

DEAR ABBY

Write to Dear Abby online at dearabby.com
or by mail at P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069



Dear Abby: I have spent years trying to have a close relationship with my older sister, but it is clearly not a priority for her. We are very different people, but I was hoping our shared history and family bond would be enough for her to prioritize me and my son. We come from a very small family on both sides and, one day, we will be some of the few remaining family members. I haven't heard from her in months during the pandemic, which has been hurtful. I'm a working single mother, trying to take care of my son during this dark time, and she hasn't bothered to check on us even once. She once told me that the only things she cares about are her own son and her dogs. I don't understand how she can have such a loving heart for animals but no concern for her own family. She can be very selfish and has had no close girlfriends during her adulthood. Growing up, she was jealous of me, but I thought things would be different after I struggled with a divorce and other life stressors. I received no support from her during my divorce. In fact, she seemed to take my ex's side despite his having emotionally abused me for years. Should I expect that we will ever have a closer relationship or just accept that it won't happen?

— *Hurt in Alabama*

Dear Hurt: If your description of your sister is accurate, she has drawn a tight circle around herself that she doesn't want breached. You stated that the two of you are very different people, but on some level you haven't allowed yourself to accept what that means. You will be hurt less once you accept that your fantasy of closeness with her will never happen. For whatever reasons, she isn't capable of giving you what you need. You will find the closeness you crave by developing stronger relationships with your friends. Sadly, for your sister, she won't give herself the gift of these important and rewarding kinds of experiences.

Dear Abby: I recently separated from my husband of 16 years. He is an alcoholic who refuses to seek help. He can't hold a job or help with household expenses when he does work. We have been separated for five months, and he feels that I "owe" him another chance. I gave him warning after warning for six years — and there was no change. I continue to tell him repeatedly that I have moved on. Things got so bad, I eventually had a mental breakdown and had to seek professional help. I'm in a new relationship, and I have never been so happy. My husband threatens this new man and calls him names. I'm in the process of filing for divorce, but he makes me feel I am obligated to give him the chance to make things right. Am I wrong for wanting to move on?

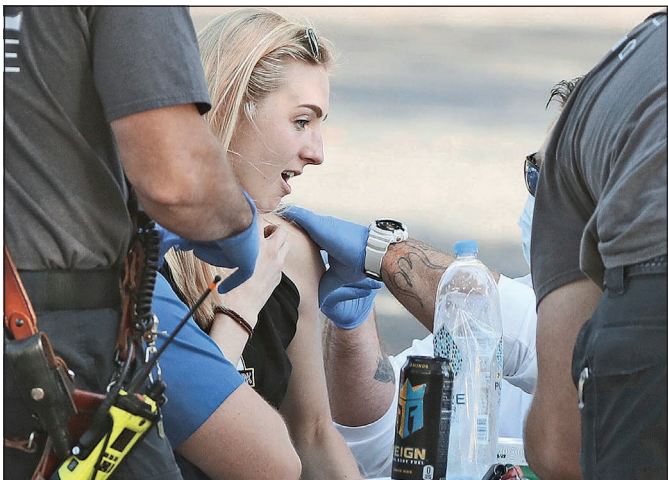
— *End of My Rope in Nevada*

Dear End: No, you are not! You have suffered enough, so do not backtrack. You are not obligated to give your alcoholic husband more time than you have devoted. If you allow him to wear you down, there will only be more of what you have already experienced. If you are even tempted, call your therapist.

California hits 1-day record of deaths

Oregon health care worker hospitalized after allergic reaction to vaccine

The Associated Press
LOS ANGELES — California started the new year by reporting a record 585 coronavirus deaths in a single day as the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the U.S. surpassed 20 million. In Oregon, a health care worker, has been hospitalized after having a severe allergic reaction to the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. The Oregon Health Authority said the employee at Wallowa Memorial Hospital experienced anaphylaxis after receiving a first dose of the vaccine this week. The health authority said vaccines for COVID-19 can cause mild to moderate side effects in some people. This can include pain and swelling on the arm and sometimes fever, chills, tiredness and headache. In rare cases, some people have



Stephen M. Dowell/Orlando Sentinel via AP

A health care worker reacts Friday as she receives the COVID-19 vaccine at Lake-Sumter State College in Leesburg, Florida.

experienced severe allergic reactions. So far, 38,698 doses of the COVID-19 vaccines have been administered in the state of Oregon since the week of Dec. 13. In California, the state Department of Public Health said Friday there were more than 47,000 new confirmed cases reported, bringing the total to more than 2.29 million. California this week became

increased in the country, now totaling more than 346,000.

Romney rips vaccination efforts

Republican Sen. Mitt Romney of Utah slammed the slow pace of vaccinations against the coronavirus. He said it's "incomprehensible" and "inexcusable" that the Trump administration has not developed an efficient federal vaccination model for the states. Romney said it was unrealistic to assume that health care workers already overburdened caring for COVID-19 patients could carry the brunt of the vaccination program or that the big drugstore chains would have the workers to inoculate millions. He's suggesting that public health authorities seek to enlist all retired or active medical professionals who are not otherwise engaged in care, as well as veterinarians, combat medics, medical students and first responders in the effort. He says they could be easily trained to administer the vaccines.

