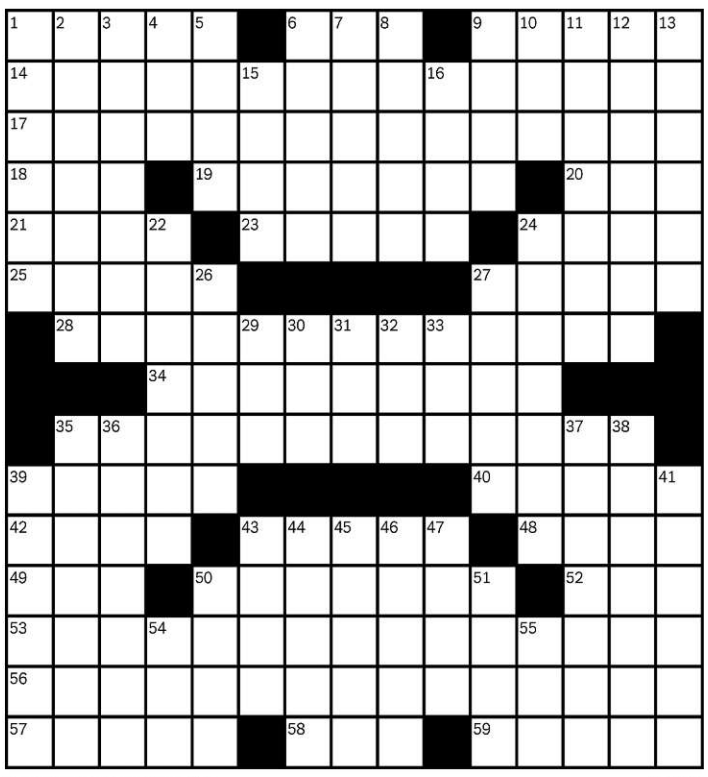
NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

No. 1016



Puzzle by Adam Shapiro

11/20

ACROSS

1 Word with strip or skirt
6 Conniption
9 Cuban poet/philosopher José
14 2000 hit song with the lyric "But to lose all my senses / That is just so typically me"
17 Mail-centric fiction?
18 Virginia is in it, in brief
19 "Hah!"
20 "__ had it!"
21 Former home of Mr. and Mrs. Met
23 "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" spinoff
24 Riot
25 Spiller of tea
27 Smelling things?
28 Date night viewing, often
34 High concept?
35 They explain what's in the cards
39 Comic strip sound of impact
40 Infant discomfort
42 Battery-powered string instrument player
43 Predicated
48 It has its highs and lows
49 Rocky openings?
50 Burrowing animal whose name is made up of two other animals
52 It may begin with a +1: Abbr.
53 Idolizes
56 Indiana Jones or Rocky Balboa, e.g.
57 Losing causes?
58 Yoga __
59 The 22nd Amendment limits them

DOWN

1 "Piece of cake!"
2 Reality show whose contestants report to the Judge's Table
3 Not gendered
4 Dope
5 Some emergency resources
6 Serious dirt
7 State whose official fruit is the huckleberry
8 Done to death
9 Flow down the neck
10 Past word
11 Hot pockets?
12 20-20, e.g.
13 Small sounds
15 One of 412 in the White House
16 Supermodel Banks
22 Took back one's words
24 One struggling to make ends meet
26 Grant
27 Foe of Dr. Eggman, in video games
29 Procured
30 "__ Share of Night" (acclaimed 2019 Mariana Enríquez book)
31 Complimentary lines
32 Tool for tracing family trees
33 Prefix with the name of any month
35 Mideast salad, in one spelling
36 Simon the Zealot, e.g.
37 Sparkly bits in a school art project
38 Like some deliveries
39 Holder of all the digits, from 1 to 0
41 Stage-left orchestra section
43 Coccyx or phalange, e.g.
44 Unwelcome sound during a dream
45 Brown tint
46 Construct
47 Art movement proclaimed in a 1916 manifesto
50 May honorees
51 Outdoor item with flaps
54 Took a load off
55 2011 platinum single by Tyler, the Creator

