

DEAR ABBY

# Woman contemplates staying in loveless marriage for kids' sake

**Dear Abby:** I've been married for 14 years and have two kids. Our youngest is 11. For the last nine years, it has been a loveless marriage. Luckily, he works a lot, but when he's home, I stay in my bedroom. The only thing we do together is eat dinner. Our kids are thriving in school, and I worry that leaving will hurt them terribly. Should I wait until our youngest graduates?

I am 47 and have multiple sclerosis that is slowly progressing. I do not have family and friends for support. Could I be even more lonely if I leave? The thought of divorce feels overwhelming, but I feel like life is passing me by. Hoping you can point me in the right direction. — **Living In Limbo In Missouri**

**Dear Living:** I wish you had mentioned what it was nine years ago that created a rift between you and your husband. If it was

your diagnosis, it is truly regrettable. In the interim, have you tried talking about this with a marriage and family therapist? If the answer is no, you should.

I am concerned about the degree of isolation you are feeling. The National Multiple Sclerosis Society (nationalmssociety.org) offers virtual and in-person support groups that might benefit you greatly.

Divorcing one's spouse is not a guarantee that one's loneliness will end, as many divorced women and men can attest. The National MS Society may be able to provide what you need right now.

**Dear Abby:** My husband and I are expecting our first child. We are over the moon about it, and have lots of support from family and

friends near and far. My husband's family lives in another state and would need to fly to visit us. His parents are separated, and elderly.

I love his mother dearly, but I have an issue with her best friend, "Myra." Myra has always been passive-aggressive. She makes things difficult and makes rude, snide comments. My mother-in-law plans to travel to meet our new baby, but she wants Myra to be her travel companion.

Abby, after the stress and exhaustion of delivering a baby and any postpartum aftermath, plus the desire to keep our circle small due to COVID, I do not want to see Myra in the first few months after delivery. I have no issues with my mother-in-law, and don't want to prohibit

her from seeing her new grandbaby. But she refuses to travel alone. Am I going too far in saying I won't be up for visiting with her snide best friend? — **Pregnant In Pennsylvania**

**Dear Pregnant:** I don't think you are going too far. You have the right to control who comes into your home. Tell your mother-in-law you would welcome her coming to see the new baby, but that Myra is not welcome in your home and will have to make other plans while Grandma is visiting your infant.

If she asks why, tell her the truth — that Myra is negative and snide, and you don't want to be exposed to that while you are in a vulnerable state. If she can't agree to your wishes, tell her you and her son will visit her when the baby is older, but you will make sure she has plenty of pictures and videos in the meantime.



JEANNE PHILLIPS ADVICE

## DAYS GONE BY

### 100 years ago — 1922

Umatilla suffered last night as the result of some work which was quietly done in the west end of town when a visit was paid there by Sheriff Zoeth Houser and Deputy Sheriff Jake Marin. Four men were arrested, two on charges of having liquor illegally, and two for gambling. Marin proved that the high cost of living is all a myth when he purchased two quarts and one pint of whisky for \$13 from F. Carelle. The pool room was raided by Marin who found the proprietor and one patron of the house handling the little spotted cubes sometimes referred to as "African dominoes." The sum of \$23 was grabbed along with the dice. The house of Bob Merrick was raided by Marin who secured two pints of moonshine. The deputy sheriff states that the house was visited by a number of men during the course of the evening before the raid was made.

### 50 years ago — 1972

Young Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints musicians from Pendleton, Pilot Rock, La Grande, Union, Baker, Halfway, Wallowa, and Enterprise are busy putting the finishing touches on music which will be performed at their first annual spring concert. The young people are preparing 14 contemporary numbers which were specifically for the 1972 choral festival. Choral festivals have long been held in conjunction with the Speech Competition Festival in the LDS

Union Stake. Thus, the concert to be presented Tuesday will be the first annual Young Artists Choral Festival and will consist mainly of the choral performance with young artists' selections filling out the program. Musicians from the 12 wards and branches have been rehearsing within their area with ward choristers and organists since September. Stake rehearsals, under the direction of William C. Baxter of Union with Mrs. Gene (Beverly) Tuttle of La Grande accompanying, have been held since last December. An orchestra under the direction of Swanee Beck, instructor of music at La Grande High School, will provide accompaniment for three selections. Women of the choir will also perform.

### 25 years ago — 1997

The Port of Morrow will buy the three-acre Rod's Grocery property in Irrigon and lease it to Boardman grocer Dean Kegler, who will reopen the store. Kegler said while the planned grocery outlet is smaller than his Sentry Market in Boardman, it will offer everything the larger store does. It probably will not carry the Sentry name, he said. "We hope to be open by the Watermelon Festival," he said. "That's our goal." Kegler, a 14-year Boardman resident and second generation grocer whose grandparents moved to Irrigon in 1952, said Irrigon's population has grown to the point where it can support a full-service grocery outlet.

## THIS DAY IN HISTORY

**In 1616 (Old Style calendar),** English poet and dramatist William Shakespeare died in Stratford-upon-Avon on what has traditionally been regarded as the 52nd anniversary of his birth in 1564.

