

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 am a 40-something single mother of two teens. A 24-year-old neighbor with a young daughter moved in next door a couple years ago after her divorce.

She recently joined the workforce, and being a single working mother for the last year and a half has been a difficult adjustment for her. When she sees me outside, she comes over to vent. She seems incapable of just giving a friendly wave and going about her day.

I like to garden in peace. She has actually come into my yard, sat on my lawn and complained while I continued weeding. She prefaces it by telling me she doesn't want advice; she just wants to vent. Abby, I have lived her life — with a lot less support — and at this point, I value my alone time. I don't want to listen to her woes.

I find myself sneaking around my yard trying to avoid her. Today, I saw her setting up a trampoline in her backyard. It's close to my yard and right outside my dining room window.

How do I communicate to her that I don't want a visitor when I'm working in my yard? I know her feelings will be hurt.

I've already tried to set boundaries by not initiating conversation and not inviting her over. Help!

— *Private in the Midwest*

Dear Private: Tell your neighbor she needs to find another person to vent to because your gardening activities are the way you cope with your own problems, and you prefer to do that without company. Then suggest she

find a comparable activity for herself that may serve the same purpose. She may not like hearing it, but you will be free.

Dear Abby: My husband has withdrawn himself from my family. I sense my niece resents it. She's 53 and has a teenage son. I believe she thinks we don't see each other because we don't love them. I can't explain what's going on with my husband to her. I want to explain to my family and maybe make excuses for his behavior, but honestly, I don't think it would change much.

I realize COVID-19 has kept families apart, and this may not be a good time to try to become closer. I have expressed my feelings to my husband, but it never turns out well. He lost his mom two years ago, and his depression has gotten worse. He wants nothing to do with my family. They don't deserve it, but things are good between the two of us apart from this issue. Must I choose sides? What can I do?

— *Choosing Sides in Canada*

Dear Choosing: Unless there is something important that you omitted from your letter, your husband's behavior may be connected to the loss of his mother. Do not "choose sides," but also do not allow him to separate you from your family.

Stay in touch as much as you can, and once the quarantines are finished, visit with them. Explain your husband's absence by letting your relatives know WHY your husband is acting this way and that he needs compassion and understanding, not judgment.

Library

Continued from A1

The public comments suggested the board consider bringing a new library to the east side of Bend, which is easier to access than the proposed location on Highway 20. The commenters wanted the board to consider disabled library visitors and children who enjoy walking to the library.

"It seems to me, and a lot of other people, that there is a much better place to put the Central Library," said Capozzi, who is an investor in The Bulletin.

Capozzi, who advocates for the elderly as the president of the council on aging, also pointed out the library board will need approval from the city of Bend before constructing the new library. The board needs to coordinate with the City Council and other community stakeholders, Capozzi said.

"I think the most positive scenario would be for that board to act responsibly, listen to the public and then reach out to the key constituents and say how can we work together on a plan that really works for everybody," Capozzi said.

Library Director Todd Dunkelberg, who works at the direction of the board, said as of now the board is moving forward with its plans for the



Area residents are questioning the Deschutes Public Library board's decision to build the new Central Library at the proposed location for an area more accessible.

Ryan Brennecke/
The Bulletin

new Central Library and other upgrades to regional libraries. Those were the plans approved by the voters, he said.

"At this point, my direction from the library board is to continue," Dunkelberg said. "Our library board did go through a very extensive process reviewing land that met all the qualities they were looking for."

Although the proposed location of the Central Library was not mentioned in the bond measure, the Deschutes Public Library system purchased the 12.75-acre property for \$1.35 million prior to the election. In addition, the library system advertised the property at 63405 U.S. Highway 20 during public presentations and in con-

ceptual designs on its website, Dunkelberg said.

"For all of our promotional material throughout the bond process, we were very specific about where it would be," Dunkelberg said.

Dunkelberg said other parts of Bend were considered for the new library, but land is limited in the city, and the space off the highway is large enough to accommodate the large library.

The 100,000-square-foot library will offer space for larger meeting rooms, a children's discovery hub and areas for new programming, Dunkelberg said.

"We found a location we are very happy with," he said. "It meets a lot of the concerns we had making sure we are put-

ting it somewhere that is central to all people in Deschutes County."

