

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 freshman at a Midwestern university, and I love it. I finished my first semester with straight A's, and my second semester has been strong. I have a great group of friends and have made plenty of memories. My problem is I have been having a disagreement with my mom. I would like to rush a sorority in the fall, and while my dad is fine with it, my mother won't even entertain the topic.

I've never shared a lot with her regarding my social life because she has always been strict (for instance, my dad knows I enjoy partying as long as my grades are good). I am very responsible and always take care of everything that needs to be completed before I have fun. Dad knows this and trusts me. However, I couldn't fathom telling my mom about it.

I think part of the problem is she grew up abroad, and when she came to the U.S. for college in the 1990s, she faced a severe culture shock. We have always been very different people. Contrary to what she may think, my main reason for joining a sorority is not "to party." It's an attractive option for off-campus housing, and I think it would be an effective way to meet more people (especially at such a big school). If I don't like how rush pans out for me, I have no issue with dropping out, but I think it would be worth a try.

I want to have an open conversation with Mom, but she is very close-minded. I don't want to go behind her

back, because I think that would only do more harm than good. How should I navigate this conversation? — *Going Greek?*

Dear Going: As much as you dread it, you must have a sit-down, comprehensive conversation with your mother about this. Emphasize the benefits of being in a sorority. She may be concerned because in some Greek organizations there have been severe abuses of the pledges, some of which were so dangerous that students lost their lives. You may also want to research the compliance history of the Greek organizations on your campus before addressing the subject with your mother, so you can allay any concerns she has.

Dear Abby: My 27-year-old daughter has issues due to a bitter divorce between her father and me. She treats us poorly, blames her problems on us and feels she is justified. How do I handle this? I don't think she respects either of us much. As for our relationship, we get along as long as things are going OK for her. But if she's having a difficult day, I get the blame. Advice? — *Cold-Shouldered In*

Dear Cold-Shouldered In: Tolerating your daughter's behavior isn't healthy for either of you. Encourage her to seek professional help for her "issues," and when she starts the blame game or being disrespectful, shorten the visit, end the phone call or otherwise distance yourself.

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, MAY 21, 2022: You are an excellent conversationalist because you are clever, witty and articulate. You are passionate about whatever you seek. This is an exciting year because it's a time of change and adaptation. Expect more personal freedom. Have the courage to explore new opportunities leading to new directions and new growth.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Stay alert today. For starters, a friend or a group might do something to surprise you. ("Whaaat?") Meanwhile, transportation delays, missed buses, late appointments and confused communications are also a hassle. (Time to send out for dark chocolate?) Tonight: Enjoy friends.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ Be patient with parents, bosses and the police today, because it's easy to fly off the handle. (Let's face it; it's hard to keep your shirt on when you have to get something off your chest.) This agitation could be related to money delays or checks that are late in the mail. Tonight: You are admired.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Travel disappointments might occur today due to cancellations, changes and delays. (These are always frustrating.) Even school schedules are unpredictable. Meanwhile, you are dealing with old friends from the past as well as goofy errors and misplaced items. Have patience! Tonight: Do something different!

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ Stay on top of red-tape details related to banking, mortgages, loans and shared property, because something unexpected will impact these areas today. Nobody likes surprises that hit them in their pocketbook. Often with issues like this, it's wise to heed the old adage "A stitch in time saves nine." Tonight: Check your finances.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ Old friends and contacts with groups from your past are back in your life. Perhaps this is what triggers a few surprises with a partner or close friend at the moment. Are they surprised to learn more about your past? Maybe this is someone they never knew existed. Tonight: Be cooperative.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ Expect a few surprises that are work-related today. (Something you didn't see coming.) Hopefully, it's not a breakdown of equipment or a computer glitch. Perhaps bosses and authority figures from the past might have something to do with this. For some, this surprise will be health-related or something to do with a pet. Tonight: Get organized.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Parents should know that this is a mildly accident-prone day for their kids; therefore, keep your eyes open! Meanwhile, social plans might suddenly change because of cancellations or delays. Or perhaps you will suddenly receive an invitation. It could go either way. Tonight: Socialize!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ Something will interrupt your home routine today. It could be a minor breakage or problem with a small appliance. Be patient with family members, especially parents, to avoid arguments today. You might be frustrated that news about money from the government or shared property is delayed. Tonight: Relax.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Pay attention to everything you say and do today, because this is a mildly accident-prone day for you. You don't want to have any regrets, especially by blurring out something that later makes you wince. This could be prompted because ex-partners are back on the scene. Tonight: Communicate.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ Today you might find money or lose money. Zooks! Be smart and protect your possessions against loss, theft or damage. Meanwhile, silly errors continue to plague you at work, along with misplaced items and broken equipment. Possibly an old health concern is back. (Is there no mercy?) Tonight: A treat?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Today the Moon is in your sign at odds with your ruler Uranus. This makes you impulsive and ready to jump to conclusions. You feel so independent you are inclined to do just the opposite of what anyone tells you to do. It's a high-spirited day! Tonight: It's all about you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Today you have a strong craving for excitement. Nevertheless, this feeling is sort of smoldering beneath the surface of things. It's there, but it's not obvious. This emotional unrest makes you want to be free from something. "I've gotta be me!" Tonight: You're happy.

