

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 had a horrible childhood with a mean mother who berated and took her issues out on me. I had an older brother who enjoyed making fun of me and embarrassed me in front of others to get his kicks. He still never misses an opportunity to pull a “gotcha.”

I was raised at a time when child abuse was considered making a kid tough. What it did to me was break me down emotionally. Does PTSD ever go away, or do I have to live with it to the end?

— *Just Getting By in New York*

Dear Just Getting By: I'm sorry for the abuse to which you were subjected. PTSD does not go away on its own, and you do not have to “live with it.” Distance yourself as much as possible from your bully brother. You can find the help you need by asking your physician or insurance company to refer you to a licensed psychotherapist who specializes in patients with PTSD. You won't be the first person to do “couch time” after an abusive childhood. Trust me on that.

Dear Abby: My father-in-law has spent every Friday night with my husband and me for two years, ever since my mother-in-law passed away. My husband spends every Tuesday evening with him at his house. My sister-in-law is building a room onto her house for him to live in (he is selling his house). My husband and sister-in-law call him two or three times a day.

Abby, my father-in-law is healthy and still drives.

He never pays for any food — my husband and sister-in-law buy all his food. He's a wealthy man, but stingy. I think my husband and his sister are obsessed. What do you think? I'm so tired of this. I don't want him staying at my house. I need privacy! Help!

— *Over It Now in Tennessee*

Dear Over It: Your husband and his sister appear to be devoted to their father. Either that, or they may anticipate a big payday once their wealthy parent expires. More than privacy, you may need a break. Arrange to spend some of those Fridays with friends, and perhaps his presence will be less onerous.

Dear Abby: We welcomed new neighbors and allowed them to use our garbage can until they got one, and gave them a bottle of wine and a housewarming card. We also offered to let them use our downstairs bathroom until the contractor finished theirs. No one else on the block did anything for them. Nothing.

They then invited a neighbor and his wife over for drinks and didn't invite us. My husband says I shouldn't be offended by this. I would have had the neighbors who had welcomed me over first. What do you think?

— *Snubbed in the South*

Dear Snubbed: I think you and your husband are more than neighborly. I also think you are blessed with common sense, something your new neighbors may lack. My advice is to let this unfortunate incident slide without holding a grudge.

Lawmakers mixed on delaying paid family leave

BY CHRIS LEHMAN
The Oregonian

Oregon lawmakers were of two minds Thursday on a request from the state's Employment Department to delay paid family and medical leave for Oregon workers.

At a hearing in the House Rules Committee on a bill that would postpone the initial rollout of the program, agency officials said getting things started on time is, at this point, “not achievable.”

Under the original law, employers had been scheduled to start paying into the program in January 2022, and workers had been set to potentially receive benefits in January 2023. Under House Bill 3398, those

dates would be pushed back to January 2023, and September 2023, respectively.

“We frankly don't think that we can implement it under the current statutory timelines,” said David Gerstenfeld, the Employment Department's acting director.

The dates on which employers and workers would begin paying into a paid leave fund and the date when workers could begin collecting the benefits were contained in the 2019 legislation that created the program.

Gerstenfeld called those dates “aggressive,” but he said the pandemic, and the huge amount of unexpected work that created for his agency,

made them impossible to attain.

That explanation made sense to Rep. Paul Holvey, D-Eugene.

“No one could have expected the pandemic,” he said. “I appreciate that they want the time to get it right. If we start this program up and rush it, I think it would be catastrophic if there were mistakes, for both employers and employees.”

But other lawmakers wondered why the agency waited so long to request a delay. The bill that would do so was introduced May 4, more than three months into the legislative session.

“You don't get a year behind on a project overnight,” said

Rep. Marty Wilde, D-Eugene. “Will they not just be back in a year or two, asking for more time?”

Wilde said he's drafting an amendment to move oversight of the program to another agency.

House GOP leader Rep. Christine Drazan of Canby told Gerstenfeld that she recognizes that the Employment Department has faced “extraordinary pressure” over the past 14 months due to the pandemic.

“But we've been in session for months and months,” she said. “It sounds like you've known this entire time that these timelines were not realistic.”

COVID-19

Continued from A1

Across Deschutes County, COVID-19 is waning, and 60.5% of the U.S. population 18 and older have been vaccinated, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. But in Central Oregon, the virus is still ferocious, spreading among the younger, unvaccinated population, said Maree.

