Working smoke alarm increases chance of surviving home fire

DEAR ABBY

DEAR ABBY: I am a fire officer who has seen too many families experience accidental home fires, many with fatal results. It is devastating to find out that a life could have been saved had someone taken the simple precaution of replacing a dead battery in a smoke alarm.

In a recent survey, more than 50 percent of the respondents admitted to removing the batteries in their smoke detector, leaving them inoperable. A working smoke alarm in your home greatly increases your chance of surviving a home fire, but only if it is functional.

Please remind your readers to change the batteries in their smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors when they turn their clocks back to standard time on Nov. 3. On average, home fires kill seven people every day. No one should be injured or lose a life because of a non-working smoke detector.

This is the 26th year the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) and Energizer have collaborated on the Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery Program. What may seem like a tedious task can be lifesaving. A working smoke alarm can give families precious extra seconds to get out safely. If you help me circulate this important safety reminder, together we can make a difference and save some lives. — **WILLIAM R. METCALF, PRESIDENT, IAFC**

DEAR OFFICER METCALF: I hope my readers will take your letter to heart as I have, and buy those replacement batteries TODAY if they haven't already. Yes, I know tomorrow is Halloween – but as distracting as the holiday may be, your family's safety is more important. If you're buying candy, grab some batteries. On Saturday night you'll be turning your clocks back an hour. Before you do, be sure you insert fresh batteries in your smoke detectors and test the alarms.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 16-year-old girl, and my 45-year-old father acts even more childish than me. He doesn't have a stable job, and he stays out late or never comes home at all.

My father complains that we don't have enough money and says we need to start saving, then he goes and blows his paycheck on booze and his girlfriend. I need a car to get to work, and I'll be going to college in two years. I can't pay for it all myself.

How do I get Dad on the right track? Please help, because I'm tired of worrying about my future and what's left of his. — **HEADING FOR COLLEGE SOON IN NORTH CAROLINA**

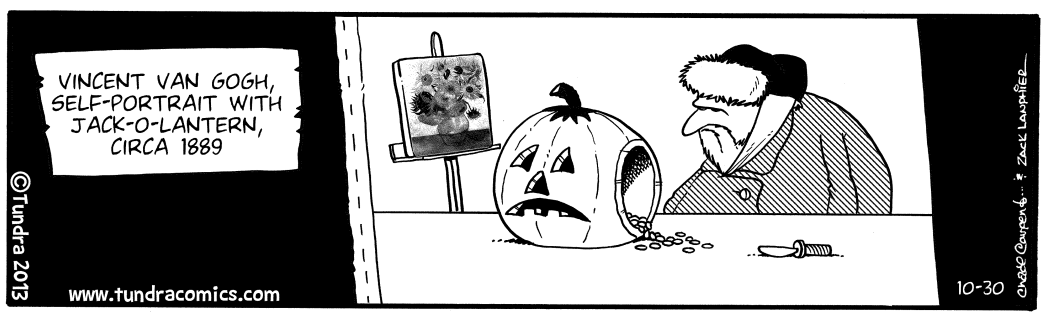
DEAR HEADING: I wish I could tell you how to motivate your father to behave more responsibly, but a lesson you should learn early is that you CAN'T change someone else. Your father is a self-centered individual, but only he can change his behavior.

Small college scholarships are offered by some fraternal organizations. I'm glad you wrote, because it's never too early to start exploring what's available. Talk to a counselor at school about what you need to do to earn scholarships. You should also look online or at your local library. You appear to be focused and mature, and with some guidance you can accomplish your goals.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

COMICS

Tundra



Hagar the Horrible

Peanuts

Baby Blues

Dilbert

su|do|ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

Instructions for play: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9.

That's all there is to it. There's no math involved. The grid has numbers, but nothing has to add up to anything else. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic. It's fun. It's challenging. It's addictive!

Solving time is typically from 10 to 30 minutes, depending on your skill and experience. The solution for today's puzzle will be published in Saturday's paper. Or you can go to www.sudoku.com to find the solution.

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

HELOISE'S KITCHENEERING
BY HELOISE

Go Peanut-Free

Dear Heloise: I am an emergency-room nurse. I would like to inform all of your readers to buy ALL PEANUT-FREE TREATS to offer at Halloween or at any party given in your home, church function or other gathering for adults and children. There is no shortage of peanut-free food products, and it is the only way to be 100 percent sure that you do not cause a death.

Remember when you were a kid? Children returned home from trick-or-treating and it was common to "trade" treats with siblings or neighbor children. Hundreds of people die from food allergies per year, and many are from peanut products. — Maggie M. in Ohio

Thank you for a very important reminder! Parents, watch out, especially if your child has peanut allergies. — Heloise

Send A Great Hint To:
Heloise
P.O. Box 795000
San Antonio, TX 78279-5000
Fax: 210-HELOISE
Email: Heloise(at)Heloise.com

RAISIN PRESERVATION

Dear Heloise: We buy raisins in the 20-ounce box, which has no liner. They tended to dry out toward the bottom of the box until I started doing this: Cut the rim off the plastic lid and use this tightfitting cover inside the next box you buy, pressing down to keep the air out. When the product nears the bottom, you might have to use a fork to take out this inner "cover." It works for round or square boxes. I keep one of each on hand and throw them into the dishwasher between uses. — Wanda A., Hickory, N.C.

Clever! Here's a hint: Put the whole box in a large, plastic zippered bag, or pour the raisins themselves into the bag and then put back into the box. — Heloise

HOLIDAY PANCAKES

Dear Heloise: One of my favorite things to do for my kids is make different-colored pancakes. For Halloween, I mix red and yellow coloring to make them pumpkin-colored pancakes. Not only do they get into the holiday spirit, but this adds variation to our morning routine.

