

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 now-ex and I had a complicated, four-year on-again, off-again relationship. I finally ended it five months ago, but I'm still not sure whether I made the right choice.

Every guy I date I compare to him. It's hard to imagine myself with anyone else. We were so similar, and we made so many plans together. Our families weren't crazy about us being together. I backed away many times because I wasn't sure of us in the long term.

Maybe it was because I'm only 22 and scared of committing forever, or because I want to be a doctor and have years of schooling ahead of me. Our relationship was always very hot and passionate, but it turned very cold and distant sometimes.

I'm confused. Did I leave for the hope of something better or a fear of commitment? Or was it because I'm young and still trying to figure out my life and felt he was holding me back?

— *Second Thoughts in Arizona*

Dear Second Thoughts: Your life is just beginning. If you are sincere about your desire to be a doctor, you may have to postpone other aspects of your life until you are closer to your goal. The last thing you need in the near term is the distraction of a hot and passionate/cold and distant romance.

You mentioned that you backed away "many times" because you were unsure about the two of you in the long term. Please stop tormenting yourself. When you meet Mr. Right, you won't have those second thoughts because you will know the relationship is right.

Dear Abby: I'm in a profession that I don't enjoy any-

more, and I would love to venture into another field of interest. I have been in this industry for 10 years, and it carries a lot of stress that I'd like to rid myself of. My concern, however, is that my husband is not working, so I bear all the financial weight.

We have two kids, and he's a stay-at-home father, which is what we want for our children. We have been fortunate to be able to do this on my income alone, but I'm afraid this has obligated me to maintain a job in which I'm not happy in order to ensure my family's financial security.

How can I try to discover my passion so I can be happy in my day-to-day while keeping bills paid and food on the table? Is this even possible, or must I suck it up and do what's best for my family?

— *Seeking Something New*

Dear Seeking: If you haven't already begun, start a dialogue about this with your husband. If he's willing to change the dynamic of your arrangement, the answer could be as simple as his taking a part-time job to ease some of the financial burden on you while you explore your options. I'm sorry you didn't mention how old your children are, because after COVID restrictions are lifted and they are back in the classroom, he might be able to find something during their school hours.

Happy New Year to My Asian Readers Who Celebrate the Lunar New Year: The Year of the Ox begins today. I wish a happy, healthy new year to all who celebrate this holiday. People born in the Year of the Ox are steadfast and determined, and that's no bull.

— *Love, Abby*

Summit High

Continued from A1

An email sent to families Wednesday night by Summit Principal Michael McDonald said a weekend party might be the reason behind the COVID-19 outbreak.

"It remains quite plausible that the party may have created a super-spreader environment — jeopardizing our ability to return to school and to school related events," McDonald wrote. "To say that I am disappointed that dozens of local youths were in attendance at a confirmed party, unmasked and crowded together, would be a gross understatement."

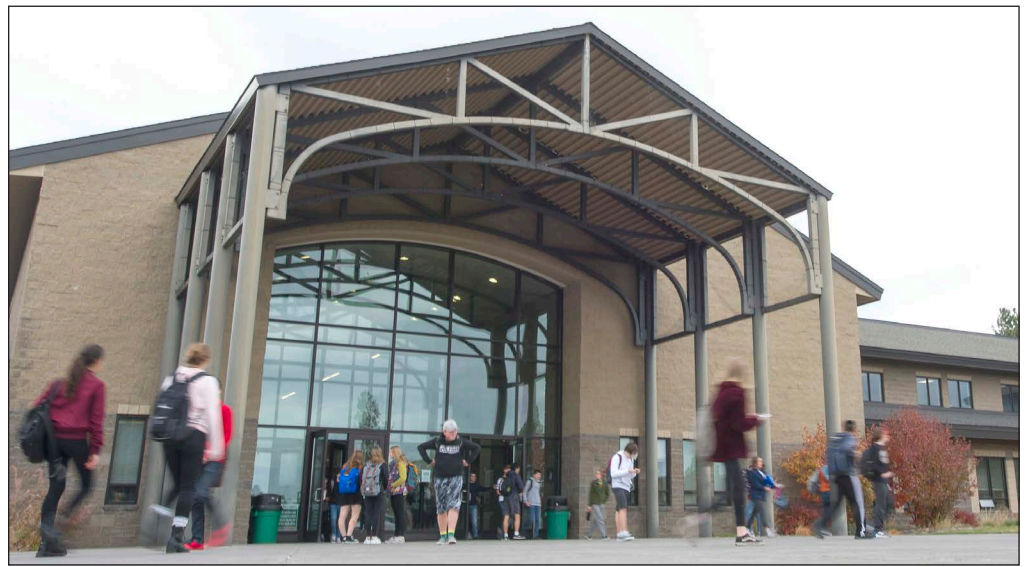
Bend-La Pine Schools and Deschutes County Health Services will also offer free COVID-19 testing Friday for those that feel they may have been exposed at Summit, McDonald wrote. Students who get tested who may have attended the party will not receive sanctions, he clarified.

