

DEAR ABBY

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



Dear Abby: My sister “Darby” and I are in our 20s and confused about the relationship she is in. She’s 23 and has been dating a 22-year-old man. They fight a lot because he can’t stop talking about her ex-boyfriend. He says he visualizes her having sex with him, and is frustrated with himself for not being able to get the images out of his head. Is there a name for this particular problem, and how can Darby work with it?

— *Supportive Sis in the West*
Dear Sis: Yes, actually, there are two names for this “condition.” They are obsession and jealousy, and both are signs of potential control issues. Stay close to your sister and be there for her, because this young man’s behavior is a red flag.

Darby and her boyfriend are both adults. I assume neither came to the relationship wrapped in cellophane. His fixation should not be hers (or yours) to fix. Because he can’t get the images out of his head, he should schedule a few sessions with a licensed psychotherapist, since his problem will continue the longer he is in the dating world.

Dear Abby: I moved in with my boyfriend six years ago. A year ago, his adult daughter decided she would have all her internet purchases sent to his home. Abby, these packages arrive every day, all week long. I’m tired of it. I think she’s a spend-aholic.

I told him at the beginning of our relationship that I would never come between him and his daughter. But it has become a bit much. She calls him for every little thing. Now she has started asking

him to help with his granddaughter’s homework. I have two adult children of my own and grandchildren. Am I overreacting? I’m ready to move out and on.

— *Over It and Out*

Dear Over It: Before moving out and on, discuss this with your boyfriend of six years. His daughter seems to be unusually dependent for an adult. Is there a reason why she’s doing these things? Could she be fearful that the packages she’s ordering could be stolen from her porch? Does her daughter need more help academically than she is able to provide? The answers to those questions could be enlightening. After you get those answers, there will be time to make a rational (rather than emotional) decision about the status of the relationship you have with her father.

Dear Abby: I am a 52-year-old single, straight male. For some reason, only men seem to be attracted to me. If I sit at a table in a restaurant or bar, a man will come over and sit next to me. If I go to the park, a man will sit next to me on the bench. Walking down the street, random men approach me. It’s terrible. I’m straight! Please help!

— *Unique Problem in California*

Dear Unique Problem: Because you’re not meeting women, try to put yourself in situations where you will meet them. Because you are consistently approached by men and you’re not interested, consider asking them if they have a female relative who’s single. And when you encounter a woman you think you can click with, speak up and introduce yourself.

Motel

Continued from A1

The city, as well as Bethlehem Inn, which would open a shelter in Redmond, were two of the 19 applicants chosen by the foundation to move into the second phase, Megan Loeb, the program officer of the community foundation, said in a press conference Thursday. Roughly 25 to 30 applications from across the state have been submitted, Loeb said, and applications will continue to be accepted through Feb. 17. Ashland was the first city to officially receive grant money to purchase a hotel on Thursday.

On Wednesday, the Bend City Council voted to enter a purchase and sale agreement with the intention of transforming the Old Mill & Suites Motel at 904 SE Third St. into a homeless shelter.

If granted the money, the city will work with the non-profit organization NeighborImpact, along with other homeless service providers, to operate the shelter, Mayor Sally Russel said in the meeting Wednesday. The hotel has 64 rooms that could be turned into transitional housing.

Councilor Melanie Kebler said she was excited for the opportunity bring a new shelter to Bend.

“I think this kind of shelter space is something that we really need, so I hope we can move the project forward to completion with the timeline the state has given us,” Kebler said Thursday.

When asked whether she was concerned about push-back from neighbors about the homeless shelter, Kebler said the key would be communication about what this shelter will really mean to people. “It’s already



Ryan Brennecke/The Bulletin

The exterior of Old Mill & Suites Motel in Bend.

been a hotel. It’s already been a place where people stayed temporarily. ... The use of it is not going to be that different,” she said. “It’s just going to be allowing people to have free shelter on that temporary basis.”

The city now must do an environmental review and evaluate the property to make sure it is suitable to be a homeless shelter, as well as do the land use paperwork to change the use for the building, said Carolyn Eagan, the city’s economic development director.

Bend’s code also needs to be amended to allow this project. Currently, there is a no provision that allows a transitional shelter site in the commercial zones along Third Street without requiring a conditional use permit, which takes more time and money to process, according to a press release from the city.

