

DEAR ABBY

Mixed signals abound after long separation

DEAR ABBY: I have been talking to my ex-boyfriend of more than 22 years. We have a grown son. We are now in our 50s and talking and texting again. I still love him, and I want a relationship with him, but I'm not sure he wants me back. I don't know if he's interested in me or just being friendly.

Can you help? At the end of our last phone call he said, "It's been a long time. Twenty-two years. We are both different people now. I don't know if it could be like it was then," and we said goodnight.

Should I wait for him to text me back? I don't even know if he's dating someone. He didn't say. Please help. — **SECOND CHANCE IN THE EAST**

DEAR SECOND CHANCE: Continue talking to your ex and let this scenario play out further. Is he initiating these calls and texts,

or are you? If it's him, that's a hopeful sign.

Yes, it is true you are both different people now — but that can be a plus. With the passage of time, you both may have mellowed and matured. If the discussions continue, you will find out soon enough if he's involved with someone or interested in getting back together. And remember, if he's just being "friendly," the son you share is a good reason for keeping that friendship going.

DEAR ABBY: My wife is very protective of our dog, "Spencer." I agree with her that Spencer should not receive table food. Yesterday, my wife put a large pile of dog vomit on my desk. She said it "proves" I have been feeding Spencer. Her accusation is not true.



JEANNE PHILLIPS ADVICE

I may have done some peculiar things in my time, but I have never put vomit on someone's desk. How should I respond? — **FLABBERGASTED IN IOWA**

DEAR FLABBERGASTED: There can be various reasons for a dog having an upset stomach besides having consumed table scraps. Spencer should be checked by a veterinarian to be sure there isn't something else going on. As to your wife putting vomit on your desk, well, since you asked — I wouldn't blame you if you made it plain that SHE is in the doghouse.

DEAR ABBY: When someone gives a gift to someone, shouldn't it be opened in the presence of the giver? My 12-year-old daughter ran cross country, and after the season

ended, there was a banquet. At the banquet, several kids approached the coach and gave him cards. We gave him a gift certificate. When my daughter gave him the envelope, he laid it down with the other cards and said, "thanks." I think he should have opened it and read the contents while my daughter was standing there (my daughter would have been so pleased). What do you think? — **LISA IN COLORADO**

DEAR LISA: Once a gift is given, it belongs to the receiver to do with as he or she pleases. Your daughter's coach was under no obligation to open the envelope in your daughter's presence. If he recognized the envelope contained more than good wishes, he may have wanted to spare the other athletes embarrassment if they could not afford to be as generous as your family.

DAYS GONE BY

100 years ago — 1922

Rumors emanating from subterranean sources which made claims that Chief W. R. Taylor and Bob Sinclair were recently arrested at The Dalles on a charge of drunkenness or for carrying intoxicating liquor across country have been proved to be without foundation to the satisfaction of R. I. Keator, district attorney. The story of the alleged arrest of the two men at The Dalles has persisted since late last fall. After the report had been brought to the attention of the district attorney with a request that the truth or falsity of the report be ascertained in the interest of law enforcement, Keator conducted a personal investigation. "It doesn't make much difference about what has been said in Pendleton," Jinks Taylor said, "because people know me here. But the report was telephoned to Milton and to Walla Walla and was spread there. Lots of people in those districts believed the report, and I certainly would like to get acquainted with the man responsible for starting it."

50 years ago — 1972

While cats roam at will in Pendleton, Fido does not enjoy any such freedom. Pendleton voters said at an election Nov. 3, 1964, that they didn't want dogs wandering the streets. Since the leash law went into effect, there have been fewer complaints about dogs, but that doesn't mean all dogs are staying home. The city's dog control officer delivered to the Pendleton Veterinary Clinic, which serves as the city dog

pound, 134 dogs last year. An unknown number of other dogs were picked up by police officers. If a dog is licensed or its owner is otherwise known, the officers often will return the dog to its home and issue a citation. In 1971 city police issued 101 citations and 102 warnings to owners of dogs running loose. Unlicensed dogs are taken to the pound, which reports that only 10 per cent are impounded are reclaimed by their owners, and only 15 to 20 dogs a year are sold. The balance of the canines are put to sleep permanently.

25 years ago — 1997

Snow, snow, snow, and more snow. That was the theme for the last days of December. And despite the near blizzard conditions, snowplows were nowhere to be found. The lack of street plowing resulted in hazardous driving conditions and sometimes impassable city streets. Yet, this was not the result of disregard on behalf of our city managers. Simply put, it's a matter of business. With the infrequency of severe snow accumulation, the City Council has come to the conclusion that the cost and maintenance of a snowplow would not be economically feasible. "We may have owned a snowplow once in the early '60s, but I'm not even sure about that. I've been here 29 years and I've never seen one," said Jerry LeGore of the city's Public Works Department. Most residents seem to have resigned themselves to the fact that unplowed roads are just a way of life in this neck of the woods.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

On Jan. 8, 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson, in his State of the Union address, declared an "unconditional war on poverty in America."

