

DEAR ABBY

Aging dog's care becomes obstacle in relationship

Dear Abby: I'm in a seven-year relationship with a beautiful woman I love and would do anything in the world for. I feel she would do the same for me. She has a dog, "Preston," who she loves and who has been with her since puppyhood. At 16, Preston is failing badly and is on his last legs. There is no doubt his time is coming.

We had planned on meeting my son and grandchildren for a family celebration after a seven-hour drive. Her plan was to accompany me, but now, because of Preston's condition, she has changed her mind. I understand that. However, she's now angry that I am going alone.

I spend every day with her and go out of my way always to support her. She has no grandchildren, having lost her only daughter two decades ago. I will be gone for only a weekend and return in plenty of time to be

with her afterward.

I haven't seen my three granddaughters in a year, and who knows when I will again. Should I feel guilty about leaving her and the dog? I am stuck in the middle here, and am going to upset her or my son's family no matter what I do. — Man In The Middle

Dear Man: You stated that your significant other's only child died 20 years ago. It is possible that puppy Preston became like a child to her, and losing him is causing her to revisit the loss of her daughter. If there is any way to manage it, postpone the visit with your son and his family until later in the year, after Preston's passing, or have them come to you. If that's not possible, because it's only a weekend, go see your son and your

grandkids but remain in contact with her from afar during the visit.

Dear Abby: My first husband was abusive, and I divorced him after less than four years of marriage. We had two daughters. In 2016, I remarried, this time to a loving, caring man. My oldest daughter was my maid of honor. A year after our wedding, she married her soul mate. Her father and I, including our current spouses, paid for their reception.

Since 2017, this daughter has continually asked us for financial assistance. At first we helped, but after a terrible argument, we drew the line, and she decided to sever our relationship completely. She sees us occasionally during holidays and is cordial, but she doesn't call or text for my

birthday or Mother's Day, which is very hurtful.

I don't know where to turn, except to pray. I don't want to be estranged anymore. I miss her terribly, but do not want to be financially taken advantage of any longer. Any advice would help. — Heartbroken In Delaware

Dear Heartbroken: Would you really like to receive birthday and Mother's Day greetings knowing they didn't come from the heart and that you were paying for them? This is what your daughter's actions have revealed. You have not caused this estrangement; she has, because you turned off the spigot.

I'm sure you are hurting, because that is what your daughter intends. Since prayer hasn't helped you cope with this, consult a licensed mental health professional, and I suspect you will have better results. You have my sympathy.



JEANNE PHILLIPS ADVICE

DAYS GONE BY

100 years ago — 1922

Fire this morning in Walla Walla caused hundreds of dollars damage to St. Mary's hospital. The blaze began in the roof and burned for an hour and a half before it could be checked. All patients were saved by removal from the building. A considerable amount of damage was caused by water, it being necessary to play four streams on the building.

50 years ago — 1972

Rocky Hays, 23, was fired this week from his job on the Butter Creek farm of Jerry Myers after working there for 18 months. Myers admitted he didn't fire Rocky because of his job performance but because of a letter Rocky's wife, Kathy, 23, wrote to the East Oregonian which was published Monday. "They have the new liberal — super ecology — outlook," Myers said. Basically, the letter defended long hair and stated that "short hair sometimes means nothing more than the antiquated parental prejudices forced on young people." Myers gave Rocky \$200 severance pay. He said Rocky's job performance was up to standard and that he worked without supervision. He said Rocky came to him 18 months ago with little experience but he has learned rapidly so shouldn't have trouble finding another job. But will a conservative farmer put up with a man who has a wife with independent opinions? Dennis Hachler,

Pendleton attorney, says he doubts Rocky has any recourse.