TODAY IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press

It's Saturday, May 21, the 141st day of 2022. There are 224 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: In 1881, Clara Barton founded the American Red Cross.

In 1471, King Henry VI of England died in the Tower of London at 49.

In 1542, Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto died while searching for gold along the Mississippi River.

In 1924, in a case that drew much notoriety, 14-year-old Bobby Franks was murdered in a "thrill killing" carried out by University of Chicago students Nathan Leopold Jr. and Richard Loeb (Bobby's cousin).

In 1927, Charles A. Lindbergh landed his Spirit of St. Louis monoplane near Paris, completing the first solo airplane flight across the Atlantic Ocean in 33 1/2 hours.

In 1932, Amelia Earhart became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean as she landed in Northern Ireland, about 15 hours after leaving Newfoundland.

In 1941, a German U-boat sank the American merchant steamship SS Robin Moor in the South Atlantic after the ship's passengers and crew were allowed to board lifeboats.

In 1955, Chuck Berry recorded his first single, "Maybellene," for Chess Records in Chicago.

In 1972, Michelangelo's Pieta, on display at the Vatican, was damaged by a hammer-wielding man who shouted he was Jesus Christ.

In 1979, former San Francisco City Supervisor Dan White was convicted of voluntary manslaughter in the slayings of Mayor George Moscone and openly gay Supervisor Harvey Milk; outrage over the verdict sparked rioting. White was sentenced to seven years and eight months in prison; he ended up serving five years and took his own life in 1985.

In 1991, former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated during national elections by a suicide bomber.

In 2000, death claimed actor Sir John Gielgud at age 96 and author Dame Barbara Cartland at 98.

In 2020, President Donald Trump visited a Ford Motor Co. plant outside Detroit that had been repurposed to manufacture ventilators; he did not publicly wear a face mask but said he had worn one while out of public view. A Michigan judge sided with Gov. Gretchen Whitmer in a challenge by Republican lawmakers to her authority to order sweeping restrictions during the coronavirus outbreak.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama and other world leaders meeting in Chicago locked in place an Afghanistan exit path that would keep their troops fighting there for two more years. Former Rutgers University student Dharun Ravi, who used a webcam to spy on his gay roommate, Tyler Clementi, who then committed suicide, was sentenced to 30 days in jail (he served 20).

Five years ago: President Donald Trump, visiting Riyadh, implored Saudi Arabia and other Middle Eastern countries to extinguish "Islamic extremism" emanating from the region. North Korea fired a solid-fuel ballistic missile, saying the test was hailed as perfect by leader Kim Jong Un. The Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus received its final standing ovation as it performed its last show at the Nassau County Coliseum in Uniondale, New York, ending a 146-year run.

One year ago: Thousands of Palestinians rallied after a ceasefire took effect in the latest Gaza war; the 11 days of fighting left more than 250 people dead, the vast majority Palestinians, and brought widespread destruction to the Gaza Strip. Authorities said the two Bureau of Prisons workers who were supposed to be guarding Jeffrey Epstein the night he killed himself in a New York jail had admitted that they falsified records, but that they would be spared prison time under a deal with federal prosecutors; the workers were accused of sleeping and browsing the internet instead of monitoring Epstein.

Today's Birthdays: R&B singer Ron Isley (The Isley Brothers) is 81. Musician Bill Champlin is 75. Singer Leo Sayer is 74. Actor Carol Potter is 74. Former Sen. Al Franken, D-Minn., is 71. Actor Mr. T is 70. Music producer Stan Lynch is 67. Actor Judge Reinhold is 65. Actor-director Nick Cassavetes is 63. Actor Lisa Edelstein is 56. Actor Fairuza Balk is 48. Rapper Havoc (Mobb Deep) is 48. Actor David Ajala is 36. Actor Ashlie Brillault is 35. Country singer Cody Johnson is 35. Actor Scott Leavenworth is 32. Actor Sarah Ramos is 31.

Retailers

Continued from A5

"The implications for retailers that have yet to report are not promising," said John Zolidis, president of Quo Vadis Capital, after Walmart and Target's bleak updates. Several brokerage firms, including Truist Securities and Oppenheimer, have trimmed profit expectations for retailers that have yet to release quarterly results, including Dollar General and Costco.

Gap Inc., which will report earnings after markets close on May 26, forewarned investors last month, slashing its quarterly sales outlook on "macroeconomic dynamics"

Electric

Continued from A5

As a certified energy manager, Wallace has spent most of the last decade working with growers to optimize their irrigation systems by installing more efficient pumps and sprinklers.

The electric tractor project came to Wallace from two other Oregon nonprofits — Sustainable Northwest, a renewable energy and natural resources conservation group, and Forth Mobility, which aims to expand access to electric vehicles and transportation.

