

DEAR ABBY

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



Dear Abby: Our 11-year-old has learned to lie, and we feel terrible about it. Because she has a sensory processing disorder, clothes are a useless gift because the seams and fabric are often uncomfortable for her. We have repeatedly asked family and friends not to gift her clothes, but her grandmas are in denial and often do it anyway.

Our sweet daughter has decided that sparing their feelings is more important than asserting her own, and I'm worried this behavior will teach her that her feelings are less important than other people's.

How do we teach her to be polite and honor her own feelings and wishes without offending well-meaning relatives who cannot understand that she doesn't appreciate or value these gifts?

— *Mama Bear in Texas*
Dear Mama Bear: Of

course your daughter should be taught that her feelings — and opinions — are important. But accepting gifts graciously is proper etiquette.

It is considered rude for a recipient to tell folks their gifts are unwelcome or unwanted.

It would not be rude, however, for YOU to run interference by reminding these clueless granies about your daughter's problem and telling them what has been happening to their impractical gifts — that they are given away, donated, etc. because she cannot wear them. A far more welcome gift would be something she's interested in or a gift card to a store that carries items she might like.

Then suggest an area of interest of hers they may be unaware of. Also, for "insurance," request a receipt be included with the gift.

Claims

Continued from A7

From March 15, 2020, through Wednesday, the agency has paid out \$7.6 billion in state and federal benefits — more than it paid during the previous decade — and has gone through 650,000 claims for regular benefits from the state unemployment trust fund. About 70% have qualified for payment. The total for the comparable period in 2019-20 was 131,000 claims, about 20% of the recent total.

During the Great Recession a decade ago, the number of claims rose over a 12-month period, as opposed to a two-month period last year, and they were largely federally funded extensions of regular state benefits, up to a maximum of 99 weeks that ended in 2013. For most people applying for those benefits, their applications could be checked against employer payroll records.

In contrast, Congress in the initial coronavirus relief act made self-employed and gig workers eligible for benefits for the first time in the unemployment system's 85-year history, in addition to supplemental payments of \$600 weekly to all unemployed workers. Oregon and other states had to obtain information about income and identity from these first-time recipients.

Gerstenfeld said Oregon has paid out \$612 million in benefits to 99,000 self-employed and gig workers in the federal program, which is known as Pandemic Unemployment Assistance. Thousands of others have qualified for some regular state benefits, so 68% of applicants have qualified.

Congress added identity requirements for those self-employed and gig workers in the latest 11-week extension of unemployment benefits under the Continued Assistance Act, which became law on Dec. 27.

The U.S. House is now considering another extension of unemployment benefits, which for many will end March 13. The House proposal is for an extension to the end of August; President Joe Biden has proposed the end of September to coincide with the end of the federal budget year.

The Senate also will have to consider the legislation, which mirrors Biden's \$1.9 trillion pandemic aid plan.

Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden, the Democrat who now leads the tax-writing Finance Committee, has proposed adding \$1 billion to help states improve their delivery of unemployment benefits and connect better with the U.S. Department of Labor, which oversees the system. A spokesman says Wyden also wants the Sept. 30 date Biden has proposed.

■ pwong@pamplinmedia.com



Courtesy of Territorial Seed Co. via Capital Press

Territorial Seed Co. workers package and ship seed.

Seeds

Continued from A7

Farmers who grow vegetable seed for commercial-scale farms say that market has been less stable during the pandemic, but many seed crops are still performing well.

People are still spending more time and money on landscaping — a boon for grass-seed companies.

"It feels like, in the retail sector at least, people went crazy buying," said James Schneider,

president and CEO of Barenbrug USA, a grass-seed supplier located in Tangent.

Schneider estimated residential retail makes up about 60% of total grass-seed industry sales. Year over year, from 2019 to 2020, he said residential sales of grass seed increased 25%, and sales this spring are projected to jump 5% to 20%.

When sports fields closed last spring, sales of commercial and sports seed mixes initially took a hit. But as sports teams adapted — for example,

by filling the stands with cardboard fans — sales returned to normal.

Golf courses, experts say, ordered record amounts of seed because more people have picked up the sport during the pandemic.

"Golf has had a resurgence they haven't seen since Tiger Woods. We've picked up a whole new generation of golfers," said Scott Harer, vice president at Columbia Seeds, another grass seed company, located in Albany.

