

**DEAR ABBY**

Write to Dear Abby online at [dearabby.com](http://dearabby.com) or by mail at P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069



**Dear Abby:** I am a very fortunate 60-year-old male. I have a wonderful life, great kids, I'm a new grandfather and I'm recently retired. I think I am a happy and overall positive person. Most people would be thrilled to have my life.

However, I can't seem to stop crying. I tear up at the end of every sad or romantic movie. I choke up when I'm around my loved ones, and it is only getting worse. I wonder if it is because of pain I experienced in my past (deaths of loved ones, divorce, etc.) or fear about the future. Do you have any insight based on your experience?

— *Tearing Up in Ohio*

**Dear Tearing Up:** The death of loved ones can make a person increasingly emotional. Being able to express emotion is a gift, not a disability. You may simply be a sensitive individual, but because you say this is "only getting worse," it might benefit you to discuss what's going on with your physician or a licensed mental health professional who can put your concerns to rest.

**Dear Abby:** My ex-girlfriend and I have been good friends for the past five years. Even though our relationship didn't work out, I still want to be there for her as a friend. My ex isn't that financially responsible, nor is her family, and she keeps asking me for bailouts. I have loaned her thousands of dollars since our breakup, Abby.

I am of two minds about this. Part of me feels I'm being taken advantage of. However, the other part of me knows she doesn't have many

friends and, because I believe in karma, I tend to help those in need. Please tell me what I should do. Should I continue helping or let her fail?

— *Lending a Helping Hand*

**Dear Lending:** There is a point after which "helping" becomes enabling. You reached that milestone years ago. It's time to let your ex-girlfriend suffer the consequences of her financial irresponsibility so you can focus on helping people who won't take advantage of your generosity.

**Dear Abby:** My husband and I used to be very close to another couple in town. Before the pandemic, they caused quite a bit of pain and drama among our friend group, so we decided to add some distance. The pandemic provided the perfect excuse. We exchange texts every few weeks, but otherwise we don't interact much. The problem is, now that we're all vaccinated, they want to be friends again and we just aren't up for it. We don't know the best way to clearly end the friendship. How do you break up with friends?

— *Moved On in the Midwest*

**Dear Moved On:** If you want to end the friendship, a way to do that would be to be "busy" and not available to them. If you are asked for an explanation, tell them the pandemic forced you to re-think your schedule, that you see fewer people than you did before it happened — and therefore you are no longer available to the extent that you were. It's kinder than saying you think they are troublesome drama queens, which would be unkind and cause hurt feelings.

**TODAY**

Today is Monday, June 28, the 179th day of 2021. There are 186 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlights in History:**

On **June 28**, 1940, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Alien Registration Act, also known as the Smith Act, which required adult foreigners residing in the U.S. to be registered and fingerprinted.

In **1838**, Britain's Queen Victoria was crowned in Westminster Abbey.

In **1863**, during the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln appointed Maj. Gen. George G. Meade the new commander of the Army of the Potomac, following the resignation of Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker.

In **1914**, Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria and his wife, Sophie, were shot to death in Sarajevo by Serb nationalist Gavrilo Princip — an act which sparked World War I.

In **1919**, the Treaty of Versailles was signed in France, ending the First World War.

In **1950**, North Korean forces captured Seoul, the capital of South Korea.

In **1951**, a TV version of the radio comedy program "Amos 'n' Andy" premiered on CBS. (It was the first network TV series to feature an all-Black cast, but came under criticism for racial stereotyping.)

In **1964**, civil rights activist Malcolm X declared, "We want equality by any means necessary" during the Founding Rally of the Organization of Afro-American Unity in New York.

In **1978**, the Supreme Court ordered the University of California-Davis Medical School to admit Allan Bakke, a white man who argued he'd been a victim of reverse racial discrimination.

In **2000**, seven months after he was cast adrift in the Florida Straits, Elian Gonzalez was returned to his native Cuba.

In **2010**, Sen. Robert C. Byrd, D-W. Va., the longest-serving senator in the nation's history, died in Falls Church, Virginia, at 92. The Supreme Court ruled, 5-4, that Americans had the right to own a gun for self-defense anywhere they lived.

In **2013**, tens of thousands of supporters and opponents of Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi rallied in Cairo, and both sides fought each other in the country's second-largest city of Alexandria, where two people — including an American — were killed and scores injured. The four plaintiffs in the U.S. Supreme Court case that overturned California's same-sex marriage ban tied the knot, just hours after a federal appeals court freed gay couples to obtain marriage licenses in the state for the first time in 4 1/2 years.

