

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 used to be a successful working woman until I lost my husband of 30 years. After I became homeless, I met "Tom." We've been good friends for the last five years, hanging out in the woods, sometimes getting hotel rooms. It's a platonic relationship, but we rely on each other.

I receive Social Security survivor benefits now, and I want to move on and get my own place. He says he's fine with it, but I feel terribly guilty. He gets a small disability check but is not wise with money. How can I comfort him?

— *Guilty in Florida*

Dear Guilty: Tom has told you he is fine with you upgrading your living situation. I presume that you don't intend to desert him. Believe him and stop flogging yourself for your good fortune. Help him when you can and encourage him to contact an agency that helps the homeless so he can get his life back on track, too.

Dear Abby: I'm in a same-sex relationship with a woman I love and admire. But five months in, sex is becoming impossible because I think I'm heterosexual. Leaving this relationship scares me because I can't imagine a life without her.

I told her I didn't know if, for several reasons, sex would be a part of our relationship, but that I do love her. She doesn't seem to mind at all. I'm not sure what to do. Please help.

— *Loving in Louisiana*

Dear Loving: What you need to do is be honest with your partner. It is possible that you are bisexual and need to explore relationships with men before making up your mind about any permanent relationship. If sex is important to you, then the person you wind up with may not be this woman you love and admire, but someone else entirely.

Dear Abby: My grandson died by suicide in 2019. My daughter, who lives in another state, hasn't spoken to me since. Why? Because we did not call her on the phone. We were texting her, and she was texting us back. When I did try to call, she wouldn't answer the phone.

It has been more than a year now. She won't respond to other family members, either. Please advise me what to do in this sad situation.

— *Wounded Grandma in Texas*

Dear Grandma: Not knowing your daughter, I am hesitant to guess why she has isolated herself from everyone. She may have felt she was entitled to more support from you all and didn't receive it.

As many people have pointed out in my column, while texts may be efficient, they are a poor substitute for a human voice.

Because she refuses your calls, write her a letter telling her you love her and apologize for letting her down after the tragedy of losing her son. Whether it will help, I can't guess — but at least the olive branch will have been offered.

Technical issues delay rental assistance for Oregon landlords

BY JAMIE GOLDBERG

The Oregonian

Oregon will give landlords who applied for assistance earlier this month until March 30 to finish submitting necessary documentation after a faulty state website made it impossible for some to complete their applications on time.

The state opened applications for its new Landlord Compensation Fund on Feb. 17, nearly two months after lawmakers allocated \$150 million to seed the program to help landlords whose residential tenants had fallen behind

on rent during the COVID-19 pandemic. Landlords immediately began complaining that the state website was distorting data or failing to allow them to upload necessary documentation.

That prompted Oregon Housing and Community Services, the state agency administering the program, to extend the deadline to apply until early March before promising to work individually with applicants after the deadline to ensure their applications were completed.

It could now take until May for those landlords to start re-

ceiving the much-needed assistance due to delays caused by the faulty website.

Kate Gonsalves, a spokesperson for the state agency, said landlords approved for the funding are likely to start seeing money show up in their accounts approximately 30 days after awards are announced, which will happen sometime after the application process closes on March 30.

It could take even longer for that money to reach landlords if local public housing authorities responsible for delivering the money run into any prob-

lems distributing the funds.

Those delays could create added stress for struggling landlords and tenants alike.

Landlords who are approved for relief through the state program will receive assistance to cover 80% of the rent they are owed by residential tenants dating back to April 2020 if they agree to forgive 20% of unpaid rent. Tenants whose landlords win approval will have their unpaid rent bills forgiven for the months the landlord receives funding, helping them stay in their homes after the state lifts its ban on evictions.



Cnes2021, Distribution Airbus DS

This satellite image shows the cargo ship MV Ever Given stuck in the Suez Canal Thursday. The skyscraper-sized cargo ship wedged across Egypt's Suez Canal further imperiled global shipping Thursday as at least 150 other vessels needing to pass through the crucial waterway idled waiting for the obstruction to clear, authorities said.