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. 19, 2021: Tough, imaginative and groundbreaking, you go off and do your own thing. This year, you fearlessly explore a gem, and create a masterpiece with it. If single, you do best on your own, but this year you do meet someone. And fall in love. Just don't be rash — let it come to you. If attached, your perceptions are broadened and changed by your partner this year. AQUARIUS opens your eyes.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Today generates a hectic pace. A chance to correct ongoing problems at work will present itself. Gather information and sharpen your skills. Your charm and appeal are in top form. You'll be motivated and can accomplish much, but don't push too hard or overreact. Tonight: Relax.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ Finance is always one of your favorite topics, but this is especially true today. There can be some confusion concerning exactly what your monetary circumstances are. First impressions should be heeded as you make financial plans now. Tonight: Online retail therapy.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ The present nobility in you will be highly visible at work today and make an impression on influential individuals. No counterproductive patterns in relationships or legal matters. Honesty and credibility will prove to be especially precious today. Tonight: Invitations come your way.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ The idea of being your own best friend in developing a healthy lifestyle must be embraced. Don't lose focus or shift your priorities. Dissipating precious energy could end in frustration. You'll enjoy the peace and solitude of nature. Tonight: Perform a random act of kindness.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Today generates active and interesting social professional contacts. A dynamic friend is an absolute inspiration. Focus on forming clear goals. Your hopes and wishes. Meditate on self-awareness and personal responsibility. This leads to a new assertiveness. Tonight: Online schmoozing.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Extra recognition is coming your way at work. Demonstrate your capabilities in situations that promise to facilitate advancement. Make a list of goals and decide about community and your role in it. Tonight: A bright, talented friend provides inspiration and joy.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Today is energetic. You want to win every competition, and travel plans and study will be important. Your cleverness and eloquence enable you to find the quickest route to fulfillment. An email or call marks the beginning of an intriguing bond. Tonight: Watch a foreign film.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ Today brings a glimpse into the motivations of others at work. Prepare for a few secrets to come to light. Explore investments and other strategies to establish long-term financial security. This is also an optimum time to prepare some writing for publication. Tonight: Early bedtime.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ True happiness in a really good relationship or partnership can be attained. Be especially patient and very sincere. There can be an old hurdle to surmount before trust is free to grow. It will. Compromise is important. Tonight: Dinner with friends.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ Today emphasizes how associates impact your well-being. Avoid those who upset you. Be sure to get a second opinion concerning diagnosis and health care options. All might not be as it seems initially. Tonight: Catching up with a family member.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ You'll be more visible in your professional sphere and could acquire a bit of fame. Return to a creative project that was abandoned previously. There's a competitive quality present. Relationships with children follow old patterns. Tonight: Romance has a stable and comforting quality.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ Today creates a stir in your home and family sector. Seek ways to make your residence more comfortable. A family member can be a trifle volatile. Happier times will begin soon. Tonight: A delicious old favorite recipe makes an amazing meal.

Enchanted

Continued from A7

Roofs of buildings throughout the park had been tattered by falling branches.

While the park was damaged during a similar storm over a decade ago, Vaslev said this is worse.

"The whole park is a war zone, disaster area," said Vaslev. "There is a ton of cleanup. I've never seen it this bad."

The full picture of the damage to the park is still emerging. Vaslev said the Ice Mountain Bobsleds and Big Timber Log Ride are both covered in fallen trees that will have to be carefully removed to prevent

"The whole park is a war zone, disaster area. There is a ton of cleanup. I've never seen it this bad."

— **Susan Vaslev, whose family has owned and operated Enchanted Forest for nearly 50 years**

causing further damage.

But Vaslev said it's not all bad news. Some of the more iconic figures in the park, such as Humpty Dumpty and the witch's head, are intact, she said. The English Village and Tofteville western town are also largely unscathed, she said.

So is the Challenge of Mondor, despite the fire alarm, she said.

The family will also have some money for repairs.

In December, the Tofte family, which owns the park, announced they'd raised enough money to open for another season.

In response to a precipitous drop in visitors last year caused by the pandemic, the family began selling park memorabilia and asking for donations to stay open.

The money raised means the park has been able to keep its insurance policy, said Vaslev. But she said there is still a high deductible, and it's not clear what insurance will cover.

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MOUNTAINFILM ON TOUR

Old Mill District

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DEATH NOTICES

Melody June Harvey of Redmond, OR
May 9, 1949 - Feb 11, 2021
Arrangements: Autumn Funerals of Redmond is honored to serve the family. 541-504-9485
Memories and condolences may be expressed to the family on our website at www.autumnfunerals.net
Services: A celebration of life will take place at a later date. *Contributions may be made to:* Partners in Care Hospice 2075 NE Wyatt Ct., Bend, OR 97701

Eldon John Barker of Madras, OR
March 26, 1930 - Feb 11, 2021
Arrangements: Bel-Air Funeral Home 541-475-2241 www.bel-airfuneralhome.com
Services: Graveside services were held at Mt. Jefferson Memorial Park in Madras.

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