

DEAR ABBY

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



Dear Abby: After I ended a 20-year marriage, I took some time off from relationships and am now back in the dating world. My ex-husband and I never had children.

I recently met a man with two teenagers. He says I am "detached" from children. I am not detached! I just never had experience with them. How do I proceed with this relationship since his kids are very dear to him?

—Not Detached

Dear Not Detached: This man's offspring are no longer "children." They are teenagers, and teens can be complicated. Reach out to them the way you would anyone of any age. Be friendly and show them you are interested in them. If they have a mother in the picture, do not try to "mother" them. See if you share any common interests (sports, music, fashion, etc.), resist the urge to lecture them and be a good listener.

Dear Abby: Back around 1987, a girl asked me to take her to her high school prom. I was several years older, didn't know her well and wanted to say no but couldn't. In the end I stood her up. I don't even remember her name. She worked at a grocery store with my brother.

That was more than 30 years ago. I am married now and have two fine children. I was recently asked what my biggest regret is, and I said standing her up. Not one week has gone by in the last 30 years that I haven't thought about her and wished I could find her and tell her how truly sorry I am.

It's funny. Although I can't remember her name, there's no one from my past that I have thought about more than her. I would give anything to find her and apologize. It haunts me. Any suggestions?

—Biggest Regret in the South

Dear Biggest Regret:

What you did to that girl was brutal. Because it's not possible for you to directly offer the apology she deserves, concentrate harder on the present and always try to treat everyone with kindness and sensitivity.

Dear Abby: I'd like advice on how to handle a problem that crops up every time family members invite me out to a dinner they are paying for.

I know the rule of etiquette is to order an item that's the same or less than what the host is ordering, but I am often asked to order first. This means I have no idea what the payer's meal will cost. If it means ordering something on the menu other than what I'd rather have — a burger instead of a steak — in that case, should I offer to pay for my own meal? What if they won't hear of taking any money from me? Can I still order the steak since my offer to pay was refused?

—Likes to Follow the Rules

Dear Likes: A way to get around ordering first might be to say, "I haven't decided yet. I'd like to hear what the others are ordering." However, if you would be uncomfortable doing that, and your hosts won't let you have a separate check, be a gracious guest and enjoy every bite of your steak dinner.

Privacy

Continued from A9

Apple, in turn, has pilloried Facebook and other apps for prying so deeply into people's lives that it has created a societal crisis.

In a speech given a few weeks after the Jan. 6 attacks on the U.S. Capitol, Apple CEO Tim Cook pointed out how personal information collected through tracking by Facebook and other social media can

sometimes push people toward more misinformation and hate speech as part of the efforts to show more ads.

"What are the consequences of not just tolerating but rewarding content that undermines public trust in life-saving vaccinations?" Cook asked. "What are the consequences of seeing thousands of users join extremist groups and then perpetuating an algorithm that recommends more?"

In a change of tone, Face-

book CEO Mark Zuckerberg recently suggested that Apple's new privacy controls could actually help his company in the long run. His rationale: The inability to automatically track iPhone users may prod more companies to sell their products directly on Facebook and affiliated services such as Instagram if they can't collect enough personal information to effectively target ads within their own apps.

Google also depends on

personal information to fuel a digital ad network even bigger than Facebook's, but it has said it would be able to adjust to the iPhone's new privacy controls. Unlike Facebook, Google has close business ties with Apple. Google pays Apple an estimated \$9 billion to \$12 billion annually to be the preferred search engine on iPhone and iPad. That arrangement is currently one element of an anti-trust case filed last year by the U.S. Justice Department.

Drone

Continued from A9

"I would just like to have the right back to fly," Jones said. "I myself don't feel like I'm offering any surveying, and more or less, I'm telling people this is not accurate mapping, this is only for visual, and all of my clients understood that."

Jones is one of many drone pilots coming into conflict with regulations designed to protect surveying professionals, whose exclusive roles are being disrupted now that it's possible to nearly precisely combine line drawings with images to better resolve property disputes.

Jones' lawsuit represents the cutting edge of this coming disruption, according to David Benowitz, head of research at Drone Analyst and a former employee at DJI, the world's largest commercial drone manufacturer. "This has been rumored about and talked about for years now. Drones have really changed the game in surveying."

The challenge goes both ways: Surveyors would need Federal Aviation Administration approval to professionally fly drones, and drone operators would need to pass state licensing exams to produce legal surveys. Neither side wants to take on the training and expenses.

But Kurt Carraway, executive director of the Applied Aviation Research Center at Kansas State University, said licensing boards should do more to embrace partnerships by researching the accuracy of



Gerry Broome/AP

Michael Jones operates his drone April 2 in Goldsboro, North Carolina.

drone mapping and encouraging the use of drones, particularly in places where a surveyor can't safely do the work.

"I would think that with the continued development of technologies and positional accuracy that it's likely that drone data can be captured in a way that is compliant with those surveying standards," Carraway said.

A final notice Jones got from the board in 2019 ordered him to stop engaging in "mapping, surveying and photogrammetry, stating accuracy, providing location and dimension data and producing orthomosaic maps, quantities and topographic information."

The board declined to comment to The Associated Press, but said it will file a formal response to the lawsuit.

Jones, 44, of Goldsboro, said he couldn't afford a lawyer, so he abandoned drone mapping, resulting in over \$10,000 in lost business. This January, a libertarian law firm offered to represent him.

Sam Gedge, an attorney at the Institute for Justice, plans to argue that Jones has the right to freedom of speech by taking photos and videos and producing artwork for clients. He's seen similar disputes in Mississippi, Oregon and California.