In a first, Congress overrides Trump veto of defense bill

BY MATTHEW DALY
The Associated Press
WASHINGTON — Congress on Friday overrode President Donald Trump's veto of a defense policy bill, a first by lawmakers since he took office nearly four years ago, ensuring that the measure becomes law. In an extraordinary New Year's Day session, the Republican-controlled Senate easily turned aside the veto, dismissing

Trump's objections to the \$740 billion bill and handing him a stinging rebuke just weeks before he leaves the White House. Trump lashed out on Twitter, saying the Senate missed an opportunity to eliminate protections for social media platforms that he said give "unlimited power to Big Tech companies. Pathetic!!!" Trump also slammed law-

makers for rejecting his call to increase COVID-19 relief payments to \$2,000. "Not fair, or smart!" The 81-13 vote in the Senate on the widely popular defense bill followed an earlier 322-87 override vote in the House. The bill affirms a 3% pay raise for U.S. troops and guides defense policy, cementing decisions about troop levels, new weapons systems and military

Districts

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That date was chosen because it's more than two weeks after New Year's Day, leaving a large window for people to find out if they were exposed to COVID-19 during a holiday gathering, she said. In November, nearly 94% of Culver families said they'd prefer full-time in-person learning in a district survey, Garber said. Since October, a majority of Culver's 649 students have attended limited in-person school for only two hours a day. Culver district staff are already preparing for more students in buildings for longer hours, Garber said. For example, administrators are brainstorming new commuting patterns for students, so they don't huddle together in one entryway at the beginning and end of the school day.

To the east, Crook County School District has already hosted in-person classes for a majority of its students this fall — the only Central Oregon school district to do so. However, the district's approximately 1,240 students at the middle and mainline high school have attended classes in a hybrid, half-online fashion since October. That's likely to change starting Jan. 26, when the district plans to resume full-time in-person school for middle and high schoolers, said Superintendent Sara Johnson. That's the first day of the second semester in Crook County. State-mandated COVID-19 safety precautions will remain in place, even when students are in school all day, Johnson noted. "It's not like there won't be masks or social distancing. We still have to do all that," she said. "But it's time to try it with everyone in the building." To allow for smaller, more distanced classes, district staff are converting multiple spaces into classrooms. For example, riser seats were removed from Crook County Middle School's band room to fit in desks, Johnson said. Central Oregon's other two smaller school districts did not yet have clear timelines on reopening as of Thursday afternoon. Ken Parshall, superintendent of Jefferson County School District, wrote a note to parents on Wednesday. He promised district administrators would start working on a reopening strategy on Monday, when students return from winter break. Limited in-person instruction would resume in Jefferson County schools by Jan. 11, he wrote. Jefferson County families should have more information

on the reopening plan next week, Parshall wrote. "We have been planning for this eventuality for months, and we will be able to communicate our reopening plans soon," he wrote. Parshall could not be reached for comment Thursday. Sisters School District had no recent information on its reopening plans on its website. A note from Superintendent Curt Scholl written Dec. 16 — a week before Brown's new reopening strategy — stated that Sisters Elementary would resume hybrid in-person learning on Jan. 11 after a week of online learning. Sisters Elementary has been the only school in Deschutes County to be mostly open this fall. Scholl did not respond to multiple requests for comment. ■ *Reporter: 541-617-7854, jhogana@bendbulletin.com*

Solley

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"If there are ways that we can just be part of the community and reflect what is going on around Central Oregon, both emotionally and physically, then we are helping (find) ways to connect our mission with the issues in front of the public." One way it did that was to use its marquee to share motivational messages. "The very first one we put up may be the one that got the most traction was 'Keep calm and wash your hands,'" he said. "To see that on a movie marquee that's the center of Central Oregon community, there's something about that feels confident, and feels community-based, and, I would say, somewhat comforting." And as the 2019-20 school year drew to a close, the Tower marquee honored Central Oregon high schools' graduating classes, with students and families heading downtown to take photos beneath it. As for its entertainment mission, the Tower adapted quickly, filling the vacuum left by the cancellation of live offerings with the community-oriented "Homebound Broadway" program at the start of quarantine. People filmed and submitted short renditions of their favorite showtunes, then posted online by the Tower. In May, the Tower offered popcorn and snacks for sale on Fridays, knowing its usual patrons were turning to streaming services to stay entertained. All the while, Solley and the

Tower staff worked on a plan for safe procedures and protocols once Gov. Kate Brown lifted some of the restrictions on gatherings, which allowed the Tower to again host limited-capacity events come July with its All for One, One for All summer showcase of local entertainers. When November's uptick in COVID cases resulted in having to cancel its limited-capacity programming, the Tower pivoted to on-line holiday fare. Though Solley is quick to credit the Tower staff and board, Ed Irish, a Tower board member for five years, said much of the credit should go to executive director Solley. "Ray managed to keep an esprit de corps in the staff," Irish said. "What do we do now that we don't put shows on? Well,