**In 1898,** Spain declared war on the United States, which responded in kind two days later.

**In 1940,** about 200 people died in the Rhythm Night Club Fire in Natchez, Mississippi.

**In 1954,** Hank Aaron of the Milwaukee Braves hit the first of his 755 major-league home runs in a game against the St. Louis Cardinals. (The Braves won, 7-5.)

**In 1969,** Sirhan Sirhan was sentenced to death for assassinating New York Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. (The sentence was later reduced to life imprisonment.)

**In 1971,** hundreds of Vietnam War veterans opposed to the conflict protested by tossing their medals and ribbons over a wire fence in front of the U.S. Capitol.

**In 1988,** a federal ban on smoking during domestic airline flights of two hours or less went into effect.

**In 1992,** McDonald's

opened its first fast-food restaurant in the Chinese capital of Beijing.

**In 1993,** labor leader Cesar Chavez died in San Luis, Arizona, at age 66.

**In 1998,** James Earl Ray, who confessed to assassinating the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and then insisted he'd been framed, died at a Nashville, Tennessee, hospital at age 70.

**In 2005,** the recently created video-sharing website YouTube uploaded its first clip, "Me at the Zoo," which showed YouTube co-founder Jawed Karim standing in front of an elephant enclosure at the San Diego Zoo.

**In 2007,** Boris Yeltsin, Russia's first freely elected president, died in Moscow at age 76.

**In 2020,** at a White House briefing, President Donald Trump noted that researchers were looking at the effects of disinfectants on the coronavirus, and wondered aloud whether they could be injected into people.

**Ten years ago:** Actor-singer Jennifer Hudson broke down in tears while testifying at the Chicago trial of William Balfour, the

man accused of killing her mother, brother and 7-year-old nephew in a jealous rage in 2008. (Balfour was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to life in prison.) The government reported that Social Security was rushing even faster toward insolvency, with its trust funds expected to run dry in 2033, three years earlier than previously projected.

**Five years ago:** Centrist Emmanuel Macron and far-right populist Marine Le Pen advanced to a May runoff in France's presidential election (Macron ended up defeating Le Pen).

**One year ago:** U.S. health officials lifted an 11-day pause on COVID-19 vaccinations using Johnson & Johnson's single-dose shot, after scientific advisers decided its benefits outweighed a rare risk of blood clot. Reality TV personality and Olympic hero Caitlyn Jenner joined a growing list of Republican candidates seeking to oust Democratic California Gov. Gavin Newsom, who was facing a likely recall election. (Newsom would beat back the recall effort in a September vote.)

### Today's Birthdays:

Actor Alan Oppenheimer is 92. Actor David Birney is 83. Actor Lee Majors is 83. Actor Joyce DeWitt is 73. Actor James Russo is 69. Filmmaker-author Michael Moore is 68. Actor Judy Davis is 67. Actor Valerie Bertinelli is 62. U.S. Olympic gold medal skier Donna Weinbrecht is 57. Actor Melina Kanakaredes is 55. Rock musician Stan Frazier (Sugar Ray) is 54. Actor Scott Bairstow is 52. Actor-writer John Lutz is 49. Actor Barry Watson is 48. Professional wrestler/actor John Cena is 45. Actor-writer-comedian John Oliver is 45. Actor Kal Penn is 45. Retired MLB All-Star Andruw Jones is 45. Actor Jaime King is 43. Actor Aaron Hill is 39. Actor Jesse Lee Soffer is 38. Actor Rachel Skarsten is 37. Rock musician Anthony LaMarca (The War on Drugs) is 35. Actor Dev Patel is 32. Actor Matthew Underwood is 32. Model Gigi Hadid is 27. Rock musicians Jake and Josh Kiszka (Greta Van Fleet) are 26. Actor Charlie Rowe (TV: "Salvation") is 26. Retired tennis player Ashleigh Barty is 26. U.S. Olympic gold medal snowboarder Chloe Kim is 22.

## 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 City in Salma Hayek's land (6)	_____
2 Horn of Africa capital (8)	_____
3 "Crazy Rich Asians" setting (9)	_____
4 City on the Persian Gulf (6)	_____
5 Monte Carlo's home (6)	_____
6 City on a canal (6)	_____
7 capital of landlocked land (10)	_____

ICO	UTI	PA	BO	NA
SIN	NA	MO	ORE	OU
MEX	GAP	CO	LUX	AIT
DJI	EMB	RG	KUW	MA

Today's Answers: 1. MEXICO 2. DJIBOUTI 3. SINGAPORE 4. KUWAIT 5. MONACO 6. PANAMA 7. LUXEMBOURG

## WORD★Roundup™

by David L. Hoyt & Jeff Knurek

### Find and Circle...

- Four words starting and ending with K
- Four dairy products
- Three school subjects
- \_\_\_ door (starting with F)
- Two competing cola brands

Answers to Saturday's puzzle: SALAMANDER FROG NEWT TOAD / PINEAPPLE PEACH PLUM PEAR / CARP SOLE TUNA PIKE / SHRIMP CRAB / ROCKIES ANDES

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Word search grid with a diagonal line through it. The grid contains the following letters:

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

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