When she joins the board next month, Ness said she wants to push for clarification as to why the current location was chosen for the new library. She wants the board to consider other locations and reconsider how it plans to spend the bond money. She believes more funds should be allocated for other libraries in La Pine, Sisters and Sunriver.

"I feel the library board can reallocate at that budget and relook at the proposed plans for the libraries to see if we can't meet the needs of this growing county," Ness said.

■ Reporter: 541-617-7820,
kspr@bendbulletin.com

Legislature

Continued from A1

It was either yes, no or send it back to committee, which at this point is the equivalent of no.

It also helped that on some of the contentious issues during what has been one of the most hotly partisan legislative sessions in recent memory, a middle path was cleared when a member of each party worked together to cobble a compromise that was palatable to a majority.

The 30-member Senate, the smaller and usually more sedate of the two legislative bodies, moved through its agenda in the time of a good baseball game in the days before television: Two hours and four minutes.

On Thursday, legislators ping-ponged between taxes, affordable housing, racial equity, and mental health.

For most of the past decade, lawmakers have debated a 2013 tax cut meant to spur small businesses to hire employees but instead ended up as a popular tax-slicing tool of what critics called "suits and scrubs," or incorporated small operations that often include doctor and lawyer offices.

The political rewind worked on Thursday because it was drawn up by two longtime senators who on most issues are at polar opposites. Sen. Ginny Burdick, D-Portland, the former Senate majority leader who has announced she is retiring, joined with firebrand conservative Sen. Brian Boquist of Dallas. A longtime Republican, Boquist had chafed under attempts by the GOP caucus to control his words and action and officially declared himself an independent.

"The requirements we had in 2013 were pretty loose," Burdick said. "Most of the benefit went to the highest income earners."

Senate Bill 139 eliminates the tax break for businesses taking in over \$5 million in profits and puts a floor under the minimum number of employees that had to work for the company in order for employers to qualify. There's an offsetting slightly lower tax rate for businesses bringing in as much as \$1 million.

The 16-13 vote broke mostly along party — or what used to be party — lines. Boquist, the former Republican, voted yes. Sen. Betsy Johnson, D-Scappoose, and Sen. Deb Patterson, D-Salem, voted no.

While there weren't many surprises in the tally, the brevity of comment was unusual. Besides Burdick and Boquist, only Sen. Tim Knopp, R-Bend, spoke at all.

Knopp, who like the bill's sponsors had been in the Legislature when the original bill passed, said he opposed it because Thursday's remedy didn't cure the original sin in 2013 of financing the tax break by changes to a senior citizen tax credit.

"I'm not happy about it now. I wasn't happy about it then," Knopp said.

Not all the action in the Capitol was in the two chambers. Up on the second floor, Gov. Kate Brown was taking heat for a line-item veto of the \$200 million the Legislature had taken out of the Education Stability Fund as part of a sprawling \$9.3 billion schools budget.

The move drew a harsh rebuke from Rep. Suzanne Weber, R-Tillamook, who used a time for personal comments

on the House floor to lash Brown for agreeing to questionable deals on public campaign financing and assistance targeted at other sectors, but saying she was holding the line with the education funds.

She challenged the 60 House members to decide if they were with students, teachers and parents, or with the governor.

"We cannot stand with both," Weber said.

In the east wing, the Secretary of State's Office announced the latest volley in the ongoing gun wars. The Legislature had already passed Senate Bill 554, which would have the effect of barring firearms from the Capitol and Portland International Airport, along with requiring locks on guns kept at home.

A group of conservative current and former Republican lawmakers had filed a referendum with the secretary of state that if it gains enough signatures over the next three months to put it on the ballot, would freeze the implementation of the law now scheduled for September. Only after the November 2022 vote would any action be taken.

The Secretary of State's Office also said Thursday that notices of the intent to file two gun control initiatives had been received — "The Reduction of Gun Violence Act" and the "Reduction of Harm from Weapons Act."

Also received by the secretary of state was a notice from a Grant County resident of an attempt to recall Sen. Lynn Findley, R-Vale, who was among Republican lawmakers who were criticized for staying in the Senate to oppose and vote against the gun bill, instead of walking out to deny the 18 Democrats the two ad-

ditional lawmakers needed for a quorum.

