

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 59-year-old man who was engaged to a 46-year-old woman. She told me she was going to leave for work on Friday, but I found out she was actually going on a vacation. She was pretending to go to work but driving to Georgia to meet a married man she met on a dating site instead.

We live in New Jersey, and it's a 13-hour drive. I found her phone the day before and deleted all his info, but she still drove down there to meet him. I am devastated and crushed. Any help or suggestions? I wish people who do this stuff could be tattooed on the forehead to warn other good people.

—*Hurt in New Jersey*
Dear Hurt: I sympathize with your pain, which I am sure is considerable. I do have some advice, which I hope you will heed. Please realize that finding her phone before her departure was a gift to you from above. Thank your higher power that you now understand exactly who this woman is and didn't marry her.

The time has come to move forward resolutely. There are better days — and better women — ahead. I say this with certainty because you can't do worse than this one.

Dear Abby: I reached out recently to the daughter of my cousin who had just passed away. I offered condolences and a picture of her great-grandfather, who was my grandfather. I also shared some warm memories of her dad, my cousin.

She shot back with some seriously negative information about her dad's dad, my uncle. It really shook me. I didn't want to know that in-

formation. I barely knew my uncle, but my memories of the family all involved happy times together.

What she said shocked and saddened me. I wish I didn't know. I think people should speak well of those who are gone or say nothing. Don't you?

—*Unpleasant in the West*
Dear Unpleasant: Most people tend to omit the unpleasant details when talking about someone who has passed on, but I do not think there are any hard-and-fast rules. I'm sorry you were upset about the dose of truth you received in exchange for your warm memories. But understand, I have read obituaries and listened to eulogies that were so sanitized I didn't recognize who was being discussed. Perhaps there is a happy medium.

Dear Abby: I'm a 13-year-old with an addiction to screens. I sometimes pull overnighters on my phone. I'm starting to realize my limits. Sometimes I cannot trust myself with my actions, and I think I may need help. Do you have any advice?

—*Seeing the Light in Maryland*
Dear Seeing: It takes a brave person to admit they have a problem and be proactive in accepting that it may be something they can't solve on their own. I congratulate you for admitting it. You are not the only teen with this issue. Many people your age and older struggle with it, too. Your next step should be to talk to your parents about your concerns and ask for help in breaking your screen addiction. This can sometimes involve more than going "cold turkey," and they may need to seek a referral from your doctor.

Astoria's port zeros in on Pier 2 fixes

BY EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

Without logs, seafood is the only commodity coming across the Port of Astoria's docks.

But a patchwork of metal sheets prevents workers from falling through the rotting docks, while a failing seawall threatens the warehouse where hundreds are employed churning out packaged seafood.

With a strategic plan in place and growing trust from government partners, the port is spending more than \$240,000 to get a detailed-enough fix for Pier 2's issues to apply for several large federal grants.

The west side of Pier 2 stretches 800 feet out into the Columbia River. The metal sheet pile seawall holding the pier in is only 8 feet out from the western edge of the seafood processing warehouse.

Matt McGrath, the Port's deputy director, said the close proximity has caused the two load-bearing walls to bow out, threatening failure.

"We want to move this sheet pile wall out as far as we possibly can, and that's going to solve a number of our issues," he said. "One is that you're not having to worry about any of the load plane from the building causing any failures to the sheet pile wall. Another is that when you move this wall all the way out ... to the existing dock line, your maintenance costs basically go to zero."

What McGrath called the



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Metal sheets cover sections of the rotting dock at Pier 2 at the Port of Astoria.

"Cadillac" option could minimize the Port's maintenance on the dock for 50 to 75 years and solve a major safety issue. The less desirable option is to keep the seawall next to the warehouse and replace the dock on Pier 2, which McGrath said would lead to the same issues in the future.

The Port Commission paid KPFF Consulting Engineers more than \$250,000 in 2019 to study the issues with the pier. Last week, the Port Commission approved more than \$248,000 for the firm to come back with the most feasible fix and enough specificity to go after federal grants.

"Even though it is a big number, the overall scope of Pier 2 justifies that," Dirk Rohne, the president of the Port Commission, said of the new contract. "And it's nice that we're actually preparing the Port to be able to move forward on this, even

though it is a process."

Shane Jensen, the Port's grant writer, hopes to go after three large grants through the U.S. Maritime Administration that could fund Pier 2.