In this process, there will

be an appraisal that will decide the price of the building, though the purchase and sale agreement specifies the sale will not exceed \$5 million.

Gwenn Wysling, the executive director of Bethlehem Inn, told The Bulletin on Tuesday that the application also had moved forward past the first phase. Wysling said the organization has identified a property that is currently being used as a hotel, but would not name the hotel to protect the privacy of the owner.

Wysling said she is excited and grateful for the opportunity, given how much demand there is for shelter beds, coupled with the fact there are no formal shelter beds outside of Bend.

“It’s why we expanded the Bend campus in the first place, and why we felt an additional campus in Redmond was needed,” Wysling said.

The organization hopes to

evaluate the property and get an appraisal in the next six weeks. The hope would be to buy the property in time to line up with the closing of Bend’s warming shelter.

“Knowing that there are a couple of (shelter) possibilities in Central Oregon is exciting,” she said.

The Oregon Community Foundation will make the final decision as to whether to grant the city or Bethlehem Inn the money for the purchase so the money can be allocated and spent by June 30, Loeb, with the community foundation, said Thursday. The foundation will be considering distribution around the state, looking at rates of homelessness in an area, and evaluating the number of shelter beds as factors for which applications will be given grant money.

■ Reporter: 541-633-2160, bvissier@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 FRIDAY, FEB. 5, 2021: Insightful, multifaceted and quietly eloquent, you lend grace and poise to any endeavor. This year, by working with others and giving them more patience, you succeed admirably with two projects. If single, make your motives clearer to others. You meet your special someone next January. If attached, there is a steady, secure quality about your love, and this year you become even more attached. GEMINI is the best team player.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ If unable to vacation now, make plans for a future journey. It’s good to daydream. You’ll be drawn to reading too and find pleasure frequenting your favorite bookstore or library online. Be sensitive to messages from your body. Tonight: Be good and gentle to yourself.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ You’re a little perplexed about the financial decisions and attitudes of others. If you feel unsettled or disappointed about this, investigate a bit. Understanding can help. Expressing your deepest desires and passions can alter your life now. Tonight: Think of long-range consequences.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ It’s a day to be realistic about relationships and commitments. Pull away from links that inhibit or discourage you. Strengthen those which you know have potential for the future. Tonight: Observe facial expressions and body language to aid in communication.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Children surprise you with a display of kindness or creativity. This benefits your health as it draws benevolent forces. You treat an old illness or establish a more wholesome daily routine. Tonight: Pets are especially important. They provide a new level of comfort and companionship.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Your social life is enlivened by invitations and visits. You impress an admirer with a kind word or note. If you want to make gifts, try penning an original story or poem. The day is relaxing and delightful. Tonight: Let the good times roll on.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ Today sees you looking for ways to improve and protect your home. You will look critically at your residence. You add new members to your extended family and have a deepening of insight into your childhood. Tonight: A move or a redecorating plan is irresistible.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ Timely responses are appreciated by others. Reassuring words from you assure security and goodwill. Keep up with prior commitments at work to protect your credibility. Complete projects in progress before considering new directions. Tonight: Answer old emails and calls first.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ Your overall attitude toward money and material values is shifting. There can be a new demand for your job skills. Explore employment possibilities. Your enthusiasm and added energy make others turn to you for inspiration and leadership. Tonight: Talk with an elderly family member.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Your confident and dramatic way of expressing ideas wins you supporters. It’s a marvelous day to write emails and make calls. Your efforts at sales, public speaking or acting succeed far beyond all expectations. Tonight: Catch up with old loved ones.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Today brings a rare opportunity to adjust the decisions and actions linked to the past, as it ties to the closure of old relationships. Meditate sitting on the ground or braced against a tree. Tonight: Inner healing and a sense of peace are generated.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Friendly calls and emails come in from old friends. Your keen intuition assists in negotiating and sales. Those who have resisted your ideas can be won over to respond more favorably. Today also allows you to release regrets concerning a long-lost love. Tonight: Relief.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ Success depends upon being realistic about what you can do. Preparation and the wise management of time are a must. Put business first and double-check details to assure career stability. Tonight: Just be conscientious about responsibilities and remain alert as well as flexible.

