

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 am a 72-year-old divorcee. I live alone in a 55-and-older community where I have many friends and an active life.

My three adult children are ages 37 to 43. The eldest lives out of the country with my 12-year-old grandson. My other son and his wife live 2,000 miles away and have two young children, one of whom I saw once three years ago. My daughter lives with her husband an hour and a half away. I see them about twice a year.

My daughter will sometimes answer an email or text, sometimes not. My sons almost never contact me, not even on my birthday or Mother's Day. From what I understand, they have little communication with their father or each other, either.

Is this normal? It breaks my heart. This isn't how I raised them. I always encouraged them to maintain a relationship with their father and their grandmother. Is there anything I can do?

— So Sad in the East

Dear So Sad: I'm sorry for your heartache, and there IS something you can do. Concentrate on your friends, people who are willing to return your emotional investment. You should also ignore Mother's Day, which is an emotionally loaded holiday that causes pain not only to mothers like you, but also to those who have recently lost their mothers. I think you have suffered enough, don't you?

Dear Abby: My mother-in-law, "Gladys," has never liked to shop from a gift list. She prefers to look on her own for a gift she thinks the person would like. My problem is, most of the things she buys

are atrocious.

My husband and I are expecting our first child — her first grandchild — and although we sent her the link, she has purchased items not on our registry. I am gracious, Abby. I thank her verbally and follow up with a note in the mail. However, we don't have enough room for all the items to use just when she visits, so I plan to quietly return or donate them.

When she's here and asks why we're not using her gifts, what do I say? I'd prefer not to lie and say something like "the dog chewed it up," nor do I want to be brutally honest and tell her I found the things she bought too ugly.

— Mom-In-Waiting

Dear Mom-In-Waiting: Find a wide, shallow box that will fit under a bed. Select some of the "atrocious" gifts and use them when Grandma Gladys comes to visit.

If she asks why you're not using all of them, explain that because you already had some of the gifts she sent, you donated hers to a needy family who could enjoy them. (It's a diplomatic version of the truth.)

Dear Abby: I'm a single woman in my 30s, not a Mrs. and too young for Ma'am. Am I a Ms.? What do they all stand for?

— In Between Ms's

Dear In Between: You qualify for "Ms.," if you wish to use it. As you know, "Miss" is the term used to denote an unmarried woman.

After consciousness was raised regarding equal rights for women, some began using "Ms." in the workplace when they preferred not to reveal their marital status.

Jobs

Continued from A5

The incoming Biden administration, along with a now fully Democratic-led House and Senate, is also expected to push more rescue aid and spending measures that could accelerate growth.

"Hopefully it is indeed darkest before the dawn," said Leslie Preston, senior economist at TD Bank. "We've got the vaccine and the stimulus, which are imminent, and which we do expect to turn things around."

For now, the renewed surge in virus cases, as well as cold weather, has caused millions of consumers to avoid eating out, shopping and traveling. Re-imposed business restrictions have shut down numerous restaurants, bars, and other venues. Economists at TD Securities estimate that more than half the states have restricted gatherings to 10 or fewer people, up from about a quarter in September.

New York and California, among others, placed strict new limits on restaurants last month.

Last month, restaurants, bars, hotels, casinos, movie theaters and other entertainment venues shed nearly 500,000 jobs, the most since April, when nationwide shutdowns triggered 7.6 million layoffs. While those employers will regain some jobs as the economy recovers, changing consumer habits will likely



Mary Altaffer/AP

Andrew Walcott, left, owner of Fusion East Caribbean & Soul Food restaurant, monitors the takeout orders as his chef Andrew Jackson places an order on the counter at the restaurant in East New York neighborhood of the Brooklyn borough of New York. Walcott had to furlough four employees at his restaurant, just before Christmas, after New York state stopped allowing indoor dining.

mean that a portion will be gone for good. Business travel, for example, may not return to pre-pandemic levels.

Most other industries added jobs in December, with manufacturers, construction companies, and higher-paying professional services such as architecture, engineering and accounting hiring more workers. The huge disparities among industries are sure to exacerbate economic inequality, given that most of the job losses are in lower-paid industries, while middle- and high-

er-paid workers have largely remained employed.

Friday's data suggests that the pandemic economy is continuing to benefit some sectors, with transportation and warehousing adding nearly 47,000 jobs. E-commerce firms also ramped up hiring. Delivery jobs rose 37,000.

"We're seeing huge rotation here," said Brian Bethune, an economist at Tufts University. "The higher-paying goods-producing industries are doing well. Unfortunately, the leisure and hospitality indus-

tries are still getting whacked."

The \$900 billion financial aid package that Congress enacted last month should also help propel a recovery, economists say. It will provide a \$300-a-week federal jobless benefit on top of an average weekly state benefit of about \$320.