In 1867, the U.S. House of Representatives joined the Senate in overriding President Andrew Johnson's veto of the District of Columbia Suffrage Bill, giving Black men in the nation's capital the right to vote.

In 1912, the African National Congress was founded in Bloemfontein, South Africa.

In 1918, President Woodrow Wilson outlined his Fourteen Points for lasting peace after World War I. Mississippi became the first state to ratify the 18th Amendment to the Constitution, which established Prohibition.

In 1935, rock-and-roll legend Elvis Presley was born in Tupelo, Mississippi.

In 1982, American Telephone and Telegraph settled the Justice Department's antitrust lawsuit against it by agreeing to divest itself of the 22 Bell System companies.

In 1994, Tonya Harding won the ladies' U.S.

Figure Skating Championship in Detroit, a day after Nancy Kerrigan dropped out because of the clubbing attack that had injured her right knee. (The U.S. Figure Skating Association later stripped Harding of the title.)

In 1998, Ramzi Yousef, the mastermind of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, was sentenced in New York to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

In 2008, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton powered to victory in New Hampshire's 2008 Democratic primary in a startling upset, defeating Sen. Barack Obama and resurrecting her bid for the White House; Sen. John McCain defeated his Republican rivals to move back into contention for the GOP nomination.

In 2011, U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, D-Ariz., was shot and critically wounded when a gunman opened fire as the congresswoman met with constituents in Tucson; six people were killed, 12 others also injured. (Gunman Jared Lee Loughner was sentenced in Nov. 2012 to seven consecutive life sentences, plus 140 years.)

In 2016, Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, the world's most-wanted drug lord, was captured for a third time in a daring raid by Mexican marines, six months after walking through a tunnel to freedom from a maximum security prison.

In 2020, Iran struck back at the United States for killing Iran's top military commander, firing missiles at two Iraqi military bases housing American troops; more than 100 U.S. service members were diagnosed with traumatic brain injuries after the attack. As Iran braced for a counterattack, the country's Revolutionary Guard shot down a Ukrainian jetliner after apparently mistaking it for a missile; all 176 people on board were killed, including 82 Iranians and more than 50 Canadians.

Five years ago: "La La Land" won seven Golden Globe Awards, including best motion picture, comedy or musical, while "Moonlight" was recognized as best movie drama; Meryl Streep, accepting a lifetime achievement award, criticized President-elect Donald Trump without mentioning

him by name.

One year ago: Twitter said it was banning Trump from its platform, citing "risk of further incitement of violence." Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska became the first Republican senator to call for Trump's resignation. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said she had spoken to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff about preventing Trump from initiating military actions or a nuclear strike; she said the situation of "this unhinged President could not be more dangerous." A video tribute to Alex Trebek closed the day's episode of "Jeopardy," the last one Trebek taped before pancreatic cancer claimed his life in November.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Shirley Bassey is 85. Singer Juanita Cowart Motley (The Marvelettes) is 78. Actor Harriet Sansom Harris is 67. Actor Michelle Forbes is 57. Actor Maria Pitillo is 56. Reggae singer Sean Paul is 49. Actor Amber Benson is 45. Actor Scott Whyte is 44. Actor Sarah Polley is 43. Actor Gaby Hoffman is 40. Actor Cynthia Erivo is 35.

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 cut (8)	_____
2 paste (6)	_____
3 "copy" (5)	_____
4 undo (7)	_____
5 find (9)	_____
6 print (9)	_____
7 save (9)	_____

ER	TER	RE	CKP	LL
OP	VER	COV	DIS	LET
CIS	WA	ERY	IN	STO
ILE	ION	SE	ROG	ING

Today's Answers: 1. INCLUSION 2. WALLTOP 3. ROGER 4. REVERSE 5. DISCOVERY 6. LETTERING 7. STOCKPILE

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WORD★Roundup™

by David L. Hoyt & Jeff Knurek

Find and Circle...

- A, B, C, D and E in radio lingo
- Four oceans
- Two mammals starting with M
- Two four-letter metals
- "Seinfeld" co-creator (first/last name)

Answers to Saturday's puzzle: CHAIR TABLE DESK SOFA / GOLD GONE GOOD GOAL / SCIENCE HISTORY MATH / BRAZIL CHILE PERU / MARINES ARMY NAVY

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E	K	A	Q	K	D	D	E	L	T	A	Y
D	C	G	T	I	M	C	D	N	L	E	R
E	I	H	V	L	I	O	C	Q	I	L	R
S	N	A	O	F	A	I	U	L	D	O	A
O	D	I	Z	T	N	R	S	A	V	L	
O	I	C	R	C	Q	A	T	P	E	A	P
M	A	V	R	O	H	P	C	I	L	R	H
P	N	A	R	C	N	B	N	B	C	B	A

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.....Español 7:00pm
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.....Español 11:00am
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