

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 been in a relationship with a wonderful man, "Andy," for two years. I couldn't ask for a better partner. We are both divorced with children, and they get along like brothers and sisters.

Even though our marriages ended, mine wasn't an ordeal. My ex and I both knew it wasn't working anymore, and we still get along pretty well. But Andy and his ex-wife never got along and argued for 18 years, and herein lies the problem. He gives me no space — ever.

I have discussed it with him numerous times, and his response is, "Well, I have never been this happy, and I love spending time with you." I enjoy our time, too, but I feel controlled without him acting controlling. He wants to be with me every minute. I look forward to going to work to escape! How can I get him to listen?

— *Joined at the Hip*

Dear Joined: The next time you have "the conversation," and he tells you he has to be with you every minute because he loves spending time with you, remind him that there are two of you in this relationship. Then inform him that with no time for yourself or friends, you feel claustrophobic, which isn't healthy for you or the relationship.

Healthy relationships are those in which both parties allow each other the space to be individuals. If you don't draw a line and insist that he accept it, he will smother you.

Dear Abby: You always give great advice on how to respond to people. My husband had a stroke 2 1/2 years ago. We ventured out for the first time to a store. He was

holding onto the cart and stopped to rest. A man behind us, who was obviously following too close, threw up his hands in disgust. Evidently we weren't moving fast enough for him, so he made a snide remark; I replied that my husband is recovering from a stroke.

Unfortunately, a week ago he suffered another stroke. How can I respond to people who are rude to those who might be slow or disabled?

— *Patience in California*

Dear Patience: I think you handled the situation beautifully. All you can do is hang on to your temper and try to calmly educate people like the impatient (and rude) individual you encountered that day.

Dear Abby: My fiancée and I will be moving in together soon, and we're looking forward to a pet-filled life. The concern we both share is that my mother and hers are allergic to animals and will probably never be able to visit because of it. We love each other's parents and would like to have them in our lives as much as possible. Are there rules of etiquette for pets and families with allergies?

— *Pet Lover in Georgia*

Dear Pet Lover: If your parents are highly allergic, putting your pets in another room or outside won't work because their hair and dander would be in your carpets and on your furniture. In a case like this, your parents should talk to their doctors and ask if they can get vaccinated to lessen or alleviate their allergies. If that isn't an option, you and your fiancée may have to visit THEM, wearing freshly laundered clothes so you won't bring any allergens with you.

Council

Continued from A1

But Russell noted on Wednesday the importance of moving forward with swearing in councilors, calling it a "celebration of democracy."

"Tonight we affirm that our democracy is greater than any individual or party," Russell said.

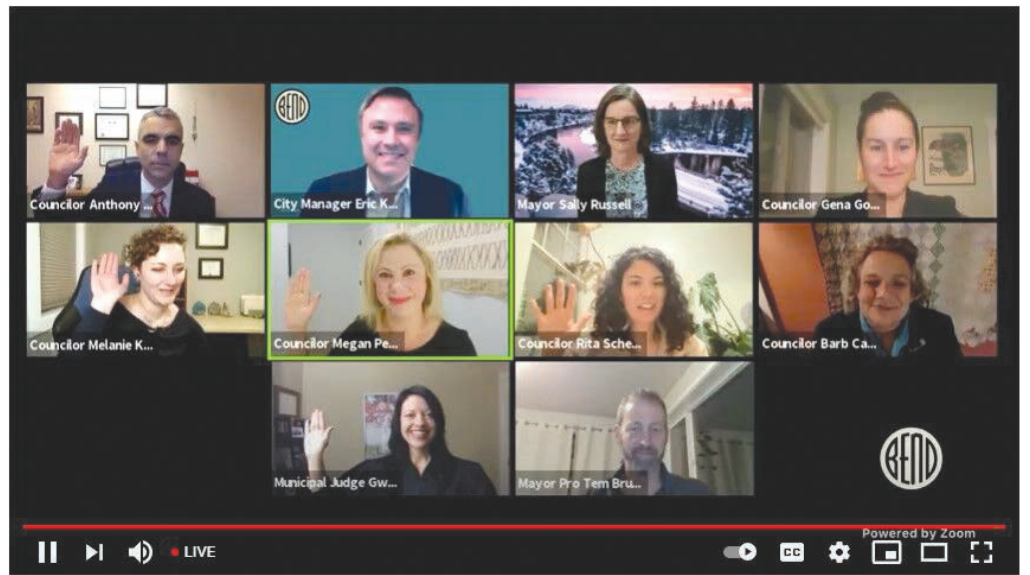
The new councilors all said they were excited and ready to start serving the community.

"Even on a day like today ... I am so excited about the possibilities for what these next years hold," Perkins said.

The ceremony ushered in what is believed to be Bend's most diverse council in history, with a female majority for the first time and the first queer councilor of color.

This fact was not lost on Councilor Barb Campbell.