Stuck

Continued from A7

The vessel remained stuck as of Thursday night despite "continuous" efforts to refloat it, according to canal service provider Leth Agencies.

Canal service provider Leth Agencies said at least 150 ships were waiting for the Ever Given to be cleared, including vessels near Port Said on the Mediterranean Sea, Port Suez on the Red Sea and those already stuck in the canal system on Egypt's Great Bitter Lake.

Cargo ships already behind the Ever Given in the canal will be reversed south back to Port Suez to free the channel, Leth Agencies said. Authorities hope to do the same to

the Ever Given when they can free it.

But many more ships already are en route to the canal.

Using data from Automatic Identification System trackers on ships at sea, data firm Refinitiv shared an analysis with the AP showing over 300 ships remained on the way to the waterway over the next two weeks.

Some vessels could still change course, but the crush of ships listing the Suez Canal as their destination shows an even-greater backlog looms for shippers already under pressure amid the coronavirus pandemic.

"Blocking something like the Suez Canal really sets in motion a number of dominoes

toppling each other over," said Lars Jensen, chief executive of Denmark-based SeaIntelligence Consulting. "The effect is not only going to be the simple, immediate one with cargo being delayed over the next few weeks, but will actually have repercussions several months down the line for the supply chain."

Debt

Continued from A7

That order remains in effect during the COVID-19 emergency period, which Brown has extended until May.

However, Brown said in April that her order did not prevent money being seized because of criminal actions requiring restitution or civil judgments based on a criminal conviction. Past-due child support can also be deducted from the payments before they are deposited in bank accounts.

Brown announced in April that she was issuing the or-

der to correct an "oversight in the federal legislation, ensuring that Oregonians can use the funds for their intended purpose: covering the costs of essential needs during the COVID-19 public health crisis."

Liz Merah, a spokesperson for Brown, confirmed Wednesday that the state continues to bar debt collectors from seizing the latest round of stimulus payments for Oregonians.

She said individuals who believe their payments have been garnished in error should reach out to the Oregon Department of Revenue.

Carbon

Continued from A7

"Confronting the challenge of climate change and building a lower-carbon future will require a combination of government policies, industry initiatives and continuous innovation," American Petroleum Institute President and CEO Mike Sommers said in a statement.

The reversal comes as President Joe Biden has made tackling climate change a top priority, moving in his first days in office to suspend oil and gas lease sales from federal lands and waters and canceling the contentious Keystone XL oil sands pipeline from Canada.

While industry critics expressed suspicions over the sincerity of the move, Sommers emphasized that oil companies want "market-based solutions" such as a carbon tax or a cap-and-trade policy, rather than "heavy-handed government regulation." The oil industry played a key role in the defeat of proposed cap-and-trade legislation in the Senate a decade ago, and its endorsement of a carbon price and other federal action marks a turnaround after years of opposition to federal legislation to address climate change.