ANSWER TO THURSDAY'S PUZZLE:

D	R	E	■	A	F	L	A	T	■	C	O	M	E	T
R	E	N	■	G	R	E	C	O	■	A	B	A	C	I
A	F	L	■	H	A	S	N	T	■	T	I	T	L	E
G	U	A	R	A	N	T	E	E	D	■	■	C	A	D
O	G	R	E	S	■	■	■	M	E	G	A	H	I	T
N	E	G	A	T	I	O	N	■	C	I	C	E	R	O
S	E	E	D	■	B	R	E	A	■	B	A	S	■	■
■	■	■	L	A	M	B	A	S	T	E	D	■	■	■
■	■	L	I	B	■	S	T	A	N	■	E	D	E	N
H	O	O	P	L	A	■	O	P	T	I	M	I	Z	E
E	R	A	S	E	R	S	■	■	■	S	I	N	E	W
A	N	D	■	■	F	I	R	E	B	L	A	N	K	S
R	E	S	I	N	■	T	E	T	R	A	■	E	I	D
T	R	U	C	E	■	E	A	T	I	N	■	R	E	A
H	Y	P	E	S	■	S	P	E	E	D	■	S	L	Y

CAROLYN HAX

After friends break up, do we stay cordial?



BY CAROLYN HAX
tellme@washpost.com

Dear Carolyn: Three years ago, my best friend broke up with "Vic," her partner of over a decade. While it was something that needed to happen years earlier, it nonetheless was not amicable. Vic to this day has not gotten over the breakup.

While Best Friend has admitted she was not the world's greatest partner toward the end, Vic has never acknowledged his role in the breakup, including emotional abuse; he used his untreated severe mental health issues as an excuse. He has even made public statements saying Best Friend cheated on him with her current partner, whom she met by chance shortly after the breakup. She was 100% single.

Best Friend recently got married to said New Partner, who is a real stand-up guy. This reignited Vic's public postings, which are full of delusions and lies. You can't call him out because these days he surrounds himself with enablers.

I had grown pretty close with Vic as a friend during the years he and Best Friend were together, and after the breakup we agreed to remain cordial. I'm finding that harder and harder to do as he refuses to both get over the relationship and get the help he desperately needs.

We have a lot of mutual friends, so it'd be hard to completely avoid him. How to remain cordial? Is there anything I can do other than burning what little bridges are left?

— Anonymous

Anonymous: How sad.

But also, how not your problem.

Please take a cue from Best Friend: The breakup is the past. Vic is free to live in it if he chooses, but Best Friend has chosen not to, and it's working for her.

You seem to have good intentions here: an even-handed analysis of the breakup, kind thoughts on the new guy's character, valid objections to Vic's smear campaign. Concern about Vic's unraveling, I detect, maybe? You offer solid testimony on the new-partner timeline, too — not that it's relevant to the need to move on, certainly by Year 3.

But what do these good intentions achieve, and what is their place?

It's not your job to fix Vic. I'd say you can be supportive of him toward an effort to get help if he's receptive and you still have a friendship, but your letter gives neither impression.

It's also not your job to fight Best Friend's battles, especially ones she herself has left behind. Counter any lies and smears you witness firsthand, sure — not with arguments, though. Just single, calm statements of fact.

Then put the past back down where you found it.

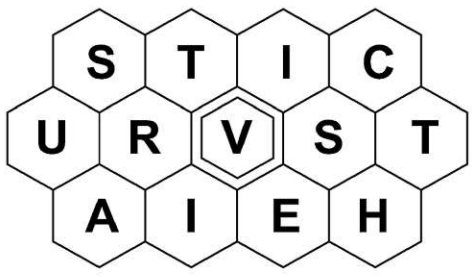
Doing that and remaining cordial are basic enough that I suspect you'd have done both without asking if you wanted to. So here's the unasked-for advice: Consider why you might be "drawn to the flame" here — to the most dramatic framing or involvement, when you have no active role. Are you bored? Do you need to feel relevant? Is this your normal — with family especially — up in each other's business? These aren't accusations; it's to check on your boundaries.

