

**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'm a 39-year-old woman in a toxic relationship with my boyfriend of almost seven years. We had a child together but lost custody due to drug use during my pregnancy. Even though we don't have our son, and he treats me badly, I feel I have to stay with him because we have gone through so much together.

A couple of years ago, I got dentures because I ruined my teeth when I was using, and I'm afraid no one will want to be with me because of them. So I'm stuck in a relationship that isn't good for me. It's embarrassing to have dentures at such a young age, and I don't know how I will be able to meet someone who can see past them and my drug history so I can be in a healthy relationship that I deserve. I feel like my only choices are to stay stuck in this toxic relationship forever or end up alone. How do I move past my insecurities so I can be happy for once?

— *Embarrassed in Arizona*

**Dear Embarrassed:** You have successfully battled drug addiction, so you are clearly not unused to "challenges." I applaud you for what you have accomplished, and others should respect you for it, too.

Please do not allow your fear of being alone to prevent you from taking another important step in reclaiming your life. You and I know your abuser is not healthy for you. You have invested too much time in him. If you rely on him for financial support, find a job. Make arrangements with friends or family

so you can eventually save enough to live independently.

After you have left him, being alone does not necessarily have to be a bad thing. In your case, it could be therapeutic. And once you are financially stable, consult a dentist or a school of dentistry about what options you might have besides dentures. The only thing holding you back at this point is yourself.

**Dear Abby:** I am a 37-year-old mother of three, ages 13, 5 and 3. I'm married and own my home. I am a new stay-at-home mom after having worked for 16 years at my last job. My kids are happy and healthy.

Any time I go to my parents' house or they drop in on me for a quick visit, they have to "point out" that it is a mess or that my oldest is wearing jeans with holes in them. There's always a negative comment, never a positive one. My oldest has started to notice. I'm wondering if I can say anything, and what to say.

A few years ago, there was a blowout between my mom and me over my son's haircut. I'm at the point where I no longer want to go to their house, but I don't want to keep my kids from them.

— *Annoyed in Ohio*

**Dear Annoyed:** Say something like this to your parents: "I have noticed, and the children have started noticing, that when you visit you usually have something negative to say about me, my home and even them. It is hurtful and I want it stopped, because if it persists you won't be invited."

**Vaccines**

**Continued from A1**

She thinks some people will wait until the Oregon Health Authority issues specific language on the mandate rule. Some might want to see if they qualify for any religious or medical exemptions, Barclay said.

"If 5% of our members weren't vaccinated and resigned, that's 50 teachers," Barclay said. "That's a whole middle school of educators. Or if we think about our classified staff, if we lose a couple of bus drivers or a couple of custodial workers, we don't have clean buildings, we don't have people to drive the bus. It could really make a disruption in our staffing and our ability to serve students in the community."

The union acknowledged that the vaccine and masks are two measures that will help slow the spread of the virus and keep kids in school, but did not take a position on the mandate.

"We encourage our members to do their research, assess their personal situation, and make a choice that aligns with what they believe is best for them, their families, and their community," the union said in a statement.

Redmond, Sisters, Jefferson County and Crook County school districts are all waiting to see the Oregon Health Authority's specific language on the mandate.

Redmond School District has urged staffers not to make any rash decisions about their employment.

Jason Carr, a spokesman for Crook County School District said, "We do have staff members who have very strong feelings about the vaccine mandate.

"We don't know for sure how many employees that might impact or how many we could potentially lose," he said. "But it is certainly something that we are concerned about."

Redmond and Crook County school districts estimate that about 70% of their staff is vaccinated.

Curt Scholl, the superintendent



Brian Hayes/Statesman-Journal via AP

**Gov. Kate Brown visits with a school bus driver Feb. 24 at Kalapuya Elementary School in West Salem.**

of Sisters School District, said staffing is always an issue regardless of the mandate. He said the biggest challenge is cost of living in Central Oregon.

"We're not going to overreact at this point until we see what the actual rules state," Scholl said.

Meanwhile, Culver School District, as Central Oregon's smallest school district serving more than 600 students, responded by postponing the first day of school until Sept. 20.

"This provides 9 additional days to fully plan and prepare for staffing challenges caused by the new vaccine mandate," Culver School District Superintendent Stefanie Garber said in a letter to parents.

"Our goal is to keep every employee. We anticipate there will be other State mandates in the next 4 weeks, based on last year's pattern. This includes the possibility of mandated implementation of Distance Learning (the State told Districts this week that we should be ready for it)."

Colt Gill, the director of the

Oregon Department of Education, said this week during a Facebook Live event that the state is committed to keeping students in classrooms, but that individual schools may be asked to temporarily close to in-person instruction if they experience a spike in virus cases. He said he has asked schools to be ready to react.

The Culver School Board met Thursday following the news of the mandate, and Garber said she had already heard from several employees who said they will quit over the mandate.

Garber, who has been with the district for 20 years and also serves as the elementary principal, said she believes in personal choice, adding that she will not get the vaccine.

"This one is hard to take," Garber said about the mandate. "I have never hated my job. Today, I hate my job."

Gill said during a press conference Thursday that the state will take an educational over punitive approach to school districts or individuals who do not follow the rule.

"Barring that, the Oregon

Health Authority has authority in state statute to levy civil penalties against the school district or an employer who fails to follow these requirements," Gill said.

Bob Bures, a special education and English teacher at Mountain View High School in Bend, said Bend-La Pine Schools might lose some teachers and maybe more support staff, but he said they always get through those challenges.

"The mandate makes sense in order for us to keep all kids safe because that's our job," Bures said.

