

DEAR ABBY

Childhood sexual abuse puts woman on difficult path

Dear Abby: I'm a widow in a new relationship. I was molested for years by an older sibling. When my behavior became troublesome — skipping school, becoming anti-social — I was sent to a reform school for several years. The sibling was sent into the army.

When I was released from the school, I drifted into worse relationships and into the sex trade. I got out of that after six months. I've always felt like a "good girl," but the past haunts me. I used to talk about the abuse constantly. It was always in the back of my mind. It still pops up on a regular basis, but I have not told my new partner.

A friend once told me that people don't need to know everything about you, and I believe that. Some folks blamed me for the abuse, although it started before I was 8.

Sometimes I feel I should tell my partner, as it does affect my behavior — I have low self-esteem, etc. I've had counseling, but it didn't help me. When I confronted my abuser years later, he told me it was my problem.

Do I need to share this to be completely honest about who I am? I have never felt "normal." It's as if I'm carrying a dreaded secret. Any advice? — Good Girl In Washington

Dear Good Girl: What you suffered as a child was not your fault. You needed counseling then, not blame. Because you didn't receive it at that time, it isn't surprising your problems followed you wherever you went.

Not knowing your partner, I cannot

decide for you whether you should reveal your history to him. I can, however, strongly recommend that you contact the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN). When you do, you will be talking with a trained counselor who can guide you. Nothing you confide will be a shock to that person, and you may be put in touch with help in your local area.

The RAINN website is rainn.org and its toll-free phone number is 800-656-4673. Please don't wait to reach out. Everything is confidential.

Dear Abby: My close friend, "Lizzy," broke up with her boyfriend six weeks ago. At first, she was very depressed about it, but she has gradually gotten over him. A few

days ago, Lizzy's ex-boyfriend asked me out. I really wanted to say yes, but I decided to ask her first if it was OK. When I did, she flipped out and told me she wouldn't be my friend anymore if I did. I've known Lizzy for four years, and I don't want to lose her friendship.

A day later, I found out from another friend of mine that Lizzy was dating my twin brother. She never asked me if I was OK with that, let alone informed me that they had feelings for each other. Does this give me the right to date Lizzy's ex? — Breaking Girl Code In Alabama

Dear Breaking: I think so. But don't do it without first clearing the air with her, because if things work out with your twin brother, you are likely to be seeing a lot of Lizzy in the future.



JEANNE PHILLIPS ADVICE

DAYS GONE BY

100 years ago — 1922

The Henrietta Flouring Mill, belonging to J. H. Koontz, was burned to the ground last night, and with all its contents is a total loss. The fire is supposed to have originated from sparks flying from the east-bound passenger train, as flames were discovered soon after it passed.

50 years ago — 1972

It will not be possible to move the Navy's practice bombing range at Boardman to another location, Charles L. III, assistant secretary of the Navy, told the Greater Hermiston Chamber of Commerce in a letter. The chamber has joined other organizations in the area in a move to assist the Port of Morrow in getting the bombing range relocated to bring a nuclear power plant into the Boardman area.

trial Park southwest of Boardman, but the Atomic Energy Commission is not expected to approve of a nuclear plant in the area with the 50,000-acre bombing range located nearby. Two possible sites for relocation in the state of Washington have been examined but neither site is capable of meeting all the desirable criteria established for an acceptable bombing range.

25 years ago — 1997

The Oregon Trail Pro Rodeo is thinking big. The rodeo is planning a major renovation project at the fairgrounds in Heppner, including a new grandstand, rodeo office, access road and bridge. The goal is to spruce up the grounds for the fair's 75th anniversary taking place this summer.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

In 1789, George Washington took the oath of office in New York as the first president of the United States.

In 1803, the United States purchased the Louisiana Territory from France for 60 million francs, the equivalent of about \$15 million.

In 1812, Louisiana became the 18th state of the Union.

In 1900, engineer John Luther "Casey" Jones of the Illinois Central Railroad died in a train wreck near Vaughan, Mississippi, after staying at the controls in a successful effort to save the passengers.