The Port Infrastructure Development Program, specifically for Port projects around the U.S., was funded at \$225 million in the recent omnibus funding package passed by Congress. The Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development grant for various transportation projects received \$1 billion, as did the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America grant.

Port staff has estimated \$7 million to fix Pier 2. All three federal grants are within a range that could cover the project, Jensen said, but the key is whether KPFF's report is done soon enough or with enough detail to satisfy the federal agency. "My understanding is it

should be finished in April," Jensen said. "The three (Maritime Administration) grants are likely to be due in May. So there's going to be a very tight window."

"It is important to get these projects and the Port's needs in front of these agencies," he said. "So, the fact that it is very unlikely the Port would be awarded all three grants is not a reason to not apply for all three."

Several years ago, the Port received a \$1.5 million state infrastructure grant as part of a \$2 million project to repair the west side of Pier 2. Jim Knight, the Port's executive director at the time, returned the grant to the state after the Port could not come up with the \$660,000 local match.

Will Isom, who replaced Knight as executive director in 2019, said Pier 2 has been a source of frustration for the Port since he started with the agency as a staff accountant several years ago.

"We sit there and we talk about Pier 2 west being the highest priority for the Port," Isom said. "We need to really push on this and make it the highest priority."

"If you look at the Port's mission, it only mentions a few things. It talks about safety and the environment, and then it also discusses job creation and economic growth. And this project touches all of those things."

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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 SUNDAY, JAN. 31, 2021: Charming, attractive and social, you have true star power. Despite COVID-19, you can't hide yourself away, and you must be heard. This year, you are heard through your words and through not conforming to other people's expectations of you. A second career comes to most of you. If single, you're so admired and appreciated that you have the pick of the crop. If attached, trust and respect are key. ARIES excites you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Today's a good day to get organized for the coming week — and the new year. Redetermine your new year's resolutions and write them down for the future. Plenty of inspiration combined with realistic expectations will work best. Tonight: A determined zeal.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Romantic interludes have a surprise and fated quality. If lonely, you could connect with a true soul mate. Spiritual forces inspire creative expression. If you pursue your favorite art from with enthusiasm, you'll be rewarded with exceptional results. Tonight: Can't stop thinking.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Transportation problems are solved. Short, impromptu journeys lead to unexpected delights and opportunities. Your emphatic expression of ideas and warmth will win the confidence of others. Your imagination and sensitivity inspire those less free and fortunate. Tonight: Befriend a neighbor.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Today promises much excitement and brings the ability to balance your ideals. Be receptive to the inevitable change in the air, and all will be well in the end. Identifying real values can be something of a challenge, but you do it. Tonight: Early beddie-byes.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Opportunities arise that may open doors to a better life — pursue them. Avoid arguments or excessive stress connected to money. Humor and goodwill brighten intimate ties. Creative ideas, art and music bring pleasure. Tonight: Reach out to an elderly female relative.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Today helps you develop your latent talents, be noticed by influential people and broaden your scope of activity. Accept all invitations. You accomplish much and are an inspiration to others. Verify appointments and use care in making promises. Tonight: The promises stick.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ You will be reserved today; your childhood shyness is revived. Animal friends and nature become a bigger part of your life. Appreciate the advantages of privacy and cherish the quiet times. You acquire a deeper understanding of life's mysteries. Tonight: Write in your personal journal.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ A second opinion helps solve any problems. Renew professional contacts and update old applications. A second or third attempt at reaching any goal is likely to work out. Be persistent. Try not to veer away from long-range goals now. Tonight: Catching up with old colleagues.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Your visibility is on the rise. It is difficult to keep any secrets today. You develop a deeper understanding of ongoing conditions at work or within organizations. Postpone decisions about the future. Events are unfolding that could change your attitude. Tonight: Watching it unfold.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★ Today promises a new twist regarding your social life. A get-together is not what you expected; a loved one is unpredictable. Be very considerate and correct in all dealings with others. Select a moderate, healthy diet. Tonight: Don't celebrate with money earmarked for bills.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ It's easier to make the right choices today. A vision of the future comes through dreams or meditation. Kind friends from the past are in touch. Communication with those you care for improves. Tonight: Conditions around you are changing, and emotions are strong — adapt and explore.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Upkeep of your surroundings and attention to health are musts today. Be patient with family members and make your home peaceful and safe. Kindness is expressed by those who share your beliefs. Tonight: Enjoy imported foods, clothing or music. You will wish to travel.