25 years ago — 1997

With state Corrections Department director Dave Cook's first ceremonial scoop of dirt Saturday, the nondescript, sagebrush-covered plot of land just east of the Port of Umatilla will begin its 30-month transformation into a state prison. Corrections Department officials will also announce the Umatilla prison's name at Saturday's ceremony. But not everyone will be dancing to the Jailhouse Rock. Chuck Dickinson, a Hermiston construction worker who is looking for work, said he is planning on protesting the Correction Department's policy of using minimum-security inmates to help build prisons. A group of local construction workers, Pendleton Building and Construction Trades Council, ran advertisements this week criticizing the department's policy for taking jobs away from citizens. "Everybody was snowed," George Gritz, the council's president, said about Measure 17, which requires inmates to work. "We were led to believe inmates would be working along the roads and cleaning up the park system or making license plates like they should be." The \$149 million construction project will employ between 300 and 600 laborers during its different building phases. The 1,600-bed men's medium-security prison is scheduled to start housing inmates in August 2000. The facility will employ approximately 550 people.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

In 1413, the coronation of England's King Henry V took place in Westminster Abbey.

In 1939, Marian Anderson performed a concert at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., after the Black singer was denied the use of Constitution Hall by the Daughters of the American Revolution.

In 1940, during World War II, Germany invaded Denmark and Norway.

In 1942, during World War II, some 75,000 Philippine and American defenders on Bataan surrendered to Japanese troops, who forced the prisoners into what became known as the Bataan Death March; thousands died or were killed en route.

In 1959, NASA presented its first seven astronauts: Scott Carpenter, Gordon Cooper, John Glenn, Gus Grissom, Wally Schirra, Alan Shepard and Donald Slayton. Architect Frank Lloyd Wright, 91, died in Phoenix, Arizona.

In 1968, funeral services, private and public, were held for Martin Luther King Jr. at the Ebenezer Baptist Church and Morehouse College in

Atlanta, five days after the civil rights leader was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee.

In 1979, officials declared an end to the crisis involving the Three Mile Island Unit 2 nuclear reactor in Pennsylvania, 12 days after a partial core meltdown.

In 1996, in a dramatic shift of purse-string power, President Bill Clinton signed a line-item veto bill into law. (However, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the veto in 1998.)

In 2003, jubilant Iraqis celebrated the collapse of Saddam Hussein's regime, beheading a toppled statue of their longtime ruler in downtown Baghdad and embracing American troops as liberators.

In 2005, Britain's Prince Charles married longtime love Camilla Parker Bowles, who took the title Duchess of Cornwall.

In 2010, Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens announced his retirement. (His vacancy was filled by Elena Kagan.)

In 2020, the government

reported that 6.6 million people had sought unemployment benefits in the preceding week, bringing the total to 16.8 million in the three weeks since the coronavirus outbreak took hold. The Food and Drug Administration sent a warning letter to conspiracy theorist and radio host Alex Jones, telling him to stop pitching bogus remedies for the coronavirus.

Ten years ago: A Florida special prosecutor said a grand jury would not look into the Trayvon Martin case, leaving the decision of whether to charge the teen's shooter in her hands alone. (Prosecutor Angela Corey ended up filing second-degree murder charges against George Zimmerman, who pleaded not guilty, claiming self-defense; Zimmerman was acquitted at trial.)

Five years ago: Suicide bombers struck hours apart at two Coptic churches in northern Egypt, killing 43 people and turning Palm Sunday services into scenes of horror and outrage. Sergio Garcia beat Justin Rose in a sudden-death playoff at the Masters

for his first major.

One year ago: Britain's Prince Philip, husband of Queen Elizabeth II, died at the age of 99; he was Britain's longest-serving consort. Hip-hop icon DMX died at a hospital in White Plains, New York, days after suffering what officials called a catastrophic cardiac arrest; the Grammy-nominated rapper and actor was 50. Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear signed a partial ban on no-knock warrants a year after the fatal shooting of Breonna Taylor.

Today's birthdays: Satirical songwriter and mathematician Tom Lehrer is 94. Actor Michael Learned is 83. Actor Dennis Quaid is 68. Country musician Dave Innis (Restless Heart) is 63. Talk show host Joe Scarborough is 59. Actor-model Paulina Porizkova is 57. Actor Cynthia Nixon is 56. Rock singer Kevin Martin (Candlebox) is 53. Actor Keshia Knight Pulliam is 43. Rock musician Albert Hammond Jr. (The Strokes) is 42. Actor Kristen Stewart is 32. Actor Elle Fanning is 24. Rapper Lil Nas X is 23.

7 LITTLE WORDS puzzle with clues and solutions grid.

WORD Roundup puzzle with grid and clues.

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