YOUR HOROSCOPE

By Madalyn Aslan

Stars show the kind of day you'll have

★★★★★ DYNAMIC | ★★★ POSITIVE | ★★ AVERAGE | ★★ SO-SO | ★ DIFFICULT

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 2021: Courageous, adventurous and original, the path forward involves being true to yourself while respecting the beliefs of others. This year, you can retain your independence and still be respected as a team player. Be discriminating when letting people into your inner circle. If single, be patient and the right fit will come along soon enough. If attached, let go of negative feelings and your love will endure. GEMINI makes you laugh.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Fresh air and exercise will serve you well today. Start a sensible and healthy eating plan. Prepare fresh salads and a fruit platter to munch on. You will feel lighter and more energetic. Tonight: Enjoy dinner with close friends.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ Speak your mind, but be sensitive to the opinions of others. Tact will go a long way. Follow through on a promise you made to someone you love. They will be touched that you remembered. Tonight: Story time with kids.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Make your home warm and cozy. Get a house plant that is easy to care for. Be positive and patient when talking to parents and in-laws. This is not the time to bring up past frustrations. Tonight: Be creative with leftovers.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ Strong opinions could get you in trouble. Play it safe and let a colleague have the last word. Siblings may have news to share. Get in touch even if it has been a while. Tonight: Snack, but not too much.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ Paying bills could alter a harmonious mood. Find a money-making project that could evolve into a profitable business. Be generous with those you love, but stay within your budget. Plan an entertaining evening on a shoestring budget. Tonight: Update your calendar.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Get a makeover that includes a dramatic haircut. You may be surprised at compliments that come your way. Be prepared to present your ideas at a meeting. Review answers to challenging questions, and you'll do just fine. Tonight: Ice cream.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Working at home looks more and more tempting. Do it if you can. Find a quiet place, free from distractions. Your family will appreciate you being around. Finish your day's work before giving them your full attention. Tonight: Talk things over.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ People you know may be surprised at your strong public speaking skills. Think about taking a leadership role in an organization where you volunteer. Your ability to lead will emerge when faced with a meaningful cause. Tonight: Take time alone.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Wrap up unexpected problems, even if it means working overtime. A promotion or bonus may be in the offing. Plan the right moment to bring it up. Show your loved ones how much they mean to you. Tonight: Unwind and relax.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Continue to upgrade your professional skills, including learning new technology. Use this opportunity to gain more confidence in your abilities. The time may come when you seek out a new position and go on interviews. Tonight: Attend a new meeting.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Review the fine print of a contract or document. Take your time, even if someone pressures you to sign right away. A joint financial arrangement will start to bear fruit. Trust in its growth potential. Tonight: Make a journal entry.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Someone close may ask you to mediate a dispute. Be openminded and diplomatic. You do not want to upset those you love. Make this a teachable moment. Remind everyone to talk things through and open their hearts. Tonight: Early to bed.

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Bend Aesthetics & Wellness
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finding beauty in the details.

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525 NW Colorado Ave

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INQUIRIES

OBITUARY

Owen Smith

October 6, 1943 - January 8, 2021

Owen Smith (78) passed away on January 8, 2021 in Bend, Oregon. Owen was born in Glendale, California, and moved to Oregon in 1979. He loved camping and fly fishing as well as working in Sport Fishing in San Diego. He worked on the ship 'BettyLou' and worked for Frito-Lay in both San Diego and Bend. His love of antiques led to owning a restoration business in Baker City and Bend. He is survived by his partner Jan Curry and her family, his ex-wife Jane and their two wonderful children, Laura McClain and Jeremy Smith, as well as his two grandchildren, Jack and May.



DEATH NOTICES

David L. Hanson

of Redmond, OR
March 31, 1949 - March 18, 2021

Arrangements:
Arrangement entrusted to Redmond Memorial Chapel. 541-548-3219. Please leave condolences at redmondmemorial.com
Services:
Services will be held at a later date.
Contributions may be made to:
Redmond Band of Brothers

Elaine M. York

of Redmond, OR
Jan 29, 1926 - March 16, 2021

Arrangements:
Arrangements Entrusted To: Redmond Memorial Chapel www.redmondmemorial.com; 541.548.3219
Services:
Private Burial Services
Contributions may be made to:
Local Charity of Choice

Nancy (Hazelwood) Lee Ariail

of Bend, OR
May 16, 1945 - March 21, 2021

Arrangements:
Baird Funeral Home of Bend is honored to serve the Ariail family. Please visit our website, www.bairdfh.com, to share condolences and sign our online guest book.
Services:
A service will be held later in the summer for friends and family
Contributions may be made to:
Meissner Nordic
<https://meissnernordic.org/donate/>
PO Box 2032 Bend, OR 97709-2032 Phone: 541-316-0831

OBITUARY DEADLINE

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