At Christmas, the kids really enjoy red and green mini pancakes! — Jenny L. in Indiana

STORAGE SOLUTION

Dear Heloise: With leftovers, I use only the rectangular storage containers. When they are all the same shape, it is easier to arrange and stack the containers. This makes the storage space in my fridge more efficient. — T.C. in Oklahoma

HARD-BOILED EGGS

Dear Heloise: I just read your hint on distinguishing hard-boiled eggs from raw ones by adding food coloring to the water. Did you know that can be determined by just spinning the egg? A hard-boiled egg will spin fast. A raw one, slowly. Try it. — Ursula in Lincoln, Calif.

Yep! However, it's fun to have colored eggs in the refrigerator. — Heloise

CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

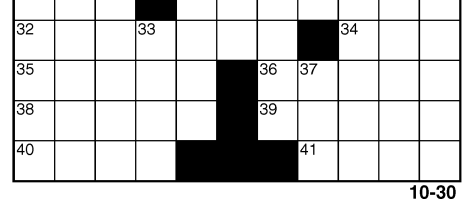
ACROSS
1 Ontario tribe
5 Tag sale words
9 Caterpillar, e.g.
11 Fight site
12 Perfect
13 Touches down
14 Hr. part
15 Mistakes
17 Imbibing
19 Singer Orbison
20 Farm animals
21 General activity
22 Tally mark
24 Snub-nosed dog
26 Lion tamers' aids
29 Museum subject
30 Dances at the disco
32 Unhappy spectator's cry
34 Fresh
35 Really stoked
36 Steer clear of
38 Quick drives
39 Famous
40 Greek vowels
41 Walk in water

DOWN
1 Scale
2 Hams' needs
3 Before, poetically
4 Mendes of movies
5 Mecca resident
6 Lady of Spain
7 Like some pools
8 Fresh
10 White rat, e.g.
11 Sleep like —
16 Boxing combos
18 Piquant quality
21 Fillmore, for one
23 Selected
24 On time
25 Perfect place
27 Target at a party
28 Ranked, in tennis
29 Degrade
30 Actions at auctions
31 Garbo, for one
33 Coop group
37 Promise

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

Previous Puzzle

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475



10-30

CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

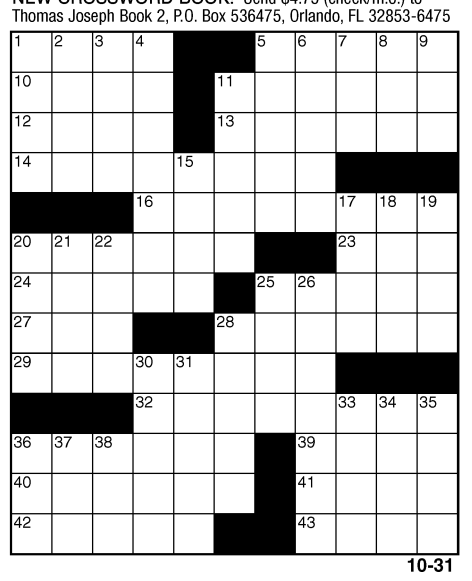
ACROSS
1 Witches
5 Black birds
10 Sketched
11 Black magic
12 Trillion, in metric units
13 Dodged
14 Halloween roamers
16 Halloween roamers
20 — corpus
23 Chum
24 "Pick —" (magician's instruction)
25 Packing box
27 Like some verbs: Abbr.
28 Saluted
29 Halloween roamers
32 Halloween roamers
36 Bagel choice
39 Singing group
40 Makes amends
41 Squeal
42 Halloween wear
43 Night fliers

DOWN
1 Home theater component
2 District
3 Start of an idea
4 One making trades
5 Witch group
6 Comic tribute
7 Bizarre
8 Misery
9 Lawn makeup
11 Miles and Wang
15 "If — a Hammer"
17 October birthstone
18 Deck worker
19 Winter glider
20 Corey of "The Lost Boys"
21 Height: Prefix
22 Loft setting
25 Poet Sandburg
26 Italian dish
28 Toast start
30 Elegant
31 Breaks
33 Ship's staff
34 Rub out
35 Peruvian coins
36 Sleuth Spade
37 Greek vowel
38 Sinking signal

D	E	A	L	T	■	D	I	G	I	T
A	L	T	A	R	■	E	R	A	S	E
B	L	A	Z	E	■	E	A	G	L	E
■	■	■	Y	E	L	P	■	S	E	N
R	E	A	B	S	O	R	B	■	■	■
A	R	L	O	■	T	E	A	M	E	D
G	A	I	N	S	■	D	R	O	V	E
E	S	T	E	E	M	■	E	V	E	N
■	■	■	S	L	O	B	B	E	R	S
A	D	S	■	T	O	R	O	■	■	■
T	O	P	A	Z	■	A	N	O	D	E
O	L	I	V	E	■	V	E	N	U	S
P	E	T	E	R	■	O	S	A	G	E

Previous Puzzle

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 2, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475



10-31

Daily Cryptoquote – Here's how to work it:

A X Y D L B A A X R
is L O N G F E L L O W

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

10-30 CRYPTOQUOTE

B D D B C U M B T C Z M B C N R U M Z J D B , E D K D E B C U C I I J Z P C N R U M Z J D B J I M U D B Z J B R J B T O K D U C I I . — S D R J I S ' M V D R K

Previous Cryptoquote: GOD GAVE US THE GIFT OF LIFE; IT IS UP TO US TO GIVE OURSELVES THE GIFT OF LIVING WELL. – Voltaire