Family's hard times knock teen off track for diploma

DEAR ABBY

DEAR ABBY: I'm 17 and a junior in high school. My family has recently been hit with hard times. We lost our home and are living in a motel, and I am struggling with depression. I haven't attended school since last September. However, I am feeling well enough to the point where I'd like to start attending school again.

I would be willing to take more than six periods and, if necessary, I would be willing to attend summer school. I want to graduate from high school, but I don't know if that's possible.

My mother has never been OK with any decisions I have made, so I don't know how to tell her. I don't want to disappoint her, but I do want to do this. Any advice you are willing to give would be appreciated! — **ANONYMOUS GIRL**

DEAR GIRL: You are clearly an intelligent young woman, and your determination to finish school is something that should be supported by all of the adults in your life. If possible, go back to the school you were attending and talk with a counselor or the principal about your family's circumstances – including your struggle with depression. Whether you can resume studies at your former school may depend upon whether the motel you're staying in is within the district. But a counselor should be able to help you to transfer if that becomes necessary.

I wish you the best of luck. Your mother should be proud of you because I certainly am.

DEAR ABBY: I am pregnant with my third child. There has been a large gap between baby No. 2 and baby No. 3. With my second child, my husband and I were just starting out and used hand-me-downs. But now we are established and can purchase items to suit our preferences.

Many well-meaning family members and friends have started inundating us with hand-me-downs (some ask first; others are just dropping things off). I really don't want any of these items. However, I don't want to seem ungrateful or rude because the well-wishers seem so excited to give me these things. The way I was raised, I have a hard time turning down offers such as these. How do I kindly tell these people I don't want their hand-me-downs? — **CONFLICTED IN PHILLY**

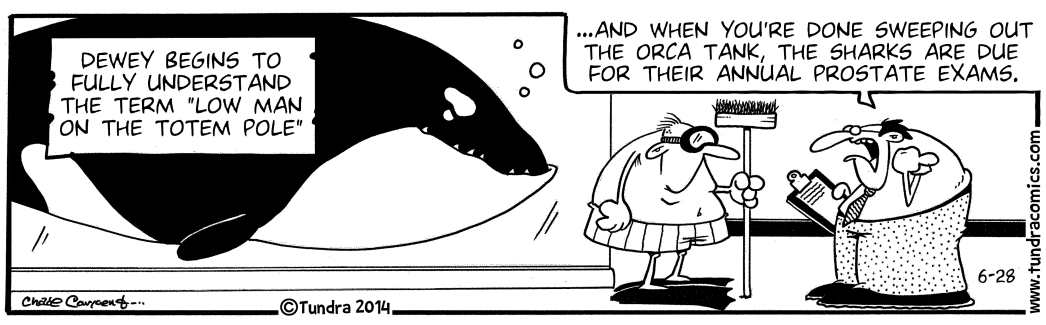
DEAR CONFLICTED: Thank the donors warmly for their thoughtfulness and generosity, and say you already have all the things you need for the new baby. It is not necessary to allude to the fact they are "hand-me-downs." If the person insists on giving them to you anyway, donate them to a charity such as a homeless shelter. (Warning: To avoid possible hurt feelings, do NOT include them in a yard sale.)

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

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

COMICS

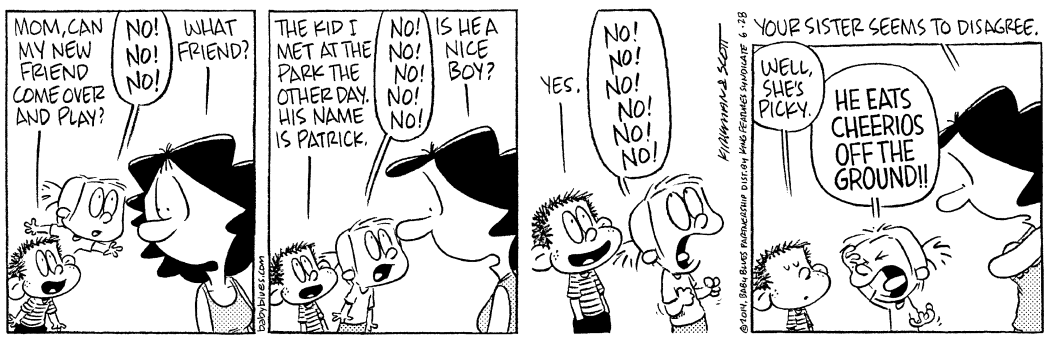
Tundra



Hagar the Horrible

Peanuts

Baby Blues



Dilbert

su|do|ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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.

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

HOROSCOPES

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, let your creative side take over this week. Your imagination is ready to run wild, and this burst of creative energy will have long-lasting positive effects.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, though you are known for being a tad stubborn, this week you are open to any and all suggestions. You may surprise a few people by being so open-minded.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, while you may have natural leadership abilities, most of the time you do not want to pull rank. This week you may need to step things up a bit.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, now is a good time to travel, even if it means just a quick jaunt. But if a big vacation is on the horizon, know that you will likely have a smooth trip ahead.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

Your powers are magnetic this week, Leo. Others find you simply irresistible, which can bode well if you are looking for a romantic partner or want to step things up.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, a busy week at work will require lots of cooperation among you and your coworkers. If ever there was a time to summon your leadership abilities, now is the time.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, many things are in disarray and you may need some help getting back to efficient living. Download an app to help you track expenses or keep tabs on your responsibilities.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