In 1945, as Soviet troops approached his Berlin bunker, Adolf Hitler took his own life along with that of his wife of one day, Eva Braun.

In 1947, President Harry S. Truman signed a resolution officially confirming the name of Hoover Dam, which had also come to be known as "Boulder Dam."

In 1958, Britain's Life Peerages Act 1958 allowed women to become members of the House of Lords.

In 1970, President Richard Nixon announced the

U.S. was sending troops into Cambodia, an action that sparked widespread protest.

In 1973, President Richard Nixon announced the resignations of top aides H.R. Haldeman and John Ehrlichman, Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst and White House counsel John Dean, who was actually fired.

In 1975, the Vietnam War ended as the South Vietnamese capital of Saigon fell to Communist forces.

In 1983, blues singer and guitarist Muddy Waters died in Westmont, Illinois, at age 68.

In 1993, top-ranked women's tennis player Monica Seles was stabbed in the back during a match in Hamburg, Germany, by a man who described himself as a fan of second-ranked German player Steffi Graf. (The man, convicted of causing grievous bodily harm, was given a suspended sentence.)

In 2004, Arabs expressed outrage at graphic photographs of naked Iraqi prisoners being humiliated by U.S. military police; President George W. Bush condemned

the mistreatment of prisoners, saying "that's not the way we do things in America."

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama and Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda, meeting at the White House, decried aggressive acts from North Korea, including a recent failed rocket launch, and vowed to maintain a unified front against such provocations. A ferry carrying more than 300 people capsized in a river in northeast India, killing some 100 people and leaving about as many missing.

Five years ago: President Donald Trump said after North Korea's latest failed rocket launch that communist leader Kim Jong Un would eventually develop better missiles, and that "we can't allow it to happen"; in a taped interview broadcast on CBS' "Face the Nation," the president would not discuss the possibility of military action.

One year ago: The Transportation Security Administration said it was keeping in place a requirement that people wear masks on planes and all other forms of public

transit because of COVID-19. Disneyland in Southern California reopened its gates after a 13-month closure caused by the coronavirus; capacity was limited for the reopening, and only California residents were allowed in. A stampede at a religious festival in northern Israel left 45 ultra-Orthodox Jews dead and about 150 others injured.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Willie Nelson is 89. Movie director Allan Arkush is 74. Actor Perry King is 74. Singer-musician Wayne Kramer is 74. Singer Merrill Osmond is 69. Movie director Jane Campion is 68. Movie director Lars von Trier is 66. Actor Adrian Pasdar is 57. Rock musician Clark Vogeler is 53. Country singer Carolyn Dawn Johnson is 51. Actor Lisa Dean Ryan is 50. R&B singer Akon is 49. R&B singer Jeff Timmons (98 Degrees) is 49. Actor Johnny Galecki is 47. Actor Sam Heughan is 42. Actor Kirsten Dunst is 40. Actor Dianna Agron is 36. Country singer Brandon Lancaster is 33. Rapper/producer Travis Scott is 31.

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.

Table with 2 columns: CLUES and SOLUTIONS. Clues include alloy (7), annoy (10), employ (4), convoy (5), overjoy (7), ploy (6), coy (11).

Grid of letters for the 7 Little Words puzzle. Letters include SP, FL, TE, RTA, AM, EME, TIO, AM, DE, EET, RE, FLI, EXA, LI, GHT, ERA, ALG, US, SCH, HI.

Today's Answers: 1. AMALGAM 2. EXASPERATE 3. HIRE 4. FLEET 5. DELIGHT 6. SCHEME 7. FLIRTATION 5/1

WORD★Roundup™

by David L. Hoyt & Jeff Knurek

Find and Circle...

- Four four-letter metals [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
Three five-letter boats [ ] [ ] [ ]
Maple [ ] [ ] [ ]
Three six-letter dogs [ ] [ ] [ ]
Three mountain chains [ ] [ ] [ ]

Answers to Saturday's puzzle: KAYAK KNOCK KIOSK KICK / BUTTER CHEESE CREAM MILK / HISTORY SCIENCE MATH / FRENCH FRONT / COKE PEPSI

Word search grid with a pencil icon pointing to the start of a word.

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