If you really are asking how to "remain cordial," that's it, then consider yourself relieved of that obligation. Say "hello" to Vic when he can't be avoided, then keep walkin'.

LEXICO®

11-20

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.**



1. Drop in to see V _ _ _ _
2. Unimportant facts _ _ _ _ _ _
3. Creative person A _ _ _ _ _
4. Belonging to them _ _ _ _ _
5. Rough around the edges R _ _ _ _ _

VISIT, TRIVIA, ARTIST, THEIR, RUSTIC

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Texas is counting QB Manning in for Senior Day this week

Field Level Media

Texas quarterback Arch Manning insists his participation in the Longhorns' Senior Day activities has no hidden meaning about the direction he plans to take after the season.

Manning, a two-year starter in his fourth season with the Longhorns, is eligible for the NFL draft and was projected as a possible No. 1 overall pick when the 2026 season began.

Texas has won four consecutive games and is 8-2, ranked No. 6 in the College Football Playoff Top 25 entering this week. The team's final home game of the season, barring a home playoff game in Austin, is Saturday against Arkansas. Programs typically use Senior Day to honor graduating seniors and underclassmen expected to move on at season's end.

"I mean (current starting center) Connor Robertson did it last year. I'm a senior, so I'm doing it," Manning said.

Depending on where he expects to be selected in the draft, Manning still has the option to return to Texas for another college season. He said playing another year at Texas was a possibility when asked about his 2027 plans earlier this season.

On Monday, however, he was looking no further than the next game.

"I'm just focused on this week, winning this week," Manning said.

Texas has defeated five Top 25 teams this season and remains firmly in the national championship picture.

The grandson of Archie Manning and nephew of Peyton and Eli Manning, Arch led a comeback to beat No. 22 LSU 22-21 on Saturday. He threw three interceptions but delivered a touchdown pass in the closing seconds to take the lead, illustrating the highs and lows of the season for both Manning and the Longhorns.

"In a bunch of years, I'm going to tell everyone we had a game-winning drive and they'll forget the three picks," Manning said of the win at LSU.

Manning also ran for a touchdown and picked up a critical first down on a designed run during the game-winning drive.

He is 20-5 as a starter and has prototypical NFL size at 6-foot-4 and 220 pounds, with greater mobility than either of his Super Bowl-winning uncles. He has 19 touchdowns and 10 interceptions in 2026.

Manning was considered a Heisman Trophy favorite in each of the past two years, based on his popularity and family pedigree.



STEPHEN LEW Imagn Images

Texas quarterback Arch Manning is 20-5 as a starter and has prototypical NFL size at 6-foot-4 and 220 pounds, with greater mobility than either of his Super Bowl-winning uncles. He has 19 touchdowns and 10 interceptions in 2026.

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NASCAR reveals changes, drivers eligible for Daytona Clash

Field Level Media

NASCAR revealed the drivers who will be eligible for the 2027 Clash at Daytona while announcing significant format changes for the season-opening event.

Returning to Daytona for the first time since 2021, the 70-lap feature on Feb. 13 will take place on the track's oval for the first time since 2020.

Among the format changes announced Wednesday:

–A competition caution scheduled for Lap 30 that will include a mandatory four-tire swap on pit road.

–The field will be limited to 2026 pole winners and race winners, previous Daytona 500 champions who competed full time in 2026 and past NASCAR Cup Series champions who raced full time in 2026.

–Dodge will be granted one OEM provisional designation for a full-time driver, bringing the maximum field size to 22 drivers.

–Teams will be allowed to use different car setups for qualifying and the race, "with simulation models suggesting single-car speeds will exceed 200 mph in the qualifying specification."

