effect

S _ _ _ _

4. Dining experiences

_ _ _ _ _

5. Brutality

S _ _ _ _ _

EAGER, REFERS, 'SCREAM, MEALS, SAVAGERY

© 2025 WIGGLES 3D GAMES, DIST. BY ANDREWS MCMEEL SYNDICATION

family's behavior as she gets more successful.

I love her and don't want to break up, but I'd hate to marry and raise children with someone who would expect to live like that.

It seems like a sore subject, and I don't want to harp on it, but I do need some reassurance. How should I ask about this?

— Worried

Worried: It's a "sore subject" because you're being "so judgmental."

A hypothetical: It's one thing to be different. OK. You do you, I do me. Maybe we work together, maybe we don't. At least we can talk about it.

It's another for you to look at my family and think: greedy, excessive, toxic, too much, useless, damaging.

Maybe we can work together, but you know what? Don't bother. I'd rather tell you where to stick your simplicity.

Here's the fun part. I am inclined to agree with you that too much stuff is problematic. It's a waste of resources, money, space, time — since more stuff means more hours on stuff management. Cluttered spaces can be distracting, depressing, hard to keep

clean. The planet weeps.

But oh, my goodness. Bang-bang-banging on this one note left many thoughtful, persuasive notes of subtlety, nuance and respect unplayed.

Such as: Big food and gifts are central to some families, traditions, cultures. Your minimalism won't land with these audiences the way it lands with you.

Are some of these people adherents to "greed and excess," sure. But hardly all. And unless your mind is open to the many emotional connections involved across generations, you're going to miss the fact that some people don't think it's love unless the table legs tremble with the weight of the food.

Someone who sticks to such beliefs is probably not the right partner for you. Totally fair. But someone from that tradition who remains sympathetic to it is also not the devil. Or reared by one.

If none of this moves you, then that's your prerogative — but it'll make it tough to move forward with your girlfriend's family and possibly with your girlfriend, if only your extreme will suffice.

Either way, you two need to talk about this.

Classified

FIND. BUY. SELL.

classifieds.kentucky.com

SELL YOUR STUFF FAST!

859.231.3100

VISA, MASTERCARD, DISCOVER, AMERICAN EXPRESS

Legals

Legal Advertisement

The Urban County Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on Monday, June 9, 2025 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. IFL0235319 May 30 2025

Rupp Arena / Lexington Opera House seeks proposals for Mechanical Contracts

We are seeking proposals for multi-year preventative maintenance and service agreements for major mechanical equipment at both venues. For RFP documents email Keith Stowe KStowe@centralbankcenter.com IFL0235667 May 29-30 2025

Notice to Bidders

Thieneman Construction, Inc., a General Contractor and Equal Employment Opportunity Employer is seeking certified MBE/WBE/VBE Subcontractors and Suppliers to bid the East Hickman Pump Station Expansion and Rehab design Phase 2 WWTP Improvements project, Lexington, KY. The bids for this project will be due by: June 12, 2025 @2pm local time. Interested subcontractors and suppliers should contact our estimating department at 317-867-3462, x602 or email us at: estimating@t-c-i.net for Plans and Specifications at no cost. Plans include any XBE bid certifications. They are also at the offices of Thieneman Construction, Inc., 17219 Foundation Parkway, Westfield, IN 46074 IFL0236071 May 30 2025

Auctions

Garage Sales

Multi-Family Sale
Saturday May 31 8am-2pm 380 and 385 Ashmoor Dr Furnish a dorm or apartment at our sale.

Garage Sale In Hartland

Sat., May 31, 8 - 2
4812 Holmhurst, Lex. - 2 families

Dogwood Trace Neighborhood Garage Sale

Sat., May 31, 8a-2p, rain or shine

YARD SALE - 997 SPRING RUN

5/30&5/31 - 8AM - NAME BRAND CLOTHING, BABY CLOTHES, HOME DECOR, TOYS, FURNITURE & MORE

Animals

Dogs

Golden Retriever puppies
Golden Retriever 3 females, 9 weeks old. All vaccines. 859-314-7456

KENTUCKY.COM

Real Estate

Real Estate Misc.

For sale. Indoor tandem crypt. Blue Grass Memorial Garden. Heated, A/C, 2nd row, \$15,000 firm. 502-542-4146

Service Directory

Care Giver

Christian Caregiver
I provide in home care for your loved one. I am CNA trained, honest and dependable. Experienced with references. Call for information 859-421-0401

Home & Business Improvement

All Carpet Repairs/Stretch/
Pet & Water Damage/Rotten/ Squeaky Floors. **crosscarpetrepair.com**
30+ yrs exp. **859-225-3863**

Commonwealth Construction/ Handyman Services

859.699.9949
Do All Company-For All Your Needs
Licensed,Registered,Insured ,Bonded

Roofing

Larry Isaac's Roofing
Fully Insured - 30 Years Experience
Call: (859) 644-2168

New Job. New Career. New Life.

Find it here in the Lexington Herald-Leader Classifieds!

Get Moving With the Herald-Leader Classifieds!

ABSOLUTE Auction

Commercial Buildings & 6.5 +/- Acres
Friday, June 13th, 2025 at 1:30PM
1047 & 1049 Hwy 127 Frankfort, Ky
Preview Date: Thursday June 5th from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Approximately 6.5 acres with 80,000± sq ft main building plus additional office building divided into 5 units. Located on Hwy 127 in the heart of Frankfort, KY. Rare investment and redevelopment opportunity with high visibility and endless potential!

For additional information contact the auctioneers at 606-679-2212.

Matt Ford- Auctioneer

Ford Brothers Inc. Auctioneers

Selling the Country

Weichert ABC Properties

Somerset, KY

606.679.2212 • 800.526.9430

www.fordbrothersinc.com

NAA Auctioneer