In addition, millions of Americans stand to receive \$600 payments, and the Treasury Department said Thursday that 8 million of those payments were going out this week.

Aid

Continued from A5

Starting Monday, applications for first-time borrowers submitted by these lenders will be accepted, followed by applications for second loans on Wednesday. SBA said it would begin accepting applications from all its lenders within a few days of that initial period reserved for the other institutions.

As with the first two rounds of the program, applications must be submitted online at banks and other SBA-approved

lenders. All applications must be submitted and approved by March 31. Loan amounts are calculated using a company's payroll expenses; businesses can use either their 2019 or 2020 payroll to compute how much they can ask for.

Companies will have 24 weeks from the date they receive a loan to use the money. While 60% of the proceeds must be used for payroll in order for loans to be forgiven, companies can use the rest for employee health benefits, mortgage interest, rent, utilities and expenses that are essential

to business operations.

The Paycheck Protection Program is being restarted under the coronavirus relief bill Congress approved in late December, providing for \$284 billion in new loans. The first two rounds, which began April 3 and ended Aug. 8, gave out more than 5.2 million loans worth \$525 billion.

But for many businesses, including restaurants, gyms and retailers that depend on people gathering in large numbers or in close quarters, the money was nowhere near enough as the pandemic continued lon-

ger than anyone expected. It's estimated that well over 100,000 small U.S. businesses have failed since the outbreak began.

Moreover, many companies weren't able to get loans, including newly formed businesses and those whose financial records didn't meet bank requirements. Many businesses applied to multiple banks, often because they couldn't get a response to their applications and subsequent inquiries — and many of these business owners gave up in frustration or ran out of time.

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. 9, 2021: Hard-driving, ambitious and resourceful, you succeed brilliantly this year. Resilient to the extreme, you snap back after the obstacles of COVID-19. Taking time out to laugh helps you even further. If single, you're such a workaholic that it's difficult to find the time to date, and you remain uncoupled this year. If attached, you often work with your partner and are happy together this year. LIBRA is the perfect helpmate.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ It's a wonderful day to enroll in a study program or to explore spiritual art and music. A broader and more expansive outlook develops. You are inspired by new concept and possibilities. An adventurous mood prevails. Tonight: Online meetings can be exceptionally productive.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Psychic links with loved ones are becoming more vivid. A lyrical quality comes to your words. Write a poem or do some public speaking. Use color and music to express your feelings. A new spirituality touches a love affair. Tonight: You will communicate especially well.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Your heart will be warmed by the loyal support for your ideas from those closest to you. Establish partnerships and make commitments of all kinds. Contracts and negotiations will conclude favorably. Tonight: Your own hunches offer the best guidance.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ Team spirit is a must at work. You will reach your goals by fitting in with the crowd. Natural healing techniques and alternative therapies rejuvenate you. Get organized. A life in good order brings peace of mind and relieves stress. Tonight: Relax and rest.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Today generates a very sociable mood. Others will be attracted to you. Cultivate new friendships and follow through with artistic and musical ventures. Avoid repeating what has not worked before. Pursue future travel opportunities. Tonight: Favoring tender interludes.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Today brings a surprise regarding your heritage and restores peace and harmony at home. Situations regarding your housing will be positive. Make a special effort to communicate with family members. Tonight: Support comes to you from behind the scenes.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ It's the ideal day to take the initiative with new friends and groups. Express your thoughts and experiences through writing or composing. A new goal becomes important. Stay grounded. Tonight: Others might not be all they seem to be. Trust your intuition.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ Today offers insight into making changes for the better regarding finances. This underscores how emotional impulses and early family conditioning can affect your financial choices. Consider carefully. Surprise opportunities arise related to professional advancement. Tonight: Avoid risks.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Resist the temptation to overspend or overextend. Accomplishment comes to those who stay balanced and avoid extremes. Diffuse irritation with humor and tolerance if situations grow stressful. An adventurous mood prevails. Tonight: Motivation and enthusiasm are at a peak.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ You will be less interested in material security today, and more intrigued with other values. Past life recall and a fascination with ecology can be a part of this change in consciousness. It's a time of subtle growth within. Tonight: You will know what you want.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Today introduces novel ideas as well as some intriguing and bright acquaintances. Nervous energy and stress are often at the root of health issues in your life. These lift now with the introduction of the new. Tonight: Memories are vivid and a lost keepsake mysteriously reappears.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Today favors enthusiasm and motivation as well as some anger issues related to money. There is a strong focus on enhancing your public image and good name. Keep the importance of credibility in mind and all will be well. Tonight: Much deep Pisces reflection.

