

PEANUTS

BY CHARLES M. SCHULZ

FOR BETTER OR WORSE

BY LYNN JOHNSTON

B.C.

BY JOHNNY HART

PICKLES

BY BRIAN CRANE

BETLE BAILEY

BY MORT WALKER

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS

BLONDIE

BY DEAN YOUNG AND STAN DRAKE

DILBERT

BY SCOTT ADAMS

THE WIZARD OF ID

BY BRANT PARKER AND JOHNNY HART

LUANN

BY GREG EVANS

ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN

DEAR ABBY

Niece suspects elderly aunt is being isolated by her son

Dear Abby: My husband and I have an elderly (90-plus) aunt who lives with her son in a town about four hours away. She corresponds by letter with us regularly, and we always write back. However, it has become apparent that she's not receiving our letters because she doesn't make any comments on any of the things we write to tell her about. We suspect that her son is withholding her mail because we have written to him in the past to express our displeasure about how he treats his mother's emotional and safety needs.

In the last letter we received from her, she told us she expected to spend Christmas in her basement apartment while her son and his wife's family have Christmas festivities upstairs. It broke our hearts, but we realize that since we're so far away, there's little we can do. We've tried sending letters without our return address on the envelope, etc. to get past her son's scrutiny, but we really don't believe she's getting her mail.

Should we contact the police or social services to do a wellness check on her, or do you have another suggestion? We know she occasionally goes to a senior center in town. Should we write to her in care of the senior center? Your comments are appreciated. — **Suspicious in Georgia**

Dear Suspicious: Your relative may be having memory issues, or your fears may be genuine. Is it possible to talk with her on the phone or visit her to make an assessment? If someone suspects that an older person is being physically, emotionally or financially abused, it should be reported so the mat-



ter can be investigated. You can do that by contacting Adult Protective Services in your aunt's state or the National Domestic Violence hotline at thehotline.org or 800-799-7233.

Dear Abby: A few years ago, I found some flirtatious and slightly risqué messages between my husband and a female business associate. My husband agreed that they were wrong and says he has discontinued those kinds of conversations.

He has stayed in contact with her, and their friendship remains.

After dealing with the hurt for more than two years, I finally told him a few months ago the only way I would be OK with their friendship is if he introduced me to her. He promised he would, but he hasn't followed through. This week I saw on our phone bill that while on a recent business trip he was texting with her late into the night and early in the morning. I confronted him, but he continues to say they are just friends, and he is doing nothing wrong.

I'm heartbroken. I feel he has betrayed my trust. What should I do? — **Disrespected in Texas**

Dear Disrespected: Your husband is doing something wrong. He's hurting you and threatening the marriage. What you should do now is ask your doctor or your health insurance company to refer you to a marriage and family therapist, schedule some visits and insist that your husband join you. If he is interested in saving the marriage, he will agree. If not, you may need to reconsider your future and consult an attorney.

DAYS GONE BY

100 Years Ago
From the East Oregonian
Feb. 13, 1920

The new grade from Rieth to Echo is well on the way to completion and will be ready to receive gravel as soon as contracts are let in April, according to County Judge C.H. Marsh, who went over the route yesterday in company with other commissioners. For considerable distance the old roadbed of the O.W.R.&N. is used by the highway, giving a route with long, easy curves and an excellent grade. It will all be high-gear road when completed and an excellent grade when completed and will also be far more interesting from the scenic standpoint than most of the roads in the county.

50 Years Ago
From the East Oregonian
Feb. 13, 1970

In 1930, the population of Stanfield was 204. The current population of Stanfield is 930, according to a city-sponsored census taken this month. This is an increase of 24 percent since 1960 when the census was 745. The city council ordered the local census recently when the state census director

disputed the city's estimate of 950 population. According to the city recorder, the state estimated Stanfield's population at 900. The city stands to gain approximately \$540 annually in revenue from state tax sources if the 930 figure is accepted.

25 Years Ago
From the East Oregonian
Feb. 13, 1995

Students in the Athena-Weston School District will get a chance to swing their clubs this spring with the start-up of the district's first golf program. School board members gave their approval at Monday night's meeting to begin letting students hit the greens after Athena parent Kenall Zerba proposed the new program. Zerba, whose son along with other students have expressed interest in extra-curricular golfing, told the board he would serve as instructor, free of charge. Another sports program came under discussion at the meeting. Parent Dave Lynde of Athena proposed the district add wrestling to its sports lineup. Board members, however, wanted more information before deciding whether to give that program the go-ahead.

TODAY IN HISTORY

On Feb. 13, 1945, during World War II, Allied planes began bombing the German city of Dresden. The Soviets captured Budapest, Hungary, from the Germans.

In 1935, a jury in Flemington, New Jersey, found Bruno Richard Hauptmann guilty of first-degree murder in the kidnap-slaying of Charles A. Lindbergh Jr., the 20-month-old son of Charles and Anne Lindbergh. (Hauptmann was later executed.)

In 1965, during the Vietnam War, President Lyndon B. Johnson authorized Operation Rolling Thunder, an extended bombing campaign against the North Vietnamese.

In 1974, Nobel Prize-winning Russian author Alexander Solzhenitsyn was expelled from the Soviet Union.

In 1991, during Operation Desert Storm, allied warplanes destroyed an underground shelter in Baghdad that had been identified as a military command center; Iraqi officials said 500 civilians were killed.

In 1998, Dr. David Satcher was sworn in as the 16th Surgeon General of the United States during an Oval Office ceremony.

In 2002, John Walker Lindh pleaded not guilty in federal court in Alexandria, Va., to conspiring to kill Americans and supporting the Taliban and terrorist organizations. (Lindh later pleaded guilty to lesser offenses and was sentenced to 20 years in prison. He was released in September 2019 after serving 17 years of that sentence.)

In 2016, Justice Antonin Scalia, the influential con-

servative and most provocative member of the U.S. Supreme Court, was found dead at a private residence in the Big Bend area of West Texas; he was 79.

Today's Birthdays: U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Charles E. "Chuck" Yeager (ret.) is 97. Talk show host Jerry Springer is 76. Singer Peter Gabriel is 70. Actor David Naughton is 69. Singer Henry Rollins is 59. Actor Neal McDonough is 54. Rock singer Matt Berninger (The National) is 49. Singer Robbie Williams is 46. Singer-songwriter Feist is 44. Actress Mena Suvari is 41. Michael Joseph Jackson Jr. (also known as Prince Michael Jackson I) is 23.

Thought for Today: "An explanation of cause is not a justification by reason." — C.S. Lewis, English author (1898-1963).

PHOEBE AND HER UNICORN

BY DANA SIMPSON

BIG NATE

BY LINCOLN PEIRCE