"I'm vaccinated against polio; I don't give my kids polio. That's a normal thing, right? Like measles or mumps, I will treat this vaccine as I treat those vaccines."

Bures, a member of the Bend Education Association, said he supports the union, "but we're a divided staff."

"It's been a very trying year getting back to the crux of what we do in caring for kids and not disagreeing on everything out there," he said.

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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 Aquarius.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR SATURDAY, AUG. 21, 2021:** You are well-spoken, friendly and charming. You have high energy and are capable of multitasking. You are optimistic and idealistic, but you are also restless because you like to be stimulated. This is an interesting year because it's a year of learning as well as teaching. Be open to new ideas, new concepts and new belief systems. It's time to grow!

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

★★★★ Today you see ways to introduce reforms and improvements to your job or perhaps your health. You feel freer and less restricted by convention, rules and regulations. You're open to new, modern and perhaps high-tech ways of doing something. Tonight: Exciting possibilities!

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

★★★★ This is a creative day for you because you feel courageous enough to do things in a different way. You might see new angles or put a new spin on something. You might impulsively go on vacation or socialize. Tonight: Keep an eye on your kids, because this is a mildly accident-prone time for them.

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

★★★★ You have lots of energy to introduce improvements at home. You might rearrange furniture or tackle DIY projects. You also might break free in a courageous way from certain family rules or regulations. Tonight: Enjoy!

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

★★★★ Today you feel high-energy and impulsive. You might suddenly take a short trip. You might talk to neighbors, relatives or siblings. You will feel restless in an upbeat way and eager for something new to happen. Tonight: You feel the need for change!

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

★★★★ Today you might be an impulse shopper or spontaneously purchase something. This same electric energy can apply to other financial transactions, which means you might suddenly see new ways of earning money or you might be attracted to a new job. Tonight: Exciting changes!

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

★★★★ Today new activities, new encounters and other unexpected situations might occur because you want to break free from your daily routine. Suddenly, you have the courage to break down barriers and do exactly what you want. You might even express some talents you didn't realize you had. Tonight: Someone is impressed!

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

★★★★ This is a restless day for you, which is why you need to be light on your feet and stay flexible, because anything could happen. Whatever changes take place for you might be more subtle and perhaps behind the scenes. Nevertheless, you're up for anything and your eyes are wide open. Tonight: Be ready.

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

★★★★ Unexpected encounters with friends and groups will make this an interesting day for you. You might find yourself in competition with someone. You have a sense of breaking boundaries and trying new things because you feel courageous and adventurous. Tonight: All things are possible!

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

★★★★ Your ambition is aroused today, which is why you might reach out and demonstrate unusual behavior, including talents that surprise even you. This will impress bosses, parents, teachers and VIPs. Tonight: A surprise encounter with someone in authority might trigger a new turn of events.

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

★★★★ Sudden opportunities to travel or get further studies or training might fall in your lap today. This is a high-energy day, and people are eager to explore new ideas and ways of doing things. You might meet someone unusual from a different background. Tonight: Stay on your toes!

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

★★★★ Make friends with your bank account today and be watchful about issues related to shared property, inheritances, debt and the wealth of others, because something unexpected could impact these areas. Be vigilant. If an opportunity appears, act quickly, because this window will be brief. Tonight: Be vigilant.

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

★★★★ Friends and partners might do something that surprises you today. In fact, it could be liberating! They might suggest a new arrangement to your relationship. You also might meet a real character today because today is full of twists, turns and surprises. Tonight: Be open and ready for anything.

**Hawthorne**

**Continued from A1**

A proposal presented to the Bend City Council Wednesday by Todd Taylor of Taylor Northwest, Ashley & Vance Engineering and the architect firm Ten Over Studio suggests using this money to help fund a pedestrian bridge that would act as a cross-town greenway at Hawthorne Avenue.

The proposal is a volunteer effort between the companies, which have been a part of a grassroots effort to reinvigorate Bend Central District for years, said John Fischer of Ashley & Vance Engineering. Each has donated time to help develop a conceptual design to help the community envision the project.

The vision is to invest in a bridge that would be a visual icon for the city, and help spur development in the Bend Central District, James Teeter, with Ashley & Vance Engineering, said Wednesday.

The city has been trying to redevelop the Bend Central District — which sits east of Highway 97 and stretches to Fourth Street — into a more walkable, denser area with more housing and commercial development for years.

The bridge would be good environmentally, as it would give people a convenient commute option that didn't require a car, he said.

"To me this bridge is about so much more. ... It's really about taking care of the people who live here," Teeter said.



Submitted

**An artist's rendering of a pedestrian bridge that would connect east and west Bend at Hawthorne Avenue.**

Jim Duffy, of Ten Over Studio, offered a case study on how a similar kind of bridge helped spur development in a similar way in Spokane, Washington.

"Public investment in a project like this could be the catalyst that spurs private development," Duffy said.

In the presentation to council, the group estimated the cost of the bridge to be roughly \$35 million. In addition to the \$12 million from the city, an additional \$6 million could come from urban renewal funds, which is a percentage of tax dollars the city allocates away from other taxing districts to pay for improvements in blighted areas. About \$2 million has also been allocated from the state Legislature to Bend for midtown crossings.

That leaves a funding gap of about \$20 million. City Manager Eric King said Wednesday there could be opportunities to close that gap with federal funding if a federal transportation package is successful.

The group hopes to have

council support for the project by this fall, and complete construction in 2025.

"It's a heavy lift," said Taylor, of Taylor Northwest. "Is it doable? Yes."

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