

DEAR ABBY

Neighbor wants to express thanks for help provided

DEAR ABBY: I went for a jog the other morning, and when I returned home I discovered I was locked out of my house because the garage door keypad wasn't working.

In the interim, I fidgeted with the garage door keypad and discovered I could remove the battery. I knocked on the door of a neighbor who'd previously popped their head out and asked to use their cellphone and also asked if there was any chance they had a replacement battery, which they did.

I later stopped and bought a thank-you card, a replacement battery and \$20 in

Amazon gift cards with the intention of gifting all three to my neighbor. My wife thinks the gift cards were unnecessary and a "weird" thing to give my neighbor.

The neighbor and their partner are in their late 30s or early 40s, seemingly financially well enough off, and I thought a gift card was a universally accepted gift. I thought it would be a nice gesture without being too over-the-top. Was I too generous? Or is it too forward of an offering? — SAVED IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR SAVED: Your offering wasn't weird, too generous or over-the-top. The gratitude you were expressing was from your heart and a reflection of how desperate you felt at the time. Your wife

should have stayed out of it.

DEAR ABBY: Forty years ago, I had an affair with a married man. When he broke up with me, I didn't think I could live through it, but I had a 2-year-old daughter from another relationship and I had to hold it together.

Three months ago, I received a message on Facebook saying, "If this is who I think it is, how are things?" I know I never should have, but I answered. My former lover lives hundreds of miles from me, but we text almost every day. I am just realizing how narcissistic he is, and I need to end this.



JEANNE PHILLIPS ADVICE

My husband and I have had problems over the years, but we have raised three very successful children and have three beautiful grandkids. It was nice to hear how my ex always loved me and how we are soul mates — saying everything I wanted to hear.

DEAR MUDDLED: If this emotional fling continues, it will destroy the life you have created with your husband of 35 years. If there are issues in your marriage that made you vulnerable to your old lover, I urge you to deal with them. Please reread the first paragraph of your letter, then ghost and block this person. You owe him nothing — not even a goodbye.

DAYS GONE BY

100 years ago — 1921

Residents of the north side of the city were rudely disturbed shortly before midnight when eight shots brought many a head from its pillow. A "peeper" was reported at the residence of R. M. Commelin, Jackson and Lincoln streets.

50 years ago — 1971

The Oregon Cattlemen's Association is working to establish a common ground between ranchers and environmentalists. "We want to work with them instead of butting heads," Charles Otley, OCA president and Klamath rancher, said Friday in Pend-

leton, as the OCA executive committee met here for the first time in many years. The goal is to sit down with conservation groups and government agencies "and explain the cattlemen's situation to them," Otley said. To do the job, the OCA is seeking the formation of a Natural Resources Council of Oregon.

25 years ago — 1996

The community of Adams is not in danger of having its history lost. The Adams Ladies Club has made sure of that. The group has just issued its fourth volume of the "History of Adams." Covering the years 1914-1923, Volume IV, like the previous

volumes, is "kind of like a diary of the community," says researcher Gilberta Lieualen. The original town of Adams was platted and recorded in May 1883. According to the Ladies Club, from 1893 to 1903, the City Council in Adams passed 62 ordinances to govern the city. Ordinance No. 1 regulated the speed of riding or driving horses or mules through the streets of Adams.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

On Dec. 11, 1972, Apollo 17's lunar module landed on the moon with astronauts Eugene Cernan and Harrison Schmitt aboard; they became the last two men to date to step onto the lunar surface.

In 1816, Indiana became the 19th state.

In 1910, French inventor Georges Claude publicly displayed his first neon lamp, consisting of two 38-foot-long tubes, at the Paris Expo.

In 1936, Britain's King Edward VIII abdicated the throne so he could marry American divorcee Wallis Warfield Simpson; his brother, Prince Albert, became King George VI.

In 1941, Germany and Italy declared war on the United States; the U.S. responded in kind.

In 1946, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) was established.

In 1980, President Jimmy Carter signed legislation creating a \$1.6 billion environmental "superfund" to pay for cleaning up chemical spills and toxic waste dumps.

In 1997, more than 150 countries agreed at a global warming conference in Kyoto, Japan, to control the Earth's greenhouse gases.

In 1998, majority Republicans on the House Judiciary Commit-

tee pushed through three articles of impeachment against President Bill Clinton, over Democratic objections.

In 2002, a congressional report found that intelligence agencies that were supposed to protect Americans from the Sept. 11 hijackers failed to do so because they were poorly organized, poorly equipped and slow to pursue clues that might have prevented the attacks.

In 2008, former Nasdaq chairman Bernie Madoff was arrested, accused of running a multibillion-dollar Ponzi scheme that wiped out the life savings of thousands of people and wrecked charities. (Madoff died in April 2021 while serving a 150-year federal prison sentence.)

In 2018, a Virginia jury called for a sentence of life in prison plus 419 years for the man who killed a woman when he rammed his car into counterprotesters at a white nationalist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia. (James Alex Fields Jr. received that sentence in July, 2019.)

Ten years ago: Former military strongman Manuel Antonio Noriega was flown from France to Panama to face additional punishment in his home country after spending more than 20 years in U.S. and French prisons for drug trafficking and money laundering. A U.N. climate confer-

ence in Johannesburg, South Africa, reached a hard-fought agreement on a far-reaching program meant to set a new course for the global fight against climate change.

Five years ago: President-elect Donald Trump called a recent CIA assessment of Russian hacking in the U.S. election "ridiculous" and said he wasn't interested in getting daily intelligence briefings, telling "Fox News Sunday," "I get it when I need it."

One year ago: The Supreme Court rejected a lawsuit backed by President Donald Trump to overturn Joe Biden's election victory, ending a desperate attempt to get legal issues that were rejected by state and federal judges before the nation's highest court.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Rita Moreno is 90. Actor Donna Mills is 81. Former Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., is 80. Former U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry is 78. Singer Brenda Lee is 77. Actor Lynda Day George is 77. Rock musician Mike Mesaros (The Smithereens) is 64. Singer-musician Justin Currie (Del Amitri) is 57. Actor Gary Dourdan is 55. Actor-comedian Mo'Nique is 54. Actor Max Martini is 52. Rapper-actor Mos Def is 48. Actor Rider Strong is 42.

7 LITTLE WORDS

Find the 7 words to match the 7 clues. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in each solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

- CLUES SOLUTIONS
1 bulb that can make you cry (5)
2 oft-hated flower buds (8)
3 seed used for hummus (8)
4 orange root (6)
5 stringy stalk (6)
6 fruit in moussaka (8)
7 leaf used to wrap galumpki (7)

Grid of letters for the 7 Little Words puzzle: EA, LA, CAR, BB, OLI, CHI, ROT, RY, LE, GP, ON, CC, EG, ONI, CA, AGE, BRO, CE, CKP, NT

Today's Answers: 1. ONION 2. BROCCOLI 3. CHICKPEA 4. CARROT 5. CELERY 6. EGGPLANT 7. CABBAGE

WORD★Roundup™

by David L. Hoyt & Jeff Knurek

Find and Circle...

- Five birthstones
U.S. states: New _____
_____ in "Notting Hill"
Two metals ending with D
Two eight-letter countries starting with M

Answers to Saturday's puzzle: TRAVOLTA GOODMAN LENNON CANDY WAYNE HURT / BULGARIA ESTONIA RUSSIA ZAMBIA / PACIFIC ARCTIC / MEAN / EAST

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Word search grid with a magnifying glass over the word 'MEXICO'.

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