

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'm a girl of 23 who has never had a boyfriend.

Now that I finished college and am a journalist, I have met some guys, mostly from high school and places like that.

One of them, who went to my middle school, recently asked me on a date. Another one from high school asked me out, too, in the same week. (Neither one ever talked to me in the respective schools.) Even if I wanted to go out, I'm a little nervous because I've never been on a date.

What do you think I have to do? I know I shouldn't care about what my family and friends say, but they are gossips.

— *Feeling Weird in Mexico*

Dear Feeling Weird: I'm glad you wrote. You do not have to do anything except calm down and get to know who these guys are. You should not rush into ANYTHING. Romances evolve from friendships, and friendships take time and effort. Hang on to your sense of humor, and remember: You are at the beginning of an interesting career and life journey. Stop worrying about the gossips, and take advantage of the opportunities that are opening up for you.

Dear Abby: My mother and her companion recently moved to be closer to me (20 minutes away). The problem is I don't really care for her companion, and he is always around my mom. He comes over to my house when she does, plops himself in our den and turns on the TV — LOUD. (We always close

the door because he needs a hearing aid.)

We now need to replace the reclining chairs in the den. He weighs more than 300 pounds, and I can't find a loveseat or chairs that can accommodate his weight. He won't allow Mom to drive herself over here.

What can I do? I would like comfortable seating in my den, but I don't want furniture that will break the first time he sits on it.

— *Imposed Upon in the South*

Dear Imposed Upon: You are under no obligation to buy furniture to accommodate someone you "don't particularly like." Tell your mother YOU will provide the transportation when she wants to visit you. (Her companion can pick her up when she's ready to go home, or you can take her.) Problem solved.

Dear Abby: When six of us women got together for lunch, one gal brought copies of her mother's newly published book of poetry. The book was \$20. After describing the book and her mother, she offered one to each of us to PURCHASE! We're not poor, but I thought she showed poor taste by pushing this book on us. We all bought one because we felt obligated. What's your opinion about what she did? What would have been a tactful way to refuse?

— *Dumbstruck*

Dear Dumbstruck: You could have thanked the woman for offering the book, told her you are sure it was "wonderful" and refused by saying, "But I'm just not into poetry!"



Ryan Brennecke/The Bulletin

Jess Bartush crosses over Fall Creek with her two dogs, Subie, front, and Lulu, while hiking Wednesday near the Green Lakes Trailhead.

Permits

Continued from A1

Some permits were made available for purchase in advance of the season, which ends Sept. 24. In order to allow some spontaneity, the majority of permits also become available within a seven-day reservation period, on a rolling basis.

Nelson-Dean said there was an initial bottleneck when the system first went online last month, and many advance purchase permits sold out. Dedicated hikers and tour groups scooped up many of these permits as soon as they were available.

But the seven-day advance permits have leveled the playing field and allow anyone to jump online and see what is available for the coming week.

"During the advanced reservation period that opened on April 6 there was a kind of

panic buying and many popular trailheads were reserved very quickly," said Nelson-Dean. "Now that the system is open and operating within the seven-day rolling window reservation system, there seems to be a fair amount of availability for people to reserve."

"As we get into the higher demand periods of July and August we will continue to assess that availability, but this weekend there were still available permits for even some of the most popular trails," she added Monday.

Wiley, the camping department manager at the REI store in Bend, said the system was "well thought out" and allows for flexibility.

"You are not locked into hiking a particular route once you get your permit there," he said.

Bend resident Jana Hemphill used the permitting system on recent hikes to Duffy Lake and Marion Lake. She had some

initial setbacks using the system but quickly learned how to navigate the site.

"Overall I have been lucky thus far. It has been a good experience," said Hemphill, who has been hiking in the Cascades for the past six years.

She said there will be an adjustment period in terms of not being able to do a hike at any given time.

"It will be quite the change, not being able to hike up there on a whim or just deciding the day is really nice and going up. But I also understand the Forest Service's need to protect public lands," she said.

But that need to plan does come with a benefit — the trails will remain in better condition, with fewer crowds. Nelson-Dean said foot traffic on some of the most popular trails, including Green Lakes, Devils Lake, Broken Top, and Tam Rim, increased 300% to 500% over the past five years.

"These trails were just getting loved to death," said Wiley. "It takes all of us to step up and ensure that these places will be wild for future generations, so we fully support (the permit system)."

Are the trails better off for the system and is there a noticeable improvement in the environment? It's too soon to say, said Wiley.

"It's not an overnight process," he said. "It is going to take years for these trails to recover after being used so heavily for so long, so we won't see it right out of the gate."

Hikers needing a permit can visit recreation.gov and browse for available dates in the areas they want to go. Reservations can also be made by calling 1-877-444-6777. Permits are also available at the offices of the Willamette and Deschutes national forests.

