DEAR ABBY

Twin's upcoming nuptials don't include family role

Jeanne

PHILLIPS

ADVICE

DEAR ABBY: My 52-year-old twin brother — whom I'm close to — is getting married soon for the first time. His fiancee, who divorced after 18 years of marriage, is doing all the planning. She has not included me or my kids (my brother's only niece and nephew) so far, nor are we included on the wedding day except as guests at the ceremony and reception.

My brother was a groomsman in my wedding 17 years ago. I feel hurt being excluded and I want to say something, but I don't know what to say or whether I should talk to my brother or his fiancee. And I don't know, at this point, how the kids or I could be included. Any advice would be appreciated. — ANGUISHED SIS IN ARIZONA

DEAR SIS: This show is being run

by your brother's fiancee. She may not be aware he was a groomsman at your that's the way her mom used to make

wedding, and frankly, I'm not sure what bearing it would have on their own. You and your children should attend your brother's wedding, welcome his bride into the family and have a good time, which should be easy since there will be no responsibility on any of your shoulders.

DEAR ABBY: I have a good friend who loves to make me chicken soup. She brings it over proudly and enjoys giving me the container. The soup is delicious, except for one

thing: It has tiny bones in it. I can't stand the texture of these little bones, and I'm worried about swallowing one inadvertently.

I have talked to her about it. She said

chicken soup. She also told me the bones are edible because they're very small, and they are inevitable because she is using the whole chicken. She promised to strain the soup for me before adding the other ingredients. Unfortunately, I found bones in the strained soup as well.

Abby, I don't know what to do. I really don't want to eat the soup. I don't want to waste it, but it would crush her if I told her I didn't want the soup anymore. Any ideas? —

DONE WITH THE SOUP

DEAR DONE: Remove the vegetables from the soup she brings and strain it again, through cheesecloth or a fine strainer. Once you have clear broth, return the veggies to the liquid and enjoy it.

DEAR ABBY: My stepson and his wife have requested cash gifts for their two children's birthdays and other holidays because "they really don't need more toys at ages 2 and 4." I understand this. What I find peculiar is that they told us they put the maximum amount they are allowed into their kids' college funds each pay period, and when someone gives the kids money, they put that money in instead of their own. Am I wrong in thinking we are giving the gift to them, and not to my grandkids? — FEEL-ING TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF

DEAR FEELING: I don't think you are wrong. But the question is, is this something worth arguing about?

DAYS GONE BY

100 years ago — 1921

This is a very Merry, Merry Christmas, and if anyone believes it is not, all he needs to do to make sure is to ask Guy B. Wyrick, Pendleton scattergun artist and sportsman. Guy had a narrow escape from death yesterday by drowning in the Umatilla river, and he is feeling very grateful because he is still able to tread dry ground and eat roast duck and get and give Christmas presents. He was hunting for ducks near Hermiston along the river with "King," a Chesapeake Retriever, when the rotten ice gave way, and the sportsman precipitated into the water. Weighed down with boots, three ducks, a heavy shooting jacket and several boxes of shells, and not being a strong swimmer, Wyrick experienced great difficulty in his efforts to get back to safety. Seeing that the hunter was having trouble, King took to the water and several

times "nosed" Wyrick, thrusting his muzzle between Wyrick's left arm and shoulder and swimming with all his might. Through the dog's efforts he was shoved nearer the bank and escaped the icy water, and also the danger of being swept over the crest of the dam which was not very far

50 years ago — 1971

If you gave a seven-year-old child just one wish for Christmas, what would he ask for? Janet Kretschmer asked her second graders at Hawthorne School to write their Christmas wishes. Here are some of their answers:

Pam Lundy: I would wish that all the people would not be poor, so they would not die.

Ranse Davis: I would wish America was not polluted.

Mark Navratil: I wish there would be no more wars. More peace over the world. Because every year

thousands and millions of men are killed. Families are killed. Many countries are conquered.

Debbie Ford: I want the pollution

Evonne Reeve: I wish there were not more wars because people get killed and die.

25 years ago — 1996

Christmas Day is a time to relax and kick off the shoes. For most, but not for everyone. For the past four years, Pay Less Drug has been open Christmas Day from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. "We do more business in that short time than we do in a regular day (8 a.m. to 9 p.m.)," said Manager Ernie Ferris. Batteries, film and milk are the hot-selling items on Christmas Day at Pay Less, Ferris said. Meanwhile, Albertson's and Safeway supermarkets will both give their employees the day off, but not Dean's Deli, which will stay open 24 hours — even on Christmas.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

On Dec. 25, 1991, Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev went on television to announce his resignation as the eighth and final leader of a communist superpower that had already gone out of existence.