Jace Bracelin — a junior at Summit who founded a student group, the Bend-La Pine Schools Student Union, in January to demand more stringent reopening safety measures — said he wasn't surprised by the closure.

"This is exactly what we were saying was going to happen," he told The Bulletin.

Bracelin, 17, confirmed that multiple Summit students attended a party last weekend. But he also noted that students from other local high schools were there as well, based on photos he saw.

"We understand that students want to go back to social settings, and that they have a desire to hang out with friends



Ryan Brennecke/Bulletin file

Students exit the main entrance of Summit High School after school in 2018.

and feel some normalcy again," Bracelin said of the party. "But we suggest that students definitely don't do that."

The school district did not confirm whether they were monitoring for cases, or if there were other COVID-19 outbreaks at Mountain View or Bend high schools.

Brittany DeBels — the mother of a sophomore at Summit and a pediatric nurse at St. Charles Bend — said she was disappointed and surprised that the students had to return to distance learning almost immediately after Summit reopened its doors.

"To have it be the first week, and already take this big step back, is unfortunate," she said. "But I hope it's a big wake up call for high schoolers all across the region, that this can happen."

Johanna Bents, whose son is also a sophomore at Summit, said pausing in-person school was a smart decision. She be-

lieves the return to distance learning should give health officials plenty of time for contact tracing and investigation, so students can eventually go back to the classroom safely.

Her son felt similarly, she said.

"It was fine for him," Bents said. "He wishes he were at school, but he understands that (contact tracing) needs to be taken care of."

As a result of the outbreak, the high school's athletic programs are canceling practices until students are able to return to the classroom. This comes less than 24 hours after high school sports in Oregon won approval to return to play after 11 months.

"Since the school closed, we (the athletic department) are closing down," said Summit Athletic Director Mike Carpenter. Outdoor contact sports were granted permission by the governor Wednesday to move forward with competi-

tion. Schools in high and extreme risk counties — as is the case for all the schools in Deschutes, Crook and Jefferson counties — must have limited in-person learning in place, with the goal of achieving hybrid or full in-person instruction this school year, according to the governor's office.

It has not been announced whether Summit students will remain in distance learning next week. However, Repman said she believed students will return to in-person learning by Tuesday, after the Presidents Day holiday.

This is not the first time Summit students upset educators and county health officials by throwing a party during the COVID-19 pandemic. More than 20 seniors held an unofficial, unmasked homecoming party last October.

■ *Bulletin prep sports reporter Brian Rathbone contributed to this report. Reporter: 541-617-7854, jhogan@bendbulletin.com*

Bond

Continued from A1

"We're just trying to make sure we're looking ahead to make sure we're doing these upgrades now, so down the road we don't have to do more," Laurie Danzuka, chair of the school board, told The Bulletin.

However, the specific schools that will receive upgrades — and what specific upgrades those schools would get — won't be determined until locals are surveyed in the spring, according to Martha Bewley, chief financial officer of the school district.

"We really need to go out to our community and seek their input as we move forward," she told The Bulletin.

A long-range facility plan, provided by the school district, recommended repairs to many school roofs across the district. Many schools also need their heating and cooling systems replaced, and other fixes like new ceiling tiles, more accessible doors, better outdoor lighting and more.

All but two major schools in the district — Warm Springs K-8 Academy and Jefferson County Middle School, built in 2014 and 1995, respectively — were built more than 55 years ago, although most received a remodel in the 2000s. The two oldest buildings are the alternative school, Bridges High School, and Madras Elementary — both built in 1938. The latter hasn't received a remodel since 1951, according to the district.

Even the Warm Springs K-8 Academy, built just seven years ago, needs new classrooms due to rising enrollment, according to the long-range plan.

However, state enrollment data shows that the K-8 has actually shrunk in student population for three straight school years, peaking in the 2017-18 school year with 664 students. This year, 585 students attend the school, but it should be noted enrollment has fallen in public schools statewide due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

If passed, the bond will not raise property taxes for resi-

dents in the school district's attendance area. This is partly because the school district refinanced its 2012 bond — which paid for Madras High School's performing arts building and partly funded the Warm Springs K-8 Academy — saving taxpayers millions, Bewley said.

Furthermore, debt from an older school bond will be retiring right as the possible new bond would take effect, she said.

This is the exact same strategy that Redmond School District used last November, and its no-new-taxes bond comfortably passed.

However, Bewley shied away from making any predictions about whether Jefferson County's school bond would find equal success.

"Every community is different," she said.

The school district is in the midst of forming a committee — comprised of school board members, an architect, school staff and community members — to determine which remodel projects at which schools will

be prioritized, said Bewley. This committee will likely start surveying locals in the spring, she said.

