

DEAR ABBY

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



Dear Abby: My daughter is pregnant with her second child. Her first, my granddaughter, is 2, and the light of my life. I lovingly offered to take care of her when it's time for my daughter to have the baby. She's having a C-section, so she may be in the hospital for a couple days.

My daughter wants me to come to her house one day out of every weekend to learn my granddaughter's routine. I have spent several weekends at her house doing this, but not every weekend, as I work full time from home and also have a full-time rental business (30 rental units) that I manage with my fiancé.

Recently, my fiancé has taken ill and is bedridden. Everything, including his care, has fallen on me. When I called my daughter to tell her I wouldn't be able to come for the weekends because of his illness and my other responsibilities, she lost it and became hateful and confrontational. I tried explaining that this is, hopefully, a temporary situation and that I will still be able to do what I promised, to no avail. Nothing I said appeased her. We are not talking, and I really cannot endure another confrontation with her.

— *Sidelined in Florida*

Dear Sidelined: Give your pregnant, possibly hormonal, daughter time to cool off, and then contact her again. See if the two of you can work out an arrangement that's sensible. You already have your hands full, and the additional responsibilities because of your fiancé's illness may prevent you from caring for

your grandchild as you had planned. If she unloads on you again, tell her you know she's disappointed and so are you, but you can't handle another abusive confrontation and end the conversation. She will manage. Trust me.

Dear Abby: My friend was telling me about the delicious dinner he had last night at a local restaurant. His meal cost \$8, and he raved to the waitress about how the food melted in his mouth. He compared it favorably to the \$70 dinner he'd had at another restaurant the night before. He then informed me he was "in and out of that restaurant for only \$10."

My response was, "Are you telling me you left a \$2 tip for THE most delicious meal you just ate?" He replied that he gave her a 25% tip and thought it was fair. I told him I thought he was cheap, and he could have given her more money at the very least for her effort in serving him. He said I should write you and ask, so here I am.

I realize a 20% to 25% tip is generous, but considering these times of pandemic, I think he could have done better. What do you think?

— *Flabbergasted in Ohio*

Dear Flabbergasted: Truthfully, those who can afford to do so should give more. The restaurant business has been decimated because of the extended COVID quarantine. That said, however, my suggestion would have been that your friend should have added a generous tip for the cook sweating in the kitchen, who produced that memorable meal.

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 from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. EDT today (12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. PDT). After that, the Moon moves from Aries into Taurus.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR FRIDAY, JULY 30, 2021: You are friendly, likable and entertaining. You are also impulsive and spontaneous, often in a dramatic way. You will be youthful, warmhearted and generous all your life. This year is about you. You might do a makeover. Think of the impression you create. What courses or further education might you get? How can you be the best that you can be?

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ This is a high-energy day for you. For the first half of the day, the Moon is in your sign dancing with Jupiter, which makes you feel happy and optimistic. Later, shopping or moneymaking ideas will appeal to you. Tonight: You might spend money on entertainment.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ This is a positive day for you! In the morning, you will feel happy with your own company. After the Moon Alert, the Moon will be in your sign, which will make you emotionally energized. This is the perfect time to ask for what you want. Tonight: Stay confident.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ This morning is a good time for pleasant conversations with friends and groups. However, later in the day, you will enjoy your own solitude, because there's something you want to do. You're going to spend energy doing it — by yourself. Tonight: Serenity.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ You are high-viz this morning. This is a good thing, because people admire you! (You might use this to your advantage.) Later in the day, warm bonds with a friend or a group will lift your spirits. These connections might even boost your earnings. Tonight: Check your finances.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ This morning travel plans appeal to you. You want to do something different that expands your experience of the world. This afternoon, people will notice you much more. Because you make such a strong impression, you might arouse opposition to you. Tonight: Caution.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ This morning is a good time for discussions with banks or anything to do with loans and mortgages, because others will benefit you. After the Moon Alert, your attention shifts and suddenly you want adventure! Tonight: You want to run away and join the circus.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ You might attract someone to you this morning who is enthusiastic and upbeat. Either way, your interactions with others will be positive and enjoyable. Later in the afternoon, financial discussions about shared property will benefit you. Tonight: Stay hopeful.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Choose to work with others this morning, because various group activities will benefit you. You will get more done by letting someone help or by helping someone else. After the Moon Alert, expect a lively discussion with a partner or close friend. Tonight: Someone has something to say!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ This is a happy morning full of fun opportunities. Perhaps a power breakfast? Meet someone for brunch? Activities with children or anything to do with sports will appeal to you. In the afternoon, after the Moon Alert, you're ready to work hard. Tonight: Be productive.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ This morning you're enthusiastic with big ideas about something to do with your home or your family. This could relate to a home expansion or even a family expansion. Later in the afternoon, take time off to play and enjoy yourself. Tonight: The arts, sports and fun activities with kids will appeal to you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ A general feeling of enthusiasm and a positive outlook on the world will embrace you this morning. It feels good. However, this afternoon, intense feelings at home will be lively and dynamic. This could describe a family conversation or some kind of event taking place. Tonight: Socialize!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ This morning is an excellent time for financial negotiations. You might see how to boost your income, or perhaps you will make a big expenditure. This afternoon, short trips, conversations and a busy pace will excite you. Tonight: "The game, Mrs. Hudson, is on!"