Qualifying also will include a mandatory four-tire pit stop with simulated fuel on Lap 2. Pit-road rules will be strictly enforced, with time penalties assessed for speeding or other pit-road infractions. Qualifying times will be measured from the green flag to the checkered flag.

"We heard the fans and they wanted The Clash to make its inevitable return to Daytona," Daytona International Speedway president Frank Kelleher said. "There is no better way to open Speedweeks than with The Clash under the lights at the World Center of Racing.

"With qualifying adding another layer of anticipation and a format that delivers high-stakes competition, The Clash will add another must-see event to an already incredible week leading into the Daytona 500."

CURRENTLY ELIGIBLE DRIVERS

–Christopher Bell (pole winner and race winner)

–Ryan Blaney (pole winner, race winner and past champion)

–Chase Briscoe (pole winner, race winner)

–William Byron (race winner, past Daytona 500 champion)

–Ross Chastain (pole winner)

–Austin Cindric (past Daytona 500 champion)

–Austin Dillon (past Daytona 500 champion)

–Chase Elliott (race winner, past champion)

–Ty Gibbs (pole winner, race winner)

–Denny Hamlin (pole winner, race winner, past Daytona 500 champion)

–Corey Heim (race winner)

–Carson Hocevar (pole winner, race winner)

–Brad Keselowski (past champion)

–Kyle Larson (race winner, past champion)

–Joey Logano (pole winner, race winner, past Daytona 500 champion, past champion)

–Michael McDowell (past Daytona 500 winner)

–Ryan Preece (race winner)

–Tyler Reddick (pole winner, race winner, past Daytona 500 champion)

–Ricky Stenhouse Jr. (past Daytona 500 champion)

–Daniel Suarez (race winner)

–Shane van Gisbergen (pole winner, race winner)

–Dodge full-time driver to be determined

Legals

Legals & Public Notices

NOTICE TO INFORM:

At the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Council meeting on November 12, 2026, Ordinance 104-2026 was enacted related to: 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, FY 2027 Schedule No. 11. These documents may be viewed in their entirety at https://bit.ly/ord104 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
IPL0389862
Nov 20 2026

NOTICE

R. J. Corman Railroad Company/Bardstown Line, is soliciting sealed bids, BID NO. 26-351-CRISI KFRIP RJCR-MATERIAL for materials on an upcoming project as part of the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant. The invitation to bid with specifications can be accessed at https://www.rjcorman.com/contact/bidding-opportunities. The deadline to submit the bids via sealed envelope is December 16, 2026 at 3:00 P.M. (EST). No bids will be taken after this date and time. All bids must be mailed to: R. J. CORMAN RAILROAD COMPANY/BARDSTOWN LINE C/O JESSICA LEWIS 1588 LEESTOWN ROAD SUITE 130-313 LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY 40511. Public Opening of Bids to be held on December 17, 2026, at 10:00 A.M. EST, bidders are invited to attend by phone or Teams meeting. R. J. Corman reserves the right to reject any and all bids.
IPL0388960
Nov 16-22 2026

Legals & Public Notices

NOTICE

R. J. Corman Railroad Company/Bardstown Line is soliciting sealed bids, BID NO. 26-351-CRISI KFRIP RJCR-TRACK REHAB for Ballast, Labor and Equipment on an upcoming project as part of the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant. The invitation to bid with specifications can be accessed at https://www.rjcorman.com/contact/bidding-opportunities. The deadline to submit the bids via sealed envelope is December 16, 2026 at 3:00 P.M. (EST). No bids will be taken after this date and time. All bids must be mailed to: R. J. CORMAN RAILROAD COMPANY/BARDSTOWN LINE, C/O JESSICA LEWIS 1588 LEESTOWN ROAD SUITE 130-313 LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY 40511. Public Opening of Bids to be held on December 17, 2026, at 11:00 A.M. EST, bidders are invited to attend by phone or Teams meeting. R. J. Corman reserves the right to reject any and all bids.
IPL0388964
Nov 16-22 2026

Animals

Dogs

Teacup yorkies

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