

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

No. 0116

ACROSS

1 Coming-out party?

11 Finish (up)

15 "Hello-o-o?"

16 Dialect featured in the literature of Alice Walker and Toni Morrison, for short

17 Scenario calling for self-reliance

18 Summer flier

19 Classic 1926 poem associated with the Harlem Renaissance

20 Do some cleaning

21 Creatures that can turn into humans on land, in Scottish folklore

22 Sound around a summer cornfield

23 Wood used for flooring

24 Trunk item

25 Shortest-reigning English monarch (9 days)

28 Molecule that can self-splice

29 Enthusiasm-curbing

32 "Here we go!"

34 Uncovered

35 Some cuts of meat

37 Tennis great who had a tennis scholarship from UCLA

38 Place for trading stories?

40 Diverts

42 It takes a long time to get this

43 Leading character on social media?

45 White House partner, for short

47 Assume, as costs

48 Do some cleaning

51 Market for currencies, informally

52 Financial aid basis

54 Hand count?

55 Ian : Scotland :: : Wales

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Puzzle by Kyle Dolan

2/20

56 One might help you hitch a ride

58 Parmesan

59 Novel whence the line "Four legs good, two legs bad"

60 Rests

61 They're green year-round

24 Receives unfair criticism

25 Nimble, zigzagging maneuver

26 Best Original Song Oscar winner from 2014's "Selma"

27 PE unit

29 Invitations to come on board

30 First NASA mission broadcast live from orbit

31 Secret offering?

33 Julia of "The Addams Family"

36 Excellency

39 Like leatherette

41 Witticism

44 Start of a secret invitation, perhaps

46 Leans

48 Locale of a semiannual fashion week

49 Opposite of subtle

50 Makes do for a while?

52 Gram, by another name

53 Composer

54 Goal-oriented global org.?

56 Half-

57 Totally

DOWN

1 Bare-bones

2 Oscar-winning musical role for Rita Moreno

3 Already

4 "The Memory Police" author

5 Brand lead-in to Caps or Balls

6 Unwieldy situation, metaphorically

7 "As if!"

8 Blows away

9 Release

10 Kind of cycle

11 Listing on a W-2 form

12 Stumbled upon

13 Overwhelming amount

14 Some terrarium denizens

21 Declares

23 Tai chi accessory

CAROLYN HAX

Friend's advice has echoes of controlling mother



BY CAROLYN HAX  
tellme@washpost.com

**Dear Carolyn:** My best friend and I met in middle school and, in different states now, have maintained a close relationship for over 30 years, texting almost daily, vacationing together and visiting up to three times a year. We have been much closer in the last six years. This is a very important and valuable relationship.

My friend has always been the more dominant energy, and recently in therapy, I have become aware this mimics the dynamic with my mother. I was raised to believe I was wrong, did not know better, someone else's needs are more important, etc. It feels like I have allowed my friend to operate the same way with me since we were kids.

We have this dynamic where I go to her for support and she tells me how to fix it. The last few years I have started pushing back. When I say I am not looking for advice or help — that my issue is not lack of understanding how to solve the problem, but a need for emotional support or just to be heard — she attacks me for not wanting help. She then blames me for picking a fight I was not even aware we were having. I have

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2-20

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.

E

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1. Home to the NBA's Raptors

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2. Opulent

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3. Inspired affection

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4. Tooth-related

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5. Greater in size

L \_ \_ \_ \_

TORONTO, ONTARIO, ENDEARED, LARGED

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tried calmly talking to her about this later when we are not arguing.

Her fixes often do not address my issue. When I tell her about a hard day at work, she suggests I find a new job. When I mentioned the high cost of groceries, she picked a big fight about better prices at a specific store I avoid for political reasons. When my landlord raised my rent, she told me to move. It's very dismissive.

I have tried to explain that unsolicited advice is often self-serving. She claims she is the friend who "tells it like it is" and I want a "pat on the head." She is standing her ground when I tell her this is not helpful.

I have tried not going to her for support that I know won't come, but then one of these fights will just come out of nowhere. I am feeling tapped out. Do I just walk away from this 30-plus-year friendship?

— Changing

**Changing:** I do see why the walk-away option is tempting.

But you have experienced difficult, dramatic emotional growth in recent years, so it makes sense that it would knock such a relationship off-balance.

You're changing but your friend is not.

And why should she change, really? You don't like this side of her now that you see it through different eyes. To her, however, this tectonic shift is merely Friday. Her crime against you is to be who she has always been.

I am playing devil's advocate here; of course you want some willingness to listen. And your being explicit about your needs is an important step — especially for friends long accustomed to providing something else.

But asking for something does not create an obligation in others to provide it, not even best friends. And in this case it does seem to touch more on who she is than what she does. That she can't or won't pivot from issuing directives to head-pats is not the same as her choosing to cause you intentional harm — any more than it ever was. It's being set in her ways.

It is your prerogative to decide you're through with ways that upset you. Full stop.

If you want more time to reorient your new self to an old friend, though, and feel you owe your history that, then that's valid, too.

Fontana Italy's most decorated Olympian

Reuters, Special to Field Level Media

MILAN — Arianna Fontana became her country's most decorated Olympian when she led Italy to silver in the women's 3,000 meters short track relay at the Winter Games on Wednesday.

It was the 14th Olympic medal of Fontana's career,

eclipsing the record of fencer Edoardo Mangiarotti who won 13 medals between 1936 and 1960.

South Korea took gold and Canada bronze. It was the first short track gold of the Games for the Koreans, the most successful nation in the discipline at the Olympics.

