

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've been in a long-distance relationship for 2 1/2 years. We are now engaged, but haven't set a date for our wedding.

We are both in the military, and we have maintained this relationship well. But there was a time before we dated that I was dating someone else. I ended that relationship, but haven't healed from it because I see him at work often, and I still have feelings for him.

He lives in my neighbor-

hood, and I enjoy talking to him. I like the attention he gives me, and I'm attracted to him. I blame the geographical distance from my fiancé for this. I want someone close, and I would love for it to be the person I am engaged to, but although I try to abstain from this other person, I find myself drawn to him.

— *Caught Between Two*

Dear Caught: You say you have been together with your absent fiancé for 2 1/2 years, but are still carrying on an

emotional affair with the man you broke up with. When you say you are "trying to abstain" from this person, clearly you can't.

What is going on isn't fair to the man you are engaged to. If he knew, I'm sure he would agree. Do not chalk this up to "when I'm not with the man I love, I love the one I'm with." Be honest about what you really want, follow through, and you won't be writing me again years from now asking what to do.

YOUR HOROSCOPE *By Madalyn Aslan*

Stars show the kind of day you'll have

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR SATURDAY, APRIL 17, 2021:

Inventive, ardent and outrageous, professional challenges get your juices flowing. This year, you create excitement with a new project. Remember to ask for assistance if you need it. Your income stream continues to flow. Keep your finances in a safe account. Step up your exercise plan with a trainer or guide. If single, travel in circles with likeminded people. If attached, make date nights a priority. PISCES enchants you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Friends could ask your opinion about something that you'd rather not talk about. You are honest and direct, but that can backfire. Switch the topic and divert the discussion. Take an exercise routine up a notch. Tonight: Family fun and games.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Today is earmarked for creating a family budget. Be prepared for a lengthy discussion revolving around which items you need and which you can live without. Buy pastries or bake your own to sweeten the day. Tonight: Time to socialize.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Harmony is today's keyword. Avoid unpleasant situations and conversations. Organize an outing with a group of friends. Bypass responsibilities for the day. Getting out of town could be the change of scenery you all need. Tonight: Wind down with romance.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Take a break from nonstop mental activity. Create a photo album that makes the perfect gift. Take out a sketch book or musical instrument. Revive an artistic interest or talent that made you happy. Try to recapture that emotion. Tonight: Check your email.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Spend quality time with a special friend you haven't seen in a while. Share memories that make you both sad and happy. Record your conversations so you can listen to them again. Make this day one to remember.

Tonight: Home cooking.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Tie up loose ends from the week but don't spend too long on it. Switch gears and use your mind in other ways. Browse the web, catch up on email and clean out your inbox. Tonight: Binge a series you missed.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Think about that vacation or weekend getaway you deserve to take. Browse travel websites for bargains. There may be great deals for destinations you never considered until now. Thinking about it will set it in motion. Tonight: Experiment with spices.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Sign up for a race, marathon or team sport that pushes you beyond your comfort zone. Notify friends and relatives so they can cheer you on. Give someone you love undivided attention. Together you can solve a mystery. Tonight: Feeling content.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ There may be an unexpected change of plans that works in your favor. Go out with your favorite person and do whatever makes you happy. Hold off on deep conversations. Be supportive. Kindness allows relationships to grow. Tonight: Imagining the future.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Speak your truth in a way that does not hurt anyone. You may have to leave things out of the conversation. Share healthy eating tips with friends or an online group. Nourishing recipes set you on the right path. Tonight: Dinner guests.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Use your imagination today and see where it takes you. Snap photos of things you love most. Take an excursion to a farm or zoo. Animals and children will put a smile on your face. Tonight: Engage in a stimulating dialogue.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Organize a family meeting to map out travel plans. If everyone is on a different page, you will act as mediator. Finding a destination that has something for everyone will do the trick. Tonight: Zoom with children and grandchildren.

Offices

Continued from A5

Will companies need less room if people are working at home sometimes, or must they have a devoted desk waiting for each worker when they do come in? Will workers still be seated close to each other as they have been in many offices in recent years, or must they have more elbow room to feel safe from viruses?

A recent survey by consulting firm KPMG found that only 17% of chief executives

are looking to downsize their office space as a result of the pandemic, a steep drop from August, when 69% said they planned to shrink their offices.

Before they return to the office, though, the majority of chief executives would like to see more than 50% of the general population vaccinated. They especially want to see their own employees get COVID-preventing shots — 90% of bosses said they are considering asking employees to report to them when they have been vaccinated, which

may guide decisions on when companies return to their offices.

Doney predicted that many companies will reduce the size of their offices in the future as remote labor becomes routine, but that they will return to working together for the most part.

People will come back to the office over the summer, he said, but the return will be substantial after Labor Day when the working-age population is largely inoculated and children are back in school.

Rent

Continued from A5

House Bill 2966A wouldn't help commercial tenants who are still struggling to pay their rent now.

Instead, it would apply to tenants who missed rent payments between April and September of last year, when businesses were forced to close due to pandemic restrictions. It would give them until Sept. 30 to make up those missed payments.

The bill would be retroactive to March 31 and any eviction

process for nonpayment of rent that was initiated before the bill went into effect but has not yet been resolved will be stayed until Oct. 1 or dismissed.

Nosse said the extension would give the state time to get business owners and landlords relief through its \$100 million commercial rent relief program.

Business Oregon, the state's economic development agency, announced earlier this month that it will distribute nearly \$50 million to cover the missed rent of a combined 2,609 commercial tenants across the state

through the first round of the relief program before opening applications for another \$50 million round of relief later this month.

Rep. Jack Zika, R-Redmond, voted in favor of the bill Friday but suggested it wouldn't have been necessary if Business Oregon had delivered that aid more quickly. Lawmakers voted in January to allocate the \$100 million to seed the program.

"I think we should be putting some real pressure on them to get those funds out," Zika said.

Tax cuts

Continued from A5

That made sense in normal times — employers that draw the most from the state's unemployment insurance fund pay the most to support it. But in 2020, the formula resulted in organizations hardest hit by the pandemic's economic impact facing the biggest tax hikes.

The Oregon Employment Department forecast that 20% of the state's employers would have to shoulder nearly all of a \$183 million increase in unemployment taxes this year. And because the state allocates the impact of layoffs over a three-year period, those organizations would keep paying

higher taxes over the next two years.

Employers reported tax bills rising by several hundred dollars per worker, jeopardizing their ability to recall staff after the pandemic and potentially putting Oregon's economic recovery at risk.

Oregon's trust fund has more money than any other state's — \$3.8 billion, despite the steepest, sharpest economic downturn in state history. So a bipartisan group of lawmakers drew up a series of reforms to blunt the impact of this year's tax increases and reduce the overall tax burden in the future:

- Employers who faced a tax hike of at least 0.5 of a percentage point this year can defer up

to a third of that bill until June 2022. And those facing higher increases can have a portion of that higher bill forgiven.

- Layoffs that took place in 2020 and 2021 won't be used to calculate employers' tax rates in the future. So there won't be an ongoing penalty associated with pandemic-related layoffs.

- And Oregon will consider 20 years of economic history, rather than 10, when evaluating how much money the trust fund needs — and how much to tax employers to keep the fund solvent. Legislative analysts expect that using a longer time frame will result in a lower target for the trust fund balance, and lower employer taxes.



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2021

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SPECIAL THANKS TO LAURA CRASKA-COOPER, CASCADE CULINARY INSTITUTE, COCC MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY & NEWPORT MARKET



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