

Friend grows distant after personal struggle



DEAR ABBY: A dear friend of 10 years experienced a severe mental health crisis. I did my best to reach out to her, but she pushed me away and flaked on plans and important events at the last minute at least a dozen times. Once her mental health began to improve, I approached her and told her I understood her behavior had been largely out of her control, but it still hurt when she pushed me away and canceled at the last minute for meaningful events in my life. She

apologized, I accepted, and I thought we could move on again as close friends.

She is now engaged to a man and seems to put no time or value into our friendship. I am grieving the loss of a dear friend and struggling to accept that it is over. I have many questions: Did we simply drift apart? Is her new fiance more important to her? Is she upset that I confronted her, and was I wrong to do so? Do 10 years of friendship mean nothing? I'm afraid another difficult conversation will create a worse outcome, but I miss the friend I once had. Where is the line to

excuse behavior under the duress of mental health and at what point do I simply accept that she is no longer a good friend, mental health crisis aside? — NOT OVER IT IN OREGON

DEAR NOT OVER IT: As much as this close friendship may have meant to you, it's time to realize that these relationships are not always static. They can evolve, devolve and change. You were within your rights to express to the woman that you felt pushed away during her mental health crisis. Those were your feelings, and you were entitled to them.

The time has come

now for you to lighten up. Your friend is happily engaged to someone who makes her happy, and her attention and priorities have shifted away from her close friendship with you. Of course her fiance is more important to her than you are. It isn't that you are no longer good friends, it's that the intensity has lessened. Handle that as you wish, but I see nothing positive to be gained by another confrontation.

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DEAR ABBY: My daughter is getting married to "Bob," who has an 8-year-old son, "Ricky," from a previous marriage. The plan was to

have Bob's son be the ring bearer and have my 2 1/2-year-old grandson, "Aiden," be the flower boy. However, Ricky has autism, and Bob has decided that it would be better to not include him in the ceremony. Now he says he doesn't want Aiden to be in the ceremony, either. I can understand Bob's feelings, but it does not seem fair to me. — NEW MEXICO GRANDDAD

DEAR GRANDDAD: You may feel let down by this decision, but trust that your grandson will never know the difference. When planning a wedding, the bride and groom organize the ceremony in whatever way they feel will best celebrate their union. Fairness doesn't play a role in it, and no one is owed a place in the wedding party. Attend the wedding with joy in your heart, and show your daughter how much you love her by respecting her decision.

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Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren. For nearly four decades, Jeanne Phillips penned this column, which was founded in 1956 by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 270135, Kansas City, MO 64127.

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will also be special programming featuring Kentucky Chautauqua performances of "Daniel Boone: The First Kentuckian," as well as programs highlighting Simon Kenton, John Colter and a reenactment of George and

Malinda Mefford's story. Weekend musical performances will feature Jennifer Rose Escobar, the Fleming County Dulcimers, Pat Feagan and Wife, Bill Jones and Friends, and Jerry Hay and Friends.

Many festival vendors will also offer goods for visitors' perusal and purchase, including A&J Produce, Front Porch Wreath Co., Bob

the Author, YerSew-Don, Copper Creek Designs, Cindy Sweet Delights, Candy's Nuts, Moreland Village Carvings and Crafts, Heirloom Hill Farm, Derek Griffey Knifeshop, One of A Chime, SpringCreek Farm, Mums by Garcia, Honor Bound Books, JP Knives, Taylor Mill Farm Market, Kayla's BOWtique, Blooming Valley Flower Farm, TLCre-

ations, Bad Hound Forge, Hill's Lemonade & More, Stitches n Bags, DeSha's, Ohio River Valley Art Guild, Mama Made Market, Between the Bun, S&C Jewelry and Gifts, Rock 4 Rescue/Mason County Animal Shelter, Designing Sisters, White Oak Creek Boutique, Ellessare Farms, Steven's Metal Art Work, Temperance Johnson-Author, Terry Prather Photogra-

phy, Wild Thistle Bath & Body, Turtleback Ridge Brewery, Blue Sun Designs/Sunshine Daydream, Kentucky Gateway Museum Center, Steve's Snack Shack and Ken Swinson.

"Celebrating the 50th Simon Kenton Festival is incredibly special because this event has introduced generations of families to the history of Old Washington,"

Bailey expressed. "What makes the festival unique is that visitors aren't simply reading about history, they're standing in the historic buildings, watching stories come to life and experiencing some of the traditions of Kentucky firsthand."

The Simon Kenton Festival will be held at 2028 Old Main Street, Maysville, KY 41056.

City

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MFD for nine years, having been hired full-time in 2017.

The commission also nominated Pastor Chad Current to the Board of Ethics.

Afterward, Buffalo Trace District Health Department (BTDHD) Community Health Education Coordinator Melissa Greenwell spoke to commissioners about The Link - Resource Guide, a list of hyperlinks available to the public that provide health and transportation resources.

Greenwell explained that this work began in 2024, when the BTDHD conducted a community health assessment as part of its community health improvement plan for Mason County and used the results to develop focus groups that identified priority areas, such as substance use and food assistance. After discovering that many resources in the area provide outdated resource information, the Access to Healthcare subcommittee created The Link, whose information has been updated and standardized for easier use.