“I made the front page of the local newspaper and things got a little out of control. So I decided to become a pirate.”

— Chris Biro, executive director of Bird Recovery International

Parrots

Continued from A1

After completing a circle, the birds gracefully landed on the outstretched arm of Chris Biro, a tall man clad in pirate garb: tricorne hat, ruffled purple shirt and cavalier boots with a bayonet and a blunderbuss hanging from his belt.

He stood on a small stage surrounded by an array of kaleidoscopic birds before a small but impressive pirate ship.

Biro, the pirate from Walla Walla, Washington, and executive director of Bird Recovery International, has been working with parrots for some 30 years.

In college, Biro bought a blue and gold macaw, and he became known for cruising through Walla Walla on his Honda motorcycle with the bird perched on his shoulder.

"I made the front page of the local newspaper and things got a little out of control," Biro said. "So I decided to become a pirate."

Biro began appearing at fairs and other events, where people took photos with him and his growing collection of parrots. Soon after that, Biro made a discovery: he learned to train his parrots to "free fly" or, to fly away from the trainer and return.

Biro said it's his "claim to fame" in the bird world. He now has over 25 trained parrots, and he's adopted more than a hundred over the years. He also teaches students how to train parrots — "people from over 30 countries" — and now, he's using his techniques to inform parrot conservation around the world.

His show isn't a trick show, Biro said. It's educational, and he loves to see the awe and wonder when people interact with a parrot for the first time in their lives.

To demonstrate the intelli-



Dean Guernsey/The Bulletin

Chris Biro, executive director of Bird Recovery International, holds Dingbat, a blue-throated Macaw prior to The Pirate's Parrot Show at the Deschutes County Fair in Redmond.

gence of his parrots, Biro often has them repeat song lyrics sung by fairgoers. The birds only need to hear them once.

"Parrots are incredible birds," Biro said.

It wasn't Biro's first time at the Deschutes County Fair, but he was happy to be back after last year's hiatus.

He wasn't alone. Energy was in the air as fairgoers partook in all the activities that were canceled last year due to the

pandemic.

In the crafting area, a group of women in a circle worked on a large quilt. Surrounding them were arrays of preserves, baked goods, produce and flower arrangements. Crafters stood proudly next to their achievements as fairgoers wandered past.

Outside one could hear the tumbling of rides and the joyous cries of riders at the carnival. Always visible in the

distance was the slow turning of the pink Ferris wheel. The smell of barbecue, lemonade and hay wafted through the air.

For many, it was good to be back.

"I love the fair," said Christine Rivera, leaving the fairgrounds with her family in the afternoon.

"I'm definitely glad it happened this year."

Reporter: 503-380-5285, djefferies@bendbulletin.com

Seniors

Continued from A1

Insurance companies that didn't set out to cover them this year can apply for a mid-year change and cover them, the senator said.

Wyden is familiar with the rule because, he said, he was the one who got the change made in 2019, he said.

Getting air cooling and purifying devices to seniors as soon as possible is essential, given that more than 100 Oregonians, many of them seniors without access to air conditioning, died during the deadly heat wave a month ago. Temperatures are predicted to rise into the high 90s Friday.

Congress passed the Wyden-authored law known as the CHRONIC Care Act, which updated Medicare to focus on the chronic illnesses that dominate seniors' health concerns, his office said Wednesday. One provision of the law allows Medicare Advantage plans to offer benefits that are "non-primarily health-related" in order to maintain or improve the health or function of the individual.

Recent guidance from the federal government specified that this category includes indoor air quality equipment and services, it said. And under the ongoing public health emergency, Medicare Advantage plans are allowed to apply for midyear benefit changes to best serve their members, his office said.

For more information, visit medicare.gov and search for Medicare Advantage Plans.

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