

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 have something to say about “Still Fun in the South” (Jan. 4) and her complaint that single middle-aged men only look for younger women, instead of women their age. I am a 53-year-old widower. I have a six-figure income. I’m smart, healthy, easygoing and have a good life with many hobbies and interests.

On multiple dating apps, I have swiped right on dozens of women my age. My main criteria were that they weren’t fanatically religious or rabidly political. Would you like to know how many swipe rights I received in return? Not one! I feel middle-aged women are far more picky than their younger counterparts, which is why I’m currently in a relationship with a woman in her mid-30s. I don’t pursue younger women — they pursue me while the women around my age couldn’t be bothered.

I realize my dating experience is anecdotal, and there are extenuating circumstances (COVID-19), but I don’t like being lumped into a category and complained about as if middle-aged women share none of the responsibility.

I want to tell “Still Fun” that if she wants a relationship with someone her age, she needs to be a little less judgmental and picky and give those middle-aged men who actually show an interest a chance. She might find there’s more to them than appears in a dating profile.

— *Seasoned in Salt Lake City*  
**Dear Seasoned:** The responders to “Still Fun’s” letter pointed out the advantages AND disadvantages of dating

people younger, older and the same age. But the common denominator for successful dating, according to those readers, is to emphasize what you are happy about in your life and describe your passions and interests. Someone who exudes confidence, a love of life and who doesn’t come across as desperate for a permanent move-in partner can do very well.

**Dear Abby:** Our daughter is engaged to the most wonderful young man. We all got along very well, including his parents with us. After one discussion about politics, they realized we’re on opposite sides of the spectrum and everything changed. They no longer call, or they hesitate to answer our calls.

We want to make things better because our daughter is deeply in love with their son, and she loves his parents. Could you please provide some suggestions?

— *Oops! in Virginia*  
**Dear Oops!:** I can try, but there are no guarantees.

While you and the other set of parents may disagree about solutions to the problems in this country, on one subject you should all be unified. That subject is wanting the happiness of your children and grandchildren when you are blessed with them. For this reason, make an agreement to put aside political differences, never again discuss them and work cooperatively together toward your mutual goal. However, if they cannot agree, you and your husband must accept that there may be a strain in your relationship until time can heal the breach.



During the time that Ted Schoenborn served as one of the five elected board members the Bend Park & Recreation District developed (clockwise from upper left) The Pavilion is at 1001 SW Bradbury Way; Bend Whitewater Park; the ice rink at The Pavilion; Riley Ranch Nature Reserve.

Schoenborn

Continued from A1

Schoenborn’s passions run deeper than parks and recreation. He is also an accomplished musician and played the bass fiddle in a local bluegrass band. His love of music encouraged him to get involved in local radio — he helped set up KPOV community radio station and still hosts a bluegrass program.

He also on the board of Bend 2030, a nonprofit group that aims to create a vision for the city of Bend by engaging with dozens of groups and civic organizations.

In between these commitments, he still manages to walk 50 miles a week.

“Streets and parks have been my focus. They are good health kinds of things. You see the interconnections and the need for trails and walking paths,” said Schoenborn, who grew up in Montana, but spent most of his career in the Cincinnati area working in public health. He and his wife, Carol, retired to Bend in the early 2000s after considering a number of places in the West. Bend “made the most sense,” and was close to his kids in Portland, he said.

Upon arrival, he started vol-

unteering at several nonprofits, including Habitat for Humanity, and soon got involved with the park district.

“I looked around until I found the things that really fit me at the time,” he said.

Fellow board member Ariel Mendez said he recently joined Schoenborn on one of his walks, as a way to soak in some of his knowledge.

“I wanted to learn about his routes but also hear more of his perspective on (parks and rec) board service,” said Mendez.

By keeping his pulse on the community, Schoenborn has been integral to the success of the park district. Since he joined the board, the district has built over 40 city parks and more than 30 miles of trails.

During his tenure, the district has also added the Bend Whitewater Park, The Pavilion, Larkspur Community Center and Riley Ranch Nature Reserve to its existing facilities.

The hard work put in by Schoenborn and other park staff has not gone unnoticed.

In 2006 the district received a National Gold Medal Award for excellence in park and recreation management. Schoenborn was also there when the public supported a \$29 million bond to help finance much of

the district’s work through the 2010s.

“The agency continues to be an outstanding organization,” said Schoenborn. “It was easy to stay because the staff is so good. My only real job is to wave my arms around and take credit for all the great work that the staff does.”

The board today looks much different now compared to the early 2000s, Schoenborn recalls. Back then, board members and staff were focused on singular issues.

“People were really committed to the swimming pools at Juniper, and to the water and the swim teams. Those were the only things they cared about. They did not look so broadly as they do now,” said Schoenborn.

Horton said part of Schoenborn’s success on the board has been his knowledge of Bend and involvement in other areas of the community.

“His work elsewhere made him a really qualified member of the board,” said Horton. “The most tangible thing that Ted brought us was the need to plan for the future. We now have a comprehensive plan that helps guide development for the district.”

His presence has had a lasting impact on other board mem-

bers, too.

“He is a highly engaged person across the board. He brings a level of institutional knowledge to the board that has been invaluable. I have really enjoyed working with him,” said Jason Kropf, another park board member.

Nathan Hovekamp, the board chair, called his work with Schoenborn an “unqualified pleasure and learning experience.”

“Ted’s departure from the park board will leave a huge hole. He is both a towering presence and a good friend,” said Hovekamp. “Even in the relatively rare occasion on the board when I have not agreed with Ted, I have always respected, valued, and appreciated his view.”

