

DEAR ABBY

Write to Dear Abby online at [dearabby.com](http://dearabby.com) or by mail at P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069



**Dear Abby:** I recently had a child with a man who is now incarcerated. I was widowed when I met him, and although he brought me happiness, it has come at a steep price.

I pay for literally everything. I love him very much, but his entitlement was an issue even before he had legal issues. Now he has become very nasty and minimizes everything I do.

If I send \$100, he's upset that I didn't send \$200. If I have a day off from work that I don't spend communicating with a lawyer and the courts, I'm "not taking initiative." He has even gone so far as to say it was my fault he got in trouble because I was on his case so often that he "had to go out to get some peace." His only redeeming quality is his wonderful relationship with the kids, who see none of our fights and regard him as a father figure.

He is now even more negative and derogatory than when he was at home. I manage a busy restaurant and a household of five children. Since he has been away, I'm ashamed to say life has actually been less stressful.

I think my loneliness when I met him made it easier to ignore red flags. In every other aspect of my life, I am an independent woman who has the respect of my peers. Is it too late to set boundaries with him?

—Growing in Florida

**Dear Growing:** This emotionally abusive individual is milking you like you are a Guernsey cow. His ingratitude is boundless. You are

not the reason he got himself in trouble with the law, and it isn't your responsibility to get him out or support him financially.

It is way too late to set boundaries with this manipulative ingrate. He won't change. What you must do now — for your own sake and for your children's — is tell him you are finished and cut ties with him.

**Dear Abby:** I live in Kansas and my boyfriend lives in another state. We talk online all the time, but I haven't heard from him in three days and I don't know what to think. My friends say I'm being paranoid, but I can't help but think that he might be seeing another girl. I've had problems like this before and ended up getting hurt because I didn't listen when my friends told me that a guy was cheating. What should I do?

—Long-Distance Love

**Dear L.D.L.:** Recognize that as much as two people might care about each other, long-distance romances don't always have fairytale endings. I don't know if your boyfriend is cheating. Neither do you and neither do your friends.

It's time for you to have a calm conversation with your boyfriend. Tell him you were worried by his three-day silence because it was unusual. Let him respond. If you are satisfied with his answer, change the subject. However, if you aren't, ASK him if he has met someone closer to home and tell him to level with you. It takes courage to do this, but it will save you a lot of pain in the long run.

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. 26, 2021:** Empathic, sensitive and magnetic, you move people deeply. This year, your dedicated attention earns you many followers. July will be your most ambitious month. If single, you can be a shy lone wolf, and must make an effort this year if you want to be with your soul mate. If attached, you and your partner can communicate without speaking. Your bond is unbreakable. SAGITTARIUS helps you take yourself less seriously.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)**

★★★ Your sense of adventure deepens. You'll yearn to wander and explore. Dreams and visions must not be taken literally. Direct your heightened imagination and creativity into constructive ends. A domestic matter demands your attention and can be sorted out. Tonight: An especially healthy meal.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**

★★★★ Today ushers in a cycle of happiness. Reach out to those you care about (even one you haven't talked to in a long time), visit an art display, or complete creative projects. Get all the facts before acting. Tonight: Patience is a must.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**

★★★ Seek inner harmony and release stress. A family member is feeling very adventurous and may surprise you by taking a gamble. Take sensible precautions and all will be well. Genealogical study uncovers interesting facts. Tonight: It's a wonderful time to redecorate your workspace.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)**

★★★ A sibling or neighbor is changing. Don't be in denial when obvious signs are being sent. Be diplomatic when discussing controversial issues. Call ahead and confirm plans. Transportation needs are being considered and information exchange is very important. Tonight: Return calls promptly.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**

★★★ Thoughts mostly revolve around your earning power. You work hard for your family's security. Shop for an item you've long coveted in the days before the pandemic. Keep receipts; a purchase might have to be exchanged. Tonight: Study your habits regarding money.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**

★★★★ Today marks one of the most promising times all year. Career and personal opportunities abound. Enjoy life and put plans in motion for future dreams. Write your new resolutions, schedule appointments and begin projects you've been interested in. Tonight: Celebrate quietly.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**

★★★ Memories of a lost love must be kept in perspective. Your interest in helping the disadvantaged grows. Quietly, you will act and do much good in the world. Tonight: There are thoughts and feelings you'd prefer to keep to yourself for the time being.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**

★★★★ You will enjoy chance meetings with those from your past. A reunion with a longtime friend is likely. You reconsider the pursuit of a dream once abandoned. Get in touch with your inner voice for direction. Tonight: Consult with a group.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**

★★★★ Today is all about professional aspirations and your ambitions. You will attract attention. Pursue opportunities that showcase your capabilities. You're entering a more promising security cycle. You might have gone from rags to riches more than once. Tonight: A sigh of relief.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**

★★★★ Expect an increase in energy and motivation. Take time to exercise. Travel is favored, as are journeys of the mind and spirit. There is much to learn. If you've always yearned to write, now is the time. Tonight: A sense of the miraculous prevails.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**

★★★★ Today puts you in tune with your potential. Fate is at work in your life. Some things just are or are not meant to be. Appreciate synchronicities, and you'll be guided to manifest what's best. Heed signs. Tonight: Your energy level is especially high.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**

★★★ Today reveals much about a close partner. Companions offer suggestions. Reality is clouded. If in doubt, wait for the facts to be revealed before making choices. Revel in the attraction of opposites. Tonight: A much sought-after dinner with a loved one.

