

DEAR ABBY

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



— Angry Neighbor

Dear Abby: Last year, my across-the-street neighbor backed into my car. At least, that's what I think happened.

My car was parked legally on the street, and there was a huge dent in it. I called the police and, based on the location of the dent and the neighbor's driveway, the officer determined that the neighbor had backed into it. Furthermore, light blue paint from my car was on her car's bumper.

When the officer went across the street, the neighbor came running out screaming at him. She was hysterical and belligerent, and she denied it. Eventually, the officer told me that even though he was certain she did it, there was nothing he could do since it was her word against mine.

I had never met this woman before, but she is mean, and I often hear her screaming and cussing at her small children. Last week, I arrived at work to discover that my company had hired a new clerk. I'll give you one guess who it is. I don't think she realizes I'm her neighbor. I must interact with her at work, and so far, I've been professional but chilly toward her.

She's going to see me in my yard and realize I'm her neighbor. Should I clear the air now, or should I pretend it never happened? I'm angry because she cost me a lot of money.

Dear Neighbor: I see nothing to be gained by "clearing the air" with someone you know is emotionally unstable. Let it ride, keep your distance and remain cool. If her problems manifest at the office, she may not be there long. And at home, stay away from her AND her driveway.

Dear Abby: I have been in a relationship with my boyfriend for almost four years. We live together along with my two older sons, ages 30 and 33. He doesn't spend much time with me because he's working or hanging out with the guys at the bar. I do have jealousy issues. He looks at and talks to other women when I am with him.

My former husband used to be out every day until late in the evenings until I caught him cheating with my best friend. It's hard for me to trust again. I love my boyfriend, and I don't want to lose him. Should I be jealous or let it go?

— Undervalued in Indiana

Dear Undervalued: Your insecurity is something you need to work on because your jealousy could drive a wedge between you and your boyfriend. If his looking at and conversing with women were a threat to your relationship, it's likely something would have happened.

Talk to him. Tell him you need more time together.

YOUR HOROSCOPE *By Madalyn Aslan*

Stars show the kind of day you'll have

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 2021: Independent, spirited and temperamental, the fast-paced lifestyle you love may need to slow down just a little. This year, you pay attention to details that will serve you well on the professional and financial front. Express your excess energy through swimming, tennis, bicycle riding or any physical or competitive sport that you enjoy. If single, accept invitations to online gatherings. If attached, keep romance alive with surprises. PISCES comforts you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Spring has arrived, so change your wardrobe to fit the season. Research food and exercise plans that suit your lifestyle. You may be inspired by a friend who steers you in the right direction. Teamwork is best. Tonight: Social time.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Explore your love of the arts. Start your own creative project or partner with someone who encourages you. Revive talents you may have let fall by the wayside. Practice makes perfect, so follow a routine. Tonight: Watch a film or concert.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Avoid a relative who may want to involve you in ongoing family drama. Today is for laughter and happy thoughts. Spend the day with friends who you can rely on to supply just that. Tonight: Continue to have fun.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ Resist making decisions that have long-term consequences. Use your special talent for finding the right solution in due time. Switch gears to something less serious. An inviting message may keep you grinning from ear to ear. Tonight: Tell funny stories.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Treat your taste buds to a delicious dish that is out of the ordinary. Discover new takeout venues to sample food from different cultures. Buy a cookbook and try out exotic recipes on your family. Tonight: Do someone a favor.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Move forward with plans for personal projects. Involve friends who see the world as you do. Your enthusiasm attracts others who want to work with you. Be a go-getter, but don't get too pushy. Tonight: Learn yoga positions or workout routines.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ Talking to or visiting a friend in need may be on the agenda. If weather permits, enjoy the warmth of spring. Take a walk, go for a bicycle ride or feed the birds in the park. Tonight: Dinner for two.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Take time out to write down your intentions for the coming months. Distinguish between pipe dreams and goals that can materialize. Get together with friends you can use as a sounding board. Take in their suggestions and support. Tonight: Make music.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Brush up on your leadership and organizational skills. You may be called on to head up a team where you work or volunteer. People you love will give you the thumbs up. Tonight: Leave work behind and have fun.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ Research enrolling in a course to improve your skills. If you do not register for formal instruction, explore subjects that pique your curiosity. If you cannot find something in-person, anything you want to study will be available online. Tonight: Movie night.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Today is not the best day to sign papers or make a business decision. The answer will make itself clear in due time. Play a board game or jigsaw puzzle with people you love. Tonight: Something you lost may reappear.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ Straighten out a difference of opinion. Stick to your guns on important issues and move on from others. Spend quality time with someone special. Plan a surprise that includes a menu you thought out and carefully prepared. Tonight: Scented candles.

Tourism

Continued from A5

The new initiative comes after Travel Oregon last month awarded \$913,000 to fund 34 projects across the state focused on improving visitor experiences during the pandemic. Among the recipients of that grant money was Portland's economic development agency, which received \$50,000 to improve the city's green loop.

Oregon's tourism industry has been decimated during the pandemic.

More than 1 million people visit Oregon in a typical year, fueling a \$12.8 billion tourism industry, according to Travel Oregon.

However, visitor spending throughout the state dropped by nearly 60% last year as tourism dried up amid the pandemic, according to the



Dave Killen/The Oregonian

Visitor spending throughout the state dropped by nearly 60% last year as tourism dried up amid the pandemic, including in Newport, home to the Yaquina Bay bridge.

agency. It could take years for the industry to rebound, especially if international travel remains limited and large events and conventions are slow to return. Oregon's leisure and hospitality industry

has shed 37% of its jobs during the pandemic, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

"We anticipate that we will probably not see recovery back to 2019 levels until at least 2024

and it could be 2025," Davidson said.

