

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 middle-aged divorcee. I recently took up ballroom dancing, which has been a long-held dream, and I'm enjoying my life. However, there are few single men my age around. Most of the available men are 20 years older or 20 years younger.

From Day One, I have had a crush on one of the few men my age in the dance group. We eventually became best friends, spending all our free time together. I soon learned that he is married, but separated and looking to divorce. However, he has a crush of his own, and he talks to me about her constantly. We have so much in common, but he only has eyes for her.

I realize it isn't healthy for me to pine away for someone who doesn't think of me the way I think of him. Yet walking away would mean losing my dance partner and best friend and going back to sitting out dances, watching from the sidelines, or worse, sitting alone at home.

Do I maintain the status quo and suffer in silence over his rejection? Or would it be healthier to move on, upend my life and isolate myself from him when I have no other circle of friends to support me?

— *Dancing Away in Pennsylvania*

Dear Dancing: Because of the pandemic, leave things as they are — for now. However, as soon as it's feasible, find another dance group — or two — to join. If you do, you will establish other relationships with both women and men, and have a better chance of finding what you're looking for.

Dear Abby: My ex-wife, my son's mother, moved out a few years back and settled about six hours from us. We did halfway trips in the beginning so they could maintain a relationship, and I have even driven the whole way a few times to help with that.

Over the last two years, her interest has diminished, and they haven't seen each other at all. I've offered the halfway trip, even offered my couch if she came the entire way, especially around holidays. She hasn't taken me up on it.

Our son is now entering his teens, and I bought him a cellphone. She has his number, but doesn't call or text. She even missed his birthday. My problem is, he has started to recognize her lack of interest, and I can tell it hurts. I thought about changing his number and cutting her off altogether, like yanking off a bandage, but I don't know what's best. Please advise.

— *Sane Dad in Maryland*

Dear Dad: You are a loving and constant father. As you have realized, now that your son is getting older, he is becoming increasingly aware of his mother's emotional neglect.

I do not think you should change his number and cut her off from him. She's doing a good job of doing that herself. I DO think it's important your son knows he can talk to you about anything and get honest answers. Something is clearly wrong with his mother. He should not go through life thinking her behavior was caused by anything lacking in himself, so if and when the subject comes up, answer his questions as kindly as you can.

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. 29, 2021: Compassionate, courageous and fun-loving, you stand up and fight for what you believe in. You're provocative only so that others recognize the issues at hand, and this year, this is how you succeed — brilliantly. If single, it is definitely complicated. You do need your freedom. If attached, your partner gives you security, which, despite how radical you seem, you do need. You're happy this year. PISCES has it all handled.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Happiness with children and creative breakthroughs are likely today. Accept imperfections philosophically. Express affection. Tender sentiments will be returned. Single Aries, you have to reach out more than before. Tonight: Attached Aries, a very special date night, with enlightenment.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Today there is more focus on your domestic environment. Be receptive to changing home and family dynamics. It's a perfect time to repair and redecorate your home and surroundings. You will feel proud of yourself. Tonight: The good feeling continues, shared with family.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ You're worn out by your own nervous energy. And today promises an even more hectic pace, as you rush to finish everything before the weekend. It's a marvelous time to work with computers and other technologies. Tonight: Calls, emails and conversations are most revealing.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ Your birth sign is shared with more bankers and millionaires than any other. Usually you're well paid and manage money wisely. COVID has brought upheaval. Be flexible and don't invest in risky ventures today. Tonight: Take advice with the proverbial grain of salt.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Expect to be highly visible. Your charisma and appearance directly impact your success today. There are changes brewing that will affect your profession and aspirations all year. Get the facts straight, and don't panic just because the status quo is threatened. Tonight: Have faith.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ There is a need to act and to meet challenges today. Keep a perspective, and don't push yourself too hard in exercise. Controversy surrounds you. Make constructive efforts at improvement, but use care if too much irritation is building within or around you. Tonight: Relax.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Cleanliness and efficiency spell your success today. Assuming the persona best suited to any occasion is second nature to you — but no whimsical side. A serious practicality helps you begin this new year successfully. Tonight: Pride in a job well done.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ There could be a new authority and other challenges affecting your career. Communication is delicate today. Be cautious if speaking or writing about controversial topics. A relative is cultivating a new social circle. Be understanding and accepting. Tonight: Revork your wardrobe.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ You explore new philosophies today and are profoundly affected by different awakenings. Faraway places and foreign people turn your thoughts away from the familiar. Daydreams are vivid. You must listen now. Tonight: Watching a dramatic foreign film or documentary.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ There is a curiosity about death's mysteries today. There is a message of wisdom and comfort from the spirit realm. A sense of déjà vu prevails. Look at repeating patterns to understand the future. Give yourself extra rest. Tonight: Early beddie-byes and a restful sleep.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ A partner, in love or business, expresses new needs and interests. Others involve you in their plans. Be cooperative and understanding. Friends are recovering from difficult times and provide more cheerful companionship today. Tonight: Grateful for the blessings of friendship.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ Today can bring temporary weariness. Take care of old maladies and get extra rest when those occur. Avoid those who are ill — you're especially vulnerable today. Your overall health is good, but take these precautions for now. Tonight: Trying to find a hot tub.