In A.D. 336, the first known commemoration of Christmas on Dec. 25 took place in Rome.

In 1066, William the Conqueror was crowned King of England.

In 1776, Gen. George Washington and his troops crossed the Delaware River for a surprise attack against Hessian forces at Trenton, New Jersey, during the American Revolutionary War.

In 1818, "Silent Night (Stille Nacht)" was publicly performed for the first time during the Christmas Midnight Mass at the Church of St. Nikolaus in Oberndorf, Austria.

In 1926, Hirohito became emperor of Japan, succeeding his father, Emperor Yoshihito.

In 1962, the movie version of "To Kill a Mockingbird," adapted from the Harper Lee novel and starring Gregory Peck, opened in Los Angeles.

In 1989, ousted Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife, Elena, were executed following a popular uprising. Former baseball manager Billy Martin, 61, died in a traffic accident near Binghamton, New York.

In 1995, singer Dean Martin

died at his Beverly Hills home at

In 1999, space shuttle Discovery's astronauts finished their repair job on the Hubble Space Telescope and released it back into orbit.

In 2003, 16 people were killed by mudslides that swept over campgrounds in California's San Bernardino Valley.

In 2006, James Brown, the "Godfather of Soul," died in Atlanta at age 73.

In 2009, passengers aboard Northwest Airlines Flight 253 foiled an attempt to blow up the plane as it was landing in Detroit by seizing Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, who tried to set off explosives in his underwear. (Abdulmutallab later pleaded guilty and was sentenced to life in prison.)

Ten years ago: Five members of a family — three children and their grandparents — died in a Christmas morning blaze in Stamford, Connecticut, that was blamed on burning embers in a trash can. A suicide bombing of a Catholic church near Nigeria's capital left at least 44 people dead.

Five years ago: A Russian Tu-154 carrying 92 people to Syria crashed into the Black Sea shortly after takeoff from Sochi, killing all 92 people on board. Decrying the suffering in Syria, Pope Francis wished Christmas peace and hope for all those scarred by war and terrorism, which he said was sowing "fear and death in the heart of many countries and cities." George Michael, who rocketed to stardom with WHAM! and went on to enjoy a long and celebrated solo career, died at his home in Goring, England, at age 53.

One year ago: A recreational vehicle parked in the deserted streets of downtown Nashville exploded early Christmas morning, damaging dozens of buildings, causing widespread communications outages and grounding holiday travel at the city's airport; investigators later determined that the bomber, a 63-year-old Nashville-area man, was killed in the explosion. Pope Francis made a Christmas Day plea for authorities to make COVID-19 vaccines available to all, insisting that the first in line should be the most vulnerable and needy.

Today's Birthdays: Author Anne Roiphe is 86. Actor Hanna Schygulla is 78. R&B singer John Edwards (The Spinners) is 77. Actor Gary Sandy is 76. Singer Jimmy Buffett is 75. Pro and College Football Hall-of-Famer Larry Csonka is 75. Country singer Barbara Mandrell is 73. Actor Sissy Spacek is 72. Blues singer/guitarist Joe Louis Walker is 72. Former White House adviser Karl Rove is 71.

WORD ★Roundup™

Find and Circle...

Five land formations First three Greek letters

Three countries starting with I

Three citrus fruits

Three five-letter words related to tennis

Answers to Saturday's puzzle: ARMADA AGENDA AROMA AREA AURA / LIZARD TURTLE SNAKE / FRACTURE DRAMATIC CONSPIRE / HOTEL MOTEL /

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RLMVSERVE PWTOFAUL OZUNCBM ARGNM E N A A NVZMYNMAA M E O OR TN

7 LITTLE W©RDS

Find the 7 words to match the 7 clues. The numbers in parentheses in parenthese in parentheses in parentheses in parentheses in parentheses in parenthese in parent will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

CLUES

1 "do," according to Maria (4)

2 "re," according to Maria (8)

3 "mi," according to Maria (6)

4 "fa," according to Maria (8)

5 "so," according to Maria (6) 6 "la," according to Maria (4)

7 "ti," according to Maria (5)

SE WI ER IG NL DR DE MY CE NO DI SU INK NG

> 4. DISTANCE 5. SEWING 6. NOTE 7. DRINK Today's Answers: 1. DEER 2. SUNLIGHT 3. MYSELF

12/26

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