In the Mississippi case, the Virginia-based law firm reached a settlement in December that allows Vizaline, a real estate analytics firm accused of performing unlicensed surveying, to use public data to draw property lines on satellite photos.

"Many states have enforced their laws in a way that is under the radar," Gedge said. "They just send warning letters to people ... and for most people who receive that letter, as Michael did, you're gonna knock it off because nobody wants to be the target of a government enforcement proceeding."

Walter Lappert, a 35-year-old Tampa, Florida, resident, founded two drone-manufacturing companies that now partner with engineers to provide mapping services, Triad Drones and Charlotte UAV. He said he lost out on a good chunk of a \$300,000 Charlotte-area government contract because surveyors objected to his drones.

Lappert said he understands the board's desire to protect an industry that has consistently been undercut in recent years by unlicensed drone operators who can do a less-than-accurate job for substantially less money. "Inexperienced people are going out and taking jobs and subpar delivering on what the actual technology can do," he said.

He's compromised by partnering as a subcontractor with engineering firms or surveying companies, but he'd like to do the work on his own.

"Service work is the best bang for the buck," Lappert said. "I can go out in one day and make \$25,000 doing service work versus it might take me three months to sell a \$100,000 drone."

YOUR HOROSCOPE *By Madalyn Aslan*

Stars show the kind of day you'll have

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 2021: Protective, persevering and creative, you know how to keep a steady hand on the helm. This year, you might struggle more than usual to remain calm, but your cool head will always prevail. Avoid career worries by adjusting to changing demands. Find your niche and work hard to maintain your individuality. If single, choose someone loving and consistent. If attached, work together to improve your finances. SAGITTARIUS loves to travel.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ Pay more attention to your need for honest emotions. Open the door to deeper conversations about your relationships by revealing more of yourself. Follow where your passions lead, and you'll find the satisfaction you seek. Tonight: Search for a sentimental item.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ Come to terms with a minor dispute with a friend, partner or client. Clear the air before the situation escalates. Show that you're willing to compromise, even if you're not really there yet. Tonight: Virtual dinner with your bestie.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ Work on a project that's been playing on your mind. Taking care of business brings personal as well as professional satisfaction. Time spent with a pet, yours or a friend's, could soothe your soul. Tonight: Rest and count your blessings.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Put more fun into your daily routine. Schedule calls with friends you haven't seen in ages or hang out with children. Remind yourself of what it is to be free and easy. Tonight: Arrange a date or plan a party.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ Insist on a better work-life balance and put it into practice. A surprise visit could brighten your doorstep and lift your mood. A relative wants to share a secret. Listen to what they have to say. Tonight: Clear office clutter.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ You could uncover a technical or mechanical issue. Get it fixed before it explodes into a major problem. Call a sibling or cousin who will be more than happy to hear from you. Tonight: Ask a neighbor for advice.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ Pay a debt that might have slipped your mind. Someone needs to know that you appreciate their kind and generous act. Flirting will get you everywhere when it comes to love. You know what to do. Tonight: Balance your budget.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Take credit for a job well done. When you point out the value of what you've accomplished, people who you want to impress will take notice. Treat your family to an upcoming sporting event. Tonight: Give away things you don't need.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ Seek out peace and quiet and get a break from the hectic pace of life. A fresh idea is waiting to whisper in your ear. Turn down the noise and pay attention to your inner wisdom. Tonight: Candles and incense.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ Get involved in your community. A problem that seems insurmountable becomes manageable when you lend your organizational skills and can-do attitude. You might meet someone who awakens your need to make the world a better place. Tonight: A group hug.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ Take action on a project that lets you bask in a feeling of accomplishment. Sitting back and waiting for everyone else to catch up no longer works. An authority figure understands you better than you think. Tonight: Dance around the house.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Explore ideas that call to your inner adventurer. It could be time to plan a trip or take a class that builds your skill set and expands your mind. A friend in need appreciates your empathy. Tonight: Read a classic novel.

Crash

Continued from A9

The accident occurred on the night after Thanksgiving in 2019 when more than a dozen Guatemalan Christmas tree workers packed into a van after a day loading Christmas trees into delivery trucks at Holiday Tree Farms in Corvallis. The Department of Labor reported Monday that 16 people were in the van at the time of the crash. Police at the time said there were 13 people in the van.

The Chevy passenger van was traveling east on a darkened road when the driver, Pablo Gaspar-Ezequiel, attempted to turn left, according to police at the time. A Ford F-350 traveling west smashed into the passenger side of the van in a T-bone crash.

Andres Alonzo-Canil, Miguel Alonzo-Lucas and Diego Lucas Felipe died in the crash. At least 11 others were injured.

Marion County law enforcement determined that the van's driver didn't obey a traffic light or yield the right of way, according to the Department of Labor.

During a phone call with The Oregonian on Monday, Mota acknowledged that his registration as a farm labor contractor was expired at the time of the crash, but said his application for renewal had already been submitted.

He also said he doesn't believe the federal government should be faulting him for the accident because he didn't arrange transportation for the workers and it didn't occur during work hours.

"I had nothing to do with it," Mota said. "All I did was give the people a job. I didn't do anything wrong. I had nothing to do with the van. I wasn't the owner of the van."

The Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act says that any "nonexempt person who uses or causes to be used a vehicle to transport any migrant or seasonal agricultural worker" is required to ensure that the driver of the vehicle has a license and maintains proper insurance, among other requirements.

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