In **2019**, avowed white supremacist James Alex Fields, who deliberately drove his car into a crowd of counterprotesters in Charlottesville, Virginia, killing a young woman and injuring dozens, apologized to his victims before being sentenced to life in prison on federal hate crime charges.

**Ten years ago:** Taliban fighters raided an international hotel in Kabul and killed 10 people on the eve of a conference to discuss plans for Afghan forces to take over security when international troops left by the end of 2014.

**Five years ago:** House Republicans concluded their \$7 million, two-year investigation into the deadly attacks in Benghazi, Libya, with fresh accusations of lethal mistakes by the Obama administration but no "smoking gun" pointing to wrongdoing by Hillary Clinton, who said the report "found nothing, nothing to contradict" the findings of earlier investigations.

**One year ago:** California Gov. Gavin Newsom ordered bars that had opened in seven counties to immediately close, and urged bars in eight other counties to do the same, amid the rapid spread of the coronavirus in parts of the state.

**Today's Birthdays:** Comedian-movie director Mel Brooks is 95. Former Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., is 87. Comedian-impressionist John Byner is 84. Former Defense Secretary Leon Panetta is 83. Rock musician Dave Knights (Procul Harum) is 76. Actor Bruce Davison is 75. Actor Kathy Bates is 73. Actor Alice Krige is 67. College and Pro Football Hall of Famer John Elway is 61. Jazz singer Tierney Sutton is 58. Actor Jessica Hecht is 56. Rock musician Saul Davies (James) is 56. Actor Mary Stuart Masterson is 55. Actor John Cusack is 55. Actor Gil Bellows is 54. Actor-singer Danielle Brisebois is 52. Jazz musician Jimmy Sommers is 52. Actor Tichina Arnold is 52. Actor Steve Burton is 51. Entrepreneur Elon Musk is 50. Actor Alessandro Nivola is 49. Actor Camille Guaty is 45. Rock musician Tim Nordwind (OK Go) is 45. Rock musician Mark Stoermer (The Killers) is 44. Country singer Big Vinny Hickerson (Trailer Choir) is 38. Country singer Kellie Pickler is 35.

— *Associated Press*

# Biden aims to keep bipartisan infrastructure deal on track

## President walks back apparent veto threat

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Aiming to preserve a fragile bipartisan deal on infrastructure, President Joe Biden endorsed it "without hesitation" Saturday, walking back from a threat to veto it if Congress also didn't pass an even larger package to expand the social safety net.

Biden said he didn't mean to suggest in earlier remarks that he would veto the nearly \$1 trillion infrastructure bill unless Congress also passed a broader package of investments that he and fellow Democrats aim to approve along party lines, the two together totaling some \$4 trillion.

Speaking Thursday moments after fulfilling his hopes of reaching a bipartisan accord, Biden appeared to put the deal in jeopardy with his comment that the infrastructure bill would have to move in "tandem" with the larger bill.

Though Biden had been clear he would pursue the massive new spending for child care, Medicare and other investments, Republicans balked at the president's notion that he would not sign one without the other. "If this is the only thing that comes to me, I'm not signing it," Biden said then of the infrastructure bill. "It's in tandem."

By Saturday, Biden was seeking to clarify those comments, after his top negotiators Steve Ricchetti and Louisa Terrell worked to assure senators that Biden remained enthusiastic about the deal.

"My comments also created the impression that I was issuing a veto threat on the very plan I had just agreed to, which was certainly not my intent," Biden said in a statement.

"I intend to pursue the passage of that plan, which Democrats and Republicans agreed to on Thursday, with vigor,"



Jaquelyn Martin/AP

**President Joe Biden, pictured with some senators who are part of a bipartisan group pushing an infrastructure bill, speaks Thursday outside the White House.**

Biden added. "It would be good for the economy, good for our country, good for our people. I fully stand behind it without reservation or hesitation."

Biden's earlier remarks had drawn sharp criticism from some Republicans, including Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., who tweeted Friday, "No deal by extortion!" Others felt "blindsided" by what they said was a shift in their understanding of his position.

Tensions appeared to calm afterward, when senators from the group of negotiators convened a conference call, according to a person who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the private meeting.

"My hope is that we'll still get this done," said Sen. Rob Portman of Ohio, the lead Republican negotiator, in an interview Friday with The Associated Press. "Our infrastructure is in bad shape."

