

OVER THE PASS



"Some parents drop the baby off and don't come back for weeks or months. That's hard. Sometimes the premature birth is related to the mother's drug use."

– Patty Schuller, critical care NICU nurse for pediatrics, Little Rock, AR (Trinidad)



TRINIDAD-RATON CONNECTION

"What's the hardest part of your job?"

By Tim Keller
Correspondent
The Chronicle-News

Photos by Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News



"Getting up in the morning to go to work. I've been doing it for 28 years, getting up at 4 o'clock every morning. That's hard."

– David Oldfield, medical implants machine operator, Colorado Springs (Trinidad)

"The speed of innovation versus the number of hours in the day. Once we get comfortable with one way, we have to turn around and learn a new way."

– Amanda W., Healthcare Transformation & Strategy, Denver (Trinidad)



"As I look at my desk, it's the minutiae that we have to deal with, the paperwork and reporting. I sat in on a class last hour—that was far better than what I'm usually doing at this desk."

– Duncan Ware, principal, Raton High School (Raton)



"Summertime, trying to get everything ready for the next year. We strip and wax the floors when nobody will come in and walk on them. Everything has to be moved."

– Philbert Hronich, custodian, Raton High School (Raton)



"The personnel side of it. I hate to mess with people's lives. It's tough. When it's positive, that's fine, a high-five time, but the other side of it is a killer. It stays with me a long time."

– Dr. Neil Terhune, superintendent, Raton Public Schools (Raton)

DEAR ABBY

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

WIFE WANTS OUT OF MARRIAGE TO JOIN THE WOMAN SHE LOVES

By Abigail Van Buren

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 48-year-old woman. I have known I was gay since I was 14. No one knows because I never acted on it until I met "Bob," my current common-law husband of 25 years. I fell in love with his sister, "Janelle," back then. We kissed a few times and fell deeply in love, but because we didn't want to hurt Bob, we ended what we had. Bob and I raised my son, who is being married this year. Through all these years my feelings and Janelle's have never changed. We love each other and want the chance to be together that we were denied



back then.

I have given Bob 25 faithful years. I love him, but I am not in love with him. We are like two ships passing in the night. He has a temper and is vindictive. I want out of this relationship to be with his sister. I have asked her to marry me, and she agreed. We don't want to hurt Bob, but we love each other. Please advise me how to tell my husband I want out and want to be with his sister. – WANTS OUT BACK EAST

DEAR WANTS OUT: Considering that Bob has a temper and can be vindictive, I suggest you do it in stages. The first is to tell him that you are not happy in the marriage and haven't been for a long time. Depending upon your talent as an actress for the last quarter-century, he may or may not be surprised.

Then it will be time to tell him that you have known for a long time that you were more attracted to women than to men. Because you can't predict how he will react, do it in the presence of someone else – but NOT Janelle.

Because there can be legal ramifications regarding a common-law marriage, you should discuss this with a lawyer before telling Bob you want a divorce. Only after you have left him and several months have elapsed should you and his sister let it be known that you plan to have a life together. I say that because vindictive people with nasty tempers can be violent.

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I are in our 50s

and have legal custody of three of our grandchildren, who are between the ages of 3 and 8 years old. We have been raising them since birth.

My wife is nearing the end of her battle with cancer. My family – my mother, siblings and son – keep asking me what I'm going to do when my wife passes away. They say they know people who would adopt the children. I don't wish to be nasty, but I need to let them know that I am able to take care of my grandchildren.

Can you please tell me how to tell my family that I can raise my grandchildren without hurting their feelings like they have hurt mine when they mention adoption? – HURT GRANDFATHER IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR HURT: Yes, the words to use are: "When you say that to me, it hurts me deeply, so please don't say it again. I will raise these children just as I always have, and I do not plan to ever turn them over to strangers." Period. Expressing it this way is not hurtful; it clarifies your feelings.

DEAR ABBY: I was a full-time summer nanny for several years for the same family, now a preteen boy and girl. I loved them, had a great time on the job and have communicated with them occasionally through the years on birthdays and holidays. Eventually, I moved away for college and was no longer able to sit for them.

Both kids now are on Facebook, and I (foolishly) accepted their friend requests. I use Facebook to keep in touch with family members or for school group projects, so I am on only once or twice a week.