In a December 2020 survey sent to families, community members and school staff, with 69 responses, 77% said they'd support a bond that would fund roof repairs districtwide, according to district data. Sixty-five percent said they'd support a bond that would fund HVAC, plumbing and lighting upgrades.

However, only 46% said they'd support improvements at Bridges High School, and 47% said they'd vote for a bond that would build new classrooms at the Warm Springs K-8 Academy. More than 20% of respondents answered "maybe" to both of those questions.

Bewley said it will be important to do a more comprehensive survey later this year.

"Our community is a lot larger than 69 (respondents)," she said.

■ *Reporter: 541-617-7854, jhogan@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. 12, 2021: Multitalented, determined and conceptual, you're often devoted to a cause. This year, your endurance and persistence carry you toward success against formidable odds. Bravo. If single, you meet someone this year who rocks your world and opens you up to the higher planes. It will be up to you if a commitment ensues. If attached, a creative connection is important, as well as recognition and appreciation. TAURUS keeps you grounded.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ You will feel the need to keep secrets today. Gossip and chatter will be constant, and discretion is an issue. This provides a perfect opportunity for self-analysis and soul-searching. Many surprising insights come. Tonight: You get — or receive — a brilliant idea.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Today brings a deeper sense of self. Diversify rather than get bogged down by one large, overwhelming project. Finances brighten, and your heart is warmed by the love and regard of others. Tonight: Reach out to others. You will be warmly received.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ A job or project could be ending. Don't try to struggle against the inevitable. If one door closes, another will open — even if it feels like it is nailed shut. Update your job knowledge and skills. Reach out to colleagues. Tonight: Relax with loved ones.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Today reveals new opportunities on the horizon. Your luck is changing for the better. Select goals for the future. Write a wish list. Much information and many new ideas are directed your way. Tonight: Opportunities for study or your career are likely to come about.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ You'll be doing some sleuthing today. There is a mystery you are determined to solve. An intriguing new course of study presents new perspectives. It is a wonderful time to pursue projects that have interested you before. Tonight: Early beddie-byes.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ You'll find that it is a time to review your many types of relationships. Today releases a relationship you've outgrown. In regard to business as well as romance, seek progressive associates who bring fresh outlooks. Tonight: Dinner with a loved one.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ Get enough rest and avoid companions or situations that you know aren't good for you. Your long-term wellness depends on you being your own best friend today. Be good and gentle with yourself. Tonight: A long herbal soak in the tub.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Today enables you to understand children well. Listen carefully to loved ones, and a new rapport will develop. Friendships move to a deeper level. Others will offer you the emotional support you need. Tonight: A new strength and confidence develops.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ A household gathering is peppered with lively discussions. Ideas and stories that family members exchange will inspire you. The day promises ease and satisfaction. If you feel like being a homebody today, and that is perfectly OK. Tonight: A good night's sleep.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ You will speak and move more quickly today. Short journeys, meetings and many conversations set a busy pace. Stay well-informed. It is an excellent time to catch up on correspondence, make plans or try some serious writing. Tonight: Watch the news.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Today emphasizes your finances. An extra job or project opportunity might very well boost your income. Careful study of your budget assists in stretching your hard-earned money. Avoid being too generous with others. Tonight: Offer a needy person encouragement and advice.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Your motivation is exceptionally high today. If you can maintain perspective and avoid overkill, much will be accomplished. Select peace, forgiveness and release as

Richter

Continued from A1

"Through all the Black Lives Matter events that have happened throughout the past year, it's just felt very like the leadership of Bend is sitting on the fence watching everything happening, not really engaging with the community," he said. "I feel the community deserves leadership (who) is going to stand with them, no matter what stance that needs to be."

In a statement, Richter also mentioned he felt it is important to have people who are not financially well-off represented on the council.

"For far too long it has felt like the wealthiest individuals of Bend have been the ones elected to these positions and this needs to change. The majority of Bend is not extremely wealthy," he wrote.

Richter also cited a Black Lives Matter proclamation being "watered down" by a city councilor as a reason for running in a statement on his personal Facebook page.

An 11-year Bend resident, Richter works as a delivery driver for the company Door-Dash and will soon work another job at a local distillery. He founded the Central Oregon Peacekeepers, a social justice activist group, in the summer amid nationwide

protests for racial equity.

If elected, Richter said he would prioritize addressing homelessness by utilizing vacant land in Bend to house people and to establish a CAHOOTS-type policing model. CAHOOTS is a program in Eugene that sends mental health specialists to mental-health related calls instead of armed police officers.

In addition to the mayor's seat, two other seats currently held by Councilor Gena Goodman-Campbell and Councilor Barb Campbell will also be up for election the fall of 2022.

■ *Reporter: 541-633-2160, bvissler@bendbulletin.com*

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