While certain parts of the state saw tourism rebound last summer as leisure travel picked up, hotel occupancy in Portland plummeted from nearly 75% in 2019 to 34% in 2020, worse than anywhere else in the state.

The decline in tourism across the state could have severe financial implications for cities and counties.

In Portland, five percent of the overall transient lodging taxes assessed on hotel and vacation rentals goes to the city's general fund. The city received \$30.8 million in general fund money from hotel room taxes in the 2019-20 fiscal year, but expects those revenues to be down 75% this fiscal year.

"The travel and tourism industry is a primary driver of Oregon's economy," Davidson said.

Repair

Continued from A5

In a press release, Apple said that following the launch of its independent repair program in 2019, over 140 US companies have joined its independent repair program.

David Edmondson, a spokesman for the computer trade group TechNet, said that if someone wants to repair their computer or take it

to an unauthorized shop, they can. There are aftermarket parts available on the web and tools to open machines and fix them. But, he said, doing so often voids warranties because untrained staff will be doing the work.

"The government forcing manufactures to give out the digital and physical keys to all electronic products, is not a smart approach. It should be focused on protecting consum-

ers, not adding more risk," he said.

Charlie Fisher with the Oregon Public Interest Research Group is pushing the "Right to Repair" bill. He said the environmental ramifications are potentially enormous.

"We estimate that if Oregonians were able to extend the life of their phone for just one year, it would be the equivalent of removing 8,100 cars off the road in terms of carbon emis-

sions," he said.

The "Right to Repair" concept started nine years ago in Massachusetts, where voters gave smaller independent garages the right to repair cars by making manufacturers sell them the necessary tools and manuals.

After the vote, the industry agreed to sell the tools across the country. So Fisher is hopeful.

A public hearing in Oregon is scheduled for March 31.

Ruger

Continued from A5

Fear and uncertainty about what it is next has long been a boon to gunmakers' bottom lines.

"They will sell more guns as a result of this, no doubt — out of fear," said Benjamin Dowd-Arrow, a public health professor at Florida State University who studies firearms and mental health.

People often buy firearms when they feel threatened, said the National Shooting Sports Foundation, the gun industry's leading trade group. Mark Olivia, a spokesman for the group, compared it to stocking up on milk, bread and toilet paper before a storm.

"People become very concerned that they will not be able to buy the firearms that they are choosing," Olivia said, "and there is that concern right now."

The biggest limitation on gun sales is that demand is already so elevated, said Phillip Levine, an economics professor at Wellesley College who

studies the topic.

"All of the anxiety from the past year is still hanging over our heads," Levine said. "We have no precedent for this. We're already in a spike. So are they really going to go up more?"

Firearms sales over the last decade have tracked a pattern of surging with mass shootings and political uncertainty, according to Levine's research.

And gun rights groups, such as the National Rifle Association, have become expert at using worries about new gun regulations to argue that firearms are about to disappear — which drives more sales.

Monthly gun sale estimates collected by Levine show dramatic peaks followed infamous mass shooting, such as the one seared into memory by their names alone: Sandy Hook, San Bernardino and Parkland.

The election of Biden worried gun enthusiasts because of comments he made about wanting tougher gun control.

"It was not lost on members of the industry," Olivia said.

OBITUARY

Michael Leroy Barker

May 11, 1947 - March 5, 2021

Mike, whose parents were Quintin (Bun) and Marie Barker, grew up in Junction City, Oregon and graduated from Junction City High School. From a young age, Mike's life revolved around sports. Like his dad, Mike was a natural athlete and excelled at any sport he played, (especially basketball and golf).

Mike attended Southern Oregon College in Ashland for two years prior to enlisting in the Air Force in 1967. His son Scott was born shortly afterwards. Mike stayed in the Air Force for 10 years. Even though he wasn't a pilot in the Air Force, he developed a love for planes and flying. He earned his pilots license and flew for many years. Mike's interest in aviation continued when he became an air traffic controller at the Honolulu Airport. He later managed the Arco Club at his former Hawaiian Air Base as a civilian.

Mike and Myrna, his second wife, were married and then divorced but remained close friends up until his death.

After his father's death in 1990, Mike devoted himself to his mother's needs and medical care. At that time he finished his college degree at Northwest Christian College in Eugene. After his graduation in the early 1990's, Mike went to work in Bend as a Veteran's Advocate for the State of Oregon, which he referred to as his "calling." For thirteen years until his retirement, Mike was a vet's best friend. His dedication led to Sen. Ron Wyden reading a Statement of Recognition for his veteran's advocacy into the U.S. Congressional Record.

Mike's work with the vets continued on a volunteer basis for years, until infirmities began taking a toll on his physical mobility. At that time vets pitched in to return the help that Mike had given them. His family is deeply grateful in particular to Mike's good friend Greg Vernon of Bend. For years Greg made sure that Mike was looked after; and he went above and beyond in Mike's final months assisting with his care.

Mike was an avid golfer and was a long time member at the Bend Country Club.

Mike's compassion extended to animals as well. His cats truly lived the royal life, and he gave generously to animal welfare organizations as well as humanitarian causes.

Mike is survived by his son Scott Counts, grandson Harrison Counts, brother David Barker (Glenna), along with numerous cousins, nephews, and nieces. He is preceded in death by his parents Quintin and Marie and sisters Patricia and Charlotte.

Donations can be made to the Humane Society of Ochocos or the DAV chapter 14 in Bend in lieu of flowers.

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