Bee

Continued from A5

When students pass the program, he knights them with a net. The volunteers come from many walks of life — from Portlanders to Eastern Oregon ranchers. More than half are retired.

"Some of these people are birders. Studying bees is like next-level birding," said Best.

To catch bees, a volunteer either gets permission from a

landowner or a permit to go on state land. He or she takes a photo of a plant, records surroundings, then waits. As bees land on the plant, the volunteer catches them and puts them into tubes that humanely kill them. Back at home, the volunteer pins sample bees, then tries to identify and label them.

"It's like a treasure hunt," said Michael O'Loughlin, 58, a Yamhill County volunteer who drove 15,000 miles with his brother around Oregon in

2020 looking for bees.

This winter, O'Loughlin's tables at home are covered with microscopes, notebooks and bees.

After identifying bees on his own property and then creating a better pollinator habitat, O'Loughlin said his fruit set in his orchards and berry crops has increased.

"My yields have gone up significantly," he said.

Although the Master Melitologist program is still young

— it started in 2020 — the Oregon Bee Atlas was created in 2018. Over the past three years, volunteers have contributed 70,000 bee samples.

Killing bees might sound counterintuitive to saving them — but researchers say collecting targeted samples like this is the first step toward tracking populations.

Best said researchers in California, Washington, Idaho and even Canada plan to duplicate Oregon's model in 2021.

Willamette

Continued from A5

With the assistance of Travel Oregon, organizations in the valley are hoping to change that. The Willamette Valley Visitors Association, Willamette Riverkeeper, Mt. Hood Territory and other groups want to attract more visitors to the Willamette Water Trail, which runs mostly along the Willamette and is recognized by the National Park Service, to foster economic development.

"I'd really love to be able to see the future vision where there are a variety of experiences for water enthusiasts, for people getting out and having their first paddle, to folks who want a multiday experience on this nationally recognized river system on the Willamette — and that experience is tied to communities along the river. That's where the measure of success comes," said Samara Phelps, the executive director of Mount Hood Territory.

Tori Middelstadt, the visitors association development and industry relations manager, said perceptions that the Willamette is dirty might lead to reluctance to recreate on it. The river was much more polluted in the 20th century than it is now. The river received a B-report card from EcoHealth in terms of its healthiness, with the portion of the river near Wilsonville receiving a B.

"At least from Oregonians' perspective, there's a misnomer

"You can put a canoe and kayak in Eugene and paddle the river until the Columbia. (That's) 187 miles. You can camp along it. It's very user-friendly."

— Heather King,
Willamette Riverkeeper deputy director

that the Willamette is dirty. The Willamette Riverkeeper has done a lot of environmental work. It's clean, safe and recreational," she said.

King also said many perceive the Willamette as a day-trip option but not a place for multiday travel.

"You can put a canoe and kayak in Eugene and paddle the river until the Columbia. (That's) 187 miles. You can camp along it. It's very user-friendly," she said.

Some concepts these groups are working on include improving signs along the river, creating updated maps and providing information on rules, how to obtain a river access permit and historical context. They also plan to include destinations such as restaurants and hotels that can help river users plan their trips. This information will be available on the Willamette Water Trail website, willamettewatertrail.org/, and other community sites.

Eventually, they also hope to

establish more nonmotorized facilities and restrooms along the river, which Phelps said are needed. The visitors association noted that the Legislature and Oregon State Marine Board's establishment of a water access permit program has created a funding stream for the development of more boat launches along the river.

"Water access sites have been designed with motorized recreation as the focus and that's great. We have a need for infrastructure that's focused on nonmotorized as well," Phelps said.

King mentioned Independence, as an example of an Oregon city that melds the river into its local economy. The city has a hotel along the river as well as campgrounds nearby. It also has separate areas for paddlers and motorized boats to enter the river, which Middelstadt said improves accessibility. She added that a uniform locker system for recreators to store their equipment along the river is a long-term goal.

DEATH NOTICES

Doris June George
of Redmond, OR
June 26, 1929 -
January 4, 2021

Arrangements:
Arrangements Entrusted To: Redmond Memorial Chapel
www.redmondmemorial.com; 541.548.3219
Services:
A visitation is scheduled for Friday, Jan. 08, 2021 from 10am-4pm at Redmond Memorial Chapel. *Contributions may be made to:* Charity of Your Choice.

Ruby Louise Wilbur
of Powell Butte, OR
July 15, 1928 -
January 1, 2021

Arrangements:
Arrangements are entrusted to Redmond Memorial Chapel. Please visit redmondmemorial.com to sign the virtual guestbook and/or leave a thought or memory for the family.
Services:
Private Family Services. *Contributions may be made to:* Charity of Your Choice

OBITUARY DEADLINE

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Monday - Friday, 10am - 3pm

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