The Link is available on the BTDHD's website and contains dozens of links to information on local health resources within the department's coverage area. It has also been distributed to community partners and local transportation units.

To access The Link, visit www.buffalotrace-health.com/the-link/.

Stephanie Blain of Palmer Engineering then gave an update on the city's Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Grant (OSG) project.

Lane explained that

the project began with the city's grant application for an off-channel basin project to address flooding in downtown Maysville. The initial proposed solution was to create four basins that would store water and reduce the flood elevations. Basin one would be located east of Rotary Park and north of Forest Avenue and would be owned by the city; Basin two behind the Mason County Public Library, between East 3rd Street and East 4th Street; Basin three east of Coughlin Boulevard and Fleming Road and west of Wald Park, also owned by the city; and Basin four west of Fleming Road, north of Lexington Street Extension and privately owned.

However, Lane expressed that while they were investigating these locations, they encountered potential obstacles. Basins two and three would require permissions and potential mitigation fees under the Army Corps, Basin one does not have the proper depth to store water of a certain elevation and the little reduction in floodwaters at Basin four would not justify the cost of purchasing tracts of undeveloped land.

Lane concluded that she could not recommend proceeding with construction at any of these options at this time, adding that although she regrets that the work has not yielded positive results, she did not want the city to spend money on something that would not have a "measurable impact."

Afterward, the commission briefly discussed elected official benefits.

Maysville City Manager Matt Wallingford stated that the deadline to amend elected officials' compensation is the

first Monday in May of an election year, adding that any decisions made currently would not affect the 2027-2028 term.

Commissioner Robert Boone made a motion for the elected official benefits to be added to the commission's January 2027 meeting agenda as an action item. Wallingford noted that any decisions made during this meeting would not go into effect until January 2029, and would not affect the mayor.

Commissioner Ann Brammer seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

The commission then discussed the execution of grant documents for Maysville's ongoing splash pad project. Mayor Debra Cotterill stated that International Paper donated \$100,000 to the project after reaching out to its national foundation, thanking plant manager Chris Wright for his support. This brings the total grant amount to \$122,500.

Boone expressed that although he does not object to the project, he is concerned about the ongoing maintenance costs of the splash pads and the potential loss of green spaces in the parks where they will be located.

A motion was made to approve the item. All commissioners voted yes except Boone, passing the motion.

Afterward, Wallingford introduced a resolution authorizing a cost contribution agreement with Crisham LLC for proposed infrastructure improvements valued at \$3.5 million.

According to documents included in a rezoning application made to the Maysville-Mason County Joint Planning Commission



Peyton Dunaway/The Ledger Independent

Maysville's public safety officers were honored during Thursday's meeting.

earlier this year, Crisham LLC is the liability company being used for the proposed data center project in Mason County.

Wallingford explained that the agreement proposes that Crisham LLC will pay the city a fixed fee of \$3,567,481.68 for the cost of design and engineering for 10 projects, which will include a W2-D parallel transmission line, W2-E parallel high service line, W2-F Clyde Barbour line, S1-A new palate WW PS, S1-C upgrade Golf Manor PS, S1-D new interceptor sewer, S1-E parallel force main, S2-F upgrade Lawrence Creek PS and a regional water treatment plant site and sizing design.

Boone stated that he had examined the contract and interpreted it to imply that "the city is taking on a large amount of liability with any potential design issues that could be pointed to for any litigation," adding that the contract's language puts the city in a position of "indemnifying Crisham and its affiliates in perpetuity."

Attorney W. Kelly Caudill responded that the present contract is only for the projects' design phase, and that future contracts will examine the construction phase and liability assignments.

The resolution was

approved, with Boone voting no. The commission also approved two resolutions authorizing agreements with Kentucky Engineering Group PLLC for the water treatment plant project and the infrastructure improvement plan. Boone abstained, while all other commissioners voted yes.

Other approved items included:

The payment of an additional \$10,000 for the floodwall mural revitalization project in downtown Maysville;

The acceptance of Henry P. Thompson's bid for \$461,128 for Limestone Creek pump recertifications;

A facility encroachment agreement with CSX Transportation, Inc. for the construction of a potable water pipeline;

The acceptance of Frederick & May Construction's bid for \$1,351,050 for a U.S. 62 KY9 sewer project;

A contract addendum with EBM Consulting, LLC for presetting basin repairs at the water treatment plant, worth \$19,539.66; and

The recognition of Sept. 17-23 as Constitution Week, commemorating the anniversary of the signing of the United States Constitution on Sept. 17, 1787.

Finally, the commission approved a resolution

proclaiming remembrance of Sept. 11, 2001; its victims and the first responders who served that day.

"Whereas the City of Maysville will recognize this," the resolution read, "that the courage displayed by first responders is not limited to moments of national tragedy, but is demonstrated every day through their commitment to protecting lives, preserving peace, providing emergency care, and strengthening the resilience of our community."

Commissioners also honored Maysville's public safety officers, many of whom were present during the reading.

"It has been such a privilege to witness the efforts that you guys put in, the difference that you make," Cotterill stated. "You meet our families and our community on some of the worst days of their lives. And, as he said, you go running toward that danger to help, or whatever that entails. And so, the city, the commissioners, we thank you for your service, for your dedication, and we remember those that were lost, but we're also extremely appreciative of what you do every day."

The meeting was adjourned shortly afterward.

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