Ray's kept them busy, Ray's kept them interested, Ray's kept them involved, and has kept the spirits of the staff at a pretty high level." Whether generating ideas himself or making use of ones that came from others, "It was his enabling the staff to sort of put forth their creative thinking to come up with these things, with the goal in mind of 'Let's maintain some degree of visibility,'" Irish said. "The role he stepped into with regard to this disaster that we refer to as COVID has been nothing short of miraculous," Irish said. "Ray, in his inimitable style of being able to herd any species including cats, just took the lead on so much of this stuff." ■ *David Jasper: 541-383-0349, djasper@bendbulletin.com*

New year

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Jennifer Williams and Laurie Thomas — friends who live in Bend and Madras, respectively — have met in Redmond's Dry Canyon park for walks throughout the pandemic. They were strolling in the canyon Friday morning with their two dogs: Kahil, a Native

American Indian Dog, and Baxter, a massive, fluffy Bouvier des Flandres. Williams and Thomas said they were looking forward to having a new president, Joe Biden, lead the U.S. in 2021. The duo, who are both teachers, also hope that children can soon safely return to schools, they said. "We'd love to have the vaccine

available, and have kids come back to school," Thomas said. "Obviously, (distance learning) is not ideal for education." Julie Austin, a Bend resident and mother of two elementary-age students at Amity Creek Magnet at Thompson School, also hoped for a return to in-person learning in 2021. Austin, who was walking with her friend alongside the

Deschutes River Friday morning, also eventually hopes to travel and see her East Coast family again. "I want the same things that a lot of people want," she said. "To have your community back, to see the people that matter that matter to you, other than on a Zoom call." ■ *Reporter: 541-617-7854, jhogana@bendbulletin.com*

YOUR HOROSCOPE *By Madalyn Aslan*

Stars show the kind of day you'll have

★★★★★ DYNAMIC | ★★★★★ POSITIVE | ★★★ AVERAGE | ★★ SO-SO | ★ DIFFICULT

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR SATURDAY, JAN. 2, 2021: Serious, profound and a perfectionist, you have extremely high standards for yourself and your work. This year, despite COVID-19, don't cut yourself off from the world. Take time off and have fun, and you'll create even more success. If single, an intimate contact becomes a committed relationship if you allow it the time. If attached, you have the best times on vacations — take more of them. VIRGO should manage your schedule.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ You'll welcome the climax of the holiday season and be anxious to return to work. An exciting, dynamic person enters your life today. It's a good time to express yourself artistically. An ethereal quality blesses your love life. Tonight: Examining all sides of every question.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ A relaxed mood with family members and patience with co-workers will launch the new year successfully. See the beauty and humor in individual personality quirks of others. Your mind will be very active today. Tonight: A family dinner discussion.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Your brilliance and talents will be in evidence, and you win support. Although others make suggestions and examine your ideas critically. Look at both sides in any debate. Mediation and compromise assure success. Tonight: Answer postponed calls and emails first.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ A philosophical day. Older people and established values will help you today when you're making decisions. You establish greater security and make the best use of time and other resources. Keep a perspective about the true value of material security. Tonight: Muse.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Today your image and reputation are highlighted. Success comes your way when you combine friendly charm with professional expertise. A personal touch carries you a long way. Your speaking ability and writing bring you followers. Tonight: Celebrating the unique you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Fantasy is more vivid than reality today. Make your imagination an asset by applying creativity in constructive ways. Exotic and wild animals hold a special fascination. There is a sparkle to your social life. Tonight: A new romance takes you by surprise.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Be cautious in love. Make certain your feelings are reciprocated. Keep a good humored attitude if others are a bit self-centered or crass. Try not to ask for favors. It's a remarkably self-sufficient day. Tonight: A long, soothing herbal soak in the tub.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ A surprise may befall you today. New developments turn out to be a blessing. Follow safety procedures and rules meticulously to protect your well-being and reputation. You have a new depth of understanding. Tonight: Your image and appearance are highlighted.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Faraway places with exotic names beckon as winter begins. It's an optimum time to dream of travel, but not to actually travel due to the COVID-19 wave in January. Your career becomes more of a focus. Tonight: Your superb communication skills and charm carry you forward.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Keep desires and compulsions balanced; there is an intensity present. Some new financial and investment strategies are worth examining to boost security. Love assumes a spiritual quality. Tonight: Plan a visit to a retreat center with those dearest to you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ You will make some changes in your circle of friends and group affiliations. You will recognize that an intimate relationship is undergoing a transformation. Be progressive and realize that change is essential. Tonight: Strategize and update your long-range goals.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Your daily routines and rituals are warmed on this cold winter day. It's easier to get organized. You clear clutter and make order. There may be a difference of beliefs brewing with a relative. Tonight: Pursue what works in the here and now.