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni was in the Milano Ice Skating Arena to witness Fontana make

history.

The way was cleared for Italy to take a medal when a Dutch skater fell midway through the race, effectively turning it into a three-team contest.

Fontana, 35, has now won three medals at the Milan Cortina Games. She made her Olympic debut as a teenager when Italy hosted the Turin Games in 2006, picking up the first medal of her career in the

women's relay.

She had the honor of carrying the Italian flag at the Opening Ceremony in the San Siro stadium this month but her relations with teammates and sports officials have been tense at times.

**TENSE RELATIONSHIP**

In 2019, Fontana accused two teammates of deliberately causing her to fall during a training ses-

sion. The skaters were cleared after a lengthy disciplinary process.

She hinted she might switch allegiance to the United States in 2023 after a breakdown in relations with her national federation.

Fontana had missed out on her first chance to break the record on Monday, finishing fourth in the women's 1000 meters, race, after being barged by Chinese rival Gong Li during the final.

After that race she said she had a "bitter taste in her mouth," adding, that

she would not allow the quest for the 14th medal to distract her.

"I'll try to turn this anger into extra fuel to add to the fire," she said.

Fontana comes from the small town of Berbenno, around two hours' drive north of Milan, where the local bars are papered with signed photos of her.

Married to her coach, the Italian-American former skater Anthony Lobello, she speaks fluent English and has spent long periods training abroad.

Marianne Fatton of Switzerland leads skiers as they compete in the first heat of the ski mountaineering women's sprint at the Winter Olympics on Thursday in Bormio, Italy.

Switzerland wins first gold in ski mountaineering

BY ALEX BUTLER  
Sports News - UPI.com

Switzerland's Marianne Fatton clinched the first ski mountaineering gold medal in Olympics history

Thursday, winning by 2.38 seconds in Bormio, Italy.

France's Emily Harrop and Spain's Ana Alonso Rodriguez earned the first silver and bronze medals in the sport, which was approved in 2022 for addi-

tion to this year's Winter Olympics.

Fatton clocked a 2:59.77 on the 725-meter course, which included a 65-meter climb, a mid-point transition zone and speedy slalom descent to the

finish line at Stelvio Ski Centre.

Harrop clocked a 3:02.15, finishing nearly eight seconds faster than Alonso Rodriguez. Germany's Tatjana Pallar placed fourth, ahead of Italian Giulia Murada and France's Margot Ravinel.

Anna Gibson, the lone American competitor, failed to advance past the semifinals.

Spain's Oriol Cadrona Coll won the first men's ski mountaineering gold medal. His time of 2:34.03 was just 1.52 seconds ahead of second-place Nikita Filippov, a neutral athlete from Russia.

France's Thibault Anselmet clocked a 2:36.34 to earn a bronze medal.

Cameron Smith, a 13-time national champion and lone American competitor in the men's field, failed to advance to the final.

The first ski mountaineering mixed relay at the Olympic level will be held at 7:30 a.m. ET Saturday in Bormio. Coverage from the Stelvio Ski Centre will air on USA Network.

Gibson and Smith will team up for that competition.

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Legals

Legals & Public Notices

Notice of Self Storage Sale

Please take notice Interstate Storage located at 3099 Lexington Rd, Richmond, KY, 40475 intends to hold a public sale to sell the property stored by tenants for default on their rental agreement. The sale will occur as an Online auction via www.lockerfox.com on 2/24/2026 at 11:00 AM. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. 7568-334908 IPL0311029 Feb 20 2026

Notice of Request for Proposals

Notice is hereby given that the Lexington Parking Authority has released an RFP for Banking Services. Please contact Kara Pearson kpearson@lexpark.org to request the RFP documents. IPL0314538 Feb 17-22 2026

REQUEST FOR BIDS

The Blue Grass Trust is accepting sealed bids for full architecture/engineering drawings for Pope Villa located at 326 Grosvenor St Lexington, KY. Email jcoleman@bluegrasstrust.org and mark@mitchellpark.co for bid package. The deadline for submission of proposals is 5pm March 13, 2026. Bids must be received in a timely manner or will not be considered for award. The performance completion date is no later than August 1, 2026. The project is an SAT grant recipient by National Park Service and all work must follow Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. All applicable Federal, state and local laws, rules and regulations apply. IPL0314598 Feb 18-20 2026

Legals & Public Notices

NOTICE TO INFORM:

At the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Council meeting on February 12, 2026 Ordinances 12-15 were enacted related to: (1) An Ordinance changing the zone from a Planned Neighborhood Residential (R-3) zone to a Medium Density Residential (R-4) zone, for 0.585 net (0.793 gross) acres for property located at 401 Woodland Avenue; (2) An Ordinance changing the zone from a Planned Neighborhood Residential (R-3) zone to a Corridor Business (B-3) zone, for 0.658 net (0.885 gross) acres for property located at 2788 Ruby River Dr. (a portion of); (3) An Ordinance amending certain of the Budgets of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government to reflect current requirements for municipal expenditures, and appropriating and re-appropriating funds, Schedule No. 22; (4) An Ordinance amending the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government Code of Ordinances as follows: amending Chapter 20, creating Section A, relating to Preservation and Urban Growth Management, adopting Sections relating to intent; definitions; applicability; and general requirements applicable to the Preservation and Growth Management Plan, all effective upon passage of Council. These documents may be viewed in their entirety at https://bit.ly/ords12-15 or in the Council Clerk's Office at 200 E. Main St. Lexington, KY 40507. 859-258-3240. View all LFUCG legal notices at https://www.lexingtonky.gov/public-notices IPL0315386 Feb 20 2026

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