The hospital estimates that there are about 100,000 people in Central Oregon who are not vaccinated yet.

“That's quite a large pool,” Johnson said. “You add to that, the relaxed mask policy and the slide in our behavior, and we'll end up with more people in the hospital.”

Nearly all, 97%, of the hospitalized patients with COVID-19 since March at St. Charles were not vaccinated,

said Lisa Goodman, St. Charles Health System spokeswoman.

“What we see here is different from what we're seeing in the rest of the nation,” Goodman said. “We're not out of the woods yet.”

With the lowering of the risk level, Deschutes County restaurants and bars, gyms and churches can have up to 50% capacity indoors and indoor full-contact sports are allowed, according to state health guidelines. Retail stores can have up to 75% occupancy indoors.

“Our census numbers are climbing steeply,” Johnson said. “There are all these things. We are recovering; it won't take much to send us back in risk.”

Almost 1 in 5 patients are ending up in the intensive care unit of the hospital, Johnson said. In fact, the number of patients with COVID-19 that are needing a ventilator now

is about as high as it was when the state began experiencing a surge in December and January, he said.

Compounding the rise in hospitalization is the feeling among residents that the end is in sight. Face-covering restrictions were relaxed last week for those fully vaccinated and with the lower risk category, more people can gather indoors.

The rise in cases, is not unexpected, said Dr. Richard Fawcett, Deschutes County Health Services health officer.

“As more people get vaccinated, we are hopeful that cases and subsequent hospitalizations will stabilize and decrease,” Fawcett said. “High case rates and hospitalization rates are concerning and an important reminder of the need to vaccinate our community. We encourage anyone who hasn't been vaccinated to

find a convenient location.”

The best defense is to get vaccinated, said Maree. To find a vaccine in Deschutes County, go to deschutes.org/health/page/covid-19-vaccine.

In Central Oregon, the people who are getting COVID-19 are coming in sicker and younger, but staying a shorter amount of time, according to St. Charles Health System.

“Every month we see the people who come into the emergency department sick with COVID-19, the average age is still decreasing down to an average age of 46 now,” said Maree. “Initially, COVID-19 affected our congregant care settings and older population. Now we're seeing it spreading rapidly among the community members, particularly the unvaccinated, younger population.”

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YOUR HOROSCOPE *By Georgia Nicols*

Stars show the kind of day you'll have

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

MOON ALERT: There are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions today. The Moon is in Libra.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR SATURDAY, MAY 22, 2021: You are versatile, charismatic, intellectually fascinating and convincing. You have many interests. You are also creative and organized, as well as hard-working and methodical. Nevertheless, you're an entertaining, carefree communicator! In your year ahead, line your ducks up in a row, because it will be wise to prepare for some kind of change. Why? Because change will happen.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ Tread carefully today, because there's an element of confusion in your communications with others. You might be misunderstood or you might misunderstand someone else. You also might spend time daydreaming. Tonight: Confused communications continue!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ You are the financial genius of the zodiac, which is why you need to be careful today. In your financial dealings with others, you might be misrepresented or certain facts could be misrepresented to you. Someone might deceive you. Tonight: Double-check financial dealings. Count your change.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ Today Mercury is in your sign at odds with fuzzy Neptune, which means communications are loosey-goosey. They might be loosey-goosey because of a general confusion. However, they also might be loosey-goosey because someone is lying or trying to deceive you. (Would I kid you?) Tonight: This same confusion continues.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ Something going on behind the scenes is murky today. For starters, if you think something fishy is going on, it is. However, you might be reluctant to confront someone or you might want to hide something to avoid a confrontation. Tonight: Look for a boat hole. Hide!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ You like to admire your friends, which is why you often overlook their faults. (“I have the best friends!”) Today be wary of idealizing someone or putting them up on a pedestal. This does you no good, nor them. Be suspicious about misleading situations. Tonight: Take everything with a grain of salt.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ This is a tricky day when talking to bosses, people in authority or the police, because some people will be fast and loose with the truth. You might hold back information in order to avoid a confrontation. It's best not to hide anything today, cuz you'll be found out. Tonight: It's hard to trust the words of everyone. Be careful.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ If you are talking about religious or mystical ideas today, you might get carried away. Many people are deluded today because Mercury is at odds with Neptune. Do your best to stay in the real world of toothpaste, cars and sliced bread. Tonight: Avoid controversial subjects. Too much confusion!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ Be careful when discussing insurance issues, inheritances, taxes or debt, because misinformation is rampant today. People will misunderstand or even deceive each other. You might overlook an important detail. Tonight: Do not sign important papers. Do not make important business decisions.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ Honesty is important today. Be gentle with a friend or partner if you think they're trying to weasel out of telling you something they don't want to. Let them off the hook. Tonight: Someone dear to you might be afraid to come clean. (It happens.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ Be clear in your communications about your job or anything to do with your health, because today a lot of communications are confused or misleading. Do not be a victim of misrepresentation! Double-check your facts. Tonight: Health-related issues or something to do with a pet is confusing.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ People are reluctant to tell the truth today if they think it's going to get them in trouble. Don't corner your kids or a lover — cut them some slack today. Be compassionate. Tonight: Social events are confusing and misleading. Caution!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ A family conversation might be circular and misleading today, especially if someone doesn't want to come clean about something. (“OK, OK, I ate the last piece!”) If your family discussions are important, be discriminating. Make sure everything is on the level. Tonight: Family discussions are shaky at best.