Schoenborn’s imminent departure from the park board doesn’t mean he intends to slow down from civic activities. He intends to stay active with Bend 2030 and KPOV radio. He wants to help steer Bend in a positive direction, bringing in more voices to help guide development.

“I won’t run out of things to do,” he said. “I will continue to volunteer.”

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YOUR HOROSCOPE By Madalyn Aslan

Stars show the kind of day you’ll have

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

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 2021:** Inventive, ardent and outrageous, broaden your horizons by thinking outside the box. This year, you strengthen how you communicate through the spoken and written word. Present your ideas clearly and convincingly, and there is no telling where it will lead. Superficial friendships fall by the wayside, while those who stood by you will be invaluable allies. If single, a whirlwind romance grabs you. If attached, renew your vows. GEMINI is unpredictable.

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

★★★★ Revisit past missteps. Learn from your experience and make positive changes. In your spare time, go all out for a cause you believe in. It will take you away from yourself and into the hearts of others. Tonight: Weekend countdown.

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

★★★★ Curiosity about obscure subjects prevents you from being bored. Drum up the nerve and contact someone you admire but do not know personally. Be patient if you do not get an immediate response. Tonight: Ask a friend for an objective opinion.

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

★★★★ Learn about a new technique you can pass on to your work or volunteer team. Get to know each other better on a personal level. That will improve your ability to compromise and negotiate. Tonight: Playtime with children and grandchildren.

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

★★★★ You might be asked to mentor someone in a skill you’ve perfected. Rise to the occasion, even if you are unsure of yourself. You may have an aptitude for teaching that you can apply in the future. Tonight: Work up a sweat.

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

★★★★ A joint financial arrangement may start to bear fruit, or a new opportunity may appear from out of the blue. The signs are there, so trust in its growth potential. Turn a pipe dream into a surefire business. Tonight: Dinner for two.

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

★★★★ Give someone you love the upper hand, or you may lock horns with no end in sight. Play your cards right, and you will get what you need. Take charge of weekend plans. Tonight: Shop online for a birthday present.

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

★★★★ Assist someone with work that you can do in the blink of an eye. Your actions will stand out when you ask for a favor in return. Roll out a mat and practice yoga poses. Tonight: Reserve tickets to an event.

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

★★★★ Don’t be shy about your talent. Show off a creative accomplishment. The feedback will inspire you to continue in that direction. Children or grandchildren may introduce you to a new musical genre. Show your enthusiasm whether real or not. Tonight: Online games.

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

★★★★ Things may not go according to plan, starting with a delayed early appointment. A family gathering may go south as well. Approach the day with humor, and you will be above the fray. Tonight: Continue to look up ancestral roots.

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

★★★★ Your love of learning will bring you a new sense of purpose. Borrow or purchase books, reference materials and webinars that enhance your knowledge. Dream about immersion into another culture, either abroad or in your own country. Tonight: Bake cookies.

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

★★★★ Demand the most for yourself, and everything you want will come your way. Wear brighter colors, soften the tone of your voice, and think before you speak. Transform your attitude and the way others see you. Tonight: Talk to siblings or cousins.

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

★★★★ A presentation you prepared could put you on edge. Give yourself enough time to make last-minute changes. Practice relaxation techniques and recite positive affirmations. Make this part of your daily routine. Passion for your material will come through. Tonight: Reward yourself.

COCC

Continued from A1

This means the public can run on COCC’s track again. Students can visit their financial aid advisers in-person, instead of over Zoom. And COCC administrators and staffers will work in-person again.

“I am so proud of the way our staff has managed remote work, but there are also advantages that we miss when we can’t be together: the ability to collaborate efficiently, the ability to communicate more effectively,” Chesley said.

However, this announcement doesn’t change COCC’s mostly-remote academic course offerings for summer term, which starts June 21. The

college still plans to wait until the fall to dramatically expand its in-person classes, and the Wickiup Residence Hall dorms will also not open until fall term, Chesley wrote in a Thursday email to staff.

It was too late to change the college’s summer course schedule, which will be about 75% online, Chesley told The Bulletin.

“It would be pretty hard at this point to make a big stop and make big changes from online to face-to-face,” she said.

It is also undecided whether the dining hall, or the Mazama Gym & Fitness Center, will be open, due to stricter state COVID-19 regulations for those operations, Chesley said.

COCC staff and students will be heavily encouraged,

but not required, to receive the COVID-19 vaccine before returning to campus, Chesley said.

“All the science tells us (the vaccine) is safe, but there are many legal authorities who believe it would be problematic for us to require vaccination,” she said.

Chesley, who’s mostly worked online since March 2020, said she’s thrilled to be permanently back on campus with her colleagues.

“I am so excited to be back and see everyone,” she said.

Andrew Davis, COCC’s director of student life, is also ready to be back in-person with his staff. He said collaborating over Zoom was a challenge.

“Being able to see colleagues

face-to-face, have the side conversations organically, will be amazing,” Davis said. “We can hear laughter and have fun banter in the office again.”

Oliver Tatom — a member of the COCC board and an urgent care nurse — said that it made sense for Chesley to bring back staff, now that the vaccine is widely available.

“As long as we continue moving in the direction we’re moving in, which is increasing vaccination rates and low hospitalization and death rates, I think (this decision) is totally reasonable and prudent,” Tatom said. “I trust President Chesley. She has demonstrated a willingness to adjust as the situation changes.”

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