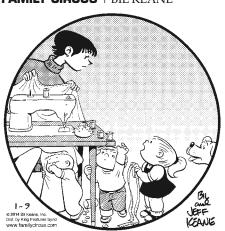
NEWSROOM: News@yankton.net



"Maybe you would rather we all go watch a little TV. Okay, Mommy?

BIZARRO | DAN PIRARO



ZITS | JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FRANK AND ERNEST | BOB THAVES





DICK TRACY | JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS







BLONDIE | YOUNG & DRAKE





GARFIELD | JIM DAVIS







BEETLE BAILEY | MORT WALKER





HI AND LOIS | BRIAN AND GREG WALKER





THE BORN LOSER | ART SANSOM







MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM | MIKE PETERS



Eager Grandmas Must Defer To New Family's Wishes

DEAR ABBY

Jeanne Phillips

Phillips, and was

Dear Abby at

■ Dear Abby is written

by Abigail Van Buren,

also known as Jeanne

founded by her mother,

Pauline Phillips. Write

www.DearAbby.com or

P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: In response to the letter from "Family First in Florida" (Nov. 3), it's no wonder her son and daughter-in-law want some peace and quiet when their new baby arrives. Grandma-to-be appears controlling, entitled and someone who will be more of an endurance test than a helping presence. They are right to set kind, yet firm, boundaries with her.

I wanted privacy during and after childbirth, and I'm grateful my mom and MIL respected our wishes. I needed time to establish a nursing routine, heal and get to know my baby before I was ready to host overnight guests.

My kids' grandmas both have strong, loving relationships with their grandkids, so please remind "Family First" she's not missing out on anything. She'll still get to be a doting granny, but for now she should back off and remember the arrival of the child is not about HER. — EXPERIENCED MOM IN OMAHA

DEAR MOM: I'm pleased everything worked out well for you. That woman's letter hit a nerve with my readers. A sampling of their comments:

DEAR ABBY: I had the same vision of being there when my grandkids were born. However, my kids have not involved me the way I imagined.

"Family First's" son is putting HIS family first, as he should. He and his wife have chosen what they feel will make the smoothest, least-stressful launch for their new family, and he is protecting that plan. If she doesn't respect her son's right to make that decision, she risks jeopardizing her future relationship with him, his wife AND the grandkids.

The essence of a mother's love is sacrifice. It's time to put aside her dreams and help her son fulfill his. — SUZIE IN OLYMPIA,

DEAR ABBY: The new parents are greatly misinformed about the importance of having grandparents around just before and immediately after the birth of a new baby. It helps to

update other family and well-wishers so Dad can devote full attention to the new mom and

My mother was a godsend, taking care of everything while we bonded with our child.

She did the cooking, the chores, and gave us needed breaks during the day so we were able to tolerate night feedings. When our second child arrived, she helped with our

Childbirth is difficult. I don't think this new mom realizes she won't be able to do it all. -

SHANA IN LOUISIANA DEAR ABBY: Has "Family First" considered that her daughter-in-law's mother may be coming? Unfair as it may seem, in cultures around the world, the role of the paternal grandmother is far different than that of the maternal grandmother. -KNOWS FOR SURE IN KENYA

DEAR ABBY: My son and DIL told everyone, including the other grandparents, who live near them, they wanted NO visitors for at least six weeks. That sad grandma needs to brush up on her Skype and Facetime skills so she can see them frequently on her computer

and phone. We do this with our kids. In the first year, the baby learned our voices and saw our faces often. When we met again, it was like we'd always been there. — COMPUTER GRANNY

DEAR ABBY: While she isn't invited to be there for the birth of her first grandchild, I'm sure her son and DIL will be begging her to come for the next one. After a week of no sleep, they are going to wish they had told her yes this time! — GRANNY IN ILLINOIS

DEAR ABBY: When I declined my motherin-law's offer to help out when my son was born, she paid to have a catering service deliver daily three-course dinners for two weeks so I wouldn't have to cook. It was the best gift I ever received, and I love her for it! — LISA IN NORTH CAROLINA

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JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

EDITOR'S NOTE: Bigar's Stars is based on the degree of your sun at birth. The sign name is simply a label astrologers put on a set of degrees for convenience. For best results, readers should

refer to the dates following each sign A baby born today has a Sun in Capricorn and

a Moon in Taurus.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THURSDAY, JAN. 9, 2014:

This year you will want to break barriers and create much more of what you want. You will discover that you have several key people who will make a big difference in your life. If you are single, you have many admirers. The possibility exists that you could meet a life partner in the next year. Don't hold back, should you sense that you have met The One. If you are attached, your relationship flourishes as a result of an increasing element of trust. In fact, you will view your partner as a guiding star in your life. TAURUS adds spice and interest to your life.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-

Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult **ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19)**

★★★ Your instincts work well with your finances right now. If you feel like you are lucky, go out and buy a lottery ticket. Be wise and follow your own advice. Remember to listen to your inner voice. You could be unusually fortunate as a result. Tonight: Treat a loved one well.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20)

★★★★★ You are energized and a witness to new possibilities. A discussion could encourage you to go for a long-term goal. Whether it is possible will be irrelevant. Accept the challenge, and keep your eye on the finish line. Tonight: Screen your calls if you want to get anything done.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

*** Take your time and let your mind wander. Your daydreaming contributes to your success and creativity; just don't do it in front of your boss, as he or she might not understand your process. An associate will get you thinking with a question. Tonight: Vanish.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22)

★★★★ Listen to feedback, and know what you desire. Friends seem to be supportive, and they probably will stay that way while you accomplish this goal. Your upbeat spirit is influential and helps many people, including you. Keep that in mind. Tonight: Where the gang is.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

★★★★ You beam, and others naturally come toward you. The problem you might have is that you can't really let go because of all your responsibilities. Still, others do respond to you well. Use your instincts with someone you must answer to. Tonight: In the limelight.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

★★★★ Listen to a friend, who might be the source of surprising news. What you say and how you respond will make all the difference. Know that you won't be able to change someone's knee-jerk reaction. Be open to this person, despite his or her thinking. Tonight: Find your friends.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

★★★ You might have indicated that you would accept extra responsibility. If you are exhausted and feel as if you have very little to offer, others will sense it, and your leadership could be guestioned. Realize your limits when dealing with others. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

★★★★★ Touch base with someone in the know. You can't continue the way you have been without taking a bigger look at a situation that will help you expand your thinking. Someone sees life very differently from how you do. Listen to his or her thoughts. Tonight: Get concert tickets.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

HHHH Take news with a grain of salt. You might want to check out an associate's thoughts on the matter. You could be unwilling to take a risk until you feel the situation is a lot more grounded. Your hesitancy might be instrumental to your success. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

★★★★ You might want to revisit a situation involving a loved one. Your decision could dramatically change your choices afterward. You are on a split path, and once you decide which way to go, it will be difficult to turn back. Tonight: Get into week-

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

★★★★ Listen to news carefully. The person delivering the information might be as rigid as you are. Avoid viewing this situation in terms of "your way or my way," as that could result in a deadlock between the two of you. Instead, listen and process. Tonight: Squeeze in some exercise.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20)

★★★★ Listen to the creative muse within, as you could have a rare opportunity to express yourself freely. You will do just that in an unprecedented manner if you refuse to hold back. A child or loved one will be delighted by you and what you have to say. Tonight: Live it up.

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BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT





FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE | LYNN JOHNSTON