Relief

Continued from A1

There was a similar divide between respondents from the Portland area and non-Willamette Valley residents.

There were also some differences among age groups — younger respondents were more likely to support increased funding for low-income and nonwhite students — but the gap wasn't as large. The majority of all age groups answered “yes,” as well as both white and nonwhite respondents.

The split between urban/rural and young/old respondents was even more pronounced when asked which educational programs should be prioritized when spending COVID-19 relief dollars.

Overall, the most popular choice among the 14 options was mental health counseling — 62% of all respondents listed it as one of their top three priorities.

However, there is an extreme divide between younger and older respondents: 82% of those ages 18-29 had mental health counseling as a top-three priority, compared to only 38% of those age 65 and older.

Younger respondents also had a much stronger desire for funding for mentoring and tutoring.

Meanwhile, older respondents' most popular priority, with 51% putting it in their top three, was increased funding toward vocational and job training. Only 17% of 18-29 year olds agreed.

Both urban and rural Oregonians showed strong support for increased funding for mental health counseling. Those two groups' largest gap came in support for vocational and job training: That's something 41% of rural residents had in their top three priorities, compared to only 27% of urban residents.

The survey also included open-ended questions about how school districts should spend COVID-19 relief dollars. The responses varied wildly, even among Central Oregonians.

Many said that school staff, particularly those with lower paychecks, should get salary bumps.

“Raise the salaries of teachers but not administration,” said an unnamed Democrat resident of urban Deschutes County.

Others didn't love the idea of

Oregon Values and Beliefs Center

The Oregon Values and Beliefs Center is committed to the highest level of public opinion research. To obtain that, the non-profit is building the largest online research panel of Oregonians in history to ensure that all voices are represented in discussions of public policy in a valid and statistically reliable way.

Selected panelists earn points for their participation, which can be redeemed for cash or donated to a charity. To learn more, visit oregon-vbc.org.

schools getting any COVID-19 relief funds.

“The schools have gotten excessive funding and they don't do anything to provide for the teachers they just add more schools,” wrote Melissa Aspell, a suburban Deschutes County resident and member of the Independent Party.

The nonprofit spoke with 918 Oregon residents ages 18 and up, and those surveyed came from various backgrounds.

There was a mix of wealthy and poor; high school diplomas and graduate degrees; Democrats, Republicans, Independents.

However, there were a few demographics that were more heavily represented.

Three-quarters of respondents said they did not have school-age children in their households. More than 90% of respondents identified as white or Caucasian, and only about 75% of Oregon is solely white,

according to the U.S. Census.

And 72% of respondents either lived in the Portland metro area or Willamette Valley. However, that might be

proportionate — the tri-county Portland area alone accounts for nearly 45% of Oregon's population.

Deschutes County and Central Oregon were lumped in with the rest of the state outside the Valley in this survey. So outside of some anecdotal answers to open-ended questions, the survey doesn't offer many specifics on how Central Oregon feels about these issues, compared to Eastern or Southern Oregon.

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