Biden was set to travel Tuesday to Wisconsin for the first stop on a nationwide tour to promote the infrastructure package, the White House said.

The sudden swings point to the difficult path ahead for what promises to be a long process of turning Biden's nearly \$4 trillion infrastructure proposals into law.

The two measures were always expected to move together through Congress: the bipartisan plan and a second bill that would advance under special rules allowing for passage solely with majority Democrats votes and is now swelling to \$6 trillion. Biden reiterated that was his plan on Saturday, but said he was not conditioning one on the other.

"So to be clear," his statement said, "our bipartisan agreement does not preclude Republicans from attempting to defeat my Families Plan; likewise, they should have no objections to my devoted efforts to pass that Families Plan and other proposals in tandem."

Before his clarification Saturday, not all senators were swayed by the White House outreach, which came after a tumultuous month of on-again, off-again negotiations over Biden's top legislative priority.

The Democrats' two-track strategy has been to consider both the bipartisan deal and their own more sweeping priorities side by side.

Ten Republican senators would be needed to pass the bipartisan accord in the 50-50 Senate, where 60 votes are required to advance most bills.

## YOUR HOROSCOPE *By Georgia Nicols*

Stars show the kind of day you'll have

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

**MOON ALERT:** Avoid shopping or making important decisions until 2 p.m. EDT today (11 a.m. PDT). After that, the Moon moves from Aquarius into Pisces.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR MONDAY, JUNE 28, 2021:** You have a wide variety of interests, and you are very spontaneous. You are an excellent planner, and you are also persuasive. You are certainly dominant and determined. This year you have every right to seek your personal happiness. Ask yourself what you want and where you want to go. Enjoy socializing with others and exploring hobbies. Claim your world.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)**

★★★ This is a feel-good day, which is why you feel compassion and concern for those who are less fortunate. If you can do something to help someone in need, you will feel gratified. You might join forces with someone else to do this. Tonight: Seek solitude.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**

★★★★ A discussion with a female friend will be a rewarding experience for you today. You also might become involved with a charitable group or others who wish to help people in need. Today, whatever you give will come back to you multiplied. Tonight: Be friendly.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**

★★★★ You look good in the eyes of others today, especially bosses, parents and VIPs. Even if you don't do anything special, you appear to be successful, wise and generous. Well, it never hurts to have good press. (There's also a strong likelihood that you deserve this praise.) Tonight: People notice you.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)**

★★★★ Today you're full of big plans, especially for future travel or anything to do with future education or training. You also might have ambitions related to medicine, the law, publishing or the media. Enjoy a heady exchange about metaphysical ideas. Tonight: Do something different.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**

★★★★ This is an excellent day to discuss how to share something, because you will come out laughing all the way to the bank. Gifts, goodies and favors from others might come your way. This is also a good day to explore financial negotiations and discuss shared property. Tonight: Take care of paperwork.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**

★★★★ You feel warm and generous to others today, especially those who are close to you — partners, spouses and close friends. This is a good day to make a suggestion about some big plans that you're hoping for in the future. Perhaps a trip? Tonight: Cooperate with others.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**

★★★★ Work-related travel might be happening today. This is an excellent day to join forces with others to form working units or to work with groups. Because you feel confident and you're in a positive frame of mind, you will be productive. Tonight: Do a favor for someone.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**

★★★★ Enjoy good times today! This is a great day for social outings, sports events, fun activities with kids or a chance to express your creative talents. You want to have fun! Remember that today you will get what you give — kindness, friendship and loving support to others. Tonight: Enjoy!

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**

★★★★ Family discussions will go well today, especially with a female. This is a good day to be generous to others, because whatever you give will come back to you multiplied. You'll also find it easy to be patient. You might have advice for someone. Tonight: Cocoon at home.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**

★★★★ Because you're in a positive frame of mind, you're thinking big today! Others will be encouraged by your ambitious ideas, especially relatives, neighbors and siblings. (It's amazing how one person can influence a group.) Tonight: You need to talk.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**

★★★★ This is an excellent money day! Look for ways to boost your income or, possibly, look for a better paying job. You are more inclined to "think big" today regarding financial matters, including spending money. Nevertheless, keep your receipts. Tonight: Keep track of your finances.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**

★★★★ Today the Moon is in your sign lined up with lucky Jupiter, which makes you feel happy and generous to others. Your confidence is strong, and you feel kind toward others. This is a good thing, because today you will get what you give. Tonight: Expect a favor.

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