You are bound to be the center of attention, Scorpio. Get over any shyness early on because you will be spending time with coworkers for most of the week.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

You will do some of your best work at home this week, Sagittarius. Spend ample time getting the house in order. A few days working from home could kickstart plans.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, quickly curb any feelings of boredom by exploring a new hobby. Try taking a new fitness or art class. You'll have chances to mingle, too.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Put the brakes on impulse buys, Aquarius. This week you may be tempted to spend more money than you have, and that will only lead to long-term financial concerns.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, it is time to rebrand yourself. This may start with a mini-makeover or more significant changes to your life and career.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

JUNE 22
Cyndi Lauper, Singer/Songwriter (61)

JUNE 23
Frances McDormand, Actress (56)

JUNE 24
Mindy Kaling, Actress (35)

JUNE 25
Busy Philipps, Actress (35)

JUNE 26
Derek Jeter, Athlete (40)

JUNE 27
Sam Claflin, Actor (28)

JUNE 28
John Cusack, Actor (48)

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

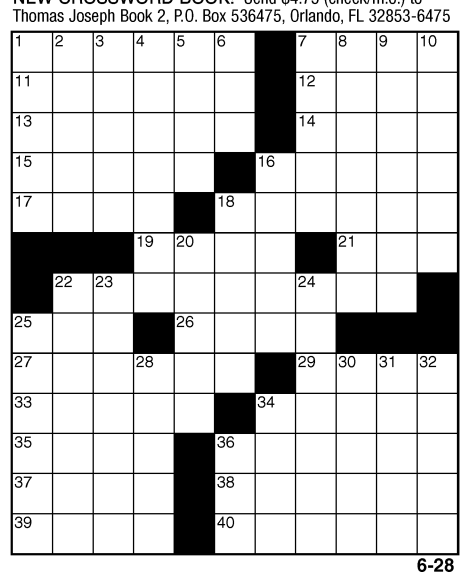
ACROSS
1 Shop holders
7 Doll's cry
11 Inform against
12 Qom's country
13 Vigor
14 Ailing
15 Sings like Ella
16 Fit for a king
17 Big rig
18 Holiday event
19 Before long
21 Skin art, for short
22 Violent whirlpool
25 Lively dance
26 Lucy's husband
27 Indignant cry
29 Playwright Henley
33 Labor leader Chavez
34 Frighten
35 Sea of Asia
36 Paltry
37 Wizard
38 "Life of Pi" director
39 Heaps
40 Spirited horses

DOWN
1 Salad green
2 Javelin
3 Group of top players
4 Tenon's partner
5 Wrinkly-faced dogs
6 Messy room
7 Stingy one
8 Tokyo thanks
9 Paving material
10 Short sock
16 Harangues
18 Tough puzzle
20 Senior
22 Geologist's concern
23 Way back when
24 Chest protector
25 Crisp tuber
28 Pro parker
30 National symbol
31 Cornered
32 Toast start
34 Dispatched
36 Graduate degs.

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

Previous Puzzle

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



6-28

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS
1 Scottish caps
5 Perspire
10 Clarinet's cousin
11 Basement
13 Explorer of kids' TV
14 2014's "Godzilla," for one
15 Made suitable
17 Agent, for short
18 Shows age, as newspaper
19 Cow call
20 TV spots
21 Penny
22 Recital need
25 Mine finds
26 "I've Got the Music —"
27 Heir, often
28 Adam's mate
29 Three-dimensional
33 Train unit
34 Musical flourish
35 Book worker
37 Astonish
38 Tie down
39 Ticked off
40 Was furious
41 Really impresses

DOWN
1 The present
2 Dwelling
3 Fable end
4 It can land on a bay
5 Threaded fasteners
6 Garden pests
7 Shade tree
8 Worried
9 Store sample sign
12 Transplants, as plants
16 Fuss
21 Italian noblewoman
22 Components
23 Martian, in some stories
24 Uncle Sam's home
25 Washday amount
27 Didn't punish
29 Get a goal
30 As a follower
31 Blue hue
32 Bowling spots
36 Gentle pull

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

Previous Puzzle

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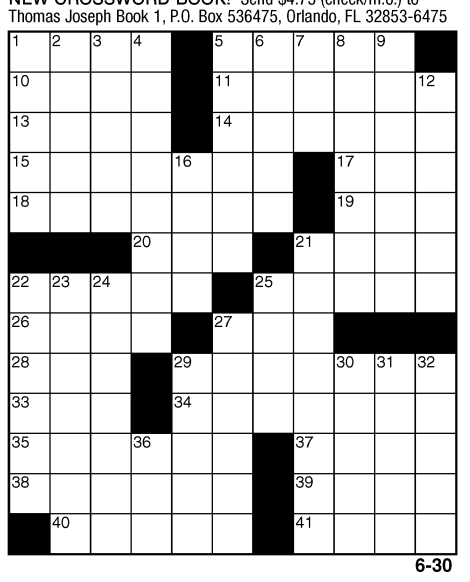

6-30

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.

6-28 CRYPTOQUOTE

A X H J S R U N H L T W Q , W S R P A G J S R P J U , O X P F H S G P D P K J , V I G D P K J S J K J X U I V U H R J U H S G P A X H J S R U N H L . — D P X R V Q X P S

Previous Cryptoquote: NO MAN WILL MAKE A GREAT LEADER WHO WANTS TO DO IT ALL HIMSELF OR GET ALL THE CREDIT FOR DOING IT. – Andrew Carnegie