"I am so happy to see after decades and decades of coun-



Four new members took an oath of office to join the Bend City Council in a virtual ceremony on Wednesday. The new councilors are Anthony Broadman, top left, and Melanie Keblor, Megan Perkins and Rita Schenkelberg, left to right in the middle row.

cils that were mostly men, now we have more women, which I think is only fair," Campbell said Wednesday. "I

just think it's going to be an interesting and exciting council."

The new council will begin

setting goals for the next two years at a meeting on Jan. 20.

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Schools

Continued from A1

The transition to in-person learning will start slowly, over a four-week period.

Next week, students in grades K-3 will return to their schools for a one-day orientation, going over safety and protocols. These students will start Monday-Friday, full-time in-person learning on Jan. 25.

During the week of Jan. 25, fourth and fifth graders will also have a one-day orientation. They'll start in-person school on Feb. 1., but in a hybrid model — half of students will be in school Mondays and Thursdays, the other half will be in school Tuesdays and Fridays. When not inside classrooms, students will continue distance learning.

For all elementary students, the only live Webex instruction for the two weeks prior to returning to classrooms will be daily morning meetings. All other online instruction will be done over the Seesaw or Google Classroom online learning portals.

Ninth-graders will have two possible weeks to visit their high schools for orientation sessions: the week of Jan. 25 and the week of Feb. 1. This is because the district's three largest high schools have between 350-500 ninth graders, and more days are needed to bring them

back in a socially distanced fashion, said Katie Legace, the district's deputy superintendent.

Middle school students will also have their one-day orientation some time during the week of Feb. 1. Older high school students will not have an orientation day.

All middle and high school students will start hybrid in-person learning on Feb. 8, two weeks after K-3 students return. Before then, online instruction will not include live Webex sessions.

One major benefit of these transitional weeks is giving teachers more time to prepare for teaching classes in-person after months of online instruction, Nordquist said.

"Teaching comprehensive distance learning and teaching students in your classroom looks very different," she said.

No matter what, elementary students will return to classrooms in the next few weeks, Nordquist said. But if local COVID-19 numbers spike later in January, middle and high schoolers' return may be pushed back, she said.

Families who do not want their children back in classrooms yet can enroll into Bend-La Pine Online, a long-running online school program with dedicated teachers, Nordquist said. The opposite is also true: the approximately 1,300 students currently

in Bend-La Pine Online can leave and join in-person learning.

State-required COVID-19 safety precautions, like mask wearing, social distancing and hand washing, will be enforced in schools, Nordquist said.

Sarah Barclay, president of the Bend Education Association teachers' union, said schools must be vigilant to ensure those COVID-19 rules are followed.

"There's no way this is going to be 0% risk, but we can mitigate it as much as possible by following safety procedures," she said.

Barclay added that although the teachers' union will not delay the start of school until teachers are vaccinated — which isn't expected to happen until the spring — the organization will push for educators to receive the vaccine soon.

"We will continue to press on anyone who will listen to speed up that process, so we can get vaccines as quickly as possible," she said.

Local parents had mixed reactions to Bend-La Pine's re-opening plan.

Kerstin Arias, whose son attends sixth grade at High Desert Middle School, said she was excited for him to return to class, as long as COVID-19 precautions were followed.

"I'm hyped, I'm pumped up," she said. "Kids need to be at

school. They need to be around other children."

Nicole Perullo — mother of a fifth grader at William E. Miller Elementary and twin seventh graders at Pacific Crest Middle School — called the re-opening plan an "epic failure." She believes schools shouldn't reopen while COVID-19 numbers are high, unvaccinated teachers are being put at risk, and schools will continuously open and close over and over as COVID-19 spikes throughout the winter.

"I would like (my kids) to go back," Perullo said. "I'm just very nervous about the numbers."

Jose Pacheco — father of a kindergartner and fourth grader at the K-8 Highland Magnet at Kenwood School and a sixth grader at High Desert Middle School — said he'll likely send his two youngest back to school, as the family already contracted COVID-19 in October. He'll let his oldest son choose between returning to High Desert or online school.

But Pacheco, a nurse at St. Charles Bend, stressed that families need to take this decision seriously.

"Everybody should weigh their options," he said. "If grandma lives at home and she's at risk, probably not a good idea to go back (to school)."

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YOUR HOROSCOPE *By Madalyn Aslan*