Discussions started pre-pandemic, with the nonprofits interested in accelerating the adoption of electric farm machinery.

Bridget Callahan, senior energy program manager for Sustainable Northwest, said the transition to electrification is "inevitable" as more states adopt policies to curb fossil fuels.

Oregon legislators passed a law known as the Climate Protection Program late last year. It requires fuel suppliers in Oregon to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the products they sell 50% by 2035 and 90% by 2050.

"Our idea is, we're seeing this rapid transformation. ...

and execution challenges at its Old Navy brand.

Here's a look at some of the other notable retailers slated to report next week:

- **Macy's:** The department store operator will report first-quarter results ahead of the bell on May 26. The stock is down 29% this year, after more than doubling in 2021 with the company benefiting from pent-up demand as consumer mobility resumed. Shares are likely to be volatile after earnings, with an implied one-day move of 14%, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

- **Dollar General Corp.:**

The discount retailer also reports earnings on May 26.

We know it's not going to look the same in rural parts of the state and Northwest," Callahan said. "How do we ensure major investments in electrification, and what does that look like in a rural context?"

Whitaker Jamieson, program manager at Forth Mobility, said they wanted to show the potential for electric tractors on farms.

"I think that's the key to the demonstration," Jamieson said. "You start to see heads turning, and people saying 'I need to start thinking about this for my farm.'"

Boots on the ground

A fourth project partner, the Bonneville Environmental Foundation, came aboard and provided funding to purchase one of the first two demonstration tractors.

The foundation works primarily with consumer-owned utilities in the Northwest that purchase hydroelectricity from the Bonneville Power Administration. It includes a renewable energy program that supports community solar projects, as well as electric vehicles.

Evan Ramsey, senior director of renewables for the foundation, said the project was a good fit.

"This was one way to get some of this clean technology into those communities," Ramsey said. "Certainly, the prospects for electric tractors — reducing operating expenses, reducing health impacts for farmers and reducing emissions — those are all great outcomes, if we can realize them."

The project has also re-

Its stock is expected to move more than 8% in either direction after it releases results, data compiled by Bloomberg show. That's bigger than the moves seen after the past eight quarterly reports were issued. Dollar General has declined 20% this year.

- **Costco:** All eyes are on Costco after peer BJ's Wholesale Club bucked the trend this week and reported earnings and sales that grew in the quarter. As one of a few retailers that still reports monthly sales, the company's April net sales increased 13.9% year-over-year after climbing 18.7% in March. Costco, which is due to report after the bell on May 26, has slumped 26% this year.



Ramsey: "Certainly, the prospects for electric tractors ... those are all great outcomes, if we can realize them."

ceived backing from the USDA, Alundra Innovations Foundation, Pacific Power and Portland General Electric's Drive Change Fund.

Wallace said he was brought on

to be the boots on the ground, running the tractors and building interest among farmers.

The first two tractors were shipped to his home in 2021. Both came from the California manufacturer Solectrac — the 40-horsepower eUtility Electric Tractor and 30-horsepower Compact Electric Tractor.

Wallace fitted both models with data collection systems that use cellular and satellite connections to show where the tractors have been, what they were doing, how long they were able to do specific tasks and how much energy they used.

One of the challenges, Wallace said, is limitations with the battery packs. To make a battery large enough to power a 500-horsepower combine, like those seen in his neighbors' wheat fields, would not be cost-effective.

But for smaller farms, vineyards and orchards, Wallace said the electric tractors can do a lot. "Overall, they can perform any job that an equivalent diesel tractor can perform," he said.

Spam

Continued from A5

That rating could then be used by carriers to identify and block likely sources of unsolicited calls.

That sort of analysis is used by internet service providers to shunt unsolicited mass emails into spam folders. Phone companies also use it to mark calls "Spam Likely," a less-than-foolproof designation that leaves it up to consumers to decide whether to take the call. The more calls that have verified caller ID information, the more effective the analysis will be.

Bear in mind that not all un-

solicited calls are scams, nor are they all illegal. The Supreme Court ruled last year that robocalls violate federal law only if the numbers are dialed randomly or sequentially. If the caller dials your number on purpose because it's on a list being targeted, you are fair game. There are a number of ways to try to defend yourself, such as signing up for the Federal Trade Commission's Do Not Call Registry to deter unsolicited sales calls or using an app to block potentially spurious calls. Spammers and scammers have been so good at circumventing those barriers, though, that some people have resorted to answering calls

only from people they know. When the caller leaves no voicemail, that's a pretty good sign it was spam.

But those defenses won't stop spam texts, which are a growing scourge. RoboKiller estimates that Americans received nearly 88 billion spam texts last year, a 58% jump from the year before. Many of them are phishing scams that try to lure you into clicking on a link that will install malware or extract sensitive personal information from you. STIR/SHAKEN doesn't have any effect on them. And the FCC hasn't yet acted on Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel's proposal to block them.

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