Matt Slocum/AP file

Then President-elect Joe Biden speaks Jan. 14 about the pandemic during an event at The Queen Theater in Wilmington, Delaware.

Aid

Continued from A7

Biden has been appealing directly to Republican and Democratic lawmakers while signaling his priority to press ahead.

"We've got a lot to do, and the first thing we've got to do is get this COVID package passed," Biden said Thursday in the Oval Office.

The standoff over Biden's first legislative priority is turning the new rescue plan into a political test — of his new administration, of Democratic control of Congress and of the role of Republicans in a post-Trump political landscape.

Success would give Biden a signature accomplishment in his first 100 days in office, unleashing \$400 billion to expand vaccinations and to reopen schools, \$1,400 direct payments to households and other priorities, including a gradual increase in the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour. Failure would be a high-profile setback early in his presidency.

Democrats in the House and Senate are operating as though they know they are on borrowed time. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi are laying the groundwork to start the go-it-alone approach as soon as next week.

They are drafting a budget reconciliation bill that would start the process to pass the relief package with a simple 51-vote Senate majority — rather than the 60-vote threshold typically needed in the Senate to advance legislation. The goal would be passage by March, when jobless benefits, housing assistance and other aid is set to expire.

Senate Republicans warned their colleagues in a "frank" conversation late Wednesday that Biden and Democrats are making a mistake by loading up the aid bill with other priorities and jamming it through Congress without their support, according to a person familiar with the matter who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the private session.

Memes

Continued from A7

Sanders' mittens were made by Jen Ellis, a Vermont elementary school teacher who has a side business making mittens out of recycled wool. His inauguration look, also featuring the winter jacket made by Burton Snowboards, sparked countless memes from the photo taken by Agence France-Presse: The former presidential candidate could be found on social media timelines taking a seat on the subway, the moon and the couch with the cast of

"Friends," among other creative locales.

Ellis said on social media over the weekend that Sanders called to tell her that "the mitten frenzy" had raised an enormous amount of money for Vermont charities although she was not authorized to disclose the amount, yet.

"But it's BIG and it's amazing! Thank you!! Generosity brings joy," she tweeted.

She also said she made three more pairs of mittens and donated them for fundraising to Passion 4 Paws Vermont, Outright Vermont, and would be

"We pride ourselves in the name Robinhood because we're trying to make more money and be the next people at the top. You would expect Robinhood to let us do our thing instead of blocking us and saying it's for our protection."

— Carlos Amaya, Robinhood investor

GameStop

Continued from A7

The company has forced changes for the brokerage industry, such as its decision to charge zero commissions for customers trading stocks and exchange-traded funds. That's why some users took Thursday's actions as an affront.

Robinhood investor Carlos Amaya said the app's action Thursday was a disappointment to users like him who prided themselves on being a "different breed of investors."

The 28-year-old school operations manager in Washington, D.C., said his parents immigrated from El Salvador and he was the first person in his family to buy stocks when he started using the app in 2017. He's since made several thousand dollars.

"We pride ourselves in the name Robinhood because we're trying to make more money and be the next people at the top," he said. "You would expect Robinhood to let us do our thing instead of blocking us and saying it's for our protection."

Investors upset over the trading portals' restrictions are getting some sympathy from some members of

auctioning off a pair on eBay for her daughter's college fund. Sander attire has also sparked other charitable endeavors.

A crocheted doll of Sanders in his garb was auctioned off online and Burton Snowboards donated 50 jackets to the Burlington Department for Children and Families in Sanders' name, his office said.

Getty Images confirmed that it will donate its proceeds as part of the licensing agreement to put the photo on the merchandise to Meals on Wheels of America.

Congress.