Stars show the kind of day you'll have

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, JAN. 8, 2021: Influential, intense and precise, you can focus all your energy into one presentation, performance or product, and become famous for it. This year, you explode suddenly on the scene with a new project, which is very successful. If single, you must give others more of a chance. You are pursued by many. If attached, you're usually worshipped by your partner who thinks you're almost godlike. AQUARIUS is their own god.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Today adds astuteness to your financial strategies. Examine employment and investment options. You will feel restless. A journey could be refreshing and enlightening now. You would enjoy visiting a historical shrine or monument. Tonight: Allow yourself plenty of rest.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) A partnership becomes more intense and committed. Be aware of how your deepest relationships are impacting you. A business contact offers an unusual opportunity that you should consider carefully. In-laws want to become closer. Tonight: People from your past call or email.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Keep the cold at bay with hot chocolate or steaming herb teas. Your health might need some minor attention. It's an ideal time to make needed changes and to examine how hereditary influences might impact your health. Tonight: You're more important to your partner than you realize.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Passions are strong. You feel the need to right a wrong or confront a problem. Cultivate a creative outlet to focus your energy in a productive way. A child is a source of pride and delight. Tonight: Share your activities with one you care for.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Let pleasure eclipse business and worry today. Use fragrant oils to create an atmosphere of beauty and joy. Accept invitations and plan an online party. It is a marvelous day to encourage a new love. Tonight: You will be especially in tune with family.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Today has an energizing quality and favors exercise, bringing a competitive attitude. Short journeys around the neighborhood are inspirational as well as educational. Life is less serious and there is time to laugh. Tonight: See humor in the whimsical caprice of a partner.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Be flexible about learning a new job skill. It relates to work you already do, such as editing a project you have already finished. Your income might be less steady, but this can provide a new opportunity. Tonight: You discover new sources of delight.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Today enhances your confidence and brings an opportunity for creative expression. It's a great time to enjoy dance. Others share confidences about the recent holidays. It is wise to remain discreet. Tonight: Use humor and patience with others and postpone romantic entanglements.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Today begins with the need to dream and plan privately; others might not understand. Your intuition guides you successfully. You have the energy to complete more work, resulting in reward and praise. Tonight: A friend can become a closer partner. Even a romantic interest.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You become a very effective, influential person today. Frustrations ebb. It's the start of a perfect time to study ultramodern technologies. Trust your intuition regarding new acquaintances. Your circle of friends widens. Tonight: Discard a situation you have outgrown.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Important work and concerns come to your attention. Others depend on you today. Your visibility comes to the fore. Put your best foot forward and strive to make the best possible impression. Tonight: You'll have an opportunity to demonstrate your highest potential.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Today generates refreshing new goals. Helpful, supportive people offer encouragement. You are inspired by new concepts and possibilities. It's easy to gather information. An adventurous mood prevails. Communication with a neighbor or sibling is awkward. Tonight: Time heals misunderstandings.

Challenges

Continued from A1

"We're about as busy as we've ever been," Baskerville said. "Oregon's gotten lucky. Whether we want to realize that or not, we have. Remember what happened in New York in the beginning, and then in Florida, and then a little later in Houston? We've never seen that, although we've prepared for it. I think it finally caught up with us, and all these surge plans we created back in April, we're implementing now."

Baskerville expects the current surge, driven by people returning indoors due to colder weather, to last until about mid-January.

Oregon has gotten some things right and some things wrong in preparing for the unprecedented. In some ways, the conventional wisdom at OHSU is now 180-degrees different than in April. Back then, anti-malarial drugs like chloroquine were given to

COVID-19 patients — the thinking being these untested treatments could possibly help and were unlikely to harm. But they've since been proven repeatedly to be ineffective. By contrast, the steroid dexamethasone seems to give patients a slight survival advantage, though Baskerville cautioned it wasn't a "game-changer."

"I tell you, (the pandemic) has really taught us the humility of medicine," he said. "We think that we have the best drugs and the best treatments and the best hospitals in the world, and we probably do, but all it takes is one small virus to derail the whole train."

COVID-19 is essentially a very bad viral pneumonia. By the time patients reach Baskerville in the ICU, they're in pretty bad shape. There's not a lot he can do.

"You try to give the drugs that work and eventually they do tire out and go on a ventilator, and we try to shepherd them through as best we can," he said. "But it is kind of wait

and see, and do no further harm."

Watching patients on ventilators slowly die instills humility, he said. Same with seeing them say goodbye to their grandchildren through an iPad.

"Who would ever think that in our nation, people would die alone from what is essentially a flu-type virus?" he said.

Throughout the pandemic, Baskerville has served as an expert witness for the Oregon Habeas Strike Force, a non-profit legal defense group, testifying on behalf of more than 100 prisoners who've requested early release due to health risks associated with contracting the virus. He's been so busy lately he now regularly appears in court via video from the ICU, always careful to keep patients out of view.

Baskerville's wife, Jennifer, a registered nurse, has worked throughout the pandemic as a COVID-19 case investigator for Deschutes County Public Health, attempting to quickly locate the newly infected

to help stanch the disease's spread. The pandemic has kept the couple's three kids away from their schools, and their friends, which has meant Mark Baskerville's presence around the home is appreciated, she said.

"It's nice. When he's home we get him all to ourselves," she said.

And when he heads back to Portland for another week in the ICU, he switches gears somewhere near Warm Springs, he said.

"I never really feel stressed from work. Sometimes I feel tired, or frustrated, but I think it helps living over here," he said.

He had one request for Bulletin readers: "Please, get the vaccine."

"I don't have a crystal ball, but I don't think we're out of the woods yet," he said. "It would be horrible if we dropped the ball right in front of the end zone."

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