Parking

Continued from A1

In addition, Marx said he does not expect the change to affect many users because the vast majority of the 547 parking spaces are used by permit holders who pay \$40 per month to park in the garage. “The Centennial Garage is mainly used by permit holders, so we felt comfortable about removing the three hours of free parking,” Marx said.

Having free access to the parking garage regularly drew unsafe behaviors, Marx said. Those behaviors escalated in recent years, with large gatherings of cars revving their engines and racing, while groups of skateboarders interfered with passing cars.

“It really doesn’t create a feeling of safety for people who want to park in a public space,” Marx said.

Bend resident Tom Hamilton, who has lived at the nearby Putnam Pointe apartments since they were built 12 years ago, said about 100 motorists with custom exhaust systems and high-pitched mufflers come to the garage each week to race. The racers, mostly 18 to 25-year-old men, come in shifts of eight to 10 every hour from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. every night, Hamilton said.

“An innocent pedestrian walking to their car in the garage after an evening in downtown Bend is going to be tragically hit by one of these racers,” Hamilton said. “Never mind the noise these cars routinely generate, somebody is going to get seriously hurt.”

Olivia Wilson, a local artist who also lives in the Putnam Pointe apartments, said she is bothered by the behavior of the skateboarders more than the racers. Wilson said she’s wit-

nessed skateboarders throwing two-liter Coke bottles at passing cars and loudly skating on the concrete late into the night.

One skateboarder threatened her after she asked them to stop and go skate somewhere else, she said.

“When one of them threatens to kill me, I definitely don’t feel safe,” Wilson said.

Wilson feels the city is taking her concerns seriously. She hopes the new gate will deter the skateboarders, but she isn’t convinced it will completely keep them away.

“I do think it will mitigate the cars and the large group of people that come to hang out,” she said. “I don’t know what it will do about skateboarders.”

Starting next week, those who want to park in the downtown garage can either take a ticket at the entrance or register on a mobile application. Instructions to pay for parking through the mobile app or after taking a paper ticket will be posted in the parking garage.

Marx said the city is working with downtown business owners to create a parking validation program so they can offer free parking to their customers.

“With that, we hope we can show business we still have them in mind,” Marx said.

Mindy Aisling, executive director of the Downtown Bend Business Association, said her organization worked closely with the city to develop the parking changes.

“We believe that the data supports the need for these changes, and we are grateful for these positive developments to downtown parking,” Aisling said. “Additionally, we’re excited to work with our local businesses to roll out the new parking validation program, which we are sure will be a success.”

Duncan McGeary, owner of Pegasus Books of Bend on Minnesota Avenue, questions why eliminating the free parking in the garage is necessary.

McGeary, whose store is a block away from the parking garage, said he’d like to hear

more from concerned residents about the noise and trouble in the garage. He can hear the revving engines and skateboarders but they seem more like a nuisance than a serious, criminal problem, he said.

“This is an overreaction to a nuisance,” McGeary said. “But I’m certainly willing to listen to the other side on this.”

McGeary, whose store has been open downtown for the past four decades, said parking changes always seem to confuse customers. He worries the latest changes could have the same effect, and possibly make some customers feel unwelcome downtown.

“You don’t want to confuse customers,” he said. “You want it to be easy and straightforward.”

■ Reporter: 541-617-7820, kspurr@bendbulletin.com

Cynthia's of Bend
 SEWING MACHINES & LOGGERS CENTER

New Sewing Machines In-Stock Starting at \$249

BACK TO REGULAR STORE HOURS!

Tuesday-Friday 9:30am-5pm
 Saturday 9:30am-3pm

1245 SE 3rd Street, Suite B-1
 541-383-1999
cscbend.com

A SENIOR MOMENT
 Senior Living Solutions

A Senior Moment is committed to personally assisting you with finding the right community to meet your needs at **no cost to you!**

- Retirement living
- Memory/Alzheimer’s care
- Independent living
- Foster care
- Nursing homes
- Assisted living

Nancy Gotchy, 541-408-0570 | Tiffany Plagmann, 541-788-3487
www.aseniormoment.us
 We are 100% local, independent and not affiliated with any single provider network.

Send the right KIND of flower, candies & chocolate this Valentine’s Day!

GIVE The Gift of CANNABIS!

kind REGARDS

kindregards.com
 Follow us @giftofcannabis