The girl messages me almost daily with "Hey" or similar short things. I am unable to dedicate time to this kind of interaction even within my own age group, but I feel bad leaving so many messages unanswered. What can I tell her? I'd love to catch up around holiday times like we used to, but I'd like to be left alone online. – BUSY, BUSY IN CHICAGO

DEAR BUSY: As I see it, you have a choice: Tell her the truth, and explain it just as you have written to me, or contact her parents and have them explain it to her.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

STATE BRIEFS

Associated Press

Authorities identify suspect in Colorado State Patrol crash

LONGMONT, Colo. (AP) — Authorities have identified the 27-year-old driver arrested after a Colorado State Patrol cadet was killed and a trooper critically injured after they were hit while trying to stop a fleeing car near Longmont.

Christopher Gebers was treated for injuries and taken to the Boulder County Jail.

He is being held for investigation of first-degree murder with extreme indifference, attempted first-degree murder with extreme indifference, vehicular assault, vehicular homicide, eluding a police officer, driving a vehicle while license canceled or denied and illegal use of blue lights.

The cadet was identified as Taylor Thyfault, 21, was killed and trooper Clinton Rushing, 37, was injured.

Authorities say Gebers was fleeing a traffic stop Saturday in Weld County when he plowed into the scene of a separate accident investigation being conducted by other troopers. The trooper and cadet were hit while putting out spikes trying to stop Gebers.

Authorities called Thyfault a hero for trying to save the life of tow truck driver Rusty Melvin, the Denver Post reported.

"Right up to the end, he was doing his job to protect the community," Longmont police spokesman Jeff Satur said.

Melvin said he was walking around his tow truck to put a railing in place when Thyfault yelled, "Get off the road! Get off the road!"

Within hours of Thyfault's death, troopers and other police officers put black bands across their badges. A trio of state patrol troopers were seen carrying an American flag to the scene.

Ethiopians win Bolder Boulder

BOULDER, Colo. (AP) — Runners from Ethiopia won the Bolder Boulder professional 10K race on Monday while two Colorado residents were the top man and woman in the citizens' race.

Belete Assefa finished more than 16 seconds ahead of Solomon Deksisa, also of Ethiopia, with a time of 29:04 to win his second Bolder Boulder. Meskerem Assefa was the first professional woman to cross the finish line in a packed Folsom Field at the University of Colorado.

In the citizens' race, U.S. Air Force pilot Ben Payne, of Colorado Springs, finished in 30:40 while Brittini Hutton, of Alamosa, finished in 34:36.

Payne ran the race with the names of

several family members and friends who lost their lives while serving their country on a bib pinned to his back.

"It's a special day to run and I really appreciate all the respect and the ceremonies they do for the armed forces with all the flyovers and the jump-ins and the troops that are running today," Payne told Boulder's Daily Camera newspaper.

Two former Paralympic gold medalists, Josh George and Amanda McGrory, repeated as winners of the event's wheelchair race.

An estimated 51,000 people, including actor Sean Astin, turned out to compete in the 37th annual Memorial Day event. Storms that have dropped rain off and on all month held off, and the temperature ranged from 45 to 55 degrees during the series of races.

400 attend Memorial Day ceremony at Denver's Fort Logan

DENVER (AP) — About 400 people honored service members who died serving their country at the annual Memorial Day ceremony at Fort Logan National Cemetery.

Gov. John Hickenlooper and U.S. Rep. Mike Coffman were among those who spoke to the crowd Monday at the cemetery in Denver.

Many of the white headstones were decorated with flowers and small American flags.

Three Medal of Honor recipients are among the veterans buried at Fort Logan, which has been a national cemetery since 1950.

Flood threat eases in northeastern Colorado

STERLING, Colo. (AP) — The flood threat in northeastern Colorado has eased for now but Logan County residents are being asked to remain alert because of additional storms expected during the week.

Residents braced for another possible round of flooding Sunday afternoon because of expected heavy rain but Logan County emergency management coordinator Cody Adams says very little precipitation fell. However, authorities did have to rescue a driver who got stuck after passing a barricade on a flooded road near Cooke.

After weeks of heavy rain, some residents had to evacuate after the North Sterling Reservoir inlet ditch spilled over its banks but those orders were lifted Sunday. The Colorado Air National Guard found erosion north and west of Sterling, but no breaches of any creeks.

Pre-evacuation orders north of Sterling were lifted Monday.