Reporter: 541-617-7818, mkohn@bendbulletin.com

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, JUNE 19, 2021: You are multitalented, and because you don't want to limit yourself, you like to explore many disciplines. You have a strong personal style, often expressed in your dress. Relationships matter to you. This year is more fast-paced and exciting! It has many opportunities for you to explore. Make a choice. Let something new grow. Enjoy yourself this year!

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ For the next four weeks, you will focus on home, family and your private world. Many will be more involved than usual with a parent. This is a good time to both entertain at home as well as enjoy cocoon time. Tonight: Avoid power struggles.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ The pace of your days will accelerate in the next four weeks as you get busier with short trips, errands, work, plus increased reading and writing. You've got things to do, places to go and people to see! Tonight: Work hard.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ Money, possessions, cash flow and earnings will be your focus in the next four weeks. You will also give more thought to your self-worth. What makes you feel worthy? The stuff that you own? Is it who you are? Tonight: Be patient with kids.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ For the next four weeks, the Sun is in your sign boosting your energy and giving you a chance to recharge your batteries for the rest of year. It will also attract people and favorable situations to you. Tonight: Keep the peace at home.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ Your personal year is coming to an end, but your birthday is not yet ready to begin. This is why the next four weeks are an excellent time for you to contemplate what you want for your new year ahead. Ideas? Tonight: Avoid ego battles.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Your popularity will increase in the next four weeks because your focus will turn to friends, acquaintances and your involvement in clubs, groups and organizations. You will benefit by working with and being involved with others. So will they. Tonight: Avoid money disputes.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ For the next four weeks, the Sun will be at the top of your chart shining down on you (symbolically), casting you in a flattering light. This means you impress everyone! (And you don't have to do anything special.) Obviously, this is the time to make your pitch. Tonight: Patience!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ Your desire for adventure, travel and a chance to do something different to make your life sparkle will grab you in the next four months, which is why travel will totally appeal to you. If you can't travel, then make an effort to learn something new to broaden your horizons! Tonight: Stay calm.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ For the next four weeks, you will focus on your assets, shared property, mortgages, loans and banking issues, as well as debt. You also might focus on inheritances and insurance matters. Use this energy to tie up loose ends. Tonight: Patience with friends.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ In your chart, the Sun symbolizes your inner energy. For the next four weeks, it will be as far away from your sign as it gets all year, which means you will need more sleep. You will also have a chance to objectively observe your style of relating to others. Tonight: Avoid disputes with authority.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ You have enjoyed playing; now it's time to work. In the next four weeks, you will set the bar high because you want to be productive, efficient and effective in everything you do. By extension, this will apply to your health, which means you will work hard to buff that bod. Good luck! Tonight: Avoid controversial topics.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Lucky you! The next four weeks will be more playful and light-hearted, which is why you will want to entertain, socialize, slip away on a vacation and do anything to enjoy yourself. Romance will blossom and activities with children will be rewarding. Yay me! Tonight: Avoid financial disputes.

Hermiston man dies after Beaverton police shooting

BY JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN

The Oregonian

A Beaverton police officer shot a Hermiston man during a chase Wednesday night, and the man later died from his injuries and a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

The officer, who hasn't yet been publicly identified, shot Shawn Michael Roy Montoya, 32, in the torso as he fled. Montoya was suspected in a residential burglary earlier in the day, Beaverton police said.

Police said Montoya ran into a fenced backyard off SW 14th Avenue and Alger Street during the chase.

Officers followed and told Montoya to stop, but he took out a gun and fired it, shooting himself in the head, said Officer Matt Henderson, an agency spokesperson. As Montoya fired, an officer also shot at him, striking his torso, Henderson said.

Montoya was taken to a hospital, where he died.

Another police spokesperson, officer Bryan Dalton, could not speak to whether Montoya intentionally or accidentally shot himself.

Dalton also could not say whether Montoya or the officer fired first.

The spokesperson said Montoya's official cause and manner of death had not been confirmed as of Thursday night.

The Washington County Major Crimes team is investigating.

Budget

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The budget includes \$124 million for the city's general fund — the money over which the council has the most discretion, because it is not already earmarked with a spe-

cific purpose.

Of that money, about \$3 million will go toward addressing council priorities. About 40% of this money, or \$1.25 million, will go toward addressing the city's housing shortage, which includes homelessness as a priority.

The council has a goal to build 1,000 units of deed-restricted affordable housing and to create housing or facilities to house 500 homeless individuals on a temporary or permanent basis.

The budget includes \$275,000 to remove barriers to partici-

ation on city committees as well as to provide equitable access to council meetings, according to budget documents.

Full budget documents can be found at www.bendoregon.gov/budget.

Reporter: 541-633-2160, bvissler@bendbulletin.com

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