Democratic Sen. Sherrod Brown of Ohio, who is set to become chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, announced that he will hold a hearing in the GameStop situation. Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Calif., also announced a hearing in the House Financial Services Committee.

Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., called Robinhood's actions "unacceptable," and said she would support a hearing to explore why the online brokerage is blocking small investors from buying stocks while hedge funds "are freely able to trade the stock as they see fit."

Kalen Holliday, a spokeswoman for Interactive Brokers, said the company's restrictions apply both to individual and institutional investor accounts.

DEATH NOTICES

Gregg Gillis McFadden of Redmond, OR
Dec 11, 1951 - Jan 23, 2021

Arrangements: Arrangements Entrusted To: Redmond Memorial Chapel; 541.548.3219. Please visit www.redmondmemorial.com to leave a thought, memory, or condolence for the family.

Services: Private Family Services
Contributions may be made to: Partners in Care, 141 N.W. 6th Street Suite B, Redmond, OR 97756

Colin A. Newman of Prineville, OR
January 23, 2021

Arrangements: Spencer, Libby and Powell Funeral Home in care of arrangements.

OBITUARY DEADLINE

Call to ask about our deadlines
541-385-5809

Monday - Friday, 10am - 3pm

No death notices or obituaries are published Mondays.

Email: obits@bendbulletin.com

ALLEN C RYMAN
February 12, 1940 - November 12, 2020

It is with sadness we announce that Allen Ryman passed away November 12, 2020 at his home in Lake Oswego. He was born on February 12, 1940, in Bend, Oregon. His parents moved to Bend in 1925 and his father had a rural postal route east of Bend during WWII. His mother was a nurse at Lumberman's Hospital until it closed. She then started to work at the old St. Charles Hospital on the hill and she also worked as a nurse for the Niswonger family.

Allen was the youngest in the family, with elder sisters, Mae, Jean, and Chris. Allen attended H. E. Allen Elementary School, which was located on the corner of Franklin and Third Street. All of the Ryman kids attended Bend High School, Allen graduated from the "new" Bend High School building in 1958. He attended Central Oregon Community College for one year, then transferred to the University of Oregon where he graduated in 1962. He went to work for the University of Oregon Medical School in their medical lab, but he got drafted by the Army and was stationed at Fort Ord, California, where he hoped to become a Medical Tech, but instead he served 2 years playing clarinet in the band.

After his time in the Army, Allen returned to Oregon and worked for Oregon Health Science University as a Medical Technologist for 30 years and was manager of the night lab.

Allen traveled all over the world with family and friends. He enjoyed running marathons, one was in N.Y. City, and participated many times in the Hood to Coast run. He also ran the hills of Lake Oswego.

He was preceded in death by his parents and sister Jean. He is survived by sisters Mae Boylan and Chris Mitchell, many nieces and nephews, and dear friends from childhood.

Gregg Gillis McFadden
1951 - 2021

Our gentle giant, Gregg Gillis McFadden, passed through Heaven's gates on Saturday, January 23, 2021. He handled his final earthly journey with a positive attitude and a gracious soul. With his family by his side, and the guidance of his wonderful caregivers from Partners in Care, he wrote his own story to the end.

Gregg's whole life was a series of journeys beginning with his birth in 1951 to Gilbert and Dorothy (Hodge) McFadden in Redmond, Oregon. This family of four (older sister, Diane) lost Dorothy in 1952 and Gilbert in 1956. Gregg's aunt and uncle, Doris and Vern Hassler and cousin Chris, then welcomed Gregg and Diane into their hearts and home. With the future births of Jerry and Vicki, this family eventually became seven.

After Gregg's primary and secondary education in Redmond, he attended Oregon State University and graduated with a business degree in 1974. His journey then took many turns with various jobs, including welding at a nuclear plant, driving long haul trucks, and being a real estate agent, but he always returned to his love of being a barber. In his free time, he loved to hop in his car and travel near and far, and to golf, fish, and hike.

He is survived by his three sisters and their husbands, Vicki and Dave Sime, Chris and Mike Slabaugh, Diane and Richard Springer, and by his nieces Kilah Atkinson (Raun), Ashley Slabaugh (Michael Huffstutler), Dayna Christian (Sean), Kelly Dunston (Rod), and his nephew Rich Springer (Robin). His nine great nieces and nephews will miss his playful heart.

Contributions in Gregg's name can be made to: Partners in Care
141 NW 6th Street, Suite B
Redmond, OR 97756