Looking for local events or want to add your own? Go to [bendbulletin.com/events](http://bendbulletin.com/events)  
Questions? Call 541-383-0304 or email [go@bendbulletin.com](mailto:go@bendbulletin.com).

Tax bill

Continued from A7

But Oregon is one of six states that allow taxpayers to deduct a portion of their federal tax payments from their state income taxes.

Most years, the deduction functions as a state tax break. But when the federal government is giving out stimulus payments it reduces the size of that break. A lower federal tax bill means there's less to deduct from your state taxes.

The Legislative Revenue Office estimated in May that Oregon will collect an additional \$103 million this year, and \$9 million next year, from taxes generated by those initial stimulus payments. That's 3.6% of the \$3.1 billion in stimulus payments that Oregonians received last spring.

That tax hike won't hit everyone, though. Low-income Oregonians with no federal tax liability won't pay more in state taxes, and some high-income residents with large federal tax bills won't pay, either.

Congress intended the stimulus payments to be tax free, according to U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio, D-Springfield.

"It is unconscionable to ask those working families who have struggled the most during this crisis to bear the weight of the state's budget shortfall," DeFazio wrote in a letter to Gov. Kate Brown and legislative leaders last week. He asked them to relieve Oregonians of those higher taxes.

Oregon State Sen. Dick Anderson, R-Lincoln City, plans to introduce a bill to protect Oregonians' stimulus checks from state tax implications.

Jobless

Continued from A7

The benefits will be made retroactive, officials said. People who applied for unemployment aid after Dec. 27 can receive retroactive payments back to Dec. 6. Those who applied before then and were turned down can receive retroactive payments dating back to when they first applied.

With unemployed Americans now receiving a \$300 weekly federal payment on top of state benefits that average about \$320 a week, the retroactive aid could result in significant lump sum payments. The department estimates that states won't be able



A shopper wears a face mask in November as he walks past a store displaying a hiring sign in Wheeling, Illinois. Nam Y. Huh/AP file

to update their jobless-benefit systems to include the new criteria until late March, which could mean that the first payments would amount to about four months of benefits.

Workers whose place of employment have closed because of the pandemic are

already eligible to receive jobless aid from the federal program. But workers who were laid off even as their company remained open, such as waiters at a restaurant that stayed open for delivery, weren't eligible. This directive will now cover those workers, the Labor Department said.

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Sharon Preston

Potato Head

Continued from A7

Barbie maker Mattel released a gender-neutral doll line in 2019. But Mr. Potato Head is one of the biggest brands to do so.

"It's setting this new standard," Mierzejewski said. GLAAD, an LGBTQ advocacy group, applauded the genderless toy potato.

"Hasbro is helping kids to simply see toys as toys, which encourages them to be their authentic selves outside of the pressures of traditional gender norms," said Rich Ferraro, GLAAD's chief communications officer, in a statement.

DEATH NOTICES

**Charitie Faith Lansing** of Metolius, OR  
Nov 22, 1976 - Feb 17, 2021  
Arrangements: Bel-Air Funeral Home 541-475-2241 [www.bel-air-funeralhome.com](http://www.bel-air-funeralhome.com)  
Services: Funeral Service Sat. 2/27/21 @ 10:00 AM Free Methodist Church in Madras.

**Bruce W. A. Rogers** of Bend, OR  
May 13, 1932 - February 18, 2021  
Arrangements: Autumn Funerals, Bend 541-318-0842 [www.autumnfunerals.net](http://www.autumnfunerals.net)  
Services: A gathering will be held at a later date

**Verner W. Clapp, Jr** of Bend, OR  
March 20, 1932 - Feb 21, 2021  
Arrangements: Autumn Funerals, Bend 541-318-0842 [www.autumnfunerals.net](http://www.autumnfunerals.net)  
Services: Private services will be held at a later date

OBITUARY DEADLINE

Call to ask about our deadlines 541-385-5809  
Monday-Friday 10am-3pm  
Email: [obits@bendbulletin.com](mailto:obits@bendbulletin.com)

**Palliative Care**

An incredible way of supporting what we want life to look like. — Elly Reynolds, Palliative Care Patient

"Partners In Care is thrilled to announce that Adam Pike is now part of our palliative care team. Adam is a family nurse practitioner and joins our team as we expand our services to serve patients and their families in our clinic at BMC/Summit, in care facilities, and now virtually through telehealth consults."

— Jennifer Blechman, MD

**We invite you to explore the benefits of a palliative care consultation and how Partners In Care can help you and your family deal with a serious illness.**

**VISIT:** [PartnersBend.org](http://PartnersBend.org)  
**CALL:** (541) 382-5882  
**WRITE:** [PalliativeCare@PartnersBend.org](mailto:PalliativeCare@PartnersBend.org)  
**VIEW:** *Life & Depth* - A short film made with the support of BendFilm tells the stories of three families and highlights how palliative care and Hospice House supported them as they dealt with life-limiting illness. View video on our website.  
**HEAR:** *Life's Too Short* - June 23rd podcast titled "What is Palliative Care?" is available via most podcast platforms, or through our website.

Hospice | Home Health | Hospice House | Transitions | Palliative Care | Grief Support