While the relatively bare agenda for the Senate and House on Monday and Tuesday gave an appearance of a light schedule, not everyone is going home for the weekend. The main budget writing committee — Joint Ways & Means — is reading and revising several large items, including the funding for university construction and other public works projects.

The House Rules Committee and House Revenue Committee will also get together in the Capitol on Friday to shuffle through the dozens of bills that are still on its calendar. Both panels are among a select few that are exempted from the multiple deadlines that cull bills from most of the more than 35 legislative committees this year.

The chambers' two rules committees could still pluck several dormant items to be brought up for a vote and sent to the chambers at the last minute. A development project at Stevens Road in Bend is one that is scheduled for the first hard look since it was introduced near the start of the session in January.

Most of the measures are expected to expire when the Legislature gavel out for the final time in the 2021 regular session — the exact date is still open to speculation ranging from as early as Tuesday to as late as the constitutional deadline on Sunday, June 27.

Whatever the expiration date, the slate of more than 2,500 bills — dead and living — will be wiped clean in time for the short session scheduled for early 2022.

■ gwarner@eomediagroup.com

YOUR HOROSCOPE *By Georgia Nicols*

Stars show the kind of day you'll have

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

MOON ALERT: After 5 a.m. EDT today (2 a.m. PDT), there are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions. The Moon is in Libra.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, JUNE 18, 2021: You have a wonderful zest for life and you need to be stimulated! You are charming and articulate. Because you have enormous tenacity, you are also persevering in your goals. This is a more easygoing, relaxed year for you. You will notice that your focus on partnerships and close friendships will be more important. Enjoy networking.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ Today you might attract someone who is powerful and direct to you. Because you are naturally powerful and direct, this conversation will be dynamic! Nevertheless, if push comes to shove, you will have to give way to the other person. Just for today. Tonight: Be patient with others.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ You have a lot of energy to work hard today. However, you will feel independent, which means you also might take on a leadership role when working with others. If you feel you have to defend your way of doing things or your point of view, you will! Tonight: Be cooperative.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Today you will express your feelings and share your ideas with others without fear or apology. You're in a playful mood and you want to have a good time. Enjoy sports events, social outings and fun activities with kids. (It's a great date day.) Tonight: Sympathy with children.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ You want to get something done at home today that might involve some physical exertion. You might do this by yourself or, perhaps, someone will help you. A family conversation will be lively, but you certainly won't agree with others just to be polite. Tonight: Relax at home.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ You will express your ideas, wants and needs quite freely to family members today. In other words, you will leave them no doubt as to where you stand. However, you won't offend anyone; you are simply stating your case, which is your right. Tonight: Stay mellow.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ Your way of handling money or your ideas about earnings and cash flow might surprise others today. You might be first to suggest doing something. You might impulsively buy something just because you want to. Very likely, no one will object. Tonight: Be sensible with money.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Today you feel invigorated and energetic. You're willing to state your feelings about things. If you have to make a first move in some kind of exchange with others, you will. That's because today you have the courage to take the initiative. Tonight: Don't go overboard.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ Although you might feel a bit reserved today and inclined to play your cards close to your chest, nevertheless, you have your eyes open because you're in a defensive mode. Nothing will slip by you today. You're watching. You're watching and you're seeing. Tonight: Enjoy your privacy.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ In working with others today, you will successfully establish a situation where their aims are your aims and vice versa, which means people will cooperate with you. Quite possibly, you will take on a leadership role. Tonight: Avoid disputes with others.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ Bosses, parents, teachers and people in authority will be impressed with your energy today because you are confident and assertive. Be careful that this does not mushroom into something that is too aggressive and off-putting. Easy does it. Tonight: Guard your good reputation.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ You really want to do something different today so you feel challenged. Basically, you want a sense of adventure and an opportunity to learn something new. You don't want to feel that life is stifling you or that you're stuck in a rut. Never! Tonight: Tolerance of others.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ You will handle yourself well if you have to defend your own best interests or the interests of someone else today. If there are money disputes or disputes about shared property, you will not hesitate to state your case. You feel confident and ready to meet any situation. Tonight: Wait and see.

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